

# WESTERLEE COMMUNITY NEWS

Westerlee: A Proud Covenant Controlled Community

[www.westerleenews.com](http://www.westerleenews.com)



November 2018



Editor: Pam Jarrell

## President's Letter

Dear Neighbors,

Lately the world is discussing borders again. Most of us rarely experience any borders, at least not as a physical presence. The US is so large, and the integration of States into one Republic is so perfect, that borders remain mostly invisible except for the welcome signs at State Lines. Lately, Google map route guidance also intones a welcome message when used in a car. The smallest unit with a border and a set of rules within is the private property. Then the neighborhood. Westerlee has borders as well. They consist of all the 156 private properties together, at least as far as we define ourselves as a Homeowner's Association (HOA). We have our own set of rules, which consist of the covenants and the by-laws. What an HOA is allowed to rule and how is regulated in Maryland's HOA law.

Still most neighbors probably don't know exactly where Westerlee's boundaries are, or how rules within differ from those outside. We don't even have welcome signs. Still, most of us are probably fine with the fact that the borders are not physically manifest and that we blend in. Just as we are generally fine with the fact that this neighborhood, just like many others from that period, doesn't emphasize private property borders and even prohibits fences in the front yard.

The design idea of our community comes from a time when the "garden city" was a model that planners aspired to. It was a counter-model to dense and polluted industrial cities, the idea was a place where nature would flow freely around and in between the houses which were thought of as floating in a park-like setting. Homes were designed to sit among trees with a low profile, made from materials that blend in with nature. Brick and flagstone, for example, instead of white aluminum or vinyl siding which was only used for small accents.

In spite of the open arrangement as a concept, the original neighbors were quite territorial. Back in the mid-fifties, Westerlee was an island among farmland and Rolling Road was a small country road, just as it still is south of US 40 and north of Windsor Mill Road (where it is currently being widened). When the Social Security Administration headquarters came to Woodlawn housing demand increased. Woodbridge Valley became the blueprint for a much larger and more modest community, also Westview Park. Lots in those subdivisions were smaller, the houses a little less elaborate in their materials and detailing, the price points a bit lower. The original set of Westerlee home buyers were not amused.

When Nuwood Street was planned to connect Woodbridge Valley with US 40 by traversing Westerlee, some activist minded folks even sat in front of bulldozers to prevent the street to go through. As we can see, they succeeded, Nuwood is not only cut off south of Cedar Circle, but also north of Fernglen Way. A buffer strip was negotiated so that Westerlee neighbors would not even have to see Woodbridge Valley houses, at least in summer when everything was green. One has to surmise that back then a lot of the motivation was related to issues of class and race, as it was way too common in Baltimore area's urban planning and zoning at the time.

## WESTERLEE COMMUNITY, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Klaus Philipsen

[kphilipsen@archplan.com](mailto: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](mailto:westerleehoa@gmail.com)

Luckily, today Westerlee is ethnically integrated and no longer an enclave of high earners. In fact, our community is one of the few examples, where a good mix between races and cultures seems to hold without tipping into a condition where one ethnic group dominates the demographics and the self-image of the community. This should be a normal condition, but neighborhoods unfortunately continue to self-segregate even now after segregation from above isn't legal any more. Our annual picnic is a good testament of the mix of ages, cultures and races we now embrace.

With all the talk about borders and the frequently fanned animosity between City and County, and "us and them" in general, we should be proud of our diversity and consider it as the playbook for the bigger picture as well. We can also cherish the concept of nature having a big space in our community, especially since such low-density neighborhoods as ours can't be any longer a model for development in general.

Anyone who has read my letters in this space over the years knows that I am very fond of our trees and have written often about the environmental and psychological benefits of the tall trees studding Westerlee as vestiges from a time before there were houses built here. I thought, and still think, that those old witnesses of the past should and can coexist with our houses. However, my long-held contention that this community has existed for some 70 years without any tree causing major damage to any house is no longer true. Unfortunately, during a recent wind-storm, one of the old tall trees turned out to be not healthy enough anymore to withstand the wind. It got uprooted and fell on one of the first generation Westerlee houses on the corner of Nuwood and Cedar Circle, not long after Dumpster Day had packed up right across the street. Luckily nobody was injured when the tree crashed through the attic, dislodged parts of the upstairs kitchen ceiling and sent dust all the way into the basement where the owner had the great fortune of being at the time. It is my understanding that the insurance will pay the damage to the house, but not the costly tree removal.

