

WESTERLEE COMMUNITY NEWS

Westerlee: A Proud Covenant Controlled Community

www.westerleenews.com

Spring 2019



Editor: Pam Jarrell

President's Letter

Dear Neighbors,

Westerlee would be just a little pocket neighborhood without significance if it didn't belong to zip code 21228, i.e. historic Catonsville. For some time old Catonsville and Fredrick Road, its main street, had been pushed in the background by the new attractions on US 40 and Security Square Mall, but those days are long gone. Today Montgomery Ward on the Giant Plaza, the luster of Security Square Mall, the drive-in movie on the National Pike are just faded memories. But "downtown" Catonsville is thriving as a destination with its farmers market, its local merchants and restaurants and the quaint setting of small-town America.

The latest project on Frederick Road will certainly add to the allure: The new 818 Market, named after its address and sits across the street from Atwater's bakery, will be a fresh food store with a butcher, a restaurant and a liquor license. The SUN reported in February that Pat Baldwin and Dan Zakai, co-owners of the market, plan to open the new 16,000 square foot "food-lover's paradise," on Oct. 1 this year. The groundbreaking took place on February 15 and by now demolition of the 1930's building which housed the consignment store JAMS Attic is almost complete.



The Market 818 promises to become a really cool addition to our very own main street.

The ongoing revitalization of the old business district, along with efforts to make old Catonsville an arts and entertainment district and the thriving UMBC campus with

its stellar new performing arts facility all add value to our homes and make our community an even better place to live.

The resolve of the new County Executive to add transparency and more public participation to Baltimore County should also add to the quality of life, even if it is combined with a reckoning regarding the fiscal affairs of the County. We all recall the presentations at our Annual Meetings about the fiscal responsibility of the past administration. However the current red numbers in the budget came about, they can't keep the taxes at half of what they are in the adjacent core city forever. Too much has to be repaired and fixed in aging suburbs and the fresh flow of money from brand-new subdivisions sprouting on farm fields has to come to an end sooner or later. Paving over all the remaining agricultural and forested areas we have left, is not a promising prospect, either.

Talking about green spaces and parks: We all recall that Catonsville and its section of the Patapsco Park took a beating along with Ellicott City last year when the big rain hit. Unfortunately,

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: John Fox, Chris Goatee, John Herron, Pam Jarrell

Jacquiline Johnson, Joe Reid, Michele Snowden

Contact the board by emailing westerleehoa@gmail.com

many trails are closed to the public, a matter that begins to become untenable after so many months. Now that the Bloede Dam has been removed to restore a more natural river flow, the Patapsco Grist Mill trail needs to be restored with a design that is less vulnerable to the inevitable floods. As your association president I inquired about the state of affairs with Delegate Ebersol and Councilman Quirk, although both have only limited influence on the State-owned Patapsco Park.



Westerlee Inc. recently also looked out for you regarding the once again necessary clean-out of the storm drain that is supposed to take in the water running between the houses behind Pleasant Valley and Fernglen Way and run it under the lower end of Cedar Circle Drive. If the drain is clogged, some homes receive the water in their basements instead. The persistent potholes on upper Cedar Circle were called in as well and swiftly filled with cold patch asphalt. The dead end of Nuwood towards route 40 has become a popular space for unwanted cars that we have reported to and then towed by the police. We also report unlicensed vehicles on properties since they are illegal and detract from the beauty of our community.

As you all know, we also stepped up our efforts of being clear about the moneys owed to the Association in form of HOA fees. In 2018 we mailed a statement to every household. The latest opportunity for everybody to pay the \$25 dues and avoid the \$15 late fees for 2019 is at the Annual Meeting which will take place on April 9 at Woodbridge Valley ES at 7pm, as advertised elsewhere in this newsletter.

At the meeting we will provide updates on what is going on in our district and in the County. We have invited all political representatives and hope to have special presentations on property taxes, assessments, homestead credits as well as on stormwater and water fees and the way how the systems are managed.

See you then!

Klaus Philipson, President Westerlee Inc.



