



# Westerlee Community News



A Proud Covenant Controlled Community

December, 2004

[www.westerleenews.com](http://www.westerleenews.com)

## A Message from the President

With the Holiday Season upon us, yards dormant and days getting shorter, we gather inside our houses, concentrate on family and maybe even on our community.

Community used to be the village, the small town or the neighborhood. Everything used to flow from this well-defined geographic place: Work, church, leisure activities.

No more: We have come a long way since that time and community means a lot of things to many people now. Work and home may be far apart, so might be the place of worship. Social activities could involve anybody across the globe, considering interest groups and internet chat-rooms.

We all know this but we still expect our local community to be there, respond to our needs, and ensure the services we need for ourselves and our children: Good, safe schools, paved and plowed streets, reliable trash collections and neighbors who abide by the rules.

As President of our community association I am working with Chuck Sprague, Vice President, former president and longtime Westerlee resident, and with the entire Board on maintaining the services, plus a sense of togetherness and identity. Our goal is that everybody can be proud of Westerlee and that we know our neighbors, regardless of whether they are retirees who are around most of the time or they are in the workforce and home only at times.

I work long hours myself, and in the winter days I might see our neighborhood only in the dark. Neighbors who call me at home usually get the family answering machine and sometimes I hear the message a day or two later. If you have urgent matters, please call me in my office at 41-685-2002.

The Board members and I try to address all matters that affect Westerlee in quarterly Board meetings, and announce the meeting dates for the full year in the newsletter. We share news and issues with everybody in the newsletter, including a summary of the board meeting notes. Marilyn Maxwell, our secretary and past president, spends large amounts of time assembling

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## New Westerlee Web Site

You've noticed, we're sure, that we have a new web site, one with an address that is easy to remember:

[www.westerleenews.com](http://www.westerleenews.com)

This change came about because of the difficulty we were having updating our former web site which was hosted through an association member's account. It will be easier than ever to keep you up to date. Remember that we post items there that arrive between newsletters. We urge you to visit it often, and even to recommend changes and additions to us. You can do it by e-mailing us at [westerleenews@comcast.net](mailto:westerleenews@comcast.net)

We hope to hear from you soon and OFTEN!



(Message from the President, continued from page 1)

these quarterly newsletters and maintaining an up-to-date community web site at [www.westerleenews.com](http://www.westerleenews.com).

Charlie Yingling, who has lived in Westerlee since the 1950's, is trying to visit all new neighbors who move into our community, provided he can get the information from our board members Bettye Gray and Susan Haines who have access to the real estate listings. Charlie speaks to many of us while working in his yard and from there he also keeps an eye on the cars running the stop signs or mistaking Cedar Circle as a racecourse.

Dorn Wagner, treasurer, is trying to collect the dues from all of us. For many, dues collection efforts are the time to vent anger and frustration with the neighborhood or the board. We want to encourage anyone who feels that the neighborhood and the association it represents are not worth the mandatory membership fee of \$15 per year, to speak up before collection time and to make a difference through suggestions and constructive criticism. When Dorn tried to find volunteers who could act as "block captains" and board liaison for their section of the street or block, we found little interest. We have since resolved that each board member is the contact for one section of the neighborhood. This might not be the section directly by his/her house because the board members are not evenly spread around in the area.

Shirley Smith is our code enforcement expert on the board. She maintains contact with the County and knows what our covenants and zoning allow and require. Everybody on the board supports her in the quest to keep the standards high and Westerlee an above-average community that cares.

We are committed to having a membership meeting at least once a year. Board members Pam Wright and Leyha Callendar like to work with all of us in organizing more opportunities for inclusion, interaction and

gathering. The next such meeting will be on February 10, 2005.

I wish you all harmonious and happy holidays in spite of the difficult times in which we find our country.

*N.H. Sprague*

### HOLIDAY DECORATIONS AWARD



written by Chuck Sprague

Hi neighbor,

In our last Westerlee Board meeting we discussed how the efforts by many of our residents really beautify our community with their decorative lights and yard scenes in this holiday season. It was unanimously agreed that we should reward such efforts by giving an award to the best display.

