

CALENDAR

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

**March 14 — morning
Dumpster Day
2400 Chesterfield Ave**

**April 4 — 4:00p.m.
Rain Date: April 5 — 4:00p.m.
Children's Egg Hunt
and Easter Bunny visit
Mayfield Playground**

**April 17 — 12 noon
Shred it Day
2201 Mayfield Ave.
Pay dues that day or in advance!**

**May 21 — 7:15 p.m.
General Membership Meeting
& Election of Officers and Board
St. Francis of
Assisi Church Hall**

**June 1;
Directory Inclusion Deadline
contact
mayfieldupdate@gmail.com**

**June 6 — morning
Dumpster Day #2
2300 block of Mayfield Ave**

**June 20 — by 6 p.m.
Due Date for
Youth Prize submissions**

**July 10
56th Annual
Mayfield Block Party
6 – 10 pm.**

Check 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
Stephanie Buttner
Vice President
JoAnn Trach Tongson
Recording Secretary
Janelle Cousino
Corresponding Secretary
Deborah Mason
Treasurer
Julia McDonald

Board Members

Mary Ann Dresler
Mary Jo Schreven
Jan Shipley
Phaedra Stewart
Nina Tou
John Weiland

Committee & Project Leaders

Welcome Basket — Tom Rybczynski
Block Party — Stephanie Buttner and Phaedra Stewart
Communications — Janelle Cousino
Webmaster — Brian Baughn
Newsletter Layout & Graphic Design — Nina Tou
Greening Activities — JoAnn Trach Tongson
Montebello Elementary Middle School — Jill Warzer
Playground Upkeep Monitor — Dave Hardy
Youth Scholar Vision Prize Committee — JoAnn Trach, Tongson Phaedra Stewart & Stephanie Buttner
Mayfield for All Ages — Jae Patton
Traffic Calming Committee — Deborah Mason
Children's Events — Linn Thorburn & Caedmon Haas
Holiday Caroling Event — Tom & Mary Rybczynski

All committees are open to more volunteers. Send an email to mayfieldupdate@gmail.com to let MIA board know you want to help.

Link to Mayfield Policy for Zoning Variance Requests and Mayfield Memorandum of Agreement

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 codes can log onto this website for answers:
Zoning: <https://planning.baltimorecity.gov/programs/transform-baltimore> and what needs a permit?
<http://www.baltimorehousing.org/permits>
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.

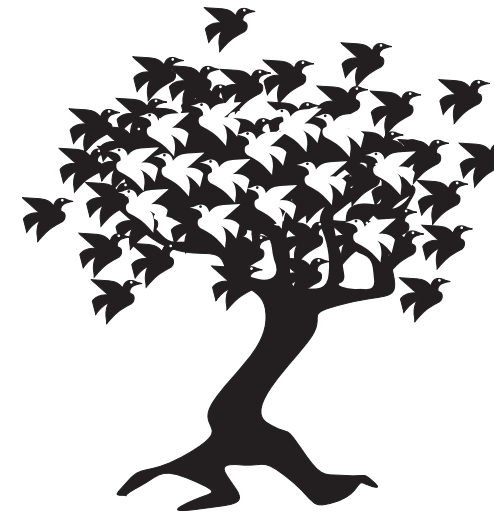
www.Facebook.com/mayfield.update

Follow us on twitter
[@mayfieldupdate](https://twitter.com/mayfieldupdate)

Twice a week e-news via 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



T H E MAYFIELD NEWSLETTER

A Hamlet in the Heart of Town 2020 | Issue One

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

A few weeks ago, I received calls from concerned parents informing me that our playground's big structure was on its last leg. With lots of years on it and tons of use, it was about to break.

