

WESTERLEE COMMUNITY NEWS

Westerlee: A Proud Covenant Controlled Community

www.westerleenews.com

March/April 2017



Editor: Pam Jarrell

President's Letter

Klaus Philipson,
Westerlee Inc. President

Dear Neighbors,

In spite of a humming economy State and County finances are so much in distress that even simple programs such as the County Community-Clean-Up are out of money. For the first time I can remember, Westerlee Inc. cannot order dumpsters from free of charge private haulers for Dumpster with the County covering the cost. In the past that required a bunch of paperwork but it was always an option. Now we are told that we have to sign up for a waiting list in the hope that the funds would be restored for next budget year starting in July. So maybe in the fall.

The State Comptroller explains the poor predictions for what the State would collect with the taxes of a few very rich people which apparently cause wild fluctuations if their money doesn't do well in the stock market. The Baltimore SUN reported that *"In less than six months, more than a billion dollars of expected tax money evaporated in Maryland, upending rosy talks of tax cuts and launching partisan spending fights. Where did the money go? The stock market gains of a tiny number of ultra-wealthy people did not generate as much tax money as state budget forecasters predicted."*

I am not sure what the County Executive's budget explanations are, but Baltimore is certainly depending on the state in many ways.

Wild fluctuations seem to be the name of the game. We see them in Washington we are seeing them also with our weather this "winter". Trees began to flower in February only to be nipped in the bud by strong frost in the teens. Temperature fluctuations cause strong winds: An evergreen on Fernglen Way was knocked out of the soil for good and landed half way across the roadway.

In spite of all the fluctuations around us, Westerlee Inc. is trying to provide stability and continuity, something that most people certainly seek in their neighborhood and home. Seen from that angle, Westerlee is paradise. The biggest change we see is an occasional new neighbor here and there, somebody planting a tree, somebody cutting one down, someone installing some brighter lights around the house or building a fence. Most of the time this doesn't lead to any problems and neighbors get along fine. It gets a bit trickier when somebody starts to run a construction business from their home with commercial trucks and even materials containers parked all over the yard. That is illegal per the County's zoning code and also by our covenants. Trucks, material-storage, loading operations and the like are not conducive to the peace and quiet of a residential community, neighbors don't like to listen to it or have to look at it.

The most change in our area comes from the churn of stores. In the 25 years here, I have seen much retail come and go. The first to go was the Edmondson Drive in movie, then both Montgomery Wards

WESTERLEE COMMUNITY, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Klaus Philipson

kphilipson@archplan.com 410-685-2002 (W)

Vice President: Wanda Richardson

Secretary: Fred Hickok

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

Directors:

Joan Goudy - Jacqueline Johnson - Fred Kirk - Joe Reid - Lula Simon

stores, Hechingers and Franks Garden store. Toys 'R Us and Joanne Fabric came and went, so did Erols and Blockbuster, Circuit City, Best Buy and JCPenny's. But we can buy all kinds of Asian food now and the area has even become some kind of destination for it. A few places have on: The Double-T Diner, Giant Food and Loafers, and McDonalds. Some later additions such as Walmart, Home Depot, Panera Bread and Applebees seem to be doing well. The latest news: A big County developer wants to tear down the entire Security Mall and rebuild it as a main street type town-center with offices, housing, restaurants, community services and retail. A good idea, given how much spaces is wasted there.

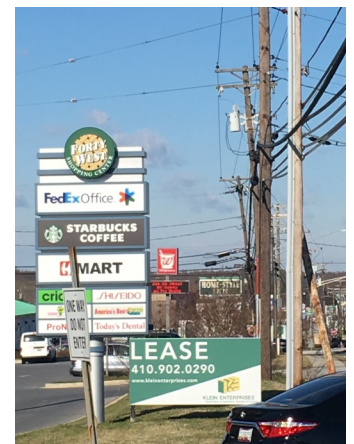
I just wished, the whole area between Winters Lane and Nuwood Road wouldn't look quite as messy and crass, much as all the other commercial strips in America. The State Highway Administration stuck some sidewalks on both sides of the National Pike and installed pedestrian signals at that giant intersection with Rolling Road but the area is still a poor gateway to Catonsville or our neighborhood. Talking about gateway, some of us take the Mile One BMW dealership as the to our community or exit there. Something they don't like. They installed signs that say one should not use their facility as a through street, but it is still open.

