

WESTERLEE COMMUNITY NEWS

Westerlee: A Proud Covenant Controlled Community

www.westerleeneews.com

August 2019



Editor: Pam Jarrell

President's Letter

Klaus Philipsen

Dear Neighbors,

My father is close to celebrating his 96th birthday, a blessing that encourages the long view such as looking back from 1923 to now, and then forward for at least 50 years from now. Technological and social change has become so accelerated that barely anybody dares to make any forecast beyond a couple of years.

Not everything that is faced can be changed. But nothing can be changed until it is faced. ... Most of us are about as eager to change as we were to be born, and go through our changes in a similar state of shock.
— James Baldwin

Given the overall climate of fear and insecurity about politics, crumbling infrastructure, climate change and the future of our species, many prefer not to think about the future. That is understandable but not good for our children and grandchildren who, we hope, will live much longer than the horizons we usually venture to think about.

Many of you may have heard about Greta Thunberg, a 16 year old Swedish high school student who has become world famous for her unflinching stand on climate change. Ironically, the inability or the unwillingness to take the long view is already the root of many of our current problems.



"So we have not come here to beg the world leaders to care for our future. They have ignored us in the past and they will ignore us again. We have come here to let them know that change is coming whether they like it or not." Greta Thunberg in 2018

What will the Baltimore region look like in 20-50 years? Will it become so unbearably hot that our current plants will have been replaced by more southern vegetation and grass lawns have become a luxury item for only a few? Will City and County have merged to solve their problems together? Will the region still grow in population or will it have begun to shrink as a whole, just as the City has shrunk for a long time? Will autonomous cars be the common way to get around, will they be privately owned or be operated like Uber and Lyft today? Or will automated transit serve almost everybody including a quick way of getting people in Catonsville to downtown? Will any green space be left between Baltimore and Washington?

Will Westerlee homes still be attractive places or have the large lots turned into a burden for a still aging population? Or will the declining birthrates have swung back up? What will have become of the Baltimore National Pike and its many gas stations, car dealers and drive-throughs when all vehicles became electric and almost no one buys one for private use because the car has lost its rank as status symbol and parking it 95% of the time has too obviously inefficient? Will US 40 be a sea of abandonment or a tree lined thriving new mixed use corridor where people can walk or get around on convenient and easy to use small personal mobility devices?

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

Jacquiline Johnson, Joe Reid, Michele Snowden

Contact the board by emailing westerleehoa@gmail.com

Will old Catonsville still have a farmers market or will many have their own food source in their yard or on their roof with food grown on local rooftops in hydroponic greenhouses that allow anything to grow anywhere year-round? How will residents make a living in a time of artificial intelligence and robots? Will joblessness and despair reign or will there be enough new jobs in making high end technology? Or will people blend hobbies and life sustaining activities in a manner that finally allows most to do what they really like and are good at?

Trying to imagine such scenarios which are decades ahead, one can clearly see a lot of promise, but also grave risk and peril, not to mention the devastating dangers of pervasive cyber attacks which could bring civilization to its knees for long stretches of time. Which pathways will become reality depends in large part a matter of decisions we make today. Not only decisions of our leaders, but choices all of us make. Progress is not a given. In large parts of the world it took more than a thousand years before science, art and knowledge had retrieved again what had gone down with the Roman Empire.

Shaping a desirable future for our children and grandchildren is something that happens every day right in front of our doors. The comprehensive rezoning process across Baltimore County coming to us every four years includes each time hundreds of steps which will shape the future. The new Executive's added position of Sustainability Director will shape the future, the question introduced in a Council resolution whether City and County should create a regional water district will shape it along with how the County decides to manage development. Use of the covered recycling bin Westerlee Inc. will offer this fall can shape how the day after a windy Friday will look in Westerlee. The future will be what we make of it, as the saying goes. Each of us is responsible for a sliver of it, no matter how small. Maybe we would do well to ask ourselves each time, what would your grandchild or Greta Thunberg say?

