Clayworks celebrates one year of renewal

By DANIELLE SHAPIRO
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The renewed Baltimore Clayworks marked its one-year anniversary on October 10 with the dedication of “Clayworks Way” in Mt. Washington Village in front of the organization’s headquarters on Smith Avenue. More than a hundred guests — including state delegates, City councilpersons, artists, and community members — gathered to honor the center, which rose from the brink of bankruptcy to continue as a vital community resource for ceramics arts.

Many levels of classes, as well as summer camp, were successfully restarted in the past year. The event honored participants in those programs, as well as in community arts and exhibitions.

Children at the event were encouraged to paint clay circles that will be part of a permanent mosaic outside of Clayworks. The gesture spoke to the organization’s community spirit, and its plans for longevity in Mount Washington on Clayworks Way, by creating an outdoor monument to clay.

Clayworks Board of Trustees President Susan Patz called the newly named roadway “a fitting signal that Baltimore Clayworks is firmly on the map and here to stay in our historic Mount Washington home.” The current Board took over the organization in September of last year.

Many people were central to the effort to help Clayworks regain solid financial footing. Councilman Schleifer introduced

See Clayworks, page 7

Final plan for Falls Road project submitted to County

By DEIRDRÉ SMITH
farmerdms@gmail.com

The final plan for the Bluestem development on six acres at 6241 Falls Road (next to Princeton Sports, adjacent to Lake Roland Park) has been submitted to Baltimore County after being reviewed by all relevant agencies. Pursuant to the plan, the property would be zoned “community commercial center” — used for projects such as Mill Station in Owings Mills and The Avenue at White Marsh — to permit both business and residential uses, with no limits on density and structures.

The proposed development calls for 50,000 square feet of restaurant, retail,
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
School Spotlight

Students, volunteers celebrate autumn with energy education

By TAVIAN CARDWELL
tavian.cardwell@gmail.com

On October 4, the Mount Washington School joined together with the United Way to host a fall festival. Students from the Energy Captain’s Club (K-3rd grade) and Council of Green Leaders (4th-8th grade) gathered throughout the day to celebrate the arrival of autumn.

We learned about harvesting the chemical energy that has been captured from solar rays. We celebrated in gathering carrots, sweet potatoes, and cucumbers that we planted in early summer.

We also explored how to capture or preserve that chemical energy in such preservation methods as drying, pickling, and canning. We shared freshly dried apples, bananas, raisins, and dates.

We also learned about the precious energy that humans create when they work together on a community service project. Our volunteers were perfect examples of constructive human energy in motion. Throughout the day, we weeded and maintained the learning garden (behind the upper building) and blacktop area green space, and almost completed restoration of the seating area in the outdoor amphitheater.

The Green Committee at the School is looking forward to working with volunteers from the Mount Washington Preservation Trust and Mount Washington Improvement Association to further engage our community in nourishing and sustainable environmental practices. We are planning a winter solstice celebration and an impactful, educational Earth Day on April 12. For more information and to get involved, please contact the Committee through Tavian Cardwell (tavian.cardwell@gmail.com).

Pediatric Hospital toy sale invites donations

This holiday season, be a part of Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital Holiday Toy Shop! The event welcomes families of patients to “shop” for great gifts for their children.

To contribute gifts, check the Amazon wish list at mwph.org/donate/holiday-toy-shop-donations. Order or deliver gifts from the list to the Hospital by December 14. Music and other holiday treats are also part of the special event.

— Andy Wayne, Andy.Wayne@MWPH.ORG

MWIA joins neighboring groups in voicing Pimlico goals

On September 6, the MWIA joined community associations of Cylburn, Glen, and Levindale-Sunset in a letter to Del. Rosenberg expressing the neighborhoods’ shared goals, desires, and concerns regarding potential redevelopment at Pimlico. Before those conclusions were compiled, the organizations used community meetings and surveys to gather the opinions of their residents, who provided significant feedback.

As stated in the letter, which was signed by then-MWIA President Kimiya Darrell, most of the residents in the collective communities favored maintaining horse racing — including the Preakness — at the track, with that function supporting other redevelopment. The associations did not object to frequent racing but wished that sports tournaments, festivals, and concerts be held less regularly.

