Good news for good neighbors



Radnor-Winston Improvement Association

Spring 2022

PROGRESSIVE PORCH PARTY

The neighborhood's signature annual event is back! We hope to see you on Sunday, May 15, 4:30 - 6:30 pm for the first Porch Party since 2019. Page 2

Dear Neighbors,

Welcome to the first Radnor-Winston newsletter of 2022! Thanks so much to relatively new Crowson neighbor Regina Cagle Irr for picking up the baton from Dave LaSalle on this fun and crucial communication tool for our neighborhood.

As the weather finally warms up this year, let's make a point of reconnecting in person outdoors as much as possible and introducing ourselves to those who have moved in recently. Bring the kids for our annual Spring Egg Hunt in

ZONING UPDATES

Updates on the Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals decisions regarding the Popeye's drive-thru and the Vaughn Greene crematorium.

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the awesome Woodford Road Dead-End on April 16, and then come to our revived Progressive Porch Party on May 15. It's been so long, we can't wait until fall! More info on both of these events in this newsletter.

If you are interested in our broader York Road community, this would be a great time to get involved with the York Road Partnership, which brings together neighborhoods and organizations from 39th Street to the City line, including ours. Go to https:// yorkroadpartnership.org/get-involved/ for meeting, listserve, and Facebook

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PARENTS CORNER

Parks, playgrounds, nature centers, and ponds. We list some of your neighbors' favorite nearby spots for getting the kids outdoors this Spring.

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page info. Many fun upcoming corridor events are on the Facebook page.

Finally, if you haven't yet, please pay your 2022 association dues at http://bit.ly/RWIA-Dues or write a check to RWIA and hand to your block captain or mail to Dru Schmidt-Perkins at 400 Winston Ave. Dues are \$15/ household or \$10 for seniors and lower-income folks. Your dues help fund these great events, this newsletter, and other important functions of our association.

See you 'round the neighborhood! Dan Pontious | President

FEELING GRATEFUL GATHERING

The Woodford dead-end was anything but dead Saturday night, April 2, when more than 40 neighbors showed up for an outdoor evening social event. There were blazing fire pits, wine and beer, a great playlist, and amazing baked goods (those chocolate chip cookies!), plus hot cider and hot toddies for those who needed a little extra warmth. Thank you to all of those who came out to enjoy a wonderful evening planned by Karen DeCamp, Peter Conrad, Jeff Ellis, Lia Purpura, Linda Maizels, and Kate Scott. Stay tuned for more Radnor-Winston events this spring, including, hopefully, a movie night!



Neighbors gather at Radnor Rd and Wintston Ave for the last Progressive Porch Party in September 2019.

PROGRESSIVE PORCH PARTY

We look forward to seeing you this spring for Radnor-Winston's signature annual event - the Progressive Porch Party, coming up on **Sunday, May 15, 4:30 - 6:30 pm**! While this is a longstanding RW tradition, the last porch party was held in 2019, so here's how it works:

Everyone brings a dish according to their last name, and we all get to visit our neighbors' porches & front yards to catch up, meet new neighbors, and get a few neighborhood updates. If you are unable to bring a dish, don't let that stop you from coming. The potluck dish assignments are below:

Appetizers:

Last name starting with S-Z Main Dish: Last name starting with H-R

Desserts:

Last name starting with A-G

Rossiter block captain Vanessa Rose (vanessa.cherie.rose@gmail.com) and longtime Radnor neighbor Amy Caslow (atlantic04@comcast.net) are jointly coordinating the event.

Please reach out to them if you are

able to volunteer any items for the big day (e.g. folding tables or chairs, cloth tablecloths, or coolers) or can volunteer a bit of your time (e.g. purchasing supplies, table and chairs setup and breakdown, get ice, order pizza for main dish house, etc.). In particular, we would appreciate volunteers who are available before 3 pm or after 7 pm on the day of to set up and breakdown tables and chairs.

Thanks to the hosts that have volunteered this year.

4:30 pm Appetizers: 5116 Norwood Road Home of Lia Purpura and Jed Gaylin

5:15 pm Main Dish: 4911 Crowson Avenue Home of Dorris Van Gaal and Pim Valkenberg

6 pm Dessert: (Candidates for State delegate and Senator will be joining for dessert.) 324 & 326 Radnor Avenue Homes of Miriam DesHarnais and Lou Joseph, and Lester and Tanisha Purnell We look forward to seeing you all

there!

