

HAMPDEN HAPPENINGS

The latest news and updates from Hampden, Baltimore



2021 HAMPDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

ELI LOPATIN, PRESIDENT
HCCPRESIDENT@GMAIL.COM

AARON FEIERSTEIN, VICE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
HCCMEMBERSHIPQUESTIONS@GMAIL.COM

MATT STEGMAN, TREASURER
HCCTREASURER01@GMAIL.COM

MARY ROSE COOK, SECRETARY

BOARD MEMBERS

NICHOLAS BLENDY

RICHARD BRUNO, EDUCATION COMMITTEE,
HCCEDUCATIONCOMMITTEE@GMAIL.COM

JEAN DAVIS, NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE,
HCCNOMINATIONS@GMAIL.COM

DANIEL EWALD, CLEAN AND GREEN COMMITTEE,
SUSTAINABLEHAMPDEN@GMAIL.COM

KATHY KRAMPIEN, FUNDRAISING AND NEWSLETTER COMMITTEES,
HAMPDENNEWSLETTER@GMAIL.COM

KEVIN MCCLOSKEY, PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

NATE PRETL

CHRISTINA WAY, ZONING AND LAND USE COMMITTEE, HCCZONING@GMAIL.COM

- **A pair of T-Rex invade Hampden on First Friday**
- **COVID hits The Avenue (pg. 10)**

President's Message

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

It had been our hope that we'd be able to resume in-person General Meetings starting with our August meeting on the 30th, however with the current rise in COVID-19 cases brought on by the highly transmissible Delta Variant we feel it best to refrain from hosting a large indoor meeting at this time. This current rise in cases is disheartening, however the Hampden community has shown its amazingly caring nature and perseverance over the past year and a half, and we will come through this soon. It has been incredibly refreshing to see more neighbors out and about, enjoying our parks, local businesses, and time with family and friends. We believe that those opportunities will continue to exist, as long as we do them safely, wear masks when needed, and get vaccinated if we have not already - please reach out if you need assistance in finding an appointment.

Thank you for looking out for each other! See you around the neighborhood!

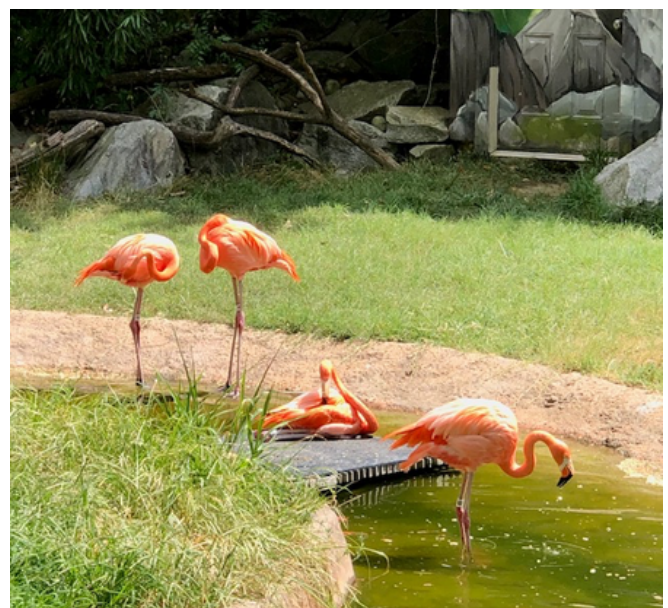
-Eli

Notes from the Editor

My friend and I spent a recent Saturday afternoon at the Baltimore Zoo. It's been a long time since I was last there and it wasn't the usual zoo experience. The ongoing pandemic continues to take some of the joy out of everything. Still, we got to hear the lordly roar of the lion and we saw the giraffes. I finally spotted a well camouflaged pair of gazelles doing their best "Where's Waldo?".

The day really belonged to our avian friends. The ostriches were taken with my bright shirt and Hampden's mascots, the pink flamingoes were coolly hanging out when we passed them on our way in. On our way out, a small group of them were bickering angrily amongst themselves. Tail feathers were ruffled and angry squawks resonated in the air. Just another day in America, even at the zoo.

-Kathy



Ekiben Cooks for Ryan Seacrest on "Live with Kelly and Ryan"

Goodwill: Treated in Business as an Intangible Asset that is developed by having a good name recognition value.

If any Baltimore establishment has garnered more good name recognition in the last year than Ekiben, I haven't heard about it. Besides bringing a tear to every eye in Baltimore last summer by accommodating the final wishes of faraway customer, Ekiben continues to dish out the goods.

On the morning of Friday, July 30th, Ekiben's Steve Chu cooked up some of his famous "Thai Chicken Meatballs" on one of TV's favorite morning shows. He also gave meatball cooking advice to Ryan Seacrest and his co-host. The segment can be viewed on the show's website.

