



MOUNT WASHINGTON NEWSLETTER

MOUNT WASHINGTON IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Fall 2003

Message from the President

Mild or wild: What will this winter bring to our neighborhood? If it is at all like last year be prepared for the cold and precipitation. One way we can assist in preparations for the winter is to check our street gutters and storm drains. Keeping drains and gutters free of leaves and snow helps avoid blocked drains, flooding and back ups into basements.

Once again the city will pick up bagged leaves on the second trash collection day. Please check the notice in this newsletter for additional information on leaf collection. Other yard debris should be bagged and placed out on trash days. There are many piles of branches left over from hurricane Isabel. Those should be broken up and bagged. Help out your neighbors who are unable to keep the areas around their properties clean. The entire community will benefit.

Last month our community experienced an extremely violent crime. While the nature of the crime is highly unusual for Mt. Washington, we all are uneasy and disturbed by the event. The Northern District is continuing to investigate and gather information. Please consider calling Tracey Stulman, our Crime Patrol coordinator, to schedule a time for patrolling. Tracey can be reached at: 410-367-8537.

The Mt. Washington community is faced with four major development projects: the University of Baltimore's Rogers Ave. campus, the Bonnie View Golf Club, the former Arundel Quarry on Greenspring Ave., and the redevelopment of Pimlico Race Course. All four projects will have tremendous impact on our community. The MWIA is actively involved in protecting our interests and minimizing the impact on not only our community but also those neighbors surrounding Mt. Washington.

A Request for Information (RFI) for prospective development of three properties owned by UB was issued this month. UB is in the preliminary stages of the process. The RFI enables UB to gather information. The development of the three parcels, two on their downtown campus, and the fields being the third, are not linked. The MWIA has met twice with the University's planning department and President Bogomolny. We informed UB of the restrictions on the property and expressed our concerns that the community remains involved in all development plans.

The county hearings on the Bonnie View Estate Plan (355 single family units) concluded on October 14. Carroll Holzer, the attorney hired by and representing the community's interests, introduced several key factors throughout eight days of testimony to support retention of the property as recreation space. The County Zoning Office will reach a decision on the Estates plan no later than November 25. At this time Beazer homes may introduce a Planned Unit Development (PUD) for the active adult community.

Another project of Beazer Homes is the development of the now closed Arundel Quarry on Greenspring Ave. Although this site is totally in the county, the flow of traffic will have a tremendous impact on our community along with Cheswolde and Cross Country. The plans proposed at a recent community input meeting include a "Cross Keys"-like development with a lake, shopping and office complex along with a hotel, and both single family homes and condominiums. The MWIA continues to be an active voice in this process and to emphasize the necessity to have an interchange between Northern Parkway and Ruxton Road on Interstate 83.

Electronic gaming and the redevelopment of Pimlico continue to serve as the major issues affecting our community. Last winter the MWIA, supported by Cross Country, Cheswolde, Glen and Fallstaff communities, along with the Comprehensive Housing Assistance, Inc. (CHAI) adopted the position of no slots at Pimlico unless several key criteria that affected and protected the communities surrounding the race course

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President's Letter Continued...

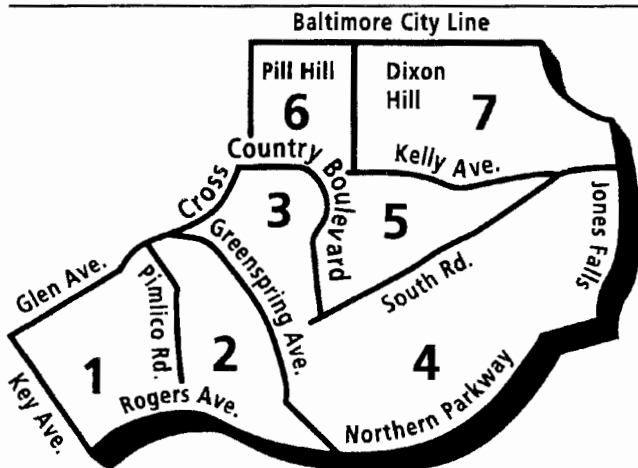
were met. This position was published in our summer newsletter and posted on the MWIA web site. The recent introduction of two City Council bills has prompted the MWIA Board to take a stronger position of no electronic gaming at Pimlico Race Course. These bills would replace the existing PUD. The bills expand the uses permitted within the race track property. Proposed uses include live entertainment, dancing, a 700 room hotel, three theaters, and video lottery terminals (slots), subject to state approval. At present time, city zoning codes do not allow slots in Baltimore City. The Maryland Jockey Club would be required to complete a landscaping plan along the perimeter of the track from Rogers Ave. and Northern Parkway to Winner Ave. and Hayward around to Park Heights and along Belvedere Ave. The landscaping plan must be completed before demolition or new construction begins. The language of the proposed PUD left many unanswered questions and did not address many of the concerns of the surrounding communities. Therefore the MWIA board adopted the stronger position. The board, along with many concerned neighbors, will attend meetings and hearings to work with the city planning department and the Maryland Jockey Club to edit the PUD, minimizing the impact this development will have on all the neighborhoods.


