



City Reverses Plan to Reduce Kelly Avenue Bridge Lanes

MWIA, City Reach Compromise On Lake Avenue Bicycle Route

By CARLA HOBSON
carla.hobson@gmail.com

Responding to community concerns expressed by the Mount Washington Improvement Association, Baltimore City has dropped its plan to eliminate two of the four lanes on the Kelly Avenue Bridge to make way for a bicycle route between Mount Washington and Belvedere Square.

Instead, the MWIA Traffic Committee and the City Department of Transportation's Bike Baltimore program

have come up with a way to direct the Lake Avenue Bicycle Route across the Kelly Avenue Bridge with minimal impact on traffic flow.

The Lake Avenue plan was originally identified in the city's Bicycle Master Plan. Route development began in 2009 as a connector between the Kelly Avenue end of the Park Heights Bicycle Network, Phase 5 of the Jones Falls Trail, and the bicycle lanes on Roland Avenue.

The City DOT announced in July that an east-west bicycle route was being planned between Mount Washington and the Belvedere Square center on York Road. The proposed route would have imposed a



A compromise Kelly Avenue plan would have "sharrows," or markers notifying drivers to share the lane with cyclists.

"road diet" on the Kelly Avenue Bridge by converting the four-lane span to two bike lanes, two vehicular lanes and a turn lane at the Falls Road and Sulgrave Avenue

See Bike, page 10

Proposal For Merville Ave. House Sparks Fierce Debate



A City-planned house at Merville and Northern Parkway has sparked community debate.

By DAVID CONN
news@mwia.org

A Baltimore City proposal to build a wheelchair-accessible house on a heavily landscaped property across from Pimlico Racetrack drew heated debate at a community meeting last month, with the neighborhood association vowing to fight the plan due to the lack of input from the City.

The City's plan to build a single-family home at the corner of Merville Avenue and Northern Parkway has moved forward without any official notice to neighbors or the Mount Washington Improvement Association. A Housing Department official admitted at the MWIA's December 11 community meeting that City officials discussed and then decided against notifying the community about the project, which is due to break ground in early 2013. It has already been approved by the Board of Estimates.

"The decision was made not to inform the community earlier because in the past that has generated political opposition which has blocked projects," said Michelle Porter, Director of Planning and Development at Baltimore Housing. She said the project stemmed from the City's 2004 consent decree with the

See Merville, page 9

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dr. Ira Kolman

We are ushering in a new year with all its hopes, dreams, and anticipations. On behalf of the MWIA and its Board of Directors, I sincerely wish you and yours a most happy, healthy, and productive 2013.

Also we are now kicking off our 2013 Membership Campaign. The MWIA needs your support and help. As a strong and vibrant community, we still have much to accomplish. Please keep reading our newsletters, come to our Open Board meetings, and volunteer for committees and/or Board positions. We really do need each other to maintain and improve the integrity and quality of our wonderful Mount Washington.

In recent years we successfully worked to get traffic calming devices installed throughout the community, helped prevent the old University of Baltimore fields from being developed by creating the new Northwest Park, supported the expansion of our Mount Washington School into an award-winning K-8 program, worked on bringing the Jones Falls Trail to Mount Washington, and supported improvements to the Mount Washington Arboretum and Luckman Park.

We do have a great community but many of our residents may not realize the challenges we still have. Among

these are the continuing threats of developers who would love to get their hands on our green spaces, the potential encroachment of law-breakers, other safety concerns, traffic concerns, and many more.

There are many events that we can look forward to. Among them are the completion of the Master Plan for Northwest Park, the celebration of the opening of the newly redone Luckman Park, the continuation of traffic solutions on our main thoroughfares and at our schools, and the continued cooperation and work with adjacent communities to finalize the Strategic Neighborhood Action Plan for Northwest Baltimore.

Again, relevant to my main point, our community needs the MWIA and the MWIA needs community support to continue to be successful in our efforts. Please join the MWIA now.

Thank you, and as I have always indicated to you, it is an honor and pleasure to serve as your President.

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Falls Road Collapse Prevented By Citizen, MWIA, City Action

By ELLEN O'BRIEN
eob999@comcast.net

It was a stormy night in late September... a very stormy night. My bus turned onto the Kelly Avenue Bridge and I saw the Jones Falls roaring below. The water was rising fast and had almost reached the bottom of the bridge going into Whole Foods. Looking back I saw a giant hole in the embankment under Falls Road. Part of the retaining wall that holds up the street had fallen into the stream. Was that part of the construction project? Surely the contractors were aware that the road could collapse at any moment.

