



# HISTORIC BELLE GROVE SQUARE NEIGHBORHOOD

VOLUME 4 ~ ISSUE 5 ~ MAY 2011



## « What a Wonderful Neighborhood »

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### Neighborhood Meeting

**Thurs., May 26th  
7:00pm - 8:30pm  
at St. Paul's UCC  
Bond & Green Sts.**

*Meeting for upcoming summer events and to discuss proposed neighborhood plan*

*Join us and meet your great Belle Grove Square neighbors!*

*by Mitchell Edmondson*

As I sit writing this month's front page story, I listen to the sound of the construction at St. Paul's and the hustle and bustle of the paving crew on Park Avenue. Some folks might be annoyed by all the noise; however, I am happy. I happy we live in a neighborhood in which the city would invest thousands of dollars in maintaining our streets. Happy that St. Paul's took the plunge and started construction on a new space that will help ensure that their church remains a vital gathering spot. I am very happy to live in a town that takes great pride in its appearance and works so hard to have events such as the Flower and Jazz Festival and the coming soon Art in the Park.

I am also happy that we have such a beautiful park in our neighborhood. Much thanks to Wayne and his crew who keep the water splashing

in our fountain and make sure the holiday lights shine bright in December.

I am happy to have a police force that works with our neighborhood and keeps our city safe. I am grateful that we have someone like Sgt. Keith Benfer who attends our neighborhood meetings and helps us learn how to make our homes and neighborhood safer. I am grateful for the firefighters who showed up in record time when our smoke alarm accidentally went off.

But, the thing I am happiest about is the fact that our neighborhood is filled with kind folks who think nothing of helping out their fellow man. To the unnamed man who cleared the snow along Park Avenue, the woman I watched pick up a piece of trash in the park, and the man I saw help his neighbor with their groceries - I say thank you. Everyday random acts of kindness occur

in our neighborhood. If you only believed what you saw on the news, you would think our world has become society filled with folks who think only of themselves. Living in Historic Belle Grove Square helps me realize that there are indeed very kind and caring folks in this world. Our homes are filled with neighbors who drop off plates of goodies at Christmas, neighbors who stop and chat when I'm out in the yard, and neighbors who pitch in to help with my projects around the house. Our two great churches have various programs that help feed the hungry and help those who are struggling with the everyday challenges of life.

Because we hand deliver the newsletter to every house in Historic Belle Grove Square, I speak with certain knowledge when I say that great neighbors can be found on every block. If you don't think you have such folks on your block, I would encourage you to get to know your neighbors. I think you will find that they are folks who care about you and would always be willing to lend a helping hand.

**Neighborhood Yard Sale Sat. May 14th!**

*Ginormous neighborhood yard sale - see inside for all the details!*



# Neighborhood News

## Yard Sale May 14th!

The grass has turned green and the trees have leafed out. The dogwoods in the park are in full bloom. This can only mean that spring has finally arrived and cold winter winds will be a thing of the past. With spring comes our second annual yard sale. This year we will be having our yard sale with many neighboring streets. At last count, it was estimated that there will be more than 30 garage sales in our part of town.



dedication to making sure that our city continues to maintain and improve its infrastructure even during tough economic times. We have to be willing to commit time and money if we want our city to continue to shine as the best city in this section of Maryland. One only has to take a short drive to visit other communities to witness what happens to downtowns and neighborhoods when there is no commitment to maintaining streets and infrastructure.

## Flowers and Music on Main Street May 7th

The Flower and Jazz Festival takes place in Historic Downtown Westminster from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. on May 7th. 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.



The crab cakes seemed to be a big hit at last year's Flower & Jazz Festival downtown. One local resident said he planned to have only one this time, but last year had the same plan and ended up having five.

## Memorial Day Parade

The Memorial Day Parade starts at 10am on Pennsylvania Avenue and ends on Church Street at the Westminster Cemetery. A memorial service will begin at 11am in the cemetery. For more information contact Daniel Bohn at 410-848-6179.

