



Woodland Hills

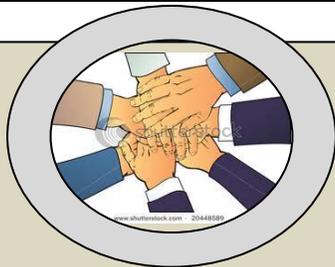
NEWSLETTER



SPRING 2018

www.WoodlandHillsMd.com

SPRING 2018



A Community Working Together

2016-2018 Board of Directors

President

Open

Vice President

Zeno Lantos
540-270-6604

Treasurer

Pam Sonneville
301-869-4460

Secretary

Kate Courville
202-905-4122

Director at Large

Garfield Blake
240-506-2115

Neighborhood Watch

Kevin Ethers, Coordinator
nw@WoodlandHillsMD.com

Community Wildlife Group

Pam Sonneville, Coordinator
pamsonneville@verizon.net



Property Management Agent

Josie Wells
Community Association, Inc.
15742 Crabbs Branch Way
Derwood, MD 20855
Phone: 301-258-7711
Fax: 301-258-8362
josie@communityassn.com

2018 Woodland Hills Pool application process changing this season

The Woodland Hills Pool is scheduled to open the 2018 season on May 26. This season, membership cards will be processed by a third party. You or your tenants (not both) will be eligible for membership cards only if your assessments are current and you have no outstanding architectural violations. The application process this year will be different.

Specific application directions will be provided directly to you by SWIMMINGPOOLPASSES.COM. Watch for these to arrive in your mailbox soon. Only home owners will receive the application. Tenants, only your landlord can sign over the application to you.

Directors and volunteers needed for HOA positions

Woodland Hills Home Owners Association will hold elections this year for members to the Board of Directors. All terms expire this year. Watch for election information arriving in your mailbox soon.

Also needed are volunteers to fill many slots including positions on the Architectural Review, Grounds, Community Affairs and Communications committees, newsletter editor, Listserv manager and pool liaison.



Spring gutter cleaning will be offered by North Landscaping for \$30 and scheduled for June 1. Leave checks (with addresses noted) at 314 Wye Mill Court. Watch the Listserv for the notice.

Annual Community Yard Sale

Saturday, June 2

8 AM - 2 PM



Anything not sold Saturday can be left for bulk recycling in our community on Tuesday, June 5.

Place bulk recyclables out no sooner than the night before our scheduled pickup day

Residents are reminded that bulk recyclable materials should be placed no sooner than the night before our scheduled **monthly** pickup day on the first Tuesday of each month.

Residents who dump unwanted household goods, furniture, paint, etc., detract from the beauty of the community. As well, the HOA incurs additional unbudgeted costs in order to clean up these dump sites.

Violators will be reported to the City of Gaithersburg and face possible citation and up to a \$500 fine.

For a full description of Gaithersburg's recycling program or to request a free recycling bin, please visit the City website at www.gaithersburgmd.gov/recycling or call the Department of Public Works at 301-258-6370.

Parking in Woodland Hills community

Parking in Woodland Hills is limited to residents and their guests. The types of vehicles allowed to park are specified in the *Rules and Regulations, Section IV*.

Commercial vehicles must be parked outside the community. Most operators utilize parking along Travis Avenue. Parking along Travis Avenue is subject to City of Gaithersburg parking restrictions for weight and size.

Vehicles allowed to park in the community must be situated between the double-striped lines that designate a parking space. Vehicles straddling the lines are considered in violation of parking rules.

Maryland Motor Vehicle Requirements

According to the Maryland Code, residents of Maryland must register vehicles within 60 days of moving to Maryland. As a Woodland Hills resident, you are a resident of Maryland. If you delay beyond 60 days, you may be subject to a citation.



Woodland Hills Bulk Recycling Dates

May 1 ~ June 5
July 3 ~ August 7
September 4 ~ October 2
November 6 ~ December 4

Have a new neighbor? Let us know

If you have a new neighbor move into your corner of the community, please let us know. We'd like to welcome them with a helpful information packet about life and activities in Woodland Hills and many of the various services made available by the City of Gaithersburg.

E-mail president@woodlandhillsmd.com with new neighbor name and address information. We'll be sure to drop by to welcome them to the community.

