



MOUNT WASHINGTON NEWSLETTER

MOUNT WASHINGTON IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Spring 2007

Annual Meeting – June 19, 2007 Mayor Sheila Dixon will be the guest speaker.

The Mt. Washington Improvement Association (MWIA) will hold its Annual Meeting on June 19, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at the Mt. Washington Elementary School. Mayor **Sheila Dixon** is the guest speaker.

Nominating Committee Report for 2007/8

The MWIA Nominating Committee consisted of Chairperson Clifford Mitchell, Linda Panlilio, Salem Reiner, Jan Franz, and Stephanie Regenold. The committee recommends the following nominees:

Nominations for Officers:

Vice President: Aaron Meisner
Treasurer: Eric Seaberg
Secretary: Carol Berkower

Nominations for new at-large directors:

Taliya Adelstein (2007-2010)*
Carol Berkower (2007-2010)
Jim Carroll (2007-2009)
Aaron Meisner (2007-2010)
Salem Reiner (2007-2010)*
Eric Seaberg (2007-2010)
Joseph Smith (2007-2008)
Roberta Strickler (2007-2010)

Incumbent at-large directors (date of term expiration)

Rebecca Saybolt Bainum (2008)
David Conn (2009)
Jill Feinberg (2009)
Cindy Freeman (2008)
Shea Lyda (2009)
Mac Nachlas (2008)
Linda Panlilio (2009)
Sally Staugatis (2008)
Leslie Sporn-Symonds (2008) Trent Zivkovich (2009)

Area Director

Stuart Caplan (2007-2009)

Nominations for Area Captains (1 year term)

Area 1	Robert Pelton
Area 2	Liz Hopkins*
Area 3	Ira Kolman*
Area 4	Curtis McKnight
Area 5	Laura Barrientos
Area 6	Indira Kotval
Area 7	Stephanie Regenold*

*Incumbent in this position.

We also wish to acknowledge gratefully the following individuals, who have generously contributed their time and energy to the Association and the community of Mt. Washington: Lu Pierson, Maggie Kunz, Denise Duval, George Lewis, and Brent Flickinger. Rebecca Saybolt Bainum and Leslie Sporn-Symonds have completed their service as Vice President and Treasurer but will complete their terms as directors.

This newsletter shall serve as notice of the Annual Meeting and, if no additional nominations are received in accordance with the by-laws, the official ballot to be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

Mt. Washington Improvement Association Annual Picnic at Luckman Park June 16th, 4:00 pm • Rain or shine

Featuring a picnic menu and live music. Bring a dish to share.
Contact Taliya Adelstein to volunteer or for more information.

taliya@linwoods.com



Message from the President

At a recent meeting of the Mt. Washington Improvement Association, the Board discussed:

- * The spring flower show;
- * A home tour;
- * The annual picnic;
- * The July 4th parade and festivities;
- * The Jones Fall stream clean-up;
- * The Virgin Festival;
- * Mayor Dixon's appearance at the June meeting;
- * The expansion of The Wesley Home;
- * The ongoing conversion of the UB Fields to a City park;
- * The Western Run Greenway and erosion remediation project;
- * The Jones Fall Trail;
- * The Universal Playground project;
- * The Outdoor Classroom;
- * New merchants in the Village;
- * Several private land developments;
- * Ongoing efforts to improve transportation;
- * Water and sewer service;
- * Public safety;
- * The long-term Strategic Neighborhood Action Plan; and,
- * The possible conversion of the Pimlico Middle School into a Police Academy.

Whew! Taken together, these efforts reflect a vibrant community that is blossoming into one of the premier neighborhoods in Baltimore. With so much going on, we all need to get involved. I urge every Mt. Washingtonian to stay informed and express his or her viewpoint.

The best way to keep up with neighborhood issues is to sign up for our electronic announcement service. Go to www.mwia.org and look for the link at the bottom of the page. You'll receive occasional emails with important news and have the opportunity to influence the direction of our community. If you have questions or comments, send them to president@mwia.org. Let's keep making Mt. Washington even better!

Mac Nachlas

Are you interested in doing more for your community?

The MWIA needs volunteers in these areas:

- Membership data entry
- Crime Patrol committee
- Web Infrastructure and design

Contact Mac Nachlas for more information.
mwiapresident@gmail.com

www.mwia.org

COMMUNITY YARD SALE

Sunday, June 10

9 A.M. – 1 P.M.

at Luckman Park

- **Sell your stuff for \$10/table**
- **Donate stuff to be sold**
- **Advertising and signs provided**

Proceeds go to the

Friends of Luckman Park

**For more information or to reserve a table call
Laura Jacoby at 410-664-7689.**

Buy Local Campaign Begins

If you are concerned about strengthening the quality of life in Baltimore's neighborhoods and the economic vitality of the greater Baltimore area, you need to consider the positive impact you have when you buy from independent, locally owned businesses. Whether you are purchasing products or services as an individual or for an organization, choosing a locally owned business has a positive impact on area residents. Buying locally keeps up to three times more dollars in our community, supports and strengthens local jobs and businesses, and preserves and enhances our unique neighborhoods.

