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HISTORIC BELLE GROVE SQUARE NEIGHBORHOOD

VOLUME 1 ~ ISSUE 2 ~ 2008 SEPTEMBER



We're on our way!



by Mitchell Edmondson

As we handed out our first newsletter last month, we had a chance to visit with our neighbors here in Belle Grove Square. We were greeted with friendly faces and words of encouragement. Everyone seemed excited about the newsletter and the fact that we are going to try to help organize our neighborhood.

We were also asked a few questions about the difference between a neighborhood association and a historic district. In this newsletter, there is an article or two with information about neighborhood associations and some information about historic districts. Currently, Westminster doesn't have a recognized neighborhood association or a neighborhood historic district. In fact, the entire city of Westminster only has two individual properties that are protected by historic preservation.

Many of you have lived in our neighborhood long enough to remember that our neighborhood has lost buildings that were a part of Westminster's past. There are no laws that prevent any of our historic houses or other buildings from being torn down. Even though many of you have spent lots of time and money on maintaining and preserving your homes, there are no rules that prevent your neighbor from covering their house in empty bottles and painting them orange.

You may have noticed that the look of this month's newsletter is different. As a result of the survey, we are now incorporating our new "Historic Belle Grove Square" logo design into the newsletter. Speaking of the survey, we had almost complete participation from owner occupied houses and a great response from those who rent in our neighborhood. The first results of the survey are also included inside. As soon as we are more organized, we will be presenting the survey findings to the city of Westminster and hope to have their help in addressing some of the concerns expressed in the survey. We'll also discuss the survey findings at our first meeting, coming up on September 25th.

In the future we plan to work with city officials to install neighborhood signs. Currently, Westminster has no rules on what is allowed for neighborhood signs, since there is not yet a recognized neighborhood. We have met with city officials and have started the ball rolling. As soon as the city has developed the rules and requirements for being a recognized neighborhood association, we will complete the necessary paperwork and keep things moving forward.

We have also included inside some proposed bylaws to be voted on at our first neighborhood meeting on September 25, 2008 at 7:00 at St. Paul's UCC. Hopefully we will all have a chance to meet then and get to know each other better.

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We will also be voting on temporary board members to take the next needed steps. So far the folks who have volunteered for the

temporary positions until January elections are Bruce DeVault/President, Laurie Walters/Vice President, and Eileen Fisher Churchill/Secretary-Treasurer. We have planned regular elections

for association officers for the January meeting coming up. As a result of the survey, we will be having regular neighborhood meetings so we can discuss the issues and get things done. If you are interested in helping out with the Belle Grove Square group, please call 443.293.7203 or contact us newsletter.bellegrovesquare.org or through the website at www.bellegrovesquare.org.

We need to decide if we want to have some kind of neighborhood potluck dinner or maybe a Halloween costume party. If you are interested in helping plan an event, please drop by or call us anytime.

The first neighborhood meeting is set for Thursday, September 25 at 7:00pm at St. Paul's UCC at Bond and Green streets. We very much look forward to seeing you there!

Mitchell Edmondson lives at 1 Park Avenue on Belle Grove Square.

Neighborhood Survey Done!

by Bruce DeVault

It's been a busy several weeks! The neighborhood surveys are in, and there was a real interest in what's being done and in seeing Belle Grove Square remain a great place to live and become even better.

Many residents wrote very thoughtful, detailed comments on what they would like to see in the future and these are greatly appreciated. Our plan is to go through these as well as the questions and ideas to suggest presentations for future group meetings or topics for discussion, as well as helping us make a list of possible priorities and issues for the new neighborhood group to work on, and we appreciate everyone's time in contributing and writing in.