Klaus Philipsen,

President, Westerlee Inc.



New to Westerlee?

Have you have just moved to the neighborhood in the last few years? Westerlee HOA has a new welcoming committee and we'd love to pop over for a quick visit and welcome you.

Email: John Herron
jdhhs@gmail.com

(Small gift and big smiles included!)

Westerlee Community Association

Treasurers Report for January 1, 2019 to June 30, 2019

Income:

Other Income	1,077.58
Dues	5,116.92

Total Income	\$6,194.50
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Expenditures:

Newsletter/Flyers	218.36
Office Supplies	100.00
Annual Meeting	50.62
Gifts/Awards	100.00

Total expenses:	\$468.98
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Summary of Westerlee Board Meeting Minutes - June 18, 2018

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

Present were Klaus Philipsen, Wanda Richardson, Fred Hickok and Rizwan Mahmoodi, Chris Goatee, John Fox, John Herron, Pam Jarrell, Jacqui Johnson, Joe Reid and Michele Snowden.

Minutes: The minutes for the annual meeting were approved.

Yard Sale: Chris estimated about 10 participants, although some didn't register so she ran out of balloons. John H. suggested having residents bring items to a central location but that was deemed too much trouble. Chris said that new signs are needed, perhaps with a Westerlee logo. Klaus suggested having signs that can have inserts so that they can be used for different events. Chris said that she advertised on several sites and Klaus mentioned having adds on the Westerelee website and on NextDoor. He said we could also ask for feedback in the newsletter.

Dumpster Day: Klaus said no date was set yet but that he will order the dumpsters. Michele suggested also having a shredder. Fred replied that we had one several years ago but it was expensive. Wanda said that the Catonsville Knights of Columbus has fairly frequent shredder days.

Community Party: The board members agreed on Saturday, September 7, from 3:30-7:00 in Klaus' yard with the same caterer and budget. Features included games for children, name tags with addresses and welcome books.

Newsletter: Pam set July 29 as the deadline for submitting articles. Klaus suggested listing the recent home sales with prices but some objected on privacy grounds and suggested that only the range of prices be given. Klaus also suggested listing residents who have died. John H. volunteered to send cards to their families. Klaus said that he will include information on zoning issues.

Royal Farms on Route 40: Klaus announced that Royal Farms has applied to build a store/gas station on the Carpetland property. He expressed concern that this would adversely affect nearby gas stations that do car repairs. He reported that Councilperson Quirk said that the planned construction is in line with current zoning. Klaus suggested having an article in the next newsletter about the status of this project, of the 818 Grocery on Frederick Road and of a new Faidley Restaurant where Plymouth Wallpaper used to be.

Treasurer's Report: Rizwan said that we now have \$18,205 that includes \$2,785 from this year's dues. He suggested coming up with projects to use significant portions of our funds.

Suggested Projects: Klaus said that he will call County officials ask again about the proposed walking trail behind Cedar Circle Drive. He thinks that their previous concerns about liability might have changed. Rizwan suggested 32-ounce recycling cans with lids and offer at a steep discount. Pam said that she could come up with a stick-on attachment showing the Westerlee logo. Wanda said that she will check with Home Depot and Joe said that he will check with Lowes. Klaus said that he will look into a County grant.

Next Meeting: Monday, October 21.
Respectfully submitted,

NEW!

MILESTONES

Do you have a milestone that you would like to share with your neighbors? These might include: births, deaths, graduations, promotions, etc.

Westerlee News is printed 3 times a year. Deadlines for sending Milestones in would be February 1, July 1, and November 1st. Items must be brief and submitted by the family having the milestone. Send email to phjarrell@yahoo.com, please write Milestones on the subject line.

Yard Sale Fun! By Pam Jarrell

It was hot and sunny but all of the participants took it in stride. As I walked the neighborhood and chatted with everyone along the way, spirits were high and “yardsalers” were happy with the results. A few of the neighbors invited friends and family to participate with them and made a party of it. One family even had a lemonade stand, a welcome reprieve on my walkabout.

