Return of Community Picnic a Rousing Success

By ELLIE MITCHELL
ellie@elliemitchell.org

On June 15, 2019, the Mount Washington Improvement Association Social Committee brought back the time-honored tradition of the annual Community Picnic. Mother Nature showed clear support providing beautiful weather for the event held in Luckman Park from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Nearly a dozen volunteers supported the event set-up and breakdown. MWIA Board member staffed the grills serving up hundreds of hamburger, hot dogs and veggie burgers to the hungry multitudes. Neighbors contributed a panoply of salads, dips, spreads, and desserts to share. As children

Clayworks Welcomes Two New Resident Artists

by KEVIN ROHDE and SARA MORALES-MORGAN
Sara.Morales-Morgan@baltimoreclayworks.org

For over 39 years Baltimore Clayworks has distinguished itself nationally and internationally for our unwavering support of ceramic artists and for our cutting-edge community arts engagement to the underserved communities of Baltimore. Throughout three decades of continuous operation, Clayworks has developed into a treasured ceramic art center providing quality arts programming to thousands of people annually.

Our Resident Artist program is a community of artists with shared experiences working at a critical time in their career. We provide the opportunity for artists to develop their work, exhibit in our galleries, and teach in our educational and community arts programs. These positions are highly competitive and we receive applications from artists all over the world. Once juried into the program, Resident Artists’ terms are for one year, renewable up to three years. Upon completion of their residency, many of our artists remain in the area, sharing their knowledge and experience, and building relationships within the greater Baltimore community.

We are excited to welcome two new long-term resident artists to our community in September 2019: Samantha Briegel and Emily Lamb.

Samantha Briegel will be our new Lormina Salter Fellowship Artist, an honor that comes with a stipend and solo exhibition. Samantha is an artist who explores the relationship between the body and clothing through her handmade functional wares. She is from the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains in Knoxville, Tennessee. She received her BFA from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, and her MFA from Ohio University. She has been an intern at the Archie Bray Foundation Clay Business, a post-baccalaureate student at the University of Montana, and, most recently, a resident artist at District Clay Center in Washington DC.

Emily Lamb is an artist who explores questions regarding the
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.

— Karen Donley
Editor

Did You Know?

MORE THAN 100 STUDENTS FROM THE MT. WASHINGTON COMMUNITY ARE ENROLLED AT

The Park School of Baltimore!

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT PARK STUDENTS AND HOW THEY THRIVE, GO TO WWW.PARKSCHOOLNET OR PLAN A VISIT TO OUR 100-ACRE CAMPUS JUST MINUTES FROM MT. WASHINGTON.

THE PARK SCHOOL OF BALTIMORE • 2425 OLD COURT RD • BALTIMORE, MD • 21208
Borrow or Lend a Book:
Little Libraries House Books for Everyone

By DEB KLEINER
debkleiner1@comcast.net

Walk around the neighborhood and you might run across a little library where you can borrow a book. Some specialize in children’s books. Some are painted to look like mini houses. Some are formally registered on the Little Free Library website.

Jillian Hoelter’s library is at 5712 Cross Country Blvd. Her husband bought the little library from an Etsy seller for Mother’s Day the year after they moved to Mt. Washington in 2016. Jillian had fun painting the wooden house with their house paint to make a mini version of their house and proudly painting Mt. Washington's Children’s Library.

“When I looked into having one I was interested to learn that children’s books were always the first to go,” said Jillian. “That had always been my experience as well—having three small children, we frequented the little libraries all around and would see that the kids’ books would be in short supply. I wanted to get books in any kid’s hands who wanted them. It is so important for kids to be reading and be read to. In addition to the donations, I add in current award-winning books, with a focus on diversity when possible. As long as people are taking books we will find a way to fill it so I hope everyone stops by and finds a book they will treasure!”

Another little library oriented towards children can be found in Luckman Park. A Mt. Washington Girl Scout Brownie troop designed and installed a Pimlico-themed library. The troop picked Luckman Park for their library to encourage people to use the park, encourage literacy, and because of the diverse population that uses the park. The scouts get books from the Maryland Book Bank to restock the library with children’s books and try to include books which show a diversity of characters.

