

HAMPDEN HAPPENINGS

The latest news and updates from Hampden, Baltimore



2021 HAMPDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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President's Message

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

Dear Neighbors,

This past weekend marked the return of HalloweenFest along the Avenue! Adults and children alike were out in their amazing costumes, and the business owners came together, as always, to ensure a safe and successful event. We're not out of the woods yet with the COVID-19 pandemic, and we will close out the year with another virtual meeting on November 29, but there is a sense of normalcy and community that finally feels like it's returning to our little neighborhood in Baltimore City. As we enter the holiday season, it's more important than ever that we continue to come together to support each other and our neighborhood small businesses that contribute so much to the unique place that is Hampden.

Sunday, December 5th, will mark the return of another great Hampden/Medfield tradition, with the 48th Annual Mayor's Christmas Parade making its way down Falls Road and along the Avenue. Tom Kerr, who has organized the parade since its inception, has worked tirelessly to ensure a successful parade this year. Tom Kerr, and his wife Sharen, are neighborhood treasures, and this place would not be what it is without them.

New residents, new businesses, and new developments may come to our neighborhood, but as long as we are intentional and inclusive, Hampden will maintain its charms, and will only grow stronger. I'm excited for the new energy that will continue to grow in the year (and years) ahead!

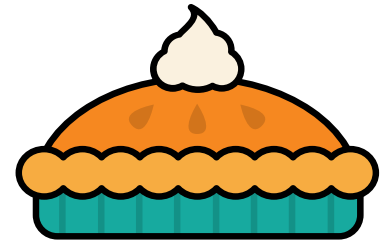
We hope to see you at our annual board election during our November 29th meeting, and along the parade route on December 5th!

Eli

Notes from the Editor

Thanksgiving will soon be upon us. In anticipation of the holiday, I recently tried out a kale and butternut squash pie. It was a beautiful thing coming out of the oven. I don't care for squash personally but I'm always looking for vegetarian options to serve for the holiday. And like the squash, I might not care for certain comments or people during Thanksgiving. But we're in this together and for one day, graciousness should be as bountiful as the meal.

Happy Holiday



Candidates for the 2022 HCC Board

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

The below candidates are running to represent the 2022 HCC Board as an Officer or Board Member. As a reminder, the election will occur during the November 29th HCC Annual meeting. To vote, you must have paid your 2021 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.

Christina Way - President:

How long have you lived or worked in Hampden?

I've lived in Hampden for 13 years with my husband and Hashbrown our cat.

What is your favorite part about the neighborhood?

I love the creative and can-do spirit of Hampden.

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

I like to tend my tiny garden, cook farmers market veggies, hike and read.

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

I am interested in more outreach to engage and include a broad range of Hampden neighbors in HCC events, monthly meetings and the newsletters.

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

The pandemic has affected each of us in different ways, and it's time to check in with folks. I'm interested in creating opportunities to hear from Hampden neighbors about your current interests and needs.

Aaron Feierstein - Vice President:

How long have you lived or worked in Hampden?

I've lived in Hampden for five years.

What is your favorite part about the neighborhood?

Proximity to amazing restaurants and greeting the same friendly neighbors daily.

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

When I'm not working from home, I spend my time taking my two year from one neighborhood park to the next and occasional trips to the zoo.

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

Grow and promote a Hampden farmers market.

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

Meet neighbors where they are in today's world (eg. virtually and social media).

Matt Stegman - Treasurer:

How long have you lived or worked in Hampden?

Seven years.

What is your favorite part about the neighborhood?

The people.

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

I am a dad and baseball fan. Being part of HCC is what I do for fun.

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

I want the HCC to take a more active role in helping plan the annual Mayor's Christmas Parade.

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

Navigate how to return to in-person meetings while still making it possible for busy families to participate.

Mary Rose Cook - Secretary:

How long have you lived or worked in Hampden?

57 years.

What is your favorite part about the neighborhood?

I can't pick a favorite part. I have lived my whole life in Hampden. It is just home to me.

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

I work as an estates and trusts attorney, love to hang at the beach and volunteer in my spare time. Am President of the Baltimore Ski Club and volunteer at the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore.

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

More of the community needs to be involved in the HCC and the decision making process for our neighborhood.

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

Engage in a coordinated plan for growth with a vision in mind as opposed to haphazard development over which the neighborhood has no control.

