

T H E MAYFIELD NEWSLETTER

A Hamlet in the Heart of Town 2016 | Issue Two

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Neighbors,

I wanted to dedicate my last "Letter from the President" to the Mayfield board and community volunteers that work so hard to make our neighborhood so very special. For every apparent sign of volunteer activities (flowers in the median, Easter Bunnies and Santas, Block Party tables, trash collectors, watchful dog-walkers, etc.) there are innumerable other acts of giving and volunteering that aren't as obvious. I am thinking of the person that calls 311 when a branch is in the road, or the neighbors that deter suspicious activities by turning a light on, and the person who picks up the newsletters from the printer, just to name a few. Thank you for being involved, being aware, being outside, and being neighborly. Many residents that live in Mayfield, or have lived in Mayfield, comment on our community as being "something special." Although the houses are beautiful, and the mature trees and Olmsted-style medians are very charming, it is the generations of neighbors over the years that make Mayfield special.

I read an interesting statistic in my employer's newsletter this week, "Half of Americans know the name of only one or none of their EIGHT great-grandparents." Is it impossible to be remembered, or leave your mark during your lifetime? To the contrary, I think there are many ways to impact your surroundings. I think back to our last Block Party, and what a wonderful evening that was. I don't know the group of neighbors that organized the first block party over 50 years ago, but what I do know is that this event is one of my family's annual favorites. Whoever those organizers were, they still impact our community experience to this today. I may not know their names, or all 8 of my great-grandparents names, but I understand how their influence has affected my life. To me, they are remembered.

(continued on page 2)

MAYFIELD GENERAL MEETING & Elections

MAY 19 7:15 PM
MARYLAND STATE
BOY CHOR
FELLOWSHIP HALL
3400 NORMAN AVE

Special Guests:

What's New? Businesses
on Harford Road, Engaging
Youth, Mayfield Board &
Officer Elections, & more.



**Mayfield Annual
SPRING YARD SALE
Saturday, May 14.**

9 am. – 1 p.m.

Flyer and sign up
information
in this issue.

www.mayfieldassociation.org

(continued from page 1)

I am grateful for my 10 years on the Mayfield board. The board members that I've had the opportunity to work alongside have been, and are, extremely dedicated to the well being of our community. This experience has been wholly my pleasure - thank you Mayfield!

In Gratitude,

Courtney

President, Mayfield Improvement Association, 2014-2016

Hello, Welcome to Mayfield!

Profile of Dave Henry, Mayfield's Welcome Chair

Dave Henry, is our Welcome to Mayfield Chair. He brings a bag full of useful info and a gift to new residents. If you have a new neighbor, please let us know. Dave will bring by the Mayfield Welcome goodies. Email Mayfieldupdate@gmail.com and give us the address of our new neighbor.

Dave grew up in a small Connecticut town and adopted Baltimore when he started his insurance career in 1977 as a claims representative for the Baltimore based USF&G Insurance Company. Dave has always enjoyed helping people in need. He bought his first home in 1981, a semi-detached in Waltherson, which became home to wife, Cindy and 4 sons, Matthew, Christopher, Patrick and Benjamin. The boys went to St. Francis of Assisi School and as active SFA parishioners the family had close connection to Mayfield. Having outgrown their Waltherson home they found a larger, affordable and comfortable 1926 brick classic home with 5 bedrooms in Mayfield. They have lived here since 1997 and have the fondest of memories--all four sons graduating from St. Francis, then on to top Catholic and City high schools, their weekly soccer games in Fr. Hooper Field, adventurous bikes rides and hikes through Herring Run, jogs around Lake Montebello, and a round or two of golf at Clifton Park.

Dave enjoys his daily walks, alone or with his dog Tipper. He is known to strike up a conversation with passing neighbors. Because he enjoyed meeting so many he decided to "officially" volunteer to welcome new Mayfield residents. Dave explained, " the best part of being the 'neighborhood greeter' is learning where the new residents hail from, what brought them to Baltimore, or what enticed them - from all the city's communities -- to

move to Mayfield." For those coming from outside the state, he loves to share all our great eating places nearby, (best crab cakes, best coffee & muffins, best barbeque) but more importantly, how we are in close proximity to shopping and work opportunities in downtown Baltimore, Towson, and White Marsh.

