

# HAMPDEN HAPPENINGS

*The latest news and updates from Hampden, Baltimore*



## President's Message

by Eli Lopatin, HCC President ([hccpresident@gmail.com](mailto:hccpresident@gmail.com))

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I don't know about the rest of you, but I've never been so excited for spring, or so grateful to live in a community with so many incredible assets within walking distance. We've been seeing more and more neighbors emerging from their homes, enjoying our amazing green spaces, supporting our great neighborhood restaurants and businesses. The pandemic is not over, but the ability to leverage our great outdoor spaces is so refreshing!

As of April 6th, everyone in Maryland over the age of 16 is eligible to receive a vaccine for COVID-19 at one of the state's mass vaccination sites. For the safety of us all, and the protection of our most vulnerable, we encourage everyone to get the vaccine as soon as you are able. Everyone can now register at <https://covax.baltimorecity.gov/> to ensure you will be notified when an appointment is available. We've done a great job looking out for each other over this past year. Through continued vigilance, and adherence to public health guidelines, we will emerge from this difficult year stronger than ever. See you around the neighborhood!

Eli

# Notes from the Editor

Letter from the Editor.

I want to thank everyone for the support that we've received regarding the new direction of our "Hamden Happenings" newsletter. As we transition out of a lost year, it's important to face the future with new goals and fresh ideas. In upcoming issues, we are looking to expand and will incorporating columns on the skatepark and historical Hampden amongst other things.

In the spirit of this, I'm inviting Hampdenites to submit content for our newsletter. Whether it be information on upcoming events, photographs, stories, poetry or just opinions, feel free to submit it.

I cannot guarantee that everything will be accepted as we have limited space but we will try to pick the best that Hampden has to offer. We will be posting all community events because, well they're Hampden Happenings. And as we close out 2021, our last two issues will be monthly instead of bi-monthly so we cover all of the (hopefully) pandemic free holiday Hampden Happenings.

Thank you,

Kathy Krampien, Newsletter Committee Chair ([hccnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:hccnewsletter@gmail.com))

## Print Schedule for Hampden Happenings 2021:

May/June closing 5/22 release Jun 1

Jul/Aug. closing 7/24 release Aug 3

Sep/Oct. closing 9/25 release Oct 5

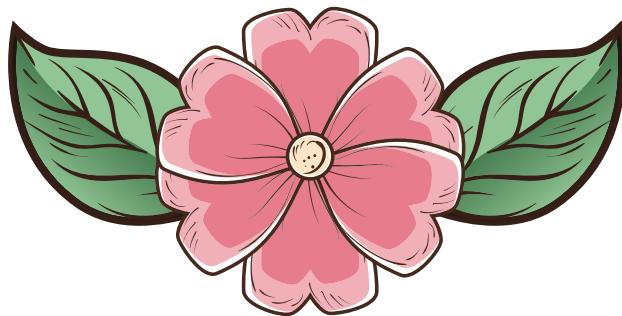
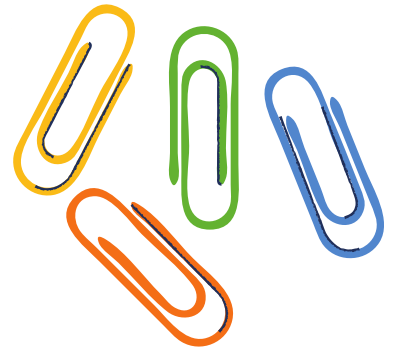
November closing 10/23 release 11/2

December closing 11/27 release 12/7

# Recent Updates from ACCE School

By Abby Baldwin

February has been a month to remember as ACCE celebrated Black History Month and the theme of Sankofa meaning “to understand the past to move forward in the present.” From weekly trivia and guest speakers, to highlighting careers focusing on both college and trade careers, weekly movies highlighting Black excellence, family cooking night as a part of the Taste of ACCE series, and culminating with an amazing student showcase. The student showcase featured writing, music, spoken word, and visual art projects that focused on Sankofa, students embracing their past and pushing forward into their future. Our students continue to embrace their past as they look towards the future that lies ahead of us all. We are incredibly proud of our students and their celebration of Black History Month!

