

From the Mount Washington Tavern website:

To our valued customers, friends,

As many may know, the Tavern had a two-alarm fire the morning of October 31, 2011 and suffered tremendous damage. We may be down but we are certainly not out. The fire has taken the Tavern for now but we look very forward to rebuilding and being better than ever.

We are so thankful for the outpouring of support already and even more so that our customers and employees were unharmed. The cause of the fire is still under investigation. We will keep you posted as news develops and look forward to celebrating with you at our grand re-opening.

Should you need information on a current reservation or holiday booking, please call our main number (410) 367-6903.

Sincerely,

Rob, Dave, and the entire MWT family

Further information at Mount Washington Post:
www.mtwpost.com



Tavern Workers Benefit - November 21

Our good neighbors at Ethel And Ramone's Restaurant in the Village are pitching in to help the staff of the Mt. Washington Tavern, and they need our help.

Ed and Jeff will hold a benefit for the Tavern staff on the evening of Monday, November 21. Details are not available as of press time, but you can be sure it will be a fun and family friendly event. Please hold the date and plan on coming out to Ethel and Ramone's in support of our neighbors in their time of need.

Jones Falls Trail Update

By MAC NACHLAS

Imagine going from your home in Mount Washington to Robert E. Lee Park, Cylburn Arboretum, Druid Hill Park or even the Charles Theater....walking or

riding all the way on a wide, smooth hiking biking path with minimal street crossings and no traffic. For years, the MWIA has been working with the City on development of Phase V of the Jones Falls Trail which, if built will allow you to do just that.

mile reservoir loop adjacent to the Conservatory and Botanic Gardens of Baltimore, the Maryland Zoo, the Three Sisters Ponds and the 18-hole disc golf course. It then goes up to Clipper Mill, and construction is under way on the phase that will connect it to Cylburn Arboretum.

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What is the Jones Falls Trail?

Today, the Jones Falls Trail covers 4.25 miles from Penn Station to Clipper Mill. It follows the Jones Falls north from Charles Street past the Baltimore Streetcar Museum, and loops through historic Druid Hill Park where it wraps around the 1.5-

How Would the Trail Impact Mount Washington?

Since 2004, the City has been working on plans to extend the trail through Mount Washington. After many public meetings, trail walks and negotiations with various

Styrofoam, Leaves and Hazardous Waste – Oh My!

You can now recycle CLEAN polystyrene (#6) foam foodservice items (such as foam cups, foam plates, and foam egg cartons), as well as foam protective packaging typically used to protect consumer goods and electronics at the Citizens Convenience Center at Sisson Street ONLY! You can't include these items in your regular "single stream" pickup, but you can take them to the local drop off station at 2840 Sisson St., 9 am - 5 pm, Mon. – Sat..

- Make sure clean foam has the #6 symbol on it
- Rinse cups/containers
- No straws, lids, tap or stickers
- No foam peanuts or insulation material
- Must be brought in see-through plastic bags (FREE bags made available on site while supplies last)

Leaf Collection

The Bureau of Solid Waste will collect bagged leaves every Monday throughout the season (except holidays)

Solid Waste crews will collect 20 bags of leaves from each address every Monday. Residents must call 311 before Sunday at 10 p.m. for the following Monday collection to schedule a pickup. Residents may make multiple appointments for up to two months prior to the pick up date. The Bureau of Solid Waste will also continue to collect up to 5 bags of leaves on the regularly scheduled trash collection day. Leaves should be in clear or labeled bags and placed at their regular mixed refuse collection location and not in the public right-of-way. You can also take bagged leaves to the drop off site on Sisson Street.

Composting is easy, free and environmentally friendly. Do NOT rake your leaves into the street expecting them to be picked up.

Hazardous Waste Dropoff

Starting next year, Baltimore City will offer monthly drop-off for Household Hazmat at the Sisson Street Public Work Station. Hazardous waste dropoff — previously limited to two times a year — will now occur regularly, on the last Friday and Saturday of every month from April through November. If those days fall on holidays, the dropoff day will be scheduled for the following weekend.

St. John's Tree Lot

St. John's tree lot will not be operating this year. Instead Ed and Elizabeth Grove will handle this year's Christmas tree sales for St. John's. Trees are FRESHLY CUT from local farms in Maryland and Pennsylvania.

