



# T H E MAYFIELD NEWSLETTER

A HAMLET IN THE HEART OF TOWN

2014 Issue 3

**MAYFIELD  
GENERAL  
MEETING**  
**OCT 16TH 7:15 PM**  
**ST. FRANCIS OF  
ASSISI CHURCH HALL**

Invited Guests:

DPW on Sewer work & Major Worley

**YARD SALE**  
Saturday, October 25  
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
To register send name, address  
& description of sale items to  
mayfieldupdate@gmail.com

**Halloween  
"Spooky Playground"  
Fun Party**

**Sunday, October 26  
3 – 5 p.m.**

Mayfield Playground  
3400 Norman Ave.



## *The President's Letter*

It is with a happy heart that I write my first President's Letter. I am new to the duties of President but I have a long history in Mayfield.

My great-grandfather, Benson Phelps, moved to 2224 Mayfield in 1923 when he purchased the home from Judge Dabler. My grandmother Dorothy was just 10 years old. At the time their home was only one of a handful in the neighborhood, but Mayfield would boom with housing growth over the next decade. I have some charming old photos of my grandmother's childhood home, complete with the large side lot that was their "farm." Here my great-grandfather grew rows of corn, vines of beans, and fields of melons.

As a teenager, my grandmother visited friends on Norman Avenue just as my children do now. It was here that she met my grandfather, Albert Cook, who lived in the corner home at Norman and Lake Avenue (2238 Lake).

My great aunt, Marjorie Phelps Disney, inherited the 2224 Mayfield home in 1972, which is why some refer to it as the "Disney" house, while others call it the "Dabler" or "Phelps" home. It was around the same time that my grandparents purchased 2316 Mayfield Avenue, and my parents moved into the upstairs apartment which became my first home when I was born in 1975.

In 2003 my husband and I purchased our first home, 2200 Kentucky Avenue. We eventually relocated back to my childhood home on Mayfield, which I inherited from my dearly departed-mother in 2012. My children are now 5th generation Mayfielders and 4th generation residents of our current home.

What's remarkable about this story is that it's not unique to my family in Mayfield. We have many neighbors among us with deep roots here and multi-generational stories to tell. We also have 2nd and 3rd time Mayfield homeowners among us. I think that it speaks volumes about our community that families relocate within the neighborhood and choose to call it home.

What made Mayfield special decades ago is what still makes Mayfield special today: knowing your neighbors. One of the best ways to meet your neighbors is to get out and about and get involved! I hope that you will consider volunteering or attending events sponsored by the vari-

*(continued on pg. 2)*

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

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# A NEST OF PRIVATEERS AND PIRATES

Scott Fuqua

In the years before the War of 1812, the British Navy dominated the world. It patrolled, policed, and pretty much controlled the seas from the Near East to the Far East, from the New World to the Southern Hemisphere. The Royal Navy was not only the greatest fleet on earth, it also possessed the most lethal European technology of the era, the Ship of the Line, a massive fighting ship that bristled with cannons. The Royal Navy was an indomitable force on the high seas, excluding one small problem: Baltimore, Maryland.

The British called Baltimore a Nest of Pirates for the swelling numbers of the Privateers that called Fells Point their home. These were brave men who sailed out in small, quick vessels to badger, disrupt, and damage Great Britain's tight grip the mercantile industry wherever they could deliver a blow.

In modern Baltimore City, the difference between pirates and privateers must seem remarkably narrow, just as it did to the British back in the early years of the 19th Century. The British saw these privateers—sanctioned by the United States government to do their work—as pirates and criminals. But these American Sailors had a legitimate foreign policy aim. They were hardly pirates. They sought to keep the Royal Navy, which deliberately incapacitated American trade as well as consistently boarded our merchant ships, off balance and uneasy. And they succeeded.

These days, it seems obvious that a large number of our Baltimore ancestors cut their teeth by marauding, pillaging cargo, and swiping personal goods. That history seems to explain the unsanctioned proliferation of home and automobile break-ins across the city, just as it explained why the British bore such great animosity toward Baltimore that they sought to sack it by land and by sea.