Some items we've acted on right away: we're continuing to work towards a final logo to be used on neighborhood signage. Logo #2 (shown on the front cover of this issue) received more than twice as many votes as the runner up, so we've adopted this logo as a working logo with the addition of the word "historic" based on survey results that showed more than two thirds of residents wanted "historic" to be in the name. There were some great comments on the logos and we'll be using these comments along with feedback from the city on the requirements for the actual signs to guide us in working towards a final polished version. We expect to be able to give an update on this at the meeting coming up on the 25th.

The boundaries, vision and mission statements, and the idea of doing historic lighting as well

as utilities improvements where possible all passed with strong support of ninety percent or more in each case. With feedback from the city staff, we've put together some draft bylaws for consideration and these are included in the middle of this issue - they're based largely as well on what similar neighborhood groups do so they cover all the common bases.

We also have received several thoughtful and very encouraging letters to the newsletter from local residents. We hope to run more letters to the editor in future editions of the newsletter, space permitting, and encourage anyone interested to write in or contact us with pictures, stories, or ideas for topics for the newsletter or for the group to tackle as we start pushing ahead.

The first neighborhood meeting has been set for Thursday, September 25th at 7:00pm at St. Paul's UCC church at the corner of Bond and Green streets. Our plan for this first meeting is to have a chance for everyone to meet and discuss issues and concerns as a group, as well as take a few steps forward in getting things organized. We'll vote on adopting the bylaws, and on taking the next steps towards making the group official. Several local residents have volunteered already to help us these next few months to get things going until we can hold January elections, to take the first steps forward, and we greatly appreciate everyone's support and encouragement. Hope to see you all September 25th!

Bruce DeVault lives at 1 Park Avenue on Belle Grove Square.

Do you like to plan parties? If so, we are looking for folks to help plan our first neighborhood party.

Why Organize A Neighborhood?

Top 5 Reasons:

1. Helps residents work for the preservation and improvement of the neighborhood and community.
2. Empowers the neighborhood to better control what happens in the area. An effective communication link with government officials and other influential groups.
3. Allows residents to participate in the decision making that directs the future of their neighborhood

- a way to involve citizens in the decisions at the front end, rather than late in the process after the decisions have been made.

4. Planned social activities promote neighborly attitudes and support.

5. A forum for residents to address issues such as weeds, trash, graffiti, traffic problems, crime, social needs, infrastructure and beautification projects.

Letters

To Historic Belle Grove Square Neighborhood:

I recently heard about your possibly forming a neighborhood association. What a wonderful idea! I grew up at 20 Bond Street and I would love to be involved!

I am very interested in historical preservation and meeting all the standards of preservation and whatever I can do to help the neighborhood. This is very exciting!

Please let me know how I can help. Looking forward to meeting you!

Best wishes,
Peggy Tevis

How to reach us:

Historic Belle Grove Square Neighborhood

443.293.7203

1 Park Avenue
Westminster, MD 21157

email: newsletter@bellegrovesquare.org

www.bellegrovesquare.org

Letters to the editor are welcomed.

Letters submitted may be edited for space or clarity.

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Sunday, August 31, 2008

Worship in the Park

Belle Grove Square, corner of Green St. and Bond St., 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Annual worship service in Belle Grove Square with both St. Paul's UCC and Church of the Brethren - bring a chair and enjoy the service.

Friday, September 5, 2008

Steam Show Days

500 S. Center St., 7:00 AM - Dusk

Antique farm machinery, antique cards, working demonstrations, flea market, wagon rides and farmhouse tours. Food.

Thomas Pandolfi plays Gershwin

Carroll County Arts Center, 7:00 PM

He's been named a standout among today's young pianists because of his grace, finesse, and virtuosity. "Rhapsody in Blue," "Our Love is Here to Stay," "Embraceable You," "I Got Rhythm" and more. This all-Gershwin program is not to be missed!

Saturday, September 6, 2008

Old-Fashioned Family Fair and Picnic

St. Paul's UCC, Bond St. & Green St., 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Potluck picnic dinner, moon bounce, kids' games, bingo, silent auction, dunking booth, face painting, magic show, musical entertainment, and crafts.

