

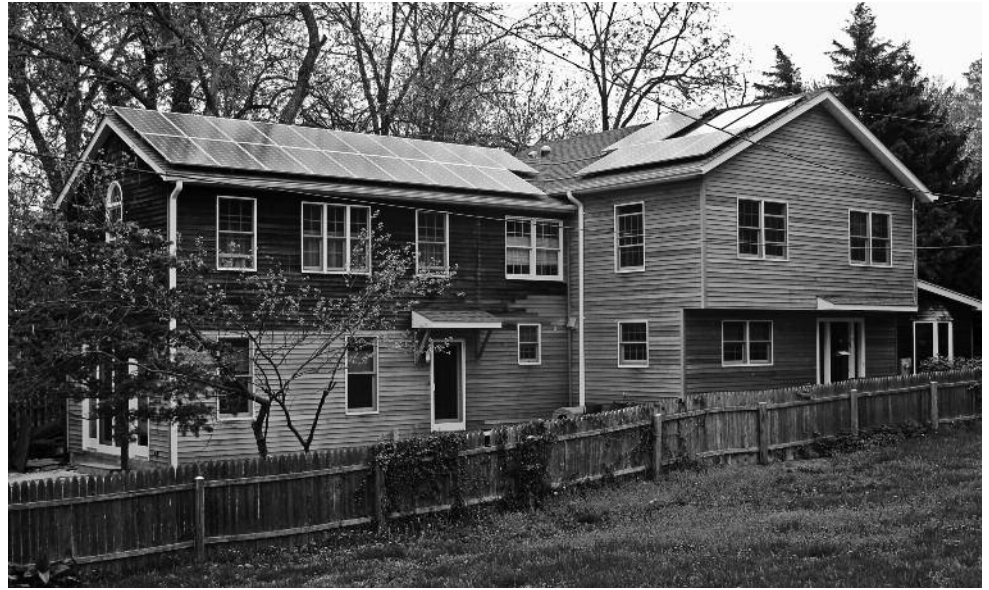


Bright Idea – Solar Panels

BY DAVID NEMERSON

Although we've only had them for about three months now, our solar array earns a handsome return every day, and if you can answer yes to a few simple questions, you can get your roof working for you, too.

When planning the renovation of our home on Greenspring Avenue, we knew we wanted to make our house as energy efficient as possible. After ensuring that we had a tightly sealed and well-insulated building, we turned our attention to the heating and cooling systems. We learned that combined with standard, high efficiency electric heat pumps and gas backup water heating, installing solar electric and solar hot water was the way to go. This option made more sense for our relatively easy to heat and cool 2800-square-foot home than installing geothermal heating and cooling. For larger, more difficult to heat and cool homes -- particularly ones not well suited to solar -- geothermal is often an excellent choice, but it was not for us.



South and southwest facing solar array on Nemerson house.
photo: David Nemerson

So what makes a house well suited to solar? Most importantly, you need a clear and open south or southwest-facing roof. Second, that roof either needs to be in very good condition or due to be reshingled. It is not sensible to install solar panels on a roof that may need replacement soon. Slate roofs may add a layer of complexity to the process, but are not a deal-breaker in most cases. Third, you must have the desire to earn an excellent return on your investment that will make you feel great every day the sun shines. While the economics of each project will vary, ours made excellent sense. In very rough terms, our 470 square foot, six kilowatt array cost about \$20,000 after generous tax credits and rebates, and will produce about 8,000 kWh of electricity per year, worth around \$800 a year at 10 cents a kWh. That's a 4% return on investment for producing a good portion

of your home's power in a sustainable manner. What CD or Money Market can do that?

But here's where things get interesting, and a bit complicated. Modern solar systems are "net metered." If your system generates more than you are using at any given moment, the extra power goes "back up the line," your meter runs backward and you earn a credit on your bill. If at any moment you are drawing more energy than you are generating, your meter runs forward. Your meter tallies the pluses and minuses, you always have all the power you need, and you get a regular BGE bill once a month charging you for your net usage -- or literally sending you a check if you generate more than you use.

But there's more. When you register your solar electric array with the proper authorities, it actually becomes a small

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

On behalf of The Mt. Washington Improvement Association Officers and Board, I would like to welcome you as we begin a new year serving our great neighborhood.