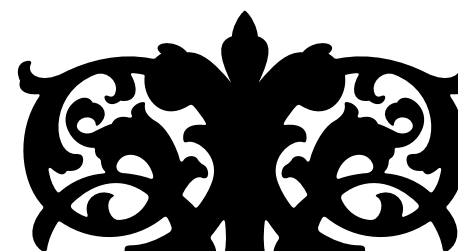
Thus, we announced our playground updating plans at the October General Membership Meeting. We received donations that very same evening, as well as during two subsequent playground fundraising efforts. A very successful GoFundMe campaign was later started when we learned that \$5,200 in total was required to replace the playground's big structure. And, as usual, our community banded together and hit the funding target! Needless to say, I am proud of our efforts. It is a testament to Mayfield's strength as a community. To celebrate the new equipment, Mayfield families came together on a chilly Tuesday January evening for a kiddie ribbon cutting and pizza party. The children were super-excited for the upgraded playground. More improvements are still to come – stay tuned!

Special thanks go to Dave Hardy for making all the arrangements for our new "Carnival Castle" to arrive and for spearheading the GoFundMe campaign.

There are many reasons why Mayfield is and has been long been a strong neighborhood— one that is capable of completing successful projects like the playground upgrade. Our residents bring so much with their time, talents and treasures. We also rely on, and partner with, many other organizations. For starters, our playground is made possible because the Maryland State Boychoir (MSBC) allows it to be on their property. MSBC ensures the playground, while the Mayfield community maintains it. MSBC and the Mayfield Improvement Association share the cost of keeping it layered with mulch. This is an example of how community partners get things done.

(continued on page 2)

**MAYFIELD
GENERAL
MEETING**
**THURSDAY
MAY 21
7:15 PM - 9:15
PM**
**ST. FRANCIS OF
ASSISI CHURCH HALL**
(ENTER OFF PARKING LOT)
.....
There are two membership meetings each year; Board members serve a 2 year term and meet as a board 8 times a year. Elections of officers and board members are held every 2 years. Dues paid members are eligible to vote.



(continued from page 1)

Being a true community playground, it is open to all. The children of St. Francis of Assisi School often walk down and enjoy it. Being another community partner of ours, St. Francis made a very generous donation to our GoFundMe campaign for which we are extremely grateful. Other groups have added to playground area, such as the Eagle Scout Boychoir members who built the horseshoe pits and benches. Longtime resident Paul Novak added the mailbox for Santa, which helps our letters reach the North Pole. Residents Sherry Insley and Mitch Maltese made our much-used Little Free Library happen.

Along with the Boychoir and our neighborhood churches, we also receive assistance from other groups such as HARBEL, Friends of Herring Run Park, Friends of Mothers' Garden, and Friends of Lake Montebello – the latter two organizations started by Mayfielders. All these groups help make Mayfield a wonderful place to live. Thank you to all the community partners! And a heartfelt thank you to all the playground donors. We hope to see you soon at the Mayfield community playground!

In gratitude,

Stephanie Buttner, President
Mayfield Improvement Association



Mayfield's New Communications Plan

New improved Mayfield Update is coming, and you will again receive regular communications on what's happening in Mayfield and news you may need to know about city and Northeast Baltimore events, especially things that may affect us in some way.

Mayfield Improvement Association promises the following:

Only persons with official Mayfield reasons for information will have access to email addresses. This is primarily officers and board members of Mayfield Improvement Association for official communication. Your email will not be shared with any commercial, political or private entity for any reason. Primarily

Mayfield events, reminders, and announcements will be provided through Mayfield Update, the website (Mayfieldassociation.org) or the Mayfield Update Facebook Page. It's been a long hiatus, but winter is not a very active time of year. We are back up and running our e-newsletter by March 1st. And there is good news to share about our community.

Our new system will bring back our ability to thank the Mayfield Volunteers for all they do at the time they are doing it as well as paying tribute to them in this print edition of the Mayfield News. We'll also be able to tell you about any pop-up events we cook up for an excuse to have neighbors gather for fun, refreshment and conversation.

Hold on to this newsletter for the calendar and dates, such as the Dumpster Days and Shred It Day, Egg Hunt and Easter Bunny Visit, General Membership and Annual Meeting of Mayfield Improvement Association, and of course, the 56th annual Mayfield Block Party.

