



MOUNT WASHINGTON NEWSLETTER

MOUNT WASHINGTON IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Spring 2003

Annual Meeting – June 10, 2003

The Mount Washington Improvement Association will hold its Annual Meeting on Tuesday, June 10, 2003 from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the Mt. Washington Elementary School, 1801 Sulgrave Ave. Also invited are our 5th District City Councilwomen, Rikki Spector, Helen Holton and Stephanie Rawlings-Blake; Senator Lisa Gladden; and Delegates Sandy Rosenberg, Jill Carter, and Nathaniel Oaks.

Nominating Committee Report for 2003/4

The Association's Nominating Committee consisted of chairperson Deborah Kleiner, Jan Franz, John Mack, Taliya Adelstein, Maggie Kuntz, Ruth Kiselwich, and Jim Jacobs. They have recommended the following nominees:

Nominations for at-large directors for three year terms

David Brown (incumbent)
David Conn
Eva Glasgow (incumbent)
Kurt Kolodner
Ralph Raphael (incumbent)

Nominations for unexpired terms

Salem Reiner (replacing Roseann Glick)
Jim Slattery (replacing Laurel Durenberger)

Nominations for Area Captains (1 year term)

Area 1 Maggie Kunz
Eileen Tishken
Area 2 Aaron Meisner
Sherri Vizzi
Area 3 Susan Weiss
Area 4 David Noji
Craig Snyder
Area 5 Clark Semmes
Area 6 Mac Nachlas
Area 7 George Lewis

This newsletter shall serve as notice of the Annual Meeting and, if no additional nominations are received in accordance with the by-laws, the official ballot to be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

MWIA Annual Summer Picnic

Sunday, June 22, 4-8 pm
Luckman Park - Merville & Rockwood

★ Live folk & blues music by Love Handle ★ Please bring a side dish or dessert to share ★

★ Hot Dogs, Hamburgers and Beverages compliments of MWIA ★



For information call Roseann Glick 410-466-3350

Message from the President

Spring is finally here! It has been a long time arriving, but the neighborhood is greening up. Trees are blooming along with all the beautiful flowers in our gardens and the arboretum - a perfect time to reflect on the issues the MWIA worked on this past winter and look ahead to the summer and fall.

The most critical issue facing the neighborhood, electronic gaming, was defeated in the House last month. Many thanks to members of the Pimlico Committee and fellow neighbors who worked tirelessly on this difficult issue. Our position was well represented in Annapolis by our 42nd District Delegates. The Pimlico Committee will continue to monitor events during the summer and actively stay involved through meetings with our legislators and the Maryland Jockey Club/Magna Entertainment.

Beazer Homes has moved forward with their development plan to build on the site of Bonnie View Country Club. The Estates plan, 367 single-family homes, was introduced to the Baltimore County Planning Department last month. The "Active Adult" plan, 554-mixed use units will also be introduced. Hearings will begin the middle of May. The MWIA, along with other communities surrounding the property, has retained the legal services of Carroll Holzer to represent our interests as the proceedings move forward. The communities favor the Estates plan with less density and increased buffers between the existing neighbors and the new development. Mr. Holzer is representing our interests concerning the increase in traffic this development will bring along Smith Ave. and in the village.

Two representatives from Johns Hopkins University met with the Board at our March meeting. We are looking forward to establishing a positive relationship with the university and Johns Hopkins Medicine as they take over the St. Paul Cos. campus. At this time existing tenants in the Founders Building will remain and continue with their leases through 2010. The St. Paul Cos. will remain through the remainder of this year. JHU will begin to move administrative services and a computer center to the campus late this year. Mt. Washington is pleased and proud to have JHU become a part of our community.

House keeping and cleaning have become one of my personal crusades this year. As more and more traffic drives through our neighborhood, the amount of trash increases. I am encouraging all neighbors to be mindful not only of the areas around their homes and apartments, but also of the entire community. Take some time to sweep up the leaves and trash that collect in your gutters and yards. Also the MWIA will hold several clean up days. Check out the web site www.mwia.org for all the happenings in the community.

Mark your calendars for several exciting events in the neighborhood:

June 10, 7:00 PM, the MWIA annual meeting at the Mt. Washington Elementary School

June 21, 6:30 PM, Summer Solstice Festival at the Arboretum

June 22, 4 PM-8 PM, the MWIA annual picnic at Luckman Park

July 4, 10:00 A.M. the Spirit of Mt. Washington Independence Parade, beginning at 5601 Wexford Road.

Check the newsletter for more details on all events. I look forward to seeing all our neighbors. Enjoy the spring and keep our neighborhood clean and safe.

Jan Franz
President

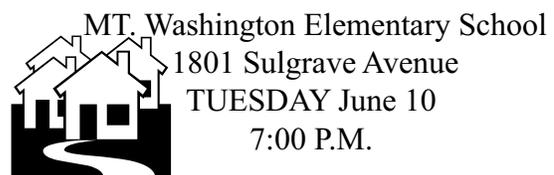
Tennis Racquet to Change Hands

After six years of directing the Luckman Park Tennis Program, Madeline Forrest is retiring. Anyone interested in assuming this role is encouraged to call Madeline Forrest at 410-358-5570 for information.

