Local Plunge team raises thousands for the environment

By ELIZABETH GROVE
elg.grove@gmail.com

On January 27, the Mt. Washington Polar Bears once again took the Annual Polar Bear Plunge at National Harbor to help support clean energy solutions and protect our precious planet. Returning MWPB team members Colin Starger, Meghan Zenz, and Elizabeth Grove, along with new recruits Maïsha Telfer and Walter Grove, plunged into the frigid — below 40-degree — waters of the Potomac as part of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network’s event.

Only five members strong, the MWPB ranked 11th out of the 36 registered teams in fundraising, with a record collection of $2,901 – literally double its success last year. All five ran into the river along with at least a hundred other brave souls, cheered on by hundreds more. Youngest member Maïsha actually splashed

Grants available for community projects

By LOUISE CORNELL
louisecornell@comcast.net

Starting this spring, grants will be available through the Neighborhood Initiative Competitive Grants program, administered by the Pimlico Community Development Authority within the Baltimore City Department of Planning. The primary purpose of these grants is community building.

Grants have funded beautification efforts and community gardens, signs, festivals, resource events, school needs, and other similar activities. Projects must be located within an eligible geographic area that categorizes neighborhoods into four groups: Park Heights, Northwest Community, Coldspring Newtown, and Liberty-Wabash.

The recipient must be a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization with a tax-exempt status or a mission-based organization with a 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor. Those with requests should make contact with the PCDA to determine whether the projects meet the basic qualifications.

Healthy Neighborhoods, Inc., is the organization that makes the final decision on grants of $2,500 or less. For larger amounts, Healthy Neighborhoods will analyze the application, then the PCDA Grant Subcommittee will evaluate and score them.

The Subcommittee makes a recommendation to the Director of Planning, who then consults with the Mayor’s Office in making the final determination. For additional requirements, details about the evaluation process, criteria, examples of
# Officers

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Julie Tong, **Vice President**
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Susan Manning, **Secretary**
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David Nemerson, **Treasurer**
dnemerson@gmail.com, membership@mwia.org

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# Area Captains

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Captains are liaisons between the seven community areas and the MWIA. Contact your area captain to raise and discuss issues you would like to see addressed by the MWIA, or to otherwise obtain information about the neighborhood and other assistance. A map of the seven areas can be found at mwia.org/about.html.

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# The Newsletter of the Mt. Washington Improvement Association

The newsletter of the Mount Washington Improvement Association is distributed six times a year to all residents of Mount Washington and includes information on the news, people, activities, and businesses of the neighborhood, as well as the actions of the Association’s Board of Directors. The newsletter can be contacted at news@mwia.org with story ideas, calendar listings, volunteering interest, and other inquiries. Advertising in the newsletter generates revenue that is used to support the MWIA and community; interested advertisers should contact advertising@mwia.org for information on rates and publication.

— Chris Mincher, Editor
Community teen’s fine cuisine earns TV show crown

By CHRIS MINCHER
cminch@gmail.com

Haven’t yet tried the cream of turnip soup and parmesan croquette from Mount Washington’s latest culinary rage? Eager to sample the exquisitely cooked pork that recently earned this foodie phenom national acclaim?

Well, don’t bother scanning for new restaurants in the Village. Instead, try to grab a chair in 14-year-old Owen Pereira’s dining room.

Pereira is the winner of the first season of “Top Chef Junior,” a cooking show on the Universal Kids channel that features a variety of food-prep challenges. To nab the top prize — which came with a $50,000 purse — Pereira assembled a three-course meal featuring, in addition to the aforementioned soup and pork, a braised short rib with caramelized onion puree, pickled onions, mustard seed, chanterelles, and truffle. That might not be typical chow for the middle-school crowd, but Pereira’s mastery of classic French techniques certainly won over his judges, including celebrity chef Curtis Stone and food writer Gail Simmons.

Pereira was one of 12 selected for the show from more than 200 young applicants nationwide. It was quite the achievement for a kid who mainly learned his craft from YouTube and cookbooks.