Dave's oldest son, Matthew and his wife Lacey also own a home in Mayfield. Matt and Lacey recently became parents to a son, Brody. Brody is the first grandchild. Dave now has 'new duties' as 'grandpa daycare'. Dave said, "I feel so fortunate to have them close by, and that Cindy and I can see and care for Brody every day. What a blessing!"

Here's what Dave said about the other benefits of living in Mayfield: "The kindness and diversity of our residents, quality construction and affordability of the homes, and proximity to jobs (both his wife and daughter-in-law work at Johns Hopkins Hospital)." He added, "I've always been a big advocate of living somewhat close to where you work, and near parks, walkways, cafes, eateries, YMCA and Inner Harbor. But in Mayfield you may take one step out of your house in the early evening and also see a deer bounding across Norman Ave, or a fox scampering across the park, then a bald eagle flying overhead around Lake Montebello, and 15 minutes later sitting down to watch our beloved Baltimore Orioles at Camden Yards. A dear friend once said to me, 'a house is where you sleep, but a neighborhood is where you LIVE'.....it couldn't ring more true LIVING here in Mayfield!"

Thank you, Dave. We're glad you volunteered to be the Welcome to Mayfield chair.



St. Francis of Assisi School GOING FORWARD

Editor asked Rebecca Malone, Principal at St. Francis of Assisi School, to answer some questions about the St. Francis of Assisi School as the 60 year anniversary is celebrated with a gala in April.

Q. St Francis of Assisi School, a K-8 school, has reached an important milestone:-- 60 years of educating young people and instilling a love of learning that will last a lifetime. From your vantage point what do you see as the important developments that have given SFA School staying power, (when many other Catholic Schools have shuttered their doors or merged?)

A. Three factors come to mind when I consider how St. Francis has remained strong. First and foremost, we have enjoyed the unwavering support of our pastor, Msgr. Burke, for 36 years. He has always been deeply committed to Catholic education.

Secondly, our location is a blessing: We are firmly rooted in the neighborhoods of Northeast Baltimore -- especially Mayfield! The beautiful Herring Run Park is virtually an extension of our campus, not just for sports but also for nature studies. And we are situated on a well-traveled transit corridor so that families coming into downtown, or working at Hopkins or Morgan, find SFA to be a convenient and welcoming school for their children.

A third source of strength is the diversity of our student body. We have students who live so close that they can walk to school, and students who commute from as far away as

Harford County and the Pennsylvania border. We have 45 heritage countries represented, along with 10% who are children of alumni. Children of all faith traditions are welcomed, and about half of the students are Catholic.

Q. What makes St Francis of Assisi School a special place?

A. One word: Community. I hear this over and over from parents, students, and teachers. We are a small place where everyone is known and cared for. "Not just a school, but a way of life."

Q. What is the vision for SFA School, its academic goals and enrollment goals?

A. SFA is positioned as a strong choice for families who are seeking academic excellence in a nurturing setting. We offer innovative programs such as the International Baccalaureate, 1:1 iPads, and STEM (Science-Technology, Engineering + Math). And the importance of faith formation is integral to all that we do. Our target enrollment is 250 students, and we are fully enrolled.

Q. How does the fundraising proceeds from the Gala and other events support the school and its students and families? Is there a strategic vision for the funds to be used?

A. The theme of the Gala is "Dreaming Big." Our school building needs to be modernized so that we

can offer the highest possible quality of programming. The Archdiocese of Baltimore is developing a strategic master plan for improving school facilities, including SFA, over the next few years.

Q. What else would you want your Mayfield neighbors to know about SFA's future?

A. The school is solid and strong. We are proud to be an integral part of the Mayfield community, and we invite neighbors to come visit at an Open House, check out our website, and follow us on Facebook.

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2016.

