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www.wymanparkcommunity.org

Wyman Park Community Association

Notice of Upcoming WPCA Board Elections by Amy Rial

On behalf of the WPCA nominating committee, I'm pleased to share the following slate of nominees for election to the WPCA Board. There are four nominees for Board membership –Laura Walsh, Kelsey Kruse, Robert Scheffler, and Jennifer Malone. In addition, current board members Eli Sherlock and Rosewin Sweeney have offered to fill the vacant Vice-President and Parliamentarian positions respectively.

You can read more about them below, and we hope you'll join us at the annual meeting on October 13th to hear from them directly and to vote. Each household in good standing is entitled to a vote – if you're unsure whether your household is current on dues, please reach out to Treasurer Mike Siers to confirm in advance of the meeting:
treasurer@wymanparkcommunity.org

If you or someone you know might be interested in serving on the Board – either for consideration at the October meeting or in the future–please let us know. Per our bylaws, additional candidates for any of the offices may also be nominated from the floor by any of the members present at the annual meeting. Any nominee must be a current dues paying member of the Association and agree to be nominated.

Officer Nominees

Andrea Rackowski, President
Eli Sherlock, Vice President
Lara Boeck, Secretary
Michael Siers, Treasurer
Rosewin Sweeney, Parliamentarian

Eli Sherlock

Current Board member Eli Sherlock has lived on the 3700 block of Keswick Road since 2021. He is a lifelong resident of Baltimore County and the Baltimore City area. He is an attorney for a federal agency who in his spare time runs and makes shoes and other leather crafts. He and his wife Elsie recently had their first child, and have been happy to meet other young parents in the Wyman Park area.

Rosewin Sweeney

Current Board member Rosewin Sweeney has lived in the 3700 block of Beech Avenue since 2018. A lifelong resident of Baltimore City, Rosewin was attracted to Wyman Park by the architecture and the easy access to the Avenue. Since moving to Wyman Park, she has been delighted to get to know her friendly, interesting neighbors. Rosewin is an environmental attorney who represented the Maryland Department of the Environment for 18 years as an Assistant Attorney General and has been in private practice since 2007.

Board of Directors Nominees

Laura Walsh

Laura has lived in wonderful Wyman Park since 2018, becoming a proud homeowner here in 2025. Her favorite things about the neighborhood include walks in the park and the proximity to the Avenue's charming shops and restaurants. She lives on the 3400 block of Keswick with her husband, Eric, and cats Appa and Momo. As a WPCA board member, Laura would prioritize park stewardship and neighborhood socials to keep the community connected. Laura looks forward to helping keep Wyman Park a welcoming neighborhood for all.

Kelsey Kruse

Kelsey Anne Kruse resides in the 3300 block of Beech Ave since moving there in 1989. She is a semi-retired architect, having worked for over 30 years for a small firm in Columbia, MD, George Vaeth Associates. Since 2018, She has worked at Penza Bailey Associates which Prime AE subsequently acquired was subsequently acquired by Prime AE. She has also done some illustration work on architectural publications, including Interior Graphic Standards and Planning Library Spaces.

She was born in Los Alamos, New Mexico, and spent her formative years in Toledo, Ohio, and lived in Northern California after college. She enjoys neighborhood walks and chatting with her neighbors on their porches. She takes pottery classes at Baltimore Clayworks and is pursuing her interest in watercolor. She enjoys the beauty and quiet of Wyman Park.

Robert Scheffler

Robert moved to Baltimore in 2021 to pursue his postdoctoral studies at Hopkins where he studies how bacteria interact with each other. In 2022 he bought his first house at the southern end of Wyman Park on 33rd St and has loved living in the neighborhood since. He particularly enjoys being close to nature while being in the city, being able to walk to work, and convenient access to the Avenue and Remington. Wyman Park has been a delightful community with a lot of charm and friendly neighbors and he looks forward to continuing to make it a place where everyone can feel welcome.

After he, his wife, and their 3 cats opened up their home for the progressive happy hour hosted through WPCA he became interested in helping to serve on the board. As a board member he would enjoy planning additional community events to help people meet their neighbors and strengthen and build new networks.

Jennifer Malone

Jennifer Malone and her husband Tommy moved to Baltimore from New Orleans in the summer of 2023 and quickly came to appreciate what makes our neighborhood

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Upcoming 2026 Meetings and Events of the Wyman Park Community Association.

October 13 Elections/General Meeting
December 8 General Meeting
December 5 Community Holiday Party

Neighborhood Noticings.

