

# LakeWalker

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION  
SUMMER 2011 NEWSLETTER



## Spring Plant Exchange

By Debbie Pickett / Photography by Bob Whitby

While the morning of May 1 was cloudy and cool, it didn't bother the Lake Walker gardeners who attended the Spring Plant Exchange. Around 60 neighbors gathered in the Picketts' backyard to share plants, seeds and gardening tips. Several were new to gardening, but anxious to find out more. There were more than enough plants available for the taking and several knowledgeable gardeners who regularly attend had a wealth of information to share. Having a beautiful, well-maintained neighborhood benefits *everyone* and that can start with a lovely garden. Everyone is encouraged to come to future plant exchanges, **EVEN IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO SHARE!**

We were fortunate to have Lystra from Blue Water Baltimore available to answer questions about rain barrels and BWB's water audit program. She gave away showerheads and aerators designed to reduce water usage.

Thank you for taking an interest in making your property more attractive and the earth a little greener. For those who didn't come, we'll see you on **October 8** for the Fall Plant Exchange. 🌿

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Deb would never toot her own horn, but the plant exchanges are noteworthy beyond the confines of this newsletter. Ex-residents traveled from across state lines to attend the May 1 event. And in *Baltimore* magazine's "Neighborhoods" issue (April 2011) the number one reason "Belvedere" is a great is: "Lake Walker for its beautiful gardens...most probably because of its annual neighborhood Plant Exchange."

**JUNE**

**calendar OF events**

**LWCA General Meeting**

Tuesday  
June 7, 2011 – 7:30 pm  
Arbor Oaks Meeting Room

See Page 2 for the location and agenda.

Please bring non-perishable canned food for the CARES food pantry.

**6/4 Community Yard Sale** – (RAIN DATE is 6/5) from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. (Details inside)

**6/18 Dumpster Day** – Dumpster at corner of Hollen and Clearspring; also on 8/27, and 10/22. See the article on page 3 for an update on dumpster policy

### July

**7/6 York Road Partnership Meeting** – 7:15 p.m. at 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: 8/3, 9/7, 10/5

**7/10 Evesham Park's 10th Annual Concert in the Park** – Featuring Stone Mason, 4-8 p.m. (Rain date is 7/17)

**7/20 Northern Police District Meeting** – 7:00 p.m. at the Northern District Police Headquarters, 2201 W. Cold Spring Lane (just west of I-83 on your left). Questions? Call Officers Jon Walter or Doug Gibson at 410-367-8491. Recurring mtg on third Wed. of every OTHER month: 9/21, 11/16

### September

9/10 **LWCA Block Party!**



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

## Lake Walker Community Association

PO Box 11391  
Baltimore, MD 21239-1391

### OFFICERS

#### President – Eileen Gwin

410-949-0012 | president@lakewalker.org

#### Vice President – Cy Governs

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treasurer@lakewalker.org

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410.693.9279 | secretary@lakewalker.org

### COMMITTEES

#### Block Captain Chair – Jim Pickett

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blockcaptain@lakewalker.org

#### Block Party Chair – Jim Pickett

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#### Newsletter Design – Darby Lassiter

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## LIVE BALTIMORE Neighborhood Profile

By KATHY BROHAWN

Steven Gondol, a representative of *Live Baltimore*, recently attended a meeting of the York Road Partnership Housing Committee (of which I am a member). The committee seeks to improve housing, and the marketing of homes, in neighborhoods along the York Road corridor. *Live Baltimore* is the most comprehensive organization focused on Baltimore City living and exists solely to market the city as a great place to live with the ultimate goal of increasing Baltimore's tax base. Their website gets thousands of hits each day. It is a valuable means for sharing how great Lake Walker is with prospective residents.

Mr. Gondol emphasized the importance of maintaining an updated, complete neighborhood profile as part of Lake Walker's effort to attract homebuyers. We have an opportunity to update our profile ([www.livebaltimore.com/neighborhoods/list](http://www.livebaltimore.com/neighborhoods/list)) and I am seeking YOUR INPUT!

I will post the neighborhood profile on [www.lakewalker.org/forum](http://www.lakewalker.org/forum) and I invite you to post your responses and (respectfully) discuss how we can best showcase Lake Walker. You can also e-mail me at [livebaltimore@lakewalker.org](mailto:livebaltimore@lakewalker.org) to participate. Once we reach a consensus, our association president, Eileen Gwin, will submit the updated profile to *Live Baltimore*.

