



School Leases St. John's Church

Sudbury model program boasts 40 students

By DAVID CONN
news@mwia.org

The long-vacant St. John's Mt. Washington Church will host a small private school that has leased the 85-year old building at 1700 South Road and plans to open for business on September 4.

The Arts & Ideas Sudbury School will bring about 40 students aged 5 to 18, with plans for some growth throughout the year through rolling enrollment, according to co-founder Caroline Chavasse. She said there will be four staff members.

The school was started in 2008 and operated out of the Episcopal Church of the Messiah in the northeast Baltimore neighborhood of Hamilton before signing a lease this summer for the church building at South Road and Kelly Avenue. It is a church-exempt school that

See Sudbury, page 9

Birroteca Owner Plans Buffalo-Style Taphouse

By DAVID CONN
news@mwia.org

With a planned opening by year's end, the Nickel Taphouse will be the newest eatery at the space most recently occupied by Blue Sage Café & Wine Bar, and its new owner assures Mount Washington that he sees a location that is ripe for success.

"I plan to make this a great neighborhood restaurant for Mount Washington," said Robbin Haas, chef-owner of the widely acclaimed Birroteca

beer, wine and artisan pizza restaurant that opened last year on Clipper Road in Hampden.

Mr. Haas, a Buffalo, N.Y., native, has a decades-long history in the restaurant business, including Food & Wine magazine's Best New Chef award in 1994, stints at a series of high end locations around the country, plus several bistros he owns in Antigua, Guatemala. He helped open the Raku "Asian diners" in Washington, D.C., and Bethesda.

He said Nickel Taphouse will be

reminiscent of the neighborhood restaurants he grew up with in Buffalo.

It will feature specialty appetizers, grilled oysters, mussels and sandwiches, among other items, and a different look and feel than the rustic Italian



Photo: Francine Halvorsen

Robbin Haas

See Nickel Taphouse, page 10

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dr. Ira Kolman

It's been a good, albeit hot summer. A highlight for Mount Washington was the biggest and best MWIA Fourth of July celebration ever. Our Parade Divas estimated a record crowd of 700-800 people. Thank you to all who planned and participated in our largest community event of the year (including those who so generously donated food and their time).

Luckman Park has finally reopened, although it is still not completely finished. I took my 4-year-old granddaughter there and was very impressed with the changes, especially the state-of-the-art playground equipment. Please take a look for yourselves.

Springwell, one of our wonderful cooperating institutions, has met with me to discuss their plans to improve their facility. I will invite them to share their plans with us at one of our Open Meetings.

The Arts and Ideas Sudbury School announced their move from Hamilton to St. John's Church in Mount Washington and will begin their school year this September (see the article on page 1). MWIA Board and committee members met with representatives from the school to work out plans for traffic-calming and other safety concerns due to the pending increased activity in that area of our community.

The Broadband Initiative Group continues to meet and work out plans to present Internet alternatives to citizens of Northern and Northwestern Baltimore. (See page 9.)

Our Slots Revenue Funds Steering Committee (aka the Northwest Community Planning Forum SNAP) has been meeting consistently. We were

successful in obtaining our fair share of Slots Revenue Funds and you will see visible improvements to our parks and other areas as the Mayor has approved over \$400,000 of these funds to be used in Mount Washington. Expect to see major improvements to our three parks (Northwest, Luckman and Western Run) as well as public safety improvements near the light rail (specifically to the underpass connecting the old mill and the Mount Washington light rail station).

We will be presenting SNAP proposed priorities for next year and beyond and asking for community input. There will be a large Northwest Community meeting where residents can weigh in on future funding priorities.

We have been told that construction of Phase Five of the Jones Fall Trail may finally begin early next year.

Our next MWIA Open Board Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 8, 2013, at Springwell, 2211 W. Rogers Ave., at 7:30-9:00 p.m.** The community is invited to attend.

So ... a lot of good things are happening in Mount Washington. Stay tuned for more.

As always, I thank you for your cooperation and friendship. We truly are all in this together.

