



HISTORIC BELLE GROVE SQUARE NEIGHBORHOOD

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Neighborhood Meeting

**Thurs., April 28th
7:00pm - 8:30pm
at St. Paul's UCC
Bond & Green Sts.**

w/ Police Chief Spaulding, and to plan for upcoming events this year

Join us and meet your great Belle Grove Square neighbors!

Neighborly Good Deeds

As pointed out in many of our monthly newsletters, our neighborhood is filled with residents who look out for each other and help make our neighborhood an amazing place. We also have organizations in our neighborhood that also try to make life easier for folks who are struggling with things like homelessness, hunger, and addiction. This month we would like to point out a few of the good deeds done by neighborhood organizations.

Located on the edge of our neighborhood is a homeless shelter that provides housing for families. The Human Services Program provides a place for homeless families while they find permanent housing and get back on their feet. The Human Services Program operates an Intact Family Shelter with 27 available beds.

The Human Services Program also operates a "shop" called Second Chances in a storefront located on West Green. Second

Chances provides free clothing and other necessities for families. Donations of items are also accepted in the alley behind the shelter.

The Westminster Church of the Brethren provides a weekly meal for the homeless and its congregation regularly works to support various charities that help the homeless and hungry around Westminster and the world.

The Church of the Brethren has been playing a helping role in our neighborhood for many years. In 1879, the Pipe Creek Church of the Brethren purchased an English Baptist church building on the current site at Bond Street and Park Place for its members who lived in Westminster. In 1885, Westminster became part of the Meadow Branch Church of the Brethren. The Westminster building was replaced with a larger one in 1932. The Westminster Church of the Brethren was incorporated as a separate congregation on April 7, 1937.

Once incorporated, George A. Early became the first elder and A. Stauffer Curry its first pastor. A two story education building was built in 1959.

Since the first brick was laid in 1869, the church on the corner of Bond Street and W. Green Street has been playing a vital role in our community. St. Paul's United Church of Christ has many programs that reach out into our community and the world to try to make things better for others. St. Paul's was initially established as part of the German Reformed Church in the United States. In 1934, the German Reformed Church, with roots stretching back to the 1700's in the mid-Atlantic region, merged with the German Evangelical Synod in North America, whose members settled largely in the Midwest in the 1800's, to form the Evangelical and Reformed Church. In 1957, the Evangelical and Reformed Church merged with the Congregational Christian Churches whose history includes the Pilgrims and the

earliest settlers of America. The result is the United Church of Christ which celebrated its 50th anniversary in June, 2007.

With Church of the Brethren, St. Paul's Church sponsors a meal for the hungry every week, and also allows local groups that are unaffiliated with St. Paul's to meet at or use their facilities such as

Alcoholics Anonymous, Al Anon, American Red Cross Blood Drives, A Meal and More (Thursday Community Lunch), and Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG).

Both pastor Marty and Lucy of St. Paul's call our neighborhood home, and pastor Glenn of Church of the Brethren lives nearby on Green St.

of Christ, on the corner of Bond and Green Streets in Belle Grove Square.

Yard Sale May 14th

On May 14th, 2011 our neighborhood will be hosting its second annual front porch sale. We will run an ad in the newspaper and will put up signs to announce the event. The sale will start at 8 in the morning and end whenever you decide to call it a day - in the event of rain, the event will be May 21st.

It looks like this year our garage sale may turn into a gigantic garage sale that will feature our neighborhood and several neighborhoods around Historic Belle Grove Square. We are coordinating the sale so that neighbors on W. Green, Anchor Street, Westmoreland and others can all participate in a huge yard sale in our part of Westminster.

Free Mulch in Spring

On two different weekends the city of Westminster will be providing dumpsters of free mulch for the neighborhood to use to spiffy up the yards in Historic Belle Grove Square. On both the weekends of April 8 and April 15 we will have a container load of mulch delivered for the Historic Belle Grove Square neighborhood use. Each container



"To boldly go where no Peep has gone before..."

holds close to 5 yards which is close to 5 pick-up truck loads.

On April 8th and April 15th the city will place dumpsters of mulch along one of the streets bordering the park. If you want some mulch, grab a bucket, wheelbarrow, or other container and help yourself. The mulch is only available to residents of Historic Belle Grove Square.