Pat Harris, erstwhile tennis instructor at Luckman Park, has been appointed tennis pro at the Cold Spring center in Cold Spring Swim & Tennis Club.

MWIA Website
www.mwia.org

OPEN MEETING MT. WASHINGTON IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION



Meet Board members, greet neighbors, hear the latest news on Pimlico Race Track and Beazer Homes at the Bonnie View Golf Course.

GET INVOLVED!

Directors

Officers

- President: Jan Franz.....664-5254
- Vice President: Deb Kleiner.....466-2069
- Vice President: Cliff Mitchell.....466-0529
- Secretary: Laurel Durenberger.....466-2244
- Treasurer: Carrie Emerson.....367-5113

Board

- Neal Braman.....367-6607
- David Brown.....578-1922
- Esther Fleischmann.....367-7327
- Margy Gifford.....664-2538
- Eva Glasgow.....542-4764
- Roseann Glick.....466-3350
- Ruth Kiselewich.....466-1590
- Michael Moss.....542-7455
- Lu Pierson.....664-0055
- Ralph Raphael.....664-4485
- Leslie Sporn-Symonds.....542-1892

Honorary Directors

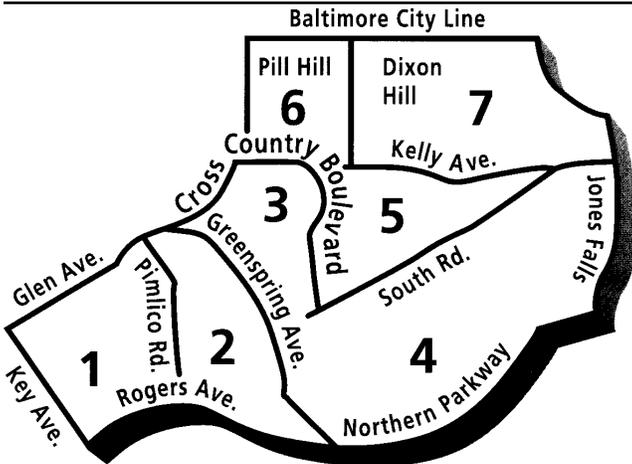
- Peter Z. Garver.....542-0747
- John Mack.....466-3824

Area Director

- Taliya Adelstein.....367-4539

Area Captains

1. Maggie Kunz.....664-9466
1. Chelsea Steiner.....466-1577
2. Dan Bierly.....578-0308
2. Janet Mighty.....542-3013
3. Susan Weis.....367-2096
4. Sharon Turner.....466-3698
4. David Noji.....542-8487
5. Allison Fryer.....542-7559
6. Robert Ellin.....443-923-893
7. Matt Richardson.....367-6902



MWS NEWS

School Abuzz with Activities

Spring has sprung at The Mt. Washington School, and a number of exciting programs are upcoming for the fourth quarter. Our instructional focus is Planet Earth. All classes will be focusing on environmental awareness and ways to save the planet. Students are conducting research, reading earth awareness literature, and learning more about our planet in science and social studies. We are planning a school-wide Planet Earth field trip in the month of May, in which all grade levels and parents will enjoy a variety of outdoor field trips to promote environmental awareness.

Other important upcoming events include a Spring Carnival in May, a Spring Musical in June, fifth grade graduation on June 19th, and the last day of school for students on June 25th. On April 29th the school board met and approved Roland Park Middle School as the zoned middle school for students of The Mt. Washington School.

In January, Lisa Harvin announced her intention to resign from the school system. The Baltimore City Public School System has convened a Principal Selection Panel, which includes PTO President Sonya Brown, School Improvement Team Chairperson George Lewis and staff member Tracy Demissie. Application packages are being accepted by BCPSS until early May, and interviews will be conducted shortly thereafter.

- **Lisa Harvin**



PTO RAISED \$8,200 FROM THE SILENT AUCTION!! What a tremendous success we had with this year's Silent and Live Auction held on Saturday, April 5th at the Founders Building on the campus of the St. Paul Cos. in Mt. Washington. Roughly 93 people were in attendance and placed bids on items small and large, ranging from restaurant gift certificates to luxury suite tickets to the Washington Wizards. The mood was festive, the food was great, the auctioneer was hilarious and everyone liked our cause - to raise money for the school.

Thanks to all who made it a success.

- **Sonya Brown, PTO President**

ATTENTION: YOUNG ARTISTS!

Celebrate your freedom by showing your neighbors what it means to be an American. Artwork should be submitted to Joyce Traynor at The Wesley by June 25. All submissions should include a label with your name, age and address. Winners will be announced immediately following the Spirit of Mt. Washington Independence Parade on July 4th.
Call Missie Mack at 410-466-3824 for more details.

Got the Picture?

The built environment of Mount Washington is changing rapidly. Many plans are being developed for projects that will add to the diversity of architectural styles in the area. June 2004 will mark 150 years since the first real estate agent proclaimed "having the convenience of the city with the advantages of the country" in the "Mount Washington Rural retreat."