Our community (like the United States as a whole) has many different religious, ethnic, and cultural groups, and so it is hard to pick a specific date that is of significance to all. Therefore we have decided that the arbitrary date of Monday, December 20th will be the day that judging for this informal contest will occur. A committee will tour the community on that date and select one home for an award and recognition in our next newsletter. The award will be one year of free membership dues for the year 2005 in the Westerlee Community Association. The criteria for selection is not who has the most lights or the most decorative displays, but rather the general impression that is made in "pleasing the eye", so to speak. We hope all will join in and help make Westerlee a showplace for the season and a tribute to the community spirit that we all enjoy by living here.



### Stormwater and Flooding

The following article was submitted by Klaus Philipsen

Several residents in the 2100 block of Fernglen have experienced standing water and flooding during last summer's heavy rainstorms. I visited two households and contacted the stormwater section of the Department of Public Works in Baltimore County and reviewed the site conditions with a field representative. It appears that the natural wooded buffer (continued on page 3)

(Stormwater, continued from page 2)

between Westerlee and Pleasant Valley once worked as a Stormwater drainage basin directing sheetflow down towards a culvert underneath Cedar Circle at its western end. However, leaves, grass clippings and the natural decay of trees and branches seem to have built up over time until the waterflow was altered, keeping the stormwater from running off at the rear of the yards facing the buffer. Additionally it appears that in one case vegetation had been removed from a rear yard.

The County stated that regrading the buffer is not an option, since many mature trees in that buffer would be jeopardized. The Department of Natural Resources, who maintains the buffer, promised that fallen trees and such obstacles will be removed.

Beyond that we can only advise affected neighbors to avoid depositing yard waste in the buffer to keep drainage channels open that can discharge water into the buffer. Building dams or obstacles against the flow from a neighbor who sits on higher ground is not permitted. Open discharge of downspouts within 10' feet of the property line are not permitted either. Roof water should be directed to the street or the rear of the yard. Planting beds, shrubs, and trees will retain rainwater much better than lawns and are encouraged because they reduce run-off.

#### **Westerlee Community, Inc. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**President**  
**Vice President**  
**Secretary**  
**Treasurer**

**Klaus Philippsen**  
**Chuck Sprague**  
**Marilyn Maxwell**  
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**Susan Haines**  
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**Pam Wright**

**Tom Boyle**  
**Bettye Gray**  
**Jim Holman**  
**Shirley Smith**  
**Charles Yingling**

### Tidbits from Catonsville, Baltimore County, and Baltimore County Police

#### Catonsville Holiday Celebrations

By the time this newsletter has been published, the Catonsville Tree-Lighting Ceremony will have taken place. We published the flyer on our web site, [www.westerleenews.com](http://www.westerleenews.com). The Holiday House hours, though, are as follows:

Fridays, Dec. 3, 10, 17, from 6-8 p.m.  
Saturdays, Dec. 4, 11, 18, from 2-5 p.m.  
Sunday, Dec. 19, from 2-5 p.m.

It's a wonderful, awe-ful(!), time for children. Be sure to make some time to take your children there!

### Windsor Mill Middle School Construction

We're certain you know that there is a new middle school under construction on Windsor Mill Road (west of Rolling Road, near Old Court Road). Windsor Mill Middle School is scheduled to open in 2006. As we travel past the site, it appears that construction is moving along well.

The following is an excerpt about the project and is taken from the Baltimore County web site ([http://www.co.ba.md.us/Agencies/executive/speeches/040112\\_county\\_legislative\\_dele.html](http://www.co.ba.md.us/Agencies/executive/speeches/040112_county_legislative_dele.html)):

"The last piece of our school construction request is the new Windsor Mill Middle School. Building this new middle school will relieve overcrowding at five Baltimore County middle schools. Schools like Southwest Academy, which alone has 222 more students than it was designed to serve. Our funding request for Windsor Mill is 6.7 million dollars, money that will take Baltimore County students out of parking lot trailers and put them in new classrooms."



