



MOUNT WASHINGTON NEWSLETTER

MOUNT WASHINGTON IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

September 2005

Message from the President

The summer is winding down in Mt. Washington. Students have returned to school, the days are shorter, and so the seasons turn, as always. And yet, things are clearly not as they always were. The pictures of destruction in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast remind us that we have a great deal to be thankful for, and a great debt to repay for that good fortune. Our community, with its natural beauty and the incredible talent and energy of its residents, has been very quick to organize around important issues in the past. Many of us are doubtless making important contributions individually to support the victims of this natural disaster. I suspect that many of us have thought more than once about our own families and friends and put ourselves, if only for an instant, in the shoes of those who now face months and years of displacement from their own communities.

Al Sommer, a Mt. Washington resident who just stepped down as Dean of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (and who, as a disclaimer, was thus my boss until recently) has for more than 15 years called attention to the importance of public health and the infrastructure that supports it. In its broadest sense, public health means the health of the community itself, not simply the individuals within the community. The work to reline and clean our water system, the sewer and rainwater catchment repair work, the preservation of green space all of these are not just amenities, they actually represent the infrastructure that maintains the health of Mt. Wash-

ington. And the people who work to keep it running are every bit as vital to our collective health as physicians and nurses are to our individual health.

It is perhaps appropriate on this Labor Day, then, to pay tribute to those who, on our behalf, keep the water clean and safe, who keep our waste from piling up around us, and who work hard to keep our community healthy. Though we may be annoyed by temporary pipes and the occasional pothole, it is good to remember that these inconveniences are the necessary price for the remarkably good life we enjoy in Mt. Washington. And the men and women who do that work deserve, not our ire, but our gratitude and respect.

Clifford Mitchell

COME TO ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

Did you know that the Mt. Washington Improvement Association has regular open meetings? Every other month the Association meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM to discuss issues important to the community. The next open meeting will be at the Mt. Washington Elementary School on October 18. Principal Shepley will talk about what is happening in the school, and other issues will be discussed as well. It's the best way to stay up on current events around Mt. Washington, in addition to the community calendar at www.mwia.org!

Calendar

September

1 - October 9 Baltimore Clayworks' Family Matters in the main gallery national juried exhibition featuring thirty-eight functional and sculptural clay artists

19 Town Meeting to discuss the Strategic Neighborhood Action Plan (SNAP). This meeting will discuss progress and future plans affecting the five neighborhoods (Cheswolde, Falstaff, Mt. Washington, Glen, and Cross Country). Cross Country Elementary School, 6100 Cross Country Blvd, 7pm

20 MWIA board meeting, 7:30pm

23-25 Baltimore Book Festival, Mt. Vernon Place Parks. The mid-Atlantic's premier celebration of the literary arts features nationally known authors, poetry readings, cookbook and home and garden demonstrations, live music and more than 125 exhibitors and book sellers. 11am-7pm

25 Mt. Washington Village Wine, Cheese and Jazz Festival, Mt. Washington Village, 11am

October

1-2 The Fell's Point Fun Festival, musical acts on five stages, arts and crafts, International Bazaar with over 400 vendors, an eclectic food court, children's fun in Clown Town. 11am- 7pm

5 Mt. Washington Pediatrics Hospital: The Melvin & Gisel Mora Charity Golf Tournament, Bulle Rock, Havre de Grace. 410-578-2681, shotgun start at 9am

6 First Thursdays Outdoor Concert Series in West Mt. Vernon Park, The Bridge, Donegal X Press, and Smooth Kentucky will be taking the stage in for this free night of great music under Baltimore's Washington Monument, 5:30pm

8 St. John's Fall Flea Market on the parking lot. Vendors, Food, Refreshments. Spaces available (Greater of \$10 or 10% of sales), South Road, 410-367-7287 (Elizabeth) for more info. 9am-1pm

8 Irvine Nature Center Pumpkifest. Features scarecrow-stuffing, kid's crafts, nature programs, puppet shows, live music and food and bake tables. 410-484-2413. 10am-4pm