According to a 2003 study, for every \$100 spent at a locally-owned business, \$45 comes back into the community and to the local tax base, and for every \$100 spent at a non-local chain store, only \$14 comes back. Additionally, local firms may offer a better buying experience. They often hire people who have a better understanding of the products they are selling and take more time to get to know customers. Finally, local companies also create more good jobs. Small, local businesses are one of the largest employers in Baltimore City, offering greater loyalty to their employees.

To find businesses that participate in the Buy Local campaign, to sign up your business, or to volunteer, call (410) 342-1482 or visit www.buylocalbaltimore.com.

Act Local

Mayor Sheila Dixon
410-396-3835
mayor@baltimorecity.gov

Delegate Jill Carter
410-841-3782
Jill_carter@house.state.md.us

Councilwoman Rikki Spector
410-396-4819
rspector@baltimorecitycouncil.com

Delegate Nathaniel Oaks
(410) 841-3283

Senator Lisa Gladden
410-841-3697
Lisa_gladden@senate.state.md.us

Delegate Sandy Rosenberg
410-841-3297
Samuel_rosenberg@house.state.md.us

Board of Directors

2006/2007

Directors

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
Jill Feinberg	410-466-9225
Cindy Freeman	410-664-7774
George Lewis	410-664-2760
Shea Lyda	410-664-6516
Linda Panlilio	410-367-3802
Lu Pierson	410-664-0055
Salem Reiner	410-664-2349
Sally Staugitis	410-664-2212
Trent Zivkovich	410-542-5147

Honorary Directors

Jan Franz	410-664-5254
John Mack	410-466-3824
Cliff Mitchell	410-466-0529

Area Director

Aaron Meisner	410-664-0707
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Area Captains

1. Brent Flickinger	410-367-1777
2. Liz Hopkins	410-542-0927
3. Ira Kolman	410-664-5078
4. Roberta Strickler	410-367-8666
5. Carol Berkower	410-466-8699
6. Eric Seaberg	410-466-1548
7. Stephanie Regenold	410-542-3999



Keep Mt. Washington Green

In the last newsletter we learned about planting new trees. The story continues with proper tree maintenance.

It's important to ensure proper care of established trees in your yard. Here are some good rules of thumb:

- ⊙ The surest way to kill a tree is to top it. If a company recommends topping a tree as the only option, get a few more opinions.
- ⊙ Never mulch more than 2–4" around any tree – tree roots do not breathe properly with deep mulch on them. Try to mulch out to the drip line of the tree, if possible.
- ⊙ Have your trees examined periodically by a certified, licensed arborist.
- ⊙ Water trees during dry periods.
- ⊙ Consider how to protect trees while doing home remodeling projects or excavation by consulting a certified, licensed arborist before beginning construction.
- ⊙ If an unsolicited individual or company suggests that your tree needs to be cut down immediately and offers a good deal, get a second opinion.
- ⊙ Remove Remove such invasive vines as periwinkle, creeping euonymus, porcelain berry, Japanese Honeysuckle, and English Ivy from your yard.
- ⊙ Learn to identify Norway Maples and Tree of Heaven and remove them if you have them in your yard. Before removing either tree, contact the the Baltimore Weed Warriors at 410-396-0359 for guidance. Trees of Heaven, if removed at the wrong time of year, may actually multiply!
- ⊙ Leave old, dead trees that are not a hazard for wildlife. Old dead trees (called snags) are important nesting sites and food sources for many species of birds.

For more information on tree planting and tree-care tips, google the Arbor Day Foundation.

You can learn more about trees by becoming a Baltimore City Tree Steward. Classes teaching the basics of tree identification, pruning, mulching, diseases, and tree care are held at the Cylburn Arboretum. There is no charge for the course, but students are expected to volunteer a set number of hours after completion of the course. Visit <http://www.ci.baltimore.md.us/government/recnparks/conservation.htm> for contact information on the program.



A Brief History of the Pimlico Race Course

By Larry Kloze

My wife Vicki and I moved to our home on Merville Ave. in 1972 and we quickly got to know our neighbor, the Pimlico Race Course (Pimlico). Back then, the Meets ran through the spring and summer and parking was impossible. In fact, houses were torn down and yards were converted to meet the parking demand.