In 1980, Mark Miller and Gordon's Booksellers published *Mount Washington: Baltimore Suburb. A History Revealed Through Pictures and Narrative*. A well-researched account of the development of Mount Washington real estate, the book contained many photographs of some of our earlier buildings and community. If you are new to Mount Washington or just have not had a chance to see a copy, one exists in the Maryland Room of the Enoch Pratt Library.

As some may have read in the April 17, 2003, Baltimore

Messenger, a formal request is being made for the loan of any additional photographs of historic Mount Washington prior to the 1960's. They would be scanned onto a zip disc and returned very promptly. Maybe you were given an early picture of your house when it was purchased or your family has been in the area for some time. Architectural and streetscape photos are preferred; however, some people photographs may show items of interest in the background. Of particular interest are any photographs of the Sisters of Mercy farmhouses on Smith Avenue or the stone house opposite Thornbury Road on Smith Avenue. These structures used to sit on the redeveloped properties of Bais Yaakov and the St. Paul Companies. Other lost images are the seven smaller homes east of Falls Road in Washingtonville Addition/Cowhill, razed in the last few years for larger modern homes.

If you have any photographs that you would like to share for this project, please don't hesitate to contact Matt Richardson at 410-367-6902 or e-mail address Mattkenrichardson@earthlink.net.

- Matt Richardson

ELEVENTH ANNUAL MWIA DESIGN COMPETITION

It's not too early to think about awarding neighbors' efforts to make our community more beautiful!

For those new to the area, the MWIA Excellence in Design competition recognizes enhancements to the Mt. Washington community in two categories: Landscaping (gardens and residential landscaping) and Architecture (renovations, additions, and new structures). Ralph Raphael will supervise the judging; the panel is comprised of architects and design experts from outside the community.

Nominations are due by **May 30, 2003**, and may be submitted on the entry form in this newsletter or other format which includes name, address, and phone number of nominee and brief description of the entry. Send nominations to Ralph Raphael, 6102 Iydene Terrace, 21209; telephone, 410-825-0042; fax to 410/825-0310; or e-mail ralph-raphael@erols.com. Self nominations are welcome, and in fact, are the primary method of entering the competition.

Judging will take place in mid to late May. Winners will be announced at the MWIA annual meeting in June.

2003 MWIA Excellence In Design Awards

For the recognition of enhancements to the Mt. Washington Community.
No project is too small.

LANDSCAPE: Gardens and Residential landscaping

ARCHITECTURE: Renovations, additions and new structures.

Name:

Address:

Telephone: Day

Evening

Brief Description of your Entry

Deadline is May 30, 2003. Send entry to Ralph Raphael, 6102 Iydene Terrace, Baltimore, MD 21209 or fax to 410-825-0310

MT. WASHINGTON PRESERVATION TRUST NEWS

Conservation Easements

The Mt. Washington Preservation Trust is proud to announce obtainment of yet another conservation easement, bringing the total number to 12. Thanks to the property owner, the attorneys and the Board members of the Preservation Trust, who made this easement possible.

To readers not familiar with the concept of conservation easements, they are agreements that limit further development on a parcel of land. Property owners who donate easements frequently obtain significant tax benefits, as well as the knowledge that they contribute to the viability of Mt. Washington.

In times of paucity of developable parcels, the preservation of land is more important than ever. Today's developers actively search out owners of undeveloped parcels, especially if such land is within a desirable community such as Mt. Washington. Where parcels are not large enough to accommodate new dwellings without variances, developers are willing to assemble portions from abutting lots to achieve the necessary lot size. The resulting infill development is frequently incompatible with the surrounding community and diminished open spaces vital to the character of the Mt. Washington community.

Residents interested in learning more about easements may contact Sara Fishman, at 410-466-4270, or Karin Brown at 410-664-3456.

The Mt. Washington Arboretum

Much is happening at the Mt. Washington Arboretum. Currently, a green roof is being constructed. Green roofs are already widely used in Europe, where they ameliorate the impact of impervious surfaces. In Mt. Washington, the green roof project will house eight 55-gallon rain barrels and serve as a learning tool. Also, the former tent-like teaching pavilion will be replaced with an attractive pergola-type structure. Completion of the teaching pavilion is planned for the end of May.

The lecture series at the arboretum, which brought useful information and joy to Mt. Washington residents last summer, will soon resume. Topics and times of lectures will be posted at the arboretum website: miniarboretum.org.

Mike Sherlock will once again host a summer solstice celebration at the arboretum to thank the many volunteers and friends of the arboretum and the Mt. Washington Preservation Trust. The scheduled is Saturday, June 21, at 6 PM.

General Beautification

The volunteers that help keep Mt. Washington beautiful are once again working hard cleaning, weeding and planting. If you are interested in participating, you may contact Mike Sherlock at Finnegan21@aol.com.

- Karin Brown

The "New" Fifth District

The new City Council map, redrawn to accommodate 14 single-member districts, will keep Mt. Washington mostly intact. Unfortunately, one parcel, between Rogers Avenue and Northern Parkway, will become part of the new 6th Council District.