We've gotten off to a really great start. During the Summer, our July 4th celebration/parade was a great success with over a thousand of our neighbors attending. Recently, our Blue Ribbon Mt. Washington School opened as K through 8. The MWIA was successful in securing a significant amount of Slots Revenue Funds which we had donated to the school. This was in addition to our yearly monetary gift to the school PTO plus a extra monetary gift for the K-8 initiative as well. We also supported the Mt. Washington Preservation Trust with our annual donation to them.

News of our other MWIA accomplishments as well as those of some of our committees can be found in this Newsletter. We're expecting even more wonderful things this year.

Please feel free to contact me or any member of the Board if you are willing to help our community. WE NEED YOU!

Again, I wish to thank you for your support and good wishes. All I can ask is that we all work together to make Mt. Washington an even better place to live. It is an honor to serve as your President.

IRA KOLMAN

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Solar Panels (Continued from PAGE 1)

electric generating facility and gets counted toward the renewable generating capacity of Maryland's electric grid. By statute, at least 2% of the total energy production in the state of Maryland must come from solar power by 2022. Building commercial solar capacity is extremely expensive and many regional electric companies would be only too happy to pay YOU to count your array toward their renewable requirements. This is accomplished through a market for what are known as Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SRECs). Most of the major solar installers should take care of the paperwork required to register your system and market your SRECs. At current market prices, our system will generate well over \$2,000 worth of SRECs per year – more than the retail value of the electricity it generates! Counting the value of the electricity and the SRECs, our system will throw off about \$3,000 of annual income on a \$20,000 investment – or a 15% rate of return. And that's at the current price of electricity, which is only going up. I ask what other investment allows you look up at your roof and smile proudly – AND earns money?

The Mount Washington School Receives National Honor

By DAVID CONN

The Mount Washington School capped off an historic year of achievements in September with the receipt of the highest honor in American education: Mount Washington was named a 2012 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

The school was one of 305 across the nation to receive the honor, one of only six in the State of Maryland, and only the seventh Baltimore City school to receive the national distinction since its inception in 1982.

“When the Baltimore City Board of Commissioners approved the school’s expansion to include middle grades this year, it was a strong statement by the district about the kind of excellence we are striving to create for all of our students,” said City Schools CEO Dr. Andres Alonso. “To have this national honor on top of that is strong affirmation that we can and will get there. I extend sincere congratulations to Principal [Sue] Torr and Mount Washington’s families and staff.”

The winners will be invited to Washington D.C., November 14-15 and will be honored by national officials including U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. “This award is a reflection first and foremost of the hard work of Mount Washington’s students, followed by our talented, dedicated teachers and our supportive, involved parents and community,” Ms. Torr said. “This prestigious award is an honor and a thrill.”

The award followed a series of accomplishments, including:

- Last fall’s selection by the Maryland State Department of Education of MWES as a 2010-2011 Maryland Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. This award, given to only six schools in the state, honored Mount Washington for



its students’ academic improvement, the tremendous volunteerism of its parents, its championship basketball team and its one-of-a-kind partnership with the Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth (CTY) online math program.

- A CNN feature highlighting the MWES-CTY partnership, which aired in March.
- The designation in 2010 of MWES as a Maryland Green School.
- The basketball team’s second consecutive citywide basketball championship.
- The chess team’s victory in a statewide tournament.
- And the naming of 5th grade teacher Jennifer May as Baltimore’s Teacher of the Year.

In August, more than 500 community members and City leaders, including Dr. Alonso and Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, gathered to celebrate the launch of the long-awaited expansion of Mount Washington to a K-8 school. The 18-month project culminated with the addition this year of the school’s first ever sixth grade class and the implementation of the highly respected International Baccalaureate Program. Grades seven and eight will be added over the next two years.

For more information about The Mount Washington School, and how to support it, visit www.mountwashington-school.org.

Traffic Update

By Robin Klein

The Traffic, Transportation and Infrastructure committee of MWIA has been working with the Baltimore City DOT since last spring to evaluate and address speed, signalling and traffic issues that involve Smith Avenue, Mt. Washington Village and the traffic patterns along Greely to Kelly and Sulgrave. This is an ongoing concern, now even more crucial since the opening of the Mount Washington Lower School.

In November 2011, DOT will install a pad for a rotating speed camera on Smith on the the southeast side near Thornbury. A camera will appear thereafter, similar to the one that cycles in and out on Kelly Avenue. There will also be a “School zone/ 25mph/ Photo Enforced” combination sign installed nearby.

In addition, DOT has begun to prepare the hardware for a left turn sign for westbound Smith Avenue traffic turning to Greely. The department plans to activate that signal as soon as pavement markings have been installed; tentatively expected in November.