Steam Show Days

500 S. Center St., 7:00 AM - Dusk

Antique farm machinery, antique cards, working demonstrations, flea market, wagon rides and farmhouse tours. Food.

Season to Remember 5K Run / 1 Mile Walk

Stoner Ave., 8:00 AM

Run or walk in memory of a loved one. Prizes and goodie bags.

Sunday, September 7, 2008

Steam Show Days

500 S. Center St., 7:00 AM - Dusk

Antique farm machinery, antique cards,

working demonstrations, flea market, wagon rides and farmhouse tours. Food.

Smallwood Festival

Reese Volunteer Fire Dept. Carnival Grounds, 1745 Baltimore Blvd., 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Flea market, yard sale, crafts, antiques, collectibles, home improvement, entertainment and food.

Saturday, September 13, 2008

Mid-Atlantic Koi Club Koi and Goldfish Show

700 Agriculture Center Dr., 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Garden displays, vendors, raffles and food.

Historical Society of Carroll County Antiques Appraisal Day

American Legion, Green St. & Sycamore St., 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Accredited appraisers offer verbal estimations of value on a variety of items.

Rocky Horror Picture Show

Carroll County Arts Center, 11:00 PM

Let's do the time warp again! Costumes are welcome at this special screening of the cult classic that stars a young Barry Bostwick, Susan Sarandon, and Tim Curry. Fans with the best costumes will be rewarded with special prizes.

Sunday, September 14, 2008

Mid-Atlantic Koi Club Koi and Goldfish Show

700 Agriculture Center Dr., 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Garden displays, vendors, raffles and food.

David and Donald Rach: Duo-Pianists Play Rachmaninoff

McDaniel College, The Forum, Decker College Center, 2 College Hill, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Rachmaninoff's Symphonic Dances, Poulenc's Sonata for Two Pianos, Milhaud's Scaramouche for Two Pianos

Friday, September 19, 2008

Martin and Malcolm: One Vision, Two Voices

Carroll County Arts Center, 7:00 PM

This unscripted performance imagines how these two men, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X, may have conversed about issues of race in America, then opens up the floor for audience questions.

Saturday, September 20, 2008

Maryland Wine Festival

Carroll County Farm Museum, 500 S. Center St., 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Tasting of local wines, wine seminars, stage entertainment, crafts and food. Farmhouse tours.

Maryland Wine Festival Asthma Ride

Carroll County Farm Museum, 500 S. Center St., 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Enjoy a fully supported ride of 8-mile, 31-mile or 62.5-mile routes for all abilities through the rolling hills of Carroll County.

Sunday, September 21, 2008

Maryland Wine Festival

Carroll County Farm Museum, 500 S. Center St., Noon - 6:00 PM

Tasting of local wines, wine seminars, stage entertainment, crafts and food. Farmhouse tours.

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Belle Grove Square Neighborhood Meeting!

St. Paul's UCC, Bond St. and Green St., 7:00 PM

First neighborhood meeting - meet your neighbors and discuss plans for the neighborhood. We look forward to seeing you there!

Westminster Fallfest

Westminster City Park and Longwell Parking Lot, 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Crafts, commercial exhibits, non-profit vendors, rides, games, live entertainment and food.

Friday, September 26, 2008

Westminster Fallfest

Westminster City Park and Longwell Parking Lot, 10:00 AM - 10:00 PM

Crafts, commercial exhibits, non-profit vendors, rides, games, live entertainment and food.

Rubber Stamp and Scrapbook Show

Agriculture Center, 700 Agriculture Center Dr., 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Supplies and demonstrations.

Saturday, September 27, 2008

Westminster Fallfest

Westminster City Park and Longwell Parking Lot, Noon - 6:00 PM

Crafts, commercial exhibits, non-profit vendors, rides, games, live entertainment and food.

Volkswalk

Westminster Senior Center, 125 Stoner Ave., 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Walk through Westminster.