New in the Park

Very soon the fountain will be sending up sprays of water that will let us know that spring is surely here. As most of you know, all the flower beds in the park are

Neighborhood News

An Evening of Fun and Great Food

On the evening of March 18, 2011, more than 20 neighborhood residents got together for our first progressive dinner. The evening started out with appetizers at 1 Park Avenue. Neighbors then walked across the park to have a splendid Irish dinner at 32 Bond Street. After enjoying a delicious main course, the party once again crossed the park and had some tasty treats at 9 Park Avenue. The evening was warm enough to even spend some time out on the deck.

Much appreciation to all who pitched in to make this event an amazing success. We had lots of great food and laughter. As I told one of my neighbors, I work with folks who have lived next door to

folks for many years; yet, they don't even know their names. We are very lucky to live in a neighborhood in which we not only know each other's names, we also count each other as friends. It is hoped that we will make this an annual event and we might even schedule another progressive dinner in the fall.

Neighborhood Meeting April 28th

On April 28, 2011 our neighborhood will hold its quarterly neighborhood association meeting. Special guest will be Chief Jeff Spaulding of the Westminster Police Dept. Planning for the yard sale and summer picnic will be discussed. A rough draft of the neighborhood plan may be presented. The meeting will be held at 7:00 at St. Paul's United Church



21 neighbors shared great times at Historic Belle Grove Square Neighborhood's first annual progressive dinner, held at three neighborhood homes. St. Paul's United Church hosted the main course with an Irish St. Patrick's Day theme, where wonderful conversation was enjoyed by all, with the evening wrapping up with



one before..."

maintained by volunteers. The large bed along W. Green Street is maintained by the Westminster's Woman's Club and the two beds along Park Place are taken care of by neighborhood residents. This year we will also start maintaining a small flower bed around the granite marker that was placed in the park in 1976. This new bed will be close to the corner of Bond and W. Green Street. So, this spring as you work in your own flower beds, if you have extra perennials we could sure use them in the park. You can leave donated plants on the porch at 1 Park Avenue or we will come to your house and help dig up donated plants. If you would like to volunteer to help with the beds in the park or have plants to donate,

please call 443-293-7203.

Road Work Update

The city of Westminster has notified neighborhood residents that roadway paving is scheduled to begin in April. The project is scheduled to start on April 4, 2011 and on street parking will be temporarily eliminated within the work zone. Cover Lane, Bond Street, Park Avenue, and Park Place are scheduled for an overlay of the roadway surface. (please note that unforeseen conditions and factors uncovered in the resurfacing may limit the amount of resurfacing completed this Spring). Questions regarding the paving should be directed to Mike Matov, Senior Engineer at 410-848-9000.

Peep Show Downtown

The 4th Annual PEEP show will be held April 8 – 17, 2011 10am – 8pm daily, except Sundays noon – 5pm. Come to the 4th Annual PEEP show at the Carroll Arts Center, 91 West Main and see hundreds of wacky marshmallow masterpieces created by local artists, families and groups.

Fun Peeps themed refreshments will be on sale throughout the PEEP show. You may even be able to purchase your favorite creation to



Westminster had a large crowd at last year's Flower & Jazz Fest. take home with you after the show.

Flower and Jazz Fest

Admission is free, and all proceeds from refreshment and vote sales benefit local Arts Council.

We wanted to get out an early reminder this month for one of the most fun events in downtown Westminster. The Flower and Jazz Festival will take place in Historic Downtown Westminster from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. on May 7th.

The show closes at 5pm on Sunday, April 17th.

Easter Egg Hunt

The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Westminster City Hall Grounds at 1838 Emerald Hill Lane on April 23rd. Children ages 1-4 will hunt for eggs at 10:30 a.m. and 5-8 year olds will search at 11:30 a.m. There will be over 4,000 plastic filled eggs with 100 special prize eggs scattered throughout. The hunts are free and open to the public.