According to Rikki Spector, the "old" 5th District's long-time council representative, "The bottom line is that it was not possible to move just the few houses in Mt. Washington into the new 5th District; it would have had to be the entire precinct." She explained she did not challenge the new boundaries because, "tinkering with the map (a map that was deemed legally sufficient) could have made the entire map subject to a legal challenge."

Councilwoman Spector also added that the close proximity of the Rogers Avenue parcel could open up opportunities for

the two neighboring districts, and their representatives, to work together on civic issues.

Three polling locations will remain the same: Elderslie-St. Andrew's Methodist Church on Ken Oak, Mt. Washington Elementary School on Sulgrave, and the Cross Country fire station.

Crime Prevention

Keep up to date with the MWIA crime prevention network. E-mail

MWIAPREVENTCRIME@aol.com.

Include your name and home address.

Join the Citizens' Patrol: Contact Norma Cohen (410-542-4396) to volunteer.

Mark Your Calendar

May:

- 17 - June: Polymer Possibilities: Jewelry and Beyond. Baltimore Clayworks. 410-578-1919.
- 18: Tulip Dig - Cylburn Arboretum 7:00 A.M. - 9:00 A.M. 4915 Greenspring Avenue. 410-367-2217.
- 21: Jewelry Sale - The Wesley 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. Gold, diamond, gemstone and silvery jewelry. 25% of the proceeds benefits The Wesley. 2211 Rogers Ave. 410-664-4006 X 3013.
- 24: Mt. Washington Swim Club opens for the season. 11:00 A.M. 410-367-0010.
- 24: Iris Show - Francis Scott Key Iris Society - Cylburn Arboretum. 12 Noon - 4:00 P.M. 410-367-2217.
- 27: Registration for Mt. Washington School begins. See ad in the newsletter.
- 30: Deadline for Eleventh MWIA Excellence in Design Awards** (See article in the Newsletter)
- 31: Shrine of the Sacred Heart's "Bid the Blues Away" - Bid at the Silent Auction, barbecue and dance. 7:00 P.M. - 11:00 P.M. Mt. Washington Lacrosse Club. \$25.00. 410-542-7406

June:

- 1: Cylburn Perennial Sale and Gardening Book Sale. 8:00 - 2:00 P.M. 410-367-2217.
- 6: Spice It Up! Baltimore Clayworks. 7:00 P.M. - Midnight. Dance to Mama Jama, eat international food, browse Seconds Sale. 5707 Smith Ave. Tickets in advance: \$20.00 adults; \$10.00 children. 410-578-1919.
- 7: Maryland Rose Society Show and Sale - Cylburn Arboretum. 12:00 Noon - 4:00 P.M. 410-367-2217.
- 10: MWIA Annual meeting - Mt. Washington Elementary School. 7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M. 1801 Sulgrave Avenue. 410-664-5254.**
- 14 - 21: Clay From the Classroom: A Student Show. Baltimore Clayworks. 410-578-1919.
- 18: Bus Trip: Chanticleer Garden, Wayne Pa - Cylburn Arboretum. Call 410-367-2217 for reservation info.
- 21: Summer Solstice Celebration at Mt. Washington Arboretum. 6:30 P.M. Kelly Avenue at Fairbank. Bring a covered dish. Live music.
- 22: MWIA Community Picnic and Pot Luck. 4:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. Live music by Love Handle. Luckman Park, Merville and Rockwood. 410-466-3350 or 410.466-2069
- 25: Deadline for "Freedom Artwork" submission for Spirit of Mt. Washington Independence Parade. Entries to be submitted to Joyce Traynor at The Wesley. (See ad in newsletter for details).**

28: - August 9: "Prairie Fire: Hot Midwest Clay," Opening June 28 6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. Baltimore Clayworks, 5707 Smith Avenue. 410-578-1919.

July:

- 4: 4th Annual Spirit of Mt. Washington Independence Parade. 10:00 A.M. at 5601 Wexford Road.**
- 18: "Bats, Birds and Blooms - An Evening Garden and Woodland Walk" - Cylburn Arboretum. 7:00 P.M. Reservations - \$5.00. 410-367-2217.
- 19: Shape Up Parks - Identify and remove invasive plants at Cylburn. 9:00 A.M. - 12 Noon. 410-367-2217.
- 19 - 20: Hands, Smoke, & Fire: A Raku & Firepit Workshop with Ramon Camarillo. Baltimore Clayworks. 410-578-1919.
- August:**
- 5: Deadline for MWIA Newsletter items. E-mail gif4d@erols.com**
- 16: Cylburn Evening in the garden: Guided garden walk to music with luminaries to light the way to the Mansion Porch for dessert. 6:30 P.M. Reservations - \$7.50 410-367-2217.
- 16 - September 20: "Cerama-lama-ding-dong" Solo Exhibition featuring the whimsical satirical satirical sculpture of Ryan Kelly. Baltimore Clayworks. 410-578-1919.