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Clayworks Fires Up Campaign for Kilns

By SARAH MCCANN

sarah.mccann@baltimoreclayworks.org

Thanks to foundation support, and a rapid and strong response to an online fundraising campaign, Baltimore Clayworks this summer began rebuilding its 33-year-old gas kiln and began building a new soda kiln.

With generous support from the France-Merrick Foundation, Clayworks had most of what was needed to complete these two projects. In order to raise the remaining funds Clayworks launched a crowd-funding campaign on Kickstarter, a website whose mission is to help bring creative projects to life. By press time, Clayworks had raised \$4,748, or 158% of their initial goal of \$3,000.

Kilns are the pieces of equipment that

transform malleable clay into permanent art objects. Over 15,000 pieces of ceramics are fired in our gas kiln annually by residents, associates, and students alike.

A third goal was added to the Kickstarter campaign: to raise \$9,000 for a new oval electric kiln, which is a very energy efficient kiln for larger loads. Work on the gas and soda kilns are expected to end by late September.

The addition of a soda kiln to Baltimore Clayworks will allow artists and community members to experience a new technique and attract new artists to Clayworks to work in our studios.

Stop by Baltimore Clayworks at 5707



Baltimore Clayworks' 33-year-old gas kiln is being rebuilt thanks to community fundraising support.

Smith Avenue to visit the galleries, see contemporary ceramic arts and check out our new kilns while you are there.

Sarah McCann is Development Director at Baltimore Clayworks.

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



It's All About The Roots

Although the garden centers are wrapping up the planting season and starting to bring out the pumpkins, fall is really a great time to plant. Newly planted trees and shrubs concentrate on putting out roots for the first season or so, and planting in fall allows for root growth before the heat of summer.

Fall here is usually one of the more pleasant seasons with predictably cooler temperatures and adequate rainfall for plants, which encourages root growth. Spring can be fickle, with cold snaps, or more typically shifting from spring to summer in a day, stressing the roots. Fall planting usually means less watering which means lower water bills, not an insignificant factor to consider here in Baltimore.

Soil temperatures are more even in the fall, the soil generally has more water available for the roots, and the soil is often

easier to work this time of year. As a bonus, plants are often on sale, as those left in the nursery are less likely to be sold at this time of year. I found trees as much as 75% off last fall at a local garden center.

Some trees recommended for fall planting include maples, hawthorns, spruce and pine. Avoid planting broadleaf evergreens in the fall as they are more subject to damage from cold winds.

The best time for fall planting is September through the mid to later part of November. Fall planting will give your plants a head start in the spring, but be aware that most newly planted trees and shrubs will not leaf out much during the first year or so. Be patient, it is all about the roots.

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



In August, just off the plane from a month hanging out with the extended family in Pensacola, Fla., all I could say on my return to Mount Washington was, "It's REALLY green here."

After the tropics of Florida, our lovely neighborhood seems lush and colorful with all the crepe myrtles and clusters of black-eyed susans adorning so many lawns. Since it's a bit sleepy right now, I'll back up to July and discuss the 14th Annual Mount Washington Spirit of Independence Day Parade. This event personifies what is so truly wonderful about our neighborhood.

The amazing Parade Divas - **Missy Mack, Caroline Tufts, Elizabeth Grove, Joan Wisner Carlson, Bev Ciccarone, Ellen O'Brien and Melinda Frame** – and our many, many volunteers put up signs, picked up moon bounces, baked treats, coordinated with Springwell, came up with a program, provided games and activities for the kids, handed out various patriotic bobbles, arranged for a band, speeches and the amazing **Jared Denhard** to lead the parade with his bagpipes, and then, MOST importantly, cleaned up! It's a true community effort in every way, and I'm heartened by how special it is to celebrate this national holiday with friends and neighbors.

During the parade my husband, **Guy**, drove his restored 1967 Sunbeam Alpine convertible in the antique car brigade, right in front

of **Dan Meisner** in his homemade 1959 Lotus 7. I got to ride in the car along with my 3-year-old twin daughters and 9-year-old son. The girls were particularly excited with the fire engine and got very adept at waving to onlookers by the end of the parade route. Afterwards, Guy and I chatted with many friends, lost track of our two older children and oversaw our daughters as they played with bubbles, made tissue paper flowers, ate a ton of watermelon and two cupcakes.