Only dues paying residents can take advantage of Shred It day. However, you can pay your dues that day, if you'd like. Or use the form and envelope provided in this publication to pay in advance.

Thank you for your support and patience,

—**Editor**

HARBEL's Mike Hilliard Retires

In his words: "After over 46 years in public service with Baltimore Police Department and the HARBEL Community Organization, I am retiring. The last day of February will be my last serving as HARBEL's Community Services Director. It has been a joy, an honor, and privilege to serve the communities and citizens of Northeast Baltimore in my position with HARBEL for over 16 years. I truly believe our work together has made Northeast Baltimore a better place to live, learn, earn, and play."

Very true! Mike was pretty much on call nearly 24/7. Years ago, a serious crime against someone who did not live in Mayfield took place in an alley in Mayfield one afternoon. The then-president of Mayfield checked email around 8 p.m. Pacific Time and found several emails about the crime from residents. She was in Phoenix, Arizona on business at the time. She sent an email to Mike to get intel and advice on the incident. Mike called her cell phone – despite the very late hour in Baltimore -- and shared what he knew and how to help the neighbors asking for info and who were direct witnesses of the wounded victim in this crime. That was Mike! Always ready and willing to help!

Mike has counseled community leaders in NE Baltimore and supported all the neighborhoods in their efforts to get city agencies and policymakers to solve issues such as abandoned buildings and zoning matters, liquor commission business and of course address crime and foster positive police -- community relations. Mike served as a sounding board on community involvement and crime prevention through NorthEast Citizens on Patrol (NECOP) without fail. (check It out – NECOP.com)

He went to any meeting that affected Northeast Baltimore for city plans, bridge replacement, served as an adviser to the Harford Road Community Review Panel on the Urban Renewal Plan for Lauraville, served as chairperson of the Morgan Mile initiative. He attended many of our Mayfield meetings and events, and he supported us in public settings. He enjoyed serving as a cupcake contest judge on more than one occasion at the Annual Mayfield Block Party.

He was always looking out for Northeast Baltimore. When the police commissioner had a proposal to reallocate police resources among the Police Districts, Mike reviewed it for the impact on Northeast communities and shared it with both the police and the communities that make up the Northeast district. His analysis revealed that the plan would provide considerably fewer resources. In square miles, the Northeast District is the largest police district territory in Baltimore by far. Along with several patrol vacancies, fewer patrol officers to serve Northeast communities would be woefully insufficient under the proposed plan.

We whole heartily agree that Mike's work has made the communities he served a better place to live, learn, earn and play. We wish him a relaxing and fulfilling retirement. Thank you, Mike, for your many years of service! We salute you.

—**Mayfield Improvement Board of Directors**



Plastic Bag bill passes From Bluewater Baltimore

What will the bag ban do? When does it start?

Plastic bags will no longer be given out during checkout at grocery stores, restaurants, gas stations, and other stores. Instead, customers can either bring their own reusable bags or pay five cents for other bags like paper. One cent of the fee will go to the City and four cents will go to retailers to cover the costs of alternative bags. Some products are exempt from the bill, including meats, prescriptions, and newspapers.

The bill goes into effect January 13, 2021.

MAYFIELD RESIDENTS AS ELECTION JUDGES

~★ Reflections ★~

Baltimore has an election on April 28. Primary day for Mayor, City Council President, Comptroller, and District Councilpersons and 7th Congressional District of Maryland Primary for the 2021-2022 term of Congress. It is also a General Election for residents that are in the 7th Congressional District for the unexpired term of Congressman Cummings seat. Nancy Assero and Debbie Parrish have worked as Election Judges and agreed to share their experiences about election day.

MAYFIELD NEWS: How did you get involved?

