

FEBRUARY, 2014

# WEST CHESTERFIELD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

MICHAEL LAFARGUE, PRESIDENT

## 2013: YEAR IN REVIEW

Dear neighbors,

Organized in 1956, the purpose of the West Chesterfield Community Association is to encourage awareness and community involvement in issues facing our neighborhood through educational seminars, workshops and public forums. We also remain diligent in developing solutions and the means to implement these ideas in our continuing effort to improve the quality of life in West Chesterfield.

Here are just some of the goals WCCA accomplished last year:

Along with Mr. Ed Gardner, WCCA protested low minority workforce issues and shut down a work site at 90th and King Drive • Hosted former U.S. Sen. Roland Burris' three-day "School of Politics" seminar • Surveyed the community about the 95th Street Red Line station reconstruction project and the development around it • Hosted a Transit-oriented Development Town Hall Meeting • Hosted a Career Day at Burnside Elementary School • Retained WCCA's Illinois not-for-profit status • Hosted an impressive array of guest speakers at the monthly meetings • Held two fundraisers • Joined two Developing Community Project Committees, the first on environmental issues and the second regarding the Red Line extension • Held three Clean and Greens, two Doggie Socials and painted 15 neighborhood fire hydrants red and 10 hydrant-curbs yellow • Attended CPS Local School Council meetings at Harlan and Gillespie schools • Presented Curb Appeal Garden Awards • Met with numerous city, county and state politicians • Held a successful Christmas party • Donated 50 Christmas toys to Burnside Academy and 50 toys to the Roseland Community Hospital • Painted the exterior of the community center • Promoted our Community of Lights holiday extravaganza • Worked more closely with the Chesterfield, Roseland Heights, Vernon Park and Rosemoor and Pullman communities • Had CPA A.L. Taylor and Associates address our state reporting and accounting needs for a second year as part of our plan to reapply for our original 501 (c) (3) status • Asked Phil Smith, owner of The Perfect Touch, to be our 2013-2014 business liaison • Installed a roof, electrical stack and attic window in the community center • Removed the debris from the former Wendy's site • Awarded 15-20 community service credit letters to high school volunteers • Installed a

new WCCA marquee yard sign • Continued our policy offering the community center for free to West Chesterfield block clubs and discounted use to paid WCCA households • Had several "Do Not Enter" and "Stop" signs installed throughout the neighborhood • Designed and handed out new-and-improved Neighborhood Watch signs.

## 2014 OBJECTIVES:

We expect to do more of the same in 2013, and with your assistance the following:

Host a WCCA community-wide block club party July 19 • Increase the percentage of dues-paying households • Fund the WCCA 501 (C) (3) application • Initiate four new block clubs • Engage local businesses • Really engage the community • Make needed repairs to the community center • Amend the WCCA Constitution and bylaws in the following areas: 1) Propose: combine sergeant of arms and parliamentarian offices; 2) Propose: a media officer to maintain WCCA's Facebook page and its website; 3) Propose: revise the center's rental contract and increase the rental fee if the center is booked for more than 5 hours.

For those of you yet to get involved in improving our community, please attend a meeting, join a committee, volunteer or help us out by paying your 2014 dues.

I conclude by thanking all of you for your spirited teamwork, volunteerism and donations, the block clubs' hard work and WCCA's dedicated board of directors.

Sincerely,

*Michael LaFargue, WCCA president*

## NEXT MEETING

The monthly West Chesterfield Community Association meeting is Saturday, Feb. 1, at 10 a.m., at the community center, 9351 S. Michigan Ave. Um, did you make a promise to yourself and your community to attend at least one monthly meeting this year? Sure, you did! We gather the first Saturday of the month and meetings last about 2 hours. Coffee and sweets are on the house. Come armed with your fresh ideas, expertise and charm.

## DUES REPORT

We want to give a special shout-out to a truly remarkable neighbor, Sam Adams, 9300 block of Michigan. He gives more than his annual financial obligation — again, and again, and again, and ... We all benefit because of his generosity. Our heartfelt appreciation to you, sir.

And kudos to: Rodney Barclay, \$25; Illinois Rep. Elgie Sims, \$20; Richard H. Hodge, \$40; Sam Adams, \$50 (once again!); Asa Patterson and Family, \$20; Percy and Clotee Moss, \$50.

Annual dues are \$20 per household. Do the math. It's a fraction of a cent each

day over the course of the year. Send that painless check to WCCA, P.O. Box 19323, Chicago, IL 60619. Come on, you can do it!

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Michael LaFargue  
1st Vice President: Jocilyn Floyd  
2nd Vice President: James Frye  
3rd Vice President: Darlene Miles  
Secretary: Jenny LaFargue  
Financial Secretary: Loretta Turner  
Treasurer: Phyllis Johnson  
Sergeant At Arms: Beulah Pressley  
Parliamentarian: Sharon Banks-Pincham  
Chaplain: Eddie Jones

## CHECK, PLEASE

Looking for creative ways to earn extra cash? Check out these options:

**Become a mock juror:** Before a trial, lawyers often hire folks to test their strategies for about \$100 a day. If you're open to working a few days in a row, search for openings at [trialpractice.com](http://trialpractice.com)

**Focus group:** Time commitment can range from an hour to several days and you can earn \$50 to hundreds of dollars as a member of a focus group and get paid for your opinion. To locate a group near you, visit [findfocusgroups.com](http://findfocusgroups.com)

## NEW NEIGHBOR

The Chicago Board of Education recently voted to add seven new privately run charter schools, including one operated by Concept Schools at 8522 S. Lafayette Ave. The Rev. Charles Jenkins, of Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, plans to redevelop the old Johnson Products Co. site with the charter school, a church, day-care center and a host of other endeavors. Plans are for the charter to be an elementary and high school.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Spring Clean and Green:** April 11  
**Summer Clean and Green:** June 7  
**WCCA Community Party:** July 19  
**Doggie Socials:** To be determined  
**Kite Flying Day:** To be determined  
**Fall Clean and Green:** Oct. 4  
**Christmas Toy Drive:**  
Late November through Dec. 13  
**Community of Lights:**  
Month of December  
**Christmas Toy Drive:**  
Late November through Dec. 13  
**Christmas Party/Toy Drive:** Dec. 13

## HOUSEKEEPING

Yeah, we're like a broken record! And?

Commercial vehicles (trucks!) are not allowed to park overnight on residential streets unless the drivers are making a delivery or doing work or have a special sticker from the alderman. You will be ticketed.

**Community center for rent:**  
9351 S. Michigan Avenue  
\$75 per event  
Rental info: Darlene Miles,  
312-618-3949

**CAPS meeting:**  
633: Every 3rd Thursday, 6:30 p.m., Tuley Park  
634: Every 4th Thursday, 6:30 p.m.  
St. James AME Church, 9256 S. Lafayette  
6th Dist. CAPS office, 312-745-3641

**WCCA annual dues:**  
\$20 per household  
Send checks to: WCCA, P.O. Box 19323,  
Chicago, IL 60619