The MWIA is in the process of composing a survey. The intent is to receive feedback on the many issues that are affecting our community. Watch for a mailing after the holidays. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Deb Kleiner, 410-466-2069 or Barbara Holden, 410-367-5654

I encourage everyone to log onto our web site, www.mwia.org, for community news and events. There is also a link to me, our web master, Cliff Mitchell, and the MWIA Prevent Crime e-mail. Please contact us. Our next open board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 16 at 7:30 PM at the Mt. Washington Conference Center on the Johns Hopkins Campus at Smith Ave. The Maryland Jockey Club will present their redevelopment plans at the December meeting. I look forward to seeing you.

Have a safe and joyous holiday season.

Sincerely,
 Jan Franz





Thank you, Bartlett Tree Experts

The Mt. Washington Improvement Association extends its heartfelt thanks to the Bartlett Tree Experts of Finksburg, Maryland, for removing the tree stump, *gratis*, from the triangle at Ridgedale and Chilham Roads. A new Founder's Garden will rise in its stead.

Mt. Washington Elementary—Still a Good Bet!

Steve Buettner, the new principal at Mt. Washington Elementary School, delivered a powerful message for the MWIA at its open meeting on October 21st: Mt. Washington student performance is on par with the best school districts in the state. He compared Mt. Washington's reading and math scores from this year's Maryland State Assessment with our neighbors, Baltimore County, as well as with the high-performing Montgomery County and Howard County public schools:

MWES	Baltimore County	Montgomery Co.	Howard County
3 rd Reading-70	3 rd Reading- 63.3	3 rd Reading-66.8	3 rd Reading-79.4
3 rd Math-74	3 rd Math-66.2	3 rd Math-75.5	3 rd Math-82.9
5 th Reading-84.8	5 th Reading-69.6	5 th Reading-64.6	5 th Reading-84.1
5 th Math-52.2	5 th Math-52.3	5 th Math-67.8	5 th Math-78.8

Buettner is aware of concerns raised by standardized testing and addressed the big question on people's minds: are teachers teaching to the test or are they teaching to the student?

In response, Buettner emphasized that student learning is the goal, and assessment is a tool to help schools understand how well curriculum and practices are working to achieve that goal. He explained the goals of the assessment process. The Maryland State Department of Education sets standards - or goals- of student proficiency in reading and math. Assessment is a tool used to measure what students are learning - and not learning - so schools can identify how well the curriculum and teaching practices help students grasp the concepts and skills necessary to read and compute. Assessment also helps show areas needed for improvement. If students aren't learning, the curriculum and teaching practices must be adjusted. Mt. Washington's scores show the school's curriculum and teaching practices work - certainly in reading; adjustments in math are in the works.

Mr. Buettner's professional background shows he knows what he is talking about. Before he came to Mt. Washington, he worked for the Maryland State Department of Education on the assessment project. Prior to that, he taught in Baltimore City and in Howard County public schools. He was awarded Outstanding Teacher twice in Howard County. Buettner exudes confidence in his staff: "Our teachers have a combined total of 669 years of dedicated experience in education. That means our teachers have an average of 20 years teaching experience in pre-k through college level instruction. Our educational experiences have crossed continents from California to Siberia. We have educated and molded the minds of over 58,145 past, present, and future leaders of this great nation."

This year, Mt. Washington has a new assistant principal, Dorothy Tana. Both Tana and Buettner make daily visits to the classrooms in addition to their administrative responsibilities.

Mt. Washington has enjoyed a rich history in providing more than the basic curriculum to reach out to the "multiple intelligences" of its students. This year, MWES provides fine arts and PE programs that develop the total student while reinforcing academics:

- * Miss Givan, the music teacher, offers an after school strings program once a week to expose K-3 to orchestral music.
- * Fourth and fifth graders get the strings program during the regular school day, which brings in elements of literature and math to develop deeper levels of critical thinking.
- * On December 8th, a special Footworks Percussion program will demonstrate mathematical basis of rhythm and beat.
- * Jazz musician Jesse Moody will give a special demonstration to students on December 23rd.
- * Marlene Sandler, a sculptor with Baltimore Clayworks, continues her Clay in the Classroom program and is introducing elements of art therapy.
- * Sculptor James Earl Reid, whose work has appeared in more than 35 exhibits nationwide and has received seven awards, will work with the fifth grade later this fall.
- * Each week, students get 90 minutes of PE which combine psycho-motor techniques with writing and math.