There will be a Ribbon Cutting and Celebration for the Greenway Trail in Herring Run Parks to celebrate National Trails Day. Mayfield and Friends of Herring Run Parks are collaborating for an afternoon in the park before the Harford Road Bridge over Herring Run is demolished. Drumming and acoustical music may be a feature of the day if the event grant from MECU is received. Plein air watercolor fun for kids, guided walks, and more. Come enjoy a day with a walk in the park. More info to come through mayfieldupdat@gmail.com and www.Facebook.com/mayfield.update/



Wendy Kronmiller, Mayfield resident brought this event on May 1st to our attention. It included an invitation to attend rehearsals in April. Wendy is a board member of the Shepherd's clinic and Joy Wellness Clinic. — Editor

When Mayfield News asked how Wendy became involved in this event, she first wanted to explain more about what the Shepherd's Clinic (located behind City College) does and who it serves. She explained that the clinic coordinates volunteer health care providers who serve our neighbors who are uninsured or underinsured. The Joy Wellness Center (affiliated with Shepherd's) offers healthy living supports and classes, in large part to people with chronic health conditions. She talked about the history too. She shared, "The Shepherd's Clinic began organizing volunteer providers twenty-five years ago on Saint Paul Street and North Avenue. Over the years, the Clinic has offered basic health care services, including chronic care interventions to people who lack insurance. The result is better care and reduced hospitalizations. Most of our patients are employed, many with multiple part-time jobs, but without health benefits. The clinic contributes to the stable foundation of local nearby neighborhoods, but these residents are having a difficult time managing basic expenses."

Wendy also explained how the Wellness Clinic evolved. "Over recent years, the Clinic's Joy Wellness Services added classes and activities like yoga, healthy eating, gardening, and cooking, as well as behavioral health. Because many patients do eventually become insured, there is now a Med-Star Clinic onsite, so they do not need to leave what has become their medical 'home.' The Clinic is a clearly special place with amazing volunteers and staff, and it helps our greater community." Wendy added that being a board member of the non-profit clinic has been personally fulfilling.

In the Heart of Mayfield

This fundraising event came about through a supporter of the clinic who was also a supporter of the Maryland State Boy choir. The result was linking the two outstanding non profits for this year's "Healing Power of Music" concert and silent auction fundraiser. Wendy shared with excitement, "Best of all, the MSB Center for the Arts is in the heart of Mayfield! I've always wanted to take a look inside and to hear the choir. I've learned more about The Maryland State Boychoir and I've seen how it brings together boys and families from various backgrounds. I've enjoyed meeting the dedicated parents who travel to Mayfield from all over the State to bring their children to practice. The parents, who are the force behind the fundraiser,

tell me how participation in the choir benefits the boys. It is meaningful that this group would support Shepherd's and our Baltimore community."

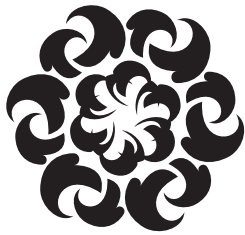
The volunteer choir and fundraising event is a longstanding MSB tradition, which has supported different causes in the past. Wendy said, "I'm not a singer, but I understand that being in a choir, with all of the members working together to create beauty, is a special thing. The singers enjoy it." Wendy continued, "several Mayfield residents have joined the rehearsals on Saturday during the month of April. I'm looking forward to this special fundraising event on May 1st at 4 p.m. and the silent auction, refreshments, "wine pull" and maypole—and, of course, the music. All will support two good local causes!"

You can join rehearsals coming up on April 23 and 30 from 10:30 to noon at The MSB Center for the Arts 3400 Norman Ave. There is no audition and no cost to join! Proceeds from the concert support the work of Shepherd's Clinic for the Uninsured and The Maryland State Boychoir. And if you are not a singer--enjoy the concert and silent auction on May 1 at 4:00 p.m. For more information/ concert tickets go to www.hpmbaltimore.org or email Kathy Helzlsouer at hpmchorus@gmail.com

PINWHEELS

Getting Company

The Gateway Park across from Montebello Elementary and Middle School is getting some attention from landscape team of Civic Works and Coldstream-Homestead-Montebello supporters. Soon it will have sculpted paths, and native plantings to liven up the colorful pinwheels. Enjoy!



