



WESTERLEE COMMUNITY NEWS

Westerlee: A Proud Covenant Controlled Community



www.westerleenews.com

Spring 2020



Editor: Pam Jarrell

President's Letter

Dear Neighbors,

More than ever Westerlee, with its sweeping lawns, mature trees and calm setting, is an oasis in a highly uncertain world. Crime is up in the County and in the City but Westerlee remains peaceful. Climate change is a global concern and nobody is exempted, but Westerlee remains cooler in the summer and still has frosty nights in the winter thanks to lots of green spaces. Finally, a new virus makes people withdraw into their homes. The residents of Westerlee have the advantage that they won't get claustrophobic too quickly in their spacious homes.

In the mid 1950s, when Westerlee was created, exclusion was an officially accepted policy and many homeowners association's main purpose was to keep people out whom the founders found not acceptable. Even though Westerlee remains a pocket that can feel separate from a hostile world, today's HOA, which I have chaired for much longer than I should have, has pursued inclusion, connectivity and cooperation. The times are over when the HOA wanted buffer strips and blocked roads so it would stay apart from Woodbridge Valley, a much larger community which was developed after Westerlee.

Cooperation between Westerlee and Woodbridge Valley began soon after the initial fights by sharing the community pool. Westerlee's original developer must have understood that a separate pool didn't make sense his small community. When the Gateway apartments expanded and the Catonsville Mews were proposed, the Westerlee board under my leadership did not fight all new development but sat down with the developer to arrange the buildings better and create a connecting pathway that both communities can use.

The current board is still working on getting the pathway extended so that a wonderfully sylvan pathway could connect from Nuwood Road all the way to Rolling Road where the County already maintains a small and mostly unused pocket park. This connection has been talked about for years and takes a lot longer to create than we wished. However, Baltimore County's Department of Public Works which owns the land near the water tower and the board of the Catonsville Mews which would need to allow an extension of the already existing trail have both indicated their willingness to work something out.

The Westerlee board regularly collaborates with the communities of Drexelwood, Woodbridge Valley and Westview Park and all of our elected officials. A current example is a zoning application at the bottom of Powers Lane to change a single-family category to multifamily. Drexelwood would have to allow access, the construction of water and sewer and would lose a valuable open space along a small stream. Westerlee and Woodbridge Valley jointly met with the Drexelwood leaders in Councilman Quirk's office to meet with the owner of the land and his lawyer to explain the concerns about the woods, the stream, access and the need for drainage areas that are left undeveloped. Unfortunately, the owner and his lawyer had not done the due diligence to be able to respond to the concerns or be able to explain what land is actually buildable and how any multifamily housing would

WESTERLEE COMMUNITY, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Klaus Philippsen

kphilipsen@archplan.com 410-493-6239

Vice President: Wanda Richardson

Secretary: Fred Hickok

Treasurer: Rizwan Mahmoodi, send checks to: 2126 Fernglen Way

Directors: John Fox, Chris Goatee, John Herron, Pam Jarrell

Jacquiline Johnson, Joe Reid, Michele Snowden

Contact the board by emailing westerleehoa@gmail.com

work there. (Zoning issue 01-015, if you want to look it up online under the keyword CZMP).

Westerlee is in the good position to have old Catonsville with a steadily more vital "main street" at Frederick Road which was recently designated one of the State's official Arts and Entertainment districts, the County's first. The chain store Friendly's became a local restaurant ("State Fare") and Plymouth Wallpaper is slated to become a Faidley's seafood restaurant later this year. Meanwhile the construction of a new market style grocery store across from Atwater's Bakery is making good progress. In the Home Depot/Staples shopping plaza the opening of the German grocery discount chain Lidl has brought another grocery option with the special offering of a bakery with fresh baked European style breads and pretzels.

Route 40, however, remains a hot mess in terms of esthetics and traffic and a less than desirable gateway into our community. New businesses never move it much closer to the necessary transformation to a greener street that also allows pedestrians and bicyclists to use or cross it safely. Planted medians, more sidewalks, street trees and stricter design guidelines for businesses facing the street is too big a lift for our communities, in collaboration. It requires a change in mindset that isn't there yet.

We planned to have our Annual Meeting on April 14 but due to the coronavirus we have had to postpone. Nobody seems to know what course this epidemic will take. With all the uncertainty all around us, I hope that you can enjoy spring in our community extra much and that you will stay healthy and well.

Klaus Philippsen,

President Westerlee Inc.



2020 Annual Meeting

Due to the coronavirus, this meeting has been postponed. Follow Nextdoor, Westerlee website and posted signage for updates.

Get Connected!

