



HISTORIC BELLE GROVE SQUARE NEIGHBORHOOD

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Belle Grove Square Neighborhood Meeting:

**Thursday
April 22nd, 2010
at 7:00pm**

**St. Paul's UCC,
Bond & Green Sts.**

Join us and meet your great Belle Grove Square neighbors!

April In The Park

by Mitchell Edmondson

It seems spring has arrived in Maryland. In fact with recent temperatures above 90 degrees it may be fair to say that summer is fast approaching. Each spring our neighborhood comes to life with many blossoms in our neighborhood park.

We are very fortunate that the City of Westminster works very hard to make sure our park is one of the crowning jewels in Westminster. We also are very lucky that the Westminster Woman's club maintains the flower bed along West Green Street.

This summer promises to bring a few exciting things to our historic neighborhood. We are having a neighborhood garage sale May 22nd and sometime soon we will see our Historic Belle Grove Square street sign toppers make their appearance.

I believe that we will be the first neighborhood in Westminster

to have historic neighborhood signage.

The City of Westminster and the Historic District Commission have been very supportive of our efforts to organize our neighborhood and we are very appreciative for their commitment to our neighborhood and for helping make the installation of our historic street signs possible.

Later this summer we will also have our second picnic in the park. Last year's picnic was a great success with over 50 neighborhood residents sharing an evening in the park.

So, as you go about your life in Historic Belle Grove Square, take time to visit with your neighbors and bask in the certain knowledge that you live in one of the best neighborhoods in Westminster.



BGS Neighborhood News Update

Neighborhood Street Sign Project Update

Our street sign project continues to move forward. We have identified the first six street corners in which the Historic Belle Grove Square street sign toppers will be installed by the City of Westminster with more to be surveyed. Bids for 12 of the heavy aluminum signs came in at about \$1600.00 with some final cost to be determined based on the brackets needed for installation on each sign post, some of which vary.

We are getting several extra signs so we will have replacements for damaged signs down the road. This past week we found out that the Westminster Historic District Commission is very excited about our project and they have agreed to contribute half of the cost of the street signs. The city will go ahead and order the signs when we tell them that we have raised our share of the cost. That means that our neighborhood has to raise \$800.00 to pay our share of costs.

We have already received verbal commitments for \$600.00 We still need at least \$200.00 more in donations to cover the cost of the signs. It is possible that with your help we will have the signs installed sometime in the next few months.

If you would like to contribute to our neighborhood sign project, please make out a check to Historic Belle Grove Neighborhood Association and either drop it by our house or mail it to 1 Park Avenue, Westminster, MD 21157.

Neighborhood Picnic

At the April Historic Belle Grove Square neighborhood association meeting we will be discussing plans for our annual summer in the park picnic. Once again the board will be providing hamburgers and hotdogs, and residents will be asked to bring a tasty dish to share with neighbors. This year we will plan on having an alternate rain date. If you would like to help plan our picnic, please come to the meeting or call us at 443.293.7203.

Neighborhood meeting April 22

Our quarterly meeting will take place on April 22, 2010 at 7:00 at St. Paul's United Church of Christ. In addition to discussing the upcoming garage sale, the summer picnic in the park and the sign project, we will also have a presentation by the local police Sergeant Keith Benfer regarding crime response and prevention. Please save the date and plan on joining your neighbors for this important meeting!

Garage Sale Coming up Saturday May 22

If you have a few things or a whole house full of stuff you would like to sell, you will have a great chance to get rid of some stuff and raise some extra money.

A few of our neighborhood residents are planning on having a neighborhood garage sale on Saturday, May 22, 2010. Each neighborhood resident will set up their own sale in their front yards.

Belle Grove Square Park News

Our beloved fountain will once again spring to life around April 23rd as city Public Works staff get it set up again. The City of Westminster takes care of the fountain and most of the park grounds. Each Friday the fountain is drained and cleaned out by city employees.

The Westminster Women's Garden club maintains the flower bed along West Green Street and two neighborhood residents maintain the flower beds along Park Place. If you have any extra plants you would like to donate to

the park for the flowerbeds, just drop them by 1 Park Avenue and we will see that they are planted in the park.

December 11 Holiday Home Tour News

We continue to work with the Historic District Commission to plan this year's home tour. We currently have eight houses on the tour and still have time to squeeze in another home or two if you are interested.

