Clayworks partners with Baltimore City Public Schools in training disabled youth

By CYNDI WISH
cyndi.wish@baltimoreclayworks.org

The Baltimore Clayworks Community Arts program is in an exciting, innovative partnership with the Office of Transition Services within Baltimore City Public Schools. This inaugural program serves youth with disabilities, primarily youth on the autism spectrum between ages 16 and 21.

Clayworks is providing job training by teaching how to hand-build clay, maintain a ceramics studio, set up exhibits of work, and talk to potential customers. Students develop fine motor skills, and engage in dialog about creativity and the creative process.

The students also develop awareness about how these skills will transfer to any number of job environments. The class tracks the Baltimore City Public Schools calendar, meeting at Clayworks three times a week for two-and-a-half hours.

Students come with their teacher and a paraprofessional. Clayworks’ resident artist Wesley Brown and community arts coordinator Ana Maria Economou teach the course.

Nicole Fall, the community arts manager, is working on assessment and evaluation of the students and the program. All three staffers are working to formalize the curriculum based on the results of the first year. Internships are being developed for the last third of the program.

“Clay can be a bit frustrating at first; however, each student has found their way to connect with the material, and they all are proud of and excited to share their work,” said Economou. “All the students have gained a confidence and independence within the ceramic studio, built a foundational understanding of the material, and are really using it to communicate who they are and what they love.”

The students will have an exhibit of their work in the Clayworks Community Gallery in January. An opening reception for that and concurrent artists’ exhibitions will be held on January 12 from 6 to 8 p.m.

The exhibitions and reception are free and open to the public. Come meet the artists!

Clayworks’ recent receipt of the Baltimore Children and Youth Fund grant will enable the program to continue through next year. Please contact Nicole Fall, nicole.fall@baltimoreclayworks.org, for further information.
The newsletter of the Mount Washington Improvement Association is distributed six times a year to all residents of Mount Washington and includes information on the news, people, activities, and businesses of the neighborhood, as well as the actions of the Association’s Board of Directors. The newsletter can be contacted at news@mwia.org with story ideas, calendar listings, volunteering interest, and other inquiries. Advertising in the newsletter generates revenue that is used to support the MWIA and community; interested advertisers should contact advertising@mwia.org for information on rates and publication.

— Chris Mincher
Editor
School Spotlight

By EILEEN MADDEN D’ANDREA
eileendandrea@comcast.net
President, Mount Washington School
Parent-Teacher Organization

It feels like we just welcomed the incoming Class of 2031 to kindergarten at Sneak A Peak in August, yet here we are with the new year right around the corner. It has been a busy fall for the families, students, and staff at the Mount Washington School.

Principal Mark LaLonde now steers the K-8 ship. He served as the school’s principal in residence during the 2017-18 school year and took over from outgoing principal Ashley Cook and interim principal Carolyn Cole after an intensive search process by the Baltimore City Public Schools.

Also joining the administrative team has been Upper Building Assistant Principal Michael Johnson and Lower Building Assistant Principal Bethany Jacobs. The new team is dedicated to adopting respectful communications schoolwide to reduce conflict (called “restorative practices”).

As a Baltimore City Public Schools “intensive learning site,” the School ensures that all students are provided with opportunities for social-emotional development. The team is committed to develop an International Baccalaureate “Middle Years” program so middle-school students engage in rigorous studies in preparation for high school.

Through the fall, the team has worked to build a positive school climate in which everyone feels valued. As part of this effort and in response to parents, Mr. LaLonde signed a contract on December 1 with Baltimore Playworks.

Playworks provides an onsite recess coach and resources to help schools create healthy playground environments that all kids can participate in. We are looking forward to lots of new games and activities for our kids next semester as this program gets going.

Funds for the project were provided by the Mount Washington School Parent-Teacher Organization. The PTO ran its annual “Phonathon” on November 7 and 8.

