

SUMMER 2024

President's Letter

As the calendar turns to the second half of the year, I hope everyone is settling into a relaxing routine. School is out, the pool is busy, and the Orioles look strong—everything points to a great summer in Wiltondale.

I want to extend my appreciation to the WIA Board of Directors. Your directors are a great group who give their time and effort to all the little things—and some not so little—that make this such a wonderful neighborhood. Our volunteers oversee the running of the pool, keep Greenwood Park and the Triangle looking good, represent us on matters of broader community concern like the impending Towson High renovation, coordinate neighborhood events like the Easter egg hunt and New Resident Happy Hour, and so much more. It is my privilege to serve with such a talented group of directors, and thank you to all who give their time. Our next neighborhood-wide event, the Annual Party, was a sellout last year, so let's make it two in a row.

As you may have seen, I recently emailed the neighborhood about the Six Bridges Trail project. On June 25, there was an open house at Towson High, where project managers from the county and their hired consultants shared information about the project. Wiltondale was well-represented, with several neighbors attending. As proposed, it would encourage higher bicycle volumes and speed through the pool parking lot and the playground at Greenwood Park. It would also drastically alter the natural character of the "glen," the wooded area north of the park bridge that is also Wiltondale property. The WIA Board has recorded its opposition to the project. At this point, it's unclear how much support this project has from the broader community. We are continuing to monitor developments. Stay tuned for updates, and please feel free to contact me directly with questions or comments.

A reminder that the WIA Board meets on the second Tuesday of every month except August via Zoom. All are welcome. Please let me know a few days in advance if you'd like to attend. For that matter, it isn't too soon to start thinking about joining the Board in 2025. As stated above, it's a great group—I hope some of you will consider it.

Please contact me at president@wiltondale.org if you have questions or feedback to share. In the meantime, I wish you and your family the best summer ever.

Regards,
Tim Lotz
President, WIA

SAVE THE DATES

September 7
WIA Annual Party

October 27
5K and 1-Mile Fun Run +
Halloween Party and Parade

For details and updates, check the Wiltondale Community Facebook page or join the WIA-Info email list.



Summer Events at the Pool

- **July 10**—Swim meet
- **July 13**—Adult Night, Sips & Slices
- **July 15**—Swim meet
- **July 23**—Food truck
- **July 27**—BINGO and food truck
- **Aug 2**—Food truck
- **Aug 3**—Movie night
- **Aug 10**—Food truck + Wiltondale Regatta*
- **Aug 21**—Middle School Night
- **Aug 26–30**—Pool closed
- **Sept 2 (Labor Day)**—BBQ truck
- **Sept 3–6**—Pool closed
- **Sept 7**—Pool closed during the Annual Party
- **Sept 8**—Dog swim

For details and updates, check the pool website (wiltondale.org/pool) or Wiltondale Pool Facebook page.

*REGISTER BY 7/14 FOR THE 2ND WILTONDALE REGATTA

Design and construct a (mostly) cardboard vessel to carry at least two crew members across the pool for money, prizes, and a place in the Wiltondale history books! The registration fee is \$30 per boat, payable at the pool front desk.

To register or ask questions, email regatta.commodore.kate@gmail.com.

The Green Corner

- **Trash Tuesdays | Recycling:** Thursdays
- **Scan the QR code or visit the URL** for a full schedule of trash, recycling, yard waste and holiday pickups, as well as yard waste pickup requirements for discarded materials and bags.



