

WESTERLEE COMMUNITY NEWS

A Proud Covenant Controlled Community



www.westerleenews.com



Editor: Bob Propper

March 2009

From the President's Desk



For us as Westerlee residents, the most important time of the year is right around the corner: the time when you have a wonderful opportunity to voice your opinions, your concerns, your VISIONS. Our annual general meeting will be held this year at Woodbridge Valley Elementary School at 7:00 p.m. on March 31st. It'll be a packed evening – with several speakers filling us in on what's going on both in Westerlee and Catonsville. This year we'll have some new incentives in place. We've been told that some don't drive at night, and so don't attend the general meetings. We think it's so important that we're going to organize rides for those who can't otherwise get there. There will be two door prizes, too: first prize will be \$25.00; second prize will be a one year free membership. There'll be more details further on in this newsletter. Can't we persuade you to give up two hours on a weeknight to listen to what's been happening, and to tell us what you hope to see happen in the coming year?

There's a wonderful change in place even now – and it became obvious to you as soon as you opened this newsletter. We are indeed fortunate to have Bob Propper as our resident professional writer and graphic artist and new board member. He has graciously agreed to take over the preparation of the "Westerlee Community News". His talent is very obvious – and his skill will make reading it a true pleasure!

It's a sign of the times, I suppose, but we are seeing an increase in crime and vandalism in our neighborhood. Two cars have been broken into on Fernglen, and two cars belonging to the same family on Cedar Circle

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WESTERLEE COMMUNITY, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Marilyn Maxwell
Vice President: Wanda Richardson
Secretary: Fred Hickok
Treasurer: Joan Goudy

Directors:

Ron Matthews	Lena Parsons
Klaus Philipsen	Shirley Smith
Chuck Sprague	Karen Straughn
Bob Propper	Paul Galindo
Charles Yingling	Chris Goatee*

*prospective board member

Board Meetings

Do you know that you are welcome to attend Westerlee Board Meetings? We quote from the Maryland Homeowners Association Act here:

"Subject to the provisions of paragraph (4) of this section, all meetings of the homeowners association, including meetings of the board of directors or other governing body of the homeowners association or a committee of the homeowners association, shall be open to all members of the homeowners association or their agents..." and
"(ii) Subject to subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph and to reasonable rules adopted by a governing body, a governing body shall provide a designated period of time during a meeting to allow lot owners an opportunity to comment on any matter relating to the homeowners association;
(iii) During a meeting at which the agenda is limited to specific topics or at a special meeting, the lot owners' comments may be limited to the topics listed on the meeting agenda..."

Next Board Meeting:

The next regular board meetings will be at 6:30 p.m. on April 9th at 2018 Cedar Circle Drive, July 9th, and Oct. 8th. These other locations will be published in the newsletter and/or on the website—all are welcome.

Drive have had their windshields broken on successive nights. Back in the Fall, one resident had his vehicle stolen. I personally would beg you if you see anything that looks suspicious, please call 911. I know from experience how hard our local police work on trying to solve crime, but they can't solve it if they don't know about it. In addition, if you'd like to know about recent crime in our area, go to www.crimereports.com. There you can enter your address, and voila!! It's not perfect, mind you ... but it's pretty good.

Many of you know that I volunteer at the Woodlawn Precinct. I've spoken to Captain Barber about the recent increase in crime in our neighborhood. He's



asked for increased patrols on our streets on the overnight shift (11:00 pm – 7:00 am). You may not see the police cars, but they are there! Fair Warning!!

