

HAMPDEN HAPPENINGS

The latest news and updates from Hampden, Baltimore



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President's Message

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

It's not quite feeling like fall as I write this on an 81 degree sunny October day, but sure enough, some of the leaves outside my window are starting to change, and the cooler weather will be here before we know it. We're also starting to hear encouraging news that COVID-19 positivity rates are once again declining, and we enter this new season with a sense of optimism and excitement for the return of some of our longstanding community traditions.

Hampden Halloweenfest, sponsored by our friends at the Hampden Village Merchants Association, returns on Sunday, October 31st, from 4-7 p.m., with trick-or-treating along the Avenue, Chestnut, and Falls Road, as well as an all-ages costume contest with trophies for the scariest, prettiest, and most original costumes. Plans are in place for the competitions to take place in a safe, and socially distanced fashion, and we encourage neighbors to maintain that safety and incorporate masks into costumes, whether along the Avenue, or while trick-or-treating throughout the neighborhood.

And, the 48th Mayor's Christmas Parade is returning this year on Sunday, December 5th. The marching bands, floats, balloons, cars, and surprise guests will follow the route from Poly/Western all the way down Falls Rd. to the Avenue, and make their way to the end at 36th and Chestnut. The parade's name is actually a bit misleading - it is not organized by the Mayor, or by Baltimore City, but by our Medfield neighbor Tom Kerr, who was tapped to organize it nearly 50 years ago, by then Mayor William Donald Schaefer. Tom needs our support this year, so if you're interested in being a part of making this great day happen, please reach out and we will connect you.

The week before the parade, on Monday, November 29th, will be the HCC's annual meeting, when elections for our board will take place. As a reminder, all that is required to vote in the election or run for a position is to be an HCC member in good standing. This means you must pay your annual dues and attend at least two meetings - if you have never attended, join us on October 25th to learn more and get involved!

Looking forward to seeing you around the neighborhood!

-Eli

Call for 2022 HCC Board Nominations

Reach out to Jeanne Davis, Nominations Committee Chair, with any questions (hccnominations@gmail.com)

It's that time of year again! Interested in becoming a HCC Officer or Board Member? Please answer Interested in becoming a HCC Officer or Board Member? Please answer and submit [this candidate questionnaire](#) and let everyone know a little bit about yourself. Candidates' responses received by October 25th will appear in the November Hampden Happenings newsletter. You can still apply and be on the ballot after October 25th, but your responses won't be published. The election for Board and Officer positions will occur during the November HCC Annual meeting.

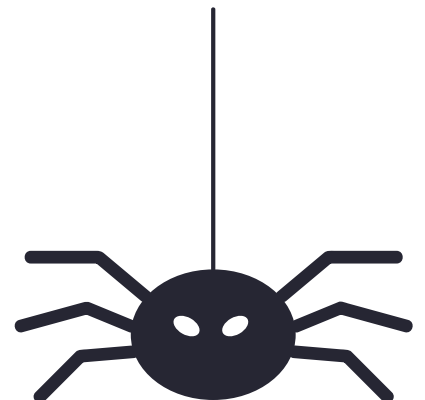
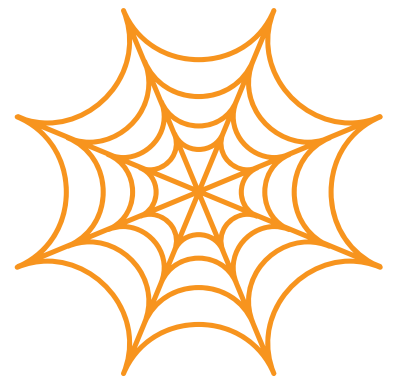
To be eligible to run for a Board or Officer position, you must have paid your annual HCC dues and attended at least two meetings in the calendar year. If you have questions about the nomination and election process or about the candidate questionnaire, please contact Jeanne Davis at hccnominations@gmail.com.

Notes from the Editor

HALLOWEEN

Halloween is back in Hampden. 2020 wasn't the same without it. I've been celebrating Halloween in Hampden longer than I've lived here. I used to have friends living on Elm and we would go through the yearly ritual. My friend David would track the number of kids and their costumes. There were 4 primary groups - princess, cheerleader, cowboy, and astronaut. When a costume crossed into a gray area such as a soldier, we would have to vote. It was all good fun. I've continued with the tradition of handing out candy, but I don't track costumes. There are so many options now, no one bothers being a cowboy or a cheerleader.

-



Halloween itself morphed out of the old Irish harvest festival, Samhain. Celtic legend has it that during Samhain, the gates to the underworld would open, allowing the souls of the dead and supernatural creatures such as werewolves to wander. Under Christianity, it became All Hallows eve and began to include saints and martyrs amongst the lost souls.