The Phonathon is the second-largest fundraiser for the school; last year’s event generated $14,000. The final sum for this year’s Phonathon is not yet tallied, but, as of early December — and thanks to the incredible generosity of families and neighbors here in Mount Washington — we have reached $22,000.

Every dollar we earn goes to support the approximately 630 children who attend the school, especially in the areas of student enrichment – music, art, sports, field trips, library, recess, administrative needs, and more. Last year, the Organization requested two grants from the MWIA to support two needs.

The first grant was to fund supplemental playground equipment. The MWIA provided $5,000 to enable the Organization to purchase a permanent pit for “ga-ga” — a game that combines dodging, striking, running, and jumping, with the objective of being the last person standing — in the Upper Building playground on Sulgrave Avenue.

The amazing octagonal pit is now available for any kids in the neighborhood to play in. A bench is being purchased with a flip-up lid to hold a supply of ga-ga balls, and the instructions will be nailed to the bench for kids who want to use the park on a weekend.

The second grant was to improve school safety in the Lower Building. A $10,000 grant from the MWIA will enable
Old Man Winter is here. We know that he can deliver cold wind and snow, as well as steady daytime rain that freezes into black ice overnight.

At some point, temperatures will hang out for days in the teens, or drop for a day or two to single digits, stressing our homes to their thermal limits. But no need to shiver. We just put on the gloves. Homeowners have a to-do list to tackle at the start of the season:

- Shut off the hose bibs from inside, and open bibs outside to drain. Insulate any water pipes that might freeze.
- Complete a professional boiler or furnace tune-up with a chimney check.
- Inspect and repair loose shingles, gutters, and rainwater downspouts (verify that downspouts drain well away from the house).
- Mark the edge of driveways and walks for easy shoveling or plowing when snow-covered, and conveniently store snow tools and ice melt.
- Jacket the fig tree. Spread chopped leaves or natural mulch over garden patches to build the soil during the winter and warm it for an early spring start.

But even these steps can’t prevent one of winter’s most serious home hazards: ice dams.

Ice dams can be both enchanting and ominous. Ice dams can build up size and weight until they come crashing down.

The simplest ice dams are icicles forming downward from the downspouts. Sometimes icicles grow into awkward crystalline pile-ups above the gutter.

Gutters, fascia, and shingles can be damaged. Interior ceilings and walls below can be water damaged.

If an ice dam forms above an entry door, it is safest to block use of that threatened doorway until the ice dam is removed by a professional or has completely melted in warmer temperatures. Be very clear in blocking anyone from approaching a threatened door or porch.

You are paying for the energy to build these damaging and dangerous ice flows. Ice dams are spawned by poor or ineffective attic insulation.

A portion of the heat you pay for in your BGE bill is escaping through the attic floor and melting snow on the roof. This snowmelt refreezes when it reaches the cold roof edge and gutter.

Check your frost- or snow covered-roof for melting patterns. Often the fastest-melting and driest shingles are wasting the most energy. Well air-sealed and insulated attics maintain frost and snow longer.

Your attic floor might look well-insulated to you. But does the insulation extend fully over the outside walls below? Is the attic floor air-sealed around chimneys, pipes, light fixtures, and wires, so warm air does not rise up into the attic?

The attic access hatch may also be a big thermal drain. An energy auditor can tell you.

If you suspect you have some form of ice dam, do not attempt to take it down yourself. Not even smaller icicles.

Call your roofer or gutter service to perform this dangerous task. Then get a comprehensive home energy audit through the BGS Smart Energy program (https://bgesmartenergy.com).

Ask your neighbors what companies they have used for energy audit and retrofit work. BGE will contribute a significant rebate for the energy audit and the energy saving improvements. Not only will you save money on your energy bill and improve your family’s comfort, you will also reduce CO2 escaping into our atmosphere. Every little bit helps.

Old Man Winter doesn’t have to win. We can keep him in his place, and maybe even enjoy him by staying safe and warm. Sister Spring is coming.

