

LakeWalker

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
SPRING 2020 NEWSLETTER

Calendar
OF events

MARCH 25

LWCA General Meeting

7:30 p.m., Arbor Oaks Meeting Room. Please see page 2 for the agenda and location. Please bring a non-perishable food item for CARES. Meetings occur quarterly; upcoming meetings on 6/2 and 10/26

MARCH–MAY

3/18 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). For questions, call Officer Doug Gibson @ 410 367-8491. Recurring mtg on third Wed. of every OTHER month, 5/20, 7/16

3/28 Dumpster Day – near 500 Hollen, also on 6/6 (*Visit lakewalker.org for details.*)

4/1 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: 5/6, 6/3

4/27 Baltimore City Mayor's Spring Cleanup – 9 a.m. See p. 2 for details.

5/3 Spring Plant Exchange – 10:00 am, 801 Cedarcroft Rd. See p. 3 for details.

Visit lakewalker.org
for the full 2020 schedule!



{2020} Mardi Gras

BY CY GOVERNS

More than 70 neighbors came together for our annual Mardi Gras (winter fiesta) gathering, this year held at Jerry's Belvedere tavern for the first time. As always, kids had the opportunity to draw their answer to "What I Love about Lake Walker." Topping the list? Local restaurants, friends, and pets. I'm not an artist, but my answer would be, Great people! Thanks to all for making it such a fun night—and especially to our own Mardi Gras expert, Janet Abramovitz, for bringing the authenticity! 🍷



Latest News on Burger King and...New Efforts to Promote Better Development

BY JANET ABRAMOVITZ, LWCA VICE-PRESIDENT

The Baltimore Zoning Board (BMZA) finally voted on—**AND DENIED!**—Burger King's request to build a drive-thru at the Anneslie shopping center on Walker Ave. at its 1/14/20 meeting. The written decision will be published in mid-March.

Against the odds, Lake Walker—which

overwhelmingly opposed BK's plan—won a major victory against this development. **How did we accomplish this?** By being bold, strategic, and united!

We identified our neighbors' concerns. We researched the issues and the law. We strategically focused our efforts on the levers available to us—in this case,



opposing the safety of the proposed drive-thru (which is the major source of revenue for fast food.) The Planning Department had already approved the construction of the restaurant, without any community input.

We rallied the community through emails, flyers, and meetings. We secured

counsel from the Community Law Center. We developed key talking points that would resonate with the zoning board, which were included in the flood of letters people sent in opposition to the BK proposal. We recruited neighboring communities to support us. A group designed and deployed protest signs in the community. We presented well-organized testimony, research, and photo evidence at the zoning hearings, and our community packed the room. We attended all 5 hearings when BK was on the docket.

It really does take a village, and our village turned out! We did not back down, or allow long odds to discourage us, or a powerful company to intimidate us. We listened to and supported our neighbors. To the hundreds of people who participated in this effort in large and small ways: A HUGE THANK YOU!

Next Steps

What happens next? BK could

- 1) build the restaurant without the drive-thru;
- 2) appeal the drive-thru decision;
- 3) wait one year and submit a new drive-thru request; or
- 4) decide to drop the whole project and move on.

Lake Walker has made it clear to Burger King and their lawyers that we will continue to oppose their plans, be it to build a drive-thru or to operate 24 hours. As "Captain" of the effort, and a LWCA

Board member, I am committed to seeing it through.

The Bigger Picture

Looking at the bigger picture, what I uncovered during this fight has made clear the need for some city-wide reforms, which I plan to advocate for:

- Reinstating the previous requirements that the Planning Department seek community input on developments and City Council action to approve zoning variances, which had been eliminated a few years ago!
- Pushing for a city-wide ban on new drive-thru businesses. Over 100 cities in the US and Canada have already done so to improve safety, air quality, and livability. (Cities include Boston, Cleveland, San Francisco, and south Los Angeles). When I asked, all the candidates running for the 4th district City Council seat (except one) said they support such a ban.

If you are interested in working with me on these reforms or getting more information, please contact me at JanetLakeWalker@yahoo.com.

Finally, I would like to encourage all residents to help Lake Walker help you and your neighborhood. Please join LWCA; your dues help to support efforts like the BK fight (as well as this newsletter and fun events). LWCA will also need new leadership on the Board when officer vacancies open in Fall 2020. If you are interested, please contact me or another board member. 🐾

LWCA GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

We hope to see you at our first General Meeting on **March 25 at 7:30 p.m. in the Arbor Oaks Meeting Room** (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 the following items:

- Lake Walker Directory
- Spring cleanup
- Plant exchange
- Northern District, DPW, State's Attorney's office 🐾

Spring Cleaning



The Mayor's Spring Clean-Up is on Saturday, April 18. While we'll plan to meet at York and Walker (at 10 a.m.), the more people we have, the more we can spread out across the 'hood to clean up lots of areas! Bring work gloves and a friend—we'll have bags and trash grabbers. 🐾

AROUND THE 'HOOD

BY JIM PICKETT

A short while ago, Carole Stolba, a neighbor who has lived here many more years than I, brought me this little 55-page cookbook which was produced by a group of enthusiastic residents in the early days of our association's existence, probably the late 70s. It has some great looking recipes; main dishes, sides, desserts and more. And on the cover is a sketch, by the late Bob Browne, of the old Drumcastle mansion which was located about where Party City is today. We are contemplating a reprinting if there is sufficient interest.



ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHAT GOES ON AT ST. MARY'S SEMINARY, that

humongous edifice on Roland Ave. at Northern Parkway? As Tom Papa would say, "I have!" It turns out that a member of the society of priests who operate the seminary, Fr. Martin Burnham, who happens to be the brother of past LWCA president Bill Burnham, has offered to lead a tour of the premises. This could take place on a Saturday morning in April or May.

If you are interested in joining this rare tour, or of acquiring the recipe book, call me at 410-433-5257 and leave a message, if I'm not there. See you around the 'hood. 🐾

CALLING ALL Artists!

NEW DIRECTORY THIS YEAR

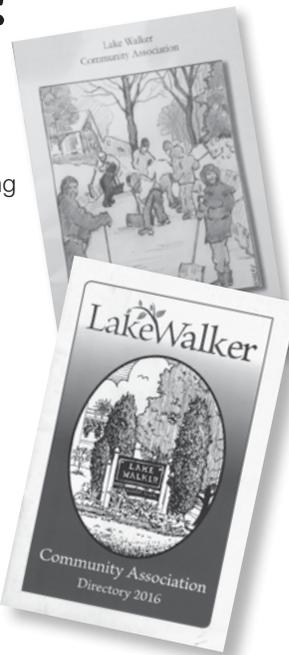
BY CY GOVERNS

We're publishing an updated Lake Walker directory (plan to get your copy at the block party)! We're looking for a Lake Walker artist to produce the cover art.

Artwork should be in black and white and no more than approximately 4.5" tall and 4" across.

Please send submissions to the Lake Walker post office box: P.O. Box 11391, Baltimore, MD 21239-1391, or drop them off to **Cy Governs** at 705 Gittings Ave. by no later than June 1. Please include your name so we may credit you!

Email questions or directory updates to directory@lakewalker.org. Feel free to let us know that someone moved—even if you don't have contact info for new residents! If you do send contact info for new neighbors, we will assume you've obtained their approval to publish that information. You may also encourage them to submit it directly via the email above. ☺



LakeWalker

**Lake Walker
Community Association**
P.O. Box 11391
Baltimore, MD 21239-1391

OFFICERS

President – Ian Anson

president@lakewalker.org

Vice President – Janet Abramovitz

vicepresident@lakewalker.org

Secretary secretary@lakewalker.org

Treasurer – Martha Johnston

treasurer@lakewalker.org

COMMITTEES

Block Captain Chair –

Jim Pickett

blockcaptain@lakewalker.org

Block Party Chair –

Cy Governs

blockparty@lakewalker.org

Communications Committee Chair –

Cy Governs

communications@lakewalker.org

Newsletter Submissions –

newsletter@lakewalker.org

Newsletter Design –

Darby Lassiter

darby.lassiter@comcast.net

New Lake Walker BOOK CLUB

Want to be part of a book group you can walk to? A few neighbors are getting together to read and learn from one another, especially about Baltimore history, community living, education, justice, equity, and race, but all suggested topics are welcome! **Let us know you're interested** by attending the next LWCA general meeting on March 25 or by emailing newsletter@lakewalker.org and sharing your name, email, and ideas for the group. ☺

Spring Plant Exchange

Mark it on your calendar now...

Sunday, May 3rd! It's a great time to get rid of unwanted plants, and acquire new ones too. Don't worry if you have nothing to bring; there will be lots of plants for everyone, as well as coffee, baked goods and neighborly gardening lore. ☺

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CHANGE HOW YOU AGE



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Date: Wednesday, March 18

Time: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Fees: Free to All

Interested? Contact us at:

CommunityHealth@ChooseKeswick.org
410.662.4363

Finding Your Voice

Every outer experience starts with inner dialogue. What are you saying to yourself **TODAY**?

Join coach Claudette Gadsden to learn new techniques for powerful aging.

Date: Wednesday, March 25

Times: 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm
or 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Fees: Free to All

700 W 40th St.
Baltimore, MD 21211

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION DUES?

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Spring Dues Challenge Match

An anonymous LW neighbor has offered to contribute \$1 for each LWCA dues payment made between March 1 and May 31. If you haven't paid your September 2019–August 2020 dues yet, this is a great time to act.

Pay your dues with PayPal! Look for it on the lakewalker.org website. If you haven't paid your dues, please do, \$10 per household and \$5 for seniors. Dues help provide many benefits to our community. They help fund our newsletter, the block party, and our Mardi Gras celebration. They also support information-sharing and neighborhood promotion and advocacy with the city. Households who pay dues are entitled to receive the community directory. If you send a check, please note if you'd like to receive a directory. LWCA's dues year starts September 1.

Mail to: Lake Walker Community Association, P.O. Box 11391, Baltimore, MD 21239-1391

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Lake Walker Stickers for Sale



Show your community spirit with a Lake Walker sticker on your car, bike or wherever you would like to stick one!

Only \$3 each or two for \$5.

Get yours now while supplies last! Contact a member of the LWCA board or email: treasurer@lakewalker.org.

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