However the looks of Route 40, most of what we need to buy on a regular base can still be bought without having to drive too far, even though our malls have seen much better days and clothes shopping sometimes requires a trip to Columbia.

The best way to catch up with neighbors and the things going on in the community and in the Catonsville area is the association's Annual Meeting held in April. As you can see in more detail on the attached flyer, this year's meeting will be on April 25 at 7pm in the cafeteria of the Woodbridge ES.

See you there!

Klaus Philipson, President
Westerlee Inc.



2017 Annual Meeting
April 25, 2017 from 7pm-9pm
Woodbridge Elementary
School

- ♦ **Pay your annual dues. Normally due in January of each year, pay your \$25 HOA fee at the meeting.**
 - ♦ **Come and find out what's been going on in Westerlee and surrounding neighborhoods.**
 - ♦ **Have your voice heard! Have an issue or idea? Feel free to share.**
- See attached flyer with proposed agenda.**

Westerlee Community Association
 CY 2016- Quarter 4 Treasurer's Report
October 1, 2016 - December 31, 2016

Beginning Balance \$8,694.03	
Income:	
Other Income-Interest	0.21
Dues	190.00
	Total Income + \$ 190.21
Expenditures:	
Newsletters/flyers	246.98
HOA Insurance	100.00
Bank fees	9.00
	Total Expenses - \$355.98
Ending Balance = \$8,528.26	
(Beginning Balance + Total Income - Total Expenditures)	

Meeting Minutes
Westerlee Community Association, Inc. January 24, 2017

The board meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m.

Present were officers Klaus Philipsen (President), Wanda Richardson (Vice President) and Rizwan Mahmoodi (Treasurer) and board members Chris Goatee, Fred Kirk and Jacqueline Johnson. Absent were board members Fred Hickok (Secretary), Joan Goudy, Lula Simon and Joe Reid.

Holiday Lighting Contest: Fred Kirk had reviewed the decorations but not coordinated with Joe Reid who had also volunteered for the task. To close the matter Chris Goatee who also had reviewed the decorations and Fred agreed on 2127 Fernglen Way, 2116 Chantilla and 2127 Cedar Circle as winners.

Chris volunteered to obtain gift cards and to present to winners.

Member Dues and Reports: Rizwan is in the process of transferring spreadsheet into QuickBooks. He didn't have the figures of payment to date for 2017. 2016 Collection is far below targeted collection rate due to transition in Treasurer. The bank account could still not be transferred because PNC requires a commercial account (the current is a personal one) and requires State certification for Westerlee Inc. (available on MD SDAT). Rizwan will transfer to a new bank that allows online deposit of checks. Klaus suggested to give a local bank preference. Association has to do the annual 990 report to IRS and the Annual Report and Personal Property Return to SDAT. Rizwan will place pay reminder messages to individuals via Nextdoor messaging. Mailed reminders need to go out after the Annual Meeting.

Klaus will place a payment reminder on NextDoor. There will also be one in the Newsletter. The Annual Meeting is last chance to pay before late fee kicks in for 2017.

Annual Meeting: The dates of April 4 or 25 are proposed. Wanda will call Woodbridge ES about holding the meeting there. To further prepare for the meeting the board would meet on March 23 or April 6, depending which date the Annual Mtg will land on.

Suggested presentation topics:

- The community sign
- Crime (Helphenstine)

Council: Quirk

Drainage issues on north side of Fernglen (potentially community clean-up)

Traffic? (It was agreed to have Rolling Road on only once there is an agreed concept)

Schools? (Construction program, purchase of student tablets etc.)

Yard care?

Chris posted a request for suggestions on Next Door.

