

LakeWalker

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
WINTER 2024 NEWSLETTER



The Inaugural Lake Walker WINTER WALK: In Reflection and Gratitude

BY AUDREY HOPKINS-HALE

My family and I have walked our neighborhood a lot. Like many of our neighbors, we have a dog we love. I can remember walks from distinct chapters in our lives in Lake Walker for the last five years. On our walks, we fell in love with the Craftsman houses, tree-lined streets, and — most importantly — the wonderful village of people who make up Lake Walker. It was all of these things that made our most recent notable walk — the Lake Walker Winter Walk — a reality.

The thought of a holiday-themed walk occurred when we were walking along Hollen and Christmas lights were just starting to appear on our most holiday-eager neighbors' houses. I was excited for my son, Thomas, and his friends to see the lights together. But I thought, why limit it to our circle? Since the end of the summer we had been working on making new neighborhood friends through the Lake Walker Families group. How could they be incorporated? How could this be broadened?

As a sleep-deprived mother of a newborn, I vaguely described my vision to the Lake Walker Community Association (LWCA) board. What followed were a couple of meetings with Ed and Kelly, who took the idea and helped me run with it. They helped design invitations (hand-delivered by fantastic block captains across Lake Walker!), set up a picturesque porch for Santa's visit, and brainstormed how to get folks engaged, including how LWCA could support those interested. Their support and encouragement brought early life into the project and set a base for success.

It was the aforementioned village of neighbors who turned my small idea into a beautiful afternoon for families. Over ten households from Gittings to Lake hosted an open-ended (but optimistically large) number of neighbors in their homes to share in the joy of the holidays and create magic for our littlest neighbors.

(Continued on page 2)

FEBRUARY 27

LWCA GENERAL MEETING

7:30 p.m. (hybrid). Please see page 3 for details.
Spring meeting is 4/18.

Calendar
OF events

FEBRUARY

2/27 GREENING COMMITTEE MEETING – 6 p.m., email greening@lakewalker.org for details. Meets last Tues. of month from Feb–Oct.: 3/26, 4/30

MARCH

3/6 YORK ROAD PARTNERSHIP MEETING – 7:15 p.m. This meeting will take place virtually until further notice. Recurring mtg on first Wed. of every month: 4/3, 5/1.

3/19 LAKE WALKER NIGHT AT BELVEDERE SQ. (Tentative) – Subscribe to email alerts for confirmation and details (communications@lakewalker.org).

3/23 DUMPSTER DAY – Near the corner of Hollen and Yorkshire. Get important info about this event on our website.



Check
lakewalker.org

for the full 2024 schedule and for updates to listed events!

We Want Your Thoughts on the Winter Walk

If you attended, hosted, or even if you didn't go, please share your thoughts. Scan the QR code with your phone or visit <http://tinyurl.com/lw-winter-walk>.





THANK YOU TO EVERYONE INVOLVED! Forgive me if I omitted anyone from this list.

Kim and Ric Munchel: Christmas tree painting at the start of the walk

Juliet Ames: Provided Salt Box panels to be decorated

Cy Governs and Rob Bowen: Dance party a la the *Peanuts* Christmas special

Diana and Jim Bersani: Dotted their fence with candy canes

Emily Perl: Christmas caroling — with her on piano!

Katie and John Henry Strong: Outdoor movie *Elf* as the main feature with short-film Christmas classics preceding

Angela Donn: Hot cocoa (over three gallons!), with son Eli delivering some to movie-watchers across Hollen

Liz and Ivan Borissow: Marshmallow roasting with the sweetest s'more kits

Elizabeth Norman and Eric Glaeser: Giftwrap-printing with beautiful handmade holiday stamps

Olivia Keithley: Cookies and cocoa

Marie McSweeney Anderson: Snowflake cutting for children and delicious mulled wine for adults

Rebecca Zimmerman: Rice Krispies treat decorating with icing and sprinkles (sugar on sugar on sugar is the best!)

Alisha Wolf: How to make allergy-safe pinecone birdfeeders

AND THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED!

I had the privilege of wandering through our neighborhood on the walk. The joy was palpable as neighbors chatted in front yards over Christmas music and cocoa; children did crafts and enjoyed large amounts of sugar; and we all took in the beautiful weather in good company.

As I packed up our Christmas decorations this year, I now have a box labeled "Winter Walk" with inspiration pieces and fresh crafts for next year — I hope to see you there!

Email families@lakewalker.org to join the LW Families group.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Reflecting on 2023, we express gratitude to each Lake Walker resident. In 2023, our community thrived with shared moments and strengthened unity.

Notably, we took initial steps to restore our lost tree canopy by planting 23 trees in an ongoing partnership with the Baltimore Tree Trust, thus contributing to the city's 40% tree coverage goal, preserving our neighborhood's character, and to help mitigate rainwater run-off. While our proposal to the Chesapeake Bay Trust for Hollen Woods restoration funding faced a setback, that work prepared us to pursue alternate funding sources.

Socially, we revived old traditions — like twice yearly socials — and introduced new events like the Winter Walk. Despite weather challenges, the block party thrived. Throughout it all, we welcomed many new neighbors. Quality-of-life efforts, like "Be a Good Neighbor" signs, show positive impact.

