

LakeWalker

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
FALL 2014 NEWSLETTER



2014 BLOCK PARTY

A wonderful time was had by all...due to a beautiful day with perfect weather, great food, fun activities, and the friendship of neighbors old and new. Making its first (and possibly final) debut was the fiercely fought Mac 'n' Cheese Cook-Off, the winners of which were **Baylor Ziman** and **Caroline Preziosi**. Youngsters enjoyed the Moon Bounce, face painting, and climbing around on a fire engine. Also, many residents participated in the popular Sidewalk Chalk Art Contest, the winners of which are as follows: Ages 5-12: 1st – **Carmen Manna & Gabrielle Cassini**; 2nd – **Maggie & Lucy Burnham, Minna Knight & Grace Donnelly**; 3rd – **Mora Perl**. Ages 13+: 1st – **Josh Frick**; 2nd – **Genie Arnot**; 3rd – **Sage Craven**. Congratulations all! **Mike Boardman's** magnificent photo display covering 20 years of block parties was,

(Continued on pg. 2)

**MAYOR'S FALL
CLEAN UP**
October 25th



SAVE THE DATE! We will be cleaning up our adopted lots on both sides of Walker Ave. at York Rd. Bring work gloves and meet at 10 a.m. near the Lake Walker sign. We'll work for about an hour. Please put this date on your calendar now: Oct. 25th, 10 a.m.

Calendar
OF events

OCTOBER

LWCA General Meeting

Tuesday
October 21, 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.

10/18 **Dumpster Day** – on the corner of
Clearspring and Hollen.

10/25 **Mayor's Fall Cleanup**
(see information on this page)

NOVEMBER

11/5 **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: 12/3, 1/7.

11/19 **Northern Police District Meeting** –
7 p.m. @ the Northern District Police Head-
quarters, 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, 1/21,
3/18, 5/20.

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

Look for details about the
**WINTER MARDI
GRAS**, tentatively
scheduled on
February 15, 2015!

as always, a big hit. **Jim Bersani's** and **Rob Bowen's** artfully grilled hamburgers and hotdogs were complemented by a vast array of homemade side dishes and desserts. And our incredible raffle, featuring thousands of dollars' worth of wonderful prizes, netted \$1,015. This, combined with generous cash donations from the new **Murphy's Neighborhood Bar & Grill**, **Deb Weinberg** and **Marshall Kinsley**, and the sale of left-over food, enabled us to come within \$300 of breaking even. Not bad, considering it was a rain date and there was no grant from the City. Moreover, we collected \$740 in LWCA dues. Please pay them now if you missed the party (see page 4 for more information).

A hearty round of thanks goes out to the many volunteers who helped set up, take down, paint faces, supervise the moon bounce... and especially to **Scott Knight** for always providing the sound system and music, to **Scott Donnelly** for the big grill; and finally, to the people behind the scenes who make it all happen, the Block Party Committee: **Janet Abramovitz, Barb Dent, Scott Dombrowski, Greg Dorsey, Jan Dykacz, Cy Governs, Judy Gemmill, Kathryn Knight, Marita Manna, Deb & Jim Pickett, Val Sirani, Deb Weinberg, Bruce Ziman, and Meg Zimmerman.**

And don't forget our local merchants and neighbors who donated to our raffle... please support them! 🙏

OCTOBER 21

LWCA GENERAL MEETING

Please attend the fall meeting at 7:30 p.m. on **Tuesday, October 21** in the Arbor Oaks Meeting Room. The address is 813 Lenton Ave., south of Lake Ave. Lenton is opposite where Highway 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

- Welcome
- Minutes Review
- President Update
- Treasurer Report
- Yearly Donation Vote
- Police Update
- New Community on Patrol (COP) Chair
- **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
 - Communication – (Cy Governs)
 - Citizens on Patrol – (Molly Anderson)
 - Housing – (Meg Zimmerman)
 - Block Captain – (Jim Pickett)
 - Education – (Shannen Coleman Siciliano)
- Surveying streets for residents who desire Resident Parking permits
- Traffic flow / Speed humps survey
- Alert for Safety Concerns and Essential Messages
- Election Slate Announcement 🙏

PLEASE SUPPORT the following and thank them for their generous contribution to the 2014 Lake Walker Block Party.

