

Springwell Proposed Expansion Approved

City zoning board OKs 164,000 sq. ft. addition

By DAVID CONN
news@mwia.org

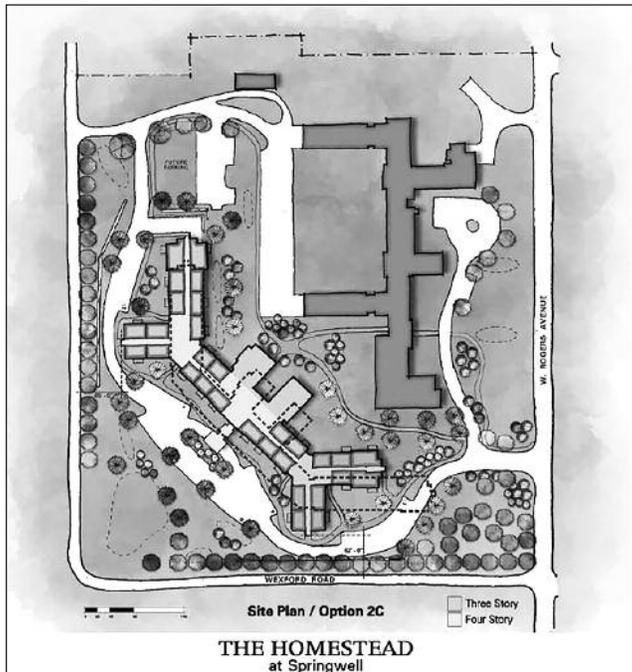
The Baltimore zoning board last month voted to approve a plan by the Springwell Senior Living facility in Mount Washington to add a 164,000 square foot building on its campus, to house 103 additional units.

The 3-1 vote by the Baltimore Board of Zoning & Municipal Appeals on June 3 came with the conditional support of the Mount Washington Improvement Association, which has worked to address concerns about traffic, safety and the visual impact of

the proposed building with the owners of Springwell, the former Wesley Home at 2211 West Rogers Avenue.

Springwell owners Age Wave Partners LLC said construction could begin as early as this fall and be completed in 2016. The \$20 million to \$25 million project would add 103 independent living units. The 145 units in the existing building will be reconfigured and include only assisted living and memory care. Together, the two buildings' proposed 248 units are less than the 253 senior care units for which the facility is licensed by

See Springwell, page 9



The proposed Springwell addition is shown at bottom left of the rendering. (Courtesy Age Wave Partners)

July Fourth Celebration In 15th Year

Volunteers Needed for Annual Parade

By ELIZABETH GROVE
elg.grove@gmail.com

This year we will celebrate the 15th Annual Spirit of Mount Washington Parade, a beloved tradition in our community, on Friday July 4 at Springwell Senior Living.

Dress in your most spirited outfit and bring your decorated wagons and bikes to win prizes while you march in the parade. Neighbors may start gathering to the beat of live music before 10:00 a.m. on the

See Parade, page 11



Robin Kroft and Elina Toole award Ellis Geisen an award at the 2013 Spirit parade. (Source: Colleen Geisen)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Bryce Butler

Before I introduce myself I want to thank my predecessor, Ira Kolman, for his extraordinary service these past four years as President of the MWIA.

During his two terms, the master plan for Northwest Park was finalized with construction set to begin later this year on the Jones Falls Trail and a new playground, due in no small part to funding negotiated by Ira with the five neighborhood presidents, who are responsible for allocation of the money raised from slot machines.

Luckman Park has been beautifully redesigned, with new playgrounds and landscaping, and is now open and in use by families from Mount Washington and many of the nearby neighborhoods. These projects culminated on Ira's watch, but were the result of countless hours and sometimes years of work put in by many of your Mount Washington neighbors who serve as volunteers on the MWIA.

