



# MOUNT WASHINGTON NEWSLETTER

MOUNT WASHINGTON IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Winter 2005

## Message from the President

Even without snow, there is much going on in Mt. Washington to appreciate. For instance, at the recent MWIA open meeting at the **Elementary School**, we heard a great deal of exciting updates from **Principal Thomas Shepley**. Students and parents can look forward to a productive year. And I'd urge everyone to check out what's happening at the Mt. Washington Elementary School by arranging a visit.

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More good news – the re-issued pictorial history book, **Mt. Washington, Baltimore Suburb** by **Mark Miller**, will be available at the next MWIA **Open Meeting** on **December 20, 2005** at the Wesley Home. The author will be on hand for a **book signing**. To reserve your copy, send a check for \$25 to Sara Fishman at 1807 South Road, 21209. Make the check out to MWIA.

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We heard an extensive presentation by Beazer Homes, the developers of the **Bonnie View Golf Course**. They, along with representatives from Daft-McCune-Walker (architects), talked about the proposed 51-homes over 18 City acres. A number of concerns were raised by residents, including the density of the development, the adequacy of the buffer between the new properties and existing homes, whether it was possible to save more of the existing trees on the property, and how the development would affect traffic on Smith Avenue.

MWIA is committed to working with the City to ensure that, when the developer submits a permit for development of the City portion, the community's concerns are taken into consideration. Our **entire elected delegation** (Councilwoman Spector, Delegates Rosenberg and Oaks, and Senator Gladden) was represented at the meeting. They indicated a willingness to work with us on the larger issue of

unregulated development which threatens to overwhelm our community, particularly with respect to traffic.

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On a related note, the very next day Ira Kolman (Chair of the Traffic and Infrastructure committee) and I met downtown with representatives of the **Transportation Department**, including Alfred H. Foxx, the Director of Transportation. The meeting, organized by Delegate Sandy Rosenberg at MWIA's request, included Delegates Rosenberg and Oaks, Councilwoman Spector, and Janet Bendann, President of the Cheswolde neighborhood association. We discussed issues related to traffic in the Cheswolde and Mt. Washington neighborhoods, including traffic on Greenspring Avenue and Smith Avenue, and what steps might be open to us to try to ensure that **traffic concerns remain a high priority** of the Administration and the SNAP process.

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Finally, I should mention something that MWIA is doing to improve communications around **public safety issues**. As you know, the public safety email has been down for several months, due to technical problems. Mac Nachlas, the new head of the public safety committee, is re-creating the **public safety e-mail list**, but needs your help. If you would like to receive public safety email, go to [www.mwia.org](http://www.mwia.org) and click on the Community Association page and click on the link, or send an e-mail to [mwiapreventcrime-request@mwia.org](mailto:mwiapreventcrime-request@mwia.org), and put "subscribe" in the subject line (nothing in the body of the e-mail). We will try to keep you regularly updated about public safety issues.

Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season.

*Clifford Mitchell*

# Calendar

## DECEMBER

1-JANUARY 1: **Mt. Washington Fire Dept. Festival of Trains:** Holiday display of model and toy trains.

1: **Washington Monument Lighting Ceremony:** pre-event festivities 5:30 pm, lighting 6-6:30pm, 600 block of N. Charles Street and Mount Vernon Place. Baltimore begins the holiday season with free refreshments, concerts by local school choirs and a fireworks display.

3: **St. John's Annual Holly Daze:** 10 am - 3 pm, 1702 South Road. Crafts, wreaths, baked goods and silent auction. 410-367-7287 or 410-664-0304.

3: **Lighted Boat Parade:** 6 pm, Inner Harbor. More than 40 sail and power boats will display their lighted and decorated best to usher in the holiday season. 410-342-4858.

3-4: **Downtown Dollar or Less Days:** One dollar admission at more than 25 attractions in and around the Inner Harbor including the Maryland Science Center and Port Discovery. For a full listing of Downtown for the Holidays events visit [GoDowntownBaltimore.com](http://GoDowntownBaltimore.com).

3-23: **Holiday Extravaganza:** Baltimore Clayworks, Mt. Washington. Holiday sale of ceramics and other crafts by the Member Artists and invited guests. 10% off Saturdays. 410-578-1919.

