

T H E MAYFIELD NEWSLETTER

A HAMLET IN THE HEART OF TOWN

2015 Issue 1

Sewer Improvements Coming to Mayfield Soon

Baltimore Department of Public Works is hosting a special public information meeting to discuss upcoming sewer improvements coming to our area. This is a meeting for Mayfield, Belair Edison and Herring Run Park.

When: Tuesday, February 24, 6 p.m.

Where: St Francis of Assisi Parish Hall
3615 Harford Rd, enter off parking lot

The DPW and the prime contractor for the work will address any questions you have about the project. Mayfield recently had a new manhole installed at 2400 block of Mayfield Avenue. More work is coming soon.

Call Tiffany Walker, DPW Community Liaison, Communications and Community Affairs Division at 410-396-8966, if you have questions about the meeting. If ADA services are needed, please contact Dwight Daughton at 410-396-1161 at least 7 days in advance.

The President's Letter

Warm greetings to Mayfield! As I write this letter during the chilly days between the dead of winter and the hope of Spring, I'm reminded that Mayfield's community spirit still shines even as we spend more time indoors. The recent holiday season was warmed by bright lights, wreaths, and the cheery sound of parties and gatherings throughout the neighborhood.

Although the winter often seems like a dormant season for community togetherness, there are still many opportunities for us to connect. Did you know that there are Mayfield book clubs and game nights? A scrapbooking club? A community chorus? Greening groups that organize and plan in the winter months? And let's not forget the small committees actively planning upcoming Mayfield events.

Speaking of gatherings, every January the Mayfield Improvement Associations plans the community annual calendar. In looking forward to the May General Meeting I'd like to know what topics you would like to discuss. How can the meeting be more valuable and worth your while to attend? Your ideas are welcomed. Please e-mail me your interests and suggestions for connecting and collaborating to make Mayfield the best it can be (bartlett.courtney@gmail.com)!

Time spent getting to know your neighbors enriches us personally and wholly as a community. To quote Charles Dickens, "Electric communication will never be a substitute for the face of someone who with his soul encourages another person to be brave and true.

Stay Warm,

Courtney Bartlett

President, Mayfield Improvement Association

www.mayfieldassociation.org

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MAYFIELD GENERAL MEETING

MAY 21ST 7:15 PM • LOCATION TBD

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Q&A

Q. What is going on in the park? Has pedestrian bridge construction started?

A. Herring Run Greenway Trail gets expanded and the pedestrian bridge is just one feature. Read more.....

The current construction in the Park is for the Herring Run Greenway Trail. It will add to a partially established stream valley greenway in Herring Run Parks. Connections are needed between Mr. Pleasant Park and Herring Run Park, and between Herring Run Park and Morgan State University as well as the Chinguapin Run stream valley and Clifton Park. This greenway would connect to a proposed greenway corridor along Herring Run in Baltimore County.

Laura Gillis, President of Friends of Herring Run Parks and Mayfield resident, told Mayfield News that “the Herring Run Greenway Trail will include an 8 to 10 foot wide hiker/biker trail throughout Herring Run Park and will be developed in several phases. Phase I will link Morgan State University, Lake Montebello, Hall Spring and Sinclair Lane and will begin in Spring 2015. The Greenway project will include improvements to the existing park path, new pathway sections and new pedestrian bridges.

The reconstruction of the Harford Road Bridge is to begin early 2016. The bridge will be closed for approximately two years, and portions of Hall Spring will be used as a staging area for construction. A new park pedestrian bridge, just east of the current pedestrian bridge, will be installed before the Harford Road Bridge project begins. The pedestrian bridge will provide a new Greenway connection near Hall Spring and maintain pedestrian access during the bridge construction. The current pedestrian bridge will be demolished during renovation of the Harford Road Bridge.

To memorialize Harford Road Bridge, the Friends of Herring Run Park is hosting “Plein Air Painting in the Park” on May 3. Area painters and other artists will be invited to an all day painting session to capture the iconic bridge before it is demolished in the coming year. Find more informa-

tion next month on the Friends of Herring Run Park website.

