Large crowd for update on Pimlico

By KIMIYA DARRELL
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A crowd of approximately 100 people and news outlets filled the Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital community room on April 10 for an MWIA Board meeting to hear from the Pimlico Revitalization Task Force (https://mwia.org/pimlicotaskforce.html) and several guest speakers about the future of Pimlico.

The Task Force’s seven members — Kimiya Darrell, Peter Garver, Rosalind Griffin, Jim Jacobs, Lu Pierson, Evan Serpick, and Ellen Spokes — bring a variety of experience to the team. Jim discussed the background of the Task Force and its goals, explaining the guiding purpose to work with Mount Washington residents and surrounding stakeholders to gather input regarding proposed redevelopment at Pimlico and ultimately present recommendations to the MWIA Board.

The Maryland Stadium Authority is overseeing and administering a study to assess the current condition of Pimlico and determine whether the site can continue to host the Preakness, and, if so, whether additional development opportunities could support the long-term sustainability and economic viability of the site. Phase 1 of the study provided a general assessment of existing conditions and recommended improvements, but ultimately determined that the Preakness can remain at the site.

Phase II commenced earlier this spring and will build upon the findings of Phase I. This second phase comprises “visioneering” and concept development of an “ideal” Preakness venue, including facility programming and a conceptual site plan of the venue concept.

During this stage of the study, stakeholders will be engaged through workshops and other outreach mechanisms. The study

New board busy at Clayworks

By SUSAN PATZ
President, Baltimore Clayworks
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Six months after changing hands in September, Baltimore Clayworks has undergone major transformations in governance, finance, and leadership.

Upon the transfer of administration, the new Board of
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Lindsey White, President
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Julie Tong, Vice President
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Susan Manning, Secretary
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3- Leslie Moore
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4- Holly Coleman
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5- Susan Manning
esmanning@gmail.com
6- Eric Seaberg
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7- Robin Klein
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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.

CONTACT THE MWIA NEWSLETTER

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

EAT LIKE A KING.
PAY LIKE A PAUPER.

WEEKLY SPECIALS

MONDAY RIB NIGHT
Full Rack of Slow Roasted Pork Spare Ribs with Choice of House Made St. Louis Style or Spicy Honey Barbeque Sauce. Served with Tavern Fries and Slaw. $16

TUESDAY T-BONE
Caesar Salad Followed by 16 oz. Aged T-Bone with Fingerling Potatoes. $16

AND MUSSEL MANIA
Heaping bowl of Prince Edward Island Mussels Served with Garlic Toast for Dipping. Your choice of one of the following varieties. $16
Drunken Mussels, Low Country Mussels, Parmesan-Garlic Mussels

WEDNESDAY PRIME RIB
Tavern Salad Followed by 12 oz. Slow Roasted Prime Rib and Fingerling Potatoes. $16

FEATURED DRINK SANGRIA - Pitcher-$20 • Pitcher with Any Weekly Special-$15 Glass-$7
JOIN US EVERY THURSDAY FOR HALF OFF ALL WINE BOTTLES.

THE HEART OF MT. WASHINGTON VILLAGE
5700 Newbury Street, Baltimore, MD 21209 | 410.367.6903 | mtwashingtontavern.com
Mount Washington students speak out against gun violence

By STEPHANIE FISHKIN
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School shootings have become more prevalent, with six incidents occurring just this year. One on February 14 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, left 17 dead and 17 injured.

Four days later, students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas joined with others across the country to form the “Never Again” movement. The teen leaders from the school were featured on the cover of Time magazine, and in other publications, illustrating the emerging power of teen voices.

As the issue has garnered national attention, Mount Washington students have also participated in walkouts, marches, and rallies to support and show solidarity with the movement.

“I was really scared when I heard that there was a gun shooting at a school, and I couldn’t accept that fact at first,” said Baltimore Polytechnic Institute junior Hannah Masaki, an exchange student from Japan living with a host family in Mount Washington. “Students were killed with a gun. We are in the same position as these students.”

At the same time, students in the community have recognized that gun violence is not a new issue in Baltimore. USA Today recently named Baltimore the “most dangerous” city in the nation with the highest-ever per capita homicide rate last year.

Many black students across the city have “been dealing with gun violence all their lives,” said Emma Conn, a junior at Baltimore City College. That’s why student organizers of that school’s walkout “made sure to talk about the impact that everyday gun violence had on black and brown youth,” said Conn, who participated in the protest.

Baltimore Polytechnic Institute

See Students, page 10

School Spotlight

By KATHY DAUMER
Co-chair,
Mount Washington School Subcommittee
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The Mount Washington School is one of the anchors of the Mount Washington community, and deserves support at its “Taste of Mount Washington” event on May 5 at 6 p.m. It’s a fun evening attracting parents, neighbors, and community leaders to mix and mingle at the school’s “outdoor classroom” while enjoying the very best local restaurant food and libations.