Now a little about me. Before moving from Washington State to Baltimore in 2007, I served for three years as president of PFLAG-Seattle (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays). During that brief time, working in statewide coalition with many community and school groups, we managed to pass a Safe Schools Bill, to deal with bullying and harassment in the State of Washington's public schools. It remains one of the accomplishments of which I'm proudest.

After my wife and I moved to Mount Washington seven years ago, I quickly became involved with the MWIA, as a member of a group of neighbors in opposition to the proposed Jones Falls Trail route being promoted by the

MWIA. Through long, noisy and sometimes contentious negotiations, a better trail emerged, with its present route through Northwest Park, and with a boardwalk trail instead of asphalt through the hospital woods. Some opposition folks I worked with then are still opposed to the trail. Some of them have never forgiven me for joining with "the enemy" when I agreed to serve on the MWIA.

But what I learned in that rough and tumble exchange was that the MWIA was not "the enemy" or some secret cabal of elites out to control Mount Washington. Instead it is an organization of neighbors, as passionate as I am about Mount Washington, volunteering, putting in an incredible number of hours to set up and attend innumerable committee meetings, as well as meetings with city officials, all for the betterment of this amazing, vital and beautiful community. I'm proud to be part of such an organization. And honored, and not a little daunted, to be its president.

This organization is only as strong as its members. When our membership numbers increase, so does the weight of our representation with our city officials. I hope you will join us in this endeavor to make Mount Washington an even better place to live for all of us.

Bryce Butler
mwiapresident@gmail.com

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Projects From Slots Funding Set To Begin

By MAC NACHLAS
macnac@gmail.com

It has been a long road, but the promised money from legalization of slots gambling is finally finding its way to our neighborhood.

The City Department of Parks, with input from the Mount Washington Improvement Association (MWIA), is moving forward with the installation of a playground and tot-lot at Northwest Park. The Department of Transportation will soon be installing new lights and signs for the JFX underpass trail between the

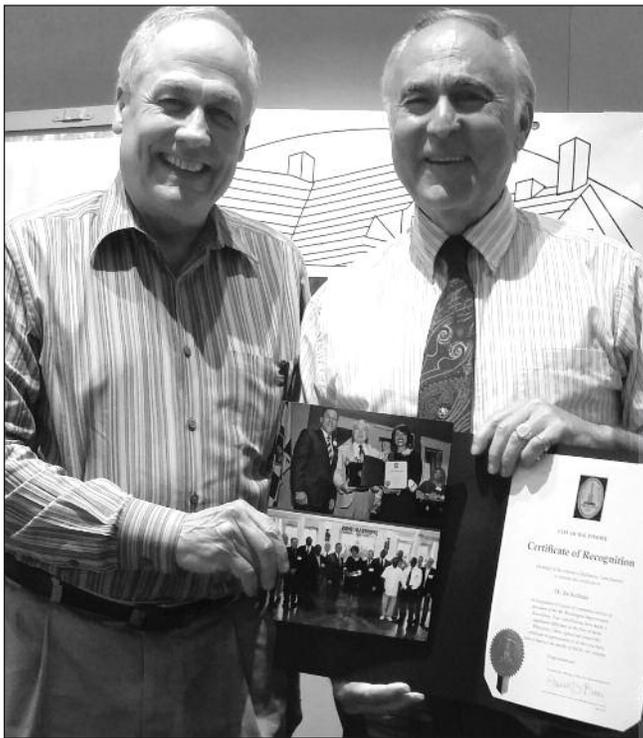
Village and Mt. Washington Mill, and will soon begin an engineering study aimed at bringing the path up to code.

Thanks in part to legislation requested by MWIA and sponsored by Del. Sandy Rosenberg, the City is now required to report regularly on the projects that are funded by slots revenue. Prompted in part by this new requirement for transparency, the City has entered into an agreement with Healthy Neighborhoods Inc. to administer some of the funds as local grants. This will allow community organizations to apply for and benefit from slots funding directly, without

having to rely on City agencies. We expect to have a grant application process in place by the fall, at which time we will advise the community of how grants can be requested.