The associations asked that available space be used for retail — including a grocery store — and recreational facilities and areas, such as well-maintained parks.

The letter also set out other specific concerns that the communities wanted addressed in future plans — crime, traffic, parking, noise, and litter.

The Maryland Stadium Authority is currently completing a study of potential development options at Pimlico that is expected by the end of the year.

— Chris Mincher, news@mwia.org

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Try searching for “Mount Washington, Baltimore” on eBay and you will inevitably find listings selling “Hornblende” rocks. These dark green—almost black—crystals are said to come from Mount Washington.

These rocks demonstrate the area’s history of mining, an important activity in the 19th century but often forgotten today when a “quarry” means the shopping center on Greenspring Avenue and Coppermine is a sporting complex. The streets Copper Hill Road and Copper Ridge Drive off Smith Avenue recall the short-lived, but intense, mining industry that preceded the suburban Mount Washington area we know today.

In 1810, Seraphim Belli, a Baltimore brass worker, inherited a 175-acre tract of land called “Bare Hills” — and discovered copper on the property. (The land was originally bought in 1752 by Walter and Daniel Dulaney). But this was primarily a farming area, and the industrial boom had to wait until the railroad was built.

The Bare Hill Mining Company was spearheaded by Mount Washington resident Thomas Watts, who, in 1844, purchased the land and enlisted Thomas Petherick, a mining engineer, to run the business. From 1844 to 1855, copper mine operations were carried out, but not very successfully because of water-drainage issues and other complications.

Most of the miners were Irish, and many were — prior to child-labor laws — young boys. They worked three shifts of eight hours each, earning $1.50 a day.

The Mount Washington copper mine headquarters were located on the intersection of Smith Avenue (then a dust road) and Old Pimlico Road. In 1858, William H. Keener ran the Bare Hills Copper Company, which, in 1864, took over the mine, expanded the surface, and worked on a greater scale.

The shaft was opened to a copper vein 630 feet long. During the first two months of operation, more than 175 tons of ore were mined.

At its height, the mine produced 32,500 tons and featured a 900-foot shaft that extended under Smith Avenue. In the later days of the mine, ore was taken down Smith Avenue to Mount Washington Station.

The mine was driven out of business by competition from the Great Lakes mining operations and closed in 1880. Increased demand at the turn of the 19th century for electrical equipment and improved methods of reducing ore led to the reopening of old mines in 1901.

In anticipation of success, 40 men were hired, water was pumped out, and the mine was made ready. Its first shipment was sent in July 1901, with one carload of ore to be shipped out each week. Several Mt. Washington residents became stockholders in the company, which to their dismay ceased operations after just a short period.

In the 1930s, Herbert Moore, a historian active with the Natural History Society of Maryland, studied the mine and interviewed the last living miners. As far as Moore ascertained, no slaves were used for working in the mine. The ruins of the captain’s house, the powder house, the water reservoir, and some of the miners’ homes were still present in the 1930s when Moore conducted his research.

By 1957, the shafts were already filled, and the dumps were leveled for a suburban housing development. No more copper mineralization could be found in the area.

Danielle Shapiro is a writer and consultant who lives with her family in Mount Washington.
Old-Time Remedies for The Holiday Season

By ROSEMARY FLICKINGER
rosemaryscavullo@yahoo.com

The holiday season is filled with ancient cultural traditions that supported the transition into winter and its emerging dormancy. Outer sources of light, infrared sauna, massage, and meditation were historic approaches that are also used currently.

With poetic intuition, people in ancient cultures also responded to the effects of shorter days and colder nights by giving generously, organizing gatherings, and singing. When the gatherings and gift exchanges become obligatory, however, they can lead to unfulfilled expectations and disappointments that can linger from one year to the next.

This tendency to be unhappy is best illustrated by Charles Dickens in “A Christmas Carol.” How can we manage our variegated moods and outlooks caused by stress? All the above approaches are considered good remedies.

Garlands of lights and candles are decorative and calming. (I recommend organic beeswax candles, as they cause no pollution when they burn.) Full-spectrum light is another option that can make a difference, even if you’re not someone with the seasonal affective disorder condition. Most doctors I know recommend a light made by Verilux. For optimal benefit, sit by the light each day in the fall and winter months.

