



Wyndhurst Improvement Association

WIA News

AUTUMN • NOVEMBER 1, 2012

BALTIMORE, MD

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TREES!

With the help of the Tree Baltimore program, a part of Baltimore City's Forestry Department, more than 30 Greater Wyndhurst residents received free 10 foot trees this Spring. Most were planted along neighborhood streets, a few in yards and along the Stony Run trail. The weather on planting day was sunny and clear, and many people pitched in to help neighbors plant. (Special thanks go to Eric Thompson, Steve Oxman and Helen deClercq, Rock Rogers and Dave Champney.) The neighborhood association purchased "tree gators" which were given to those who requested them to help with watering, and most of the new green arrivals are thriving in their new homes. There are actually 2 trees still available—a white oak and a honey locust. If you're interested, contact Libby Champney or Becky Hornbeck. Any ongoing questions about the care of new trees can be addressed to the Forestry Department at <http://news.baltimoreforestry.org>.

Part of the promised assistance was cutting down dead trees and grinding out existing stumps. Unfortunately, thanks to the derecho and the subse-



quent mountains of debris and downed trees, this promise was not kept. We are still in touch with Tree Baltimore and are hoping that our dead trees and stumps will be taken care of before the end of the year. After that, more planting!

HAZARDOUS WASTE

Residents are reminded that any hazardous household waste (oil-based paints, pesticides, herbicides, car and household batteries, drain cleaners, gasoline, etc.) may be taken to the Sisson Street dump on the last weekend of every month from 9-5.

In addition, the state Department of the Environment periodically holds collections

of prescription and over-the-counter medications. The collection points closest to our neighborhood are at 222 N. Pine St., 21201, and 6424 Windsor Mill Rd., 21207. For more information on scheduled collections, contact Christy Bujnovszky: cbujnovszky@mde.state.md.us.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE SCORES BIG WITH "FLOATING FRIDAYS"

This summer, the WIA social committee began a successful new event called Floating Friday Happy Hours. Every other week from June through August, volunteer hosts welcomed neighbors to their yards, houses, or streets/alleys for a potluck happy hour party.

Above right: Peter Wayner, Steve Kinsey, Katherine Cameron, and Diamond Kinsey enjoy the annual WIA Block Party held on September 9.

Hosts provided grills, paper goods, and some food and beverages, while guests brought dishes to share, drinks of their choosing, and food for grilling. On rainy days, the party went inside, and everyone *still* had fun. Even a neighborhood business, Prudential PenFed on Wyndhurst, took a turn at hosting. Our deep thanks to them and to our other hosts this summer: Hank & Beth Ratrie, Esther Sharp, Kirsten Sandhofer & Stephen Von Gunden, the 5000 block of Blythewood Road, Lisa Valencia, and Becky & David Hornbeck.

Thanks also to those of you who attended; we averaged about 25 people per event. Next spring, we'll sent out information about 2013's Floating Fridays. We hope that even more of our neighbors will participate in the summer fun.

CHARLES STREET RECONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Work on Charles Street has been postponed until the Spring of 2013. At that time the northbound Charles Street lane will narrow between 28th Street and University Parkway.

Please check the project's website, www.charlesstreetreconstruction.com for future updates.

STORM REMINDER

As the planet warms, it seems that more severe weather events will be in our future. This is a reminder that in cases of power outages or downed trees, it's important to call 311 or BGE

or both as soon and as often as possible. Call even if you know your neighbors have called. The squeakiest wheels will get the grease!

A MESSAGE FROM DPW ON FOG

Fats, Oil and Grease (FOG) discharges from dishwashers, sinks and floor drains are major culprits in many costly sanitary sewer backups and overflows. **FOG** causes residential property damage, environmental contamination, health hazards and expensive sewer line repairs. In an effort to reduce **FOG**-related damages, the Department of Public Works has been aggressively treating a number of Baltimore's sanitary sewer mains identified as having severe grease problems. Citizens are urged to do their part. Keeping **FOG** out of your drains helps to keep your sewer lines, and public sewer lines, from blockages, overflows and backups.

For more information on DPW's grease control program, please call 410-545-6541.

BLOCK CAPTAINS TO VISIT NEW AND CURRENT RESIDENTS

Block captains will be visiting new residents to make sure they have an opportunity to sign up for the listserve, have information on trash pick-ups, etc. (Eventually we hope to have a "welcome packet" to give new residents filled with helpful information about services and events. **If you are interested in helping create a welcome packet, email libbycc@aol.com**

or rebeccahornbeck@comcast.net

Your block captain also will be visiting all residents to gather information for a community directory. Participation and what information you wish to share will be completely voluntary and will not be shared with anyone other than WIA residents.

JOIN THE FIGHT FOR A HEALTHY HARBOR

Everybody knows that Baltimore Harbor is polluted, but did you know that there's a movement underway to make it safe for swimming and fishing by the year 2020? The Healthy Harbor movement was started by the Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore and is supported by Baltimore City as well as area businesses and nonprofit organizations.

