

T H E MAYFIELD NEWSLETTER

A Hamlet in the Heart of Town

2018 | Issue One

MAYFIELD GENERAL MEETING

**THURSDAY
MAY 17
7:15 PM**

SFA CHURCH HALL

**REFRESHMENTS BEFORE
AND AFTER THE MEETING**

**District 43
Senate candidates
(confirmed);**

Councilman Dorsey

**Clifton Park &
Lake Clifton**

**Traffic Calming Report
and other community
business**

**Mayfield Election of
Board and Officers**

Harford Road Bridge



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Neighbors,

Mayfield has been experiencing more crime than usual—including car jackings with the threat of violence. While our crime rates are much lower than those of other neighborhoods in NE Baltimore, it's very difficult to remember how lucky we are to live in a relatively crime-free area when staring down the barrel of a gun. Crime is everywhere, and even though Mayfield seems to be an idyllic enclave from the raw realities of urban life, it really isn't. It would be unrealistic and even dangerous to think otherwise.

This realization gives us choices about how we respond to crime. We could, of course, always leave. The suburbs are full of communities that offer security, and that could very well be the right choice for some. But personally, I would miss the energy and variety of living in a city. I am not a country mouse—I am a city rat. Another choice is to hunker down and adopt a fortress mentality. Become more suspicious of outsiders, and perhaps increase the dues from \$20 to \$525 in order to hire a patrol service. However, Trulia's most recent crime statistics reveal that the Guilford neighborhood has more burglaries and assaults than we do. Perhaps, like famous bank robber Willie Sutton, criminals rob in Guilford despite its security measures because "that's where the money is." And what I love most about Mayfield is its openness and friendliness.

So what choice does that leave us?

Well, there are real, practical steps that we can take to prevent crime. The Mayfield Update has been providing excellent tips on crime prevention, including the following: turn on exterior lights, don't leave valuables in your car, and join NECOP. But here's another suggestion: get involved with the Mayfield Improvement Association.

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www.mayfieldassociation.org



(continued from page 1)

A pair of 2010 studies from Louisiana State University demonstrate a strong correlation between civically active communities and low crime rates. There are probably many reasons for this, but I think one reason is that a loved community doesn't provide many opportunities for crime to occur. Clean alley ways, well-trimmed shrubbery, an actively used playground, and neighbors chatting to others while walking the dog are all discourage crime in different ways. But there is something deeper, I think, coming from community involvement that discourages crime.

"Collective efficacy" is the term sociologists use to describe the strong, communal feeling that results when neighbors know, trust, and respect each other. It creates an atmosphere where people are willing to uphold informal norms of behavior, which in turn results in lower crime. This feeling doesn't just happen, though—it takes effort to create and maintain a true neighborhood, and taking part in neighborhood activities is a huge part of that effort. Caring for the community creates concern for the neighbors who share it with us, which in turn makes us more likely to look out for each other. But these

activities don't happen by chance, either. We need volunteers to make them happen, and we need new ideas for new activities. This is especially important this year, when we are electing a new Board at the May general meeting. There lots of Mayfield goings-on going on, from planting bulbs to joining the Board, and I encourage you to contact Mayfield Update if you're interested in volunteering for any of them.

Best wishes,

Deborah Mason
President



Know More about Tax Sales



Everything you need to know to avoid a tax sale and dates of future Tax Sale Prevention workshops are ready for you as well as the tax sale and advocates guides.