You may also consider being an ambassador for Lake Walker. An ambassador is someone whom prospective buyers may contact if they're interested in our neighborhood. You would provide resident referrals about our neighborhood — either by phone or e-mail (it's up to you). I look forward to hearing from you either on the forum or at [livebaltimore@lakewalker.org](mailto:livebaltimore@lakewalker.org)! 🐦

## Meet Lake Walker's ANNAPOLIS REPRESENTATIVES at the next LWCA General Meeting!

# JUNE 7

The summer meeting will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Tues., June 7, in the Arbor Oaks Meeting Room at 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.

### THE TENTATIVE AGENDA INCLUDES:

- ▶ Meet Lake Walker's Annapolis Delegates and State Senator: Maggie McIntosh; Mary Washington; Curt Anderson; Joan Conway
- ▶ Maggie Porter of the Greater Homewood Community Corporation
- ▶ City Councilman Bill Henry update on budget and Senator Theatre
- ▶ Open discussion re: Gittings parking situation and need for changes to State law

Want to see changes in your community – then it is important that **YOU** attend **YOUR** community meetings!!!!!!



## CORRECTION

I would like to apologize to Judy Gemmill for an oversight in the spring issue. Judy was not credited for her work as author of the Dave Kloid profile. Judy's profiles of Lake Walker residents are a valuable part of this newsletter. I'm so sorry, Judy!



## COMMUNITY YARD SALE

It's that time again! Time to clean out the attic and basement or maybe your child's closet and toy chest of outgrown or unused items and turn them into cash. Don't have much to sell? Join with a neighbor, or invite a friend or relative to participate with you. Having a yard sale is a great chance to visit with your neighbors and make a little money, too. Rain date is Sunday, June 5.

Please call **Sandra Buck** at 443-564-2949 if you plan to participate, so she can put your sale on the map of the neighborhood given to customers. Only your house number and items you want to sell will be listed.

LWCA will do the advertising, but **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS** to help with signs. Signs are used to attract customers to the neighborhood and direct them to houses with sales. Please e-mail [vicepresident@lakewalker.org](mailto:vicepresident@lakewalker.org) or call Cy at 410-433-1309 to help out! 🐦

# Block Party UPDATE

By JIM PICKETT, BLOCK PARTY CHAIRPERSON

The Lake Walker block party is **Saturday, September 10!** Things aren't running quite so smoothly this year for several reasons. The City denied our application for a \$300 neighborhood grant. It also appears that we'll have to acquire a temporary food permit, in addition to the festival permit, at \$50 each. But most importantly, the turnout at the last LWCA General Meeting was so low that we were unable to solicit volunteers for the planning committee. That's serious!

So, please... search your soul. Have you ever served on the Block Party Committee? Maybe this can be the year. It's a finite commitment: four meetings, and some soliciting of raffle donations from local businesses. If you can possibly help, a lot or a little, please call me, at 410-433-5257 or email [djpick@verizon.net](mailto:djpick@verizon.net). Our first meeting will take place in early June. When you respond, let me know which evenings are best.

This is the last newsletter you'll receive prior to the event, so PLEASE... make sure to mark **September 10** on your calendar NOW! In late August, you'll receive a notice with an RSVP tear-off, which we beg you to return so that we know how much food (burgers, dogs and chicken) to buy. Thanks! ☺

## The Elusive DUMPSTER

By Jim Pickett

Unfortunately, we cannot change that the City delivers the dumpster on Friday afternoons. The LWCA board has made a sincere effort to urge residents to wait until Saturday morning...but to no avail. Rather than just canceling the program, we are embracing the current reality. Lake Walker residents (hopefully LWCA dues-payers) are welcome to load the dumpster as soon as it arrives on Friday following the guidelines posted on [www.lakewalker.org](http://www.lakewalker.org) (click on the calendar entry for Dumpster Day). Many thanks to Pickle Kloid for coordinating this activity. ☺

# Neighbors in the News

■ Lake Walker Community Association president, **Eileen Gwin** (Hollen), was elected vice president of the York Road Partnership

■ **Bruce and Bethany Ziman** (Cedarcroft) and their garden were featured in the May/June issue of Baltimore *STYLE* magazine (online at [baltimorestyle.com](http://baltimorestyle.com))

■ Congrats to **Meg Zimmerman** (Hollen) for being selected "Top Neighborhood Mom for Lake Walker" in a contest held by the Office of Neighborhoods; nominees are women who serve their communities to improve quality of life and safety; Thanks Meg, for your great work in Lake Walker!