3: **Woodblock Holiday Cards:** 1 - 5 pm, Creative Alliance, The Patterson, 3134 Eastern Ave. Looking for the perfect holiday card? Megan O'Brien Gold saves the day with this perfectly timed workshop teaching the basics of hand-rubbed woodblock printing. Gold supplies all the materials – wood, paper, and a carving tool you can keep – plus the knowledge. 410-276-1651.

9-11: **Greens and Poinsettia Sale & Evergreen Workshops:** 10 am - 2 pm, 12/9 – Swag making, 10 am - 2pm – Evergreen Centerpiece workshop, 10:30 am, Evergreen Wreath workshop, 1 pm. 410-367-2217.

10: **Assemble a Boxwood Topiary:** 9 am. Cylburn Arboretum. Create a "tree" or a ball-shaped topiary with fresh boxwood. Bring garden gloves. Class size is limited so pre-registration is recommended. 410-367-2217.

11: **Afternoon Holiday Tea:** 10:00 am - 3:00 pm, Cylburn Arboretum. Enjoy a delectable buffet of finger foods and desserts in a holiday atmosphere. Reservations are required. 410-367-2217.

20: **MWIA Open Board Meeting:** 7:30 – 9 pm, Wesley Home, 2211 W. Rogers Ave. Mark Miller will attend to and sign copies of his book, **Mt. Washington, Baltimore Suburb.** 410-466-0529.

## JANUARY

7-FEBRUARY 12 **Living Dishes: A New Generation of Potters,** Baltimore Clayworks, Mt. Washington Opening: Sat., Jan. 7, 6 - 8 pm Linda Christianson invites 5 younger generation potters to exhibit with her in a more domestic gallery setting, complete with farm tables, cupboards and other rustic furniture items.

19: **MWES School Improvement Team Meeting:** 3:30 pm, Mt. Washington Elementary School. 410-396-6354.

27: **MWES Spaghetti Dinner and Talent Show:** 1801 Sulgrave Ave. 410-396-6354.

## FEBRUARY

1: **MWES PTO General Session & Report Card Distribution:** 7 - 9 pm. Mt. Washington Elementary School. 1801 Sulgrave Ave. 410-396-6354.

4: **Draw In:** 10 am - 3 pm Cylburn Arboretum. Bring your drawing or painting supplies. Specimens from the nature collections, live plants and the mansion will provide inspiration and models for your work. 410-367-2217.

4: **Make a Valentine's Vase at Cylburn Arboretum.** 12:15 p.m. Create a one-of-a-kind arrangement for you or your sweetie. Instructor will walk you through each step to create an arrangement with 6 roses, lilies and other flowers. Pre-registration is required. 410-367-2217

16: **MWES School Improvement Team Meeting:** 3:30pm, Mt. Washington Elementary School. 410-396-6354.

18-March 26: **Tom Coleman, Elaine Coleman, Frank Boyden:** Baltimore Clayworks. Three ceramic masters exhibit their functional and sculptural works. Opening, Saturday, February 18, 6-8pm. 410-578-1919.

21: **MWIA Open Board Meeting:** 7:30 – 9 pm. Wesley Home, 2211 W. Rogers Ave. 410-466-0529.



# Board of Directors

## Directors

President: Clifford Mitchell	410-466-0529
Vice President: Mac Nachlas	410-542-8766
Vice President: Rebecca Bainum	410-664-7159
Secretary: Maggie Kunz	410-664-9466
Treasurer: Leslie Sporn Symonds	410-542-1892

## Board

Taliya Adelstein	410-367-4539
Stuart Caplan	410-367-4907
David Conn	410-466-8462
Denise Duval	410-664-7893
Eva Glasgow	410-542-4764
Chester Frazier	410-367-2932
Cindy Freeman	410-664-7774
Kirk Kolodner	410-367-3459
George Lewis	410-664-2760
Lu Pierson	410-664-0055
Ralph Raphael	410-664-4485
Salem Reiner	410-542-8766
Sally Staugitis	410-664-2212