Creating weekly opportunities to sweat is another option to de-stress. A good sauna helps to take the damp chill out of winter.

Sauna’s relaxing effect is supportive of a positive outlook. An infrared sauna has the bonus of exposing you to sunshine-like rays that boost metabolism and basal body temperature.

Another natural method -- which has been undervalued despite its ancient origins -- is the power of therapeutic touch. Taking a mini-vacation while receiving a massage can make a big difference in one’s perspective. The recognized benefits of massage include:

1. Reduction in anxiety and a positive touch that puts us at ease;
2. Activation of the parasympathetic nervous system, which lowers cortisol levels and gives a sense of overall wellbeing;
3. Increased circulation, which relaxes the body and mind;
4. Decreased pain;
5. Diminished insomnia;
6. A relaxed digestive system that works more effectively and efficiently;
7. Increased alertness and mental clarity; and
8. Reduced fatigue.

Meditation is a practice that has become popular and recognized as useful for reducing stress. You may have your own strategy during the winter season of engaging more deeply and looking inward, such as by quietly walking in nature.

The focus here is to not get too caught up in making everything right or the best. Take a minute to breathe into your belly and remember your good intentions while ignoring the negative thoughts of “not good enough.”

The heart of the story of “A Christmas Carol” illustrated that when Ebenezer Scrooge changed his attitude, his outlook changed too. For him, finding joy was as simple as contemplating his own mortality and looking at the conditions of others from a compassionate viewpoint. And his body seemed more energized as well!

We should remind ourselves that we need the holidays to keep our inner light burning as well as help our friends and family to do the same. Perhaps we all have tendencies like Mr. Scrooge. Looking to good qualities, such as generosity and caring for one another, may just be the best medicine.

Rosemary Flickinger is a Board-certified massage therapist in Mount Washington specializing in shiatsu (Asian acupressure), lymphatic drainage therapy, and health coaching. She can be reached at 410-963-4643. For more information, visit her blog at www.handstoheart holistic.com.
When to Remodel and When to Move

Picking up a curb-alert item recently from our listserv, I met a lovely neighbor who was contemplating whether to remodel her current home or just move to another one. The main dilemma arose because she loved where she lived and didn’t want to move away from her community, but her house needed some remodeling. She wanted to know at what point she should remodel or just find a different house. Clearly many of us are in the same situation.

Just look on HGTV, where you can find “Love It or List It,” which features relationships in which one person wants to stay in a home and remodel, and the other person is done and just wants to move to a different home. They give a contractor a budget with a list of their must-haves, and a realtor finds properties that meet their requirements.

At the end, the couple must choose to stay or go. From my observation, it seems around 60 percent stay and 40 percent move (though we all know that these shows aren’t really reality).

How to make that difficult decision? First, write a list of what you want to do. New kitchen? Add a master bath? Put on an addition? Finish the basement?

Decide what your budget will be. Interview contractors to see if your project can be done for the money you have for it. Often, once you get going, your initial project morphs into more; for example, we added a full bath to our third floor recently from free space in the hallway, but, once we decided the landing area needed painting as well, we decided to install cabinets with granite and a small refrigerator to make the area more functional. Am I glad we did that? Absolutely! But did the project exceed what we had originally financially planned? Yes.

Before you think of selling your current home, decide where you want to move. If you aren’t sure of the exact neighborhood, then I suggest you spend some time driving around.

Park your car and walk around. Are neighbors friendly? Are there many folks out walking? Go at various times of the day and weekends.

Look up community information online to get a bigger picture; you can find out all kinds of stuff people never had the opportunity to know before. Are the schools important to you? Check them out both online and in person.

Start spending time on various real-estate websites to get a feel for how the prices are and what you get in these newfound neighborhoods. Most agents will tell you not to use Zillow as its information is not reliable. It grabs the data from Multiple Listing Service but doesn’t update it, and it has inaccuracies such as rounding up the number of bathrooms.

Go to open houses. Nothing like seeing the inside of homes to start to get a feel of the neighborhood.

