

Message From the President

It really has been a good two years... good for the MWIA, the community, and even me. **Your** MWIA has achieved many fine accomplishments. We grew our membership to nearly 600 families, supported our Mount Washington Elementary School in becoming our Mount Washington School (pre-K to 8), successfully worked with various City agencies and the Mayor's Office to plan for our own Northwest and Luckman Parks as well as planning and securing funding for our long-awaited hiking and biking trail. We were in a good financial position to be able to support the Mount Washington School, the Mount Washington School PTO, and the Mount Washington Preservation Trust with substantial donations. We also sent holiday baskets to both Northern and Northwestern Police Districts.

Regarding conditions of our streets and concerns regarding traffic, we were, and are working with the appropriate authorities to truly make things better and safer for all of us. We've been on top of zoning and land-use issues, historic district concerns, happenings at Pimlico Race Track, public safety issues, and neighbors' concerns regarding solar panels at The Chimes. We continue to maintain our liaison with The Mount Washington Village Merchants' Association, The Mount Washington Preservation Trust, The Mount Washington School and its PTO, Springwell, The Chimes, Northern Park Heights Presidents' Council, CHAI, Strategic

MWIA Annual Open Meeting

Tuesday, June 12 • 7:30 – 9:00 P.M.

Mount Washington Conference Center - Rm C-19 - 5801 Smith Ave.

The MWIA will elect new members to its Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting on June 12. A slate of candidates will be sent to all members and posted at www.mwia.org prior to the Annual Meeting. Remember, you must be a member in good standing (2012 dues paid) in order to vote for the Board.

We Are Still Looking For Candidates

The reason this newsletter was delayed is we had hoped to have a slate to send out in this issue. Nominees for Board Membership will be accepted until May 26. If you have an interest in serving on the MWIA Board, please send a note to "President@MWIA.org" and you will be contacted by a member of the nominating committee. You must be a resident of Mount Washington and a member in good standing to serve on the Board. MWIA is still seeking volunteers for a few key positions. Bryce Butler, managing editor of our newsletter will be taking on some different responsibilities so we are seeking an individual willing to devote several hours four times a year to leading the newsletter team. Experience is helpful, but not really necessary.

Neighborhood Action Plan (SNAP), and Slots Revenue Allocations Planning. Our annual events such as our Tree Lighting and July 4th Parade were absolutely grand. The most recent Parade-celebration was probably the largest and most successful ever.

We also have a more frequently published Newsletter now which keeps ALL Mount Washington families up-to-date on what's happening in our community.

It has been my honor to represent our community at many, many meetings on a vast array of topics; but, at this point, I really want to thank ALL of the members of our magnificent Board. Whatever I may have contributed pales

when you consider what these intelligent, dedicated, and talented people do for all of us and **Mount Washington**.

Here's hoping for MWIA's continued success!

— Ira Kolman, MWIA President

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Mount Washington Open Spaces and Gardens

By RICK KINGSBURY, LLA

This will be the first in a series of columns in the newsletter that will attempt to inform the community of the efforts of the Mount Washington Preservation Trust Gardening Committee on a regular basis.

By way of introduction, this committee is charged with the task of establishing and maintaining the many lovely gardens located in various open spaces within our community. Emphasis is on maintaining the gardens we all currently enjoy. The committee is a small group of volunteers headed by Mike Sherlock. The group meets every Sunday morning throughout the spring and summer for several hours at one of the existing gardens to weed, mulch, and trim. This small group also mows grass, cleans out trash and clears gutters that the City does not get around to doing. The volunteers are experienced gardeners and many hold degrees in landscape architecture, the visual arts, and other related design fields. The team has a combined experience of well over one hundred years of creating and maintaining gardens.

This committee has been in existence since 1989. During this time, the gardens have changed and occasionally need renovation. This renovation work sometimes involves removing or relocating plant material that has overgrown its location, is in decline, or is simply in the wrong place. This work is critical for the long term wellbeing of the gardens. New plantings when they are needed are chosen for the location in which they will be placed, future growth and ultimate size, and also for longevity and lower maintenance. Having fewer maintenance requirements, many of the plants installed have been native plants.

