



Wyndhurst Improvement Association

WIA News

SPRING • APRIL 15, 2011

BALTIMORE, MD

WIA BOARD

President

Amy Bonitz Palmer

Vice President

Jim Determan

Treasurer

Henry Kay

Secretary

Becky Hornbeck

BLOCK CAPTAINS

Joe Baniszewski

Libby & Dave

Champney

Helen DeClercq

Laura Kinsey

Beth Lessor

David McDonough

Riina Nauman

Brooks Nobel

Diana Schramm

Eric Thompson

Louise Toby

Caroline Wayner

Betsy Winship

PROGRESSIVE DINNER A SUCCESS

On Saturday, March 5, Wyndhurst once again held a fun-filled Progressive Dinner thanks to the efforts of Social Committee Chairs Caroline Wayner and Beth Ratrie and some wonderful neighborhood hosts.

Over forty neighbors began the evening at Richard Gross's house with copious appetizers. Next was a bountiful selection of entrees followed by dessert, coffee and liqueurs at the home of Carol and John Bishop.

Next winter, the social committee is considering holding a potluck "Evening with the Arts" to showcase the many talents of our neighbors. If you have suggestions or are interested in helping plan this event, please e-mail Beth Ratrie (bratrie@yahoo.com) or Caroline Wayner (caroline@wayner.org)

WYNDHURST AND THE FRIENDS SCHOOL OF BALTIMORE

In February, WIA Board members met with representatives from the Friends School to discuss community concerns regarding the recent purchase of three residential properties in Wyndhurst and the school's interest in purchasing a fourth. A

WIA Friends School Committee is being formed to enhance the WIA's communication and working relationship with the school with the goal of pro-actively seeking solutions to community and school concerns.

If you are interested in participating or would like further information please contact Amy Bonitz or Eric Thompson.

GREATER ROLAND PARK MASTER PLAN – A BRIEF UPDATE

The Greater Roland Park Master Plan received final approval by the City of Baltimore Planning Commission on February 17, 2011.

The implementation team includes a Steering Committee responsible for execution of plan projects; an Advisory Committee representing leaders of all greater Roland Park communities; and a Fund Raising/Grant Investigation Committee to raise the private dollars required for plan implementation. From Wyndhurst, Amy Bonitz is serving on the Steering Committee and Jim Determan is serving on the Advisory Committee.

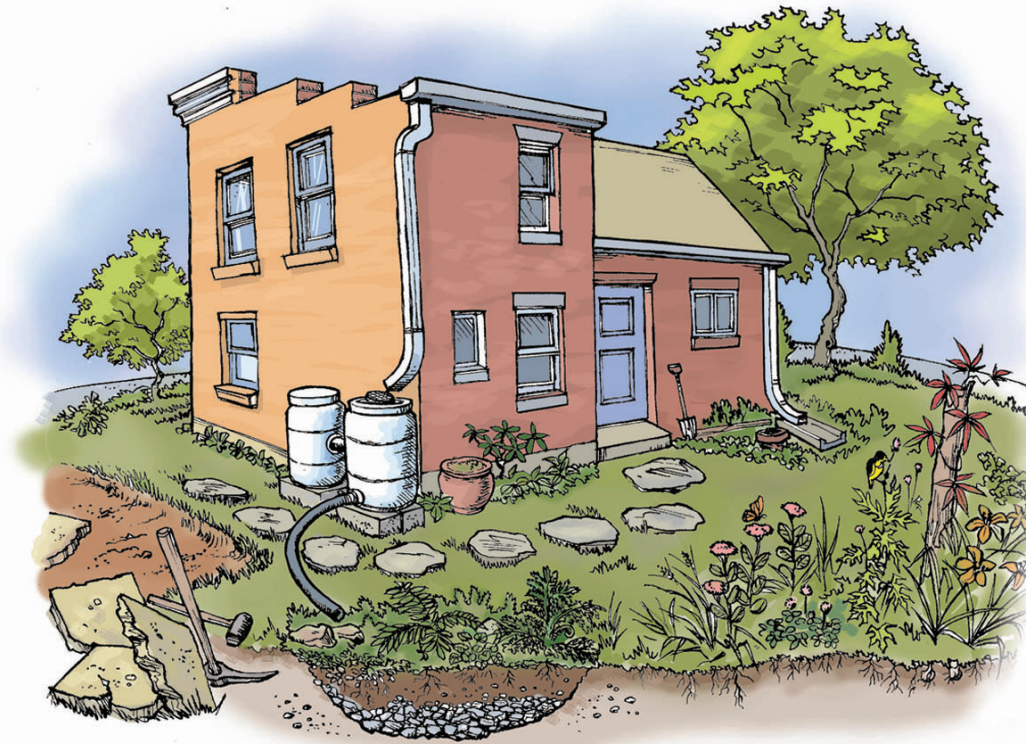
Short term projects include an assessment and repair of community paths, alleys and sidewalks with pruning of overgrown vegetation; and an in-

ventory of all community street trees to establish the care and pruning requirements and the need for new plantings.