Looking to 2024, we'll build on 2023's success with established events and initiatives. Lake Walker street tree planting resumes in spring, accompanied by a program for residents to acquire no-cost trees for their yards. Quotes for a distinctive Lake Walker sign are in progress, enhancing visibility for home buyers and marking Lake Walker similarly to surrounding communities.

Our 2024 focus extends to community growth — expanding association membership and engagement. Re-establishing ties with neighboring associations, we are actively engaged in City issues, such as the proposed crematory incinerator on the 4900 block of York Road.

The LWCA board is proud to serve and welcomes your ideas! Our emails are listed on page 3 and we hope to see you at the general meeting on Tuesday, February 27. Here's to a thriving Lake Walker in 2024!

COOL IT Lake Walker!

DID YOU KNOW THAT INCREASING THE TREE CANOPY IS ONE WAY TO DECREASE ENERGY COSTS?

Visit the Dept of Rec and Parks' website to learn more:



In 2023, the Greening Committee identified 128 spots for new trees and workers from Baltimore Tree Trust planted 27 of 68 planned new trees. Phase 2 is planned for this spring. We'll continue contacting neighbors with identified vacant street plots and are also considering a companion project to potentially deliver free trees from Tree Baltimore to those interested in planting on private property. Stay tuned for more information.

Contact **Marie McSweeney** (greening@lakewalker.org) or **Ed Chupein** (president@lakewalker.org) with questions or if you're interested in participating in efforts to increase Lake Walker's tree canopy.

Around the 'Hood

By JIM PICKETT

- Several volunteers at the fall cleanup noticed and inquired about the ancient stone marker on the side of York Rd. between the Lake Walker sign and the corner at Walker. It is the five-mile marker indicating the distance along the York Road Turnpike to the center of the city (the intersection of Baltimore and Charles Sts.).
- You may have seen the mention of Baltimore Tree Trust in this newsletter — and maybe saw members of it in yellow T-shirts across Lake Walker last fall. You may not know that the Baltimore Tree Trust was founded by **Amanda Cunningham**, who grew up here in Lake Walker and is the daughter of the late **Ted and Jean Hendricks**. A warm shout-out to **Emily Green** of Highwood Dr. who got Lake Walker's tree planting effort started.
- If you haven't already seen it, check out the January issue of *Baltimore Magazine*, which features an in-depth article on our own **Juliet Ames** of Weidner Avenue who started the city-wide Salt Box public art movement.
- A new Little Library may soon become available. If anyone is interested in having it on their property, let me know (djpick@aol.com).



By JIM PICKETT

It was a very productive community endeavor this past October. Volunteers gathered many bags of trash and debris on both sides of Walker Ave. at York Rd. **Darby Lassiter** and **Meg Zimmerman** did the same along York Rd. all the way down to Northern Pkwy. **Deb and Jim Pickett** pruned, weeded, and re-edged the community garden around the Lake Walker sign, and **Kim Munchel** planted two bags of daffodils provided by the Greening Committee. Additional volunteers: LWCA vice president **Kelly Creighton**, **Tom and Liam Scollins**, **Lydia Robinson**, **Priscilla Brown**, and our very active LWCA president **Ed Chupein**. Someone left behind a canvas bag and a pair of work gloves — if it's you, contact me at djpick@aol.com.

LakeWalker

LAKE WALKER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 11421, Baltimore, MD 21239-1391

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Ed Chupein, president@lakewalker.org

VICE PRESIDENT: Kelly Creighton, vicepresident@lakewalker.org

SECRETARY: Dan Ricks, secretary@lakewalker.org

TREASURER: Laura Sawczuk, treasurer@lakewalker.org

Hybrid LWCA GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday
February 27
7:30 p.m. ET

We hope to see you at our first general meeting for 2024, which will be hybrid. Join:

IN-PERSON: Mercy Court Church (at Weidner and Walker Aves) is again allowing us to use one of their basement meeting rooms. You may park in the parking lot. Enter via the Weidner Ave. entrance. The meeting room is directly across from that door once you enter.

ONLINE: For security purposes, we are NOT publishing the online access information here because the newsletter is posted publicly on the Lake Walker website.

- If you receive Lake Walker email alerts, you'll receive the access information within an alert ahead of the meeting.
- If you don't receive Lake Walker email alerts, please email communications@lakewalker.org to sign up or to get a one-time email with the meeting access information.

AGENDA

We invite these groups to attend our general meetings to share updates and field your questions:

- › LW Officers and Committees
- › Department of Public Works
- › Baltimore City Police: Northeastern District
- › City Councilman Mark Conway's office

We'll briefly address:

- › Tree planting
- › Efforts to clear the Cedarcroft Rd culvert
- › Vaughn-Green crematorium incinerator
- › New Lake Walker sign
- › Five-year plan (2025-30)
- › Mercy Court childcare facility
- › Salt box requests for 2025





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HAVE YOU PAID YOUR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION DUES?
LWCA's dues year starts September 1.

Dues are \$10 per household and \$5 for seniors. Dues help fund our newsletter, the block party, information-sharing efforts, neighborhood promotion, and advocacy with the city. **Pay with Zelle or Paypal!** Visit lakewalker.org/join for instructions. **Or send a check to** Lake Walker Community Association, P.O. Box 11421, Baltimore, MD 21239-1391

Households who pay dues are entitled to receive the community directory. Please note (with your check or in the memo for online payment) if you'd like a directory, and include this info:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____