

T H E MAYFIELD NEWSLETTER

A Hamlet in the Heart of Town

2017 | Issue Two

MAYFIELD GENERAL MEETING

**THURSDAY
OCTOBER 19
7:15 PM - 9:15 PM**

**MSBC FELLOWSHIP
HALL
3400 NORMAN AVE**

**REFRESHMENTS BEFORE
AND AFTER THE MEETING**

**Guests Invited Include
Fr William Burke
St Francis of Assisi**

**Major Jeffrey Shorter &
Captain Natalie Preston
NED Commanders**

**Chesapeake Climate Action
Councilpersons
Clarke and Dorsey**

**Frank Cimino & Boy Choir's
30th Anniversary**

• • • •

**Traffic Committee
Draft Report**

**Mayfield for All Ages
and more . . .**

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Neighbors,

Back in 2014, Mark Dunkelman wrote a book called *The Vanishing Neighbor*. In it, Dunkelman argues that American political malaise resulted from the erosion of the very American idea of a "township"—the communities that are built upon the countless casual interactions between neighbors. Lawyers knew the grocer, doctors treated all and sundry, and teachers taught all the children of the town. We might not particularly like each other, but these connections created bonds between townspeople-or, in a word, neighborliness. Neighborliness allowed us to rub up against each other with tolerance, and forced us to behave civilly even in the face of disagreement. Our political, economic, and social institutions were rooted in that culture of townships—as Alexis de Tocqueville noted way back in the 1830's.

However, since World War Two, a variety of factors have created cracks between us and our neighbors—cracks that have rapidly progressed into fissures since the advent of the internet, Facebook, and, lately most notably, Twitter. We maintain our close ties with family, and we nurture the distant friendships we have on social media (even though we might never actually meet the person behind the avatar), but we don't really know the person next door. We have lost the "middle ring" in our social networks, creating a disconnection between our social structures and our reality—with disastrous results for our political life. Extremist groups are attractive precisely because they provide a social network for people who suffer from a profound sense of isolation—people who can talk for hours in an on-line chatroom, but do not know their neighbors' names.

Such isolation is not only damaging to the body politic; isolation can also profoundly affect your health. Research indicates that isolation is as much a risk factor for disease as obesity and smoking. It is linked to suppressed

(continued on page 2)



www.mayfieldassociation.org



(continued from page 1)

immunity, elevated stress hormones, and depression. Cognition erodes when you are lonely, and your body pretty much follows suit. Bummer, huh?

"Thanks a lot," I hear you say. "So much for the light-hearted president's letter that I have come to expect from the Mayfield Newsletter. And for that matter, what does all this doom-and-gloom about social isolation have to do with the Mayfield Improvement Association anyway?" Well, I would argue that the issue of isolation has everything to do with the Mayfield Improvement Association, because we are dedicated to the strengthening of those middle rings. You see, the good news

is that those rings do not have to die. Meaningful social interactions can restore them. Connecting with your neighbors can also improve your health—and it can even make your brain sprightlier than it's been in a long time. Apparently, connecting with others can improve the health of your amygdala—the part of your brain responsible for the response and memory of emotions.

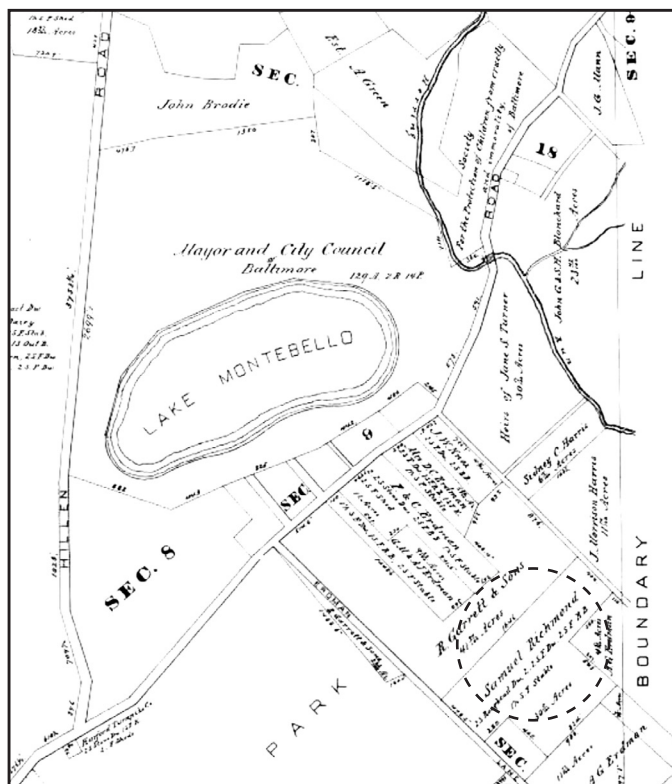
And, boy howdy! We are chock full of opportunities for meaningful social interactions! If you want to reach out and help your neighbors, you could volunteer for Mayfield for All Ages. Want to help kids in the area? Reach out to Montebello Elementary and Middle School or St. Francis of Assisi School. Like kids' activities? Great!