Efforts are underway to restore the Roland Park Water Tower and create a park and community display area at the base of the tower. With help from the 40th State Delegation (Senator Pugh; Delegates Tarrant, Robinson, Conaway) and City Councilwomen Clarke and Conaway, a state bond bill request was submitted.

A request was made to the Mayor to make Cold Spring Lane and Roland Avenue the location of a model demonstration program for "Complete Streets". Complete streets is a national effort, embraced by Baltimore City, to "build road networks that are safer, more livable and welcoming to everyone" (<http://www.completestreets.org/>) exactly in line with suggestions of the master plan (traffic calming, more on-street parking, pedestrian and ADA improvements including pedestrian-scaled lighting, transit enhancements, safe routes to schools).

Work is underway on other projects including Stony Run improvements. Have an interest or want to get involved? Write to masterplan@rolandpark.org or speak to Amy Bonitz.



Above: The theme of the Mayor's Annual Clean-up 2011 is "Home to Harbor: Clean Water Starts in Your Backyard." To learn valuable run-off solutions and sign up for the Blue Water Baltimore Water Audit Program, see/print pages 5 and 6 of this newsletter.

WYNDHURST STONY RUN PARKS PARTNERSHIP

by Helen deClercq

Since the Ma & Pa railroad gave up its right-of-way in the late 50's, the Stony Run trail that follows its path has been an eclectic mix of ownership and control. A year and a half ago, we were successful in getting the City to transfer the publicly owned lots to Recreation and Parks and we formed a Parks Partnership to provide for maintenance. However, the southern portion of the trail, extending from approximately the St. Johns/Colorado alley to Gladstone Avenue, is privately owned in two lots. The many citizens who walk the trail have been fortunate to enjoy access across these lots, one owned by friendly neighbors and the other subject to an easement as part of the 1976 neighborhood

agreement covering Wyndhurst Station.

This fall neighborhood representatives met with the owner of the southernmost lot (at Gladstone) and discussed the work we've been doing to provide a native woodland experience along the Stony Run Trail and how this ties in to the recommendations of the Greater Roland Park Master Plan. He was very receptive to our request and generously agreed to donate this lot. We are working with Miriam Avins, Director of the Land Trust "Baltimore Green Space" whose board agreed to help us affect the land transfer. Miriam and we received an enthusiastic reception at a meeting on March 10th with Gregory Bayor, Director of Recreation and Parks, Bill Vondrasek, Acting Chief of Parks Bureau, and Fran Spero,

Office of Partnerships. Miriam is currently working with City attorneys to determine the "nitty gritty" of how this transfer may be accomplished and the owner given credit for the charitable contribution of his property. Even though the property is being donated, there will be expenses associated with the land transfer, including an assessment and expenses incurred by Baltimore Green Space. We will be organizing fundraising activities to help cover these costs and are happy for any help and ideas that you can provide!

SPRING CLEANING FOR YOUR YARD

Bitten by the spring cleaning bug? Don't forget your yard! It's been a long winter, and yards and alleys throughout Wyndhurst are ready for a spring cleaning. Spending just an hour or two every week will get your yard in shape and improve the look of our neighborhood. At a loss for where to start? Here are some suggestions:

- **Take a look at the gutter in front of your house.** Raking up last fall's leaves keeps them from clogging storm drains and washing down to Stony Run, as well as reducing damage to the paving.
- **Give your shrubs a haircut,** particularly where they overhang sidewalks.
- **Mulch beds and plant native groundcovers** to prevent erosion and keep down weeds as summer arrives.
- **Collect and dispose** of fallen branches and sticks.

- **Call 311 to schedule bulk trash pick-up**, haul junk to the Northwest Sanitation Yard at 2840 Sisson Street (open Mon-Sat from 9 am to 5 pm), or watch for a neighborhood dumpster. For a map and information about other drop off sites as well as what the centers will take go to: <http://www.baltimorecity.gov/Government/AgenciesDepartments/Public-Works/SingleStreamRecycling/CitizenDropoffCenters.aspx>
- Don't dump yard waste along Stony Run—this smothers native plants and looks unsightly.