Old favorites continue. The Chess Club, begun a decade ago, continues. It is currently sponsored by UMBC, home of a collegiate chess championship team. In addition, the Picture Parent program continues to bring art into the classroom. These programs are partially funded through grants from the state Department of Education, partnerships in the community and fundraisers by the PTO. The PTO just completed its annual phone-a-thon, raising \$7200. (If you were not called, and wish to contribute to these fine programs at MWES, call the office at 410-396-6354.)

MWES opens its doors the first Wednesday of each month, from 9:00 - 9:45 a.m. to interested visitors. Call the office for more information.

MT. WASHINGTON PRESERVATION TRUST NEWS

Preservation Easement News

The Mount Washington Preservation Trust is currently working on several potential preservation easements. Property owners who donate an easement to a preservation trust, give up the right to develop their property with additional dwellings (accessory structures and additions to existing dwellings are permitted).

In an urban setting such as Mount Washington, preservation easements help maintain the character and viability of a community by retaining valuable green spaces. Developable parcels are disappearing and open/green spaces are becoming scarcer. Property owners who donate easements make an important contribution to their community and frequently qualify for tax benefits.

Beautification News

The Mount Washington Preservation Trust is developing another garden at the triangle on Ridgedale Road and Chilham Road. For years, the only thing found on this site was a dead tree. Thanks to the generosity of Bartlett Tree Experts,

the tree was cut down (at no cost to the Trust) and removed. The area is now ready to be replanted. In honor of the founder of the Mt. Washington Preservation Trust, Mr. Gunther Wertheimer, the garden will be named "The Founder's Garden".

At the Mount Washington arboretum, the construction of the teaching pavilion is underway. The structure was funded with a grant from TKF and the Meyerhoff Foundation. Those grants also paid for 2000 bulbs that will be planted with the help of the many volunteers that donate their labor to the Mt. Washington gardens.

Speaking of volunteers, the Mount Washington Preservation Trust is always in need of volunteers. If you enjoy the company of wonderful, civic minded people and you are willing to donate your time, please contact Mike Sherlock at Finnegan21@aol.com or Jeff Call at Jeffrey.b.call@verizon.com. The volunteers meet every Sunday morning (weather permitting) from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM. A commitment to volunteer does not mean you have to show up every Sunday - we are grateful for every hour of your time.

...Karin Brown

The Newsletter...

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

The deadline for the next issue is January 8.

Contact: Margy Gifford, editor: gif4d@erols.com or (410) 664-2538.

Schedule for Future Issues:

Issue	Content for	Deadline
Winter	Feb 1 - May 15	January 8
Spring	May 15- Aug 31	April 26

OPEN BOARD MEETING

The MWIA invites members of the community to its Open Board Meeting, Tuesday, December 16th, 7:30 p.m. at the Mt. Washington Conference Center.

The Maryland Jockey Club will present redevelopment plans for Pimlico Race Track.

Share the Polo Field

The Mt. Washington Bicycle Polo Association plays weekly on the fields at the Wellwood International School on Smith Avenue each Sunday at 3:00 p.m. Bicycle Polo as a sport is as old as the bicycle itself. Strict right-of-way rules are observed to enhance safety. Grab your mountain bike and helmet and join us. We provide mallets, some loaner bikes, and enthusiastic instruction. Come join a growing group of your neighbors in this fantastic sport. Learn more at www.21209.com or call Aaron Meisner at 410-963-7718.

Kudos to Ryan Hill

Ryan Hill, an assistant summer coach of the Luckman Park Tennis Association and Garrison Forest School student, and her partner, Kaitlin Carlberg, won the #3 doubles of the Athletic Association of Maryland championship. The championship games were held at McDonogh School.

Ryan's Garrison Forest coach, Lili Rivera, is the Luckman Park Tennis Association head coach.

Congratulations Ryan!

Mark Your Calendar

November:

16-26: Joe Corbi's Pizza Fundraiser. The Mt. Washington School. 410-396-6354.

23: Make and take Ornaments: Workshop. Cylburn Arboretum. 2:15 p.m. Fee and reservation. 410-367-2217.