Delicious food and great entertainment will be offered and local nurseries set up beautiful displays of unusual plants and shrubs. Over 100 craft vendors display a wide variety of unique items. Admission and parking are free. The Flower and Jazz Festival is preceded by a Fun Run with a 200 yard dash, one mile fun run and a timed 5K.



comes on March 18, 2011. The dinner started at 1 Park Ave. for appetizers, worked its way to the home of Martha and Howdy Bubert who with wonderful desserts at the home of Laurie and Wayne Walters. Neighbors are already talking about planning for next year's event!



Neighborhood Crime Prevention

Spring is that time when many of us are busy running around working in our yards and making frequent trips to the store for gardening supplies. Spring is also that time of year that as temperatures start to rise, reports of neighborhood crime start to increase.

Our neighborhood has had several neighborhood association meetings in which neighborhood crime and crime prevention has been discussed. Sgt Keith Benfer has presented information about crime prevention and neighborhood watches. According to information on the City of Westminster's website, the effectiveness of law enforcement department's crime prevention efforts is enhanced by active participation on the part of citizens. By calling to report suspicious persons or activities, you not only aid the police you make the neighborhood a safer place to live.

Some people fail to call simply because they are not aware of activities that might be suspicious. Others may notice suspicious activity and hesitate to call for fear of being labeled a "noisy neighbor" or a "crank". Still others take it for granted that someone else has already called.

Call 911 or (410) 848-4646, immediately when you observe suspicious activity. Do not worry about "bothering" the police. Do

not worry about being embarrassed if your suspicions prove unfounded. Think instead about what could happen if you do not act.

What you can watch for and information needed by the police to assist in making a criminal case:

A. Suspected drug violations:

Is there a lot of traffic in and out of a particular house?

1. Does the visitor(s) arrive empty handed and leave with some type of package after staying for a short period of time?
2. Does the visitor(s) arrive with some type of package and leave empty handed?
3. Does there appear to be someone acting as a lookout?
4. Are trips being made to and from a phone booth?
5. Are there rooms where the lights remain on all night, seven days a week?
6. Do vehicles pull up to a house and a person(s) meet them or do they go in the house for only a few minutes?

If you observe the suspicious activity listed above, there is a good

chance that it may be illegal drug activity. The following is a list of things that you may try to do to assist the police department:

1. Note the time and day of the majority of traffic. (ex. Thursday, between 9pm and 11pm)
2. Name(s) or nickname(s) of any of the visitor(s) you may recognize or overhear.
3. Make, model and most important the license plate number of any vehicle(s) that are seen visiting the residence as well as any vehicle(s) that belong to the occupants of the residence in question.
4. The exact address including apartment number or the floor level.
5. Any pattern that you may notice developing.

After reporting this information, don't be discouraged if you don't see immediate results. A lot of time it takes a week to several months to make a case depending on all of the circumstances and information available.

B. Suspected residential criminal violations:

1. Someone is looking into your neighbor's window(s).
2. A car, truck or van backed up to a door or parked in the driveway that you don't recognize.
3. A suspicious vehicle that slows and drives by a house or business several times.
4. Someone is seen in an apartment or house that is to be unoccupied due to someone on vacation or having moved out.

Be a good neighbor and report any

type of suspicious activity!

All suspected criminal violations should be reported immediately by calling the Westminster police department at 410-848-4646 or 911. When calling the Westminster police department crime and drug tips line 410-857-TIPS, you will receive a recording. At the end of the recorded message you may leave your message about a crime or drug violation(s). You may then elect to remain anonymous, or you may leave your name and phone number and someone will get back to you within several days. If you need immediate assistance, call 410-848-4646 where you will reach a police dispatcher.

You should never feel as though you are bothering the police. We would rather be called to investigate something suspicious and find nothing, rather than to receive a call later and find that someone became a victim of a crime that may have been prevented.

Remember: you are the eyes and ears for the police and the community. We need your help to keep our neighborhoods a safe place to live and work!

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

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Report any suspicious activity

Do not hesitate to contact the Westminster Police about any suspicious activity you see happen - they want to hear from you!

You can make an anonymous report by calling 410-857-TIPS (8477) or texting your tip to 847411 (tip411), or you can make an online report at http://www.westgov.com/police/police_activity.html.
To report a crime currently in progress, call 911.