REVERSING THE LOSS OF STREET TREES

One of the most distinctive features of Wyndhurst is

the mature trees that line our streets. Street trees increase the value of our homes, reduce summer temperatures, and provide a home to native songbirds.

Over the past decade Wyndhurst has lost many of its oldest trees, and re-planting has not kept up.

In general, Baltimore City is responsible for trees between the sidewalk and street, and has resources that can help.

Call 311 to report dead or dying trees, or trees in need of pruning. The city forester tells us there is a significant backlog of dead trees to remove, so don't delay in calling.

If you have a vacant space in front of your house, call 311 to

ask for a new tree to be planted and specify what kind of tree you would like. Once your tree is in the ground, keep it well-watered for at least the first summer and protect it from kids, dogs and string trimmers. Encourage your neighbors to do the same.

Finally, protect existing trees throughout the neighborhood by removing ivy and other invasive vines, and don't compact the root zone by driving over it.

APRIL 16 IS THE MAYOR'S ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY AND WIA'S TRAIL DE-VINING DAY

...a perfect way to spend time outdoors and chat with neighbors as you clean up your yard and the neighborhood's yard—Stony Run Trail.

For more information, see page 4

Have a neighborhood-related photo, story, or event to share in the next WIA News? Contact Elizabeth Gething or Becky Hornbeck.

UP-COMING EVENTS

With the warmer weather comes the urge for outdoor activities. Here is a list of fun ways to spend time with neighbors and help improve our community.

SATURDAY, APRIL 16: MAYOR'S ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN UP

Wyndhurst is participating in the *Mayor's Annual Spring Clean Up* on **Saturday, April 16 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.** This year's theme is "*Home to Harbor – Clean Water Starts in Your Backyard*" to emphasize the connection between litter and debris in the neighborhood and the cleanliness and health of the City's streams and harbor. Collection bags will be available a day or two ahead of time on the front porch of **725 St. Johns Road**. Fill bags with debris, and leave them **at the end of Colorado** for pick up by the City on Monday, April 18.

SATURDAY, APRIL 16TH, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM: TRAIL DE-VINING DAY

Thanks to hard-working neighborhood volunteers, an enormous number of vines were cleared away on the northern end of the trail last fall. And, thanks to a few brave souls like Wil Hylton, Abby Lattes, and others, these efforts continued over the cold winter months. Now we'd like to give some attention to the other end of the trail where the trees along the stream bank have a heavy amount of vine. Early spring, before everything has leafed out, is a good time to remove vines. Please join us and take out your cabin fever out on some vines! Later this spring we will be mulching the trail again. The date will be announced as soon as Baltimore City delivers the mulch. Stay tuned!

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, MAY 14 & 15: SEVEN GENERATIONS WEEKEND

The second **Seven Generations Weekend** for Greater Roland Park has been scheduled for Saturday, May 14th and Sunday, May 15th. It is sponsored by the Sustainability Committee of the Roland Park Civic League.

The weekend kicks off on Saturday, May 14th with the 3rd annual **Roland Park Native Plant Sale** and continues with a host of other events including a **Garden Party** at Roland Park Elementary/Middle School and a "**Green Expo**" with exhibitors, vendors, music, films, and more to be held in front of (and in) the Enoch Pratt Library's Roland Park Branch.

Another of the highly popular **Ciclovia** events is planned for Sunday, May 15th. South-bound Roland Avenue will be closed to traffic for several hours, allowing pedestrians and cyclists to enjoy one of north Baltimore's most beautiful boulevards. Starting on Monday the 16th, all parents and students are encouraged to walk, bike or scooter to school.

For more details about the native plant sale, visit www.RolandParkNative.org. For more information about the Green Expo and the Ciclovia please visit the Seven Generations Weekend webpage www.rolandpark.org/SevenGenWeekend.

SATURDAY, JUNE 4TH: NATIONAL TRAIL DAY

WIA would like to hold several activities along the Stony Run Trail for **National Trail Day**. Help us make it happen with your creative ideas and organizing skills. Ideas thus far include a trail walk to the Steiff Silver building, trail improvement projects, art along the trail, a neighborhood trail party, a treasure hunt/geocaching, fundraisers, or a railroad history tour. For more information about geocaching look at www.geocaching.com. If you have an activity you'd like to suggest and help organize please contact Helen at hdeclercq@howard.edu. We'll register our event on the National Trail Day web page. Please check the American Hiking Society's National Trail Day web page <http://www.americanhiking.org/NTD.aspx>.

