



West Side Neighborhood Association

Inaugural Community Meeting

September 13, 2023 | 6:00 PM | 211 S Lee Street, Cumberland, MD 21502

Agenda

- **Sign-In/Refreshments** (5 mins)
- **Background** (10 mins)
- **Neighborhood Boundaries** (10 mins)
- **Community Updates and Upcoming Events** (10 mins)
- **Meeting Location, Dates, & Times** (5 mins)
- **Next Steps** (10 mins)
- **Open Forum** (10 mins)

*To respect everyone's time and keep the agenda moving,
please hold comments or questions until the end of each section.*

Sign-In/Refreshments/Follow Us! (5 mins)

Please sign-in on one of the membership sheets before grabbing a refreshment and meeting some of your neighbors. You can also take a few minutes to find us on social media by scanning this QR code or searching for "[West Side Neighborhood Association – Cumberland](#)" on Facebook. Our website is <https://cumberlandwestside.org>.



Background (10 mins)

The West Side Neighborhood Association (WSNA or Association) is an organization consisting of citizens dedicated to the improvement of the West Side neighborhood of Cumberland, MD. The Association will sponsor and foster a variety of educational, beautification, and improvement programs and activities designed to enhance the quality of life in the West Side. Our goal is to organize a dedicated core group of volunteers that can help to formally incorporate as a non-profit organization to facilitate fundraising and grant opportunities to further our organizational goals.

To that end, the Association will have no substantial part in the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Association shall not participate in, or intervene in any political campaign of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

The specific objectives and purpose of the Association shall be:

- a) To create understanding and cooperation between and among citizens, public officials, and municipal employees through increased communication and community activity.
- b) To promote community cooperation, participation, and events.



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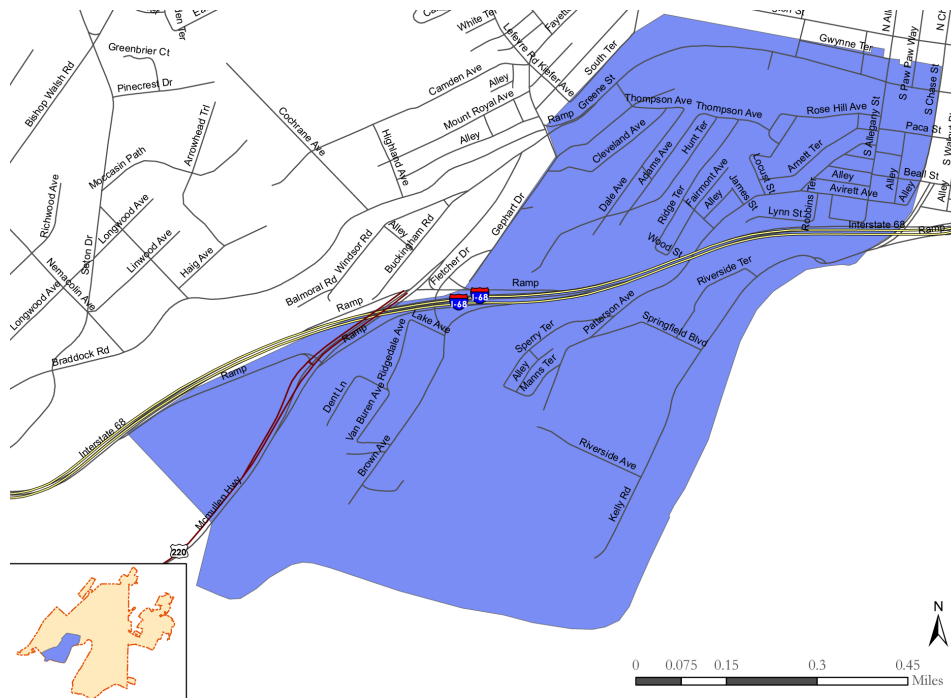
- c) To assist in crime prevention and overall public safety through the dissemination of information and creation of community programs.
- d) To consult with residents, property owners, business owners, and public officials regarding public safety, sanitation, housing, community development, youth programs, transportation, and public works.
- e) To educate and inform West Side residents, property owners, and business owners and work with all relevant public officials and municipal agencies to address laws, issues, and interests applicable to them.

We hope to be able to organize our work into smaller committees:

- Beautification (Clean ups, community gardens, code enforcement, etc.)
- Economic Development & Public Policy (Businesses, local government relations, etc.)
- Safety (Crime prevention, law enforcement relations, etc.)
- Social (Community events, family activities, happy hours, etc.)
- Education (Board of Education, local schools, resources for students, etc.)

Neighborhood Boundaries (10 mins)

The City of Cumberland Neighborhood Advisory Commission creates and maintains neighborhood maps (<http://www.ci.cumberland.md.us/337/Neighborhood-Maps>). The City's current "Westside" map does not represent what most residents consider the neighborhood:



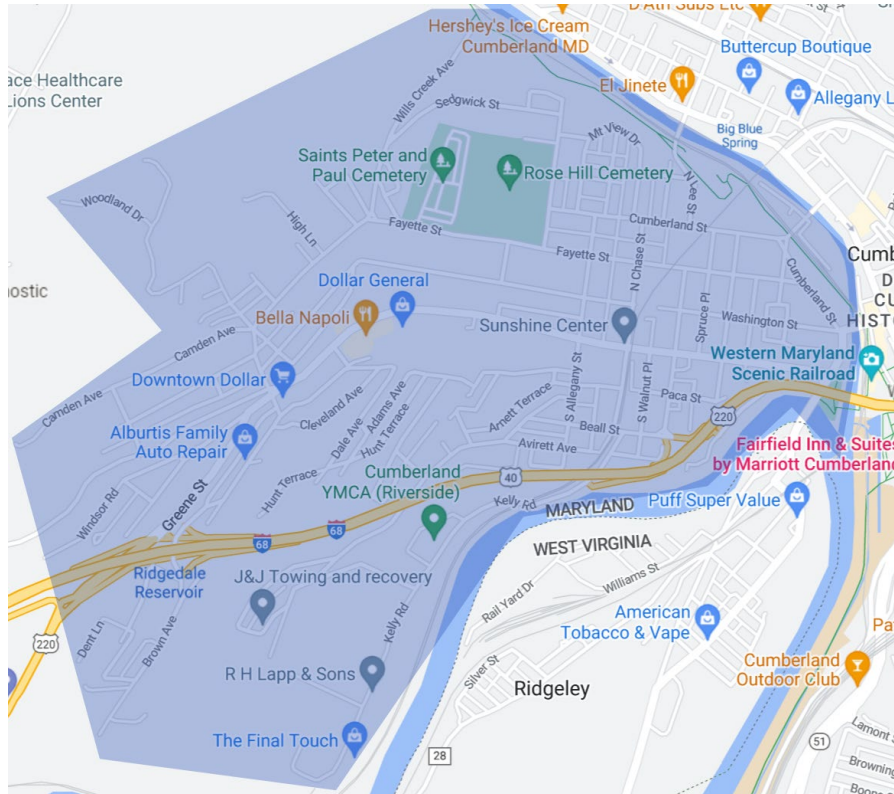


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We propose that this organization's boundaries include these areas and are seeking your feedback. This map proposes that our eastern boundary be the Potomac River and Wills Creek. The southern boundary would include the entirety of Kelly Road, Brown Ave, and Dent Lane. The western boundary would include the entirety of Windsor Road, Camden Avenue, and Woodland Drive. The northern boundary would include the entirety of Wills Creek Ave, Sedgwick Street, and Mt. View Drive.



Community Updates & Upcoming Events (10 mins)

- **Remarks from Mayor Morris, City Council**
- **Cumberland Police Department**
- **Let's Beautify Cumberland!** | [Follow them on Facebook.](#)
- **Code Enforcement:** The City of Cumberland Department of Community Development began neighborhood nuisance sweeps in the City starting on August 28th.
 - They will visit every single house in the City over the next few months.
 - Notice of violation or a "thank you" will be issued based on your property status.



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- Nuisance code violations include dwellings, yards, and lots to be kept clean from the sidewalk to the rear of the property; cutting the weeds; propagation of ornamental grasses and bamboo; removal or trimming of trees, vegetations, etc.; and noise pollution.
- If you receive a notice of violation, you will have 7-10 days to resolve the violation. If it has not been resolved upon their return, a formal notice will be issued.
- The owner of a property with no violations will be entered in a drawing for a prize following the completion of inspections on the street. The City will notify the winner for each sweep as it concludes.
- **Frostburg State University Appalachian Festival** is September 14-16.
 - **14th**: Film festival at Palace Theatre on Main Street.
 - **15th**: "Experiencing the Feminine in Appalachia: Women, Gender, & Place" Symposium
 - **16th**: Free music and activities on campus. Concert: Martha Redbone Roots Project
- **The Washington Street Association:** We encourage you to follow *The Washington Street Association* on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/WashingtonStreetAssociation>
- **Community Concerns:**
 - **Cumberland Street Parking/AirBnBs**

"I would like to point out how difficult parking is becoming in some areas because of the AirBNBs in the area. I think it's time to start looking more carefully at parking regulations by property."

We'll need to gather a bit more information on this issue and its impact. We can discuss during our October meeting.

Meeting Locations, Dates & Times (5 mins)

We are seeking potential meeting locations. While we appreciate the generosity of the Unitarian Universality Fellowship of Greater Cumberland for allowing us to meet here tonight, they have requested a donation of \$1 per person if we meet here regularly. As we currently cannot accept donations and have no funding except for individuals willing to cover costs, we will need to identify suitable meeting locations.

If you or an organization or business that you know in the neighborhood would like to host us, please let us know. We currently have only identified this location or the Washington Street library branch.

Dates and Times: We anticipate having just one monthly meeting as well as any social or community events that we organize. We'd like to meet on a regular date each month, such as the second Wednesday or Thursday, at a set time, such as 6 or 6:30 PM. **What are your thoughts?**

Next Steps (10 mins)



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- **Spread the Word!** Community participation and volunteers are critical to the success of this organization. Tell your neighbors about these meetings!
- **Online Resources:** We'll primarily be using our Facebook page and the "West Side Residents – Cumberland, MD" (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2474824209494868>) Facebook group to share regular updates.
- **Board:** Until we decide on applying for non-profit status, we'll need a basic, five-person board to help organize our work.
 - **President:**
 - **Vice-President**
 - **Secretary**
 - **Board Member**
 - **Board Member**
- **Future Meetings:** October meeting info TBA.
- **Future Efforts:**
 - **Community Clean-Up:** We plan on hosting a neighborhood-wide cleanup. We'll select an upcoming Saturday morning as our first Community Clean-Up Day. We'll encourage neighbors to clean up around their homes and blocks. We'll also select a major street or section of a street to have volunteers pick up trash and perform some basic weeding and maintenance of public space.
 - **Community Events:** We're open to suggestions for community events that will be fun for the whole family and bring us all closer together!
 - **Outdoor Movie Nights** (Need projector, space, etc.)
 - **Trick-or-Treating**
 - **Happy Hours**
 - **Holiday Parties**
 - **Christmas Decoration Contests**
 - **And more!**