Fortunately the Mt. Washington Improvement Association (MWIA) was an active group and I soon joined the board to help solve the parking problems. We tried side-by-side parking and “do not enter” signs on Northern Pkwy., but nothing worked. Finally the Supreme Court legalized permit parking and Mt. Washington became the first City neighborhood to have it.

The City, at the MWIA’s insistence, successfully entered into a Planned Unit Development (PUD) with Pimlico. Under the agreement, the track was allowed to close Pimlico Rd., thus consolidating their property. The track also agreed to purchase all homes on the south side of Northern Pkwy. and close off the street with a brick wall and berm as far west as Winner Ave. The Cohen family owned Pimlico at that time and they began the work as outlined.

Not long after the project began, Pimlico was sold to the DeFrancis family. Construction work stopped because attendance dropped off and the PUD was not completed because it had no completion date. The project didn’t gain momentum again until Magna Corporation bought the track in 2002 and a new PUD was agreed upon. The remaining houses were acquired and demolished and the perimeter was landscaped.

Another important milestone in the track’s history was a bill creating the Racetrack Impact Fund in the 1970s. This bill, passed under then-Speaker of the House Ben Cardin, set aside a percentage of the daily proceeds from racing days to be used in the surrounding neighborhoods to overcome the impacts of racing. The Fund received between \$300,000-500,000 per year and was administered by a committee of the now defunct Northwest Baltimore Corporation (NWBC). The funds were spent on such capital improvements as playgrounds, landscaping, and home development and such neighborhood services as rat eradication, zoning enforcement, and police patrols. In time, the leadership of the Fund changed hands to a group that focused on neighborhoods below Northern Parkway. Several years ago a State bill mandated spending those funds in low income neighborhoods and members of the committee would be appointed by the legislature.

After all these years, things are relatively quiet at the track and permit parking is no longer needed, with the possible exception of Preakness Day. I would like to keep it that way!

Neighborhood Begins with “Neigh!”

By Linda Schwartz

As a long-time resident (30+ years), I would like to join the Pimlico slots discussion and speak in favor of horse racing. Increasingly I hear people speak out against slots and also against horse racing. I consider it a point of pride to live five minutes from Pimlico and it’s one of the top reasons I continue to live here.

From the first time I walked into the Pimlico Race Track, I just fell in love with it. I go there two to three times a year and I still love it. I suppose this love of horse racing came from a genuine love of horses. I am also a volunteer at Day’s End Farm Horse Rescue in Lisbon, MD.

Some people worry about raising a family in the shadow of a race track. I took my son to the race track when he was 16 years old and he now has an appreciation of horses that transcends racing. Supporting the horse racing industry is, to me, similar to supporting the arts, sports, and other intellectual pursuits.

I support horse racing and to preserve Pimlico Race Track, I would support slots in a limited way. I am not in favor of a mega-facility devoted to casino gambling. But I do think that if we lose Pimlico, our community will be poorer for it. I would hope that the Mt. Washington Improvement Association could find an intermediate position on slots or alternative race track funding so that we can save something of real value.

MWIA’s official statement on the Pimlico Race Course

The MWIA believes that it is in the best interest of the community for Pimlico to remain a venue for horse racing and encourages Magna Entertainment, the Maryland Jockey Club, and the State to take action to maintain its viability for that purpose. Our position, adopted in 2004, is to oppose the implementation of electronic gaming (slots) at Pimlico.

MWIA represents the Mt. Washington Community. Please send your thoughts to president@mwia.org or call your Area Captain or neighborhood Board Member and tell us how you feel.

How I Lost a Dog and Found a Community

By Mike Siegel

I moved to Mt. Washington from Colorado in February 2006. I grew up in Baltimore, and Mt. Washington's mix of open space, proximity to the light rail, and walking/biking distance to nearby amenities made the choice an easy one. I grew to know the streets and homes, but was still largely unfamiliar with the people who lived in Mt. Washington. In February 2007 I traveled to Missouri to pick up an Australian Shepherd rescued from a puppy mill. Fearful, timid, and completely desocialized, Snickers, at age 4, was discovering the outside world for the first time -- grass underfoot, snow on her back were all new to her.

Four days after our return to Mt Washington, in the wake of a snowstorm, I slipped on the ice returning from a pre-work walk. The sudden movement startled Snickers, who lunged on her leash and ultimately made a break for it. I lost sight of her as she went farther up South Rd., finally losing her as she outdistanced me.

