



MOUNT WASHINGTON NEWSLETTER

MOUNT WASHINGTON IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Late Fall 2002

Letter from the President

Welcome to Fall, one of the great seasons in Mt. Washington. Now is the time to take a family stroll through our beautiful tree-lined streets and byways to enjoy the fall foliage and meet neighbors. This is my first opportunity to address you as president of the MWIA. Formerly I was treasurer of the MWIA and have lived in Mt. Washington all my life. I am grateful for all the advice and assistance everyone has given me since July and know that it will continue. There are several significant issues - some old, some new facing the Board of the MWIA this year. The Board will continue to encourage community input and participation. In addition, the Board will continue its policy of meeting in a public forum every other month. The next open meeting is December 17th at 7:30 P.M., at the Mt. Washington School (formerly Mt. Washington Elementary School) at 7:30 PM. All residents who are interested in the preservation, betterment, development and well-being of the Mt. Washington community are encouraged to attend. Members of our Board will update the community on the plans for the new K-8 program of the school. The Capital Improvement Team from the school will present plans for the new PreK-8th grade program. This is an exciting and innovative plan and is vital to our community. Please plan to attend.

One of the major issues during the past few years, the future of the Pimlico Racetrack, has resurfaced with the pending sale of the track to Canadian based Magna Entertainment. The track sits on forty-two acres of land that are not only a gateway to Mt. Washington but also to the entire northwest area of Baltimore City. Magna has proposed the possibility of razing the existing track, moving the Preakness to Laurel Park for one year, and building a new state of the art racing/entertainment facility on the Pimlico property. The Board continues to meet with both Magna Entertainment and the Maryland Jockey Club. We are also working with the Northwest Baltimore Corporation which is the organization designated by the Mayor to oversee the surrounding neighborhood concerns.

Another major issue is the future of The St. Paul Co. campus. The property has recently been placed on the market. The Board plans to communicate and work with officials from The St. Paul Co. to preserve and promote our strong family neighborhood. We have always maintained a positive partnership with The St. Paul and plan to continue to work closely with them during the sale of the property.

Along the Smith Avenue corridor, we have another issue -- the development of the Bonnie View Golf Course. At this time Beazer Homes has a contract contingent on zoning approvals from both Baltimore County and Baltimore City to purchase the property and construct a gated "active adult community". The plans involve building 600 units on the property with approximately 129 in the City. The Board is currently working with Beazer Homes and our city council representatives to present our concerns regarding the impact that a development of this size may have on our community in terms of increased traffic and strains on our infrastructure. For further information, see the article in this newsletter. Again, plan to attend to our open board meeting in December.

We have a full agenda, and we look forward to working with you and to meeting all of our neighbors at the community board meetings.

I look forward to celebrating the beginning of the holiday season with neighbors and friends at Mt. Washington Celebration of Lights at the St. Paul Companies on November 30th.

Your Neighbor,

Jan Franz