



HISTORIC BELLE GROVE SQUARE NEIGHBORHOOD

VOLUME 3 ~ ISSUE 12 ~ DECEMBER 2010

🔔 Happy Holidays Belle Grove Square! 🔔



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Historic Belle Grove Square Neighborhood Association Meeting

**Thurs, Jan. 20th
7:00pm**

**at St. Paul's Church,
Bond & Green Streets**

***Come out and meet
your great neighbors!***

by Mitchell Edmondson

Whew, what a month December has been! On Saturday, December 11, 2010 our neighborhood really shone as the brightest light in Northern Maryland. For one magical night our neighborhood played host to more than one thousand visitors and boy, did we ever put on a show. From the very beginning of that day as city staff cleaned streets, put out luminaries, and blocked street traffic, you could tell that something very special was about to happen. Mother Nature

provided great weather as the Historic Belle Grove neighborhood rolled out the welcome mat. By all accounts this was a very successful Holiday Home Tour. Judging from the hundreds of folks who visited my house, I can vouch that our guests were having a great time and were very appreciative and glad that a neighborhood like ours still exists in Westminster.

Our home tour wouldn't have been the success it was without the hard work of a great many folks. First and foremost, a big thank you to the

members of the Historic District Commission including Kristen McMasters, Dean Camlin, Greg Goodell, Kevin Wagman, Arlette Mitchell and Grace Kelly-lawler who organized the event and worked with our neighborhood association and area homeowners to make sure that everything went smoothly and that all homeowners had a great experience from the tour.

Another person who played a very important role in our home tour was neighborhood planner Melissa Hynes. Melissa put in long hours, answered countless questions, and worked with our neighborhood board and the Historic District Commission to make sure that we had everything we needed to make the tour successful.

Other city staff such as Wayne Reifsnyder with Public Works also played a very important role in our amazing tour. Wayne and his crew made our streets shine and glow and helped with luminaries and keeping

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Belle Grove Square's never looked as clean as after the city's special efforts in the days leading up to the home tour Dec 11.



City of Westminster Public Works Dept. raised the bar this year with a huge tree placed in the park's fountain Nov 16, 2010.



The American and Maryland flags fly at half-staff in the square on Dec 7, 2010 in honor of the 69th anniversary of Pearl Harbor.



From hand-made wreaths to holly garland, from festive luminaries to victorian holiday ornaments, friends and neighbors



to Round-Up



Power and utility poles are in the process of being repaired and upgraded all around Westminister this year by BGE crews.



Westminster Municipal Band and many others performed to help make the Dec 11th tour an enchanted evening all around the square.



Really went all out around the square in 2010 to decorate in advance of the Holiday Home Tour held December 11, 2010.



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traffic away and the streets safe for the great numbers of visitors who converged on our neighborhood for a few short hours. There were many city officials who worked with our neighborhood and the Historic District Commission to make our night a very special night that will be remembered fondly for many years. Parks director Ron Shroers and city administrator Margaret Wolf as well public works director Jeff Glass were also instrumental in helping pull everything together so that it all just fell into place on the final day.

A big thank you also goes to the Church of the Brethren and St. Paul's for their contributions to the tour. Our neighborhood churches opened their doors and provided entertainment, refreshments, and served as anchors for the tour to sell tickets and answer questions. Many thanks to the volunteers of both churches who gave of their time to make sure that everyone enjoyed the tour.

A special thank you also to our neighborhood Glenn Hansen also gave of his time to make sure that our neighborhood was ready for its time in the spotlight, helping put out luminaries at the last minute when we all were in such a rush to get ready. On a more personal note, I want to thank each of the eight homeowners who allowed more than a thousand visitors to roam through their homes. Many strangers entered but some left as new friends. As I toured my neighbors' homes, I realized that I am truly blessed to live in a neighborhood with such generous residents. During the past few years we have come closer together as a neighborhood and I now count many of you as dear friends. I am so proud of our neighborhood. We are so lucky to live in a place where

folks not only look out for each other but genuinely care about each other too.

My last thank you goes to Laurie Walters, who has been an advocate for our neighborhood for many years. She helped sow the seeds for our neighborhood association and continues to motivate me to join her in her quest to make sure that our neighborhood remains one of the best in Carroll County. We all owe her a great deal of gratitude for the work she has done not only for our neighborhood, but also for the city of Westminster - not to mention her help pulling off the tour.

I hope everyone enjoys this holiday season and we all have a very Happy New Year to come!

Decorating Contest Winners Announced

On Friday, December 10, 2010, the night before the home tour, representatives from the city's Historic District Commission walked around our neighborhood and surveyed houses in the neighborhood's boundaries but not on the tour to determine the winner of our annual holiday decorating contest.

After viewing each home and taking into account the fact that the theme this year was a "Victorian Christmas," it was decided that the honor of best decorated house goes to Revs. Lucy and Eddie downstairs, and Glenn upstairs at 7 Park Avenue. The runner up award goes to Tim and Jaime of 44 Bond Street.

Awards including a small prize for each of the winners will be given at the Mayor & City Council meeting on Monday, January 10th.

Westminster Parks & Rec.
 Be sure to visit the Parks & Recreation Dept. online at 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!



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**.

Flags Reinstalled

You might have noticed that the American and Maryland flags have after a number of years of absence been returned to Belle Grove Square park.

The neighborhood association board of directors, working with the local American Legion post and city representatives made arrangements to have the flags reinstalled to fly 24/7 as permitted under the US Flag Code rules.

The flags were reinstalled just in time for the 69th anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day, December 11, 2010.

Board Elections

It is time once again to elect board members to serve for the coming year. If you are interested in serving a year on the board or would like to nominate someone, please contact Bruce DeVault at 443-293-7203.

All nominations must be in by December 31, 2010 and annual elections are scheduled for the next general meeting on Thursday, January 20th, 2011.

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

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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.