



The WREporter

The Voice of West River Estates
www.westriverestates.org

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Spring 2009

Letter from the President

Margaret Cullember



Hello to all and Happy Spring...Just a few notes to my neighbors to let you know what has been happening in the community since our last *WREporter*.

Our general meeting has been scheduled for April 22nd, 2009 at the usual location - the West River Methodist Camp on Chalk Point Road at 7:30 pm. I urge all to attend and to volunteer their time to keep this community the close knit, safe and beautiful place to live it has always been. The Board of Directors and the HOA will both have open positions and encourage anyone even slightly interested to consider taking one. Also if you have any questions or concerns regarding the community now is the time to air these concerns.

On to what is happening; we have recently installed two oyster hotels underneath our community pier. Why? Because they are the bay's natural filtration system. And no, we cannot harvest them and have oysters at our next picnic. The Oyster King Inc. was kind enough to install two hotels for one which is paid for by a Maryland tax credit. Those of you that were present, I hear, were energetic and interactive - thank you.

The next piece of environmental issues is that the County has decided to start a dredging process in 2010 of the West River to enable residents to utilize the waterway better. We as a community have been asked if we want to participate. This involves filling out paperwork to send to the engineering company involved to see what, if anything, will affect us. I have done this and will see shortly if we can or are interested in adding to our community amenities by dredging from the central channel to our pier. This is a new opportunity never before available and has piqued

our interest. If anyone is interested in being a part of this process please attend the meeting in April.

I hope this Spring finds everyone well and optimistic about the coming year!!!!!! I am sure it has been difficult for many these past months and I am looking forward to better times in the future.

Regards
Margaret Cullember

Treasurer's Report



Remember the ad in the Fall 2008 Newsletter seeking a replacement for Crystal Sullivan the incumbent WREHOA Treasurer? Yours truly volunteered and I have been very busy trying to take over since December 2008. Crystal deserves everyone's kudos for a job well done! My name is Bing Topper; I can be reached on (410) 867-4864 or b.topper@verizon.net.

The WRE homeowner's association treasury is in sound financial condition. To remain so, it requires all homeowner's to pay HOA dues. As you know, the annual dues are \$400 that can be paid biannually in two \$200 payments due January 1 and July 1. Thank you to most homeowner's who have paid their dues in a timely manner. To those homeowner's who have not paid or only partially paid the \$200 due January 1, 2009 please send your dues to WREHOA, P.O. Box 206, West River, MD 20778. Please be reminded that homeowner's are responsible for costs incurred by the HOA in the collection of delinquent dues.

Thanks for your cooperation. As you know, the dues are used to make the West River Estates community a great place to live.

Going Green!!!!

WREHOA



In an effort to support a going green environment in addition to saving the cost of printing/copying and postage this will be the last newsletter that will be mailed. If you would like to have the newsletter e-mailed to you in a pdf format you will need to supply your e-mail address. This list will be sent out in a private format, maintained by the HOA and not shared. If you choose not to share your e-mail address that is fine you will be able to access the newsletter on the community website. You will still receive your HOA dues statement as well as General Meeting information. If you would like to receive the newsletter and any upcoming events in West River Estates you can e-mail your information to debpatrick@comcast.net or mail it to the P.O. Box: WREHOA P.O. box 206 West River, MD 20778

Thank you.

The Oyster King delivers oyster hotels

Lisa Cheakalos

At the last General Homeowners' Meeting on November 12, the Oyster King came to give us a



demonstration of his oyster hotel. It is filled with baby oysters or "spat" in a water permeable bag, which is placed in a floating cage. The oysters are protected in the bag from other creatures that would eat or destroy them. They are allowed to grow and receive plenty of sun by being close to the surface. The board felt this would be great for community involvement, and good for the kids to watch the oysters grow.

