

# WESTERLEE COMMUNITY NEWS

Westerlee: A Proud Covenant Controlled Community

www.westerleenews.com



Spring 2023



Editor: Pam Jarrell

## President's Letter

### 2023 in Westerlee: Please join us on Zoom for the Annual Meeting

I hope this finds you and your families doing well and staying healthy in 2023. As a board, we'd like to continue one more year with the Zoom format and aim for returning in person for 2024. (We so miss seeing our neighbors face to face!) We are hosting our annual HOA meeting on the Zoom platform on April 25, 2023 from 7-9pm. *See below for instructions on how to attend.*

For this meeting, we have invited our local elected officials to share County updates and accomplishments, Baltimore County Police liaison Officer Alisha Helphenstine, and an update on the Security Square project. We will also update you on planned events and reports from HOA board officers.

We continue to seek additional board members; if you have interest, please reach out to westerleehoa@gmail.com for more information. Being on the board is not a huge time commitment, we have a few meetings a year currently done by zoom, as well as helping out with our few special events a year. Service to our community is important to keep things running smoothly, but also fun!

#### WESTERLEE COMMUNITY, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: John Fox

Email: john.fox.phd@gmail.com Cell: (410)756-0543

Vice President: Wanda Richardson

Secretary: Open

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

Directors: Chris Goatee, John Herron, Pam Jarrell, Jacquiline Johnson, Tonya DeSheilds, Deborah Cason.

Klaus Philipsen (Past President)

Contact the board by emailing westerleehoa@gmail.com

Working alongside neighbors for a common goal and getting to know each other is a pleasure. We have plenty of room on all committees and need some new neighbors to join in.

As your HOA Board, we look forward to "seeing" you then.

Sincerely,

John Fox



## 2023 Westerlee's Virtual Zoom Annual Meeting Tuesday, April 25, 2023 from 7-9pm

- 1) To join the virtual meeting, please use the following link: <https://zoom.us>
- 2) Select "Join" in the upper left of the page.
- 3) Please enter the following Meeting ID Number in the box: **913 027 2899**
- 4) Passcode: **Westerlee**

\*If you have further concerns or challenges with the technology, please reach out to us via westerleehoa@gmail.com.

\*You can also go to [www.westerleenews.com](http://www.westerleenews.com) to select the link on-line from our neighborhood website.

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

For those who normally pay at the annual meeting, please remember to mail your \$25 check before the end of April.

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.

## Get Connected!

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

To join, email Klaus  
kphilipsen@archplan.com

### 2022 Year End Treasurer's Report January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022

Beginning Balance \$16,328.70

#### Income

Other Income-Interest 1.74  
Dues 2,036.00

**Total Income + \$2,037.74**

#### Expenditures:

Flower Arrangements \$102.49  
Newsletters/flyers \$295.01  
Community Party \$1,052.85  
HOA Insurance \$100.00

**Total Expenses - \$1,568.76**

**Ending Balance = \$16,797.68**

(Beginning Balance + Total income - Total Expenditures)



## Meeting Minutes

**Westerlee Community Association, Inc. March 13, 2023**

Attendees: John Fox, Tanya Deshields, Pam Jarrell, Rizwan Mahmoodi, Chris Goatee, Wanda Richardson, John Herron, Jaqui Johnson Excused: Klaus Phillipsen, Deborah Cason

Approval of Minutes - Nov. 7, 2022

3. Secretary position- Chris G. nominated and will serve as Secretary in the interim until annual meeting.

4. Old Business - Swale behind homes on Fernglen, (John H)- Rizwan and John walked through area to assess.

Even without all the debris, the swale does not have a clear stream to the drain from top to bottom. The bottom half will function well, we believe, with relatively minor redirection and cleaning. The middle section is a disaster! This is where the trees cut down by contractors of BGE and one huge one that was recently uprooted in a storm, lay across the swale blocking any chance of water flow and, in fact, directing some water into yards of families on Fernglen Way. The upper section levels off just below Nuwood and then slopes down. There is an area that can be rather easily modified to start a flow that the water would help maintain at least to the middle section. Fixing this upper part without fixing the middle section may exacerbate the flow of water to some houses.

