



# ***The WREporter***

**The Voice of West River Estates**  
**[www.westriverestates.org](http://www.westriverestates.org)**

**Volume 15 Number 2**

**Fall 2009**

## **Letter from the President**

*Vince Penkala*

Full Circle –

As the latest homeowner to take the helm as President of the WREHOA, I'd like to first thank Margaret Cullumber for her work as the HOA's most recent president. Her efforts, along with the hard work of the board have, made the transition very comfortable. Even with my limited experience in this position, it's clear the board and other members have done an outstanding job watching over the visible and not-so visible tasks of running the association. Kudos to everyone!

So why the "full circle" opener? It's the most concise description of what is now my family's tenth year living in WRE. We arrived single (though engaged), without kids and with simple goals of adding a fresh coat of paint on the walls, keeping the grass green, and staying as off-the-radar as possible when it came to the HOA. A mere decade later, I've lost track of the number of wall color changes and my kids continue to reach new decibel levels. Oh yeah, and there have been a couple violations in the mailbox along the way. So much for staying off the radar.

With many chapters written as a resident and now the opportunity to participate in a handful of HOA Board meetings, there are some observations I'd like to share: First, as a community, we're fortunate to have board members who have served for several years (often consecutive). This experience helps the board mitigate problems and avoid unplanned expenses. Secondly, the operational and financial sides (contracts with landscaping, tree services and the general business management) are run extremely well. Compared to other HOA's, the cost per household measured against the benefits to the community is very favorable. And, like any association, we have residents who are consistently willing to participate in the process, others who prefer to stay off the radar

(yup, I know ... that was me) and those willing to jump in if something sparks their interest. Above all else, what impresses me most about WRE are the number of homeowners who consistently raise their hand when a neighbor needs help, when a newborn arrives and a dinner schedule is posted and when someone tackles a yeomen's task and needs a bit of help getting to the finish line. These are things that have little to do with the HOA but rather speak to the quality of the people living here.

As we look toward the New Year and as I set goals for myself in this role, I'm interested in hearing from you. Anything you'd like to see more of (or maybe just different things) within the community? What about the fact that our homes are generally the same age and things like heat pumps and shingles are starting to fail? Interested in a group-buy program to negotiate better prices with contractors? Or, what about having a directory of our talented neighbors including the great interior designer, an amazing personal chef, the trustworthy do-anything contractor and the neighborhood kids willing to cut lawns, rake leaves and babysit? These are just a couple things on my mind ... what's on yours? Think about it. Let me know.

Happy Fall Everyone,  
Vince Penkala  
[vincentpenkala@yahoo.com](mailto:vincentpenkala@yahoo.com)





## Luminaries

Debra Patrick

For many years the homeowners of West River Estates have lined the streets with Luminaries on Christmas Eve. It is beautiful to drive through the community with all of the luminaries lit on Christmas Eve. Unfortunately there was no one to take on the task last year. If you would like to volunteer to do this and would like more information please contact Debra Patrick 443-203-6424 or debpatrick@comast.net.



## E-News

This is our first Electronic newsletter. Please let us know what you think other than the fact that we are trying to save a tree! Ask your neighbor if they received their electronic newsletter. If they have not tell them to send a message to [contacts@westriverestates.org](mailto:contacts@westriverestates.org) or go to your community website [www.westriverestates.org](http://www.westriverestates.org) to view the most recent newsletter.



The WREHOA appreciates the fact that nearly all homeowners pay their dues in a timely manner as it helps the HOA keep WRE looking top notch throughout the year.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Halloween Spooctacular!

Debbie Martin



Join us as West River Estates parades down Sweetwater Dr. for a Community Celebration at 5330 Sweetwater Dr. Dress in your funniest or spookiest costumes...moms and dads too!

October 31, 2009  
3:00 to 5:00 pm

We will meet on the corner of Plantation Blvd and Sweetwater Dr at 3:00 for the parade. Please RSVP to Debbie at 410-867-2906 or [debs4devils@verizon.net](mailto:debs4devils@verizon.net). Please let me how many children and how many adults will be joining the fun. Each family will need to bring one snack to share. Games, activities and drinks will be provided. Thank You and I look forward to seeing you all then.

### Landscaping Committee

Jack Mateosky

Hello, fellow West River Estates residents. Here we are, nearing the end of another landscaping season in

our neighborhood. This year, consistent with past years, the HOA has continued to invest time, effort, and your money in keeping our neighborhood beautiful and safe. This fall will bring the removal of a large dead white oak tree near the front entrance, the replacement of some dead or dying cherry trees with crimson maples and/or crape myrtle trees along the main roadways. We have continued to mow and maintain common areas and edge the common sidewalks and paths. The HOA encourages all neighbors with sidewalks bordering their respective property to edge those sidewalks to help enhance and maintain the neighborhood.

As always, the HOA wants to make the same gentle requests to all neighbors:

- Please make every effort to refrain from driving or parking on ANY grass areas and sidewalks, please try and park automobiles in your driveway whenever possible,
- Also please work to clean up after your pets and pick up trash and litter as well during walks.
- The neighborhood belongs to ALL of us so please keep up the good work.
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If anyone has any landscaping oriented suggestions or comments please feel free to give me a call.

