



T H E MAYFIELD NEWSLETTER

A HAMLET IN THE HEART OF TOWN

WINTER/SPRING 2011

Save the date...

Mayfield's Playground Committee

presents

Mayfield's 1st Annual Spring Fling

Date: Friday, April 1st, 2011

Time: 7 - 10 pm

Venue: Maryland State Boychoir Gym
3400 Norman Avenue

Tickets: \$25.00

Ages 21 & up

What's included: a full course meal, 2 complimentary drink tickets, live music and more!

Bid on great silent auction items! Win prizes! Support your neighborhood playground!

All proceeds will go toward the equipment replacement fund. Help us keep Mayfield safe for children!

For more information, tickets, or to donate auction items, please call 410-889-7772

come out for play!

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**MAYFIELD
GENERAL
MEETING**
MAY 19TH 7:15 PM
.....

The President's Letter

Taking Care of a Hamlet

"It takes a village" is an old African proverb that has become a much used phrase to say it takes many caring adults for children to grow up well and thrive. It can also be interpreted as neighbors helping neighbors or community building. But what does it take to make a strong Village or our little *Hamlet in the Heart of Town*? It takes some dedicated volunteers acting as leaders to plan, organize, recruit and execute community-wide events and activities to see that things happen for the common good. It takes generous neighbors who want to participate and do their share for the enjoyment by all. There are many in Mayfield that have helped and embody that definition. In this issue I want to shine a spotlight on two Mayfield leaders: Walt Willson and George Frazier.

Walt was president of Mayfield and board member more than 20 years ago. He passed away on Christmas day. He served two terms as president. He brought a smile, his infectious laugh and enthusiasm to all that he did. You couldn't find anything happening in Mayfield that Walt didn't have a hand in planning or implementing. He loved singing. Betty Ciesla remembered how much fun they had singing together in the Folk Singing Group at St. Francis of Assisi. Walt sang in the group for at least 10 years and was part of the group when they made a terrific CD of Christmas songs. The CD, produced by Andy Bopp, was a big hit. Walt loved 'fireworks' and delighted the children on special occasions. Betty Frech, who served on the Mayfield board when he was president, remarked that Walt brought calmness to things he touched. He was able to keep disagreeable issues at a low level. He'd break the tension when things got busy with Block Party preparations or other matters with a gentle look and say, "What's the problem?"

He was a big booster of Archbishop Curley High School and the family recommends making memorial donations to Archbishop Curley's Choir Camp to honor Walt's life and passion. One remembrance of Walt came from a neighbor, Donna Lucas. She wrote in the condolences book:

I remember Sylvia and Walt moving in as young newlyweds when I was about 12 or so. They treated my girlfriends and I with so much attention and kindness. They really made Lake Avenue a wonderful place to grow up.

Indeed, Mayfield is a wonderful place to grow up and live in after the kids go off on their own. This is part of Walt's continuing legacy. Walt had a letter in the pews at St. Francis of Assisi saying how comforted he was that Sylvia would continue to live in a neighborhood and parish community of caring friends that would help her when needed.

We send our deepest sympathy and gratitude to his wife Sylvia and his children and grandchildren for sharing him with Mayfield for so many years. We are truly grateful for his efforts to make Mayfield a very special hamlet in the heart of town.

(continued on pg.2)

www.mayfieldassociation.org

President's Letter (cont. from pg. 1)

George Frazier is another one of the leaders taking care of our community. He served two terms as president of Mayfield and many more as an officer and member of the Mayfield Improvement Association Board. He recently cycled off the MIA board of directors. The activities he undertook couldn't have been more varied. In addition to presiding at meetings, he cooked hundreds – maybe thousands – of hotdogs with his secret special-recipe chili. He used a jack hammer and cut sidewalk tree pits with a cement saw and planted trees. For the Block Party, he set up tables, chairs and tents. He made scores and scores of phone calls with city officials for various reasons, participated in hundreds of hours of meetings on behalf of Mayfield, and many other untold tasks. All of these things needed to be done to make Mayfield's projects and initiatives successful.