I was devastated. I had just lost a dog that didn't even know me, let alone the neighborhood. Although she was tagged and micro-chipped, her fearful nature made it unlikely that she would get close enough to anyone for these to make a difference. I immediately contacted shelter and rescue groups; I hung posters at intersections and walkways; I placed ads on craigslist and *The Baltimore Sun*; and turned my car into a rolling advertisement using window chalk.

And then I remembered the Mt. Washington Improvement Association. Wasn't there a web site? And a newsletter? And a listserv? I quickly spread my message using the MWIA communication tools.

Each time my cell phone rang my heart skipped a beat, hoping it was a call with news of Snickers. Instead of news it was a neighbor, calling to say that they read the listserv and saw the posters and that they were keeping an eye out. "Hang in there," was their message offering their own tales of lost and found animals.

Four days later, Snickers was spotted and tracked to the Mt. Washington Elementary School playground. That morning, the phone had been ringing with calls from neighbors out on a Saturday morning who recognized the lost dog. As Snickers made the turn from Kelly onto Lochlea, Michael and his dog Lily, recognizing the pursuit from the listserv,

came running up the street to help. Andy and Tony came out of their home and joined in for the great round-up. Forty-five minutes later we had Snickers, safe and sound after a quick visit to the vet. (Thank you Dr. Lee and the Animal Medical Center of Mt. Washington for the walk-in appointment!)

I am forever grateful to the calls, emails, and well wishes that kept me going throughout her four-day journey. I am thankful and humbled to live in a neighborhood that cares enough to reach out and help neighbors. I lost Snickers on a Wednesday and, by Saturday, realized I'd found my home in Mt. Washington.



Community Service at the Wesley

Children in need of community service hours can volunteer at The Wesley. For more information, contact Mrs. Ella Nolley, Activities Director, at 410-664-4006.

Mt. Washington Village Information

A new directory listing all businesses in the Mt. Washington Village is available at establishments throughout the Village.

Please also check us out online at:
www.mountwashingtonvillage.com

Don't get a parking ticket!

*It is illegal to park
against the flow of traffic.*

*Please take your filled
"doggie bags" home to
your own trash can.*



Calendar

May

May 5, 6:30 p.m.

Mt. Washington Elementary School Bid of Madness Auction & Dinner
410-396-6354

May 6 – December, Sundays, 8:00 a.m. – noon

Baltimore Farmers' Market
Fresh fruits, vegetables, breads, smoked meats, cheeses, crafts, and plants fill the state's largest producers-only market.
Holliday and Saratoga Streets, under the JFX
1-877-BALTIMORE

May 6

Mt. Washington Home Tour
Organized by Laurie Atkinson and Janell Bonner, the event will give Mt. Washington residents a chance to see inside some of the historic and older homes in the neighborhood. A \$20 donation is required and all proceeds will go to support the Mt. Washington Preservation Trust.

May 6, 11:00 a.m.

5th Annual Fashion Fever
The hottest spring fashions for 2007 will be previewed when the Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital hosts the 5th Annual Fashion Fever. Event includes brunch, morning bar and spring shopping boutique featuring some of the finest retailers in the area.
The Engineer's Club in Baltimore, 11 West Mount Vernon Place
410-578-5040

May 7, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Chesapeake Sustainable Business Alliance Green Happy Hour, Druid Hill Conservatory
410-342-1482 or info@csballiance.org

May 10, 6:30 p.m.

Retaining Neighborhood Character from Within
Join the Community Law Center and community associations from across Baltimore to learn how to create grassroots committees.
Neighborhood Design Center, 1401 Hollins Street
To RSVP please call 410-233-9686 or e-mail info@ndc-md.org

May 12, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Cylburn Market Day
Largest plant and crafts sale of spring for Baltimore and surrounding area.
Cylburn Arboretum, 4915 Greenspring Ave
410-367-2217

May 12, noon – 2:00 p.m.

Create African masks. This family friendly workshop will be led by talented local community artist Herb Massie.
Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture
830 E. Pratt Street
RSVP by calling 443-263-1828

May 12, 9:00 a.m.

The Preakness 5K Run/Walk will take place in the Mt. Washington area and end on the infield of the Pimlico Race Course. Prize money to the top 3 male and female runners.
Runners/walkers can register at www.charmcityrun.com or call 410-578-4451.

May 12, 11:00 a.m.