The trail will add to the recreational and commuting opportunities for citizens of Baltimore City and the region. The \$4.1 million Herring Run Greenway Trail will not only connect Morgan State University and nine neighborhoods, it will also connect to the existing Gwynns Falls Trail. This will form a bike-pedestrian network extending throughout Baltimore City. It will also connect to neighboring counties’ trails and the East Coast Greenway.

Background: Herring Run Park is an urban oasis in Northeast Baltimore—375 acres of woodlands that extends 2.3 miles from Morgan State University to I-895. Originally conceived by the Olmsted Brothers in 1904, Herring Run Park was recommended as a stream valley park extension of Montebello Park (today the Lake Montebello recreation area). The land, while not suitable for other development, was seen as a destination for travelers seeking beautiful scenery and hikers seeking rugged terrain closer to the city. The park is defined by the Herring Run, a lovely stream which meanders through it.

A trail currently extends from the Halls Spring Area (Harford Rd. & Argonne Dr.) to Sinclair Lane, providing opportunities to walk or bike along the stream bed, but it is rough and not very wide. A paved full loop extends from Harford to Belair Road and the trail runs along the South side of the stream from Belair Road to Sinclair Lane. The Herring Run Park Master Plan includes renovation and expansion of the trail including an underpass that will directly connect the Lake Montebello recreation area to Herring Run Park. Multiple side hiking trails are available in the section of the park between Harford and Belair Roads.

The Halls Spring area is the most visited section of the park providing the opportunity for picnicking, enjoying a playground, a basketball half-court and views of the stream from a pedestrian bridge over Herring Run. Father Hooper field (located off Chesterfield Avenue near Harford Road) is the site of numerous ball fields and is often a busy place filled with soccer players and lively games. In the lower park, playgrounds are located at Brehms Lane and Chesterfield Avenue, and at Parkside Drive near Robertson. A little known section of the park extends behind the Armistead Gardens neighborhood. This wild and largely unmanaged section of the park has an indulging landscape that reflects its former life as a city landfill.

Herring Run Park is a forested treasure in the middle of Baltimore City. Great blue heron and white egret often can be seen fishing in Herring Run. Fox are seen with some frequency and there is a growing population of deer. Herring Run Park provides a marvelous opportunity for city children and adults to experience the natural world.

B'more Bikes gave this review of the existing trail and some efforts to expand the trail north and south. “As you go along the trail you’ll enjoy beautiful open fields, majestic trees, flowing water and bird sounds and depending on what season it is, wonderful colors of nature. The trail borders residential areas and winds in and out of wooded areas providing a nice contrast of urban and forest scenery.”

Activists had a vision, took a hike with documentation

On a bitterly cold January evening in Lauraville, a group of trail enthusiasts got together to discuss how to make the Herring Run Trail much more than what it currently is. Trading ideas while huddled over maps, everyone involved brought a special skill to the meeting: a cartographer, a right-of-way specialist, a trail loving parks employee, a bike blazer, a trail development specialist, a bike shop owner, a bicycle planner, a university community liaison, bike advocates and avid hikers. Everyone also had personal knowledge of the Herring Run stream valley – what’s there and more importantly, what could be there. Before the evening was over, the next steps to creating a world class urban trail system along the Herring Run were set.

Hike: On a similarly bitterly cold January morning, the first group of adventurers met at the corner of Herring Run Drive and Echodale Avenue. The morning’s plan was to hike or bushwack downstream to East Cold Spring Lane and determine where a trail could be developed. Heading south along the west bank, we passed through a ball field, then entered the woods where the deer and local kids blazed a thin trail which crosses a joining stream with an equally thin boardwalk. Running up against steep bank, we crossed to the east side and found a myriad of trails extending downstream to the Chinguapin Run confluence.

Documentation: The B'more Bikes activists decided they had to document their findings. Their website included this account: “The advent of GPS has made mapping hikes a breeze! Simply turn on Google’s “My Tracks” and walk. With a
continued

Herring Run Greenway Trail, continued

little cartographic magic, next thing you know, you can see your map in Google Earth. Add a few waypoints and some field notes and you're almost ready to present it to Baltimore City Recreation and Parks. Field notes can include anything that would help or hinder the creation of a sustainable trail system; whether it be noted trail re-routes, brush removal and most importantly, trash removal."

