



## MW School Repairs Part of Citywide Plan

### Legislators Consider \$2.4 Billion School Funding Proposal

By CARLA HOBSON  
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Legislators in Annapolis are considering an innovative financing plan that could provide a \$6.6 million renovation of The Mount Washington School, as part of a \$2.4 billion citywide school construction program.

The 10-year plan, called “21st-Century Buildings for Our Kids,” was approved by the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners on January 8, 2013. It would close 26 buildings, including Northwestern High School in 2016, and renovate or rebuild 136 others.

The plan depends upon passage by the Maryland General Assembly of a funding bill this legislative session. The so-called Block Grant Bill would secure \$32 million a year – the amount the City recently has received each year from the State – as a



The Mount Washington School building would receive extensive renovations under the City Schools plan.

block grant to leverage \$1.1 billion in bond funds in phase one, or the first four years of the plan. Ordinarily the State provides these funds on a project-by-project basis, rather than as a block grant. These funds are

separate from funding for school programs and teacher pay. The City Council also has approved a bottle tax that would add \$10 million a year toward school construction.

See School, page 11

## Northwest and Luckman Get Much-Needed Makeovers

By JASON KORTTE  
jasonkortte@comcast.net

An overgrown section of the Northwest Park got a “haircut” in December thanks to a community volunteer effort aided by Baltimore City.

Organized by members from the Eric Waller Community Garden, a group of volunteers joined forces on December 16

clearing invasive growth in a tree area along Wexford Road in Northwest Park.

Gardeners from The Mount Washington Preservation Trust, MWIA, and community vegetable garden cut, pulled and cleared English Ivy and grape vines from trees overwhelmed by these invasives. Left alone, the vines would have killed even the more mature trees and the area would have continued to deteriorate into an ecological

dead zone.

Under the guidance of master gardener Larry Close, and others with years of experience in natural landscaping including Mike Sherlock and Paul Levine, smaller invasive trees like the Norway Maple and Tree-of-Heaven were also cleared. Although the area looks rather bare now, the MWPT in consultation with

See Parks, page 10

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dr. Ira Kolman

We've all been looking forward to spring with great expectations. It's that time of year when the Eric Waller Mount Washington Community Vegetable Garden gets busier. A newly redone Luckman Park will reopen. The Northwest Park Master Plan has now been completed and, maybe, we might even see work begin. Phase IV of the Jones Falls Trail will hopefully get underway this year which means that Phase V (our Mount Washington portion) will be next in line.

There have been new traffic-calming activities around our Mount Washington School with more being worked on. Crime reports are low with our main concern being an increase in car break-ins (it should be pointed out that our neighboring communities face the same issue.)

Our streets are in much better shape this spring compared to last. Hopefully we won't have any more intense weather events affecting street conditions for quite a while.

I have appointed representatives to serve on the SNAP (Strategic Neighborhood Action Plan) Steering Committee to determine priorities for Slots Funds coming to the five Northwest Baltimore

Communities (Mount Washington, Cheswolde, Cross Country, Fallstaff, and Glen). Over the long term we hope to realize millions of dollars coming into these communities.

Our MWIA is growing nicely. More and more young families are moving into our great community and are joining the association, as are longstanding Mount Washingtonians. More than 30 local and locally-owned businesses are participating in our MWIA Member Value Card program which provides more than \$2000 in discounted goods and services. This is being offered as an incentive to join the MWIA and early reports indicate that it is turning out to be an effective win-win situation for all. To join just visit [mwia.org/mwia/membership](http://mwia.org/mwia/membership).

Here's to the continued success of our MWIA and our neighborhood!

As always, it is a pleasure to serve this fantastic community.

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# Get Your Hands Dirty

## Mt. Washington Preservation Trust Welcomes Weekend Gardeners

By PAUL LEVINE  
jessalex1@comcast.net

Did you ever wonder who those people were blocking the road with a wheelbarrow filled with mulch as you passed by on a Sunday morning?

We are not itinerant gardeners traveling the Mid Atlantic. We are your neighbors from the Mt. Washington Preservation Trust, and this will be the 24th year we have tended the public gardens throughout Mount Washington.

The Mt. Washington Preservation Trust is a non-profit organization with two broad missions: The preservation of green space through conservation easements and the planting and maintenance of gardens on our public lands.

Our easement program, started in 1989, has preserved over 25 acres of open space, natural buffers and pristine woodland for generations of Mount Washingtonians.

Our garden program has created dozens of public gardens for everyone to enjoy. The gardens of the trust include the Mount Washington Arboretum, nationally recognized for its reclamation of a deserted building site, as well as rain gardens and sustainable native perennial gardens. We continue to aggressively remove invasive species from our native woodlands. Our

recent efforts can be seen at the Northwest Park along Wexford Road.