Frank Lee is an advisor with City of Baltimore’s Office of Sustainable Energy.
**Dispelling a Diabetes Myth**

By RYAN S. MILLER
rmiller@peds.umaryland.edu

It’s a myth that only overweight people can develop diabetes. Fact is, each year, nearly 24,000 Americans under 20 years of age are diagnosed with diabetes mellitus.

Of those, most are in the normal range for weight. Most children and adolescents diagnosed with diabetes have type 1 diabetes, which is an autoimmune disease that results in the pancreas not being able to produce enough insulin.

The cause of type 1 diabetes is not related to poor diet or inactivity. Anyone can develop type 1 diabetes, regardless of family history, and the symptoms can sometimes make it hard to identify. If your child develops extreme thirst, or a sudden increase in thirst and urination, particularly with weight loss, fatigue, and nausea, see your doctor right away.

While there is nothing anyone can do to prevent type 1 diabetes, it can successfully be treated with insulin. New technologies such as continuous glucose monitors and insulin pumps are giving us great options to enable kids to keep their blood glucose levels in a safe range and enjoy all of their usual activities.

Ryan S. Miller, MD, is a pediatric endocrinologist at the Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital. To learn more about the Hospital’s multidisciplinary diabetes services, visit mwph.org/programs/diabetes-clinic.
Growing up in the 70s, I lived in a 1960s rancher in Norfolk, Virginia (so no basement). The dining room was only used a few times a year, for special occasions and holidays.

We kids were discouraged from using the living room, as that was for adults. Even that was only used when we had company.

With three kids in the house, there was usually some activity going on in the kitchen, which was small by today’s standards. Our kitchen was next to our family room, where the main television was, so, while cooking, we could listen to but not watch it. We lived in our family room, which had a wood fireplace, and built a fire many nights in the winter.

Today, however, we all use our homes differently. How we sell homes is different, too. In order to meet the demands of today’s buyers, it is important to know what these differences are.

The overall size of homes has increased 1,000 square feet from the 1970s even as the size of the household has decreased. In older homes, all the living was in one room; there wasn’t a living room and family room. Today, we have, instead of traditional living rooms, family rooms or great rooms flowing from the kitchen.

The kitchen is the center of the house and tends to be oversized and sophisticated. People care about counter materials (granite, quartz, concrete), appliance finishes (brushed nickel), and even light fixtures and cabinet knobs.

Deciding on a type of stove, refrigerator, backsplash tiles, and flooring can be stressful as there are so many to choose from. Many kitchens now have a breakfast bar so we can eat more informally. Most folks now have a small television in the kitchen.

Walls have come down and an open concept is really what today’s buyers are looking for. The first thing to go is the dining room wall that separates it from the kitchen. You will especially see that in townhomes to open up the entire area.

Gone are the days of a tiny kitchen stuck in the rear of the house with any old stove and refrigerator. Renovations often include expanding the space, stealing square footage from surrounding rooms.

It’s not uncommon for people to make the living room closer to the kitchen by flipping it with their dining room. Many brand new homes have space for a table close to the kitchen rather than a separate dining room.

I’ve known families that set their dining rooms up as a central office with a computer for each person. This way parents can keep an eye on what their younger kids are doing online and oversee homework.

Typically, today’s teenagers have their electronics in their bedrooms. Good luck monitoring their viewing; kids are always a few steps ahead of us parents and can figure out a way to watch what they want when they want. With cable television, internet, and smart phones being standard, it’s a wonder anyone leaves their homes anymore!

New built homes tend to have small bedrooms except for the master, which are generally twice or three times the size of the other bedrooms. In older homes, it wasn’t uncommon for the master bedroom to not even have its own master bath. Good luck selling these days with no master bath; sellers will often carve out a master bath by sacrificing a bedroom.

Today it’s not unusual to see master bedrooms with oversized luxurious master baths and walk-in closets. Showers can now be the size of my old dorm room, and have two shower heads, a bench, and rainforest effects.