If your home is scheduled to be on the tour, now's the time to start putting together a brief write-up that describes interesting information about the history or architecture of your home, recent

Monarchs U

by Melissa Breyer

This year may be one of the worst for the monarch butterfly, experts are reporting.

Severe hailstorms in Mexico (one of the monarch's winter homes) followed by 15 inches of rain has left the population decimated by up to 50 percent this year. Add to that the ongoing issue of habitat destruction, and the future of the monarch begins to look a little shaky.

Unlike most other insects in temperate climates, monarch



A mature monarch butterfly is shown resting in its natural habitat



A styrofoam mock-up is shown atop a local street sign showing the approximate size and shape of the new Historic Belle Grove Square signage - the actual signs will be made of durable aluminum which it is hoped will last a number of decades.

projects, or anything else you would like to share. The paragraph will appear in the tour booklet with the sketch of your house. Please email Tim Rogers at the City of Westminster, trogers@westgov.com or contact the neighborhood association at 443 293 7203 for mailing information.

If you are unable to have your home in the tour, there will be plenty of other ways you can participate in the home tour. We will be discussing the home tour at our next board meeting. If you would like more information about how you can help make this year's tour a great success, please call Tim Rogers at 410-848-4628 or contact Bruce DeVault with the Belle Grove Square Neighborhood at 443-293-7203 for volunteer info.

Under Siege

butterflies cannot survive a long cold winter, according to MonarchWatch.org. Instead, they spend the winter in roosting spots. Monarchs west of the Rocky Mountains travel to small groves of trees along the California coast, while those east of the Rocky Mountains fly farther south to the forests high in the mountains of Mexico.

No other butterflies migrate like North American monarchs. They are the only butterflies to make such a long, round-trip migration of up to three thousand miles every year. It's like "The Odyssey" of the insect world.

Amazingly, they fly in masses to the same winter roosts, often to the exact same trees. Part of the problem monarchs face is the longevity of the trees within which they roost: illegal logging in Mexico has destroyed the butterflies' mountain habitats, while property development in California threatens the eucalyptus trees where they roost there.

Liberty and Green

Liberty Street was laid out in 1855 by Edward Lynch and Dr. William A. Mathias. According to an article written by Jay A. Graybeal, at one time the intersection of

Liberty and Green streets was a very quiet spot as a steam mill was the only industry in the immediate neighborhood, but with the building of the Koontz creamery



The corner of Green and Liberty is shown before World War II.

In addition to habitat issues and the increasingly severe weather, there has also been a significant increase in the Midwest of planting corn and soybeans that are genetically engineered to be herbicide-resistant. That allows farmers to spray weed killer without hurting the crops, but it has meant almost no milkweed survive in the fields. No milkweed means no place for the butterflies to breed along the way, a crucial step, obviously, in the survival of the species.

That's where we can help. Last fall our neighborhood association approved a measure to pursue having our park register as a Monarch Waystation. We have applied for membership and will be mounting a sign in the park that designates our park as a Waystation for Monarch Butterflies. We will be planting milkweed and other Monarch friendly flowering plants in the two flowerbeds along Park Place. A kind neighbor Sara has

agreed to donate milkweed seeds to anyone interested in establishing a Monarch habitat. Please call 443-293-7203 if you would like to receive some free milkweed seeds to plant in your garden and we'll get you in touch with neighbors who can help.

on one corner, the Myers packing house on another and the W. E. Grumbine shirt factory a few feet away the quiet intersection became a busy spot.

William F. Myers of Pleasant Valley, Carroll County, Maryland established his meat packing business at the corner of Liberty and Green Streets in 1896. He would carry his meat products by train to Baltimore where he'd use a wagon to deliver them around the city.

Mr. William Grumbine was appointed as a Westminster Constable on June 20, 1839. Constables had to post a \$100.00 bond with the City before their appointment and were paid 33.5 cents for every person apprehended. Some of the Ordinances established June 20, 1839 by the city fathers, included disturbing the peace by shouting, malicious ringing of doorbells, or throwing stones against any door, fence, or gate. The fines ranged from \$1 to \$5. Speeding was an apparent problem within the City just as it is today, although in 1839 it was of the one- or two-horse power kind. The speed ordinance of the time read: "No person shall run or drive through the town of Westminster at an improper gait except in case of necessity."

*Received April 2, 2010
Historic Belle Grove Square Neighborhood Association*

Dear Mitchell Edmondson,

We are pleased to inform you that your Monarch Waystation application is currently being processed. The milkweed and nectar flower habitat you have created for monarch butterflies will be registered and certified as a Monarch Waystation - congratulations!