Gigi Wirtz received her little library from her husband Bob for her 60th birthday. Friends and family filled it at her birthday party. Stop by to visit it at 5504 South Bend Road.

Another cute little library is at 2424 Brambleton Rd. Lou Jacobs says, “We have always been pleasantly surprised when finding Little Free Libraries in our travels, and felt that one would be a worthwhile addition to our street and our neighborhood. We have lots of families with young children on our block and hope that we can maintain a collection that will be appealing to them.”

Perhaps newest to the neighborhood is Dan Kleiner’s library at 5707 Berkeley Ave. It’s made of mahogany with arts and crafts style hardware leftover from a kitchen project. Dan built his library because he thought that it’s a nice way to share books among neighbors.

If you’re interested in learning more about little libraries, a good place to start is www.littlefreelibrary.org. There are free places like the Book Thing where you can get books to stock your library. So, take a walk—borrow a book and lend a book!
How to Stop Buying Gasoline and Reduce Car Maintenance

By LIBBY BAKER
Libby.baker1@gmail.com
& FRANK LEE
techedteacher@gmail.com

Imagine that wind turbines and a solar farm power your car.
Imagine your car runs silently at any speed.
No engine noise, muffler or tailpipe.
Imagine your car is safer because it strongly resists tail spins and roll overs.
Imagine when you brake, your fuel tank refills.
Imagine zero polluting emissions. No tailpipe at all.
Too good to be true? Here are some vehicles available today new and used that do all or most of the above. Most start under $40K new and earn incentives reducing the price.

• a refund of Maryland excise tax between $2,000 and $3,000 depending on the battery size; and
• up to $7,500 tax credit on your next IRS 1040 (check with your tax preparer). Varies by battery size.
• may receive generous incentives from the manufacturer and the dealer;
• a complimentary Maryland High Occupancy Vehicle sticker (HOV) allowing you to commute in the prized HOV lanes.

All this means the electric-vehicle sticker price can drop $10,500 or more by the following April 15. Fuel costs drop, too. We estimate our Chevy Bolt, charging at home would cost $25 to $35 per month, using electricity we buy from wind and solar sources and soon from our local Community Solar Farm in Owings Mills. The Bolt is getting 5 miles on one kilowatt-hour, which costs about 12 cents. Compare to your gasoline cost per mile.

Maintenance on an electric car is a fraction of what is required for Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) vehicles. No engine oil to change. Scheduled maintenance includes rotating tires, oiling door hinges, checking AC and, most importantly, updating software.

There are some other very surprising benefits.

Acceleration? At a complete stop, an EV 4-door, peddle-to-metal applies 100 percent of motor power. In ‘Sport Mode’, one can arrive at the next traffic light while many ICE turbo sports cars are just winding up to speed. You can pass on the highway anytime.

Electric vehicles are safer because they strongly resist tail spins and rollovers. Why? The main battery is low in the center of gravity. You cannot roll over. Vehicle weight is equal on all four wheels, so it is very hard to tail-spin or swerve sideways. Electric vehicles just roll on forward. Added benefit, there is no massive engine that can push into the front seats on impact.

The Chevy Bolt, Tesla 3 and BMW i-3 have available all the latest digital safety features: blind spot vision, lane maintaining, front sensing safety braking, parking assist, night rear vision, amazing cameras and much more.

There are 70 to 90 moving parts in an EV drivetrain. ICE vehicles have 700 to 1,100 moving parts in the drivetrain. Hybrids, combining EV and ICE systems, have 1,000 to 1,400 moving parts -- they are even more complicated. What could possibly go wrong with more moving parts, right?

Did I mention front-seats and steering-wheel warmers? These are incredibly therapeutic for senior drivers! Most EVs have them since cabin heating can reduce range.