Resources for Modest-Income Homeowners

Are you struggling to afford the bills in your home? Need help with repairs? Did you inherit your home and need to get your own name on the deed? Go to this site: https://bit.ly/YRPHomeHelp for a two-pager with resources to help you maintain the hard-earned wealth in your home, based on your income and age.

These resources range from free home repairs for very low-income homeowners, to deferred loans at slightly higher incomes and low-interest loans for people with higher incomes than that. Plus you may qualify for a break on your property taxes and water bill based on your income. Check it out!

These resources brought to you by the York Road Partnership, an alliance of 30 neighborhoods (including Radnor-Winston), institutions, and organizations along York Road from 39th Street to the City Line. Contact Dan Pontious (dan.pontious@icloud.com) if you have questions.

HOUSING COMMITTEE

Any housing tips you're interested in seeing for your bungalow, cottage or foursquare? Want to be part of the committee to help develop future workshops and programming? The RW Housing Committee typically convenes quarterly meetings and would love your input and/or involvement. Please contact Katarina Carlin (katarina.carlin@gmail.com) or Jeff Ellis (somewhereinthecity@ gmail.com) for more information.

Vaughn Greene Crematorium

Last October, the Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals (BMZA) voted 3-1 to grant Vaughn Greene Funeral Services conditional use permission to install a crematorium at its 4905 York Road location, and asked the company to work with local residents on a set of mutually agreeable conditions for operations. The RWIA, along with the Winston-Govans Neighborhood Improvement Association, the York Road Partnership, and neighbor Cindy Camp, became plaintiffs to the appeal of BMZA decision on February 2, when a request for review was sent to the Baltimore City Circuit Court. RWIA donated \$500 towards expenses to support the appeal. More details to come as the appeal process proceeds.

Popeye's Drive-thru

On Tuesday, March 8, the BMZA

Parents Corner

Looking to explore around RW with nicer weather on its way? Check out the great spots below for family-friendly fun within a few minutes of our neighborhood (listed in order of distance from RW).

TOP FAMILY-FRIENDLY (AND FREE) LOCAL SPOTS

Loyola and Notre Dame Campuses (0.3 mi) - Great for a stroll, hike in the "woods" or bike/trike rides on the quad (summer or between semesters).

Govans Library (0.9 mi) - Local library opens at 10 am Monday through Saturday. Check out the website for upcoming events, and those with Ms. Gloria especially recommended!

Sherwood Gardens (1.0 mi) - See over 50,000 tulips and other bulbs bloom at this private park voted one of Baltimore's Best Urban Gardens. Mark

held a hearing on the December 2019 conditional use they had approved for Popeyes to install their current drive-thru. Incredibly, Popeyes didn't respond to the BMZA's many notifications of the hearing, nor did they attend. RW had a terrific panel, including neighbors Lina Ayers, Dru Schmidt-Perkins, Michael James, and Dan Pontious, laying out the timeline of events. A Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD, which houses the BMZA) attorney laid out their efforts at enforcement up to this point, and we both urged BMZA revocation of the drive-thru conditional use. The BMZA voted unanimously to do just that.

Neither BMZA members nor their staff were aware of this type of action being taken previously. RW has apparently just set a precedent for the whole City! When businesses negotiate with neighborhoods, this hopefully will be

your calendars for the Annual Tulip Dig coming up on Saturday, May 28.

Stony Run Trail (1.0 mi) - Nearly three mile urban forested trail between Gilman School's athletic fields on the north and Wyman Park Drive to the south.

Homeland Duck Pond (1.3 mi) -On Springlake Drive, this series of six interconnected lakes hosts lots of large gold fish, ducks, geese, and frogs if you're lucky.

Linkwood Playground (1.3 mi) -Shaded and mulched playground hosting a variety of swings, slides, rocking things and even a small climbing wall.

Our Playground at Stadium Place (2.4 mi) - This recently reopened playground was 100% volunteer built, and is maintained by the Waverly Y. Call ahead to confirm hours.

Medfield Heights Park (2.5 mi) -Greenspace park and rec center, with adjacent elementary school playground one example showing they have to actually follow through on their commitments. At some point soon, the BMZA should be sending Popeyes a written order to shut down their drive-thru (not the whole restaurant). Popeyes may elect to appeal, or the City may need a court order to get Popeyes to comply.