Join Nextdoor, our neighborhood blog. Neighbors keep neighbors informed. News, referrals, events, and much more!

To join, email Klaus
kphilipsen@archplan.com

2019– Year End Treasurer’s Report January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019

Beginning Balance \$11,779.31

Income

Other Income-Interest 1.59
Dues 6,894.50

Total Income + \$6,896.09

Expenditures:

Community Party 1,893.00
Newsletters/flyers 453.42
Annual Meeting 78.60
Flags 99.00
Gifts 100.00
Recycle Bins 2,695.19
Office Supplies 111.99
Welcome Committee 98.97

Total Expenses - \$5,530.17

Ending Balance = \$13,145.23

(Beginning Balance + Total Income - Total Expenditures)



Meeting Minutes

Westerlee Community Association, Inc. January 27, 2020

In attendance: Klaus Philipsen, Wanda Richardson, John Fox, John Herron, Joe Reid, Rizwan Mahmoodi, and Pam Jarrell.

Welcoming Committee: John Herron made 2 visits by himself. The welcoming committee is having a difficult time coordinating visits with the 3 variables of new neighbor, and 2 committee members. There has only been 1 request for the committee to welcome them and that was done last fall.

Holiday light Contest: Pam Jarrell said that she and Jacqui Johnson did the judging and picked 4 winners. Gift cards will be given out prior to newsletter distribution.

Treasurers Report: Rizwan Mahmoodi mentioned that the letters went out to all residents regarding the status of their monthly dues. Thanks to board members that helped. Next letters will be sent in summer to those who have missed the April 30 deadline to pay without penalty.

Nuwood to Rolling Walking Pathway: Klaus Philipsen is working with the Mews and Baltimore County Public Works to establish whether DPW will allow traversing their land as needed for the trail. The Mews HOA is in favor of the trail but needs to agree on a connection between the existing end of trail to the DPW land.

Zoning: Klaus Philipsen noted that 2020 is the year Baltimore County quadrennial zoning process, where anyone can request changes to county zoning. There has been a request to rezone the property near the BMW dealership/Powers lane area. (Issue 1-015). The area in question has a stream and wet areas, also access is an issue since Powers Lane in that segment seems to be a private road. He will discuss with Tom Quirks office, as they have the final say in changes And coordinate with the Drexelwood community which is directly adjacent to the site.

Speedhumps: Joe Reid reported that they have been repaired. No Change to the truck traffic problems, the County is not budging about prohibitions since they didn't observe trucks during their count.

Upcoming Annual Meeting: Chris Goatee sent email stating April 14 and 21 are open on the Woodbridge Elementary calendar. The board would prefer the 14th. Chris will confirm with the school. Topics for the meeting were discussed. Main topic is that this is an election year for the Westerlee Board. Klaus will be stepping down as President but remain on the board. A slate should be published in the next newsletter. Other topics to have at meeting are: Newly elected officials, police report as usual. Klaus reported that the MD insurance administration offers to speak about disaster insurance. The board suggested to have the Fire Department report about fire safety and new code for smoke detectors. Westerlee suggestions for actions in 2020: tree planting program (John Herron will pursue), recycle bins, the trail.

Newsletter: Pam said all submissions for the newsletter are due March 9th.

The next meeting will take March 9-2020

Respectfully Submitted by Pam Jarrell



Westerlee's Got the Holiday Spirit!

2020 Holiday decorations in the neighborhood were really lovely this year. The judges noticed that with new neighbors moving in, there is renewed energy to celebrating the season. Due to technical difficulty, I am unable to post photos of the homes that won. Here are the addresses of the winning homes: 2127 Fernglen Way, 2024 Cedar Circle Drive, 2004 Cedar Circle Drive, 2019 Cedar Circle. A big thanks to all who brighten our lives by decorating your homes. Gift cards will be distributed this summer.



Paper Crazy?

Here's The Answer!

I know you've seen these papers sitting at the bottom of your driveway, we all have. Once a week, like clockwork, the little blue bag shows up, uninvited.

My husband and I walk this neighborhood a lot and know that there are those of you who try to ignore these unwanted newspapers. Leaving them to rot is not the answer, it's actually pretty gross to watch them disintegrate day after day, they eventually clog the drains and go to the bay.

If you have never opened one of these blue bags, it's from the Baltimore Sun and has a local interest story, weekend events, and a crossword puzzle that is fairly easy. It also contains circulars from the local markets and other ads. I do find the articles interesting and I like to know where the food deals are. After a quick look, the blue bag goes in the trash *because plastic bags are **not** recyclable* and the paper bits go straight to the recycle bin.