We live in a wonderful neighborhood blessed by a unique natural setting and the Mt. Washington Preservation Trust needs your help in keeping it so. Visit our website at [mwpt.org](http://mwpt.org) to learn more or come join us any Sunday morning for a good workout and a chance to meet your neighbors.

### Mount Washington Preservation Trust Garden Maintenance Schedule

Sundays 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

March 3	Cross Country Blvd. median (at South Rd.)
March 10	Cross Country Blvd. median (at Chilham Rd.)
March 17	Kelly Avenue (west of Lochlea Rd.)
March 24	Cross Country Blvd. & Bonnieview Dr. (Ecostar Garden)
March 31	Kelly Avenue & Bonnieview Dr. (Boy Scout Memorial)
April 7	Ken Oak Rd. median (2400 block)
April 14	Pimlico Rd. median (at Ken Oak Rd.)
April 21	Northern Parkway & Greenspring Ave. (Sinai Triangle)

## GARDENING By RICK KINGSBURY — [land.arch@comcast.net](mailto:land.arch@comcast.net)



### Creating a Home Rain Garden

With new regulations and fees associated with runoff from residential properties in Baltimore, and increased concern regarding its effect on the Bay, many homeowners are looking into establishing rain gardens as part of a rain water management system for their homes.

Here is a very brief outline of factors that need to be considered when planning a rain garden. If you would like additional information, please contact me.

- 1. Location**— Place the rain garden at least 10 feet from the foundation and below the level of your home. If you have a patio or terrace, consider integrating the location of the rain garden with these outdoor areas so that you can better enjoy the garden. Avoid placing the rain garden in an area of the yard that is currently ponding, as this will slow infiltration.
- 2. Size**— Most residential rain gardens should be in the 100 to 300 square foot range. This size is only an approximation. If you are planning to divert all of the downspouts from a large home into a

single garden, you should aim for the high side of this range. If you are planning to capture less rainfall, the smaller size should work. The size can be more precisely determined by calculating runoff quantities. The pond should be between 4 to 8 inches deep.

- 3. Plants**— Choose native plants that are adaptable to both wet and dry conditions. The garden will be alternately inundated and dry.

The Mount Washington Preservation Trust has established rain garden demonstration areas in Mount Washington, and meets on Sunday mornings to maintain these and other gardens we all enjoy. If you would like to be involved, learn more about the MWPT or contribute, please contact Paul Levine at [jessalex1@comcast.net](mailto:jessalex1@comcast.net), or Mike Sherlock at [finnegan21@aol.com](mailto:finnegan21@aol.com)

*Rick Kingsbury is a Licensed Landscape Architect whose practice emphasizes the creation of personalized outdoor living spaces as well as sustainable design and native plants.*



# AROUND THE 'HOOD

By EILEEN D'ANDREA — eileendandrea@comcast.net



The holidays are over and it's that bleak in between season of winter where spring seems like it will never come. For those who look forward to wonderful springtime traditions, put the Mount Washington School's Swing Into Spring dinner and auction on your calendars. This year it will be on April 27 at the beautifully renovated Mt. Washington Tavern.

The one nice upswing in the monotony of grey that was January and early February was the Ravens run through the playoffs and ultimate Super Bowl win. As a Buffalo Bills fan in the 1990s (0 and 4 in Super Bowl appearances), I simply REFUSE to get my hopes up about the home team.

However, my neighbors **Carla and Chris Ryon** are eternal optimists. They hosted a big family party for the "Harbowl." There was excitement but also tension in the room as well as a ton of beer and food. Ravens-attired children ran amok, but somehow seemed to sense the gravity of the situation, saving their craziest antics for the basement rather than in front of the two flat screen TVs.

I hardly understand football, but even I could see how truly amazing the Ravens were playing in the first half. I turned to my friend, **Kirsten Mackin**, and said, "Now I'm feeling really sorry for San Francisco. They need to get a few more points so they don't feel bad." I had no idea that would actually happen.

During the endless and aimless blackout, I took my baby girls home, put them to bed, and got myself all comfy to watch the

inevitable victory. Like the rest of Baltimore, I was shocked to see the nail-biter ending, and a 34 to 31 Ravens victory. The second the game ended, fireworks went off and my next door neighbor, Ravens fan extraordinaire **Gail Clough**, flung open her door yelling, "I'M SOOOOO HAPPY!!!!!!"