A week later a closer inspection revealed a big hole in the retaining wall. Part of the wall that had been holding up Falls Road was lying in the stream and there was no earth under part of the pavement. I realized that the hole was only visible to pedestrians or bus riders; cars could not see it over the barriers on the side of the bridge.

I walked home and called 311, but I was

worried that someone could get hurt if it wasn't repaired quickly. On Sept. 26, I sent an email to MWIA President Ira Kolman, MWIA Traffic Committee Chair Elina Toole and David Flores of Blue Water Baltimore. Elina contacted City Councilwoman Rikki Spector and the City's Northwest Traffic Liaison, Kohl Fallin. A week later we received a note that the hole had been investigated and would be repaired as soon as possible. Within the month the City had poured a new retaining cement wall and dumped giant boulders to protect it from the rushing waters of the Jones Falls.

On Oct. 29th Hurricane Sandy hit Baltimore and the Jones Falls rose again, but Falls Road was safe and secure. The water bounded off the new wall harmlessly and Falls Road was undamaged.

I learned three things from this incident. First, don't assume – you might be the first one to notice a problem, so if you see something wrong, report it. We all have to be the eyes and ears of our City. Second, City services aren't perfect, but



The City acted quickly to repair damage to Falls Road.

they usually get the job done. When a potentially life threatening situation was brought to their attention, they effected a large, complicated repair quickly and efficiently.

And third, when the MWIA speaks, City Hall listens. Dr. Kolman and his team have built a relationship of trust with their counterparts at City Hall so, when an emergency arises, their phone calls get answered. In this case, their behind the scenes hard work paid off, and I'm happy to report that Falls Road is no longer falling down.

GARDENING By RICK KINGSBURY — land.arch@comcast.net



Off-Season is a Time For Gardeners to Get Busy

Beyond the wonderfully pleasant occupation of sitting by a fire and leafing through plant catalogues, this time of year offers some great opportunities for your landscape. Here are some activities that are well suited for this so-called "down time":

- It is a good time to prune and shape. When not obscured by leaves, it is much easier to critically examine your trees and shrubs for crowded branches, weak crotches, damaged limbs, and broken leaders, as well as overall shape and vigor. If you have some heavy pruning to do, this is a great time of year to get that work done. Tree service companies do most of their work in the spring and summer following storms, and may be able to provide you with quicker service and better pricing this time of year.
- Examine your patios, terraces and walks now for settling or repairs that need to be made as the condition of these features is much more obvious when the planting has died back.
- Low spots, uneven areas and damaged spaces in the lawn and beds are easier to spot at this time of year.

- It is a good time to evaluate which plants did well during the last season, and which may be due for replacement or relocation.
- Adverse views that are effectively screened during the growing season may stand out now, offering the opportunity to plan ahead for the next season.
- This is a great time if you are thinking of hiring a professional for design and consultation as we are generally less busy this time of year, and are looking forward to creating active outdoor spaces for our clients.

Time spent on some of these off-season tasks will not only produce better results come spring and summer, they will help bring your mind back to the garden in these darkest days of the year.

Rick Kingsbury is a Licensed Landscape Architect whose practice emphasizes the creation of personalized outdoor living spaces as well as sustainable design and native plants.

AROUND THE 'HOOD

By EILEEN D'ANDREA — eileendandrea@comcast.net



All the concern that Hurricane Sandy might wreck Halloween came to naught. The evening of October 31st was crisp, but not too cold, a perfect backdrop for the hordes of children and parents setting out on their quest to acquire as much candy as possible. I've decided the epicenter of Trick or Treating here in the 'hood - Mardi Gras for the under 4-foot set - begins at the terrifying Haunted House

put together by **Dave, Natalie, Ben** and **Laurel Holland** on Sulgrave Avenue. The crowds walk from there, across Greenspring and up Brambleton Road to Pimlico, with Everton and Briarwood Roads getting significant side traffic. I know I spent close to \$80 on candy and my husband still had to run out mid-evening to get more. I think my favorite costume was **Kate Hopkins**, age 6, as Pippi Longstocking. Her red pig-tail wig was awesome!!