Here's are some examples of important info for seniors and for new homebuyers. The Pro Bono Resource Center produced a handy chart for neighbors and advocates to use. The closest to us workshop for how to **Prevent a Tax Sale Workshop** will be held:

Monday, April 9th, 10:00am – 2:00pm
Clifton Mansion, 2701 St. Lo Drive

Homeowners Tax Credit

Homeowners who are income eligible based on a sliding scale can get a

credit towards their property taxes. To get this credit you need to fill out an application every year by September 1. (New homeowners can apply at any time of the year). (Those 70 & older can apply retroactively). Filling out this application may also make you eligible for an additional Baltimore City credit. This is their website info sheet on this item <http://dat.maryland.gov/realproperty/Pages/Homeowners%27-Property-Tax-Credit-Program.aspx>

The Senior Citizen's Water Discount program provides a 43% discount on water and sewer usage charges for seniors 65 and over. Applicants must own the home or have a lease in their name and have a household income

of \$30,600 or less. Account holders must apply every year. Visit: http://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/sites/default/files/Senior%20Discount%20Application%202017_WebsitePosting.pdf

Other topics also covered too at the Pro Bono Resource Center website, such as:

- Low income credits
- Veterans,
- Medical rehabilitation costs,
- Homestead credits,
- Storm water and Bay Restoration Fee Exemptions
- and more.



Hazard Ahead

Re: Notice of Dangerous Condition, Junction of Norman Avenue and Erdman Avenue

To: Mr. Chow, Mr. Moore, and Ms. Pourciau (Heads of DPW, DOT and BCRP;)

I am asking your assistance to remove a dangerous condition found at the junction of Norman Avenue and Erdman Avenue, two public roads under the jurisdiction of the Department of Transportation. This junction is located at the bottom of two hills on Erdman Avenue. Water originating from the Clifton Park Golf Course, which is managed by an entity under contract with the Department of Recreation and Parks, collects at the south side of the junction of these two roads, presenting a traffic hazard. While it is possible that the water is coming from a spring, there is some indication that the water is leaking from a water vault that is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Works. I have attached a photograph of the affected area.

This hazard is compounded by the excessive speed on Erdman Avenue, as documented by a recent traffic study conducted by the Department of Transportation, and the fact that students use Erdman Avenue as a pedestrian route to Montebello Elementary-Middle School, Mergenthaler Vocational High School, Baltimore City College, and St. Francis of Assisi School. Additionally, freezing conditions create black ice, heightening the danger even further. Furthermore, the anticipated increase in traffic arising from the Harford Road Bridge Project will most likely result in an increased risk of an accident.

Neighbors living near the water hazard have witnessed many accidents of varying degrees of seriousness; it is only by good fortune that there have been no fatalities to date. I cannot stress strongly enough the urgency of this situation. Just this morning, a car spun on the ice, ended up on a neighbor's yard, and just barely missed hitting three children walking to school. A tragedy was only narrowly averted; the only question that remains is "how long will our luck hold out?"

This is not a new issue, as evidenced by the extensive outcropping of cattails and other wetland plants in the affected area. I have personally witnessed the extensive growth of the area over the past five years. Furthermore, it has been brought to the attention of all relevant agencies several times in the past. Currently, Councilman Ryan Dorsey is actively pursuing a solution to the problem. To date, however, no single agency has taken responsibility for the situation, and, as a result, an extremely dangerous condition has been allowed to continue to exist.

I believe that inter-departmental cooperation is essential to solving this problem, and that such efforts should take place without delay in order to prevent loss of life, limb, or property. I am therefore requesting that you each assign a member of your respective departments to cooperate on achieving a resolution to this situation. I am also happy to provide your designees with information and context.

Obviously, speed is of the essence in this matter. It would be tragic if someone were to lose a life or be seriously injured because nothing was done to address this issue. I greatly appreciate your assistance in this matter, and I hope to hear soon from you.

Sincerely,
Deborah M. Mason
President

Cc: Councilman Ryan Dorsey
The Honorable Andre Davis, City Solicitor

IN AND AROUND MAYFIELD

*Thank You
Gary Eddington!*

As a graphic design and sign maker, Gary has already produced some excellent Mayfield Yard Sale signs for us. He is in the process of making us signs announcing General Membership Meetings, Summer Block Party and Greening Events. Our signs will be professional and readable from the locations – 2 on Norman, 2 on Crossland and 1 at Lake and Lake Montebello Drive. We are very grateful for Gary's talent and support of Mayfield with his time and skill.