Now, the journey through the televised competition has helped turn his hobby from mere inspiration — he counts notable chefs Thomas Keller, Daniel Humm and Daniel Boulud as influences — into innovation. “I learned more there than I have my whole life,” Pereira said, as he and another show contestant work to open a pop-up restaurant in Chicago. If all goes according to plan, he hopes to bring it to Baltimore this summer as well.

From there, he envisions glowing reviews in the Michelin Guide and adding the James Beard Foundation Award to his collection of kitchen accolades. With impressive talents and ambition, Pereira stands poised to make Mount Washington the starting point on a path to gourmand greatness.

The Story of Mount Washington

Neighborhood a former haven for writers and artists

By DANIELLE SHAPIRO
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Mount Washington has had its share of notable residents through the years, but a particularly famous figure used to live in what was then considered part of the neighborhood. The family of H.L. Mencken, the renowned journalist, satirist, critic, and scholar who wrote for The Baltimore Sun, had a summer home on Belvedere Avenue between Falls Road and Jones Falls — now 1307 West Northern Parkway.

This stunning white clapboard home with a wide porch was built in 1890 by H.L.’s father, August Mencken, owner of a cigar manufacturing plant. It is up a big hill to the southeast of the intersection of Interstate 83 and Northern Parkway, on a lot that was almost 4 acres.

According to Baltimore historian Gil Sandler, Mencken spent eight summers outside in the fields, playing baseball, and hiking. Other outdoor pleasures included fishing in the Jones Falls and in Lake Roland.

Mencken was moved by the serenity of the surroundings and had many happy memories. But he would barely recognize the current form of the home, swathed in white aluminum siding. The porch is long gone and the walls are mostly lined with wood paneling, but traces of the pre-air conditioning age survive in the plentiful windows and good ventilation meant to catch the slightest breeze.

The Menckens’ next-door neighbors were the Mattfeldt family, for whom Sabina-Mattfeldt is named. The Mattfeldt patriarch helped organize the neighborhood baseball team (popular then as it is now, with many spring leagues playing in the fields of Northwest Park).

The Baltimore Sun has compiled a number of other prominent characters that have lived in the community, including novelist and artist John Dos Passos, and author and historian Taylor Branch, who won the Pulitzer Prize in 1954-63 for “Parting the Waters: America in the King Years, 1954-63.” Artist and professor Herman Maril also painted for years in his studio on Roxbury Place.
Take steps to help honey bees

By CHARLENE ABELN
charabeln@gmail.com

Spring is near, and so is the work and effort put forth to ready yards, gardens, and outdoor spaces. With this comes the reactivation of insects.

Some insects are good, and some are not so good. Honey bees are important pollinators, but their population is under great stress. Considering and implementing a few small and doable changes can help and avoid harm to bees.

The lowly dandelion is honey bees’ first source of food in early spring. They have been holed up in the hive and consumed their honey through the winter. They come out and collect the pollen to make the honey, restore their stash, and feed the newborn bees. Please consider mowing dandelions instead of using chemicals to get rid of them.

Also consider taking the time to plant in the garden bee- and other pollinator-friendly native plants, including goldenrod, silver gem violets, and New York ironweed. Vegetable gardens need bees, so buy organic vegetable plants that haven’t been treated with insecticides—bunnies and squirrels will be more of a problem than insects.

Stay away from the big-box home improvement stores to buy plants and flowers. The staff generally know very little about the plants, which are treated with insecticides. Smaller, locally owned nurseries have more knowledgeable staff and have more plants available that aren’t laden with insecticides.

Carpenter bees are a problem for some people. They are a solitary variant of bee. Carpenter bees do not sting. They are big and a bit territorial but lack a stinger.

Carpenter bees do love to make holes for fences and houses and the like. This can be annoying and destructive.

Spraying or treating a fence with insecticide will affect honey bees in the process. Consider buying a "carpenter bee house" sold on Amazon.

In later spring, a swarm of bees is the natural propagation of a colony when the population increases, and space and resources are small. A newly made queen will leave the hive with roughly half of the bees and travel and set up a hive somewhere else.

Scout bees have already selected a new location, signed the contract, and closed the deal. They all know where they are going. They may stop midway to tend to the queen, or it may have become too close to nightfall to travel.

If encountering a swarm or ball of bees hanging from a tree branch or some such thing, walk away and leave them alone. They will only be there for a day or two.