Other Concerns: Do batteries fail? Nope. Manufacturers stand behind them. A typical battery warranty is 100,000 miles, but they go much farther. Used EV batteries are valuable when recycled. Manufacturers have planned for battery life, and most batteries have lasted longer than expected. If a lemon battery shows up, it is quickly replaced at no cost.

“Range anxiety” is the fear of driving to a fully dead battery. It can happen. Fast driving on the expressway is easy and stable, but the induced wind drag reduces driving range. If the remaining miles are getting low, you drive slower to drive farther.

Drive to dead battery and no one can bring back a can of kilowatts. The car must be towed to a charger. Manufacturers and AAA tow to chargers. But there is plenty of warning when approaching empty. At 10% remaining, the dashboard lights say “Charge Soon”; at 5%, buzzers and flashing “Charge Now” warnings. In reality, you anticipate and monitor your range and never run out, just like you do with gasoline.

Need to find a charger? No problem! The smartphone app called PlugShare (https://www.plugshare.com/) locates all chargers of all types in North America from Anchorage to Quebec to Venezuela, although not all states are well-covered — yet.

You can use PlugShare to plan a trip beyond your driving range. The Tesla models also include a dash screen function to find chargers and plan and navigate a trip.

Major highways — for example the full length of Interstate 95 and 70 — now have...
Vines: the Good and the Bad

By MIKE SHERLOCK
Mount Washington Preservation Trust
finnegans21@aol.com

Vines can be a valuable element in the garden, giving a vertical dimension and, on a trellis, creating a ceiling and sense of enclosure. They have different qualities that distinguish them: evergreen or deciduous, native or non-native, twining or non-twining, aggressive or easily controlled, fragrant or non-fragrant.

The good vines are those that don’t overwhelm the garden, grow at a restrained rate (slower than Jack’s beanstalk), and have some virtue, such as flowers or good fall color, or are non-allergenic.

For example, five-fingered Virginia creeper is one of the best native leaves and has a wonderful fall color. In that season, birds eat the blue berries when migrating south. The vine attaches itself gently to flat surfaces of tree trunks or grows on the ground.

Similarly, Boston ivy is a Japanese plant that can be used to grow on the surface of building or on fencing. It has nice fall color and can be kept under control with pruning.

But many vines can be a nuisance, overtaking good plants and smothering or toppling them. Here are some to keep an eye out for:

English ivy is non-native, suitable only for a ground cover, and almost never appropriate for growing on a house (it can eventually grow into the attic space) or trees (the weight of wet ivy up in the canopy can lead to trees blowing over in storms). To remove, cut it as close to the ground as possible all around the tree and pull the dead vine gently off the tree; if it is too large, however, better to leave it on the tree and let it fall off naturally. The roots can usually be dug up for permanent removal.

Chinese and Japanese varieties of wisteria have fragrant flowers but are so aggressive they will tear most trellises apart. One native wisteria (frutescens) is less aggressive and has nice flowers, but it grows suckers and still tends to get about.

Another native wisteria has lilac flowers, but is very invasive and should be removed. All can be cut to ground with herbicide applied to the cut stem.

Oriental bittersweet is one of the most pestiferous vines, twining around plants and strangling them. The stems can get huge, three to four inches in diameter.

The vine’s only virtue is its orange and yellow berries in the fall. This one can be cut off trees or shrubs and then cut to ground. When mature, it is very difficult to dig up, so it may require herbicide being applied to the stem.

Non-native porcelain berry (so-called for its beautiful blue berries) is extremely aggressive and goes to seed like crazy. It can be dug up by its roots even if it is quite big.

Poison ivy — recognized by its leaves of three and hairy roots attaching to the surface — is native and has good fall color and berries for birds. However, it should be removed by cutting the stem close to ground. Needless to say, when removing this one, wear gloves, discard cuttings in plastic bags in the trash, and wash hands and clothing thoroughly.

For more information about the Mount Washington Preservation Trust, or to volunteer in public gardens, contact finnegans21@aol.com or visit MWPT.org.

Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital Groundbreaking

On May 21, Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital leaders, patients, community members and even a facility dog celebrated the start of construction for the Rosenberg Outpatient Center expansion during a groundbreaking ceremony.
This article is Part II of a two-part series about the history of Kelly Avenue and the African American community that lived there since slavery times. It was an appealing, vibrant hamlet with modern cottages sold to middle-class African Americans with two churches and a school. This was one of the reasons that in 1913, Morgan College President John O. Spencer, looking for a new location for the institution, considered the hunting lodge of Declaration of Independence signer Charles Carroll at the corner of Kelly and Greenspring Avenue. Industrialist Andrew Carnegie supported the college and pledged $50,000 for a new building in its chosen location, as it had not room for expansion at its location at Edmonson and Fulton Avenues in West Baltimore.

The plan was vigorously opposed by the Mount Washington Improvement Association. At a community meeting on September 29, 1913 at the Mount Washington Casino, racial tensions were high as residents sought to prevent the building of the campus there. Fervent opposition led to 1,500 letters sent to residents urging a united opposition which reflected the segregationist, racist views prevalent in Baltimore at the time. The Baltimore Sun reported that the letter concluded, “As a suburban development, Mount Washington stands next to Roland Park in picturesqueness, in attractiveness, in the value of its real estate and in the character of its improvements. The location of a negro college and a negro settlement almost in the very heart of this village would not only retard if not prevent further development but would immeasurably depreciate values throughout this neighborhood.”

The mayor of Baltimore James Preston wrote a letter supporting the MWIA writing that the college should not be in the suburb due to a “natural desire of white people to live separately.” Mount Washington was not even part of Baltimore at that point, but his view coincided with the City Council’s support of segregation laws. Morgan College faced opposition from other areas of Baltimore but eventually settled outside of the City’s border on a northeast Baltimore parcel.

Originally formed from following the path of the stream bed, Kelly Avenue first existed a path which was known as the “Western Run.” An 1851 deed refers to the thoroughfare “located along the south side of Western Run” – a winding lane commencing on Second Street and following westward along the stream. In 1897, rail service was extended from Falls Road through Mount Washington. Tracks were laid over an old trail running west and parallel with the stream. This trail became Kelly Avenue named after Simon Kelly, a signal operator charged with insuring safe traffic flow along Smith Avenue-Northern Central grade crossing. It may have been more appropriate to name the street after residents in the African American community who lived and worshiped there. St. Andrew’s Methodist Episcopal and a Baptist congregation housed in two discarded trolley cars on the North side of Western Run (according to historian Mark Miller) served the African American community of the immediate area and of Cross Keys. The thriving community included a school and many residents whose comings and goings were chronicled in Baltimore’s Afro American Newspaper.

The steel stringer Kelly Avenue Bridge was built in 1925, eleven years after Mount Washington was annexed to Baltimore City. Road widening damaged the African American section of the neighborhood. Historian Linda Noll writes, “nearly half of the old African American section was leveled.” Several
What Exactly is a Seller Subsidy?

While going over the real estate process, I will let sellers know they may be asked by the buyers for a seller subsidy. What exactly is that? The typical perception is that the seller is just giving money back to the buyers or paying the buyers’ closings costs. In theory, both are kind of true, but need further explanation.

When buyers purchase a home, they need lots of cash. If they are paying a 5% or 10% or 20% down payment, that is generally tens of thousands of dollars that can’t be rolled into their mortgage. On top of that, they need more money for closing costs, which make up around another 4.0 - 4.5%. These costs are for the recordation and transfer taxes (1.5%), prepayment of city taxes for 6 months, title insurance, one year paid home insurance, lender fees, title fees, recording docs, etc.

So let’s talk actual numbers. Say you are buying a $400,000 house. You are putting 10% down which is $40,000. Now you have to cough up another $16,000-$18,000 just to close! Most buyers, especially first time buyers don't have that kind of cash, yet they can get approved for a loan that is higher than their $400k. So they offer $418,000 with a seller subsidy of $18,000, which means for the seller, a net of $400,000. The seller subsidy is applied on the ALTA (closing document) so the buyers now have most of their closing costs covered. Did the seller then pay the buyers closing costs? No, because the buyers offered that exact amount more than they would have had they been able to roll the extra costs into their mortgage.

