

T H E MAYFIELD NEWSLETTER

A HAMLET IN THE HEART OF TOWN

MARCH 2009

Dates To Remember:

April 5 – Easter Egg Hunt

April 18 - Neighborhood Clean-up/
Dumpster Day

May 21 – Mayfield General Meeting



**S P R I N G
MAYFIELD
GENERAL
MEETING**

MAY 21 7:15PM



CODE ENFORCEMENT

Your opinion is needed regarding this topic. In years past, the MIA Board would inventory the exterior of homes that may have violations (peeling paint, unmaintained yards, etc.) Based upon a checklist of violations, homeowners were sent a letter and requested to contact the Board about making the necessary improvements. If no response was received, zoning enforce-

(continued on pg. 4)

The President's Letter

Winter is a usually quiet time in Mayfield with the exception of some warm, notable points. In December Tony Anello and I attended a meeting organized through the Mayor's office to discuss Father Hooper Field permitted events in Herring Run Park. The meeting was a good one and addressed many important issues to Mayfield residents. December was also notable for the annual Holiday Light display and Holiday Caroling. A big thanks to the Rypchinski's for organizing the event on Norman Ave on December 18. Quite a few neighbors turned out on the beautiful night to raise their voices, enjoy some cookies and cocoa and warm their hands and hearts around dear friends and neighbors. Even the judges for the holiday decorating contest enjoyed a few notes and a few cookies. They needed refreshments after many laps around the neighborhood to make the difficult decision of winners, as there were many beautiful displays.

January was the time to establish the annual calendar and budget. Your membership donations are critical to MIA events including the block party, children's activities, annual plantings and communications. Communication was particularly on my mind as I walked through the neighborhood and noticed quite a few ice flows forming in alleys and coming from houses. The homeowners were not at home or in the process of moving. Since incomplete information was in the directory for them and direct neighbors did not have telephone numbers, the water continued to flow for at least a week. I understand that one neighbor suffered extensive damage to their house, which leads to my plea to please respond to our request for the neighborhood directory. The directory is for such emergency situations or to quickly spread important information. I also recently reached for it to notify neighbors of the passing of long time residents. (Miss Ester and Mr. Lou we miss you dearly.) The directory is also a means to share good news, but always a means to stay connected to neighbors. This is also a great way for local business owners to directly market their target audience. Please see attached directory advertisement rates that make producing the directory a reality.

Establishing connections early on was the theme for (hopefully) an annual tradition of a meet and greet for newer neighbors. Janelle Cousino graciously opened her home to over 20 attendees. We welcome into the neighborhood quite a few creative and talented people from diverse backgrounds. We look forward to seeing them at upcoming Spring events including the Easter Egg Hunt, enjoying spring bulb display, and preparing for the May General Meeting.

- JoAnn Trach

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

# Mayfield House & Garden Tour 2009

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Mayfield Improvement Association ISO an enthusiastic, organized person for one of the most interesting volunteer roles in the neighborhood.

- Is HGTV your favorite cable network?
- Do you enjoy seeing other peoples' homes and gardens?
- Are you well-organized and can delegate tasks to a gang of helper/volunteers to manage key assignments?
- Do you have time to devote to a fun, fabulous, one-day event that highlights some of the best of Mayfield?
- If you answered yes to any of them, then Mayfield is in search of YOU!

Mayfield is searching for the next chair or co-chairs of the 12th Mayfield House and Garden Tour. Additional committee members are welcome too. Outgoing chair of this event for the past few years, Natalie Keegan, has done a wonderful job for us. She has some wonderful ideas to share for future H & G tours. For this year she is willing to pass on lessons learned, wisdom, timelines and best ideas to the next team of Mayfield leaders stepping up to make our 12th house tour a successful one.

A new chair or co-chairs will not be starting entirely from scratch. Natalie has worksheets, draft letters and formats ready to share. There is a cadre of experienced volunteers who are willing to help again.