Harford Road Bridge

The Harford Road bridge replacement project is moving forward. The BGE gas line relocation is complete, and Hall Spring may reopen for use in the coming weeks, though the reopening may be brief, as the beginning of construction is nearing. On February 28, six bids were formally received by the Board of Estimates. They were highly competitive and the contract is expected to be awarded within the next month. It has been many years coming, but construction is now imminent. Keep up with my updates at <https://www.facebook.com/HarfordRoadBridge>.

~ **From Councilman Ryan Dorsey**



Friends of Clifton Park

The neighborhoods surrounding Clifton Park are renewing their leadership for a revised Master Plan for Clifton Park, now that Lake Clifton High School is slated to close in 2019, most probably. It is a huge complex with substantial assets, but a park that is welcoming, scaled for families and regular use beyond golf is the vision. We learned from John Ciekot of Civic Works that the tennis courts are being refurbished. There is interest in restoring the Valve House and the need for traffic management to give it a park feel, rather than a short cut

Lake Clifton High School

As mentioned earlier, Lake Clifton High School will be repurposed, but for what purpose. An exploratory committee is working to make it relevant to the neighborhoods nearby. Mayfield certainly has an interest in it. There will be a series of meetings and a public input session over the next few months. If you are interested in being a part of the Lake Clifton pre-meetings, let us know.

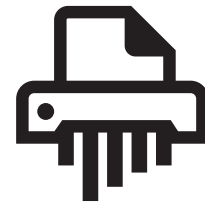
Background for Clifton Park – Lake Clifton HS is named because it was built on a site that was a reservoir at one time of the 1870 water transportation system – smaller than Lake Montebello, but part of the same system. It was also a popular swimming lake with a Ferris wheel and more. The Clifton Mansion and grounds were the estate of Henry Thompson then Johns Hopkins. His will indicated that the site was entrusted the Johns Hopkins University Trustees to build a campus. The Trustees wanted the University on Charles Street and gave the mansion and the grounds to the city for a park.

Dues & Directory

Dues are a bargain! \$20 a year per household. It gives us some working capital for the various family oriented events and beautification projects and communication expenses we incur, such as printing the newsletter, mulch for trees, supplies for children's activities, expenses to keep the playground repaired and safe, to name a few.

Mayfield's Directory of neighbors by address with name and phone numbers is a bi-annual project. This is the year of the NEW 2018-2020 Directory. If you want to change your phone number, if you are new to Mayfield in the last two years and haven't been in the directory or if you dropped your landline or want to add a business or cell as an alternative phone number, please use the attached sheet to give us the new information. We only share the directory with Mayfield residents.

It is the only publication that we offer advertising space. If you want to advertise to the neighbors or know of someone would like to market their services or products to Mayfield residents, please ask *Mayfieldupdate@gmail.com* to send you the very affordable prices on our rates sheet. Deadline for information to be included for your household and for camera-ready ads to be in the Directory is June 1st.



SHRED IT DAY!
Coming on Friday, April. 20



Jan Shipley was very happy that the staff of the SPCA selected her for the honor of Volunteer of the month. She volunteers at the shelter on average 15 hrs/week and on a few days a week she works with the kittens that they bring to the Rotunda.

Congratulations, Jan!

WANT TO HELP MAYFIELD?

Volunteers are needed for Greening, Summer Block Party, Children's Activities. Specifically we need these volunteers

- Helpers for the 2018 Easter Egg Hunt, currently scheduled for 3/24.
- A newsletter distributor is needed for 2200 Block of Pelham. (There are 3 – 4 printed newsletter a year to distribute to neighbors).
- Volunteers to serve on committees & projects



Mayfield & Mayor's Clean Up Day at Lake Montebello Median
Mayor's clean Up Day is the April 28th last Saturday of the month. Mayfield will tackle the Lake Median and weed/plant/mulch, TLC and clean up. The Median is like a green bracelet on our neighborhood's western edge with iris, sedum, pollinator plants, native species that are hardy and drought resistant, some roses, interesting grasses and 'volunteer weeds'. Join us. From 9 – 12 noon.

