COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
FALL 2013 NEWSLETTER

LakeWalker

SCOTT DOMBROWSKI

Congratulations to the chart art contest winners — **AGE UNDER 11:** *1st place* - Lucy Burnham, Bella Sugarman, Grace Donnelly; *2nd place* - Evan Gilroy-Scott; *3rd place* - Sophia Terranova. **AGE 11+:** *1st place* - Sage Craven; *2nd place* - Josh Frick; *3rd place* - Veronica Maxwell, Molly Burnham

21ST ANNUAL BLOCK PARTY

The weather gods made up for last year's rain delay with perfect weather this year as Lake Walker neighbors gathered on Yorkshire for the 21st annual block party.

Residents braved burning mouths to try the many chilis entered in the Chili Cookoff. The 2013 title for Best Chili went to Lisa Sachs-Cahlander. Congrats! Bruce announced that next year, we'll forego the Chili Cookoff for a Mac Off: that's right. Chili's out, mac'n'cheese is in!

We were concerned because this year we didn't receive a grant from the city as in past years, but the raffle and donations from residents (**THANK YOU to Marshall Kinsley, Lucy Sarris, The Remleys, Terré Patrick**) covered the bulk of the cost. **EXPENSES:** $1,324, Raffle: $966, Donations: $185, LWCA general fund: $173.

Dues collected at the block party were $865. *(If you have not paid your 2013-14 dues, please mail a check to our post office box or contact the Treasurer.)*

The block party is a community effort and this year would not have been possible without contributions from all of the following residents. THANK YOU …

LOGISTICS & RAFFLE (block party committee): Janet Abramovitz, Kathy Brohawn, Barb Dent, Elaine Dietz, Scott Dombrowski, Jan Dykacz, Judy Gemmill, Cy Governs, Erin Hans, Kathryn Knight, Marita Manna, Martha Palmer, Deb & Jim Pickett, Deb Weinberg, Bruce Ziman

BURGER GUYS: Jim Bersani and Rob Bowen

MOUTHBURNERS: Bruce and Bethany Ziman who oversee the chili cookoff in their driveway (and thanks to all participants)

SOUND ENGINEER: Scott Knight

RESIDENT DOCUMENTARIAN: Mike Boardman

CULINARY FACILITATOR (grill): Scott Donnelly

FACE DECORATORS (face painting): Gayle Maxwell and Minna Knight

RAFFLE ELVES: Jake Brohawn, Molly Burnham, Darby Lassiter, Veronica Maxell

EVERYONE who came and brought food, volunteered as moonbounce monitors, as well as those who helped with set-up and cleanup!

More than 40 vendors made raffle donations, including **9 from Lake Walker** (full list on page 2), donated for the raffle. We encourage you to thank these vendors for their support when you solicit them.

calendar OF events

OCTOBER

LWCA General Meeting

Thursday
Oct 24, 2013 – 7:30 p.m.
Arbor Oaks Meeting Room. See page 3 for the location and agenda.

Please bring a non-perishable food items for CARES.

10/6 **Fall plant exchange**, 801 Cedarcroft Rd. 10 a.m.-Noon

10/19 **Dumpster Day**

10/26 **Mayor's Fall Cleanup** – 10 a.m.- Noon. Please bring your work gloves and meet at the "park" (intersection of Walker Ave./York Rd.) Stay tuned to the website forum for additional info

NOVEMBER

11/6 **York Road Partnership Meeting** – 7:15 p.m. @ St. Mary's Church Hall, 5502 York Road, parking and entrance in the rear of the church. Recurring mtg on first Wed. of every month

11/20 **Northern Police District Meeting** – 7 p.m. @ the Northern District Police Headquarters, 2201 W. Cold Spring Lane (just west of I-83 on your left). If anyone has any questions, they can call Officer Doug Gibson @ 410-367-8491. Recurring mtg on third Wed. of every OTHER month

Check in at **lakewalker.org** for the full 2014 schedule! Our first General Meeting will be in January.

Lake Walker is on Facebook! Search for "Lake Walker" and be our friend!

PROPERTIES IN VIOLATION of City Housing Code

By Peter Hammerer
Source: Baltimore City Housing Code Enforcement

The Lake Walker Community Association has been working with residents and the City of Baltimore in regards to properties in the community that have been cited for housing code violations. Baltimore City housing inspector Erika Butler attended the last general meeting and provided an update on four of the eight properties currently listed as having received notice of housing code violations. At the time of this writing two have been sworn into criminal court with court dates of September 24.The owners were cited for not properly maintaining their houses or the land the houses are built on.

If you see a property that is not being maintained—poor maintenance or unsanitary conditions—you should call the **Northern Area Housing Inspection** office at **410-545-7550** directly or 311 to request a housing inspector to come out. The housing inspector will inspect the property to determine if there is a housing violation.

All violation notices are orders for the recipient to correct the violation within a specified time, usually no longer than 30 days. If the responsible party fails to comply with the notice in a timely manner that person can be summonsed to Housing Court. You can check Baltimore Housing's website to see if a notice was referred for prosecution, and if so, what the result was.

Rats! Rats! Rats!

By Peter Hammerer
Source: Baltimore City DPW Bureau of Solid Waste Rat Rub Out Program

The most common rat in Baltimore is the Norway Rat; also known as the Brown Rat. Adult Norway Rats have coarse brownish fur and the young ones have soft gray fur. They have an average of 4-7 litters per year, peaking in the fall and spring, producing 8-12 offspring in each litter. The offspring can reach maturity as early as eight weeks in good conditions. They can climb brick walls; jump vertically to 3' and horizontally up to 48"; and swim up to a half-mile. They can gnaw through cinderblock, wood, aluminum, and lead sheeting—their teeth grow constantly and need to be worn down.