After Halloween, there was the opening of the Mt. Washington Tavern to anticipate, and let me say, for those of you who have not yet checked it out, MWT II is AMAZING. The new structure was built by Kodiak Construction, owned and operated by Mount Washington neighbor **Jim Macko**. Tavern II calls to mind the old layout, with the bars at the front and back, but that's where the similarities end. Entrances and bar spaces are much more spacious, and the flow from the front of the building to the back, and from downstairs to the second floor, is seamless. The ceilings are really high, giving the whole place a light, airy feel; the back dining room has lost all those palm trees and become much more streamlined with great booths, tables, and a huge bar, while the upstairs dining space is

gracious and warm with a central fire place. The upstairs bar was so crowded I could hardly get in for a look, but I know I'll be wanting to hang out on that patio/balcony come spring.

Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday because I don't have to run around sending cards and getting presents. I love getting together with family and friends and having an official day to sit and give thanks. I also love what follows Thanksgiving because for about 10 families here in the hood, that involves the Annual Turkey Soup Off. The Turkey Soup Off is a test of chefs and their interpretation of "what sort of soup do you make the day after Thanksgiving when you have five extra pounds of meat and bones lying around?" Each year, the ante is upped by the creativity of the entrants to this hallowed contest. This year, **Nicole Selway** triumphed over contestants **Guy D'Andrea, Myles Norin, Kirsten Mackin, and Amanda Conn** with her utterly original take on turkey soup featuring a fusion Thai/Mexican flare. It was fabulous!!! Kudos also go to Kirsten who baked bread for the occasion that looked like it came out of a brick oven.

The week after Thanksgiving, we headed to **Elizabeth** and **Ed Grove's** lovely home to purchase our Christmas tree and assorted wreaths and goodies. These guys are truly wonderful the way they open their home with so much hospitality and graciousness. How lucky are we to be able to buy our holiday greens four blocks from our house, from such terrific people and have all the money go to our local school? Thank you, Grove Family for making the holiday season bright.

As we near the year end, I always look around our neighborhood and am so grateful to live in such a beautiful neighborhood complete with truly wonderful neighbors and friends. Wishing everyone a Joyous New Year!



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MWIA Offers Member Value Card

Local merchants provide almost \$2000 in benefits for all members

By DAVID CONN
news@mwia.org

Mount Washington residents will enjoy nearly \$2,000 in discounted goods and services from local and locally-owned businesses when they join the Mount Washington Improvement Association in 2013 and use the first-ever MWIA Member Value Card.

Thirty businesses are participating in this program to reward new and renewing neighborhood association members.

Offers include:

- **20% off your check at Crepe du Jour and Desert Café**
- **15% off at Pepe's Pizza**
- **a free beer or glass of wine at the Mt. Washington Tavern**
- **a free glass of wine at Ethel & Ramone's**
- **20% off an item at Green Fields Nursery**
- **\$25 off of custom framings at Framin' Place... and more than 20 other offers.**

For the price of an annual MWIA membership – \$19 for new members, \$40 for renewals and an optional \$100 contribution for recognition as a “Supporting Member” – residents will receive a value card that entitles them to both single- and repeated-use offers. In all, these offers will be worth close to \$2,000, and they are only available to 2013 MWIA members. The program is intended to encourage residents to shop locally,

support locally-owned businesses and join the MWIA.

Most of the participating companies are in Mount Washington, with a few others that are owned or operated by neighborhood residents.

Your support helps make Mount Washington the kind of neighborhood where year in and year out our homes maintain and even increase their property values. Members' dues are used to print the bi-monthly newsletter, now published six times a year at 12 pages an issue; support community events such as the Spirit of Mount Washington Parade; and help our neighborhood school.

A robust membership also helps the MWIA vigorously represent the neighborhood's interests before city and state planners and politicians. Baltimore's City Hall has called MWIA one of the most influential organizations of its kind in the City. With issues looming on the horizon such as the allocation of gambling revenues, the City's major zoning plan upgrade and the continued need for road and traffic improvements, Mount Washington needs the kind of clout that only comes with strong membership and resident involvement.

If you have not already done so, please make your check payable to MWIA, and send it in the reply envelope included in this newsletter. You may also pay online by visiting <http://mwia.org/mwia/paypal.php>.



See all the offer details on pages 6-7.