DOUGLAS: 6' - \$40 ... 8' - \$50 FRASERS: 8' - \$50 ... 10' - \$60
 CANAAN: 8' - \$55 ... 10' - \$65 TABLE TOP Tree in Stand: 3' to 4' - \$25

Call Elizabeth for an order form: 443-220-4284 or elg.grove@gmail.com
 ALL ORDER FORMS MUST BE IN BY 11/28 FOR PICK-UP 12/4.
 Picked up on Sunday, 12/4/11, 5528 Rusk Avenue.
 Extra trees will be on hand for sale that day.

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From, **Trail Update**, PAGE 3

Mount Washington citizens and groups, a route was approved in 2009 and planning began in earnest.

As designed, “Phase V” will begin as the trail leaves Cylburn Arboretum and travels north along Greenspring Avenue to a pedestrian bridge over Northern Parkway, leading the trail into the lower or southern end of Northwest Park. The trail will snake through the woods up to the soccer fields, past the new community garden and turn east on West Rogers Avenue. After about three blocks running parallel to Rogers, the trail will enter the woods adjacent to the Mount Washington Pediatric Hospital and snake along the stream, emerging from the woods near the St. Johns Church at Kelly and Rogers avenues. It will then cross over Kelly Avenue on a new pedestrian crossing, go through the Village and end at the light rail station. Plans for future sections envision extending the trail northward to Robert E. Lee Park, and perhaps eventually connecting with a series of trails known collectively as the East Coast Greenway (www.greenway.org).

Several important design features will make this section of the trail special.

1. A “Universal Playground” will be built on the grounds of the Pediatric Hospital for the kids receiving treatment at the hospital who have special needs or who can’t use regular playground equipment. This “tot-lot” will also be open and available to all Mount Washingtonians so kids undergoing long rehabs can meet and play with their peers.
2. Sections of the trail along the stream will be built on boardwalks, allowing the trail to traverse the woods with minimal impact. The use of boardwalk allowed the designers to better integrate the trail into the wooded setting and make it a great place for birding and nature walks.
3. A feeder “spur” will parallel Cross Country Blvd./Kelly Ave. from Greenspring Ave. to the Village to provide a safe walking path for the many pedes-

trians that use this wooded section to reach the Light Rail or the shops in the Village. Building this spur will be coordinated with the Department of Transportation that will install “traffic calming” devices along the road.

When Will It Be Built?

Many of us hoped the trail would be completed by now, but changes to the design and cost considerations have slowed the schedule. In 2009 the State of Maryland approved the use of Federal dollars dedicated to a special fund for construction of hiking and biking facilities that would cover 80% of the cost of construction, but construction was delayed as design and planning continued. In 2010, the City diverted some of those funds for construction of the Inner Harbor East Promenade, but the Mayor has pledged to restore the funding if and when the City can find the money needed to match the Federal dollars. Unfortunately, as we all know, the City budget is severely constrained and the Mayor has not indicated that this will happen any time soon.

What Is Needed To Bring The Trail To Completion?

MWIA is continuing to seek funding to build “Phase V.” Although the Trail would be a citywide amenity, it has fallen to us to champion its completion.

One possibility is the use of “Racing Impact” dollars – or “Slots Money” – that the City will receive for use in Northwest Baltimore because of our proximity to Pimlico Race Track. The MWIA is currently working with the City Department of Planning and the other neighborhoods in our strategic group (Glen, Cheswolde, Fallstaff and Cross Country) to secure some of those funds for completion of the trail. Our concern is that, if the trail is not completed soon, federal funds may not be available to replace those diverted by City Hall. If we are successful, the trail could be ready as early as 2015.

What Can WE Do?

If built, the JFT will provide easy access

to the Light Rail and a bike path for downtown commuters. The trail will make our parks more accessible, provide a tot-lot for our kids and be a place for nature walks in our beautiful community. It will improve not only the quality of life in Mount Washington, but property values as well.

It’s important that the Mayor understand that completion of the Jones Falls Trail matters to Mount Washingtonians. One City official told us that the Trail might not be considered until 2019, and projects that languish that long often die. We have received strong, enthusiastic support from our State representatives led by Delegate Sandy Rosenberg, but now we need City Hall to pick up the baton if the Trail is to be completed. It is up to all of us to keep the Trail on the agenda and make sure it is not forgotten.

