



The Westfield Times

A Publication of the Westfield Neighborhood Improvement Association

July /August 2005

THE HISTORY OF WESTFIELD

A Three Part Series

Unlike Washington, our capital, where streets are numbers, letters of the alphabet, or the name of a state, Baltimoreans prefer to name their streets and roads after people. In 1770 during the revolution, Sir Henry Harford, a Governor, was forced to give up his land claim. This made way for farms, businesses and 60 large estates. A local man purchased a large tract of the land and built a sawmill. His name was John Keene, and it was he who established a post office in honor of his daughter Laura. His tract of land became known as Lauraville.

In 1853 the Harford Turnpike Company was incorporated to make a turnpike road

continued on page 2

September's MEETING

Please make arrangements to attend September's Meeting. On the agenda will be an important **zoning** issue. We have also invited several of our elected officials. This is the time to come out, voice your opinion and express your concerns.

September 6, 2005

7:30 pm

The Holiday House

6427 Harford Rd

WINA
P.O. Box 28244
Baltimore, MD 21214

from Conowingo to Bel Air in Harford county. In the early 1800's most of these turnpikes were working toll roads owned and operated by private stock companies. The tollgate house at the corner of Belair road and Tollgate road is a fine example of the period. The importance of Harford road cannot be stressed enough for it is the umbilical cord that ties our community with the rest of Baltimore.

North Lauraville by the early 19th century was still surrounded by 4 large estates. To the southeast was the estate of Dr. Crieg, and to the northeast was the property of John Thames, a well-to-do merchant. To the west was the estate of Philip Gebb and to the north a tract of land formerly owned by the Garrets. The business center of north Lauraville was the Thames Brothers General Store where a hand pump and trough greeted travelers and their horses. In fact Harford road on the east side was called Thames lane, running for a short distance past an old log cabin where the Thames brothers had been born.

Directly across from the Harford turnpike looking from the Thames Brothers Store was Fair Oaks Farm, the estate of retired sea captain Hamilton Caughey. He had given land on the southern fringe of his property to Baltimore County so that they might build a road to Towson from the Harford turnpike, with the understanding that it be named in honor of him. Therefore the section of the road from the turnpike to Hillen Road was called Hamilton Lane.

As the population of north Lauraville increased it was felt that a post office was needed. S. Davis Warfield, then head of the Baltimore Post Office, granted the request and suggested that the new post office be called Hamilton, most likely in honor of the old captain. By 1898 or 1900 the residence of north Lauraville turned their social center at Jerry Norwood's Lauraville Hall into the Hamilton Post Office. And Hamilton the community was born.

Part two continued next month

City Services

Permits

- To obtain City Public Works Permits (410) 396-6865
- To obtain Food Permits or vendor license (410) 396-3787
- To obtain Park Permits (410) 396-7946
- Housing Permits & Code Enforcement (410) 396-3360
- To inquire about Residential Parking Permits (443) 573-2800
- To obtain Waste Hauler permits (410) 396-4428
- To apply for Ridesharing permits (410) 396-POOL
- To obtain a permit to use parks for an event (410) 396-7946

NEXT MEETING

September 6, 2005

October 4, 2005 November 1, 2005

The Holiday House ♦ 6427 Harford Rd

7:30 pm

Membership Dues: \$10 per year, per household

Mail to P.O. Box 28244 Baltimore, MD 21234 or pay online www.wnia.com

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____

Crime and Safety

Don't Be a Victim

The chances of you or a member of your family becoming a victim of violent crime are low. Violent crimes by strangers in public places are still rare and account for a very small part of recorded crime.

However, you can make yourself even less likely to be the victim of a violent crime – for example, robbery (mugging) or assault – by taking a few sensible precautions. Many are common sense, and may be things that you already do. Making yourself safer doesn't mean changing your entire lifestyle, personality or wardrobe, and it doesn't mean never going out at all.

Some general points

- Criminals come in all sizes, shapes, races, ages, backgrounds, weights and physical appearances. Never fall into the trap of thinking that criminals have to fit a certain stereotype or appearance
- You will be safest in bright, well-lit and busy areas.
- Try to look and act confident – look like you know where you are going and walk tall.
- You might like to spread your valuables around your body. For example, keep your phone in your bag, your house keys in your trouser pocket and your money in your jacket.
- If someone tries to take something from you, it may be better to let them take it rather than to get into a confrontation and risk injury.
- You can use reasonable force in self-defense. You are allowed to protect yourself with something you are carrying anyway (for example, keys or a can of deodorant), but you may not carry a weapon.
- If you decide to defend yourself, be aware that your attacker might be stronger than you, or may take what you are using in self-defense and use it against you. It is often better just to shout loudly and run away.
- If you use a wheelchair, keep your things beside you rather than at the back of the chair.
- Try not to be conspicuous about the valuables you are carrying. Talking on your mobile phone, carrying a laptop, or showing your friend your new gold ring all show thieves that you are worth robbing.
- When out walking or jogging, you should not listen to a personal stereo through headphones, so you can stay more alert to your surroundings.

Community News

Event: Opening Day for the City Neighbors Charter School

Date: September 6th

Day of Week: Tuesday

Location: Epiphany Evangelical Lutheran Church, 4301 Raspe Avenue

After a great deal of work on the part of its founders, the City Neighbors Charter School will open its doors for classes at the Epiphany Evangelical Lutheran Church, 4301 Raspe Avenue. People are welcome to come and celebrate the start of this great educational opportunity for the children of Northeast Baltimore. For more information contact Bobbi MacDonald at: Bobbi@cityneighbors.org.

What's On the Web

Home and Garden Television

Ready to change the wall paper in the dining room? Bathroom need a new coat of paint. Time to reseed the lawn. Just how much is enough? Home and Garden Television (HGTV) has a website with some very useful calculators.

Drywall Calculator Just fill in the dimensions of your room and they will tell you how much drywall you'll need to buy.

Fences Choose a style and tell us the length, and we'll give you a list of fencing materials.

Grass Seed We'll tell you how much seed, lime and fertilizer you need for the perfect lawn.

Paint Estimator Give us the details about your paint job, and we'll tell you how many gallons to buy.

Tile Estimator Tell us the size of your tiles and a few other details. We'll tell you what you'll need for the job.

Wallpaper Estimator Answer some easy questions to get a shopping list of wallpaper materials and supplies.

Just go to www.hgtv.com/hgtv/calculators

Westfield Neighborhood Improvement Association

Volunteers needed for:

Newsletter Distribution

NECOP Patrols

Call 410-254-9642