The event will feature silent and live auctions with tempting items that include a mountain retreat vacation, dinner prepared by Mount Washington resident and “Top Chef Jr.” winner Owen Pereira, Orioles tickets, golf and spa packages, and family fun activities. Guests will be offered the opportunity to “fund a need” to raise money for recess equipment.

Baltimore City Public Schools faced catastrophic budget shortfalls for the 2017-2018 school year. Even though City and State officials mitigated the severity the anticipated shortages, every school in the system sustained budget cuts, including Mount Washington School.

Each school must find a way to fund the resources that have been eliminated by those cuts. The Mount Washington School relies on its Parent Teacher Organization to help close that funding gap for the students.

“Taste of Mount Washington” is the largest and most ambitious fundraiser the PTO will undertake this year. Every dollar earned from the event supports the academic and after-school lives of more than 600 children. So join us to connect with neighbors, make new friends, enjoy savory food, dance the night away, and bid on great prizes — all to support our kids and community school.

Event Information

What: Taste of Mount Washington
When: May 5, 6 p.m.
Where: MWS Outdoor Classroom
Why: Connect with neighbors, friends, and community leaders to support the academic and after-school lives of MWS students.
By DANIELLE SHAPIRO
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Until the 1890s, Mount Washington was rather isolated. It had limited railway facilities and no train at night.

At the turn of the 20th century, however, transportation links were strengthened — the Northern Central Railroad and the United Railway and Electric Company connected the community and downtown. Mount Washington Express ran 50 trains a day on a nine-minute trip to Union Station. Trolley service ran on Ken Oak.

Mount Washington flourished into a bustling, well-connected village and people moved here year-round. It was a neighborhood known for its active social and sports activities, many of which took place at the Casino, which was not for gambling — but a community nexus.

Located in the Newbury Street area, not far from what is now the Mount Washington Tavern, the Casino dominated the vista. It is arguably the most impressive building in the neighborhood’s history, a classic Victorian building with a dramatic turret.

The Casino featured generous patios, a large playing field with room for hundreds of residents, and a stunning gazebo terrace. The circular white clapboard building, designed by J.A. and W.T. Wilson, was a hub of neighborhood activity.

The Casino drew residents together year-round for civic and sporting events, parties, and theater. Inside the building was a “commodious” public hall for lectures, concerts, or dancing, and annexed rooms for a library and small meeting spaces.

Independence Day was the biggest celebration of the year, with bugle blasts from the Boy Scouts and children’s games such as potato races, a tree-climbing contest, and an egg race. There was a giant picnic, with great bowls of lemonade and orangeade and “a dainty cake table,” according to The Baltimore Sun. As is the tradition of the MWIA-sponsored July 4th parade today, the Declaration of Independence was read aloud.

The celebration of Yuletide and Twelfth Night were popular events. Also all the rage at the Casino in the 1880s was “hops,” huge dance parties that brought hundreds of people from the city to Mount Washington.

Women’s organizations made a massive contribution to Mount Washington’s social life. On March 21, 1896, the Casino was gifted from the gentlemen of Mount Washington to the members of the all-female Lend-a-Hand Club.

The ladies’ organization saw their building as gathering place for “social, philanthropic and literary purposes and for affairs of the general public interest as a town hall.” The Casino was a busy place hosting sporting events, a sewing school, a distribution center for flowers for people in hospitals, a circulating library, and a June feast of roses.

Daughters of the Lend-a-Hand ladies had their own group – the Casino Club, which put on plays and even had a chorus. Annual artists’ festivals drew artists from all over the city (including Maryland Institute School of Art, the Arts and Crafts Association, and the Charcoal club) to compete for prizes for best sketching. A popular lecture series sponsored by the Lend-A-Hand Club included such topics as “Is It Right for Us to Deceive the Children, Even for Santa Claus?”

The Baltimore Sun had hundreds of listings for sports events in Mount Washington in the early days of the 1900s. The Mount Washington Cricket Club, tennis, soccer, and lacrosse teams actively played others throughout the region including Hopkins and Sparrows Point. This tradition
Imagine harvesting veggies without having to dig the soil and sow seeds every year! Growing edible perennials is as close to do-nothing gardening as we can get. Once established, they come back year after year, produce harvests with little effort, and sequester carbon.

Perennial veggies can help to build, or at least improve, the quality of soil. It doesn’t need to be tilled, so they keep the mycelial culture and soil structure intact while increasing aeration and water absorption. Further, their natural decomposition cycles, as they drop leaves every year, create a natural compost and topsoil.

Aside from building the essential healthy soil, the plants we choose, and how and where we place them, are most important for having a regenerative garden and landscape that can provide for our needs, support our ecosystem, and lower our carbon and water consumption.

