



# T H E MAYFIELD NEWSLETTER

A HAMLET IN THE HEART OF TOWN

SPRING 2012

.....  
**MAYFIELD  
GENERAL  
MEETING  
& ELECTION**  
**MAY 17TH 7:15 PM**  
**MARYLAND STATE  
BOYCHOIR CENTER**  
**SPECIAL GUEST INVITED:**  
**GREGG BERNSTEIN, STATES' ATTORNEY**  
.....

## \*Clean Community Competition\*

Mayfield has signed up for the Clean Community Competition. We will be creating a scrapbook to document our efforts between April 21 and the October finish line. The scoring points are below. We do not have a vacant lot to clean up, so we really need to excel in all other categories. If you're not recycling everything you can, consider starting this year. If you don't have tight fitting lids

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Two years goes by fairly fast, especially when you're always busy and have a long list of things to tackle. There's always something for all of us to do in Mayfield. Houses take time; gardens take time, and the community takes time. One lesson is that "things take longer than they should." We made progress on the trees and daffodils, but to get where we are has taken over 5 years. There's probably five more years to get to Chesterfield. We did have the new street light approved for the corner of Pelham Avenue at Crossland Avenue. That was quicker than most efforts. Harford Road improvements make it look much better, but challenges remain. We hoped that the speed camera would slow down that 'speedway'. But the camera isn't yet permanent, so it shows up every 5-6 weeks and gives drivers a rude reminder occasionally. We were delighted by the new left turn signal at Chesterfield and Harford. It helps some, but is timed to the Lake traffic rather than the Harford Road traffic traveling south. The street and traffic calming committee will make recommendations to the general membership.

In two years we have had two successful Fall Fests with good weather and community participation. Gary Rahman took on the job of leading it and the community responded. The Lake Montebello 130th birthday was fun and brought attention to one of Mayfield's loveliest assets. Our 2011 Block party was almost rained out, but it stopped just minutes before it was to start. Mayfield will be participating in the Clean Communities Competition to increase recycling, helpful household practices for handling trash, and higher recognition that all storm drains are headed toward the Chesapeake Bay! Combined with the housing advisory campaign, Mayfield resident will get tips on how to make our homes and yards and alleys as good as they can be. The city's competition has an attractive prize for the 4 neighborhoods deemed winners. It would provide for a glorious 50th anniversary block party (in about 3 years) if we won. It would also allow us invest in community amenities, like the sign we've wanted. See the articles in this issue about the clean community competition scoring, the housing advisory project and tips and various sign proposals for Mayfield we have considered.

Did you know that Mayfield has a blogspot? Some content we want to stay visible longer is there. Currently it is showing the drawings of a planned addition to a property on Dobler Avenue for the zoning variance being sought. Are you on twitter? If so, follow us at @mayfieldupdate. Brian Baughn keeps us on the right path with technology and it makes us more aware of what's happening in Mayfield and how we can help each other. It makes Mayfield a connected, dynamic community. One resident sent a comment about the listserve once and said, "The list serve makes Mayfield feel like the small town in Cecil County where I grew up." Mayfield offers a proximity and a communication outlet to interact

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[www.mayfieldassociation.org](http://www.mayfieldassociation.org)

# President's Letter

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with the community. Another community asset that helps connect us is the Mayfield Directory. Our directory is somewhat unique in Northeast Baltimore. We have about 70% of the residents in the directory. Other neighborhoods would love to have what we have. It is a very good way to get to know your neighbors. As president I kept one at home, in office and in briefcase, so I could reach people as needed. We are about to publish a new one. Are you in it? If not, please complete the directory form in this issue. And have you paid your dues? We need you to contribute the VERY modest \$20/year (\$10 for persons over 62) to support the many projects and meet community expenses. We've provided an envelope for your dues with this issue.

I salute all the volunteers, especially the hard working board members and officers that made all the good things happen. Stephanie Buttner as Vice President took on many tasks this year in addition to the ones she normally handled. JoAnn Trach Tongson as Secretary kept notes, managed our greening and beautification efforts and is a community catalyst on traffic and park issues. Julia McDonald was a very conscientious Treasurer. Gary Rahman investigated housing issues and headed up Fall Fest. Courtney and Jim Bartlett spearheaded the children's activities and pitched in on most everything Mayfield did these past two years. Tim Schneid and Bethanne Garcia tackled special projects and community problems as needed. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as president. The board works to make Mayfield as good as it can be. Getting to know so many neighbors and most of the new residents was a great pleasure for me as president. The board and volunteers are building community spirit and a great neighborhood with each event and each volunteer project. While there are still plenty of things yet to be done and issues arise when you least expect them, I know Mayfield will step up to meet the challenges. I hope that Mayfield can count on your support.

*With gratitude,  
Janelle Cousino, President Mayfield  
Improvement Association*

# Housing Advisory Check List

Here's a self-check list for anyone looking to improve their home: While all responsibilities are noted in the Property Maintenance Code of Baltimore City these are examples Storage receptacles required. Trash, garbage, or debris may not be stored or placed out for collection except in approved storage receptacles.

- Prune or remove all trees and shrubbery if they are: 1) dangerous to life and property; 2) create a fire or traffic hazard; 3) encroach on adjacent property in a negative way.
- Keep grass, weeds or plant growth below 8 inches and remove all noxious weeds
- Prohibit the accumulation of trash, debris, and bulk trash, including the following discarded items: animal waste, furniture, equipment, appliances, construction Material, similar objects & materials;
- Receptacles cannot be placed out for collection on a sidewalk or along an alley earlier than the day of collection.
- Receptacles must be returned promptly to the premises after collections;
- If discarded or abandoned articles are too large

for disposal in the required receptacles, they must be transported to a landfill or approved disposal site.