However new event leadership, additional new volunteers and new ideas are in demand for 2009. Want to know more? Have some questions to ask before committing to this role? Call JoAnn Trach Tongson at 410-235-1411 or email her at balmerdingoes@gmail.com

Every neighborhood needs a local restaurant that is comfortable, reliable, and delicious. The Parkside (4709 Harford Road) delivers exquisitely home-crafted food at reasonable prices. Housed in the former Cameo Lounge, The Parkside is an ambitious mix of pub, cafe, and deli with a children's play area to boot. Everything is made in house, from the cured beef, smoked fish (salmon and trout), gumbo (the chef hails from New Orleans, and you can taste it), and baked goods.

We joined a lively crowd on a recent Friday night for a sampling of salads and appetizers. None of our plates topped \$10.00, and no entree on the menu is over \$19.00. Salads are substantial, and well thought out. A House Salad presents a mix of fresh mesclun greens, creamy chevre, roasted shallots, and dried figs. Amazing. From earlier trips, we've also sampled a fine spinach and reliable Caesar. The falafel appetizer was denser than the normal chick pea patty. These round delights reminded us of a chick pea hush puppy. Quite addictive. The nightly Bachelor (a hefty daily special appetizer) was a trio of plump, crispy-clad oysters on

ANOTHER NEIGHBORHOOD GEM  
ON HARFORD ROAD

## THE PARKSIDE

a bed of seaweed salad. We've eaten single-fried or dusted oysters across Maryland, and these ranked as some of the finest. The light but crisp coating had a touch of Chinese five spice that drew out the richness of the succulent shellfish. The lightly sweet seaweed salad made for a taste combination that bordered on perfect. We hope these make it to the regular menu. The smoked salmon platter is not to be missed. The house smoked fish reminded us of the fine alderwood smoked salmon in Seattle's Pike Place Market. Tonight, it was served with house made rye bread, fresh and creamy hard cooked eggs, and a rich sour cream. This and a salad makes for a perfect light meal.

Desserts change daily and include homemade tarts, pies and confections. The German Chocolate cake was a dense, delicious jewel: a brownie-size square covered in the requisite boiled coconut and pecan icing. Not too sweet, with perfect pale-mocha colored chocolate. Delicious. On other trips we've tasted outstanding bread puddings, apple tarts, and white chocolate cookies. (The Parkside shares a pastry chef with nearby Chameleon Cafe).

The Parkside also offers house-made flat bread pizzas, sandwiches, and a dozen or so satisfying entrees with old school favorites like coddies and sauerbraten. They even have a children's menu with nothing over \$5.50, including a drink, cookie and fruit.

Beer lovers will enjoy the rotating offering of tap beers and lengthy list of bottles. This evening, we had a Dupont Saison (Belgian Farmhouse Ale) and a Natty Boh can, served in a Parkside-cozy! The wine list is extremely reasonable. A glass of La Vieille Ferme, Côtes du Lubéron white is a steal at 4.50. There is a nice list of bottles, priced around \$18.00.

Marrying diner atmosphere with white linen cuisine, The Parkside offers comfortable elegance every day of the week.

- Leen & Tony Condon



# AND THE WINNERS ARE



The holiday decorating judges scoured the neighborhood for the best holiday display in the categories of Best House, Best Door, Most Participatory Block, and a new Judge's Award. The judging was a very difficult task as there were many beautiful displays. We may need to add a new category next year for backyard displays to do justice to the wide array of festive decorations.

After much deliberation, the judges selected the following households. The winners of the Best House and Best Front Door categories will receive a congratulatory certificate and a donation will be sent to their favorite charity.

Special thanks go to our judges Jea Chapman of the Friends of Clifton Park and Rudraksha Juvrandi of Mahan Rykiel Associates.

### **Best House Display**

- First Prize: Nisio Mendonca 3416 Harford Rd
- Second Prize: Darren McDonnell & Timothy Thomas 3617 Crossland Ave
- Third Prize: The Strickers 2421 Chesterfield Ave
- Honorable Mention: The Waldts 2200 Lake Ave.

