

# T H E MAYFIELD NEWSLETTER

A HAMLET IN THE HEART OF TOWN

WINTER 2010

## Congressman Sarbanes Visits Mayfield

The 40 residents who attended Mayfield's Oct 15th General membership meeting included a very special guest. Congressman Sarbanes explained the most pressing issues on the Hill. Prospects and possible final content for the pending health care legislation was the feature of his presentation. Since Congressman Sarbanes' visit, the House and Senate have passed a bill. Further action is needed for final passage. To find out the status and more on Congressman Sarbanes' positions, go to <http://sarbhanes.house.gov>

One resident commented later that it was good to hear the Congressman com-

*(continued on pg.2)*

.....  
**MAYFIELD  
GENERAL  
MEETING**  
**MAY 20TH 7:15 PM**  
.....

## *The President's Letter*

Admittedly, winter is not my favorite season. I really dislike being cold and the short days. And then there's my birthday always overshadowed being so close to Christmas. It is, in fact, the day of Ukrainian Christmas. Winter is so slow particularly after our busy Fall. We had such great organizers, meetings, sponsors, and ideas for the Fall Fest. Unfortunately, the weather halted us twice. Fall was also busy with a fantastic turn-out for tree plantings, bulb plantings, and free tree give-a-ways. And individuals were also busy in Mayfield with restoration and beautification efforts. We have Mirabile Construction to thank for raising the toppled pier at the Harford Rd entrance to the lake. And our green-up regulars planted Fall annuals at the same gateway walls.

Winter seems to offer limited opportunities to interact with others, except for some great traditions as admiring the holiday decorations and caroling around the Yule log. We had some hardy souls lift their voices on a cold December evening. Our hopes of being joined by the MD State Boys Choir were thwarted by the weather related rescheduled concert. We hope to be joined by representatives from all of our Mayfield institutions next year. Neighbors on the 2100 block of Lake Avenue were also out in full force ensuring that City Transportation heard their pleas and desire for a one way traffic pattern to the lake.

The snow is my one exception for the redeeming values of winter. A good snow means a neighbor shoveling party and sharing of cookies and community news. A good snow also means sledding, and we have great options around. Our first good snow compelled me to "test" my nephew's Christmas present sled to ensure it was suitable for use. It was. I think I may need to get one for myself. The snow also inspired a snowman contest and young participants sent in their snow creations for a charitable award recognition.

While I do not relish Winter, it does hold the promise of events to come. We will host a new resident welcome to Mayfield reception in winter. Last year's event was so much fun. New and seasoned neighbors had a chance to mingle for a few hours and share the joys of their old house. Winter also means the start of my training for the Avon Walk and rejection of my coach potato tendencies. Here I implore you to keep your porch lights on and your walks shoveled, as I walk every single street and a few alleys during my training season.

So, maybe winter isn't so bad. I get to meet some nice new neighbors, develop plans for upcoming events, and get some much needed exercise.

*- JoAnn Trach Tongson, President, Mayfield Improvement Association*

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





# *TREEmendous Mayfield Fest*

Norman Avenue will have a larger carpet of gold in the spring. Volunteers made more progress on the daffodil project for Norman on October 31.

On Nov 15th Norman Avenue received 8 new trees to grace Mayfield's beautiful boulevard. Ann Draddy, the Baltimore city arborist made sure we had trees to plant that, and if well cared for, should stand in glory for 100 years. She threw in some daffodils too. The new American Elms fill in the loss of the large River Birch trees that succumbed to old age and disease that were cut down this summer. Some residents on Crossland have expressed interest in new tree plantings along their boulevard. Support of the block and willing tree stewards are a qualifying prerequisite. Tree stewards are an important factor in whether a tree makes in its first few years of being transplanted. Baltimore's harsh hot and dry summers can weaken a tree's system. If they receive watering from neighbors, they get a fighting chance to reach sufficient root system to withstand the occasional stretches of drought and heat. Thankfully the new trees on Norman have attracted a few caretakers to aid them along for watering and loving attention. As part of TREEmendous Mayfield Tree Fest, Mayfield kids made bird feeders from pinecones and peanut butter and bird seeds and festooned the new trees. We

thank the following planters Richard Matens, Tim Schneid, Jack Frech, Stephanie Buttner, JoAnn Trach Tongson, Janelle Cousino, Gerard Waldt, Brian Schleter, Peter Forbes, Julia McDonald and a good group of children in the neighborhood. Mayfield News apologizes to anyone not mentioned.