I just got my packet of information in the mail from the Mount Washington School. It's official, fall is just around the corner. The annual Sneak-a-Peak-At-Your-Seat was scheduled for August 23, so the kids could bring in their boat-load of school supplies and meet their teachers. It's a great way to calmly start the school year and get the kids motivated before the first day of school (August 26).

In Village news, the big excitement for fall is the planned October opening of the Nickel Taphouse in the old Blue Sage location on Kelly Avenue. According to The Sun, the new proprietor is **Robbin Haas**, owner of the successful Birroteca bar/restaurant on Clipper Road. Mr. Haas grew up in Buffalo and is basing his new venture on the working class taverns there. It sounds like the atmosphere will be casual and the menu will be heavy on comfort dishes and sandwiches to nibble on while having drinks. As a graduate of the University of Buffalo, I am looking forward to supporting a fellow Upstate New Yorker. We welcome Nickel Taphouse to Mount Washington and wish them the best of luck.



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Community Garden Expands, Other Improvements Underway

By DAVID NEMERSON
dnemerson@gmail.com

The Mount Washington Improvement Association board of directors has approved a proposed expansion of the Eric Waller Mount Washington Community Vegetable Garden at Northwest Park.

The approval, voted at the May 14 board meeting, came with various conditions that garden leadership accepted (see box), including that any future proposed changes be brought to the MWIA for approval, that the garden continue to be kept as orderly and neat as possible and that current structures be improved to blend with the surrounding historic neighborhood.

The Garden has proved to be very popular, growing steadily in both membership and footprint since it first broke ground in April 2011. At that time, the Garden had 27 member households working 10 vegetable beds in the park. Last year the Garden expanded to 47 households and 22 beds, and recently embarked on another expansion to 55 families with plans to add several more beds to the west of the existing ones. In addition to providing locally grown produce for Mount Washington residents, garden volunteers make regular donations to Our Daily Bread to feed the less fortunate.

This year's planned expansion pushed the footprint of the Garden close to an existing stand of silver maples and other mature trees that grow along the edge of Wexford Road near the intersection with West Rogers Avenue, raising concerns among some community members.

Representatives from MWIA and the Garden, along with concerned neighbors, met at the site this summer with Baltimore City Arborist Erik Dihle. As a result of the



Garden members tend to the latest expansion of the Eric Waller Community Vegetable Garden.

meeting, the proposed expansion will end a few feet shy of the original plan and further from the trees. The beds closest to the trees will be planted with perennial crops such as asparagus, strawberries and raspberries to reduce the need for annual tilling and digging that might harm the trees' roots.

Additionally, in consultation with Mr. Dihle, the gardeners and other community volunteers will coordinate a tree planting this fall between the Garden and Wexford Road, adding both smaller understory tree species as well as larger species that will grow to replace the large existing trees as they die off over the coming decades.

These refinements to the expansion plan join a list of several others that had been agreed to by the Garden and the MWIA in May. Prior to this meeting, the Garden contacted the City Parks Department to ensure that the proposal complied with the Master Plan for the park, and solicited input from the community via the neighborhood listserv,

the MWIA website, and a sign along Wexford Road near the garden.

The Garden expansion was approved by the MWIA and the garden members agreed to:

- 1) Bring to the MWIA any proposed changes to the garden involving expansion, clearing, construction, introducing animals, adding fencing, creating piles or anything else that materially changes the general appearance of the garden before such changes have been made.
- 2) Keep the garden as orderly and neat as practicable and improve the current structures to blend with the surrounding historic neighborhood, seeking guidance from the MWIA Architectural Committee. In keeping with this recommendation, the garden shed was recently stained and its roof shingled.
- 3) Garden leaders will engage in community outreach through educational programs. Arrangements have already been made to bring students to the garden from Garrison Middle School.
- 4) Appoint a garden member liaison to meet and report to the MWIA board annually.

Save the Date!

The Mount Washington Village Fall Block Party Sunday October 27 from 11 a.m.- 6 p.m.

The Mount Washington Village Fall Block Party is on again this year, sponsored by the Mt. Washington Village Association. Sunday October 27 from 11 a.m.- 6 p.m. in the Village. Live music, fashion show, food, wine, beer, kids' activities, and vendors. Proceeds will benefit the Mount Washington School.