### **Best Front Door/Porch**

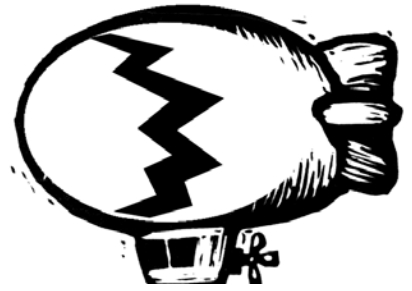
- First Prize: The Wilsons 2208 Lake Ave
- Second Prize: The Ciuctas 2430 Pelham Ave
- Third Prize: The Kellys 3411 Harford Road

### **Best Participatory Block**

2200 Kentucky Ave. (this award was largely due to the participation of the D'Dios of 2215 Kentucky Ave)

### **Judge's Award- Best Cooperative Effort**

The Schneids and Reglers 2219 and 2221 Pelham Ave.



# EASTER EGG HUNT

This annual children's event will be held on Sunday April 5th, from noon to 2pm in its usual location at St. Matthew's Lake Avenue side yard.



## Mayfield Newsworthy Newsletter

The Mayfield News will follow a quarterly publication schedule during 2009. If you have suggestions for articles or an ongoing column, please email Rebecca Foley at rebec\_ben@hotmail.com. We are looking for volunteers to submit articles on neighborhood events and other topics of interest to Mayfield residents. If you are a long-time resident of Mayfield, perhaps you would share your stories of how life has changed in the neighborhood through the years. If you would like to coordinate a "news" column in the newsletter whereby people can share family news such as births, weddings, special vacations, graduations, etc., there is an opportunity for you. If you have a recipe to share, a book club to promote, or need a golf buddy, these are all great ways to improve our community newsletter and make it a publication that people will really look forward to reading!

I have been working on the newsletter for a year now and I realize that it requires more than the efforts of one person to make a newsworthy newsletter. Please help! Our next newsletter will be published in June, please submit content by June 18 for inclusion in the newsletter.

(cont. from pg. 1) **CODE ENFORCEMENT**  
ment was notified of the violation(s) and the City process took over. The Board letters were not received well by homeowners particularly if the inventory occurred shortly after they had moved in. Currently, violations are reported directly to City enforcement. This system allows no flexibility in time frame for homeowners to respond and when fines may be incurred.

While the economic times are difficult, deferred maintenance and disrepair do not attract new homeowners. Your thoughts on the most equitable means of addressing violations are requested. What are your suggestions? Please provide your brilliant, constructive ideas to JoAnn Trach Tongson 410-235-1411 or [Mayfieldupdate@gmail.com](mailto:Mayfieldupdate@gmail.com)

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## Maryland State Boychoir

On Saturday, April 4, 2009 at 6:00 P.M., the Maryland State Boychoir will host an Official Ribbon-Cutting ceremony to christen our brand-new office suite in the Center for the Arts. We hope you will be able to join us for this brief ceremony and dessert reception. If so, please e-mail Kathy Hawker at [kathy@marylandstateboychoir.org](mailto:kathy@marylandstateboychoir.org), or call 410-554-8644.

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## Harford Road Gateway Walls

Unfortunately a driver was unable to stay on Harford Road in early January and hit the beautiful brick wall at Harford Road and Lake Montebello Drive. Since this historic structure is a wonderful feature for our neighborhood and also marks the boundary of Mayfield, we need to preserve it. Since City Services may whisk the parts away or vultures sweep down and steal the parts, we would like to restore the wall (actually one smaller pier.) If your expertise is in masonry and repair, your assistance in planning a course of action and establishing a budget to acquire a grant is greatly appreciated. Please call JoAnn Trach Tongson to help 410-235-1411.

# Think Pink

JoAnn Trach Tongson is participating in the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer on May 2 and 3, 2009. This is the fifth year that JoAnn has participated in this event that raises awareness to the disease and provides funding for research, patient support, and public education. Participating in the walk requires many hours of training (if you want to be able to walk on Monday after the event) and commitment to raising a minimum of \$1800. JoAnn has pledged to raise \$5000 for this walk and would like your support. If you would like to make a donation, you may drop off a check written to the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer at her home 2211 Pelham or go on line to [www.avonwalk.org](http://www.avonwalk.org) and donate under her walker number 922072. As with past years, JoAnn will carry an honor roll with names of those to whom the walk is dedicated. You are invited to send her the names of those for whom you would like to dedicate the Walk.