Our adjacent “SNAP” neighborhoods are seeing improvements as well. Among other projects, we’ll soon see a new parking lot at the Reisterstown Road Pratt Library in Fallstaff and the new “Hatzalah” Community Center in Cross Country. The Glen community will begin developing a Master Plan for the fields adjacent to the Pimlico Safety Academy.

Passing the Baton



Incoming MWIA President Bryce Butler presents a plaque of appreciation to Ira Kolman, who completed four years of service as President at the June 10 MWIA Annual Meeting.

New At-Large Directors:

- Bonnie Adachi
- Molly Keogh
- Rick Kingsbury
- Roy Yehudah Ringel
- Molly Saint-James
- Marla Streb
- Julie Tong

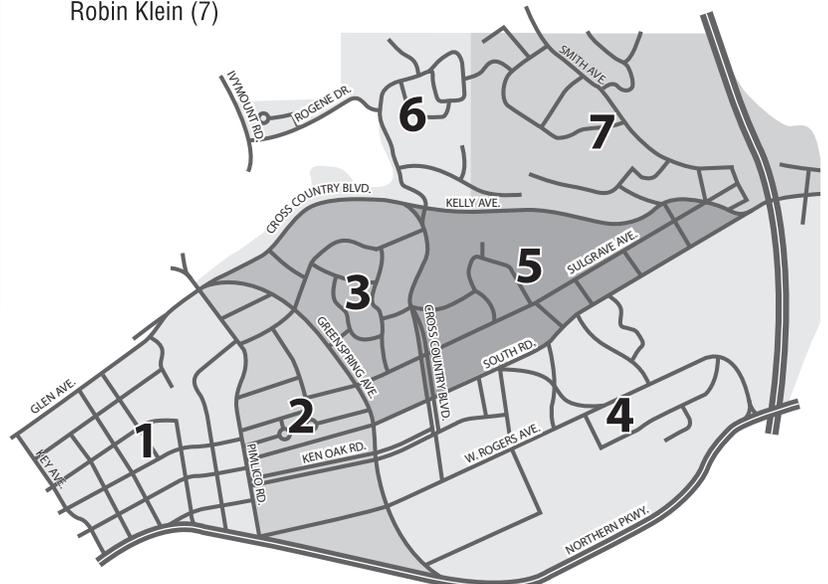
Area Captains:

- Sally Grant Staugaitis (1)
- Jere Morrel (2)
- David Conn (3)
- Jill Yesko (4)
- Susan Manning (5)
- Mac Nachlas (6)
- Robin Klein (7)

Continuing Board Members

(not up for reelection this year):

- Bryce Butler (President)
- Eric Seaberg (Treasurer)
- Lindsey White (Secretary)
- Stuart Caplan
- Alberto Alejandro Garrido
- Teia Hendricks
- Gwendolyn Jackson
- Ira Kolman (Ex-Officio)
- David Nemerson
- Emily Shaw
- James Taylor
- Elina Toole



Mount Washington History By LINDA NOLL — lindamnoll@yahoo.com

Streetcar Line #25: Tying Mount Washington to Baltimore

In 1897, the Baltimore and Northern Streetcar Company opened a single track on Western Run Road (now Kelly Avenue) that would link the area to downtown and promote further development in the western section of Mount Washington.