Maryland Microbrewery Festival

Union Mills Homestead, 3311 Littlestown Pike, 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Tasting of Maryland microbrews, entertainment, crafts and food. Tours of the Homestead and grist mill; blacksmith shop and gift shop open.

Sunday, September 28, 2008

Rubber Stamp and Scrapbook Show

Agriculture Center, 700 Agriculture Center Dr., 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Supplies and demonstrations.

Monday, September 29, 2008

The Wizard of Oz

Carroll County Arts Center, 2:00 PM

Don your ruby slippers and come sing along with this all-time favorite.

Tuesday, September 30, 2008

Christine Lavin, In Concert

Carroll County Arts Center, 8:00 PM

Songs from the sound track of Amer. life.





How Things Have C

by C. Richard & Darthean Fox

We moved to Park Ave. in 1957 and were among the youngest couples here then. Now in 2008 we no doubt have resided here the longest – in the same residence for 51 years.

In 1957 we could walk down to the William F. Myers & Sons store for groceries, and fresh

meat, as they also had a large slaughter house off Myers alley. They would unload hogs from railroad cars on Railroad Avenue and drive them up across Main Street, then up Liberty Street to Green Street to the slaughter house – this would happen in the middle of the night. The Myers store was located on the southwest corner of Liberty and Green Streets (the building now is an apartment complex and home to Hickory Stick). Across Liberty Street on the southeast corner was Schaeffer Lumber Co. where building supplies and hardware could be purchased (that building now is home of Belair Road Supply).

The other corner was Yingling General Tire Co. – they took good care of automobile and implement tire needs. Now, Info Pathways is located in that building's office area and the garage area is vacant.

On the northwest corner was Farmers Supply Company that sold new International farm



The William F. Myers & Sons store on the corner of West Green and Liberty streets in Westminster is pictured around 1975. The building is now home of the Hickory Stick. Photo from CC Times.



William F. Myers' Sons billboard from the 1950s. The business was later acquired by Hahns. Photo from CC Hist. Society.



William F. Myers is shown here in a Hahn company portrait.



This sequence of photographs of the same corner documents the changes seen at one spot on Liberty and Green streets. Koontz Creamery is pictured during a period of "urban renewal". That building itself was torn down after a city consultant identified the corner as being one of the key projects and a city parking garage - shown in the final picture in the present day. 3 images courtesy of Kevin Dayhoff (original photographer unknown)

Changed 1957-2008

The History of Myers & Hahn's

by Barbara Brown



The William F. Myers building has become apartments and the Hickory Stick. The building is at Liberty and Green streets, adjacent to the southwest corner of Belle Grove Square.

equipment. The original building has been torn down and rebuilt for apartments, business offices and a city parking garage. The other 3 corners of the

neighborhood have remained residential.

C. Richard and Darthean Fox live on Belle Grove Square.

It all began over 100 years ago (1896) when our great grandfather, William F. Myers of Pleasant Valley, Carroll County, Maryland established his meat packing business. The plant was located at the corner of Liberty and Green Streets in Westminster, Maryland.. He would carry his meat products by train to Baltimore where he'd use a wagon to deliver them around the city. His business grew from there.

Meanwhile, back in the valley where our grandmother was growing up, two of her sisters married two boys from Pleasant Valley. Their names were; Joseph & Norval Hahn. Great Granddad, whose business was thriving, decided to help his new sons-in-law by getting them started in a meat packing business of their own. The year was 1918 when Hahn's of Westminster was founded.

In 1948, Henry F. Redmer Jr. was recruited from the National Biscuit Co. by his cousins at Hahn's to help sell their meat in Baltimore. Dad had grown up in Baltimore and knew a lot about the area, but not too much about the meat business. However, he knew how to work,

and set up an advanced sales system. He would take orders all day from customers and then each evening race to the train station dodging trolley cars to make it in time to send the orders by train to Westminster. The men in the plant packed the orders that night and loaded them on Hahn's trucks to be delivered the next day in Baltimore.