We could use more helpers at the Halloween Party and Easter Egg Hunt. Like to sing? Come Christmas caroling! Love to garden? We've got more bulbs to plant and weeds to pull than you can shake a stick at. Just want to eat pit beef and drink some beers? Be convivial at the Block Party or National Night Out. Want to meet up with neighbors and find out what the Board is up to? Come to the General Membership meeting on 19th of October.

In other words, we have lots of ways to keep your neighbors from vanishing. Come check them out. Your amygdala will thank you.

Deborah Mason,
President

EVER HEAR OF MAYFIELD GARDENS?



Bruce Richmond grew up at 3329 Richmond Avenue, officially outside of Mayfield, but just beyond Crossland. His great-grandfather, Samuel Richmond, emigrated from Ireland. He came to own a piece of property that ran east & west from Richmond Ave to Norman Ave and north & south from Erdman to Kentucky Ave. He was a grower and had a florist business called Mayfield Gardens.

On a map here you can see the plot named Samuel Richmond. It was eventually sold off, but the florist business remained at the family house until the late 60's. Bruce's father purchased the house from his sister in 1970 when Bruce was nine years old. Bruce lived there until 1988, when he married and purchased a house just across the street at 3326 Richmond Ave. Bruce and his family lived there until 1993. He currently lives in Glen Arm, but still stays in touch with some of his old friends still living in Mayfield and he hasn't missed a Mayfield Block Party in over 30 years. (The 2018 Block Party will be July 13th). Bruce does some walking around Mayfield most mornings on his way to work in Charles Village. It seems his heart remains in our little Hamlet in the Heart of Town.

Sherry Insley Named Artist in Residence

Baltimore County Library

Baltimore County Public Library (BCPL) is committed to providing programs and services that enrich customers' lives, that celebrate creativity and innovation, and that encourage people of all ages to explore, learn, create, and connect.

Sherry Insley, September-October, is a Baltimore based artist, metalsmith, and part-time photographer. A BFA graduate from UMBC, Sherry received her MFA from MICA and is the recipient of Maryland State Arts Council Individual Artist Award. Sherry incorporates found objects, images, metal and enamel work with various metal working techniques to create layered, narrative pieces. She will be teaching 4 workshops during her residency, Enamel Pendants, Found Object Casting, Enamel Application Techniques, and Found Object Art for Kids.

But there is much more to how this honor and opportunity came to be – How did Sherry get into this work and more. Editor asked her to respond to some interview questions to fill us in.

Q. Artist in residence? Wow. Congratulations. I'd say that it's quite an honor. What is expected of you as artist in residence?

A. To complete a proposed project or body of work utilizing the Maker Space, be available to interact with library patrons, and instruct 4 workshops that pertain to my area of expertise.

Q. How much time are you spending doing the work?

A. My residency is for September and October and I am working in the space 12-15 hours a week.

Q. How long have you been designing and making jewelry and other wearable art? How did you get started or what inspired you?

A. I have been metal-smithing for about 10 years now, but I am a life-long artist. I became interested in metals and jewelry when my husband and I worked with an artist to have our wedding rings made. The artist really included us in the process, and I was totally smitten.