Daniel Ewald - Board Member:

How long have you lived or worked in Hampden?

About 11 years now.

What is your favorite part about the neighborhood?

The parks and walkability of the area.

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

I travel a lot for work. Sadly its to do environmental assessments of military bases usually in the middle of nowhere.

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

Neighborhood yard sale and junk day. HCC could setup a date for a neighborhood wide yard sale. HCC could also work with aide groups to collect unwanted items afterwards to help people clear out their homes.

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

Better promotion of community events.

Kathy Krampien - Board Member:

How long have you lived or worked in Hampden?

21 years.

What is your favorite part about the neighborhood?

How quiet it is at night.

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

I'm an artist and writer. Currently doing embroidering on clothing and writing a movie script.

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

Make Roosevelt Park a centerpiece for Hampden.

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

Become more visible in the neighborhood.

Who needs the Bel-Loc Diner?

I passed through Detroit recently on my way back to Charm City. The architecture there always amazes me. Beautiful art deco buildings line the roads leading into the heart of the Motor City. The historic Eastern Market still in business, still displaying hand drawn signs selling meats and vegetables. Old school diners maintain their coolness while cooking up multi-ethnic favorites in surrounding neighborhoods. The city and it's people work hard to maintain the architecture of the historic downtown area. When I return to Baltimore with its “tear down history for cash grab” and I wonder where it all went wrong.



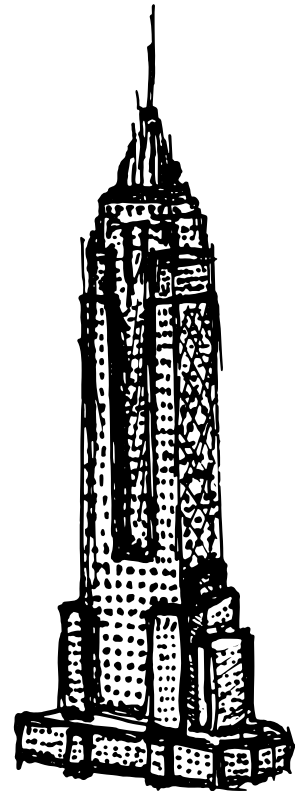
Twenty years ago this past summer, I planted my first vegetable garden. Shortly thereafter I received a ticket in the mail. I was being fined by the City of Baltimore for weeds growing in my back yard. I contested the ticket in court, showing up with some tomatoes and corn. They threw out half the \$50 fine but still charged me \$25 for the two abandoned air conditioners someone left stacked against my back fence. From that point onward, I kept my yard and the alley behind my house free of weeds and debris. A few years after the ticket, the City of Baltimore stopped caring if you maintained the alley or your yard.



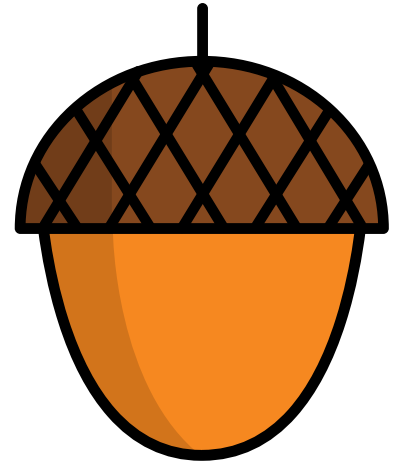
No tickets were given when contractors dumped left over cement around the storm drains. No one fines BGE contractors or the plethora of other cable companies for the crazy spider's web of wires illegally draped over someone's home or the discarded trash left behind. One of these companies tore down the metal covering for a telephone pole and left it laying in the alley. The only reason it is still there is because it's keeping people from driving down our dead-end alley. We asked the city for a sign saying this alley was a dead end. They closed the 311 case but no sign was put up.

The rowhouses at the end of my block are small. They are old and some still have asbestos and lead paint. One such house is currently being rehabbed. The individuals who purchased the house have violated every possible safety and city law imaginable. They hired a team of young men who wore cheap gloves and t-shirts tied over their faces as they hauled that toxic brew out of the house. The ensuing dust coated the yards and porches of the next-door neighbors. We complained to the city but were told they had the proper permits, permits that were approved after the dangerous work had already been done.