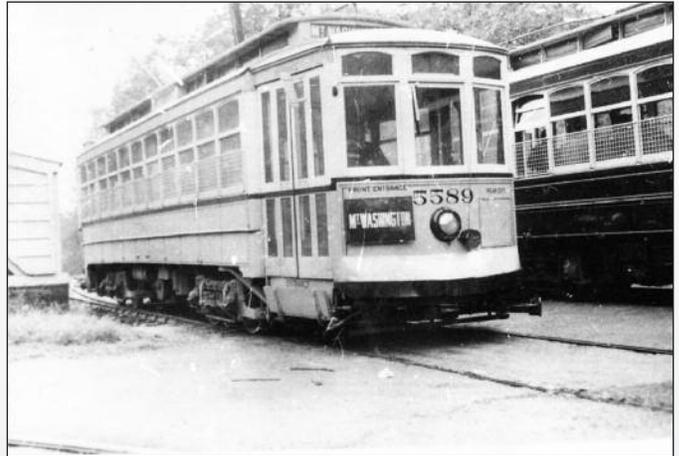
The streetcar traveled from Falls Road to Smith Avenue to the depot at Greeley Road and continued on Western Run Road to the stop at the corner of Cross Country Blvd. (across from the Boy Scout Memorial.) It turned left on Cross Country and then right on Ken Oak Road heading west (the tracks were located where there is now a grassy median strip.) The car continued past the Pimlico Race Track, across Park Heights Avenue, and on to the Belvedere Loop in the Arlington area where it looped around to make its return.

Local residents depended on streetcars to get to school, go downtown to the movies and the Hippodrome Theater, go shopping, attend dance classes or go to the Peabody and the Pratt Library.

Emily Miller Rody, in Gilbert Sandler's book *Jewish Baltimore*, recalled the following experience of riding the streetcar in 1939:

"The number 25 Streetcar was a floating opera. Clare Rosenbush, Natalie Bisgyer, Allene Roos, Joan Strouse and I would board at Cross Country to go either to Garrison Junior High school, or in my case, downtown to the Peabody where I took piano lessons. I even traveled by myself at age 10 or 11. When we went by the Pimlico track and the horses were running, the motorman would stop the car and let us watch. My dates often took me downtown on the streetcar."

The streetcar stopped at a station at Western Run and it served as more than a depot. According to Mark Miller's book on Mount Washington in 1980, he stated that "one could purchase cigars,

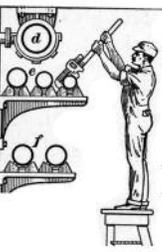


The #25 streetcar stopped in Mount Washington from 1897 to 1925.
(Photo courtesy Baltimore Streetcar Museum)

cigarettes, tobacco and candy to please the most fastidious" at this depot. When the streetcar disappeared, this became Cramer's Store, a favorite stopping place in the neighborhood, especially for children after school. Today, it is home to The Village Vet.

By 1925, the decision was made to build a new viaduct over the Jones Falls and the railroad tracks to accommodate streetcars and automobiles in an effort to alleviate the Smith Avenue bottleneck. The streetcar met its demise due to increased automobile interest; however, the public transportation system operates today along many of the old streetcar routes.

To learn more about the streetcar's history in Baltimore, I urge you to visit the Baltimore Streetcar Museum.



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A Productive Year For The Mount Washington School

By TAMMY STINNETT

Mount Washington School PTO President
pto@mountwashingtonschool.org

The Parent/Teacher Organization (PTO) would like to extend our appreciation and thanks to the community for supporting our school, teachers and staff, and most importantly, the students. The strength and passion of our community makes The Mount Washington School a wonderful place of learning for our children. As we wrap up another school year, I'm honored to reflect upon the many accomplishments of the PTO this year.

The PTO, along with support from community and local partners, raised more than \$70,000 this year. This was quite a significant endeavor as these funds allowed the students and staff to have resources and activities that are not typically covered in the school budget. Over \$26,000 was used to fund student enrichment activities such as after-school clubs, field trip transportation, cultural arts assemblies, resource classes (art, music, gym), athletic teams, library subscriptions, and so much more. Another \$18,000 was used to support faculty and staff requests which included books for the International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Programme, staff appreciation, and various administrator requests.

To raise these funds, the PTO hosted a variety of events throughout the year. Our first community Family Fall Harvest Festival featured a petting zoo, pony rides from City Ranch and community activities.

