

THE ULMSTEAD

Weathervane



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www.ulmstead.org

From the President

November was a busy month here in Ulmstead Estates, from the settlement of the lawsuit and the (perhaps record) attendance at the budget meeting, to social and charity events such the Ladies Wine and Cheese party, the Ulmstead Showcase, and the various Savvy Seniors functions, to the necessary preparations to get the docks and the beach park ready for winter. As this time of Thanksgiving, I want to offer my sincere appreciation to everyone who made a contribution through their leadership, assistance, support, or attendance. The nights are growing longer, but our neighborhood remains bright (for reasons in addition to the Christmas lights). I hope that everyone gets to enjoy more than their fair share of holiday cheer in the coming season.

At the budget meeting, 187 member households were represented, either in person or by proxy. It was wonderful to see so many of you. I hope to see all of you again in February for the Annual Meeting. For those of you who were unable to attend, I want to summarize the results and some of the discussion.

The 2017 budget that was presented in the November *Weathervane* was passed with only one change. The UCI Board may have needs for legal advice or representation that could arise during the year, and \$10,000 was budgeted for this purpose.

Questions arose about whether the Dock 2 loan can be paid early. We have learned since the meeting that the prepayment penalty expires shortly, meaning that the membership could consider repayment at a pace quicker than scheduled. This could lead to interest savings, and it is worth considering. At present, though, I am recommending that we defer any prepayment discussion until we know what funds will be needed in the near future for the bulkhead replacement and expected repairs at Dock 1.

The approved budget includes a contribution from the general membership to the Nautical Department's capital reserves. I believe that everyone in Ulmstead Estates benefits from the privileges of water access in our quality of life and in our property values. This contribution reflects that. However, we all just made significant contributions to the Department in special assessments for the past five years. I was not surprised, therefore, by the suggestion that the Department should be self-sufficient in the near term. I expect these discussions to continue at future budget meetings.

Another topic of discussion concerned UCI's internal systems to guard against theft of UCI funds. Some members questioned whether the risk of loss outweighed the benefits of building and maintaining a capital fund for future needs. Such questions inevitably suggest that one or more UCI volunteers may not be trustworthy, an implication that I wholeheartedly reject and that I am sure was not intended. But it would indeed be foolish to assume that misappropriation of funds could never happen. The best way to minimize such risk is to have multiple sets of eyes on all transactions. We already have such a set-up. Our professional accounting firm initiates online banking payments only after receiving invoices, receipts, and UCI approvals. Our treasurer receives all bank statements and reconciles them. The Board also reviews all statements and balance sheets monthly. Still, over the next few months, the Board will further strengthen UCI's financial policies and procedures. We will also seek the help of a volunteer assistant treasurer (a role loosely defined in our bylaws) to share various oversight responsibilities.

I should also note that UCI's bylaws require that "No expenditure of membership funds for capital improvements shall be made without express approval of the members." This helps ensure that capital reserves are not inappropriately directed to pet projects.

The meeting ended with a call for several volunteers. In February, we will be electing two new Board members. We need your help. Please contact me or any board member for more information, to express interest, or to suggest someone we should try to recruit. Also, Mike Slavin is forming a planning committee to discuss the uses of the barn and paddock areas given the absence of a functioning equestrian department. Please contact him if you wish to join that committee.

Finally, as most of you know, there generally is no January *Weathervane*. So let me be perhaps the first to wish you, "Happy New Year!" (OK, I'm sure I was not the first. New Year celebration stuff was probably in the stores before Halloween. C'est la vie.)

Stephen Blumberg, UCI President
president@ulmstead.org

Update on the Lawsuit

Don Ray and Johanna Maria Thompson and Ashley R. Thompson filed suit against UCI in the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County. The case concerned, among other things, the legal status of the lot that Ashley Thompson owns at 918 Lynch Drive, the ongoing construction on that lot, and the enforceability of UCI's covenants. After three days of testimony, the case ended when all parties agreed to a settlement. The parties have filed a Joint Motion to Approve Consent Order with the Circuit Court and have prepared a joint statement for the community.