Diversity, open borders and the big trees have one thing in common: The benefits are certain, the risk is quite small. What makes us proud as a community, a state and a country can't be based on fear, but from courage, determination and hope. At least that is my wish for the upcoming holidays and the next year.

Klaus Philipsen,  
President Westerlee Inc.

# Meeting Minutes Westerlee Community Association, Inc. October 15, 2018

The board meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m.

Present were officers Klaus Philippsen (President), Wanda Richardson (Vice President), Fred Hickok (Secretary) and Rizwan Mahmoodi (Treasurer), board members John Fox, Chris Goatee, Pam Jarrell, Jacqui Johnson and Michele Snowden. John Herron and Joe Reid were excused.

**Dumpster Day:** Klaus said that he will probably be away on October 20. Wanda and John F. said that they would arrive at 7 for the delivery of the dumpsters. Fred said that he will have his pickup truck there for paint and oil containers. Chris said that she will put up signs.

**Community Party:** Jacqui said that the party was well organized, came within budget, used 60 chairs and the food planned for 50 was sufficient for the 70 attendees. The board agreed to use the same caterer next year. Chris suggested more tents available in case of bad weather and a bouncy house for children. Klaus countered with the suggestion of various games and riding toys. Everyone agreed it was a great success.

**Code Violations:** 4 Unlicensed vehicles were cited. Improvements at a previously cited property were noted. Michele asked about trash spillover at dumpsters off of Powers Lane in back of the Iron Age Restaurant. Klaus said that the location is beyond Westerlee's sphere of influence but that she could report it to the County.

**Traffic:** Klaus said that the County's count of car transporter driving through Westerlee was not realistic. Chris volunteered to monitor the on the 2 days a week that she works at home.

**Treasury Items:** Rizwan suggested we find an accountant, preferably on a pro bono basis, to help with this years taxes. He also said that the 2018 payment reminder letters will be sent out before the end of the year.

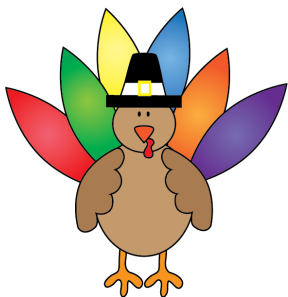
**Holiday Decoration Contest:** The board agreed that the judging would be on Wednesday, December 19, and that there would be 3 prizes.

**Newsletter:** Pam asked that newsletter items be submitted by November 5 for the newsletter to be distributed before Thanksgiving.

**Welcome Committee:** Pam said she will get together with Joe and John H. to create a plan to greet new neighbors.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Fred Hickok



## Westerlee Community Association CY 2018- Quarter 3 Treasurer's Report July 1, 2018 - September 30, 2018

**Beginning Balance** \$13,276.33

**Income:**

Other Income-Interest 0.32

Dues 245.00

Total Income + \$245.32

**Expenditures:**

Newsletters/flyers 223.93

Community Picnic 650.00 (This quarter only)

Total Expenses - \$873.93

**Ending Balance = \$12,647.72**

(Beginning Balance + Total Income - Total Expenditures)

### westerleenews.com

Have you ever visited westerleenews.com? Answer riveting questions such as "Who's on the board?", "What are rules for building an addition?", "Can I find an old newsletter?" What events are coming up?". Site is updated quarterly.



## Westerlee Holiday Home Decoration Contest

Three of the most festively decorated homes will receive a \$20 gift card courtesy of Westerlee Homeowners Association.

Judging Date: 12/19

# A fabulous time was had by all!

In Westerlee, we know how to picnic!!!



## Dumpster Day



## Smile Westerlee

The pictures above are from the community picnic on September 22nd. Those pesky morning raindrops did not discourage us. By party time, the sun came out and 70+ neighbors descended on the Philipsen's yard for fun, food and camaraderie. Thank you to our board members Jacqui, Wanda & Chris for planning a wonderful event and to Klaus for the use of his yard. Thanks to everyone who volunteered for set up and clean up. Thanks for all who brought yummy desserts. Most of all, thanks to everyone who attended, you make Westerlee awesome!!!

To the left are pictures of Dumpster Day on October 20th. By the looks of these dumpsters there are a lot of Westerlee homes that have a lot more space in them! Thanks to Klaus for planning and to Fred for using his pickup and recycling paint and oils. Thanks to Jacqui, John F, and Wanda for working on site.



