

# HAMPDEN HAPPENINGS

The latest news and updates from Hampden, Baltimore



See page 5 for more details

## 2020 HAMPDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

**ELI LOPATIN**, PRESIDENT  
[HCCPRESIDENT@GMAIL.COM](mailto:HCCPRESIDENT@GMAIL.COM)

**NATE PRETL**, VICE PRESIDENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

**MATT STEGMAN**, TREASURER  
[HCCTREASURER01@GMAIL.COM](mailto:HCCTREASURER01@GMAIL.COM)

**MARY ROSE COOK**, SECRETARY

### BOARD MEMBERS

**NICHOLAS BLENDY**

**RICHARD BRUNO**, EDUCATION COMMITTEE,  
[HCCEducationCOMMITTEE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:HCCEducationCOMMITTEE@GMAIL.COM)

**MARTIN BURIAN**, ZONING AND LAND USE COMMITTEE, [HCCZONING@GMAIL.COM](mailto:HCCZONING@GMAIL.COM)

**JEAN DAVIS**, NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE,  
[HCCNOMINATIONS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:HCCNOMINATIONS@GMAIL.COM)

**MAURA DWYER**

**DANIEL EWALD**, CLEAN AND GREEN COMMITTEE,  
[SUSTAINABLEHAMPDEN@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SUSTAINABLEHAMPDEN@GMAIL.COM)

**AARON FEIERSTEIN**, MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE,  
[HCCMEMBERSHIPQUESTIONS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:HCCMEMBERSHIPQUESTIONS@GMAIL.COM)

**KATHY KRAMPEN**, FUNDRAISING AND NEWSLETTER COMMITTEES,  
[HAMPDENNEWSLETTER@GMAIL.COM](mailto:HAMPDENNEWSLETTER@GMAIL.COM)

**DAVID STYSLEY**

## President's Message

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

Dear Neighbors,

While the national and local elections on November 3rd are surely at the top of everyone's minds, they are not the only elections taking place in November - HCC Board elections for the 2021 annual term will be taking place during our virtual general meeting on Monday, November 30th.

We encourage everyone in Hampden to vote in both, and consider running for a position on the board! HCC board members chair our committees on topics ranging from this newsletter, to neighborhood zoning issues, to education, to our clean and green efforts, and public safety. It may sound like a lot of work, but it is really a fun way to get more involved, meet new people, and help to shape the future of our community. To be eligible either to vote in or run for a position in the HCC election, all that is required is to be an HCC member in good standing - that means the payment of annual membership dues, and attendance at at least two general meetings during the calendar year.

And please be sure to vote in that other election coming up on November 3rd! We are fortunate in Hampden to have two ballot dropboxes at the Academy for College and Career Exploration (ACCE) - 1300 W. 36th Street - and at Hampden Elementary/Middle School - 3608 Chestnut Ave. ACCE will also operate as a polling center on election day from 7am-8pm. If you prefer to vote during the early voting period of October 26th - November 2nd, you will need to travel outside of Hampden, but there are voting centers nearby at Baltimore City Community College and Morgan State University, among others.

Hope to see you around the neighborhood!

## HCC Board Meet & Greet

If you are on the fence about running for a board position, you can join us on Zoom at our HCC Board Meet & Greet on Monday, November 9th from 7-8pm to meet and hear from current board members. Please attend using the following zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87875432573>

## Call for 2021 HCC Board Nominations

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 November 15th will appear in the November Hampden Happenings newsletter. You can still apply and be on the ballot after November 15th, 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](mailto:hccnominations@gmail.com).

---

## Community News

### COVID Q&A with Deb Falkenhan of Falkenhan's Hardware:

In each issue for the foreseeable future we will highlight one local organization to share with the community how they are navigating the current pandemic:



**How has COVID most impacted your business?**

COVID has most impacted my business in two ways - availability of inventory is the biggest down side. The old adage if you don't have it you can't sell it is so true right now. There is no idea of when many items will be available - i.e. Lysol spray, disposable wipes, canning supplies, etc. The up side is that more people are home and doing projects and are very happy to support a small neighborhood business. We have met many people who have never been in the store before and have made more than one shopping trip to repair, replace and especially plant. Gardens should be thriving in the area this year!

**What are some things you are changing in light of the current situation?**

We have been trying new avenues of suppliers to find what our normal suppliers do not have in stock. It has definitely been a challenge. We all wear masks & require patrons to also wear masks. Hand sanitizer is available if you ask for it. Trying to get customers in and out in a timely manner is also priority - most transactions take a total of less than 5 minutes in the store. We also provide curbside service for anyone who does not wish to enter the store.



