

# WESTERLEE COMMUNITY NEWS

Westerlee: A Proud Covenant Controlled Community

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

Spring 2021



Editor: Pam Jarrell

## President's Letter

### 2021: A Fresh Start for Community

I hope this finds you and your families doing well and staying healthy in 2021. This year continues with significant public health challenges, including COVID vaccinations, on-going restrictions, testing, financial and personal challenges, and social isolation. As a community, I know we are ready for the responsible re-openings within the county and establishing our collective new normal. I for one am hopeful for any kind of normalcy.

We are hosting our first virtual Annual meeting this year on April 27, 2021 at 7pm. Having cancelled last year, we would like the community to come together, still observing COVID safety guidelines, by meeting on-line via Google Meet.

On the agenda, we will be having the Westerlee HOA Board Member elections. If your interested in joining the board, we'd love to have you! We need folks who can pitch in and help with our annual events and can attend occasional Monday evening meetings. We are open to new ideas and ways we can make Westerlee an even better place to call home. Send us an email to [westerleehoa@gmail.com](mailto:westerleehoa@gmail.com) or contact me at the number above with any questions.

#### WESTERLEE COMMUNITY, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: John Fox

Email: [john.fox.phd@gmail.com](mailto:john.fox.phd@gmail.com) Cell: (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. Klaus Philipsen (Past President)

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

Along with elections, we will have brief updates by County Councilman Tom Quirk and Baltimore County Police liaison Officer Alisha Helphenstine. Ms. Dorcas Baker, RN from the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing will share information and answer questions related to COVID-19.

On behalf of your HOA Board, we look forward to "seeing" you.

Sincerely,

John Fox

## 2021 Westerlee's Virtual Zoom Annual Meeting Tuesday, April 27, 2021 from 7-9pm

- 1) To join the virtual meeting, please use the following link: <https://zoom.us/join> (no account needed)
- 2) Please enter the following Meeting ID Number in the box: 827 9954 6981
- 3) Meeting host will grant you permission to enter the virtual room; this will happen within 1 minute of joining the meeting. If you have further concerns or challenges with the technology, please reach out to us via [westerleehoa@gmail.com](mailto:westerleehoa@gmail.com).
- 4) You can also go to [www.westerleenews.com](http://www.westerleenews.com) to select the link on-line from our neighborhood website.

## Don't Forget to Pay your \$25 HOA Dues!

For those who normally pay at the annual meeting, please mail your check. Remember, after April 30th a \$15 late fee will be assessed. Make checks payable to Westerlee Inc. and mail to: Rizwan Mahmoodi, 2126 Fernglen Way, Catonsville, MD 21228.



## Get Connected!

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

To join, email Klaus  
kphilipsen@archplan.com

## 2020 Year End Treasurer's Report January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020

Beginning Balance \$13,145.23

### Income

Other Income-Interest 1.59  
Dues 4,495.00

**Total Income + \$5,176.59**

### Expenditures:

|                              |            |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Flower Arrangements          | \$115.31   |
| Newsletters/flyers           | \$626.46   |
| HOA Gifts (Bags/Flashlights) | \$1,272.10 |
| Holiday Contest              | \$100      |
| Office Supplies              | \$112.25   |
| Welcome Committee            | \$33.62    |
| Website                      | \$12.00    |
| Yard Signs                   | \$306.61   |
| HOA Insurance                | \$100.00   |

**Total Expenses - \$5,530.17**

**Ending Balance = \$13,145.23**

(Beginning Balance + Total income - Total Expenditures)



## Meeting Minutes

### Westerlee Community Association, Inc. February 8, 2021

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

Present were officers John Fox (President), Wanda Richardson (Vice President), Fred Hickok (Secretary), Rizwan Mahmoodi (Treasurer), Klaus Philipsen (Past President) and board members Chris Goatee, John Herron, Pam Jarrell and Jacqui Johnson.

Minutes of December 7, 2020 Board Meeting: Approved **Holiday Decoration Contest**: Pam announced the 6 winners and Jacqui volunteered to deliver the gift cards.

**Annual Meeting**: After a discussion of possible postponement, the board voted to have a virtual meeting at 7:00-8:30 on either Tuesday, April 13 or 27, using Google Meeting, Webex or Zoom Meeting. Invite County and State representatives, County police and health spokespersons with focus on the pandemic and health information. Chris suggested better management of the politicians' reports.

**Election of board members**: John F., Chris, Wanda and Klaus volunteered to work on details.

#### 2200 Cedar Circle Drive:

John F. reported that the owners Steve and Lorraine Marroulis have submitted video documentation about rainwater runoff caused from a clogged drain in the buffer strip between Fernglen Way and Pleasant Valley Drive homes.

Rizwan noted that the house next door at 2128 Fernglen Way has had significant damage from strong currents of water flowing from the buffer strip. He suggested hiring a contractor to help clear away debris. Klaus said that the former partner of Fred Kirk has a team that might be hired for perhaps \$500. John H. suggested having Westerlee volunteers

working at the same time and volunteered to organize this effort.

**Rolling Road Traffic**: Klaus reported that there has been no official response.

**Walking Path**: Klaus reported that the issue is bouncing among several agencies. A response letter states that Westerlee would need to submit a more detailed plan to receive an easement for a trail and be responsible for construction and maintenance. He said that we would try to get a more detailed base plan and obtain a rough estimate of construction costs (possibly greater than \$5,000). He noted that the County offers grants for neighborhood improvements.