Looking forward to seeing more Goodwill coming from our friends at Ekiben.



COOL CATS

The Wide Eyed Lounge Cats bring the "Lounge" sound to Hampden

Lounge music morphed out of the 40's big band sound into a brassy slickness that spoke of late night martinis and long trails of cigarette smoke. Not easy to narrow down, lounge music's wide range includes such classic luminaries as Dino mumbling mambo Italiano or Julie London asking you to "slow down". Besides exotic eccentrics like Yma Sumac, it also included movie and tv crime themes like "Peter Gun" with its yakety sax and the many James Bond theme songs including Shirley Bassey warning golden girls about the "cold touch of Mr. Goldfinger." (Pronounced Goldfingaaahhh for those not familiar with Dame Bassey).



Not to be outdone by the musical stylings of Ms. Sumac or Mr. Bond, Hampden has its own lounge lizards. Coming out shortly with a new studio release are our very coolest of gents “The Wide Eyed Lounge Cats.” The Cats are comprised of local musicians Christian Ventimiglia, Tore Dalaker, Reggie Siteler, Ben Graham-Putter, Chris Peacock and Ryan Comstock, and they are where it’s at. Meow!



After four years of playing together, they are releasing their second studio album. Entitled “Cats in a Coal Mine” the recording of all original music was done at Hampden’s own “The Watermelon Room” music studio. The self-proclaimed jam band has an extensive repertoire that includes such diverse influences as Steely Dan and the Grateful Dead. Their musical scope allows them to play a variety of settings such as breweries, weddings and neighborhood clean-up days.



Cats spokesman Ryan Comstock, the very tall yakety sax player expressed his pleasure with the upcoming release. The previous 2020 release “Le Cirque” was more a sum of the bands various parts while the new album reflects the band as a whole. Comstock spoke of the easy flow during the time spent in the recording studio and credited it to the band’s jam session sensibilities. After applying the finishing touches, “Cats in a Coal Mine” will be rolling out on multiple streaming services in the next few weeks.

“Le Cirque” is currently available on all streaming services.

When he isn’t wailing on his sax, Comstock is also the long time manager of the Common Ground. The Ground’s expansion into the SweetSide space is not only going to provide Hampden with some yummy bakery treats but will also provide some Cool Cats a place to play.

The Cats will be playing the Quarry Lake summer concert series on August 28 at 7PM and at the Waverly Commons on September 9th starting at 5:30. So get out that martini shaker because every lounge lizard knows a good martini is always shaken not stirred.



The Baltimore Art Gallery: Current Offerings

Currently showing at the Baltimore Art Gallery are artists Robert Hoffman and Martha Simons.

Robert Hoffman, known affectionally as Robert the Bird because he alone is clued into the strange traveling mythos of birds. New works on display are mixed-media works conceived during the pandemic. Robert has been expanding into new areas of color reflected both as a growth of self and as a person of the LGBTQ community. Most of the works are on reclaimed wooden panels. All are a mixture of fiber, embroidery, acrylic paint and 3D pen.

Sharing the space with Robert is fellow artist Martha Simons whose colorful paintings also reflect a connection with nature. Martha is a painter, writer, bird lover and fiber fanatic.



Whether she's organizing community events for the neighborhood children or creating crocheted critters for the light poles on Chester Street, Martha is always trying to find ways to bring art into her south-east Baltimore neighborhood.

Her acrylic and mixed media paintings reflect her views of nature whether it be a bright flowers on a hat or an op-art version of a birds paradise..

The opening for both artists is Friday August 6th. The show runs through September 2, 2021.

Baltimore Art Gallery
855 W. 36th Street
Baltimore, MD 21211
469-360-3500

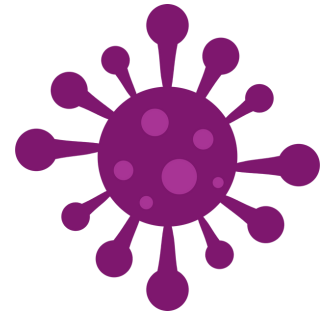


On the First Friday in August, Hampden was visited by a pair of Tyrannosaurus Rex casually strolling down The Avenue. They never appeared threatening to anyone except maybe each other. No dogs or small children were harmed.



I think they were headed to Frazier's for a very rare burger and a natty boh.