The annual Memorial Day Parade was started around the same time that our neighborhood was being constructed. In the late 1860's, Mary Shellman organized a children's parade to decorate the graves of veterans in the Westminster cemetery. The parade has been held every year since then and is considered to be one of the

longest Memorial Day traditions in the nation.

## Art in the Park

Held on June 4th from 10am to 4pm on the City Hall Grounds (1838 Emerald Hill Lane) rain or shine. This is a festival of visual and performing arts featuring dozens of the region's most talented painters, photographers, and fine craft artists. Continuous live music and free kids crafts. There is free admission and parking, but no pets please! For more information call 410-848-7272.

The Carroll County Arts Council has partnered with the City of

## Street Paving Update

As most of you have noticed, our neighborhood is having most of its streets resurfaced. Bond Street was the first to get paved and the street looks great. Revenue to fund our street repairs comes from a 14 cent tax increase that was enacted last July. The money raised from the tax increase is used only for capital projects. Much thanks to the City of Westminster for their work and



Belle Grove Square neighbors set up for last year's yard sale.



## 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](http://www.westgov.com/police/police_activity.html).  
To report a crime currently in progress, call 911.

Westminster for three decades to present this annual outdoor cultural festival that is held the first Saturday in June on the beautiful grounds of Westminster City Hall. The juried event features fine art and craft displays by accomplished artists from throughout the region. It attracts a loyal and large audience of arts enthusiasts.

## Incident Reported

On Monday 4/18/2011 at approximately 7:00 p.m. a 21 year old resident of Carroll St reported to the Police Department that he had been accosted by a group of six males in the alley next to Westminster Square garage (between Union Alley and W Green St). At least one of the suspects was known to the victim by first name. The group accused the victim of having a dispute with another resident of Westminster. They then demanded that he empty his pockets under the threat of physical harm. When the victim refused to comply he was jumped by the group and struck with fists. The suspects fled on foot without obtaining any property from the victim. Detectives are actively pursuing the case and are in the process of attempting to identify the assailants. This does not appear to be a random act - but rather a targeted act against the victim who was known to at least one of the suspects.

Anyone with information relating to this case is asked to contact Detective Jeffrey Schuster of the Westminster Police Department at (410) 848-3846.

*Editor's note: we received the following update - charges have not yet been filed as the Westminster Police work to identify additional suspects associated with this incident.*

*It is believed it may be a drug related incident and only happenstance placed the victim in the Belle Grove Square neighborhood area at that time.*

# May History

## St. Paul's Celebrates

This month St. Paul's United Church of Christ will be celebrating its anniversary. The church can trace its history back to May 23, 1868, when members of the Reformed Churches in Carroll County sought to erect a house of worship in downtown Westminster.

On May 22nd a celebration and history tour of the campus will begin at 1p.m. The tour will begin in the church's narthex. There will be a walking tour through the church building ending in the Parish House Archival Room.

## Happy Anniversary

On May 10, 2011, the Westminster Woman's Club will celebrate its 100th anniversary with a luncheon celebration at Antrim 1844 in Taneytown. The club was founded in 1911 as the Woman's Literary Club. The group changed its name to The Woman's Club of Westminster in 1912.

The General Federation of Women's clubs clubwomen are true volunteers in action—in 2010, members raised nearly \$40 million doing more than 185,000 projects, volunteering more than 8 million hours in the communities where they live and work.



FRANCIS SCOTT KEY.

The Westminster Woman's Club maintains the flower bed that runs along W. Green Street.

## Peep Show Entry Wins

We hope everyone got a chance to visit the Peep Show at the Carroll Arts Center. The show this year was a record breaker in a number of ways.

There were nearly 200 entries, and it raised more money for the programs at the center than ever before. Our neighborhood's very own St. Paul's United Church of Christ won the Peep Show's "Kid Power Award" with their entry "Hide and Go Peep".