On the afternoon of February 12, the Oyster King came to deliver and install two oyster hotels. They have taken up residency on our pier at the end of the path. About 15 kids and 6 parents accompanied the Oyster King and his crew to watch him install the "hotels". The children were able to ask many questions about the Chesapeake Bay, oysters, and marine life. The gentlemen were very informative and extremely polite. They will be back about once a quarter to check and clean the hotels. Did you know that one mature oyster can clean 60 gallons of water in one day? If you are interested in knowing more about the Oyster King, go to his website at www.oysterking1.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. Unfortunately there was no one to take on the task this past year. If you would like to volunteer to do this and would like more information please contact Debra Patrick 443-203-6424 or debpatrick@comcast.net.

Thank you

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Covenant Committee

Hi neighbors and welcome to spring from your covenants committee. I know that we are the committee that everyone loves to hate, but please remember that we are here at the request of the entire community. That means that you, as a collective, have

established a set of rules for everyone to live by. It also means that you, as individuals, have agreed to these set of standards and put your name down on a contract that you will adhere to them.

With that said we would like to bring a few things to your attention that frequently go overlooked in spring.

First and foremost, please remember that hoses are not allowed to be visible from the street. If you have a hose you are not using in front of your house you are kindly asked to put it away where it is out of sight by either removing it or placing it in a bin that will hide its appearance. Further, last year we had several requests about hoses wound in coils and attached to the house. The Board has determined that this is not keeping within the set covenants for our community if the hose is still visible from the street.

Another item we would like to address is that of the front lawns and gardens. Per the WRHOA covenants, yard art such as bird baths, garden gnomes, pink flamingos, and other such decorations are a violation of our agreed upon standards, and our residents are requested from placing such decorations in their front yards where they would be visible from the street. However we would like to remind our neighbors that they are more than welcome to put such decorations up in their back yards and where they are not visible from the street.

Further, we would like to remind everyone that benches erected in front yards when they are visible from the street are prohibited as well. This applies to stone benches, that extra couch that is just taking up too much space inside and everything in between.

Finally, we would like to remind everyone to please conduct a quick inspection of the side of your homes as spring comes upon us. It's that time of year again to make sure that we don't have mold build-up on the sides (or front) of our houses. If mold has made its way onto your home this winter, residents are reminded that they need to have this mold removed. The best way to achieve this is by using a professional power washer, some of which offer discounts to West River residents.

Thank you so much for your help this year. We do understand that not everyone will agree with every rule, but we thank you for your cooperation and adherence in making our community pleasant for everyone.

Architectural Committee

Bob Moltz

We are seeing a lot of neighbors submitting, after the fact, and/or not submitting at all, architectural reviews for improvements and changes to the front of their homes. It is an obligation and to your advantage to submit an application for review and approval, prior to performing the alteration to your property.

Architectural alterations not meeting the HOA covenants could cost you more time and money.

Please try and see how the review process works by visiting the WRE website. We, the Architectural Committee, are not trying to mandate how a perfect neighborhood should look; we're just here to make sure we all meet the covenants we all signed when we bought our homes.

Thanks

Landscaping Committee

Jack Mateosky

Welcome to spring! Winter seemed a bit longer and colder this year, so I am sure all of you are as ready as I am for spring to arrive. Our mutual goal as a board and as a neighbor is to maintain our beautiful neighborhood while attempting to keep it a fun, safe place for our families to grow and flourish.

This spring we will be edging, weeding and applying fresh mulch to common area trees and HOA maintained beds. As in the recent past we will plant annual flowers several times this year and continue to replace dead trees and shrubs where appropriate. We will also be trimming encroaching tree limbs from sidewalks and paths and where the over-growth is impacting the growth of our maintained trees. Commencement of mowing and maintaining common area grass will begin in late March or early April. Several large initiatives were undertaken and completed this past fall and winter:

1) In the fall we started replacing the cherry trees which have been damaged by vehicles and/or weather with Crape Myrtle trees. These are very attractive, flowering trees which do well in our hot summer climate. This will be an on-going process each fall as needed.

2) This past winter, in response to homeowner input and requests we kicked off an initiative to remove dead trees along the various neighborhood paths/common areas which pose a threat of falling. More than 15 trees were dropped and/or had limbs pruned for safety reasons. With this process an effort was made to clear each side of the various paths from fallen debris. The goal is to help to insure safety while maintaining a natural look at a reasonable cost.