Shoo-Fly Diner
Atwater's
 Uncle Wiggly's Ice Cream & Deli
Brick Bodies
 Sass Salon
 Joye's
Belvedere Veterinary Center
 Pinehurst Wine Shoppe
 Johnny's Sofi's Crepes
Babylon Nails and Spa
 Pure Chocolate by Jini
 Senator Theatre
 Lawrence Plumbing & Heating
 TCBY
24-7 Entertainment
 Planet Produce
 Green Fields Nursery and Landscaping
 Fitness Together
 Wells Discount Liquors
THANKS!
 Starbucks Coffee
 Fruitti Yummi
 Little Havana
 Party Plus/Taylor Rental
 Greg's Bagels
 Sherwood Auto
Ceriello Fine Foods
 Egyptian Pizza
Baltimore Yoga Village
 Pizza Mart
 Swallow at the Hollow
 Erin Hans, LMT
 Jerry's Belvedere Tavern
 Neopol Savory Smokery
Ayd Hardware
 Sachs Design
 Cards by Diana Bersani
Café Zen/Zen West
 Tooloulou
Atelier Eight14 Fine Jewelry
 National Basketball Association
 Murphy's Neighborhood Bar & Grill

BY MERI ROBBIE-CRAVEN

State of the **LWCA**

BY VALERIE SIRANI

As the autumn breeze begins to be felt in the early morning hours, it is a time to reflect. When I volunteered to serve on the Lake Walker Community Association Board, I really didn't think it would be as consuming as it really has been. When Patti and I moved into the neighborhood, there were small steps we took that led to a greater sense of community. We grew concerned about a few things and began to attend General Meetings, read the newsletter a little more carefully, and stopped scheduling our vacations in early September so we could attend the Block Party. We got involved. All these steps really gave us an understanding of the larger benefit of what we now call our

“There are many things that can be done to improve our community, as well as continue to make it a place in which we are all proud of living. There are a few projects that could use a project manager, so please get involved.”

community. There is an avenue for you to contribute, no matter what your interests are, so I encourage you to contribute. There are many things that can be done to improve our community, as well as continue to make it a place in which we are all proud of living. There are a few projects that could use a project manager, so please get involved.

Many of your neighbors over the past year have contributed to making this community a great place to live. Houses have been selling, even one with a bidding war! We are a pocket of wonderful people and beautiful gardens, as well as neighbors who are willing to help one another grow. We have advocated for appropriate interventions according to housing and other city codes. **Meg Zimmerman** has been a wonderful Housing Committee Chair, keeping abreast of all problematic housing situations in our community (this means that she has been the squeaky wheel, so we are not forgotten). **Cy Governs**, our Communication Chair, has been an asset, advisor, and conscience that we could not live without. **Scott Dombrowski**, our website administrator, has been a wonderful advisor. **Shannen Coleman Siciliano** has provided insight to the education issues that affect our community.

Engagement was the main drive this past year, specifically engaging neighbors from all the areas that make up Lake Walker. The outer layers of our community make up the book cover of those passing by. For the first time, we had two

clean-up sites for the Mayor's Clean-Up Day, during which 32 people came out to clear trash at two corners that border our community. I pass by both sites regularly and have to say that the Northwood area that was part of the clean-up continues to be in great shape. The apartments now have recycling bins that they didn't have before. We had a Mardi Gras celebration at Zen West that had a fantastic turnout; maybe too many King Cakes (according to Martha) but the playdough was a big hit with the kids.

General Meetings have averaged around 15 people, with the largest draw when we had Towson University representatives attend. Let us know what might get you to attend! We had a Block Captain Training led by The Greater Homewood Corporation and about 15-20 of the 32 registered Block Captains attended. We have designed a fresh Welcome Packet

for our Block Captains to distribute to new residents, and formulated an actual job description for our Block Captains.

We have had community volunteers like **Barbara Dent & Kathy Brohawn** attend The York Road Partnership meetings on our behalf. **Eileen Gwin** has provided insight to working with our student renters, including a process for our Meet & Greets. The Block Party Committee Volunteers—even despite of the rain delay—could not have worked more seamlessly, led yet again by **Jim & Deb Pickett**.

Susan Patry has led the initiative in our participation in Live Baltimore, discovering that our community is NOT well known amongst real estate agents. With the help of **Lucy Sarris**, we were able to have Lake Walker chosen as one of the communities for the second Live Baltimore bus tour on September 27, 2014. **Diana Bersani** and **Richard Messick** have worked diligently on the production of our new directory that you may have received with the newsletter if you paid your membership dues. The last directory had 5 advertisers. This year at the time of this writing we have a projected 12 advertisers. Great job and thanks to **Marshall Kinsley** for his wonderful drawing for our cover.