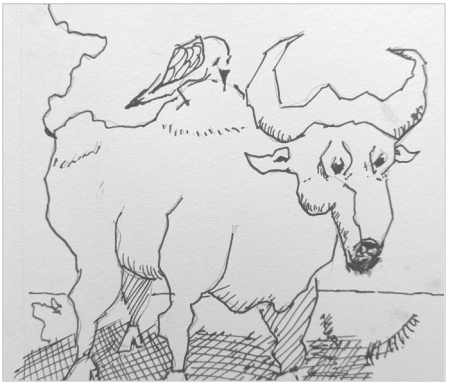
By Mark Hachey

We use the modifier "mighty" for a myriad of things. . .cartoon mouse, hockey-playing ducks, morphin' power rangers, "lak' a rose". Perhaps most predominantly, The Mighty Oak. "Oak" has become shorthand for "toughness"…
back when athletes had good nicknames (and basketball teams had enforcers), New York Knicks' enforcer Charles Oakley carried the sobriquet "Oak Tree". Thorin Oakenshield led the stout group of dwarves that recruited Bilbo Baggins (setting that whole thing in motion).

The ball field at 37th and Beech has its first base line and outfield demarcated by oaks. Kids and dogs run around that space and people nap and picnic under those weighty branches. Some days it feels downright Rockwellian – the kind of place Mighty Casey might have learned the game. The oaks are mighty. Some of those lower limbs extend 50 feet. I've paced it.

Woodpeckers prefer trees that are post-mighty. If you ever hear one a-peckin', look for a dead tree, or the dead part of a living tree. In the area that "Steady Eddie" would have patrolled if he played at Wyman Park, there's a slightly post-mighty oak where I've seen the downy woodpecker. I appreciate birds whose names describe their activities… oystercatchers, roadrunners, sapsuckers, oxpeckers.
If you ever see an ox and there is a bird peckin' it, there is no need to grab your field guide.

Downy and hairy woodpeckers are common here, but "downy/hairy" is a useless distinction unless you're pettin' 'em. To distinguish by eye, the downy has a beak shorter than its head is deep, while the hairy has a beak as deep as its head. We also get the red-bellied woodpecker. Might he be identified by a red belly? No. Look for a bright red head, but don't confuse him with the red headed woodpecker.



HEMS News

Friends of Hampden had a strong start to the school year, raising over $11K to fund teacher grants and projects at Hampden Elementary/ Middle School. Thank you so much to all of our new and recurring donors. And we are still going! Please check out our amazing merchandise and coffee at **www.friendsofhampden.org**. All sales support the work we do to benefit the entire school community. We are also celebrating a new cross country team, sponsored by Charm City Run and Lanvale, in partnership with Friends of Hampden.

In addition, we are continuing to partner with community businesses for collaborative Restaurant Nights. Please join us between 7:30-2 on October 8 at Catalog Coffee for our FOH Day–grab deliciousness and some caffeine while supporting your local school. On Tuesday, October 20, come see us at Hampden Yards between 3-6 PM for a pumpkin-decorating happy hour--we will bring the pumpkins, you bring the creativity.

Thanks for all your community support,

Friends of Hampden
www.friendsofhampden.org

Bulk Trash & Yard Care Basics

The season is changing and yards need tidying up; students are back among us, and there may be other new neighbors as well, like first-time homeowners, or first-time city dwellers–welcome! Seems like a good time for sharing information and refreshers on how we can care for our yards and alleys.

There's been a bit of chatter on the neighborhood chat group* lately about bulk trash, with incidents of people putting mattresses, discarded furniture, and other large items out with the regular weekly trash pick up. As easy as it is to mark that "done" on your to-do list – that's not how it works.

Bulk Trash Pick Up

You must call 311 or use online 311 to SCHEDULE a bulk trash pick-up. With a scheduled pick up, they will take up to three items.
Bulk items for pick up may include

- Sofas, chairs, other furniture
- Mattresses and box springs
- Appliances
- Up to 4 tires, rims removed
- Anything else too big to fit in your trash can

Items for scheduled bulk trash pick up should be labeled "BULK COLLECTION" and put out by 7 am on pick up day.

These items are NOT eligible for bulk trash pick up:

- Building materials
- Auto parts
- Paint or stain
- Flammable or hazardous waste

You can also use residential drop-off centers to dispose of your bulk items, free of charge. The nearest one is at 2480 Sisson Street. This may be the quickest way to get rid of large items, as bulk scheduling takes time.

For more information on all of this, go to **www.baltimorecity.gov/publicworks/trash-recycling/bulk-trash-pickup-and-large-item-removal**

Yard Care/Yard Waste

A tidy yard and alley help keep the neighborhood beautiful, and also prevent rats and other pests. Rats burrow in areas with high weeds, and where trash cans may be easily accessible.

Grass and weeds should not exceed 6 inches in height. Many non-native, invasive species grow rampant in our neighborhood, some resemble (and get as large as) trees, if left unchecked.

If you need help or aren't sure, ask a neighbor; maybe borrow some tools to do basic yard upkeep. Or take a photo of an unfamiliar plant and let your phone do the research to let you know if it should be pulled. Renters, ask your landlord; landlords, be responsible and be sure your property's yards (front and back) are taken care of. And all of us can do our part to keep the alleyway clean.