# CELESTIAL SIGHTS

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

**December 13, 14 - Geminids Meteor Shower.** The Geminids is the king of the meteor showers. It is considered by many to be the best shower in the heavens, producing up to 120 multicolored meteors per hour at its peak. It is produced by debris left behind by an asteroid known as 3200 Phaethon, which was discovered in 1982. The shower runs annually from December 7-17. It peaks this year on the night of the 13th and morning of the 14th. The first quarter moon will set shortly after midnight leaving dark skies for what should be an excellent early morning show. Best viewing will be from a dark location after midnight. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Gemini, but can appear anywhere in the sky.

**December 21 - December Solstice.** The South Pole of the earth will be tilted toward the Sun, which will have reached its southernmost position in the sky and will be directly over the Tropic of Capricorn at 23.44 degrees south latitude. This is the first day of winter (winter solstice) in the Northern Hemisphere and the first day of summer (summer solstice) in the Southern Hemisphere.

**December 22 - Full Moon.** This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as 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. This moon has also been known as the Full Long Nights Moon and the Moon Before Yule.

**January 21 - Full Moon, Supermoon.** This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as the Full Wolf Moon because this was the time of year when hungry wolf packs howled outside their camps. This moon has also been known as the Old Moon and the Moon After Yule. This is also the first of three supermoons for 2019. The Moon will be at its closest approach to the Earth and may look slightly larger and brighter than usual.

**January 22 - Conjunction of Venus and Jupiter.** A conjunction of Venus and Jupiter will be visible on January 22. The two bright planets will be visible within 2.4 degrees of each other in the east just before sunrise.

**January 21 - Total Lunar Eclipse.** A total lunar eclipse occurs when the Moon passes completely through the Earth's dark shadow, or umbra. During this type of eclipse, the Moon will gradually get darker and then take on a rusty or blood red color. The eclipse will be visible throughout most of North America.

**February 19 - Full Moon, Supermoon.** This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as the Full Snow Moon because the heaviest snows usually fell during this time of the year. Since hunting is difficult, this moon has also been known by some tribes as the Full Hunger Moon, since the harsh weather made hunting difficult.

**March 20 - March Equinox.** The Sun will shine directly on the equator and there will be nearly equal amounts of day and night throughout the world. This is also the first day of spring (vernal equinox) in the Northern Hemisphere and the first day of fall (autumnal equinox) in the Southern Hemisphere.

**March 21 - Full Moon, Supermoon.** This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as the Full Worm Moon because this was the time of year when the ground would begin to soften and the earthworms would reappear. This moon has also been known as the Full Crow Moon, the Full Crust Moon, the Full Sap Moon, and the Lenten Moon.

## Benjamin Banneker Planetarium Shows

Community College of Baltimore County  
800 South Rolling Road, Room 030A Free admission

Friday, December 7, 8pm: *The January 21st 2019 Lunar Eclipse*

Saturday, December 8, 10am: *The Glorious Winter Sky* (Children's show)



## Local fun around town

**25th Annual Catonsville Tree Lighting Ceremony & Holiday House.** Saturday, November 24th at 6:30, Catonsville Fire Dept on Fredrick Rd. Santa, music & refreshments.

**Holiday Bazaar at Benjamin Banneker Historical Park & Museum** Saturday December 1st from 12-3pm. 300 Oella Ave, Catonsville. Unique gifts by area crafters.

**40th Annual Ellicott City Midnight Madness** Friday, December 7st from 6pm to 12am. Tree lighting, Santa, Car-olers, and Winterfest garden with craft beer & music. Free Shuttle and late shopping.



## YOUR \$25 DUES HARD AT WORK



Our awesome picnic, Dumpster Day, annual meet-  
ing, Westerlee website and the newsletter you are  
reading right now are all proof that your \$25 is  
well spent. Many neighborhoods pay a lot more  
and get so much less!

If you have not yet paid your 2018 dues, drop a  
check for \$40 (\$25 dues plus \$15 late fee) in the  
mail to Westerlee Homeowner's Assoc. c/o  
Rizwan Mahmoodi, 2126 Fernglan Way.

# Happy Holidays

From the Westerlee Board!

## Get Connected!

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

To join, email Klaus  
[kphilipsen@archplan.com](mailto:kphilipsen@archplan.com)