**FALKENHAN'S**  
**H A R D W A R E**

**Hardware / Plumbing \ Electrical / Paint \ Housewares \ Glass \ Keys**  
**All the little things you need to work on or around the house!**

**3401 Chestnut Ave., in Hampden, Hon! Phone 410.235 7771**  
**MON-FRI 8 am-6 pm • SAT 8 am-5 pm**

**Visa Mastercard Amex Discover Debit**

**How can local residents best support you during this period?**

Shop local - Shop local - Shop local. I can't say this enough, for all of the small independent businesses in Hampden. I am very fortunate to have residents and small contractors who shop at Falkenhan's on a regular basis. We have many first name basis customers and have been meeting many who have never been in the store before. We work very hard and try to be accommodating to all who come in, whether it is for one nut & bolt or 50 feet of pipe. Our customers are the BEST!!!

**Why do you feel it is important to support the local community?**

Being born and raised in Hampden, I've been here when the shopping area was a ghost town and there were more vacancies than were occupied storefronts. COVID has taken its toll on our small business community and for numerous reasons we have lost many very supportive businesses - whether from lack of business due to people not coming out, government mandating that they couldn't open, or their own personal reasons for not reopening. I love that we have independent businesses and are not another cookie cutter strip mall type area. Many people do not realize how much these small businesses support the community - whether its sponsoring a soccer or baseball team, helping with the Christmas parade, donating items for the Hampden Family Center fund raisers, or just being available because you need a quick gift, something to read, a good coffee, some great food - fancy or not so fancy - we have it all. Plus, Hampden (and the surrounding area) is so accessible when you don't want to move your car. Do we have everything everyone wants? No, but I haven't found any place else that does either.



**What are different ways in which you support the local community?**

In my 22+ years owning the store, I have sponsored many baseball, softball, soccer teams at the Rec, have been on the board of the Hampden Family Center two different times, was on the board of the Hampden Community Council, sell candy at the store to donate to local churches, organizations, & schools, have donated to and volunteered for the Christmas parade, sponsored ads in the church bulletins and donated gift cards and items for numerous auction fundraisers. We have given credit to people who have paid us back (and those who didn't), listened to complaints and praise regarding the store and the neighborhood, tried to give recommendations to other businesses, and loaned out the hand truck, the pickup truck and the van. We do special orders at the store and try to keep supplies in to support the old houses in the area. I have lived here most of my life (except when a job location forced me to move for 18 months) and most of my employees live or lived local. I try to help where and when I can. It's my neighborhood.

## ACCE School Update

ACCE is off to a great start with virtual learning this year. Given the pandemic we are working hard to support our students academically, socially, and emotionally. We are providing engaging activities for our students online and students are working hard to maintain their academic rigor.

ACCE has started an online civic engagement team for students to engage with their communities to engage in the 2020 Census and register to vote. Students are learning about the importance of civic engagement and the census and its implications for providing resources for their communities.

We encourage everyone to complete the 2020 Census today if you have not completed it: <https://2020census.gov/en.html>. Also if you still need to register to vote in the upcoming election you can register online with a MD ID issued by the Motor Vehicles Administration, you can register to vote here: [https://elections.maryland.gov/voter\\_registration/application.html](https://elections.maryland.gov/voter_registration/application.html)

ACCE is also happy to host a secure drop box for ballots. Our drop box will be available outside our doors starting Wednesday October 15th. Feel free to bring your ballot to the drop box and securely submit your vote! Finally, ACCE is supporting the community as a local food hub. Any families from the Hampden area and across the city are invited to receive breakfast and lunch from ACCE Monday to Friday from 8am-2pm. Families can pick up their meals from our Gym Entrance (closest entrance to the parking lot).

---



## Editor's Report by Kathy Krampien, Newsletter Committee Chair ([hccnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:hccnewsletter@gmail.com))

It's a Friday night and I catch the final moments of "In the Mood with Ken Jackson" on WYPR. Big Band music has always been a favorite of mine and when I stumbled on this program, it was a shiny moment. I have yet to hear Ken himself because of Covid; Andy Bienstock, the resident jazz guy has been filling in. It's not his gig, which he makes condescendingly clear, but we've all had to step up.

Perhaps the worst of this pandemic is the boredom. Most evenings I'm sitting on my porch with a glass of wine; listening to KCRW out of Santa Monica. Over the summer, feeling the need for a change up, I decided to mine some of the cd's I've collected over the years.

First up, Robin Trower, a British power guitar aficionado whose “Bridge of Sighs” seemed a perfect fit for 2020. From there, the Talking Heads “Stop Making Sense”, which forced me to put on my imaginary big suit and do some dancing. I have a blocked view so only my neighbors see this, and they’re used to me. Onto “Drag” by k.d. Lang; which is about love and cigarettes and not RuPaul.

