



Westerlee News

A Westerlee Community Inc. Newsletter

Designed by Jessica Lynn Dotson

Winter 2025/2026

Letter From the President

Dear Westerlee Residents,

As we close out another year in our wonderful community, I want to extend my warmest wishes to each of you this holiday season. December is a time for reflection, gratitude, and connection, and I am truly grateful for the cooperation and neighborly spirit that make Westerlee such a special place to live.

2025's Highlights:

This year brought positive progress and wonderful moments for our neighborhood. Some of our key accomplishments include:

- **Successful Community Picnic:** Our annual picnic was a great success, bringing neighbors together for food, fun, and fellowship. Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed.
- **Community Yard Sale:** We hosted a well-received community yard sale that helped residents declutter, connect with neighbors, and promote reuse and recycling.
- **Annual HOA Meeting** at the Benjamin Banneker Museum: We were proud to hold this year's Annual Meeting at the historic Benjamin Banneker Museum. The turnout was strong, and residents engaged in productive discussion about the direction and future of our community.
- **Community Beautification:** Ongoing upkeep of our common areas, refreshed landscaping, and seasonal maintenance kept Westerlee looking clean and inviting.

- **Stronger Communication:** Improved updates and reminders helped ensure residents stayed informed and involved.
- **Neighborhood Safety:** Continued attention to property upkeep, and community awareness supported a safer environment for all.

These accomplishments were possible because of your involvement, cooperation, and commitment to making Westerlee a great place to live. As we look ahead to the new year, the Westerlee Board will continue focusing on communication enhancements, neighborhood improvements, and maintaining our community standards. During this busy season, please remember to check on neighbors who may need a helping hand, keep outdoor decorations safely displayed, and remain mindful of parking and trash collection guidelines so our neighborhood continues to shine.

On behalf of the Westerlee HOA Board, I wish you and your family peace, joy, and good health. Thank you for being a valued part of Westerlee.

Warm holiday wishes,
Wanda Richardson
President, Westerlee HOA



UPCOMING
DATES

Next board meeting: Tuesday, February 10th at 6:30pm
Our board meetings are currently held virtually on Zoom. If you'd like to join our meetings, please contact us for the Zoom link at westerleehoa@gmail.com.

Annual all-member meeting: April, date TBD, in person.





Westerlee Inc. Board

President: Wanda Richardson
 Vice President: Shanna Strickland
 Secretary: Jessica Lynn Dotson
 Treasurer: Casey Fuller
 Board Members at Large:
 Klaus Philipsen
 Jacqueline Johnson
 Rizwan Mahmoodi
 John Fox
 Chris Goatee
 Tanya Deshields
 Deborah Cason

Find us online:

Web: www.westerleenews.com
 Email: westerleehoa@gmail.com

LET'S TALK money



THE DO'S OF DUES

Dues are owed annually on January 1st in the amount of \$25. They can be paid by check, or cash if given directly to the treasurer. A late fine of \$15 is assessed for unpaid dues after April 30th.

Checks should be made payable to **Westerlee Community, Inc.** with a note in the memo as to which household the dues are for. Dues can be mailed or dropped off to the current treasurer, Casey Fuller, at:

2114 FERNGLEN WAY



The collected dues help Westerlee Community, Inc. preserve home values for homeowners and resolve problems when possible as they arise in the neighborhood. They also fund social events like the annual neighborhood picnic. We'd love to be able to add more activities to the calendar this year, and your support will make that possible!

2025 Treasurer's Report

Beginning balance	\$12, 878.50
Income:	
Dues	\$3, 812.00
Interest and credits	\$9.15
Total income:	\$3,821.15
Expenditures:	
Community picnic	\$1, 240.52
Professional fees	\$1,750.00
Newsletters	\$492.82
Gifts	\$205.10
Annual meeting	\$145.00
Other misc.	\$100.00
Total expenses	\$3933.44
Ending balance:	\$12,766.21

JOIN US!

Looking for ways to be active in your community? Want to put your social or organizational skills to use? Contact us if you'd like to volunteer as a board member or help in other ways. Your time commitment is flexible and very valuable to our volunteer-run board!



Tips for Home Mailboxes

by John Fox

As members of the Westerlee community, it's essential to uphold standard practices that enhance our neighborhood's appearance and functionality. Home mailboxes are vital for our daily correspondence and one of the first things visitors notice about our homes. The United States Postal Service has clear expectations regarding mailbox standards, maintenance, and placement to ensure efficient mail delivery.

USPS Expectations for Home Mailboxes:

- Design and Size: Standard residential mailboxes should typically measure between 6-8 inches in width and 18-24 inches in length. The mailbox door should open easily and close securely.
- Height and Placement: The bottom of the mailbox should be 41-45 inches from the ground and the front of the mailbox should be 6-8 inches from the curb.
- House Numbering: It's critical that your mailbox is clearly marked with your house number to help postal workers and emergency services identify your residence quickly. Use large, easy-to-read numbers that contrast with the mailbox color for maximum visibility.
- Accessibility: Mailboxes should be free from obstructions, including greenery, fencing, or other yard decorations. Keeping the area around the mailbox clear ensures that postal carriers can deliver mail safely and efficiently.