I would like to thank George on Mayfield's behalf for all that he has done for our 'hamlet'. There are many others to thank for their contribution to Mayfield and you'll see them in the insert pages in this newsletter. However, few have contributed as much time in recent years so generously on behalf of Mayfield as George. Mayfield Improvement Association Board of Directors wants to say a special thanks to him for his energy, support, leadership and diligence on behalf of Mayfield. We salute you, George.

More individual action on behalf of Mayfield to thank publicly

- To JoAnn Trach Tongson for arranging for a new park bench in the playground area;
- To Jim Bartlett for organizing the Friends of Mothers Garden;
- To Courtney Bartlett and Sherry Insley for taking the lead on the Santa event;
- To Stephanie & Dave Buttner, Chris Perry and others on Chesterfield for cleaning unsightly debris on the park hillside along Chesterfield;

- To Steven Parke for working with Department of Transportation on the all-red light sequence at Harford and Chesterfield to aid pedestrian crossing;
- To Richard Smith for covering the New Zoning Law workshops for Mayfield and digging out the Mayfield Census data from 1930 and 1920 (see Zoning story in this issue).

Welcome Paul White as a new member of the board as of February. He has been active in the Fall Fest planning and activities. I look forward to working with the dedicated members of the board in 2011.

We salute and thank all of the volunteers who gave to the common good in 2010. You'll find everyone listed in the insert.* Hamlet-building *takes a village*. We all know that Mayfield is the wonderful place to live. Let's aim to make it even stronger.

Happy 2011!

*-Janelle Cousino, President,
Mayfield Improvement Association*

P. S. Paying your dues (\$20/yr or \$10/yr for households headed by someone 62 or older) is a very concrete way you can help. Supporting the scholarship program with a voluntary donation, will help support the next generation's interested in community service. Thank you for your concern and care for Mayfield.

*If we missed your volunteer contribution to Mayfield in this special insert, our sincerest apologies. Please let us know so we can correct our records and make up for our error in a mayfieldupdate@gmail.com posting. We sincerely appreciate everyone's efforts helping Mayfield.

Ho-Ho-Ho! Santa came to Mayfield



Nick Syropoulos donned a costume and was transformed into our jolly and generous Santa Claus. A huge thanks to Sarah Koser and Paul Hertzberg as the best elves ever. Paul doubled as chauffeur and squired Santa through the streets of Mayfield in a vintage Mustang convertible (while Santa's reindeer took a break and grazed in the park). Other volunteers transformed the playground into a mini-Santa Wonderland. Thanks to nine 'secret Santa helpers' that made 13 dozen cookies and

hot chocolate for everyone. The children made ornaments and received candy canes from Santa. Many wrote letters to Santa and Mayfield's favorite postman – "Chuck Z" Zeller – stopped by to help with Santa's mail. The whole Santa event was put together in under 10 days – a great example of how community can rally and create a fun event and raise over \$400 for the playground equipment as well. Congratulations to Courtney Bartlett and Sherry Insley for their tireless efforts to pull this off and to all the folks who agreed to help when asked. And a special thanks to our Santa Claus for the joy he brought to our little ones and to all that donated funds for the new playground equipment needed.



Short News Tidbits:

Baltimore City's Truck Study is recommending that Erdman Avenue between Belair Road and Harford no longer be a truck route. Harford and Belair Roads will continue as Truck Routes through the city.

Harford Road Streetscape work has started and will work its way toward Mayfield over the year.

What public site near Mayfield was a troop encampment area for the War of 1812?

[Answer in the next issue of Mayfield News]

ZONING CODE AND MAYFIELD CHANGES

By Richard Smith, Crossland Avenue

For the last two years, the Department of Planning has been in the process of comprehensively updating the zoning code. This is the first comprehensive update since 1971. At that time, it was written to focus on auto-oriented development, separation of uses, and preserving the City's heavy manufacturing base. Since then, economic realities have changed, and the current code has become complex, outdated and insufficient for preserving the City's character and encouraging a vibrant city of the future.