Q. There seems to be a movement in education circles now for "makers" of items emphasizing design, function and engineering. Is that what the Baltimore County Library is trying to show with your residency? Explain what they asked you to do

A. Yes, definitely. The Hive is a dedicated Maker Space for artists and the community to make and learn. The press release explains it this way, "The Artist/Maker-in-Residence program brings new creative experiences to Baltimore County residents, provides visibility for local artists and makers, celebrates the make/create movement, and features resources and venues provided by BCPL. The art-centered Hive at Hereford, the technology-centered CoLab at Randallstown, and other BCPL residency venues, are each unique spaces for creative expression and collaboration, and are free and open to everyone."

Q. What have been the best parts from your point of view of this residency for your art and craft and for the library patrons that come to watch you work? Do they get to try their hand at making something?

A. The dedicated time and space to do nothing else except work on my artwork! It also gives me the opportunity to explore, I am not under the crunch of making production work for shows, or filling orders. I am currently working on wall pieces that incorporate enameling and found objects. They are exploring some obscure folklore tales I've been intrigued with. It's a chance to push some boundaries, try new things, and not be distracted by laundry! I'll be instructing 4 workshops where patrons can try different enameling techniques and casting.

Sherry has participated in juried shows in many states, has an Etsy store and is generally creative with everything she touches – costumes, wearables, photography etc. She served on the Mayfield Improvement Board for several years. She inspired us to adopt a "Little Library" in Mayfield and helped get it built (Her husband Mitch is a builder) and installed at corner of Lake and Norma. She is our Librarian. She curates the books that are donated and places a variety in the Little Library. If you're in Towson, check in on our Mayfield neighbor and Artist-in-Residence through October.

Sidewalk Sam:

All about City Sidewalks



Mayfield recently did a survey of sidewalks and many neighbors reported various needed repairs. Some were faulty repairs after utility work; some were because of tree roots and other reasons. Mayfield gave a report to Councilman Dorsey's staff with photo evidence and details of how the some repairs by utility companies were done with asphalt. Before you report a broken sidewalk, take a look at what caused it. The city has a clear policy on who pays for repairs for sidewalks that may cause injury. This "Sidewalk Sam" explains it all. If damage was caused by street tree roots, there's a different resolution. But you will want to know this important information about maintenance and repair responsibilities of sidewalks by homeowners.

Sidewalk Sam is a Baltimore City Department of Transportation initiative to repair or replace defective sidewalks throughout the City of Baltimore. The goal of the Sidewalk Sam program is to make the city's sidewalks safe for pedestrians and to help prevent injuries that may be caused by faulty footways. Through the Sidewalk Sam initiative,

over 500,000 square feet of footways have been replaced each year since the program began in 2008.

Many citizens have questions regarding who is responsible for the maintenance of city sidewalks. According to Baltimore City Code, Article 26, Subtitle 10, property owners are responsible for maintaining their footways. In addition to keeping sidewalks free from ice and snow, residents are responsible for repairing their sidewalks should they become cracked or damaged. If sidewalks are broken, cracked, scaled or off-grade, the city may issue a notice of violation to the homeowner. Residents who receive a footway violation have five days to notify the Department of Transportation whether they will make the necessary repairs themselves or have the city do the work.

Citizens choosing to make the footway repairs on their own must obtain a permit from the city. If the homeowner decides to have the city repair the sidewalk, they will be billed for the work once it is complete. In the event that a sidewalk is damaged by a tree planted on a public right of way or by a public utility, then the City of Baltimore will be responsible for the cost of the repairs. Footway violation notices are issued in response to citizen complaints and calls to the city's 311 system. A violation notice may be issued if sidewalks look dangerous and may cause an injury.

If you have a question or concern about footways in your community, please call the Department of Transportation's Sidewalk and Alley Section at (410) 396-6969. To see some photos of sidewalks and the needed repairs or to learn more: <https://transportation.baltimorecity.gov/sidewalks>



~ OUR MAIL CARRIER ~ ALWAYS SMILES

Whitney Carter, in her own words

Editor's note: Whitney delivers the mail for residents in 21213 zip code in Mayfield and parts of Belair Edison. She was thrilled to be asked to be profiled in Mayfield News. Whitney is a very special person. She goes out of her way to be helpful to Mayfielders. She has thwarted mischievous kids, knockd on the doors of older residents living alone to chat a minute. She has walked a senior to her home, when she was disoriented and helped a visitor, who remembers being in Mayfield to visit his grandmother, get directed to someone who could help them. She watches for trouble and ways to serve AND delivers the mail. Editor gave her a few questions to answer for this profile. With some light editing, here's how she chose to answer them

Hi, my name is Whitney Carter.

