CALENDAR

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

Under normal conditions Mayfield hosts a General Membership Meeting, New Resident Welcome Reception and Volunteer Thank You Dinner in the spring. These events are on hold due to current COVID 19 restrictions Alternative date will be scheduled when that is possible.

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

June 6 — Dumpster Day #2 — 2300 block of Mayfield Ave approx. 8 a.m. til noon or earlier or later. DPW decides.

June 20 — by 6 p.m.
Due Date for Youth Prize submissions:
mayfieldassociation.org/news

Block Party – July 10 - will likely be postponed

Shred it Day – After Tax due date – A Friday in July after July 15. Dues paying members.

Sept 12 — Fall Dumpster Day #3 2400 block of Chesterfield

December 5 — Winter Dumpster Day #4 — 2300 block of Mayfield

General Membership Meeting — October 15 – TBD

Children's Halloween event — October TBD

Santa Visit — Dec TBD

Caroling— December TBD

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

Block Party — Stephanie Buttner

Welcome Basket — Tom Rybczynski

and Phaedra Stewart <u>Communications</u> — 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 <u>Committee</u> — 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 &

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

Mary Rybczynski

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

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 listserve by sending a message to: mayfieldupdate@gmail.com asking to subscribe.

www.Facebook.com/mayfield.update

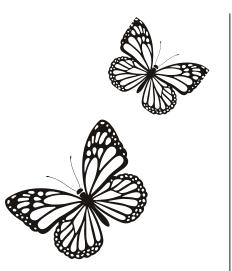
Follow us on twitter @mayfieldupdate

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

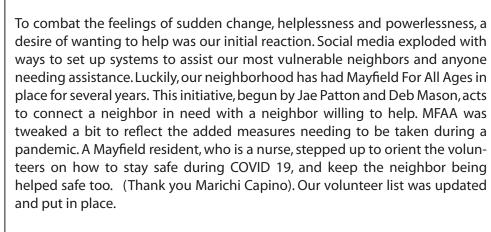




A Hamlet in the Heart of Town 2020 | Issue Two

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

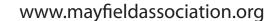
What day is it today? April twenty something? These long weeks of the lock-down are a total blur, days filled with uncertainty, fear and not knowing what tomorrow will bring. We read and listen to the news for the need to be informed yet turn it off because of the negativity and lack of answers. For sure, this is a time like nothing we have ever experienced. While the pandemic is worldwide, our world has become smaller, with everything changing virtually overnight. For now, we have no public events, no school, no parties, and for me and many others, no work. Our essential workers, those in health care, the grocery store clerks, the letter carriers, are our newest and truest heroes, caring for the sick, keeping us supplied and delivering our mail (Thanks Whitney!).



Our communication systems within our community are always solidly in place — MayfieldUpdate, our e-newsletter, website, our Facebook page and Mayfield News, the printed newsletter, keep us informed and connected just as they always have. The Mayfield Improvement Association Board held our last two meetings remotely on Zoom. Before BGE's gas pipeline work began in

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Mayfield, we also held virtual meetings with their project managers, getting our questions answered (especially those concerning Covid 19), and we made sure that the information got out to residents as quickly as possible. Committees have met on-line, and greening events took place while volunteers observed social distancing protocols (Thank you, JoAnn, Julia, Ellen, Jan and Tom).

Even our fun has temporarily taken on new forms. Our Easter Egg Hunt turned into the Easter Bunny and Bunny assistants (thank you Mindy Dingle and her sons) walking to the over 40 families requesting a socially distanced visit, a bunny wave and treats. A bit of Easter joy during a day when we missed being with our extended families. Staying home and staying apart hasn't stopped residents from socializing. Front lawn karaoke and dancing in the street is happening at Crossland and Pelham while practicing social distancing. No need to dress up! Wearing Christmas pajama pants is a fine dress code! Porch concerts and online Happy Hours are also taking place among neighbors. We have been using our surrounding green spaces more than ever for recreation and stress relief. Lake Montebello is treasured by many in our city as a safe place to exercise, get fresh air, sunshine, and reduce stress. Swallows, red-wing black birds, and even a loon have made the Lake their home. Disc golf games, family picnics, kite flying and exploring trails in Herring Run Park has been a great way to be outside while staying home near Mayfield. Clifton Park and Mother's Garden are full of great views and flowers in bloom. It's almost as if, thanks to COVID, we've discovered (or rediscovered) how essential our green spaces are.