MWES - Class of 1908

Sean Mather of Baltimore, MD, is asking our readers for help with an unidentified photo. The photo is a class at the old Mt. Washington School on Sulgrave Avenue. It was taken circa 1908. The identities of two persons in it are known. In the front row, on the far right, is Martha E. (Mather) Tice, 1901-1980. In the third row, third from the right is her cousin Bessie M. (Mather) French, 1894-1985. Does anyone know if any records survive from the old school? Is it possible any has, or know, of an identified copy of the photo?

Mr. Mather can be contacted by phone at 410-574-2682, via e-mail at sdmather@hotmail.com or snail mail at 2008 Hackberry Rod. Essex, MD 21221.



Recycling Calendar

All recyclables will be picked up on the second and fourth Mondays and Tuesdays of each month, regardless of your regular trash collection days.

Holidays: There will be no pick-up until the next scheduled recycling day.

- Blue bag recyclables (glass, plastic, and cans) will be collected on the second and fourth Mondays of the month.
- Paper will be picked up on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month.

May 12 Monday	Plastic/metal/glass*
May 13 Tuesday	paper
May 26 Monday	plastic/metal/glass
May 27 Tuesday	paper
June 9 Monday	plastic/metal/glass
June 10 Tuesday	paper
June 23 Monday	plastic/metal/glass
June 24 Tuesday	paper

Note: July's collection days are staggered

July 8 Tuesday	paper
July 14 Monday	plastic/metal/glass
July 22 Tuesday	paper
July 28 Monday	plastic/metal/glass
Aug. 11 Monday	plastic/metal/glass
Aug. 12 Tuesday	paper
Aug. 25 Monday	plastic/metal/glass
Aug. 26 Tuesday	paper
Sept. 8 Monday	plastic/metal/glass
Sept. 9 Tuesday	paper
Sept. 22 Monday	plastic/metal/glass
Sept. 23 Tuesday	paper

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

* **Blue Bag:** Rinse bottles and cans, and discard caps. Place in blue plastic bags. Can include: glass jars and bottles (all colors), aluminum cans, tin cans, steel cans, plastic small mouth containers with #1 or #2, and empty aerosol cans. Styrofoam is not recyclable.

Bulk Pick-up: Call (410) 361-9333 or e-mail* DPW three working days before scheduled pick-up date.

May 28	notify DPW by May 23
June 25	notify DPW by June 20
July 23	notify DPW by July 18
Aug. 27	notify DPW by Aug. 22
Sept. 24	notify DPW by Sept 19

*To e-mail DPW:

You may e-mail your request on the City's webpage. Log on to www.baltimorecity.gov, click on "City Services," then onto "Who You Gonna Call?", then click onto "Online Bulk Trash Service Request Form." You will find an electronic form which asks for your name, telephone number, street address, e-mail address and items you want picked up. DPW will confirm your request via e-mail.

Reminders:

You may leave three items at your regular trash pick-up site. Bulk items include appliances, furniture, and up to 4 tires with the rims removed. Do not leave building materials such as sheet rock, siding, wood pieces, or roofing out for bulk pick-up.

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



MOUNT WASHINGTON NEWSLETTER

Mount Washington Improvement Association
P.O. Box 10404
Baltimore, MD 21209

Dated Material-Please Deliver Promptly

The Mount Washington Newsletter is published by the Mount Washington Improvement Association, Inc., P.O. Box 10404, Baltimore, MD 21209
Send items for the Newsletter to: Editor, Margy Gifford, 1811 Dixon Rd. 21209 • gif4d@erols.com

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Baltimore, MD
Permit No. 5621

Pimlico Committee

The Pimlico Committee was formed in January to address the neighborhood's concerns about the possibility of legalizing slot machines, as well as other issues, at Pimlico. The committee met on several occasions and forwarded to the Board a recommended position paper on the issue; this was tweaked by the Board and the final position and list of neighborhood concerns was communicated to our legislators. **(See the actual position statement accompanying this article.)**

The MWIA hosted a public meeting on the topic at The Wesley on February 22. Our state senator, Lisa Gladden, and delegates, Sandy Rosenberg and Nathaniel Oaks, came to hear first-hand the neighborhood's concerns.

The issue was worked very hard and involved many meetings, culminating with a Sandy Rosenberg-arranged meeting with Speaker Michael Busch, who was a strong advocate for having the neighborhood concerns addressed. Speaker Busch squashed the issue for the moment. We fully expect to keep the committee active and, to that end, met recently to discuss the next steps: We agreed to arrange meetings with legislators who are going to begin to study the issue. We also want to make sure our issues are covered in the studies. The committee also is arranging a meeting with Magna (Pimlico's new owner) and the Maryland Jockey Club to discuss their plans for the track. We urge people with an interest to get involved because this issue will be back.

Serving on the Pimlico Committee are Aaron Meisner, Deb Kleiner, Marcia Kargon, Chelsea Steiner, Bill Zahler, Peter Garver, Sheri Vizzi, Jan Franz, Larry Kloze, Chuck Oseroff, Eileen Tishken, Gail Green, Eileen Jones, and Amy Berstein.

