

Baltimore MESSENGER

*****5-DIGIT 21209
48000536, 0020A S61 P1

BALTIMORE CLAYWORKS, 2013
5706 SMITH AVE
BALTIMORE MD 21209-3610

Serving the city's northern neighborhoods

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 19, 2009 | VOL. 40, NO. 19

www.baltimoremessenger.com

NEWSSTAND PRICE 75 CENTS

Firehouse bill

State legislation calls for \$110,000 to help bring Roland Park station into 21st century

3

Hopkins in hole

University freezes salaries and administrators take pay cut in anticipation of \$100 million shortfall

6



Squashed!

Kelly Dayton wins Friends' only squash victory against dominant Gilman in championship play

9

Crime Log	4
Big Picture	5
Education	6
Sports	8
Region	10
Lifetimes	12
Best Bets	14
Guilford	16
Hampden	16



STAFF PHOTO BY SARAH NIX

Out of a job but hard at work, Marisol Berrizbeitia makes porcelain during a class at Baltimore Clayworks in Mt. Washington on Feb. 10. The ceramic art center allows the unemployed to take its classes virtually free of charge.

A wheel of good fortune in bad times

By Adam Bednar
abednar@patuxent.com

Marisol Berrizbeitia sat hunched over a potter's wheel at Baltimore Clayworks in Mt. Washington, with her glasses dangling from a strap around her neck.

She was making porcelain, molding the raw material with her fingers and a wet rag until it formed a cylinder.

Although there were 12 other students in her class, the only sound was the hum of the wheels' motors.

For Berrizbeitia, 55, forming the porcelain is an almost therapeutic

form of relieving stress. That's something she's needed since losing her job last month.

Baltimore Clayworks is doing its part to relieve her stress. The long-time ceramic art center is letting her take the 12-week class, valued at \$345, for free.

Because of the poor economy, Baltimore Clayworks, a nonprofit at 5707 Smith Ave. in the Mt. Washington Village business district, started a program in which people who are laid off can take 12 weekly classes for \$13.78 — the cost of materials. Ten to 12 jobless students have taken advantage of the offer so far, said Matt Hylek,

Baltimore Clayworks education coordinator.

"It's a symbolic gesture," Hylek said. "It's filling classes — and ultimately keeps our teachers employed."

Baltimore Clayworks, established in 1980, offers 24 classes per week, rents studio space, holds exhibitions and workshops, sells pottery and kilns, hosts visiting artists and grants an annual emerging-artist fellowship. It has a staff of 12, plus 13 resident studio artists, 39 associate and alumni artists, 900 students, 100 volunteers and 27

See **Clayworks**, Page 2

State bill pressures Keswick

Would increase cost of retirement center

By Adam Bednar
abednar@patuxent.com

State legislators are trying to make it cost-prohibitive for Keswick Multi-Care Center to build a retirement community opposed by the Roland Park Civic League.

A House bill sponsored by the delegations of the 40th and 41st districts is designed to increase the taxes Keswick would pay to build on 17 acres of undeveloped land that is now owned by the Baltimore Country Club.

The bill, HB 848, would require Keswick to make a payment in lieu of taxes in the same amount it would pay if it built houses on each acre of the land, said Del. Sandy Rosenberg, lead sponsor of the legislation.

That means Keswick would have to pay \$4 million in taxes annually, compared to the \$500,000 Keswick proposes to pay in lieu of taxes in its first year of operation of the planned retirement community, said Philip Spevak, civic league president.

If Keswick refused to make the payment, the Maryland Health and Higher Educational Facilities Authority would be barred from bonding the project under the bill, which was filed last week.

The agency helps nonprofit hospitals, health-related organizations,

See **Keswick**, Page 3

NEWS

www.baltimorecountymessenger.com

to our Web site, on a daily basis, here's some of what we seek:

gain

Board of Regents has approved a policy to cut textbook costs for students who shop around. Students annually spend \$921 to buy textbooks and supplies, says the Association of College Stores. Textbook costs has risen an average of 6 percent per year since 2000, according to a Government Accountability Office 2005 report.

hands

Therapist's Slice of Life: Never underestimate the power of a therapist's healing hands. Just 90 minutes on the table and you'll feel better. "Recession? What recession?" And if someone gives you a massage for a professional massage, use it right away.

kid?