Clearly, though, there is a misunderstanding here. A privateer does as they are instructed by their government. They risk life and

limb to follow orders. Meanwhile, pirates plunder for riches and personal gain. Baltimore was no city of pirates.

Led by General Robert Ross, British troops came ashore north of the Baltimore, in the vicinity of North Point. They marched through the morning. However, following a breakfast at the Gorsuch Farm, General Ross quickly got himself dispatched by a bullet. Meanwhile at sea, Vice Admiral Alexander Cochrain began the bombardment of Fort McHenry but found that the water depths and tides prevented his largest vessels from getting a good line on his target. And so the great invasion slowly began to fall apart. Hours later, the British Army would break on the American defenses, and the Fort would remain relatively unscathed by Cochrain's firepower.

So the despised city stood, as did the country.

Days later, officers and men shipped General Ross's body home, preserved in a 129 gallon barrel of Jamaican rum. Shortly thereafter, the war would come to an official end as noted by the Treaty of Ghent. In turn, Great Britain would reduce its chokehold on the high seas, thanks, in part, to the Nest of Pirates that so infuriated them that Admirals and Generals alike sought to hammer the city into submission.

Through its long history, Baltimore City had hardly been the efete town that Washington—which fell so easily to General Ross—remains. Baltimore is a tough place, a Nest of Ancestral Privateers and—due to a few misunderstandings—Pirates that has retained that personality to this day, for better or worse or somewhere in between. So, watch your lawn mower and celebrate the survival and prosperity of our city and our nation.

*Scott Fuqua, a Mayfield resident and former Mayfield News editor, is the author of Calvert Raven & the Battle of Baltimore, a book for young readers. He also wrote a play about the Battle of Baltimore called, The Amazing Life of Mendes Cohen.*

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## *The President's Letter* (continued from pg. 1)

ous committees that the Mayfield Improvement Association supports, such as the Greening Committee, the Playground Committee, NECOP (Northeast Citizens on Patrol), the Block Party Committee, and the Friends of Mothers' Garden. Whether you have years of Mayfield experiences or are new neighbors with new ideas, perspectives and talents to contribute, we welcome your participation to be a part of what makes Mayfield an exceptional place to call home.

Yours Truly,

*Courtney Bartlett*

*President, Mayfield Improvement Association*

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## Sign up for the October 25 Mayfield Yard Sale

Send your name and address and a short description of what you will be selling (Example: vintage clothes and jewelry, kids' toys, housewares, yard tools, and/or decorative items). Send an email with October Yard Sale in the subject line to mayfieldupdate@gmail.com or send by mail or drop info by to Carol Freeman, 3601 Harford Road by October 17th to be included in the 'Yard Sale Directory' Anyone want to help with signs and flyers? Carol would greatly appreciate some volunteers.



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## Kids love it. Mayfield Playground 2014 new and improved!

Playground improvements and maintenance are always on Mayfield's to-do list. This year the Children's and Playground committee were able to acquire a beautiful, sturdy playset for a great discount. With the sweat equity of parents and neighbor volunteers it was put together in time for the 50th annual block party. Kelly James and Jason Calder found and negotiated the great deal on the equipment and spearheaded some of the install maintenance work needed to get it ready for use. There were many volunteers that repaired and replaced fencing, stained the wooden play set, fixed some of the playground attractions and of course laid a mountain of play-safe mulch. A huge

Mayfield thank you to the Repair Team: Jason Calder, Jason Lee, Shawn Dingle, Kevin Keegan, JoAnn Trach Tongson, Andrew Garcia, and a hardy cheer to the Stain Crew Tom & Dave Rybczynski, Gary Rahman, Paulette Schauder and Jason Calder. (Please forgive if we missed some-one). Spring Fling proceeds and donations helped us pay for all the



improvements to the playground. Thank you to the volunteers and the donors of Spring Fling as well. The kids love what you've done.