- Jim Slattery

MWIA Position Statement

Position on Electronic Gaming and the Pimlico Race Track

Adopted February 24, 2003

The Mt. Washington Improvement Association has a strong historic interest in protecting the viability of our community. Therefore, we oppose any legislation on electronic gaming that does not include the following:

1. The viability of Pimlico Race Track as a racing facility must be maintained.

2. All of the Baltimore City neighborhoods within a one mile radius surrounding the Pimlico Race Track must receive financial support to offset the potential and actual impacts of the introduction of slots, based on the population and estimated magnitude of the impacts.

3. The impacts of electronic gaming on traffic, crime, noise, and sanitation in the surrounding neighborhoods must be studied and mitigated by racetrack impact funds, particularly along the Northern Parkway corridor.

4. Mt. Washington Elementary School must be included in educational funding from racetrack impact funds.

5. Development of the racetrack must include consultation with the surrounding communities.

No legislation authorizing electronic gaming should be enacted until these issues have been adequately studied and addressed.

The Newsletter....

The MWIA newsletter is mailed to homes of residents four times a year. The newsletter informs residents about people, activities, and services in Mt. Washington and of actions of the Board of Directors. The newsletter accepts news, information, and suggestions.

The deadline for the next issue is August 5. Contact: Margy Gifford, editor: gif4d@erols.com or (410) 664-2538.

Schedule for Future Issues:

Issue	Content for	Deadline	Delivery
Fall	Sept-Nov.15	Aug. 5	Sept 1

SPICE IT UP!

a hot, hot, hot time at Baltimore Clayworks

Friday, June 6, 2003
from 7 to midnight
**Food • Drink • Pottery
Music by Mama Jama.**

Tickets are \$20 in advance for adults
and \$7 in advance for children
12 and under.

REGISTRATION FOR 2003-2004 SCHOOL YEAR

The Mount Washinton School

Begins May 27, 2003

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 8:00am-4:00pm
Friday 8:00am-3:00pm

REGISTRATION DAYS

Monday – Thursday 9:00am-4:00pm

WITHDRAWALS & TRANSFERS

Fridays Only 9:00am-2:00pm

Things to bring for Registration:

- * Child's Birth Certificate
- * Child's Immunization Record
- * Two Current Proofs of Address
(i.e. BGE bill; Verizon bill; mortgage statement; rental lease agreement; water bill)
- * Current Physical
- * Child's Social Security Card
- * Last Report Card

Please contact Mrs. Robinson, Office Manager
at 410-396-6354 for further information.

Walter Patrick: Preservationist of the First Order

Nobody would ever claim that silica gel is a magic substance. But for something that's essentially a form of sand, it's proved uncommonly useful and full of tricks. Silica gel is the granular material found in little packets in shoe boxes, camera cases and pill containers. It keeps things dry. Over the years, it's helped win wars, preserve food, refine petroleum, purify gases, and perform myriad small roles in industrial production. It's proved to be one of the region's more enduring industrial innovations, employing thousands of people in its production during the 20th Century, with 700 people still so engaged at a chemical plant in the South Baltimore neighborhood of Curtis Bay.

Walter A. Patrick, the man who first described silica gel's properties and developed a way to manufacture it cheaply, lived in Mount Washington for 50 years. He bought a house on The Terraces, the exclusive cul-de-sac straddling the city-county line above Smith Avenue, in 1919, two years after coming to Baltimore to teach chemistry at Johns Hopkins University. He raised three daughters there with his wife, Millicent, and occupied it until his death in 1969. Patrick's was a career marked by inventiveness, entrepreneurialism, diligence, public-mindedness and intellectual curiosity.

He was born in Syracuse, N. Y., on January 8, 1888. He got a bachelor's degree at Syracuse University and spent two years as a research assistant at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology before departing for Göttingen, Germany, to study chemistry. He was awarded a doctorate in 1914.

His dissertation was on silica gel, an amorphous form of silicon dioxide (SiO₂). While the existence of this substance had been known since 1640, and its capacity to take up water had been described in research reports since at least 1897, Patrick provided the first detailed description of its physical and chemical properties.

The chief feature of silica gel is its extreme porosity. This gives it a huge surface area for its mass. While nearly inert in chemical terms, silica gel grains are capable of plucking out of the air and condensing on their surfaces molecules of many gaseous compounds—a process known in chemical parlance as adsorption (not absorption). Silica gel has a particular affinity for water molecules and can adsorb water equal to about 50 percent of its own weight. When enough granules are used so that saturation doesn't occur, silica gel can remove virtually all the water vapor from a gas. In doing so the material is not permanently changed; it can be brought back to its original state by heating the granules and driving off the water. Other compounds are also readily scavenged, including alcohols, ammonia, many hydrocarbons (including benzene and gasoline), and sulfur dioxide and hydrogen sulphide.