I'd like to offer a few suggestions:

- Lighting is a great deterrent to crime. If your part of the neighborhood is dark, leave some outside lights on all night. You can easily change your bulbs to fluorescent type bulbs which don't cost much to operate. Better yet, install some motion-activated lights. If a thief or vandal sees a light go on, he doesn't know if he's been seen, and will most likely just go away.
- Trim trees and shrubs near doors and windows, and think carefully before installing a high, wooden fence around your back yard. High fences and shrubbery can add to your privacy, but can also be an asset to a burglar. Consider trading a little extra privacy for a bit of added security.
- Simple security devices—nails, screws, padlocks, door and window locks, grates, bars and bolts—can increase the amount of time it takes to break into your home.
- Make sure you have strong doors. Outside doors should be metal or solid hardwood, and at least 1¾ inches thick. Frames must be made of equally strong material, and each door must

fit its frame securely. Even the most efficient lock, if it's placed in a weak door, will not keep out a determined burglar.

- Establish a routine to check that doors and windows are locked and alarm systems are turned on.
- Avoid giving information to unidentified telephone callers and announcing your personal plans in want ads or public notices (such as giving your address when advertising items for sale).
- Notify the police if you see suspicious strangers in your area.
- Don't carry house keys on a key ring bearing your home address or leave house keys with your car in a commercial parking lot or with an attendant.
- Don't hide your keys in "secret" places outside your home—burglars usually know where to look.
- When you're away, use automatic timers to turn lights on and off in various parts of the house at appropriate times. Consider connecting a radio to a timer.

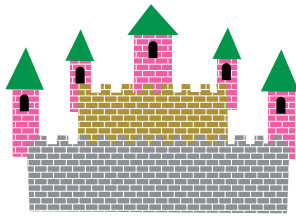
These suggestions and comments are not meant to frighten you into thinking Westerlee is not SAFE. It is, generally. Know that the vandals are from outside Westerlee. The best advice I can give you is: Be PRUDENT!! Not everyone is HONEST!

I look forward to a beautiful, safe Spring in Westerlee -- don't you?

Marilyn Maxwell

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 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
Ron Matthews at (410)747-1477
or by e-mail at ronhmatt@aol.com

Newsletter by Email

If you prefer to receive the newsletter by email (and save some trees or at least a few branches), please send your email address to:
rapropper@hotmail.com

Editorial

by Bob Propper

I am pleased to take over as editor of the Westerlee Newsletter. I hope to add more articles of interest along with information for the Westerlee community. Your input to the Newsletter is important to our community. I can't stress enough the importance of your contributions. I hope you will send me articles and photos about your activities.

The election showed a new direction for the country and, in a small way, perhaps we can accept this as a new direction for us: making sure that we are all in touch in a timely way. We are in this together—making a secure and nurturing environment for ourselves and our families.

I have recently joined the board of Westerlee and probably most of you don't know much about me—so here goes:

I am retired. My wife, who is from Brazil, and I moved to Westerlee in 2002.

My wife is on the faculty of Johns Hopkins University. I am an engineering graduate of Worcester Polytechnic Institute. I went on to graduate with a master's degree in graphic design and photography from Yale University.

I am looking forward to working with you and putting out the best homeowner's association newsletter in our area. I cannot do this without your help and advice. Please send me your comments and ideas—what you like and don't like, and what could be improved.

My email is: rapropper@hotmail.com.

Guidelines for submissions of material for the newsletter:

- Text file submissions in Microsoft Word using 12 pt Times New Roman.
- Submission of all photos in JPEG files.
- Identify text and photo submissions with submitter's name and a short description of photos.

Trash – What to do with it!!

Do you know that we can now get our trash and recycling schedules online? If you've lost yours, there's no need to go out and look up and down the street to see what your neighbors have put out (that's what I've done many times in the past). Baltimore County has come into the 21st century and put the schedules online. You'll find them at:

<http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov>. In the column on the left, click on **Download your trash schedule**.

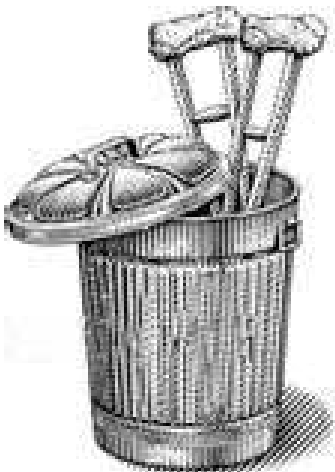
In the matter of trash collections, this regulation is taken directly from the Baltimore County website:

"Trash must be set out in a trash can with a tight fitting lid. Lids should fit snugly, but must not be fastened to the can with rope, wire, chains, springs, hinges, etc. The maximum capacity for a trash can is 34 gallons. The maximum filled weight for a trash can is 50 pounds."