I am the mail carrier for the Mayfield community. I started at the United States Postal Service on April 6, 2013. Since I started at the postal office, it has been a very pleasant experience. However, there have been some ups and there have been some downs. Overall the post office has good job advancement opportunities, supports very good leadership skills and they are very family-oriented. I am glad to work for this company.

I was born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland. I entered this world on January 17, 1989. I was born at Johns Hopkins Hospital. My mom decided to name me Whitney, because at the time her favorite singer was Whitney Houston. My favorite childhood memory was always going to my grandmother house, where all of my friends were. I loved being at my granny's house. I was able to ride my bike, play with my skates, and play baby dolls with my childhood friends. When I am not at work, I just like to

spend a lot of time with my family and I like to go shopping in my spare time.

The reason I am so genuine [with] my customers is because I take pride in what I do. Customer service is the number one key [to success]. I treat my customers how I want to be treated. All of my customers are more like my family to me. They are so loveable. I believe they would give me the world, if they could. They are always watching me out for me --no matter whether I am on and off the clock. My customers can see me in the market and they are always checking on me and making sure that I am ok.

The customers that I work with are so adorable, it would be hard not to keep a smile on my face. I know every last one of my customer by name, what kind of car they drive, there dog's name, baby's name, and everywhere their children live, when seem on other streets in the neighborhood. I can honestly say I love my route and my customers. I look forward to seeing my customers every day. And when I am off, I can truly say [I know] I am missed, because, my coworkers tell me this the following day when I return.

I want to take this time to thank the Mayfield Community for accepting me with open arms and smiles, and for allowing me to be their mail carrier. No matter how early or how late I show up, all my customers are worried about is. "Am I ok? Do I need anything?" And say "Make sure you stay safe out there."

Signed

Whitney.Carter

Your favorite mail carrier

IN AND AROUND MAYFIELD



90 YEARS YOUNG

St Francis of Assisi Parish is celebrating its 90th anniversary this year! The parish was founded in 1927. Most of the homes in Mayfield were built around that same time and a few years later.

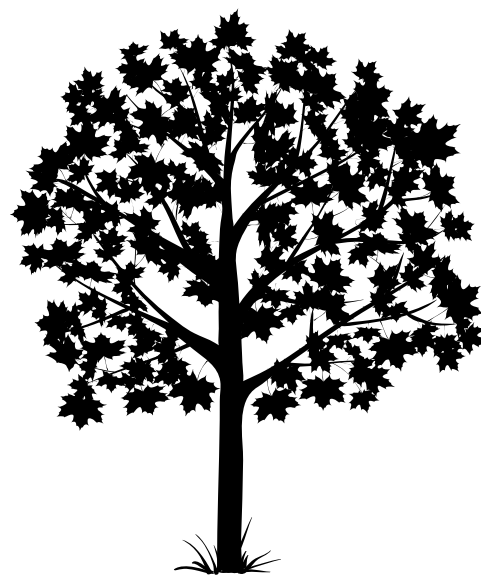
Columbus Monument & Parade

The Columbus Monument in Heinz Park was damaged by vandals in the wake of a few other monuments removed by the city honoring Confederate leaders. The marble tablet was severely damaged and is now being restored at the Maryland Historical Society according to Councilman Dorsey who mentioned the incident at his August District 3 Town Hall. There is some history of the Columbus monument connected to Mayfield. Former resident Andrew Garcia

(2200 block of Lake Ave) had taken repairs of the monument as a personal mission and was successful in convincing city officials to give it some restorative attention a few years ago.