2013 MWIA Membership Dues

Yes, I would like to support the MWIA with my membership and take advantage of the 2013 MWIA Value Card (worth nearly \$2,000).

Membership Level

- \$19 – First-time member**
- \$40 – Renewing member**
- \$100 – Sponsoring member**
(a leadership donation, and designated on the MWIA website)

Name _____

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Please make checks payable to the MWIA. Send to P.O. Box 10404, Baltimore, MD 21209.

Thanks to all the 2013 MWIA Value

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Bonjour Bakery
6070 Falls Road
(410) 372-0238

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Chiyo Sushi
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(410) 466-1000

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For parties up to 6 people; dine-in only



Crepe Du Jour Bistro
1609 Sulgrave Avenue
(410) 542-9000

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Dine-in only.



Ethel & Ramone's
1615 Sulgrave Avenue
(410) 664-2971

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Mt. Washington Pizza
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(410) 664-1111

10% off any purchase
Cannot be combined with other offers.



Mt. Washington Tavern
5700 Newbury Street
(410) 367-6903

One glass of house wine or beer
With the purchase of an entrée.



Pepe's Pizza
6081 Falls Road
(410) 377-3287

15% off any purchase



The Desert Café
1605 Sulgrave Avenue
(410) 367-5808

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		Baltimore Yoga Village 6080 Falls Road (410) 377-4800	1 free class with studio director Anjali Sunita
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		Elaina Joy Skincare 1621 Sulgrave Avenue (443) 977-9367	10% off first series of three Face Reality acne treatments
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		Mt. Washington Swimming Club 2300 Enslow Road (410) 367-0110	Free Day at the Pool <small>One-time offer. For up to four non-Pool members, one day only. Not valid on Memorial Day Weekend or Labor Day Weekend, cannot be used for parties; participants subject to all club rules.</small>
		Mt. Washington Cleaners 5746 Falls Road (410) 323-3181	10% off drycleaning <small>Excludes alterations.</small>
		The Painting Workshop 1605 Sulgrave Avenue (410) 466-3510	One free class - any class, anytime <small>One-time offer. Not valid on art camp days - good for one year.</small>
		Rosemary Scavullo, Shiatsu/Acupressure 305 W. Chesapeake Ave., Ste 311 (410) 963-4643	\$10 discount on any professional service
	Village Electrolysis 1621 Sulgrave Avenue, 2nd Floor (410) 578-0033	Free consultation for new clients \$10 off first treatment scheduled <small>One-time offer.</small>	

Retrofit Baltimore Hosts Baltimore Green Fest

By WHITNEY GRAHAM
wgraham@retrofitbaltimore.org

Retrofit Baltimore, a project of the Baltimore nonprofit Civic Works, will host the Baltimore Green Fest at the Mount Washington School Upper Building on Saturday Feb. 2, 2013, from noon to 4 p.m.

The free event, at 1801 Sulgrave Ave., will offer interactive workshops and information about energy and environmental sustainability, activities and crafts for kids, a safe bike-riding event and a raffle to benefit the school.

Vendors will include Baltimore nonprofit environmental organizations and local businesses, including Blue Water Baltimore and fantastic Baltimore restaurants such as Clementine. If you are interested in finding out how you can live a more environmentally friendly and

healthy lifestyle and discover ways you can save energy, stop by!

Local programs and businesses will be holding interactive workshops and providing information on how they are working to green your neighborhood and create a more sustainable Baltimore. Bikemore, a local bike advocacy group, will host a ride immediately following the fair for adults who are interested in learning how to bike safely on the road.

This event is free to attend and there will be great food, vendor items to browse and a chance to support the Mount Washington School by purchasing raffle tickets. Families are welcome to attend as there will be activities and crafts for kids.

If you or someone you know wishes to participate in this event as a vendor or a volunteer, please contact either: Whitney Graham, wgraham@retrofitbaltimore.org, or John Pivot, jpivot@retrofitbaltimore.org.

Above & Beyond



Elizabeth Grove

This feature recognizes the good works and citizenship of Mount Washington residents. Several nominations were submitted and the winning entry was this one, for neighborhood party host, Christmas tree sales leader and tireless volunteer **Elizabeth Grove**, submitted by Ty Queen. To nominate a neighbor for the March/April issue, please send a short "Above and Beyond" essay to news@mwia.org.