## Honorary Directors

Jan Franz	410-664-5254
John Mack	410-466-3824

## Area Director

Aaron Meisner	410-664-0707
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## Area Captains

1. Missy Conway	410-542-2694
1. Shea Lyda	410-664-6516
2. Julie Salsbery	410-664-0054
2. Liz Hopkins	410-542-0927
3. Ira Kolman	410-664-5078
4. Roberta Strickler	410-367-8666
5. Trent Zivkovich	410-542-5147
6. Eric Seaberg	410-466-1548
7. Rebecca Redett	410-542-3999

# Book Signing at Next Open Meet-

Come meet the author of "Mt. Washington, Baltimore Suburb," at the MWIA open meeting on December 20, 2005 from 7:30-9pm at the Wesley Home. Mark Miller, author of this re-issued pictorial history book, will be on hand for a book signing and discussion. In addition residents of the Wesley Home will join us for this special event.

## Join the MWLA Crime Watch List

If you are interested in staying up to date on the crime in our neighborhood, you can subscribe to the list by simply sending an email as follows:

To: [mwiapreventcrime-request@mwia.org](mailto:mwiapreventcrime-request@mwia.org)

Subject: subscribe

You will receive notices as they become available. Information comes from both the Baltimore City Police and our neighbors.

For September (the last month available at this time), there were 9 events in the neighborhood. There was one stolen auto (2900 block of Sulgrave), two burglaries, and the remainders were larcenies (mainly from autos). So remember to lock your cars and do not leave valuables in sight.



# Mt. Washington Village Update

The Village has hosted its share of infrastructure improvements over the past several years, but, alas, the streets are now clear of backhoes, pipes, holes, and other disturbances. Conversely, the work associated with the laying of a parallel light rail line continues. On October 12, the Village hosted the third annual Wine, Cheese & Jazz Festival, with a full house of guests tasting wine, cheese, bread, and beer, as well as an assortment of foods. A wide range of offerings were provided by merchants, historic and custom cars served as an attraction, pony rides and other opportunities were available for children, and all the while cool jazz filled much of the Village.

The retail space in the Village is currently 100% occupied, with an Italian Restaurant named "Buaon" recently opened in the former McCafferty's location. Look for holiday promotions from Village merchants. The (relatively) new "welcome" sign at the bus loop is complete with landscaping and lighting, a pleasant welcome to our community.



# News from the Mt. Washington Preservation Trust

For those neighbors who are not familiar with the Mt. Washington Preservation Trust, (“the Trust”), it is a non-profit trust with two primary functions. The first is the acquisition of conservation easements within Mt. Washington and surrounding areas. Property owners donate their developable land to the Trust in exchange for a charitable tax deduction based on the value of the property (subject to approval of the IRS). To date the Trust holds 16 conservation easements, including six on Dixon Hill and three on the Terraces. The Trust is in the process of acquiring two more easements in the neighborhood.

Thanks to all contributing property owners for preserving the value of the green space in our area. It is the green space within Mt. Washington that adds to the character of our neighborhood and enhances our property values.

For more information on conservation easements, please

contact Lynn Strott at 410-542-8000 or [lwstrott@hotmail.com](mailto:lwstrott@hotmail.com).

The second major function of the Trust is the maintenance of the Mt. Washington Arboretum and the 20 other gardens found within our neighborhood. The Beautification Committee of the Trust also regularly cleans sidewalks and removes trash from the streets of the neighborhood. For example, as a result of the recent efforts of the committee and volunteers, the sidewalks on Kelly Avenue are weed and debris free. The Arboretum is also the site of winter and summer solstice parties and Saturday lectures.

The Trust is considering holding a tree sale in the spring at the Arboretum where neighbors will be able purchase various specimens of trees at a reasonable cost. Look for more information in upcoming newsletters and mailings. If you haven't already done so, please visit the Arboretum located off Kelly Avenue.

## Johns Hopkins at the Mt. Washington Campus

Increased staffing (more than 650 associates) and physical office improvement space are the most prominent changes to the JHU at Mt. Washington campus. New staffing includes administrative and technical staff associated with University-wide improvements and other departments and programs.

