



🏠 WECA EVENTS

Spring General Meeting

Thursday, May 9, 7 pm
Rockville Presbyterian Church

- **I-270 Toll Lanes: Current Status**
with Janet Gallen, Becky Batt of DontWiden270.org
- **Election of 2024-25 WECA Officers**

WECA SpringFest

Sunday, May 19
12-3 PM, Monument Park

Hamburgers, hot dogs, and water provided. Bring a side dish or dessert to share. Kids' entertainment and activities. Donations accepted!

GET INVOLVED IN WECA

Become a Block Captain

Block captains connect with their micro-community and vote on motions that affects the West End. Contact us at wecaoutreach@gmail.com to learn more. This newsletter was delivered by your WECA Block Captain.

Join the Mailing List

Keep up with WECA news and events. Visit our website at www.westendrockvillemd.org to sign up, or email weca.outreach@gmail.com.

All West End Residents Welcome at May 9 WECA General Meeting

West End residents are invited to hear an update on the State's plan to widen I-270 and add toll lanes at the May 9 General Meeting of the West End Citizens Association (WECA). Guest speakers Janet Gallant and West End resident Becky Batt of DontWiden270.org, will discuss the current status of the highway project, which has been criticized locally for causing environmental harm, worsening congestion for the majority, and increasing inequity.

While there have been fewer press headlines recently about the State's plans, Governor Wes Moore has not ended the project, and he recently asked the General Assembly to approve an additional \$107 million for toll lane planning and engineering. Come hear what's actually happening.

Also at the May 9 meeting, residents may vote to elect the 2024-25 WECA officers. On the slate are: Margaret Magner (President), Ajay Khetarpal (VP), Heidi Liu (VP, Outreach), Darlene Pierro (Treasurer), Duane Rollins (Corresponding Secretary) and Angela Geer (Recording Secretary).

The meeting will take place on Thursday, May 9 at 7 p.m. in the Calvin Meeting Room of the Rockville Presbyterian Church, with parking and meeting entry at 210 Harrison Street. All West End residents are welcome!



Monument Park will be the site for the West End SpringFest neighborhood picnic on Sunday, May 19, 2024 from noon to 3 p.m.

A Note from the President Margaret Magner, westendca.pres@gmail.com



In spring, it can seem like anything is possible! If daffodils and iris can push up out of the ground and little winged creatures can hatch from eggs and learn to fly, then I could actually clean out my basement. Or maybe, just maybe, the Nationals could win the 2024 World Series. (Ok, that's a stretch.)

It's a time for new beginnings and a chance to bring fresh energy to old commitments. Reengage with a neighbor you haven't talked with in a while or introduce yourself to that new person on your street. Enjoy meeting supportive new friends at a gathering of the West End Women's Group (page 6). The Reverend Jane Wood, an accomplished and longstanding resident of Martins Lane, is the inaugurator of our new Meet Your Neighbor series, on page 4.

We warmly invite the community to our Spring General Membership Meeting on Thursday, May 9 at 7 p.m. to vote in the 2024-25 WECA officers and hear from leaders of the Don't Widen 270 organization. They will discuss what is happening right now with the plans to widen the highway and add toll lanes. Have fun outdoors! Come by the SpringFest at Monument Park from noon to 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 19. It's a spring neighborhood tradition. And have fun indoors, by attending a WECA Happy Hour in Town Center. Check out our community emails and our website at www.westendrockvillemd.org to see what's going on. Have a wonderful, safe spring in our neighborhood!

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Calming Cut-Through Traffic on West End Streets

Situated between Town Center and I-270, and with major artery roads running through the neighborhood, West End streets sustain heavy cut-through traffic at high driving speeds, putting school children and other walkers, rollers and bikers at risk. Recent accidents in the neighborhood and traffic pattern changes in Town Center have raised awareness about the volume and speed of traffic on secondary West End roads. In response to concerns about traffic safety brought to neighborhood meeting open forums, WECA consulted with the Rockville Pedestrian Advisory Committee (RPAC) and is now using the City of Rockville's Neighborhood Traffic Management process to request traffic calming measures on specific neighborhood streets.

In April, the City's Traffic and Transportation department set up temporary speed and volume measuring locations on Harrison Street and in the 10 and 100 blocks of Forest Avenue, after 100% of the residents on those blocks signed petitions requesting traffic calming actions. The traffic data gathered there will be measured by City staff against the City's volume and speed thresholds. For example, secondary residential streets are eligible for physical speed control if they carry at least 500 vehicles per day with the 85th percentile speed exceeding the posted speed limit by at least 7 mph. If eligible, City staff will then develop a concept plan for traffic management measures on these two streets and solicit public comment from the households within the affected areas.

A neighborhood traffic management project must clear multiple steps before implementation. In a typical year, City staff report they will receive four to six petitions for traffic calming from across the City; generally one of these will result in a traffic calming project. Possible speed calming measures include variable speed signs, increased moving violation fines (such as "Fines Doubled in School Zone"), speed humps,

raised crosswalks or curb "bump-outs" to narrow a road at points. The particular control measures recommended by City staff in an eligible project will depend on factors such as street classification, street width, and resident input. Projects must ultimately be approved by the City Manager and then are often implemented through the City's annual Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

WECA will continue to provide updates about this project and will work with the City's Traffic and Transportation department to elevate concerns about excessive vehicular speed and traffic volume on West End streets. If you'd like to get involved in this effort for your corner of the West End, contact us at westendca.pres@gmail.com.