In a very short period of time, so much has changed, but in Mayfield, so much remains the same. Yes, we live in a fearful and trying time. We are threatened by an invisible enemy, and our first reaction might be to withdraw into our shells. But Mayfield is better than that. Our supportive and connected community continues to be a neighborhood where we understand the stress the city is under. We believe in keeping people safe and keeping the city moving forward. We will all surely come out of this better.

Mayfielders are continuing to do their part to help others. Some are making face masks, cheering us by playing church bells (Thank you MSBC!), cutting the high grass in the median (thank you Paul and John on Erdman; Gary and Brian on Pelham Ave.). Our Hamlet in the Heart of Town has been proven to be one with a big heart, community spirit and optimism. After all, We are in this together!

Sincerely yours,

Stephanie Buttner, President Mayfield Improvement Association

COVID-19 UPDATE

Mayor Jack Young, the Maryland Department of Health, the Maryland National Guard, and the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management partner together to bring the third Baltimore City community-based testing site online

Mayor Bernard C. "Jack" Young announced the launch of a third community-based testing site at Clifton Park. Mayor Young issued the following statement:

"Bringing this third site online increases access for residents to community-based testing," Mayor Young said. "I am thankful for the continued efforts of all of the City's partners in this endeavor."

The new testing site is located in Clifton Park at 2801 St. Lo Drive. Residents without access to a vehicle will be able to access testing services by walking to the site, although an appointment and doctor's referral will still be required for testing.

Testing at this site began April 24, 2020. City residents are encouraged to call their doctor or 2-1-1 for coronavirus symptom screening and to be connected to a physician for assessment. Data provided by the testing sites showed that as of May 14, 3,505 cases; 183 deaths. The City in conjunction with its lead healthcare partner, LifeBridge, had conducted 1,040 COVID-19 tests at its two community-based testing sites, Pimlico and Druid Hill, with another 120 tests scheduled for today.

"Baltimore City's evolving response to the COVID-19 pandemic requires an increase in our testing capacity," said Mayor Young. "We will continue to roll out new community testing sites across Baltimore City in the days and weeks to come."

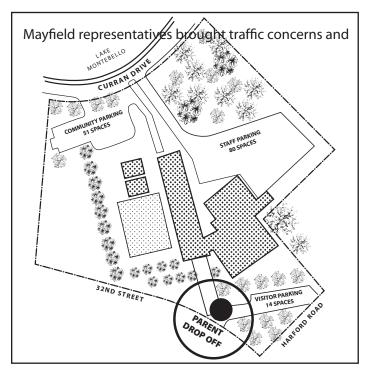
Montebello School – A New Era Begins Renovations start this summer

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Montebello School, a Baltimore City Public K-8 school, is nearly 100 years old. It will begin a new era for the students, teachers and families of Montebello School starting this summer. Extensive renovations will begin to improve the interior space, and to upgrade ADA access and flexible classroom arrangements for enhanced educational purposes. Montebello is part of Maryland 21st Century School Construction program. The school will be closed and students, teachers and admnistrators will take over the School at 2500 E. Northern Parkway for 2 years.

At the first of several meetings for parents and students, neighbors, community members and staff of the school, the project manager Justin Weeks, Project Manager, BCPS meeting facilitator Renee Stainrod and Rich LeBanc, architect, described the project scope, timeline and important improvements that will enhance learning and provide 537 students a great academic environment appropriate for their age level. The project is a combined project of Baltimore City Public Schools, Maryland Stadium Authority, City Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners, and the Maryland Interagency Committee on School Construction. Public input will be extensive. 37 meetings will take place in 4 distinct phases.

- All internal systems of the school will be made for the renovations
- Parking will be generally re-evaluated for ADA compliance
- The school will meet the Silver LEED standards for energy efficiency
- New windows with improved view and energy efficient settings
- Flexible Learning Spaces that can be reconfigured for multiple uses
- With furniture that adapts to use and varies in size, color, durable materials.
- Curran Drive Parking lot and drop off area will get a curb cut for ADA access.
- Area will be relandscaped.
- Elevators will service every level.
- The existing cafeteria will become a media and technology center
- There will be a community meeting room; each floor has collaborative learning spaces.



problems with planned construction of a student drop off and an accessible parking lot. The lot is designed to cut the front lawn area diagonally from just after the home at 3202 Harford to a spot on 32nd street beyond the current 54 bus (temporary stop during bridge construction). There are also plans for a protected bus lane from Harford to Hillen.

