

# WESTERLEE COMMUNITY NEWS

Westerlee: A Proud Covenant Controlled Community

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

August 2020



Editor: Pam Jarrell

## Past-President's Letter by Klaus Philipson

Dear Neighbors,

Charles Sprague, who was President of Westerlee Inc. since 1986 and Board Director Darrell Gretz visited my home in May 1991 to welcome my wife and me to the community. They also asked whether I would be willing to engage with the community, to which I agreed, once I was done with fully moving in.

It took three more years before I was elected to the board, because it appears from the record that there had been no association meetings since December 1991 when William Jones became president or at least there had been no minutes and records. In 1994 Marion Seabrook took over from Bill Jones, in 1995 Paul Grimm became president, then Chuck Spargue again. In 1997 Fred Kirk, and in 2003 Marilyn Maxwell were elected. Maxwell resigned in March of 2004 when I became president. The rapid turn-over in the presidency surely ended when I remained in office for 16 years. I resigned this August, because it was time for a change.

Like everybody else, I had expected that there would be an Annual Meeting this April with election of a new Board and the begin of a new term. Alas, COVID prevented us from having an in person meeting and the Board voted unanimously not to try a virtual meeting with computer participation in a community with many elderly residents. Instead, we extended the terms by a year until we hopefully can have a regular meeting again. Luckily, board member John Fox volunteered to take the position after Wanda Richardson, our VP, declared she would rather stay vice-president. I am sure the community will be in good hands with John, who moved four years ago into the house the Yinglings had lived in since Westerlee was built. John has already spearheaded the initiative of providing steeply discounted blue recycling bins to Westerlee households to reduce the flying around of recyclabels on windy days.

The biggest physical change during my time in office came with the construction of the Gateway Mews apartments on the former western portion of the Hofmann peach orchard in 2004/5. Westerlee negotiated a Restrictive Covenant Agreement with the developer and its successors which included that the developer had to reorient the buildings so they wouldn't look straight into the backyards of the houses along Cedar Circle, build a well landscaped buffer strip, construct a walkway between the two ends of Nuwood Road and a trail easement that would eventually connect to the County owned wooded area north of the water tower. The envisioned connection of the trail all the way to Rolling Road as an amenity for Westerlee residents was tabled, when a few residents at and near Cedar Circle Court protested it, even though it had been welcomed in an Annual Meeting in 2006. The trail through the wooded area has been brought up in recent Annual Meetings again. Talks are underway with Baltimore County about an agreement that would allow a mulched trail along the southern edge of the buffer strip, away from the residences on Cedar Cricle Drive. The buffer was Westerlee's property but dedeed to the County in 1995 to save the community insurance cost. Especially now during the pandemic, people like to

### WESTERLEE COMMUNITY, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: John Fox 410.756.0543

Vice President: Wanda Richardson

Secretary: Fred Hickok

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

Directors: Chris Goatee, John Herron, Pam Jarrell

Jacquiline Johnson, Joe Reid, Michele Snowden

Past President: Klaus Philipson

Contact the board by emailing [westerleehoa@gmail.com](mailto:westerleehoa@gmail.com)

take walks to escape isolation and appreciate open spaces more than ever. Having this nature trail would be a valuable asset for the entire community.

Westerlee has created strong ties with the adjacent communities of Woodbridge Valley, Drexelwood and Westview Park which come in handy when it comes to fending off detrimental developments. In the last 16 years we successfully defeated the up-zoning of the eastern portion of the Hoffman Farm for development because we felt we had accepted enough infill with the new Mews development. We later defeated a new car lot on the same land planned by the Antwerpen dealership. Once again, we felt we had given the car dealers enough when Westerlee had reached an agreement with Russel Auto (now Heritage) about parking cars south of Dlong and Powers Lane where an old Farmhouse once stood. We also held the line when Frosty refrigeration was trying to establish their shop in what was once the Jehovah's Witness church on Powers Lane, maintaining Powers Lane as the divide between residential and commercial zoning.

But not all Westerlee Inc. activities are about development or zoning. The Association now publishes regular newsletters at least three times a year, has annual yard sales, picnics, holiday decoration contests and dumpster days, and keeps an eye on the character of the community through architectural review of all changes on properties as the Covenants require. Since COVID also makes the picnic impossible, we will provide a special "Westerlee" reusable shopping bag this year, that will be delivered to each home. These bags will also be provided to new residents as a welcome gesture, along with information packages, for years to come.

Per the bylaws I will remain on the Board as "past-president", at least for the time being. And yes, I would love to see the trail finally built, after almost 20 years of discussion!

Stay healthy!