Many of us want to do our part to lessen the threat of climate change and take better care of our environment. We can play a small part in mitigating climate change by how we garden and landscape.

For these reasons, we decided a couple of years ago to experiment with perennial vegetables. We liked that they are low-maintenance, provide beauty as well as food (many blossom), use less water, involve less expense, and can even outcompete weeds.

Some we have grown and liked include:
• asparagus, though it does require full sun and takes a few years to produce;
• sorrel, our very favorite because it is easy to grow, and, with a lemony flavor, delicious for salads, stir fries, soups, and stews;
• sea kale, which takes a while to get established but is delicious and nutritious;
• wild leek and Welsh onion, also easy to grow;
• seaberry, which needs full sun, has climbing vines, and sprouts tart and tasty berries that reportedly have great medicinal value;
• Turkish rocket, a spicy broccoli;
• wild strawberries; and
• sweet potatoes.

Reliable perennial herbs, which make good ground cover on garden patches, include mint, lavender, watercress, lemon balm, oregano, creeping thyme, and chives. Many blossom, adding color. Other perennial plants with a good reputation (we’ll try them soon) include Good-King-Henry (requires full sun but has tasty shoots, leaves, and flower buds and resembles spinach); sweet cicely (adds a celery taste to stews and soups); lovage (like parsley); and rhubarb (only eat the stalks, as the leaves are poisonous).

Perennial dwarf fruit and nut trees and bushes can mix in and fill out the garden and yard. They take diligence to get started but are well worth the time and effort.

For best results, perennial veggies and herbs -- as well as plants that provide creature habitats and attract birds, butterflies, and beneficial insects -- should be placed in what are called “guilds” or “polycultures”: garden patches that keep mutually supporting plants in balance and feeding the soil web. This community of diverse plants nourishes the soil’s beneficial creatures, which in turn search for, exchange, and bring needed nutrients and minerals to the plant roots. Larger gardening frameworks that perennials can fit into are known as “food forest gardening” and “permaculture” design systems, both based on functions of natural ecosystems.

For a good primer on perennial gardens, check out “Paradise Lot” by Eric Toensmeier and Jonathan Bates, which turns the story of their successful perennial edible garden into a step-by-step primer; another great reference by Toensmeier is “Perennial Vegetables and Perennial Vegetable Gardening.”

Frank Lee is an advisor with City of Baltimore’s Office of Sustainable Energy.
**CURB APPEAL**  By JOAN GOLDMAN — joan@cummingsrealtors.com

When I walk around Mount Washington, I am always struck by the beauty of the old homes and tree-lined streets, which is one reason so many people are drawn to this area. There are a number of styles including Victorian, American Craftsman, Colonial, Tudor, cottage, American Foursquare, storybook, Cape Cod, contemporary, Dutch Colonial, mid-century modern, ranch, Spanish, farmhouse, townhouse, duplex, and condo.

No cookie-cutter neighborhood here, that's for sure. Though each style has its own “best look” here are some ideas that will work for any type of home:

- Keep your paint fresh. Make sure window frames aren’t chipping and steps get more frequent paint than the home does.
- Keep trees pruned for good health. Wind will bring down large branches as well as the entire tree, but by having regular maintenance your trees will be thinned to be able to handle high winds.
- Keep bushes below windows for the best visual effect both inside and from the street.
- Keep your mailboxes and porch lights current.
- Stagger your plants so something is blooming from early spring to late fall. Even in winter our evergreens show well.
- Exterior lighting can work as a crime deterrent as well as beautification.
- Maintain concrete walkways: yes, many are old, but you can redo portions without breaking the bank. Plus, it can be a tripping hazard, so keep those walkways smooth.
- Open your curtains every day and close them every evening. Why wouldn’t you want sunlight to flood your home? But, in the same regard, don’t flash your neighbors!
- Keep your yard mowed and deadhead your plants. Your neighbors shouldn’t wonder if you have moved and you didn’t tell them.
- Trim away any overgrowth from your sidewalks. Keep in mind walkers with strollers shouldn’t get scratched from your bushes or forced into the street.
- Some thoughts go for alleys. I get annoyed when folks don’t trim back bushes in the alley and my car gets scratched just driving through.
- Pick up trash when you see it.

If you don’t want to do the work yourself, remember there are many entrepreneurs who will gladly take on these small projects. By keeping your home looking its best, you maintain the value of not only your home, but also the entire neighborhood.

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

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**Something Else founder dies at 88**

By ANNA BACA
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Those who have spent any time in Mt. Washington Village have probably noticed the colorfully painted building with clothing swaying from its chipped cornices and rails. The store, Something Else, is much like its founder, Elsie Fergusson.

Recognizable by her get-up of loud colors, mismatched patterns, and funky jewelry, Ms. Fergusson had become a fixture in Mount Washington. She passed away on February 13 at the age of 88.