The annual Spaghetti Dinner & Talent Show, held at Poly high school, attracted about 300 people. The community also played a key role in our annual mail-a-thon and phone-a-thon. Our largest annual fundraiser, the Swing Into Spring auction, was held at the colorful Port Discovery museum. A record number of guests from the community and school attended the auction, which raised a total of \$29,872.

The PTO also worked to maintain the school garden spaces. The Mount Washington School was awarded Baltimore City's Green, Healthy, Smart Challenge grant and was officially recertified by the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education as a 2014 Maryland Green School. It is important that each year our students learn to become better stewards of our Earth's resources and develop an understanding of the environment, especially throughout the Mount Washington community and beyond. You can view our green school application at <http://mountwashingtonschool.weebly.com>.

This summer will begin a new chapter of our school. By the time you read this, we may have a new Principal in place, thanks to the work of a search committee of parents, teachers, community members and a student. We look forward to continuing our success and strong partnerships for the benefit of our students and our community. We welcome all community members to join us for our PTO events. Please make a pledge to participate and support PTO fundraising next year.

Have a wonderful summer!

Upcoming Events

- Outdoor Clean-Up (August)
- MWS Family Harvest Festival (September)
- Kids Zone @ Fall Block Party (October)

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GARDENING

By RICK KINGSBURY — land.arch@comcast.net



Viva Viburnum

“A garden without a viburnum is akin to life without music and art” - Michael Dirr

I must agree with Professor Dirr. As one of the most versatile of all shrubs and well suited for the Baltimore area, you are missing out if viburnums are not a part of your garden. Available in many different mature sizes, colors, branching patterns, fruits and shade/sun tolerance, these shrubs are mostly trouble free plants. They are tolerant of adverse situations, are low maintenance, and rarely if ever need feeding or special care. Many are deer resistant. Not only are they lovely in flower and in form, many offer attractive fruits that birds find irresistible and most offer great fall color.

Here are a few of the best viburnums for our area.

Viburnum carlesii/Koreanspice Viburnum

One of the most popular viburnums, growing 6 to 8 feet wide and as tall or taller, this variety is named for the wonderful fragrance produced by its large pinkish/white globe-like blooms in early May. The leaves are dark green and turn a variety of colors in fall. They are useful on banks, and as an accent shrub. They do well when planted in full sun as well as partial shade. The cultivar “Diana” is a good choice for flower color.

Viburnum dentatum/Arrowwood Viburnum

This is an interesting multi-stemmed form, with straight upright to arching branches. Perfect in the shrub border and in naturalized situations, it is also an interesting patio plant. The Arrowwood will reach 10 feet in height and 6 feet or more in width but is easily pruned. Fall color is often a marvelous red to deep burgundy. The edible fruit is dark blue and a favorite of birds. The shrub is tolerant of wetter soils, but avoid placing in standing water. The small flower is a creamy white. This shrub can be planted in

sun to medium shade. The “Blue Muffin” cultivar is common for this Maryland native plant.

Viburnum prunifolium/Blackhaw Viburnum

Blackhaw is an upright rounded tall shrub or small tree with many branches. It is a favorite for nesting birds. This viburnum resembles the hawthorn tree in habit of growth and pairs nicely with this tree. It has a nice clean habit and is suitable for patio use or specimen planting. The fall color is reliable in shades of red, yellow and wine. Blackhaw grows to 15 feet or more in height with a spread of about 8 feet. The fruit is delicious, but it is usually eaten by birds before they can be harvested. The shrub transplants easily, and is adaptable to many different soil types including dry and wet soil. It does well in sun to shade, and has no serious insect or disease problems. This is also a native plant.

Viburnum “Pragense”/Prague Viburnum

This is an evergreen viburnum that does well in difficult situations such as dry shade or poor soils. It makes a nice screening plant and, uncommon for Maryland evergreens it also flowers. It is very hardy, quick growing and tough. The habit is loosely upright and informal, and makes a great background to other flowering shrubs. The flowers which are pink in bud and open to white are showy and scattered all over the plant. Pragense grows to 10 feet in height, but tolerates pruning well. It is among the most pest and disease free shrubs.