Westside Preakness Parade
Equestrian units, community and high school bands, colorful floats, giant helium balloons, and Grand Marshal Hasim Rachman fill the streets of Baltimore's westside. Steps off at Howard Street, continues down Pratt Street, and ends at Marketplace.
410-837-3030 or visit www.preaknesscelebration.org

May 15, 11:30 a.m., race at noon

Pee Wee Preakness, Tykes race on bouncy hippity-hops while clowns and costumed characters cheer on the junior jockeys.
Federal Hill Park, on Warren Street near Battery Avenue
410-837-3030 or visit www.preaknesscelebration.org

May 16 -- 18, 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Pimlico's Sunrise at Old Hilltop. Fans can take a guided tour of the stable area and watch the Triple Crown contenders during their morning workouts.
410-578-4451

May 17, 6:00 p.m., May 18, 19

Preakness Balloon Fest
Oregon Ridge Park in Baltimore County for an evening launch on Thursday, May 17, followed by morning launches on Friday and Saturday. The balloons will light up on Preakness Eve (Friday evening) around the Inner Harbor.
www.preaknesscelebration.org

May 19, Gates open at 8:00 a.m., first race 10:30 a.m.

Preakness, Pimlico Race Course
410-542-9400

May 26, 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Opening Day for the Mount Washington Swimming Club, 2300 Enslow Road
410-258-6509 or swimmw@yahoo.com

June

June 1 – 3, Friday 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., Saturday – Sunday, noon – 5:00 p.m.

ClayFest 2007 is a weekend ceramic extravaganza! This street party festival includes Claywork's famous Seconds Sale. Enjoy food and festivities for young and old!
Baltimore Clayworks, 5707 Smith Avenue
For more information go to www.baltimoreclayworks.org or call 410-578-1919

June 2 -13, Opening Potluck on June 2, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Teachers & Their Students (Teachers show work alongside their students)
Baltimore Clayworks, 5707 Smith Avenue
410-578-0058

June 9, 10:00 a.m. - noon

Drop-In Crafts at Cylburn

Two nature craft projects will be available for children (ages 5-10) and their accompanying adults at this drop-in session in the Mansion.

4915 Greenspring Avenue
410-367-2217

June 10, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Community Yard Sale, Luckman Park, Glen and Merville Aves. Pay only \$10 and sell your own treasures, or donate them to the park sale. Proceeds are used for park events.

For more information or to reserve a table, contact Laura Jacoby at 410-664-7689.

June 16, 4 p.m.

MWIA Annual Neighborhood Picnic, Luckman Park
Featuring a picnic menu and live music. Bring a dish to share. Contact Talya Adelstein to volunteer or for more information. taliya@linwoods.com
Luckman Park

June 19, 7:00 p.m.

MWIA Annual Meeting, Guest speaker: Mayor Sheila Dixon
Mt. Washintgon Elementary School, 1801 Sulgrave Ave.
Contact MWIA president, Mac Nachlas, with questions: 410-542-8766 or mwiapresident@gmail.com

June 19 – August 4, T, Th 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Sat. 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Learn to Row, Baltimore Rowing Club
Whether you've rowed a while ago or you don't know your port from your starboard, BRC offers basic rowing skills to people who want to learn how to row. 3301 Waterview Ave
www.baltimorerowing.org

June 23, noon – 4:00 p.m.

City Sand 2007. Local teams of architects, builders, and other design professionals compete in the annual competition of building multi-dimensional, spectacular themed sand sculptures.
410-427-0123 x232

June 23 - 24, noon – 10:00 p.m.

Latino Fest, Hispanic arts and culture featuring live Latin music, dancers in colorful costumes from their native lands, dance contests, arts and crafts displays, Domino game area, Hispanic cuisine, and other family fun activities such as clowns and face-painting.
Patterson Park, Eastern and Linwood Aves.
410-783-5404 for more information.

July**July 2, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

Chesapeake Sustainable Business Alliance Happy Hour
Waterfront Hotel, 1710 Thames Street
410-342-1482 or info@csballiance.org

July 4, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Spirit of Mt. Washington Independence Parade and Community Swim

Pre-parade festivities begin at 5601 Wexford Road ending at The Wesley Home

This year, more activities to entertain the children, big and small. Caroline Tufts, carolinetufts@comcast.net or 410-664-3730
Community swim from noon – 4:00 p.m.

July 10, 17, 24, 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Community swim, Mt. Washington Swim Club, 2300 Enslow Road
410-258-6509

July 15, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Art in the Park, Luckman Park, Glen and Merville Aves.
Free crafts and other activities for kids of all ages
For more information on the event – how to participate and how to help – contact Maggie Kunz at (410) 664-9466 or maggiekunz@gmail.com.

July 20-22, Friday, noon - 10:00 p.m., Saturday, noon – 10:00 p.m. and Sunday, noon – 8:00 p.m.