15 Baltimore Running Festival - Under Armour Marathon. World-class running event for entire family-marathon, 1/2 marathon, team relay, 5K and kids' run. M&T Bank Stadium. www.thebaltimoremarathon.com. 410-605-9381, 8am-4pm

15 Clayworks reception for opening of exhibition, "The Informed Surface: Contemporary Majolica. Baltimore Clayworks, 6pm

18 MWIA board meeting, 7:30pm Mount Washington Elementary School. Presentation by Dr. Shepley, principal

22 Luckman Park cleanup and planting. For more info, Barbara Halden 410-367-5654. 9-11am

30 Annual Mount Washington Halloween Party 2:00 pm at Elizabeth and Edward Grove's house - 5528 Rusk Ave. Games, treats, hayride. Call Elizabeth 410-664-0304 for more info and to rsvp with number of kids.

November

15 MWIA board meeting, 7:30pm

18 Champagne Jazz Event

Preview our national invitational holiday exhibition, Winterfest 2005, while enjoying live jazz music and hot holiday hors d'oeuvres, wine and cheese. 6-9pm

19 Baltimore's Thanksgiving Parade, Santa Claus receives his official holiday welcome as floats and bands fill the streets of downtown. The Parade steps off at Eutaw and Pratt streets, travels along Pratt Street, and disbands at Market Place and Pratt Street. 11am

Work Continues on City Water Lines

By now, everyone in Mt. Washington has noticed the temporary water distribution lines and steel plates (and occasional large puddles) snaking across the community. These are the most visible signs of the City's large project to clean and reline water mains in the area. As of the end of August, the water refurbishing project has moved from the Mt. Washington Village to the west side of Greenspring Avenue.

Tom Pompa, Baltimore City project manager, gives the following update, "The project is going well for the most part. The problems that we are encountering are not uncommon for this type of construction. The project is approximately 70% complete. We expect to have all of the cleaning and lining of the water mains completed by the end of this year. During the cold weather months the work will consist of new water main and new service line installations along with new fire hydrants. In the spring of 2006 all work including permanent restorations should be completed. The water that you see running is the result of the constant water sampling that is required on both the temporary piping and the newly rehabilitated water mains."

This sampling ensures that the water is safe. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the project, contact Esther Fleischmann (410-367-7377 or fleischm@umbc.edu) or Clifford Mitchell (cmitchel99@verizon.net).

New Beginning for an Old Playground

More changes are coming to the Mt. Washington Elementary School, which has received a Department of Parks and Recreation grant for a new playground structure. Slated to break ground this summer, the new play equipment will be located on the grassy lot adjacent to the teachers' parking lot on Sulgrave Avenue (on the same side as the school). Once the new playground is constructed, the old, wooden play structure across from the school will be removed, leaving a large asphalt lot. The fate of the lot is now under consideration, and the community has been engaged in a process to make the most of the space.

Along with contributing its own money for the project, The Mt. Washington School PTO has been awarded two grants one from the Baltimore Office of Promotion & the Arts Community Art grant and another from the Goldsmith Family Foundation. These grants will allow the PTO to work with Cinder Hypki, a professional community artist with extensive experience working with school children and neighborhood groups on community projects. Through a series of artistic workshops guided by the artist, the PTO will ask students, teachers, parents, and community members what they would like to see and do on the playground. By involving students and the broader community, the aim is to make the space uniquely Mt. Washington's. An additional benefit will be improved community open space.

The first event was held this past spring at the school's annual End of the Year Festival. Students enthusiastically created their own vision of the space with markers, crayons, felt, construction paper, chenille sticks, glue, tape, and modeling clay. Some of their creations were fantastical, while others were beautifully simple. Many exciting ideas came from the more than 100 students participating in the workshop. Another workshop was held in Luckman Park in July, in conjunction with the Friends of Luckman Park. It was a fun family event that generated many good ideas as well providing a time to socialize with and/or meet new neighbors and play on the playground.

This fall, Ms. Hypki, assisted by parent volunteers and Marlene Sandler, the school's art teacher and a Mt. Washington resident, will conduct classroom workshops, offering the students a variety of materials to express their visions. Students will likely paint, draw, or create 3-D sculptures of their vision of the space. Other possible techniques involve poster designs, writing assignments, and the design and administration of

a survey. Teachers and parents will also be given an opportunity in faculty and PTO meetings to share their thoughts and contribute ideas.