Rosine Tumminello, our neighbor on Chesterfield, told Mayfield News that her grandfather, her mother's father, Anthony Di Marco in 1925 was involved in erecting a statue of Christopher Columbus in Druid Hill Park. There were parades at that time honoring Columbus Day emanating from Druid Hill Park. She said her mother described her grandfather riding a big white horse leading the parade. After his death, her uncle Harry Di Marco took up the tradition riding the white horse with pride. The white horse tradition ended with Harry's death.

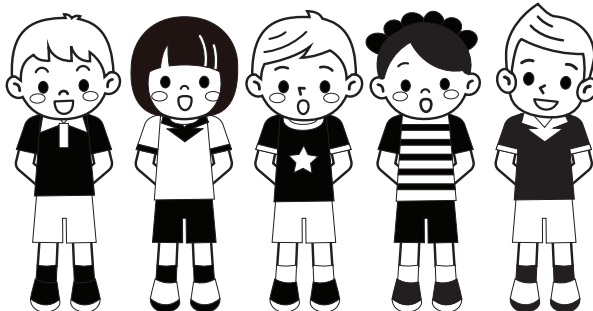
Over time the parade route moved to another location much closer to Mayfield. It would start at Harford Rd & Parkside Drive — where Heinz Park is located and wind its way downtown. Now the parade is principally in Little Italy and travels down Pratt Street. Columbus Day is celebrated on Monday, October 9 this year.



Farewell, Ash Trees;

Hello, Replacement Trees

Ash Trees are being decimated by the Emerald Ash Borer, a pest that has attacked a good 10% of Baltimore's Tree Canopy. Mayfield will have lost x number of trees this year. The city has given out a variety of contracts to cut them down. So here's a city resource working hard to increase the Tree Canopy for clean air, cooler summer and soil conservation. The Baltimore City Recreation and Parks Forestry Division organized a sample survey of the city's street trees. Around 100 volunteers participated in training and survey-



Celebrating 30 Years!

Maryland State Boy Choir is celebrating 30 years at 3400 Norman Ave. Look for a series of events marking that milestone for the Maryland State Boy Choir.

ing. Listed below are some of the facts we discovered:

- Baltimore has approximately 100,000 street trees or one street tree for every six residents. Most of the trees sampled (68 percent) were located in residential neighborhoods and over half of those were in row-house communities;
- The street tree population includes 95 different tree species. The three most dominant species are silver maple (12 percent), linden (10) and Norway maple (9). Generally, maples, which also include sugar and red maples, are overrepresented in our street tree population;
- Over half of the environmental values are provided by seven

species (based on tree structure and abundance): red maple, linden, Norway maple, London plane, green ash, sugar maple, and silver maple;

- Young trees are underrepresented in the distribution by age (trees are most vulnerable during the first few years of their life). About 1,665 of the total population (2 percent) are dead trees with most of the dead trees still young.
- The newest Baltimore City Street Tree Species List can be found at the Tree Baltimore website under the Navigation Bar Heading: **About** and then **Baltimore Street Trees**.

HARBEL

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

Just one of HARBEL's Programs

HARBEL Community Organization, the community service non profit serving Northeast Baltimore, and its Housing Partnership, a Counseling Program for Interested first-time home=buyers has served over 1800 persons thorough pre-purchase classes for owning a home in the last fiscal year. The Housing Partnership serves Baltimore City and Baltimore County residents. If you know someone who would like to buy a home and doesn't really know how much they can afford and what they'll need to be a qualified buyer, this is a perfect resource for them to learn and prepare with solid knowledge. Regina Buker is director of the program and includes sessions for future homeowners covering all aspects of buying and maintaining a home with helpful banks, lawyers, realtors, insurance agents and other professionals involved in the process. Call Phone: 410-444-9152 to talk to someone about the course series or check their website:

<http://www.harbel.org/housingpartnershipfirst.html>

CALENDAR

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

October 18 —
Mayfield Fall Yard Sale
9:00a.m. — 1:00p.m.

October 18 —
Mayfield General Membership Meeting
7:15p.m. (Location to be determined)

October 29 —
Children's Halloween Party

December 9 —
Santa Special Visit to Mayfield

December 13 —
Caroling on the Green

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 — Kari Miller
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: www.ci.baltimore.md.us/government/legislature/zoning

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.
Follow us on twitter @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