

### School Registration Begins

The new West Towson Elementary School is set to open in September, with the well-regarded principal Sue Hirshfeld in place. Thanks to all in the neighborhood who helped make it a reality!

If your child is already a student at Rodgers Forge, you do not have to re-register them at West Towson. But if your child is entering kindergarten or will be transferring from a private school, you will have to register.

Registration day for the new West Towson School is Thursday, May 20, at Rodgers Forge Elementary School. If your child is a new student, call (410) 887-3893 and ask for Ms. Ford. She will send you an information packet with an appointment time.

You will have to bring several forms of identification/ proof of residence with you.

### Meet the neighbors - the little ones...

Many of us with young children ferry them to different places in the region for pre-school. It's great to have so many choices for education, but it means a lot of our children don't know each other when they begin kindergarten. (That goes for the parents, too; many begin to meet their neighbors only when they start coming to the bus stop.) If you have a child entering kindergarten, please let us know. We would like to organize some kind of social for them before school begins. You can email me at rkobell2002@yahoo.com.

### And the littlest ones.

If you know of any neighbors who have just had a baby, please let us know so we can officially welcome them. Also, please let us know if anyone new has moved in. We'd like to introduce them to the neighborhood.

### Yard Sale Coming to the Mini-Park

Time for some spring cleaning, and for a profit! The Southland Hills Community Yard Sale will take place Saturday, May 8, from 8 a.m. to 12 at the Mini-Park. The park is at the intersection of Bosley, TowsonTown and Alabama. The sale is going to be advertised all around the community and in the Towson Times, so we expect crowds.



### West Towson Picnic Scheduled



If you're not too tired from hauling all those treasures to the minipark, join your neighbors for the West Towson Spring Picnic. It's also on May 8, from 4-8 p.m. in front of the Bykota Senior Center near the intersection of Highland and Joppa. This year's picnic will feature live music, children's games, penny candy and a professional Frisbee dog show. The Frisbee dogs do their thing at 5:30.

### Towson Swim Club moves forward

Yes, the pool is coming. By next summer, the former jail site will house a beautiful pool, playground and café that will be a central gathering place and the envy of every other neighborhood around here.

Though we have secured some financing to get the job done, we still need some more members. Just 50 more members, in fact.

So, if you know someone who has been thinking about joining but didn't want to commit yet, now is the time. Please have them contact membership @ towsonswimclub.com.



### Historic Towson Fights to Save Itself

If you've lived in other places, you know how rare it is to have the kinds of amenities we enjoy: a safe, beautiful neighborhood that's walking distance from a downtown that's a mix of eclectic old buildings and shiny new ones. Part of the reason for this mix is the work of Historic Towson Inc., an organization dedicated to preserving the area's older buildings.

But while Historic Towson was able to save much of the town, it almost wasn't able to save itself. Recently, it announced in the Towson Times it was folding because of a lack of volunteers. Community support prompted the board to take another look, and it is now seeking volunteers to keep it afloat.

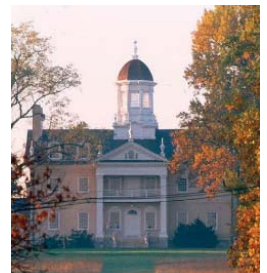
If you're interested in getting involved, contact Carol Allen on 410-823-8541 or e-mail carolall@verizon.net.