A great deal has changed over the years. Dad saw the business grow and by the time my brothers and I started working (1968-1978) we were delivering to customers from Virginia and Washington D. C. to Southern Pennsylvania. In 1981 our cousins who owned Wm. F. Myers & Sons decided to retire. We then acquired their business; continuing to service their customers and produce their recipes. The Redmer family now owns the business. My brother, Bruce Redmer is the president and manages operations and sales. I, Barbara Brown am vice president and manage our office and retail store. We owe most of our success to our loyal employees. With their experience and devotion to quality we have been able to keep up with an ever-changing market.

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pictured first, in the 1930s. The creamery building was torn down and replaced by the Farmers Supply Co. building (pictured here in 1991) properties for downtown Westminster's future in a 1994 study. A project shown underway in 2002 rebuilt this site as apartments, office space. The Stone Building and a city fire hydrant can be seen in the same place in each photograph; overhead utility wires seem to multiply.



Antiques Appraisal Day



by Timmi Pierce

The fun is in the learning at the 8th Annual Antiques Appraisal Day sponsored by the Historical Society on Saturday, September 13. A team of certified appraisers will be giving verbal estimates of worth to attendees bringing in those possible treasures from yesteryears. Although all news is not always good news, much of it is. Some items in past years have been estimated at tens of thousands of dollars to the owners' total delight.

Antiques Appraisal Day, our own county version of the popular PBS "Antiques Road Show," begins at 10 a.m. on Saturday, September 13, at the American Legion, Carroll Post #31, at the corner of Sycamore and Green Streets in Westminster. People are invited to bring up to three items for appraisal estimates by certified appraisers. The fee is \$20.00 for the first item and \$5.00 for each of the second two items. Appraisers will even make the occasional trip to a car or truck when items may be too heavy to move.

The comfort of attendees is paramount. Although wait time, in most cases, is not long, there will be seating at tables for all while awaiting their turn with the appraisers. Food and drink will be available on order from the American Legion at most reasonable prices.

Over the past seven years we've seen a marvelous array of county cherished possessions brought forth. There has been a hobo-art carved cane by local artist Frank Feathers, a Swedish spinning wheel with original blue paint, a high-wheel "safe" bike, paintings by listed artists, silver, flintlock rifles, quilts, top hats, opera glasses, crystal, china, locally made old chairs, tables and cabinets and so much more. Many people enjoy sharing the provenance, the background information, on the items they bring with others. Participants discover not only the value of their family keepsake or newly found treasure, but also learn something about the item's history, maker and decorative aspects of the piece.

Again this year, Appraisal Day will feature a panel of accredited appraisers who will volunteer their expertise and give verbal estimates of value in the areas of American furniture, folk art, primitives, jewelry, glassware, porcelain, quilts and textiles, militaria, silver, pewter and fine art

Antiques Appraisal Day is chaired by C. Robert Harrison, ISA AM, of Harrison Appraisals, LLC. Harrison is also chair of the Historical Society of Carroll County Board of Trustees. Other certified appraisers donating their expertise for the day are: James Callear, ISA AM, Barnesville Antiques and Appraising, Barnesville; Barry Hagan, ASA, Hagen & Hagen Appraisers, Inc., New Market; Joel Litzky, ISA AM, Antique Marketplace, Severna Park; and Fred J. Winer, ISA CAPP, Appraisal Solutions, Inc., Towson.

Of course, no successful event is possible without support from volunteers and corporate sponsors. This year's Gold Sponsors include: BB&T Bank; Herman Construction; Lehigh Cement; New Windsor State Bank; and WTTR Radio. Silver sponsors include: Carroll Community College; Carroll Lutheran Village; Mills' Communications/Linda and Mel Mills and Provident Bank.