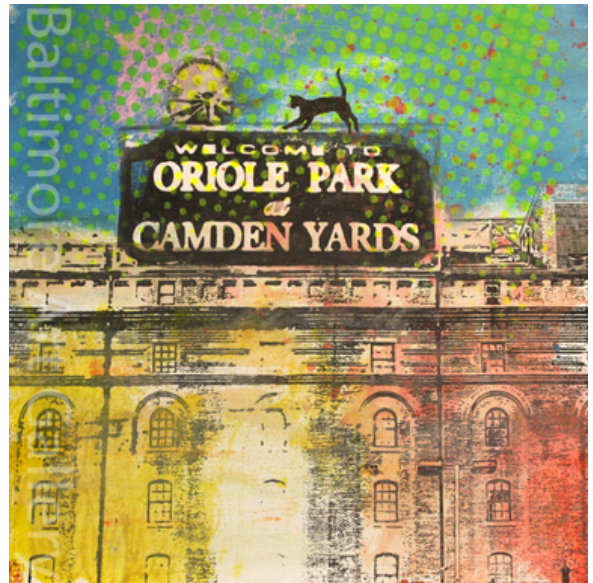


**Don't Forget Hampden Village Merchants  
Association Spring Sidewalk Sale on  
Saturday, April 24th 11am-6pm**

## The Baltimore Art Gallery: Current Offerings

The Featured Artist for April is longtime Baltimore artist Matt Muirhead. His unique style combines well known Baltimore landscapes with wacky additions. Think the old Domino Sugar sign with a giant black cat or the infamous "Death Star" from Star Wars looming overhead.

Who ever said Charm City and Star Wars couldn't exist in the same universe?



# WOW! BINGO



## PLEASE JOIN THE HCC FOR THE 60 MINUTE VIRTUAL BINGO FUNDRAISER FOR THE HAMPDEN CHRISTMAS PARADE



Win Cool Prizes and release pandemic tension by screaming Bingo with your outdoor voice while indoors. All proceeds from Bingo goes to funding the Mayor's Christmas Parade. While the fate of this year's parade remains in question, we can be hopeful. Whatever the outcome for 2021, we can still plan for 2022.

Zoom in for HCC Virtual Bingo on **Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at 7:30pm.**

**Tickets are \$15 and available on Eventbrite [here!](#)**  
You will receive four Bingo cards with instructions via email.

Dial in by Zoom and prepare to Bingo!





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M-F 8am-6pm ♣ SAT 8am-5pm

# Local Mural brings the World of Animals to Hampden

By Kevin McCloskey

Hampden is full of inspiration. From the festivals to the lawn art, there is character on every block. **Here is the story of one of the newest murals** to join the neighborhood art scene.

In late 2019, a family purchased a home on Conduit Street which came with a very visible alley wall.

**The problem:** the alley was in a condition that was uninspiring, neglected, and often littered.

**The solution:** turn the story around and use this large wall for a beautiful mural. It was time to give this alley some TLC!



*The alley BEFORE*

To move this idea forward, the family contacted the Baltimore Promotion of Arts. The organization linked them up with Hampden-based muralist Brenna O'Grady. Together, they brainstormed, drafted, and ultimately decided upon a design.

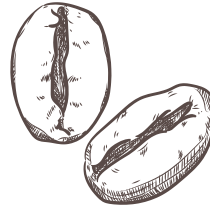
They would create 'The Hampden Animal Wall.'





# Coffee with Granny

By Kathy Krampien



When my grandmother died, I inherited a few things from her estate. Since I was the quirky artist, I got the weird things no one else wanted: the horse clock that my grandfather won at the county fair, some creepy family photographs and a set of salt and pepper shakers. These weren't just any salt and pepper shakers but a very pristine Aunt Jemima and Uncle Mose. Made of yellow plastic, dressed in their matching uniforms of red, black and white, their happy faces smiling, I loved them dearly. Last summer I packed them up and sent them back to the Michigan farm from whence they came.