December:

3: Open House The Mt. Washington School, 9:00 - 9:45 a.m. Tour the school and meet the staff. 410-396-6354.

6: Holly Daze Christmas Bazaar. 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. St. John's Episcopal Church. 1700 South Road. 410-367-7287.

7: The Wesley's Annual Festival of Lights. 5:30 p.m. Seasonal music and refreshments. The Wesley 2211 Rogers Avenue. 410-664-4006 X 3013.

16: MWIA open board meeting. 7:30 p.m. Mt. Washington Conference Center

January:

7: Open House, The Mt. Washington School, 9:00 - 9:45 a.m. Tour the school and meet the staff. 410-396-6354.

10: Open House for prospective parents, The Greenmount School, 10:00 a.m. - Noon. 410-235-6295.

16: Spaghetti Dinner and Talent Show, The Mt. Washington School, 5:30 p.m. 410-396-6354.

18: Italian Dinner, St. John's Episcopal Church, 5:30 p.m. 410-367-7287.

MWIA Crime E-Mail Network

To subscribe to the Mt. Washington crime e-mail network

- Go to www.mwia.org
 - Click on Improvement Association
 - Click on Crime Prevention
 - Click on Subscribe

A Light of Remembrance

The Wesley's annual Festival of Lights

Sunday December 7th

beginning at 5:30 pm.

Join us to celebrate the holiday season with seasonal music, refreshments and fellowship.

For a donation of any kind,
light a candle in honor or remembrance of a loved one.

All donations support
the benevolent mission of The Wesley.

Call Kathy White, Director

410-664-4006

Slots

At its open meeting on October 21, the MWIA voted against supporting proposed City Council legislation allowing for additional development at Pimlico Race Track. Citing its disappointment with the Maryland Jockey Club's failure to complete the Planned Unit Development (PUD), agreed on several years ago, the MWIA Board decided not to support any action until the provisions of the existing PUD are met.

Jan Franz, president of MWIA sent a letter to Councilwoman Rikki Spector, who proposed the legislation, explaining the Board vote, while reiterating the community's support for Pimlico Race Track as a viable asset to our community.

Four other community organizations signed the letter, signifying broader commitment to the issue.

The Mt. Washington Improvement Association is actively participating in the slots issue. Follow progress at www.mwia.org.

Holly Daze

Saturday, December 6, from 10-3.

Crafts, baked goods, gifts, collectibles,
cafe, books, music, art, and raffles.

Treasure Alley will be open 11-2.

St. John's Episcopal Church
South Road at Kelly Avenue

410-367-7287



Fresh Christmas Trees!!

Freshly cut trees, provided by
the St. John's Lumberjacks.

\$25.00 and up.

St. John's Episcopal Church
parking lot

(Just off of Kelly Avenue by the bridge)

Weekends beginning December 6th, 13th & 14th, and 20th & 21st;

Noon 'til dusk.

Proceeds will benefit the Organ Fund at St. John's.

410-367-7287

Recycling Calendar

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

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

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

Dec 8 Monday	plastic/metal/glass
Dec 9 Tuesday	paper
Dec 22 Monday	plastic/metal/glass
Dec 23 Tuesday	paper
Jan 12 Monday	plastic/metal/glass
Jan 13 Tuesday	paper
Jan 26 Monday	plastic/metal/glass
Jan 27 Tuesday	paper
Feb 9 Monday	plastic/metal/glass
Feb 10 Tuesday	paper

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

* **Blue Bag:** Rinse bottles and cans, and discard caps. Place in blue plastic bags. Can include: glass jars and bottles (all colors),

aluminum cans, tin cans, steel cans, plastic small mouth containers with #1 or #2, and empty aerosol cans. Styrofoam is not recyclable.

Bulk Pick-up: Call 311 or e-mail* DPW three working days before scheduled pick-up date.

Dec 24 notify DPW by Dec 19

Jan 28 notify DPW by Jan 23

Reminders:

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

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

LEAF PICK-UP THE SAME AS LAST YEAR

To paraphrase Joyce Kilmer, there is nothing as lovely as a tree, and in Mt. Washington we are blessed with lots of lovely trees. As fall approaches, we are painfully aware of how many lovely leaves fall from our lovely trees. The city will not vacuum Mt. Washington's millions of leaves, but the Department of Public Works will help you get rid of them. You may bag the leaves and set them out for pick-up on the second trash collection day in clear plastic bags or clearly labeled bags, or you may drop them off at the Northwest Solid Waste center at 2840 Sisson Street.



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

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