The school will move in the summer after the two schools using the building at 2500 E Parkway are relocated to their newly remodeled schools. The schematic design will be completed in Spring 2020. Construction will begin in the Fall of 2020. Because it is an historic structure with extraordinary exterior details it will also be restored, especially the terra cotta decorative tile work, archways, and more. They will also provide an entrance that is easily recognized as an entrance, which now is difficult to identify.

Robert Marshall, the transportation chief for BCPS, explained that the students will be bussed to the temporary school from the school. They may decide to offer bus pick up in neighborhoods where the students live depending on the number of students living near each other. Bus pick up location at the school is not yet decided, but it may be the parking lot off Curran Drive.

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Mayfield has an opportunity for residents to promote the best possible renovation of this beautiful building in a rolling hillside promoting a 21st Century schools response for the building and site. The design team for the Montebello presented building and site concepts illustrating the building renovation. The addition will house a cafeteria and kitchen and a community space and allow the historic eligible building to accommodate an larger enrollment.

The site development plan currently shows additional visitor and handicapped access parking lot on the Harford Road side of the building. A new pre-K playground is proposed on the NW side of the main school building. This new site design concept would eliminate all of the existing trees on site, require retaining walls and ramps and increase requirements for storm-water management.

Some other design factors Mayfield has raised to support the needs of neighborhoods, families and teachers:

 A design that looks at the overall building setting, public transit access, complete streets policies.

- A design that places equal attention to pedestrian and bicycle safety as it does to parking spaces and asphalt.
- A site design that fits the natural environment, provides educational opportunities with parks and nearby historically designated sites and neighborhoods.
- A design that limits the potential adverse impact of pedestrians and motor vehicles interactions, rather than increasing them.
- A design that responds to the existing topography.
- A design that increases the city's tree canopy and incorporates the Baltimore City Landscape Manual requirements.
- A design that is responsive to urban conditions and providing walking access for the majority of the students in the area attending Montebello school.

For the full discussion on Montebello Elementary/Middle is found at this web address.

https://baltimore21stcenturyschools.org/schools/404

Mayfield Improvement Association Pursues Glyphosate Regulation

Testimony in Support of City Council Bill 20-0495

Pesticide Control and Regulation Stephanie Buttner, President Mayfield Improvement Association

First of all, thank you, Chairman Burnett, for this opportunity to offer testimony in support of this bill. I also thank Councilwoman Clarke for her outstanding leadership on tackling the thorny issue of pesticide control. Finally, we are grateful for the support from you and the other co-sponsors of the bill: Council President Scott, Councilman Bullock, Councilman Cohen, Councilman Dorsey, Councilman Henry, Councilwoman Middleton, Councilman Reisinger, and Councilwoman Sneed.

I am very happy to offer this testimony in support of City Council Bill 20-0495, which, among other provisions, would prohibit the use of glyphosate and chlorpyrifos in Baltimore City, as well as prohibit the use of neonicotinoid on City property.

The issue of glyphosate use first came up as an issue in Mayfield when residents noticed that contractors for the City Department of Transportation were using them to control weeds on the medians in our neighborhood. Given the links between glyphosate and cancer, as well as Mayfield's proximity to Herring Run, one of the local tributaries to the Bay, the Mayfield Improvement Association raised the issue with the Department of Transportation. Secretary Sharkey was very responsive

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to our concerns, and pledged not to use glyphosate in Mayfield. However, that left us with the wider issue: should glyphosate be used by the City at all? We raised the issue with Councilwoman Clarke and Councilman Dorsey, and this bill is the result.

As noted in the bill's legislative findings, glyphosate, chlorpyrifos, and neonicotoids are linked to a host of human health issues. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has identified both cancer and non-cancer health effects linked to glyphosate exposure, including adverse effects on reproduction and child development, and organ toxicity. Chlorpyrifos is linked to low birth weight, disrupted neurological development, and endocrine disorders, as well as lung and

prostate cancer. Neonicotinoids, which were marketed as being safer to the environment because they were delivered directly to crops by irrigation instead of widespread dusting, are actually entering both the broader environment and the human food chain. Studies indicate that ingesting neonicotinoids is linked to neurological disorders, although there is a need for further study.