These are just a few. Explore these fine shrubs, and you are sure to find one perfect for your garden.

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. He is President of the Mount Washington Preservation Trust (mwpt.org).



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CURB APPEAL By JOAN GOLDMAN — jgoldman@cbmove.com



Giving Your Home a Facelift

Welcome to "Curb Appeal." As a Realtor, folks often ask me, "How is the real estate market?" To most of us, our home is our

largest investment and like responsible people, we want to know we are doing OK. So I will be writing a column on real estate, both how it relates to Mount Washington, as well as general items of interest.

So good people of Mount Washington, please feel free to write me with your questions regarding real estate, or suggested topics you would like to see.

A few upcoming articles may include:

- What is the average cost of a new kitchen?
- My roof is 15 years old, how much longer should it last?
- What are the pros and cons of putting in an alarm system?
- How can I appeal my property taxes?
- I just got a letter about the Homestead Tax Credit.

What is that and how do I get it?

For this month, let's start with a topic I'm asked about all the time:

Top 5 Ways to Give Your Home an Inexpensive Facelift

1 - Paint

I can't stress enough how a fresh coat of paint can change everything. Tired of those old 1980 mauve and teal colors? Well, pick new calm neutrals. Can't afford to paint the entire house? Pick a few rooms. Ceilings should be white and don't forget to paint the closets (white).

2 - Light Fixtures

Are your light fixtures from last century? Home Depot and Lowes have really nice lighting for not much money. Plus it will be a good time to update your bulbs to CFLs or LEDs. Want a "10% off everything" coupon to Lowe's? Email me with your name and email address and I can send you one.

3 - Light Switches

Now this is a very inexpensive way to update your home. Is your style brushed nickel? Or white plastic? Or something fancier? Just make sure to do all of your light switches with a consistent look.

4 - Door Knobs

If you are lucky enough to have lovely old glass door knobs, or even cool old brass ones, then leave them as they are. If you have ugly 1960's or later, then updating all your door knobs will provide a cleaner look.

5 - Cabinet Knobs and Pulls

Can't afford a kitchen redo? You can update your kitchen cabinets with new knobs and pulls. You can save money by picking one of the styles that comes in the 20 pack.

Joan Goldman is a Realtor whose website is www.outsidethebox.com

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“Springwell,” continued from page 1

the State.

Age Wave purchased the existing building, which opened in 1931 as the Home for the Aged of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in May 2008. It consists of 155,000 square feet, with a footprint of about one acre of the 15-acre property that abuts the Northwest Park. The proposed expansion, to be called “The Homestead at Springwell,” would also have a footprint of about an acre, not including the 45 new parking spaces that would join the 110 spaces on site. It is planned for the southeast part of Springwell’s property, near the corner of Wexford Road and Enslow Avenue.

Because Springwell’s operation is considered a “conditional use,” any changes such as expansions or structural alterations require City approval. Age Wave approached the MWIA this spring asking for its support for the zoning variance.

Several meetings were held in recent months with the MWIA’s Zoning Committee, as well as the immediate neighbors of Springwell, culminating in a well-attended community meeting the MWIA hosted at Springwell on May 21.

At that meeting support for the project was expressed by community members, including some current Springwell residents. In addition, a group of neighbors presented their objections to Springwell’s proposal, primarily based on the size of the structure – roughly twice what zoning rules would allow without a special exception – and the impact the expansion may have on traffic and safety on West Rogers and nearby streets.

West Rogers resident Evan Morville said he and his neighbors “are not against Springwell,” only their plan to double the size of what was otherwise allowed. In a letter to the MWIA he and his wife, Sarah

Zaleski, wrote, “The variances requested by the Springwell would jeopardize many of the elements that make Mount Washington a uniquely desirable neighborhood that attracts families and individuals young and old.”