In addition to describing and measuring these properties, Walter Patrick also developed a way to make large quantities of silica gel from cheap starting materials, sodium silicate and sulfuric acid. Many accounts say that silica gel was first employed in large quantities in allied gas masks in World War I—an ironic turn, given that Patrick had dis-



covered its uses in Germany, which inaugurated gas warfare at the Second Battle of Ypres in 1915. However, evidence of its use for that purpose is not easy to find. Activated charcoal was the near-universal gas adsorbent in World War I (with charred coconut shell eventually found to be the best starting

material). Patrick's patents for making and using silica gel weren't issued until 1919 and 1920, after the war was over (although the material might have been used in quantity while they were pending). Reid Kirby, a historian of gas warfare and consultant to the U. S. Army Chemical Corps Museum at Fort Leonard Wood, in Missouri, is "not aware of silica gel actually making it into any preparations in World War I." Silica gel granules did become a standard ingredient in gas masks developed after the war, and was a key component in a highly useful gas-detection kit developed in 1943.

In the 1920s, Patrick founded the Silica Gel Corporation of Baltimore, which was bought by Davison Chemical Company in 1930. Silica gel came into its own in World War II, where it played diverse and crucial roles. Research had revealed that catalytic compounds could be mixed in silica gel, creating large surface areas where chemical reactions could take place. As a catalyst "support", silica gel was used in the production of high-octane gasoline and synthetic rubber. In the more pedestrian role as a desiccating agent, it was used to stabilize penicillin and protect airplane engines from rusting on transatlantic transport. The latter was a real efficiency, as previously engines were heavily greased and oiled before they were shipped, which required they be laboriously cleaned and run before installation in airplane bodies.

Silica gel made Walter A. Patrick a rich man. John Gryder, a retired Hopkins chemistry professor (and Mount Washington resident), remembers having a conversation with him sometime in the early 1960s in

Walter Patrick continued...

which it emerged that the older man's income tax bill was 10-times that of the younger man's annual salary. But he did not flaunt his wealth. Gryder said that Patrick, a pipe-smoker, once accidentally set a small fire on his tie while sitting in the faculty club—an event that didn't stop him from wearing the accessory again later that week.

"He was very easy to get along with—the reverse of an intimidating presence," Gryder said recently. "He reminded me of my uncle, who was a simple farmer in Missouri."

Patrick continued to run a small lab and do his own bench research on physical inorganic chemistry until retiring. Toward the end of his career he studied, at the request of the federal government, methods for immobilizing radioactive waste by turning it into an inert, glass-like substance ("vitrification"). He also taught at Loyola College for several years.

At home, he was "a wonderful father" says Patricia P. Mace of Owings Mills, who at 85 is Patrick's only surviving child. He played golf once or twice a week in good weather and liked to watch lacrosse. He was a cellist who occasionally made music with H. L. Mencken (apparently sitting in with journalist's legendary "Saturday Night Club"), his daughter recalled. Millicent Patrick was English, and the family traveled to Europe most summers. Fluent in German and passable in French, he took up Russian late in his career and spent two summers at Middlebury College studying the language.

Walter A. Patrick died on March 31, 1969 at the age of 81.

- David Brown

Of Related Interest

The Titanic of the Air

R101 was the prize of the British government's Imperial Airship Program: a 777-foot dirigible as big as an ocean liner and outfitted to be an airborne hotel. When it embarked on its maiden voyage in 1930—a five-day run from England to India—it was the largest man-made object ever to fly. So confident were its makers and sponsors that the Secretary of State for Air, the Director of Civil Aviation, and most of the officers of the Royal Airship Works decided to make the passage.

On October 5 at 2:05 a.m., seven hours into the trip, the ship went down in flames in an apple orchard in France. Fifty-four people were aboard, along with their baggage, 2 cases of champagne, a cask of ale, and a 129-pound rolled carpet brought for a state dinner that was to be held in Karachi. Six people survived. One of them was Henry J. Leech, the brother of Walter A. Patrick's wife.

After the crash, some people referred to R101 as "the Titanic of the air." The name was apt, as the demise of the airship was born of the same overweening confidence and recklessness that led to the Titanic's collision and sinking 18 years earlier.

"Suddenly there was a terrific explosion. The front part of the ship burst instantly into flames. I was half-choked by the rush of gas and fumes backwards, and I owe my life—as do Binks and Bell—to the fact that when we hit the ground the water ballast tanks were released and drenched us," Leech later testified.

Patricia P. Mace, Patrick's one surviving child, remembers that her "Uncle Harry" received an award from the British government for returning to the flaming wreckage to rescue one of the radio operators.

The crash of the R101 has almost completely disappeared from the public imagination—the polar opposite of the Titanic. What little memory of it remains arises more from what happened after the crash.

Many people dabbled in spiritualism in England in the years after World War I. Some historians believe the practice was a population-wide mechanism for coping with the loss of almost an entire generation of young men. Two days after the R101 crash, a well-known London medium named Eileen Garrett conducted a seance at the National Laboratory of Psychological Research. Her purpose was to try to contact Arthur Conan Doyle, the writer who created Sherlock Holmes and himself a spiritualist. Instead of hearing from him, however, Garrett in her trance took the "testimony" of H. Carmichael Irwin, the captain of the R101 who had just died.