We had hoped to include the statement in this issue of the *Weathervane*, and the *Weathervane* editor delayed printing the issue in anticipation of that statement. However, we are still awaiting the Court's action on the motion. When we are able to do so, the statement will be published online and notice of its availability will be sent to the community.

Treasurers' Report

Thank you to all who attended the November 5th budget meeting or gave their proxy to a neighbor. The budget was voted on and passed with only 23 dissenting votes out of 187 households represented.

The dues for 2017 will be \$725 and are due before February 1, 2017. Of the \$725, about \$270 is being used for the items in the operating budget and \$455 for contributions to the capital asset replacement fund.

Anyone paying dues after February 1st will be responsible for a \$25 late fee. *The late fee is to encourage members to pay on time and reduce the amount of time spent having to send more bills and keep track of who has not paid. PLEASE pay your dues on time so that we don't have to be volunteer bill collectors!*

We have looked into the possibility of accepting credit card payments but the fees associated with it make it unattractive. We will be offering ACH payments if you elect to receive your dues bill by email. If you elect the ACH option, you will just need to record your checking account number and routing number on the secured website.

If you decide you would like your dues bill emailed to you, please email your request to accountingsupport@ulmstead.org by December 15, 2016. If you have requested the email option in the past, you do not need to send another request. Remember the ACH payment option is only possible if you receive your dues bill by email.

If you have any receipts for reimbursement, please turn them in before the end of the year.

Thank you!

Mary Grund, Outgoing Treasurer
Renee Kelly, Incoming Treasurer

UCI DEPARTMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

MEMBERSHIP

UCI welcomes Liz and Patrick Schlude and family who recently moved into Nelson Place.

If you are a new homeowner in Ulmstead Estates and have not been welcomed by the Membership Department, please send an email to membership@ulmstead.org. We also encourage renters to reach out and let us know that you have joined our neighborhood. The owners of your homes don't always keep us informed.

SOCIAL

Santa Toy Run

Mark your calendar: The Arnold Volunteer Fire Department will be doing their **annual Santa Toy Run** on Sunday, Dec. 11. The fire truck will arrive with lights flashing and sirens blowing at the Ulmstead Barn around 5:30 PM. Bring an unwrapped gift for a child to donate, and have your child see Santa. The Boy Scouts will be providing hot chocolate and donuts.

Christmas Eve Luminary

An Ulmstead holiday tradition returns! The Ulmstead Luminary will take place on Christmas Eve at 7:00 PM. The whole neighborhood takes on a magical glow as each family lights its luminary candles along the curbside. The effect is beautiful with 100% participation. Won't you join us in this yearly yuletide event? If you'll be away, please consider asking a neighbor to light some for you. Ten candles will do nicely for many yards. Corner lots and larger lots will need more. Everyone lights them at 7 PM and lets them self-extinguish.

To Prepare Luminaries: Use paper bags with the top folded down about 2 inches. Put sand in the bottom of the bag to provide weight and snuff out the candles when they burn down. Happy Holidays!

Children's Playgroup – December 7 and December 15 at 12pm at the Barn

Let's PLAY! First Wednesday and third Thursday each month. Meet at the barn at 12pm. Babies, toddlers and siblings welcome. Feel free to bring lunch or snacks. Any questions contact: Michelle Mahan email: michellemahan@comcast.net, Candice Cukor email: candicecukor@gmail.com or Molly Wood email: freitag02@yahoo.com

Savvy Seniors

Maggie and Don Kiewitt of 1026 Garywood Lane have offered to host a Holiday Happy Hour for us on Thursday, December 15th from 5 - 7 PM. Please bring your holiday cheer, your own beverage and an appetizer to share. What a lovely season to come together. Santa hats, ugly Christmas sweaters, reindeer antlers and jingle bells are welcome. Any questions, please contact Irene Godoy, Diane Kozel or Chris Rockwell.