Good News, for those who do not want them, there are two ways to cancel:

1] email SunPlusService@baltsun.com
Type Cancel SunPlus in the subject line. Message area put Cancel SunPlus and full name of person who owns the home and full address.

2] Call 1-888-539-1280
You must go thru 3 recordings, so do the following:
Select #5 (customer service), next select #4 (Others), next #3(customer service). When you reach a person, no matter what they say, just tell them to cancel.

If you have a neighbor, who has problems with the paper and may not be able to cancel on their own, please offer to help them. I hope you will take advantage of this information to keep Westerlee looking its best.



Yard Sale Day June 6, 8am-2pm

This is the perfect activity for sheltering in place! Go through your house, attic, garage and shed. If you haven't used it or thought about it in the last 2 years, into the yard sale pile it goes. If your saving things for your kids, now is a great time to ask them if they really want your stuff...most of the time the answer is NO. (Sorry) Declutter now and make money in your own front yard this June.

Please register!!! Participation numbers are essential to get the most buyers to attend our yard sale. When we advertise the event, the more houses joining in the better. You will be given balloons and will be placed on a neighborhood map so that prospective buyers get excited and know where you are located. The more people who visit, the less items you have left at the end of the day. Enjoy

Call Wanda Richardson, 410.206.2418 or Jacqui Johnson, 443.629.4593 for details.



Don't Forget to Pay your \$25 HOA Dues!

For those who normally pay at the annual meeting, please mail your check. Remember, after April 30th a \$15 late fee will be assessed.



Make checks payable to Westerlee Inc. and mail to: Rizwan Mahmoodi, 2126 Fernglen Way, Catonsville, MD 21228.

CELESTIAL SIGHTS

By Fred Hickok, Professor Emeritus of
Astronomy, Community College
of Baltimore County

April 8 - Full Moon, Supermoon. The Moon will be located on the opposite side of the Earth as the Sun and its face will be fully illuminated. This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as the Full Pink Moon because it marked the appearance of the moss pink, or wild ground phlox, which is one of the first spring flowers. Many coastal tribes called it the Full Fish Moon because this was the time that the shad swam upstream to spawn. The Moon will be at its closest approach to the Earth and may look slightly larger and brighter than usual.

May 6, 7 - Eta Aquarids Meteor Shower. This is an above average shower, capable of producing up to 30 meteors per hour at its peak. It is produced by dust particles left behind by comet Halley. It peaks this year on the night of May 6 and the morning of the May 7. Best viewing will be from a dark location after midnight. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Aquarius, but can appear anywhere in the sky.

May 7 - Full Moon, Supermoon. This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as the Full Flower Moon because this was the time of year when spring flowers appeared in abundance. This moon has also been known as the Full Corn Planting Moon and the Milk Moon.

June 5 - Full Moon. This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as the Full Strawberry Moon because it signaled the time of year to gather ripening fruit. It also coincides with the peak of the strawberry harvesting season. This moon has also been known as the Full Rose Moon and the Full Honey Moon.

July 14 - Jupiter at Opposition. The giant planet will be at its closest approach to Earth and its face will be fully illuminated by the Sun. It will be brighter than any other time of the year and will be visible all night long. This is the best time to view and photograph Jupiter and its moons. A medium-sized telescope should be able to show you some of the details in Jupiter's cloud bands. A good pair of binoculars should allow you to see Jupiter's four largest moons, appearing as bright dots on either side of the planet.

July 20 - Saturn at Opposition. The ringed planet will be at its closest approach to Earth and its face will be fully illuminated by the Sun. It will be brighter than any other time of the year and will be visible all night long. This is the best time to view and photograph Saturn and its moons. A medium-sized or larger telescope will allow you to see Saturn's rings and a few of its brightest moons.

July 28, 29 - Delta Aquarids Meteor Shower. This is an average shower that can produce up to 20 meteors per hour at its peak. It is produced by debris left behind by comets Marsden and Kracht. Best viewing will be from a dark location after midnight. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Aquarius, but can appear anywhere in the sky.

August 12, 13 - Perseids Meteor Shower. One of the best meteor showers to observe, producing up to 60 meteors per hour at its peak. It is produced by comet Swift-Tuttle, which was discovered in 1862. The Perseids are famous for producing a large number of bright meteors. Best viewing will be from a dark location after midnight. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Perseus, but can appear anywhere in the sky.

Sources: <http://www.seasky.org/astronomy/astronomy-calendar-2020.html>

Free Benjamin Banneker Planetarium Shows:

CCBC Catonsville, Mathematics and Science Hall
Room 030A, 800 S. Rolling Road.