ARTSCAPE 2007
Continuous musical performances by local, regional, and national talent on four outdoor stages, indoor and outdoor visual arts exhibitions, film, theater, the Artists' Market with crafts and works of art for sale, opera, dance, fashion, literary arts activities, street theater, and special activities geared towards children.
1200 block of Mount Royal Avenue

August**August 4 - 5, noon – 9:00 p.m.**

International Festival, a celebration of Baltimore's cultural diversity with music, dancing, variety of ethnic foods, and a two-day international soccer competition. Poly/Western High School parking lot at Falls Road and West Coldspring Lane
410-396-3141

August 4 – 5

Virgin Festival
Featuring The Police
Pimlico Race Course

August 7, 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Community swim, Mt. Washington Swim Club, 2300 Enslow Road
410-258-6509

August 9 – 11

Paetec Jazz Festival
More than 40 concerts at indoor and outdoor venues around the Inner Harbor
www.paeteczjazz.com

August 14, 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Community swim, Mt. Washington Swim Club, 2300 Enslow Road
410-258-6509

August 14 – September 29, T, Th 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Sat. 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Learn to Row, Baltimore Rowing Club
Whether you've rowed a while ago or you don't know your port from your starboard, BRC offers basic rowing skills to people who want to learn how to row.

Ask MWIA

This begins a semi-regular question-and-answer series to Mac Nachlas, president of the MWIA. Send your questions to mwiapresident@gmail.com

E&J of Berkeley Ave write, "As Mt. Washington residents since 1991, we would like to know who is responsible for maintenance of sidewalks/footways. We have not been able to find any information on that issue."

The answer is available online in Article 26, Section 10 of the City Code. But I'm not sure you will like the answer.

As homeowners in Baltimore City, we are responsible for the sidewalks in front of our houses. We are responsible for their maintenance and repair as well as cleaning and snow removal.

That's not to say the City doesn't have a part to play. In fact, three parts:

1. If the City inspects your sidewalk – usually in response to a complaint – and finds it in bad shape, they can order you to repair it or they can repair it and bill you for the work. The good news is that the City charges substantially less than most private contractors for these repairs.
2. If you decide on your own that your sidewalk needs repair, you can call the City and ask them to repair it. They will do this at below market rate. The downside is that they will do it on their own schedule and it may take a while.
3. There are rare circumstances when the City will repair a sidewalk on its own. This is usually in association with street repairs. Two such projects will be happening in our neighborhood. Northern Parkway will soon be repaved and the sidewalks will be upgraded to meet current codes. The sidewalks along Cross Country Boulevard above the firehouse may be repaved as part of the Western Run Greenway project (not yet funded).

If you'd like to find out about having the sidewalk in front of your house repaired by the City, just call 311 and ask the operator to have a representative from Public Works contact you. They can give you an estimate of the cost, but in the end the responsibility is yours.

Call for content for the fall newsletter

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

The next issue will be distributed in the fall. Contact Jill Feinberg, editor: jbfeinberg@comcast.net or 410-466-9225.

Please use the enclosed envelope to become a member of the MWIA. Dues are only \$25 per household.

Mt. Washington Preservation Trust

The Mt. Washington Preservation Trust (MWPT) is a non-profit trust with two primary functions. The Trust acquires conservation easements within Mt. Washington and the 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). The tax benefit was recently changed for 2006-2007 only to allow a 50% annual deduction of adjusted gross income for up to 16 years. (It used to be 30% over 6 years). Maryland Environmental Trust has a great website for information and tax benefits of conservation easements. The address is: <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/met>

To date the Trust holds 20 conservation easements, including seven on Dixon Hill and five on the Terraces. 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 410-752-3506 or lwestrott@hotmail.com.

The second major function of the Trust is the design, planting, and 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. The Arboretum is also the site of winter and summer solstice parties and Saturday lectures. If you haven't already done so, please visit the Arboretum located off of Kelly Avenue.

If you would like to join our Sunday morning gardening group, email, finnegan21@aol.com

Relax and Refresh at the Mt. Washington Conference Center

The Mt. Washington Conference Center recently opened its doors to individual guests needing a quiet, convenient, affordable place to stay. With rates as low as \$69, based on availability, the Conference Center is a better value than surrounding brand-name hotels. Guests find the rooms to be clean, comfortable, and well located to the Mt. Washington Village.

The 8,600 SF Fitness Center has added such state-of-the-art cardiovascular machines as the Cybex Arc Trainer and the new Precore Elliptical machine. Cardio kickboxing classes are now available on Wednesday and Friday evenings; yoga is offered on Monday; and spinning classes will be available in the spring. There are pick-up basketball and volleyball games throughout the week. Fitness Center monthly dues are \$39 a month. Contact Scott Beyer at 410-735-7694 for additional information.