Bad parent that I am, I allowed my teenage son, **Conor**, to skip school with his neighborhood buddy, **Will**, and Will's mom, the truly amazing **Missie Mack**, to attend the Victory Parade downtown with about 200,000 others. It was a purple sea of excitement they will never forget - a once in a lifetime opportunity to celebrate this great moment for the Ravens and the City of Baltimore.

In quick Village news, in case you missed it, **Karen Feldman** closed the doors of Newbury and Smith, the fine women's consignment shop located across from the Light Rail. After eight years, Karen and her husband, **Richard**, decided to downsize their business obligations to spend more time with their new granddaughter. Her great staff and wonderful shop will be missed.

However, all is not lost in the world of Village fashion. If you have not been to La Chic Boutique, Fine Women's Consignments, at 5614 Newbury Street, you have to check it out. Owner **Mary Anne Barker** is fantastic and has beautiful, affordable clothes, shoes and more in her lovely shop. La Chic Boutique is great about emailing updates, and I just saw she is running sales to blow out the winter clothes, so make sure to chase away some of these mid-winter blues and check out La Chic Boutique as well as the other shops and restaurants in the Village.



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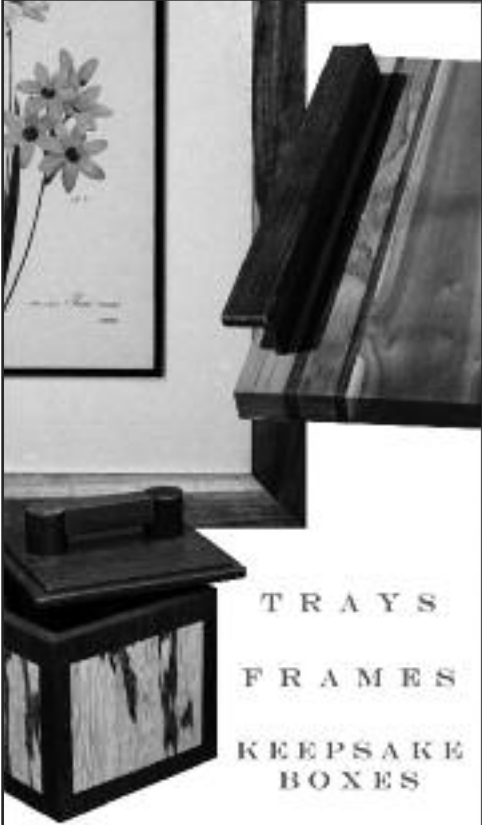
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# Mount Washington School Gears Up for Springtime

By JILL FEINBERG, President  
Mount Washington School PTO  
PTO@mountwashingtonschool.org

## We're on the move

The Mount Washington School continues to shine! This year we successfully added 7th grade, with a special emphasis on the implementation of the International Baccalaureate Programme (IB). Each semester, all students can participate in a wide variety of afterschool activities such as the Chess Club, Debate League, Drama and Playwriting, Jewelry Making, Spanish, Yoga, Step, Knitting, Basketball, Yearbook and more. If you have a special skill that you'd like to share with the students, please contact the school at 410-396-6354. We welcome any community member who might be willing to share with the students.

## Life after Clorox

The entire community came out in support of the school's Clorox grant bid. While we were not the ultimate winners, we are proud that the school ended at #11 out of 1,600, the highest-ranked Maryland school, and it was our first-time effort! You voted, held signs, posted on

Facebook, watched us on TV, and cheered us on. The support was terrific and our school community is energized. While the high-need areas still exist, we are working creatively to apply for grants and find opportunities that suit our needs. We could always use additional support. If you're a grant writer (or any type of writer), have access to corporate giving, or want to participate in improving our school, please email me at the address above.

## Join us at upcoming events

Spring is a busy time for the school and the PTO is sponsoring some terrific events. Community members are always welcome to join us. The Spaghetti Dinner and Talent Show will be held on March 15th at Poly High School. And we've changed venues for Swing into Spring this year. Please join us at the Mt. Washington Tavern on April 27th. See more info in the Calendar section of the newsletter.

## Keep in touch

The Mount Washington School is on Facebook – Mt. Washington School PTO – and we're on line at [www.MountWashingtonSchool.org](http://www.MountWashingtonSchool.org).

# CHAI Brings 'Good Neighbor Day' To Mount Washington

By Shelley Weinreb  
sweinreb@chaibaltimore.org

On Sunday April 21 Mount Washington will bustle with activity as residents and volunteers take to the streets and streams to beautify and clean the neighborhood as part of Good Neighbor Day, sponsored by Comprehensive Housing Assistance Inc. (CHAI).