Strange Bedfellows: Judging from letters he's sending to the Republican John Cluster may be planning a political campaign not saying much yet, but smart money says Cluster, a Democrat who was appointed a state delegate in the 8th District and lost his seat in the 2006 election, will try to get back the now held by Democrat Todd Schuler.

www.baltimoremessenger.com

THE MESSANGER

Towson, MD 21204

00, Editorial Fax 410-337-2490; Advertising Fax 410-296-2707; Retail 410-337-2455; Classified Ads 410-321-0247; Real Estate Ads 410-337-2455; Circulation 1-877-886-1206; Credit/Advertising Billing 410-337-2455

City News Friday, 10 a.m.; Sports Friday, 10 a.m.; Retail Display Ads Monday, 4:30 p.m.; Classified Ads Monday, 5 p.m.; Legals Monday, 5 p.m.

are all

and services listed below, dial the number and the four-digit extension in the name.

Elizabeth Eck managing editor (3442); Larry Perl editor (3483); Writer (3440); Jazzmen Tynes community news such as births, weddings, obituaries, awards (3431); Editorial e-mail: messenger@patuxent.com (include fully of the message, rather than in an attachment)

125 Nelson Coffin editor (3435); Craig Clary reporter (4005); Tom Worgo reporter (3440)

1 delivery questions or problems toll-free: 1-877-886-1206; 410-337-2455

10-3620, Beth Dittman director of new business development & marketing (3440); director, marketing (1399)

37-2400; Dwight Hanna director, advertising sales & marketing (1590); Editor/national/recruitment (1209); Pam Masley director, classified call center (3440); director of automotive and real estate advertising (1393); Pat Sweeney reporter (3452); Debbie Holt account executive (3426); Alisa Lee advertising rep. (3451); real estate advertising rep. (3451); Lori Ditto real estate advertising rep. (3422); automotive advertising rep. (3422)

SN 1041-0872 is published weekly on Thursdays by Patuxent Publishing Co., 409 E. Md. 21204. Mail subscriptions are \$19.99 for 26 weeks; \$37.97 for one year to all 410-995-1667, ext. 1284. Per copy price is 50 cents. Periodicals postage paid, Publication No. USPS 021-286. Postmaster: send address changes to Baltimore Messenger, 409 E. Md. 21204. ©2009 Patuxent Publishing Co. All rights reserved.

essenger February 19, 2009



Marisol Berrizbeitia shares a light moment with her teacher, Collette Smith, during the class "Porcelain: The Outer Limits" at Baltimore Clayworks on Feb. 10. The ceramics studio in Mt. Washington is offering the 12-week class, valued at \$345, virtually for free to people who are unemployed, such as Berrizbeitia, as a symbolic gesture during tough economic times.

STAFF PHOTO BY SARAH NIX

Art classes a helping hand for jobless

Clayworks, from Page 1

board members.

Stories like Berrizbeitia's are becoming all too common in the economic downturn in Maryland and the nation.

According to the state Department of Labor, Licensing & Regulation, unemployment in the Baltimore-Towson region increased from 67,000 unemployed people in August 2008 to 81,448 unemployed residents in December 2008.

The area unemployment rate is 5.8 percent, well below the national rate of 7.6 percent, according to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Berrizbeitia, an Essex resident and native of Venezuela, has been making pottery for about 22 years, and has been taking classes at Baltimore Clayworks since 2003. Last December, she signed up for a 12-week course called "Porcelain: The Outer Limits."

She paid full price minus a discount she receives as a member of Baltimore Clayworks.

But in January, Tesco, the electronics sales company where she had worked for about six years, downsized and laid her off.

Berrizbeitia called Baltimore Clayworks to see if she could get a refund for the class.

That's when she got some news to brighten her day. Hylek told her that she could have the refund, and continue to take the class.

"This is a class that I need a lot because I just started working with porcelain," she said.

Despite the dim outlook, coming to the classes and doing what she loves to do is a big help in keeping Berrizbeitia's spirits high.

"The first week was very tough, but you know what you get," she asked. "You learn that sometimes change (is) the best for you. Maybe I was too comfortable."

Editor Larry Perl contributed to this story.

<http://www.baltimoremessenger.com>