We had 10 registered homes but also a handful that didn’t, which was certainly fine, but please register next year. Registering is not about the balloons, it does however, make a huge difference in the advertising. Treasure hunters are more likely to visit community yard sales that have the most homes.

Yard sale day is a great way to unload unwanted items and have fun at the same time. In this instance old school community engagement is way better than staring at a computer screen. Start looking around your house and make a pile in the basement so you’re ready for next year. Encourage your nextdoor neighbors to join in as well! Here are a few pics from the day.



Westerlee Residents Only!

RSVP by September 16

Westerlee HOA Recycles

By John Fox

As every Friday rolls around, in addition to TGIF, I get a little excited for TGIRD. Thank Goodness it’s Recycle Day! In my 3 years living in Westerlee, I’ve been impressed with the great participation in Baltimore County’s recycling program.

Recycling is one of the easiest and best ways you can have a positive impact on the environment. Nationally, the good news is that over the last 30 years, participation rates in recycling programs has increased from 10% to more than 34%. This is great because unfortunately the pounds of solid waste per person is also rising. Here in Maryland, Baltimore County has recycled 2.5 billion pounds of recyclables from the nearly 825,000 residents for the last 20 years.

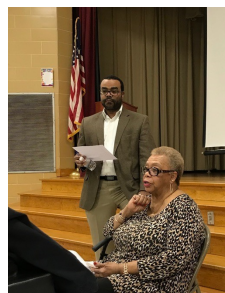


Your HOA board is committed to offering opportunities for community engagement. In the spirit of making participation easier, your HOA board will supplement the cost for a 34-gallon recycling trashcan. These heavy duty cans have wheels and a hinged lid. They are great for the community because you can easily move them, they hold a lot, and the attached lid stops recyclables from escaping.

The plan is in the early stages but you may pay about \$20 toward the can and we will cover the rest, at local stores cans cost up to \$90. A sample will be on display at the Annual Picnic. Please contact John Fox (john.fox.phd@gmail.com) by September 16th if you would like to join in this program. Recycle cans will be purchased this fall.

ANNUAL MEETING

Neighbors gathered at Woodbridge Elementary to catch up on local news and hear from our elected officials.



Dumpster Day

October 5th 8am-12noon

Time to get rid of the stuff in your basement that wasn’t yard sale worthy. For more info on what you can or can not toss, go to westerleenews.com at the end of September for specifics.

CELESTIAL SIGHTS

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

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 shower peaks this year on the night of August 12 and the morning of August 13. 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 15 - Full Moon. This was known by early Native American tribes as the Full Sturgeon Moon because the large sturgeon fish of the Great Lakes were more easily caught at this time of year. It has also been called the Green Corn Moon and Grain Moon.

September 14 - Full Moon. This was known as the Full Corn Moon because the corn was harvested around this time of year but is more widely known as the Harvest Moon, the full moon that occurs closest to the September equinox each year.

September 23 - September 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 fall (autumnal equinox) in the Northern Hemisphere and the first day of spring (vernal equinox) in the Southern Hemisphere.

October 13 - Full Moon. This was known as the Full Hunters Moon because at this time of year the leaves are falling and the game is fat and ready to hunt. It has also been called the Travel Moon and Blood Moon.

November 11 - Rare Transit of Mercury Across the Sun. The planet Mercury will move directly between the Earth and the Sun. Viewers with telescopes and approved solar filters will be able to observe the dark disk of the planet Mercury moving across the face of the Sun. The next transit of Mercury will not take place until 2039. The event will take place from 7:35 a.m. to 1:04 p.m.

November 12 - Full Moon. This was known as the Full Beaver Moon because this was the time of year to set the beaver traps before the swamps and rivers froze. It has also been called the Frosty Moon.