If you're new at caring for a yard, or aren't sure what's what, reach out – there are lots of resources and know-how among us and through the Wyman Park chat group:

To join: **groups.io/g/wymanpark and go to "Apply for membership in this group"*

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The Weed Warriors of Wyman Park

by James Wolf

Wyman Park is an urban oasis. During Spring and Fall many migrating birds elect not to circumvent Baltimore City, but to fly straight over the Jones Falls valley, Stony Run, and the deep green canyon here in Wyman Park. According to eBird.com, 140 species of birds have been spotted here over the last year. It's not just a stopover for birds. Many of these species reside here year-round. There's an ecosystem here. A wonderful complex ecosystem with fish and foxes, bats and bugs, fungi, worms, and elaborate microbial communities. Yes, it's all right here. Biodiversity. But only a shade of what it once was.

We all know the story. As Homo sapiens colonized all corners of the globe, organisms have been introduced into ecosystems where they lack the checks and balances inherent in native ecosystems. They reproduce and spread wildly. Dynamic ecosystems and complex food webs are flattened. We don't fully know what the long term implications of these changes might be. But there's something we can do now to turn it around. Something we are doing about it. Right here in Wyman Park!

Enter the Weed Warriors. Weed Warriors is a free training and certification program offered by the Forestry Division of Baltimore City Recreation and Parks. City residents are taught how to identify and safely remove invasive vegetation on public land. Weed Warriors use hand tools only and do not use any chemicals. Once a Weed Warrior completes their training and participates in an event, they receive a certification card and are thereby authorized to do the work on their own. The Weed Warriors in our neck of the woods are organized through the all-volunteer stewardship organization, The Friends of Stony Run. We meet at 10am on the 3rd Saturday of each month. You do not need to be a certified Weed Warrior to participate in these events. Meeting locations can be found on the Friends of Stony Run website (**stonyrun.org**). To be added to a distribution list with notifications of each month's event, email me at **jamesdwolf@gmail.com**.

City living is already environmentally responsible. People living in denser communities demand fewer resources and have much lower carbon footprints. What's more, since we have more people living near our public land, we can muster more people in stewardship of it. The ranks of Weed Warriors in our neighborhood has been slowly growing for years. As we continue to grow, the prospect of managing the vegetation in Wyman Park is moving from the utterly intimidating to the easily plausible.

All we need is you. It's like the Once-ler said after he came to see his folly in disregarding The Lorax, "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot. Nothing's going to get better… It's not".

Hope to see you out there!

WPCA Board Elections

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makes our neighborhood a special place. They love the connections among neighbors and having such a wonderful park at the heart of it.

She is interested in serving on the Community Board to become more involved in the neighborhood. She sees it as an opportunity to get to know more of her neighbors, to contribute to the community, and to help support the things that make the neighborhood enjoyable for everyone.

Professionally, she is a licensed clinical social worker, so building relationships and working collaboratively are an important part of what she enjoys doing. Outside of work, she paints and walks their dog, Mavis, in nearby nature, meeting other dogs and their owners in the neighborhood. "I would be grateful for the opportunity to serve, meet more of you, and play a small part in keeping our neighborhood a place where people feel connected to both their community and one another."

WPCA MONTHLY

Neighborhood Happy Hour

Join us! If you haven't been, come out sometime:
Third Thursday every month, 5 PM, at Rocket to Venus.

Next one: October 15, 2026.



Wyman Wheelies is back!

Wednesdays from 5:30-7pm through October 28 Weather permitting

A bike course and more for the kids on the flats on Tudor Arms. For more information **guytawney@gmail.com**

General Election is November 3! Make a plan and get involved

By Joselin Martin

The general election is coming soon! Some of you may have already received your early voting information. Now is the time to make your plan and get involved. Learn the answers to your questions, including registration status at **www.vote411.org/plan-your-vote**

Get Involved:
The Baltimore City Board of Elections has all the information for you at their website **www.baltimorecity.gov/boe.** There you can learn about being an election judge or technician.

Maryland Election Protection is a non-partisan organization that monitors polling to make sure that there are no barriers to voting. You can learn more at **866ourvote.org/volunteer/**. Baltimore Votes also has opportunities for service **www.baltimorevotes.org/**

Finally, get informed:
Use your sample ballot as the starting point of your plan. Detailed voter guides are available for you to read and even take the polling site. My favorite is the LWMD guide 2026 Voters' Guides - LWVMD

And most importantly: VOTE!



General Election

October 13, 2026
Close of Registration

October 22, 2026
Early Voting Begins

October 27, 2026
Mail-in Ballot Request Deadline: Ballot Delivered by Mail or Hand Delivery-8pm (mail/hand delivery) or 11:59pm (email/fax)

October 29, 2026
Early Voting Ends

October 30, 2026
Mail-in Ballot Request Deadline: Ballot Delivered via Internet-5pm(mail/hand delivery) or 11:59pm (email/fax)

November 3, 2026
Gubernatorial General Election

November 16, 2026
Voter Registration Reopens

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How to Join:

1) PayPal or Credit Card: visit www.wymanparkcommunity.org;

2) Mail a personal check made payable to "WPCA" along with your name, address, phone number, and mail to:
Michael Siers, Treasurer,
608 W 33rd St., Baltimore MD 21211

3) NEW!! Scan the QR code to pay your WPCA Dues .$15 per year

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