

HAMPDEN HAPPENINGS

The latest news and updates from Hampden, Baltimore

Hampden Community Council • Since 1976 • www.hampdenhappenings.org • December 2005

Merry Christmas, Hampden — and Happy New Year, Hon!



President's Message

by Eli Lopatin, HCC President (hccpresident@gmail.com)

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DAVID STYSLEY

Dear Neighbors,

As we enter this holiday season, I am filled with a sense of gratitude for our community, and for our neighbors within Hampden and beyond. This has been a challenging year of confronting a global pandemic and its repercussions, and of confronting historical forces that have placed invisible boundaries around our neighborhood. Efforts to protect our neighbors have meant missing HonFest and Hampdenfest. We do not have the Annual Mayor's Christmas Parade to look forward to this year, and we are being asked to avoid the world renowned Christmas lights on 34th Street.

Despite these challenges, our neighbors continue to do what they do best - look out for each other. We continue to greet and ask after each other on the street, albeit from behind masks. Nearly 300 of our residents have volunteered for our Self Quarantine Support Network, and remain ready to assist vulnerable neighbors with tasks such as grocery pickup. While some businesses have closed, new ones have also opened. We must continue to support them throughout the holiday season and beyond.

We will get through this season, together, even if we cannot be together physically, and we will come into the new year stronger than ever. Wishing everyone a safe, happy, and healthy holiday season and new year! We will see you in 2021!



Candidates for 2021 HCC Board

The below candidates are running to represent the 2021 HCC Board as an Officer or Board Member. As a reminder, the election will occur during the November HCC Annual meeting. To vote, you must have paid your 2020 annual HCC dues and attended at least two meetings in the calendar year. If you have questions about the nomination and election process, please contact Jeanne Davis at hccnominations@gmail.com. If you have questions about dues payment or meeting attendance, please contact Aaron Feierstein at hccmembershipquestions@gmail.com.

Eli Lopatin - President:

How long have you lived or worked in Hampden?

I've lived on Morling Avenue for six years.

What is your favorite part about the neighborhood?

The small town, neighborhood, caring feel within the larger context of Baltimore City, and the ever growing desire for inclusivity in welcoming friends and neighbors with various backgrounds, races, identities and beliefs.

What is something your neighbors should know about you? What do you like to do?

Didn't get to mention the neighborhood's proximity to parks and green spaces in the last answer, but my wife, Dina, and I can often be found walking our pup Lucia at one of them. Lucia and our open spaces have truly kept us sane during the pandemic.

Describe an idea, project or program to improve or promote Hampden or the HCC:

Once the world opens back up, I'm looking forward to a big party with all of our neighbors!

What is one thing that the HCC can do to better serve the neighborhood in 2021?

We can continually strive to ensure that all voices in the neighborhood are represented and heard.

Aaron Feierstein - Vice President:

How long have you lived or worked in Hampden?

I moved to Hampden (Hickory Ave.) in 2016 with my wife and dog. Our first child, Ethan, just turned One this past October.

What is your favorite part about the neighborhood?

How close we are to restaurants, parks, grocery stores, Falkenhan's, and of course the liquor store :).

What is something your neighbors should know about you? What do you like to do?

I enjoy taking my kid to the neighborhood playgrounds, hiking out in Baltimore County and playing the local golf courses. I also recently started a property management business (Hickory Property Management) to formalize a passion I have built over the past 10 years.

Describe an idea, project or program to improve or promote Hampden or the HCC:

I want to continue to improve the relationship with our Hampden residents and businesses. As the membership committee chair in 2020, we have emphasized improved communications (eg. by regularly publishing the newsletter) and have even bigger plans for 2021.

What is one thing that the HCC can do to better serve the neighborhood in 2021?

The HCC should continue to progress its public safety committee started in 2020 and continue to engage the community in events and meetings.

Matt Stegman - Treasurer:

How long have you lived or worked in Hampden?

Six years.

What is your favorite part about the neighborhood?

Our amazing, caring and engaged neighbors.

What is something your neighbors should know about you? What do you like to do?

Most of my free time is spent playing and learning from my two children. Besides the HCC, I volunteer on the board of the Hampden Family Center.

Describe an idea, project or program to improve or promote Hampden or the HCC:

When it is safe to do so, I'd love to bring back HCC's clean-up walks.

What is one thing that the HCC can do to better serve the neighborhood in 2021?

Keep figuring out how to bring the community together when we can't safely gather together.

Mary Rose Cook - Secretary:

How long have you lived or worked in Hampden?

56 years.

What is your favorite part about the neighborhood?

The diversity of people, places and things to do.

What is something your neighbors should know about you? What do you like to do?

