Embracing Our School; Time To Pay HCC Dues
By Matt Stegman / HCC President / hccpresident@gmail.com

Embracing Our Community School:
For well over a year in advance of the renovated Robert Poole school building reopening, the HCC has partnered with Baltimore City, City Schools, BPD, and more to build a new, positive relationship between the ACCE and Independence Schools (particular credit goes to Jenn Crimes and Eli Lopatin for their leadership in these efforts). We’ve held dozens of meetings, the principal at ACCE has been a constant presence at community events, and students and staff from the school have joined the community for cleanups and other events.

Recently, tensions between students and some members of the community have bubbled over in a very ugly way, putting our community in a negative light. It is true that there are some students who have been a community nuisance or worse. The school administration has been partners with the community in holding students accountable when their behavior has crossed the line. It is also true that some of our neighbors have harassed the students, made racist remarks in person and online, and have made many of the students feel unwelcome in the neighborhood.

One refrain I’ve heard from many of these neighbors is “why isn’t Robert Poole a community school?” Here’s the thing: ACCE and Independence—the two schools that occupy the Robert Poole building—ARE our community schools. Tras of millions of dollars have been invested in the building and to support the academic programs at these schools. It’s a true community asset. In Baltimore City, all high schools are choice schools, meaning students can decide where to attend based on interests, talents, academic program, and location. Many neighborhood students do attend these schools, and I suspect more will in the coming years. Those students who live outside of Hampden have chosen to be a part of our community, and it’s our job to embrace them.

The HCC, Hampden merchants, school leadership, and other stakeholders have started the process of developing long-term strategies to bring the school and community closer together. If you want to be a part of that effort, please contact me at hccpresident@gmail.com.

It’s Time to Pay Your Dues!
It’s been many years since HCC has changed our membership dues. We are dedicated to serving the Hampden community and want to ensure that membership is accessible to everyone in the community, regardless of income. At the same time, expenses like insurance, event permits, and printing the Hampden Happenings newsletter increase every year.

After much deliberation, the HCC Board of Directors have determined that an increase in membership dues is necessary for us to remain sustainable. Beginning April 1st, the rate for a single membership will increase to $20 and a family membership will run $30. We will also be bringing back our Student and Senior rate, which will remain $10.

The good news is, until April 1st you can still pay your 2019 dues at the 2018 rates. Please consider renewing your membership in these efforts. We’ve held dozens of cleanups and other events. If you want to be a part of our community, and it’s our job to embrace them.

Tidier Streets Except for the Butts
By Daniel Ewald

Our last Crime and Crime walk of 2018 was delayed a week due to rain, but the push back allowed for more people to come out on a mild winter day. Our group started with six volunteers at Royal Farms. Eventually ending with close to over a dozen neighbors coming out to pick up refuse when we ended at Rocket to Venus. Our crew filled over fifteen garbage bags from the roads, sidewalks, tree pits and green spaces along the way. Officer Josh Laycock of the Baltimore Police also came out to lend a hand.

Among the typical trash, a lot of volunteers noticed a lot of cigarette butts. HCC President Matt Stegman even joked that this was his punishment for casually discarding so many years ago. While the butts could be found at any point along our cleaning route, large concentrations were present near staff doors of restaurants. Though it may seem innocuous, these butts are among the most common forms of trash, casually discarded and never thought of again. Aside from the plastic on the filters, the butts still contain many of the over 7,000 toxic chemicals found in tobacco products. This toxic waste ends up on our streets, in our drains and in our water. Research has shown that harmful chemicals leached from discarded butts, which include nicotine, arsenic and heavy metals, can be acutely toxic to aquatic organisms. At the February Clean and Green meeting (7pm at Café Hon on Feb 4), we will brainstorm on potential solutions to curb this issue.