Diane Kozel

Boy Scouts

Would you like to go camping, learn new skills, make new friends, and have fun? Our troop meets every Thursday evening at 7 PM at the Ulmstead Barn and goes camping one weekend every month. Come check us out! Also, we are still collecting worn out flags for a patriotic flag retirement ceremony. You can join even if you were never a Cub Scout. Contact Mike Allen.

The Guys Get Together

Please join Ulmstead gentlemen for a friendly social gathering at O'Loughlins on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 5PM.

NOTICES

Thank You

4th Annual SPAN Food Drive Update

Michelle Mahan

Thank you to all of the ladies who donated food at the Wine & Cheese event and the container by our mailbox. This year we collected over 200 items. Ulmstead is such a great and generous community. Together we have helped local families in need during the holiday season. Way to go!

Fall Kids Party Follow Up

Michelle Mahan

Thank you to all who attended the annual fall party. The kids and grandchildren had a great time and some even came in costume and started a new tradition. A special thanks to Tim Hooper who provided field tractor rides, which was a big hit! Also, thank you to the those of you who stayed and helped clean up, especially with the corn kernel box spillage. Decorations that were donated last year were used inside the barn to make the barn festive.

We have such a great community and generous residents, which we all know, is what makes Ulmstead so special. Finally, the number of candy corns in the pumpkin jar was 765 for those who left before the reveal and prize give-a-ways.

Congratulations

Congratulations go out to Joss Blumberg for earning his black belt in karate this month. Your parents are so proud of you for your hard work and for committing five years to martial arts training. Congrats!

Love,
Mom & Dad

Memorial

For all Ulmsteaders, particularly the sailing community, Hal Boyd's daughters would like you to know there will be a memorial service for him on Dec. 22, 2016 at 2:00 at Ginger Cove. Reception follows. He passed away Oct. 27, while in Hospice after a long illness. He will be missed.

Bill and Kathy Daly

RENTAL PROPERTIES

Florida Keys Condo for weekly and monthly rentals. Marathon, (Florida Keys) #118 Ocean Isles Fishing Village Studio-sized condo with full kitchen, queen Murphy bed and twin trundle bed, huge pool overlooking Atlantic. Great fishing from the dock. An hour-long drive from Key West, 2.5 hr. drive from Ft. Lauderdale or fly into Marathon and it's a mile away. Available for weekly and monthly rentals, see it www.KeysRentalsOnline.com or call Colleen at 410-703-1468.

Ocean City Vacation Rental - Oceanfront getaway - Would you like a family getaway in north Ocean City? With its 4 private bedrooms (sleeps 12-14), 4 bathrooms, 2 living areas, and 3 decks overlooking the ocean, there is plenty of room to gather as a group. Off-season weeks/weekends available. For more information, call Gwyn or Al Tober at 410-757-8388 or go to <http://www.gwyntober.com/beach> to view pictures.

Deep Creek Lake Townhouse for Rent: Right across the street from Wisp Ski Resort and access to Deep Creek Lake on the property. It sleeps eight (2 Doubles, 1 Queen, 1 Queen sleep sofa). Fully equipped kitchen, fireplace in LR, jetted tub, washer/dryer. Walk to slopes, golf course, tennis court, dock, mountain coaster and white water rafting. Call Tim or Elizabeth Parker at 410-571-5315.

Outer Banks, NC Beach House Rental - Kill Devil Hills, MP 7. Walk to the beach from this 4 bedroom, 2 bath family beach house. Sleeps eight (1 King, 1 queen, 2 twins and 1 twin bunk bed set). Fully equipped kitchen, 2 living areas, 3 levels of decks, washer and dryer. Near Wright Brother's Memorial, mini-golf, movie theater, grocery store, restaurants and shopping. Two blocks from the ocean, one mile from the sound. Call Jeff or Ann Young 410-757-5805.