Jack Mateosky 410.867.3226 [jmateosk@ciena.com](mailto:jmateosk@ciena.com)



## Covenant Committee

Hello again from your Covenants Committee. We would like to thank everyone for all of your help throughout the summer keeping our neighborhood clean and looking great. As we are entering the fall season we would like to take a few minutes to talk about a few items we would like to request your help with.

First we would like to remind everyone that according to the covenants all hoses must be kept out of sight when not in use. Hoses coiled up in the front yard or on a spool are not in line with the agreed covenants. We would like to remind everyone that throughout the year we need your assistance in keeping the hoses out of sight. Especially in the fall and winter seasons we would like to ask your compliance with this rule.

We would also like to ask everyone to please remember that snow blowers, like lawnmowers, are not allowed to be permanently parked in front of your houses. This rule applies to long term storage only. If there is a snow event in the forecast, and you move your snow thrower to the front of the house the day before, this is acceptable, however keeping it there for a few weeks is in violation of the established covenants. That said, with all of the snow we've gotten over the past few years, this rule shouldn't effect anyone too greatly.

We would also like to remind everyone that garbage cans/bins need to be taken into your garages or out back by the evening of trash pickup. Bringing garbage cans/recycling bins up to your garages and storing them there is a violation to the agreed upon covenants.

Finally, as we enter into the holiday season we would like to make sure that everyone knows that while yard decorations (i.e. lawn gnomes, birdbaths, etc.) are a violation of the covenants, holiday decorations (enormous ghosts, 5000 pound inflatable turkeys, and Christmas decorations that would make the Grizwald's blush) are fine. We just ask that Santa be put back in the box sometime before its time to dust off the 12 foot rabbit and 400 pound Easter egg.

Thanks again for all of your help throughout the year in keeping our neighborhood one that everyone can be proud of!

## Fall Lawn Maintenance

*Andy Wilson*

The worst of the summer heat will have subsided soon.



Refreshed by the thought of breathing cooler air, you're poised to roll up your sleeves and do some fall lawn maintenance -- in between carving pumpkins, of course! But you should read these fall lawn care tips first. The regimen right for your fall lawn care

will vary, according to whether your lawn is composed of a warm season turf grass or a cool season turf grass. If you are unsure which type comprises your lawn, take a sample to your local county extension.

### Fall Lawn Care Tip: Find Out Your Grass Type

Common cool season turf grasses include:

- Blue grasses
- bent grasses
- fescues
- rye grasses

Among the common warm season turf grasses are:

- Bermuda grass
- Saint-Augustine grass
- zoysia grass
- buffalo grass

To be sure, there will be some fall lawn maintenance you'll have to do **regardless** of the type of grass on your lawn. Let's look at these tasks first:

- Apply herbicides to broadleaf weeds
- Correct soil pH: if your lawn is not performing well, have your soil tested. If the soil test should show a need to reduce acidity, apply lime now. If alkalinity needs to be reduced, apply sulfur.
- Thatch removal: dethatch your lawn, by raking; for bad cases of soil compaction, you may have to employ the technique known as core aeration, for which lawn equipment known as "aerators" can be bought or rented
- Rake leaves, or use a leaf vacuum, lest the leaves smother your grass over the winter
- Lawn equipment care: make sure to drain old gas out of lawn mowers after last mowing
- The nature of the following fall lawn care chores depends on whether it's a cool season or warm season turf grass that you have to care for:
  - Watering
  - Fertilization
  - Setting lawn mower height



Fall lawn care for cool season grasses entails ensuring that lawns receive enough fall water to carry them through the long winter. Don't think that because the temperatures outside are no longer high, you can forget about watering in the autumn. Another fall lawn care tip that applies specifically to the maintenance of cool season grasses is fertilization. Apply 1 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of lawn.

Conversely, avoid fertilizing a warm season turf grass in the autumn. The latter undergoes a hardening-off process during this time of year to prepare it for winter. Fertilizing warm season grasses in the fall may interfere with that hardening-off process. So what fall lawn care tasks **should** you be performing for warm season grasses? By over seeding with annual winter ryegrass (*Lolium multiflorum*), homeowners whose lawns are composed of warm season grasses can enjoy a green carpet during the winter, instead of having to look at a brown lawn. But when you buy the seed, be sure to ask for the **annual**, not the perennial. Annual winter ryegrass will die back when summer's heat returns, turning over the lawn once again to the warm season grasses. This exit is a timely one. The problem with the perennial winter ryegrass is that it doesn't go away, competing with your warm season grasses for sunlight, water and nutrients.

Lawns composed of cool season grasses can also profit from over seeding. But in this case, the motivation behind over seeding lawns is not winter cosmetics, but to fix bare patches -- with an eye to next year's lawn.

## West River Estates Directory

By Mia Jones

Welcome to our new residents. If you would like to be included in our West River Estates Directory please email or complete the following form. We only include people that forward their information. Please send in all changes by December 1.