Interestingly, they are very docile and will not be aggressive during this phase. A bee does not want to sting you. It will die after stinging, and only do so if it, the hive, or resources are threatened.

When traveling to set up a new colony, bees are not defending a hive with stores of honey and baby bees. If they are too close for comfort, call a beekeeper, who will happily catch the ball o’ bees and take it away. Please don’t spray insecticide on them.

Consider having a hive in the yard. There is only a small initial amount of financial outlay.

Central Maryland Bee Keepers Association (http://www.centralmarylandbees.org/) can help have a swarm removed and provide information about bees and bee stewardship. Consider membership to CMBA. It has monthly meetings and is a tremendous resource. The annual fee is about $25.

Honey Bee Fun Facts

- There are about 10,000 bees in a colony at any given time.
- All the bees in the colony are the queen’s offspring.
- There are 100 female bees for each male worker bee (called a “drone”).
- In late fall, the female bees kick out the drones because they don’t do anything useful and will use resources during the winter.
Spring is almost here — and with it, our attention turns to our property’s outdoors. After all, a sustainable home includes landscapes and gardens.

Many of us work to have a regenerative property with native plants that attract pollinators and helpful insects as well as provide habitats for our fellow and sister creatures, all which help to restore the earth that in turn supports us. Some of us garden organically, maybe using raised-bed, no-till, and even bio-intensive methods, all with the purposes of providing more beauty, healthy herbs, and food; supporting our local ecosystem; and even sequestering carbon. But no matter what our approach, healthy soil is the foundation and key to productivity.

Soil is a living universe, so much more than just dirt. In fact, “dirt” is a dirty word among soil scientists.

We can garden to build up the soil, not deplete it. The microorganisms in and on the soil provide a food web on which our ecosystem depends.

What makes the soil healthy and productive is building the soil microbiology. One teaspoon of healthy soil has more microorganisms in it than there are people on the planet. These miraculous little workers need some protection and fostering to do their magic — feeding plants the nutrients they need to help us get healthy results, whether in flowers, food, or herbs.

In a natural microbiological process, the mycorrhizal fungi form symbiotic relationships with the roots and root hairs of plants so they can gather and store nutrients from a much larger area. Thanks to the fungi, the best nutrients are cycled and exchanged across distances among the plants that need them. Incredible!

So, what are the basic keys to healthy soil? First, forgo use of any synthetic pesticides, herbicides, or fertilizers because they kill off these miraculous micro-organisms.

Second, early spring is the perfect time to prime our soil to get it ready for new or reemerging plants by adding up to three inches of organic matter – especially organic compost – to our patches and beds. (Some people recommend adding compost, or at least aged wood chips or straw, in the fall.) Compost feeds the microorganisms and makes up for nutrient deficits.

You can mulch your own yard leaves during the winter by mowing them so they break down quickly. You can then create a simple mulch pile, and, come spring, find a rich organic compost.

If you don’t make your own compost or vermiculture (red worm castings), there are two recommended sources that will deliver: Hollins Organic (www.hollinsorganic.com) and Veterans’ Compost (www.veteranscompost.com).

Check them both out.

Be generous, and put the compost around your plants, areas where the plants will be emerging, and where you intend to plant. There are many good videos on YouTube on how to use compost.

Lastly, don’t leave soil bare. In nature, soil is not left bare.

Use “the chop and drop” method, that is, cutting off leaves and spreading them nearby, which both feeds the soil and nourishes the plant. Bocking 14 Russian Comfrey — the kind of comfrey (a continuously growing helper or “nurse” plant) that won’t overtake your garden — is a great dynamic accumulator, going deep down into the soil and bringing up what minerals are needed. Aged organic mulch is also good, as is putting in ground cover plants.

Building the soil to be healthy and productive also has the benefit of having a positive effect on climate change. Gardens can make a difference when gardeners are stewards of the soil. So let’s grow our own great soil.

Frank Lee is an advisor with City of Baltimore’s Office of Sustainable Energy.
Realtor buzzwords — what do they even mean?

As in most lines of business, we realtors have sayings we repeat. What do they mean, and are they even true? Let’s find out.