For the sake of your neighbors and the mess the crows and squirrels make, please abide by this rule and don't put out your smelly trash in plastic bags. I know that sometimes we have so much trash that we run out of trash cans, so, if you must leave out trash in plastic bags, please make sure that they don't contain any garbage.

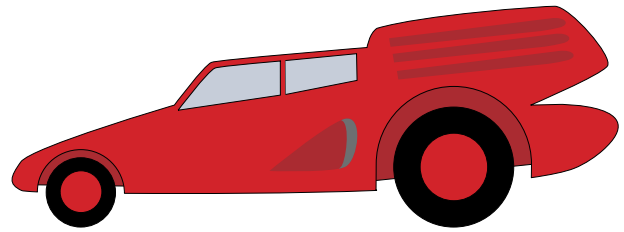
To be complete and fair, the Baltimore County website also states that trash containers must **not** have wheels. In my opinion, though, it's very difficult nowadays to find containers that don't have wheels, and for us older people, they're difficult to get out to the curb, so, if you need to, just make sure your containers are tightly lidded.

Submitted by Marilyn Maxwell



Westerlee Community News is published by the Westerlee Community Association, Inc., and is edited by Bob Propper.

For further information or to submit articles for publication, contact him at rapropper@hotmail.com



NOTE:

IF YOU NEED A RIDE TO THE
ANNUAL MEETING CONTACT
CHARLES YINGLING AT:
410-747-0970

Advertising in Our Newsletter

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 defray the cost of the newsletters.

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, 2113 Fernglen Way Catonsville, MD 21228

2009 Dues

Westerlee Community Association
Dues for 2009 (\$15.00) can be sent to:

Joan Goudy, Treasurer
2008 Fernglen Way
Baltimore, Maryland 21228

Many thanks to those who have already
paid their dues

HOLIDAY DECORATION WINNERS

Holiday decorations were judged by the Block Captains and some Board Members on December 20th. at 7:00 PM. The following are the results:

1st Prize \$50.00 Barry Browning

2022 Cedar Circle Drive

2nd.Prize \$30.00 Rosemary Snyder

2113 Chantilla Drive

3rd.Prize \$20.00 Tom Avens

2013 Cedar Circle Drive

Honorable Mentions:

2006 Fernglen Way/ John Kelly

2106 Cedar Circle Drive/ Rev. Jeremiah Williams

2134 Chantilla Drive/ Adelina Parsons

2019 Cedar Circle Drive/ Marilyn Maxwell

2114 Fernglen Way/ Fred Hickok

I want to thank Paul Galindo for the transportation during this judging.

Submitted by Charles Yingling

westerleenews.com

Our Website

Try to make it a habit to check our website frequently. It contains items of interest to all of us, and is updated frequently. It's the only way we have of getting information disseminated in a timely way. It's easy to remember:

www.westerleenews.com



Police Caution Elderly About Recent Theft Scam Recent Incidents Have Occurred in Precinct 8/Parkville

Baltimore County, Md. (January 26, 2009) - Baltimore County Police are cautioning the public about suspicious calls to residents asking for money. Police say that prospective thieves are using a variety of methods to deceive senior citizens. Recently a group of thieves has been contacting senior citizens by phone. They use the name of a relative such as a son, daughter, or nephew of the victim and state that the relative needs money.

The thieves go on to say that the money is needed to fix a vehicle, or to retrieve a car that has been towed, or for bail. On two occasions the thief has stated that he is a police officer and tells the victim that their relative needs money.