Older homes had fewer and smaller functional baths and larger bedrooms with tiny closets. We are all too familiar with our Mount Washington homes having miniscule closets.

Wardrobes were fashionable in the day, but now we want walk-in closets everywhere. There are now entire industries just for organizing closets!

Many people are opting for a gas fireplace instead of a wood-burning one. You can convert your wood fireplace to gas easily. With the press of a button, you can have ambiance and warmth, all without having to gather sticks, keep firewood, and smoke up the house.

Central air conditioning was only in around 50 percent of homes in the 1980s, but that number has risen to 93 percent for new builds. Today we are cognizant of being energy efficient, so we have energy-saving appliances, lots of insulation, tankless water heaters, and triple pane windows.

But if you don’t have the money to make all of these upgrades, keep your focus on what’s most in vogue: contemporary larger kitchens, family/great rooms, generous master bedrooms, and multiple luxurious baths — even at the expense of losing dining and living rooms. When contemplating renovations to your home, keep these trends in mind.
I’m thrilled to be the new MWIA area director. While I’m new to the position, I am not new to the MWIA nor the neighborhood. I was an area captain when I joined the MWIA Board the first time more than 20 years ago. (I live in Area 1, which is west of Pimlico Road.)

Area captains are a crucial link between residents and the Board, making sure that information travels both ways. If you have questions about things happening in the neighborhood, contact your area captain.

If you have a concern about something happening on your block, let your area captain know. If you’re interested in hosting a block party, your area captain can direct you to information about MWIA grants.

Except for Jere Morrel and Lu Pierson — who is returning to the Board after a long absence — this year’s area captains are all new to the position. And I can say that they are an enthusiastic bunch.

We already have plans for a welcome packet for new neighbors. Read about your area captain below, and say “hi” when you see him or her delivering flyers about important happenings.

**Area Director - Deb Kleiner**, debkleiner1@comcast.net

For more than 20 years, my family and I have lived here in a 100-year-old home affectionately known as a perpetual construction site. I became an area captain after living in the neighborhood for less than six months and served as newsletter editor and vice president during my first stint on the Board. I have also helped to organize the Mount Washington Gardening Group and the Mt. Washington Book Club.

**Area 1 - Ellie Mitchell**, elliemitchell.org

Ellie is a Baltimore native, and she and her husband George moved to Mount Washington in 2005. They have a 12-year-old son and a 10-year-old daughter who attends the Mount Washington School.

Ellie was co-chair of the MWS Family Council for two years and has served on several non-profit boards. Ellie’s day job is running a statewide organization dedicated to increasing the quantity and quality of afterschool and summer opportunities for young people. Ellie looks forward to getting to know her neighbors better, welcoming new people to the neighborhood, and serving as a conduit to the Board for Area 1.

**Area 2 - Jere Morrel**, jere.morrel@gmail.com

Jere is a born-and-bred Baltimorean, and a Mount Washington resident for the past 15 years. He has served on the MWIA for the majority of that time.

**Area 3 - Jenny Rose**, jennyrose71@hotmail.com

Jenny is a relative newcomer, having moved to the United States from England three years ago. She is married to Joshua Wies, who grew up here, and has three children (Louie, Ava, and Reuben) attending Baltimore City public schools.

Jenny works as an art conservator but spends as much time battling with house and garden maintenance. She loves Mount Washington for its obvious beauty, strong community, curb alerts, and sidewalks that are mostly passable for dog walking.

**Area 4 - Do you live in Area 4?**

Do you want to help the neighborhood, meet neighbors, or learn about policies that will impact us? Please contact me at 443-794-51762 or debkleiner1@comcast.net if you’re interested in serving as area captain.

**Area 5 - Lu Pierson**, lu.pierson@verizon.net

Lu moved to Mount Washington in 1984. She is re-joining the board after a hiatus of several years. Past jobs with MWIA include area captain, treasurer, and president.

**Area 6 - Alex Bragason**, alexbragason@gmail.com

Alex and Robin moved to Mount Washington in November 2015. They live in Mount Washington with their 10-year-old dog, Dugan, a mix of German Shepherd and Belgian Malinois, and Kitty, their cat.