Klaus Philipson





**Sadly...  
Due to Covid19,  
there will be no  
annual picnic.**

We will deeply miss seeing all you,  
sharing stories, enjoying good food,  
and having lots of fun but keeping  
everyone safe is of the utmost importance.  
*See you next year!*



Westerlee Community Association Treasurers Report for January 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020	
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	\$13,145.23
<b>Income:</b>	
Other Income	1,077.58
Dues	2,935.00
Recycling Bins	680.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$3,615.78</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>	
Newsletter/Flyers	223.93
Office Supplies	112.25
Website	12.00
Gifts/Awards	100.00
<b>Total expenses:</b>	<b>\$348.18</b>
<b>Ending Balance:</b>	<b>\$16,412.83</b>

**Westerlee Board News**

Dear Westerlee Neighbors,

I hope this finds you and your loved ones doing well during COVID-19. It's times like these that make me thankful for community and good relationships with neighbors.

I'd like to introduce myself as the incoming President for the Westerlee HOA. I moved to Westerlee in 2016 and joined the board in 2018. I've served on a previous HOA and enjoy being involved in my community.

I want to thank Klaus Philipson who served as Westerlee President for many years. His leadership and his relationships with city/county leaders has served Westerlee very well. I am delighted to say he will continue with the board to share his expertise and wisdom.

I will be working with the board in the coming months to establish goals as we move forward. Your input will be important when we are able to hold our next Annual Meeting. In the meantime, please be well and I'll look for you around the neighborhood.

Sincerely,  
John Fox



**Thank  
You  
Klaus!**

A BIG thank you to Klaus Philipsen for serving the neighbors of Westerlee, as our board president, for 16 years.

Thanks for keeping us up to date on all the issues and protecting us from urban sprawl.

We appreciate all of the time and energy you spent on making Westerlee such an amazing place to live!





## BOARD MEETING MINUTES 8/10/2020

### (Google Meet Call)

#### Participants:

Klaus Philipsen, Wanda Richardson, John Fox, John Herron, Rizwan Mahmoodi, Chris Goatee, and Pam Jarrell. Absent: Joe Reid, Fred Hickok and Michelle Snowden. The meeting was called to order at 6:36pm.

#### Westerlee Agreement with Gateway Mews HOA for path-

**way extension to the east:** A draft of the agreement had been provided via email ahead of the meeting. A motion was made and seconded and unanimously approved to submit the agreement as written.

#### Committee reports: Welcome, Code, Architecture, Newsletter

**Treasury:** Rizwan stated he has written all statement letters and that they will be modified before they will be sent out to reflect the forgiven late fee. Klaus provided a short Board note stating that Late Fees are forgiven which will be added to the statement letters. Board confirmed that waiver of late fee is for full calendar year.

**Newsletter:** The submission deadline is 8/17. In it we will have a welcoming president's letter from John along with a few additional notes from Klaus. We will also announce Dumpster Day which is scheduled for 10/31 8-12. The announcement would state that masks are required when delivering waste. There will also be a column: "Useful to know" that reiterates some of the perennial issues and questions, including dues. John Herron will write an article. It was stated that the Newsletter as our main contact this year should have substance.

**Dumpster Day:** Dumpster Day which is scheduled for 10/31 8-12 pending County approval. Pam will ask Fred about providing the electronics and paint special collection. Jacqui will obtain posters announcing Dumpster Day.

**Special Election:** The board voted unanimously for John Fox to replace Klaus Philipsen who resigned from his office as President. Klaus will remain on the board to the end of this extended term. John was congratulated and thanked for his willingness to run. He will receive Board documents from Klaus in the next few days. He took over chairing the meeting and closed the meeting after a motion to adjourn was made..

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.

Minutes taken and submitted by Klaus Philipsen.



## Diversity and Westerlee

By John Herron

Our neighborhood picnic, that so many of enjoyed, had to be cancelled. Yes, another COVID casualty and I will miss it. At the picnic I am reminded of how diverse we really are. Age, race, religion, nationality, and lifestyle, I think Westerlee is a picture of how America can look and still be friendly, helpful, prosperous and safe.

One small benefit of the virus is that I enjoy seeing a number of residents walking morning and evening. Everyone waving, smiling and some stopping to chat. We may not know everyone's name but we are neighbors, and in Westerlee, that means something.

My wife, Barbara, and I moved here in 2018 after 26 years in Columbia. We loved Columbia, known for its diversity, something that we value highly. When looking for a home, we needed to find a house on one floor, in a neighborhood that shared that same vitality. We feel incredibly lucky to have found Westerlee.

Since we can't have the picnic, let's take every opportunity that COVID-19 allows to continue being neighborly and celebrate our diversity.

## 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](mailto:phjarrell@yahoo.com), please write Milestones on the subject line.