Five Parkville residents have been the victims since January 13:

an 89-year-old female of the 8800-block of Walther Boulevard, 21234, in Precinct 8/Parkville received a call at approximately 8:15 p.m. on January 20
a 62-year-old male of the 13500-block of Fork Road, 21013, in Precinct 8/Parkville received a call at approximately 9:08 p.m. on January 13
a 49-year-old male of the 8700-block of Stockwell Road, 21234, in Precinct 8/Parkville received a call at approximately 7:45 p.m. on January 13
a 79-year-old female of the 2700-block of Second Avenue, 21234, in Precinct 8/Parkville received a call at approximately 4:30 p.m. on January 13
a 75-year-old male of the 7600-block of Wilhelm Avenue, 21237, in Precinct 9/White Marsh received a call at approximately 4 p.m. on January 13
Police recommend not responding to anyone asking for money. If you are suspicious of someone who contacts you asking for money, hang up and call 9-1-1 immediately. Be sure to provide the police with any information such as phone numbers, addresses, or names, that might help catch these thieves.

Our Covenants

§ 11B-111. Meetings of homeowners association or its governing body. Except as provided in this title, and notwithstanding anything contained in any of the documents of the homeowners association:

(1) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (4) of this section, all meetings of the homeowners association, including meetings of the board of directors or other governing body of the homeowners association or a committee of the homeowners association, shall be open to all members of the homeowners association or their agents;

(2) All members of the homeowners association shall be given reasonable notice of all regularly scheduled open meetings of the homeowners association;

(3) (i) This paragraph does not apply to any meeting of a governing body that occurs at any time before the lot owners, other than the developer, have a majority of votes in the homeowners association, as provided in the declaration;

(ii) Subject to subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph and to reasonable rules adopted by a governing body, a governing body shall provide a designated period of time during a meeting to allow lot owners an opportunity to comment on any matter relating to the homeowners association;

(iii) During a meeting at which the agenda is limited to specific topics or at a special meeting, the lot owners' comments may be limited to the topics listed on the meeting agenda; and

(iv) The governing body shall convene at least one meeting each year at which the agenda is open to any matter relating to the homeowners association;

(4) A meeting of the board of directors or other governing body of the homeowners association or a committee of the homeowners association may be held in closed session only for the following purposes:

(i) Discussion of matters pertaining to employees and personnel;

(ii) Protection of the privacy or reputation of individuals in matters not related to the homeowners association's business;

(iii) Consultation with legal counsel;

(iv) Consultation with staff personnel, consultants, attorneys, or other persons in connection with pending or potential litigation;

(v) Investigative proceedings concerning possible or actual criminal misconduct;

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(vi) Consideration of the terms or conditions of a business transaction in the negotiation stage if the disclosure could adversely affect the economic interests of the homeowners association;

(vii) Compliance with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement protecting particular proceedings or matters from public disclosure; or

(viii) On an individually recorded affirmative vote of two-thirds of the board or committee members present, some other exceptional reason so compelling as to override the general public policy in favor of open meetings; and

(5) If a meeting is held in closed session under paragraph (4) of this section:

(i) An action may not be taken and a matter may not be discussed if it is not permitted by paragraph (4) of this section; and

(ii) A statement of the time, place, and purpose of a closed meeting, the record of the vote of each board or committee member by which the meeting was closed, and the authority under this section for closing a meeting shall be included in the minutes of the next meeting of the board of directors or the committee of the homeowners association.



★ Recipes ★



Nowadays everyone is tightening their belts due to the economic realities we're facing. This means less eating out—more cooking at home. This also has a good benefit, eating better for the buck.

