

[Sign In](#) | [Register Now](#)**The Washington Post**TODAY'S NEWSPAPER  
Subscribe | PostPoints

NEWS | POLITICS | OPINIONS | BUSINESS | LOCAL | SPORTS | ARTS & LIVING | GOING OUT GUIDE | JOBS | CARS | REAL ESTATE | RENTALS | CLASSIFIEDS

SEARCH:  [washingtonpost.com](#) Web: Results by [Google™](#) | [Search Archives](#)

[washingtonpost.com](#) > [Metro](#) > [Maryland](#) > [Howard](#)

## Westchester in Laurel a Model for Future Luxury Complexes

By [Tony Glaros](#)

Special to The Washington Post  
Saturday, July 5, 2008; Page T05

Pam Norwood says she's fortunate that she isn't part of the daily exodus of work-bound residents at Westchester at Cherry Lane, the luxury mid-rise complex in Laurel where she has lived for a year.

As chief executive of a home-based business -- she distributes a device to foreign governments that keeps medicines cool during emergencies -- Norwood simply retreats to her cozy office in her two-bedroom loft and gets to work e-mailing and phoning clients and vendors.

During the day, "I have the place all to myself," said Norwood, 55, as she looked out her vaulted fourth-floor window and toward the bobbing paddle boats across the street at Laurel Lakes. "It's very quiet. People speak in the hallway, but everybody tends to stay to themselves."

The view really shines in the evening, she said. "The lights from all the restaurants are aglow. It looks like Christmastime."

The location, in Prince George's County midway between Washington and Baltimore, "is a huge selling point," said Leisa Wolfe, the complex's general manager. "We have a lot of government and military residents, local teachers, single parents. They're across the age span. We have one couple well into their retirement years who decided to sell their house and come here. It gives them freedom. Now they spend more time traveling."

She said the sprawling, 445-unit complex, which opened last year and is 61 percent leased, includes design elements that will serve as models for future properties built by Archstone, a national apartment company based in Colorado that owns and runs Westchester and other properties around the region.

Those design elements, Wolfe said, include four common areas -- two courtyards and two gardens.

In one courtyard, there are an enclosed cafe and an exercise room just steps from the long, narrow outdoor pool. The deck area of the pool is sprinkled with gas grills.

A compact amphitheater serves as the centerpiece of the second courtyard. Wolfe said residents can visit that area to rest and reflect. Quartets entertain on occasion. There's also talk of offering movies in the courtyard, where images can be projected directly onto the building.

Advertisement The community also has a second spot geared to meditation, a Zen garden. "It's more shaded than the others," Wolfe said. Japanese black pines and other varieties dominate the intimate landscape. "It's really a good place to bring a book, a glass of wine, sit,



The kitchen in Pam Norwood's two-bedroom loft at Westchester has double sinks and track lighting. (By Andrew Glaros For The Washington Post)

### REAL ESTATE SEARCH

Search for new homes, condos, and other real estate in Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia.

Location:  
 e.g.  reston, va,  22201

Price Range:  
No min.  To No max.

### TOOLBOX

Ad  TRY EMAIL MARKETING FREE FOR 60 DAYS!

### COMMENT

1 Comment | [View All >](#)

COMMENTS ARE CLOSED

WHO'S BLOGGING powered by [sphere](#)

[» Links to this article](#)

[Advertisement](#) » [Your Ad Here](#)

- [Sales Representative](#)  
STOCKBRIDGE, GA - AVON
- [Technical Sales Manager](#)  
ATLANTA, GA - FORTEBIO
- [Director of Catering](#)  
ATLANTA, GA - DAVIDSON HOTEL COMPANY
- [Front Desk Agent](#)  
ATLANTA, GA - INTEGRATED HOTEL SOLUTIONS
- [Managed Markets Federal Account...](#)  
ATLANTA, GA - BOEHRINGER INGELHEIM

[SEE ALL JOBS](#)

## Find Your Dream Job Now!

keywords  location

Jobs by [SimplyHired](#)

### FEATURED ADVERTISER LINKS

- [Free Case Review, Asbestos Lung Cancer, Hydroxykut, Zicam Mesothelioma Lawyer, Fentanyl Patch, Shoulder Pain Pump](#)
- [Save Up To 75% On Cruises at Vacations To Go](#)
- [Debt destroying your day? New Debt Wise helps you decrease your debt!](#)

### Ads by Google

**Mr. Omelette Caterers**  
Make your event a celebration! Cappuccinos and Fruit Smoothies.  
[www.mromelette.com](#)

**Laurel Urology**  
For Compassionate and Experienced Urology Services, Call Us Today.  
[www.CMUA.net](#)

**Urbana Highlands**  
Homes in Urbana MD from the \$400's View Virtual Tours Online  
[www.AdvantageHomesUSA.com](#)



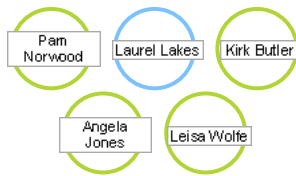
chill," she said.

The fourth secluded outdoor setting is a New Orleans-style garden.

It is lined with wrought-iron fencing and brick walkways. On one side is a greenhouse, which is becoming popular with residents who nurture plants, including bonsai and artichoke.

**CONTINUED** 1 2 [Next](#) >

Understand more about:



Articles

washingtonpost.com The web

**Flu Season Turns Up the Misery in Region, ...**  
 ...2001. "This is really bad," said Kwun, who works at **Laurel Lakes Primary**...  
 February 3, 2008 | www.washingtonpost.com

**Burglaries Probed in Five-Block Area of La...**  
 ...pattern." The targeted neighborhood is near the **Laurel Lakes** shopping...  
 June 10, 2005 | www.washingtonpost.com

**Turn Headlights on in the Rain**  
 ...an open house from noon to 4 p.m. tomorrow at the **Laurel Lakes**...  
 June 16, 2005 | www.washingtonpost.com

**'Mail Repair' in Laurel**  
 ...Mail include luxury condos and retail to match.

powered by

Related

**WESTCHESTER AT CHERRY LANE**  
 14720 Fourth St. Laurel, Md. 20707 301-725-0009 · APPLICATION FEE: \$35

People who read this also read...

- Metro Plans to Work With Md. Firm on Train Control System Backup, Official Says
- Health Reform, Obama's Toughest Sales Pitch, Is Also His Most Critical
- Mike Wise - Despite Heinous Crime, Let Vick Play
- Obama Talks Health Care With Fred Hiatt



Most Viewed Metro Articles

- Va. Tech Shooter's Mental Files Turn Up
- Metro Track Circuit Malfunctioning Since 2007, NTSB Says
- Paving an Environmentally Friendly Path
- 7 Former Legislators From GOP Back Deeds
- » [Top 35 Metro Articles](#)
- » [Most Popular on washingtonpost.com](#)

More in the Maryland Section



Blog: Md. Politics

Washington Post staff writers provide breaking news coverage of your county and state government.



Local Explorer

Use Local Explorer to learn about Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia communities.



Election Results

Obama and McCain swept the region on February 12.

FOLLOW METRO ON: [f](#) [t](#) [s](#) | GET LOCAL ALERTS: [Mobile](#) [Email](#)

© 2009 The Washington Post Company

Ads by Google

1 of 2