

T H E MAYFIELD NEWSLETTER

A Hamlet in the Heart of Town 2023 | Issue One

Mayfield General Membership Meeting

Thursday, May 18

7:15pm

**St. Francis of Assisi
Burke Hall**

***Enter from door off the
parking lot***

**Special Guests,
New Developments,
Community Business**



P R E S I D E N T ' S L E T T E R

Dear Neighbors,

I've been reading many history books about Ukraine and Eastern Europe, trying to understand the dynamics that led up to the war. At the same time, I've been paying attention to the news, and I have become dispirited by the acrimony that is tearing our country apart, as I'm sure most of you have, too. So, it isn't too surprising that I've been feeling a bit grumpy lately.

But then I stumbled upon this insight from Timothy Snyder's book *On Tyranny*: when we engage with others in activities related to interests we share with them, we are creating and strengthening civil society, which in turn helps overcome the divisions between us. In these groups, we create and sustain bonds of trust and affection that extend beyond "a narrow circle of friends and families." I found his words incredibly inspiring because civil society can take many shapes: religious activities, athletic leagues, fraternities and sororities, book clubs. NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS.

That's right. You see where this is heading.

And yes, I am seriously making the case that taking part in the Mayfield Improvement Association is not only good for the neighborhood, but can actually go at least a small way towards healing our country. Participation in our activities can expose you to new perspectives, new experiences, and even new friends. And there are many ways that you can help. You could join the board, or, if that's too daunting, you could help JoAnn Trach Tongson's greening committee. You could help out with kids' activities or work with Phaedra Stewart and Marie Lymon on the adults' activities. Perhaps you're sick of the rising crime in our area and would like to join NECOP—we could pair you with

(continued on page 2)



www.mayfieldassociation.org

(continued from page 1)

a partner who could become your new friend. Also, the playground needs a new fence and better drainage so the play-mat mulch can do the job it's intended to do. To make this happen, we'll need all kinds of contributions: money, labor, materials, whatever you can provide. Perhaps this is where you'll find your niche, and become part of something even greater: a stronger, more vibrant civil society.

Best regards,

Deborah Mason

President

Mayfield Improvement Association

PLAYGROUND WORK AHEAD

The Mayfield Board has been re-searching means to address the playground mulch layer. Information provided indicates that work substantially beyond a new layer of mulch is required for a longer-term solution. Mayfield & Maryland State Boychoir have invested in play-safe quality mulch for volunteers to spread every 2 years over the past 10 +years.

However, the playground's needs are more extensive than anticipated. There are drainage issues likely due to compaction of the soil over the years. Standing water, and, in winter, ice, then degraded the playground mulch faster. In short, the work to be done will require a more substantial effort and investment to protect the long-term use of the play area.

Additionally, we recognized that the mangled and deteriorating fence needs to be replaced with something sturdy and long-lasting. The current fence is weakened from wear

and tear. Fencing alone will be more than ½ of the funds we allocated for playground improvements in the last budget.

The children's safety is the Board's number one guiding principle; our second priority is to ensure that we pursue the most cost-effective improvements to ensure the safe and continued use of the playground for many years to come

Volunteers can do some of the work, but we will need contractors and materials from vendors to support this work. Board members met with Maryland State Boychoir about this project, since they are the host organization for the playground, which is on their land and insurance coverage. They will receive all the estimates we receive from contractors to review.

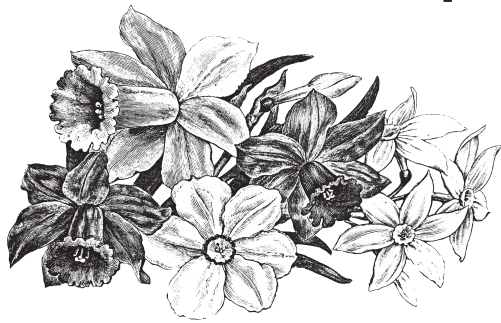
Mayfield anticipates that the work will require more than the \$8,000 the general membership meeting approved. When we have a clearer idea

of the total costs for repair we will share them with you Just as friends of the playground have rallied in the past, a specific fundraising campaign may be required to meet the longer term needs for the playground.

The youngsters love playing there, the parents love being there, meeting up with friends and making new ones. The playground is where all our holiday parties take place and where the kids gravitate to during our Block party. Practically every Zillow listing for a Mayfield home for sale includes a picture of the playground. It has become the heart of the neighborhood! We don't want it to be out of service for more than just a few days, and we will do our best to coordinate various vendor deliveries and contractors for the drainage work and fence work.

It's an investment worth the safety and longevity of this wonderful spot for the children!

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN TO PAY YOUR DUE\$!



