

THE BEVERLY HILLS BEACON

AUGUST 2014

As time goes by.....

Hope that everyone has had a nice summer. We still have time to enjoy the warm weather and continue to eat the great food we harvest from our own gardens and some of us also benefit from the generosity of many of our Beverly Hills residents who have their own vegetable gardens and who can't possibly eat it all so they share with us! We thank you for sharing the fruits of your labor. And we look forward to next year's harvest.

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Officers:

President: Mary Buedel
Vice President: Karen Quandt
Treasurer: Ryan Becker
Secretary: TBD
Board Members:
Charity Becker
Rocky Dunn
Jean Farnsworth
Mimi Kelly
Donald Major
Suzette Morgan

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Next General Membership

Meeting:

September 23, 2014
Lauraville House
Dinner fare will be served

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New Residents

Well, I guess we must be in the right place, at the right time..... During the past month or so, at least four new families have taken up residence in Beverly Hills. We welcome you and hope to see you at the next General Membership Meeting.

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Recent Events

The First Annual Beverly Hills Fourth of July Party was held on Friday, July 4. There was a great turnout and it was great to see some many of our long-time neighbors there as well as our newcomers many of whom have young children. We would like to thank Scott Shimkaveg who lives on Grindon for the great music he provided as well as the generous folks at Atlantic Catering who graciously supplied us with food and all of our paper products and utensils. We would also like to thank Zeke's Coffee who offered to set up canopies for us but could not because of the prevailing winds that day.

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Street Sweeping

Well, since the inception of this City initiative in late spring, we have seen the Beverly Hills streets swept once. This is supposed to be monthly effort so we will keep you apprised of any information regarding the sweeping service so that we can move our cars on the scheduled sweeping days.

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Greening of Beverly Hills and Elsewhere

Thanks again to all of our neighbors who have worked during the warm months to beautify their lawns and maintain their greenery and flowers and who make walking and riding through Beverly Hills a joyful experience. A few folks visited some special gardens that are nestled here in Beverly Hills. Thank you to those folks who

allowed us come visit with them and to get ideas for our own future plantings.

Tree Keepers

Tree Keepers is a city-wide tree stewardship program and is open to anyone interested in Baltimore trees. Tree Keepers promotes healthy trees by educating residents and increasing their role in the care of the City's trees. Through this training, citizens can become tree advocates and share the responsibility to plant and care for trees in their neighborhood and throughout the City.

Baltimore Orchard Project

Through this effort the fruit from trees is distributed throughout the communities.

For additional information on both Tree Keepers and Baltimore Orchard Project visit <http://baltimoreorchard.org>

Those Lowly Grass Clippings

Remember: The storm drains are only for rain! So to make sure only rain does go down the drain, it would be helpful to bag those little grass clippings after mowing because what's left on the sidewalk today will soon wind up in the Chesapeake Bay!

Greater Homewood Community Corporation

In order to allow us to get grants, solicit donations from commercial establishments, and collect dues via PayPal, we needed to get non-profit status. To that end, we are now affiliated with Greater Homewood Community

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Corporation. They will be our financial guardian. We are honored to be associated with this wonderful Baltimore entity. This will also allow us to collect dues utilizing PayPal.

New Businesses

There is a beauty salon/spa that has recently opened in the 4300 Harford Road.

Also in the 4300 Harford Road a building is being renovated to house a musical instrument store that will also offer music lessons. This establishment is slated to open in the fall.

Northeast Police District News

Several of the Beverly Hills Board Members attended the Northeast Police District Community Meeting on July 16. Our little part of the district is relatively uneventful except for theft from cars. Most of the vehicles were left unlocked. However, there is a now an electronic device being used to open cars. So please remove valuables from your car. We were also informed that the cat burglars who were hitting houses in Arcadia were caught. However, a couple of houses on Kentucky Avenue were hit by the cat burglars. Apparently windows next to doors were left open and the windows were broken and doors unlocked. There was a representative from the Mayor's office who presented the curfew particulars. She stated that with everyone's participation they were looking forward to favorable results from this effort.