Springwell’s representatives countered that they had made numerous changes to the project after hearing neighbors’ concerns, including moving the northernmost side of the building further back from West Rogers and reducing the height of that section to three floors instead of four, as well as making landscaping changes that would reduce the visual impact.

Age Wave managing partner John Chay insisted that traffic increases would be minimal because so few of the residents will be regular drivers. He said a building of only 80,000 square feet would not work. “It’s not viable,” he said, given seniors’ desire for more spacious apartments and more on-site amenities.

“You know what we need,” Mr. Chay said. “We think we’re being reasonable.”

After further discussions with the MWIA, Age Wave Partners agreed to concessions that included:

- A commitment to contribute \$10,000 to help construct a spur of the Jones Falls Trail on the south side of Enslow (in the Northwest Park) from Wexford to the Mount Washington pool.
- Preserving a 20-foot right of way of Springwell’s property along Wexford and Enslow to allow the City to widen these roads.
- A pledge to contribute \$2,500 per year for five years to a Friends of Northwest Park organization for the park’s use for improvements and amenities.
- A pledge to participate in a working group with the MWIA and the City to



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pursue needed traffic improvements to Wexford and Enslow.

- A pledge to seek input from MWIA on landscaping and construction traffic plans.

The MWIA board met repeatedly in person and by phone before reaching a consensus. The project also was given a favorable report by the City Department of Planning and was endorsed by City Councilwoman Rochelle “Rikki” Spector.

In its letter to the City zoning board, the MWIA cited its concerns about traffic, especially near a proposed new Springwell driveway on Enslow near the community pool, and urged the City to develop a plan to address the situation immediately. The zoning board voted to support the project without the MWIA’s conditions. But work on the traffic plan has already begun, with a field visit to the site on June 6 by MWIA leaders, City officials and Springwell representatives.

Ultimately the MWIA concluded the project would bring “a quality housing option for seniors who need minimal support to live independently in an attractive setting, many of them living close to families in Mount Washington.”

Dunklebits

By NED DUNKLEBERGER — neddunkleberger@gmail.com



I realize that you have all waited a long time to make up your minds on the whole Springwell development plan and you needed to know, "What Would Ned Do?" ("WWND" bumper stickers and t-shirts coming soon to the merchandise section of our online Dunklegifts site (www.cafepress.com/+ned-dunkleberger)).

Well, friends, your wait is over. Here's exactly what needs to happen:

But first: I am still upset that they changed the name of the Wesley Home to Springwell. Don't ask why, but it had nothing to do with springs or wells or John Wesley. That's reason enough to deny their zoning variance, if you ask me.

Anyway, all the talk about the proposed changes at Springwell got my mind a-reelin.' Then one fine spring evening when I was out walking the cats it hit me, BAM! (And friends, you really must do something about those overhanging branches.)

The Wesley Drive-In Theater.

Seems so obvious now, doesn't it? Just like the old days.

You remember the old days, don't you? You pull into a drive-in, and find a place to park. You hop into the backseat, where you know it's nice and dark. You're just about to move in, thinkin' it's a breeze, there's a light in your eyes and then a guy says "Out of the car, Longhair!" Well, that's how I remember it anyway ...

But if you were deprived as a child and as an adult you have

never been able to find Bengies, Maryland, that's an even better reason to get on board right now with my campaign to turn Springwell into a giant drive-in movie theater.

Picture it! A picnic grove lit by a thousand Japanese lanterns, quadraphonic sound speakers in the trees or optional Bluetooth connected high-quality headphones that work from anywhere on the field. You can take the edge off the summer heat with an ice cold Nipsicle(Pat.Pend.) (www.nipsicles.com).

The screen is right off the crest of the hill above the athletic field and the wasted open grass field becomes a nice parking lot. Admission is only \$10 a carload (20% off with your MWIA Member Value Card™). But electric cars must pay extra.