To add some fun in late August, the Children's Committee sponsored a Hops & Pops Summer Mixer for families with little ones. A great mix of children and their parents, grandparents, or foster parents and friends came to the playground for fun and for beer and popsicles and ice cream bars. Mariglynn Edlins, Playground chair was very happy with the community response. The Committee has also planned a great line up of holiday parties and activities for the rest of 2014. The Halloween Spooky Playground with costumes, games and projects will be Sunday, October 26 from 3 - 5 pm. Details coming. And of course, Santa is planning a return visit on a Saturday in December. We'll let you know via the list serve and/or the children's list when Santa lets us know his schedule. We guarantee fun events that the kids will love and make for great photos.

Want to give us suggestions and be the first to know about events at the playground? Get on the list! Complete this google doc and be one of the 'cool in-the-know adults with kids'. Here's where you go for Kids of Mayfield information form- [bit.ly/KidsofMayfield](http://bit.ly/KidsofMayfield)

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## Sewer Work is Coming....

Did you know that the Water Department treats 250 million gallons of sewage daily!?

Around the same time the Harford Road Replacement Bridge project starts, the city will begin upgrading the sewer laterals that connect to our homes. Work is scheduled to start in spring in 2015 and be done by winter 2016.

Most of the sewer laterals in the City were installed around 80 years ago. Over time, some cracked, developed separated joints, or experienced blockages from tree roots. This deterioration has led to lateral blockages, and in some instances, sewage backups into basements.

The laterals chosen have had a history of backups and/or blockages. These lines will be examined by inserting cameras through the exterior sewer cleanouts, where available, or through the public connections. Based on what the findings, corrections may include point repair, lining, replacement, root control, or routine cleaning of the public portion of the line. If private-side repairs are needed, Baltimore City will provide residences with a letter notifying them of the observed defect. Private property owners are responsible for

the condition of the laterals and the associated cleanout on their side of the property line.

Northeast will be done in three sections, and then conducted neighborhood by neighborhood. Letters will be mailed to the addresses to be examined approximately 30 days in advance, then followed by hang tags on doors to notify the customer after the investigation. A follow-up letter will be mailed to addresses outlining which corrective steps may be undertaken and when those will occur.

During the investigation phase, disruptions to the customers should be minimal. The customer may have to refrain from water use for a few hours while DPW contractors perform the work. Any excavation will be restored to its original condition.

Why are they doing this work? The city needs long term compliance with the Clean Water Act of 1977 and the consent decree with EPA and MD Dept of Environment. The result will be cleaner streams and waterways and a more reliable water/sewer infrastructure.

If you want to follow up, the project number that includes Mayfield is SC 908.

[www.cleanwaterbaltimore.org](http://www.cleanwaterbaltimore.org) Most Mayfield work will not require excavation for the repairs, but there are a few places that will require digging. Currently only two places will get this more involved work – near St. Francis of Assisi rectory and the northeast corner of Mayfield & Norman.

The city vetted a homeowner insurance coverage for repairs that would cover costs on the homeowner's side of the lateral connection. They selected HomeServe USA. DPW's Rudy Chow said in a recent press release – "We have no control over whether our customers decide to buy optional service contracts for their private water and sewer service lines, "But no company other than HomeServe USA is operating with The City's support."

For additional information about HomeServe USA and the water and sewer repair programs available, please go to [www.baltimore-servicerepairs.com](http://www.baltimore-servicerepairs.com) or call 1-855-807-6631.

The DPW has been invited to the Mayfield General Membership meeting to discuss and answer our questions. Plan on joining at the meeting October 16, 2014 at 7:15 at St. Francis of Assisi Church Hall.

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# Calendar

Check [www.mayfieldassociation.org](http://www.mayfieldassociation.org) and [mayfieldupdate@gmail.com](mailto:mayfieldupdate@gmail.com) for updated calendar between scheduled newsletter distributions and other events worth noting.