2019 Annual Meeting

April 9, 2019 from 7pm-9pm
Woodbridge Elementary School

- Meet elected officials
- Pay Annual Dues
- Come and find out what's been going on in Westerlee
- Feel free to share ideas and views
- Refreshments provided



See attached flyer

2018– Year End Treasurer’s Report January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2018

Beginning Balance \$11,463.27

Income

Other Income-Interest 1.24
Dues 2,722.00

Total Income + \$2,723.24

Expenditures:

Community Party 1,552.41
Newsletters/flyers 604.16
HOA Insurance 100.00
Annual Meeting 30.63
Bank fees 21.00

Total Expenses - \$2,407.20

Ending Balance = \$11,779.31

(Beginning Balance + Total income - Total Expenditures)



Meeting Minutes Westerlee Community Association, Inc. February 4, 2019

The board meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

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

Treasury Items: Klaus noted that membership renewal letters had been sent out and that one seller had paid about \$300 for back dues at settlement. Rizwan reported that as of December 1 \$2,722 for dues had been received for a 54% participation total so far. In light of about \$14,000 in our treasury he suggested coming up with some projects. Joe mentioned the idea of a trail south of the properties on Cedar Circle Drive. Klaus explained former Department of Public Works chief Ed Adams had rejected that proposal for the section belonging to the water tower but that we should contact the new administration to readdress the wish. Klaus also mentioned the possible clearing of the swale north of the properties on Fernglen to promote drainage. Rizwan suggested applying for grants to help finance projects.

Annual Membership Meeting: After a short discussion Tuesday, April 9, 7-9 p.m. was picked with Tuesday, April 23, as the alternate. The board assigned the task to call Woodbridge Valley Elementary School to make arrangements to Chris. Klaus said that he will invite Councilman Quirk, Delegates Sydnor and Young, Officer Helphenstine and a chief policy advisor for County Executive Olszewski. As for issues to be discussed Klaus mentioned the upcoming comprehensive plan and state highway projects, Michele suggested property tax assessment and property and car insurance rates and Joe suggested water main breaks and infrastructure as

topics. Klaus noted that the County is close to maxing out its financial capacity and has lower property values and therefore lower property tax revenues than counties a bit farther from Baltimore City. He said that he could ask the political officials to address some of the suggested topics, but he could also ask spokespeople from the State Highway Administration and Public Works to make short presentations.

Newsletter: Pam reported that the holiday decoration committee picked 5 winners and their names will appear in the upcoming newsletter. Klaus suggested also putting that information on the Nextdoor site. John H. said that he might write an article about the problems with recycling programs and single stream recycling. Klaus noted that only 15% of recycled plastic gets actually reused. Pam asked for submissions by March 1 for a distribution by March 15. Rizwan brought up the possibility of using New Ozee’s, an online printing company, for the newsletter and for potential community signs to save significantly on expenses. Pam expressed her preference for the local company we now use.

Welcome Committee: Pam and John H. showed materials that they have developed for a new welcome package to new residents which is still in progress. Klaus suggested asking elected officials to write letters describing their relationship to Westerlee and asking for resident testimonials to be included in the package. Michele added that she received a refrigerator magnet showing her block captain’s name and that those could be included in a welcome package.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Fred Hickok



Westerlee's Got the Holiday Spirit!

2018 Holiday decorations in the neighborhood could be summed up in one word, WOW!!! There is a noticeable trend of more homes showing their holiday spirit then ever before. A blow-up here, a string of lights there, or even a just candle in the window really makes our community glow. Judges racked up quite a few miles on car to narrow the list down to 5.

One more drive around the block and it was clear that they all deserved to win. Congratulations!



2127 Fernglen Way
2022 Cedar Circle Drive
2004 Cedar Circle Drive
2127 Fernglen Way
2113 Chantilla Rd



IN MEMORIAM: RON GLANCY

We will miss our good neighbor who lived here since the mid 80s with his wife Jean Ellen. Until recently, Ron was still driving most mornings to attend his church at daybreak. He is survived by his wife and two daughters. He was 91.

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



Yard Sale Day June 1, 8am-2pm

If the stuff piling up in your house and garage do not "spark joy" than this is the event for you! Its time to declutter and make money and on your own front yard. Balloons will be provided to participants.

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

CELESTIAL SIGHTS

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

March 21 - Full Moon, Supermoon. This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as the Full Worm Moon, the Full Crow Moon, the Full Crust Moon, the Full Sap Moon, and the Lenten Moon. As the last of three supermoons for 2019, it will be at its closest approach to the Earth and will look slightly larger and brighter than usual.