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**Source: U.S. Green Building Council, November 2010.

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Energy Saver Loans Available To Mt. Washington Residents

By ARYEH GOETZ
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Homeowners in Mount Washington and other Northwest Baltimore neighborhoods can obtain zero-interest loans of up to \$10,000 to perform energy saving renovation projects, through a program just launched by Comprehensive Housing Assistance Inc. (CHAI).

The Energy Savers Loan program is funded by a \$2 million grant from Exelon Corp. and will benefit homeowners in the Mount Washington, Cheswolde, Cross Country, Glen and Fallstaff neighborhoods. The program is intended to help homeowners make their houses more energy efficient and reduce utility bills.

The Energy Savers Loan program provides interest-free loans which can be used for a variety of energy related home improvements, such as: upgrading heating and cooling systems, energy star appliances, tank-less water heaters, air sealing, window replacement, insulation, programmable thermostats, and converting to a gas furnace.

Qualified residents, regardless of income, can receive a loan ranging from \$5,000 to \$10,000 with flexible and affordable repayment options for up to 10 years. CHAI is also offering households with income at or below 80% of HUD median income an additional grant opportunity of \$1,250 to combine with a minimum \$3,750 loan. To establish eligibility, CHAI requires credit scores and housing and debt ratio levels similar to a home equity line of credit.

CHAI can do the renovation work, or it can be done by several other qualified "Smart Energy Savers Contractors."

To apply for or learn more about the Energy Savers Loan program call David Moray at 410-500-5327, or visit CHAI online at www.ChaiBaltimore.org.

And, be sure to attend the inaugural Northwest Community Energy Expo on Sunday October 6, from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the Myerberg Center, 3101 Fallstaff Rd.

Aryeh Goetz is Director of Neighborhood Investment at CHAI.

The Annual Neighborhood HALLOWEEN PARTY

Sunday, October 27, 2:00 PM

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- **HELP ALWAYS APPRECIATED**
PLEASE CONTACT ME IF:
 - You can bring or run a game, activity, or craft
 - You'd like to be a stop in Area 1 on the hay ride (we typically have over 75 kids).
- **NEW THIS YEAR: SCARECROW ROW.** Make your own scarecrows and set them up starting around October 13. Place them inside the fences along Rusk and Ken Oak, and on the front porch. At the party, vote for the best scarecrow in Mount Washington.
- **FUN IDEA TO MAKE & BRING:** DRIED APPLE SHRUNKEN HEADS! Start two weeks in advance to allow to dry/shrink. Instructions: <http://ow.ly/nKuSY>.
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D.I.Y. By DAVID NOBLE — daligrip@gmail.com



Painting Prep

So you want to paint your [insert anything here]? Let's start with the basics: Don't start painting. Not until you've done the needed preparation.

First and foremost if you are repainting, get a lead testing kit and swab the area you want to address. On small items, like a door, desk or antique cast iron gate, there are products specifically formulated for lead removal. Read the instructions online, and decide if you are conscientious enough to follow them. Otherwise, and for larger projects, I strongly recommend professional abatement.

The most important part of any painting job is surface preparation. A professional painter I know likes to say in any frustrating situation, "You just can't paint dirt." And that is a good place to start. Dirt, peeling paint, rust, mold, rotten wood – all have to go. For many people, this means power washing, and that can be a disaster. Power washing forces moisture into wood, and that will, in turn, force paint off of wood. Using a power washer with a wide nozzle and a fairly low pressure setting can, however, be a good way to deliver a cleaning solution.

A simple bleach solution is an effective way to kill mold in shaded areas of the exterior of your house, but consider any beds or plantings before you start spraying it hither and yon. Even more care

should be used with commercial surface prep solutions. Use a stiff brush to get mold, dirt and any loose paint chips off of the surface you want to paint. A wire brush is appropriate for metal.

The next thing to address is what is left. Dig out rotten wood and replace where you have to; fill cracks and holes with an appropriate filler (drywall mud on plaster, bondo or epoxy on exterior wood work, wood filler on interior wood work, J-B weld or filler rod on metals.)