Do your own walk around inspection and see how your house is doing. Take a look at these areas of the exterior:

- Window (glass, sash and air vents)
- Doors (storm doors too)
- Drainpipes and gutters
- Walkways
- Steps, porch and handrails
- Siding & accessories (awnings, shutters)
- Exterior paint
- Trees & shrubs over public walks or alley
- Trash Receptacles – sturdy, lids, location
- Debris
- Garage doors and windows
- Fence/Gate
- Tall grass and weeds
- Roof/Missing shingles

# Clean Community Competition

(continued from pg. 1)

for your trash can, consider getting a new one. If you and your neighbors can keep the alleys clean, that adds up points. We do want to involve youth in the bay drainage signage project. There may be some other fun projects that our young people will want to do to encourage us to recycle all that we can. The prize is substantial. Can we do it?

## Section I: Scoring

The chart below details the categories and the maximum number of points that can be earned for each category during the Clean Community Competition. Categories 3-7 will be evaluated largely with before and after pictures. Individual communities recycling tonnage will be tracked by Solid Waste throughout the contest.

### Category Possible Number of Points

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| 1. Recycling (overall tonnage increase)   | 15 |
| 2. Household Waste Management (Percentage of households using trash cans with lids) | 15 |
| 3. Alleys and Streets (decrease in service requests)                                | 15 |
| 4. Vacant Lots (cleaned)  | 15 |
| 5. Storm Drains (sweep drains)  | 15 |
| 6. Gateways, Main Streets and Bus Stops   |    |

(decrease in service requests) 15

7. Overall impression of Cleanliness (as judged by neighborhood visits and indicated in dated scrapbooks; scrapbooks should contain dated before & after pictures) 20
- Total 110

*Extra credit:* points can be earned by adopting vacant lots through the Mayor's Power in Dirt program. See: <http://www.powerindirt.com>. Include a copy of your vacant lot adoption agreement with your CCC application. 20

*Extra credit:* Storm drains: one point per storm drain clean-theme stencil up to a maximum of 20. 20

### Maximum number of points 150

- Competition kicks off Saturday, April 21 at the Mayor's Spring Clean Up and runs through October 19.
- Mayfield is registered. Courtney Bartlett is our main contact person, but mayfieldupdate@gmail.com is a reliable way to weigh in, ask questions, etc.
- Winning Communities will be announced at the Mayor's Fall Clean Up on Saturday, October 27.

**Win \$5,000 or \$1,000 for your Neighborhood.**

## The Sign Saga

Mayfield has always wanted a sign on Harford Road identifying the community. Since we have homes on both sides of Harford Road, a most appropriate location is Mayfield's front door — Harford Road. Through the assistance of Paul Voos, a concept for a neighborhood gateway sign to be mounted on the existing bus shelter was developed. Here are some renderings of the sign option. The bus shelter sign would give it a historical feel. There was consensus that neighbors would prefer to highlight the history of Mayfield and Lake Montebello on the side plaque, rather than the street names and the bus number. This concept was budgeted for a grant that we did not win.

This Winter PNC Bank had a transformative art competition to encourage visitors to an area through the unique art. The board supported a design developed by JoAnn Trach Tongson for a living sign to be on the 'green' in front of Lake Montebello Terrace and along where the new 'green trail' will be meandering through that green space. Several neighbors rallied around a plea for



letters of support and a requirement for the application. Unfortunately we were not selected for the PNC competition, but we wanted you to see the drawings created. We have run into some roadblocks, but we're continuing to pursue the a sign project. DPW controls the land around Lake Montebello, the bus stop seems no one really knows who is responsible for it, DPW, DOT, MDTA, other alphabet soup agencies? Meanwhile, St. Francis of Assisi School will have a new visibility project at the corner of Chesterfield and Harford Road. Check out their new banners. Banners don't last very long, so that was not a priority choice for Mayfield. Mayfield is not giving up. Mayfield will get its sign some way or another.



### Volunteers we missed

Newsletter Deilvery: Amelia, Halle,  
Dina & Ella Voos *Thank You!*



## Directory Advertising

The advertising rates are outlined below. Please complete the form indicating your preferred ad size. Front and back inside covers will be sold on a first-come, first-paid basis. Mayfield expects ad content to be appropriate and reserves the right to edit and determine final copy for all ads.

### Rates:

- \$30 for a ¼ page (business card)
- \$60 for a half page ( 4.25 x 2.75)
- \$80 for a whole page middle of book (8.5"x5.5")
- \$100 for front inside cover (8.5"x5.5")
- \$150 for back inside cover (8.5"x5.5")

Please send your camera-ready copy of advertising to Julia McDonald, Treasurer, 2201 Mayfield Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21213 or via email to Mayfieldupdate@gmail.com. Make checks payable to Mayfield Improvement Association. All advertising, copy and payment must be received by June 10, but to guarantee inclusion, an earlier response is recommended. Email mayfieldupdate@gmail.com with questions or call: 443-794-5596.

Thank you in advance for your support of Mayfield,  
*Mayfield Directory Committee*

## It is time to pay dues for 2012

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.. The special donation is dedicated to the Mayfield Youth Service Scholarship Fund. Thank you.

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

*PayPal payment option for website being added soon.*

## 2012 – The Year of the Mayfield Directory Deadline for Inclusion – June 10th

If you are new to Mayfield since 2009, changed your phone number or want to add a cell number, or moved within the neighborhood since 2009, we need some updated information from you. Dues paying members of Mayfield Improvement Association will receive a copy of the Directory at the Summer Block Party on Friday, July 13, 2012.



Your address \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone number \_\_\_\_\_

An optional alternate number \_\_\_\_\_

*(work, cell, or emergency)*

Optional email address \_\_\_\_\_

*(which will not be printed)*