■ **Nancy and Joel Culpepper's** dog, **Denny** (Hollen), won first prize in "sitting" at the MD SPCA "March for the Animals" last month; check out a slideshow at <http://mdsPCA.org/events/mfa.html>

■ Congrats to **Louisa Nielsen** (Gittings) for her persistence and success in getting the City and bank to address landscaping issues related to an abandoned house in the 600-block ☺



Left to right: Baltimore City Councilman Bill Henry, Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and Lake Walker resident Meg Zimmerman.

## Damp Clothes Don't Dampen OUR SPIRIT!

The spring's clean-up work party focused on Walker Run, which meanders southward from Walker Ave. to Cedarcroft Rd. It is a tributary to Chinquapin Run, which flows into the Herring Run, eventually ending up in Back River and the Chesapeake Bay. On a chilly mid-April morning, five intrepid Lake Walker-ites braved the steady rain (that led to a quickly rising tide in the "stream") and managed to collect several bags of debris from the stream area. Our sincere thanks to these dedicated volunteers for their service to our community: Kathy Brohawn, Barb Dent, Cy Governs, Jim Pickett and Lydia Robinson. ☺

## BLUE WATER Baltimore

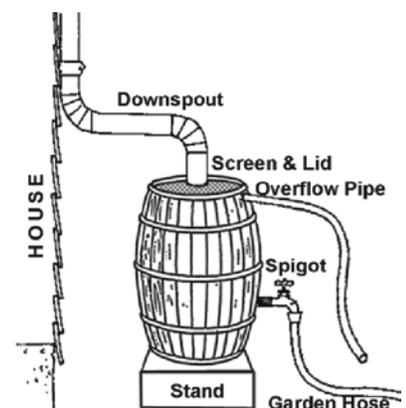
By Lystra Kiser, Community Outreach Coordinator

The sun is shining, the birds are chirping, and spring is in full bloom. Spring means fresh opportunities to make Lake Walker greener. Blue Water Baltimore (BWB) is available to provide no and low-cost indoor and outdoor water conservation projects. These projects will protect your home, our local streams and the Chesapeake Bay.

Did you know the average home in Lake Walker produces 35,000 gallons of polluted urban runoff each year? Several residents in the community have already taken advantage of our water audit program and had their rain barrels installed free of charge. (See the picture below for an example of a rain barrel.) By diverting rooftop runoff onto the yard, residents protect the Bay for our children for generations to come.

Would you like to significantly reduce your water footprint? A BWB representative can give your home a FREE and full site assessment. Inside, BWB can help you save water wasted by inefficient faucets and toilets. Outside, BWB can identify and suggest cost-saving measures that protect the Bay from runoff. Greening options can be as simple as planting a tree or as extensive as retrofitting concrete and creating beautiful landscapes. These are only a few of the options you have as a homeowner.

Learn more about what you can do this summer to help make Lake Walker a more sustainable neighborhood. Register for a free water audit to find out how to improve your home and protect the Chesapeake Bay by calling 410-254-1577 (ext 106) or e-mailing Dana Puzey at [dpuzey@bluewaterbaltimore.org](mailto:dpuzey@bluewaterbaltimore.org). Stay tuned to <http://bluewaterbaltimore.org> for workshops and other events! ☺





# Have YOU paid your COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION DUES?



## Summer Reminders

**A**s temperatures rise, so do people's windows. A few things to keep in mind:

- The board has received complaints about **excessive dog barking**. If the sights and sounds of summer inspire vocal reactions in your dog, please don't leave them in the yard all day...Consider that your neighbors may not share your schedule, or your affinity for pets.
- Summer brings **opportunities for crime**. Make sure to close/lock windows and doors that you're not using (e.g., front door when you're working in the backyard). In addition, make sure to secure or remove equipment from your yard that could be used to gain access to your home (e.g., ladders). ☺

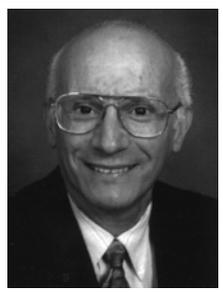
LWCA dues cover the cost of printing this newsletter four times each year, which is designed and distributed by volunteers. Dues cover the maintenance costs associated with the lakewalker.org website. Dues also cover the costs associated with the Annual Block Party (*only if raffle revenues do not exceed cost*), the Winter Fiesta, 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: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please forward all payments to Lake Walker Community Association, Attention Deb Weinberg, PO Box 11391, Baltimore, MD 21239-1391. **Please make sure checks are made out to LWCA.** \$10 per household, \$5 for seniors. *Thank you!!!!*



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- Bring in mail/newspapers ♥ Take out trash
- Alter lighting/curtains/blinds for "lived-in" look

**Gail Spiva**, Owner & Lake Walker resident since 1993

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