“Paint is your best friend.”
At my first meetings with new clients, their houses are not ready for the public. The easiest and most cost effective thing a seller can do is repaint with neutral trendy colors. This patches all the holes and creates a fresh pop in each room.

Please don’t forget to paint the inside of closets while you are painting the room. Because, yes, buyers look in most closets and nothing is sadder than seeing 20 years of scuff marks or, worse, old wallpaper from 1940. My hard and fast rule is to only paint closet interiors white.

“Ready, willing and able.”
When you are trying to sell your home, the buyers you want are “ready, willing, and able.” What does that even mean?
A serious buyer already has a realtor, and already has been preapproved. Which is why I’m not a fan of doing open houses. Generally, the folks who come to opens are lookers or tire kickers, meaning they are checking out lots of homes and neighborhoods, but most likely aren’t going to write an offer even if they like it.

My sellers have hired me to sell their home quickly and for top dollar. If I ask them to clean their house to perfection and leave for an hour or two, but don’t get a qualified buyer to see it, I am wasting their time.

“Your first offer is your best offer.”
Statistics show your first offer will be your best offer. This scenario I’ve seen too many times: house is just listed, within a day or so an offer comes in, but it’s not for full price. Many sellers think, well, if I just wait, a better one will come in.
Wrong! I say, “Work with it.” It is fine to counter, not only about dollar amount, but also about when to settle, how many days until the inspections must be completed, etc.

I’ve had buyers walk away from an insulted seller, only to have the agent call me back weeks later to negotiate as no one else has written an offer. Too late; my buyers have moved on and I found them a different house.

“Fantasy vs. reality.”
You are selling a dream version of your home. Spotlessly clean, every bed made, no dishes in the sink, no fish smells, all blinds open, cat and dog bowls put away (and of course no litter boxes out), no extra stuff on the kitchen counters, house vacuumed, no religious items out, no family photos out, no diplomas hanging in your study, no bills on your desk, no overstuffed closets, no prescription drugs in the medicine cabinet, no political signs out front, etc.

Buyers don’t want to feel like they are walking into someone else’s house; they want to feel like they could see their stuff in the house. Granted, once they buy a house, they will live in it like you do, but to get them interested to write an offer, the fantasy must be real.

“Location, location, location.”
Cliched, I know, but it’s true. Selling a home on a busy street is harder than on a quiet street. Selling a home in a highly desirable neighborhood is easier than in an up-and-coming neighborhood. I’m not saying not to buy a house on a busy street or in an up-and-coming neighborhood; just realize that, when you go to sell, you may have a harder time and the price will reflect that. “Location, condition, price”: These are my three main buzzwords when selling a home. Location is fixed — it is what it is; hopefully, it’s a plus, but we can’t pick up the house and move it. Condition is in the control of the seller. This is where I help with suggestions and qualified contractors to polish up the house to show its best. And, of course, price is in the control of the seller, so I try to educate sellers that pricing a house in the sweet spot will yield the best results.

Joan Goldman is a Realtor with Cummings & Co. and can be reached at 443-255-4858.
Ivy is killing trees

By ELAINE OZOL
meozol@verizon.net

English ivy is considered an invasive species by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. When left to grow on tree trunks, ivy becomes dense, restricting sunlight and keeping leaves from growing. It essentially strangles the tree.

In time, English ivy becomes arboreal, meaning it stops climbing like a vine and takes on a tree-like form. It produces clusters of flowers that become berries. These are eaten by birds and spread everywhere.

If a tree is weak, the weight of the ivy may topple the tree. In Europe, ivy is more contained, but in the United States’ national forests and parks, ivy infiltration chokes out native plants and displaces smaller understory plants.

Get out and remove ivy year-round. Beforehand, stretch to loosen up body joints. Take a knife or screwdriver and slip it underneath the vines to loosen them. Then cut at ankle and shoulder height.

Strip away the section in between the cuts. The upper vines won’t have a source of nourishment and will die.

To kill the ivy, use a lopper to cut the vines in the ground all around the tree. (This is called “girdling.”) Then use a spray bottle filled with white vinegar and saturate the leaves.

Wait a week and repeat. Be careful not to spray other plants, as vinegar will kill them.