Report of the Mayfield Traffic Calming Committee

Goals, Objectives, Strategies, and Tactics

The Traffic Calming Committee developed this outline of goals, objectives and strategies. The full report is on the website mayfieldassociation.org under NEWS. Their recommendations will be considered at the May 17 Mayfield General Membership Meeting

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Mayfield Traffic Calming Committee is to develop a comprehensive, neighborhood-wide plan to promote traffic safety in and around Mayfield.

GOALS

The Committee believes that the following goals are essential to meeting this purpose:

- The plan should address the safety concerns of the residents of Mayfield and those who walk, cycle, and drive through Mayfield.
- The plan should promote solutions that will enhance the quality of life in Mayfield and its neighbors;
- The solutions in the plan should also enhance the natural environment in and around Mayfield;
- The solutions should ensure that Mayfield remains a welcoming neighborhood

OBJECTIVES

In order to achieve these goals, the solutions proposed by the committee should meet the following objectives:

- **Safety**
 - Support public safety priorities
 - Increase pedestrian safety
 - Increase cyclist safety
 - Increase driver safety
- **Quality of Life**
 - Consistent with aesthetic and historic nature of Mayfield

- Discourage use of Mayfield as cut-through
- Strengthen community ties, both within and beyond Mayfield
- Improve environment for neighborhood-based retail
- Attract future Mayfield residents by providing a safe and welcoming environment

- **Environment**

- Encourage green solutions to traffic issues
- Link solutions to noise and trash reduction when possible
- Ensure that solutions are consistent with the City's environmental policies and priorities

- **Access**

- Support open access to recreation areas
- Be compatible with the safety concerns of surrounding areas and neighborhoods

Strategies

The following strategies should be adopted in order to achieve the objectives:

- Enhance supports already in place, such as pedestrian crosswalks and speed limits
- Focus on slowing down speed on the perimeter and in the interior of Mayfield
- Garner governmental support by linking solutions to city and state policies
- Work in partnership with the police to improve enforcement
- Work with neighboring community associations when appropriate



Prevention and Recovery Center at HARBEL

— Patricia Stabile • Program Director

The HARBEL Prevention and Recovery Center is a state certified outpatient substance abuse treatment program, which has been providing services for over forty years. Our services are accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Health Care, a national accrediting organization that is sanctioned by the state of Maryland to accredit outpatient behavioral health providers. It is our mission to reduce or eliminate the harm that can be caused by substance abuse through the provision of high quality and effective services. HARBEL provides individual and group counseling related to substance abuse issues for adults and adolescents. Our adult program includes specialized tracks for DUI/DWI offenders, women with trauma, men with domestic violence offenses, persons with criminal justice involvement, and relapse prevention. Our adult clinic offers both standard outpatient services and intensive outpatient services. Our intensive outpatient substance abuse program meets four mornings per week. Our standard outpatient services typically include two counseling services per week, and can be flexible to the client's schedule as we have day, evening, or weekend appointments. Our adolescent clinic provides outpatient adolescent services to youth between the ages of 12-and 17. **Please contact us at 410-444-2100 for more information or to schedule an appointment.**



DID YOU KNOW?

Mayfield is a beautiful neighborhood, with good access to the airport and downtown, and you might be thinking about opening a bed and breakfast in your home to take advantage of these amenities. However, under the new zoning code, in order to run a B & B in a residential area, you need to obtain BMZA permission for a conditional use. Additionally, you will need to comply with the Mayfield Improvement Association's guidelines for community review (found at <http://mayfieldassociation.org/news/zoningnews/>). Another point to keep in mind: the City Council is currently considering a bill that would create new taxing and licensing requirements for an owner of a b&b, including Airbnb. You might want to look at it before making any decisions. (<https://baltimore.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=3336818&GUID=92CBA024-C598-4832-ACCC-DD05E9E55DFF&Options=ID|Text|&Search=hotel>)



Homeowner at 2409 Lake is interested in a zoning variance for R-1 residence.