Her store, which she ran for 50 years, was very much a labor of love, a way to collect and share to her heart’s content. Beginning with antiques, vintage clothing, and ethnic styles, and later adding linen clothing and Mexican folk art, the shop always offered something unique.

Due to its shabby chic exterior and the eclectic array of clothing displayed on its porch and in its store window, the store is often mistakenly assumed to sell second-hand items. Something Else does not adhere to one style or look; it fits consumers with an array of tastes, including retro and vintage, modern minimalist, and the California aesthetic, as well as the weird and whimsical.

Customers come from every size, age, race, and tax bracket.

Something Else has passed to Ms. Fergusson’s son, Ian. With the help of the current staff, who have been a part of the daily operations for more than 15 years, it will continue to offer Baltimore a unique experience. Shoppers may not find what they came in for, but they will certainly find “something else.”
To Your Health

In “To Your Health,” Mount Washington’s healthcare and wellness professionals offer counsel on caring for the body and mind.

Home remedies and prevention for common colds

By E.B. WEXLER
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It doesn’t seem to matter what time of year it is, colds are going around. They are viral, so the only medications we can take for them treat the symptoms, don’t hasten the healing, and can have unwanted side effects. Here are some tips for shortening that cold -- and perhaps, if you follow them regularly, preventing the cold in the first place.

• Liquids: Yes, a lot of clear liquids will flush out your system. But you can add things to your water that give even more of an immunity boost.

Fresh lemon in warm water first thing in the morning is detoxifying, provides easily absorbed vitamin C, and increases white blood cell production. Peeled and sliced fresh ginger root in hot water is both antiviral and anti-inflammatory. Drinking two tablespoons of apple cider vinegar a day can contribute to an alkaline environment in the body, which helps kill bacteria and viruses.

For a real boost, combine any of the above in hot water as a “tea.” Add raw honey for its taste and many healing properties.

• Sinus rinse: A neti pot can clean out allergens and mucus, and provide a lot of relief from sinus congestion. The practice is to flush the sinuses with warm, distilled salt water by pouring it into one side of the nose and letting it exit out the other side.

The neti pot was originally used by ancient yogis in India; now there are plastic versions on the shelf of any pharmacy. For us 21st-century sinus rinsers, there is also a user-friendly squeeze bottle that is foolproof and easy to use.

• Dry brushing the skin: Exfoliating can rid the body of toxins that build up in dead skin. Dry brushing can also stimulate lymphatic draining and increase circulation. Do it before showering so you can wash off what you exfoliate. (Note: There are health conditions for which this is contraindicated, so be sure to check with your doctor before starting this. Also, always start from the extremities, and brush in towards the heart.)

• Hydrotherapy: Ending your shower with a 30-second cold shot, aimed especially at your throat and neck, gets your lymphatic system going. I get horrified looks when I suggest this to anyone, but I’ve been doing it with every shower for years. When I am somewhere where I cannot get really cold water for the end of my shower, it feels incomplete! Even more powerful is to do a cycle: 30 seconds of cold, three minutes of hot, three times in a row, ending on the cold.

• Rest: The tried and true, and still the best way to take care of your body and let it heal, is rest. Get enough sleep; if you are sick, sleep as much as you feel you need. Pushing through is supposedly the “strong” thing to do, but the real strength is in taking care of yourself!

Rest also means allowing your body and mind some downtime when you are awake. If you are always going, going, going, your system is going to be more vulnerable to catching that dreaded cold.

E.B. Wexler is a social worker, yoga teacher, wellness advocate, and writer who blogs at www.endless-exhale.com.

“Village of Lake Roland” development being reviewed

Plans for the “Village of Lake Roland” (villageoflakeroland.com) at Clarkview and Falls Roads in Towson were submitted to Baltimore County in March, initiating a “review phase.” The 6-acre complex designed by property owner Vanguard Retail Development includes a six-story residential building with 152 rental units, 50,000 square feet of commercial and retail space in five other buildings, and 500 parking spaces.

The site — which is surrounded by the City-owned, County-leased Lake Roland Park — would be accessed from the existing traffic light at Clarkview. The concept is like a previously withdrawn application to the County for a planned unit development.

A “community input meeting” was held on April 9. The development, and the zoning change to enable it, was supported and facilitated by Ruxton Riderwood Lake Roland Area Improvement Association (www.rrlraia.com) and Councilwoman Vicki Almond.

An opposition group, Save Lake Roland (www.saveolakeroland.com), is objecting to the scale and scope of the project, contending that it will have a deleterious effect on the Park, the surrounding neighborhood, traffic on Falls Road, and sewer systems. The organization also protests that the development scheme would conflict with the area’s 2010 Community Master Plan and should be kept as open space for environmental reasons.