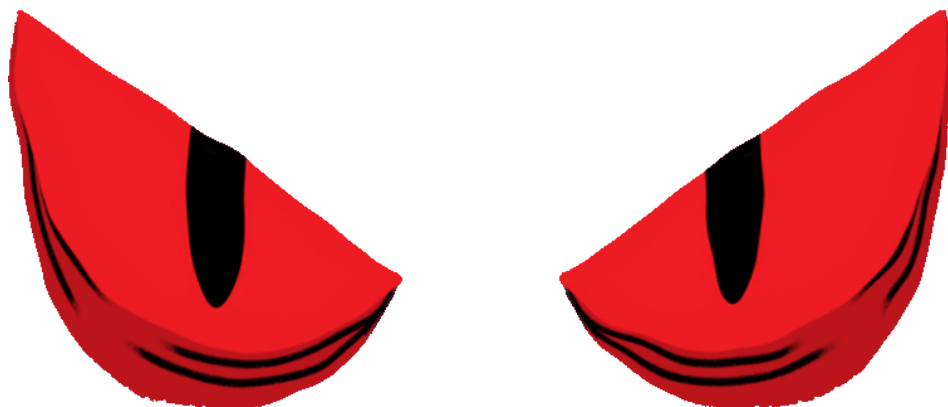
From the 16th century on, people started “guising” or going in costume. In England, it was known as “souling” and white sheets were worn. Groups would gather at homes and sing in exchange for treats. Jack-o-Lanterns started out as carved turnips that were used as lanterns. Travelers to the new world found the native pumpkin much easier to carve and let’s face it, a whole lot cooler than a turnip.

The first official reference to Halloween in the Americas was in Ontario, Canada in 1911. By 1930 we had our first haunted house. From there sprung parties and Halloween treats. Candy Corn, lollipops and candy apples were favorites. (FYI 2021 - Tootsie Pop makes a killer caramel apple sucker. I don’t think the bag is making it to October 31.)

This year for Halloween, the front yard will be decorated. The candy delivery system hasn’t been worked out although I’m leaning toward a long pvc pipe. There will be candies for everyone and scary toys for the cutest and the best. And as usual, I’ll keep back some candy for the scragglers. There’s always some poor kid whose parent was late getting home from work. A couple of years ago, it was a young girl. Mine was the only light still on. She didn’t have a single piece candy and I filled her bag. Her father, the late parent, started weeping because his baby girl got her bag of candy.

Stay Bootitiful,

Kathy



BOO!

HAMPDEN HALLOWEEN

Sunday, October 31st

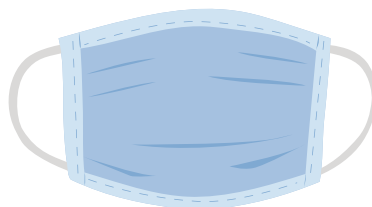
Trick or Treating

4-7 with the Merchants.

After dark in the neighborhood.

Stay Safe and be sure to wear

your mask!!

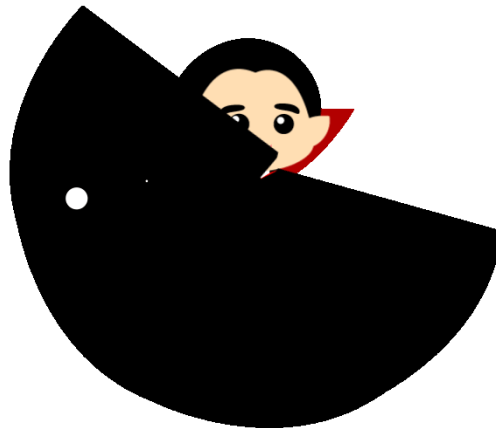


AND DON'T FORGET THE HAMPDEN HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST

4-7pm on the Avenue: Visit one of our **selfie** booths located on the Avenue during Hampden Halloween Fest to enter into one of the many different costume categories.

Send your selfie to **#Hampdenmerchants**.

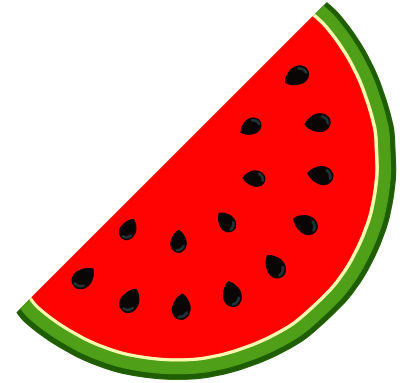
Trophies will be awarded after Halloween.