I nominate Elizabeth Grove as a Mount Washington neighbor who truly does go "Above and Beyond" the proverbial "call of duty!" Elizabeth not only opens her home for annual events, i.e., Halloween Party, Holiday Party, and more ... she also lends a hand to any and everyone who needs it. Elizabeth updates the community listserv with "goings on around the town," job postings, volunteer opportunities, and the like. Last year she helped me move a couch from my home to my office in her van! And most recently you could see Elizabeth's commitment as she and her family again orchestrated a sale of Christmas trees, wreaths and gifts at her home – this year to benefit the Mount Washington school. I could literally go on and on about ELG.



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“Merville,” continued from page 1

U.S. Department of Justice and the Maryland Disability Law Center in the case of Bailey v. Housing Authority of Baltimore City. The plaintiffs in that case accused the City of failing to abide by an earlier voluntary compliance agreement to take various steps to improve the accessibility of housing and non-housing facilities.

The consent decree gave the City 10 years to – among other things – make available 755 units for public housing residents or households on HABC’s public housing waiting list for persons who use wheelchairs or have other mobility impairments.

Ms. Porter of Baltimore Housing said at least 155 of those units were required to be new construction. A survey of all City-owned properties narrowed a list of more than 700 down to only 40 that were suitable for building the type of accessible public or affordable units required under the decree, Ms. Porter said.

The Merville Avenue property, at the northwest corner of Northern Parkway, has been the subject of extensive discussion on the neighborhood listserv recently after neighbors Larry and Vicki Kloze noticed City and BGE activity on the site. The property was first acquired by the City in the 1970s and has since been heavily landscaped to act as a sound and visual buffer between Pimlico Racetrack and Mount Washington.

The property is located at a sharp curve on Northern Parkway, and nearby residents say the location has been the site of numerous traffic accidents. The house across the street suffered extensive damage to its porch due to a car accident recently.

Ms. Porter told community members the contract signed with construction company Hamel Builders Inc. of Elkridge calls for building a 1,350 square foot, three-bedroom, single-story home. Hamel Project Manager Vincent Harriman said his firm’s intention is to build a “super-green” sustainable home that minimizes the impact on the environment as much as possible.

Construction is due to begin in January

with completion expected by next August, Ms. Porter said. She said her purpose in attending the meeting was not to discuss or debate the project, but simply to inform the community. She acknowledged it is a “done deal.”

Mount Washington resident Barbara Samuels, a fair housing attorney who said she is not involved in this case, defended the project on the grounds that the City has a severe shortage of affordable housing for people with disabilities. She said suitable locations are extremely difficult to find, and urged residents not to adopt a “NIMBY” attitude toward the project.

But MWIA Past President Mac Nachlas expressed outrage that the City opted not to notify the community or discuss ways to minimize the impact to the green space and the neighboring properties. He made a motion that the MWIA and its president, Ira Kolman, should take all necessary actions to oppose the project on the basis of the lack of community input, the loss of green space and the impact on the neighborhood, “while recognizing the worthy goals of the project” to provide affordable housing for people with mobility impairments.

The MWIA Board of Directors approved the motion unanimously. “I will do my absolute best to see if we as an association and as a community can stop this project,” Dr. Kolman said.

In response to a question, Ms. Porter said the City would be willing to meet with residents and the MWIA to discuss possible ways to address concerns about green space and safety. Community members also pledged to seek another suitable property in Mount Washington in place of the Merville Avenue location.

The City’s Open Baltimore database shows there are nearly 16,000 vacant buildings in Baltimore, though it could not be determined how many might be suitable for development under the terms of the consent decree.

On The Move ▶▶▶▶

Highlighting the comings and goings of Mount Washingtonians. Please help make our new neighbors feel welcome. (Information obtained from public sources. Please contact news@mwia.org to provide information, or correct any errors.)

