

The Arcadian

a publication of the
ARCADIA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
www.arcadia-baltimore.org

•Founding member
and supporter of
HARBEL Inc.



Mark Your Calendars

The next general
meeting of the
Arcadia
Improvement
Assoc., Inc.

Thursday,
March 12, 2022
7:00 pm

TBD virtual or
in person at
Ray of Hope
Baptist Church
Parkside Dr. &
Harford Rd.

***This is our first
of two general
meetings a year.
Please consider
getting involved.
We will be elect-
ing some new
board members
and officers.
Call or email
our president or
newsletter editor
to inquire how
you can get more
involved.**

November/December 2021

President's Message

For anyone not looped into Arcadia Chat (see a reminder of how to subscribe below), a recent discussion of events on Morgan's homecoming weekend turned ugly between some neighbors. Reflecting on this discourse, I feel like something needs to be said. But what should be said and what authority do I have to say it? Our society prides itself on its ability to coexist while holding differing opinions. So, with no rules for discourse (other than a sentence on a website asking for civility), what is ok to say in any semi-public forum? I've written and rewritten responses that range from angry and condescending to deep and philosophical. With so much being said, how can my words be helpful? What is even accurate?

We live in tough times. Some say we live in a space between two worlds—an old world and a new one. An interregnum, between existing narratives and modern ones. While our time is probably not any more difficult than times in the past, it feels different. Perhaps because we are here now. And our collective memories do not serve us well. We look back and feel nostalgia or disdain for a past that existed only as we experienced it. How do we move through this moment?

I believe the discussion that was had on the chat, though painful, is healthy, but only if all parties are truly listening. Our fears, to ourselves, are very real. We've been chained to our cave walls for nearly two years. We have been looking out on the world through tiny cracks. For some, the crack is our cell phone. For others the crack is our television, a magazine, or a book. From our cracks, we see horrifying things and we hear terrible sounds. The distortions projected on our cave walls look like things from nightmares. We are terrified.

Every now and then someone escapes from the cave. In the dazzling light of the sun, they see the world for what it is. The monsters, screams, and giants are simply haystacks, windmills, and birds singing. In Plato's allegory of the cave, to which I am alluding, when the prisoner who leaves the cave returns, the other prisoners are furious at the news that the outside is not what they knew it to be. If they could have, they would have killed their messenger. Though distorted, their sense of reality was so real to them that they simply couldn't believe the returning prisoner. Is this us? Are we merely repeating patterns that have been repeating themselves since the beginning of time? ***

*** Are we Sisyphus, doomed to push our boulders up the hill only to have them roll back down again? How do we know that what we have seen is a full and true picture of what is happening outside?

The world is complex. More complex than the meat in our skulls can comprehend. For our own protection, we are conditioned to believe things that might not be true. We build models to help us understand and make sense of the world. Are those models complete? Those models are a caricature of what is real and are highly susceptible to bias. We manipulate ourselves into believing that the model we made is true. We cling to our fabrications, and it is painful to give them up. We don't recognize that to others the reality simply looks different. It is human. This phenomenon is the same for everyone and lately our models and shared sense of reality have been under attack. When you act on your model, how do you know that you are acting with truth on your side? How do you know that the facts that you have been told are not wrapped up in a veil of propaganda? If you think you are not subject to bias and propaganda, I humbly suggest that you reconsider. This affects all of us. We are only human. And the systems of coercion are powerful.

Most of us understand this. But when our model of the world is attacked, we feel attacked and are instantly thrown into a war. A war which many of us never formally agreed to fight in the first place. We forget the person on the other side is human. We sling arrows, spears, and rhetoric unabashedly, as if defending ourselves from a monster of massive proportion. And it seems righteous. We think we are fighting for our lives or defending someone else's. When we are at war with giants, there are no other options. What else is there to do but fight?

And who am I, dear neighbor, and under who's authority can I suggest that you (a fully formed and autonomous human being) should think and act like an idealized version of myself? Well, I am no one, really. And I have no authority. This is simply another signal in the noise, susceptible to the same manipulation, transmitting into the abyss and hoping for peace between neighbors and fellow humans. The next time you feel the need to take up arms in war, step back and ask yourself, is this monster really a monster? Or am I tilting at windmills? Is this a giant who is out to harm me or others?

Please continue to read next page.

from page 1

Or is this a human being, a neighbor, who has also been chained to the walls of their cave, terrified—just like you?

Emerging from your cave? We intend to move forward with our yearly New Year's Eve ball fall at the corner of Juneau and Harcourt. We will need help. The mast is heavy! More details will be announced via arcadia-chat.org as we get closer to the new year.

Want to join the chat? Send an email to: president@arcadia-baltimore.org
Peace.

Mike Milli



president@arcadia-baltimore.org

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Want to know more about what's happening in our park and safe use of park trails? Check out our website at

friendsofherringrun.org



**Happy
Holidays**



Our wish for all Arcadians is a safe and Happy Thanksgiving. December brings many different celebrations that may involve family gatherings. If yours is Christmas, Hanukkah, or Kwanzaa, our wish is for peace and sharing of the holiday with those we love--family, friends, and all our neighbors.



Baltimore City DPW Press Release

Autumn has arrived and so have the falling leaves in Baltimore City. Leaf collection season has begun and will continue through Monday, January 3, 2022. During these dates residents can **call 311 for special Monday pickups of up to 20 bags of leaves**. Residents can make multiple appointments until all the bags are gone. **Residents must call before 6 p.m. on Sunday** to schedule a collection for the following Monday. The Bureau of Solid Waste will also collect bagged leaves on regularly scheduled trash collection days **up to 5 bags from each address every week with trash collection**.

