



Wyndhurst Improvement Association

WIA News

AUTUMN • OCTOBER 21, 2011

BALTIMORE, MD

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WIA BLOCK PARTY IN THE RAIN

It rained, it shined... The WIA Block Party was held September 11, 2011. Many thanks to our Social Committee Chairs Caroline Wayner and Beth Ratrie for organizing the event, to Frank Thomsen and the Pine family for setting up the party, to Julia Barker and John Merrill for so graciously inviting the party into their home when the skies let loose and to Henry Kay, Brian Kelly, Addison Palmer and Matt Hornbeck for manning the grills during the downpour. And thanks to the residents of the 700 block of St. John's Road for moving your cars for the party—the kids especially enjoy playing unfettered in the street.

STONY RUN UPDATE

National Trails Day Fun

On June 4th Wyndhurst participated in National Trails Day, a celebration of recreational trails in communities across the United States. Along the Stony Run trail, Wyndhurst's youngest neighbors enjoyed getting their commemorative booklets stamped at stations as they followed a map along the stream. Many participated in a tadpole release and learned about the fish and plants that make the Stony Run their home. Wyndhurst Station merchants offered free refreshments for all, and the

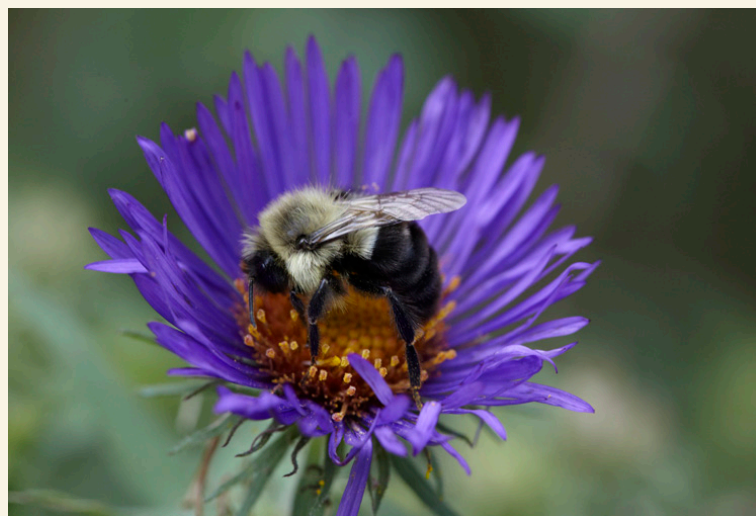


PHOTO: BRIAN MCCARTHY 2011

Wyndhurst yard sale was a great success. Thanks to all those who volunteered for the event and to Helen deClercq for organizing the Trails Day activities.

STONY RUN IMPROVEMENTS

The WIA continues to play a leadership role in the ongoing stewardship and development of the Stony Run as part of the Greater Roland Park Master Plan. The WIA helped the Bolton Street Synagogue, the Baltimore Jewish Environmental Network and Blue Water Baltimore secure a \$10,000 grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust to support the removal of asphalt at the synagogue. The grant will allow for a pervious trail to be created along the stream. Blue Water Baltimore will be organizing volunteers to help with the depaving effort and to devine

the trees along the synagogue property. If you would like to volunteer or make a donation to help improve this section of trail please contact WIA president Amy Bonitz at aabonitz@gmail.com.

TRANSFORM BALTIMORE

Baltimore City Department of Planning continues to work on rewriting the city's nearly 40-year-old zoning code. The WIA has been tracking the new code and has asked the Planning Department to address our concerns about some of the proposed changes that affect our neighborhood. For more information about the proposed changes, please visit this link: <http://www.transformbaltimore.net/portal>. This issue will be discussed in more detail at the upcoming WIA Annual

*Above right:
A bee harvests
pollen from a
blue aster next
to Stony Run in
early October.*

Meeting in January 2012.

STREET TREE CAMPAIGN

One of the most distinctive features of Wyndhurst is the mature trees that line our streets. Many of these trees were planted a hundred years ago when the neighborhood was first built, and they are reaching the end of their natural lives. Without a focused effort to plant new trees, Wyndhurst may lose its beautiful tree-lined streets.