If you decide to move, great. But before you do that, do you need to sell your present home? If you find another home, will you either need a contingency that you will sell your home quickly, or do you have the available cash to buy while still owning your prior home?

Some sellers aren’t too thrilled with accepting a contingency to sell and you may lose out if they have another interested party who can buy outright. Either way, your house should be in close to perfect shape and ready to go on the market.

That takes months of getting rid of stuff, packing, and finding somewhere to put belongings. And do all those repairs you’ve been meaning to do.

Having your home on the market while living in it is stressful enough; if you have additional constraints, like having to get it under contract in 30 days and settle in 60 days, it is even more stressful. In the meantime, you may be working through your new house’s home inspections.

What if the sale falls apart? There are just so many moving parts with simultaneously buying and selling a home that it really takes a certain type of people to handle it without losing their minds.

Then there are the costs associated with buying and selling. Maryland is one of the most expensive states to settle in, and luckily you get to do it twice! That means transfer taxes on both sides at 1 percent of selling price.

If you are the seller, you get to pay the realtor commissions. You don’t have to pay the realtor commission on the buyer’s side, but you will have to prepay six months of taxes and one year of insurance, plus many other items that only make sense to the title companies.

Will you be doing a back-to-back settlement? It’s probably the most stressful thing you will ever do.

What if you have moved out of your house, and all your stuff is on a moving truck, and then the buyers’ financing has a last-minute glitch and settlement is postponed for a couple weeks? It happens. It’s not pretty, but we must deal with it anyway.

On to remodeling your home. Do you have plans? A contractor? How long is the remodel supposed to take? Can you still live in the house while the construction is going on?

If you must move out, well, that’s another issue altogether. If you can stay, will you be down to using only one bathroom between five people? Or not having a kitchen for three months?

I suggest talking to friends and neighbors who have lived through renovations. Ask them what the worst part was. What would they do differently? Are they glad they used the contractor they did?

Contractors are not all the same. Interview at least three. Call at least four of their references. Ask if their past projects have stayed in budget. Did they show up when they were supposed to? Did they clean up at the end of each day? Was it the same crew every day or did they rotate? Did the project take longer than expected? Did they know how to work through unexpected situations?

Check to see if their licenses are valid. How do they expect

See Remodel, page 9
“Clayworks,” continued from page 1

legislation last year in the City Council to stop a proposed sale of Clayworks.

To ensure the continuation of Clayworks’ educational efforts to bring arts to underserved groups throughout Baltimore, the councilman supported the organization’s bid for funding from a youth fund that resulted in a grant of more than $150,000 this year.

Del. Ali, who serves on the Board, spoke at the dedication about Clayworks’ bright future. MWIA representatives were also there to support Clayworks and note the importance of the organization as an artistic anchor of Mount Washington Village.

The ceremony occurred on the Global Day of Clay, a worldwide celebration that connects professional ceramicists, artists, academics, and everyday enthusiasts everywhere to explore new ideas, innovations, and works.

Clayworks was founded by nine artists in 1980 and made the former Enoch Pratt library its headquarters and clay studios. In 1999, it acquired a former convent across the street, which now serves as a gallery building. For the past 38 years, Clayworks has been a creative workplace of artists of all ages and abilities, from internationally renowned artists to young people in Baltimore.

Left, MWIA Vice President Danielle Shapiro, accompanied by her children, speaks on the importance of Baltimore Clayworks as an artistic anchor of Mount Washington Village. Clayworks Board of Trustees President Susan Patz called the newly named roadway, pictured right, a signal that the arts center is planning to stay in Mount Washington.

Photos by Matthew Paul D’Apostolo
Safety and Crime [chair: Louise Cornell]

On September 18, the Northern District Police Department and the Community Relations Council hosted an open house instead of their normal monthly meeting. Fortunately the constant rain this year took a break and the weather was very pleasant, which allowed everyone to enjoy the event outside.

Major Rich Gibson was recognized for the great job he does as commander of the station. Recognition and thanks were also extended to Major Gibson’s wife for strongly supporting him.

There was an abundant and wide array of food. Live music added to the evening.

