

WESTERLEE COMMUNITY NEWS

Westerlee: A Proud Covenant Controlled Community

www.westerleenews.com

November 2016



Editor: Pam Jarrell

President's Letter

Dear Neighbors,

When this paper reaches you the election will be a thing of the past and I am sure, no matter where you stand, you will be glad that the campaign season is finally over and the country can come together again.

The Westerlee Board isn't oriented by party affiliation, of course, and has always addressed the matters at hand across different political opinions. Traffic, stormwater, covenants and zoning are certainly political but their practical application is so obvious that ideological ballast rarely stands in the way.

Zoning: Westerlee expressed a desire to protect current zoning in which Powers Lane is the divide between residential use to the north and commercial use to the south (except directly on Rolling Road). With the help of our Councilman Tom Quirk that line was held in the recently completed quadrennial big re-zoning process, in spite of pretty strong pressure from Antwerpen Automotive and its lawyers who wanted to bring commercial car storage to the open spaces north of Powers Lane. The lawyers may still file again for a variance and appeal the decision that the administrative law judge made in favor of the community even before the zoning was reconfirmed.

Catonsville ES: Slightly outside of our direct action area, but right in downtown Catonsville on Frederick Road the County plans to demolish the old Catonsville Elementary School. This isn't a matter in which Westerlee Inc. will likely take a position but if you are opposed to the demolition of such a fine building, like me, let our Councilman or me know.



Water Meters: Closer to home: As many may have noticed, new water meters have been installed in the community. Most of Baltimore County's water system is run by Baltimore City as a truly regional piece of infrastructure. Much of the aging infrastructure, what was once great is now falling apart. The old meters were often unreliable and the billing system a mess. Lately old water meters have been changed out into digital meters that can be read remotely and don't require peering down to the actual meter for a read-out. The City now has enacted a new billing system that is already in effect in the City and is expected to come to the County in April next year. The main changes are:

- *Water/sewer bills will be issued monthly (no longer quarterly).
- *DPW will no longer use minimum quarterly water fees to determine your water/sewer bill and rates are changing.
- *DPW has created a website that allows you to calculate the anticipated monthly bill for a property based on meter size and consumption (<http://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/wat...>). "Quarterly consumption" to be entered is per 100 CF of water consumed (you can

WESTERLEE COMMUNITY, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Klaus Philipsen

kphilipsen@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

get this from your water bill). Note that the proposed monthly bill excludes administrative, Bay Restoration and Storm Water Remediation fees. These are estimated to be approximately \$20 monthly. More at <http://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/new>.

Bicycle Network: Baltimore County is preparing bicycle routes on County streets to allow folks to ride bicycles more safely from neighborhood to neighborhood and also reach parks and trails without the need for loading a bicycle first into a car to get to a trail. The proposed maps were recently shown at an open house at Johnnycake Middle School. The focus was on the so-called Security-Ingleside Loop, phase one and two which connects neighborhoods to Leakin Park. Bicycle lanes and sharrows are proposed for a signed bike route (PDF) that will link residential communities with the Gwynns Falls Trail. The roads included as part of the route are Ingleside Avenue, Johnnycake Road, Crosby Road, Pleasant Valley Drive and Chesworth Road. Other destinations along the route include Western Hills Park, Westview Park and Southwest Academy. Engineering plans (PDF) depict the planned road markings and signage. Storm drain inlets are also being upgraded along the route to include bicycle-friendly grates. The work for Phase One of the project is primarily funded by a grant from the Maryland Bikeways Program. (4.5 miles). In a later phase there could be a connection from Pleasant Valley Road via the Nuwood right of way to connect across route 40 to the old trolley trail into Ellicott City. To realize this connection, the passage from Fernglen to Pleasant Valley would have to be made into an actual trail for biking and walking similar to the one already in place between Cedar Circle and Dlong/Powers Lane.

Board Initiatives: Upcoming Westerlee Board Initiatives include addressing drainage issues in the buffer strip between Fernglen and Pleasant Valley, addressing hazardous traffic conditions on Rolling Road at Cedar Circle, a re-energized effort of welcoming new community members with a "welcome package" of relevant information, improved methods of collecting dues with the help of our new Treasurer Rizwan Mahmoodi who is taken this office over from Chris Goatee. Other Board plans include the usual activities such as the Holiday Decorations Contest, Westerlee Community gateway signs, the Annual Meeting, Dumpster Day, the Yard Sale and the Community Party.

Best wishes for the upcoming holiday season!

Klaus Philipsen,
Westerlee Inc. President



Meeting Minutes Westerlee Community Association, Inc. October 18, 2016

The board meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m.