We need ALL homeowners to take a look at their own front yard and see what they can do to tidy up the landscaping of their own home. Mulching and edging trees and edging sidewalks, trimming hedges and raking up leaves, all goes a long way to beautify the entire neighborhood. As always, picking up after your animals and picking up trash while walking or jogging

through the neighborhood ... is always the RIGHT thing to do.

Whenever possible, keeping automobiles on your own driveway is a simple thing that really maintains the clean look of our courts and streets. When you do have to park in front of your home on the street please keep vehicles OFF of grass and sidewalk areas, this usually results in rut damage and/or cracked sidewalks to that area which will need to be fixed by you or by the HOA.

WRE HOA holds regular monthly meetings as well as two group meetings per year. We regularly review requests by neighbors for new projects to consider. We need everyone to participate in the process of keeping our neighborhood looking nice!!

As always, feel free to call me or better yet, email me at: jmateosk@ciena.com Phone: 410.867.3226

When to Fertilize

Andy Wilson

The most important thing you can do for a lawn is to provide it with proper nutrition. A well-fed, healthy lawn has a better root system to combat heat, cold, drought, mowing, foot traffic and other stresses. A quality, granular, controlled-release fertilizer, such as Scott's fertilizers, allows grass plants to grow evenly, without starvation periods or heavy growth spurts. Controlled, even growth also minimizes grass clippings. Most lawns require 4-5 feedings per year. Basically, the first feeding should coincide with the first mowing; and the last feeding when the grass is done growing for the year. The following is an example of a typical lawn care program.



Early spring (February to April) — Lawns wake up hungry from the winter months. A spring feeding strengthens roots and gets lawns off to a good start before the heavy growing season. In most regions, it is wise to apply a combination fertilizer with a pre-emergent to control crabgrass.

Late spring/early summer (May to June) — At this time grass is actively growing and using up nutrients, therefore it is important to supply the lawn with a proper feeding designed for this time of year. Since this also is a time when broadleaf weeds are actively growing, a combination fertilizer with broadleaf weed control is ideal (a "weed and feed").

Late summer (July to August) — The hot days of summer result in grass that is stressed by heat, drought, foot traffic and insects. An application at this

time will help your lawn recover from, and combat, these potential problems. Avoid applying a fertilizer when temperatures are over 90° F.

Early fall (September to October) — With cool nights, rainfall and morning dew, this is a great time to supply the lawn with the nutrients it needs to recover from and repair summer damage. An early fall feeding is one of the most important of the year, and is even more important if the summer feeding is skipped.

Late fall/early winter (November to December) — A final feeding before the winter months will strengthen roots and increase nitrogen storage for an early spring green up. At this time of year, roots remain active for just a couple of weeks after the top growth stops — energy reserves that are stored for the following spring. The specific time of day you fertilize your lawn depends on weather conditions, and some fertilizers shouldn't be applied if rain is in the forecast for 24 hours. Others need to be watered in. You should always read the directions on the back of the bag carefully before applying any fertilizer.

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.

Last Name: _____

Family Members' First Names: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

UPCOMING

Social Committee

Debbie Martin



The Easter Bunny is on his way.

Our community Easter Egg hunt will be on Sunday, April 5th, 2009 at 2:00 pm. Please let Debbie Martin know how many children, along with their ages, will be participating in the egg hunt by March 30th. Hope to see you there! Thank you.

General Meeting

WREHOA



The West River Estates General meeting will be held April 22nd 7:30pm @ West River United Methodist Center. At this meeting there is a Board of Directors position that will be voted on. Bob Moltz has been a Board of Director for more than one term and is stepping down. If you are not able to attend be sure and send in your Proxy form included with this newsletter. This meeting will give you up to date information of what is going on in the community and what the volunteers of your community are working towards this year.

Community Clean Up

WREHOA



Community Clean Up starts at 8:00 am on April 25th. You can walk to the common areas in the community picking up trash. You can bag up everything and take it to local land fill. This is a great way for young children to get involved with their community.