I am an attorney who handles Estates and Trusts. I like volunteering at the Maryland Zoo, Baltimore Ski Club and Ravens Roost. I feel that community is important.

Describe an idea, project or program to improve or promote Hampden or the HCC:

Communication. Circulation of the newsletter is important. Community outreach activities so that the community sees what we are doing.

What is one thing that the HCC can do to better serve the neighborhood in 2021?

Communication is key. The majority of Hampden does not know what the HCC is and what we do.

Nicholas Blendy - Board Member:

How long have you lived or worked in Hampden?

Since April 2019.

What is your favorite part about the neighborhood?

The recreational opportunities (eg. parks, pool, rec center, bike trails, etc.).

What is something your neighbors should know about you? What do you like to do?

I once met then-Senator Joe Biden at a gas station in Cheswolde, DE when I was about 11

or 12 years old (somewhere in the early-90s). I remember that he was a nice man.

Describe an idea, project or program to improve or promote Hampden or the HCC:

Organized monthly park clean ups to assist the Rec & Parks Department in their efforts to keep our parks clean.

What is one thing that the HCC can do to better serve the neighborhood in 2021?

Just keep doing good volunteer work until COVID-19 pandemic ends and we can safely gather inperson again.

Jeanne Davis - Board Member:

How long have you lived or worked in Hampden?

15 years.

What is your favorite part about the neighborhood?

The neighbors!

What is something your neighbors should know about you? What do you like to do?

Explore new places.

Describe an idea, project or program to improve or promote Hampden or the HCC:

More trash cans.

What is one thing that the HCC can do to better serve the neighborhood in 2021?

Increase membership.

Adam Falzarano - Board Member:

How long have you lived or worked in Hampden?

2.5 years.

What is your favorite part about the neighborhood?

Everything there is to do on the Avenue, the history of the neighborhood.

What is something your neighbors should know about you? What do you like to do?

Music lower, play guitar.

Describe an idea, project or program to improve or promote Hampden or the HCC:

A local dog park would be a great addition to the area.

What is one thing that the HCC can do to better serve the neighborhood in 2021?

Re-imagining public safety (as efforts have already been made by the public safety committee) can help serve the neighborhood by making it safer and more inclusive.

Kathy Krampien - Board Member:

How long have you lived or worked in Hampden?

I closed on the day before Thanksgiving 2000 so twenty years to the day.

What is your favorite part about the neighborhood?

The small town feel in a big city. And various streets remind me of places. A tree lined Wellington reminds me of Paris and the trails around Hopkins reminds me of Portugal.

What is something your neighbors should know about you? What do you like to do?

I am an artist, writer and filmmaker. I've been involved in community art projects all over the city. I am currently committed to revitalizing Roosevelt Park to make it a safe place for residents. I'm working on a launch a mural project in the playground area.

And Divine did my hair for the original "Hairspray". Said I had the best hair in Baltimore.

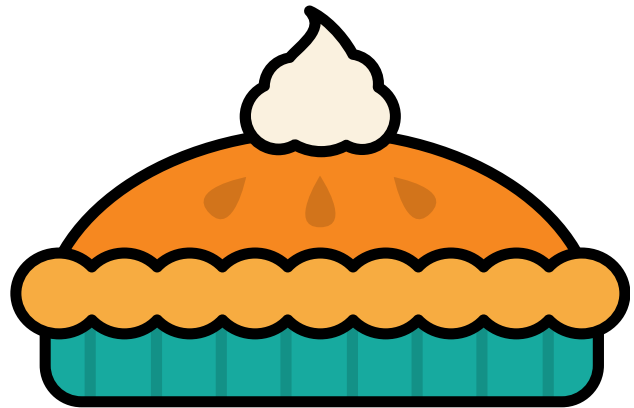
Describe an idea, project or program to improve or promote Hampden or the HCC:

I'm currently working to clean up the children's playground at Roosevelt Park. And I am working with Aaron on a revitalized Hampden Happenings newsletter. I'm looking to cover more arts and entertainment. In coming months look for poetry, stories,

restaurant reviews, art openings and other Hampden (and Baltimore) Happenings.

What is one thing that the HCC can do to better serve the neighborhood in 2021?

To continue being a stabilizing and guiding influence during the challenges that we will all face in the months ahead.



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ACCE School Update

Students show civic pride as part of the John Lewis Voting Initiative.

By Abby Baldwin

As citizens turned out to cast their votes on Election Day they were met with cheers from the ACCE Civic Engagement Team on Tuesday, November 3rd! “We love voters!” and “Thank you for voting!” was heard from the ACCE Poll Volunteers as voters walked in to cast their votes in person at the ACCE Building.

The activity was inspired by the YMCA in Central Maryland’s John Lewis Voting Initiative where young people would volunteer to stand in line for elderly or voters with diverse abilities if the voting lines were too long.