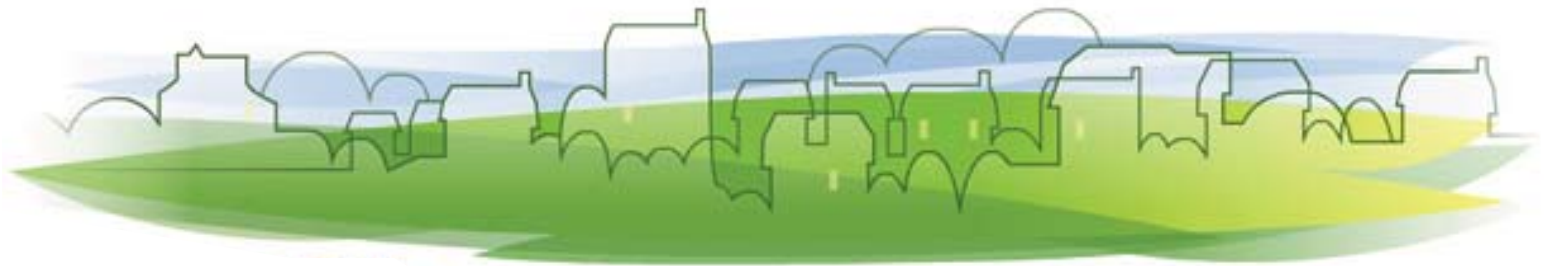
### Social Calendar

The Southland Hills Improvement Association's Easter Egg Hunt on the Presbyterian Home's lawn was great fun. About 80 people attended. Stay tuned to the Insider for more events this summer.

### One Fun Thing to do....

We tend to think of Hampton Mansion as an adult place, and the tour definitely is – most kids do not want to stand and listen to a half-hour lecture on the dining and mannerisms of those who lived centuries ago. But the Hampton National Historic Sites is an excellent place to take young ones for an afternoon. The park has several historically important trees, and many bluebird nests. It's an excellent place to collect pinecones or acorns, or find leaves for a craft project in the fall. And there's always the tours of the outer buildings, one of which has old-fashioned toys. Best of all, it's a 5-minute drive from here, and it's free. For more information, see <http://www.nps.gov/hamp/index.htm>.





## GLOBAL FINALS 2010 DestinationImagiNation

A team of Towson area high school students has been meeting for months every Sunday in a Southland Hills home working to earn a spot in the Destination ImagiNation Global Finals, May 27-29, in Knoxville, Tenn. The Team, Triceratops Awesome, is composed of six sophomores Ian Campbell, Gia Gao, Mayumi Rezwan, Noble Ingram, and Southland Hills' own, Ben Amann and Rose King. The team managers are parents, Lisa Schwartz and Lydia Mason. On April 10, at the State Finals at UMBC, the team competed against high school teams from all over Maryland where they won first place and fulfilled a dream to go on to the Global Tournament which features teams from across the country and more than 30 countries.

Getting a chance to compete at the Global Finals has been a long journey. Some of the original team members started together in fourth grade at Rodgers Forge Elementary but the present team has been intact since their three years of Dumbarton Middle School and two years as an independent high school team.

Each fall, Destination ImagiNation publishes seven challenges with varying focuses- technical/mechanical, science/theater arts, theater/fine arts, improvisation, structural/architectural design, community service, and early childhood. Triceratops Awesome chose the improvisational theater challenge, "Do or DI."

At the tournaments, they pull a "threatened thing" and a "stock character" from a hat and had seven minutes to prepare a five-minute skit where they included the stock character and facts about the threatened thing and develop a case as to whether the threatened thing is worth saving. In the middle of the skit they are given an "unimpressive superpower" which they have to incorporate immediately into the skit. At the State Finals, they won defending the basking shark with the special power of endless belly button lint. Needless to say, their skit was quite funny.

Unfortunately, going to the Global Competition is quite expensive so Team Triceratops Awesome is doing some fund raising. They will have a table at the Southland Hills Yard Sale and are also selling \$1 raffle tickets for a chance at a \$100 American Express Gift Card. Also on May 17th and 18th, if you present the following flyer, Five Guys will donate 20% of your order to their cause.



**Help your local  
Towson Destination Imagination Team**

**TRICERATOPS AWESOME!**

**get to the GLOBAL Finals  
in Knoxville, Tennessee!**

**When you go to Five Guys,  
936 York Rd (near Carver High School)  
on May 17th and 18th from 5 to 10 p.m.  
present this flyer and  
20% of your order goes towards  
the team Triceratops Awesome  
trip to the global competition!**

**FIVE GUYS**  
BURGERS and FRIES