Middle section: We believe the middle section is clearly the responsibility of the County (and possibly, BGE) and could not and should not be ameliorated by the HOA. The upper (after work by the County) and lower sections would benefit from about \$500.00 of clean up by us.

We propose sending the pictures and a letter to the County requesting removal or relocation of the fallen trees to a position parallel to the swale rather than across it.

#### 5. New Business

Discussions on neighbors and fences. Covenants and County rules. Would need more information on the rules for both and how they differ. Unfortunately, we are volunteers and do not have experience in such matters. Hopefully, resolutions can happen without lawyer involvement.

#### 6. Annual Meeting

Date- 4/25/2023 @ 7pm-9pm Location (in person vs. online) virtual meeting, Jackie offered Zoom subscription.  
Agenda- proposed presenters/topics, Alicia Helphenstine (BCPS), Danielle Singley re: Security Mall

#### 7. Officer & Committee reports:

Newsletter – Pam: Article Deadline: 3/20/2023 to accommodate Newsletter publication and distribution in 2 weeks. Compost bins and Rainwater collection, Presidents letter, etc...

Yard Sale- June 10th 8am-2pm

Treasurer - Rizwan Dues & Homeowner Balance Notification. Rizwan logging checks received, then will have balances and statements put together to be mailed out. Account Balance stands at \$16,745.00. Chris, Tanya, and Jackie volunteered to mail statements. Rizwan expressed his desire to resign from Treasurer position, but willing to stay on the board as a member at large. IRS EIN number issue-Chris to reach out.

8. Future 2023 Meetings: May 8, July 31, Nov 6

9. Adjourn - John F.- Meeting was adjourned at 8:02pm

## And the Winners are...

The Westerelee events committee was back to the judging the holiday lights this year. There were two standouts. The first was 2022 Cedar Circle, a past winner. The second is 2103 Cedar Circle, brand new to the winners circle. Thanks to both of them for lighting up our neighborhood!



## Yard Sale Day June 10, 8am-2pm

Time to declutter and reorganize. If you're 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) If you have any empty space, this is a great time to do some bargain hunting without leaving the neighborhood.

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.

**RSVP By June 1st**

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

## Friday, July 26 is Bulk Trash Pick-Up Day!

All items should be put out by 6pm on the 25th.

Baltimore County bulk trash pick-up is 2 times a year in July and January. Dragging stuff to the curb will be so convenient! Keep an eye out for the mailers that come in early January.

For more info on what can be set out, the website has all of the info on what items apply, size limitations, and certain preparations. If further instruction is needed, go to the Baltimore County Solid Waste web page (link below), or call them at (410)887-2000.

[https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/publicworks/solid\\_waste/bulkitems.html](https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/publicworks/solid_waste/bulkitems.html)



Baltimore County will be holding an online

## COMPOST BIN & RAIN BARREL PRE-ORDER SALE

Pre-order deadline: April 12, 2023

All orders will be taken online only via debit or credit card. There will be no walk up purchases available at the distribution location.

Orders must be picked up on  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2023 9.00 AM - 2.00 PM**

CCBC Essex 7201 Rossville Boulevard  
Baltimore, MD 21237-3899 Parking lot #7

**Order today:**



For more information on this event, visit [www.baltimorecountymd.gov/compost](http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/compost)  
For more information on the products offered, visit [www.enviroworld.us](http://www.enviroworld.us)



# Don't Miss Our 2023 Virtual Annual Meeting

See page one for instructions on how to attend or log onto Westerlees webpage at [www.westerleenews.com](http://www.westerleenews.com) to select the link on-line from our neighborhood website.

See you there!



## Life is Great in 21228!

*Free Things to do in Catonsville*

### Catonsville Sunday Farmers Market

15 Mellor Avenue 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
[www.catonsville.org](http://www.catonsville.org). April 30 thru Nov 19.