Proceeds from the Antiques Appraisal Day will benefit the Historical Society of Carroll County's (HSCC) educational programs and services. Founded in 1939, the Historical Society of Carroll County is dedicated to the research of piedmont Maryland's cultural heritage and the preservation and interpretation of objects significant to Carroll County history.

The Society's collection contains a wide range of objects, from the eighteenth century to the present, which document everyday life in Carroll County. Objects collected include household furnishings, fine arts, clothing and household textiles, domestic and craft tools, and the library collection, which includes manuscripts, newspapers, maps, books, and photographs. The Society uses these collections for exploring themes of daily life from the settlement of Carroll County. The Historical Society's educational programs, research projects, exhibitions, publications and community outreach programs provide broad public access to the region's cultural heritage.

For more information about the 2008 Antiques Appraisal Day, please call the Historical Society at 410.848.6494, send an email to hsc@car.org or check out the event on the web site at hsc.carr.org.

Timmi Pierce is Executive Director of Historical Society of Carroll County.



A local appraiser discusses an antique's value at the last year's Antiques Appraisal Day event benefiting the historical society.

What's a Neighborhood Assoc.?

- Neighborhood Associations are voluntary and free.
- A Neighborhood Association may be started at any time with the support of the stakeholders of the association's geographic area.
- They are open to all stakeholders in a neighborhood.
- There is no legal authority to enact or enforce maintenance or design requirements beyond those established by City ordinances or other governmental entity.
- The organization establishes bylaws to provide for at least one general membership meeting per year and is required to hold an annual election of officers.



What is a local historic district?

A local historic district is an area in which the majority of residents have decided they want to keep the look and feel of the place they call “home” by adopting a local preservation ordinance, and then creating or selecting a local preservation commission to administer it. This local legislation is one of the best ways to protect the historic character of buildings, streetscapes, and neighborhoods from inappropriate alterations and incompatible new construction, as well as outright demolition. A local historic district does not freeze an area in time. Local historic districts are about guiding change and preserving community character as an area grows and evolves over time.

What are the advantages to owning property in a local historic district?

Historic districts encourage reinvestment. When you are part of an historic district, you have some certainty that any new construction or renovation activity will be respectful of the existing character of the community and its architecture. Historic district regulations are quality assurance standards, so that if you invest in your building, you are assured that your investment won't be negated by a thoughtless renovation next door. Real estate agents in many communities use historic district status as a marketing tool to sell properties, because buyers are assured that the aspects that make a particular area attractive will be protected over a period of time.

Local historic districts encourage better design. There is generally a greater sense of cohesion, more innovative use of materials, and

greater public appeal within historic districts than in areas without historic designations

Studies show that districts are a useful tool in stabilizing, even increasing property values and stimulating new investment. A community that values its history and architecture is generally one that is attractive to live and work in.

Finally, and less quantifiable, older buildings give us tangible links with our past. They tell stories of earlier times and become part of our lives. They are a record of ourselves and our communities. They provide a richness and depth to everyday life that cannot be replicated by new construction and is lost when renovated beyond recognition.

What are the disadvantages?

Many of the stories about historic districts are myths that circulate in communities that don't have a district. Once a district is adopted, any criticism almost always dies down, as the realities and advantages of the district become evident. It is also important to remember that districts in Maryland follow Maryland laws and are administered by people in our own town.

For any district to be effective, it needs to be properly administered. Problems can arise if property owners are not made aware of which activities are subject to the Commission's regulations, so the Commission must make a good and consistent effort at educating the residents within the district. Commission members should also receive regular training and guidelines should be developed, so decisions can be made objectively and based on good background information.

Will my taxes go up?

Property taxes are tied to real estate values. Property taxes for buildings in historic districts are taxed no differently than those outside the district.

My town looks just fine the way it is – what is the value in having a historic district?

As population grows and development pressure increases, local citizens actually have less influence on how their communities evolve – unless there is some sort of local design review in place that oversees development. Historic districts have been used successfully throughout the country as a means to protect community character, and most vibrant towns have some form of historic design review in place.