Are their downsides to having a seller subsidy? Well, since the seller pays the commission for both their listing agent and the buyers’ agent, the commission will be higher, but typically not enough to really make a difference. The bigger issue is the house now has to appraise for the higher amount. If the house doesn’t appraise, the seller will need to lower the price to the appraised value or risk the buyers walking as now their lender won’t give the full amount of the $418,000 loan if the value came in lower.

With a seller subsidy, the buyers are really just financing their closings costs. That additional $18,000 is now added to their mortgage, which they will be paying on for probably 30 years. And their taxes will be set higher, as the amount that it sold for is higher. But if you want to buy a house and your cash reserves aren’t high, this can be the only way to purchase.

There are limits as to how much seller subsidy can be given set by various mortgage programs. FHA is 6% of the purchase price whereas conventional loans are 3% if less than 10% down, but 6% if more than 10% down.

Realtors see seller subsidy as another tool to help buyers get into homes. The differences all around tend to be small, but can make a big difference to a new buyer.

Come Worship & Be a Part of Us!

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“Kelly Avenue,” continued from page 7

generations of African American families still lived there and kept the residential district intact. In 1947 a 10-year-old piano swing artist prodigy, “Chick” Smith of 1917 Kelly Avenue, gained national attention when he composed music on an abandoned piano left on a street car right of way in front of his home. The boy’s musical talent, discovered by neighbors and featured in the Baltimore Sun, led to an invitation to the CBS “We the People” broadcast where he performed with his idol Fats Waller.

In the 1950s, the paving of Kelly Avenue to make room for cars and buses transformed it from a rough dirt street to a 36-foot-wide concrete road. The streetscape changed dramatically with automobiles gaining in popularity and the addition of a major bus route along the road. The Baltimore Sun records much opposition from residents. Sadly, this development was a further blow to the African American community since in order to widen the roadbed, any homes of the Black community were razed. The road widening may explain why the front steps of the remaining original houses on Kelly Avenue are positioned close to the road. While Kelly Avenue Bridge has its own Facebook page, there are no markers, physical or virtual, to memorialize the African American community that once lived there. The many bikers and walkers who now enjoy the new bike trail running through the neighborhood are actually traveling through a historic African American section of Mount Washington that deserves to be remembered.
Travel: Europe by Car

By CHARLENE ABELN  
charabeln@gmail.com

“Not all those who wander are lost.”  
J.R.R. Tolkien

Travel season is here, well, anytime is travel time. Have you ever considered traveling Europe by car? Europe has fantastic rail and regional airline options, but traveling by car opens up the layers of history, culture, and people which might otherwise be missed on a speeding train or regional air flight.

If you decide to take Europe by car, obtain an international driver’s license from AAA before you leave. This international license is basically a translation of your state issued license. Not all EU countries require it, but it’s always better to have one. Reserve your car before you leave. Most of the well-known car rental companies in the US operate in most major European airports. Travel search engines such as kayak.com, expedia.com, eurorpcar.com are a great place to start.

Consider purchasing bumper to bumper full coverage insurance for your rental. Most credit cards include insurance coverage for car rentals but that is an awful lot of fine print to read. An ounce of prevention...

Rent a small car, as parking is at a premium even in smaller cities and towns. You will pay for parking in most town centers and the parking spots are smaller than we have here.

Most rental cars come equipped with GPS and you can have the rental car personnel program the language to English (or your preferred language) or you can do it yourself.

Some car rental companies in western European countries do not allow you to drive the cars into certain Eastern European countries. Check first.

Study up on traffic/road signage for the countries you will be driving in. EU signage is relatively uniform throughout. All EU countries drive on the right side of the road with the exception of UK and Ireland.

Gas is expensive in Europe and sold by the liter (a little more than a quarter gallon), so remember to factor this into the cost. For example, unleaded in Germany is about 1.75 Euro (approximately $2.00) per liter right now.

