

LakeWalker

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
SPRING 2014 NEWSLETTER



Govans Impacts Lake Walker



Did you know Baltimore City Schools need more than \$2 billion for renovations and construction? In April 2012, the Maryland legislature passed a bill that invests nearly \$1 billion in Baltimore City Schools' facilities. This will allow renovation or new construction of nearly 40 school buildings in Baltimore. Baltimore City will also conduct neighborhood revitalization as the new buildings are built. **THIS IMPACTS LAKE WALKER.**

Govans Elementary School is in year/wave 2 of a 10-year plan. Design and community meetings are happening now for a new school opening in 2017!

Along with the complete renovation, each school is given 3,000 sq/ft of community usage. Community input is a mandatory component of the school's revitalization. In addition to the physical building, the academic programming may get a makeover: there is current discussion of turning Govans into a conversion charter school—one in which neighborhood kids may have priority before turning opening slots to a lottery system. Why should you care? Have kids? Don't have kids? Kids go to private school? Kids are out of the house? This school renovation project has the chance to positively impact our property values.

Shannen Coleman Siciliano has been a resident of Lake Walker for almost four years. She is the founding co-chair of the Baltimore Education Coalition, a coalition comprised of schools, nonprofits and communities. The Baltimore Education Coalition organized Baltimore residents and supporters to help win \$1 billion for Baltimore City School construction and saved over \$175k in state funding for Baltimore City Schools. She is an independent consultant with The Family League of Baltimore City to assist with the 21st Century Schools facilities design and community schools support at a number of Baltimore City schools.

BLOCK PARTY
September 6th

PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW! Also, if you have been enjoying this fun neighborhood event over the years, why not consider serving on this year's Block Party Committee? We really could use all the help we can get.

Please call Jim or Deb Pickett, 410-433-5257.

calendar
OF events

MARCH

LWCA General Meeting

Tuesday
March 25, 2014 – 7:30 p.m.
Arbor Oaks Meeting Room.
See page 2 for the location and agenda.
Please bring a non-perishable food item for CARES.

MARCH

3/19 **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, 5/21, 7/16*

3/22 **Dumpster Day**

APRIL – JUNE

4/2 **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: 5/7, 6/4, 7/2*

4/26 **Mayor's Spring Cleanup/LWCA Work Party** – Please meet on Northwood Dr. just off of Lake Ave. at 10:00. We always finish well before noon. You will forget to come, however, unless you **write it on your calendar NOW!** For more information, call Jim Pickett at 410-433-5257. Stay tuned to the forum (lakewalker.org/forum) for details.

6/21 **Dumpster Day**

Check in at lakewalker.org for the full 2014 schedule!



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



MARCH 25

LWCA GENERAL MEETING

Please attend the spring meeting at **7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 25**, 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

- Treasurer's Report
- Operating Budget Review
- Budget Vote by GM
- Presentation of Block Captain job description
- Vote by GM
- Committee Report
- Housing: Meg Zimmerman
- Citizens on Patrol: Patti Gruber
- Block Captains: Jim Pickett
- Police Report: STATS and review of Nuisance Law 🐾

Mark your calendar! On **Saturday April 12th**, Live Baltimore will be hosting its twice-annual Buying into Baltimore event. This event showcases Baltimore City neighborhoods to prospective buyers. It is a great opportunity to promote Lake Walker and let potential homebuyers know what a great neighborhood we live in!

This year, Lake Walker will be represented with a booth and a display. In the past, this event was split into East and West sides of the city, but this year it will feature neighborhoods throughout Baltimore City. **Attendees at this event can receive up to \$5,000 towards their purchase of a home in Baltimore City.** If you know any people looking to purchase a new home, please encourage them to attend this event!

If you would like to help with the display or participate at the event, contact LWCA President Valerie Sirani at president@lakewalker.org.

EVENT LOCATION: Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, 1400 W. Cold Spring Lane, Baltimore, MD 21209. 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. 🐾

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.