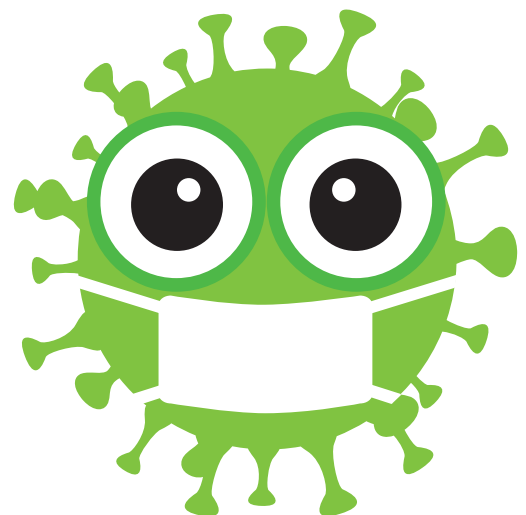
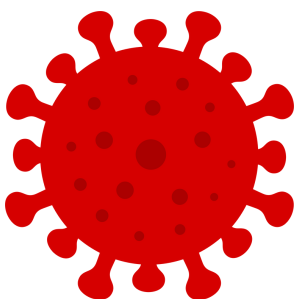
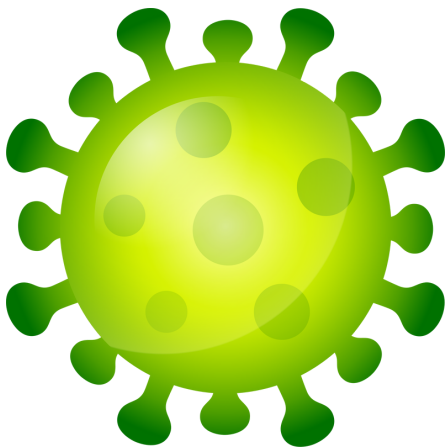
Covid reminds Hampden that it's still here



Covid made a resurgence in Hampden last weekend. Most of the restaurants that closed have now reopened. Covid isn't the only thing out there either. There's a nasty virus going around that mimics all of the symptoms of Covid with the exception of the Big 3, congestion and loss of smell/taste. It's not Covid or the flu. It's nasty just the same. Wear your Mask, I didn't wear mine on First Friday and I got to experience the new virus first hand. It's not Covid but it's miserable none the less. Stay safe.

-Kathy

Wear your mask!





Schroeder Cherry
"Ace" Barbershop Series #13
acrylic paint and mixed media on wood panel
28.5" x 18"

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

Fleckenstein
Gallery

3316 Keswick Road
t: 410-366-3669



Sip & Paint with Us - Happy Anniversary, Keswick!

Create art while sipping on a tasty beverage!
Participants will complete a celebration-themed
painting as we welcome another year of Wise & Well.
Invite a friend or two to this fun sip and paint event!

Date: Wednesday, September 8, 2021

Time: 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Fee: \$20 members/\$35 non-members



**For more information and to register contact us at
choosekeswick.org or call 410.662.4363**



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

M-F 8am-6pm ♣ SAT 8am-5pm



The Mayor's Christmas Parade is seeking sponsors and volunteers!!

Everybody loves a parade and everyone's childhood dream was to be part of a parade. Well, Hampden's favorite parade is back and you can make your dream come true. The parade organizers need our community's help. We are looking for sponsors for the helium balloons, floats, bands or whatever parade favorite you choose. And we need volunteers to help organize the parade and support the balloons.

Please help us out.

If you want to be a part of Hampden's Holiday tradition, please contact Tom Kerr @ 410-366-0726 or contact the Hampden Community Council via our Facebook page. Santa needs you.





48TH ANNUAL
MAYOR'S
CHRISTMAS PARADE
HELD IN HAMPDEN / MEDFIELD
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5TH
AT 1PM
FEATURING: GIANT BALLOONS,
FLOATS, MARCHING BANDS
AND OF COURSE **SANTA!**





THE MAYOR'S ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS PARADE
HELD IN HAMPDEN / MEDFIELD

**JUNIOR AND SENIOR MISS YULETIDE
CONTEST**

JUNIOR - 8 TO 12 YEARS OF AGE

SENIOR - 13 TO 19 YEARS OF AGE

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY

OCTOBER 20, 2021

If you are interested in competing for the honor
of riding in this year's

48th Annual Mayor's Christmas Parade

December 5, 2021

Send a picture and a brief autobiography to:

Tom Kerr, Chairman
4207 Edgehill Ave
Baltimore, MD 21211
410-366-0726

(If you need the picture returned you must provide a self addressed, stamped envelope)



The Hampden Family Center Requests Your Feedback!

The Hampden Family Center is gathering community feedback as we evaluate how to best serve Hampden and support our neighbors moving forward. We recognize how COVID has both changed and intensified the challenges that many Hampden families and individuals are facing, and we are committed to growing and adapting to meet those needs. Please take 3-5 minutes to fill out **[our Community Assessment survey](#)**. We thank you in advance!



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: closing 11/27, release Dec 7