— Deirdre Smith,
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Village welcomes new Learning Assessment Center

The Mt. Washington Pediatric Community Health Services Learning Assessment Center has moved into Mt. Washington Village at Mt. Washington Center, 1501 Sulgrave Avenue, Suite 102, formerly home to O’Malley Antiques. The Center provides comprehensive psychoeducational evaluations for children and adolescents who are having difficulties keeping up with expectations at school. For information about appointments, visit mwph.org or call 410-578-5037.

— Andy Wayne,
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“Casino,” continued from page 4

continues today with the expansion of the baseball fields on Enslow Avenue.

In 1908, the Lend-a-Hand society re-gifted the building to another group — the mysteriously named “Little f. f. f.’s” Corporation of Mount Washington. (Local women’s organizations remained active, however, such as the Women’s Club of Mount Washington, lasting from 1914 to well into the 1970s, and the Mount Washington Garden Club, formed in 1931.) Just what the initials ‘f.f.f.’ stand for remains secret. The organization was composed of members of representative families of Mount Washington who accepted possession of the Casino.

This formidable building was demolished in 1958 as postwar families sought entertainment elsewhere (like on their newfangled televisions) and membership declined. In 1959, the train stopped servicing Mount Washington and did not return until 1991 when the light rail opened.
“Clayworks,” continued from page 1

Trustees (http://baltimoreclayworks.org/board-of-trustees/) immediately changed the by-laws to redistribute power from the Executive Committee back to the full Board. The new Board has been meeting regularly and members are contributing as volunteers.

The Clayworks Community Campaign and the new Board raised more than $534,000 through December 31. This enabled the Board to restart operations and complete the obligations of the contract that enabled the change of leadership.

Under new governance, the fiscal year began in the black and will end with a positive cash flow. More than 300 creditors from the previous administration have been contacted and $250,000 has been paid to teachers, artists, utilities, the State, and vendors.

There remains a significant debt obligation due in August that is being addressed. It remains mandatory that Clayworks continue its strong fundraising and expansion of revenue sources.

An advisory group has been formed with Baltimore arts and business leaders to advocate for the organization and research sustainable models. The Board and advisory group are organizing a charrette on June 16.

The Board, Interim Executive Director Nicole Fall (Nicole.Fall@baltimoreclayworks.org), and staff are rebuilding the trust that the community had placed in Clayworks for 37 years. They and President Susan Patz (Susan.Patz@baltimoreclayworks.org) are always available to listen to comments.

Clayworks continues to welcome the Mount Washington community back. Come visit the shop, view an exhibition, or sign up for a class.

Clayworks is proud to be in the Mount Washington Village and have many MWIA residents as students, artists, donors, and collectors. Having preserved its unique ceramic facility, Clayworks is excited to continue its transformative programs in the neighborhood and throughout the region.

To get involved:

- Attend the community input meeting on September 9.
- Join one of the volunteer teams: administrative, retail, or facilities (contact Barbara Donohoe or Pam Worthington at volunteer.bcw@gmail.com).
- Join a Board committee.
- Experience the fun of clay by signing up for a single-session “try-it” workshop, or by holding your 40th birthday party in the studio with a lesson for 12 on the wheels.
- Visit Clayworks’ renowned exhibitions.
- Support local ceramic artists and buy gifts in the shop.

A TIMELINE OF EVENTS

September 26: An agreement for the continuation of Baltimore Clayworks was signed and complete new leadership was installed.

October-November: Artists returned and fall classes began.

December: A fundraising campaign was launched by the Board with a $150,000 matching challenge grant from a generous donor.

January-March: Winter session enrollment exceeded that of previous years. Clayworks opened the “Stand[ing] Together” exhibition — first at Baltimore School for the Arts then moving to Clayworks’ Gallery Building in February — celebrating 38 years of work from its artists, teachers, and founders. The first spring session classes also began.

A small battalion of Clayworks artists, teachers, staff, Board members, and collectors headed to Pittsburgh to participate in the country’s largest arts and education conference (with more than 6,000 attendees), held by the National Council on Education for the Ceramics Arts.

Clayworks artists and teachers were major stars there. Most notably, Deborah Bedwell, founder of Clayworks, received NCECA’s lifetime achievement award and was honored as a fellow of the Council. Not only did Deb put Clayworks on the international map, as president of NCECA from 2011 to 2016 she also contributed to the growth and success of ceramic centers and college ceramic departments across the nation.

Clayworks artists Sara Morales-Morgan, Kevin Rohde, Travis Winters, Sam Wallace, and Professor Blaise dePaolo (Morgan) were juried into special exhibitions at NCECA or were leaders of panel discussions. All claim roots at Baltimore Clayworks. Closer to home, education director Matt Hylek was awarded the prestigious Maryland State Arts Council’s Individual Artist Award.