Beverly Hills Website

We would love to post pictures of Beverly Hills folks on our website. If you don't have a camera but would like to be included we can arrange to have someone take your photo. So email goldiem1951@gmail.com if you would like to request a photo taken or to send us your photo. Also indicate how long you have lived in Beverly Hills.

Folks 50+ Years

Harford Senior Center

For those folks who are interested in social activities the Harford Senior Center has an eating together program as well as parties, trips, bingo. The Harford Senior Center is now a part of GEDCO (Govans Ecumenical Development Corporation). For more information you can go online www.gedco.org

Cities for All Ages

Cities for all Ages is a program intended to benefit our most senior and least abled neighbors by providing comprehensive help and services. Some of these services include: House repair, home safety modifications, geriatric case management, community outreach and education, information and referral, and occupational therapy. Services are available free to all 65+ residents of Baltimore City who meet income requirements. To learn more about Cities for All ages, call 410-449-2322.

Tutors Needed (Adults 50 years and older)

AARP Experience Corps Baltimore is seeking adults 50 years and older not only to benefit their own health and well-being but to help improve educational outcomes for elementary school-age children. This program provides academic tutoring and mentoring for students in grades K-3. Each extensively trained AARP Experience Corps member commits five to 15 hours per week for the school year.

A team of six to 20 adults is placed in each school, with each team members working in a single classroom. The volunteer members work at the direction of the teacher to support students.

Go to:

<http://www.aarp.org/experience-corps/experience-corps-volunteer/experience-corps-cities-baltimore.html>

Upcoming Traffic/Roadwork Projects

Speeding on Walther and issues with the bike lanes are still a problem. These problems were highlighted in a blog posted by Bikemore, Baltimore's bicycling advocacy organization. A meeting with the DOT officials and members of the community is being planned. We will let you know the date.

Herring Run Bridge Construction

Winter 2014:

Herring Run Pedestrian Trail construction scheduled to begin/ Summer 2015 Harford Road Bridge construction scheduled to begin. Projecting a 1 ½ - 2 year closure.

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Sewer Improvements

Project SC908

This project involves rehabilitation work on sanitary gravity sewers ranging from 8 – 27 inches in diameter and manhole replacements throughout neighborhoods. Beverly Hills is an impacted community for this project. For more information go to the Clean Water Baltimore website.

Proactive Sewer Lateral Program

This is a 5 year program to address problematic sewer lateral that have had a history of backups and/or blockages dating back to 2008 and no record of being repaired. These lines will be examined by inserting cameras through the exterior sewer cleanouts, where available, or through the public connections where a cleanout is not available. Based on what the investigations find, possible corrections may include point repair, lining, etc. If private-side repairs are needed, Baltimore City will provide residences with a letter notifying them of the observed defect. Private property owners are responsible for the condition of the laterals and the associated clean out on their side of the property line. Letters will be mailed to the addresses to be examined approximately 30 days in advance. These will be followed by hang tags on doors to notify the customer after the investigation has taken place. A follow up letter will be mailed to addresses outlining which corrective steps may be undertaken and when those will

occur. During the investigation phase disruptions to the customers should be minimal. For laterals that are found to be in need of repair, the customer may have to refrain from water use for a few hours while DPW contractors perform the work. Any excavation will be seeded and/or paved to restore it to its original condition.

Optional Water and Sewer Line Service Plans for Property Owners

The Mayor announced that water and sewer line service plans will be available to Baltimore City property owners this fall. The City’s two year contract with three one-year renewal options is with HomeServe USA. They will offer water line service plans to Baltimore customers for \$3.99/month and sewer line service plans for \$5.49/month. For those getting both plans a discounted rate of \$8.49 will be offered. Billing and registration will be handled directly by the company and the cost of the service will not appear on the water bills. Purchasing a service contract is not mandatory.