The committee welcomes your input and suggestions, and could also use your assistance in this work. The group meets at 9:00 on Sunday mornings at these locations in the following schedule, please consider spending whatever time you can helping out.

The remaining schedule is as follows:

May 20	Demonstration Rain Garden (Fairbank Rd and Poplin Ave)
May 27	Educational Rain Garden (Sulgrave Ave and Lochlea Road)
June 3	Arboretum (Lochlea Road and Tanbark Drive)
June 10	Arboretum
June 17	Arboretum
June 24	Open

If you have questions please contact Paul Levine at jessalex1@comcast.net or Mike Sherlock at finnegan21@aol.com

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4) Mary Beth Dyer	dyermb@rpcs.org
5) Anne Chamberlain	chamberlain.am@gmail.com
6) Eileen Steinberger	ross-steinberger@comcast.net
7) Robin Klein	iklein23@comcast.net

Luckman Park Update

By JASON KORTTE

A much needed renovation for Luckman Park is soon to begin! For the past several years, MWIA and the Friends of Luckman Park have been working closely with Baltimore City Parks and Recreation to develop a plan to spruce up and fix problems in the park. Problem areas include erosion storm water management, toppling dead trees, poor accessibility for children in strollers and individuals with disabilities, crumbling building structures, nonworking bathrooms, broken light fixtures, and outdated playground equipment. Once updated, the park will be a precious jewel that will not only serves Mt Washington, but our neighbors in the Glen and Fallstaff as well.

What to expect:

1. **Demolition of the existing building:** The existing building has been identified as a major source the erosion at the park due to its dilapidated roof and concrete perimeter. The bathrooms have been vandalized and are no longer functional.
2. **New tot-lot with decorative pergola:** In the place of the old building, a new tot-lot with a decorative pergola will be built. New stone veneer retaining walls will be erected to match the existing walls in the park.
2. **Restroom:** To provide access to bathrooms, a small wooden structure designed to blend into the environment will be built and designed to hold two "port-a John's" to be serviced by an external agency.
3. **Walking path:** A new circular walking-loop will provide increased access to walk and exercise in the park. A boardwalk will erected to cross the sensitive wetland area located near the lower playground.
4. **Pavilion improvements:** The pavilion will have new paving and new walks which will allow it to be ADA accessible.
5. **Removal of broken light fixtures:** The existing lights in the park will be removed because they are no longer functional and, even when working, have not been shown to be effective in preventing misuse of the park. In fact, lights in the park often encourage park use after hours. If you are a neighbor of the park and concerned about safety, it's recommended you take the basic safety measures of turning on your outdoor lighting.
6. **Removal of trees:** No doubt, we all hate seeing trees cut-down, but for the health of the canopy dead and invasive trees must be removed. A more open area in the park will allow for improved "line of sight" security by police patrols, less leaf litter on playgrounds, and improved sunlight for ground cover to grow. BCRP have assured us that trees will be removed only when absolutely necessary and have enclosed a "Tree Protection Plan" in the proposed design.
7. **Improved erosion management:** An extensive storm-water management study was completed to help reduce erosion in the park. The plan consists of 5 strategically placed Bio-swales to capture runoff water in order for it to slow down and soak into the ground. The storm-water plan will help protect a sensitive wetland ravine in the center of the park and reduce runoff into Western Run Stream.

If all goes as planned, work could start by the end of May and may last for 6-9 months.

Due to this schedule we will again have to put off the traditional MWIA picnic until next year.

If you are interested in becoming more involved with Luckman Park or with any Mt. Washington area parks (i.e. Northwest Park, Western Run), please contact the MWIA Parks Committee. Presently, monthly clean-ups at Luckman Park are scheduled for the first Saturday of each month at 10:00. To learn more about volunteer activities at Luckman Park, please join the Luckman Park list-serve at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/luckmanpark/>.