OLMSTED BIKE TOUR

May 22, 10am - 1pm

Wyman Park to Herring Run Park and Neighborhoods Between - Join our cheery crowd of nerds as we cycle through well-known and loved landscapes throughout Northeast Baltimore. This biking tour highlights some of the city's most unique relics, from secret gardens to monumental water systems, adding layers of historic and modern context to sites we pass every day. A picnic-style lunch with vegetarian options will be served at our final destination before returning to the BMA. Cost is \$20 (includes picnic-style lunch). Space is limited - visit <http://www.olmsted-maryland.org/events/> to reserve a spot.

CONSTRUCTION

Norman Avenue construction work is for a gas line repair project that should be complete by the end of April. Lake Montebello construction work is sewer relining work being done which may take many more weeks.

COFFEE WITH A COP

On February 27th Major Worley and his Neighborhood Support Officers – Joseph Banks and Monica Cooper joined us for Coffee with a Cop at the New Covenant Tabernacle on Harford Road at Kentucky Avenue. Major Worley doesn't usually work on Saturday, but made a special exception to join us that day. He answered two + hours of questions from the 25 people who attended this session. He remarked that the turnout at the Mayfield 'Coffee with a Cop' was the largest they have ever had at a Saturday Coffee with a Cop. Thanks to NCT and Pastors Tom & Rosalind Schwind for use of the church undercroft as our meeting place.. And a BIG BIG Thank you for the Major and everyone from the NED for your service to Mayfield and all of the residents of Northeast Baltimore.

Young Scholar Community Vision Award

Again, Mayfield will accept entries for a Young Scholar Community Vision Award. The goal of this community vision prize is to generate ideas from young people in Mayfield for community improvement. Please submit a community vision proposal through a typed essay or poem, or prepare an artistic representation (video, spoken word, power point presentation, art work) that answers the theme question: If I were Mayor of Mayfield, I would...?

Entries selected for an award will receive \$250. Entries are due on June 22 at 8 p.m. by email to mayfieldupdate@gmail.com or by dropping off at address on the entry form. You can download the entry form from the website – www.mayfieldassociation.org/news. 2016 application will be available from the website by April 30th. It is also available also from mayfieldupdate@gmail.com.

Thank You

to **Raina Terrell Wilson** for chairing the Easter Egg Hunt and Bunny visit and to all the volunteers that helped stuff the eggs, make cupcakes and support the event. That includes **Sarah Koser, Kelly James, Jesse Crum, Mariglynn Edlins, Stephanie Buttner, Deborah Mason, Courtney Bartlett** and some 'tweens in Mayfield that helped fill the plastic egg. The Bartlett's brought their bullhorn and a real live bunny – Easter bunny in training! We had TV cameras there capturing the happy faces in the playground from one of the local stations. The children had a blast!

Baltimore's Olmsted-Inspired Parkways

May 14, 12:30 - 3:30pm

Explore the legacy of the city's green parkway corridors—from the Alameda to 33rd Street to the Gwynns Falls Parkway. These parkways were a key component of the 1904 Olmsted Brothers' master plan for the Baltimore park system, intended to connect the city's parklands and to provide a park-like experience for the neighborhoods through which they passed. Only a few spaces remain for this tour (run through the JHU Odyssey program). Cost is \$47. Visit <http://www.olmstedmaryland.org/events/>.

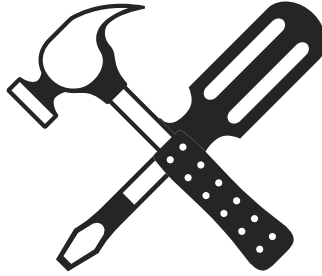
DID YOU KNOW

Mayfield homes can be fixed and maintained using the Historic Homeowner Tax Credit?