CHAI's annual spring event is a day of community giving by and for those living in the Mount Washington, Cheswolde, Cross Country, Glen and Fallstaff neighborhoods. On Good Neighbor Day, neighbors help neighbors to strengthen and beautify our community, as well as help our senior residents maintain their properties.

Volunteers can choose from a variety of projects in and around the neighborhood, such as:

- Cleaning the Western Run stream of trash and debris
- Clearing storm drains
- Sweeping streets and alleys
- Helping with block beautification projects...and much more.

One of the most important and gratifying aspects of Good Neighbor Day is interacting with and helping vulnerable community members, seniors and adults with disabilities. The work volunteers perform fosters dignity, instills pride and helps residents enjoy a greener, safer home environment.

Good Neighbor Day is supported by CHAI (Comprehensive Housing Assistance, Inc.), THE ASSOCIATED: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, Blue Water Baltimore and Chesapeake Bay Trust.

For information or to register, by April 5, visit [www.chaibaltimore.org](http://www.chaibaltimore.org).

# PNC Bank Offers Gift For MWIA Members

PNC Bank announced it is celebrating the opening of its new Mt. Washington Mill branch by offering a free gift to anyone bearing an MWIA Member Value Card.

The bank also announced it has named Allen Cephas as manager of the new Green Branch® location at 1340 Smith Avenue (next to Whole Foods Market). Julio Hernandez has been

named assistant manager.

The Mt. Washington Mill branch is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Drive-thru service is available whenever the branch is open, and there is 24-hour ATM service.

To claim your free gift, simply show your MWIA Member Value Card. No purchase is necessary.

# Mount Washington Is Bird Watchers' Bounty

By BRYCE BUTLER  
capitano.bryce@comcast.net

In April and May a great stream of colorful warblers passes through our area as part of a great migration from Central and South America to North America. We are very lucky that Mount Washington, with its canopy of mature trees, provides nesting grounds to a large number of these migrants.

In May Baltimore Orioles can be found nesting in the trees lining the edges of Northwest Park. Two or three pairs of Yellow Warblers, bright as canaries, nest in the brushy verges of the upper field on Enslow Road. And a dazzling male Indigo Bunting sings from various perches around the same field he's staked out as his territory.

Many consider the Wood Thrush the most beautiful singer of all the visiting songbirds. Their ethereal flutelike songs can be heard in the woods where they nest behind the Mount Washington Pediatric Hospital.

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds also nest here. To attract them, set up a feeder by the third week of April. For food boil 1 part cane sugar with 4 parts water.

But you don't have to wait until spring. Many birds are here year round. Cardinals are a welcome antidote to wintry drab. Four species of Woodpeckers can regularly be seen throughout Mount Washington: Downy, Hairy, Red-bellied and the Pileated with its Woody Woodpecker crest. Tufted Titmouse and Carolina Chickadees amuse with their acrobatics. The lively trills of Carolina Wrens ring through the winter air. To see and hear these birds visit the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's website: <http://www.allaboutbirds.org>.

Don't overlook the everyday birds: Blue Jays, Crows, Robins, Starlings and Mocking Birds. We have numerous birds of prey, including Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks. If you have a bird feeder up you've probably seen Coopers and Sharp-shinned Hawks swooping in to grab a bird snack. Barred Owls nest in various wooded areas in Mount

Washington.

They are more easily seen as they hunt both day and night. Great-horned Owls also nest here but are more elusive as they are exclusively nocturnal.

The Baltimore Bird Club is a good resource to learn more with many local field trips, including weekly Sunday morning walks at 8:00 a.m. beginning in April.