Our newsletter crew, **Peter Hammerer**, **Meri Robie-Craven**, and **Darby Lassiter**, is simply amazing. And finally, thanks to **Patti** for giving up our time. 🙏

Update on GOVANS ELEMENTARY



BY SHANNEN COLEMAN SICILIANO

Govans Elementary School is a high performing public school, serving just under 400 students, including those bounded by York Rd. on the west and Highwood Dr., Yorkshire Rd., and Weidner Ave. on the east. At the start of the 2015 school year, Govans will become a Baltimore Curriculum Project (BCP) neighborhood charter school. Other BCP schools include Hampstead Hill Academy, Wolfe Street Academy, and City Springs Elementary/Middle School. The partnership with Govans Elementary and the Baltimore Curriculum Project (BCP) is underway as Govans prepares to be a BCP Charter School for fall 2015. Here are a few updates:

- Last May, equipment, iPads, and book fair money were stolen from the school. BCP raised funds over the summer to replace the equipment.
- The design process for the construction of the new school building will take place this school year. The timeline will be shared as meetings get scheduled.
- BCP applied for a \$150,000.00 Federal Charter School Planning Grant. This will address a variety of needs at Govans, including technology updates and teacher training.

Look for community information sessions scheduled in the fall/winter during the 2014-2015 school year. 🍏

STAYALERT

BY CYMANTHA (CY) GOVERNS

Many of you get the latest LWCA news from this newsletter or the Lake Walker website. Now there's another way for you to get important news.

Sign up at the website below to receive targeted LWCA alerts in your email. These alerts will fall into two categories:

- 1) Reminders about upcoming LWCA events
- 2) Crime-related or public safety alerts

To subscribe to email alerts from the Lake Walker Community Association, please visit:

www.surveymonkey.com/s/QW7J2V8



A few important points:

- Only LWCA board members/committee chairs will send these alerts.
- Your email address will be hidden from others.
- You can choose to unsubscribe from the alerts at any time.
- Some of you may remember the mailing list from a few years ago. Unlike that, these emails will NOT allow you to respond and have a group discussion—that is what the LWCA forum (lakewalker.org/forum) is for. In most cases, we will only send an email about the initial situation and will post related updates on the forum.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact **Cymantha (Cy) Governs**, the LWCA Communications Chair, at communications@lakewalker.org 🍏

CALL FOR DUES! Have YOU paid your COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION DUES? BY MARTHA PALMER

Sorry we missed you at the Block Party!

It's time to pay dues for 2015. If you haven't done so, please send in your dues, \$10 per household and \$5 for seniors. Dues help support many activities and provide many benefits to our community. Dues offset the cost of our Newsletter, the Block Party, the Winter Fiesta/Mardi Gras party. Dues also support information sharing, neighborhood promotion and advocacy with the city. Households who pay dues are entitled to receive the community directory, which was recently updated.

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.

Touchscreens for Homebound Seniors

There is a pilot program to lend 45 touchscreen computers to homebound, disabled seniors (55+) who otherwise spend most of their time alone. GEDCO's Virtual Senior Center initiative places large, 22-inch, all-in-one touchscreen devices with webcams into the homes of socially-isolated older adults. Through the devices, seniors who are stuck in their homes will have new opportunities to continue to have engaging and meaningful lives. Interactive discussions, chair exercise classes, book clubs, and Bible study are just a few of the activities to which participants would have access. The touchscreens will allow them to interact with other seniors, Skype with family members, play games, etc. GEDCO is soliciting participants and accepting referrals.

TO LEARN MORE, please go to the GEDCO website — www.gedco.org > click on the "News and Events" tab and then click on "Virtual Senior Center" or visit GEDCO-sponsored site www.kintera.org/faf/home/default.asp?ievent=1114229. Please share this information with your neighbors! 🙌

CRIMEWATCH

Door-To-Door SCAM

BY CYMANTHA (CY) GOVERNS

For decades, residents of Lake Walker and adjacent neighbors have fallen victim to the same professional scammer. Here's the typical scenario:

The man approaches a resident on the street or knocks on the door. He says he needs help: He's locked himself out of his nearby house or car and the locksmith requires \$22 cash up front. If you lend him the money, he'll go to the ATM and get the money to pay you back once he can get inside to his wallet.

Many kind-hearted residents respond generously, only to never see him (or their money) again.

The amount of money requested varies (reports on the Lake Walker website forum mention \$22, \$21, \$18), but it's usually around \$20, and the rest of the details remain the same. Victims describe the man as an African-American man in his 50s, often dressed very nicely and wearing glasses. However, he may employ associates, or other persons may attempt this scam, so it is wise to be suspicious of this specific scenario. If you are approached, you should call 9-1-1 as soon as you safely can. 🙌



Want to
ADVERTISE?

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

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410-302-3336

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secretary@lakewalker.org

Treasurer – Martha Palmer
treasurer@lakewalker.org

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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
COP@lakewalker.org

Newsletter Submissions –
newsletter@lakewalker.org

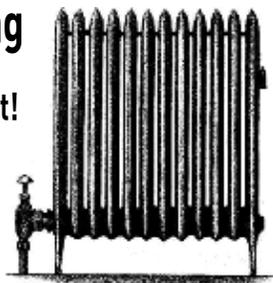
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