Dues are \$20 per year per household or \$10/year for households headed by someone 62 or older. Dues are for the calendar year January to December. Please make checks payable to Mayfield Improvement Association OR M.I.A. Be sure to include your name and address on or in the envelope provided, especially if you are paying in cash.

What do dues pay for?

Mayfield is fortunate to have extensive volunteer power. However, even with dedicated volunteers, there are some expenses to cover. Dues pay for items for our welcome baskets to new residents, participating in Live Baltimore neighborhood tours, supplies, the printing expense of the Mayfield News, for children's activities and events, general meeting expenses and thank you gifts to speakers, participation with groups. In Northeast we rely on, spring bulbs to plant, rental of equipment as needed, items for social activities for adults and entertainment at the Block Party and more.

Use the form and self-addressed envelope attached to this newsletter. Then send or deliver your payment to Mayfield Treasurer, 2201 Mayfield Avenue, Baltimore 21213 or bring to a Mayfield sponsored event, or the May 18, 2023 General Membership meeting.

Many residents make an additional contribution to a special neighborhood fund for specific activities. For 2023 we especially need additional funds to support some extensive work to enhance the playground and make long term improvements for the playground surface and perimeter. The playground is a wonderful place for our youngsters to have fun, but updates are especially needed. See the story "Playground Work Ahead" in this issue. Other potential designated funds to support are greening activities, Youth Vision Scholarship Program and general fund.

HISTORY CORNER: Indigenous people lived along the Herring Run

Lauraville residents Lisa Kraus and Jason Shellenhamer admit it: When they began their search for Native American artifacts at Herring Run Park in northeast Baltimore, their expectations were low. In a city that has seen centuries of human habitation and development and little urban archaeology in recent years, they figured they might find a few small flakes of chipped stone.

Instead the archaeologist couple found a trove of projectile points, drills and other artifacts that humans fashioned from stone some 5,000 to 9,000 years ago. From the more recent Woodland Period, they found pottery shards, some handsomely decorated. The duo is still studying the artifacts, but they know enough to conclude the spot was probably used as a seasonal hunting camp for many centuries before the arrival of Europeans. "It's a shocker for Baltimore," said Kraus, who has been working in the park with Shellenhamer since 2014 as part of the Herring Run Archaeology Project they founded. "We just added as many as 9,000 years to the history of Baltimore City," she told *The Brew*, explaining that archaeological work on pre-contact peoples trailed off after the 1980s. "Artifacts of this kind have been found all over Maryland, but they have not been found for a very long time in Baltimore city," said Kraus. (more on Friends of Herring Run Parks website)

For more info about tribes living in the Baltimore area including Piscataway (Algonquin), Susquehannock, Lumbee, Cherokee, and more about Native Americans in Baltimore & along the Chesapeake & Potomac. Visit History of Native Americans in Baltimore - Wikipedia (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/history_of_native_americans_in_baltimore)



Now that spring is here what is needed to prepare a flower garden?

Michael Lachance, Master Gardener



If you left dead flowers standing over the winter, the time to clean your beds is when overnight temperatures are consistently at least 50 degrees. Carefully break the stalks without disturbing the plant's root system or any emerging plant material at the base. These can go into a compost pile as soil amendments and fertilizer once they break down. If you have perennials, watch for new growth to see if your flower beds need thinning.

If you planted annuals, do not rake the bed, but allow last year's seeds to naturally re-sow the bed. Perennials such as hostas, daylilies, and iris, can now be divided and shared with your fellow gardeners or planted elsewhere in your yard. The size of a rounded shovel circle can be spaded and divided into 4 separate plants, leave one and take out three. The time to do this is just when the perennials are starting to break the service of the ground before their leaves get tall.

If you have perennials that have self-sowed, like Black Eyed Susan's and New England Asters, now is the time to start pulling or digging out extras from the area where they are too dense. These plants quickly spread and can take over a flower bed if not controlled.

You can amend the beds with finished compost and fertilizer as well as acidifying soil for acid loving plants like blueberries, hydrangea, and azaleas. You can sprinkle with wood ashes (just a little, do not overdo it) to help neutralize overly acidic soil. Watch for plants to sprout and decide if any need moving.

- Spacing for perennials are generally about 6 to 12 inches apart, planted in 3's, 5's, or 7's.