Neighbors Making A Difference

By ELENA BELASCO-COLMENARES

Now, on the two year anniversary of the massive earthquake in Haiti, 500,000 people are still officially displaced and access to health care is nearly non-existent. This year our goal is to raise \$3,000. There will be a gourmet menu - not your usual bake sale! You can take home; or you can eat

at tables set up in our yard here. Enjoy a little of quiet time while your kids are running and playing with their friends in a safe street, as the neighborhood is closing the street off for this.

Event Details:

June, 3rd • 11:00 am - 4:00 pm
2427 Everton Road

Trail Update, Masterplan Proposal

Representatives of Baltimore City Parks Department came to Mount Washington last month to present the near-final design of the Mount Washington section of the Jones Falls Trail and the latest iteration of the proposed Northwest Park Master Plan. About 50 neighbors gathered at the public meeting at Springwell to view the plans and ask questions of the planners from the Dept. of Parks, the Landscape Planning Consultants hired to create the master plan, a representative of the Baltimore City Office of Sustainability, members of the MWIA Parks Committee and Councilwoman Rikki Spector.

The Jones Falls Trail

The plans for the trail are now almost

complete and ready for submission to the State Department of Transportation for their final comments. The plans, which are posted on the MWIA.ORG website, are extremely detailed and reflect the many improvements and modifications made to accommodate community concerns. Most notably, a long section of the trail is now mounted on a boardwalk to lessen impact on woods and wildlife and enable the trail to be constructed without the need for extreme grading or large construction equipment.

With funding now secured, construction is expected to begin in fall 2012 or early 2013, with completion by mid-2014.

As part of the project, the City also will build a “spur” along the Western

Run stream, from the five-way intersection of Greenspring Avenue, Pimlico Road and Cross Country Boulevard, east to the Mount Washington Village.

Among issues raised at the community meeting were the design of the pedestrian bridge over Northern Parkway, improvements to intersections in and near the Mount Washington Village, the potential impact of construction on the Mount Washington Pediatric Hospital woods, and the future health of the woods and streams around the trail route. These questions, and the City’s responses will be posted (along with the drawings of the trail) at www.mwia.org, along with a form to submit comments and questions. A “Frequently Asked

“Composite” Master Plan



Questions” list will be posted at this website, as well.

City officials said that while major elements of the design, including the route of the trail, are set, there is still opportunity to consider and incorporate community feedback on certain design elements.

Phase V will bring the Jones Falls Trail from Cylburn Arboretum, north on Greenspring Avenue, across Northern Parkway and into the Northwest Park, where it will be integrated with elements of a proposed master plan for the park.

The Master Plan

Last year, the City Department of Recreation and Parks (BCRP) hired landscape Mahan Rykiel Associates, Inc. to develop a Master Plan for Northwest Park. There have been two previous public meetings to collect ideas as well as a web forum and survey hosted by MWIA. Nearly 100 people participated in the survey, which provided the team with valuable feedback and fresh ideas.

Results from the community survey reflected the current park’s use for soccer, baseball, gardening, bird watching, walking/hiking, bike polo, and open space for dog owners to play and exercise their pets. The latest proposed master plan is a hybrid of the two alternatives initially presented at a previous community meeting last November (go to <http://mwia.org/downloads/mwia-february-2012.pdf> to see those drawings). It proposes to keep the driving range and to build a new little league field without a pitcher’s mound at the “upper field” off of Enslow Avenue, so the area can still be used for other team field sports. There was strong support for the community garden, mulched nature trails, a small playground, and demolition of the existing red Victorian house on West Rogers Avenue if no viable tenants can be found.

Reconfigured parking with bio-retention features were included to give the park a welcoming “front-lawn” effect. Although a new parking lot was proposed in the woods near Enslow, the community discussed options that would reduce the impact on this mature area of the woods. The master plan does not resolve the question of use as “dog park”, but does provide several options that could be exercised after more community discussions.

Many additions that will have a smaller footprint such as restrooms, volleyball court, gazebos, and “flex areas” can be added later. Other proposed improvements include rehabbing the large gym and smaller white building to provide community meeting spaces, gym sports, fitness/wellness programs, restrooms or squash courts. An alternative access to the park from Northern Parkway was proposed in order to slow down traffic entering the Mount Washington community and provide a safer entrance into the park. This proposal needs further investigation and approval by the Baltimore Department of Transportation.