The highway rest stops are frequent and very clean and safe. At many of the rest stops you pay .50 to 1 Euro to use the bathroom, but I kid you not, they are spotless and usually have attendants continuously cleaning them. The food in rest stops is actually good compared to US rest stop food.

Speed is tracked by radar and if you are in violation you will pay a fine upon rental car return. It happened to us, driving through a very small town.

We prefer to stay in smaller cities, towns and villages. There are open markets in the town squares, and flea markets as well, and these are usually on the weekends. Try the cheese, baked goods or food of the region. The wine making regions of Europe have wine festivals throughout the growing and harvest seasons. These are attended more by local folks than by tourists.

There are castles a plenty. You will see them from the road or there will be a sign. Many castles are in ruins but accessible by foot. Many castles also have been restored and you can tour them for a small entrance fee. The churches and cathedrals of smaller cities offer the same architecture, history and splendor represented as the ones in more well-known and larger cities, but without the crowds.

Lastly, if time permits, linger in a town or region and soak up the sights, stroll, relax and enjoy the colors, sights, smells and vibe of the locale. Book your accommodations as you go, we have always been able to find accommodations that same day. Most family run hotels are less expensive, and more interesting than the big chain hotels in larger cities. We use booking.com as we go. Airbnb is great as well, and you can stay as few as 2 nights and have the amenities of a washing machine, kitchen, and more room, sometimes about half the cost of a hotel. Often you can book short notice if not the high tourist season.

Seeing a place from ground level, you will find things you never would have thought of. Serendipity is around the corner. Enjoy!

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

Members Elect New Board Officers and Directors

The MWIA welcomes new officers and directors of the Mount Washington Improvement Association elected at the MWIA Annual Meeting June 4, 2019. Please see the updated listing on page 2.

Any member of the MWIA can join a committee. For a full list of committees and subcommittees, please visit mwia.org.
played and everyone ate and relaxed, Dixieland Jazz band Sac Au Lait played swinging music and inspired toe tapping, finger snapping, and some fancy dance moves. The Kona Ice truck arrived just in time to satisfy the sweet tooth of picnic goers of all ages.

With the positive response from the nearly 150 picnic goers, the MWIA Social committee is committed to bringing the picnic back next year – along with a variety of other events to bring together the neighborhood more often. If you’re interested in helping plan the fun and would like to join the committee, email MWIASocial@gmail.com.
“Clayworks,” continued from page 1

human body, both physical and metaphysical, in her experimental mixed-media sculptures. She is from Denver, Colorado and came to the East Coast to earn her BFA at Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts in Richmond, Virginia. She is a recipient of the TOAST Grant, multiple VCU scholarships, as well as partial and full scholarships to Penland School of Crafts, Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, and Pilchuck Glass School. Her art has taken her across the country, to Denmark and Norway, and now to Baltimore.

Samantha and Emily will join our current long-term residents Jason Piccoli and Hae Won Sohn in our studios. Their residencies will start in September, at which point we will welcome them to Baltimore Clayworks with a community event and artist presentations. We will announce specifics about this event in the coming months. You can visit us on our website at baltimoreclayworks.org, in person at 5707 Smith Ave., or follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/baltimoreclay.
Community Calendar

THURSDAY, JULY 4
The Spirit of Mount Washington 20th Annual Independence Day Parade
10:00 am
Springwell Senior Living Community, 2211 W. Rogers Ave

SUNDAY, JULY 7
The Genius of Gilbert & Sullivan: Brian Goodman in Conversation with Dan Rodricks
5:00 pm
The Ivy Bookshop, 6080 Falls Rd.
Young Victorian Theatre’s General Manager Brian Goodman will chat with author and Baltimore Sun columnist Dan Rodricks about the comic opera duo.

FRIDAY, JULY 12
Firefly Walk
6-8:00 pm
Cylburn Mansion
An educational talk and walk through Cylburn’s grounds to explore the magic of fireflies with Dr. Abner Lall. Ages 8+. Free or suggested $10 donation. RSVP Cylburn Arboretum website.