#### Committee Reports

**Welcome**: John H. reported that he gave material to new residents.

**Newsletter**: Pam gave March 7 as the deadline for submissions for the next edition. John H. volunteered to write about the buffer strip and water issue.

**Yard Sale**: Jacqui said that the committee will meet to make plans so that the event can be announced in the newsletter.

**Treasurer**: Rizwan brought up the issue of instituting a processing fee for the work of reporting to title companies during a sale. He and John F. will submit a more detailed proposal to the board for a vote.

The board meeting adjourned at 8:06.



# *Westerlee's Got the Holiday Spirit!*

Neighbors really thumbed their noses at the pandemic this year as there were more lights cheering up our neighborhood than ever before! Holiday lights certainly bring joy to our hearts and makes a mundane drive to the store a more pleasurable experience. The judges all drove around separately and then had a Zoom meeting to pick the winners. With the outstanding participation we decided to pick 6 winners, listed in no particular order: 2123 Chantilla, 2019 Cedar Circle, 2022 Cedar Circle, 2127 Fernglen, 2024 Cedar Circle, and 2128 Fernglen.



## **Yard Sale Day June 5, 8am-2pm**

Go through your house, attic, garage and shed. If you haven't used it or thought about it in the last 2 years, into the yard sale pile it goes. If you're saving things for your kids, now is a great time to ask them if they really want your stuff...most of the time the answer is NO. (sorry) Declutter now and make money in your own front yard this June.

Please register!!! Participation numbers are essential to get the most buyers to attend our yard sale. When we advertise the event, the more houses joining in the better. You will be given balloons and will be placed on a neighborhood map so that prospective buyers get excited and know where you are located. The more people who visit, the less items you have left at the end of the day. Enjoy

**RSVP By May 30th**

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

## **Committee Report Water Run-off to the Board of Directors**

By John Herron and Rizwan Mahmoodi 2/9/2021

With authorization from the board, we met to view the water run-off issues with neighbors at the bottom of Fernglen Way.

The swale, between Westerlee and the neighbors on Pleasant Valley Dr., which belongs to the Balt Co Dept of Recs and Parks, is the source of flooding in the yards of a few properties on Fernglen and Cedar Circle (2200). The swale is saturated and has standing water in several places all the way up to the top of Fernglen. Fallen trees, leaves and branches cover the area as well as debris and trash.

The swale narrows as it approaches the drain that should take water under the Cedar Circle Street. The drain opening is partially clogged with leaves and debris. There is a trough prior to the drain that should funnel water to the drain, but it appears to be a higher ground such that the water settles and has created a new path toward Fernglen Way in heavy wet periods--by-passing the drain altogether. Neighbors have videos of this diversions in yards and toward basements.

The homes on Pleasant Valley Drive are dramatically higher than the swale which suggests that a lot of water is runoff from those properties.

The Board acknowledges that the entire community is built on a slope that sends water to the river; there has been an increase in dramatic weather events; adjacent residents have some responsibility to keep it clean and functional; and it is in our interest to assess the long-term consequences of water run-off mitigation both now and in the future. A committee was formed to assess the problem, if needed, get professional advice on short-term remediation; and mobilize the communities if there are clean-ups and the like that would help.

The swale itself is on County land and is not our ultimate responsibility. We will need neighbors supporting this effort.

# CELESTIAL SIGHTS

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

· **April 27 - Full Moon, Supermoon.** Because this full moon is near its closest distance to the Earth, it may look slightly larger and brighter than usual. This was known by early Native American tribes as the Pink Moon because it marked the appearance of the moss pink, or wild ground phlox, which is one of the first spring flowers. This has also been known as the Sprouting Grass Moon, the Growing Moon, and the Egg Moon. Many coastal tribes called it the Fish Moon because this was the time that the shad swam upstream to spawn.

· **May 6, 7 - Eta Aquarids Meteor Shower.** This is capable of producing up to 30 meteors per hour at its peak. It is produced by dust particles left behind by Comet Halley. It peaks this year on the night of May 6 and the morning of the May 7. Best viewing will be from a dark location after midnight.

· **May 17 - Mercury at Greatest Eastern Elongation.** This is the best time to view Mercury since it will be at its highest point above the horizon in the evening sky. Look for the planet low in the western sky just after sunset.

· **May 26 - Full Moon, Supermoon.** This was known by early Native American tribes as the Flower Moon because this was the time of year when spring flowers appeared in abundance. This has also been known as the Corn Planting Moon and the Milk Moon.

· **June 24 - Full Moon, Supermoon.** This was known by early Native American tribes as the Strawberry Moon because it coincides with the peak of the strawberry harvesting season. This has also been known as the Rose Moon and the Honey Moon.

Sources: <http://www.seasky.org/astronomy/astronomy-calendar-2021.html>

## Farmers Markets

### Catonsville Sunday Farmers Market

Opening Day on Sunday, May 10 RAIN OR SHINE.  
15 Mellor Avenue 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
[www.catonsville.org](http://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](http://www.catonsvillefarmersmarket.com)



# Don't Miss Our First Ever Virtual Annual Meeting

## Agenda Items include:

- HOA Board Elections
- Councilman Tom Quirk
- Officer Alisha Helphenstine
- Dorcas Baker, RN from the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing

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See you there!