Developers known for quality work frequently seek out properties in historic districts. They know up front what the ground rules are; their investment is protected; and there is an open public process already in place for reviewing site and building plans. They also recognize that history is an effective marketing tool. Creating an historic district is a way of singling out the special places within a town or city. It ensures that those unique attributes will remain for future generations. It prevents the gradual erosion of those places that help define those special places.

Do we really need more regulations? Isn't this just zoning in disguise?

Zoning regulates use; historic districts do not. Local historic districts also do not restrict the sale of the property, require improvements or restoration of

the property, require approval for interior changes or alterations, prevent new construction within historic areas, or require approval for ordinary repair or maintenance.

Who will be making decisions once the district is in place?

An historic district commission administers historic districts and members are appointed in the same manner as other commissions. Ideally, a commission overseeing a district includes people with design experience, such as an architect, planner, landscape architect, and/or builder, as well as those with a demonstrated interest in local history.

Am I going to be told what color I can paint my house?

No. Most historic districts do not regulate paint color – or many other changes that are considered cosmetic and can readily be reversed. Historic districts that do only do so upon the overwhelming desire of the residents within the district.

Is it going to cost me more now to make alterations to my property?

It shouldn't. Historic districts are not adopted to impose hardships. Nor do commissions insist that buildings be “restored” or become museum structures. The purpose of a district is to keep as much of the historic fabric as is feasible, and when alterations are necessary, that the underlying historic character of the building not be lost in the process. Historic district designation also carries with it automatic eligibility for tax credits that can help offset many costs.

Source: New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources.



Color guard of Westminster Municipal Band marches down Park Avenue to Belle Grove Square on Sunday August 24, 2008.



Attendees stand respectfully at attention as flags are presented in Belle Grove Square before the Municipal Band's 2008 concert.



Turnout was great with residents from all over Westminster for the 2008 Westminster Municipal Band Concert in the park.

History of Westminster Municipal Band

The band was formed in 1893 as the Westminster City Band. In 1916, many members of the band went into the Maryland National Guard under the heading "First Regimental Band of Maryland National Guard" and were sent to the Mexican Border. Then in 1918, the band went to France for WWI. After the war, those returning members and those who remained behind reformed the band into the "Westminster Band".

In 1950, the tan uniforms were changed to the Green and Gold that we now wear. It was then that the band reorganized under the current name "Westminster Municipal Band" and the city government pledged some financial support. A Color Guard was added

in 1961 and is now the trade mark that separates us from the crowd.

Many changes have taken place including the introduction of female members in 1984. Today, we have members from several counties in Maryland and from Pennsylvania and Virginia. The band's schedule is primarily active in the summer months with many small parades and with the Maryland State Firemen's Convention in Ocean City, Md. The band has attended that parade and convention since 1957. We celebrated our 100th anniversary in May of 1993.

From the Westminster Municipal Band's website which is available online at www.westminsterband.com.



Westminster Municipal Band leads off the 2007 Fallfest parade along downtown, as residents line the streets to watch.

Fallfest 2008 Benefits Local Charities

Fallfest began as an autumn celebration in historic downtown Westminster, sponsoring various fundraising events, all to benefit charities and service organizations within our community.

Our signature Fallfest event is Carroll County's largest community charity event. Each September, Fallfest draws over 40,000 people to historic downtown Westminster. Families enjoy our festival midway and rides, while others come for the great food, unique shopping, and

heart-stopping entertainment. Our event begins with a parade, followed by four days of non-stop fun.

Whether you join us for the fabulous food, the sights and sounds of our great entertainment, shopping, volunteering on-site, or providing vital sponsorship dollars to make the event happen — Westminster Fallfest is glad to have you!

Ronald Schroers and Jennifer Mellor are co-chairs of the 2008 Fallfest event. Adapted from the event website.