It was a good opportunity to meet and mingle with those at the Police Department as well as others from the City government. The Chair had a long chat with Councilwoman Sharon Middleton, whose area includes Roland Park and south of Pimlico Racetrack. Also in attendance were Council President Jack Young, Councilwoman Mary Pat Clark, and City State’s Attorney Marilyn Mosby.

The Council meetings are normally held the third Wednesday of the month from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Northern District Police Department. Meetings are open to the public.

The Committee has also been working with the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to address an unsafe condition with three school buses blocking the eastbound lane of Kelly Avenue in the afternoon while waiting to pick up students. On October 2, the Safety and Crime Committee Chair spoke with Jacinta Hughes, the director of student transportation with Baltimore City Public Schools, about the problem.

After the call, the Director sent someone out to observe the situation. The bus contractor has now been instructed to show up no earlier than 10 minutes prior to the close of school at 3:05 p.m.

The MWIA has been asked to get feedback from the neighborhood on whether the situation is improving since the contractor had been given instructions to limit its waiting time. Submit any input to louisecornell@comcast.net.

The Chair also raised a possibly even more dangerous issue — vehicles turning from Lochlea Road onto westbound Kelly. Maps were reviewed so the administration would have a better understanding of the neighborhood street logistics.

The Committee made three suggestions: (1) pull the buses further east where the road widens and have an administrator or teacher supervise children crossing Lochlea; (2) have the buses wait somewhere else, perhaps Cross Country Boulevard, and then drive to the School when the principal calls; or (3) add a crossing guard at Kelly and Lochlea, in addition to the three currently at other intersections. City Schools has promised to work with Mount Washington School Principal Mark Lalonde to find a solution.

Transportation and Infrastructure [chair: Julie Tong]

The Committee continues to work closely with City Department of Transportation and Councilman Schleifler’s office to make our community’s streets safer. DOT has installed four-way stop signs at the intersection of South Bend Road and W Rogers Avenue at the traffic committee’s request. This location is near the entrance to Northwest Park.

The Committee is working with the Safety and Crime Committee and Mount Washington School Principal Mark Lalonde to address the issue of parked school buses blocking the eastbound lane of traffic on Kelly Avenue. We will continue to work with the School and bus contractor to explore alternative locations where the buses can safely park and pick up students while ensuring the safety of drivers in the community.

Lastly, a speed camera will be installed in mid-November in the 6200 block of Smith Avenue to capture images of southbound cars going in excess of 25 mph in the school zone.

Communications [chair: Paul McCoy]

The Communications Committee has been working with the Board on updating the website. The Board is compiling desired features for a new membership maintenance function to be added. The Committee is also working to generally reorganize the website to emphasize the work of the committees.

Any member of the MWIA can join a committee. For a full list of committees and subcommittees, please visit mwia.org.
payment? A typical arrangement is a third up front, a third around the halfway point, and the final third at the completion of the job. Do not pay in full until you are satisfied.

Once the remodel is done, you may suddenly fall in love again with your home. Now you have a kitchen you are proud to entertain in. Or central air conditioning just in time for a hot summer. Or that master bath and walk-in closet you always dreamed of. You can keep all your lovely neighbors and not have to start over.

Both remodeling and selling can be loads of fun. But it is a decision you should not take lightly. Think about what you are really looking for, set the budget, then get started — it may take a while!

Joan Goldman is a Realtor with Cummings & Co. and can be reached at 443-255-4858.
“Project,” continued from page 1

and office space in several buildings
between two and three stories high. There
would also be a six-story residential
building with at least 152 units and
another 5,000 square feet of restaurant
and retail space.

Parking would be provided for at least
500 cars. Entrances to the development
would be at the current intersection with
Clarkview Road.

The project would impact users of
Lake Roland Park and drivers on Falls
Road. Part of property is on land deemed
to be environmentally sensitive and design-
nated as “forest buffer” in the County’s
master plan and within the “Tier 1 Preser-
vation Zone” by the State. Traffic studies
have not been done and it is unclear what
the combined effect would be with the
planned Overlook at Roland Park on the
corner of Falls Road and Northern
Parkway.