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Meet Your Neighbor: Reverend Jane Wood



I was born and raised in Rockville. It is my privilege to live on the property that my dad purchased in 1929. I attended the then segregated Rock Terrace Elementary School, Broome Junior High and graduated from Richard Montgomery High School in 1965.

I started ministering as a part-time local Pastor in 1988. I was ordained an Elder in the Baltimore-Washington Conference on June 6, 2009. I graduated from the University of Maryland University College with a B.S. degree in Social Sciences in 2006 and Wesley Theological Seminary with a Master of Arts in 2015. I retired as an Elder in the United Methodist Church after 31 years in 2019.

I have several published articles: *Essence Magazine*, July 2000, *Women of Color Study Bible*, Nia Publishing, Atlanta, 2000, and *Promises from God for Women of Color*, Nia Publishing, Spring 2001. I gave the opening prayer at the opening session of the U.S. House of Representatives on Tuesday, May 10, 2011. I have also served on the Rockville Planning Commission from 2017-2019 as well as the City's Charter Review Commission in 2012. I have also given the Invocation at the 2023 Mayor and Council Inauguration and many Rockville Memorial Day Parades.

My dad, William "Bill" Wood was the founder of the Rockville Memorial Day Parade. I have one daughter, Felicia Morris. I love living in Rockville because of its amenities such as walkability, hometown feel, safety and being around family.



PEERLESS ROCKVILLE
1974 - 2024
50TH ANNIVERSARY
MAY 17
6:30 PM
GLENVIEW MANSION
TICKETS: \$125

Founded in 1974 by concerned West End Citizens, Peerless Rockville now celebrates our 50th year!

We invite you to learn more about us! And invite all to join us as we celebrate on Friday, May 17 at Glenview Mansion. Connect or reconnect with friends, neighbors, and fellow history lovers as we look back at half a century of successes and challenges, and look to the future together.

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To purchase tickets or learn more visit www.PeerlessRockville.org or call the office at 301-762-0096.





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News from the Neighborhood

West End Women's Group

The West End Women's Group is all about fun, friendship, and support for women in the West End neighborhood. With 32 fabulous members already on board, we have already kicked off with a blast at Tower Oaks. Get ready for some seriously fun local meetups happening every month, with our next adventure taking us on an outing to Glenstone. Come join the excitement and be part of the West End Women's Group! Join the Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/westendwomen> or email Julia Beyer with questions at julianbeyer2@gmail.com.

Free Native Plant Starter Kit

As part of Christ Episcopal Church's participation in the Sacred Grounds gardening initiative through the National Wildlife Foundation we are excited to offer free native plant packages to our community. Visit the web site below to pledge to plant native plants at home, and to request your free starter kit. We will reserve a starter kit of native plants for you at our upcoming plant pickup day on Sunday May 5th. Plant pickup is scheduled between 11:30 am and 1:00 pm on Sunday May 5th in the parking lot behind Christ Episcopal Church. Save the date and sign up now to receive a free native plant package.

Pledge: <https://www.nwf.org/NativePlantPledge> Questions: Emily Pearce at ekepearce@gmail.com

Library Volunteering Opportunity

The Montgomery County Library in Rockville Town Center seeks volunteers to help with library tasks. This is a wonderful opportunity for those who love reading to help fellow readers and to see the kinds and variety of books that are available through the Library. If interested please contact Nadia at 301-738-0062.



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A Few Highlights

This was a year of progress on important priorities based on neighborhood feedback when the current WECA officers were elected last May. We have worked hard on traffic and pedestrian safety in the West End (see page 3); on supporting Town Center merchants; and on bringing Town Center decision makers, such as the 2023 Mayor and Council candidates and the City's Comprehensive Planning Manager, into the community to meet with residents and answer questions.

Our priorities this year included a commitment to listen to and respond to all the voices in our neighborhood, and to do our best to welcome and reach everyone who lives in the West End. Sometimes small things can go a long way to communicate a culture of inclusion:

- In the fall WECA held a logo contest, and we are proud to reflect both our neighborhood's historic past and its bright future in a welcoming new logo now on our website and in our communications
- Lawn signs in three languages (English, Spanish, and Mandarin Chinese) now publicize WECA monthly meetings across the West End and invite all to attend. Thank you to all neighbors who host a sign!
- WECA's Executive Board recently approved holding a vote on the name of the organization at the Spring General Meeting on May 9. The motion will propose changing the name to the West End **Civic** Association (from the West End **Citizens** Association), helping to ensure that all West End residents feel welcome without regard to citizenship and bringing WECA in line with the titles of most other Rockville neighborhood associations. All residents are invited to vote on this question at the General Meeting on May 9 (see page 1). The change will pass if approved by a two-thirds majority of the residents present at the meeting.



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