In addition to JHU, DLA Piper Rudnick Gray Cary and the Mt. Washington Conference Center occupy the balance of the property. JHU runs the maintenance program to upgrade the facility and operates on-site security services. JHU and ARA-MARK Harrison (operator of the Conference Center) helped support the recent Mt. Washington Wine and Jazz Festival.

Members of the community are welcome to join the full service fitness center which has limited memberships available at \$35 per month. Please call 410-735-7964 or [www.mtwashingtonconfctr.com/recreation.html](http://www.mtwashingtonconfctr.com/recreation.html) for more information.

All other questions re: the campus should be directed to Salem Reiner at [sreiner1@jhu.edu](mailto:sreiner1@jhu.edu) or 443-287-9900.

**Log On**  
**[www.mwia.org](http://www.mwia.org)**



### Luckman Park Fundraiser Mt. Washington Notecard Collection

Proceeds sponsor improvements  
and activities through  
The Friends of Luckman Park volunteer efforts  
For more info or to order cards, please contact:  
Kristine Tebay 410.466.0825

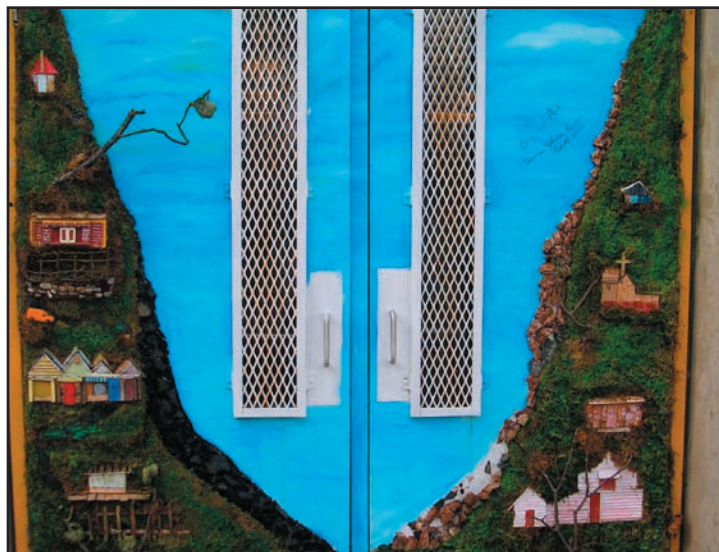
*sponsored by Mt. Washington Improvement Association*

# Doorways to Art at Mt. Washington Elementary School

If you haven't walked the lower portion of Sulgrave Avenue recently, head on down. The hill on Lochlea will exercise your legs and the art doors at the school will exercise your mind.

In a process that started last spring, Principal Thomas V. Shepley organized a visual transformation of the outside doorways of the Mt. Washington Elementary School (MWES). Each of the four entry doorways is painted (or designed) to reflect a distinct artistic style. The artists, who heard about the project "mostly through word of mouth" include: Laura Emberson (Surrealist art - Front Door); Nancy Vander Velde (Realist art - door B), Gina Hall (Pop Art - door C) and Veronica Boodoo (Organic/Installation art - Cafeteria door). Ms. Emberson also painted a mural all the way around the cafeteria to continue the view of the treetops and rooftops all around the room. Two of the artists are parents of current or former students. Shepley says he "wanted the school to reflect the values of the community like the arts and humanities."

The doorway project fits seamlessly with other efforts to explore and enjoy more art in the school. Shepley has initiated an "adopt a print" program where parents or members of the community will frame prints of classic art to hang in the hallways along with empty frames to display a rotating collection of student artwork. Many enthusiastic parents are participating in the "Picture Parent" program where parents visit the classroom and teach kids about an artist and produce artwork in the style of that artist. The



**"Organic Art" • Veronica Boodoo, Artist**

Parent Teacher Organization is working with a local community artist to visualize and design a new outdoor classroom and recreation area in the large asphalt lot across from the school. The school is lucky to have a real artist in residence, Marlene Sandler, whose consistent work with the children transforms the hallways into explosions of color and design.

When asked what he hopes the children learn from the doorway project, Shepley replied, "I hope they see the school as a place of beauty and that fantastic art is everywhere." It's a good lesson for the adults in the community, too. Go have a look.