Historic Homeowners have the opportunity to earn a state income tax credit equal to 20 percent of qualified rehabilitation expenditures. The credit is capped at \$50,000 in a 24-month period and must have a minimum for each application of \$5,000 of eligible expenses to qualify. The review period runs approximately 30-45 days after MHT receives a complete application and review fee. But some Mayfield residents reported that the approval process for their application was much quicker than that. You can read all about it at <http://mht.maryland.gov/taxCredits.shtml> Mayfield has been designated a local historic district for the National Register, a prerequisite for being eligible for the Maryland Housing Trust tax credit.

The objective of the tax credit is to support the sustainability of older neighborhoods and the livability of older homes, and to also preserve or restore the integrity of the older historic portions of the home to resemble the original. Wood sash windows, siding, hardwood floors, architectural features, stained glass windows, etc. are among the aspects that need to be preserved in order to be eligible for the tax credits.

Several Mayfield residents have used these tax credits for major repairs, but there are some things one should know in advance. You need to complete the application BEFORE you do the work and get it approved by MHT in advance of starting the work.. They need photos of every room from 2 angles and all angles of the exterior with the application to accompany, not just the room or rooms where the proposed project is. They'll also want to see nearby homes on your block. Info is in the application and on the website given in first paragraph. MHT staff may be willing to come see the home ahead of receiving the application to discuss what the parameters are for what they can approve. One homeowner wanted to lower a window in their kitchen, but changing a window is not preserving the original exterior and lowering it would have deemed the project ineligible. The homeowner kept the window as it was and completed his project with the help of the



tax credits. Another homeowner had major structural repair work done, but when the repaired work did not match the rest of the exterior structure, the project was deemed ineligible for the tax credit until fixed.

An application requires a minimum of \$5000 of work proposed that can be completed in 2 years. But if you don't finish it all within 2 years, you can submit your paperwork for approval tax credit for what was completed in the 2 years. You can then reapply for another \$5000 minimum with 2 years to complete it or with additional work. If your state tax liability is less than what you were expecting as a credit for the approved project, the state will send a check the balance of what is 'left to be paid at tax refund time.'

So before you replace your furnace, air conditioning unit, or replace those windows, look into these Historic Tax Credits designed for communities like Mayfield, Lauraville, Bolton Hill etc. A 20% credit is a pretty big payback. And you are preserving your home in the original historic structure while you use it and then preserving it for the next owner.

There is a lifetime maximum per owner of the home of \$250,000 in value of work, which would result in a \$50,000 tax credit over that lifetime. However, if the next time you buy a home, you purchase another older home in an historic designated neighborhood, you are eligible for another \$250,000 lifetime maximum in work done eligible for up to another \$50,000 in tax credits. Don't forget -- The work MUST be approved in advance by MHT. No exceptions. Details can be found at https://mht.maryland.gov/taxcredits_homeowner.shtml . There are other housing related programs that you could also be eligible for and will help maintain and improving your home. These are listed in the May 2011 issue of Mayfield News, which you can find on the Mayfield Website at this link <http://mayfieldassociation.org/news> or go to this direct link: <http://mayfieldassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/MNL201105.pdf>. Below are some details about the program.

Application Process

Please read the Homeowner Application Instructions and all supporting materials prior to filling out the application. Go to the website and read the instructions before you apply carefully. Find the Instructions at <http://mht.maryland.gov/documents/PDF/taxcredits/homeowner-instructions.pdf>

Eligibility

The building must be a single-family, owner-occupied residence, which is defined as:

- A structure or a portion of a structure occupied by the owner and the owner's immediate family as their primary or secondary residence.
- A residential unit in a cooperative owned by or leased to a cooperative housing corporation and leased for exclusive occupancy to, and occupied by, a member of the corporation and the member's immediate family under a proprietary lease.
- The building must be a certified historic structure, defined as having at least one of the following designations: Individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places. A contributing resource within a National Register Historic District, or A locally designated structure or contributing resource within a local historic district that MHT determines to be eligible for the National Register (this is the Mayfield designation)
- All aspects of the project and application must: Be reviewed and approved by MHT prior to commencing work Meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation

Eligible Work

The tax credit may be used for projects that return a structure to a state of utility through repair or alteration, making possible an efficient use while preserving portions

and features of the structure, site and environment that are historically, architecturally or culturally significant. Read about homeowner's tax credit-assisted renovation on the Our History, Our Heritage blog. <https://mdhistoricaltrust.wordpress.com>

Examples of eligible projects include, but are not limited to:

- Roof repair and replacement
- Chimney repair and lining
- Window restoration (not replacement!!)
- New storm doors/windows
- Masonry re-pointing
- Floor refinishing
- Structural repairs
- Plumbing, electrical and mechanical systems
- Architectural/ Engineering/ Consulting fees
- Tool/equipment rental
- Repair of historic outbuildings

Examples of ineligible projects include, but are not limited to:

- Landscaping
- Sidewalks, patios, driveways
- Non-historic outbuildings
- Appliances
- New construction
- Carpeting over historic flooring
- Curtains, blinds, rugs or other interior décor
- Tool/Equipment purchases
- Work that is primarily remodeling in nature
- Pest control, chimney cleaning, drain cleaning, etc.

If you have questions about the application process or eligible expenses, please contact tax credit staff.

Megan Klem, Preservation Officer, at 410-514-7688



Mothers' Garden & Mothers Day

Again Friends of Mothers Garden is hosting a special Mothers Day celebration of fun, music and beautiful gardens on May 7, noon. For more information or to volunteer, contact Jim Bartlett - jebartlett@emgcorp.com Find their Facebook page and here's their web address: www.fomg.org

CALENDAR

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

April 22

Earth Day Tree Planting

Lake Montebello Drive; 6 p.m.

April 30

Dumpster Day in Mayfield

Mayfield near Kenley in the a.m.

May 14

Mayfield Community Yard Sale

Sign up by May 11th.

May 19

Mayfield

General Membership Meeting

MSBC 3400 Norman Ave – special guests

June 4

National Trails Day

Herring Run greenway trail ribbon cutting and celebration.

June 10 Directory information

Deadline

June 15 Directory Advertising

Deadline

June 22 Deadline for submitting

application for Youth Scholar – Community Vision Award

July 8 Mayfield's 52nd Annual

Summer Block Party

October 20

Mayfield General Membership Meeting

Location TBD

Mayfield Shred it Day TBD

Mayfield Improvement Association Officers

President – Courtney Bartlett

mayfieldboard@gmail.com

Vice President – Laura Green Lee

Secretary – Mary Rybczynski

Treasurer – Julia McDonald

Board Members

Stephanie Buttner

Janelle Cousino

Mariglynn Edlins

Deborah Mason

Gary Rahman

JoAnn Trach Tongson

Raina T. Wilson

Committee & Project Leaders

Welcome baskets – Dave Henry

Block Party – Stephanie Buttner

Communications - Janelle Cousino

Webmaster – Brian Baughn

Newsletter Layout & Graphic Design

– Nina Tou

Traffic issues; Greening Activities –

JoAnn Trach Tongson

Bridge committee – Deborah Mason

Playground - Mariglynn Edlins

Mayfield Scholarship – Courtney

Bartlett

New Resident Reception Host–

Janelle Cousino

Nominating Committee – Stephanie

Buttner; Deborah Mason

Children's Events (Easter &

Halloween) – Looking for volunteers

All committees are open to more

volunteers. Send an email of interest

to mayfieldupdate@gmail.com to let

board know you are interested in

helping.

Link to Mayfield Policy for Zoning Variance Requests

Residents that want a zoning variance from the city, be sure to read this Mayfield policy. You will find it on the website at <http://mayfieldassociation.org/news/zoningnews/>

Link to City Zoning Regulations

Residents who have questions about permits for 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

For an emergency dial: 911

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.

Want more frequent info about news and activities around Mayfield?

Sign up for the moderated listserve by sending a message to:

mayfieldupdate@gmail.com asking to subscribe.

Are you new to the neighborhood or know a new resident?

Our welcome gift committee would like to know. Please send an email to: mayfieldupdate@gmail.com