After a week, when the leaves have turned brown, pull the vines off the tree. Roll them up and toss them in the trash. Arborists talk about hearing a pop when tree bark expands after having ivy removed. On flat areas, mowing can be a temporary control.

Don’t spend more than an hour per week pulling ivy, and shake out hands and shoulders every 15 minutes.

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Consider the convenience of home healthcare

By CHARLENE ABELN charabeln@gmail.com

There may come a time in our lives when we or loved ones require home health services. There is a wide range of healthcare services for an illness or injury that can be given in your home.

Home healthcare is usually less expensive and more convenient than, and just as effective as, care you get in a hospital or skilled nursing facility. Examples of skilled home health services include:

• wound care for pressure sores or a surgical wound;
• patient and caregiver education;
• intravenous or nutrition therapy;
• injections; and
• monitoring serious illness and unstable health status.

The goal of home healthcare is to treat an illness or injury. Home healthcare helps you get better, regain your independence, and become as self-sufficient as possible. Other services provided by other disciplines – such as a physical therapist, occupational therapist, social worker, or dietician – may be necessary.

If you get your Medicare benefits through a Medicare health plan, find out how it gives your Medicare-covered home health benefits. If you have a Medicare supplement insurance policy or other health insurance coverage, tell your doctor or other healthcare provider so your bills get paid correctly.

If you have medical insurance through your employer or a health insurance exchange, you should refer to your plan’s home health benefit for information on the number of allowed visits by a registered nurse for skilled nursing care and by a certified home health aide for nonskilled care. All copays, deductibles, and other cost information will be disclosed prior to the start of care.

If you need home healthcare, your doctor or referring healthcare provider should give you a list of agencies that serve your area. You must be told whether the referring organization has a financial interest in any agency listed. If you are to need homecare after a hospitalization, a case manager or discharge planner will assist with arrangement of services or medical equipment prior to discharge from facility.

Finally, if you have a family member who is aging or debilitated, does not require skilled nursing, and would like to remain at home, but requires assistance with activities of daily living such as bathing, dressing, or light meal preparation, there are home health agencies that provide these services. These services are usually never covered by Medicare or health insurance and are self-pay. They may also provide respite care for caregivers on an occasional as-needed basis.

It is advisable to hire these services through a home health agency that also provides skilled nursing. The home health aides provided by an agency have, before employment, had background checks, drug screening, and their driving records verified.

The aides are the employees of the agencies and the agencies are responsible for them. It is not advisable to place an advertisement seeking to directly hire an individual for these services. Research and read reviews.

Mount Washington resident Charlene Abeln is a registered nurse with experience in both outpatient health care and inpatient critical care.

“Plunge,” continued from page 1

in three times.
This frenzied activity followed a rally by CCAN organizers and allies who focused on the organization’s efforts to resist a natural gas pipeline under the Potomac, expand wind and solar use in Maryland and Virginia, support a fee in the District of Columbia to help reduce carbon emissions, decrease the use of Baltimore as a rail gateway for extreme crude oil, and help adapt our coastlines to rising tides.

Notable environmentalist Bill McKibben has called CCAN “the best regional climate organization I’ve ever seen, anywhere in the world.” And the MWPB certainly has some of the best plungers in the area as well.

For more information on CCAN, to donate to this year’s Plunge, or to get information about joining next year’s team, visit http://keepwintercold.org/team/MtWashingtpolarBears.
The Communications Committee has received four proposals for adding new functionalities to the MWIA website. A committee meeting was held, along with David Nemerson in his finance role, to analyze the proposals, weigh the costs and benefits of each against the option of making more minor changes to the current website, and outline potential recommendations. The proposals have been distributed to the rest of the MWIA Board for larger discussion and eventual decision at a future meeting.

The Pimlico Subcommittee has officially formed the Pimlico Revitalization Task Force. In December, applications for the new group were solicited and there were many respondents. The applications were reviewed by the MWIA Board and the following community members were selected: Peter Garver, Ellen Spokes, Evan Serpick, Lu Pierson, Rosalind Griffen, Kimiya Darrell, Jim Jacobs, and Holly Coleman. This is a diverse group of community members ranging in professional experiences and length of residency here.