Neighbors' support is needed in leaving your porch light on. JoAnn walks most evenings around the neighborhood with her pink backback, blinking light and two dogs.



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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](http://www.ci.baltimore.md.us/government/legislature/zoning)

### Northeastern District Police

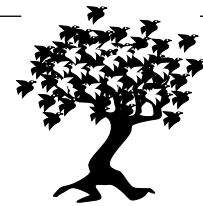
410-396-2444

### Northeastern District Police

### Community Relations

410-889-6449

(Non-emergency number)



## Mayfield Improvement Association

### New Officers & Board for 2008-2010

President – JoAnn Trach Tongson  
[mayfieldboard@gmail.com](mailto:mayfieldboard@gmail.com)

Vice President – Janelle Cousino

Treasurer – Paul Hertzberg

Secretary – Stephanie Buttner

### Board Members

Andy Bukowitz

Emily Chalmers

Rebecca Foley

George Frazier

Gary Rahman

### Committees

NECOP coordinators

– Sarah Koser and Natalie Keegan

Housing/Zoning Chair – Gary Rahman

Nominating Committee – George Frazier

Community Planning for Security & Safety

– Andy Bukovitz

Newsletter editor – Rebecca Foley

Newsletter graphic design – John Sze

Communications committee

(Website, McGruff, Updates etc)

– Janelle Cousino ([mayfieldupdate@gmail.com](mailto:mayfieldupdate@gmail.com))

Parks/Streams & Planting/Greening committee

– looking for chairperson

Block Captains

– Angie Battaglia and Janelle Cousino (conveners)

Children's Social Events

– Courtney Bartlett and Marjorie Anderson

House & Garden Tour – Natalie Keegan

Norman/Lake Ave Play Lot parents committee

Mayfield Block Party – Maria Lukianczuk

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 [mayfieldboard@gmail.com](mailto:mayfieldboard@gmail.com) to let us know.

# HERRING RUN PARK

## COMMUNITY ACTIVITY REPORT



On December 3, Tony Anello and JoAnn Trach Tongson attended a park use/misuse meeting organized by Angela Fraser of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods. Also in attendance was Portia Harris of Baltimore City Recreation and Parks, Major Dickson of the NE Police Department, Sergeant Avent from Parking Enforcement, Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke, and Councilman Curran. Sadly, no one representing the soccer leagues that had continual permits for the 2008 season was in attendance. The leagues include MD Major Soccer, the Latino Soccer League, and Korean Soccer League.

Portia Harris indicated that the MD Major Soccer league and its 18 teams may be looking at other locations and may not reapply for the 2009 season.

Some good developments came out of this meeting and previous park meetings:

Permits granted will be listed on the Baltimore City Recreation and Parks website. Neighbors can now identify permit holders for specific dates.

One vehicle per permit is permitted to drive into the park and drop off equipment and then leave. Subsequent research on park permit applications contradict this information and a clarification is request from BCRP.

Parking violations are administered

through parking enforcement contact through the 311 system. When you call you will be asked seemingly irrelevant questions about the description of cars in violation. Bear with it, as response will be dispatched from this information. In response to a neighbor's inquiry, parking enforcement will not put blinders on and only look at violations in a particular area. He or she may very well ticket cars on streets other than Chesterfield for parking the wrong way on a 2 way street, or expired tags, or a commercial vehicle parked on a residential street, or a car that has not been moved in more than 3 days-the pile of leaves behind the tires is the dead give-away here. Sorry, the law is the law. If you don't want to be subject to a ticket, don't break the law.

Information on field numbers can be provided. Follow-up on this one is also needed, as information has not come to the Association.

BCRP may consider limiting the amount of use of various fields. (Good feedback and ideas were provided during the Herring Run Park Master Plan Meetings regarding this and will be included in the final report recommendations.)