While the lines at ACCE were short due to the incredible poll workers ACCE students were excited to be a part of the atmosphere and cheer on voters. The impacts were felt all over the Hampden Community as neighbors shared their experiences with the ACCE students. One neighbor commented, “Shout out to all the students at ACCE, who despite being too young to vote have given their time to make the process easier!”

A local restaurant and ACCE Partner, Chuck’s Trading Post, made a special delivery of free coffee and breakfast sandwiches to the student volunteers and after reading about the students on social media neighbors chipped in to buy the students lunch from Chuck’s too! Overall, it was an incredible experience and day for Democracy at ACCE. It was incredible to see a community coming together to support civic engagement.



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Editor's Report

by Kathy Krampien, Newsletter Committee Chair (hccnewsletter@gmail.com)

**No Virginia.... No Hampden's annual Christmas Parade. It's 2020!
What were you expecting? Here's your roll of toilet paper.**

As the holidays draw closer, many of our annual events and festivities are either cancelled or limited to our now boringly familiar virtual reality. No crowded holiday bazaars with warming cups of cocoa or mulled wine. No lighting of monuments or national Christmas trees and most depressing of all, no parades. No Santa arriving in Hampden on the first Sunday of December in the year 2020.

2020 would have been the 48th year of the Mayor's Christmas Parade in Hampden. The actual year of the first parade is a bit hazy. According to the grand master himself, Tom Kerr, the parade started with a phone call from the illustrious William Donald Schaeffer. That was supposedly in 1973, which would make it 47 years. The Baltimore Sun, the Baltimore City Paper and the Baltimore Messenger all had different years. What is not in dispute is the mayor's phone call requesting that an annual holiday parade be held in Hampden. Not downtown but something small and quaint. While no longer small, it certainly remains quaint and quirky and a proud display of Hampden in all of its oddball glory.



The parade is a curious twist of old and new. Baltimore City rawness mixes it up with old school Hampden. Rows of strait laced high school bands marching stiffly, playing loud brassy show tunes; followed closely by the whoop a\$\$ed git down of inner city drumlines and the girls kicking it in their homemade sparkles and Rainbow boots. Locally made floats, a lonesome Lone Ranger (the year Silver #1 died), beauty queens, mayors, Mary Pat, numerous skateboarding doggies and a one armed Grinch have all passed by over the years.

A friend of mine loves the hypnotic melodies of the Peruvian flutists and dancers. Year after year, he's out there flailing around like an extra from a Peruvian set of the Walking Dead. Mini cars, old cars, new cars, motorcycles, mopeds and marching grocery clerks. Shriners, Mummies and multiple Boumi temple guys in cars, on floats, scooters and mini flying carpets complete with camels. Then finally, of course Santa. Good times.





Tom Kerr has been the chief engineer of the parade for almost 50 years. A seriously sweet guy with lots of charm and not a little bit of that old Hampden hustle. He has a plethora of pictures, newspaper articles and personal stories. That he and assorted family members have been able to keep this logistical nightmare running smoothly for 47+ years, says a great deal about him. So many participants and volunteers, hundreds of parade veterans and newbies to be molded into a 2 mile long congo line swaying to the holiday beat. Tom has it down to a fine science all his own.

Tom Kerr and fans

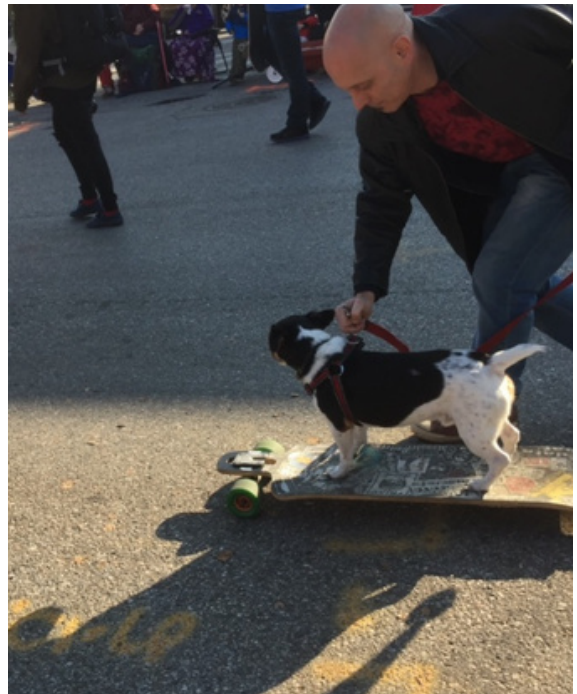


The one non stop aspect of the parade is the never ending scramble for money. Everyone gets paid even the Peruvians who drive up from Virginia. And just like the balloons themselves, the cost of helium continues to go up. Mummers and Shriners all need to get paid. I always assumed people volunteered because who doesn't want to be in a parade.