### Baltimore County Police

The Baltimore County Police regularly send us notification of Child Sexual Offenders living in our general area. We received several recently of some who had moved out of our area. That reminded us that we can find a complete list of sex offenders in Maryland online at

<http://www2.dpscs.state.md.us/sor/>

and that perhaps you would find this list helpful in protecting your children. You can search the database by name or zip code.

In the same vein, we receive the *Angel Crier*, a monthly publication of the Precinct 2 Police Community Relations Council. We put it on our website,

[www.westerleenews.com](http://www.westerleenews.com)

so that you can keep up with what's happening in our Precinct. The October *Angel Crier* has a very good article on keeping your children safe. It's on page 5. Click on Police Info in the left hand column of our website to get to the newsletter. It's a very informative article.

Our Police Precinct 2 (on the corner of Windsor Mill Road and Woodlawn Drive) has opened a new substation at 9113 Liberty Road to better serve residents there.

Go to [this link](#) to find out what else Baltimore County  
(continued on page 4)

Baltimore County, has planned for the Southwest sector, which includes Catonsville:

<http://www.co.ba.md.us/Agencies/community/swsector.html>

It's very interesting, informative reading.



### Woodbridge Valley Community Pool

Did you know that there is a very fine community pool for Woodbridge Valley and Westerlee residents? It's located at the intersection of Chantilla Road and Pleasant Valley Drive. We are fortunate to have it. For more information on membership in the pool, go to our website: [www.westerleenews.com](http://www.westerleenews.com) and click on The Community Pool link in the left hand column; or call 410-747-9740. We have been given a \$50.00 off membership coupon to distribute. It's on the last page of this newsletter.



### Board Meetings for 2005

Do you know that you are welcome to attend the Westerlee Community Board Meetings which are held quarterly?

The dates for 2005 are:

February 10, May 12, August 11, and November 10

Call or e-mail a member of the board to find out where the meetings will be held.



### Advertising in Our Newsletter

Advertising in our newsletter reaches many of your neighbors who might need a service performed that you do professionally. It's a good way to spread your message, and allow us to give our business to our neighbors. At the same time, it will help increase the coffers of Westerlee Community and help defray the cost of the newsletters. Please be aware that all advertising in the newsletter is paid advertising, and does not reflect the views or recommendations of the Board of Directors or the editor of the newsletter.

Fees are as follows:

A quarter page ad . . . . .	\$10.00
A half page ad ( vertical or horizontal) . . . . .	\$20.00
A full page ad . . . . .	\$40.00

You will be responsible for creating the artwork and layout (I will be glad to help) and can send it, with your check, to

Westerlee Newsletter  
2019 Cedar Circle Drive  
Baltimore, Maryland 21228



### Association Dues

Fellow Homeowners,

Westerlee Community Association dues of \$15.00 per household will be collected in January of 2005. The Community Association dues are used to pay for zoning appeals, dues for area wide associations, the community newsletter, the annual community association meeting, and community association insurance among other important obligations. A check or money order for \$15.00 made payable to "Westerlee Community Association, Inc." may be mailed to: Dorn B. Wagner, Treasurer 1201 Nuwood Drive Catonsville, MD 21228-3759. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Dorn B. Wagner

Treasurer, Westerlee Community, Inc.



### Construction Plans Must be Submitted for Approval

Our covenants state that all external changes to our homes or lots must be approved by the Board of Directors, in order to maintain the integrity of the architecture and landscaping in Westerlee:

"No garages, outbuildings, fences or other structures shall be erected without prior permission of Westerlee Community, Inc., its successors or assigns, or its duly appointed agent, and no building shall be built closer to the front street than forty (40) feet, no closer to the side street than twenty-five (25) feet."

For that reason, an Architectural Review Committee studies all plans and submits their findings and recommendations to the Board only at the regular quarterly meetings. That means that you must plan ahead if you wish to add an addition, a shed, or even a fence. Architectural plans must be submitted four weeks before a board meeting to give the Architectural Review Committee and the Board adequate time to review the

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plans.