An Editorial Note

I’ve been working on the Trail since that initial meeting in 2004, and many of you know that I am a strong advocate. I believe the sometimes contentious design process we went through as a community resulted in a truly great design... far better than the one originally proposed. I know that Baltimore has many pressing needs, but I strongly believe that “green” projects need to be counted among them, and that those neighborhoods like Mount Washington that pay more than their fair share in taxes should have their needs considered along with all others. Building this trail will enhance our community, and by enhancing our community, all of Baltimore will be enhanced. And as noted, ultimately this little pathway may connect to a 3,000-mile trail system from Canada to Key West. I hope you will continue to show your support of the Jones Falls Trail project and of the MWIA as we fight for it.

Contact information for your elected officials is located on page 6. Call and write often: the squeaky wheel is the one that gets greased.

Northwest Park Gym Painting

By JASON KORTTE

The MWIA continues to make progress in improving our beloved neighborhood. One of our concerns was the dilapidated appearance of the abandoned gym at Northwest Park. On March 1st, 2011, the MWIA Parks Committee initiated a meeting with Mr. Greg Bayor, Director of Baltimore City Dept. of Recreation and Parks (BCRP), and his staff, to discuss improvements to the park grounds. At this meeting, BCRP committed to improving the gym by installing new gutters and downspouts, applying a new coat of paint, and improving security to the building. The MWIA was able to see this project through by maintaining communication with park staff and would like to thank BCRP for the fresh appearance of the gym. Future improvements to the interior of the gym are currently being including the park's Master Plan.



photo: Bryce Butler



Mrs. Charlotte Watkins and Connie Bowers

photo: Ben Dubois

Mt. Washingtonians Return to Roost

BY BEN DUBOIS

The 60's were a time when the country moved from the innocence of the Cleavers and Father Knows Best through the assassination of JFK to the Vietnam War. It was also the coming of age for the end of the Baby Boomers in Mt Washington. Through the magic of Facebook and plain old networking, twenty-seven of us returned home to celebrate a reunion of the Class of '65 of Mt Washington Elementary School the weekend of September 17-18. We also celebrated the career of a life-changing teacher, Mrs. Charlotte Watkins, age 92, who still lives in the same house on Bryant Avenue in which she resided in 1964. That year she came to School #221, Mount Washington Elementary School, as its first African-American teacher.

Some of us traveled great distances: Claire Vogelhut-Vancouver; Mitch Hellman-Silver City, Arizona; Yona (Janet) Adams-Santa Cruz; David Pierson-Lansing, Michigan. Amy Zierler traveled the longest distance from Toronto, Canada. We assembled, for the first time in 46 years, in the foyer outside the Prin-

cipal's office where Principal, Sue Torr, and Mt Washington parent, David Conn, talked about the school's latest accomplishments, including its recently designated Blue Ribbon status and new K-8 format. This was followed by a wine tasting at my house on Chilham Road, where we caught up on the past. Saturday night we had dinner at, where else, a crab house, to celebrate, along with Mrs. Watkins and her family. Mrs. Watkins recited a poem for us, and we capped off the night at the restaurant with a game of Jeopardy 60's style, courtesy of Michael Blum, who now lives in Belair. Favorite answer: *The Candy store in the Mt Washington Loop*. The question: *What is Crawmer's?* On Sunday, we got together one last time for breakfast at Bob Cushner's House on Arden road where one-by-one, we reminisced, telling stories of how we got from 1965 to 2011.

In honor of the weekend we pledged to collect money for the new school with the intention of naming a classroom after our favorite and remarkable teacher Mrs. Watkins. Can't wait for 2015—our 50th reunion.

An Involved Parent Community at MWS

BY JILL FEINBERG
Vice President MWS PTO

The Mount Washington School includes committed parents, teachers, administrators, partners, and kids. We come together to support our Blue Ribbon school and build community. Through a variety of fundraisers, the Parent/Teacher Organization (PTO) raises funds to supplement the school's resources to offer our children a well-rounded learning experience. The PTO also sponsors social events to bring families together in a relaxed and informal settings. Yes, "you are already a member" is what we say to parents. However, dues payments are gratefully accepted. To do so, please make your check out to the Mount Washington School PTO for \$25 and drop off at the PTO mailbox at either the Lower or Upper Buildings.

The PTO is composed of 10 parents, 4 teachers, the Principal, and the Assistant Principal. We meet monthly to map out

the fundraising and social calendar of events. In this first semester, we have already sponsored a coffee and gourmet beverages fundraiser, Six Summits: Walk to School Day, movie night (300+ kids and parents watching Rio in pjs!), and two general meetings (Back to School and a lecture with a sleep expert).