An Ulmstead Holiday Tradition Poem:

"Twas the Night Before Christmas"

Adapted by Lillian Nilsen from the original poem by Clement C. Moore

"Twas the night before Christmas, Ulmstead Point was the place,
The neighborhood had on its holiday face.
The stockings were hung by the chimneys with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.
The children were tucked in their beds
While Mamas and Papas in 'kerchiefs and caps
Had just settled down for their long winter's naps
When over on Garywood there arose such a clatter
Folks sprang from their beds to see what was the matter.
The cloud covered moon that shone down from the sky
Gave off no more light than a tiny firefly.
There were three shivering reindeer out there on the ground
And one held a map and a lantern he'd found.
"Hello there" cried one deer, "Just where might we be?
In jolly old England or Scotland, I see!"
"No, no," said a neighbor on Placid, "You're in U.S. of A.
In the state of Maryland – you've come the right way."
The reindeer now snorted and told of their plight.
"We're scouting for Santa in England tonight."
It happened in Liverpool, they got lost in the rain,
This seemed like a difficult thing to explain.
It drizzled in London and poured over Wales,
They were caught in a wind and led by their tails.
When they looked down and saw the name Ulmstead Estates,
They thought it was Lord Baltimore's place.
To make matters worse, their vision was blurry,
There were the streets Breton, Carlisle and Bayberry.
And wasn't that King George, St. John's and Gloucester, too?
They had circled what they thought was Big Ben in the dark,
It was really the steeple in Church Circle Park!
The "Channel" they circled was Chesapeake Bay, you see,
Hopelessly lost and confused were those three,

All the neighbors in Ulmstead looked up in dismay,
What if Santa got lost and ruined the day?
Then everyone went to the clubhouse to meet
Just how could they clearly light up every street?
They had to guide Santa to Maryland that night,
Without him -the children's day wouldn't be right.
Then the Ulmstead Club came to the front with the answer,
They'd solve the dilemma of Dasher and Dancer
We'll have a luminary - the streets will glow,
We'll put paper bags on the lawns in a row,
With a candle inside they will brilliantly shine,
All along the front lawns in a straight line.
Weigh the bag from the center so it won't blow away,
And Santa will find us on this Christmas Day.
The residents rushed to their homes in a flurry,
To set up a luminary, they had to hurry.
Then the bags were outside and the candles all lit,
And the neighbors all went to their windows to sit
They heard tiny sleigh bells and the patter of feet
And there was some chatter out there in the street.
A jolly old fat man so lively and quick,
We knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.
He said not a word but went straight to his work,
He filled all the stockings, then turned with a jerk,
And laying a finger aside of his nose,
He nodded and straight up the chimney he rose.
He smiled all around - to his team gave a whistle
And away they all flew like the down on a thistle,
But we heard him exclaim as they drove out of sight,
THE BRIGHTEST CHRISTMAS TO ALL
AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT!"

UCI OFFICERS AND VOLUNTEERS

www.ulmstead.org

UCI Board of Directors
and liaison roles

Stephen Blumberg – President, Capital Improvements
Nancy Kennerly – Membership, Social
Jason Dowell – Nautical
Kevin Stone – Beach, Scenic
Mike Murphy – Security, Pool
Mike Slavin – Tennis, Equestrian, Ball Field, Barn Recreation Rooms
Vacant
Colleen Ireland
Renee Kelly