Registration

Once you have registered for the Water Audit Program, a representative from Blue Water Baltimore will contact you to schedule your water audit. This audit will help us calculate your water footprint and suggest opportunities for you to reduce runoff from your property.

Please print clearly

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Mail or fax this form OR call or email the relevant information to:

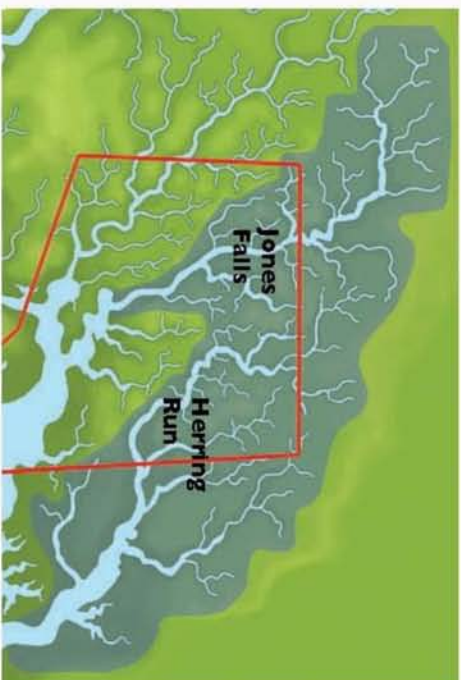
Blue Water Baltimore
3545 Belair Road
Baltimore, MD 21213
attention: **Water Audit Program**

Fax: 443-872-8574

Phone: 410-254-1577 x 106

Email: dpuzey@bluewaterbaltimore.org

Web: www.bluewaterbaltimore.org



The Water Audit program is presently available only in the Jones Falls and Herring Run watersheds, shown in the shaded area of this map.



Blue Water Baltimore, founded in 2010, is the result of a merger of five local organizations: the Jones Falls, Herring Run, Gwynn's Falls, and Baltimore Harbor Watershed Associations and the Baltimore Harbor WATERKEEPER.

Visit our website for more information and to find out what we're doing in your neighborhood:

www.bluewaterbaltimore.org



Support for the Rainfall Recorders program is provided by grant funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Federation and partnerships with the City of Baltimore and Baltimore County.

Blue Water Baltimore
WATER AUDIT
PROGRAM
Protecting Streams,
Conserving Water



The **Water Audit Program** offers rebates, free water audits, and other free services that will reduce the amount of runoff from your property, reduce your water footprint, and allow you to green your yard while saving money -- as well as the Chesapeake Bay.

RUNOFF SOLUTIONS FOR THE HOME:

the problem with RUNOFF:

- The average Baltimore home produces 35,000 gallons of runoff each year.
- This runoff contaminates local streams and the Chesapeake Bay.
- Stormwater causes flooding in the streets.
- Common pollutants found in stormwater include sediment, nutrients, fertilizer, bacteria, trash, leaked oil and gasoline.

There are ways you can reduce you home's impact on the Bay. When you register for the Water Audit program, a representative from Blue Water Baltimore will assess your property for ways that you can save water and reduce the runoff from your home.

RAIN BARRELS

- Benefits:**
- Capture rainwater
 - Cut down on water bills
- Details:**
- \$25 rebate
 - FREE barrel installation

SHADE TREES

- Benefits:**
- Reduce home heating and cooling costs
 - Provide shade and habitat
 - Improve air quality

DOWNSPOUT DISCONNECTION

- Details:**
- FREE tree planting (restrictions apply)
- Benefits:**
- Redirects water to your yard
 - Ground soaks up rainwater. Vegetation and soil provide natural filtration of pollutants.
- Details:**
- FREE!

INDOOR WATER AUDIT

- Benefits:**
- Save water, energy, and money
- Details:**
- Free audit of your water use
 - Free aerators, toilet bladders, and high-efficiency shower heads

HARDSCAPE REMOVAL

- Benefits:**
- Eliminate unused pavement and concrete
 - Replace with plants and healthy soil
- Details:**
- Up to \$200 rebate
 - FREE project review
 - Must have runoff reduction impact to qualify

RAIN GARDENS

- Benefits:**
- Capture rainwater
 - Recharge groundwater
 - Attract butterflies and other pollinators
- Details:**
- Up to \$500 rebate
 - FREE project review
 - FREE rain garden design

CONSERVATION LANDSCAPING

- Benefits:**
- Native plants require less maintenance
 - Attract butterflies and other pollinators
- Details:**
- Up to \$300 rebate
 - FREE project review
 - FREE landscape design