One of the the traffic committee's goals is to facilitate communication between DOT, area residents, the Mt. Washington Merchants Association, and MW School about this issue. As these organizations work together to review efficacy of the speed cameras, signage, signal changes and other remedies, Mt. Washington should see improved pedestrian safety and vehicle traffic flow in this busy area.

The Eric Waller Mount Washington Community Vegetable Garden

BY NAOMI GOLDSTICK ROSNER

Mount Washington's community vegetable garden has enjoyed an unbelievably successful first year. The members have been harvesting crops every week since this spring and even now in September are bringing home tomatoes, eggplants, and Swiss Chard lettuce. What's more, our sweat and effort resulted in being awarded First Place Winner for First Year Garden by the University of Maryland Extension Master Gardeners in August.

Amazingly, it took only two months from the time of our first organizational meeting until our April ground breaking in Northwest Park to establish the garden this year. Without realizing what I was doing, I inadvertently organized the garden as a result of several fortunate factors. For starts, Mount Washington's list-serve was instrumental in connecting interested residents. In addition, Larry Kloze, a master gardener who has a history of creating vegetable gardens in Baltimore and is a long-time resident of Mount Washington, readily agreed to mentor the group. And finally, the Parks



Master Gardener, Larry Kloze, community garden mentor, holding award, and Naomi Rosner, garden administrator.

Department approved the establishment of the garden in Northwest Park contingent on the Mount Washington Improvement Association's approval, which we received in record time. We were unbelievably lucky as our timing also coincided with the creation of a master plan for the park, located on West Rogers and Wexford Road, that now includes the garden. Named in memory of Eric Waller, a Mount Washington resident and master gardener in his own right, the community

vegetable garden membership consists of 27 households. During our inaugural year we have been delighted at how well we work together, thrilled to know more of our neighbors, and amazed at how rewarding the work has been for adults and children alike.

We meet weekly on alternating Saturday and Sunday mornings for one hour, and harvesting and distribution are always done as a group. As a result of the garden's abundance, we have met our goal of also being able to donate crops to Our Daily Bread every week. In terms of the price tag, the annual household membership fee was \$70 this inaugural year, even with all our initial start up costs.

It is likely that we will be able to expand next spring. If you are interested in becoming a garden member, please send your contact information to me, Naomi Rosner, at goldstickrosner@comcast.net to be placed on the wait list. To find out more about what's been happening in the garden, visit our blog at <http://mtwashingtonveggies.blogspot.com/>

The Annual Neighborhood HALLOWEEN PARTY

Sunday, October 30th 2:00 p.m.

5528 Rusk Avenue (Rusk & Ken Oak, black fence, white arbor).

- **GAMES & CRAFTS** (and prizes!) for kids of ALL ages.
- Scary venture into the **CREEPY OLD ATTIC** for spooks and treats.
- **A HAY RIDE** around the neighborhood for trick-or-treating.
- **A MAGIC SHOW** by JASON, our young local MAGICIAN, after the ride
- **HELP WANTED ... PLEASE CONTACT ME IF:-** You can bring a game/activity or organize a craft (I have lots of materials).- You'd like to be a stop on the hay ride (last year we had well over 75 kids).
- **REFRESHMENTS** are potluck (feel free to bring anything to share, or order pizza, no obligation, nothing formal).
- **EVERYONE is asked to come in COSTUME** (nothing too gory, please!).
- **Call/RSVP to 410-664-0304**, or email elg.grove@gmail.com

Community Updates

BY MAC NACHLAS

SNAP

The six year old Strategic Neighborhood Action Plan for Northwest Baltimore is undergoing an update. The plan sets out spending and planning priorities for the Mt. Washington, Cheswolde, Fallstaff, Glen and Cross Country Neighborhoods and is used by the City Department of Planning in formulation of the City's Capital Improvements Budget. For the next ten years, the SNAP plan will also guide the allocation of "impact" funds received from the State's slots parlors that are granted to communities adjacent to racetracks.

In the first year of "slots money" availability, Mt. Washington representatives led an effort to allocate the funds to local schools, and to fund a comprehensive traffic and transportation study of the area aimed at finding ways to improve traffic flow, calm speeding and aid pedestrians. MWIA representatives are now meeting with leaders from the other community associations and the City Dept. of Planning to set out other long term goals in the areas of education,

housing, open space, streetscaping and public safety.

A copy of the 2005 Northwest SNAP plan is available at MWIA.ORG. or from the City Planning Department.