Rats have historically been a problem in the human environment carrying diseases and destroying property. By eliminating one or more of the vital factors—food, water, and shelter—we can reduce their population. Good sanitation practices are the best way to control the rat population.

Here are some ways to tell if rats are on your property:

› Look for burrows anywhere on your property that has freshly disturbed soil or is free of debris.

› Look for gnawing on your trash cans; around doors, windows, plumbing and electrical outlets.

› Look for droppings and worn down paths in the grass where they could run back and forth.

Things you can do to help deter rats:

› Use durable trash cans with tight fitting lids, preferably metal. DO NOT PUT TRASH OUT IN PLASTIC BAGS!

› Remove leftover pet food and animal waste from the yard daily.

› Remove old furniture, vehicles, appliances, and junk from your property.

› Mow tall grass and weeds.

› Seal all holes and cracks in foundation, walls, floors, and around windows.

› Raise stored materials such as lumber or firewood well off the ground.

If you have a problem with rats, call 311 and request someone from the Rat Rub Out Program to come out to inspect your home. They can advise you what best to do to remove the problem rats from your property in addition to everything listed above.

THANK YOU

to the following businesses for their generous contributions to the 2013 Lake Walker Block Party Raffle.

PLEASE PATRONIZE THEM!

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Sass Salon
Sherwood Auto Services
Starbucks Coffee
TCBY
The Home Coach*
The House Downtown
Uncle Wiggly's Ice Cream & Deli
Wells Discount Liquors
With Gratitude
Yoga on York

Lake Walker Neighbors

General MEETING

OCTOBER 24

Please attend the fall meeting at **7:30 p.m. on Thur., Oct. 24**, in the Arbor Oaks Meeting Room. The address is 813 Lenton Ave., south of Lake Ave. Lenton is opposite where Highwood ends at Lake. Bear left on Lenton. The meeting room is at the far end of the apartments where there is a small parking area.

AGENDA

- LWCA Board Elections
- Northern District police update
- Rat Rub Out
- Follow-up on meeting with college houses

Reach more than 700 households.

ADVERTISE IN THE

LakeWalker NEWSLETTER

Ads are $35/issue ($140 year).
contact: newsletter@lakewalker.org

LWCA ELECTIONS

The election for a new slate of LWCA officers will take place at the 10/24 General Meeting.

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following candidates:

President: Valerie Sirani (Ready Ave)
Vice President: Bruce Ziman (Cedarcroft Rd.)
Secretary: Deb Weinberg (Cedarcroft Rd)
Treasurer: Martha Palmer - incumbent (Clearspring Rd.)

If you are unable to attend the meeting and wish to cast an absentee ballot, members in good standing may submit the ballot below to Bill Burnham, 800 Cedarcroft Rd. prior to the meeting.

- President: Valerie Sirani or _____ (write-in)
- Vice President: Bruce Ziman or _____ (write-in)
- Secretary: Deb Weinberg _____ (write-in)
- Treasurer: Martha Palmer or _____ (write-in)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

LakeWalker

Lake Walker Community Association
PO Box 11391
Baltimore, MD 21239-1391

OFFICERS

President – Kathy Brohawn
410-433-9169
president@lakewalker.org

Vice President – Elaine Dietz
410-435-4113
vicepresident@lakewalker.org

Treasurer – Martha Palmer
treasurer@lakewalker.org

Secretary – Vacant
secretary@lakewalker.org

COMMITTEES

Block Captain Chair – Jim Pickett
410-433-5257
blockcaptain@lakewalker.org

Block Party Chair – Jim Pickett
blockparty@lakewalker.org

Communications Committee Chair – Cy Governs
communications@lakewalker.org

Citizens on Patrol Chair – Brian Dietz
COP@lakewalker.org

Newsletter Submissions –
newsletter@lakewalker.org

Newsletter Design – Darby Lassiter
darby.lassiter@verizon.net

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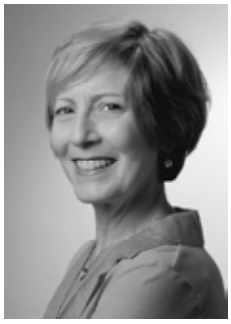
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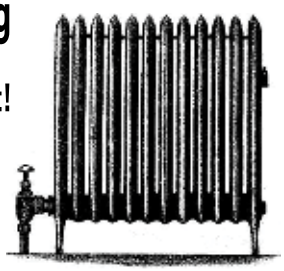
LENNOX The Unico System

Have **YOU** paid your COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION DUES?

LWCA dues cover the cost of printing this newsletter four times each year, which is written, designed and distributed by volunteers. Dues cover the maintenance costs associated with the **lakewalker.org** website. Dues also help cover the costs associated with the Annual Block Party (only if raffle revenues *do not* exceed cost), administrative costs associated with other events (e.g., signage for the community yard sale) and organizational donations as voted upon by LWCA members.

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Please send payments to Lake Walker Community Assn, PO Box 11391, Baltimore, MD 21239-1391 or drop off to Martha Palmer, 6402 Clearspring Road. **Please make sure checks are made out to LWCA**. $10 per household, $5 for seniors.