As a rule of thumb, the glossier the desired finish, the smoother the surface has to be. For a flat ceiling sanding to 100 or 120 grit is fine. For glossy trim or clear coated (shellac, polyurethane) wood or metals, sanding to 180, or even 220 before the primer or sealer coat is not extreme. Remember when you are sanding: always sand in the direction of the grain, and don't skip grits. One or two strokes across the grain will require 20 or 30 with the grain to repair, and while it only takes a few moments to rub out the scratch pattern with the next finer grit, if you skip three or four grits, you may spend hours to achieve the same results.

I also strongly recommend a "particulate" mask when you are sanding, as opposed to those cheap paper things. If you are especially shaggy you will have to do some research, as beards and mustaches will defeat most dust masks.

Next month: Step 2, Priming.

If you have any subjects that you would like to ask about, send a note to news@mwia.org.

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Baltimore Broadband Coalition Update

By JERE MORREL
jere.public@gmail.com

In June the Baltimore Broadband Coalition kicked off a crowd sourcing campaign to demonstrate interest and raise funds to bring gigabit speed broadband to North Baltimore. The campaign runs through September 18.

Gigabit speed is approximately more than 30 times faster than typical cable offerings and 100 times faster than typical DSL.

Currently, 152 people across all the communities involved have shown their support for the effort. In Mount Washington, we have completed 9% of

our goal, with 25 people showing their support. We need 235 more people to join the crowd in order to move forward with this effort.

This campaign is for you if:

- you want faster internet speed;
- you want to have more options than Comcast Internet and Verizon DSL service; or
- you are fed up with your Internet provider.

If so, please join the crowd and show your support by going to the following link:

<http://crowdfiber.com/campaigns/baltimore-broadband-coalition>.

“Sudbury,” continued from page 1

operates within the corporate umbrella of the Arcadian Fellowship Church Inc., which allows the school to run independently of state education requirements.

Ms. Chavasse said the school is open from 8:15 a.m. until 5:45 p.m., but most students arrive no earlier than 9:00 a.m. The school will have access to St. John’s parking lot, across South Road from the church building. School leaders met in July with Mount Washington Improvement Association representatives, who agreed to discuss traffic and parking safety issues with City officials.

Initially, the school will operate out of the building’s undercroft, but school staff someday hope to renovate the sanctuary space into a combination studio space, performing arts center and community resource. The community is invited to

attend an October 6 evening talk by Boston College professor and author Peter Gray that will double as an open house for the school.

Arts & Ideas Sudbury School is a “curriculum-free democratic school” that encourages student independence and responsibility by giving each student, and staff member, an equal vote in all school rules and policies, Ms. Chavasse said, up to and including budget and personnel decisions. There are no formal classes or tests and students of all ages interact with each other throughout the day.

“In a safe environment children get a chance to practice independence ... with guidance from adults,” said Ms. Chavasse, a former Maryland Institute College of Art professor. She said the adult staff serve more as advisors and resource guides than traditional teachers. Tuition is \$5,625 for the first child, with

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The school is based on the model of the 45-year-old Sudbury Valley School in Framingham, Mass. There are now more than 30 Sudbury-type schools around the world, according to Sudbury Valley’s website, including one other school in Maryland, the Fairhaven School in Upper Marlboro.

In May St. John’s moved its services to the Springwell Faith & Fellowship Chapel, on West Rogers Avenue. The church was founded in 1868 as a missionary outpost of the Church of the Redeemer, on North Charles Street. In 1869 a building was constructed for worship at its current site, and it was replaced with the present one at South Road and Kelly Avenue in 1928.

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.)

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Sold on May 29 by Laurie Snyder to Susan Brandt.

2115 Sulgrave Avenue

Sold on June 24 by Daniel Levitov to Karl and Deirdre Kerr.

5702 Ranny Road

Sold on June 24 by Christie Moore to Brian and Lydia Kelly.

2302 Ken Oak Road

Sold on July 8 by Michael Myers to Timothy and Anne Hurley.

5703 Pimlico Road

Sold on July 8 by Jeffrey Smink to William Hanke and Theresa Canary.