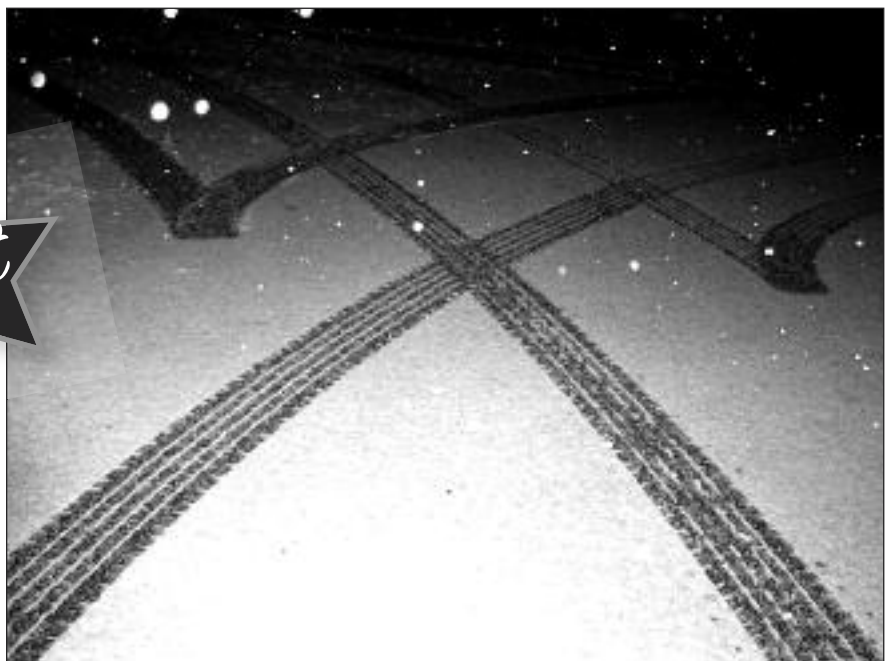
But closer to home it's my intent to lead informal bird watching walks around the area. These will be easy walks. We'll meet at the upper field on Enslow at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 21. We'll circle the fields and then walk down West Rogers Avenue to Wildwood Lane. If there's enough interest we can set up another walk for sometime in May. I hope to see you there.

Additional resources:  
<http://baltimorebirdclub.org/>  
<http://www.mdbirds.org/>  
<http://md.audubon.org/>



## Photo Contest Winner Announced

Congratulations to **Linda Loew**, whose photo of snow patterns left by a car near her home in the 5800 block of Greenspring Avenue has won first place in the MWIA Photo Contest for March. Second place went to **Michael Moss** for his snow-covered shot from the footbridge connecting Kelly Avenue with Western Run Drive. This month's theme was "Winter in Mount Washington." Go to [mwia.org](http://mwia.org) to see other entries. For the May/June issue, the contest theme will be "A Mount Washington Spring." Entries may be submitted to [news@mwia.org](mailto:news@mwia.org) (include "Photo Contest" and your name in the subject line.) The deadline for submissions is April 1.





# New Merchants Added To MWIA Value Card Program

By DAVID CONN  
news@mwia.org

Two more Mount Washington businesses have joined the MWIA Member Value Card program, bringing to 32 the number of participating vendors, with more than \$2,000 worth of offers to MWIA members.

Blue Sage Café & Wine Bar, located at 1604 Kelly Avenue, is offering a 10% discount off of food orders for value card customers, and Hygeia Counseling Services, at 5710 Newbury Street, will provide a 50% discount off the first three counseling sessions, a \$210 value.



## MWIA Launches Grant Process

The Mount Washington Improvement Association is now accepting applications for funding to support projects that maintain and enhance the quality of life in Mount Washington.

A very brief grant form is available on the MWIA website, at <http://mwia.org/mwia>. Please download it and send it in to the address on the form. There is no deadline for submissions.

You must provide a brief description of your project, with a budget showing how the funds would be used. A report must be submitted after the funds are expended.

The MWIA has adopted this process to ensure that all requests for funding are treated fairly and uniformly, and to increase the transparency of the MWIA and create an accessible record of all grant requests and approvals.

If you have any questions please contact Bryce Butler, [capitano.bryce@comcast.net](mailto:capitano.bryce@comcast.net), or 410-728-0646.

Other discounts offered by Value Card vendors include:

- 20% off your check at Crepe du Jour and Desert Café
- 15% off at Pepe's Pizza,
- a free glass of wine with any entrée at Ethel & Ramone's;
- a free day for four at the Mount Washington Swimming Club (some exclusions);
- one free class with Baltimore Yoga Village studio director Anjali Sunita;
- 10% off your purchase at breathe books in Hampden.

The value card is just one reason to join or rejoin the Mount Washington Improvement Association, one of the oldest and strongest community organizations in Maryland. Dues are \$19 for new members; \$40 for renewals; and an optional \$100 for Supporting Members.

If you have not already done so, please make your check payable to MWIA, and send it to MWIA, PO Box 10404, Baltimore, MD 21209. You may also pay online by visiting <http://mwia.org/mwia/paypal.php>.



## 2013 MWIA Membership Dues

**Yes**, I would like to support the MWIA with my membership and take advantage of the 2013 MWIA Value Card (worth more than \$2,000).

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- \$100 – Sponsoring member

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# Pediatric Hospital Volunteers Needed

By ANGELA WENMAN  
HRIS/Volunteer Recruitment Coordinator  
AWenman@mwph.org

Did you know there is a place right here in your neighborhood that offers an opportunity to enrich your life and make a difference in the life of a child?

Since 1922, Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital, located on West Rogers Avenue, has been a mainstay in providing local specialty pediatric care for those with serious and/or chronic illnesses.