City regulates Woodland Hills home leases

Woodland Hills homeowners are reminded that the City of Gaithersburg requires all landlords and rental properties to be licensed with the City. Also, City Code strictly regulates occupancy levels.

Woodland Hills governing documents also maintain that absentee homeowners must lease their homes as one unit covered under one lease and submit a copy of the lease to the property manager.

Neighborhood Watch Reminders and TIPS

Simple security measures every Woodland Hills resident can and should take . . .

- ✓ Be sure to keep your homes and vehicles locked and secure any valuables out of sight.
- ✓ Leave your home's outside lights illuminated through the night. Consider using new dusk-to-dawn light bulbs in your exterior fixtures.
- ✓ Report street light problems to Kevin Etters at nw@WoodlandHillsMD.com.

Spring has arrived, along with more pedestrian traffic, bicyclists and children engaging in outside play

While we welcome spring and all its beauty and splendor, we should pay careful attention to all the other things around us also coming to life.

Warm weather brings more pedestrian traffic, more bicyclists (especially children) and more children playing outside.

As a driver, be mindful of pedestrians and bicyclists before entering or exiting a driveway or street.

As a pedestrian or bicyclist, stay alert to traffic and activity around you. Put your cell phone away, take out your earbuds so you can hear, and always wear bright, visible and/or reflective clothing.

And, please remember to wear your bicycle helmets. Helmets have been shown in studies to reduce the risk of head injury by 85 percent and the risk of brain injury by 90 percent. Children are 14 times more likely to survive a bike crash when wearing helmets.

For safe play, your children might especially enjoy the new and challenging equipment at the Tanyard Tot Lot on upper Tanyard Hill Road. **Safe Kids USA** advises that the simplest, most proven intervention to prevent child injuries and death is parental or adult supervision of children near the road.

Woodland Hills mourns the loss of former Property Manager and friend Peggy Toland

Peggy Toland, property manager for Woodland Hills for 16 years, passed away in October 2016. Peggy was a tireless manager who selflessly dedicated her time and efforts to her communities.

Woodland Hills was fortunate to be one of those communities. We miss her guidance, sense of humor, hands-on approach and personal touch and join her friends, family and associates in mourning her loss.



Maryland Updates Smoke Alarm Law

Fire safety is a topic driven home especially hard whenever a neighboring home is destroyed. A recent fire that destroyed a home in neighboring Montgomery Meadows reminds us that we should all be in compliance with new smoke alarm law requirements in Maryland.

If you have not already done so, you must comply (deadline for compliance was January 1, 2018) ... for your safety and for your neighbors' safety. The Maryland law is part of a nationwide trend to ensure new and replacement smoke alarms have the most effective technology available.

The Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service provides the following guidelines:

- 1) Maryland's new smoke alarm law requires the replacement of all BATTERY-ONLY operated smoke alarms with units powered by sealed-in, 10-year long-life batteries.
- 2) All smoke alarms have expiration dates. Both hard-wired and battery-operated smoke alarms need to be replaced every ten years. If your smoke alarm was manufactured in 2007, it's time to replace it.
- 3) Smoke alarms are required to be located outside each sleeping area and on every level of your home, including basements (finished or unfinished).
- 4) For homes constructed since 1994, smoke alarms have been required inside all sleeping rooms. For maximum safety, experts recommend this requirement for all homes.

Any resident or homeowner who needs further information can call 3-1-1 or visit the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service at www.mcfrs.org/mcsafe.

Woodland Hills mentioned in Humane Society magazine

The January-February 2018 issue of *allanimals*, a publication of The Humane Society of the United States, discussed Woodland Hills efforts to rejuvenate worn out landscapes in its article, *Beyond the Backyard*.

The article outlines efforts to reclaim unused spaces for wildlife and specifically described Woodland Hills efforts to reduce erosion and provide healthy utilization of wet areas where landscapers had unsuccessfully attempted to establish turf grass.

White wood asters are successfully used to hold the ground, reducing water and soil runoff, and to feed small native bees. Successful plantings of other natives are used throughout the community for similar purposes.