Permit holders are to be held accountable to participants' actions and enforceable through revocation of permits or fines. (This is at the discretion of BCRP

and neighbors are encouraged to report park rule abuse directly to BCRP or via Mayfield Improvement Association. Please keep in mind if it is an urgent matter 911 is always the way to go.)

Food vending must be permitted for the parks. The recent visits by the Pappasaria truck was not permitted by Baltimore City. While the van may have had a current state permit and may have been enjoyed by Mayfield residents, it did not have the correct Baltimore City permit.

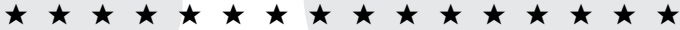
Police will respond to 311 or 911 calls to park violations based upon a priority urgency system. In fact Councilman Curran reminds us to keep calling to document a pattern and a record of violations. Call away even if it may seem like an effort in futility. Apparently, our efforts pay off.

Park Rangers are encouraged to be park liaisons with permit holders. Since the ranger program had been slashed in 2008, we are uncertain what 2009 may hold for the park ranger program.

We are hopeful for peaceful co-existence with the permit holders for 2009, but if not we now have some additional resources to rectify problems.



# GET THE LEAD OUT



## **Baltimore City Lead Abatement Action Project (LAAP)**

The Lead Abatement Action Project provides money to property owners to renovate residential or rental properties in Baltimore City to make these units lead safe. The program is specifically interested in creating lead-safe housing opportunities for low-income families with young children.

For homeowners, up to 100% of the cost of making your home lead safe may be covered.

For landlords, up to 80% of the cost of making a unit lead safe may be covered, with a maximum of \$5,000 per unit.

The LAAP will develop a scope of work that is appropriate to the condition of the house. The scope will include window, floor, door, trim, wall, paint, exterior, and cleaning treatments.

For more information:

Please call Baltimore City Health Department directly about this program at (443) 984-3934.

## **MD Lead Hazard Reduction Grant and Loan Program**

The Lead Hazard Reduction Grant and Loan Program is sponsored by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. It is a special program that provides funds to assist homeowners and landlords reduce the risk of lead poisoning and preserve the housing stock by reducing or eliminating lead-based paint hazards. The program is funded with State and federal funds.

Who is eligible?

- Homeowners who are Maryland residents and whose principal residence is the dwelling that will be repaired
- Property owners of residential rental property

Up to \$15,000 per unit (home or apartment) is available. There are no income limits for this program. The financial assistance provided (grant or loan) will be based on the applicant's ability to repay.

For more information:

Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development  
Special Loans Programs  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, Maryland 21032  
(410) 514-7565 or (800) 492-7127

# Mayfield Directory Update

If you are not aware, the Association is trying to print an updated Mayfield Directory. The Directory is only distributed to Mayfield residents and is a vehicle for communication. We would really, really like to have this available for dues paying members at the May General Meeting. In order to do that, we must send what we have to the printers by mid May. We have enlisted the aid of Block Captains, I have gone door to door on my own block, and have even enlisted the aid of young children to distribute flyers. Thanks to those neighbors who have responded and apologies if you are sick of hearing about this. As of early March we have not heard from 211 households. PLEASE RESPOND even if it is to say no thanks, not interested in being listed. Or better yet, keep everything the same as last year. Please leave your information with Julia McDonald 410-662-1966 or email information to Mayfieldupdate@gmail.com. Many thanks to those who have responded already.

Books will be distributed at the May General Meeting.

## **Directory Advertising**

If you would like to support our community association and the many ways we work to keep our neighborhood connected, please complete the form and select an ad size. Send it along with camera-ready copy of your advertisement to Julia McDonald 2201 Mayfield Ave. Electronically to Mayfieldupdate@gmail.com Checks are to be made out to the Mayfield Improvement Association. All ads and payment must be received very soon to be included in the directory. Buy locally. Advertise Locally

## **Mayfield Directory Ad**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\$30 for a ¼ page business card

\$60 for a half page

\$80 for a whole page middle of book

\$100 for front inside cover

\$150 for back cover

I have enclosed/sent my check made payable to:  
Mayfield Improvement Association.