Workplan 2017:

*Community sign *Rolling Road *Trails

*Drainage issues on north side of Fernglen (Klaus will ask what County DPW/Parks & Rec will or could do)

*Sign: Fred Kirk has prepared several design options and obtained a quote. The Board preferred the vertical option (width 3'). The cost was quoted as \$2,200 for two signs, no raised letters. Wanda and Jacqui proposed to allow a message sign to be hung from bottom rail. Fred to obtain quote for that additional feature including a blank strip to be lettered by community as needed and added cost for raised letters. We should also get a second quote for comparison. Also: Fred will submit his design options for review by Pam for color selection and specific font, house logo etc. Fred will speak with property owners about placement of the signs at the edge of their yards within the road right of way. (we are not sure where that is at Chantilla/Dlong), at Cedar Circle it is about 6' from pavement.

Newsletter: Klaus will coordinate schedule for Newsletter with Pam so that the next one can be distributed about 4 weeks prior to the Annual Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Klaus Philipsen with assist from Jacqui Johnson

Joining Nextdoor Helped Me Out of a Jam!

By Pam Jarrell

For those who may be on the fence about joining Nextdoor, I have a great example of how it can help.

I was hired to transition an elderly lady, with physical challenges, from a rehab facility back to her condo. At the last minute, the company that was supposed install the handicapped safety bar in the shower fell through and we were in trouble with 2 days till she was released. I called all of my go-to people, none of which could help. Then I remembered Nextdoor and a few of the discussions where neighbors were asking for referrals of handymen and contractors.

On my very first call, I won the lotto! Mike from Project Doctor (410.207.5125), answered the phone, listened to my situation and said he would fit us in. He came the very next evening, was a pleasure to work with, and the work provided was excellent!

As for other uses, I have seen furniture given away for free, people looking for lost pets and referrals for quite a few trades. Our President, Klaus, keeps us up to date on local issues, such as a meeting coming up about Security Square Mall plans.

Give Nextdoor a try. This one gets a 5-Star rating from me. Hopefully it will come in handy for you!

Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum

300 Oella Avenue, Catonsville.
Free to visit.

This Baltimore County gem is less than 5 minutes away, offers both history and nature, and is really worth checking out!

Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum is a 142-acre site dedicated to telling the inspiring story of the life and times of Benjamin Banneker, often considered the first African American man of science. The museum's exhibits chronicle Banneker's contributions as a largely self-taught mathematician, astronomer, almanac writer, surveyor, abolition advocate and naturalist during the late 1700s.

Along with history, there are hiking trails (including the #9 trolley trail), nature programs, a rental pavilion, summer jazz concerts, and summer camp. For more information check their Facebook page or call 410.887.1081.



Yard Sale Day May 6, 8am-2pm

Join your neighbors in selling off those worldly possessions that you just don't need or want. Call Wanda Richardson, 410.206.2418 or Jacqui Johnson, 443.639.4593 for details. Balloons will be provided to participants.

Westerlee Holiday Decoration Contest

This was the best year yet for holiday decorating! Congrats to the many residents that dressed their homes in holiday style. Our judges had a hard time picking winners and here are the results:

2127 Fernglen Way
2116 Chantilla Rd.
2127 Cedar Circle

We would have loved to show photos but it's impossible to get decent photos at night. Congrats to our neighbors for a job well done!!!

Get Connected with Westerlee!

Become a member of Nextdoor, the online site tailored to our community to share information. Use by app or by web.

Go to: <https://westerlee.nextdoor.com>.

It's a great way to connect with neighbors for everything from finding lost dog to referring a tree company. Participation requires an invitation. Please e-mail Klaus a request at kphilipsen@archplan.com

RE-IMAGINE AGING

Baltimore County Department of Aging is providing a printed "Community Resources 2017" booklet titled "Reimagine Aging". It is available at libraries and Senior Centers and can be ordered from the County at 410-887-0296