SATURDAY, JULY 13
Kitten Palooza!
2-5:00 pm
Something Else, 1611 Sulgrave Ave.
The boutique will be filling their display window with adorable kittens! Chill out or pet, cuddle, and play to your heart’s content. Meet adoptable kittens, learn how to help homeless kittens. Prizes and cuteness overload.

SATURDAY, JULY 13
The Great American Poetry Crawl
6-8:00 pm
The Ivy Bookshop, 6080 Falls Rd.
The Ivy welcomes Brendan Walsh, Lynn Houston, and M.L. Doyle for an immersive reading in exploration of the joy, contradiction, heartache and wonder of being.

SUNDAY, JULY 14
The Mt. Washington Garden Group
3-5:00 pm
Location TBA.
The regular meeting of the garden group to share plant info, gardening secrets, and wine. Email debkleiner1@comcast.net for location.

MONDAY, JULY 22
Laura Lippman: “Lady in the Lake”
7:00 pm
The Ivy Bookshop, 6080 Falls Rd.
Ivy favorite and New York Times bestselling author returns with a novel about a middle-aged housewife turned aspiring reporter in 1960s Baltimore who pursues the murder of a forgotten young woman.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31
Lynn Vincent and Sara Vladic: “Indianapolis”
7:00 pm
The Ivy Bookshop, 6080 Falls Rd.
A human drama unlike any other—the riveting and definitive full story of the worst sea disaster in United States naval history.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7
Jess Row: “White Flights: Race, Fiction, and the American Imagination”
7:00 pm
The Ivy Bookshop, 6080 Falls Rd.
The Ivy welcomes Jess Row who will be in conversation with Ailish Hopper, to discuss Row’s new book White Flights: Race, Fiction, and the American Imagination, a meditation on whiteness in American fiction and culture.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8
DRAG BINGO!
7:00 pm
Be part of a colorful night supporting Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital! It’s Drag Bingo at Points South Latin Kitchen (1640 Thames St). It’s FREE to play bingo and MWPH will receive a portion of the food and drink sales, so bring your appetite and come thirsty! Bring cash to tip the queens for their performances.

Recurring Events

Luckman Park Clean-Up
July 6 & 21, August 3 & 18
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, and gardening, and other general park cleaning. Come for all or part; RSVP (to luckman.park@gmail.com) helpful but not necessary.

Karma Dogs
Tuesdays, July 2 & August 6
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Macks Center for Jewish Education, 5708 Park Heights Avenue
Shy or reluctant 5- to 12-year-olds can read with friendly, non-judgmental, and attentive dogs. Adult supervision is required.

Yoga in the Garden
Tuesdays, June – August
6:00 pm
FREE Yoga in the Garden at the Mt. Washington Arboretum - Hosted by Root to Rise Yoga, MWPT and Nature Sacred. All shapes, sizes and abilities welcome! For more information, dates and to RSVP please see the event listing: https://www.facebook.com/events/2656214577753937/

Wellspring Yoga
Fridays, 8:45-10:00 a.m.
Elderslie-St. Andrews’ Church, 5601 Pimlico Road
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. $8-$10

“Sustainable Living,” continued from page 4

changers at rest-stops, free to charge in Maryland. In Baltimore City there are more than 175 chargers and most public and employer chargers that are free to charge. There are free “DC Fast Chargers” at Roland Park Pratt library, at Rawlings Conservatory in Druid Hill, in War Memorial Plaza, and many other locations. Royal Farms include fast chargers at highway rest stop locations. Charge while shopping at MOMs. When we go camping, we get a site with 115V power and fill up at no cost overnight.

How long does it take to charge? Plug in every other evening, and the car is fully charged long before sun up. A public Level 3 DC Charger gets to 80% in 15 to 25 minutes. Go get coffee.

Is a costly electric-vehicle charger installation required at home? Not really. For three years we have plugged into an ordinary 115-volt, three-prong waterproof GFCI outlet.