### Catonsville Wednesday Farmers Market (open year-round)

The Christian Temple, 5820 Edmondson Avenue, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
[www.catonsvillefarmersmarket.com](http://www.catonsvillefarmersmarket.com) and on Fb as "Catonsville Farmers' Market".



### Lurman Woodland Theater

Located behind Catonsville High School. Fabulous free concerts of all kinds, all summer long. Bring chairs and picnic. Kicks off on June 3rd. Full 2023 schedule is on Fb using full name. Lurman.com will hopefully be updated soon.



### Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum

300 Oella Ave. 410-887-1081. Run by Baltimore County, this is a wonderful museum and park, just 5 minutes away.



### #9 Trolley Trail

Easy, meandering, and beautiful paved trail that runs between Catonsville Middle School and Ellicott City (behind the Trolley Stop Restaurant. 3-Mile round trip, more if you enjoy the day in Ellicott City or connect to Banneker trails.

### Frederick Road Fridays

15 Mellor Avenue starting every Friday from June 2 to August 25, 2023, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. It is not summer in Catonsville without these concerts! Grab the family, some food and chairs and join in.

### Banneker Planetarium

CCBC, 800 S. Rolling Rd. Science Bldg. Rm 030  
Info: 443.840.4560 Shows for all ages.

## "I NEVER wanted to belong to an HOA" & now I'm on the board too....

By Pam Jarrell, Editor

We've all heard the horror stories about Homeowners Associations (HOA). They are expensive, Nosey Nellys, crazy rules, crazier neighbors. I always said that if I would never live in a neighborhood with an HOA because if I wanted to paint my house pink, no one could stop me. Then in 2006 Dan and I drove into Westerlee.

What a beautiful street. What a cool house. Sunken Living-room, that's awesome. UGH, there's an HOA. \$15 a year, that's really cheap! Love the house, love the location, read the HOA rules, Lets buy it. The best decision we ever made, 16 years and counting. I'm still feeling the love for our lovely neighborhood. What I didn't know at the time is the HOA is working in the background to keep it that way.

In 2016, at the Annual Meeting, sitting in the Woodbridge Elementary School cafeteria, with tons of Westerlee neighbors, scrunched into kiddie tables, *it* happened. The guy who had been doing the newsletter was moving to Idaho. No one in the crowd was volunteering to take the newsletter on and I decided to raise my hand. BUT, I had a full-time job, crazy hours, and made it perfectly clear that I would do the letter but *no way* would I be part of the board. That worked for a few years, attending board meetings for information but not having to vote on anything. Then finally I said, "yes" to becoming a board member.

Now, I look back and know I was being silly. HOA Boards don't bite. All are willing to listen to your views. You get a chance to be really part of the neighborhood. Not just live here, driving in and out, but really a part. I especially enjoy getting to know the other board members, and through events, have gotten to know many people in Westerlee and how awesome our neighborhood is. Are there bits about swales and fences, yes. Do we keep up with the urban sprawl that surrounds us, yes. Are there disputes between neighbors and homeowners that may not be following rules, yep, we have that too. But then there are the events like Yard Sale Day, Annual Picnic & Dumpster day, where we come out of our homes and join together as community and have FUN. Even with the trials of COVID, we still remained unified. I was so wrong, our HOA is A-OK!

We really need more neighbors to join the board. New folks to take an interest in our neighborhood. Join a committee to do things such as: help with events, be a treasurer, greet new neighbors, run the website. New perspectives and ideas are welcome. Most of the current board members have been serving a long time and would welcome some assistance (or even a break) with their committees. Whatever your talents are, we can use them!

I get that everyone is busy. We all have jobs, family, and other things that demand our time. I also know that volunteering a few hours every other month or so is totally do-able. I think wonderful Westerlee is worth it! How about you?

Interested? Send us an email to [westerleehoa@gmail.com](mailto:westerleehoa@gmail.com)

### Recycle Tip:

**Do not put plastic bags, of any kind, into your recycling.**