The Falls

Many Mount Washingtonians were stunned and saddened at the sudden closing of The Falls restaurant last month. The Falls was in business for about two years before folding and had become a popular lunch and dinner spot for many neighborhood locals and visitors alike.

Prior to becoming The Falls, the space at 1604 Kelly Avenue in the Village had been an A&P Food Store, a mini-mart and lunch counter and a delicatessen. MWIA has negotiated certain restrictions on the liquor license concerning use, hours of operation and signage to insure that businesses located there are a good fit for the community. The committee will closely monitor the transfer of this license to insure that any new business in this space is an asset to the community.

2011 MWIA Sponsoring Members

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 Peter Haynes and Delia Coronel
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 Monika Springer-Schnell
 St. John's Episcopal Church
 Mack & Irma Walker
 Edward Warren
 Charles & Carol Yoder

Northwest Park Master Plan Community Meeting

BY JASON KORTTE

Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks (BCRP) is creating a Master Plan for Northwest Park (formerly the U.B. fields). An initial meeting was held last May in which the community presented many ideas to make the best use of this great resource. The community discussed many ideas such as improving the fields and parking areas, traffic calming, possible addition of a small playground, walking/running

paths, half-court basketball, official-size baseball field, expansion of community garden with memorial water fountain, putting/chipping green by driving range, informal dog park with specified off leash hours, and rehabilitation of the old gym. BCRP would like to present preliminary concepts in response to these ideas and solicit further input from our community in order to move forward with the plan's creation. The MWIA's goal is to create a structured space that encourages people

Master Plan Community Meeting

When: Wednesday November 16th, 2011
 7:00 pm.

Where: Springwell Senior Living
 2211 West Rogers Ave

to use the park and spend more time outdoors engaging in positive behaviors. The park needs to support a variety of activities for athletics, exercising, and nature exploration (hiking, picnicking, gardening) while minimizing any negative aspects to the community. Please plan to attend and participate in this important process.



October 23
Mt. Washington Village Fall Block Party
12:00 -6:00 PM

Sponsored by the Mt. Washington Merchants Association. Newberry St. and Sulgrave Ave. There will be music, food, wine & beer, and arts vendors. Free to the public

Sunday Gardeners
Volunteer gardeners meet on Sundays from 9-10 am to maintain the public gardens around the neighborhood. Contact Alex at alexnones@gmail.com

October 23
Making a Community Mosaic – a Free Fall Baltimore clay workshop

Baltimore Clayworks is hosting. Learn about the elements of mosaic construction while you work on a group project. Adults and children, no pre-registration.
Baltimore Clayworks
5706 Smith Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21209

October 29 & 30
Cylburn Arboretum Bulb Bazaar
11:00 am - 4:00 pm
Bulbs for purchase and experts to advise.

October 30
The Annual Neighborhood HALLOWEEN PARTY
2:00 p.m.
5528 Rusk Avenue
Games, hayrides, a magic show and more. Please see page 4 for details.

November 13
Cylburn Arboretum Soup N' Walk
11:00 am - 1:00 pm
Tree identification, with soup by Atwaters and trees by Cylburn.

November 16
Northwest Park Master Plan Community Meeting
7:00 pm.
Springwell Senior Living
2211 West Rogers Ave

November 19
Annual Holiday Tree Lighting Countdown
6:00 pm.
Come join your neighbors at the annual Mt. Washington community holiday tree lighting at the Johns Hopkins Mt. Washington campus on Sat., Nov. 19th. We will gather at 6:00 p.m. at the Octagon to sing/try to sing and enjoy cookies, hot chocolate, warm apple cider, and other light refreshments. The tree lighting countdown will take place at 6:30 p.m. Kids are most welcome. Thank you to ARAMARK and Johns Hopkins University.

YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

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mayor@baltimorecity.gov

Councilwoman Rochelle “Rikki” Spector
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Senator Lisa Gladden
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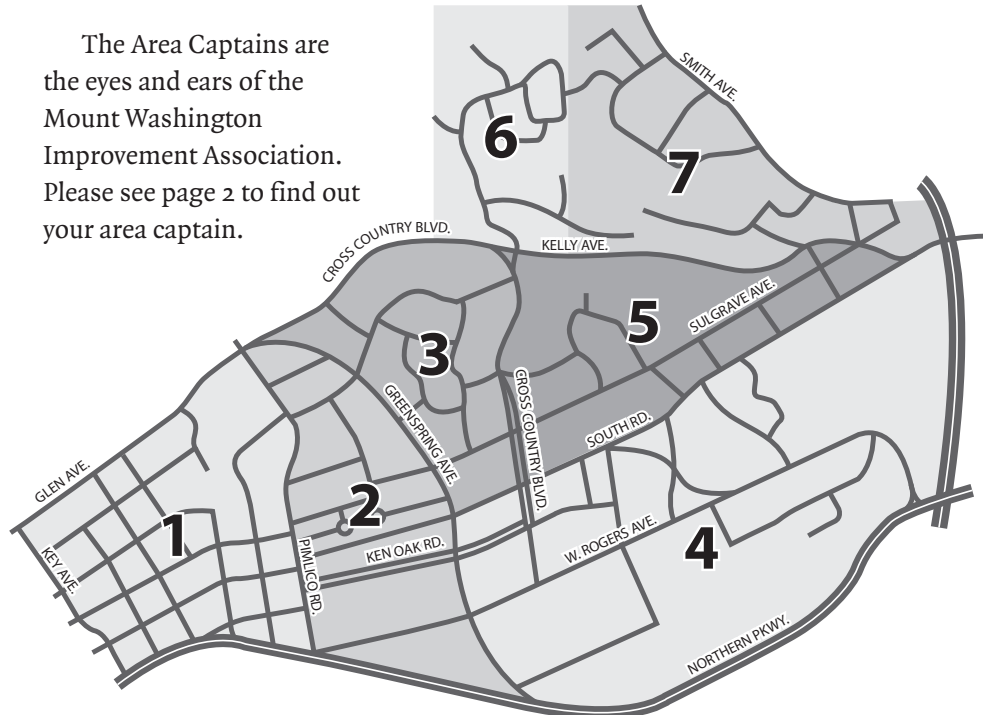
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Delegate Nathaniel Oaks
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Delegate Sandy Rosenberg
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samuel.rosenberg@house.state.md.us

Map of Mount Washington

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





Got something for the MWIA Newsletter?

The newsletter is published by the Mt. Washington Improvement Association (MWIA) and is mailed to the homes of residents. The newsletter informs the residents about people, activities, and services in Mt. Washington and the actions of the Board of Directors. Please send your news articles or event information for the November newsletter, deadline Nov. 1st to: capitano.bryce@comcast.net

877 Members Strong:
Mt. Washington Community Listserv Website

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

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

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

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email address _____

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

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

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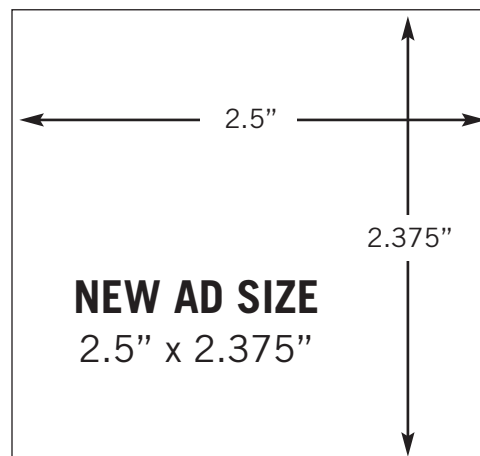
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Advertise to 1600 Mount Washington Households

BY BRYCE BUTLER

Last year it was decided by the board to run ads in this newsletter to help subsidize the major expense of printing the newsletter. It has been successful thanks to the commitment of Brothers for the full run of this year. We had the same agreement for the back page ad but unhappily we lost that ad when The Falls closed. In the meantime I have received many requests for ads but don't have the time as a volunteer to meet each of those requests, plus the number of requests for ads would soon crowd out community content. This is still an ongoing experiment on the part of the newsletter. I've devised a way that I hope will satisfy many of the requests for ads, while leaving me free to gather and edit community content.

For the next 4 issues – Nov, Jan, Mar, May, we will be selling 6 ads on the back page (2.5" x 2.38"). The cost of the ads will be \$50. The ads will be rented on a first come first serve basis. If you can commit to the next four issues, you will be given preference. Please submit your ad by email, camera ready to me by November 1st for the November newsletter. An electronic invoice will be emailed to you upon receipt of the ad. If you have further questions please contact me at: capitano.bryce@comcast.net



Acceptable digital file formats:

- High Resolution PDF
- .AI or .EPS (fonts converted to outlines)
- .TIF or .JPG (minimum 300 dpi)

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