Those findings alone would warrant a cautious approach to pesticide use; however, when considered alongside the environmental damage done by these chemicals, it is clear that banning their use is the most reasonable approach. Neonicotinoids have been implicated in the dramatic decline in pollinators, and evidence suggests that they are also linked to birth defects found in wild deer herds. Herbicides such as glyphosates and pesticides in general have been found in significant amounts in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, posing risks to the health of the Bay.

Additionally, if the recent Covid-19 outbreak has taught us anything, it is how much our lives depend upon understanding, respecting, and protecting the environment. Emerging diseases are linked to human interference with the environment. Climate change and habitat destruction readily come to mind, but one also needs to whether what impact the continued use of dangerous chemicals will have on our future health. What new conditions or illnesses might emerge from the removal of a "pernicious" weed or "pest" insects? We do not fully understand how biological systems work, and the unintended consequences of our actions can be devastating.

Consequently, we need to take a more cautious and sensitive approach to controlling weeds and insects. There are alternatives to glyphosate for eliminating weeds, including the use of the minimally toxic pesticides, as permitted by the bill, and manually removing overhanging/overgrown grass from curbs and around trees. There should also be the recognition that, if we were

to remove all "weeds," we would have no "turf" at all. Frequently, plants that are seen as weeds are actually highly beneficial, providing food and cover for birds and pollinators, as well as fixing nitrogen in the soil. Similarly, by reducing the use of pesticides, we support the use of sustainable natural methods of pest control by encouraging birds and "beneficial" insects to eat destructive or dangerous insects.

The first duty of a government is to secure the well-being of its citizens, and this bill will have a direct impact on the health and safety of the residents. We want a healthy environment where we can raise our children. We want our green spaces to be self-sustaining, without the use of dangerous chemicals. We want to clean and protect the Bay. Most of all, we want to live in a City where we know that our government puts our well-being above the concerns of convenience and economy. This bill is a significant step in that direction, and the Mayfield Improvement Association heartily supports its passage.

The June 2, 2020 Primary Election will be Vote-By-Mail

Every registered voter will get a ballot, with a postage pre-paid envelope to send the ballot back. You will receive your ballot in mid-May. You can send your ballot back at any time. It must be postmarked by June 2nd. There will not be a sample ballot sent ahead of time. So the ballot in the mail is your REAL ballot. Use a black pen. Seal the envelope (do not lick!). Write and Sign your name on the back of the envelope. Place it in the mail. If you have not received your ballot in the mail by mid-May, contact Baltimore City Board of Elections: election.judge@baltimorecity.gov (410) 396-5550 and/or visit https://boe.baltimorecity.gov/



• What you need to do if your address has changed? What if you don't get a ballot?

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- All details about voting by mail is at this link
- Watch this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ECXB5rU3dgs&feature=youtu.be

PROPAGATION PROJECT FOR POLLINATORS

Calling gardeners and people who like plants and butterflies and bees!

are looking for willing helpers who
will plant seeds of
native plants that butterflies, bees and other pollina-

tors need for habitat, food and reproduction. Native plants support our native bugs that support our gardens, native birds and other animals. Creating corridors and patches of native plants help reduce the amount of time and energy pollinators use to find food that can mean survival after a long migratory trip or journey from the hive. Plants are selected to survive difficult conditions and limited maintenance. Once the plants have an established root system and are strong enough to be transplanted, they will be transplanted by volunteers, likely in the fall.

HOW THIS WILL WORK?

Mayfield will provide seeds and a limited number of pots. Volunteers are requested to plant the seeds based upon guidance, provide potting soil, and water regularly. Once the seeds germinate, volunteers need to weed and water the plants to get them to 'transplantable' size — pretty much til September/October.

Additionally, if you are dividing perennials from your own garden and are able to put them in pots, volunteers can also utilize these plants for planting efforts. Ideal types of plants include those that tolerate full sun and can tolerate a range of soil and drought conditions.

WHERE WILL WE USE THESE PLANTS?

The plants will be used at two potential locations.