May 18 - Full Moon, Blue Moon. This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as the Full Flower Moon, the Full Corn Planting Moon and the Milk Moon. Since this is the third of four full moons in this season, it is known as a blue moon. This event happens on average once every 2.7 years, giving rise to the term "once in a blue moon."

June 10 - Jupiter at Opposition. The giant planet will be at its closest approach to Earth. It will be brighter than any other time of the year and will be visible all night long. A medium-sized telescope should be able to show you some of the details in Jupiter's cloud bands. A good pair of binoculars should allow you to see Jupiter's four largest moons, appearing as bright dots on either side of the planet.

July 9 - Saturn at Opposition. A medium-sized or larger telescope will allow you to see Saturn's rings and a few of its brightest moons.

July 16 - Full Moon. The Moon will be located on the opposite side of the Earth as the Sun and its face will be fully illuminated. This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as the Full Buck Moon and has also been known as the Full Thunder Moon and the Full Hay Moon.

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. The waning crescent moon will not be too much of a problem this year. The skies should be dark enough for what could be a good show. Best viewing will be from a dark location after midnight.

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. The Perseids are famous for producing a large number of bright meteors. The nearly full moon will block out most of the fainter meteors this year, but the Perseids are so bright and numerous that it could still be a good show. Best viewing will be from a dark location after midnight.

August 15 - Full Moon. The Moon will be located on the opposite side of the Earth as the Sun and its face will be fully illuminated. 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. This moon has also been known as the Green Corn Moon and the Grain Moon.

Source: <http://www.seasky.org/astronomy/astronomy-calendar-2019.html>

Free Benjamin Banneker Planetarium Shows:

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

Friday, March 22, 8pm: Asterisms of the World

Saturday, March 23, 10am: The Land of Far, Far Away (kids show)

Friday, April 3, 8pm: Astronomy, Boston and the Revolution

Saturday, April 6, 10am: Space Bunny (kids show)

Friday, May 10, 8pm: 50th Anniversary of Apollo Missions

Saturday, May 11, 10am: Name That Planet (kids show)

Friday, June 14, 7:30pm: Earthquake

Saturday, June 15, 10am: 'Tis the Season to be Gazing (kids show)

Life is Great in 21228!

Free Things to do in Catonsville

Music

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. www.lurman.com

Frederick Road Fridays Concert Season

FREE Every Friday • June to August. 15 Mellor Avenue 6:30 to 8:30 pm. www.catonsville.org

Farmers Markets

Catonsville Sunday Farmers Market

Opening Day on Sunday, May 5 and runs, RAIN OR SHINE, through November 24. 15 Mellor Avenue 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. www.catonsville.org

Catonsville Wednesday Farmers Market

The Christian Temple, 5820 Edmondson Avenue, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. www.catonsvillefarmersmarket.com



Benjamin Banneker Historical Park

300 Oella Ave, Catonsville, MD 21228 FREE Museum, nature activities and hiking. 410.887.1081

Missing your gloves?

Black suede and nylon gloves found near 2120 Cedar Circle. If you think they're yours? Email: Michele777xx@gmail.com.

Everyone is Invited!

2019 Westerlee Annual Meeting

April 9, 2019 from 7pm-9pm

Woodbridge Elementary School Cafeteria

The Annual meeting is the opportunity to hear about current issues that are specific to our community, meet neighbors, and discuss topics that are important to you. Refreshments will be provided.

Proposed Agenda

1. **Registration and opportunity to pay Dues**
2. **Welcoming elected officials**
3. **Welcoming new residents**
4. **Councilman Tom Quirk: update and special presentation on County taxes, assessments and fees**
5. **Presentation on Baltimore County water and sewer issues, organization and fees. How are homeowners affected (tbd)**
6. **Baltimore County Police liaison - Officer Alisha Helphenstine**
7. **Greetings from neighboring communities**
8. **Our work in the past year and looking forward, Klaus Philipsen, President**
9. **Treasurer's report**
10. **Westerlee Inc Board committee chairs introduce themselves and talk about upcoming activities**
11. **Current issues**
12. **Questions, answers, discussion.**

Pay your \$25 HOA Dues at the meeting to avoid late fees!

After April 30th 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.