5608 Woodcrest Avenue

Sold on July 15 by the estate of Lillian Cohen to Randy and Eryn Sherman.

2218 Sulgrave Avenue

Sold on July 19 by Rafael Irizarry to Jonathan and Kimberly Hennessee.

1805 W. Rogers Avenue

Sold on August 8 by Beatrice Seliger to Richard and Laura Wolf.

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
2104 Rogers Ave W	\$745,000
1900 Dixon Rd	\$699,900
5601 Greenspring Ave	\$615,000
2013 Rogers Ave W	\$469,000
1605 Terrace Rd	\$446,500
2003 Kelly Ave	\$415,000
5726 Oakshire Rd	\$399,000
2500 Manhattan Ave	\$350,000
1812 Greenberry Rd	\$325,000
1607 Rogers Ave W	\$284,900
6107 Western Run Dr	\$274,900
2435 Everton Rd	\$269,900
5713 Rockspring Rd	\$224,000
6119 Eastcliff Dr #3	\$197,000
5710 Bland Ave	\$179,000

“Nickel Taphouse,” continued from page 1

atmosphere of Birroteca.

“I guess it’ll be more of an American restaurant, number one,” Mr. Haas said. “It’ll have burgers on the menu. I’ll specialize in grilled oysters, we’ll have mussels on the menu.

“I grew up in Buffalo. Every neighborhood had a little place around the corner,” he added. “I think this is kind of a move back to that, where people can swing by on the way home, grab a beer or a glass of wine.”

Also featured will be a Buffalo specialty, a roast beef sandwich often called the “beef on weck,” which the bartenders will carve extra thin and serve on the distinctive kummelweck caraway seed and sea salt Kaiser roll.

Mr. Haas said the bar will offer 32 different drafts, with a heavy emphasis on craft beers, and American wines by the bottle and glass. Distilled spirits will

include handmade craft offerings, with no major brands in sight. “They’ll be things a little out of the norm,” he said. “We don’t plan on doing volume alcohol business,” though carryout alcohol will still be available.

Nickel Taphouse will likely be open from noon to 11:00 p.m., seven days a week, serving lunch and dinner, and brunch on Sundays.

Mr. Haas said he is aware of the history of failed restaurants in the space, including The Falls and Freda’s Kitchen, before the long-running Mt. Washington Food Market. But he sees promise at the location. “I kind of did some reconnaissance sometimes in the evenings and afternoons” when Blue Sage was open, and was encouraged by the crowds and the demographics. He said he has negotiated a “fair price” with the landlord, who he said turned down

several other offers to rent the space.

“To me restaurants are a marathon and not a sprint,” Mr. Haas said. “I think a lot of people came into there before and did kind of a ‘rouge and lipstick’ makeover. I’m actually planning on doing quite a bit more than that, put a lot of my own money into it.”

Planned for the December opening are new wood floors, booths, color scheme, lighting and “a proper bar so when you sit down you’ll feel like you’re being served by professionals.”

“When it comes down to it I’m a hospitality person,” Mr. Haas said, promising a family- and kid-friendly restaurant. “Although I made my bones as a chef ... I know that service comes first.”

Dunklebits By NED DUNKLEBERGER — neddunkleberger@gmail.com



Wow, this has been a busy summer. I don't know about you but I have been busier than a one-armed bandit at a Cordish casino, or a Nachlas keyboard typing a listserv limerick. So busy, in fact, that I've had to string together my lovable aphorisms and wise old sayings two and three at a time. "Mash-ups," as the kids call it.

So there I am at FourBucks Coffee shop working on the screenplay for my highly anticipated movie, "To Wong Foo, Thanks for the Catnip, Love Ned Dunkleberger" (don't panic, there is still time to invest in my Kickstarter campaign), and this GUY, we'll call him Guy, comes up to me and says "HEY! You're Ned Dunkleberger! I hate your stoopid column [he even spelled it out for me] and your dumb cats." The whole place goes silent like when the black hatted stranger saunters into the saloon in an old Western. Even the Billy Joel on the stereo abruptly stopped.

