

# WESTERLEE COMMUNITY NEWS



Westerlee: A Proud Covenant Controlled Community

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



Editor: John Moore

March 2014

## President's Letter

Dear Neighbors,

Spring means that it is time for our neighborhood association's Annual Meeting, an event that is required by our bylaws and brings together the community. The Annual Meeting is our "State of the Union" in miniature, an opportunity to review the year and see how our community is doing, discuss issues and hear updates from our councilman, the County police and our neighboring communities.

Our community is in a constant state of change. The original residents have almost entirely disappeared, a not-so-subtle reminder of the human condition, that allows only a very few of us to "age in place" until the high age of ninety or more. Dr. Joseph Velky, and his wife Jean who lived on Fernglan Way were an exception. But after his wife died in 2013 Dr. Velky followed six months later, both remembered as the kindest neighbors. Lu Yingling, my close neighbor, is another one of the original residents. Lu is a remarkable woman. She is known to many of us in the community as the living history of the community, to some she is simply the lady with the bright lime green late model Camaro. In spite of her racy car, Lu approves of the speed bumps and thinks that they help to keep people from racing down Cedar Circle Drive in front of her house. Lou is a great example of a long-time resident who has stayed young in her heart engaged in life. She is an inspiration for me.

New residents of all ages and backgrounds have followed and continue to buy homes in our community, which remains a desirable destination. Luckily we barely know the plight of vacant houses here, and where we have a couple of those, it is because of circumstance and not because of a lack of buyers.

Recently, on one of those days with snow on the ground, I heard noise and happy voices and noticed a small group of older children, not sure if one could call them already teenagers. One of the kids was riding a refurbished lawn mower which he used like a crossover between go cart and snowmobile. The ruckus may have not been to everybody's liking, but it reminded me that we also have young people in our community. A fairly significant group of "young'uns" converges at the corner of Chantilla and Dlong to board the morning school bus. We are fortunate to have both young and old in our community.

Serving young and old is the goal of our Westerlee Board, and to the extent possible, the Board represents the diversity of the community in gender, age and race. We could use some more diversity, especially more young residents who would find that serving the

### WESTERLEE COMMUNITY, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Klaus Philipsen

[kphilipsen@archplan.com](mailto:kphilipsen@archplan.com) 410-685-2002 (W)

Vice President: Wanda Richardson

Secretary: Fred Hickok

Treasurer: Chris Goatee

#### Directors

Joan Goudy

Bob Hoffman

Fred Kirk

John Moore

Joe Reid

Chuck Sprague

Karen Straughn

community may be a great practice for democracy on the grass roots level. This year we will have the bi-annual elections of board members. There is an opportunity to register your interest or the interest of one of your neighbors to serve on the Westerlee Board, by contacting our nominating committee of one, Chuck Sprague, at [chucksprag@comcast.net](mailto:chucksprag@comcast.net). Take our new neighbor John Moore as model. He moved here, volunteered to do the Newsletter and joined the Board all in his first year!

We are returning to Woodbridge Elementary School for this year's Annual Meeting. Woodbridge wasn't available to us for a couple of years, but this year we have the good fortune to return. The Board is assuming that this is a more convenient location for most than the Emmanuel Lutheran Church at Ingleside, which had accommodated us so friendly over the last several years. Coming to our meeting will be a great opportunity for those of you who haven't come there before to scout out the school, which will also be the place where you will vote in the elections later this year. Even in the age of online social networking, nothing can replace face to face contact and direct participation. If we needed a reminder of how powerful the voice of people can be who assemble to be heard, the Ukrainian Maidan, the main square in Kiev, was such a reminder, even though the events now turn into something that was certainly not intended. Luckily our issues and concerns are much more benign, but that doesn't make it any less important to discuss them. Like last year, we aim for the Annual Meeting to not only be the association's "business meeting" but also provide presentations and information. See the agenda on the invitation for more details.

I hope to see you on April 1 at 7PM at the Woodbridge Elementary School Cafeteria.

Klaus Philipsen

## From the Editor

I wanted to take a moment to remind all of our neighbors in Westerlee to take a look at a new private social network we're participating in: Nextdoor.com. What is Nextdoor? Here is a bit of info from the Nextdoor.com website: *Nextdoor is the private social network for you, your neighbors and your community. Nextdoor's mission is to use the power of technology to build stronger and safer neighborhoods. And it's free.*

Once you're registered you can post recommendations for local services, add a classified ad, let everyone know you've lost or found something, or notify the neighborhood of suspicious activity. All of these things contribute to a safer and more cohesive neighborhood. There is even a mobile app for your Android or iPhone, so you can keep up on the latest info wherever you roam.