The new draft code was released several months ago and contains significant changes. In contrast to the auto-oriented focus of today's code, the new code promotes pedestrian-oriented, mixed-use development. For example, in smaller-scale commercial districts, the code will require that commercial buildings be built to the street line and will prohibit parking lots in front of buildings. To facilitate mixed-use development, the draft code encourages residential space above stores and creates rowhouse mixed overlay districts for areas that are primarily residential, but permit limited commercial uses such as galleries and small retail.

One of the other significant changes is that the draft code contains design standards, most of which affect rowhouse and commercial districts. For example, the draft code requires that new rowhouses be built to match the height, elevation, set back and general design of existing rowhouses on the same block. It also prohibits use of certain materials on rowhouse facades, such as siding and Formstone, and encourages the use of brick. None of these design standards would apply to single family detached residential districts.

The draft code is also "greener". It creates open space districts to preserve open space and expressly allows for community gardens in residential districts, regulates the maximum impervious surface coverage on residential lots and contains landscaping requirements for commercial districts.

With all of these significant changes, however, there are comparatively few changes in store for most of Mayfield. Presently, the blocks with mostly detached houses are and generally will continue to be zoned as either R-1 or R-3 districts. Both districts allow for only single-family detached houses. The blocks with mostly semi-detached houses are and generally will continue to be zoned as R-5 districts. R-5 districts allow for a variety of dwelling types, including detached, semi-detached, single family row house, and low-rise multifamily garden style apartments. Parts of Harford road are and will continue to be zoned as an R-6 district, which allows for the same uses as the R-5 districts, but requires smaller lot sizes for row houses. Note that although R-5 and R-6 districts allow for multi-family dwellings, they do not allow for conversions from existing single-family dwellings in to multi-family dwellings.

The only changes to these districts within Mayfield are as follows. The 2400 block of Chesterfield is presently an R-3 district. The draft code proposes changing it to an R-5 district. After questioning the Department of Planning about this proposed change, it advised because the adjacent blocks are zoned as R-5 districts this was done simply to "clean up" the map. Two other changes are proposed to bring currently non-conforming dwellings into conformity. The south side of the 2200 block of Lake is presently zoned as an R-3 district; however, because it contains a significant number of semi-detached houses (which are non-conforming in an R-3 district), the draft code proposes changing it to an R-5 district. On the west side of Harford, portions of Lake, Dobler and Lake Montebello Drive will be changed from an R-5 to an R-6 district to bring more dwellings into conformity.

Full text of the draft code, proposed maps and other materials are available at www.rewritebaltimore.org.



Thank you to these vendors, businesses and organizations that supported Mayfield's Fall Fest

Boosters

St. Francis School
BSA Cub Pack 159 and Troop 87
Wash the Wag

Vendors

Hamilton Gallery
Viridian Energy
Earth Alley
Rita Moldovan Jewelry
BNC
Afghan Women's Fund
George Frazier Hot Dog Stand

Adiante Franszoon
Four Paws With a Tail LLC
Home Grown Kids
Usborne Books
Healing Field Whole Body Cure
Linnea Painting
Beads Out of Control
Studio C Jewelry
Hula Hoop Jes
Ann's Fish
Wolfe Street Catering
Baltimore Soap and More
Harry's Delights Cotton Candy and Apples

NEW: Mayfield Youth Service Scholarship

The Mayfield Improvement Association is pleased to announce a new scholarship program for Mayfield students attending high school in the Fall of 2011. Criteria and application are included as an insert to this newsletter and can be found on the website at <http://www.mayfieldassociation.org/youthscholarship>. This scholarship is open to youths entering high school. Applicants are asked to complete an application and submit an essay of 500 words or less. The essay assignment is to describe what Mayfield means to you and how our community could be improved through your own community service efforts. Applications are due on June 15. If you don't have internet access, call 410-366-2085 for a copy of the application. Leave a message with address, please.

The scholarship will be funded through voluntary donations. A scholarship committee will review and decide. The winner will be announced at Mayfield's annual block party on July 8th. We look forward to seeing how creative our kids can be!

Calendar

Check www.mayfieldassociation.org and mayfieldupdate@gmail.com for updated calendar between scheduled newsletter distributions and other events worth noting.