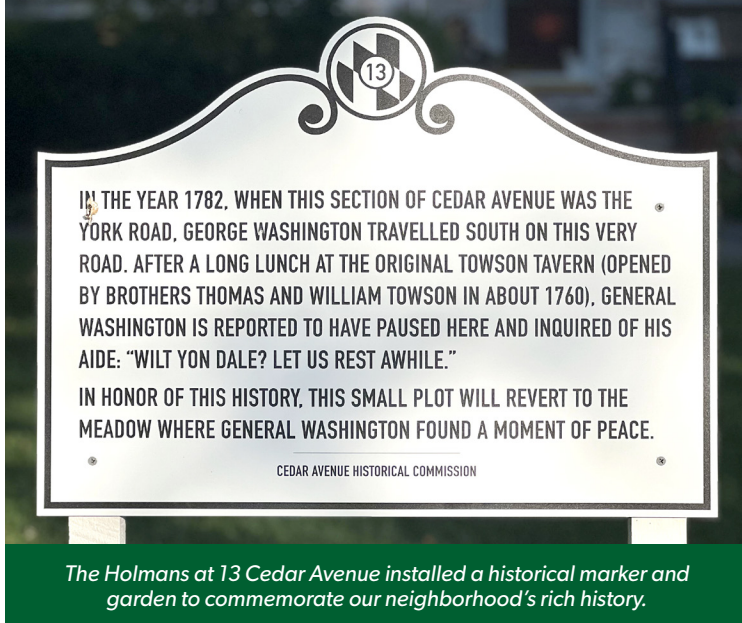
bit.ly/37OuSgg

Directory Updates

If your information in the neighborhood directory requires updating, the preferred method is to use the online form on the website (wiltondale.org/membership/#directory). Your information will appear exactly as provided, so enter it accurately.

You can also submit a directory update by sending your address, complete name(s), email, phone number, and children's names to the address below:

Wiltondale Improvement Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 42446
Towson, MD 21284-2446
Attn: Directory Update



Wiltondale History: Did You Know?

- When Wiltondale was first developed, Spanish names were used for streets, such as San Pierre Drive and San Sebastian Drive. These later were renamed Sussex Road and Wilton Road, respectively.
- In the 1930s, during a lull in the homebuilding trade, part of Wiltondale was converted to a golf driving range. The community was completed in 1952.
- In 1985, the huge white oak tree (our neighborhood logo) at 514 Yarmouth was certified by the Maryland Forest Service as being 260+ years old. It is Wiltondale's last natural landmark of the original tract.

To read more about historic Wiltondale, visit wiltondale.org/about. If you have your own neighborhood history to share, we'd love to hear it! Email newsletter@wiltondale.org for inclusion in the next newsletter.



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School Redistricting: Wiltondale Kids Stay at Stoneleigh

BY SARAH DAVID

Thanks to the incredible efforts of this community, Wiltondale children will stay at Stoneleigh Elementary after several versions of the Central Area Elementary School Capacity Relief Boundary Study undertaken by Baltimore County Public Schools last year redistricted half of our neighborhood to West Towson Elementary School. The study sought to increase diversity and decrease overcapacity in schools across the county. While West Towson Elementary School is an excellent institution, our community rallied against the change, as it would no longer allow our kids to walk to school, rely on neighbors for sports and school-based activities, and would have undermined the neighborhood unity we have worked so hard to foster.

The process for engaging in school redistricting involved two phases. The first was the public comments phase, during which, despite being a countywide undertaking, Wiltondale participated more than any other community. Our strong presence caught the attention of the Committee for the Central Area Elementary School Capacity Relief Boundary Study and encouraged them to make changes. In addition, dozens of our neighbors, many of whom were unaffected by redistricting, came to two public comment sessions where we made personal appeals. Laura Lindstrom, a new neighbor whose children had recently changed schools when her family moved to Wiltondale, spearheaded the creation and distribution of easy-to-read fliers to both neighbors and Committee members. As each public comment session finished, new versions of maps emerged, and we continued to fight.

After almost six months of advocacy, we were thrilled that the Committee selected a map that kept our children at Stoneleigh Elementary. However, we then had to ensure the map was not changed at the Board level. Members of our community met with our school board representative and wrote letters to other local officials. We watched the school board hearings, and Laura Lindstrom went in person to make our position known.

This effort required significant effort from many of our neighbors who showed up for meetings, called elected officials, engaged with committee members, and worked hard to make our voices heard despite other commitments. We were by far the loudest voice in opposition, which hugely impacted our children staying in the school and neighborhood community we both love and build together.