Our next fundraiser will be a book fair at Barnes and Noble in Towson on December 8th. When you shop that day (in store or on line, using a code), a portion of the proceeds will benefit the school. Between 6-8 p.m., students will put on short musical performances and members of the faculty and staff will be wrapping gifts. Other surprises are also planned. Please save this date for your holiday shopping.

There are many other exciting events planned for the winter and spring including a Student Talent Show, a trip to Camden Yards, and of course, the biggest fundraiser of the year, "Swing into Spring," the auction event at the Mount



Washington Conference Center. Swing into Spring will be held on May 12 and is open to the community.

Please keep in touch and support the school as you can. To learn more, go to www.mountwashingtonschool.org to volunteer, send an email to pto@mountwashingtonschool.org and like us on Facebook at Mt. Washington School PTO.

Update: Expect Lane Closures with Water Main Replacement on Falls Road This Winter

By ELINA TOOLE

Falls Road, one of the oldest roads in Baltimore and a major corridor in and out of the city for Mt. Washington residents has a lot going on under the asphalt as well as above. Underneath run utility and phone lines, water mains dating back 60-70 years, and even trolley tracks.

Those aging water pipes have been prone to breakage over the years. The city is about to undertake replacement of the mains in the stretch from Northern Parkway to the City/County line at Lake Avenue. A total of 4500 feet of new 20" pipe will be installed. Work will move

north along Falls at approximately 40-60 feet per day.

Falls Road will remain open during this time with one working lane available during a 7 am -5 pm workday for road crews. No detours are planned. Flagmen will oversee the alternating lane closures at crucial locations as needed. Lane closures in the high traffic area of Falls/Kelly/Smith at Mt. Washington Mill will be imposed at night when rush hour has ended. The I-83 entrance ramp at Northern will not be affected by the construction.

Update: Water Main Replacement Project On Falls Road

Below is the revised timeline from the Department of Public Works from now through May 2012 .

Project Schedule:

- Pipe laying should start the 1st week of November and be finished by the end of January 2012.
- Main line and service connection is scheduled for February and March 2012
- Repaving of Falls Road is scheduled for between March and May 2012
- Project Completion is end of May.



November 16
Northwest Park Master Plan
Community Meeting
 7:00 pm
 Springwell Senior Living
 2211 West Rogers Ave

November 19
Annual Holiday Tree Lighting
Countdown and Holiday Magic in
Mt. Washington Village
 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm
 Come join your neighbors at the annual
 Mt. Washington community holiday tree

lighting at the Johns Hopkins Mt. Wash-
 ington campus on Sat., Nov. 19th. We
 will gather at 6:00 p.m. at the Octagon to
 sing/try to sing and enjoy cookies, hot
 chocolate, warm apple cider, and other
 light refreshments. The tree lighting
 countdown will take place at 6:30 p.m.
 Kids are most welcome. Thanks to
 ARAMARK and Johns Hopkins University.

- 4:00 pm Santa Claus at St. John's
- 4:15 pm Live Magic Show at St. John's
 Meet Local Fire Fighters and
 check out their engine.
- 6:00 pm Holiday Tree Lighting

January 8
Annual Neighborhood
"Little Christmas" Party
 2:00 pm
 5528 Rusk Avenue (corner of Ken Oak)
 ALL ARE WELCOME!
 Please bring a dish to share,
 bring friends and family, or just yourself!
 RSVP appreciated (not required):
 410-664-0304 or elg.grove@gmail.com

Cylburn Arboretum Calendar
"Tell-ebraction,"
 Nov. 20, 3 – 6 PM
 Storytellers and griots from the Baltimore
 Folk Music Society, and musical
 interludes.

Cylburn High Tea
 Dec. 4, 3 – 5 PM
 A capella singers from Gilman School.

Wreath-making workshop
 Dec. 7, 6:30 – 8:30 PM

Boxwood tree workshop
 Dec. 9, 10 AM – 12 noon

Poinsettia and Greens sale
 Dec. 9 – 11, 10 AM – 2 PM
 Cylburn Greenhouse

Cylburn Mansion in
Victorian Christmas dress
 Dec. 10 & Dec. 11, 12 noon – 4 PM,
 Decorations from the Federated Garden
 Clubs of Maryland.