A group opposing the project, “Save
Lake Roland” (www.savelakeroland.com)
is advocating for further impact studies,
has hired an attorney, and is launching a
legal challenge before an administrative
law judge. The group is welcoming dona-
tions to help cover legal fees.
Community Calendar

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2
Kathleen Hellen, “The Only Country Was the Color of My Skin” 
7 p.m.
The Ivy Bookshop, 6080 Falls Road

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6
Mikita Brotman, “An Unexplained Death: The True Story of a Body at the Belvedere” 
7 p.m.
The Ivy Bookshop, 6080 Falls Road
The famed true-crime author discusses her obsessive investigation into a mysterious death at the Belvedere—a once-grand hotel—and poignant, gripping meditation on suicide and voyeurism.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7
A Play on Literacy 
6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.
Macks Center for Jewish Education, 5708 Park Heights Avenue, $22
Join a workshop discussing literacy development milestones for children up to 5 years old, assessing children’s literacy development, incorporating literacy in a classroom environment, and strategies for teaching literacy to children with disabilities. Pre-register at http://training.bcccrc.org/CVSFLView.aspx.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9
Greg Boyle, “Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship” 
7 p.m.
The Ivy Bookshop, 6080 Falls Road
Hear remarks by the Los Angeles founder of Homeboy Industries, the largest gang intervention, rehabilitation, and reentry program in the world.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10
Tree Dedication 
11 a.m.
Northwest Park, 2101 W Rogers Avenue
The Mount Washington Preservation Trust dedicates new trees purchased by residents to honor neighborhood inhabitants and supporters, and planted at Northwest Park earlier this year. Plaques for each of the trees will describe its type and the person it is dedicated to.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12
Erica Dawson in Conversation with Dora Malech 
7 p.m.
The Ivy Bookshop, 6080 Falls Road
Two renowned poets, Erica Dawson and Dora Malech, join in conversation to discuss Dawson’s newest collection of poetry “When Rap Spoke Straight to God.”

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17
The Jewish Variety Hour 
7 p.m.
The Ivy Bookshop, 6080 Falls Road
Enjoy music, magic, and literature.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28
Programs + Families = Success 
6:15 p.m.-9:15 p.m.
Macks Center for Jewish Education, 5708 Park Heights Avenue, $25
Discover ways to create multiple opportunities for families to become engaged in educational programs and the benefits that brings to everyone. Pre-register at http://training.bcccrc.org/CVSFLView.aspx.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9
Octagon Lighting 
6 p.m.
Mt. Washington Conference Center, 5801 Smith Avenue
Come out for some neighborhood holiday cheer at the Octagon Lighting, a great community tradition and an opportunity for families to get together and mingle. Refreshments will be followed by caroling at 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11
MWIA Board Meeting 
7:30 p.m.
Mount Washington School, Lower Building Auditorium, 5800 Smith Avenue
All community members are welcome to attend the meeting of the MWIA Board to hear updates from committees, receive information from presenters, and discuss neighborhood support for local projects.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12
Healthy Children Through Nutrition and Physical Activity 
6:15 p.m.-9:15 p.m.
Macks Center for Jewish Education, 5708 Park Heights Avenue, $25
This training will help childcare providers be better informed about food choices; prepare a balanced, healthy menu; and create movement activities that increase the physical fitness levels of children in their care.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18
Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital Holiday Toy Shop 
5:30 p.m.
Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital, 1708 W Rogers Avenue
A fun event for families of patients to enjoy free holiday shopping. Those interested in volunteering should call 410-578-4002.

Recurring Events

Food System Lab
Sundays, 1 p.m.–3 p.m.
Wednesdays, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.
Cylburn Arboretum, Food System Lab, 4915 Greenspring Avenue
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.

Karma Dogs
Tuesdays, November 6 & December 4
5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
Macks Center for Jewish Education, 5708 Park Heights Avenue
Shy or reluctant 5- to 12-year-olds can read with friendly, non-judgmental, and attentive dogs. Adult supervision is required.

Parent-Teacher Organization Open Meeting
Tuesdays, November 13 & December 11
6-7:30 p.m.
Mount Washington School, Lower Building library, 5800 Smith Avenue
Meeting of the Mount Washington School Parent-Teacher Organization to encourage community and volunteerism, organize fundraising, and distribute money to benefit students.