I guess people do want to be in parades but they need to pay for those uniforms and Silver's silver polish and gas for mini motorized magic carpets that really can't fly.

The end less hustle for cash over the years, has even produced a small mystery. Volunteers with buckets pass through the parade crowds collecting money and one year someone tossed in a wedding band. An inexpensive gold band that begs an answer to the eternal question; heartfelt or heartache? No answer has been forthcoming; and the mystery of it will continue to persist a swill the actual year of the first parade.

Maybe in 2021, we can skip 48 and 49. Just go straight to the big "50" and throw twice the parade party that we were cheated out of this year. Tom? Thoughts? I've got rings. Call me.



The Baltimore Art Gallery: Current Offerings

The Baltimore Art Gallery on 36th Street has just released works from their most current roster of Baltimore artists. Included in the most recent works on display are Rebecca Scheuerman, Ellyn Stokes Ross, Sheila Wells, Michelle Spiziri and Nick Aumiller. November's featured artist is Ellyn Stokes Ross. Her large paper cutouts are beautiful to behold, especially the tree. A glorious signature piece fit for anyone's home. And Rebecca Scheuerman's work has that old school richness and warmth that makes me want to enjoy a good port as my eye lingers on her work. Nick Aumiller is the featured artist for December. His "cooking Geisha's" are a witty and fun addition to any kitchen.



"Hypnotic Eyes" by Michelle Spiziri,
8" square

\$90.00



"Baltimore Treat" by Rebecca
Scheuerman, 8" square

\$90.00



"Untitled 16.898" by Ellyn Stokes
Ross, 16" square



"Stroke #1" by Sheila Wells, 16"
square

\$210.00



"Geisha - Ladel #1" by Nick Aumiller,
12" square

\$150.00

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HCC Committee Updates

HCC Zoning & Land Use Committee Update *By Martin Burian*

Buena Vista Ave and Dellwood Ave

The HCC received notice that the City received a resubmitted subdivision plan for the corner of Buena Vista Avenue and Dellwood Avenue from owners/developers Greendoor Properties and Stonewall Development. The developers engaged with neighbors on essentially the same plans in 2018, and ultimately received approval for the subdivision. However, the approval lapsed when the project did not move forward.

The current subdivision plan includes the same six townhomes, a forest conservation area and the possibility of an additional freestanding home, as in the previous plan. There is also an easement proposed for the existing continuation of Morling Avenue to Buena Vista Avenue. The proposed design for the townhomes remains three- to four-story modern structures. The HCC is working to reach out to neighbors to provide input on the proposed development. The planning documents are available to view at: <https://baltimoreplanning.wixsite.com/subdivisions> under Subdivision #2020-014.

1006 W 36th St (Tattoo Studio)

A tattoo artist is proposing to use retail space on the Avenue for a tattoo studio in the space of the former Hampden Junque boutique. The building is zoned in a Neighborhood Business (C-1) district and use of the space as a tattoo studio is a conditional use. A hearing on the conditional use appeal before the Board of Municipal Zoning Appeals is currently scheduled for December 1.

2021 Membership Updates by Aaron Feierstein, Membership Committee Chair
(hccmembershquestions@gmail.com)

Hi neighbors. Even in light of the pandemic, thank you for your generous support of the HCC this past year. We would like to thank all of you (including individuals, families and businesses) who have contributed to the HCC in 2020. We have not been able to get together in person as often as we'd like, but your support has enabled us to continue to represent the interests of our neighborhood.

Moving into 2021, we will not be making any changes to individual or family membership dues but we do have some exciting updates to share regarding business membership. **We will be moving to an annual sponsorship model for businesses in 2021** to provide differing levels of value (see tiers below). Our website will be updated to reflect these tiers and allow you to purchase a 2021 business sponsorship. As always, we are open to feedback and questions. Have a happy holiday season!

2021 HCC Annual Business Sponsorship Tiers:

Bronze: Annual HCC Membership (similar to our 2020 business membership - supports HCC committees, events and newsletters)

Silver: Annual HCC Membership, Logo and website link presented on newsletter 'Sponsor Page', Drawings for newsletter content

Gold: Annual HCC Membership, Logo and website link presented on newsletter 'Sponsor Page', Drawings for newsletter content, 1/4 page ad

Platinum: Annual HCC Membership, Logo and website link presented on newsletter 'Sponsor Page', Guaranteed one piece of content/year, 1/2 page ad

Premier Platinum: Annual HCC Membership, Logo and website link presented on newsletter 'Sponsor Page', Guaranteed one piece of content/year, full page ad





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