**"Pop Art" • Artist Gina Hall**

Shop Early and Enjoy the Charm of  
Mt. Washington at St. John's  
~ South Road & Kelly Avenue ~

## HOLLY DAZE BAZAAR

Saturday, December 3

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

410-367-7287 or 410-664-0304



Silent Auction • Vendors • Booths

100 Freshly Cut

MARYLAND FRASER FIRS

Sale Hours: Noon to Dusk

Sat/Sun, Dec. 3/4

Sat/Sun, Dec. 10/11

Sat/Sun, Dec. 19/20 (... or until sold out!)

# 2006 Design Excellence Award

It is not too early to think about the MWIA annual Excellence in Design Awards. For those new to the area, the MWIA Excellence in Design Awards recognizes enhancements to homes and landscaping in the Mt. Washington Community. Each year residents of Mt. Washington enter their home renovations and landscaping projects in the Design Awards. The majority of projects entered in the award competition are self-nominated (now is not a time to be modest), though participants are nominated by enthusiastic neighbors. Late in May a panel of judges consisting of architects and landscape architects from outside Mt. Washington visit the community to judge the entries.

Each year the judges select two entries for Honor Awards; additional Merit Awards are also presented at the discretion of the judges. The entries receiving Honor awards get a bronze-like plaque; Merit Award winners receive a certificate. The results are announced at the annual meeting in June. This year we hope to have a brief photo presentation showing the winners.

Also, if you know of architects or landscape architects who may be interested in giving up a Saturday morning to travel around Mt. Washington and judge entries please email Ralph Raphael at [drraphael@ralphraphael.com](mailto:drraphael@ralphraphael.com). We use people from outside the Mt. Washington community for our panel of judges. Obviously, relatives, employers, clients, etc. of people entered in the contest cannot be judges.

## *First Annual Music Day at Luckman Park August 2005*



## 2006 MWIA EXCELLENCE IN DESIGN AWARD

For the recognition of enhancements to the Mt. Washington Community.  
No project is too small.

LANDSCAPE: Gardens and Residential landscaping

ARCHITECTURE: Renovations, Additions, and New Structures

Name:

Address:

Telephone: Day

Evening

Brief Description of your Entry:

Deadline is *May 13, 2006*. Send entry to Ralph Raphael, 6102 Iveydene Terrace, Baltimore, MD 21209, fax to 410-825-0310 or by e-mail to [ralph-raphael@erols.com](mailto:ralph-raphael@erols.com)

# Street Lights Illuminate a City That Works!

Here is a story that demonstrates why Mt. Washington is such a great neighborhood and Baltimore such a great city.

Toward the end of summer a number of citizens began to notice a strange phenomenon - our neighborhood was going dark! Street lights along wooded sections of Kelly Avenue and Cross Country Blvd. were disappearing over night. The many walkers who enjoyed strolling these pastoral stretches were worried. Was this a city plan to save money on electricity? Were aliens invading our community under the cover of darkness to steal our lights? Was some strange creature from the Western Run feeding on the aluminum poles?

The neighbors sprung to action. Some reported the missing light poles by calling "311;" some called their City Councilperson; some called the department of public works or BGE. Dr. Mike Sherlock, resident neighborhood beautifier, even went on TV to bring the problem to light. Residents even provided the city with a map of the missing light poles and continued to follow up. A City Inspector was dispatched to investigate and reported that the missing light poles were being **STOLEN**. Someone was cutting down the aluminum poles and selling them for scrap.

Persistence paid off. By the end of October, the City replaced the missing poles and lights and the police have been watching for unusual activity. Once again the streets are well lit and our walkers are safe.

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## *Report from the Land Use and Zoning Committee*

The MWIA Land Use and Zoning Committee helps to preserve the character of our neighborhood by acting as an oversight agent for any proposed zoning changes or exceptions. The Planning Department notifies the Zoning Committee whenever a property owner in our neighborhood applies for a variance, subdivision or change in zoning. The Committee meets periodically to review such changes, and makes recommendations to the full Board for a position where appropriate. The City's Planning Commission and Zoning Board always inquires regarding the position of the neighborhood, which often influences their decision.