Our patients range from premature newborns to adolescents of 18. MWPH has treated more than 12,000 inpatients and outpatients in the past year. The hospital has provided transitional care for babies to age three that helps them grow and gain strength before they go home to their families, and rehabilitation for older children who have undergone surgery or

suffered some sort of physical trauma or illness.

The community's support is important to all hospitals, but is especially important at Mt. Washington because of the medically fragile children we serve. Volunteers have always been one of our most important assets.

There are many ways to support the children, from working directly with a child to greeting their visitors at the front desk. Whatever your interests, abilities and availability, we can find something to suit you. Just a few examples of our various volunteer positions include child life support, hospitality, clerical support and event planning. Volunteers must be at least 18 to work with children, or at least 16 for other activities.

Please visit our website for more



information, [www.mwph.org](http://www.mwph.org) or contact Angie Wenman at 410-578-5067 or [AWenman@mwph.org](mailto:AWenman@mwph.org) to become a partner in the very important work that we do.



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## Above & Beyond

This feature recognizes the good works and citizenship of Mount Washington residents. Several nominations were submitted and the winning entry was this one, for **Zosia Zaks**, who initiated a drive to raise funds for the funeral and urn for a baby who died at Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital. To nominate a neighbor for the May/June issue, please send a short "Above and Beyond" essay to [news@mwia.org](mailto:news@mwia.org).

I'm nominating Zosia Zaks for the lovingkindness he exhibited as he collected money from our community for a baby's funeral. He explained why the parents did not qualify for assistance from other sources and raised enough to help the grieving parents in their time of greatest need. Kudos.

— Linda S. Myers

The hospital is touched and humbled by the compassion of our neighbors and the kindness shown to the family during their time of loss and grief. The family also wishes to send their sincere appreciation to the Mt. Washington residents, and sent the following quote that sums up their thoughts: "As long as there are wonderful people like you, who brighten and enrich the lives of others, there will be people like us, who feel very glad that we know you."

— Dr. Harriette Wimms, Pediatric Psychologist, Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital



**Zosia Zaks**

## Cameras for Clayworks

In the last few months Baltimore Clayworks' Community Arts Program has been steadily adding pictures, stories and videos to their "show and tell" web site, <http://www.clayforall.org/>. The goal is to give supporters, students and Clayworks' community members a virtual experience of all that happens in the Clay for All! satellite studios, as well as Clayworks' contract workshops.

You can help provide more pictures and videos by donating a camera that you might have replaced with an upgraded one over the holidays. Clayworks needs digital cameras that are preferably 7 megapixels or higher. Please contact [community.arts@baltimoreclayworks.org](mailto:community.arts@baltimoreclayworks.org) if you'd like to donate your camera.



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## Western Run Stream Cleanup

**Saturday, April 6 from 9:00 a.m. to noon**

Seeking volunteers to enjoy nature and tidy up the neighborhood and ultimately the Inner Harbor. Join us on Saturday, April 6 from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Boy Scout Memorial on Kelly Avenue and Bonnie View Drive to pick up the trash in the Western Run Stream, which is part of the Jones Falls Watershed. Call or email Ellen O'Brien at 410-542-8766 [oreob999@comcast.net](mailto:oreob999@comcast.net)

## On The Move

Highlighting the comings and goings of Mount Washingtonians. Please help make our new neighbors feel welcome. (Information obtained from public sources. Please contact news@mwia.org to provide information, or correct any errors.)

**2109 Northcliff Drive** Sold on December 3, 2012, by Natalie Mendeloff to Christian Temblay.

**5734 Ridgedale Road** Sold on January 4, 2013, by Deborah Edelman to Christopher Oliver.

**5878 Pimlico Road** Sold on December 6 by Mary Beth Hansen to Mary Henderson.

**1817 South Road** Sold on January 8 by David Minges to David Lee.

**5708 Rockspring Road** Sold on December 20 by Allan Forrest to Susan Glass.

**5603 Roxbury Place** Sold on January 8 by Henry and Shirley Mark to Ernst and Dana Valery

**1702 Mount Washington Ct., Apt. M** Sold on December 20 by George Carr to Ericka Jackson.

## For Sale

Know anyone looking to move? Here are homes for sale in Mount Washington. *(With thanks to Joan Goldman of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, www.JoanSellsBaltimore.com.)*

Address	List Price
1605 Terrace Rd	\$520,000
1804 Fairbank Rd	\$474,900
2435 Everton Rd	\$285,000
1903 Rogers Ave W	\$265,000
5713 Cross Country Blvd	\$250,000
2110 Northcliff Dr	\$249,000
5705 Rockspring Rd	\$234,900
5608 Woodcrest Ave	\$229,900
5705 Berkeley Ave	\$229,000
5730 Greenspring Ave	\$219,000
5801 Woodcrest Ave	\$149,999
2001 Kelly Ave	\$135,000

## “Parks,” continued from page 1

Baltimore City Recreation and Parks (BCRP), hope to plant various natives to restore the area. This project was supported by the partnership between Mt. Washington and BCRP, which arrived with front loaders and dump trucks to clear the piles of debris from the clean-up.