# CELESTIAL SIGHTS

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

**September 22 - September Equinox.** The September equinox occurs at 9:30 am. 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 - Mars at Opposition.** The red planet will be at its closest approach to Earth and its face will be fully illuminated by the Sun. It will be brighter than any other time of the year and will be visible all night long. This is the best time to view and photograph Mars. A medium-sized telescope will allow you to see some of the dark details on the planet's orange surface.

**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 morning of the 15th could also be nearly as active this year. The nearly new moon will ensure dark skies for what should be an excellent 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 December solstice occurs at 5:02 am. 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 21 - Rare Conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn.** A conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn will take place on December 21. This rare conjunction of these two planets is known as a great conjunction. The last great conjunction occurred in the year 2000. The two bright planets will appear only 7 arc minutes of each other in the night sky. They will be so close that they will appear to make a bright double planet. Look to the west just after sunset for this impressive and rare planetary pair.

Sources: <http://www.seasky.org/astronomy/astronomy-calendar-2020.html>

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

There may be virtual shows that you may view online in place of live shows on campus. Go to <https://www.cbcmd.edu/Programs-and-Courses/Schools-and-Academic-Departments/School-of-Mathematics-and-Science/Astronomy/Banneker-Planetarium.aspx>

## Life is Great in 21228!

*Free Things to do in Catonsville*

### Take a Hike Nearby

Search: "Catonsville Rails to Trails" for photos and better descriptions of these following trails:

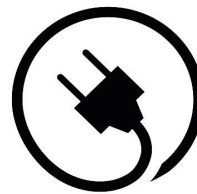
**Trolley #9:** The Historical Ellicott City/Baltimore Trolley Line #9 Trail is a hilly walk from Oella, start at either Banneker or the Breadery, to Ellicott City, on a packed path.

**#8 Streetcar Path:** A short, shady, paved path that runs between Edmondson and Frederick Rds. (.4miles) Pick it up just behind 7/11.

**Patapsco State Park:** Many may not know that you can pick up a trail to the river, right near our neighborhood. Just walk down Chantilla, pass the swim club on your left. Take a left on Drexlewood and a bit down the road on your right, you will see a well marked trailhead. It will connect to the Pickall Trail and weaves its way behind neighborhoods into the woods and towards 40, then down to the river. It is hilly and uneven dirt path. If your in the mood to drive visit the Patapsco State Park website to find other trails.

#### Baltimore County Rec & Parks:

Behind the **Catonsville Senior Center** & tennis courts are some short trails. **Banneker Park** in Oella has some trails as well. If you want to drive, there are many other parks to enjoy, all around the beltway.



## 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](mailto:kphilipsen@archplan.com)



# Dumpster Day

## October 31st 8am-12noon

Saturday October 5th Baltimore County Dept. of Solid Waste will supply Westerlee with a roll-off dumpster. The dumpster will be located on Nuwood Drive, where it dead-ends by Cedar Circle from 8am-12pm.

**Masks must be worn on site!** 

Additionally, Fred Hickok, board secretary, volunteered to use his pickup for paint cans and electronics disposal. Please be sure to keep these separated from the other items you are bringing.

Community volunteers will be on site to assist and answer questions.

Most household trash is acceptable as long as it is *not* normal recyclables or caustic.

### Community Clean-Up Program Disposal Regulations

- The following items are prohibited from disposal and will not be accepted at Landfill:
- Acids, caustics, pesticides, chemicals
- Drums or tanks (unless clean and cut in half)
- Explosive or flammable materials
- Large stumps
- Liquids or liquid waste
- Medical or radioactive waste
- Wood or logs greater than eight inches in diameter and six feet in length
- Most large items that cannot be lifted manually
- Tires
- Appliances with freon(Fridge, a/c units etc...)
- Batteries and anti-freeze

### Electronics:

- Audio equipment
- Cables, cords and communication wires
- Central Processing Units (CPUs), laptops and servers
- Computer accessories and peripherals (including mice, keyboards, power supplies, scanners and printers)
- Computer parts (including circuit boards, chips, cards and hard drives)
- Music playing devices
- “Smart watches” and fitness trackers
- Tablets and e-readers

Please note: Computer monitors and TVs are now considered trash.