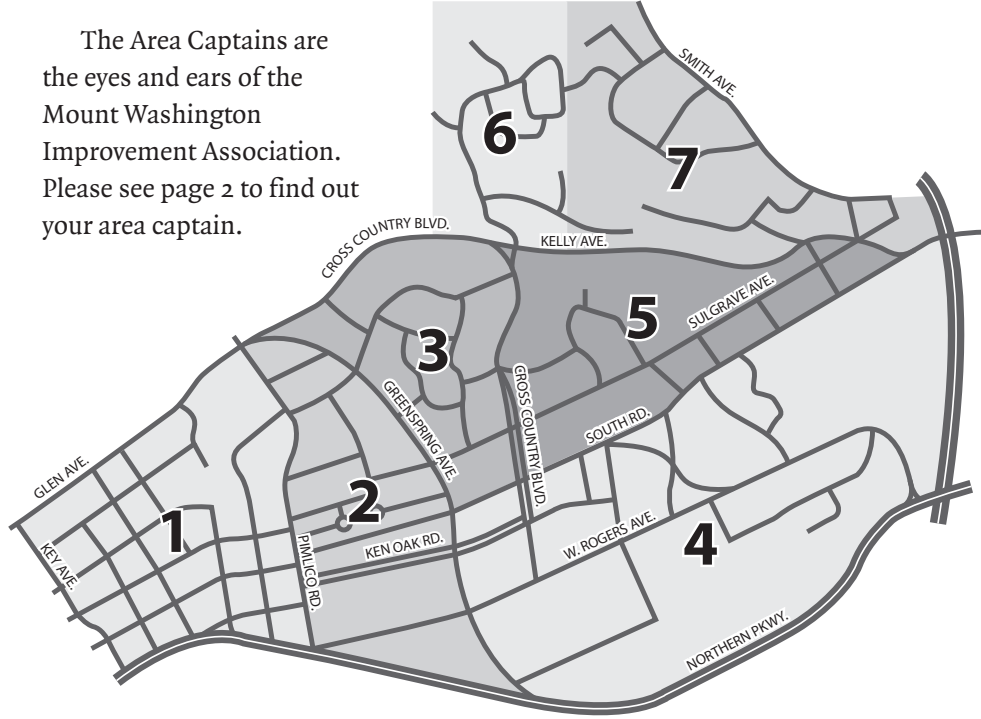
Further information can be obtained
 by phoning 410-367-2217, the
 Cylburn office.

YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

- Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake**
 (410) 396-3835
 mayor@baltimorecity.gov
- Councilwoman Rochelle "Rikki" Spector**
 410-396-4819
 rikki.spector@baltimorecity.gov
- Senator Lisa Gladden**
 (410) 841-3697
 lisa.gladden@senate.state.md.us
- Delegate Jill Carter**
 (410) 841-3283
 jill.carter@house.state.md.us
- Delegate Nathaniel Oaks**
 (410) 841-3283
 nathaniel.oaks@house.state.md.us
- Delegate Sandy Rosenberg**
 (410) 841-3297
 samuel.rosenberg@house.state.md.us

Map of Mount Washington

The Area Captains are
 the eyes and ears of the
 Mount Washington
 Improvement Association.
 Please see page 2 to find out
 your area captain.





Got something for the MWIA Newsletter?

The newsletter is published by the Mt. Washington Improvement Association (MWIA) and is mailed to the homes of residents. The newsletter informs the residents about people, activities, and services in Mt. Washington and the actions of the Board of Directors. Please send your news articles or event information for the November newsletter, deadline Nov. 1st to: capitano.bryce@comcast.net

877 Members Strong:
Mt. Washington Community Listserv Website

<http://groups.google.com/group/mount-washington>

Join the MWIA Today! Online at MWIA.org or by mail

The Mt. Washington Improvement Association (MWIA) is now easier to join. MWIA memberships will now be based on the calendar year instead of the July to June fiscal year. No more confusion! No more wondering "Did I pay my dues?" And no reason not to become a member!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email address _____

- \$100 – Sponsoring member**
(a leadership donation, and designated on the MWIA website)
- \$40 – Renewing member**
- \$19 – First-time member**
- Enclosed please find my dues payment, plus an additional donation of:
\$25 \$50 \$100 Other _____
- I am interested in volunteering with the MWIA
- I am interested in joining the Mount Washington listserv

Make check out to the Mt. Washington Improvement Association P.O. Box 10404, Balt., MD 21209

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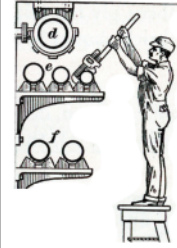
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