April: The “REINVENTED” exhibition opened and will run through May 26 in the Gallery Building. This exhibition features 12 ceramic artists who utilize digital technology within a traditional studio practice. Concurrently at Clayworks, the Towson University Object Lab will be featured and hold a workshop.
“Students,” continued from page 3
sophomore Xaviera Geisen also noted that, although she feels safe at her school, she worries about schools where “students may not be as closely monitored” and “bullying may be a common occurrence.”

Madelyn Jones, a seventh grader at Roland Park Elementary/Middle School, attended the walkout at her school. It was her first public demonstration, she said, and it made her “glad to see everyone protesting.” Luce Marchionni, a freshman at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, agreed, adding that “the activism made me feel good because it meant that changes were trying to be made, and it was also inspiring that my generation was the main advocate in the movement.”

Masaki felt energized while attending the March For Our Lives in the District of Columbia. “I was so impressed with how powerful the students’ speeches were, and I was glad to see a lot of people working together to stop gun violence,” she said.
Take advantage of State consumer protection help

By JIN CHONG
Volunteer, Maryland Attorney General Consumer Protection Division
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Good advice for consumers is to take the time to make informed decisions. Support reputable businesses: They are the most likely to provide good products and services and to stand behind their work should problems arise.

The Maryland Attorney General’s Consumer Protection Division provides information about a variety of consumer issues and also mediates consumer complaints against businesses. Call the consumer hotline (410-528-8662, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Monday through Friday) to find out about a company’s complaint history. The Division also refers callers to appropriate agencies that can better address their specific situations.

The Division mediates a variety of disputes related to housing (from home improvement projects to security deposits), car sales and repairs, defective products, false advertising, debt collection, and more. The Health Education and Advocacy Unit (410-528-1840, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday) mediates coverage disputes with health insurance companies, billing disputes with healthcare providers, and disputes involving defective medical equipment.

To file a complaint, complete the online complaint form at www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov, write the case number on copies of supporting documents (receipts, contracts, etc.), and mail them to the Division. After the case is assigned to a mediator (currently the backlog is about four weeks), he or she will call to discuss the details.

The mediator will then contact the business to ask it to review the case, consider possible resolutions, and respond in writing. Most reputable businesses do respond to the Division’s mediation efforts, and their responses can be favorable to the consumers.

Those with 10 hours a week to volunteer can help mediate many complaints. Volunteers are assigned their own cases and work with supervisors to discuss the complaints and strategies. Volunteers gather background information, talk with consumers and businesses, write letters, and answer hotline calls. The variety of cases and outcomes is very interesting, and fellow volunteers -- especially all the ones from Mount Washington -- are great company!

Go to www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov to learn more about Consumer Protection Division and to browse many helpful consumer publications.
will also evaluate a broader planning approach that considers minimal expansions of live racing, year-round use and activities (including non-racing functions), and redevelopment of the Pimlico site to better engage the surrounding communities.

Political and development support for major improvements beyond the racetrack itself have increased during the past year, Del. Sandy Rosenberg, a strong proponent of Pimlico’s retention of Preakness as well as long-term redevelopment, told the community. Phase II will focus on identifying opportunities to do so, as well as the financial mechanisms to fund such improvements.

Marcus Pollock, the executive director of Park Heights Renaissance, stated his belief that anything that enhanced Pimlico would be an economic boon to the Park Heights communities in terms of development and job opportunities. He also highlighted the corporation’s guiding principle of building strength on strength, drawing upon the strong infrastructure that LifeBridge already presents.

The LifeBridge vice president of government relations and community development, Martha Nathanson, provided insight about the organization’s history with the site and plans for the future. LifeBridge purchased property from the Pimlico Race Course 11 years ago to provide parking for employees. Now, the institution is exploring ways to create a more campus-like feel, with a pedestrian-friendly design that better connects the buildings and facilities.

A parcel of 1 million square feet currently used for parking is slated for redevelopment into an ambulatory care facility, which will position LifeBridge to conform to changing healthcare regulations. A large portion of that property could be developed into a grocery store, arts center, green space, or other public use. Notably, Ms. Nathanson said that without some redevelopment on the existing Pimlico site, it will be challenging for LifeBridge to fully realize its development plans.

Finally, Shelly Zimmerman spoke on behalf of Councilman Yitzy Schleifer, stating that he wants to see Preakness remain at Pimlico and is excited to explore redevelopment potential and support community priorities throughout the process. Particularly, Councilman Schleifer is interested in redevelopment that will provide job opportunities to those that need them most.

Following the presentation, community members had the opportunity to ask questions of the Task Force and guest speakers. Additionally, attendees had the opportunity to provide input on the types of amenities or services that would or would not be desired, potential areas of concern, and event types and frequency. The Task Force is expressly interested in hearing from members of the community to guide these recommendations.

