



## September 2016 Edition

### Dear Neighbors,

Happy Labor Day! We hope your kids have had a very good first week - or first day - at school this year. It looked as though Hurricane Hermine might ruin our long weekend, but fortunately we were missed.

This edition brings us WSSC news, a police enforcement update, and an announcement about our 2nd Annual Movie Night.

Fall is around the corner, but we still have some warm days ahead. Enjoy!

Lis Herer, Electronic Communications Chair  
LCA

Our neighbors and their businesses are advertised to the right of our articles, and their ads help to directly support LCA. We thank them for their contributions and want to invite any of you who might have an interest in advertising your business to join them on the pages of LuxLine.

**Luxmanor Citizens Association**  
PO Box 34306 Bethesda, MD 20827  
[info@luxmanor.org](mailto:info@luxmanor.org)

**Board of Directors**  
**Officers**

### QUICKLINK

[2nd Annual Movie Night](#)

[LCA & WSSC Infrastructure Meeting](#)

[Police Enforcement in the Neighborhood](#)

The advertisement for Green Acres School features the school's logo at the top, which consists of three stylized human figures in green, orange, and blue. Below the logo is a photograph of a young girl with dark hair tied back, wearing a grey hoodie, sitting at a desk and writing in a notebook. The text of the advertisement is as follows:

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**Editor**

Lis Herer, Chair Electronic Communications  
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**LuxLine Ads Link**[2nd Annual Outdoor Movie Night](#)

Join us for our second Annual Outdoor Movie Night FREE Admission, Complimentary Popcorn, Popsicles, Coffee, Hot Cocoa, and More!

Date: Saturday, September 10, 2016 at 7:00pm.

(rain date: September 24th at 7:00pm)

Location: Tildenwoods Park on Tilden Lane

Grab a picnic blanket and join us for a fun night of music, raffle prizes and a classic family flick "Hotel for Dogs." Movie will start at dusk (around 8:00pm) with music and social before (between 7-8pm).

Bring lawn chairs/blankets and your own picnic supplies.

We thank this year's event sponsors:

Summer House, Nurit Coombe -Re/Max Elite Services,  
Shulman Rogers, Bill Miller - 1st Mariner Mortgage, Cap  
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For additional information, call Nurit Coombe, 301-346-5252.

[LCA & WSSC Infrastructure Meeting](#)

In April of this year, President Abbe Milstein, Tilden Lane

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**PREVIEWS**  
OF HOMES



(WSSC) infrastructure concerns with WSSC at their headquarters in Laurel, Maryland. We met with Jim Neufeld Director, Communications & Community Relations; Calvin D. Farr, Jr. P.E., Group Leader Utility Management Group; Joseph P. Mantua, Deputy General Manager for Operations, responsible for production plants and treatment facilities and engineering and construction and Muhammad Tak, Condition Assessment Unit Coordinator (Water), Utility Management Group. Calvin Farr discussed the WSSC pipeline failures that have occurred over time in our community. WSSC is very concerned with pipeline failure and the company has been implementing a number of measures to help reduce the risk of pipeline failures. Mr. Farr discussed that he feels that WSSC has the most robust program in the nation to address pipeline failure since they monitor their pipelines 24/7. He stated that WSSC uses every tool on the market to analyze and assess the conditions of the pipelines.

The large prestressed concrete cylinder pipes (PCCP) mains that run through our neighborhood along Tilden Lane are comprised of a concrete core layer surrounded by a steel cylinder, more high stress concrete and that is covered in pre-stressed wires and then there is an additional coating surrounding the wires. The reason the prestressed wires were installed was to handle the large volume of water at high pressure. Normally pressure runs from 70 – 100 PSI at any given time depending on any given water event.

PCCP is no longer installed. The pipes proved to be unreliable and have limited lifespans, but this is what we currently have in our system from the 1970's and 1980's when PCCP was "typical" in the industry. These pipes were subject to failure over time which is why they no longer use the PCCP pipeline. The manufacturer claimed that the PCCP pipes would last 50 – 100 years, but WSSC found that the PCCP pipelines have failed at a much younger age.

WSSC does not want to repeat the purchase of these PCCP pipelines and they want to make certain that pipelines they purchase in the future can last for years and years. The primary manufacturer of the PCCP sold the



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My daughter Olivia is available to babysit and help with homework afternoons or evenings.

Contact Tara Tetrault at 301-807-9248 or [tara.tetrault@montgomerycoll.edu](mailto:tara.tetrault@montgomerycoll.edu)

of the product. There were lawsuits that occurred as a result of the inferior pipe production and WSSC received a small amount of money. "Interpace" was the name of the company. Another problem with the pipe manufacturing business is that the pool of manufacturers shrinks as the companies buy each other out.

The overall water system is comprised of approximately 5600 miles of pipe and close to 240 miles of PCCP main. The long term plan is to replace the PCCP, but right now the focus is on 36" and 42" pipes. The idea is if these pipes are wrapped in wires and the wire breaks, WSSC can repair and replace those sections of pipe. It is a priority of WSSC to monitor these pipelines and respond to these breaks when they are detected. In 2007, WSSC decided to put together an inspection program for PCCP mains to assess the condition of the pipelines. The inspection program requires the main to be shut down. A fiber optic line is then installed in the pipeline. Once the fiber optic tube is installed, WSSC checks to make sure that they are receiving a signal from the fiber optic line. WSSC then refills the main with water and checks with lasers to identify if water is leaving the system. They laser is in operation 24/7 to detect for any leaks in the main. The system to check for leaks has a backup power source in case the power goes out.