They looked at houses for six months, and right away loved the neighborhood and views from inside their home. Alex enjoys all the wildlife Mount Washington has to offer from deer, foxes, squirrels, and a wide variety of birds during the spring and summer. He enjoys traveling, listening to audio books, and spending time with his family.

**Area 7 - Bill Regenold**, vtregenold@gmail.com

Bill and his wife, Stephanie, have lived in Mount Washington for 27 years — five years in an apartment on Pimlico Road and 22 years in an ancient Victorian on Dixon Hill. Their three children, the youngest of whom just turned 20, all attended the Mount Washington School.

Bill is a bike commuter to downtown and a compulsive gardener. He considers himself very fortunate to live in this community.
### MWIA Committee Reports

**Updates from the MWIA Committees:** Architecture Review; Communications; Finance; Governance; Nominating; Parks, Trails, and Landscaping; Pimlico; Safety and Crime; Schools; Social; Transportation and Infrastructure; and Zoning and Land Use

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**Pimlico** [chair: Jere Morrel]

The Committee, along with the rest of Baltimore, anxiously awaits the outcome of the Pimlico Race Course Phase 2 study. This study should be released in the next few months and hopefully give the City and its residents some insight into the future of “Old Hilltop.”

In the meantime, Lifebridge Health reached out to the MWIA to share its development plans for the renovation and expansion around the Sinai Hospital footprint. Most residents are aware that several years ago Lifebridge Health purchased a 20.9-acre lot (currently a surface parking lot) from the Maryland Jockey Club, the owners of the Pimlico Race Track.

This lot is bordered by Pimlico Road, Northern Parkway, Preakness Way, and W Belvedere Avenue, and is the current location of the hospital’s overflow staff parking. Lifebridge Health is creating a long-term master plan for Sinai Hospital, including this land. The ultimate goal is to create an interconnected campus that reaches from Pimlico Road to the existing campus, adding new facilities and parking to support the hospital, modernizing some existing structures, and providing green space that links Cylburn to the east with a new, revitalized Pimlico to the west.

The completed project could add 750,000 square feet of new facilities to the campus. Some of the facilities on the expanded campus could include an ambulatory care facility, a center for abused children (the “Center of Hope”), an innovation hub, a research facility, and a parking structure.

The expansion will also include updates to Sinai Hospital. Some older structures will undergo renovations, and some will be demolished to allow for additional parking and greenspace on the existing campus.

The project is anticipated to be designated as or similar to a planned urban development that will proceed through the City’s zoning process. In early spring, new zoning proposals will be submitted to the City.

The current schedule is for groundbreaking of an ambulatory care center, the Center for Hope, and a new parking structure as soon as March 2020 and the buildings to open by early 2022. The MWIA appreciated the initial review of LifeBridge Health’s plans, as they reflect a tremendous investment and commitment to stay in this community.

**Transportation and Infrastructure** [chair: Julie Tong]

Traffic calming measures. Based on requests from multiple residents, the Committee has requested a four-way stop at the intersection of Kelly Avenue, Cross Country Boulevard, and Bonnie View Drive. The Committee is also renewing its request to install a brief left-turn signal for cars turning left from Kelly Avenue onto Greenspring Road. This request was previously submitted and denied in 2017.

The Committee is in the process of making a formal request to the Department of Transportation to install speed cameras on Kelly Avenue. The Committee will receive further input from residents regarding a proposed location and forward it to the Department. Lastly, the Committee has asked the Department to consider all available traffic-calming measures for the intersection of W. Rogers Avenue and Greenspring Road.

