



# The WREporter

The Voice of West River Estates

[www.westriverestates.org](http://www.westriverestates.org)

Fall/Winter 2011/2012

Volume 18 Number

## Letter from the President

Stop me if you heard this one: In one year, there was this neighborhood with an infestation of ants, then an earthquake, and a week later a hurricane, then the power was out for several days, then a tropical storm dumped more rain than the hurricane ... and then there were all these dang fruit flies.

I know, I know - it's only funny if 12-months have passed. Truth be told, I'm not much of an end-of-days person, but I swear I'm doubling down on church donations if I see a dozen or more grasshoppers in my yard come Spring.

Keep in mind that as these words hit the page, the nice people at the weather center are invoking the name "La Nina" in reference to this winter's expected snowfall. No kidding, we are located in this thin strip labeled "near normal" snowfall which is tightly sandwiched on both sides with larger sections labeled "heavy snow" and "more ice than snow". Given the balmy winter weather so far, I'm really starting to wonder about those predictions!

Back to business:

Overall, this was a very good year for the WREHOA. The First Annual 5k was well attended, we almost doubled attendance at

the Annual Cookout, landscaping looked great and almost everything was at or under budget. Social committee continues to do an amazing job with events like the Easter Egg Hunt and Halloween Parade.

The hardest part of this year has been the unexpected passing of our Treasurer, Bing Topper. Bing was, by far, the hardest working person in the HOA. A huge loss for the board and for the entire community.

Looking ahead, we have another full plate of activities and an uptick in improvements planned for 2012. Identical to my statement a year ago, even with the improvements, dues will remain the same for 2012.

### Announcements:

- 2012 Winter Gala – January 28<sup>th</sup>. See enclosed invitation.
- Schedule of Events: The entire year is planned. See late page.
- Join us on Facebook "West River HOA" and/or visit the website

<http://westriverestates.org/>

Have a great 2012 -

**Vince Penkala, President**



## 2012 Winter Gala!

Please join us! The 2012 Winter Gala will be held on Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at Renditions. See enclosed invitation for details.

## Hurricane Irene: Love and Disgust

Three for votes for “disgust”:

1. Acting out episodes of “Man versus Wild” in your backyard. (We should have ordered that port-a-potty for the Cookout a couple weeks sooner).
2. The potential and actual back-up/failure of the grinder pump and or sump pump.
3. Finding out your roof/siding/flashing/ or whatever it was the insurance agent said “wasn’t covered” failed to keep water from running down the inside of the walls and pooling in the ceiling.

Three votes for “love”:

1. Impromptu street parties and BBQ’s. If the freezer is thawing, might as well grill it! Rumor has it the houses on Lavender were living it up.
2. All time record for number of kids actually playing ... outside... together. There is life without online games and cable TV. Who knew!
3. Endless supply of free firewood! Granted, some of us had to first cut it and remove it from yards and common areas.

Okay, “Love” is a stretch.

## Violation Enforcement

With the Covenants Committee position open for the first half of this year, other WREHOA Board Members handled violation letters on an ad-hoc basis. With the position now filled, notices will be sent on a more consistent basis.

Top violation notices to date this year:

1. Not stowing garbage and recycling bins out of site (backyard or garage) in a timely manner (they should be gone from street and visibility on the same day as pick up i.e.. Monday/Thursday).
2. Parking boats, trailers, campers, etc. in driveway or street (must be placed in backyard or garage).
3. Lack of Power washing of homes (green mold) and general home maintenance (faded shutters, wood trim, lawn care, sidewalk trimming).
4. Hoses, children's play toys, plastic furniture, bird bathes, statues, etc. left out in front yard visible from road.
5. Parking on sidewalks and grass areas and not cleaning up after pets.

Violation enforcement process:

1. First letter: 10 days to comply
2. Second letter: 10 days to comply
3. Third letter: If not remedied within 10 days, a fine of \$25 per-day will be accrued until issue is resolved.