Now, my Mama always told me, "Ned, if you can't say something nice, it's the humidity," and she was right, it was one of those stinking Baltimore August afternoons that feel and look and smell like you are living in a gym sock in a gym bag in a gymnasium. It was one of those days that makes you want to log out of the Interweb, go off the grid and just hang out at some sugar shack. I was in no mood to be nice to this fellow.

Realizing he was barking up the wrong tree, and possibly parking on the wrong side of the road, I threw him a crooked curveball and said, "Yes. I am Ned Dunkleberger. Would you like to invest in my

movie?" Now he realized that I marched to the beat of a horse of a different color, and though this movie may be the best laid plan since sliced bread I didn't think this fool and his money would soon change horses in the middle of a stream. (You can expect this kind of crackling writing when you see my movie; did I mention the Kickstarter campaign?)

Nonetheless, he pulled up a chair and said "Go on," and the people started talking and the Billy Joel started playing and the barista started foaming cappuccinos. And I said, "Here's the deal. This movie won't cost you an arm and a leg to stand on, and it will take a stitch in time – but you know good things come to those who wear rose colored glasses, right?"

He nodded sagely and thymely, and I figured I had my seed funding in the feed bag, and that we were dancing down a yellow brick road paved with good intentions. But I also knew the journey of a thousand miles starts by putting the cart before the horse. So I said, "Great! A million dollars will get you a producer credit," and he said, "Whoa Neddie, wait just a cotton picking minute. I meant I might invest in buying a ticket to your movie, depending on the Rotten Tomatoes score."

Well, that's very different. I had forgotten a simple truth: Don't court your chickens and the world will beat a path to your door.

And don't forget to floss a gift horse in the mouth.

Ned



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Community Calendar

Mt. Washington Community T'ai Chi Class

Wednesday mornings: 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Springwell Senior Residence, 2211 W. Rodgers Ave. Appropriate for all levels. Taught by Master Greg Hatza. Cost is \$70 per month. Visitors are welcome to observe or participate in one class. For more information contact Linda at 410-664-1554 or lindalitofsky@comcast.net.

Mt. Washington Community Yoga Class

Friday mornings: 8:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

St. Andrew's Elderslie Church on Pimlico Rd. at Ken Oak. Appropriate for most levels (not a gentle, seniors, or therapeutic class). Cost is \$8 (cash or check). For more information, contact Mira at 410-370-6764 or wellspringhealingarts@gmail.com.

September 11 and October 9

Ivy Bookshop Benefit for Mt. Washington School

Shop at the Ivy Bookshop on the second Wednesday of every month, mention The Mount Washington School at the cash register, and 15% of your purchase will be donated to the Mount Washington School. The Ivy is located at 6080 Falls Road.

September 9

Clayworks Community Meeting

5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Clayworks Classroom Building. Students, supporters, ceramic artists and enthusiasts and Clayworks' community members are invited to a community meeting. Program directors will give an overview of the past year and report on news and changes that have happened. You'll also hear from Board President, Gwen Davidson, and Interim Executive Director, Paul Derstine.

September 12

Sujata Massey, author of "The Sleeping Dictionary," at The Ivy Bookshop

7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Baltimore's own Sujata Massey, author of the award-winning Rei Shimura series, discusses her new novel, a love story set during the political and cultural upheaval of late Raj India.

September 28

Clayworks "Clay Ball 2013"

6:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

At the B&O Railroad Museum. Silent and live auctions, live music and a seated buffet by Atlantic Catering, followed by dessert and coffee. Visit <http://www.baltimoreclayworks.org>

October 6

Northwest Community Energy Expo

1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

At the Myerberg Center, 3101 Fallstaff Rd. Comprehensive Housing Assistance Inc. (CHAI) and The Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore will host this event to highlight the available resources for energy efficiency opportunities for both residential and non-profit organizations, as well as the launch of a new residential CHAI loan program.

October 8

Mount Washington Improvement Association open Board meeting

7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

At Springwell Senior Living, 2211 W. Rogers Ave. All community members are welcome.

October 27

Mount Washington Village Fall Block Party

11:00 am – 6:00 pm

Live music, fashion show, food, wine, beer, kids' activities, vendors, dunking booth. Proceeds benefit the Mount Washington School.