**Parked Buses on Kelly Avenue.** On November 13, members of the Committee and the Safety and Crime Committee met with The Mount Washington School principal, Mark LaLonde, and several City Public Schools officials to discuss the community’s concerns about the illegally parked school buses on Kelly Avenue that block an entire lane of traffic. After a thorough discussion, it was decided that, as a temporary solution, the buses will reduce the time for pickup on Kelly Avenue by waiting on Cross Country Boulevard until 3:10 p.m., at which time they will arrive to pick up students in a staggered manner. The buses will use flags and lights to stop traffic in both directions.

**Social** [chair: Ellen Spokes]

The Social Committee is plotting and planning ways for Mount Washington residents to come together for fun and the enjoyment of simply getting to know one another -- imagine that!

In the works are plans for an inaugural Mount Washington Progressive Dinner on Sunday, February 17. A progressive dinner is a fun way to eat and travel through the community meeting new neighbors.

Each course is served at a different home. Participants are assigned a route -- one house for appetizers, a different house for the entree, and a third house for dessert.

One night, three locations! Watch for emails in early January with more information!

More ideas are percolating — including a neighborhood picnic in June — and there is still plenty of room on the Committee for people who play well with others and enjoy meeting their neighbors.

Interested? Contact Ellen Spokes at elinorspokes@gmail.com.

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Any member of the MWIA can join a committee. For a full list of committees and subcommittees, please visit mwia.org.
MT WASHINGTON
1808 SULGRAVE AVE
$500,000

MT WASHINGTON
2232 CREST ROAD
$360,000

MT WASHINGTON
2212 CREST ROAD
$389,000

CHATHAM
12 TAMWORTH RD
$469,000

TUSCANY/CANTERBURY
3943 CANTERBURY RD
$524,900

MT WASHINGTON
2402 EVERTON ROAD
$335,000

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installation of needed lock upgrades to all the doors as well as help fund new safety shades for the lower floor windows to aid in security. These safety improvements could not have been made without cutting into the student enrichment funds the Organization’s money supports.

Winter and spring will have many events on the calendar. Our Spaghetti Dinner and Talent Show, generously sponsored by Ethel’s Creole Kitchen, will take place at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute on Friday, February 1.

Our Winter Daughter Dance will be held in March, and a game night for all our students will be thrown into the mix at some point. And stay tuned for information about our “party with a purpose” – the “Taste of Mount Washington,” which will take place on the evening of Saturday, May 4.

Last year’s event included food from local eateries, an open bar, auctions, and dancing, and sold out. We hope to have the same success again this year and to see all our neighbors come enjoy this wonderful evening. Information about tickets will be available on the community listserv in the new year as well as on the school website.

As always, we thank all our neighbors and families here in Mount Washington, whose support of our local community school is what makes it succeed. On behalf of the Organization and all our Mount Washington Tigers, we wish everyone a happy new year.
Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9
Sara Bliss in Conversation with Aaron Maybin
7-8:30 p.m.
The Ivy Bookshop, 6080 Falls Road
Bestselling author Sara Bliss is joined in conversation by a native of Charm City, Aaron Maybin, who went from playing in the National Football League (though unfortunately he never played for the Ravens) to being an artist, author, teacher, and community activist in his hometown.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15
Gautam Raghavan, “West Wingers”
7-8:30 p.m.
The Ivy Bookshop, 6080 Falls Road
President Obama’s associate director of public engagement discusses the behind-the-scenes history of the Obama Administration and how a president’s staff can change the nation.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24
History Night
6 p.m.
Mount Washington School, Upper Building, 1801 Sulgrave Avenue
Students hone their research skills and create exhibits, websites, documentaries, and performances for a common historical theme.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12
MWIA Board Meeting
7:30 p.m.
Mount Washington School, Lower Building auditorium, 5800 Smith Avenue
All community members are welcome to attend the meeting of the MWIA Board to hear updates from committees, receive information from presenters, and discuss neighborhood support for local projects.

Recurring Events

Parent-Teacher Organization Open Meeting
Tuesdays, January 8 & February 12
6-7:30 p.m.
Mount Washington School, Lower Building library, 5800 Smith Avenue
Meeting of the Mount Washington School Parent-Teacher Organization to encourage community and volunteerism, organize fundraising, and distribute money to benefit students.