Board Meetings – Third Thursdays of January, February, March and April, June, July, Sept, November; 7:15 p.m.

Apr 1st – **Spring Fling:** Mayfield Play Lot Fundraiser at MSBC

Apr 16th – **Mayor’s Clean Up Day**

Apr 16th – **Easter Egg Hunt** – Save the Date!

May 19th – **General Membership Meeting,** 7:15 p.m. Location to be determined

Jul 8th – **Annual Block Party**

Oct TBD – **Mayfield’s Fall Fest**

Oct 20th – **General Membership Meeting,** 7:15 p.m. Location to be determined

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And the Winners Are...

Holiday Decorating Judges decisions:

Best Door

- 1 - 3411 Harford – Patrick & Jean Kelly
- 2 - 2401 Chesterfield – Christopher Perry & Laurie Saletnik
- 3 - 3609 Crossland – Joanne Manzo & Bernard Kenyon



Best Block:

2200 Kentucky

Best House:

- 1 - 3301 Mayfield – Ron & Karen Maylor
- 2 - 2413 Pelham – Chuck and June Rosemary
- 3 - 2402 Kentucky – Jim & Anita Veach

Best Neighbor Coordination for Holiday Decoration of a Duplex:

- 1 - 2219/2221 Pelham - Schneid /Regler
- 2 - 3606/3604 Crossland – Assero-Murphy/Vetter
- 3 - 2216/2218 Pelham – Heck/Bennett-Andrzejewski

Best Backyard Displays

3400 blk. Harford – east side (21213 side)

Mayfield Improvement Association

Officers

President – Janelle Cousino
mayfieldboard@gmail.com
 Vice President – Stephanie Buttner
 Secretary – JoAnn Trach Tongson
 Treasurer – Julia McDonald

Board Members

Gary Rahman
 Tim Schneid
 Emily Chalmers
 Courtney & Jim Bartlett (share)
 Paul White

Committee & Project Leaders

Housing – Gary Rahman
 Greening – JoAnn Trach Tongson
 Welcome Baskets & Yard Sale – Stephanie Buttner
 Kids Parties & Spooky Playground – Courtney & Jim Bartlett
 Playground Committee – Courtney Bartlett
 Block Party – Maria Lukianczuk
 Fall Fest – Gary Rahman
 NOGLI Board representative – Gary Rahman
 Communications (Mayfield listserves; newsletter copy) – Janelle Cousino
 Newsletter graphics and layout – Marisa Schleiter
 Webmaster – Brian Baughn

Mayfield needs:

- House & Garden Tour coordinators;
- Contributors to the Newsletter – Mayfield News
- Newsletter Delivery Team – two more volunteers needed;

All board meetings are open. If you’d like to attend, we ask you let the President know so that the host of the meeting can make adequate arrangements. Interested in volunteering for a committee? Email mayfieldupdate@gmail.com to let us know. There are many ways to volunteer for Mayfield.

Have a question or want to be on the mayfield listserves? Send an email to Mayfieldupdate@gmail.com

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Link to City Zoning Regulations

Residents who have questions about fencing, signs, home improvements or other issues regulated by city zoning codes can log onto this website for answers:

www.ci.baltimore.md.us/government/legislature/zoning

Northeastern District Police

410-396-2444

Northeastern District Police

Community Relations

410-889-6449 (Non-emergency number)

It is time to pay dues for 2011

Dues for Mayfield Improvement Association are \$20/yr per household (\$10/yr for households headed by someone 62 or older). Dues support the expenses associated with the many projects done by volunteers: *Mayfield News* printing expense, web-hosting expenses, flowers/bulbs/trees for beautification, children’s holiday parties, welcome basket program, etc. Only dues-paying members can vote in general membership meetings and elections. The special donation is dedicated to the Mayfield Youth Service Scholarship Fund (for more information, see page 3 of this issue of Mayfield News).

Make checks payable to Mayfield Improvement Association or M.I.A.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

This represents dues of \$ _____

ADD: Scholarship Donation \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Check one: Cash _____ or Check & Check # _____