Plogging, Trasherercise and (Invasive) Weedaerobics offer new calorie-burning benefits for the community

“Plogging,” the Swedish fitness craze featured in a February 23, 2018, Washington Post article, by Allison Klein, is the act of picking up trash while you jog or hike. The term is a combination of “jogging” and the Swedish term “plocka upp” or pick up. This Swedish fitness craze is making its way to the United States.

Plogging helps the environment and provides a great workout with a half-hour of plogging yielding a 288-calorie burn vs. 235 for jogging alone. Plogging helps keep the community clean and weed-free and add squats into your regular run or walk, enhancing the benefits of your workout.

In addition to Plogging, we have added “Trasherercise,” or picking up trash while you exercise and Invasive “Weedaerobics,” or using invasive weed-pulling as an aerobic exercise.

For Invasive Weedaerobics, contact Pam Sonnevile (pamsonnevile@verizon.net) who will lead regular workouts beginning this spring.

For Plogging or Trasherercise, you can work on your own or form your own neighborhood group. It’s amazing what a little bit of effort can mean for a community.

2018 Woodland Hills Pool Opening
Saturday, May 26 @ 11 AM
 Closed every Tuesday



MCPS school days: 4–8 PM
Saturday and Sunday hours: 11 AM – 7 PM
Weekdays (except Tuesdays): Noon – 8 PM
July 4 and Labor Day: 11 AM – 6 PM

Parents are advised that swim diapers must be covered by rubber pants in order to use the Woodland Hills pool.

Patrons are reminded that membership cards will be delayed if your home has outstanding architectural violations or unpaid assessments.

Kids' Corner

Second Chance Wildlife Center Helps Animals! *By Timothy Brasacchio, 6th grade, Neelsville MS*

Second Chance Wildlife Center helps wounded and orphaned animals in the community and nourishes them back to health. Plus, they are open every day of the year. If you see a wounded animal, please don't leave it. They take care of squirrels, bats, ducks, turtles, birds and rabbits. They also need lots of help in taking care of the animals. Things that would help are mixed tree nuts (no peanuts), unscented HE laundry detergent, unscented bleach, toilet paper, paper towels, towels and black and white newspapers.

Please drop off your donations to 1530 Tanyard Hill Rd. I will take the donations to Second Chance for the community.

Visit www.scwc.org for more information and to help!

Life cycle of the Woodland Hills Luna Moth

The Luna Moth, pictured at right, is a natural inhabit found only in North America, though – as with many of our winged friends – sightings continue to get rarer. The bright green wingspan can stretch to four and a half inches or about the size of an iPhone.

National Geographic Kids explains that “the luna moth starts out as a very hungry caterpillar. Newly hatched, this caterpillar constantly munches on the leaves of walnut, hickory, sweet gum, and paper birch trees. After about a month of filling up on these plants, the caterpillar builds a cocoon. The insect lives inside for about three weeks, then emerges as a moth. The eye-catching critter is easily recognizable because of its wings. But that's not the luna moth's only interesting feature. The insect doesn't have a mouth or a digestive system. That's because it only lives for about a week after leaving the cocoon, and it doesn't ever eat.”

The luna moth has many natural predators and is a favorite snack for bats. To defend against predators, luna moths spin the tails of their wingtips in circles to confuse their predators. Luna moths only live as a moth for about a week, just long enough to lay 200-600 eggs, and then perish.

Plant these non-invasive groundcovers

The native *pachysandra procumbens* has foliage with scalloped margins that is mottled with silver and purple and will not take over like the nonnative species. *Salvia lyrata* is a great substitute for the invasive *ajuga*. Other great groundcovers include:

Chrysogonum virginianum (green and gold--about 6” in height with a yellow daisy-like flower in the spring planted in front of Wildpark Avenue);

Packera aurea (golden ragwort--about 12” in height with clusters of yellow flowers in the spring planted in the tennis court grove and behind Wye Mill;

Sedges, such as the Pennsylvania sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*) with delicate, arching, semi-evergreen leaves planted in the tennis court grove, along the Tanyard tot lot and behind Wye Mill.

The sedges are a great lawn alternative. So when people say, “I can't grow grass under my tree,” why would you want to? These natives will grow just fine amid tree roots.



