

www.wymanparkcommunity.org

Wyman Park

Community Association

Upcoming WPCA General Association Meeting

7 pm via Zoom • February 3

WPCA Celebrated The Holidays! By Amy Rial



Santa and his WPCA Elves

The WPCA sends out a big thank you to our community for making the holidays a little brighter for foster families in Baltimore. For at least the second year in a row, we saw Wyman Parkers give generously to more than 60 children. This was in part through the "Foster the Joy" initiative, organized by the Baltimore City Resources Parent Association (BCRPA) and WPCA but also the individual work of Wyman Park foster mom, Virginia Richard. BCRPA is a local community organization that supports foster families in Baltimore.

Yes, shopping and wrapping gifts were essential, but so was the

contribution of volunteers who stored and organized gifts, wrote multiple emails keeping us abreast of target dates, and stuffed their cars with gifts for transport to BCRPA offices.

We cannot underestimate our efforts. As Virginia wrote me after delivery of the gifts, "This is an obscene amount of work for EVERYONE involved but it REALLY makes a difference!"

We also saw much holiday joy in the annual Wyman Park Holiday Party on December 6th in the park at 37th and Beech. Approximately 70 people turned out for the event just as the clouds cleared and the sun came out. Once again, our children got to share a moment with Santa and climb on a firetruck.

We also started what we hope will be an annual tradition: the Wyman Park ornament. For the second year in a row, we enjoyed coffee from Kitsch, and our neighbors did not fail to please with an abundance of treats.

Thank you again, Wyman Park, for your generosity this year, and for making our neighborhood a special place to live!



Lara Boeck, Laura Walsh, and Lissa Rotundo

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings, Neighbors,

I hope 2026 has begun on a healthy and happy note for everyone - and that this year brings us all a bit more breathing room and balance. Thank you to everyone who has joined recent meetings, events, and conversations. It's been a real pleasure connecting with so many of you.

Here at the WPCA, we're starting the year with a focus on several key priorities: addressing traffic and road concerns, fostering healthy and respectful discussion around local issues (especially in and around the park), creating welcome packets for new neighbors, and gearing up for more community events throughout 2026.

We're also looking for neighbors who might like to get involved. In particular, we could use help with contributing to this newsletter, organizing our annual picnic in June, and brainstorming thoughtful ways to welcome newcomers to the neighborhood. If any of these sound like a good fit for you, we'd love to hear from you.

As always, WPCA thrives on community input. Please don't hesitate to reach out with ideas, questions, concerns, or suggestions - we're glad to hear from you.



Warmly,
Andrea

President,
Wyman Park
Community
Association

An Interview with Greg Hatem of Bazaar

By Eli Sherlock

You opened in 2013. What made you choose Hampden? Hampden was a special place for me when I was younger. As a teenager out in Harford County, I would visit whenever I could. I love Hampden's small business community, so when our space became available in 2013, my business partner Brian Henry and I jumped on it! It was originally a 6-month lease to see if the shop could eventually support itself. 12 years later, we are still very fortunate to be open in one of the city's best retail destinations.

Do you have a favorite object at Bazaar, anything with particular significance to you? Right now, it would have to be the original costume of Mondy the Sea Monster from Maryland Public Television's Captain Chesapeake, a children's television show from the 1970s - 1980s. It's a very creepy papier-mâché sea monster costume from 50 years ago, with a charming but slightly sinister expression. Ahoy, crew members - come say hi to Mondy!

How do you source your inventory, given its unusual and often one-of-a-kind nature? Some items we get from wholesale companies, like a normal retail store. But often, we go to auctions, estate sales, private collections, etc. Many items including candles and colognes are made right in the shop. The specimens are recycled from various places - entomologists, roadside scavenging, farm waste, invasive species abatement, biology classrooms, etc.

Any unique elements to running your business? Probably! This is the only business I have run, so it's hard to say. I guess the most unique thing is that we are always producing as well as doing regular retail work. So we jump around: one minute pouring candles, the next minute gluing an insect specimen to a display, then ringing up customers and restocking. It's a lot of bouncing around.

Any fun events for the 2026 year planned? In March, we have another round of taxidermy workshops with our good friend Divya Anantharaman of Gotham Taxidermy. She is based out of NYC and keeps very busy, so it is always a treat when she can come to Baltimore.

Favorite Hampden tradition? So many, but a special shout out to the Mayor's Christmas Parade! We close the shop to watch every year, and it's always a thrill. We are both artists and creatives, so the tradition of DIY art and music in Baltimore is holy to me. For a smaller city, Baltimore has a world-class scene.

Any business/meal in Hampden that you'd like to shout out? So many incredible businesses have bloomed in Hampden over the years, it's hard to choose. An old favorite, Hampden Junque, is sadly no longer in operation, but a fabulous beverage shop, Modern World, has opened in that space's fertile ground. Howl, In Watermelon Sugar, and Strawberry Fields are all top-notch spots nearby. There's also an embarrassment of riches in the food and drink scene - Luigi's, Kandahar Kitchen, Maillard, Harmony, Bodhi Corner, Mel's... the list is too long!

Deb Falkenhan Update on the Fire at Falkenhan's Hardware

We reached out to Deb Falkenhan, of Falkenhan's Hardware Store, to check on the status of the building, any plans regarding the business, and any ways the community can help. The following is her response:

"Dealing with the insurance company is confusing and very time consuming. Waiting on the ok to begin the cleanup and going through my dad's office is the first priority. Once the cleanup is underway, the building will be evaluated for what has to be done to bring it back to usable condition. No final decision has been made at this time regarding the business. I need a lot of time to make a decision and a lot of things to get done in the meantime."