- 2001 W. Rogers Ave.** Sold on August 1 by Allen and Michelle Jacobs to Alexander and Evelyn Sanchez.
- 2011 Kelly Avenue** Sold on October 24 by Elizabeth Furelletti to Kelley Scrimger.
- 2028 Greenberry Rd.** Sold on September 24 by Teresa K. Wilpers to Teresa K. Wilpers and Ruthmarie L. Kelley.
- 2316 Sulgrave Ave.** Sold on October 31 by Jeanine Primm to Damon and Amanda Talbot.
- 5800 Stuart Avenue** Sold on October 10 by Eliot Shimoff to Margaret Deere and Brian Young.
- 5724 Rockspring Rd.** Sold on October 31 by Sean Watkins to Joan Aghevli.
- 2709 Glen Avenue** Sold on October 15 by Anthony Lefevour to Vipra Chimire and Daniel Sayers.
- 1705 South Road** Sold on November 1 by Virginia White Andraea to David Cummings and Julie Wit.
- 2306 W. Rogers Ave.** Sold on October 18 by James Menefee and Alicia Mangan to Aaron Sherber and Jodi Segal.
- 6104 Westcliff Drive** Sold on November 16 by Aaron Sherber and Jodi Segal to Jacob and Jillian Bentley.

For Sale

Know anyone looking to move? Here are homes for sale in Mount Washington. (With thanks to Joan Goldman of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, www.JoanSellsBaltimore.com.)

Address	List Price
1900 DIXON RD	\$735,900
5603 ROXBURY PL	\$599,000
1605 TERRACE RD	\$520,000
5734 RIDGEDALE RD	\$425,000
2435 EVERTON RD	\$285,000
1902 W ROGERS AVE	\$265,000
1718 SULGRAVE AVE	\$264,900
5706 GREENSPRING AVE	\$239,900
5836 PIMLICO RD	\$234,900
5705 ROCKSPRING RD	\$234,900
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OFFER EXPIRES FEBRUARY 28, 2013

“Bike,” continued from page 1
intersections. It was to proceed toward Belvedere Square by way of Bellemore Road and Lake Avenue.

The MWIA Transportation Committee immediately voiced the community’s concerns and opposition to the proposed route, citing the already tense traffic conditions on the Kelly Avenue Bridge. Councilwoman Rikki Spector and DOT Director Khalil Zaied acknowledged the community’s concerns and agreed that the plan would not go forward as originally proposed.

After further study and community input, the road diet concept has been dropped in favor of “sharrows,” which are bicycle pavement markings that indicate bicycles and motor vehicles are required to share lanes. In Baltimore, they are mostly used with bicycle boulevard projects or to provide a connection in a bike network where bike lanes cannot be applied. On

Kelly Avenue and other sections of the proposed Lake Avenue route, sharrow markings will let motorists know to share the road with cyclists.

When the Maryland Department of Transportation began the Bike Baltimore program last year, the Lake Avenue Bike Route was selected as one of the initial projects. According to the Department of Transportation, construction on the mostly state-funded project will likely begin in spring 2013.

When traveling on a road with a sharrow cyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as drivers, according to bicycling expert and Mount Washington resident Marla Streb. Drivers and cyclists should know that cyclists may take the whole lane, if necessary, and both should use the appropriate indicators when turning or changing lanes, said Marla, a League of American Bicyclists Certified Instructor and a two-time Mountain Bike

World Champion, and X-Games Champion.

Marla also has some specific advice for cyclists. First, plan ahead by checking out the free Baltimore bike map (available at bike shops) and planning a safe, bike-friendly route. Next, make sure your ride is working properly with the 10 second “ABC” quick check: A for Air in the tires, B for Brakes, and C for Chain. Also, wear bright clothes and put on a helmet. Ride in the rightmost lane that serves your destination, but avoid the “door zone,” where parked car doors on the right may suddenly open on you. Finally, follow the law, be predictable and be conspicuous.

If you would like to help, the Planning Division of the DOT is in the process of updating the 2006 Bicycle Master Plan and has a survey page set up to solicit community input:
<http://www.bmorebikes.com/bike-plan-survey/>

Dunklebits By NED DUNKLEBERGER — neddunkleberger@gmail.com



January 2013

The New Year is a time for reflection and for some of us, resolutions to change behavior and improve ourselves. Others have an unspoken resolve to never speak of resolutions.

I do have resolutions and also some predictions for 2013, but first let's recap how I did with my resolutions and predictions from last January.

Last year I resolved to never shower with the cats again. That lasted until Valentine's Day.

I resolved to cut my lawn in a different pattern every week. Aced it (though for safety's sake, I resolve not to try that Grateful Dead dancing bear pattern again).

I resolved to swim upstream from Whole Foods to Lake Roland dressed as a salmon. Still knitting the costume ... maybe this year.

For 2013 I have a fresh set of resolutions.