Earlier this year, the Task Force gathered important documents related to the redevelopment, such as the Phase I Study, Phase II Scope, and planned-unit development restrictions. The new Pimlico Task Force tab on the MWIA website includes these and other
documents, as well as a direct link to contribute input or submit questions.

The resources collected on this website are intended to help residents in the neighborhoods around Pimlico understand the redevelopment options that are being considered and their implications for the surrounding communities. Those who were unable to attend the meeting but want to learn more and provide input can go to the Pimlico Revitalization Task Force page on the MWIA website and share opinions on this issue. Community voices are an important piece of this process.

* * * PAID ADVERTISING – NOT AN ENDORSEMENT BY MWIA. * * *

New leadership in Annapolis for Baltimore City

Democrat DALYA ATTAR for Delegate

Born and raised right here in the district to immigrants who fled persecution under radical extremist regimes, I have seen first-hand what it means to achieve the American Dream. Having grown up just minutes from Mt. Washington, and sharing with you the challenges of living in Baltimore City, I know this is a critical time to protect that dream for all of us.

Tucking my children into bed at night, I want to believe that tomorrow will be a better day for our families, our neighborhoods, and our city. But as a mom of two children and an Assistant State’s Attorney for Baltimore City, I know that hope is not enough.

Send me to Annapolis to be a strong advocate for you. Baltimore belongs to all of us. So let’s work together, not just for our children’s future tomorrow, but for all of our families today.

As a leader in the fight for more choices and better opportunities for Baltimore families, Dalya will:

• Fight to secure free, quality education for our children, from pre-K to community college.
• Ensure more education funding from the government for Baltimore City students, teachers, and schools.
• Create more training programs in our schools, preparing students for skilled jobs upon graduation.
• Bring Baltimore more funding and proper programs to combat our opioid crisis.
• Initiate more public-private partnerships for employment opportunities for returning citizens.
• Prioritize affordable and accessible health care for everyone, including physical and mental care, as well as for pre-existing conditions.

Democratic Primary - June 26
Early Voting - Begins June 14

www.DalyaAttar.com

Authority of Dalya Attar for Baltimore, Sara Goldfeiz, Treas.
Communications - Chair: Chris Mincher

The Communications Committee was approached about placement of political advertising in the newsletter. After some debate, and referring the matter to the Executive Committee, it was decided that political advertising would be permitted with a prominent disclaimer that the materials were paid for and did not constitute an MWIA endorsement.

The Committee also presented proposals for a website redesign to the Board. After feedback and further inquiries, two of the proposals have been rejected, with the remaining two modified and updated for resubmission to the Board.

As always, ideas, writers, contributions, and volunteers are needed for the newsletter.

Infrastructure - Chairs: Jere Morrel and David Nemerson

Spring has finally arrived in Mount Washington! There has not been an enormous amount of activity either in the parks or on the Jones Falls Trail project. City officials have reported that trail construction has suffered various delays and complications along almost the entire route.

A new retaining wall must be designed and added to the trail contract for the slope at the northwest corner of the soccer fields near the Eric Waller Community Vegetable Garden. Complicated sewer work along the trail route in the woods near Wildwood Road and Roxbury Place, and down the hill behind the Pediatric Hospital to the light-rail tracks, is slowing progress there. Storm drain work is yet to be completed on the trail along Kelly Avenue, slowing the completion of this section.

The trail is still slated to be completed by March 1.

In Northwest Park, the Garden has started its activities for the growing season. Memberships are available and anyone interested in the details is encouraged to email the administrator, Naomi Goldstick Rosner, at goldstickrosner@comcast.net. Kudos to the Garden for its quick action to move the large mulch pile dumped outside its gates to a location inside its perimeter.

The Friends of Luckman Park continue to run regular weekend cleanups at the park, keeping it looking great. These volunteers are owed a debt of gratitude for their tireless work.

The Traffic Subcommittee reached out to the offices of Delegate Rosenberg and Councilman Schleifer for help in getting action on numerous outstanding requests for traffic-calming devices and studies. Delegate Rosenberg’s office contacted the Baltimore City Department of Transportation on the community’s behalf. DOT has since informed us that:

- DOT is investigating installing an additional crossing guard for the intersection of Smith Avenue and Greely Road;
- An engineering study concluded that the volume of left turns from Kelly Avenue to Greely Road was too low to justify having a left-turn arrow;
- DOT has decided that speed humps are not warranted for Sulgrave Avenue;
- A speed camera on Kelly Avenue will not be considered until after construction of the Jones Falls Trail;
- By June 1, a traffic study at the intersection of W. Rogers Avenue and South Bend Road should be completed to determine whether to install stop signs;
- The request for an all-way stop at Cross Country and Sulgrave Avenue has been denied; and
- DOT is reviewing the 5900-6000 blocks of Smith Avenue to find a suitable location for a speed camera.