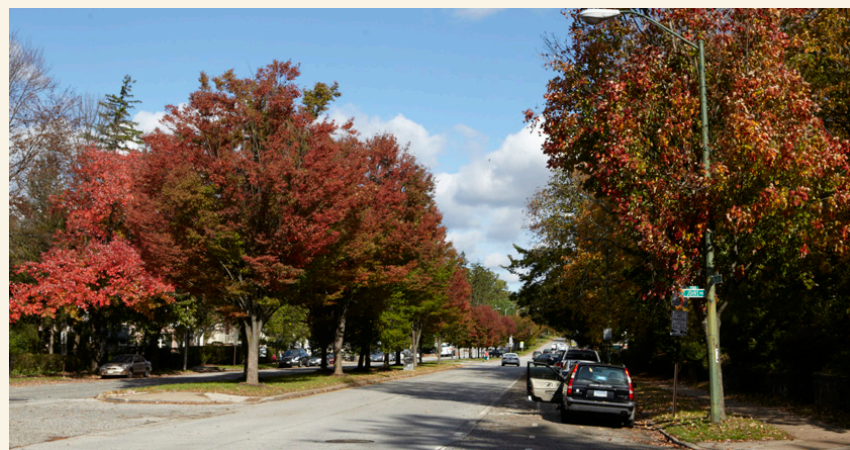
The WIA is coordinating volunteers to track the condition of our tree canopy, coordinate with Forestry around maintenance issues and organize tree plantings. If you would be willing to volunteer or have a spot in the front of your yard along the street that could accommodate a new tree please contact Amy Bonitz, at aabonitz@gmail.com.

FRIENDS SCHOOL

In late June, representatives from the WIA met with the Friends School of Baltimore to discuss concerns regarding Friends' purchase of homes on Greenleaf Road and Charles Street in 2010 and Friends' efforts to improve access and traffic in and around the school. Both school officials and WIA representatives agreed to work more closely together in the future to develop traffic plans that are beneficial to both parties. More details will be discussed at the upcoming WIA Annual Meeting in January 2012.

MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

The WIA Board established the Maintenance Committee (formerly the Maintenance and Beautification Committee)



in 2009 in order to keep the Wyndhurst neighborhood safe and well-maintained. One of our neighborhood's great assets is its pedestrian-friendly layout, enabling both the young and old to walk to shops, schools, places of worship and other amenities. For this reason, the committee encourages property owners to keep sidewalks clear of vegetation, ice and snow in accordance with city regulations.

The committee also encourages property owners to maintain yards and buildings to ensure the health, safety and general upkeep of the neighborhood's historic buildings. Maintenance includes keeping properties clear of debris and high weeds, and fixing problems such as vacant buildings, broken windows, significant peeling paint, missing or failing gutters, or deteriorated or rotting exterior elements.

- The Maintenance Committee follows this procedure: Committee learns about a maintenance concern from community members, block captains or its own members.
- The committee determines if the issue is serious enough to warrant action, and tries to

understand the circumstances related to the issue. For example, it will not pursue an issue that is being addressed by the owner or if there are extenuating circumstances, such as fiscal constraints.

- If necessary, the committee takes the following actions: First, it communicates with the property owner and requests that the owner advise the committee as to how the issue will be resolved. This communication usually is done in the form of a letter from the president and committee chair. If a response is lacking or insufficient, the committee sends a second letter suggesting that it may involve the city if there is no adequate response. The Committee strives to deal with issues on a local level and avoid involvement by authorities.

- If the property owner is not responsive and/or the conditions of the property are especially egregious, the committee may register a formal complaint with Baltimore City. This action may be particularly warranted in the case of vacant or abandoned buildings. The committee tries to keep its activities confidential. Members currently serving on

Above right: The trees along Roland Avenue are reaching full fall color.

PHOTO: BRION MCCARTHY 2011



Roland Avenue becomes a car-free zone this Sunday for Ciclovía IV!

the committee are John Bishop (Chair), Richard Gross, David McDonough, Brooks Nobel and Frank Thomsen. The committee can be contacted at jwatsonb@comcast.net.

UPCOMING EVENTS

*Roland Park Ciclovía IV
Sunday, October 23, from 9 a.m.
to 2 p.m. on Roland Avenue*

The Roland Park Civic League, in collaboration with the City of Baltimore's BMore Streets for People Program, announces its fourth ciclovía will take place on Sunday, October 23, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Vehicular traffic will be diverted from southbound Roland Avenue. Participants will again be able to walk, run, bike or scooter on southbound Roland Avenue from Northern Parkway to Cold Spring Lane. Food and entertainment will be featured. Joe's Bike Shop mechanics will be on hand to tune up bikes and instruct children on bicycling safety. Back by popular demand, a "bike safety rodeo" will be organized for the youngest bicyclists, courtesy of Bike Maryland. To learn more about the event, visit this link: <http://www.rolandpark.org/Ciclovía>.