Buying and Renovating a Historic Home

By Clark Semmes

My wife and I moved to the neighborhood from DC six years ago. We were looking for a stone house and we focused on Mt. Washington because, as my wife said, "that's where all the smart people live." It took a few months, but finally my wife found what she considered the perfect fit for us at 1920 South Road.

My curiosity turned to despair when we pulled up to the house and I realized that not only was this an old house (built in the 1920s), but a seriously neglected one as well. Trees, both dead and alive, covered the lawn; untamed flora covered the home making it hard to see from the street; and English Ivy covered everything else. A water spigot had broken off and a miniature geyser had formed a small pond which was draining into our basement.

The inside was even worse. There was water damage everywhere; mold covered the walls; and some windows were rusted into permanent open positions. The electrical system and furnace were ancient. My wife noted my concern and said, "This house has wonderful bones," and she was right. "Besides, have you seen the barn?"

Standing at the rear of the house was an enormous barn, also covered in ivy with severely rotted doors. It had three floors, seven rooms, and was really very beautiful.

We had some serious trepidation, but three weeks later we moved in.

We hired contractors and did a lot of the work ourselves, all the while realizing that a home renovation, while exhausting, can be very rewarding work. We began to meet our neighbors who told us stories about Jacob Glushakow, the previous owner and Baltimore artist. He used the barn for a studio and one neighbor owned some of his art and a video of Mr. Glushakow discussing his art. We were transfixed as we listened to him talk about capturing the scenes of old Baltimore on canvas before they disappeared. He was articulate, erudite, and altogether loveable. Our respect and love for our home only increased.

One day I was painting a room in the barn and I came across two letters with postmarks from 1900. In the first letter, a woman declares her devotion to a man. In the second letter the woman defends herself from accusations of infidelity and puts an end to their romance. I love these letters because they show how relationships remain unchanged.

My wife and I treasure our home and are proud to live in a neighborhood where the past is valued and preserved.

Looking for renovation advice or tips on contractors? Join the MWIA listserv. You can sign up at www.mwia.org. Look for the link at the bottom of the page.

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 20, 2007*. Send entry to Cecilia Meisner, 5733 Ridgedale Road, Baltimore, MD 21209 or e-mail to cmeisner@artbma.org.

News from Mt. Washington Elementary School

Mr. Lincoln Goes to MWES

Dig out those dusty jars of pennies and dump your change dishes—The Mt. Washington Elementary School (MWES) is having a penny drive! In support of the Outdoor Classroom and Playspace, students at the school have been challenged to bring in 100,000 pennies by the end of the school year. And you can help.

If you know students at MWES, give your pennies to them. The classes are competing against each other to see who can bring in the most pennies. (At press time, students had collected 49,000 pennies. We're half-way there!)

Or just contact Laura Laing (410-464-8318, Llaing@comcast.net) to arrange for pick-up or drop-off. Students at the school will even count them for you. If you'd like to donate something other than pennies, that's fine too. We'll convert the change to pennies for you, since the kids want to see what 100,000 pennies looks like.

Teachers and parents are using the pennies to teach concepts in math, English, and social studies. First graders used the pennies to delve into lessons about base ten. The kids are even doing penny art!

So let us help you unload your unwanted pennies—and at the same time support a great educational cause. Donate your pennies to the MWES penny drive.



First Graders Show Off Their Pennies

Registration for MWES

The Mt. Washington Elementary School began registration for in-zone pre-kindergarten through fifth grade on April 2nd. Registration will continue through June 15th. Please visit the main office to receive registration materials. For more information, contact Mrs. Blackmon at 410-396-6354 or 410-396-6355.

- Children pre-registering for pre-kindergarten must be four years old by September 1st.
- Children entering kindergarten must be five years old by September 1st.
- Children entering grade one must be six years old by September 30th.

Outdoor Classroom Updates

Fundraising continues for the Outdoor Classroom Project, a plan to revitalize the asphalt playground at the Mt. Washington Elementary School (MWES). At press time, we've raised over \$157,000 towards the goal of \$250,000! Since January 2007, we have received funding from the Lockhart Vaughan Foundation, the John J. Leidy Foundation, the Mary and Kathleen Harriman Foundation, the Macht Philanthropic Fund, and from Mt. Washington families. Twelve other grant submissions are currently pending.

On March 10th, a group of mothers and children, bedecked in grassy Outdoor Classroom t-shirts, testified before the Maryland General Assembly in Annapolis in support of House Bill 805/ Senate Bill 865, which would provide matching funds for the Outdoor Classroom Project. Sponsored by Delegate Sandy Rosenberg and supported by Delegates Oaks, Carter, and Tarrant and Senator Lisa Gladden, passage of these bills would demonstrate the state's support for public education, open space, and community initiative. At the time of this writing, the legislature had not yet voted on the bond bills.