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

SATURDAY, MAY 5

Taste Of Mount Washington
6-10 p.m., Mount Washington School, Outdoor Classroom, 1801 Sulgrave Avenue, $45-$65
Mix and mingle under the stars while listening to great music, sampling wonderful food from area restaurants, and bidding on unique auction items to raise money for students.

TUESDAY, MAY 8

Leslie Pietrzyn and William Wall
7-8:30 p.m., The Ivy Bookshop, 6080 Falls Road
In Leslie Pietrzyn’s “Silver Girl,” a young woman, desperate to escape the unspoken secrets of her impoverished Midwestern family, bluffs her way into college where she meets Jess, charismatic and rich and needy, and the two quickly form an insular, competitive friendship. William Wall will also delve into short stories from “The Islands,” which traces the lives of two sisters and people that surround them.

FRIDAY, MAY 11

Market Day Anniversary Party and Preview
5:30-8 p.m., Cyburn Arboretum, Mansion, 4915 Greenspring Ave., $50
Join friends for one of the best vistas in Baltimore overlooking Cyburn’s beautiful gardens and grounds. Enjoy a free beer and wine tasting, savory snacks, music of the ’60s, and so much more. Also get first dibs on merchandise including rare and unusual plants from more than 30 vendors across the region.

SATURDAY, MAY 12

Market Day
8 a.m.-2 p.m., Cyburn Arboretum, Greenhouse Classroom, 4915 Greenspring Ave., $10 to park onsite
Local vendors offer an array of plants, garden accessories, and other merchandise at this community event hosted by the Cyburn Arboretum Association.

SUNDAY, MAY 13

Mother’s Day Buffet
12-5 p.m., Pimlico Race Course, Terrace Dining Room, 5201 Park Heights Avenue, $50
This brunch features omelets, waffles, pancakes, starters, salads, a carving station, entrees, sides, and desserts. Call 301-725-0770 for reservations.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16

Pre-Preakness Party
Mount Washington Tavern, 5700 Newbury Street, $15
Event includes a drink, snacks, and the chance to win Preakness tickets. All proceeds go to benefit the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance, which retires, retrain, and rehomes Thoroughbred horses.

SATURDAY, MAY 19

Preakness
8 a.m., Pimlico Race Course, 5201 Park Heights Ave., $40-$720
Those looking for luxury or to party join together in the festival atmosphere surrounding one of the most historic horse races in the world.

Recurring Events

“REINVENTED” Exhibition
Saturdays & Sundays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Mondays-Fridays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. through May 26
Baltimore Clayworks, Main Gallery, 5707 Smith Avenue
Curated by Adam Chau, program manager at Clay Art Center in New York, this groundbreaking show features 12 artists who utilize digital technology in a traditional studio practice.

Food System Lab
Sundays, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.
Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Cyburn 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.

Burger & Beer
Tuesdays, 4-11 p.m.
The Nickel Taphouse, 1604 Kelly Avenue, $12
This special pairs a “purist burger” featuring beef from Roseda Farm in Monkton with an Evolution craft beer from Salisbury.

Citizens Police Academy
Tuesdays, 5:30-9 p.m. (through May 22)
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 443-904-7411. 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
May 5 & 20, June 2 & 17, 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.
It’s hard to believe I am writing my final column as president. It has been an honor and privilege to serve my fellow neighbors in this capacity.

When I started, my priorities for the MWIA were to promote transparency by improving communication to the neighborhood, strengthen relationships with our neighboring communities, and implement a process for thoughtfully considering zoning proposals. I believe the MWIA has succeeded in accomplishing these goals.

As for communication, we created a one-way email blast from the MWIA to dues-paying members to detail various developments and meetings. We publicize meetings on our website and the listserv. We publish minutes of community meetings so those who cannot attend know what is happening. I have encouraged committee chairs to utilize the listerv and one-way blast to provide updates. We also include committee updates in the newsletter.

As for strengthening relationships with other neighborhoods, I have met regularly with the Northern District presidents (Roland Park, Guilford, Homeland, North Roland Park, Poplar Hill), as well as the “5 neighborhoods” with whom we share slots funding. We are able to focus on shared priorities in a more strategic way than going it alone.

Finally, last year we developed a zoning process that gives clarity to developers seeking variances or to rezone properties. It requires developers to complete a questionnaire, which then triggers several steps, including special consideration at a community meeting. It is not perfect, but it is a great improvement in promoting transparency and setting expectations both for residents and developers. (In fact, Poplar Hill recently used this as a model for their own process!).

In short, it has been a pleasure to advocate on our neighborhood’s behalf. I would encourage everyone to get involved. Join the MWIA. Representation matters. We can make an impact in our neighborhood, but it takes people willing to invest the time to do so.

Lindsey White
mwiapresident@gmail.com