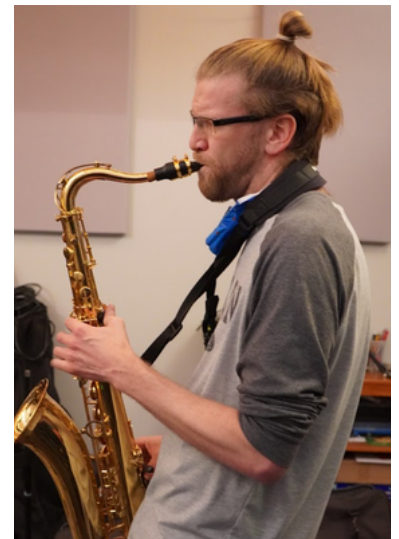
The Musical Secrets of Watermelons

by Kathy Krampien

I've always enjoyed listening to music. I was never one for music videos, because for me music has always been about memories. Late at night, I'll sit in my office and play different songs. My current favorite is a Colombian artist named Juanes who's doing a sultry Latino version of the Boss's "Dancing in the Dark". My memory for this song is sitting in my car while waiting in line to exit the Ohio Turnpike. Blasting it out through my open windows and sunroof for the truckers and other fellow travelers, it's a Springsteen melody that many Americans will immediately recognize. Never during any of these musical sojourns have I ever considered what it takes to make a recording of such a song. That is until I spoke with Garrett Long.



Garrett Long planned to be an English teacher while attending college at Towson University. A lifelong musician and self-proclaimed audio nerd, he had a change of heart and transitioned from the written word into music after graduation.



Ryan Comstock of the Wide-Eyed Lounge Cats

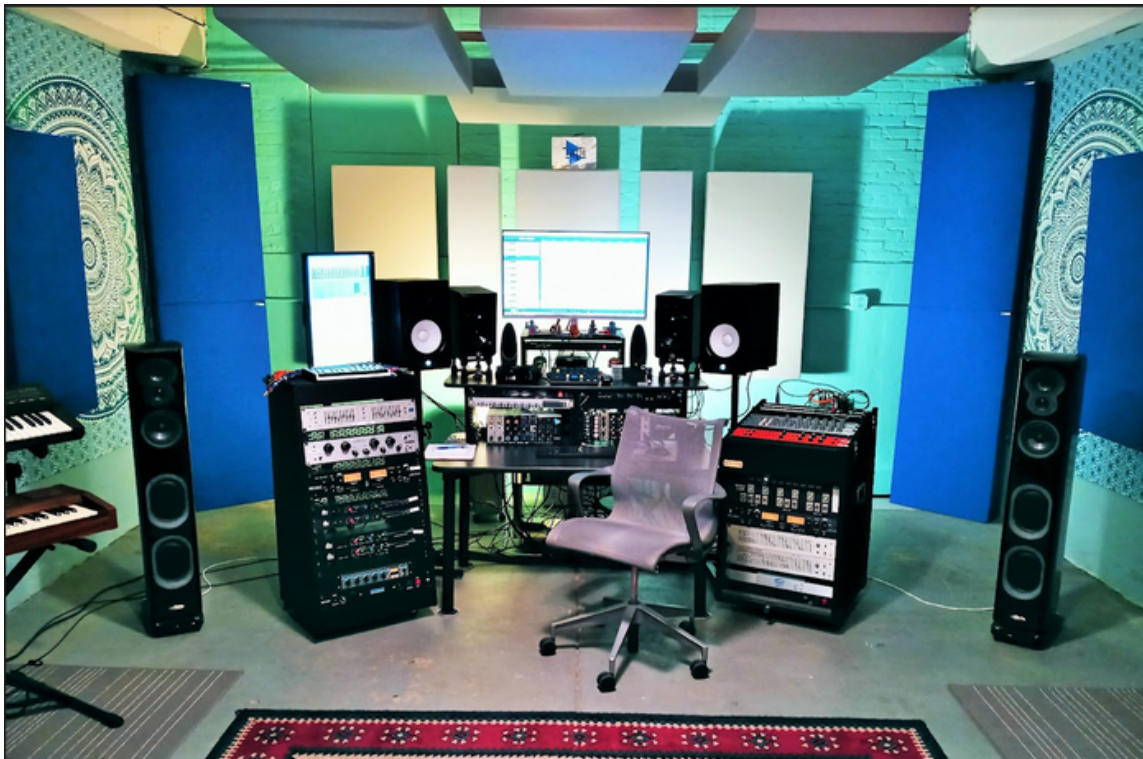
The craft and attention to detail that he would have applied to bookish endeavors are now focused on producing music for a wide variety of different artists and bands. I became aware of Long and his studio through my conversations with Ryan Comstock of the Wide-Eyed Lounge Cats (WELC).

The original Watermelon Room began eight years ago in Long's home in Hamilton. The studio was in the basement and had served the previous occupants as a children's playroom. The walls were painted pink and green - hence The Watermelon Room.