Photograph by Kate Courville, Woodland Hills, Gaithersburg, MD

Woodland Hills Community Wildlife Buzz

Leading a nationwide trend in community concern for habitat loss, National Wildlife Federation (NWF) officially designated our community as an NWF Community Wildlife Habitat. Our community is the 99th in the country and 6th in Maryland to receive this honor.

Woodland Hills is registered on the National Wildlife Federation website (NWF.org). Homeowners can help Woodland Hills keep their certification by certifying their yards or gardens. The simple online application process takes about 5 minutes. Go to the NWF website to begin--
<https://www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife/Certify>

If interested in joining the Community Habitat group, receiving information on creating habitat and/or volunteering, please contact Pam Sonnevile at pamsonnevile@verizon.net.

In the fall of 2017, Woodland Hills installed over 762 native plants (over 700 perennials, 32 shrubs and 20 trees). The one perennial you'll see blooming in April/May is the golden groundsel. It's a great groundcover in sun/shade and also seems to be deer resistant. It has yellow flowers and supports multiple pollinators. Look for it blooming in various sections of the community this spring as well as below the Woodland Hills Welcome Hill Sign. If you can't grow grass under your trees, this tough groundcover may be the one plant to try.

Notify City of Gaithersburg Animal Control office of pet-related violations

Woodland Hills provides three (3) pet waste stations for pet owners to dispose of pet waste ... near the tennis courts on Wildpark Avenue, on lower Tanyard Hill Road near its intersection with Carlsbad Drive, and on Wake Forest Drive near the pool. Bags also are provided at each station. If you witness a pet owner who does not clean up after his pet, please call Animal Control and provide details ... identity and address of offender, date and location of violation, etc.

All dogs and cats four months of age and older must be continuously vaccinated against rabies and have a current license tag. Numbered license tags assure owners that they will be notified immediately should their dog or cat get lost, injured or stray from home.

Common violations also include walking a pet off leash and allowing a pet to bark unchecked. Please report these violations to Animal Control with necessary details. Please follow this link for animal control requirements and advice:

<http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov/services/animal-control>

Community Clean-up scheduled for Earth Day weekend

Join your neighbors on April 21 and 22 for the Woodland Hills Community Clean-up. Each day, from 1:30 – 3 PM, residents are encouraged to help clean up the community by picking up trash, pulling invasives and pulling downed branches to the curb. Contact Pam Sonnevile at pamsonnevile@verizon.net or telephone 301-869-4460 for details.

DID YOU KNOW?

Most local nurseries carry native plants. There are also a number of great native plant sales in the area, such as the one at Black Hill Park the end of April, see:

(http://www.montgomeryparks.org/nature_centers/blackhill/fobhnp.shtm). The Maryland Native Plant Society is also a great resource for native plant sales and events (www.mdflora.org).



Like us on Facebook

Find us at Woodland Hills Gaithersburg Home Owners for pictures, events and news. Email katecourville@gmail.com if you would like to help manage the association's account.



Nextdoor App available

Nextdoor is a free social networking service that allows users to connect with others in their own or nearby communities. However, please keep in mind that the Woodland Hills Nextdoor App will include fairly far-reaching communities in the Gaithersburg / Montgomery Village area and may contain postings that have nothing to do with Woodland Hills.

Keep up to date! Join the Listserv

In order to quickly disseminate news or information on items affecting our community, we provide a community listserv program.

Please subscribe to the Woodland Hills listserv by accessing our web page ...

www.WoodlandHillsMD.com

and click on the "News" button. A link is provided directly to the subscription page for the listserv.

Forms, minutes, governing documents and contact information also can be found on the Woodland Hills web site.

Important Community Numbers

Gaithersburg City

Animal Control	301-258-6343
Neighborhood Services	301-258-6340
Planning & Code	301-258.6330
Police Station	301-258-6400
Police-Community Services Office	301-258-6168
Public Works	301-258-6370

Montgomery County and other services

Montgomery County Police Gaithersburg/	
Montgomery Village	301-773-5700
PEPCO	202-872-3432

Montgomery County Public Schools

Watkins Mill Elementary	301-840-7181
Montgomery Village Middle	301-840-4660
Watkins Mill High	301-284-4400