Mayfield has pledged to support the city's TREE Baltimore and its goal of 1 million trees by 2020. Residents can request a street tree by completing the application found at [www.hrwa.org](http://www.hrwa.org) or write to [Mayfieldupdate@gmail.com](mailto:Mayfieldupdate@gmail.com) for forms.



*Auger team (above): Gerard Waldt, John Frech and Paul Hertzberg. Volunteers Julia McDonald, Janelle Cousino, JoAnn Trach and children of the neighborhood followed behind the hole-makers and planted daffodils some of which were donated by Mayfield residents Joel Boergers and Tony Annello.*



*Girl Power (left): Team of women and girls took great pride in planting this tree with sheer will and girl-power.*





## WELCOME TO MAYFIELD: New Resident Reception

Are you new to Mayfield (last 12 months) or live near someone new to Mayfield? Please consider yourself invited to the New Resident Reception or be our welcome ambassador and invite your new neighbor to the reception. You're invited too. Please RSVP to [mayfieldupdate@gmail.com](mailto:mayfieldupdate@gmail.com) so we know who may be coming. Last year we had a wonderful event and welcomed new residents from eight homes in Mayfield. New residents get a chance to meet some neighbors beyond their block and get to know about Mayfield traditions and events. We really try to be that Hamlet in the Heart of Town!

**When:** Sunday, March 14th  
4pm — 6 pm

**Where:** 2418 Kentucky Avenue

For more information, please contact [Mayfieldupdate@gmail.com](mailto:Mayfieldupdate@gmail.com).

# Halloween Haunted Playground

## A New Mayfield Tradition?

Undaunted by three weather or timing cancellations for the traditional Halloween party for children, Mayfield adult volunteers conjured up their cleverest, scariest, Halloween-fun ideas to transform the playground at Lake and Norman into the Haunted Playground. Jim and Courtney Bartlett, with help from volunteers created a spooktacular space for kids and their par-

ents to add to the Halloween fun. Ghouls, goblins, witches, spiders and more, oh my! Creating caves with drop cloths and tarps over the equipment allowed for the spooky surprises to lurk for the unsuspecting 100+ children that came by to be 'frightened with delight'. The smoke and bubble machines transformed trees to seem alive with magical powers. The disco ball on high added whimsy. Jim Bartlett played Master of ceremonies and architect of the site. Stephanie

Buttner was the candy-lady and others helped through the night. An informal poll of young visitors were unanimous in

their opinion that we should do the haunted playground again next year. Parent comments and some inspired volunteers have already offered to help with the 2010 version. So, it looks like there's a new Mayfield tradi-

tion in the making. Want to help next year? Mayfield update will solicit your help in October 2010.

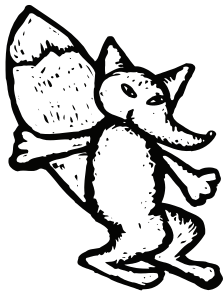
Note: Thanks to Jim and Courtney Bartlett, Stephanie Buttner and all the others for their Halloween fun making at the playground. Chairs Courtney Bartlett and Martha Anderson announced that Mayfield's famed Easter party for children will be March 27th. Save the date and look for details through [Mayfieldupdate@gmail.com](mailto:Mayfieldupdate@gmail.com).



## CITY RECOGNITION FOR SAM MIRABLE

Mayfield's Sam Mirable has been honored with a City Council Resolution recognizing his volunteer efforts to re-position the column near the Lake Montebello entry walls. It was toppled like Humpty Dumpty in a car accident. It took machine and manpower to put it back together again - Sam gave it both. Some brick work is still needed to make it intact, but the man of the hour for Mayfield and Lake Montebello is Sam Mirable. Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke introduced the resolution on the Mayfield Improvement Association's recommendation. We are grateful to Sam, so is Baltimore City.





# The Legend of the Red Fox that Attacked

In Mayfieldupdate listserve history, no story generated quite so much traffic as the fox story. The possibly rabid, possibly mangy, possibly placid, possibly two, possible squatter was found in various yards and attacked at least one of our Mayfield canines. Mayfield has had its fox sightings for many years. But this one was different. The fox was aggressive and mean and acted as if it was sick. Mayfield is strategically located between two big parks, so our neighborhood is likely a foraging opportunity for fox visitors, and/or a challenging peopled- section to be traversed going from habitat to habitat. Some residents wanted to give him a name – Renard – the word for fox in French. One was spotted in mid-January taking a morning stroll, until he sighted the car approaching, and started to sprint out for cover and ducked behind the Boychoir complex.