Residents should NOT let leaves collect on the curbs and gutters and please do not sweep or blow leaves into the street. **Please do** rake and bag leaves from your curbs, sidewalks, alleys and off of storm drain grates.

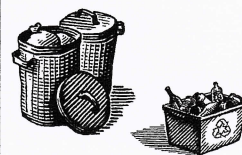
Additional options for dealing with leaves include composting and mulching. These options promote healthy lawns and gardens.

Winter Weather Tips

DPW reminds citizens to clear snow from fire hydrants and storm drains in your neighborhood (melting snow and thawing ice need clear channels to storm drains).

1. Keeping storm drains clear prevents flooding of intersections and basements and lets water flow freely away.
2. Let a thin stream of cold water run from a basement faucet when outside temperatures are extremely low. The stream should be a continuous flow, about the **thickness of a pencil lead**. This water can be caught in a bucket to be recycled later as laundry or dish water.
3. If your pipe is frozen, gently warm it with hot air from a blow dryer at the point where it enters your house.
4. Be sure you know the location of the water shutoff valve in your home. Check it periodically to ensure it works properly.

For water emergencies please call 311



Trash Recycling Schedule

**THURSDAY=
TRASH**

**If a holiday
falls on a
Thursday the
make-up day is
Saturday**

**TUESDAY=
RECYCLING**

**If a holiday
falls on a
Tuesday the
make-up
day=Saturday**

● **Bulk Trash
pick-up**
**It has resumed
our day is the
2nd Saturday
of the month.
There is a wait
list and our 1st
available date
is April 9th.
Call ASAP to
get this date.**

311 "It works"

Report potholes and get them repaired within 48 hours. Other concerns such as slippery side streets in need of salting, salt boxes that need to be refilled, unpermitted construction projects, etc. may also be reported, but do get a tracking # so you can check back if the problem has not been resolved.

"Thank You!"

Thanks to the faithful group of newsletter deliverers that help us get this publication out to all neighbors. If you can't continue to deliver, please contact the editor to find a replacement for your block. We really appreciate your service to our community.

THE **ARCADIAN** is published six times a year by the Arcadia Improvement Association

Deadline for News Items

for Jan/Feb issue

December 26

Send items for newsletter to:

Betty Mayes

3209 Berkshire Rd.

Baltimore, MD 21214

Phone 410-426-3426

e-mail:

bbmayes@verizon.net

We welcome articles of community interest.

Advertising:

Dave Pugh & Bob Mayes

Distribution:

Janice & Jack Bonner

Editor & Layout:

Betty Mayes

410-426-3426

The "New" Arcadia website is listed on the front page. Check it out

New Baby on the Block



Erin Cunningham & Paul Atkinson

welcomed their baby daughter

Mara Breeden Atkinson

Born September 26th, weighing in at 8lb 1oz.

This young lady joins her two brothers **Eamon & Alexi** and big sister **Cady** at home on Berkshire Road



Welcome New Neighbors

Welcome to Arcadia!

Josh, Deb, & Maddie Moy
residents of 3013 Overland Avenue

Please introduce yourselves to all you see walking their dogs or just having a family stroll. We try to be a welcoming neighborhood and look forward to meeting you. If you would like to be greeted in our newsletter -- email the editor. My info is just to the left.

--Editorial Note--

COVID 19 reminder

This is a shout out for our local

Safeway Pharmacy

The COVID 19 vaccine is available for walk-in appointments--1st, 2nd, or booster shots. Whether you have Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance, or **no insurance** coverage, it is **free to everyone** who has not been vaccinated. Take advantage of this nearby opportunity to protect your health and the well being of those you care about.

--stay safe, stay healthy and wear your mask when out shopping or in close contact with others.

Hats Off to our Advertisers



Thank you for supporting our community newsletter and keeping your business in our area.

To **all** who read this newsletter, **please** mention to the merchants who advertise on our back page that you saw their ad in the **ARCADIAN**. Their support helps to make the bi-monthly newsletter possible. Please patronize these valued businesses to keep them sustainable.

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What's Missing ???

What you don't see in this issue is the usual "Arcadia Dues" reminder. Thanks to all who faithfully mail-in their dues at the years beginning and those who pay at our usual Block parties. Dues reminders will be in our next issue--please know that everyone gets the newsletter even if you have not paid your dues. The officers, board members, newsletter staff, and distributors are volunteers who work to improve our community. **Thank You** to all of them!

"You may also pay your dues online via the Zelle banking app, directed to ArcadiaImprovement@gmail.com. Please include your address and contact info in the memo."

What does the \$10 yearly dues pay for?

1. It helps with our annual donations to other community organizations such as Harbel, FHRP, and our contribution to our new welcoming committee.
 2. The annual scholarship to Arcadia high school seniors to help with expenses.
 3. Website maintenance/update and newsletter and flier cost not covered by the ads.
 4. Funding for the FUN things that everyone asks for---there are not always grants available to help pay for these.
- Please mail your dues in for 2022 when you get the January/February issue.



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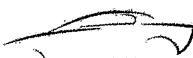


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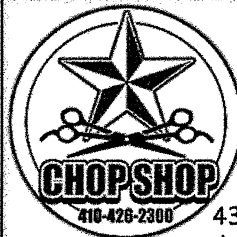
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