The task force has already held two meetings, one in January and one in February. It will be focused on soliciting input from Mount Washington residents to determine what is wanted for the future of the racetrack. It will also be working with the other communities that surround Pimlico Race Course to ascertain their positions.

The task force is planning to use a variety of methods to communicate with the community, including the listserv, the MWIA website, and a new email address. Please look out for communications from this new group and take the time to provide your feedback. The Pimlico Subcommittee will also meet again soon to prepare and provide input for the Preakness and Moonrise Festival in hopes of making those events less impactful on the community.

Elsewhere, the neighborhood can feel like it has been turned into an elongated construction zone of torn-up streets, clear-cut slopes, and huge dirt piles overshadowing playgrounds and fields. From the five-way intersection at Cross Country, Greenspring, and Pimlico, down Kelly to the Village and up through the Pediatric Hospital woods, along West Rogers and into Northwest Park, construction on the Jones Falls Trail is underway, yet no sections are complete.

The new year will begin to bring results and the disruption of construction should fade away. The first trail section to be completed will be from the five-way intersection to the Village along Cross Country and Kelly. MWIA has been working closely with the City and elected officials to ensure that once construction there is complete the promise to completely repave Kelly is kept.

The City recently informed MWIA that, because the trail contractor needs to focus solely on completing the trail by the required contract end date early next year, the promised enhancements to Northwest Park can no longer be added to the trail contract as a “change order.” The City has given assurances that it remains committed to seeing the enhancements — to include renovating the parking lot and adding paths, benches, bike racks, and a handicapped swing set to the playground — through to completion. These projects will be separately bid out and paid for with funds previously secured by MWIA as part of the slot machine local-impact funding process.

While the trail contract includes extensive plans for replanting trees, shrubs, and perennials all along the route, MWIA will also be pursuing additional planting projects to ensure that impacted areas are fully revegetated. In many areas, invasive trees and plants have been removed and will be replaced with desirable native species.

In Luckman Park, the Friends of the Park volunteers continue to run regular cleanups on weekend mornings, keeping the park looking great. The City recently delivered a long-promised trash can to the north edge of the park and promised that the torn safety matting in the playground will be repaired as soon as the weather turns reliably warm.

Although things certainly appear disorderly in some of Mount Washington’s open spaces, as construction begins to conclude and the landscape starts to green up with the coming spring, meaningful improvements across the neighborhood should make the momentary disruptions all worthwhile.

Any member of the MWIA can join a committee. For a full list of committees and subcommittees, please visit mwia.org.
Community Calendar

SATURDAY, MARCH 3
Gregory Boyle, “Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship”
6 p.m., The Ivy Bookshop, 6080 Falls Road
Gregory Boyle, a Jesuit priest, shares what three decades of working with gang members in Los Angeles has taught him — and what he hopes it can teach readers — about faith, compassion, and the enduring power of human connection.

TUESDAY, MARCH 6
7-8:30 p.m., The Ivy Bookshop, 6080 Falls Road
Giles Milton’s “Churchill’s Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare” is a gripping and vivid narrative of adventure and derring-do that is also one of the last great untold stories of the Second World War.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7
Elliot Ackerman, “Dark at the Crossing”
7 p.m., The Ivy Bookshop, 6080 Falls Road
Nominated for a National Book Award, “Dark at the Crossing” tells the story of Haris Abadi, a wayward Arab American with a conflicted past who has finally found his purpose: to cross into Syria and join the fight against Bashar al-Assad’s oppressive regime.

THURSDAY, MARCH 15
Imbolo Mbue, “Behold the Dreamers”
7 p.m., The Ivy Bookshop, 6080 Falls Road
“Behold the Dreamers,” winner of the 2017 PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction, is the tale of Jende Jonga, a Cameroonian immigrant who has come to the United States to provide a better life for himself, his wife, and their 6-year-old son.

FRIDAY, MARCH 16
Parent-teacher conferences
The Mount Washington School, 1801 Sulgrave Avenue & 5800 Smith Avenue
The Mount Washington School will be closed for parent-teacher conferences.

FRIDAY, MARCH 23
Steve Berry, “The Bishop’s Pawn”
7-8:30 p.m., The Ivy Bookshop, 6080 Falls Road
Steve Berry presents the first case of his iconic hero, Cotton Malone.