Get in Touch With the HCC

President’s Email hccpresident@gmail.com
Crime and Safety Committee hampdenincrimesafety@gmail.com
Zoning and Land Use Committee hampdenzoninglaw@gmail.com
Fundraising Committee hampdenfundskmt@gmail.com

This is the HCC website!
www.hampdenhappenings.org

Here you will find the HCC membership forms and a Newsletter advertising rate/request form.

Contact Hampdennewsletter@gmail.com for help.
**Hampden Family Center: News and Events**

**By Ashley Wilkes/1345 West 31st Street / Baltimore, MD 21218 / 410-467-8750 / www.hampdenfamilycenter.org**

The New Year is off to a busy start!

We’re thrilled to announce our spring event, The Fantastical Hats of Hampden! On Saturday, March 30th our community will come together to celebrate the Center’s 23 years of work in Hampden and to support programming for the coming year.

We’re moving the event this year to The Garage @ R. House (325 W. 29th Street). As always, some of Baltimore’s best cuisine will be served along with a bar generously stocked by The Wine Source.

Get your best hat ready (or create one for the occasion)! There will also be $300 in prize money for the most innovative and meaningful hat. You will not want to miss this celebration—so mark your calendars now. Tickets will be released in February at www.hampdenfamilycenter.org.

**In the After-School Enrichment Program, students are focused this semester on skills such as planning, organizing teams (Builders Club and Gymnastics Club are up and running) and running clubs on topics of interest to both create and run clubs on topics of interest to students.**

Students will have an opportunity to both create and run clubs on topics of interest to them. The next session runs January 29th – December 3rd, 2019. Please call 410-274-0446 with questions. Schedule: Tuesdays 11am – 12pm

**NEW PROGRAMS**

**Individual and Family Counseling**

Are you looking for counseling, but not sure where to start? The Family Center is pleased to announce its partnership with Family & Children’s Services of Central Maryland (FCS). FCS counselors are free, and advance registration is required. Call 410-467-8710 for more information.

**Save the Date:** The Fantastical Hats of Hampden! Saturday, March 30th at 7pm

**What’s New at St. Mary’s Outreach Center**

By Tasha Cornish / 3200 Roland Avenue / Baltimore, MD 21211 / 410-366-3106 / www.smocbaltimore.org

We hope that you all had a wonderful holiday season, and that you are as hopeful about 2019 as we are. As we travel through winter, we are grateful for your support of our aging neighbors. With your donations of food and supplies for our pantry of consumable medical goods (think incontinence briefs and hygiene products), you are supporting our older adult community members with basic needs that they may otherwise go without, in lieu of paying rent or keeping their heat on. We are thrilled that, because of you, we can keep a small supply at our office and provide these goods through the Pantry at Hampden U.M.C. on Falls Road. Thank you, and stay tuned for more opportunities to get involved throughout the year.

**Spread the Word: Senior Citizen Water Discount**

When the Board of Estimates approved DPW water rate adjustments in January, they also approved changes to the water affordability programs. The positive news is that the 43% discount program on water and sewer consumption charges will be extended to people younger than 65 years old. The disappointing news is that the income limit will be lowered and some people who qualify for the Senior Citizens Discount now will no longer qualify. DPW has announced that those enrolled in the program before July 1 will be grandfathered in, so we need everyone’s help in spreading this news to our neighbors. If you would like to sign up or learn more, please call us at 410-366-3106.

**Upcoming at SMOC**

**Sign up for My Groceries to Go.**

Wednesday, February 13, 10 AM – 12 PM

If you are 60 or greater, you may be eligible to receive a monthly 40-lb box of nutritious pantry foods through My Groceries to Go, a federal program run by the Maryland Food Bank. The next sign-up is February 13, 2019. Call 410-366-3106 for more details.

**Calling all Crocheters & Knitters.**

Mondays, 1 PM – 3 PM

All levels are welcome. Some yarn is available, and you are always welcome to bring projects you are already working on. No need to sign up ahead of time—come in to share your knowledge, share your skill, and share your company!