I stayed with the ladies for a while; ending it with Amalia Rodrigues, the Queen of Fado music. Fado is the Portuguese version of country/western music. Heartbreak Hotel for the European set. Moving on from heartache, with martini in hand, Johnny Hartman’s smooth serenades seemed right. Hartman was famous for singing with John Coltrane. I find him to be one of the most romantic voices ever. People passing by really perked up when Johnny was crooning in the dark of the night.

Musically, it was an interesting journey. I started the summer bouncing around to the manic sounds of Re-Flex’s “The Politics of Dancing” and ended it on a more wistful note. A recent Friday afternoon found me driving the back streets of Baltimore during WTMD’s Fall fund drive. They were playing music from previous decades and they were doing the 60’s. One of the songs they played was Glen Campbell’s “Wichita Lineman”. Never a number one hit, it has stayed in the background of American music for more than 50 years. In 2020, it was selected for preservation by the Library of Congress. And it’s beautiful and forlorn lyricism has played in my head and been on my lips every single day since that Friday afternoon.

---

---

## Cheer Up!

Last month we promised you a Pink Flamingo Scavenger Hunt. Unfortunately, the flamingos refused to wear their masks and they got kicked off their flight from Florida, missing our event. But Cheer Up, there’s a creepy little contest currently available right now.

All over Hampden, stickers are prominently displayed. Of all the stickers out there, the one that stands out most often is the Sad Sack Clown of the “Cheer Up” Series. Many of the stickers can be found plastered on signs and lights poles along 36th Street. But they are all over Hampden. There is an ancient one, large and faded; posted somewhere on Buena Vista. Bonus points if you can find it.



**First Prize:** \$24 Covid Dollars (yes real cash - washed and sanitized) found on the streets of Hampden during the Pandemic and a John Waters Filthy mask. Almost a \$50 value.

**Second Prize:** A John Waters Filthy mask.

**Third Prize:** A package of US Govt. white cotton masks and matching hand sanitizer that smells like tequila

**Bonus Prize:** For the person that finds the most Andre 3000 stickers, an old unopened box of Exploding Kittens.

**Post pictures on Instagram #hampdencommunitycouncil.** Include your name and where and when spotted. The person that logs the most sightings first wins. The contest ends Sunday, November 15th.

## Cheer Up and Bring on the Clowns!

KESWICK'S WISE & WELL CENTER PRESENTS  
FREE MOVIES IN THE AFTERNOON:

# Now Voyager



One of the best romantic melodramas from the Golden Age of Hollywood.

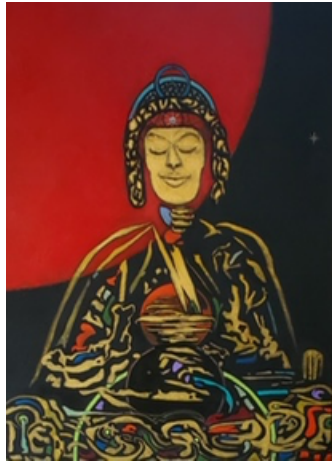
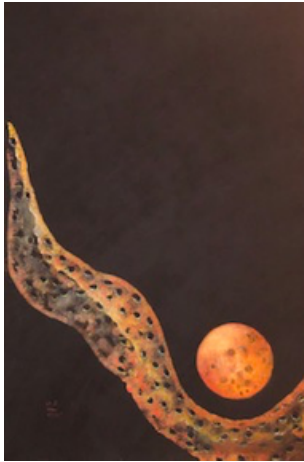
Join us to watch this magnificent film, featuring what might be Bette Davis's greatest performance. Exaggerated drama, stunning gowns, a lush Oscar winning musical score by Max Steiner and large sweeping sets make this a must see!

**JOIN US AT THE WISE & WELL CENTER FOR MOVIES IN THE AFTERNOON, FEATURING NOW VOYAGER.**

**Date:** Monday, November 23 • **Time:** 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Seating is limited, and no walk-ins will be permitted. All CDC health and safety precautions will be followed, including social distancing and masks.

**To make your reservation,  
please contact us at 410-662-4363 or email  
[CommunityHealth@ChooseKeswick.org](mailto:CommunityHealth@ChooseKeswick.org)**



## Hampden Art Hideout

Left: Sargasso Sea  
Right: Cyber Buddha

My neighbor Mike is an artist. A very good one. You would never know it by his demeanor. He's not one of those flashy types. No green hair or lavish tattoos. There's no garish artwork in his front yard. He's more akin to a librarian or sort of an arty Clark Kent.