Unfortunately, B'more Bikes found the same ugly practice that we in Mayfield have found in the Herring Run Park wooded area along Chesterfield near Crossland. The hikers documented blight and dumping. They explained, "Being an urban park, many local residents believe the park to be their personal dumping ground. This needs to be remedied in many areas." Mayfield volunteers couldn't agree more. What people leave in the park instead of take to the dump is atrocious!

If you want to see great photos along the stream, B'more Bikes have a very good powerpoint of their presentation to the Baltimore City Recreation and Parks about the expansion of the trail. <http://www.bmorebikes.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Herring-Run-Pres-Final-2014-03-22-0932.pdf>

Web Sources: Friends of Herring Run Parks; Baltimore City Recreation and Parks and B'moreBikes.

Top Honors for Holiday Decorations Best of Mayfield 2014

Congratulations to the residents honored with the "Best of Mayfield" holiday decoration recognition. The judges had a very difficult time with so many beautiful homes to choose from. Donations to the residents' selected charity is the acknowledgement for being honored as a judges selection. Several homes given top honors last year were as lovely as ever added some wonderful holiday spirit to the community. Thank you to all.



Best Front Door or Porch

- #1 2318 Mayfield Ave
- #2 3301 Norman Ave
- #3 2208 Pelham Ave

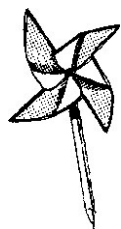
Best Whole House and Yard

- #1 2225 Kentucky Ave
- #2 2235 Lake Ave
- #3 2316 Mayfield Ave



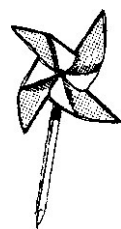
Special recognition to the home at 2404 Lake Avenue, which consistently decorates with great care and has been the top pick of the judges several times in the past few years. And some special features caught the eye of the judges, especially the front yard fence of 2201 Kentucky Ave, meticulously decorated and very festive. Bravo!

You can see the homes decorated on www.Facebook.com/mayfield.update/ look for albums – Mayfield Decorated for the Holidays 2014 and the first 5 photos in the Mobile Uploads album.

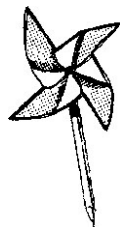


Windmill Whimsey Part of a Gateway Garden

Some residents of Mayfield wondered what we knew about the windmills installed at the corner of 32nd Street and Harford Road. Mayfield News decided to find out. Here's what we learned



Baltimore City at the urging of the Coldstream-Homestead-Montebello community, Civic Works, the Montebello Elementary and Middle School and city planners worked together to convert an empty lot into a small park. Chesapeake Bay Trust describes the grant they made to support of the small park as: *The Gateway Garden will be an ornamental, interactive ecological community green space. Main project objectives include stormwater filtration and runoff management, drinking water filtration, the creation of a welcoming entranceway to the area, a children's walk-through to school, a wildlife habitat, an educational demonstration garden and a showcase for public art. Contributing partner includes: Brent Figlestahler; Civic Works, \$15,800.*



Brent Figlestahler from Morgan State is the landscape designer and Civic Works is grantee for the work. The public art was funded by PNC Public Art Grants program.



The anemometers or windmill sculptures were created by Jessie Unterhalter and Katey Truhn. They are a Baltimore based artist team striving to transform public spaces into colorful and vibrant experi-

ences. They have been collaborating on large-scale murals, installations, sculpture and fibers work since 2001. They have participated in several street art showcases, including Baltimore's Open Walls, Atlanta's Living Walls Conference, Rochester's Wall Therapy, Richmond's RVA Street Art Festival, and most recently, POW! WOW! Hawaii. Upon invitation, they took part in The Sheboygan Project, a community arts residency at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center in Sheboygan, WI. Their work has been exhibited as part of Art Basel Miami's Wynwood Walls Show, Women on the Walls as well as at The American Alliance of Museums Conference in Baltimore, MD. Their dynamic paintings often incorporate recycled materials and break traditional mural format, spilling onto the ground. With consideration for the structural surfaces of the environment, each piece is specifically designed for its location.