- Spring flowering bushes sure as Lilac, Azaleas should not be trimmed until after they flower.
- Summer bushes such as Crepe Myrtles, Rose of Sharon can be trimmed now as they will flower for first year growth.
- Think about what types of plants you may want to add to your existing beds. Consider expanding your gardens by getting plants from other gardeners.
- Remember to work the soil when it is drier, so it will not stay together in chunks, if it is too wet. Keep an eye out for those all so familiar weeds and pull them now.
- Add mulch to your garden once you see that the plants have grown sufficiently, and the soil has warmed up.
- If you want to grow your own annuals, now is the time to plant packet seeds in a starter mix according to the directions on the packet. You can set the pots in window sunlight or under plant lights.
- When they have grown large enough to begin planting outside, you will need to give them several days in their pots outside to adjust to the temperature before placing them in the ground.
- This should only happen after the frost date has passed.
- If you are working to free your trees of English Ivy vines climbing the trees, cut the vine root about 1-2 ft above the ground, but be sure to remove the root of the vine completely. The vine above the cut will die and deteriorate.

Happy Gardening!

A big thank you to JoAnn Trach Tongson and Deb Veystek for their advice on this too. Deborah Veystek, our Mayfield resident on 2100 block of Lake Ave with a beautiful garden, reviewed and added some information about overnight temperature and pollinator needs. JoAnn, is the Mayfield Greening Chair, a past president of Mayfield and a landscape architect. She added advice on how to remove tree-killing vines and preparing your garden this spring.

IN AND AROUND MAYFIELD

Received a Welcome Basket? Have you moved in to Mayfield recently? Did you receive a Welcome Basket from Mayfield?

Let mayfieldupdate@gmail.com know if you have not received your welcome basket. These decorated and filled baskets provide Mayfield items, info you need, fun gifts and past newsletters to introduce you to the neighborhood. We have volunteers to provide support to those in need; who take responsibility for helping the community in various ways — planning events, volunteering help for projects, participating in events, and more.

Mayfield Holidays were Merry and Bright

The Judges awarded these decorated homes in December 2022:

Whole Houses and/or Yards

3617 Crossland
Darren McDonnell & Timothy Thomas
2404 Lake Ave
Gerald & Sharon Browning
2208 Pelham
Deborah & Frank Williams

Best Doors/Porches

2402 Erdman – Charlie Kennedy
3411 Harford – Jean & Patrick Kelley
2208 Lake – Sylvia Willson

Best Block(s)

All of Crossland from Erdman to Chesterfield. The Holiday Judges said “the whole 5 blocks were bright and merry!”

Here are a few Special Categories created by the Judges:

Best Duplex Cooperation:

2220 & 2222 Pelham – Paul & Martha Anderson & David & Mary Jean Erb

Most Spirited:

2215 Kentucky Eric & Catherine D’Dio

Best Inflatable:

2316 Erdman – Bethany & Nathan Gray

Many thanks for the judges’ review of decorated homes. Jared Early, Maggie Glass and Russell Hite were especially thorough and they brought fresh eyes to impressive creativity of many Mayfield homes.

Mayfield resident, Jackie Milad, is selected to create New Works Exhibit at Baltimore Museum of Art opens April 26, 2023-March 17, 2024

Jackie Milad is an artist and lives in Mayfield. She answered the BMA’s open call to artists based in Maryland and neighboring states. A jury of contemporary art experts selected Jackie Milad as one of two artists to create new works in dialogue with Fred Wilson’s *Artemis/Bast* (1992). BMA TODAY in its 2023 Winter Spring edition explained that Jackie Milad and Nekisha Durrett responded with compelling proposals that engage with this provocation: “What images and thoughts emerge when myths and histories collide?” It continues with this charge: “This initiative provides an opportunity for artists to explore critical question integral to their own practices, while also examining the complex and unresolved legacies of Fred Wilson’s art.

Wilson’s *Artemis/Bast*, is currently on extended loan to the BMA from the Collection of Karen Reiner. It will be

presented in the BMA’s John Waters Rotunda. Milad and Durrett’s new installations will be presented in the two adjacent galleries.

To see the image of Fred Wilson’s *Artemis/Bast* go to this URL link:
<https://artbma.org/event/legacies-maurice-berger-and-fred-wilson>

Dumpster Days for 2023 3 Saturday Mornings.

June 3

2400 Block of Mayfield

September 23

2201 Mayfield Ave

December 2

2300 block of Mayfield

We opted to use locations with wide streets and easy parking available so the truck delivering the dumpster can maneuver well.

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Shred it Day

Friday, April 28

2201 Mayfield Ave

Shred it services are free to dues paid residents or \$5/the size of a copy paper box. Dues can be paid at the shredding site. Drop off material for recycling by 12noon under the carport of the driveway at 2201 Mayfield Avenue. No plastic, no trash. Only Paper bags or boxes about the size of a copy paper case. Only paper. Check with bankrate.com with advice of what documents you should keep and the documents that you should shred.