A variance is a zoning amendment for a single home or business. It must go to the Board of Municipal Zoning Appeal for approval. Mayfield's zoning variance process provides for nearby neighbors directly and general community input.

As the first step in adhering to the zoning appeal process homeowner submitted to Mayfield the request for a variance for her home at 2409 Lake Ave. Read the full proposal at this link at the Mayfield Association's website. <http://mayfieldassociation.org/zoning-variance-request-for-2409-lake-ave/>

Understand the process Mayfield adopted years ago for reviewing requests for a Variance at this link: <http://mayfieldassociation.org/news/zoningnews/>

Comment period: Your comments on this variance request will be reviewed by the Mayfield Board of Directors at the end of the official comment period, 30 days.

CALENDAR

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

**March 24, Saturday, 10 a.m.
Easter Egg Hunt**

Playground at 3400 Norman

April 6 – 8 – NEIGHBORHOOD LIGHT CITY. LET’S LIGHT UP MAYFIELD

April 14, Saturday, New Resident Reception & Mayfield Volunteer Thank You Party

**April 20th – Friday
Shred it Day in Mayfield.**

Boxes or Paper Bags (no plastic)
Bring Shred-ables to
2201 Mayfield Ave by 12noon

**April 28, 9 – 12 noon
Mayor’s Clean Up Day**
Work on Lake Median.

**May 12, Saturday, Spring Fling –
Flea Market at HARBEL**

**May 17, Thursday,
Mayfield General Membership Meeting and Elections 7:15 SFA Hall**

Spring Yard Sale – TBD

June 1– Deadline for Mayfield Community Directory – neighbor entries and advertising

June 15 – Deadline to apply for Youth Voice Community Vision Prize

**July 13, Friday, 6 – 10p.m.
54th Annual Summer Block Party**
3400 Norman area.

Additional dates for Dumpster Day, family events, children’s parties and volunteer opportunities will be announced by Mayfieldupdate@gmail.com or www.Facebook.com/mayfield.update/ If you have not subscribed to either send an email to subscribe.

Mayfield Improvement Association Officers

President — Deborah Mason,
mayfieldboard@gmail.com
Vice President — Janelle Cousino
Secretary — Mary Rybczynski
Treasurer — Julia McDonald

Board Members

Stephanie Buttner
Mary Anne Dresler
Mariglynn/Geoff Edlins
Jae Patton/Pat Mikos
Phaedra Stewart
JoAnn Trach Tongson

Committee & Project Leaders

Welcome Baskets — Dave Henry
Block Party — Stephanie Buttner
Communications — Janelle Cousino
Webmaster — Brian Baughn
Newsletter Layout & Graphic Design — Nina Tou
Greening Activities — JoAnn Trach Tongson
Mayfield & Montebello Elementary/ Middle School — Jill Warzer
Playground Upkeep — Mary Alice Yeskey
Spring Yard Sale — TBD
Community Vision Youth Prize committee — TBD
Mayfield for All Ages — Jae Patton
Chair, Jan Shipley Vice Chair
New Resident Reception — Janelle Cousino, Host
Police Community Relations Council — Mary Ann Dresler, liaison
Children’s Events — volunteers needed
Holiday Caroling Event — Mary Rybczynski, coordinator

All committees are open to more volunteers. Send an email of interest to mayfieldupdate@gmail.com to let MIA 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: <https://planning.baltimorecity.gov/>

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 listserv by sending a message to: mayfieldupdate@gmail.com asking to subscribe.
Follow us on twitter
[@mayfieldupdate](https://twitter.com/mayfieldupdate)

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