I hope you'll give Nextdoor a try... here's the invite link: [www.nextdoor.com/join/JMYJSM](http://www.nextdoor.com/join/JMYJSM)

John Moore, Editor

### How to Submit Material to Our Newsletter

PLEASE do not submit text in Adobe Acrobat .pdf format or in any other file format except .doc files. You may also include your article in an email if you prefer. All photos must be JPEG or PNG files. You can send the files as attachments to your email. Send to [jlmoore3rd@verizon.net](mailto:jlmoore3rd@verizon.net)

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## Heads of Westerlee Committees

Social Committee: Karen Straughn

Architectural Review Committee: Klaus Philipsen

Code Violations Committee: Klaus Philipsen

Block Captains Committee: Karen Straughn & Wanda Richardson

## Advertising Rates in Our Newsletter

We welcome your advertising in our Newsletter. You'll find it's a very good bargain in advertising your services to 164 Westerlee families—plus their friends and family relations who see the newsletter or hear by word of mouth what you do and what services you can provide to homeowners.

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**Contact: John Moore [jlmoore3rd@verizon.net](mailto:jlmoore3rd@verizon.net)**

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## Community News and Alerts

The Westerlee Inc sends occasional e-mails with community news and alerts. In emergencies or developing situations this is a quick and simple way to reach many residents and give them necessary information. The e-mail recipients are not visible to all and the list will not be shared with anybody. If you are interested in receiving those e-mails, please send a brief e-mail notice to: [kphilipsen@archplan.com](mailto:kphilipsen@archplan.com) and you will be added to the list. If you signed up before but you have not received any notifications at all, there may be an error in the way your address was recorded. Please send another request. This method of communication will be most effective when most residents are on the list.

# Westerlee Community Association, Inc.

## Board Meeting - February 27, 2014

**Board Members Present:** Klaus Philipsen, Wanda Richardson, Chris Goatee, Joe Reid, John Moore, Bob Hoffman, Joan Goudy, Chuck Sprague

**Excused:** Fred Hickok, Karen Straughn

Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.

**NextDoor, Social Media site:** After query about who has joined the site, brief discussion followed about impressions. Overall feeling is positive for the site, especially recent posts from Klaus during the electrical outage with status updates from his discussions with the BGE contractors. Would like to see more neighbors join the site and discussed the addition of a link on the website. Additionally, proposed discussion about the site during the annual meeting. John suggested laptop brought to annual meeting for ease of sign up.

**Treasurer's Report:** Chris presented 4th quarter report, the 2013 summary report to be presented at annual meeting. Complete conversion to Quick Books for accounting and reporting remains outstanding and lengthy discussion regarding barriers and suggestions for resolution. John noted the charge for the website (\$278.88) to be costly and one year payment for host charges offered as explanation for this cost. Cost is anticipated to be lower next year. John will reach out to Karen for clarity and/or advice. Chris reported that we had a record amount of past dues collected this year and discussion followed about potential to have the community party catered this year. Board agreed to discuss at the annual meeting.

**Christmas Light Decorating Contest:** Chris and Wanda were the judges for the lights this year. First place, \$25 Giant gift card, was awarded to 2127 Cedar Circle Drive. Second place, \$15 Giant gift card, was awarded to 2127 Fernglen Way. Third place prize, \$10 Giant gift card, was awarded to 2103 Fernglen Way. Chuck recommended that we recognize the winners of the Decoration contest at the annual meeting.

**Newsletter:** Need to get out ASAP so that notification for annual meeting made. Chuck recommended including an article about the benefits of living in a covenant controlled community- content available on website. Chuck also suggested this as an agenda item for the annual meeting, given the number of new Westerlee neighbors. John suggested interviewing neighbors to highlight the history and storytelling in the community as an alternative to neighbor produced articles.

**Annual Meeting:** April 1, 2014- Woodbridge Valley Elementary School, 7-9pm

Propose to have time keeper assigned to maintain agenda

**Proposed topics/speakers:**

- Committee reports
- Tom Quirk

- Tony Basemore
- Surrounding Community Associations- Tina Brown from Westview Park
- Police Update - Officer Helpenstein
- Development of regional bike paths & trails - Kathy Schlabaugh
- BGE- smart meter/energy audit? Chuck to research program name and possible speaker to present
- NextDoor social media site- with laptop for easy sign up

### Action Items- Responsible board member

- Verify Woodbridge Valley Elementary location/time/ projection screen- Chris
- Purchase snacks- Chris
- Purchase 3 new annual meeting signs- Wanda
- Invitation to potential speakers- Klaus
- Projector- Klaus
- Laptop w/hot spot- John
- BGE program research- name and potential speaker- Chuck
- Put out signs week prior to meeting ~ March 22

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

## CY 2013 - Q4 Treasurer's Report

Period Beginning: January 1, 2013 Ending December 31, 2013

Beginning Balance: \$4906.34

Total Income: 4665.65

Total Dues Received: \$4665.00

Q1: 625.00 Q2: 3750.00 Q3: 290.00 Q4: 0.00

Total Interest: \$ .65

Q1: .12 Q2: .19 Q3: .14 Q4: .20

Total Expenditures: \$1925.15

Newsletter: \$722.09

Q1: 231.8 Q2: 259.47 Q3: 0.00 Q4: 230.82

Christmas Décor Prize: \$50.00

Yard Sale: \$36.50

Annual Meeting: \$40.56

Insurance: \$100.00

Community Party: \$281.77

Website: \$278.88

Memorial Day Flags: \$93.50

Misc: \$321.85

Q1: 123.95 Q2: 135.90 Q3: 62.00 Q4: .00

Ending Balance: \$7646.94



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