**FYI:** The Department of Solid Waste has a great on-line resource called **The Reuse Directory**, that has lists of places to take almost anything you are trying to get rid of



### FYI: Some of Westerlee covenants that come with your property. Covenants require that:

- ◆ No building or structure of any kind shall be commenced, erected or maintained on any lot, nor shall any addition to, change or alteration thereof be made until the exterior plans, specifications and the plot plans showing location thereof shall have been submitted to and approved in writing by Westerlee Community, Inc., its successors or assigns, or its duly appointed agent.
- ◆ Please check out our the Architectural Guidelines on our website [Westerleenews.com](http://Westerleenews.com) by clicking on the tab for “Documents” where you can also find the full set of Covenants
- ◆ Baltimore County requires that trash is set out in trash cans, not in plastic bags that can be picked open by critters and often leave a smelly mess. Westerlee Inc strongly recommends recycling in covered containers to avoid paper and plastic blowing through the yards.
- ◆ All motor vehicles parked on the streets need to be licensed, tagged and drivable per County Code. Non drivable or non licensed vehicles are reported to Code Enforcement after 30 days.
- ◆ No commercial trades are permitted to be conducted from within the properties in community except as allowed by County Zoning (small home offices and the like). No commercial vehicles are allowed to be parked on the properties.
- ◆ Westerlee Inc. makes occasional announcement on the online neighborhood networking site Next Door. We encourage participation as an easy way to say informed. Anybody in the community can post ideas, complaints or suggestions there.

# WESTERLEE LATE FEES WAIVED FOR 2020

Clearly, corona virus has effected every part of our lives. Even the regular way of collecting association dues has been thrown off kilter. With no annual meeting, everyone locked down and stressed to the max, paying dues was the last thing on everyone's minds.

During a Zoom meeting, the board voted unanimously to waive late fees for the year of 2020. We hope that everyone is safe and sound!

If you have not yet paid your annual \$25 dues, please send a check to the treasurer:

Rizwan Mamoodi, 2126 Fernglen Way



## In Person or From Home Be Counted!

For all information on voting go to: <https://www.elections.maryland.gov> for the Board of Elections web page, or simply search for Maryland Board of Elections. On this site you can also find information on mail-in voting, registering to vote, and all your other voting questions.

With everyone worried about Covid19 and safety at the polls, mail-in voting is possible. When you get to the site, on the left side of the page, under **Quick Links**, select **Mail-in Voting**. You can request a Mail-in Ballot 2 ways: On Line or Print out and send.

Baltimore County also has its own Board of elections web-site: <https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/elections> or simply search for Baltimore County elections. Here you can get information on when and where to vote in person. Baltimore County early voting will take place Monday, October 26, 2020 through Monday, November 2, 2020. Sites are listed on the website.

If you need help with any of this contact Board member John Herron 2102 Fernglen and he will see that you get help. (410-740- 9173)

## Did You Know?

### A Bit of Westerlee History By Klaus Philipson

- In the early 1960's there was no Woodbridge Valley and no Westview and also nothing west of Nuwood Drive. The small development area on Cedar Circle and Fernglen Way had no water and sewer, and as today, no sidewalks. But there were plans to build the western part of Westerlee on smaller lots, install water and sewer and force everyone to connect and pay a connection fee. This is probably the first time the small association became belligerent.
- Traffic engineers used road templates in which the width of a road was dependent on lot sizes: Smaller lots, more traffic and a wider road plus mandatory sidewalks. That is why in Westerlee the road gets wider west of Nuwood, no matter that residents argued in a Sept 1962 meeting with traffic engineer Steve Collins that on the way to Rolling Road the same cars would wind up on the narrow road anyway and that thusly the traffic would be heaviest near Rolling Road not below Nuwood.
- Westerlee tried to sway the Director of Public Works with flattery: "Mr Collins handled himself very well, maintaining the patience and composure in the face of numerous questions asked", wrote Mr Griffith of 2012 Fernglen Way in his letter to the Director o September 11, 1962.
- The County engineers lost, when it came to where the new standard with would begin after the four residents just south of Nuwood Rd threw a lawyer letter into the mix written by then President Bradley Mettee of 1906 Cedar Circle Drive on the stationary of the Semmes, Bowen and Semmes law firm. They didn't want to give up their yard for a sidewalk or widened road, and in the end they never did.
- When Westerlee's first Newsletter was printed in the spring of 1964? It was 2 typewriter written pages long, copied on a Mimeograph. It reported that the Board had authorized \$1000 attorney's fees to appeal the rezoning of the area northwest of Powers Lane and Rolling Road from residential to commercial. (A nearly \$9,000 loss in today's \$).
- The nine and then eleven member Board consisted exclusively of men, that this didn't change until December 1965 when Mrs. Marvin Gardels joined the board. (Back then women were recorded by their husband's name). She promptly became "Recording Secretary". (Today's Board has five female members and six males. Five of the 11 members are people of color.)
- The land north of Westerlee and now named Woodbridge Valley was known as the Miller property and eventually bought and developed with 935 housing units by Joseph Meyerhoff, a Baltimore real estate mogul who built more than ten thousand housing units, many shopping centers and donated \$10 million for the Baltimore symphony hall which is named after him.
- Westerlee fought a long-drawn battle about connections between Woodbridge Valley and Westerlee along the common boundary. In the end the Nuwood connection was dropped.
- The land to the west of Westerlee, now the Westerlee Apartments, used to be a golf course