Please help make this dream a reality in our neighborhood sooner rather than later by sending a tax-deductible donation to: The Mt. Washington PTO, Outdoor Classroom, 1801 Sulgrave Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21209.

The Outdoor Classroom Committee and the PTO are also working together to install swings at the School's playground. Four swings, requested by the MWES students, will be installed on the upper playground next to the new play structure. Look for them, as well as a new school garden, this spring.

For more information, please contact Becky Redett at redett@yahoo.com



Summer Fun at Luckman Park

Looking for a great place to play with the kids? Luckman Park, on Glen Avenue between Merville and Key (across from the fire station), is beautiful in the spring. The playground and swings have new woodchips and they're ready for playing. Friends of Luckman Park is also planning their annual spring and summer events:

Community Yard Sale – Sunday, June 10, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. – Pay only \$10 and sell your own treasures, or donate them to the park sale. Proceeds are used for park events. For more information or to reserve a table, call Laura Jacoby at 410-664-7689.

Art in the Park – Sunday July 15, 2 – 4 p.m. – Free crafts and other activities for kids of all ages.

Music in the Park – Coming in September 2007. Want to play music with and for your neighbors? Come join the jamming at Luckman Park's third annual music day.

Summer Playgroup – Last year we had a very successful community playgroup at the park. If you are interested in participating in a playgroup this summer, contact Laura Jacoby at (410) 664-7689.

For more information on the events – how to participate and how to help – contact Maggie Kunz at (410) 664-9466 or maggiekunz@gmail.com.

Mt. Washington Swimming Club Opens for the Season

The Mt. Washington Swimming Club will open on May 26 at 11:00 a.m. The club is located on Enslow Road, off of Greenspring Ave. and Rogers Ave. 410-367-0110.

Hours of Operation:

5/26 - 6/10 weekends 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.;
 weekdays 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
6/11 - 8/19 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
8/20 - 8/26 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
8/27 - 9/3 11:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Community Swim July 10 - August 14, 2007
Tuesdays 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Swim Instruction available; more info available later in the year. Penguin Club (members only) -- for information about Penguin Club, send an email with "Penguin" in the subject line to swimmw@yahoo.com. For more information about membership, send an email to swimmw@yahoo.com.

Spirit of Mt. Washington Independence Day Parade & Community Swim

Wednesday, July 4

10:00 -11:30 a.m Parade and Activities
12:00 – 4:00 p.m. Community Swim at the Pool
Pre-parade festivities begin at 5601 Wexford Rd.
(Home of Chris and Caroline Tufts)

Events continue at The Wesley
Enjoy the afternoon at the Mt. Washington Swim Club
New this year – more activities for the kids (big and small)
For more information, contact Caroline Tufts at
410-664-3730 or carolinetufts@comcast.net.



Luckman Park Summer Tennis Program

June 18-August 23

Monday-Thursday, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Ages 6 (or completed first grade) – 16 years
Cost \$50 per child and \$25 for siblings
Luckman Park Tennis Courts -
corner of Key and Glen Avenues

Sponsored by a Maryland community grant of the United States Tennis Association (USTA)
For program details, go to www.mwia.org

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.

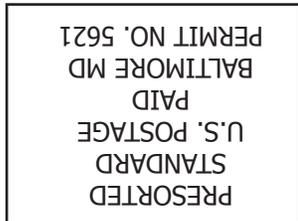
Tuesday, May 8	paper
Monday, May 14	plastic/metal/glass
Tuesday, May 22	paper
Monday, June 11	plastic/metal/glass
Tuesday, June 12	paper
Monday, June 25	plastic/metal/glass
Tuesday, June 26	paper
Monday, July 9	plastic/metal/glass
Tuesday, July 10	paper
Monday, July 23	plastic/metal/glass
Tuesday, July 24	paper
Monday, August 13	plastic/metal/glass
Tuesday, August 14	paper
Monday, August 27	plastic/metal/glass
Tuesday, August 28	paper

Mixed Paper: Place paper in paper bags, cardboard boxes, or bundles tied with string. May include newspaper, magazines, phone books, ad mail, and cardboard.

Plastic/Metal/Glass: Rinse bottles and cans and discard caps. Place in blue plastic bags. May 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.

Bulk Pick Up: Call 311 or email DPW (www.baltimorecity.gov, click on 311 services) three working days before scheduled pick up date. You may leave three items at your regular trash pick-up site. Bulk items include appliances, furniture, and up to four tires with rims removed. Do not leave building materials such as sheet rock, siding, wood pieces, or roofing.

Call 410-396-4515 for questions about solid waste. Call 410-396-4707 for concerns about illegal dumping.



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