The workers are on site 8-8 Monday through Saturday pounding away with axes and sledgehammers. I live a few houses down and the continuous pounding annoys me. For the neighbors on either side, it has been a traumatizing ordeal. On top of the noise and the toxic dust, both neighbors' homes have suffered damage. And if this is happening in our precious Hampden, god only knows what's going on in less affluent neighborhoods.

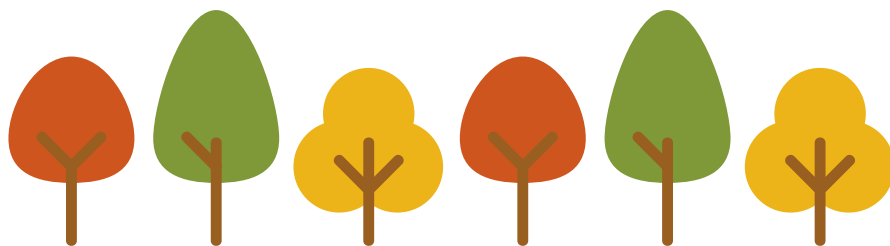


On top of the disregard for the health and safety of its citizens, Baltimore will sell-out anything for a dollar. Developers building past the property line onto city property are fined but not required to pull back. Accidentally (on purpose) tear down a historic building in Woodberry; whoops “stuff happens”. Now they want to allow an out-of-town developer to desecrate another historic Baltimore landmark located in Mount Vernon for a quick buck. When did this become the norm? When did Baltimore become such a throw-away kind of town? When did the zoning laws become so lax and when did residents stop having a voice?



Mt. Vernon residents are not being allowed to speak at the next city planning meeting regarding the historic Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church and the attached Asbury House. Why should residents be stopped from being heard by the very city that we support with our tax dollars? Can't we get back to caring about Baltimore? Can't we get back to having pride in our city and striving to preserve our glorious history instead of casting it aside like forgotten trash. Our place in America should be treated with respect. We're not Walmart, we're Baltimore. And who misses the Bel-Loc Diner? I do.

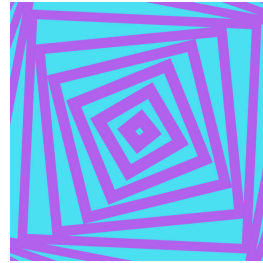
Kathy Krampien



*You're
Invited!*

First Friday in Hampden
November 5 and December 3

Be there or be



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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

Notes from the Hampden Family Center

We are preparing for another festive holiday season at the Hampden Family Center! These programs are an opportunity to share joy and hope with our neighbors, many of whom during the past year have struggled with lost income, health challenges or unstable housing. In 2020, with your assistance, we provided more than 80 Thanksgiving baskets, gifts for more than 130 youth through the Christmas Angel program, and prepared a hot meal for our neighbors on Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Eve. We are anticipating a sustained need this year and hope you will join us!

Holiday Program Sign-Ups

Sign-ups are now open for the following programs. To sign up, please visit the Center Tuesday – Friday, 10am – 4pm and bring your ID or piece of mail displaying the 21211 zip code.

- Thanksgiving Baskets
 - Pick-up on Monday, Nov. 22 and Tuesday, Nov. 23
- Holiday Drop-By
 - Saturday, December 11 from 11am – 1pm
 - Stop by to pick up holiday crafts, snacks, and gifts for kids age 12 and under
- Christmas Angels
 - For youth age 12 and under
 - Caregivers please suggest three gifts
- Winter Coats, Gloves, Hats

Help Us Brighten the Holidays!

Sign up to be a Christmas Angel: please call the Center directly at 410-467-8710.

Purchase one of our “most needed” items”: <https://a.co/fbuAW94>

Donate new winter coats, gloves or hats. All ages are needed!

For more information on how to support these programs, please visit hampdenfamilycenter.org.

The Baltimore Art Gallery: Current Offerings

Currently showing at the Baltimore Art Gallery in November is the artist Vivian Tenga, a recent graduate from the Schuler School of Fine Art here in Baltimore. The elegant and timeless style of Schuler is clearly displayed in her work. Opening for the show is Friday, November 5.





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, each with a small black oval at its center. Vertical lines connect the top and bottom horizontal lines, creating a stylized frame around the text.

Fleckenstein
Gallery

3316 Keswick Road

t: 410-366-3669

The Mayor's Christmas Parade is December 5th at 1pm on The Avenue



To volunteer or donate, contact Tom Kerr
@ 410-366-0726

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