Community Yard Sale

WREHOA

The community Yard Sale will be May 16th from 8am-12pm with a rain date of May 30th. This will be advertised in the Capital Gazette and signs will be posted at Muddy Creek Road/Plantation Blvd. and Muddy Creek Road/Lavender Court. Place your yard sale items in your driveway and enjoy your day.



Community Golf Outing

Mark your calendars the Community Golf outing will be June 28th. More information of location, times and cost will follow in May or early June. As always there is a get together at the 19th hole and all families are welcome.



Upcoming Events

Event	Date	Time	Location
Children's Easter Egg Hunt	April 5	2:00pm	
General HOA Meeting	April 22	7: 30 pm	West River United Methodist Center
Community Clean Up	April 25		
Community Yard Sale	May 16	8:00am – 12:00pm	
Community Golf	June 28		
Summer Cookout	September 12	1:00pm – 5:00pm	
Christmas Party	December 4	7:00 – 11:00	Renditions Golf Course

From the Shady Side Rural Heritage Society

By Mavis Daly

MARYLAND DAY TO BE CELEBRATED AT SHADY SIDE MUSEUM FEATURING MRS. AVERY'S TEA TOURS

The Shady Side Rural Heritage Society will celebrate Maryland Day on Sunday, March 29, by hosting Mother-Daughter Tea Tours. The event will take place at the Captain Salem Avery Museum, 1418 EW Shady Side Road, and is free.

Two separate seatings in the Great Room of the Museum will take place, the first at 1 p.m., and the second at 3 p.m. Guests will be served delicious samples of tea cakes, cookies and finger sandwiches typical of food that would have been served in 1870. Guests will be served in beautiful tea cups from Mrs. Avery's collection. Small groups will be given guided tours of the Captain Salem Avery House by costumed docents. There will also be displays on the history of tea, and demonstrations of a "proper" tea service.

The tea is part of a program organized by the Four Rivers Heritage Area with special events at a number of sites in Annapolis and South County. Maryland Day commemorates the day weary English colonists disembarked from the ships the Ark and the Dove at St. Clement's Island in southern Maryland and celebrated their safe arrival in the new world with a service of thanksgiving. In 1916 the Maryland General Assembly authorized Maryland Day as a legal holiday devoted to Maryland history.

Registration is limited, and reservations must be made by March 20. For more information and to make reservations, call the Museum office at 410 867 4486.

MUSIC ON THE BAY: COUNTRY TRADITIONS

Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 30, for an event you simply cannot miss—the fun-filled Music on the Bay: Country Traditions, presented by the Shady Side Rural Heritage Society and Adam's Ribs. There will be music for dancing, a complete country style buffet dinner provided by Adam's Rib, a live auction, and much more.

Guests will be entertained at the beautiful waterfront setting on the banks of the West River at the Capt. Salem Avery Museum, 1418 E.W. Shady Side Road, from 4 to 8 p.m. local celebrity Wendy Rieger, NBC4, News 4 at 5 Anchor, "Going Green," who captivated the guests last year, will be returning as MC and will also be auctioneer, assuring a lively auction.

Music for dancing and listening will be provided by the popular Run Mountain's Gary Wright, Leah Weiss, and Al Tharp. Susan Taylor will be calling the dances. Drawing from the traditions of Appalachian old-time and country music, Run Mountain's repertoire is a blend of originals, traditional and reinvented songs and tunes. Driving fiddle lines and tight harmony singing are trademarks of their sound.

Adam's Ribs, a presenting sponsor of the event, will provide a mouth-watering menu including marinated chicken, pork BBQ, bourbon beef brisket, potato salad, baked beans, and cole slaw.

The exciting auction will offer something for everyone, including such items as an antique doll bed, two nights in a condominium suite at the Silverado Country Club and Resort in Napa, CA, a ladies' secretary desk and curio cabinet, and a Dyer Dhow "Midget" fiberglass with mahogany trim dinghy.

Admission is \$50 per person, which includes dinner, music and dancing, and the auction. Dress is country casual for this spectacular major fund raising event for the Shady Side Rural Heritage Society. Space is limited, so call 410 867 6156 to order tickets, or go to www.shadysidemuseum.org for more information.

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.