November 24 - Conjunction of Venus and Jupiter. The two bright planets will be visible within 1.4 degrees of each other in the evening sky. Look for this impressive sight in the western sky just after sunset.

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

Free Benjamin Banneker Planetarium Shows CCBC 800 S.Rolling Rd., Rm 030A

Friday, September 20, 8pm: *Try This on for Size*
Saturday, September 21, 10am: *My House Has Stars* (kids show)
Friday, October 4, 7:30pm: *Earthquake*
Friday, October 25, 8pm: *Scary Satellites*
Saturday, October 26, 10am: *Space Witch* (kids show)
Friday, November 22, 8pm: *Less Glamorous Constellations*
Saturday, Nov. 23, 10am: *Lost in a Forest with a Turkey* (kids show)

Life is Great in 21228!

Free Things to do in Catonsville

46th Annual Catonsville Arts & Crafts Festival
New Location, CCBC Catonsville, 800 S. Rolling Rd.
September 8, 2019 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Raindate Sept 15. Same great festival, great new location. Seems weather, safety, and growth have played a part in moving of the event. Read more at the Catonsville Chamber page. <https://catonsville.org/chamber-events/community-outreach/arts-crafts-festival>

Benjamin Banneker Historical Park & Museum

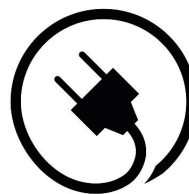
300 Oella Ave. (410) 887-1081 Beautiful museum, and park has lots to offer! Try the trolley trail that leads to Ellicott City.

Our HOA is A-OK!

The Westerlee Homeowners Association strives to keep our wonderful neighborhood the best it can be. These are just a few examples of what dues do:

- Keep on top of the local development news that may impact our quiet neighborhood and routinely communicate with local officials on our behalf.
- Organize annual events such as the yard sale day, dumpster day, annual meeting, holiday light contest and our upcoming picnic.
- Support of this community newsletter and website.

It's never too late to catch up on paying your Westerlee Community Association dues. If you have not paid for 2018, send \$40 (\$25 yearly + \$15 late fee) to our Treasurer Rizwan Mahmoodi at 2126 Fernglan Way.



Plug Into Westerlee!

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 street has a power outage or let others know about up-coming local events.

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

2019 ANNUAL

Westerlee Community

PICNIC

GAMES

FOOD

FAMILY

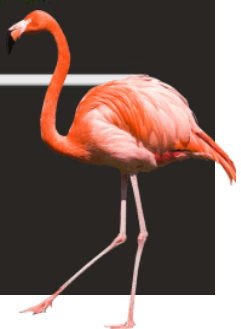


SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 TH FROM 3:30 TO 7:00

LOCATED AT THE PHILIPSEN'S YARD
2018 CEDAR CIRCLE DRIVE

RSVP to Jacqui by August 28, email wunmind@hotmail.com

*Bring a dessert to share.



Westerlee Homeowners Association Community Survey

Dear Neighbors,

The Westerlee Board would like to ask a few questions to see how we are doing, gauge interest and see where we might do better. Please complete the survey and return it to John Heron's mailbox at 2102 Fernglen Way or email to jdhhs@gmail.com. You can answer anonymously or if you would like a response, provide your info at the bottom.

Programs

Currently we offer the following programs: Annual Meeting, Yard Sale Day, Community Picnic, Holiday Decorating Contest, and Dumpster Day.

Do you have any ideas that could make any of our programs more successful?

Are there any programs you would like to see added?

Getting Neighborly

List 3 things you like about living here.

Do you have suggestions for ways to get to know your neighbors better?

Would you welcome small group get-togethers with nearby neighbors? Y / N (circle one)

Welcoming Committee

Have you moved in to Westerlee in the last few years? Our newly formed Welcoming Committee has put together a packet of info to give to new residents. Would it be ok if we popped in for a short visit? Please fill out your info and note best times you can be reached.

Name

Address

of Years

Phone

Best Time to Reach (If Applicable)