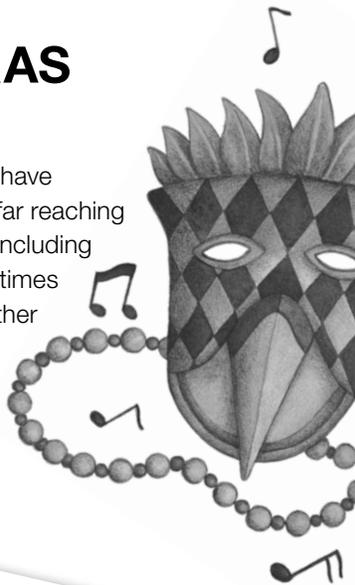


WORK PARTY – APRIL 26th

Our annual spring Work Party will once again coincide with the Mayor's Spring Cleanup on Saturday, April 26th, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. But this year we are going to focus our efforts on Northwood Drive, the eastern boundary of our community, between Lake Ave. & Cedarcroft Rd. This is a big job, so we'll need all the help we can get. Bring work gloves (and scissor-type hedge clippers and loppers if you have them). Meet along Northwood Dr. just in from Lake Ave. at 10 a.m. Put it on your calendar now! 🙌

Lake Walker **MARDI GRAS** *Laissez Les Bon Temps Rouler!*

Who needs New Orleans when you have Lake Walker? Well, that might be far reaching but 50-60 Lake Walker residents including community children "let the good times roll," enjoying themselves for our Winter get-together on March 2, 2014, at Zen West. King Cake was had by all. Thank you to Po and the staff of Zen West who were the perfect hosts. 🙌



Block Captain Training: **WHAT WAS LEARNED**

LWCA Block Captains were invited to attend two nights of training organized by Ira Kowler of the Greater Homewood Community Corporation. The first night we learned that LWCA has more block captains than other communities. The block captains in attendance showed in which part of the neighborhood they lived and serviced. Then they were asked to list assets within their area to include individuals—professions; skills,

Keep a lookout, for your block captain may be knocking on your door soon...

associational—organization groups; institutional—schools, stores, etc.; and geographical/physical—green space. Then the discussion turned briefly to what a block captain's responsibilities are and should be.

The second meeting continued with the discussion of block captains' responsibilities. Ira provided a job description for block captains to include: being the eyes and ears for their block; setting block expectations; supporting the community association; communicating between LWCA and its residents; and welcoming new residents. A major portion of the block captain's responsibility is to gather information by talking directly with their neighbors. (Keep a lookout, for your block captain may be knocking on your door soon to introduce him- or herself to you.) A major portion of the evening revolved around how the block captains need to be able to communicate more among themselves to get to know their neighbors and become more effective in using the assets available within LWCA. There will be follow-up meetings in the future. Look for more participation from the block captains! 🙌



AROUND THE 'HOOD

Do you have some exciting news to share about a neighbor or yourself?
Email newsletter@lakewalker.org

Kathy Brohawn Honored at Baltimore Green Space

Baltimore Green Space partners with communities to preserve and support community gardens, forest patches, pocket parks, and other open spaces managed by city residents. On February 24th,

Baltimore Green Space recognized some of the many volunteers who help maintain these green spaces. LWCA's very own Kathy Brohawn was one of those honored during the night's festivities. Kathy was nominated by the York Road Partnership for her "strong advocacy for environment improvement along the York Road Corridor and her formidable work and mentorship."

Another LWCA resident, Anita Stewart-Hammerer, is on the board of Baltimore Green Space which—at the request of community groups—acquires community-managed open spaces and provides support to those who care for them. This allows communities to ensure that their urban oases endure without having to take on the responsibilities of acquisition, ownership, and liability. 🍃



Patti Gruber Runs in Barcelona!

On February 16, 2014, a new women's world half-marathon record was set by Kenya's Florence Kiplagat, who stopped the clock in 1:05:12 at the eDreams Mitja Marato de Barcelona. Miss Kiplagat came in 4th overall.

