



# WILTONDALE

## December 2016 Community Newsletter

www.wiltondale.org

### Annual Dues Raise Proposal

The Wiltondale board and its committees is made up of a number of volunteers that perform many important services for and on behalf of Wiltondale residents and neighboring communities. Our annual dues here in Wiltondale play a critical role in providing for these services. Services for residents include the maintenance of community grounds and utilities at the triangle, upkeep of the park, new community signs (on the way), trash cans for the park and pool areas, a community Newsletter, 5k races, and providing for special holiday and general events including Easter, Santa at the Triangle, and Halloween. We also pay for many other miscellaneous items including insurance, our website, accountants who prepare our tax returns, our post office boxes, support of local organizations that further the interests of our community, and many other items.

For some of these items we are able to supplement some of the cost, for example advertising in the Newsletter, sponsorships of our races, and other special fund raisers. But as mentioned at the annual meeting in January 2016, we have been concerned that our current dues rate will not provide sufficient funding to address significant maintenance costs that have accrued and been deferred over many years. The prime examples of funding shortfall for community property maintenance are: the potholes developing in the Greenwood park/pool parking lot, the overgrowth of trees on community property which an arborist recommends removing, the neglect and evolving serious hazards of the bridge over the creek, and the grounds maintenance expense for Greenwood Park and the triangle (both of which have been overgrown at times by invasive plants, vines, and native trees). This dues increase proposal aims to help pay for deferred maintenance on community owned property while maintaining current community activities (annual operating expense and community events). This maintenance is beyond the expertise of community volunteers and for some projects the expenses are many thousands of dollars. Our shared community spaces require a capital investment in order to continue to serve our community for many years to come. Relators tell us that the park and its parking lot, the triangle, and our small amount of community open space bordering the park help to preserve and increase our property values when they are properly maintained. When poorly maintained, these common areas can become a liability instead of a community asset.

Our current dues are \$40 annually. These dues have not been raised in over 20 years. We have the lowest dues of any community in the area. We want to address and be better prepared to handle any major repairs or events and believe we should be building resources to be able to do so.

Therefore we would like to propose, to be voted on at the annual meeting in January 2017, that our community dues be raised from their current annual rate of \$40 per year, to \$75 per year beginning in 2018. The \$75 dues rate would be optional for 2017, but doing so would enhance the community's ability to address many of the issues/projects described above sooner rather than later.

Wiltondale Board

### HOLIDAY DECORATION CONTEST

The winners of the Holiday decoration contest will once again be chosen the week after Christmas. Due to the variety of ways to decorate, we have decided to update the categories for the winners. Wiltondale will continue to make a donation to the winner's choice of charity.

Rather than 1st, 2nd, 3rd etc., the new categories will be:

**Best Overall** - \$100 donation

**Williamsburg Style** (Must be all natural greens.)

Lights can be used. - \$50 donation

**Most Whimsical/Fun** - \$50 donation

**Honorable Mention** - \$25 donation

We look forward to making our annual drive around the neighborhood to see all of the wonderful decorations in our neighborhood!

Save the date for the Wiltondale Annual Meeting. This year it will be January 21, 2017 from 6:00 to 10:00 PM in Ascension Lutheran's Great Room.

### WOW Meeting December 15

Please join the Women of Wiltondale on **Thursday, December 15th at 7pm**. We will meet at Kate Beach's home located at 515 Yarmouth Road. Spread the word, invite new neighbors, and join us for an evening of friends, libations, and great food! Please bring an appetizer, dessert, or bottle of wine to share. Please email [mandyward2@yahoo.com](mailto:mandyward2@yahoo.com) if you would like to be added to the email distribution list.

### Santa Visits Wiltondale

Everyone had fun drinking hot chocolate, eating holiday cookies and telling Santa their Christmas wishes when he visited Wiltondale's triangle on December 3rd.





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## Halloween Parade and Costume Contest Winners



## Wiltondale Citizens On Patrol

"The eyes and ears of the Police"

- Join and support us any way you can!
- Sign up for patrol weeks
  - call or email for any concerns.
  - consider giving to Towson Area Citizens on Patrol (TACOP)

"Remember if you see something, say something!"

Call 911 if emergency  
Call 410-887-2222 if non emergency  
Call or email for concerns or questions  
Kate Wendt or Karen Sorensen  
[cop@wiltondale.org](mailto:cop@wiltondale.org)



# WIA President's Letter

HOA Letter to Our Members – November 2016

Happy Thanksgiving:

Although you very well may be reading this missive during the dog days of Christmas shopping, I am writing it the day before Thanksgiving. In 1947 President Harry Truman proclaimed our Thanksgiving Holiday to be on the fourth rather than the last Thursday in November. Thus precluding the holiday from falling on either November 29 or 30, and reducing prime Christmas shopping days.

Included in our home's many reasons for giving thanks are our Wiltondale neighbors and neighborhood. Almost without exception each of the 375 Wiltondale households has demonstrated concern and care for our community. Wiltondale is a special place in a wonderful county.

Annual Meeting on January 21, 2017:

Our annual meeting will be held at the Ascension Church's big room on Saturday January 21, 2017 at 6:00 pm. As always dinner will be served after a brief meeting.

Please endeavor to attend. This year perhaps more than in the past your participation is warranted, for there are two presentations to be made of concern to each household; an increase in the HOA annual dues and renovations to the pool that may require debt funding.

The pool committee will endeavor to send drawings, renderings and projected costs of the proposed improvements to each Wiltondale Household prior to our gathering. Comments are more than welcome.

Eddie Watt  
Wiltondale - We Love It!

## New to Wiltondale?

Please email [secretary@wiltondale.org](mailto:secretary@wiltondale.org) if you are new to the neighborhood or if you know of any new neighbors who have recently moved in so that they may be welcomed by the hospitality committee.

Updates to your directory information can be sent to [directory@wiltondale.org](mailto:directory@wiltondale.org).

## EDITOR'S NOTE

If you have any exciting news (and/or photos) you would like to share with your neighbors such as births, weddings, graduations, etc., please send it to [newsletter@wiltondale.org](mailto:newsletter@wiltondale.org) and it may be included in the next issue of the newsletter.

Submissions, changes, deletions and additions should be submitted by **Wednesday, January 4th.**

Thanks! Kelley Battaglia, Editor

## Waste Collection Schedule

**Trash:** Mondays, December 5, 12 & 19 and  
Tuesdays, December 28 & January 3

**Recycling:** Every Thursday, December 1, 8,  
15, 22 & 29

**Yard waste:** Last collection of the year  
Thursday, December 8

## Happy Holidays !

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*My office is a collection site for Toys for Tots so please consider dropping off a new unwrapped toy to brighten a local child's holiday! 7402 York Rd, suite 204 410-823-2323*