You will receive your certificate and site ID via mail soon. You are now eligible to purchase an official Monarch Waystation sign - any number of these signs may be ordered for display at your certified site(s). Displaying these signs will educate others and with your help encourage your friends, neighbors, schools, and others to create additional Monarch Waystations. Monarchs need our help!

Details about submitting additional materials (photos, complete plant lists, comments, etc.) for your Monarch Waystation record will accompany your certificate. Thank you for your interest in monarch conservation!

Sincerely,

*Orley R. "Chip" Taylor, Director, Monarch Watch
Create, Conserve, and Protect Monarch Habitats, 800-780-9986*



First Phones in 1884

In April of 1884, eight years after its invention by Alexander Graham Bell, the telephone became a reality in Westminster and Carroll County. The following article in the American Sentinel summed up the spirit of confidence in the telephone as the invention of the age and shows the 19th Century person's perceptions of the possible uses of such a device:

The citizens of Westminster have been talking of a telephone line for this city for some time past. The town is nearly two miles long, and it is quite a journey from one end to another, besides requiring considerable time to make it.

Communication with the chief towns of the county is not as rapid as is desired, and several have no telegraph lines to them.

A telephone line will remedy all this, and we are glad to announce that there is a first-rate prospect of having that means of communication.

The importance of this enterprise is very great to the business interest of this county. When these lines are built and they will be speedily, if the people will agree to use them, business men can talk with each other all over the county, and with business men in Baltimore and all the chief points in Western Maryland. A client can go to the telephone and hold a conversation with his attorney just as well as though he were in the attorney's office, and save himself a day's journey.

If a lady of Westminster wants groceries, or goods of any kind from a store, she need not fix up to go out, but can order it by telephone in a few seconds.

A physician can be summoned in the same manner, or a prescription ordered from a drugstore.

If a robbery be committed, the officers of the law can be informed of it in a few seconds, and it will be almost impossible for a thief to escape.

The advantages will be so great, indeed, that we cannot enumerate them here. Persons can talk at a distance just as well as though they were together, and save time and expense to all who use them. All conversations are private.

Let the people of Westminster and the whole county consider this enterprise, and be ready to subscribe when the agent calls.

The city council will be asked for right of way for poles and wires in Westminster, and that body should consider the proposition, so that no delay will be occasioned.

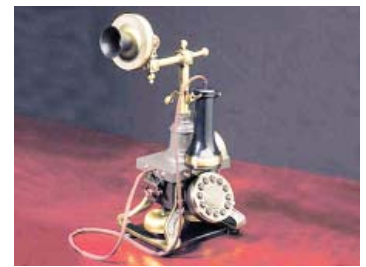
After permission was granted soon thereafter, the Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Company lost no time building the telephone exchange. The new line between Baltimore and Westminster via the Baltimore and Reisterstown Pike was competed according to promise on Wednesday, April 1.

The first message over the new line was sent from Superintendent E L. Miller to General Manager Bryan, at Washington, by Miss Mary B. Shellman, manager of the

may have been brought with these settlers into northern Carroll County in the 18th century.

One popular national tradition during the 19th century was the Easter parade. Easter Monday parades were held in Westminster in 1884, 1885, and 1887. After a short lapse, a large parade was held in 1892 and the tradition continued into the 20th century.

Editor's note: originally printed in Carroll County Times, 11 April 1993.



An 1884 Ericsson "Eiffel Tower" Model Telephone is shown.

Westminster Exchange, and the line was immediately opened to the public and has been in constant use ever since.

As citizens obtained new telephones, their names and numbers were advertised in the newspapers. Directories were published and circulated through the county.

The new system prompted the honored visit of Alexander Graham Bell to Westminster in July 1884. Dr. Bell came to Westminster in July 1884 to inspect the telephone system and to have lunch with Miss Shellman.

Easter Postcards

by Joe Getty

While Carroll County's Easter traditions have been primarily religious in nature, a number of secular traditions, such as dressing in your "Easter best" or sending postal card Easter greetings, began

to become popular during the late 19th century.

A secular tradition that may have a long tradition in Carroll County is that of dyeing eggs in many colors for Easter. It was a custom amongst the Pennsylvania Germans and



An Easter postcard is depicted from the late 1800s.

How to reach us:

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

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