In the field of over 15,000 runners, Patti Gruber, Lake Walker community resident, may not have set a world record, but she achieved a personal achievement in completing her first half marathon. Despite arriving 24 hours prior to the start of the race, as well as facing an 8 hour time difference, Patti completed the race and began a 7-day stay in Barcelona. The course was a wonderful introduction to the city of Barcelona as well as its people. Patti described the cheers from the spectators lining the streets and bands joining the field who all encouraged the runners. *Salute Patrice!* 🍷



Can't Keep Lake Walker SNOWED IN!

During the evening of Wednesday, February 12th, it started to snow. The snow continued to fall until Thursday morning. When it had finished, there was about a foot of snow covering the Lake Walker Community. For most residents of the neighborhood, this meant they would be stuck until the plows came through to get them out. This was not the case for the



residents of the 700 and 800 blocks of Hollen Road and for those that lived on Weidner Avenue. For those that don't know, there is a dead end at the end of the 800 block of

Hollen Road. Mike Maxwell and his wife talked about how the neighbors of both the 700 and 800 blocks get together whenever there is a heavy snowfall to clear out the entire street to allow them to return as close as possible to normal everyday living. Using snow blowers and brute muscle, residents worked for about four hours to complete the task. Using his snow blower, Mike helped clear the southern end of Weidner while neighbor James Bersani used his snow blower to clear all the way to Walker Avenue.

James cleared the entire stretch from the 6000 block of Weidner to Walker Avenue.

The big mystery everyone would like to know is who is the generous individual that has been plowing the Lake Walker streets after each snowfall? He was spotted again Thursday evening going down Cedarcroft. **Many have wanted to thank him, so if you know who it may be, please pass on the information.** For those who park on the narrower streets, please park on the same side to allow the plows to pass more easily. 🍷

Low Income **Senior** Water **Discount Program**

The Low Income Senior Citizens Water Discount Program reduces water bills by 35% for eligible applicants. To receive a water bill discount, customers must:

- be residents of Baltimore City
- be responsible for paying the water bill
- be age 65 or older
- have a gross household income of \$25,000 or less

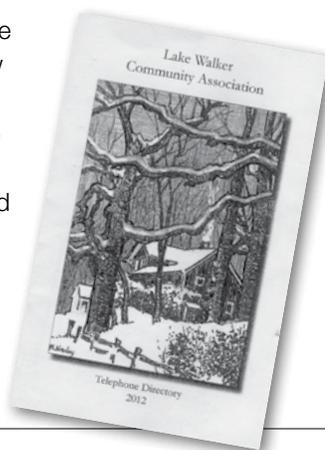
Applications and more details are available by calling **410-396-5398**.

Customers can also receive a copy of the application by visiting www.cleanwaterbaltimore.org. Click on the "Customer Care" tab and select "Senior Discount Application" from the drop down menu. 🍃



UPDATING THE DIRECTORY

We want to remind residents that we will be updating the directory this year. Any new residents or residents who would like to make changes to their listings need to contact Diana Bersani. The Directory is only available to dues-paying residents of Lake Walker. Please forward your information to directory@lakewalker.org 🍃



Keep up with neighborhood news. Join the forum or visit www.lakewalker.org



LakeWalker

**Lake Walker
Community Association**
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blockcaptain@lakewalker.org

Block Party Chair – Jim Pickett
blockparty@lakewalker.org

Communications Committee Chair – Cy Governs
communications@lakewalker.org

Citizens on Patrol Chair – Patti Gruber
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Newsletter Submissions –
newsletter@lakewalker.org

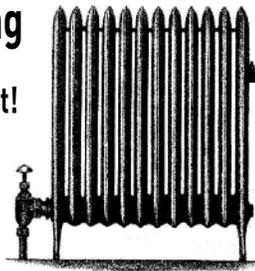
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- expires 3.31.2014 -

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