To see an example of what the Healthy Harbor movement has accomplished so far, you need only take a stroll down to the Inner Harbor to see the two thousand square feet of floating wetlands that have been installed next to the World Trade Center. These islands float on plastic bottles that were recovered from the Harbor and use natural processes to remove pollutants from the water while providing native habitat for birds, fish, crabs, and other marine life.

Waterfront Partnership, in collaboration with Blue Water Baltimore, is also working with neighborhoods upstream of the Harbor to help them become Clean Water Communities.

PHOTO: BRIAN MCCARTHY 2011



Spooky lawn ghoul on St. Johns Road (from Halloween '11).

Neighborhoods are spreading the word and making a difference by cleaning up vacant lots, installing rain barrels, and painting storm drains. Storm drain art engages neighborhood youth and helps neighborhoods keep their streets clean by reminding people that anything going down a storm drain ends up in the Harbor and the Chesapeake Bay.

To learn about how to get yourself, your community or your business involved in the Healthy Harbor movement, visit HealthyHarborBaltimore.org, follow Healthy Harbor on Facebook, or contact Adam Lindquist at Adam@Water-frontPartnership.org.

RASH OF BIKE THEFTS

Those who read the listserve emails will know that there has been one attempted bike theft and one house robbery recently on St. Johns Road. Additionally, police have reported 23 bike thefts in Roland Park between August 6 and September 6. The police are paying attention but there have been no arrests at this point and no recovery of stolen articles. We live in the city and we know that petty crimes of this sort are inevitable, but there is one thing we can do about the problem. **LOCK your bikes, even if they're in a garage. LOCK your car doors,** and remember not to leave anything of value in your car. If you read the crime log published in the Messenger, you

will see that the great majority of all thefts are of things like computers that have been left in unlocked cars. The importance of locking up valuables cannot be overemphasized!

FRIENDS SCHOOL'S PROPOSED NEW DAY CARE CENTER

Interested residents have met twice with Matt Micciche, headmaster, and Bonnie Hearn, director of development, to discuss Friends' evolving plans for a day care center facing Charles Street that will replace their smaller, current center near the pool. Friends now owns two properties on Charles immediately to the south of the campus. One of the houses there is to be demolished; the other will be renovated and become a day care center for 44 children, aged 6 weeks to 5 years. The anticipated opening date will be in late August of 2013. Many questions were raised at the two meetings, the most recent of which was on September 17.

Concerns included fencing and plant buffers, parking, and traffic management. The school was encouraged to create a pedestrian-friendly environment, with a sidewalk along Charles and a walkway to allow parents with older children as well as children in day care to walk between the two facilities rather than driving. Other suggestions included expanding the entrance on Charles to the day care center and getting the city to mount a speed camera at the campus. The Friends administration reaffirmed their commitment to keeping the community informed and working to address our concerns. Our association will help in advocating with the city for the much needed speed camera. Future meetings are planned as the project goes forward.

BEFORE YOU RENOVATE, CHECK WITH CHAP

Before you make improvements (such as additions or even smaller repairs such as window

DON'T FORGET TO PAY YOUR WIA DUES

Dues are used to support neighborhood events, such as the block party, the Halloween parade, and the tree "gators" offered free to those who planted trees this year. 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. **\$20** 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.

Right: More images from the September 9 neighborhood block party on St. Johns Road.

replacement, expanding or paving driveways, replacing steps) to your home or yard, please remember to check to see if you need a building permit by calling 410-396-3360. If you live in one of the blocks that make up the historic district you will also need approval from CHAP, the Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation. (Blocks in the historic district include the 700 block of Colorado, 2-200 Wyndhurst, 5000-5003 Greenleaf, all of Boxhill, and 5002-9 Blythewood.) By obtaining building permits and CHAP approval in advance, you protect your property value and keep our neighborhood beautiful. If you have questions about whether your home is on a block designated historical or need information about who to contact about City approval processes email Henry Kay at henrymkay@gmail.com.

WATER TOWER RENOVATIONS

Renovations that will preserve the Roland Water Tower and allow neighbors to enjoy this historical landmark are in the planning stage. The Tower is on



PHOTOS: DAVID CHAMPNEY 2012



one of Baltimore City's highest points and commands a breathtaking view of the surrounding area. It was originally built in

1904-1905 but fell into disuse in 1930 when the City began using reservoirs exclusively for its water supply. In recent years, the tower has deteriorated severely — to such an extent that it was fenced off in July 2009.

With a grant of \$250,000 from the state and additional private funds to be raised from individuals and foundations, the Tower will be restored to its original splendor, creating a small space for exhibitions, access to the observation deck and transforming the grounds into a community park.

WIA WEBSITE

Go to www.wyndhurstneighborhood.com to learn more about our neighborhood. You'll see that we could use volunteers help to complete some of our pages. If you are interested in helping email rebeccahornbeck@comcast.net or libbycc@aol.com.

WIA NEWS CONTRIBUTORS INCLUDE:

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Helen de Clerq
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Brion McCarthy

WYNDHURST LIST SERVE

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

WYNDHURST YAHOO GROUP

For non-official announcements (e.g. lost and found items, homes for rent, yard sales, comments) please sign up for the Wyndhurst Yahoo account at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wyndhurstbaltimore/join>.