As the wires snap over a period of time, the fiber optic lines will send a signal to WSSC indicating that the wires are snapping. WSSC measures the thickness /"health" of the concrete and they employ a "pipe diver." A "pipe diver" is a free-floating inspection tool that allows WSSC to assess wires and enables WSSC to allow the water to continue to flow through the pipes while making an assessment. Once WSSC receives the data from these devices, they identify the pipes that are "bad." WSSC removes the pipes from the ground and they inspect them. Once a piece of pipe is removed, WSSC conducts a forensic examination and determines why the pipe developed a fault. Reasons can include manufacturing defects. WSSC indicated that this program is 99% effective to identify pipe failure.

Part of our discussion included the River Road situation of

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Danielle Moss, 18, babysitter with experience & transportation, June-September. Available in Rockville, Bethesda, Dewey, Rehoboth, and Bethany. [mail@daniellemoss.com](mailto:mail@daniellemoss.com); 240-393-7403; <http://luxmanorlistserv.org/listserv/babysitter-available-at-beach-or-here>

of measurements are now conducted as a standard in analyzing the system. Also, WSSC explained that there had not been a rate increase request for 6 years and a cut back of programs in conjunction with a layoff of 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of WSSC's work staff. Since that time, staff has been increased and a much more rigorous inspection program has been instituted as part of WSSC's protocols.

One of the issues raised is that WSSC is not subject to the MD PSC or its oversight. The only oversight comes from the two County Councils, Montgomery County Council and Prince George's County Council. WSSC acknowledged that neither of these bodies employs any experts capable of conducting independent inspections of WSSC's infrastructure and systems. WSSC must oversee and self-inspect their systems.

WSSC showed us a map of Tilden Lane and the locations of the two water mains that run underneath the road. The mains had a series of multiple red dots on the main lines. Red dots on the lines indicate at least 1 water main break "event." According to WSSC, there many wires must be broken around a pipe before it is counted as an "event".

There are several red dots indicated on the line in front of the Luxmanor School near Roseland as well as along Tilden lane. The last time the WSSC conducted a full inspection of the 72" and 66" mains (constructed in the mid 1960's) in the neighborhood was a few years ago and both of those mains are scheduled for a full inspection in 2017. The 46" main (constructed from 1958 – 1959) was last inspected in 2011 and it will also be due for inspection in 2017. Age is not the only indicator of failure. There are pipes that are 5 years old and in a corrosive environment, those pipes can fail within a few years. The mains on Tilden Lane will need be shut down for 6 to 8 months and WSSC has to ensure there is enough redundancy in the system to accommodate for these shut downs.

WSSC discussed the high risk and costs involved should one of these pipes fail in the neighborhood and the impact a substantial break would have on the properties in the neighborhood. The failure of a PCCP main would have a "high cost risk" due to the lines proximity to neighbors'

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WSSC marries these two assessments in prioritizing its pipe replacement program.

Sheri Steisel Weiss, Vice President LCA

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### [Police Enforcement in the Neighborhood](#)

Last year, to increase safety and ensure compliance with traffic laws, the Luxmanor Citizens Association Board voted to hire off-duty police officers for a trial period to supplement the Montgomery County Police Department's efforts in our neighborhood. The trial period went very well and the Board voted and the general membership approved continuation of off duty policy enforcement and to pursue further strategies for road and traffic improvement.

Off duty police are in our neighborhood to respond to the dramatic upturn in the number of neighborhood complaints about speeding, erratic driving, failure to stop for school buses and failure to obey stop signs and signs with restricted turns. These complaints have been coming from all three communities inside our neighborhood -- the Oaks, Windermere, and Luxmanor. Neighbors fear that this reckless driving could lead to accidents, injuries, or worse. Since enforcement has begun, we have seen behavioral change and tickets issued to traffic offenders. Off-duty officers are in place at selected times throughout the three communities in our neighborhood enforcing speed limits and compliance with traffic signs. The off-duty police move around to different locations in our neighborhood. This proactive approach has enhanced the security of our community and helps keep our community safe.

Traffic hot spots and unsafe intersections were also identified over the last year, and the police have been unable to provide coverage on a regular basis. The volume of complaints our community made to the police has not triggered the level of enforcement that many of our neighbors have requested for safety. This seems especially to be the case during the morning and afternoon commuting hours. Our community is trying to cut

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At the LCA General Meeting, Officer Oliver Janney detailed the impact of our enhanced enforcement. The off-duty police continue to contribute their observations and suggest countermeasures that we might consider. Information will be used to help advocate for our community. LCA will continue to advocate for more on-duty police in our neighborhood and residents have reported seeing more police as a result.

The off-duty police officers employed by the LCA are able to write warnings and issue tickets. Sometimes the off-duty police will be visible, sometimes they will not. Ignoring the signage and speed limits just might result in a costly traffic ticket. Warnings are entered in the police computer system. Tickets for speeding begin at \$90 and increase with higher speeds. For each offense, points are added to your license.

We strongly encourage our community to continue to call the police non-emergency line [301-279-8000](tel:301-279-8000) to report traffic violations. Include license plates and the make and model of cars when available. But, that information is not needed to make a report. If at all possible, agree to be seen by the police. This creates a groundswell of complaints and gets us higher priority for enforcement and other structural changes. Please also continue to post specific incidents to the Luxmanor listserv. Listserv postings inform the community. However, these posts cannot replace police reports. LCA cannot report the offenses.

Please slow down and obey traffic signs. Talk with your high school-age children who are driving about obeying the traffic laws and stopping at stop signs.

Please contact [safety@luxmanor.org](mailto:safety@luxmanor.org) and [traffic@luxmanor.org](mailto:traffic@luxmanor.org) with your ideas and suggestions to improve traffic safety. We look forward to your help to keep Luxmanor, Windermere, and the Oaks safer for the children and adults who live here.

Bruce Cooper, LCA Public Safety Chair and Sheri Steisel Weiss, LCA Vice President

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