NANCY: I have been interested in politics since my college days. As a child of immigrants, I learned voting was not just a privilege but a sacred obligation. That may ring hollow today in the current atmosphere of distrust, corruption and misinformation that pervades our society, but I hold to it still. However, I first thought about working the polls as an election judge while waiting in line at my local precinct here in Mayfield. There was confusion that day. No one seemed to know what to do, or where to direct voters. I was one of many in line trying to vote, then go on to work. I was frustrated. The next primary season (2016), I signed up for training as an election judge.

I was sent to train for 4 hours and provided with a huge manual to cover all aspects of the process from setting up before the polls open to shutting down at the end of voting. We were told to study the manual and to bring it with us on Election Day as a resource. Yikes! The training is a framework or run-through for the day, but as with many complex processes, you learn by doing.

DEBBIE: Being an election judge has been a very gratifying experience. I like knowing that I, an average citizen, play an important role in keeping our election process fair, safe, and accurate. I believe my first time serving as a judge was during the 2012 general election cycle and then had a work conflict and missed the 2014 primary and have served in each election since. I am also serving for the special congressional election this year and the normal primary and general elections of 2020.

Drew Vetter, a former Mayfield resident who grew up here and worked for City Hall at the time, encouraged me to be an election judge. We were on a trivia team together with his dad, Gerard, Drew's girlfriend (now wife), my husband Jim and other greater St. Francis of Assisi folk. I expressed interest and he indicated there was a judge shortage, especially of Republican judges. I have been a lifelong Republican that on occasion gets tempted to break ranks just to participate in the primary, but I really do not think that is fair.

~★ How it works ★~

NANCY: Election Judges are compensated at \$150 per day (15 hours) and you are there at for the duration. It can be extremely busy at times and then terribly boring at others waiting for a voter to arrive. The process can be straightforward or more complex with provisional ballots and Election Judges make sure everyone has a positive experience when they come to vote. The days are long- reporting Election Day at 5:45 am to set up the polls to open promptly at 7 am. The polls may close at 8 pm, but the day continues until final reports are run and the votes are taken under police escort to the Board of Elections in downtown Baltimore.

DEBBIE added: It is most stressful when you arrive and need to help to get the poll set up and ready to open for voters by 7 am and have a strong turnout before folks head to work, then it gets busy again after school and then after work. Closing the poll and accounting for all the ballots and cross-check reports at night to turn in the result downtown is also stressful.

NANCY: For every precinct, in addition to Election Judges, there are two Chief Judges representing the two parties certified in Maryland. Any count, adjustment, report or error of any kind is witnessed and verified by judges representing both parties – Democratic and Republican. The process works best when there are veteran Election Judges and active Chief Judges to lend guidance.

DEBBIE added: Chief Judges are assisted by technicians so vote counts can be finalized and supporting reports delivered to the Board of Elections on election night. You must monitor the polling site for proper access, restrictions, and notices. You are always keeping watch on the equipment to ensure it is not tampered with and that voters are directed to the proper places to complete and cast their vote. You assist the voter during check-in to confirm they are eligible and at the right poll and to provide them with their voting options including the opportunity to vote provisionally and using a helpful Ballot Marking Device if you prefer over a paper ballot.

~★ New election duties this year ★~

NANCY: In recent years, the General Assembly has passed laws that are now incorporated into the voting cycle- same day registration, the rights of ex-offenders, etc. so new training is essential.

DEBBIE: New this year is the ability to vote under the new Same Day Registration law and the ability for anyone that originally requested an Absentee Ballot to hand-deliver it to their precinct. It will be interesting to see if we see any of those situations.

NANCY added: My experience makes me confident the process in Maryland is set up to ensure the integrity of every

vote. There are reports run hourly of vote counts, these are posted for public view and then matched against registered voter counts in the electronic poll book.

DEBBIE: The Maryland State Boys Choir here in Mayfield is currently the polling place for 4 distinct precincts and so it can be confusing to know where to start when you first enter the auditorium. It really helps for folks to dig out their voter card and confirm what your ward and precinct are. We will work hard to help you get to the right place and to care for your vote.