School overcrowding is still a challenging issue in Baltimore County, and this process has not resolved it. We have to stay alert and attuned to future redistricting projects and other potential resolutions to the challenges of school overcrowding on the horizon. The good news is that the Wiltondale community has shown they are up to the task and will ensure that we are both heard and engaged in future changes. Thank you to everyone who participated in any form during this process. We are so fortunate to have neighbors who truly work together and show up for one another. 🌱

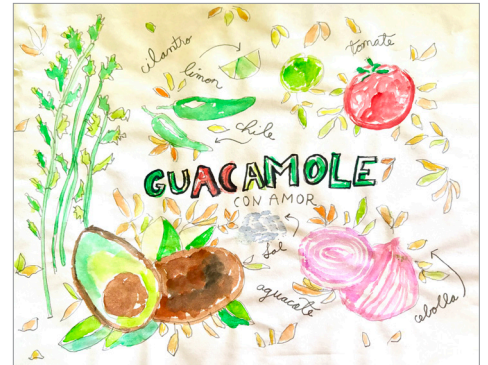
FEATURED ARTIST

Audrey

Audrey, age 11, has lived in Wiltondale for eight years. She enjoys dance, basketball, piano, and is a proud member of the Wiltondale Warriors.



Knit yarn



Pencil and watercolor

FEATURED ARTIST

Eliza

Eliza, age 8, plays piano, dances, and loves putting on shows at home. She also loves to swim and is a proud Warrior. Go Wiltondale!



Pencil, colored pencil, and Sharpie



Colored pencil, markers, Sharpie, and construction paper

Architectural Review Form

Any alterations to home exteriors require approval by the WIA Architectural Committee. Please complete the *Proposed Improvement Architectural Review Form* (wiltondale.org/architectural-review-process) and deliver it to WIA President Tim Lotz or Vice President Matt McGovern with any applicable drawings and color/material samples at least 30 days before the start date. For significant alterations, we highly recommend discussing your plans with immediate neighbors prior to submittal. Feel free to email questions to arch@wiltondale.org.

ARE YOU NEW TO THE DALE?

Let us know if you've recently moved in or know of any newcomers! Please email Secretary Phyllis Gray at secretary@wiltondale.org so we can give a warm Wiltondale welcome.

Classifieds

Content blocked to protect information of minors.

Email newsletter@wiltondale.org for this issue's classifieds:

CHILD/HOME/PET CARE

YARDWORK

DUMP HAULING

My name is Ryan Wendt. I offer pickup truck dump hauling—\$100 for a full truck bed. I can haul anything from furniture to debris and brush. If interested, contact me at 443-900-4796 or email ryanwendt2003@gmail.com.

PLUMBING

I'm Michael Tracey, and my company is W.A. Gambrell, Inc. We are a plumbing company that has been in the area for over 50 years. We offer plumbing, heating, water heaters, boilers, drain cleaning, and sewer and water line replacement. Contact us at 410-823-8980.

NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

If you would like to place a classified ad, share news, photography, artwork, or writing, or spotlight your favorite neighborhood critter, please email newsletter@wiltondale.org!

—Lauren B. and Zoe B.

WIA Board Meetings

Meetings take place on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm via Zoom. All residents are welcome and encouraged to attend!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- August—n/a
- October 8
- September 9
- November 12

The WIA bylaws are available on the community website at wiltondale.org/bylaws. Minutes from past board meetings are also available by request (secretary@wiltondale.org).

Email Subscriptions

Please visit the Wiltondale website to subscribe/unsubscribe:

- **WIA-COP:** Information about community safety, security, crime prevention/alerts, etc.
- **WIA-Info:** General community information such as events, lost and found items/pets, zoning issues, solicitations for volunteers, etc.

Thanks to **Kellie Langley** for funding the full-color print of our newsletter!



Kellie Langley, Realtor®



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**522 SUSSEX ROAD
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