The dates for the upcoming Board of Directors meetings are listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

The committee requires a full set of architectural drawings for any changes to the exterior of your home. If you contact one of the Architectural Review Committee members:

Klaus Philipsen at (410)747-5351

or by e-mail at archphips@aol.com

Shirley Smith at (410)744-6171

or by e-mail at sjs@westray.com

Richard Maxwell at (410)744-3449

or by e-mail at rfmaxwell@comcast.net

they will be happy to fill you in on the requirements, and even to help you in any way they can.



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### Russel Project

The Russel Project at Dlong and Powers Lane is nearing completion. The road there will be widened in the next few weeks to 42 feet. Hopefully, that will make travel there safer.

## Neighbors in Need?

Do you know of a neighbor who needs to be congratulated or comforted or helped in some way? We really want to know, too. Let us know by

e-mail: westerleenews@comcast.net

or phone: 410-744-3449



### Westerlee Community, Inc.

### Abridged Board Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2004

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 with Klaus Philipsen, Chuck Sprague, Dorn Wagner, Marilyn Maxwell, Tom Boyle, Sue Haines, Jim Holman, Flossie Johnson, Shirley Smith, and Charles Yingling, present and Pam Wright, Leyha Callender and Bettye Gray absent. Also in attendance were Chun and Brian Ok, and Richard Maxwell.

Since Brian and Chun Ok were present, the first order of business was to discuss their concern for the work a contractor has been hired to do on their house. They are pursuing any recourse that they may have against this contractor through the county and the courts.

The minutes of the August 3, 2004 Board meeting were approved.

DRAINAGE PROBLEM ON FERNGLLEN WAY was discussed. There is an article written on this ongoing problem elsewhere in the newsletter.

THE TREASURER'S REPORT was read and approved. There was a beginning balance for the quarter of \$3703.64; income from dues and ads in the newsletter was \$130.60, and expenses for insurance, newsletter printing and a 2-year subscription for the new web site were \$446.17. The ending balance at 10/31/04 was #3388.07.

COMMITTEE REPORTS and recommendations were given by Klaus Philipsen (Architectural Review Committee), Shirley Smith (Code Enforcement), Dorn Wagner (Block Captains), Marilyn Maxwell (Newsletter and Web Site), Charles Yingling, Welcoming Committee.

RE: THE NEWSLETTER: Various Board Members were asked to write articles. (continued on page 6)



RE: WELCOMING COMMITTEE: It was agreed that we should put notes of welcome in the newsletter, and that, in the future, a welcome basket should be given to each new neighbor.

Dates were set for BOARD MEETINGS FOR 2005: Feb. 10, May 12, August 11, and November 10.

GENERAL ASSOCIATION MEETING: March 10<sup>th</sup> was proposed, with March 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> as backup dates. We will give you the final dates in a timely manner.

REDLINE TRANSIT PLANS: plans for rail on Rolling Road have been discarded; Rapid Bus is still being proposed for Rolling Road in a designated lane.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Charles Yingling reported that the WIDENING OF DLONG ROAD is in the works as part of the car dealer's agreement and that work is expected to start in 4 - 6 weeks.

The BUILDING OF TOWNHOUSES on the Hoffman Property and behind the homes from 2019 to 2029 Cedar Circle Drive is underway. We will try to keep you up to date on the progress and how the building project affects us.

Meeting adjourned 9:40 p.m.



### New Neighbors

There have been quite a few changes in our neighborhood in the last few months. We try to tell you who the new neighbors are, but don't always succeed! Please welcome these new neighbors when you see them, and update your community directories:

Usman Sandhu and Sobia Choudri, 2148 Chantilla Road. They have two sons.

Francisco and Sara Diaz, 2010 Cedar Circle Drive. They have two children, Walter and Fatima, and moved here from Prince Georges County.

Roger and Jennifer Johnson, 2105 Cedar Circle Drive. Jennifer's a music teacher in Howard County. They moved here from Bozman, Montana. Their phone number is 410-744-6025.

Rev. Jeremiah & Fannie Williams, 2106 Cedar Circle Drive. Their phone number is 410-455-6079. They have 4 children, and moved here from Slitting Mill Place, here in Catonsville.




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