## Francis Scott Key and the Terra Rubra Farm

Since May 30th, 1949 the United States flag has flown continuously over the monument marking the site of Francis Scott Key's birthplace. The flag flies at Terra Rubra Farm, Carroll County, Keymar, Maryland as mandated by a Joint Resolution of Congress.

## Westminster's Early Libraries

Three years before George and



On Eastern Sunday, Westminster Church of the Brethren invited folks to place flowers on the cross located in front of the church on Belle Grove Square.

Maria Matthews purchased the land that would become Belle Grove Square, Reverend J. A. Monroe and Dr. Charles Billingslea helped found the Westminster Library. The Westminster Library was incorporated in 1863 under the direction of a board of seven managers. It was open to the public on Friday afternoons at the Odd Fellows Hall.

Relocating over the years from the Odd Fellows Hall to the new Times Building and then to the second floor of the Wantz



A road crew works to mill and repave Park Ave in April 2011.



## Westminster Parks & Rec.

Be sure to visit the Parks & Recreation Dept. online at [www.westgov.com/recreation/rec\\_main.html](http://www.westgov.com/recreation/rec_main.html) to see their full calendar of events! You'll be amazed at how much the city has going!

Building, Westminster Public Library was still a one-room library in the 1940s. In 1949, Mr. and Mrs. Walter H. Davis announced that they would give a public library building to Westminster and provide an endowment for its support. At that time, the Westminster Public Library turned over its operation and assets to the Davis Library. The Davis Library, housed in

a former Methodist church building, was formally dedicated as a library on May 27, 1951. In 1958 a county-wide library system was established, with the Davis Library operating as the central branch. After ten years of lobbying for a modern library facility, Carroll County's first modern library, the Westminster Branch Library, opened in March, 1980.

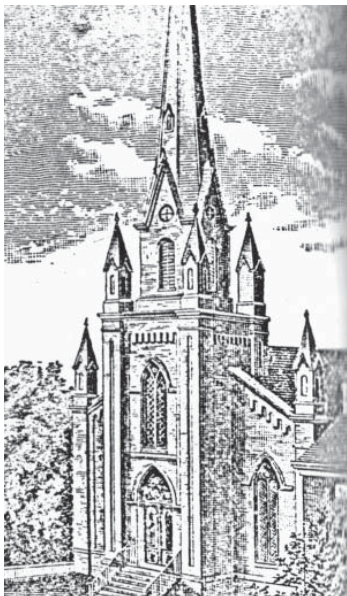


The Baltimore oriole has been the official State bird since 1947. In 1882 special provisions were made for its protection. The oriole's colors are black and yellow, the same colors as in the Calvert family shield.

The Black-Eyed Susan has been the official State flower since 1918. A yellow daisy, it blooms in late summer.

## Anonymous Police Tip Line

To send an anonymous tip via text message to the Westminster Police Department, text the keyword TIPWPD and your tip to 847411 (tip411) or call the Tips Line, 410-857-8477.



The original Methodist Protestant Church building is shown in an 1887 engraving, and was the site of the City's Davis Library.



Another neighborhood building that has been forever lost is the Richardson's Feed Store that was located at the corner of West Main and Bond Street. The site is now the home of BB&T Bank. As we lose these historic structures, the city loses a little of its historic appeal each time, something that when lost cannot be regained.



## Tip: Tired of throwing out red bags?

If you don't read the free papers, take just a moment to call the phone number inside the paper whenever you receive one and ask them to stop delivery to your address. Free papers laying around make the neighborhood look bad, and can invite crime by advertising when you may be away from home.

How to reach us:

Historic Belle Grove  
Square Neighborhood

443.293.7203

1 Park Avenue  
Westminster, MD  
21157

email: [newsletter@bellegrovesquare.org](mailto:newsletter@bellegrovesquare.org)

[www.bellegrovesquare.org](http://www.bellegrovesquare.org)

Letters to the editor are welcomed. Letters submitted may be edited for space or clarity.

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