NANCY: I enjoy working with a variety of people from all over our city. During those long hours you get to hear their stories – neighborhood stories, life stories and Election Day stories. I appreciate the sense of commitment of most of the workers to the process of a free and honest election. It's very exciting to see a person cast a vote for the first time. First-time voters are recognized with applause and fanfare. I appreciate even more a day spent working with people who may hold different points of view from me with diverse experiences. We come together to witness this great privilege we share as Americans, and act 100% non-partisan once we enter the polling place to get the job done. It has been a long, but worthwhile day — at least so far in my experience.

Mayfield joins Mary Pat Clarke, Civic Works and CHM in Requesting a Moratorium on Large Festivals at Clifton Park

Applicability of the moratorium:
1 Any festival for which a permit is sought for 500 or more participant persons in Clifton Park

2 Any festival for which a parade permit is sought to use Clifton Park, streets and sidewalks of 33rd Street, The Alameda, Harford Road, St. Lo Drive and Clifton Park.

A moratorium is necessitated by annual abuse to Clifton Park from every large festival. Responding to the large festivals, during and after the

events, is an interruption and burden to the regular operational demands on city agencies, including: Recreation and Parks, Transportation, Public Works, City Schools and Police. Some of the burden is picked up by area private partners such as the Municipal Golf Corporation, First Tee, Civic Works, Coldstream Homestead Montebello Corporation and often unnoticed others, who voluntarily perform small acts of maintenance when they use their Park. Having this burden thrust on everyone a few times each year is an insult and a

discouragement that is completely avoidable. To the contrary, everyone should be able to rely on a beautiful Clifton Park that enhances their community.

Large festivals in Clifton Park and the parading to Clifton Park degrade the quality of life, even the feeling of safety of residents and others. The impact and inconvenience is suffered by the residents of Waverly, GEDCO, Ednor Gardens Lakeside and Coldstream Homestead Montebello and

(continued on page 7)

IN AND AROUND MAYFIELD



On Feb 1 **Live Baltimore** held a homeowners training and Trolley Tour at Morgan State University. Hundreds of people attended and came by the Mayfield Display and found out about our community from Stephanie Buttner, JoAnn Trach Tongson and Julia McDonald. The Trolley Tour came by Mayfield and went on to Patterson Park area for home buying prospects. Mayfield residents, Marie Lymon and Devan Spencer Davis, have served as volunteers for Live Baltimore. You've seen the bumper stickers everywhere – **I ♥ City Life**. For more info on **Live Baltimore** visit LiveBaltimore.org.



SHRED IT DAY Friday, April 17

Bring items before 12n to 2201 Mayfield Ave. **Users: Please pay your dues in advance or paying on-site is available.** Limit: equivalent of 2 copy paper boxes full of paper (no trash, no plastic) (See Dues form and Directory form attached to this newsletter)

Dumpster Days: Plan ahead;

March 14 — 2400 Block of Chesterfield
June 6 — 2300 Block of Mayfield;
Sept 12 — 2400 Block of Chesterfield
December 5 — 2300 Block of Mayfield



Spring Yard Sale Coordinator Needed.

Perk of the job is that you can set the date, but we can poll those interested to help find the best day. The coordinator prepares a flyer and map of where the yard sale participants will be located. She/he collect info on items to be sold at what addresses. Als involves registering the community wide Yard Sale at Craig's List and post flyers in popular locations and prepare enough for each household participating to share with shoppers on the day of the sale. We have signs and banners that can be put up the Sunday before in key places for visibility to traffic. Then, of course, the signs/banners get returned to their storage space for safekeeping.

Good News:

The IRS has approved Mayfield Improvement Association's designation as a non-profit organization under Section 501-c-3. Donations to Mayfield

Improvement Association are now tax exempt and tax deductible. Our stated purpose is to support the quality of the environment in and around the neighborhood, address safety and community needs and support policies and conditions that maintain the housing and historic designation of Mayfield.