And of course the whole Springwell facility would be redesigned with all the rooms having balconies atop the hill facing the screen, which would operate year-round. Coming soon: Science Fiction Double Feature Picture Show (by RKO)!

There's only one thing that would make this idea even better: your old pal Ned sitting down front by the screen, mic'ed up good and loud, so the Springwell residents can hear, and providing running commentary to the movies. We could call it Mount Washington Theater 3000 (MWT3K).

Is this not a win-win-win for everybody? You know you love it. You're welcome. Just don't forget to floss.

Ned

Magruder & Khan Group

Bill Magruder 410-456-2490 Cell

Azam Khan 410-375-7748 Cell

Long and Foster Lake Roland

410-377-2270 Office



“Parade,” continued from page 1

lawns and driveway in front of Springwell, on West Rogers Avenue. The ceremony begins shortly after that, with plenty of patriotic elements and participants. Then we follow the vintage cars, bagpiper and our local fire engine along the parade route (east on Rogers, north on Wexford, west on South Road, south on Cross Country, and finish back at Springwell).

The celebration continues with more live music, a magic show, face painting, a moon bounce, games and crafts. Once again we'll have freshly grilled hot dogs (meat and vegan) from Whole Foods (\$1 each), so bring your appetite. You can also indulge in free ice cold lemonade, fresh watermelon, traditional lemon/peppermint sticks, frozen treats and delicious cake.

As before, the Parade is sponsored by the Mount Washington Improvement Association, hosted by Springwell Senior Living, and supported by Whole Foods Market of Mount Washington, as well as dozens of local shops, restaurants and businesses. Afterward local residents may enjoy a free swim at the Mount Washington Swimming Club on Enslow Road.

Volunteers are needed to help set up tents and chairs, run games and clean up: text Elizabeth at 443-220-4284 or email to elg.grove@gmail.com. To donate cupcakes email Melinda at mizmelinda@hotmail.com.

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Limited time offer. \$5,000 project minimum applies.
Cannot be combined with other offers.



Community Calendar

Wednesday mornings

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

Mt. Washington Community T'ai Chi Class

Springwell Senior Living, 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 linalitofsky@comcast.net.

Friday mornings

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

Mt. Washington Community Yoga Class

St. Andrew's Elderslie Church, 5601 Pimlico Rd. 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. Cost is \$8 (cash or check). For more information, contact Mira at 410-370-6764 or wellspringhealingarts@gmail.com.

Friday July 4th

Annual Spirit of Mount Washington Parade

10:00 a.m.

Springwell Senior Residence, 2211 W. Rodgers Ave. Come celebrate, dance to live bands, and enjoy a magic show at the neighborhood's biggest and most popular event. Afterwards, enjoy a complimentary swim courtesy of the Mount Washington Swimming Club. Volunteers are wanted: contact Elizabeth (443-220-4284).

August 9-10

Moonrise Festival at Pimlico Race Track

11:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m. both days

This two-day music festival, cancelled last year due to permitting problems, is scheduled to run from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Saturday Aug. 9 and Sunday Aug. 10 at Pimlico Race Course. The event will feature more than 60 musical performers, as well as visual artists, a vendor village and a Ferris wheel. Two-day passes start at \$125 and can be purchased at www.moonrisefestival.com.

August 12

Dan Fesperman: "Unmanned"

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

At the Ivy Bookshop, 6080 Falls Road. Baltimore Sun alumnus Dan Fesperman launches his latest novel of suspense, "Unmanned," a psychologically gripping descent into the eerie realm of drone warfare.

September 13

Clayworks "Clay Ball 2013"

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

At the Creative Alliance, 3134 Eastern Ave. Included in the evening are silent and live auctions, open bar, live music, a seated dinner and a ceramics demo. Come for the dinner (\$125 by Aug. 15), or just the Gala After-Party (\$35 by Aug. 15). Visit <http://www.baltimore-clayworks.org/event/clayball.html> for more information.