The long-term vision for Northwest Park is currently being established through the development of the master plan, which aims to guide enhancements to the park and protect it from unwanted change. BCRP, in consultation with Mayhan Rykeil Associates Inc., has completed a 95% draft of the plan which identifies individual projects such as field and baseball diamond improvements, rehabilitation of the gym and field house, improved parking and traffic calming measures, and installation of a small playground. Although there is no funding immediately available to implement the master plan, the MWIA aims to have this project “shovel ready” so when funding is identified, likely through the Strategic Neighborhood Action Plan, the project can quickly move forward.

### Luckman Park changes underway

The renovation work at Irving Luckman Park continues to move forward. Big

changes were seen in the initial stages of the project, including the much needed demolition of the recreation building and its concrete perimeter.

Tree removal was completed until last summer’s derecho caused havoc and knocked down additional trees. The circular paths around the park are nearly 75% completed. Currently, less visible work is occurring including grading, installation of the “bio swales” and their piping, and pouring of the footers for the retaining walls and pergola. The next steps of the project involve pouring the retaining walls and constructing the boardwalk.

According to the Project Manager at Baltimore City Recreation and Parks, Valerie McGuire, completion of the project is targeted for May or June. The updated park with better erosion control, new tot-lot, circular walking paths, and decorative pergola will provide a sustainable resource for recreation for the surrounding communities. Thanks for everyone’s patience during this renovation.

## YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake  
(410) 396-3835  
mayor@baltimorecity.gov

Councilwoman Rochelle “Rikki” Spector  
410-396-4819  
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Senator Lisa Gladden  
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lisa.gladden@senate.state.md.us

Delegate Jill Carter  
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Delegate Nathaniel Oaks  
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Delegate Sandy Rosenberg  
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samuel.rosenberg@house.state.md.us

## Dunklebits

By NED DUNKLEBERGER — neddunkleberger@gmail.com



I was so depressed.

In recent months I received requests to take potshots at certain neighbors on the ListServ. I declined. I was asked my opinion on a wide variety of matters great and small and encouraged to speak out against injustice far and wide. I refused to take up any cause.

I was asked to marshal parades, to revive the tradition of leaving cognac and a rose at Poe's grave, to lead a book club that would read only books about, or written by, cats. I was offered the honor of throwing out the first pitch at the Women's Prison Softball tournament.

I declined them all (though I confess that last one was tempting, given my widely known fondness for the windmill pitch).

I did accept one offer: I presided over the closing of a shopping center. In Pittsburgh. How depressing is that? Clearly, something was wrong with me. I just wasn't my old self. It was as if some alter-ego had taken over.

So on New Year's Day I booked two weeks in the Florida Keys, loaded Ethel and the triple-decker cat carrier into my VW microbus and headed down Route 1 to the Sunshine State. Florida is the place where many go to complain about the humidity before they die, and others to hide out from the mob. But I was on a quest to reflect on my life and find a path forward. I was also getting a little pasty and needed a tan – and a fried grouper sandwich.

(Editor's note: He also needed, according to his expense report, a

bushel of stone crab claws, several massages – Swedish and Asian – a deluxe oceanfront suite, a case of grapefruit, 11 pounds of catnip, a South of the Border tote bag, a ticket to Harry Potter World and a baby alligator.)

Well, I thought I had booked two weeks in the Florida Keys; turns out it was two weeks in The Okefenokee Swamp. I have learned they are not the same. Now, I enjoy Gator Rasslin' and Pentecostal serpent handling as much as the next guy, and the cats were excited to see a real Florida Panther, but this was not exactly what we had bargained for.

On the other hand, there is nothing like a third-degree sunburn and mosquito-borne disease-induced delirium to bring a neighborhood persona back to life! And there is nothing like two weeks in the wilderness of suburban Jacksonville to make you appreciate the sights and smells of Mount Washington in the spring. Tulips! Flowering Cherry Trees! Azaleas! Misdirected lacrosse balls! My garden! Yes, I planted hundreds of bulbs last fall. Mostly conventional but a few dozen compact fluorescents – I can't wait to see them light up the place!