I, Ned Dunkleberger, do hereby resolve:

To always select "Spanish" when using the automated checkout at Shopper's and to answer the machine with a highly exaggerated Speedy Gonzales accent.

To never again call in to the Dan Rodricks show pretending to be a slightly tipsy Sheila Dixon, quoting from the book of Revelations and speaking in tongues. (The Sheilah Kast show is fair game, however.)

To stop my genetic experiment of cross-breeding stink bugs with bees. Worst honey ever!

My 2012 Predictions in Review:

Last year, as you will recall, I predicted that a Sirocco would

strike in late June. We had a Derecho instead. Damn, that was close.

I predicted that the Orioles would go undefeated. While wrong, this was much more accurate than many local sportscasters' predictions.

I predicted that the Mt. Washington Tavern would re-open as a vegan tea house hosting alternative healing workshops. Forty-two percent right! It did re-open. And they do serve tea.

And now for my predictions for 2013:

The biggest surprise in the redesigned and reopened Luckman Park will be the fully functional Stocks and Pillories. Reservations must be made six weeks in advance.

The Speed cameras on Kelly Avenue will photograph and send a ticket to a possibly rabid fox. To be fair, it will be going 12 miles per hour over the limit.

Mac Nachlas will begin speaking with both the voice and phrasings of Yoda. "No, try not! Do, or do not. There is no try. Fund the bike trail, you will."

Angered by the lack of a Mayan apocalypse, giant raccoons will crawl out of the storm drains and steal several bicycles. They will ride them with surprising skill and agility.

My new book, "Everything I Need To Know About Life I Learned On The Mount Washington Listserv" will become an international bestseller. There will be a book signing at the Ivy Bookshop where Jordan Frame will buy five copies.

I hope your 2013 is as eventful. And don't forget to floss.

Ned



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Community Calendar

January 6, 2013

**Annual Mount Washington
“Little Christmas” Party**

2 PM until the lights go out!

Hosted by: Edward, Elizabeth, Benjamin, & Walter Grove. 5528 Rusk Ave. (black fence, at Ken Oak Road). No rain or snow date: Just come by skis or sleigh! RSVP appreciated (not required): 410-664-0304 or elg.grove@gmail.com.

A warm, toasty house

*Food, cheer, and Ed's spiked eggnog
Something good for all*

Ring In the New Year

Celebrate Twelfth Night with friends

Wind down the season

Bring a dish to share,

*Bring friends and family, too
or just bring yourself!*

Friday Mornings

Mt. Washington Community Yoga Class

8:45 am - 10:00 am

St. Andrew's Elderslie Church on Pimlico Rd. at Ken Oak. Appropriate for All Levels. Bring a yoga mat if you have one (some are available to borrow) and a water bottle. Cost is \$8 (cash or check). For more information, contact Mira at 410-370-6764 or wellspringhealingarts@gmail.com

Through January 5, 2013

Clayworks Winterfest and Annual Holiday Sale

Walk through a winter wonderland of ceramic works showcased in one of our most popular exhibition events – Winterfest and Annual Holiday Sale, which continues through January 5, 2013. Visit www.baltimoreclayworks.com for details.

January 14 and February 11

St. John's Church: Feed My Sheep

5:30 pm – 6:00 pm

Volunteers are needed to help prepare bagged meals on the second Monday of the month, to be delivered to the hungry around the City. At Springwell's Terrace Grill, 2211 W. Rogers Avenue. For information or to volunteer, contact outreach@stjohnsmtwashington.org.

January 12 – February 23

Clayworks “100 Teapots VI”

See this teapot-themed exhibit, jurored by acclaimed artist Jeff Oestreich and featuring works from 60 artists from around the nation. At 5707 Smith Ave. Visit www.baltimoreclayworks.com for details.

February 2

Baltimore Green Fest

12:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Retrofit Baltimore hosts the Baltimore Green Fest at the Mount Washington School Upper Building (1801 Sulgrave Ave.), with interactive workshops and information on how to green your neighborhood and create a more sustainable Baltimore. The event is free and families are welcome, with activities and crafts for kids, and a raffle to benefit the Mount Washington School. To participate as a vendor or volunteer contact Whitney Graham, wgraham@retrofit-baltimore.org.

February 12

Mount Washington Improvement

Association Open Board Meeting

7:30 pm – 9:00 pm

At The Chimes, Curtis Hall, 1803 Thornbury Road. All community members are welcome.