The conditional use required implementation of an MOU with Popeyes carefully negotiated by RWIA neighbors Dru, Lina, Michael, Annick Barker, Peter Conrad, and others, that included no middle-of-the night deliveries, added litter control, an attractive landscaping plan with native plants, new regular communication with them, a fence between their restaurant and the RW community garden, and other items. Popeyes did install the fence, however compliance with other requirements of the MOU has not been maintained.

open on evenings and weekends.

Wyman Park Dell Playground (2.5 mi) - A 16-acre public park south of Johns Hopkins and the Baltimore Museum of Art boasting playground, fields, picnic tables and even ping pong tables!

Lake Roland Park (3.6 mi) - City/ county park encompassing over 500 acres of woodland, wetlands, rare plants, rocky plateaus, and an awesome playground and nature center for the kids, surrounding Lake Roland in Baltimore County.

Cylburn Arboretum (4.3 mi) - Baltimore's largest public gardens boasting gardens, trails, and educational programs and events for all ages.

If you have little ones and are interested in connecting with other RW parents, or have ideas for future resources to share or ways to connect, please reach out to Tunde Oyediran (omocool@gmail.com).

FOOD WASTE IN RW

Did you know May 1 through 7 is International Compost Awareness Week? RW Neighbor Lia Purpura, with help from others, is leading the charge on developing opportunities for composting for the larger Govans community, with more details to come later this summer. In the meantime, hop on over to https://www.surveymonkey. com/r/2R3PDQ9 to share your input to the survey questions below. We look forward to your feedback around composting and RW.

Q1. Do you currently collect food waste separately at your home?

Q2. Do you currently do backyard or worm bin composting of food waste (or other materials) at your home?

Q3. Do you currently use a food waste collection service?

Q4. Would you be interested in a food waste collection point within our community?

Q5. Would you be interested in learning more about how to manage food waste at your home, or why food waste matters at all?

COVID-19 VACCINE & BOOSTER

Get your COVID-19 vaccine or booster at three locations within 1.5 miles of RW, listed below. For additional information on vaccinations and testing centers for Baltimore City residents provided by the Baltimore City Health Department, please visit:

covax.baltimorecity.gov. CVS, 5200 York Road

Ages 12+, walk-ins welcome, or schedule an appointment at https://www.cvs. com/immunizations/covid-19-vaccine

Rite Aid, 6300 York Road

Ages 5+, walk-ins welcome, or schedule an appointment at https://www. riteaid.com/pharmacy/scheduler Walgreens, 6301 York Road

Ages 5+, walk-ins welcome, or schedule an appointment at https://www.walgreens.com/findcare/ vaccination/covid/19/landing

SPRING CLEAN UP - APRIL 30

Spring is near! Mayor Brandon M. Scott and Baltimore City Department of Public Works (DPW) encourage residents to organize to clean and beautify their neighborhoods for the Mayor's Spring Cleanup on **Saturday, April 30 from 9 am to 1 pm**. Organizations can call 311 to register their projects. To join the north end cleanup project, please reach out to Lia Purpura (liapurpura1@gmail.com), or for other project ideas, please reach out to Dan Pontious (dan.pontious@icloud. com) before Friday, April 22.

BOOK GROUP - MAY 1

Interested in joining the RW Book Club? While we have been limited to zoom during covid, we're looking forward to reconvening in person as folks are comfortable. Our first meeting of 2022 will be coming up **Sunday**, **May 1 at 7 pm**. We'll meet to discuss our favorite independent reads during quarantine, as well as determine our selections for the rest of the year. If you're interested in joining, please reach out to Jamie St. Onge (jamiedstonge@gmail.com) for details.

HELLO, NEIGHBOR

Did you know artists, teachers, engineers, caregivers, professors, music directors, public servants, volunteers, and many, many others reside in RW? If you know a RW neighbor doing exceptional work in our community or for the greater Baltimore area that you would like to highlight, please email Regina Cagle Irr (cagler@gmail. com). In the next issue, we'll begin our spotlight section for our wonderful RW neighbors.

JOIN THE LISTSERVE

To join the listserve, email Jeff Ellis (somewhereinthecity@gmail.com). Also try our Facebook group: www. facebook.com/groups/radnorwinston/ or find us on Nextdoor.

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THOUGHTS OR IDEAS?

Thank you for reading. If you have positive feedback or ideas for future issues, please reach out to Regina Cagle Irr (cagler@gmail.com). Any complaints can be directed to Chris Irr (chris@theirrs.com).