Phone-a-Thon
Wednesday, November 7
Thursday, November 8
6-9 p.m.
Mount Washington School, 1801 Sulgrave Avenue
Calls will be made to get pledges of support for Mount Washington School students’ academic, sports, and extracurricular activities.

School Family Council Meeting
Wednesdays, November 14 & December 19
6-7:30 p.m.
The Mount Washington School, Upper Building library, 1801 Sulgrave Avenue
The Mount Washington School Family Council meets to work on improving student achievement, ensuring quality programs, enriching family and community engagement, and helping the school achieve its greatest potential.

Hometown Brew Night
Wednesdays, 7 p.m.-2 a.m.
The Mount Washington Tavern, 5700 Newbury Street
All Maryland brews are half price.

Wellspring Yoga
Fridays, 8:45-10 a.m.
Elderslie-St. Andrew’s 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
November 3 & 18, December 1 & 16, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.
Luckman Park, 2809 Glen Avenue
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.

Winterfest
November 17-December 31
All M aryland brew s are half price.

Elderslie-St. Andrew’s Church, 5601 Pimlico Road
Drop off presents for free holiday gift wrapping.
Fall has arrived in Mount Washington. It is a time of change for the seasons and the MWIA, as Kimiya Darrell has resigned as president. We are grateful for her service to the organization and will be announcing a new president of the organization soon.

As the new Vice President stepping into a leadership role, I am busy learning the complex bylaws that govern our organization and keep things moving forward. You may want to check them out at MWIA.org to see how our organization is run and the guiding principles.

It really is a pleasure working with a group of people dedicated to the health and welfare of our community. I am happy to report that our organization is stronger than ever with seven new members joining the board this year.

We welcome new Board members Ellie Mitchell, Jenny Rose, Robin Truett-Theodorson, Karin Holland, Paul McCoy, Ellen Spokes, and Tim Kearley — and will be announcing even more new Board members in the next newsletter. Returning to the board are Deb Kleiner and John Mack, former president of the Board. We appreciate the service of returning Board members who volunteer their time for meetings and committee work.

Our financial standing is strong thanks to the steadfast efforts of our treasurer David Nemerson, the income producing newsletter that you hold in your hands at the able helm of editor and Board member Chris Mincher and advertising representative and Board member Louise Cornell, and — like the PBS announcement goes — “members like you.” We are grateful and hope that you feel good about contributing to our vibrant community association.

We are reinstating our area director position, which had fallen by the wayside for a while. The role of area director is to coordinate the activities of the area captains who report on the issues in their locales.

Mount Washington is a rather large community, with different areas — from Pimlico to Dixon Hill — with different needs. Each micro-locality needs special attention.

The area captains are listed in this newsletter on page 2. You can feel to free to contact your area captain to discuss issues in your area.

In my efforts to chronicle the history of Mount Washington for this newsletter, I have learned that our 133-year-old organization can withstand change and will always be here to support the community of Mount Washington and protect its unique residential and natural beauty. Indeed, way back in the 1890s, MWIA was grappling with the same issues — like traffic, sports facilities, parks, community businesses, and schools — that continue to engage us today.

We have some news on some of those fronts. Our Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, led by Julie Tong, has been working with the City and is happy to report the installation of stop signs at the corner of South Bend Road and W Rogers Avenue, a busy spot at Northwest Park. We have also received a lot of community input on the Jones Falls Trail and hope to host a meeting with City Department of Recreation & Parks officials and our councilman to evaluate the progress and setbacks that this project has faced.

Exciting things are happening in Mount Washington Village, such as the dedication of Clayworks Way at the corner of Smith Avenue and Greely Road on October 10 to mark the one-year anniversary of Baltimore Clayworks’ renewal. The organization, which is housed in two beautiful historic buildings on Smith, will continue to serve the local and international community as a hub for ceramics.

Things are always changing in Mount Washington, but one thing you can be sure of is that the MWIA will be here working to give strength to our collective voices in matters that will have decades of lasting impact on our neighborhood and the surrounding areas.

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