CALENDAR

Check www.mayfieldassociation.org
mayfieldupdate@gmail.com
or www.facebook.com/mayfield.update
for updated calendar and other events
worth noting between newsletter
deliveries.

Event announcements are also in
Mayfield E-newsletter, issued weekly,
with community and nearby news.

April – Easter Fun for Children Date TBD

**Saturday, April 22 Earth Day
tree planting at 10am**

**Friday, April 28
Mayfield Shred it Day
2201 Mayfield Avenue
drop off by 12 noon**

Arbor Day is Fri, Apr 28

**Saturday, April 29, Mother's Garden
Clean up and garden work**

**Saturday, May 6, Mother's Day event
Fairy Garden & Gnome Hunt
(Rain date 5/7) 1:30 - 3:30pm**

**May 5 Rain date May 6
Mothers' Garden Event**

**Thursday, May 18
Mayfield General Membership
Meeting – 7:15PM
St. Francis of Assisi Burke Hall**

**June 3 – AM – Dumpster Day #2
2400 Block of Mayfield**

**June – Date TBD – New Resident &
Volunteer Thank you Dinner**

**June-July – Pop Up Event on short
notice.**

**June – Date TBD – Youth Vision Prize
Deadline**

**Do you have a question about
Mayfield, or want something placed
in the weekly Neighbor to Neighbor
section of the E-news?**

To share an opportunity, request a
referral, help solve a problem or find a
service — if you need some help from
Mayfield for All Ages, want to sign up for
the E-news or just about anything else
— send a note to [Mayfieldupdate@
gmail.com](mailto:Mayfieldupdate@gmail.com) — It will get to the right
person.

Mayfield Improvement Association Officers

President

Deborah Mason

Vice President

Phaedra Stewart

Recording Secretary

Janelle Cousino

Corresponding Secretary

Stephanie Buttner

Treasurer

Julia McDonald

Board Members

Mary Ann Dresler

James Long

Marie Lymon

Jan Shipley

JoAnn Trach Tongson

Nina Tou

Michael Wilson

Committee & Project Leaders

Welcome Basket — Stephanie Buttner,
Julia McDonald, Nina Tou

Block Party — Stephanie Buttner and
Phaedra Stewart

Communications — Janelle Cousino

Webmaster — Brian Baughn

Newsletter Layout & Graphic Design

Nina Tou

Greening Activities —

JoAnn Trach Tongson

Children Activities — Parent Committee

Playground Maintenance —

Dave Hardy, JoAnn Trach Tongson

Youth Scholar Vision Prize

Committee — Deborah Mason

JoAnn Trach Tongson Phaedra Stewart &
Nina Tou

Mayfield for All Ages — Deborah Mason

Social Activities - Phaedra Stewart,

Marie Lymon & Jami Dodson

Traffic Calming Committee —

Chairperson role open

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 commit-
tee? Email mayfieldupdate@gmail.com to
let us know. There are many ways to
volunteer for Mayfield.

Link to Mayfield Policy for Zoning Variance Requests and Mayfield Mem- orandum 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/](http://mayfieldassociation.org/news/zoningnews/)

Link to City Zoning Regulations

Residents who have questions about
permits for fencing, signs, home im-
provements or other issues regulated by
city codes can log onto this website for
answers:

Zoning: [https://planning.baltimorecity.
gov/programs/transform-baltimore](https://planning.baltimorecity.gov/programs/transform-baltimore)
and what needs a permit?
[http://www.baltimorehousing.org/
permits](http://www.baltimorehousing.org/permits)

Northeastern District Police

410-396-2444

**Mayfield Homes are eligible for the
Maryland Historic Tax credits.** Go to
[https://mht.maryland.gov/taxcredits_
homeowner.shtml](https://mht.maryland.gov/taxcredits_homeowner.shtml) or Mayfield website:
<http://www.mayfieldassociation.org>

For an emergency dial: 911

Are you new to the neighborhood or know a new resident?

Our welcome committee would like to
know. Please send an email to:
mayfieldupdate@gmail.com
Mayfield News is created by volunteers,
printed and then distributed by volun-
teers 3 or 4 times a year.

Mayfield has a Weekly E News too.

If you are not receiving MayfieldUpdate
E-newsletter — a weekly news update
distributed by email, you can subscribe.
Send an email with your name and
address to mayfieldupdate@gmail.com
and say 'Subscribe to E-news.'
Recent stories you would have missed
include Meeting notices; Updates on
traffic calming matters; Harford Road
and Herring Run Bridge. 20+ years of
the Mayfield Stork; News about Lake
Montebello repairs; New opportunities
in Northeast and around us Herring Run
Parks; Nearby Events, Concerts and
Social events.

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