MONDAY, MARCH 26 - FRIDAY, MARCH 30
Spring Break
The Mount Washington School
1801 Sulgrave Avenue & 5800 Smith Avenue
The Mount Washington School will be closed for spring break.

SATURDAY, APRIL 7
Meg Wolitzer, “The Female Persuasion”
6 p.m., The Ivy Bookshop, 6080 Falls Road
Meg Wolitzer’s “The Female Persuasion” is an electric, multi-layered novel about ambition, power, friendship, mentorship, and romantic ideals.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25
“Think Tank” with David J. Linden, Ed Connor, and Amy Bastian
7 p.m., The Ivy Bookshop, 6080 Falls Road
For “Think Tank,” neuroscientist David Linden approached leading brain researchers and asked each the same question: “What idea about brain function would you most like to explain to the world?” David will be joined by fellow neuroscientists Ed Connor and Amy Bastian.

Recurring Events

Food System Lab
Sundays, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Cylburn Arboretum, Food System Lab, 4915 Greenspring Ave.
Stop by to see what’s growing at the Food System Lab, learn about aquaponics, and take a tour of the small-scale urban farm. For more information contact Jesse at jblom3@jhu.edu.

Citizens Police Academy
Tuesdays, 5:30–9 p.m.
Baltimore Police Training Academy, 3500 W. Northern Parkway
Learn about law enforcement and the Baltimore Police Department. Register by emailing CommunityEngagementUnit@Baltimorepolice.org or calling 443-984-7411. Must be at least 18 years of age and a City resident.

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

Luckman Park Cleanup
March 3 & 18, April 7 & 22
Luckman Park, 2809 Glen Ave., 10 a.m.–12 p.m.
Join the Friends of Luckman Park on the first Saturday and third Sunday of every month — weather permitting — for trash pickup, leaf raking, gardening, and other general park cleaning. Come for all or part; RSVP (to luckman.park@gmail.com) helpful but not necessary.

Limited Time Offer for Mt. Washington Residents!

20% OFF QUALIFYING PELLA® PROJECTS
Window & Door Replacement of Hunt Valley
401-391-1660
HuntValleyWindowSales.com
Hunt Valley, 11309 York Road

AND
NO PAYMENTS, NO INTEREST FOR 12 MONTHS

Minimum purchase of $5,000 required. Discount applies to K.C. Company retail list price and is not available in all markets. Valid only for replacement projects installed by K.C. Company professionals. Only valid on select Pella® products. Only valid on new quotes. Not valid with any other offers or promotions. Prior sales excluded. Repairs to existing products including parts such as sash and panel replacements excluded. Other restrictions may apply. See store for details. See www.huntvalleywindowsales.com/offers for details. Purchase must be made by 8/31/2017. ©2017 Pella Corporation.
In late 2017, the MWIA solicited applications from community members to join the Pimlico Revitalization Task Force and consider proposed developments for the Pimlico Race Course. We were overwhelmed by the strong backgrounds and interests of the applicants — each of whom would bring a great deal of passion and commitment to the group — and we are very grateful that the following individuals are serving on this critically important committee: Jim Jacobs, Lu Pierson, Peter Garver, Evan Serpick, Ellen Spokes, Kimiya Darrell, and Rosalind Griffin.

Phase I of a Maryland Stadium Authority study about Pimlico determined the cost needed to renovate it would be between $250 million and $300 million. Phase II of the study, to be released after the election this year, will include an analysis of surrounding neighborhoods and possible non-racing uses.

Thoughtfully considering this issue, both as a community and with the surrounding neighborhoods, is of paramount importance. To that end, the Task Force is reaching out to the local community associations to work together collaboratively.

Since its formation, the Task Force has met twice, and will present at the next community meeting on April 10. This will also include an opportunity for community input and comment about Pimlico’s future.

Go to MWIA.org for a new section on Pimlico revitalization where the task force will be posting information useful in considering this issue. We hope that Mount Washingtonians will contribute to this discussion, because, whether the race stays at Pimlico or the site is developed without the track, the impact on our neighborhood will be big.

Lindsey White
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