So, I am asking for your favorite recipes to include in our newsletters. To begin with, I am posting one of my favorite's,

Chicken Renoir, rumored to be one of the favorites of Renoir, the French impressionist painter. I don't know how accurate this info is, but it sure is good. —Ed

1. Salt & Pepper chicken pieces (I prefer unboned chicken breasts) and sauté pretty well in Olive Oil (1/4-inch deep in pot) until brown on both sides.
2. Sauté briefly 3 or 4 yellow squash in pot—cut in round slices—do this after removing chicken.
3. Add to pot: -
 - 4 or 5 medium size Onions sliced
 - one or two cans Tomatoes with juice
 - One Clove minced Garlic
 - One or Two cans Black Olives (pitted) remove juice
 - 3+ teaspoons Ground Thyme
 - 2+ teaspoons Ground Sage
 - at least 1/2 cup Dry Vermouth
 - at least 1/4 to 1/2 cup Cognac or Bourbon or Brandy
4. Cover pot (optional) and simmer on top of stove for two hours.

Thanks to everyone who has sent me their 2009 Westerlee Community dues. Eighty residents of Westerlee (out of 164 members) have paid their dues. Dues were also paid for past and future bills. What a bargain. For \$15.00 a year we receive a lot of services and attention: a beautiful newsletter filled with much information and news about the neighborhood, future meetings and up-and-coming events, a concerned President and Board who are always there to answer questions and provide services for all of us, and even a picnic for fun and relaxation. It is wonderful to see a neighborhood work together and care about each other, plan for future projects, and hope for good things for all of us in our community and county. Thank you again.

Joan Goudy

Westerlee Community Association, Inc.
January 13, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 6:35.

Treasurer's report: Joan reported a good response to letters that she sent about paying membership dues.

Crime: Marilyn described the following crimes involving vehicles: items stolen from a locked car at 2105 Fernglan Way, tools stolen from a locked truck at 2124 Fernglan Way and car windows broken twice in two days at 2122 Cedar Circle Drive.

Traffic: Lena reported that the speed hump on Chantilla Drive has definitely slowed down the traffic.

Newsletter & Web Site: Marilyn announced that Bob has agreed to take over the newsletter. Karen said that in a few months she should have time to take over the web site.

Chuck suggested that we offer rides to people who don't drive at night.

Klaus agreed to invite Councilman Sam Moxley and Steve Whisler, Chairperson of the Southwest Coalition. Charlie volunteered to invite a representative from Russel Toyota.

Chuck suggested that the police do a presentation about identity theft.

Klaus offered to report on the proposed light rail Red Line that will start at Security Square Mall.

Fred agreed to lead the roundtable discussion.

Architectural Review: Klaus reported that the McFaddens at 2124 Fernglan Way agreed with committee suggestions concerning the widening of their driveway.

Water Main Break: Paul reported a recent water main break along Cedar Circle Drive on the hill down toward Fernglan.

Next Board Meeting: Marilyn said that the next regular board meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 9.

Bob made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Joan seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Fred Hickok

Treasurer's Report

*If you'd like a copy of the minutes, see our website or contact:
Fred Hickok

Period beginning December 1, 2008, and ending December 31, 2008

Beginning Balance
\$3,103.24

Income:

Dues	\$45.00
Interest	<u>0.40</u>
Total Income	\$45.40

Expenditures:

Total Expenditures	\$0.00
Ending Balance	\$3,148.64

Don't Miss Our Annual Meeting!

Hear What will Affect you and your Home in 2009

Make Your Voice Heard!

Date: March 31st—Time: 7:00 pm

**Location: Woodbridge Valley Elementary School
In The Cafeteria**

Win Our Door Prize: 1st Prize—\$25.00

Second Prize: 1-year's Free Dues

Even though it's way after Valentine's Day, I decided anyway to include a Victorian valentine from an age much simpler than ours. Today we send all sorts of birthday cards, Christmas cards, Hanukkah Cards, Easter Cards, and so forth, all in micro seconds all over the world.

Cyber cards are all the rage with moving and jumping illustrations that flick around the card's message—almost overlooking the sentiments.

The old Valentines were sent by snail mail as everything else was in those days, but I'll bet that they remained closer to the heart of the receiver then. Anyway, a belated happy Valentines Day to all of us in Westerlee.—*Ed*