Friday, April 17, 7pm: *50th Anniversary of Apollo 13*

Saturday, April 18, 10am: *How Do We Survive in Space?*
(kids show)

Friday, May 8, 8pm: *We Are Stars*

Saturday, May 9, 10am: *Meteors, Asteroids & Comets*
(kids show)

Life is Great in 21228!

Free Things to do in Catonsville

Music

Lurman Woodland Theater

FREE Musical entertainment every weekend June through August. Check their calendar, pack a picnic and enjoy everything from rock to reggae and big band to bluegrass.
www.lurman.com

Frederick Road Fridays Concert Season

FREE Every Friday • June 5 to August 28. 15
15 Mellor Avenue 6:30 to 8:30 pm. www.catonsville.org

Farmers Markets

Catonsville Sunday Farmers Market

Opening Day on Sunday, May 3 and runs, RAIN OR SHINE, through November 22. 15 Mellor Avenue 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. www.catonsville.org

Catonsville Wednesday Farmers Market

The Christian Temple, 5820 Edmondson Avenue, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. www.catonsvillefarmersmarket.com

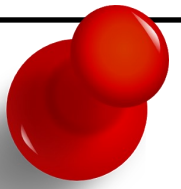
Places of Interest

Benjamin Banneker Historical Park

300 Oella Ave, Catonsville, MD 21228 FREE
Museum, nature activities and hiking. 410.887.1081



Please Take Note



Westerlee Community Inc. & Coronavirus We Can Help

Being good neighbors is what Westerlee is all about. During these challenging times, it is important to take care of each other. Some of us may be in a position to help and others may need help, that's where the Westerlee Board can be of assistance. We are compiling 2 lists, those who need help and those who can help. Then we will work to match both together to get the tasks done. See contacts at the bottom of the page. Please note: If you have a real health emergency call 911.

If you need assistance:

Consider the following before calling ...

1] What do you need?

Be as specific as possible and have a list ready when you call. Know things like the brand, size & amount.

2] When do you need it?

Try your best to let us know when you are running low instead of when you've run out. We certainly understand be caught by surprise too, so don't worry, we will do our best to act quickly.

3] Destination?

Where do you normally get the items? Specific pharmacy or store?

Can you volunteer?

Looking for people to help out. Its hard to know what will be needed at this time.

Here a few examples:

1] Are you able to drive and run errands?

2] Would you be able to make calls or check up on someone?

3] Can you contribute a meal?

Klaus Philipsen

Call or text 410-493-6239

email: kphilipsen@archplan.com

**Mail to Klaus Philipsen
2018 Cedar Circle Drive
Catonsville, MD 21228**

Pam Jarrell

Call or text 443-742-6393

email: phjarrell@yahoo.com

**Mail to Pam Jarrell
1904 Cedar Circle Drive
Catonsville, MD 21228**

Alarmist, Please read.

By Klaus Philipsen, reprinted from Nextdoor post.

“Are you tired of the barrage of Corona Virus News? You don’t want to overreact? You feel this is just hype and will go away? You are confused?

You wouldn’t be the only one. This is understandable, but denying the current risk is wrong.

Having had to cancel a long planned trip this week myself, I have closely followed German, French and Italian news for weeks as well as what our epidemiologists and virologist advise and explain about this particular situation.

While panic and stockpiling is never advisable, I urge you to take the advice to stay home and avoid gatherings of any kind as serious as you can.

We are only a few days behind what Italy and Spain experience and we have lost valuable time with not having tested all who should have been tested.

The numbers of infections you hear are not only up to 10 days behind reality (from feeling sick to feeling one should get tested to the day the results come back and will be published) they are also artificially low due to lack of testing. Assume that many people in the County and community carry the virus without symptoms or without having been identified.

This is not the time to be heroic or show bravado but a time to sanitize and isolate as careful as you can.

In Westerlee we have beautiful community that makes this unwelcome isolation as pleasant as it can get. We are privileged and lucky for being near all essential services and excellent health institutions.

If you belong to the group that doctors consider vulnerable, don’t take any chances. Stay home. Find healthy people to get you your food and meds.

Let’s use NextDoor to place requests for help and assistance, not for general venting about the situation or unsubstantiated opinions.

We all wished we wouldn’t have this crisis, but is real and any hour we deny it will make it worse.

I know you have heard this many times. But I want to make this personal and local. Those who know me, know I don’t tend to overstate things. I hope that means you believe this warning even though I am not a health professional.

We can use NextDoor also for suggestions such as online games, streaming movie suggestions or tips for food delivery services that still work. Links to practical tips are helpful, too.

We will be in this situation for at least 10 weeks, probably longer. None of us are old enough to have ever experienced anything like what the entire world is going through right now. We all have to learn together.