"The communities in the area and beyond have been amazing and very supportive of myself and my guys at the store. I appreciate all the calls, texts and messages from everyone. I know everyone wants to help and as soon as I can, I will let everyone know what I need and what they can do. From the bottom of my heart, thank you."



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Support Wyman Park Business Owners!

Jen McBrien
Jennyjen42.com

I am the owner of the one-woman business jennyjen42, a fiber art company that is based in the Mill Center on Chestnut Avenue in Hampden. My work is heavily bird themed, vintage inspired, and eco-friendly. I use organic cotton fabrics to create my housewares and accessories. My popular functional items include handbags, décor pillows, eyeglass cases, potholders, oven gloves, and tea towels. My fine art work features embroidered birds and hybrid bird women. You can see my work at jennyjen42.com. You can also make an appointment with me for private shopping!

Eric Piccirelli
ericpiccirelli@gmail.com

In addition to being an orchestra teacher, I provide lessons and would love to have a few students in the neighborhood if anyone is interested. I teach violin, viola, cello, and bass.

Emily Goldstein
410-728-5007

I would love to promote the two services that I provide. Graphic design – see my work at mdesignbaltimore.com and landscaping design and maintenance; which I did over 30 jobs in the neighborhood last summer.

Sara Chapin Gross
443-633-0772

I am a Landscape Designer and Architect and have a side business called Cedar Avenue design. I provide garden design services and consulting for projects large and small. I provide advice on DIY installations as well as complete planting and hardscape designs. I am also open to small architectural projects and renovations. **Cedaravenuedesign.com** In addition, I also have an Etsy shop called Forest and Farm Goods where I sell custom apparel, accessories, and, in the near future, vintage home goods straight from the farm and inspired by the natural world. Most popular projects include native plant- and mushroom-themed T-shirts, tote bags, and koozies. [Etsy.com/shop/ForestandFarmGoods](https://www.etsy.com/shop/ForestandFarmGoods)

John Gazurian
jgpottery.etsy.com

I make handmade functional stoneware table pottery, such as mugs, bowls, plates, jars, and vases, much of it wood fired.

Rick Sanchez
five10creations@gmail.com

I am the owner of Five10 Creations, a small craft shop I've been running since 2017. I love creating wood, 3-D printed, and laser-cut pieces. I am happy to offer Wyman Park and our Hampden Neighbor's free local delivery – just use code WP.

Matthew Reid
matt@matthewreid.org

I work for myself and I am in the final stages of registering a business, Analemma LLC. I do lighting for stage, rock 'n' roll, corporate, weddings, and other events locally and in DC!

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Mark Your Calendars for This Special Event at HEMS!

Hello, Wyman Park neighbors,

If you are looking for a reason to brave a winter evening, the Parent-Teacher Organization has you covered. This February marks the return of Spaghetti Disco, the annual dinner and dance benefiting Hampden Elementary/Middle School (HEMS). It remains one of the most joyful, slightly chaotic, and entirely beloved events on the school calendar.

Tickets will be available for anyone who would like to attend, so supporting the PTO can be as simple as showing up, enjoying a plate of spaghetti, and dancing with enthusiasm that may exceed your usual weekday standards. Proceeds from the evening help fund PTO initiatives that directly support HEMS students, teachers, and school life throughout the year.

The event also features a silent auction, and this is where our neighborhood's creativity takes center stage.

The PTO is seeking contributions that highlight the artistry, skill, and care found throughout Wyman Park. Ceramics, paintings, prints, textiles, quilts, woodworking, photography, handmade jewelry, and creative lessons or experiences are all especially welcome. Items that reflect time, talent, and craftsmanship tend to be deeply appreciated by HEMS families.

If you create something beautiful, teach something special, or have an idea that others would be excited to bid on, the PTO would love to hear from you. Your contribution helps make the evening successful while celebrating the talents that make this community what it is.

As always, thank you for supporting our neighborhood school with warmth, style, and good humor. We hope to see many of you on the dance floor this February.

With appreciation and thanks,

**Friends of Hampden
& HEMS PTO**

www.friendsofhampden.org
www.hampden55pto.org





MEMBERSHIP & DUES

Only \$15 gets your entire household membership in WPCA. Support your community association!

How to Join:

- 1) PayPal or Credit Card: visit www.wymanparkcommunity.org;
- 2) Mail a personal check made payable to "WPCA" along with your name, address, phone number, and mail to: Michael Siers, Treasurer, 608 W 33rd St. Baltimore MD 21211
- 3) NEW!! Scan the QR code to pay your WPCA Dues . \$15 per year



Support Wyman Park Business Owners!

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Hilary Hachey
hilaryhachey.com

I am a jeweler. My minimalist designs are hand-fabricated in sterling silver and 18k gold. My studio is number #204 at The Mill Center.

Eileen Gillan
410-409-3197

Shiny Happy Things—a new shop in the kiosk next to Rita’s in the Rotunda. Founded by Bill Benson, 95 years old, creator of the iconic Tree of Life outside AVAM, creates flashies, flashettes, mirror people, robots, magic mirror balls, shimmy fish, and other mirror art. Eileen creates sun catchers, and hand painted stained glass art. Evie Hersperger, Eileen’s next-door neighbor, also helps make art. Shiny Happy Things on Facebook, Instagram and shinyhappythings.net

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