Over many sessions, Garrett reportedly "spoke" with the spirits of several dead officers and crew members, who provided her with technical details about the craft and the flight, some confirmed by an exhaustive government inquiry into the accident. One crew member supposedly mentioned a diary to which he had confided his worries about the R101 program. His widow proclaimed ignorance of the diary, but produced it in 1967 and showed that it contained much of what the seance transcript recorded. A book was written about the seances, which one historian called "some of the most compelling evidence ever assembled for communication with the dead."

The R100 was broken up for scrap the next year, ending the British dirigible service. Germany, the only other nation besides the United States experimenting with commercial airships, abandoned its own program after a similar calamity—the fiery crash of the Hindenburg on May 6, 1937 in Lakehurst, New Jersey.

Harry Leech went on to be an engineer of race cars—including one tested on the Bonneville salt flats in Utah—his niece remembers. He died in the 1950s.

- David Brown

Mt. Washington Swim Club

An Oasis for Members and the Community

One of the treasures of our community is the Mt. Washington Swimming Club, a delightful place to cool off in the summer, meet your neighbors, and entertain your kids. The Club is conveniently located at 2300 Enslow Road between Greenspring Avenue and Rogers Avenue, and near Northern Parkway. It is also accessible by the walk/bike path at the corner of Rogers Avenue and Cross Country Boulevard. Club membership is available to residents of Mount Washington and to a limited number of non-residents.

The Mt. Washington Swimming Club offers a large swimming pool with lap lanes and diving board, as well as a separate children's pool. Lifeguards are always on duty. The grounds are pleasantly shaded by mature trees, and the pools are surrounded by grassy hills. The Club also provides picnic tables, ping pong tables, a basketball court, volleyball net, shaded playground, and comfortable lounge chairs. The Club offers private swimming lessons for a fee. Members interested in getting their laps in early in the morning can join the Penguin Club for a nominal fee. Changing and shower facilities are available, as are ice cream and cold sodas. Many take-out restaurants in the area will deliver to the Club. There is ample onsite parking.

The Club opens for the 2003 season at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday May 24th and will close at the end of the day on Monday, September 1st. Weather permitting, the pool is open every day from 10:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., although the hours are shortened in the beginning of June and the week prior to Labor Day due to staffing limitations.

The Club is also open to non-members for **community swim time** on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and on Tuesdays from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. beginning July 7th and ending on August 13th.

For further information about joining the Mt. Washington Swimming Club, please call Julie Rothman, membership director, at 410-235-5560, or call the club directly during the season at 410-367-0110. Annual dues for a family are \$380 and for an individual member are \$190. Members may bring guests for a fee of \$4.00 per adult and \$2.50 per child on weekends, and \$2.50 per adult and \$1.50 per child on weekdays. At the time of joining, all members must also pay a one-time membership security deposit of \$600, of which \$500 will be returned when membership ends (except that the Club reserves the right to deduct and collect unpaid membership charges from the security deposit).

We hope to see you there!

Carrie Emerson - President

Johns Hopkins Moves to the Octagon

In mid-April of 2003, the Johns Hopkins University completed its purchase of the entire 68-acre property formerly owned by the St. Paul Cos. The site, commonly known as the Mt. Washington Corporate Campus, is situated within the Mt. Washington Village, Smith Avenue, Interstate 83, and the city/county border. Johns Hopkins' plans for the facility call for uses essentially comparable to those currently occurring at the site. The acquisition of the property was prompted by the capacity of the facility to meet the university's space demand requirements, and, equally importantly, the recognition of the truly unique and valuable qualities of the property.

The university and its sister institution, The Johns Hopkins Health System, will relocate various administrative offices to the Mt. Washington site. The relocation results from increased demand at the Johns Hopkins' various campuses for additional space to carry out its core missions of education, research, and patient care. According to a university spokesman, Johns Hopkins has in recent years been adding an average of 1,000 new jobs a year in Maryland.

Johns Hopkins is undertaking a planning process to identify specific uses for the facility. Completion of the plan is anticipated in the early winter. The first of the Johns Hopkins personnel are expected to move into currently vacant office space late this year or early in 2004. As the employees of the St. Paul Cos. depart the premises, Johns Hopkins employees will reoccupy the approximately 280,000 square feet of space. The existing conference facility and guest rooms will continue to be operated in a manner similar to their current use, with both Johns Hopkins and other entities using the space. The leases with the current office tenants occupying the county portion of the campus will be retained. There are currently no plans for structural alterations to the physical plant of the campus. While there is a small amount of land that can accommodate new development, there are presently no plans to undertake such action.

Salem Reiner, coordinator of community affairs at The Johns Hopkins University Office of Community Affairs, will serve as the bridge between the Mt. Washington neighborhood, and other interested parties, and the university. Reiner has entered into preliminary communications, which will become more focused as issues present themselves, with the Mt. Washington Improvement Association, the Village Merchants Association, and the Terraces. Johns Hopkins said it fully intends to become an asset to Mt. Washington by listening to those interested in improving the area, through its local involvement, and by respecting the many pieces that make Mt. Washington a vibrant and high quality community. Should you have any questions, Reiner can be reached at 410-516-8495.