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Citizens on Patrol

When we are outside we should all be citizens on patrol. If something doesn’t seem right; it probably isn’t. And who knows the neighborhoods better than those out walking or jogging. If you do see something suspicious call 911 and leave the area.

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For the Youngsters Among Us

Hamilton-Lauraville (HL) Sprouts Chapter of the Downtown Baltimore Family Alliance

HL Sprouts is a parent partnership designed to allow parents of kids aged 0-12 to meet up, arrange play dates, and get to know other parents in the area. They are a chapter of the Downtown Baltimore Family Alliance. There are several kid-friendly meet ups going on each week in the area. You can request to join via HL Sprouts on Facebook.

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Baltimore Broadband Coalition

There is a grassroots effort to bring cheaper, faster internet options to Baltimore City by motivating the deployment of fast fiber optic technology has already occurred in many other cities. An adequate fiber network can then allow competition for the provision of internet services. This groups efforts are to get people interested and to work with elected officials to motivate interest by new fiber providers to invest in Baltimore. If you are interested go to: <http://www.crowdfiber.com/campaigns/baltimore-broadband-coalition>.

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City Parking

Project SPACE – for those who utilize on-street parking in the downtown business district

Project SPACE was initiated in July 2014 to eliminate the abuse of disability placards, create more accessible parking for people with disabilities and increase the general availability of on-street parking downtown. Project SPACE

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require all drivers who utilize on-street parking in the downtown business district to pay the parking meter – even if a disability placard or tag is displayed. The cost and time limitations for on-street parking will be the same regardless of whether the driver is displaying a disability placard/license. As part of Project SPACE approximately 200 on-street parking spaces with highly accessible, ADA compliant single-space meters have been reserved for vehicles displaying a disability placard or tags. Additionally, all EZ Park meters throughout the Central Business District were retrofitted to meet new ADA standards. To meet state requirements, the time limit for all on-street parking spaces within areas affected by Project SPACE was increased to four hours. There is no Baltimore City nor Maryland state law requiring free parking for people with disabilities.

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To Do:

Walking Tour of Lauraville

The Lauraville Walking Tours are a production of the Lauraville Heritage Project. New walking tours will be posted as they become available. You can get a free cup of coffee from Zeke's for taking part in the Walking Tours. Everything you need is available on the "Historic Lauraville" section of the Lauraville website.

Saturday, September 6 Real Food Farm, 4th Annual Urban Farm and Food Fair

From 2-5 p.m. at the farm located at 2801 St. Lo Drive.

The event is free and will celebrate all of the wonderful urban farming and tasty treats that are unique to Baltimore City. There will be cooking, beekeeping and cider press demonstrations as well as live music and games – the one-of-a-kind Farm Olympics that feature 'Build a Scarecrow' races, radish spoon races, tug-w-war and more! For more information contact Shelley White at either rffcommunity@civicworks.com or (443) 531-8346.

Saturday, September 6
Main Street Yard Sale
8 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Farmers Market Lot
4500 Harford Road
\$10.00/table
Contact:
Pam@hamiltonlauravillemainstreet.org for additional information

September 12 – October 12
Performance Workshop Theater
5426 Harford Road
Play entitled, "Sea Marks"
For additional information go to:
<http://www.performanceworkshoptheatre.org>

September 27
30th Annual Lauraville Fair
12 noon – 6 p.m.
Heinz Park situated between Harford Road, Walther Avenue and Parkside Drive

Upcoming Beverly Hills Improvement Association Events:

Sept. 23 – BHIA General Membership Meeting,

7 p.m.
Lauraville House
Dinner fare provided

September 27, Lauraville Fair

Beverly Hills will have a booth again this year. We will have Entertainer Rich the Magi back this year and will be selling sweets. Hope to see you there!

October 18 – BH Dumpster Day

Baltimore City will provide a walk in dumpster for our use between 9 a.m. and Noon. The dumpster will be located in front of 3202 Montebello Terrace. No hazardous waste including paints or building materials can be deposited.

Beverly Hills Halloween Party

Details forthcoming!