Your ideas are welcome as well. Please stop by the Mt. Washington School booth at the Wine and Jazz Festival Sunday September 25th in order to hear more about the project and to share your own ideas on the space. Or please feel free to call or email Becky Redett at 410-542-3999 or rredett@yahoo.com.

NEIGHBORHOOD BEST SELLER NOW AVAILABLE!

All Mt. Washington residents will want to own, *Mt. Washington: A Baltimore Suburb, a book of history revealed through pictures and narrative*. Written in 1980 by Mark Miller, the book has been out of print for many years. It is a neighborhood treasure, well written and full of archival photographs.

After numerous requests for the book, the publisher and author have agreed to a second printing, already in process. The book will cost approximately \$25-\$30, depending upon demand. If you are interested in purchasing a book, please contact Sara Fishman at 410-466-4270 or swfishman6@earthlink.net. Please leave your name, phone number, email address, and the number of copies you would like.

UPDATE:

Luckman Park & City Partnership

The Friends of Luckman Park and the MWIA recently met with officials from the City Department of Parks and Recreation to discuss a formal partnership agreement concerning Luckman Park. Maggie Kunz, Barbara Halden, and Cliff Mitchell met with representatives from the City, and while some issues were resolved, there was disagreement regarding the City's proposed language concerning indemnification against liability. Both the City and MWIA agree that the Park is an important local and regional asset, and the Strategic Neighborhood Action Plan singled it out as the only public park in northwest Baltimore. While a formal partnership agreement was not possible at this time, the MWIA and the City did agree to pursue some projects of mutual interest such as pursuing improvements to the Recreation Building.

Board of Directors

Directors

<i>President:</i> Clifford Mitchell	410-466-0529
<i>Vice President:</i> Mac Nachlas	410-542-8766
<i>Vice President:</i> Rebecca Bainum	410-664-7159
<i>Secretary:</i> Maggie Kunz	410-664-9466
<i>Treasurer:</i> 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
Eva Glasgow	410-542-4764
Chester Frazier	410-367-2932
Cindy Freeman	410-664-7774
Kirk Kolodner	410-367-3459
Maggie Kunz	410-664-9466
George Lewis	410-664-2760
Lu Pierson	410-664-0055
Ralph Raphael	410-664-4485
Salem Reiner	410-542-8766
Sally Staugitis	410-664-2212

Honorary Directors

Jan Franz	410-664-5254
John Mack	410-466-3824

Area Director

Aaron Meisner	410-664-0707
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Area Captains

1.	Missy Conway	410-542-2694
1.	Shea Lyda	410-664-6516
2.	Julie Salsbery	410-664-0054
2.	Liz Hopkins	410-542-0927
3.	Ira Kolman	410-664-5078
4.	Roberta Strickler	410-367-8666
5.	Trent Zivkovich	410-542-5147
6.	Eric Seaberg	410-466-1548
7.	Rebecca Redett	410-542-3999

Update from the Pimlico Committee

The Pimlico Committee has not met formally recently, but there have been some interesting news items.

Pimlico Community Development Authority

By law, the track is required make Racetrack Impact Funds available to the communities surrounding the Pimlico Race Track. The level is based on the number of racing days that occur during the race meets. The amount of money for fiscal 2006 is expected to be approximately \$468,000 for facilities and services within two miles of the track. These funds had been administered by the Racetrack Impact Committee, sponsored by the Northwest Baltimore Corporation (NWBC). Because NWBC no longer exists, a new entity was created by the General Assembly—the Pimlico Community Development Authority. Eleven members serving 3-year terms will be appointed by the Mayor. The MWIA, along with other surrounding neighborhoods, will work with the City to ensure our participation in the improvement efforts.