One is the small median on Harford Road at Chesterfield Ave. The other location is the median around Lake Montebello. The Lake Montebello median has 3,000 linear feet of growing area with poor soil conditions and water as provided by rain and volunteers. Only some of the hardiest plants provided by the city have survived since the

original planting more than 15 years ago. The Greening team has received donations from landscape contractors (Live Green) commercial growers/wholesalers, neighbors and friends redesigning their gardens. This approach has enabled us to plant 20'each year. The limited plant material coupled with overzeal-

ous mulch by the City consultants has also adversely impacted young plants. We would like a more plentiful and reliable source of material to replace plants and completely plant the median within our lifetimes. Seeds are easy, extremely cost effective and will produce a generous quantity of plants. That's where the Pollinator Plant Propagation Project Volunteer comes in.

JoAnn Trach Tongson, Mayfield chair of the greening committee and one of the founders of Friends of Lake Montebello, thought this would provide a number of benefits: 1. make the median plantings thrive with hardy native perennials and pleasant to look at, stabilize the soil and provide a suitable design; 2.provide a sustainable habitat with perennials that serve the pollinators and sustains their cycle of life, and 3. provide the opportunity for environmental literacy for the students of local schools

HOW DOES ONE GET INVOLVED?

For people who are at home and able to help with this effort, simply send an email to mayfieldupdate and ask to be included in the project (or text 443-794-5596). Indicate PLANT PROJECT in the Subject line with name, address and phone (especially if you text the cell number). We will get you seeds and some planting trays until our supply runs out.

Herring Run Nursery has this advice for the at home gardener:

https://bluewaterbaltimore.org/protect/plant-native-plants/ and Xerces Society https://xerces.org/pollinator-conservation

BELLS ARE RINGING IN MAYFIELD

We are all enjoying the special bell performances around 1 p.m. by Frank Cimino from the Boychoir. He intended them as a gift to Mayfield during the Corona Virus stay at home mitigation strategy. But there is also a very interesting story of how the bells ended up in Mayfield.

The bells ring around 9:30 on Sunday. The carillon tower stands guard of the building that was known as the Cathedral of St. Matthew United Church of Christ until the Maryland State Boychoir Center bought the building.

The St. Matthew's UCC congregation has served the spiritual and social needs of many Baltimore residents for over 150 years. The congregation was formed in Jonestown (near the Shot Tower in Baltimore) in 1852, breaking away from Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church to embrace both Lutheran and Reformed teachings. Following several moves, in 1928 the congregation

bought a lot in the Mayfield neighborhood and hired Architects Riggin Buckler and G. Corner Fenhagen to prepare drawings for a new church. In 1929, due to financial constraints brought on by the Great Depression, the congregation decided to construct only the distinctive church tower, Sunday school building, and social hall. The carillon bell tower has a commanding presence that residents recognize and project the bell sounds during the daily 1 pm concerts.

The bells were a gift to the Congregation. There is an inscription in German, which says,

"25 hundred weight of this metal is from captured French Cannons given by the German Kaiser Wilhelm to the St. Matthew Congregation, 1874."

The bells were relocated to the current location from the 1871 church build-

ing on Central Avenue and Fayette Street.

Their Mayfield history began in the social hall on Christmas Day, 1929, and by 1951 the cornerstone of the newly constructed church was put in place. The sanctuary was completed with supervision from architect Harold Wagner of Philadelphia, who closely followed the original designs of Buckler & Fenhagen. Maryland State Boy Choir now owns the building and has invested considerable funds for maintenance, renovations and remodeling. The St. Matthew's Congregation uses the facility for their worship community.

Baltimore's Commission on Historic & Architectural Preservation (CHAP) lists it as an historic site as ST. MATTHEW UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST. 1929 Architects – Buckler & Fenhagen; 1951 Architect Harold Wagner. Established by Baltimore City Ordinance 07-403 on 03/19/2007.

TIMELY REMINDERS

Census

Have you filled out your census form yet? Easy to complete – on line, by phone or you'll have a census worker come to your home. Go to: *my2020census.gov* or call toll free 844-330-2020 for English. (About 15 other languages can be spoken by toll free)

Mayfield's 56th Annual Block Party

It may be postponed til we can relax social distancing protocols. If it can be held on the traditional day – 2nd Friday of July, we will host it as usual. If we cannot, it will be rescheduled to a good time in 2020.

Mayfield Directory

Entry deadline & advertising deadline– June 1

Dumpster Days Plan ahead

June 6 — 2300 Block of Mayfield; Sept 12 — 2400 Block of Chesterfield Dec 5 — 2300 Block of Mayfield

Youth Prize Submissions:

Due Date —June 20 — by 6 p.m. Send an email to:

mayfieldupdate@gmail.com

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