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

Bank Request: Chris reported that the bank has asked that the board members who were at the May meeting, where Rizwan was elected to be the new treasurer, sign a copy of the minutes so that his name may be put on the account for check signing privileges. The board members signed the copy of the minutes.

Committees: Wanda asked about members of the committees. The board members responded with the following list:

- **Architectural Review:** Klaus, Chris and Fred H.
- **Block Captains:** Wanda
- **Code Enforcement:** Fred K.
- **Hospitality:** Fred K.
- **Social:** Jacqueline, Wanda and Chris

Holiday Decoration Contest: The board decided that the judging would be done on Wednesday, December 21 and that the categories will be most over-the-top, most modern and creative, and most traditional. Chris remarked that only members who are current on paying dues will be eligible to win. Fred K. suggested taking pictures of the decorations for the winter newsletter. He also mentioned that he will be around to distribute the fall newsletter if it is ready by mid-November. Joe and Chris volunteered to cover for him if the newsletter comes out later.

Budget: The board decided that a full discussion of next year's budget will be put off until the winter board meeting when Rizwan can give a full report. Chris reported a current balance of \$8,694 said that usually between \$2,000 and \$3,000 is collected in yearly dues. Fred H. mentioned that \$1,500 is usually allotted for the community party. Nayna reminded the board of the possibility of legal fees. Klaus said that the Association has not paid for liability insurance for board members.

Newsletter: Klaus mentioned that articles for the fall newsletter should be sent to Pam Jarrell by October 21. Jacqueline said that she will send an article and pictures of the community party. Fred H. said that he will send minutes of this meeting and the article on celestial sights.

Fourth of July Flags: The board agreed with Wanda's suggestion about purchasing new American flags. Chris mentioned the alternative of telling the realtor who put up flags this year that all 166 homes should be served. She said that she could communicate that to the realtor.

Signs: Joe suggested looking into purchasing new signs for events. Fred K. said that he favors reusable signs. Chris suggested pre-printed signs with changeable dates. She also said that she will check with Pam, who may know about signs. Nayna offered to check with a campaign worker who would know about signs. Fred H. reminded the board about also again looking into permanent community entrance signs.

Drainage Ditch: Fred K. asked about getting the County to clear

the drainage ditch that is in the wooded area north of Fernglen Way. He said that the ditch has filled in and does not divert rain-water from going down onto the Fernglen properties. Klaus said that he will contact Councilperson Quirk's office and ask that they send word to the Department of Public Works. Adjourned 7:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Fred Hickok

Westerlee Community Association CY 2016- Quarter 3 Treasurer's Report July 1, 2016 - September 30, 2016

Beginning Balance \$9,761.19

Income:

Other Income-Interest 0.24

Dues 105.00

Total Income + \$105.24

Expenditures:

Newsletters/flyers 232.14

Community Picnic- deposit 920.31

Misc.-sympathy 10.95

Bank fees 9.00

Total Expenses - \$1,172.40

Ending Balance = \$8,694.03

(Beginning Balance + Total Income - Total Expenditures)



*Westerlee
Holiday Home
Decoration Contest*

Judging Date:
December 21st

Categories:
* *Most over the top*
* *Most modern & creative*
* *Most traditional*

Winners will receive a \$20 gift card.

pageborders.org

Annual Block Party 2016 By Jacqueline Johnson

A wonderful time was had by all at this year's block party held on, September 17th, in the yard of our association President, Klaus' yard. This event gives us a chance to meet with our neighbors in a social and friendly environment. Black Tie Catering served up a BBQ feast enabling us to chat and socialize. The event was free, however, we asked our neighbors to bring a sweet treat. If you were unable to attend this event, you missed some good food and delicious home-made sweets. We hope you'll be able to come next year! The nice thing about having the party right in our neighborhood was that residents came and went at their leisure. We had close to 70 neighbors during the time frame of the event, our most successful party yet! The children played in the yard, while we mingled, ate, laughed and discussed the history of our neighborhood. We also celebrated our neighbors who have lived in our community the longest. It's great catching up with neighbors, both old and new! This is an annual event and we try to have it around the same time every year. Be sure to mark your calendars for next September and we'll publish the exact date in the July newsletter.

As the weather changes and it gets cold, we will all retreat to our cozy homes. Let's not forget the fun times we shared and remember to be kind to one another and look out for each other!!!



Flamingo Fever, by Pam Jarrell

In case you haven't noticed, pink flamingos have been mysteriously popping up in Westerlee. These new residents started flying in over the summer and landing on lawns willy-nilly. Just as they appear, sometimes they disappear, migrating onto different lawns without warning. Maybe they are looking for a special sunny spot or maybe just a better view of Len the Postman? In the beginning, the spindly-legged, long-necked visitors have been rather solitary. Then, to our delight, a whole flock of flamingos showed up to picnic, seemingly to take in the festivities.