CELESTIAL SIGHTS

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

- **April 11** - Full Moon. 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.
- **April 22, 23** - Lyrids Meteor Shower. The Lyrids is an average shower, usually producing about 20 meteors per hour at its peak. It is produced by dust particles left behind by comet C/1861 G1 Thatcher, which was discovered in 1861. Best viewing will be from a dark location after midnight. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Lyra, but can appear anywhere in the sky.
- **May 6, 7** - Eta Aquarids Meteor Shower. In the Northern Hemisphere, the rate can reach about 30 meteors per hour. It is produced by dust particles left behind by Comet Halley.
- **May 10** - Full Moon. 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 9** - 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.
- **July 9** - Full Moon. This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as the Full Buck Moon because the male buck deer would begin to grow their new antlers at this time of year.
- **July 28, 29** - Delta Aquarids Meteor Shower. The Delta Aquarids 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.
- **August 7** - Full Moon. This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as the Full Sturgeon Moon because the large sturgeon fish of the Great Lakes and other major lakes were more easily caught at this time of year.
- **August 12, 13** - Perseids Meteor Shower. The Perseids is 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.
- **August 21** - **Total Solar Eclipse**. A total solar eclipse occurs when the moon completely blocks the Sun, revealing the Sun's beautiful outer atmosphere known as the corona. This is a **rare, once-in-a-lifetime event** for viewers in the United States. The last total solar eclipse visible in the continental United States occurred in 1979 and the next one will not take place until 2024. The path of totality will begin in the Pacific Ocean and travel through the center of the United States. The total eclipse will be visible in parts of Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, Nebraska, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, and South Carolina before ending in the Atlantic Ocean. A partial eclipse will be visible in most of North America.

Source: <http://www.seasky.org/astronomy/astronomy-calendar-2017.html>

Free Benjamin Banneker Planetarium Shows:

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

Friday April 21, 2017: 7:00 and 8:30 PM (two shows) "Reading the Night Sky Like a Boy Scout" Outside observing afterwards, weather permitting

Ever wonder how scouts can read the night sky, tell time, and figure out where they are? Learn how to tell time and read the night sky. This show qualifies for the Boy Scout astronomy merit badge. Practice and outside observing after second show, weather permitting

Saturday April 22, 2017: 10:00 AM "Space Bunny" (kid show)

Journey with a rabbit named Boynton and his friend Jocelyn as they take a trip into space.

Friday May 12, 2017: 8:00 PM "Our Dynamic Earth" Outside observing afterwards, weather permitting

How does our planet work? How are the different systems dependent on one another to drive its weather, climate, and ecosystems? Come learn more about the physical earth and view the full dome film, "Dynamic Earth."

Saturday May 13, 2017: 10:00 AM "Space Rocks" (kid show)

What are shooting stars? Comets? Asteroids? What do they look like if they land on Earth? Come learn about different types of space rocks and see some real ones up close!

Life is Great in 21228!

Free Things to do in Catonsville

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. <http://www.lurman.com>

Frederick Road Fridays Concert Season

FREE Every Friday • June 2 to August 25 • 15 Mellor Avenue • 6:30 to 8:30 pm <http://catonsville.org/events/frederickroad-fridays.php>

Catonsville Farmers Market

Opening Day on Sunday, May 7 and runs, **RAIN OR SHINE**, through **November 19, 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** <http://catonsville.org/events/farmersmarket.php>



Everyone is Invited!
2017 Annual Meeting
April 25, 2017 from 7pm-9pm
Woodbridge Elementary School Cafeteria

The Annual meeting is the opportunity to meet the current Board of your community association, meet your neighbors, hear about current issues, voice your concerns. Refreshments will be provided.

Proposed Agenda

1. Registration and Opportunity to pay Dues
2. Welcome to new residents
3. Council and County Reports, Margaret Stokes and Tony Baysmore
4. State Report Delegates Patrick Young and Charles Sydnor
5. Baltimore County Police liaison - Officer Alisha Helphenstine
6. Welcome Neighboring Communities
7. Westview Park
8. Woodbridge Valley
9. The services of Animal Control: A presentation
10. Looking back and forward, Klaus Philipsen, President
11. Westerlee Inc Board committee chairs introduce themselves and talk about their work
12. Current issues, (Drainage Fernglen Way, Mile One shortcut, Catonsville ES)
13. Questions, answers, discussion.

NOTE: The Annual Dumpster Day must be postponed due to County budget issues.
The program is hibernating.

Pay your HOA Dues at the meeting to avoid late fees!

After April 25th a \$15 late fee will be assessed. To pay ahead of time, make checks payable to Westerlee Inc. and mail to: Rizwan Mahmoodi, 2126 Fernglen Way, Catonsville, MD 21228.