To add a Level 2 Charger and a 230-volt circuit (like that used for an electric clothes dryer) costs about $1500, including $500 for an electrician, a permit, and to run the cable. Maryland State offers Home Charger $500 Grants. There are bigger grants for business, workplace, and retail charger installs.

Dwellers in apartments, condos, and homes without off-street parking face a challenge to charge at home. State legislators are working with stakeholders drafting laws and regulations to improve charging for those who do not own a parking space. More and more employers are providing green parking stalls for employees to charge EVs at work as a commuter benefit like MTA transit passes.

One driver we know piped an extension cord under the public sidewalk next to his house, and no one complained. We use a heavy duty contractor’s extension cord out back to our parking pad.

Our Bolt has been to a filling station once to check tire pressures. The savings, safety, and benefits of owning or leasing an electric vehicle are AMAZING. We may never again maintain a fuel tank or repair a complex combustion engine, drive train, or hot friction-wearing brakes.

If you have not taken this leap, consider doing so soon. Federal Tax incentives could fade at any time.

You CAN actually stop buying gasoline, save money, and be safer all while lowering your carbon footprint in your next car.
Summer is here in Mt. Washington! Everyone is settling in to the long, warm days and moonlit evenings of summer.

We had a great turnout at the June 4 annual MWIA Membership Meeting at the JHU Mt. Washington Conference Center. I was able to report that the State of our Neighborhood is strong and vibrant. We heard from our 41st District delegates Sandy Rosenberg and Tony Bridges who provided an update regarding the state efforts to negotiate with Pimlico and Laurel racetracks owners, The Stronach Group (TSG). Talks are at a lull for now: the City withdrew their lawsuit after our Annual Meeting and will continue negotiations over the next 120 days in an attempt to keep the race at Pimlico. Stay tuned as we continue to follow this important issue.

MWIA membership elected this year’s slate of new Directors and Area Captains at the annual meeting. Thank you all for volunteering your time and voices to work toward the betterment of the neighborhood.

We also heard from our newest village merchant, Marigot Miller of Abbey Burger, which will be joining the Village Shops in the old Nickel Taphouse location this fall. Everyone looks forward to their grand opening! Work continues on the renovation of the new Warschawski PR and Advertising headquarters at 1700 South Road (St. John’s Church). They plan to open their offices later this summer.

Construction of the Jones Falls Trail continues down the hillside behind MWPB and on the No. Parkway pedestrian bridge project. Baltimore City has pushed trail completion to the end of this year.

To close out the meeting we were updated by Councilmember Yitzy Schleifer on his and his staff’s work to represent us in City departments and by MWIA’s sister organization, the Mount Washington Preservation Trust. The MWPT is fundraising to rebuild the pavilion structure at the Lochlea Rd. Arboretum. The structure requires reconstruction after severe thunderstorm damage. The Trust continues their many projects throughout the neighborhood. We thank MWPT volunteers who work tirelessly to enhance our neighborhood through their wonderful plantings and gardens!

Two weeks after our meeting, the MWIA was able to bring back the Annual Picnic at Luckman Park. Over 150 neighbors gathered to enjoy good music and food that included bountiful pot-luck offerings from many households. Many thanks to the MWIA social committee, Ellen Stokes, Ellie Mitchell, and Deb Kleiner plus all others who pitched in to make this picnic a success!

Speaking of wonderful events, Mt. Washington’s most enjoyable summertime gathering, the Spirit of Mt. Washington Independence Day Parade, will be held July 4th at 10:00 a.m. starting at Springwell Senior Living on West Rogers Ave. This is the 20th anniversary of this neighborhood celebration under the direction of our own Parade Divas! We hope to see everyone at the parade!

The MWIA’s work is about the preservation and betterment of our neighborhood for all of our families. The MWIA is a strong advocate through our collective voice supporting the quality of life unique to Mt. Washington. Please consider joining MWIA to add your voice to our efforts!

Here’s wishing you all a wonderful summer season! I hope to see you at the 4th of July Celebration and around the neighborhood.

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