WIA ANNUAL MEETING

*Tuesday, January 10, at 7 p.m.
at the Three Arts Club*

The Wyndhurst Improvement Association Annual Meeting will be held January 10, 2012 at 7 p.m. at the Three Arts Club at 2 Wyndhurst Avenue. Please come and learn more about the work of the association, elect officers and meet neighbors!

WYNDHURST'S ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PARADE SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30 AT 4 P.M.



The parade will begin at the deadend of St. Johns Road, slither up to Roland Avenue, and stop in front of Eddie's for a few photos. Paraders will snake back down Deepdene Road and up Summit, back to the foot of St. Johns where there will be games and refreshments. All ages are welcome. Do wear a costume!

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Tom Greene at bikeusa89@yahoo.com as soon as possible.

PHOTO: BRION MCCARTHY 2004

DON'T FORGET TO PAY YOUR WIA DUES

Dues are used to support neighborhood events, such as the block party and the Halloween parade. Though most of the work for WIA is done by volunteers and through donation, some expenses arise on an irregular or semi-regular basis, such as legal fees and xeroxing. \$15 per year per household is recommended.

Please make checks payable to **Wyndhurst Improvement Association**. Include your name, address and phone number and mail or deliver your check to **Henry Kay**, WIA Treasurer, 721 Colorado, Baltimore, MD 21210.

PHOTO: BRION MCCARTHY 2011



*Schneider's Hardware
in bloom.*

*If you have an
idea for a story,
a photo, or an
event listing for
the newsletter,
please email
Becky Hornbeck
or **Elizabeth**
Gething.*

WIA NEWS CONTRIBUTORS INCLUDE:

*John Bishop
Amy Bonitz
Helen de Clerq
Elizabeth Gething
Becky Horbeck
Brion McCarthy*

SHOPPING & EATING NEWS

Wyndhurst resident Lisa Valencia is the proud new owner of Little Lamb Consignments in Wyndhurst Station. Lisa spent the month of June sprucing up the store which sells gently used children's clothing and furnishings and baby equipment.

The upstairs of Wyndhurst Station got an upgrade with the expansion of Stony Run Home, a home furnishings store owned by nearby residents Lauri and Patrick Fitzgerald. Myrtle Dove consignment shop has reopened next to Majestic Cleaners.

Tony Foreman and Cindy Wolf, the owners of Petit Louis, are planning to open a new restaurant in the former deli space in the lower level of the Roland Park Shopping Center. The new restaurant is set to offer American fare geared toward families at a lower price point than Petit Louis.

WIA OFFICERS

The WIA is seeking committed and energetic residents to serve

as President, Vice President or Secretary of the WIA for the 2012 term. If you would like to be nominated or wish to nominate a resident of the neighborhood please contact Libby Champney at libbycc@aol.com for more details.

NEIGHBORHOOD AWARDS

The WIA is seeking nominations for our annual awards program to be announced at January's Annual Meeting. The categories are: 1) **Outstanding Home Improvement Project** for those neighbors who have completed a project that contributes to

the architectural or landscape beauty of the neighborhood; and 2) **WIA Good Neighbor** for a Wyndhurst neighbor who has gone above and beyond in service to their neighbors. If you would like to nominate someone please contact Becky Hornbeck at rebeccahornbeck@comcast.net with the full name and address of your nominee and a description of why you think he and/or she should be honored by the association.

WIA WINTER SOCIAL EVENT

Do you have an inspiring idea for the WIA's Winter Social Event... perhaps a new twist on the Progressive Dinner? The WIA Social Committee needs new members to help plan our Winter Event. Please contact Beth Rattie at brattie@yahoo.com if you can lend a hand.

WYNDHURST WEBSITE

Neighbors Steve Oxman and Peter Wayner have been hard at work on a new website for Wyndhurst at www.wyndhurst-neighborhood.com. Talented writers are needed to help add content to the website. If you are interested contact Amy Bonitz at aabonitz@gmail.com.

WYNDHURST LIST SERVE

If you would like to receive notifications about official neighborhood events and news please email **wyndhurst@gmail.com**. Include your name and address and you will be added to the Wyndhurst list serve.

WYNDHURST YAHOO GROUP

For non-official announcements (e.g. individual postings, lost items, homes for sale) please sign up for the Wyndhurst Yahoo account at **<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wyndhurstbaltimore/join>**.