## West River Estates Directory

To be included in the directory, please submit the following information to Mia Jones at 641 Plantation Blvd. or [Miabjones@aol.com](mailto:Miabjones@aol.com).

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Members' First Names: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Upcoming Events

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<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
Halloween Parade and Party	October 31st	3:00 – 5:00	Sweetwater Dr.
General Meeting	November 11th	7:30-9:00	
Hanging of Swags and Greenery	Late November -Early December		Front Entrance
Christmas Party	December 4	7:00 – 11:00	Renditions Golf Course



## From the Shady Side Rural Heritage Society

*By Mavis Daly*

### WEST RIVER HERITAGE DAY OYSTER FESTIVAL OCTOBER 18 SHADY SIDE MUSEUM

Delicious food from top caterers, music by talented artists, vendors with beautiful items for sale, will all be offered to guests at the West River Heritage Day Oyster Festival from 12:30 until 5 p.m. on Sunday, October 18, at the Captain Salem Avery Museum, 1418 EW Shady Side Road, sponsored by BayVue Consulting and the Shady Side Rural Heritage Society. The Festival is part of the Shady Side Rural Heritage Society's celebration of the 25th anniversary of its founding and 25 years of service to the West River community.

Guests at the West River Heritage Day Oyster Festival will be treated to bountiful, traditional food from the Bay, including grilled oysters by Adam's, the Place for Ribs; and crab cakes and oyster stew by Skipper's Pier. Petie Green's will offer fried oysters, sautéed soft shell crab sandwiches, and crab soup. Freshly shucked oysters will also be available. In addition, there will be hamburgers, hot dogs, funnel cakes, baked beans, cole slaw, potato salad, vegetable soup, beer, wine and sodas. Mrs. Avery's Tea tours will bring visitors to the kitchen where samples of the cakes and cookies typical of the 1870's will be served. Homemade desserts will be for sale on the porch where guests are invited to "sit a spell" and enjoy the view of the West River and festivities on the grounds.

Entertainment will be ongoing under the waterside tent, with the Coastal Flats Jazz, Eastman String Band--Tim and Savannah, Janie Meneely and the Sour Notes performing. Craft vendors include many talented local artists, author Katie Moose, Ron Amen, and photographer David Schumpert. The Museum Shop will have displays and items for purchase. The Deale or No Deale booth will be back with lots of treasures on which to bid. Games and crafts will take place in the children's activity corner including face painting and harvest crafts.

Topping off the afternoon will be the drawing of the winner of the \$5,000 raffle sponsored by the Society. Tickets, which are \$5, will be for sale at the Festival or from local merchants. Purchasers need not be present to win. They may also be purchased by mail by sending a check payable to the Shady Side Rural Heritage Society, to P.O. Box 89, Shady Side, MD 20764.

Admission to the West River Heritage Day Oyster Festival is \$6. Children 12 and under are admitted free. Parking will be available at the nearby Shady Side ball fields with free shuttle service. There will be handicapped parking at the Museum. For more information, call the Museum at 410 867 4486, or visit the web site, [www.shadysidemuseum.org](http://www.shadysidemuseum.org). Anyone who would like to volunteer to assist with this event is asked to contact [cemaynard@verizon.net](mailto:cemaynard@verizon.net). Adam's "Ribs, BayVue Consulting, Inc., and Greenstreet Gardens are members of the Captain's Circle, corporate sponsors of the Shady Side Rural Heritage Society.

### HANDMADE DOLL COLLECTION DONATED TO SHADY SIDE MUSEUM BY STOCKTON FAMILY

The family of the late Vilma Stockton has made a major donation to the Shady Side Rural Heritage Society—her vast collection of over 100 handmade dolls. The dolls are exquisitely designed. Many of the heads were made by pouring porcelain into molds. Human hair was used for all the wigs, and eyes are of glass. The faces and features were hand painted by Mrs. Stockton, and each doll is one-of-a-kind.

The Stockton family has been residents of Shady Side at their home on West River Road for 25 years. The property was purchased in the 1930's by Mrs. Stockton's adopted mother, Nettie Powell. Following their marriage, the Stocktons bought the property from Mrs. Powell in 1984, built a new home, and became Shady Side full time residents. From that time until the early 1990's when failing eyesight prevented her from doing so, Mrs. Stockton fulfilled her dream of making these dolls. She died on August 2, 2009.

The Stockton Doll Collection will be on display and for sale at the Captain Salem Avery House Museum, 1418 EW Shady Side Road, on Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. They will also be on display at the Society's West River Heritage Days Oyster Festival on Sunday, October 18. Anyone seeking more information may call the Museum at 410 867 4486.

The Society expressed its deep gratitude to the Stockton family for this unique donation, and hopes the extraordinary work of Vilma Stockton will bring pleasure to many homes in Shady Side and beyond.



# Halloween Spooctacular!

*Halloween Parade and Party*

*October 31, 2009*

*3:00 to 5:00 pm*

*Meet at the corner of Plantation Blvd. and Sweetwater Dr. @ 3:00 for the parade*

*Please RSVP to Debbie @ 410-867-2906 or [debs4devils@verizon.net](mailto:debs4devils@verizon.net)*