**Furloughed U.S. Employees and Contractors Eligible for Water Bill Late Fee Waiver, Payment Plans**

Baltimore Mayor Catherine E. Pugh has approved the waiver of late fees for water bills for furloughed federal employees and contractors who are customers of the Baltimore City water system. Impacted federal workers and federal contractors will be eligible for this waiver in response to the partial government shutdown. Impacted federal workers and contractors who are customers of the Baltimore City water system. Impacted federal workers and contractors will be eligible for water bill payment plans as well as a late fee waiver.

**Eligible DPW water customers should send a copy of their work ID or letter can be emailed to DPW’s Customer Support and Services Division, at DPW.Billing@baltimorecity.gov.** Please also include the name, address, and account number, and indicate if you would like to set up a payment plan as well as a late fee waiver.

Any customer who falls behind in their bills may request a repayment plan to help them become current. Contact Customer Support at the email address above or call 410-366-5398 to discuss your account. Customers with a household income within 175 percent of federal poverty level may qualify for a one-time credit of $236 toward a payment plan.

**FREE Clothing Giveaway and...**

**Second Saturday of the Month**

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Woodberry Church of the Brethren

W. 36th and Poole Streets

(Use basement door entrance.)

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**HISTORIC HAMPDEN HAPPENINGS • February 2019**
First Ever HCC Ugly Christmas Attire Party
By Kathy Krampien / Photo by Ultimate Ugly Christmas of Flickr.com

On December 20, the Hampden Community Council held their annual Christmas Party at the Five and Dime Ale House. The theme was the HCC’s “First Ever Ugly Christmas Attire” party. Local merchants donated tons of great prizes and the Modest Florist provided several beautiful poinsettias to help with the festive holiday decorations. The Five and Dime provided delicious wings and pizza and other snacks for the guest and contestants.

Several people went out of their way getting in the holiday spirit by dressing as ugly as possible. Everything from a Hampden Hon’s bouffant hairdo with gleaned deer in the holiday spirit by dressing as ugly as possible. Stephanie Murdock, Mary Pat Clark’s right hand gal took first prize with the ugliest “Grinch” green Christmas suit imaginably. Stephanie antlers to the ugliest “Grinch” green Christmas suit imaginably. Stephanie antlers to the ugliest “Grinch” green Christmas suit imaginably. Stephanie antlers to the ugliest “Grinch” green Christmas suit imaginably.

Thanks again to all of the party guests, local merchants and a special shout out to Corey and the Five and Dime Ale House for providing us with a great space and food. We are looking forward to the 2019 Holiday Party so we can prove once again the Christmas isn’t just for sweaters anymore.

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IF YOU’RE INTERESTED IN THE FUTURE OF HAMPDEN, please consider joining the Hampden Community Council. The HCC is a voice for everyone in Hampden – homeowners, businesses, teenagers, seniors, newcomers and old-timers. The more members we have the farther your voice can reach. Your membership fee supports our newsletter and improves our community through education, clean & green and zoning committees, to name a few. Help Hampden continue to thrive.

Hampden Community Council

HCC MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

□ NEW MEMBER □ RENEWING MEMBER

Name(s) __________________________________________________________

Street Address ____________________________________________________ Zip __________

Phone _____________________ Fax _____________________ Email __________________________

Business Name (if registering for a business membership) ____________________________

□ INDIVIDUAL ($10) □ FAMILY ($15) □ BUSINESS ($25) □ $_____ ADDITIONAL DONATION

In addition to my HCC membership, I would like to serve on/learn about the following committee(s): (OPTIONAL)

_____ Zoning  _____ Crime & Safety  _____ Membership

_____ Education  _____ Fundraising  _____ Newsletter Distribution

_____ Clean & Green

Please make checks payable to Hampden Community Council.
The HCC is a non-profit 501(c)3 Organization. All dues and additional donations are 100% tax deductible.

Please fill out this application and mail it, along with your check, to:

Hampden Community Council
ATTN: MEMBERSHIP
PO Box 19957
Baltimore, MD 21211