Recommendations for Mailbox Maintenance

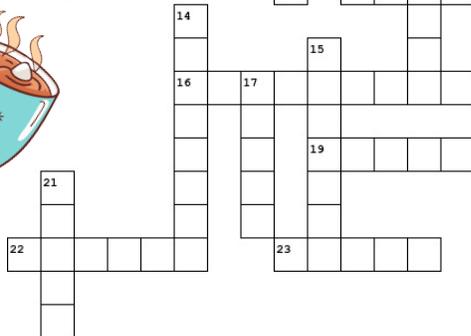
- Consider repainting or refreshing its finish every few years. Use weather-resistant paint designed for outdoor use to protect its lifespan.
- Post Maintenance: Ensure that the mailbox post is sturdy and securely anchored. Over time, posts can become loose or unstable, especially due to weather conditions. Reinforce or replace the post if it shows signs of decay or instability.- setting in concrete adds to the stability.
- When snowy conditions arise, USPS still delivers and needs clear space for access. Take proactive measures to keep your mailbox and the area around it clear of snow accumulation.

For more, please visit the official USPS website: <https://www.usps.com/manage/mailboxes.htm>

Winter Wondering

ACROSS

- Injury to body parts due to extreme cold weather
- Fireplace
- Very bad, unpleasant
- A spike of frozen water
- A place full of wonderful things
- The first month
- A plant that stays green all year long
- Keeps things hot or cold



ACROSS

- A bird that can't fly
- Used to make chocolate
- Extremely cold temperature
- Very cold
- Frozen

DOWN

- Tells the temperature
- A long cry
- A shelter made of ice
- Sleeping through the winter
- A mass of snow falling down a mountain
- A sled
- Very cold
- The second month
- A snowstorm
- An icy landform
- Partially melted snow or ice
- A heavy winter coat



A Catonsville Holiday

An anecdote by Lee Blair

My Catonsville holiday began last year, as I sat on the banquette at the Catonsville YMCA on Rolling Road. I had achieved my first exercise goal in years, and was wondering what my next act would be. At that moment the video screen in front of me started showing video from the Turkey Trot, a 5K race on Thanksgiving morning in different locations in Maryland.

This was in September, so at that time I could have run in the 2024 Trot, but I thought it would be better to train for the distance. It's just 3.107 miles, but practice makes perfect! When I committed to the race, I was only running a mile a day. Part of the training was getting used to the distance. Now I'm running 30 minutes every day! I'm much more comfortable running a 5K now!

I thought that was a great idea, and signed up right away. I immediately started training for the race! Then June rolled around, and my youngest son invited me to join him for Thanksgiving dinner! He lives in California, so I immediately started thinking about running the Turkey Trot virtually. I continued to train for the race. Everything was set, and then my niece had to have emergency surgery. She was in the hospital for a week! Doctors told her no flying, and I thought it meant that she was not going to California and continued on with my day. I never heard another word about it!

And then the week before Thanksgiving I got alerted that the dinner was changing location to accommodate my niece! I thought that was a possibility, but no one said anything. I thought it would be difficult to switch coasts for Thanksgiving, but that's exactly what my sons were able to accomplish, thanks to the magic of Air BnB. They found a house in Bayonne, NJ and it was close enough for my niece to travel safely. In the end, I was able to run in the Turkey Trot AND have Thanksgiving dinner with my family. And a good time was had by all!

LOCAL HAPPENINGS



WED
21

FIRE STATION GROUNDBREAKING

Wednesday, January 21st, 11:00am-12:00pm
736 Edmondson Avenue, Catonsville, MD
Groundbreaking ceremony for the new fire station.

FRI
23

MEDICARE UPDATES INFO-SESSION

Friday, January 23rd 10-11:30am
Catonsville Senior Center
501 N. Rolling Road, Catonsville, MD
Free, call to register at 410-887-0900.

FRI
23

ANNUAL ORCHID SHOW

Fri, January 23rd - Sun, January 25th
Rawlings Conservatory Botanical Gardens
3100 Swann Dr, Baltimore, MD 21217
Admission is donation-based, no tickets required.

SAT
24

CORVID CONUNDRUM

Saturday, January 24th, 1:00pm
Belmont Manor
6553 Belmont Woods Rd, Elkridge, MD
\$5 registration per person.
<https://howardnature.org/event/corvid-conundrum/>

SUN
25

SUNDAY FUNDAY

Sunday, January 25th, 10:00am
Benjamin Banneker Historical Park & Museum
300 Oella Ave, Catonsville, MD
Historical games and activities for all ages, free.

SAT
31

ADULT BOOK FAIR

Saturday, January 31st, 3:30-6:30pm
Catonsville Peace A Pizza
15 Mellor Ave, Catonsville, MD 21228