Executive Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

DEPARTMENTS & ACTIVITIES

Ball Field	Bob Svehlak
Barn Recreation Rooms	
Manager	Lynne Andrews
Maintenance	Brian Poole
Beach & Shore	
Reservations	Ginny Vernick
Maintenance	Pat Shay
Beach Camp	Lisa Gattie
Capital Improvements	George Collis
Equestrian	Suzanne Vaaler
Nautical	Bryan Templeton
Scenic Control	Vacant
Beautification	Michelle Mahan
Security	Al Homans
Social	
Senior Activities	B. Myers/N. Kennerly
Adult/Family Events	
Mothers' Day Brunch	George/Shepard
July 4th Parade & Picnic	Andy Vernick
Dock Party	Nautical Department
Fishing Tournament	Mike Sawyer
Ladies Wine & Cheese	Stacy Glubke
Halloween Party	Jessica Lane
Fall Camp-out	Grigon/Hays
Guy's Beer & Brats	Scott Glubke
Wings, Chili, Homebrew	Suzy Sundius
Children	
Weekly Playgroup	Mahan/Cukor
Spring Party	Tracy Seybert
Autumn Party	Beth Rue
Christmas	Kathy Vavrina
Tennis	
Maintenance	Kathy Jacob
	Mark Overton
Membership	
Bumper Stickers	Kathy Pruissen / Renee Kardash
Welcoming	Lynne Andrews
Webmaster	Sherry Sherwood, Mary Jo Powers, Gillian Duvall, Ann Albrecht, Rina Dowell
Community Emails	EG Gipple
Weathervane Editor	Meaghan Rosso
Weathervane Distribution	Stephanie Collier
	Mike Allen (manager), August, Daly, Davis, Deller, McKees, Fierstein, Wentworth, Konrad, Kardash, Cooley, McCoun, Blumberg, Weiss, Root

INDEPENDENT ORGANIZATIONS

2016 ULMSTEAD SWIM CLUB

<https://sites.google.com/a/ulmstead.org/ulmstead-pool/>

President	Brad Snodgrass
Vice President	Sharman Devaney
Secretary	Hannah Goldstein
Membership	Lisa Gattie
Treasurer	Julie Parks
Maintenance	Scott Glubke
Social	Ann Harrison
Member at Large	Nicole Roberts
UCI Board Liaison	Mike Murphy
Swim Team Liaisons	Suzanne Vaaler & Jenne Dunne

SWIM CLUB QUICK LINKS

pool@ulmstead.org

SWIM TEAM

www.UlmsteadSwimTeam.org

Director	Suzanne Vaaler
Merchandise	Susie Smargissi
Concessions	Katy Kelley
GASL League Rep	Jerilyn Deitch
Meet Manager (IT)	Liz Norton
Treasurer	Rob Wallace
Team Webmaster	Hannah Goldstein
Volunteers Coordinators	J. Grignon / C. Sawyer
Head Coach	Colleen Winans
Assistant Coach	Matt Swensen
Special Events	Harrison/Woltersdorf

BOY SCOUT TROOP 835

Scoutmaster Mike Allen

EMAIL QUICK LINKS

Board@ulmstead.org	Treasurer@ulmstead.org	Barn@ulmstead.org	News@ulmstead.org
President@ulmstead.org	Security@ulmstead.org	Social@ulmstead.org	Weathervane@ulmstead.org
Secretary@ulmstead.org	DockMaster@ulmstead.org	Membership@ulmstead.org	Tennis@ulmstead.org

Ulmstead Calendar – December 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Boy Scouts @ Barn 7-8 PM	2	3
4	5	6	7 UCI Board meeting 7:00PM at the barn Children's Playgroup @ Barn 12:00 PM	8 Boy Scouts @ Barn 7-8 PM	9	10
11 Arnold VFD Annual Santa Toy Run at the Barn 5:30	12	13	14 Guys Get Together @ O'Loughlins 5PM	15 -Boy Scouts @ Barn 7-8 PM -Children's Playgroup @ Barn 12:00 PM -Saavy Seniors Holiday Happy Hour 5-7PM at 1026 Garywood Ln	16	17
18	19	20	21 Winter Solstice 	22 Boy Scouts Christmas / Hanukkah party	23	24 First Night of Hanukkah  Luminaries 7PM
25 Christmas Day 	26	27	28	29 Boy Scouts @ Barn 7-8 PM	30	31 New Year's Eve 
<p>There is no January Weathervane. Deadline for the February Weathervane is January 25. Email: weathervane@ulmstead.org</p>						