School Tour for New Families
Thursdays, January 10 & February 14
8:45-9:45 a.m.
Mount Washington School, Upper Building library, 1801 Sulgrave Avenue
Tours are held for families interested in the Mount Washington School. Call 443-642-2900 to reserve a spot.

School Family Council Meeting
Wednesdays, January 16 & February 20
6-7:30 p.m.
The Mount Washington School, Upper Building library, 1801 Sulgrave Avenue
The Mount Washington School Family Council meets to work on improving student achievement, ensuring quality programs, enriching family and community engagement, and helping the school achieve its greatest potential.

Wellspring Yoga
Fridays, 8:45-10 a.m.
Elderslie-St. Andrew’s Church, 5601 Pimlico Road, $8- $10
Appropriate for most levels (not a gentle, seniors, or therapeutic class). Bring a yoga mat if you have one (some are available to borrow) and a water bottle. Pay with cash or check. For more information, contact Mira at 410-370-6764 or wellspringhealingarts@gmail.com.

Luckman Park Cleanup
January 5 & 20, February 2 & 17
10 a.m.—12 p.m.
Luckman Park, 2809 Glen Avenue
Join the Friends of Luckman Park on the first Saturday and third Sunday of every month -- weather permitting -- for trash pickup, leaf raking, gardening, and other general park cleaning. Come for all or part; RSVP (to luckman.park@gmail.com) helpful but not necessary.
Hello neighbors and happy new year! I trust your new year is off to a wonderful start as it is for the Mount Washington Improvement Association.

We have renewed energy and optimism as we enter this wonderful new year! The MWIA and its Board of Directors continue to follow up on several new initiatives from the fall, including coordinating the much-needed street resurfacing of Kelly Avenue and South Road in concert with the Jones Falls Trail completion; installation of new stop signs at heavily travelled corridors in the neighborhood to slow traffic down and ultimately make them safer for pedestrian and biking use; and seeking additional speed cameras for streets adjacent to our community school.

In addition to the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee work, the Board is very active in seeing the Jones Falls Trail through to completion. The communitywide meeting held in November at Springwell Senior Living provided an up-to-date review of the project with the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks and Department of Transportation, Councilman Schleifer, and representatives of Del. Rosenberg. As we heard, most of the trail is scheduled to be completed by the summer, inclusive of the new trail bridge over Northern Parkway near Greenspring Avenue.

The MWIA is also planning several new social events for 2019 as a way to facilitate opportunities to meet new neighbors and exchange stories across the neighborhood. Look for future notices for a progressive dinner party, an “Evening Under the Stars” — an outdoor movie night for the whole family — and the renewal of MWIA’s annual neighborhood picnic in the summertime.

Details of these events will follow as they are finalized in January; keep an eye out as we will share this information through your area captains and other postings.

Although wintertime is notably a slower time of year, the MWIA remains very active in reviewing and monitoring major projects or developments adjacent to our neighborhood. The future of the redevelopment or disposition of Pimlico Race Track will be revealed in the Maryland Stadium Authority’s Phase 2 Study.

In addition, the LifeBridge Health system (which includes Sinai Hospital) has shared with us its initial master plan, which reflects a multi-building development (six new structures built in two phases) on what is currently an overflow parking area adjacent to the Pimlico Race Track (on the east side of Pimlico Road). The proposed development will be under design throughout 2019, with the start of construction slated for the first quarter of 2020. Also, we remain aware of the progress of the Park Heights redevelopment program as they evaluate proposals for the area.

I hope these minor updates pique your interest in the goings and comings within the neighborhood. The MWIA’s work is about the preservation and betterment of our neighborhood for all our families.

Please consider joining the Association to support this mission and make us a stronger voice in preserving the qualities that are unique to Mount Washington. Happy new year one and all! I hope to see you around the neighborhood.

John W. Mack
President@mwia.org; mwiapresident@gmail.com