Magna Entertainment

The Baltimore Sun reported on September 7 that Magna planned to operate Pimlico for only 18 racing days next year. This announcement immediately raised the issue of slots again, and prompted predictable responses from all of the parties who have previously weighed in on the issue. While the Governor and Senate President Miller called for reconsideration of the slots issues, opponents suggested that Magna was using its leverage to force the issue of slots. Previously, the Toronto Globe and Mail had published an article covering Magna Entertainment's quarterly investors conference call, in which Magna management announced it would be selling off the less-desirable properties to focus on five core properties. One of the five was the Maryland Jockey Club, owner of Pimlico and Laurel.

Slots

Magna's announcement clearly raises the visibility of the slots issue in advance of the upcoming General Assembly session (January-April 2006), but nobody seems to have any idea what direction it will go. One argument is that Governor Ehrlich is not worried about losing his signature legislative initiative as it gives him an issue to use against the opposition in the 2006 election. Some contend that nothing controversial ever happens in the session prior to the election, but it seems likely that slots will again be an important issue both in the legislature, and in both the primary and general elections.



Photos from the MWIA July 4th Parade



Important Public Meeting on the Strategic Neighborhood Action Plan

On Monday, September 19, 2005 there will be a public meeting at 7:00 PM at the Cross Country Elementary School to discuss progress on the Strategic Neighborhood Action Plan (SNAP). SNAP is the planning process for the Mt. Washington, Cheswolde, Glen, Falstaff, and Cross Country communities, and addresses issues such as housing, public safety, traffic, education, recreation, and sanitation. Representatives of the communities and the City will be there to talk about what has happened so far, what is planned for the future, and to get feedback and ideas from you concerning the plan. You can download the plan from the city at: <http://www.baltimorecity.gov/government/planning/images/NWCPFsnapMarch05.pdf>. For details of the meeting, contact CHAI at (410) 466-1990 or visit www.chaibaltimore.org.

Newsletter Submissions

Have a story to share? Please send it to Jill Feinberg, the new Newsletter Editor, at jbfeinberg@comcast.net or call at 410-466-9225. Deadline for the next newsletter is October 29th. The MWIA newsletter is mailed to the homes of residents four times a year.

MWIA Membership Information

Membership in the Mt. Washington Improvement Association is open to residents of Mt. Washington. Annual dues are \$25. All members receive the newsletter, notices of important events in the community, and are entitled to vote in the annual meeting of the Association in June. If you would like to join, you can contact the membership coordinator by sending an email to membership@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.

Monday, September 26 **plastic/metal/glass***
Tuesday, September 27 paper

Monday, October 10 **Columbus Day**
Tuesday, October 11 paper
Monday, October 24 **plastic/metal/glass***
Tuesday, October 25 paper

Tuesday, November 8 paper
Monday, November 14 **plastic/metal/glass**
Tuesday, November 22 paper
Monday, November 28 **plastic/metal/glass**

Monday, December 13 **plastic/metal/glass**
Tuesday, December 14 paper
Monday, December 26 **Holiday**
Tuesday, December 27 paper

Mixed Paper:

Place paper in paper bags or cardboard boxes or tie bundles with string. Can include newspaper, magazines, phone books, ad mail, and cardboard.

*** Blue Bag:**

Rinse bottles and cans, and discard caps. Place in blue plastic bags. Can 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 e-mail DPW three working days before scheduled pick-up date.*

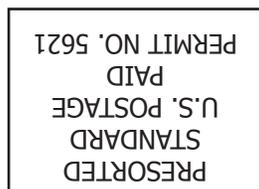
**To e-mail DPW:*

You may e-mail your request on the City’s 311 CitiStat Web page. Log on to <www.baltimorecity.gov>, click on “311 Services.” A box will ask you to select the type of service you want - select “bulk trash,” then a page will appear with “request this service” in blue hypertext; click it. At the prompt, you should type your street address and click “continue”. A new page will appear asking for a description of what you want picked up, where it is located (on the curb or in the alley). Then click “submit.” You will get an e-mail confirmation from DPW.

Reminders:

You may leave three items at your regular trash pick-up site. Bulk items include appliances, furniture, and up to four tires with the rims removed. Do not leave building materials such as sheet rock, siding, wood pieces, or roofing out for bulk pick-up.

Questions? Call 410-396-4515 for questions about solid waste; 410-396-4707 if you have concerns about illegal dumping.



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