Anne Arundel County will also participate in certain infractions with much higher penalties and fines.

## Generator Sub-Panel

For those of you have added a generator to your disaster relief arsenal, the Electronic Warehouse in Annapolis sells a sub-panel specifically designed for generators. The panel supports up to 10 circuits (lighting, sump-pump, fridge, etc.) and is operated with a single by-pass switch. It runs about \$450.

Be sure to seek out a qualified electrician for installation.

### **WRE Long Term Plan**

To ensure our HOA and all common areas continue to receive the care and attention they require, the Board recently created a Long Term Plan. Consideration was given to every street, intersection, common area, walking path and entrance area and a matrix was created showing estimated costs and year(s) when work would need to be done or scheduled. In addition to creating a long-view of maintaining community standards, we are now better able to forecast budgets.

### **Open WREHOA Positions!**

Interested in getting involved? If so, please consider one of several available positions including Vice President and Social Volunteer roles. Please contact us at <http://westriverestates.org/>

### **WREHOA Facebook Page**

There are over 54 members already signed up for the page. Here are reasons you should join!

- Automatic notifications and updates: Lost and misplaced bikes, pets, and

spouses. Most items found there way home in a timely manner (some required the completion of overtime).

- Event Announcements and Reminders AND LAST MINUTE CHANGES (due to weather): 5k, Cookout, General Meetings and more.
- Neighbor-to-Neighbor requests and postings: Roofer recommendation, requests for lawn cutting, charity events and fundraisers, etc.

### **WREHOA Marketplace**

#### **Freecycle – Lothian Group**

Have things that you'd like to give away? Check out this creative non-profit.

[http://groups.freecycle.org/Lothian\\_Freecycle/description](http://groups.freecycle.org/Lothian_Freecycle/description)

### **Reminders!**

- Watch your speed and record license plates of speeders!
- Runners, walker and joggers: Please wear reflective clothing!
- Dog owners: Same as before ... ya'know!

### **WREHOA Information Directory:**

<b>WREHOA general website:</b>	<a href="http://westriverestates.org/">http://westriverestates.org/</a>
<b>WREHOA mailing address:</b>	West River Estates HOA PO Box 206 West River, MD 20778
<b>WREHOA Facebook:</b>	West River HOA
<b>Downed power lines (emergency):</b>	1.877.778.2222
<b>Burnt out street lights:</b>	Google with the pole #: BGE street light outage
<b>Animal control:</b>	410.222.7000
<b>Police (non-emergency):</b>	410.222.8610

## 2012 Calendar of Events:

Please visit <http://westriverstates.org/> for more information and updates.

<b>Winter Gala</b>	Saturday, January 28	Renditions Banquet Center
<b>WREHOA Spring Clean Up</b>	Saturday, April 14	Everywhere
<b>Easter Egg Hunt</b>	Saturday, April 7	Corner of Sweetwater and Plantation
<b>Spring HOA General Meeting</b>	Wednesday, April 18	West River Methodist Center starting at 7:00pm
<b>Annual 5k Event</b>	Saturday, May 5	See website for registration detail.
<b>Community Yard Sale</b>	Saturday, June 2	Announcements will be made in local papers.
<b>Annual Golf Outing</b>	TBD	See website in May for registration detail.
<b>Annual Cookout</b>	Sunday, September 16	Corner of Sweetwater and Plantation starting at 1pm
<b>Halloween Parade and Party</b>	Saturday, October 27	Starts at the Corner of Sweetwater and Plantation and ends at the end of Sweetwater. See website in October for details.
<b>Fall HOA General Meeting</b>	Wednesday, November 8	West River Methodist Center starting at 7:00pm
<b>Holiday Swags: Going up!</b>	Week after Thanksgiving	<b>Volunteers needed!</b>
<b>Holiday Swags: Coming down!</b>	Week after New Years	<b>Volunteers needed!</b>