Since moving to Hampden in 2017, the current version of the Watermelon Room has been hidden deep amongst Hampden's Mill Center complex. Now located in a more accommodating commercial space, the recording studio is still painted in welcoming and bright colors. With several rooms and a spacious lounge, the studio offers a variety of instruments and recording equipment in a well-designed acoustic space that allow artists to pursue their musical creativity in comfort.

Ryan and the other members of WELC have produced an album and an EP at The Watermelon Room and have been very pleased with the results. Their most recent efforts are scheduled to be released before the end of the year. The band also rehearses at the studio, and Long frequently assists them with sound at their live gigs.



Originally from Salisbury, Long's grandmother owned a dance studio and ballet production company. He was raised in an arts-centric environment and grew a deep appreciation for all kinds of creative expression. Garrett developed a budding interest in audio when he first picked up a pair of drumsticks in middle school and began recording to cassette tape on an old karaoke machine. In addition to his recording studio, Long also works at his alma mater Towson University and several city venues as a live sound engineer.



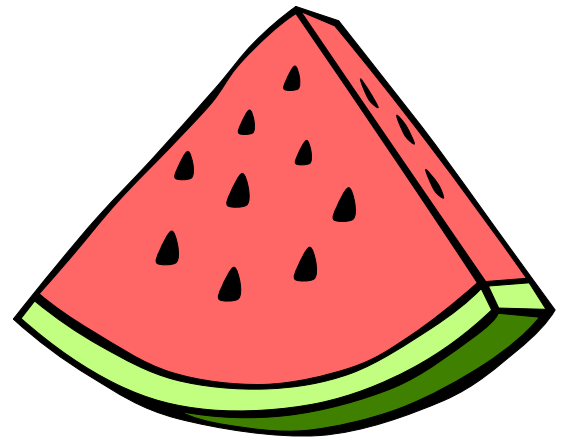
Garrett Long

The Watermelon Room offers recording, mixing and mastering services. The goal for every song is to let artists feel empowered by the recording process - to manifest what they have imagined into a tangible product that exceeds their expectations.

Some local clients include Matt Pless, Boat Water, Baltimore Rock Opera Society, and Sarah Hughes. Word of mouth must be good because The Watermelon Room is doing well and remote work has proved profitable. It's a sweet deal.



Izzie Arrizza





Art Comes Alive Party



Make Art Come Alive by dressing as your favorite piece of art or artist; breathe life into a beloved painting, or channel an artist who inspires you.

Date: Wednesday, November 10

Time: 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

- Let your creativity shine through while activating the spirit of various paintings featured in galleries around the world!
- Participate in a fun photo booth where you will get framed up and ready to go into a museum.
- Need help finishing your costume? We will have art supplies ready for you to add those special touches to make your artwork come to life.

To register, please contact us at
410.662.4363

or email us at
communityhealth@ChooseKeswick.org



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M-F 8am-6pm ♣ SAT 8am-5pm

The Baltimore Art Gallery: Current Offerings

Currently showing at the Baltimore Art Gallery are artists and co-owners Sonny Lacey and Kistin Wiebe. The description of their show is as follows:

The Town and Country exhibit features elephants, roosters, rainy nights, cities on Mars and a walking monk.





Nancy Scheinman

Currently showing at Fleckenstein Gallery is the 20th Anniversary show. The show is running through 2021.

The logo for Fleckenstein Gallery is centered on a light gray rectangular background. It features the name "Fleckenstein" on the top line and "Gallery" on the bottom line, both in a classic serif font. The text is flanked by two horizontal lines, one above and one below. Each line has two small black circles positioned above and below it, resembling the pegs of a xylophone or a similar musical instrument.

Fleckenstein
Gallery

3316 Keswick Road

t: 410-366-3669



Looking for Miss Yuletide for the Mayor's Christmas Parade 2021

If you're 8-12 or 13-19 and want to show off some of your Christmas Stuff, consider being 2021's Miss Yuletide. Two age categories, twice the teen glamour. Be a Holiday Star.



Contact Tom Kerr @ 410-366-0726

The Mayor's Christmas Parade is seeking volunteers

We need:

Parade Marshalls - 12

Help organize at the parade site.

8 of these people will have to march with the parade.

Balloon Wranglers - 15 to 20

Self-explanatory.

Judges - 4 to 5

Cush job unless it's freezing.

Goes quick.

We also need Ca\$h so if you or your organization wants to donate any amount we're happy to oblige.

Thanks again

Contact Tom Kerr @ 410-366-0726 or the HCC

All volunteers are invited to the Pre-party. Woo Hoo!



Lebau &
Neuworth



HCC Sponsors

Thank you to our 2021 sponsors that make this newsletter possible. If you are an organization or individual, please consider donating today. We appreciate your support!



Bruce and Helen Phillips



Print Schedule for Hampden Happenings 2021:

Sep/Oct.: closing 9/25, release Oct 5

November: closing 10/23, release Nov 2

December/Jan: closing 11/27, release Dec 7