The city of Baltimore has profoundly influenced their work and desire to bring art to the public sphere since they first attended MICA in 2001. The interactive and socially engaging nature of creating art in a public space is a central aspect of their art making. The connections they make with people through these collaborations are invaluable. Since receiving the PNC Transformative Art Grant in 2012 and 2014, they have continued to work with different Baltimore communities.

Calendar

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

March 28 – Easter Egg Hunt

May 3 – Plein Air in Herring Run Park

May 21 – Mayfield General Membership Meeting

July 10 – Mayfield Summer Block Party

Sept TBD – Mayfield Fall Fest

Oct 15 – Mayfield General Membership Meeting

Oct TBD – Halloween Children's Party

Dec – Santa Event

Dec – Caroling Event



AL SPOLER

Mayfield's Well-known Wine Expert

Al Spoler has become well known in the Baltimore area as the co-host of "Cellar Notes", a weekly wine and beer review and "Radio Kitchen", a weekly food and cooking show. Both are produced by WYPR-FM, Baltimore's premier public radio station. These two shows give him the scope to explore two of his life's passions, fine wine and great cooking.

His co-host on "Cellar Notes" is Hugh Sisson, a former restaurateur, who currently is the managing partner of Clipper City Brewery. Their 25 year-plus partnership has made them two of the area's most recognizable authorities on fine wine and great beer. "Cellar Notes" has received several "Baltimore's Best" awards in honor of its popularity.

Since their debut in 2002, Al has shared hosting responsibilities for "Radio Kitchen" with Jerry Pellegrino, chef-owner of Corks Restaurant in Baltimore. A talented home cook, Al was inspired by the

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

Sherry Insley

Deborah Mason

Gary Rahman

JoAnn Trach Tongson

Raina T. Wilson

Committee & Project Leaders

Childrens & Playground Committee –
Mariglynn Edlins

Welcome Baskets – Stephanie Buttner

Traffic, Greening – JoAnn Trach Tongson

Fall Fest – Gary Rahman

Communications – Janelle Cousino

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

Webmaster – Brian Baughn

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.

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.

Have a question or want to be on the mayfield listserves? Send an email to Mayfieldupdate@gmail.com

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

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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

Northeastern District Police Community Relations

410-889-6449 (Non-emergency number)

celebrated French-American chef Pierre Franey. He had the privilege of working as assistant director and editor on Franey's "Cuisine Rapide" and "Cooking in America", which amounted to months-long master classes. Over the years he also worked on several other food related series for Maryland Public Television, including "Country Inn Cooking with Gail Greco". In 1997 he won the Capital region Emmy Award as Best Television Director.

Al Spoler grew up in Timonium, Maryland in a household that saw nothing of wine...or any other alcohol for that matter. His college and graduate school years didn't carry him much beyond Mateus rose and Almaden Hearty Red Burgundy. But by the late 70's an interest in learning how to cook led him to a more serious approach to wine. He began an informal study of the subject, tasting, reading and talking to local winemakers. Methodical by nature, he also began keeping notes on the wines he encountered, a habit he continues to this day.

As his knowledge grew, so did his enthusiasm. In 1981 he approached a young restaurant owner with similar interests and proposed a series of wine tast-

ings for the public. In the spring of that year he and Hugh Sisson organized their first event, a tasting of Alsatian wines, which launched their partnership.

The two built a following, and at the suggestion of a friend, they created a broadcast vehicle for their work. They pitched the idea to a Baltimore public radio station, lined up funding, and in December of 1992 Spoler and Sisson debuted with "Cellar Notes". Listeners quickly began to appreciate their relaxed attitude about wine and their dedication to finding the best values.

In 2000 the Association of Maryland Wineries asked Spoler to take over the Governor's Cup wine competition, which he continues to organize. Over the years he has been in great demand as a host for wine tastings and as a judge for regional and national wine competitions. He has written about wine for Baltimore's "Style" magazine and has advised local restaurants on their wine lists. He travels frequently in wine regions both in the US and Europe, and collects wines from around the world. His favorites include Zinfandel, Pinot Noir, Riesling and "strange wines from strange places".