Though City funding to fully implement the plan is not available, officials said that some elements could be built sooner with outside support. Designers will estimate the costs of major park elements and report back to the Parks Committee of the MWIA. While the City does not have the funds to implement the plan as a whole, the Master Plan will allow them to proceed with individual elements when possible while still respecting the eventual overall design.

MWIA will continue to work with the City and the designers to refine the plan, resolve outstanding issues and identify potential funding sources. It is possible that restoration of the fields and construction of the baseball diamond could be done within a year or two. Larger, more expensive elements (like restoration of the field house) are still several years away.



Stu Caplan, Ellen O'Brien and Ian Rashkin in the Western Run

Spring Cleaning in Mount Washington

By MAC NACHLAS

Earth Day weekend saw families and friends gather at the Boy Scout Memorial for the annual Western Run Stream Clean sponsored by Blue Water Baltimore and MWIA and led by long time Mount Washingtonian Ellen O'Brien.

“The Western Run was in better shape than it has been in years past”, she reported. “We picked up about 18 bags of trash... mostly plastic bottles and blue bags. In years past we’ve found things like sewing machines and bikes... but not this year. I think this may be in part the result of doing it every year. More recycling helps, as did the stream remediation project that was done upstream near the Glen Avenue Firehouse.”

About 20 volunteers participated this year, including a number of kids. “Some of the little kids learned to identify invasive mustard garlic and had a great time pulling weeds or deadheading daffodils. I bet they’ll be back next year.” said Ellen.

Thanks to all the neighbors who came.... see you again next year!



July 4
13th Annual Spirit of Mount Washington Parade
10:00 AM
Springwell - 2211 W. Rogers Avenue

It's Parade Time!



The 2012 Parade Committee and the Mt. Washington Improvement Association welcome all, young and old, to the 13th annual Spirit of Mt. Washington Independence Parade on Wednesday, July 4th, at 10:00 a.m. The parade will begin and end at Springwell, 2211 W. Rogers Avenue. Pre-parade activities include face painting, a moon bounce, and fabulous favors for the children. The parade will return to Springwell to share refreshments, enjoy musical entertainment and to mingle with the residents. Amazing prizes will be awarded for patriotic costumes, bikes and pets. Groups and floats are welcome! For more information, to volunteer or reserve your spot in the line-up, contact www.mwia.org or Caroline Tufts (carolinetufts@comcast.net).

June 1
Blue Sage Café and Wine Bar Opens
Former site of The Falls restaurant

June 12
MWIA Annual Open Meeting
7:30 PM

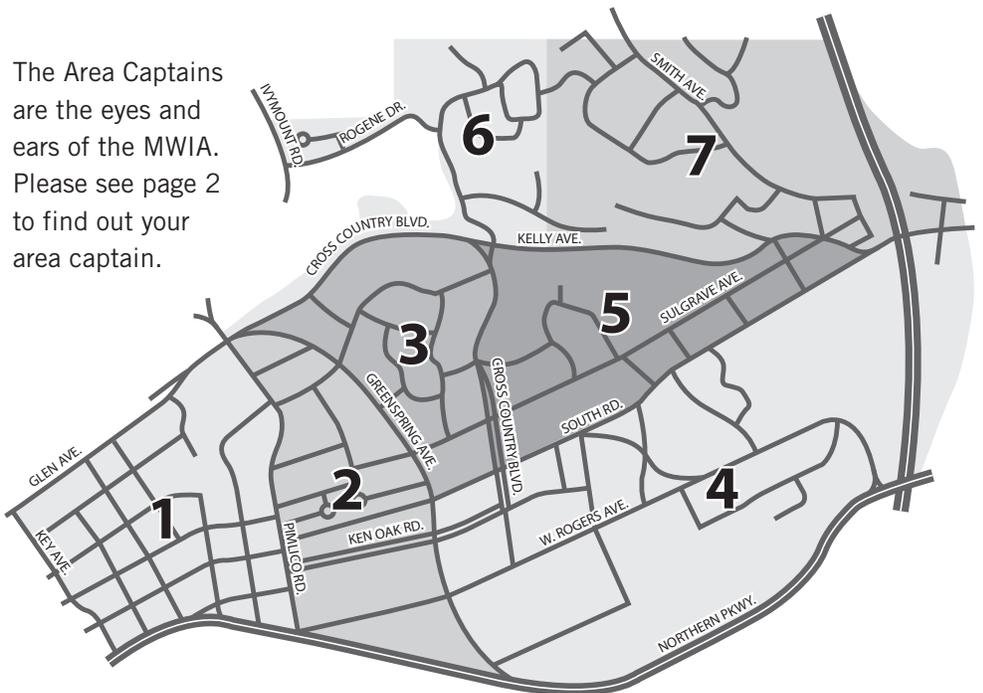
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rikki.spector@baltimorecity.gov
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- Delegate Sandy Rosenberg**
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Map of Mount Washington