I brought a mason jarful of swamp muck back with me. It's here on my desk and whenever I get just a little depressed, I open up that jar and take a deep snootful and I am happier than ever to be alive and well and living in Mount Washington.

Here's hoping you are, too. And don't forget to floss.

*Ned*

### “School,” continued from page 1

The legislation – House Bill 860 and Senate Bill 743 – would create a “Baltimore City Public Schools Construction Authority,” similar to the Maryland Stadium Authority established in 1987, to enhance construction oversight, capacity, and efficiency. It would give the state the responsibility to approve construction projects to ensure quality and proper spending of public dollars.

A study of school facilities, known as the Jacobs Report, was made public last summer and provides lawmakers with a comprehensive review of all 183 school buildings across the district. Based on this assessment, the 10-year plan recommends renovating or replacing 136 school buildings, vacating 26 schools buildings, relocating 12 school programs and closing 17 school programs – starting in 2013-14.

Proponents of the legislation cite historically low interest rates, and the

prospect of avoiding escalating construction costs in the future as City school buildings continue to deteriorate. Estimates show this plan could reduce the cost of repairing Baltimore City School buildings by \$2.1 billion over 10 years. The 10-year plan also includes a maintenance program to ensure that the new schools do not fall back into disrepair.

The Mount Washington School renovation would come in year five of the plan. The recommendations note that projected enrollments in the middle school grades are on track to raise usage to 137 percent of capacity by 2016. “This points to the need to construct an addition as part of the building’s renovation, lowering its utilization rate to a target of 75 to 90 percent,” the report states. It does not specify where an addition might be added.

Building renovations would include new

central air conditioning, roof repairs, a variety of security and disabilities compliance measures, and improvements to sidewalks and playgrounds, among others.

Details of the plan can be found at [baltimorecityschools.org](http://baltimorecityschools.org).

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# Community Calendar

## March 2 – April 13

### **“Global Perspectives” at Baltimore Clayworks**

Baltimore Clayworks is proud to host Global Perspectives, a curatorial thesis exhibition by Jaimianne Amicucci, an MFA graduate student at the Maryland Institute College of Art. March 2 through April 13. Opening reception Saturday, March 2, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Free and open to the public.

## March 6

### **Mt. Washington Preservation Trust Board Meeting**

7:30 p.m.

At the Long and Foster real estate office in the Lake Falls Village shopping center (next to the Ivy bookstore). All community members are welcome.

## Friday mornings

### **Mt. Washington Community Yoga Class**

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

St. Andrew's Elderslie Church on Pimlico Rd. at Ken Oak. Appropriate for all levels. 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

## March 12

### **“Social Entrepreneurs” Author Beverly Schwartz at the Ivy Bookshop**

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Meet Beverly Schwartz, author of “Rippling: How Social Entrepreneurs Spread Innovation Throughout the World.”

## March 13 and April 10

### **Ivy Bookshop Benefit for Mount Washington School**

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

## March 15

### **Mount Washington School Spaghetti Dinner & Talent Show**

6:00 p.m. dinner; 7:00 p.m. talent show.

The whole community is welcome to attend this annual favorite, this year located at Poly High School. Tickets may be purchased at the door for \$6.00.

## April 9

### **Mount Washington Improvement Association Open Board Meeting**

7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

At The Mount Washington School, Upper Building (1801 Sulgrave Ave.). All community members are welcome.

## April 21

### **Mount Washington Bird Watching Walk**

8:00 a.m.

Join local “birder” Bryce Butler for an informal and easy bird watching walk around the neighborhood. Meet at the upper field of Northwest Park, at Enslow Road. Contact Bryce at [capitano.bryce@comcast.net](mailto:capitano.bryce@comcast.net) for more information.

## April 21

### **CHAI Good Neighbor Day**

9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Join Comprehensive Housing Assistance Inc. for Good Neighbor Day, help “clean and green” Mount Washington and nearby neighborhoods, and help our vulnerable residents maintain their properties and dignity. Visit [www.chaibaltimore.org](http://www.chaibaltimore.org) to register by April 5th, 2013, or contact Chedva Rose at [crose@chaibaltimore.org](mailto:crose@chaibaltimore.org) or 410-500-5325.

## April 27

### **MWS “Swing into Spring” Fundraiser Auction**

6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

This year’s “Swing into Spring,” the annual fundraiser auction to benefit The Mount Washington School, will be held at the Mt. Washington Tavern. Always a neighborhood highlight of the year, contact Sarah Nativ at [sarahnativ@gmail.com](mailto:sarahnativ@gmail.com) for details.