Once proudly displayed in my kitchen, they had been relegated in recent years to the collectable shelf in my upstairs den. Eventually they were packed up and sent away because their presence made a close friend uncomfortable. Even though I'm aware of their "step-n-fetch it" history, I still have a hard time understanding how they can be offensive but then again, I'm not the one who was offended. Nor did I understand how offensive the minstrel show that I was in at twelve would be today. Yes, blackface was involved, and I can still remember some of the songs. I'm certain this happened in the same year as the Detroit riots. We were dancing around in our glad rags and black face, singing songs about "the Grand Old Flag" while a mere 3 hours from us, real black faces were streaked with tears and soot from the burning fires of the riots.

White people don't understand the BLM movement because they will never know what it's like to experience a Black Life. We have never had the dogs turned loose on us for listening to music. We'll never know the dread a black person feels when being pulled over while driving. White people may be a little anxious interacting with the police but we're certain that we are going to drive away. For POC there's no such guarantee.

Over the summer HBO ran a series called "Lovecraft Country", juxtaposing the existential horror of H. P. Lovecraft with racism. I would rather face Cthulhu himself than race the sun out of a sundown county. The brutal terrorism of this hateful practice filled me with more fear than any otherworldly blood god. And yet Black people learned to accept this, found a way around, created the "Green Book".

Just as they learned to accept whenever a loved one is murdered, whether it be by the police or one of their own. Black people cope with this horrific loss, same as they deal with the tragedy of loved ones being sent to prison on minimal charges for maximum sentences. This continuous tragedy is part of their heritage.



And yet for all of this, it's White people who are afraid. It's an inherent fear that lurks within us, like some misguided instinct. We're institutionalized to it, it's our heritage. This fear is what separates the races. Black people fear Whites for good cause. The fear Whites feel for our Black brothers and sisters is based on old superstitions and cultural blindness.

The fuzzy views of past discrimination have given way to modern technologies and the shocking cries of George Floyd. When did the murder of anyone, let alone a man guilty of nothing more than being Black become the norm? For Blacks, it's always been this way. For the White community it's an in-your-face wake-up call for the sorry past that we've inflicted upon on all of our colored brethren. We may not have struck the blow ourselves; but we looked away when it landed.

Over the years, I've been adopted as the red-headed foster child by many different families. While I was in Texas, it was a couple of wonderful Hispanic families and in Baltimore, I've been graced with knowing several Black families. One of my friends lived on S. Carey St. with her daughter and granny. It was every bit as scary as its name. Although every door and window had metal bars, there was a still a community on her block. People looked out for each other. I was close to the entire family and had plenty of early evening coffee with Granny. I was there for Granny's wake.

In Hampden during the month of December 2019, a young man came home for Christmas. He wanted to spend the holiday with his mama and granny. Whatever trouble that boy had tangled with followed him home and murdered him on his mother's doorstep. People were angry that it was brought to our neighborhood. No one reached out to that boy's mama or his granny. And yet 6 months later Black Lives Matter. We're marching for BLM while turning our backs on our neighbors.

So, what's the point of this, am I such an expert on race relations that I can call out others? Nope, I can only speak for myself and I'm as racist as the next average White person. It's imprinted in me and I can't point fingers at anyone else because I never went to see that boy's family either.

So how can we put aside our indifference and become someone's neighbor? The answer is simple, if you take race out of the equation, then it becomes about people. And when it becomes about people then it's about having an evening coffee with Granny.





Hampden  
**Spring**  
Cleanup

**Saturday, April 24th**

10am – 12 noon



**Where**

The playground amphitheatre in Roosevelt Park, right off the intersection of 36th and Falls.

**What**

Volunteers will pick up trash in the park and beyond, placing the trash collected in a designated dumpster in Roosevelt Park.

**Who**

Bring your kids, dogs, and neighbors for this social event!

**Meet Neighbors and Beautify Hampden Together!**

Coffee, trash bags, gloves, and trash pickers will be provided. Bathrooms (TBD) will be available at the Roosevelt Park Rec Center.



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