Mayfield News looked into the red fox habitat and found out these interesting facts about our reddish fur visitor(s). The Red fox (*Vulpes Vulpes*) is one of the most common species of foxes. The name has been given primarily because this fox has reddish-brown fur. These carnivorous animal species love to dwell in a variety of habitats. This animal does not belong to the endangered species list and is native to areas of Canada and Alaska, a majority of regions of Asia and the United States. Like a cat's, the fox's thick tail aids its balance, but it has other uses as well. A fox uses its tail (or "brush") as a warm cover in cold weather and as a signal flag to communicate with other foxes. Foxes also signal each other by making scent posts—urinating on trees or rocks to announce their presence. In winter, foxes meet to mate. The vixen (female) typically gives birth to a litter of

2 to 12 pups. At birth, red foxes are actually brown or gray. A new red coat usually grows in by the end of the first month, but some red foxes are golden, reddish-brown, silver, or even black. Both parents care for their young through the summer before they are able to strike out on their own in the fall. For a photo and more info go to <http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/red-fox.html>

## Why Mayfield area is a Red Fox Habitat?

Every Red fox claims its own territory. When in urban areas, the red fox prefers to be a nocturnal animal to avoid association with humans. In the wild, the den of a Red fox is always near a source of water. This could mean a stream or even a pond. And they choose their dens with careful consideration to the drainage factor. This is particularly a useful trait in areas that receive heavy rainfall. Red foxes also inhabit many dens and move between dens as per requirement. They usually look for food in the nighttime or early morning hours and will scavenge in trash left by households. Trash cans with lids are a must.

Post Script: Even though the red fox doesn't usually approach domestic pets, the Mayfield red fox did manage to bite or was suspected of biting Dave and Stephanie Buttner's mixed breed spaniel-border collie, SiSi. SiSi had been properly vaccinated, but animal control required her to be a 45 day house-based quarantine. SiSi is doing is well, and is glad to have been granted a reprieve from house arrest in time for Christmas. SiSi has been given a clean bill of health. Her veterinarian confirmed that the fox was rabid. So, it is good to *beware of Renard*, normally shy animal despite our autumn experience.



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

# Mayfield Directory



At long last the directories have been or should have been delivered by the time you receive this newsletter. If you have not received the directory and have paid dues or a Mayfield resident Advertiser in the Directory, or have moved into Mayfield within the last year, please notify us by emailing [Mayfieldupdate@gmail.com](mailto:Mayfieldupdate@gmail.com) or calling Stephanie Buttner at (410) 366-5316

**If you haven't received a Mayfield directory,** then it may also be that you didn't pay your 2009 dues. It's now 2010, we've enclosed a dues envelope with this newsletter.

## Why pay dues? Here are just a few reasons:

- You are eligible to vote at general membership meetings and in elections.
- You support the expenses of your community's projects and initiatives to improve our neighborhood
- You'll be helping make Mayfield stronger. We have more people on the listserve than pay dues!
- You'll get the Raven's Purple cover Mayfield 2009-2010 Directory and know how to reach your neighbors.
- It's a good investment in the value of your home. A strong neighborhood association protects the quality of life on your block and the community in general.
- It's the right thing to do.

Thank you to the advertisers in the Mayfield Directory 2009-2010. Please use these vendors when you can and thank them for supporting Mayfield!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## Harford Road ...from Chesterfield to North Avenue



Traffic engineers have been working on improvements to Harford Road. Representatives of the city's traffic division explained features of the work they expected to install in Mayfield and how from Erdman to North will see new planted medians, bike lanes and traffic calming. In Mayfield there will be a floating bike lane and a new light at Lake Avenue.

After the general membership meeting the traffic division sought Mayfield's input on making 2100 block of Mayfield one way. Our general question poll on the one-way proposal generated comments on many other aspects of the plan. A meeting of the 2100 Lake Avenue residents met at George and Joanna Frazier's home to discuss its impact on them. Unanimously, the residents determined that having Lake Avenue going one way toward the Lake (west) would be in their best interest. The one-way west proposal would stop the cut-through traffic from student drop-offs at Montebello Academy and improve the tight street parking and maneuvering that residents experience. As of the writing of this article, the traffic division has approved the one way west proposal and has received the petition signed by more than 79% of the block's residents. Stay tuned for more information on this and other Harford Road changes through [mayfield-update@gmail.com](mailto:mayfield-update@gmail.com)