In the event that you are contemplating a change to your property that will require a variance or other public hearing, contact Peter Garver, chair of the committee 410-542-0747 or [peter.garver@copt.com](mailto:peter.garver@copt.com). He will add you to the agenda of the next committee meeting. You should come to that meeting with drawings and/or photographs to explain the issue, as well as written evidence that the majority of your immediate neighbors (across the street, on both sides, and behind you) are supportive of your actions. This support could be in the form of letters or a petition.

Thanks to neighbors, Jerry Cohen, Cecelia Davoli, Ellen O'Brien, Mike Sherlock and others for staying on top of the issue and working with the city to solve the problem.

Some lessons learned:

- Be aware of unusual activity in the neighborhood.
- Be especially aware if you see a truck working on the street-lights. If you see a crew removing a street light pole, note the license number and report it to the police.
- "311" works!

The City's 311 service is a relatively quick and easy way to find the right city department and cut through bureaucracy. In this case, the calls were acted on promptly. Don't dismiss this valuable city resource. If you see a problem, report it.

Individuals can make a difference!

Many people took action to report this problem independently. A committee wasn't formed; there wasn't a public meeting. However a lot of people with common interests called on the City for help and got results.



### *Families Come Together to Clean Arboretum*

A small group of families and friends of the Arboretum spent two hours clearing out grapevines and multiflora roses, covering a huge area with cardboard and then mulching. The effort was led by Quintin the dog and the Tarantino family.

## The Newsletter...

This newsletter is published by the Mt. Washington Improvement Association and is mailed to homes of residents four times a year. The newsletter informs residents about people, activities, and services in Mt. Washington and of actions of the Board of Directors. The newsletter accepts news, information and suggestions.

The deadline for the Spring issue is March 17th.  
Contact: Jill Feinberg, editor: [jbfeinberg@comcast.net](mailto:jbfeinberg@comcast.net) or 410-367-4055.

## Recycling Calendar:

All recyclables will be picked up on the **second** and **fourth** Mondays and Tuesdays of each month, regardless of your regular trash collection days.

- Blue bag recyclables (glass, plastic, and cans) will be collected on the second and fourth Mondays of the month.
- Paper will be picked up on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month.
- Holidays: There will be no pick-up until the next scheduled recycling day.

Monday, December 13 plastic/metal/glass

Tuesday, December 14 paper

Monday, December 26 **Holiday**

Tuesday, December 27 paper

**Look for the 2006 Recycling Calendar coming in January.**

**\*Blue Bag:** Rinse bottles and cans, and discard caps. Place in blue plastic bags. Can include: glass jars and bottles (all colors), aluminum cans, tin cans, steel cans, plastic small mouth containers with #1 or #2, and empty aerosol cans. Styrofoam is not recyclable.

**\*Mixed Paper:** Place paper in paper bags or cardboard boxes or tie bundles with string. Can include newspapers, magazines, phone books, ad mail and cardboard.

**Bulk Pick-up:** Call 311 or e-mail\* DPW three working days before scheduled pick-up date.

December 22 Notify DPW by December 17

*\*To e-mail DPW:*

You may e-mail your request on the City's 311 CitiStat Web page. Log on to <[www.baltimorecity.gov](http://www.baltimorecity.gov)>, click on "311 Services." A box will ask you to select the type of service you want - select "bulk trash," then a page will appear with "request this service" in blue hypertext; click it. At the prompt, you should type your street address and click "continue". A new page will appear asking for a description of what you want picked up, where it is located (on the curb or in the alley). Then click "submit." You will get an e-mail confirmation from DPW.

### Reminders:

You may leave three items at your regular trash pick-up site. Bulk items include appliances, furniture, and up to four tires with the rims removed. Do not leave building materials such as sheet rock, siding, wood pieces, or roofing out for bulk pick-up.

**Questions?** Call 410-396-4515 for questions about solid waste; 410-396-4707 if you have concerns about illegal dumping.

Mount Washington Improvement Association  
P.O. Box 10404  
Baltimore, MD 21209  
*Dated Material- Please Deliver Promptly*

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 5621