They are the talk of the town. Residents of flamingo'd lawns have told me how much they enjoy the birds visit and how they "secretly" hope the avians will roost permanently at their house. I enjoy the game of hide and seek they provide. It seems these pretty plastic pets have flown straight into our hearts. They don't eat much, there's no poop to scoop and nothing says Bawlmer like a flamingo.

I have an airtight alibi for the week leading up to party as well as having had a crazy year. I mention this because I have been asked by numerous neighbors if I am the one behind the playful pink prank. I do love the birds, as is evident from our yard, but sadly it is not my doing. (We did move one of our resident birds closer to the mailbox in solidarity.) As newsletter editor, I was thinking about doing some undercover sleuthing, a flamingo expose, a bit of pecking around the neighborhood to get down to the bottom of this secret birdie business but then it hit me like bird poop on a clean car....

I don't want to know who is behind these joyful shenanigans. We have so little spontaneity and whimsy in our lives these days. It's like believing in Santa Clause or the feeling of someone throwing you a surprise party. The person or persons behind this delightful pink invasion has made our tiny hamlet a happier place to be and I for one say THANK YOU!

Picnic, Dumpster Day, & the Holiday Contest

Just a few of the things your \$25 annual dues pay for. Many neighborhoods pay a lot more and get so much less.

If you have not yet paid your 2016 dues, drop a check in the mail to:

Westerlee Homeowner's Assoc.
c/o Rizwan Mahmoodi, 2126 Fernglan Way.



CELESTIAL SIGHTS

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

December 14 - Full Moon, Supermoon

The Moon will be at its closest approach to the Earth and may look slightly larger and brighter than usual. Early Native American tribes called this the Full Cold Moon because this is the time of year when the cold winter air settles in and the nights become long and dark.

January 12 - Full Moon

Early Native American tribes called this the Full Wolf Moon because this was the time of year when hungry wolf packs howled outside their camps.

January 12 - Venus at Greatest Eastern Elongation

The planet Venus reaches greatest eastern elongation of 47.1 degrees from the Sun. This is the best time to view Venus since it will be at its highest point above the western horizon in the evening sky.

February 11 - Full Moon

Early Native American tribes called this the Full Snow Moon because the heaviest snows usually fell during this time of the year.

March 12 - Full Moon

Early Native American tribes called this the Full Worm Moon because this was the time of year when the ground would begin to soften and the earthworms would reappear.

Source: http://www.seasky.org/astronomy/astronomy_calendar_current.html

Free Benjamin Banneker Planetarium Shows:

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

December 9, 8 PM "What Was the Christmas Star?" (Outside observing afterwards, weather permitting)

December 10, 10 AM "Santa, Stars, and Other Winter Wonders" (children's show)

February 17, 7 and 8:30 PM (two shows) "Eclipses and Solar Cycles" (Outside observing afterwards, weather permitting)

February 18, 10 AM "Ancient Legends" (children's show)

March 10, 8 PM "Astronomy and Boston in the American Revolution" (Outside observing afterwards, weather permitting)

March 11, 10 AM "Earth, Moon, and Sun" (children's show)

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

April 22, 10 AM "Space Bunny" (children's show)

May 12, 8 PM "Our Dynamic Earth" (Outside observing afterwards, weather permitting)

HISTORIC ELLICOTT CITY NEWS

By Pam Jarrell

I contacted Howard County Tourism to find info on EC. They said for the most up-to-date information on shops and restaurants go to visitellicottcity.com/open and select from the menu to check the status of your favorite places. Some businesses mention a proposed opening date or say "coming soon", so a call might be in order before you go. The best holiday present we can give to our EC friends is to Go/Shop/Eat at the establishments that have worked so hard to re-open.

Also mentioned are two up-coming events:

Shop Small Saturday-November 26 beginning @ 10am-Shop Small Saturday is a national campaign to encourage people to support their local businesses. Ellicott City will have an official opening event at 10am, and then throughout the day there will be deals throughout town.

Midnight Madness-December 2 beginning @ 6pm. Midnight Madness has been an annual event in Ellicott City for decades, and we'll be back again this year! There will be a tree lighting at the Howard County Welcome Center at 6pm, and there will be roving entertainment all evening. A free parking shuttle will run for both events.



Join Your Neighbors on line!

Become a member of Nextdoor,
the online communication platform tailored
to our community. Go to:
<https://westerlee.nextdoor.com>.

It's a great way to connect with neighbors
for everything from finding a babysitter to
selling a sofa. You can ask neighbors if their
streets have been plowed or let others know
about upcoming local events.

Participation requires an invitation.
Please e-mail Klaus a request at
kphilipsen@archplan.com