**Board Meetings** – 3rd Thursday of the month

October 16 – **General Membership Meeting**, St. Francis of Assisi Church Hall 7:15 pm

October 25 – **Fall Yard Sale**, 9 am - 1 pm

October 26 – **Halloween Spooky Playground Party**, 3 pm - 5 pm

December Saturday TBD – **Santa Visits Mayfield Playground**

December 17 – **Mayfield Holidays** – Caroling with Maryland State Boy Choir, evening



## Mayfield Improvement Association

### Officers

President – Courtney Bartlett  
[mayfieldboard@gmail.com](mailto:mayfieldboard@gmail.com)

Vice President – Laura Green Lee

Secretary – Mary Rybczynski

Treasurer – Julia McDonald

### Board Members

Stephanie Buttner

Janelle Cousino

Mariglynn Edlins

Sherry Insley

Deborah Mason

Gary Rahman

JoAnn Trach Tongson

Raina T. Wilson

### Committee & Project Leaders

Childrens & Playground Committee –  
Mariglynn Edlins

Welcome Baskets – Angie Battaglia

Traffic, Greening – JoAnn Trach Tongson

Fall Fest – Gary Rahman

Communications – Janelle Cousino

Newsletter – Janelle Cousino- editor;  
Marisa Schleter – graphics/layout designer

Webmaster – Brian Baughn

All committees are open to more volunteers. Send an email of interest to [mayfieldupdate@gmail.com](mailto:mayfieldupdate@gmail.com) to let board know you are interested in helping.

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](mailto:mayfieldupdate@gmail.com) to let us know. There are many ways to volunteer for Mayfield.

Have a question or want to be on the mayfield listserves? Send an email to [Mayfieldupdate@gmail.com](mailto:Mayfieldupdate@gmail.com)

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### Link to Mayfield Policy for Zoning Variance Requests

<http://mayfieldassociation.org/news/zoning-news/>

### 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)

# Q&A

**Q.**What happened to Fall Fest this year? It is such a fun family day.

**A.**The Star Spangled Banner 200 Festival was scheduled for the same date that Fall Fest would have been. Given the special nature of that spectacular regional celebration the Fall Fest organizers decided to concentrate on next year's Fall Fest. Gary Rahman is recruiting committee members now for the 2015 Fall Fest.

**Q.**I paid my dues, but I wasn't at the Block Party to pick up my new Directory. How can I get my new Directory?

**A.**Volunteers are delivering the directory to those that paid their dues. If you paid your dues and you didn't receive one, contact [mayfieldupdate@gmail.com](mailto:mayfieldupdate@gmail.com). We will get one to you, or you can pick your's up at the October general meeting or any Mayfield event. If you would like a directory and haven't paid dues, either drop off or mail dues payment to MIA treasurer, 2201 Mayfield Avenue, 21213. **Be sure to include name and address with your dues payment.**

**Q.**I can't find my copy of Mayfield News that had the story about Clifton Mansion. How can I get another copy?

**A.**You can get a pdf version from the Mayfield website. Brian Baughn, our Mayfield webmaster, has made some wonderful improvements to our Mayfield website. You can find most past issues of the newsletter back to 2008 on the website and much, much more at [www.mayfieldassociation.org](http://www.mayfieldassociation.org). And for anyone you know that may be interested in moving to Mayfield,

the brochure that Nina Tou designed is there for download in two sizes. Please feel free to share the links. We also have beautiful print versions as well.

**Q.**Will Mayfield ever again have another house and garden tour? They were very popular and we have so much to show off.

**A.**Events like the House & Garden Tour can happen again. Volunteers are the key to any project. We would need about 10 homes and some with nice gardens to agree to open their homes to be toured. There are some people that would be happy to show off their homes and garden. If someone would be interested in spearheading the House & Garden Tour, let your interest be known to the Officers of the Mayfield Association. You're right! Mayfield looks beautiful in many seasons of the year and our homes have unique architectural features and character. And we have some master gardeners that create beautiful outdoor spaces. House & Garden Tour, anyone?