# Youth Making a Difference

## Hope for Haiti – Wings of Hope

The earthquake in Haiti has spotlighted the poverty and limitations endured by Haiti residents every day. With the country's infrastructure and housing in shambles the situation has become desperate. Three young adults from Mayfield were in Haiti working with the Wings of Hope program with disabled children when the earthquake changed the situation. KC Bersch has been in Haiti for several years. Alec Bersch and Patrick Henry had been there to help on a short term basis on semester break. The Mayfield young adults and the children in their care were unharmed and generally safe, but sacrifices were needed. The director of the program was hurt. Patrick Henry returned to the mainland with the injured program leader, Bill Nathans. Alec made the decision to stay in Haiti longer than planned to help in the aftermath of the earthquake. KC and Alec and all at Wings of Hope program have to bring stability and order to the lives of the children and Haitian staff while the program rebuilds the damaged building. Prayers and donations are greatly needed and appreciated. Patrick has been doing fundraising and media interviews for all of us in Baltimore to better understand Haiti and the work ahead. Lani Bersch was interviewed for the Channel 2 WMAR news and Catholic Review featured KC Bersch's work and how her brother Alec and Chris and Patrick Henry have helped the children in Haiti in its January 21st edition. If you didn't see it, here's the link. <http://www.catholicreview.org/subpages/storyworldnew-new.aspx?action=7526>

For more information contact John and Lani Bersch (410-889-2485) or Dave, Cindy, Chris or Patrick Henry (410-243-7756)

Mayfield has gone into support mode. Big Bad Wolf owners offered a BBQ sandwich for a \$20 donation to Wings of Hope. Preliminary results reported \$4000 raised in less than one week. We've heard about children raising funds; Catholic Relief Services and other international aid groups based in Baltimore getting donations by the millions. But the devastation and need is so great, if you can give more, please do. Mayfield Improvement Association board voted to make a \$250 donation to Hearts with Haiti for Wings of Hope, a program where our Mayfield young people have volunteered and St. Francis has made a special relationship with over the years. <http://www.heartswithhaiti.org>

## On Display

Did you catch the excellent **photo exhibit** at Clementine in Hamilton from St. Francis of Assisi School students in December? Congratulations to the students and to Steve Parke and the other adult advisors that put together a wonderful exhibit.





---

## Nationwide and Others –

### ..... On your side?

*Has this happened to you? Mayfield Improvement Association wants to know!*

Recently, a neighbor reported that they had received a letter from their insurance carrier, Nationwide, asking them to set up an appointment to do an in-home policy review and assess how the company can save them money. The neighbor complied and within a few weeks a letter was received indicating that their coverage was being dropped. Neighbors enlisted the help of the Maryland Insurance Administration and were re-instated. A subsequent letter was received indicating that they would be dropped as an insured prior to the policy renewal date. It had some language asserting specific issues had not been addressed. One item that was specifically mentioned was the need to update the furnace. This had been replaced just 5 years ago! Was this just a fishing expedition to drop the coverage? Because only one claim had ever been filed by the homeowner, this insurance company behavior was suspicious. The homeowners have since installed a house alarm and have upgraded a panel box. When the policy renewal package was sent, it had a fee of over \$5000. Subsequent letters have indicated that additional riders on a new policy were required to maintain coverage and doubling their charges. The homeowners have since been able to find a new homeowner's policy at a considerably lower cost.

Mayfield Improvement Association has concerns about whether every "old home" issue is going to be asked to be brought up to current standards – lead paint removal, knob and tube wiring, asbestos, lead pipes, other features of our older homes.

MIA is interested in knowing whether other residents have seen such drastic increases and whether they have been subject to in-home evaluations that have led to denial of coverage. Insurance reform may be in order to protect old house owners and preserve the old homes we love. Thank you for your input via email [Mayfieldupdate@gmail.com](mailto:Mayfieldupdate@gmail.com) or by writing JoAnn Trach Tongson, President Mayfield Improvement Association 2211 Pelham. We also circulated this story on the Mayfield Update email list serve to solicit comments and incidents.

### ..... NEIGHBORHOODS OF GREATER LAURAVILLE, INC—NOGLI

Neighborhoods of Greater Lauraville, Inc., in partnership with Saint Francis of Assisi School, City Neighbors Charter School, and Hamilton Elementary/Middle School, received a Neighborhood – School Partnership Grant Award from the Goldseker Foundation.

Recognizing the important role that schools play in choosing a neighborhood, the Goldseker Foundation this year created a new funding opportunity to identify, invest in, and promote those schools in Healthy Neighborhoods that are meeting performance standards and offering a great option for educating children in Baltimore City. Healthy Neighborhoods helps strong but undervalued Baltimore neighborhoods increase home values, market their communities, create high standards for property improvements, and forge strong connections among neighbors.