And like Clark Kent, he has his own fortress of solitude. Well, a localized version, if you will. Hidden in the depths of Hampden, Mike has a second home, a nondescript rowhouse that serves as his personal art gallery. With minimal training, Mike has been painting, drawing and doing photography for more than 50 years. And this little house is filled with his art. He first invited me to peruse his work a few years ago. I was impressed then and really felt that he had something marvelous hidden away.

The small house is filled from floor to ceiling with his output. He goes from one style to the next. On the wall of the stairwell is a portrait series of demonic individuals. Not necessarily monstrous but disturbing. They must be demonic because ever picture I took of them was blurred. Another series draws strangely enough from the Sargasso Sea. These were quite lovely and more abstract with looping lines of color that displayed aspects of a brighter Brice Marden. Another from this series, has the long arm of an octopus under a moon. Or is it? This piece is a handsome abstract with a specific richness of reds and blacks. It's a piece that can spark conversation because everyone will have a different perspective of it's meaning.

In one of his more recent paintings, a disembodied suit and overcoat floats headless out to sea. Similar in color and tone, it reminded me of Magritte's "The Son of Man". A sense of time out of space, a painted haiku to the lost souls of men. There are gorgeous works on rice paper. Works that incorporate paper gleaned from wasp's nests. Spangled with gold leaf and glass beads. There are bins of photos, prints and drawings. An output of amazing proportion. All waiting for that perspective client to come by. If interested in visiting, contact Mike Grier at [mgrier@villagemanagement.net](mailto:mgrier@villagemanagement.net)



"Under the Golden Moon"





# HCC Committee Updates


**Zoning and Land Use Committee** by *Martin Burian, ZLUC Committee Chair*  
([hcczoning@gmail.com](mailto:hcczoning@gmail.com))

## **3911-25 Roland Ave**

These eight rowhouses were converted from a warehouse building in the early 1900's without adequate fire protection. After being severely damaged by fire in April of 2018, the properties have been vacant and in dilapidated condition. Two owners with experience in real estate development, management and renovation now have control of the eight properties and are cooperating on rehabilitating them.

The owners and their real estate broker recently presented to the HCC Zoning & Land Use Committee. The current plans are to rebuild each house with the same footprint as the current buildings, adding fire separation between houses. The owners propose to create two units in each house, including a one-bedroom basement apartment and a three- or four-bedroom home on the main levels of each house. The proposal includes off-street parking at the rear of each property, off of an extension of Pleasant Place.

Under the zoning for these properties, conversion of single-family residences to multi-family dwellings requires an ordinance enacted by City Council and the Mayor. Canvassing of neighbors and one meeting with interested parties occurred in September. One concern is the potential for the rear-loading parking to increase traffic and affect the current residents of Pleasant Place. The HCC is working with stakeholders to solicit additional input from impacted neighbors with the goal to reach an agreement acceptable to all parties. The HCC will bring the developers to present at an upcoming HCC general meeting.



**Membership Committee** by *Aaron Feierstein, Membership Committee Chair*  
([hccmembershipquestions@gmail.com](mailto:hccmembershipquestions@gmail.com))

Thank you to all new and existing Hampden Community Council members and newsletter advertisers. We so appreciate your support, insight and questions as we navigate this pandemic as a community while setting our sights on hopefully greener pastures ahead.

Believe it or not, the Membership Committee was newly created in 2020 to bring more accountability and creativity to signing up new and interacting with existing HCC members.

While a lot of our planned membership campaigns got derailed due to the unforeseen events of 2020, we have still instituted improved tracking and outreach measures (some of you may receive our dues collection emails on a monthly basis ☺) that are helping to increase community participation and membership rolls within our organization.

We also want to preview a new business HCC membership and newsletter advertising model for 2021; we will be switching to a tiered subscription-based model that will provide more value both to our readers and our businesses who so generously support our organization. More details will be shared in the coming weeks.

And finally, we wouldn't be the Membership Committee if we didn't remind you its not too late to pay your dues (see link [here](#)) for 2020!

**Mt. Washington Mill**  
**BUSINESS CENTER**

**WORK HERE.**  
**Leave the rest to us.**

- » Private Offices & Suites
- » Flexible Lease Terms
- » Free Parking
- » Meeting Rooms
- » Whole Foods & Starbucks on site
- » 24/7 Access
- » Social Distancing

**1340 SMITH AVE. BALTIMORE, MD 21209**  
**410.385.1234 | [BaltimoreBusinessCenters.com](http://BaltimoreBusinessCenters.com)**