The Area Captains are the eyes and ears of the MWIA. Please see page 2 to find out your area captain.





Got something for the MWIA Newsletter?

The newsletter is published by the Mt. Washington Improvement Association (MWIA) and is mailed to the homes of residents. The newsletter informs the residents about people, activities, and services in Mt. Washington and the actions of the Board of Directors. Please send your news articles or event information for the May/June newsletter, deadline April 20th to: capitano.bryce@comcast.net

877 Members Strong: Mt. Washington Community Listserv Website

<http://groups.google.com/group/mount-washington>

Join the MWIA Today! Online at MWIA.org or by mail

The Mt. Washington Improvement Association (MWIA) is now easier to join. MWIA memberships will now be based on the calendar year instead of the July to June fiscal year. No more confusion! No more wondering "Did I pay my dues?" And no reason not to become a member!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email address _____

- \$100 – Sponsoring member**
(a leadership donation, and designated on the MWIA website)
- \$40 – Renewing member**
- \$19 – First-time member**
- Enclosed please find my dues payment, plus an additional donation of:
\$25 \$50 \$100 Other _____
- I am interested in volunteering with the MWIA

Make check out to the Mt. Washington Improvement Association P.O. Box 10404, Balt., MD 21209

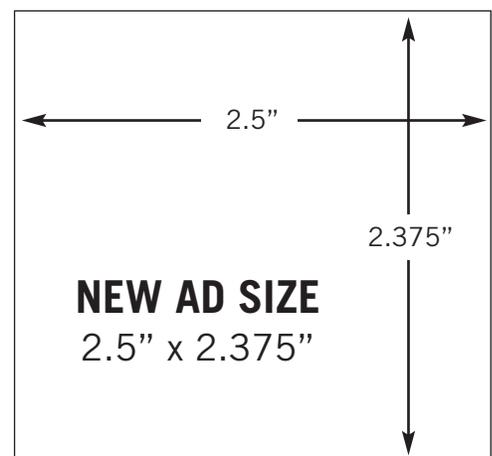
Advertise to 1600 Mount Washington Households

BY BRYCE BUTLER

This year we are continuing to run ads in this newsletter to help subsidize the major expense of printing the newsletter. We are thankful to Brothers for their commitment this past year. But to simplify the bookkeeping we are going to be selling 6 small ads in this space (2.5" x 2.375") for the next 4 issues – Sep, Nov, Mar, May. The cost of the ads will be \$50, with the full cost of the run, \$200, to be paid up front. The ads will be rented on a first come first serve basis.

Please let me know if you want to buy an ad by July 1st. Then submit your ad by email, camera ready to me by August 1st for the Sep-Oct newsletter. An electronic invoice will be emailed to you upon receipt of the ad. If you have further questions please contact me at:

capitano.bryce@comcast.net



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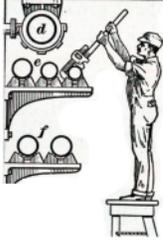
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