NOGLI (of which Mayfield is a member neighborhood) developed and applied for the Goldseker Grant in conjunction with Saint Francis of Assisi School, City Neighbors Charter School and Hamilton Elementary/Middle School. This Grant Award provides operating monies to each of the organizations and dedicated funds for marketing the schools and neighborhood. Additionally it has stimulated the development of a partnership between the schools, creating new opportunities for the students and teachers to share in each of the partners' creativity and enthusiasm while engaging the neighborhoods themselves. Be on the lookout for Goldseker's Press Conference scheduled for February 12.

*- Tim Schneid, MIA Board member and Treasurer, NOGLI*



### Here are the vendors that were signed up to be at the *Mayfield Fall Fest* that faced bad weather twice.

Earth Alley – Home/garden and eco-friendly gifts

Coldwell Banker – Tony Anello and Joel Boergers

Five Mile Road – Eco-friendly hand-screened hand-dyed clothing

Everything Turkey, Inc – good variety of sandwiches and other specialties

Printemps Pottery – handmade pottery

Forty-Five degrees – jewelry, metal and glass works

Small Web Enterprises- original oil and acrylic paintings

Chef Mac Louisiana Cuisine – Louisiana food specialties

Wheely Good Smoothies – Eco-friendly, pedal power- fun smoothies

Beadalicious – jewelry and beads

Purple Skirt Press – handmade books, albums, diaries

Roban Foods – Variety of foods

Eco-bags – duffels to totes

Mallow Muchies – Mmm good sweet treats

Eazie's Eye Studio – knit and crochet clothing

Baltimore International Academic Inc – Information about their school

Laura Oldham – handmade pottery

Home Grown Kids – daycare at MD State Boy Choir Performing Arts Center

Aid Through Trade – handmade and fair trade items.

# Calendar

Board Meetings — 3rd Thursday of the month, location to be announced

March 14 — New Resident Welcome Reception 4 — 6 pm. For more information write to mayfieldupdate@gmail.com

General Membership Meetings — 3rd Thursdays of May and October

May — Elections, every two years, next election for officers and board. Nominating Committee chair - George Frazier (George@passportrealty.net)

July 9 — Annual Block Party. Friday AFTER the 4th of July.

March 27 — Annual Easter Egg Hunt 11 am at the Maryland State Boychoir Center for the Arts. Rain date March 28 - 1 pm.

House and Garden Tour — Biannually in Spring Date in 2010 to be determined, and dependent on chairperson and volunteers.



## Mayfield Improvement Association New Officers & Board for 2008-2010

President — JoAnn Trach Tongson  
mayfieldboard@gmail.com

Vice President — Janelle Cousino

Treasurer — Paul Hertzberg

Secretary — Stephanie Buttner

### Board Members

Emily Chalmers

George Frazier

Gary Rahman

Tim Schneid

### Committees

NECOP coordinators  
— looking for coordinators

Housing/Zoning Chair — Gary Rahman

Nominating Committee — George Frazier

Community Planning for Security & Safety  
— looking for chairperson

Newsletter editor — Janelle Cousino

Newsletter graphic design — Marisa Schleiter

Communications committee  
(Website, McGruff, Updates etc)  
— Janelle Cousino (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 Martha Anderson

House & Garden Tour  
— looking for co-chairpersons

Play Lot parents committee  
— Martha Anderson

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 to let us know.

### 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/legisla-ture/zoning](http://www.ci.baltimore.md.us/government/legisla-ture/zoning)

### Northeastern District Police

410-396-2444

### Northeastern District Police

#### Community Relations

410-889-6449

(Non-emergency number)

## Crime Stats for Mayfield - From October '09 – January 2010

| Rec | CC #     | Crime              | Premise               | Date             |
|-----|----------|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1   | 09J13754 | LARCENY- FROM AUTO | STREET                | Thu, 29 Oct 2009 |
| 2   | 09K06099 | LARCENY- FROM AUTO | STREET                | Thu, 12 Nov 2009 |
| 3   | 09L00297 | AGG. ASSLT.- OTH.  | STREET                | Tue, 1 Dec 2009  |
| 4   | 09L10031 | LARCENY- FROM AUTO | STREET                | Thu, 24 Dec 2009 |
| 5   | 09L11545 | LARCENY- FROM AUTO | STREET                | Mon, 28 Dec 2009 |
| 6   | 10A01477 | LARCENY- OTHER     | SINGLE HOUSE          | Mon, 4 Jan 2010  |
| 7   | 10A02587 | BURG. OTH. (FORCE) | RELIGIOUS INSTITUTION | Wed, 6 Jan 2010  |

*Disclaimer: BPD cannot give any guarantees as to the accuracy, completeness, timeliness, or correct sequencing of this information, which cannot be used for comparisons over time or for commercial purposes. BPD is not responsible for any error, omission, or results obtained from this information.*