Holiday Decorations

So many beautiful Mayfield homes this year brightened the holiday season. Some of the home have been stand-outs for many years and honored on several occasions – **Sharon & Jerry Browning (2404 Lake), Gerard & Barb Waldt (2200 Lake)** and more, There were also some recent distinguished decorated homes worthy of recognition:.



Josh Michael & Leslie Faylor at 2238 Lake added a bright spot at Lake & Norman; **Doreen & Mark Williams had 3405 Crossland** adorned with colors of the season. The **"Best Block"** honors again is the **2400 Block of Pelham**. Most homeowners on this block strung lights and displayed holiday characters that delighted children and adults alike. Congratulations and Thank you to everyone that added festive touches to their homes! We want to recognize everyone's efforts to make our "Mayfield Holiday Bright"!

(continued from page 5)

everyone who wants to use Clifton Park's facilities, including the Rita Church Community Center, pool and gymnasium, tennis courts, golf course and picnic area. Not only is anyplace in the greater Clifton community unsuitable for large festivals, there are alternate places available for these intensive uses. A prime example is Pimlico Racecourse.

The Clifton Park Moratorium is needed now to protect the Park and community beginning with 2020. In the future Clifton Park's lawn space in front of the old Band Shell will have a change in character with the capital improvement that will restore its amphitheater benches.

Fixed seating facing the stage will accommodate about 250 persons and an adjacent and defined lawn area for another 200 persons will create a venue for community resident entertainment events. Music and arts presentations of a size and character that increase residents' use of Clifton Park is highly desirable. Such cultural activity increases the attractiveness of living near Clifton Park and walk-

ing to its events. The restored Clifton Band Shell Amphitheater will benefit community property values and the tax base.

Clifton Park is now benefitting from a great deal of City and State money being invested. Consider the rebuilding of its Tennis Courts and reduction of impervious paving. Consider the \$54 million to transform the historic Clifton Park High School building on Harford Road. Consider the Rita Church Community Center with programs for the elderly and youth and its gymnasium and pool – all reliant on safe and convenient access. Consider that City and State money is about to be spent to renovate of the football field across from that Community Center. Consider the value of the newly located middle school for girls, the Lillie May Carroll Jackson School, also within Clifton Park. None of these benefit from large festivals in the same public Park.

An increasing number of Clifton Park visitors are drawn to Clifton Mansion because of the private millions invested in its building and landscape restoration. Public funds are soon to

follow that will beautify the mansion area in the Park. Private dollars are now stabilizing the historic Gardener's Cottage in the Park. Consider the economic benefit of these visitors' dollars.

Directly across from Clifton Park, millions of public and developer dollars are about to build a new housing development. That development at Harford Road and Tivoly Avenue face Clifton Park and will suffer a blow to its desirability if large, raucous gatherings characterize the neighborhood.

Large festivals that attract thousands at a time – thousands who exhibit no respect or responsibility to the community – are incompatible with the goals and expectations of residents about the quality of their neighborhood life; are incompatible with the costly improvements in Clifton Park; and are incompatible with an efficient and consistent high level of maintenance that Clifton Park deserves and must enjoy.

(Summary compiled by **John Ciekot, Director of Civic Works**)

Additional Work to be Done on Erdman



You might have noticed that for a short, glorious moment, the water on Erdman Avenue dried up after the French drains were put in. Unfortunately, the waters came back. Thanks to the efforts of Paul Novak, Recreation and Parks will be trying a variety of strategies to mitigate the flooding. The first will be a new drain, perpendicular to the current drains, which might allow more water from the golf course to flow into the underground drainage system to Herring Run. If necessary, additional drain work will take place at Mother's Garden. The Traffic Committee is grateful not only to Paul, but to Bill Vondrasek at Recreation and Parks and Councilman Ryan Dorsey, who have been extremely responsive to our concerns.

—**Deborah Mason**
Chairperson of the Traffic Calming Committee