



View From the Hill

Reservoir Hill . . . A Community Blooming with Opportunity!

Reservoir Hill Improvement Council, 2001 Park Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21217; Tel: (410) 225-7547; Fax: (410) 225-7455; www.reservoirhill.net

Community Briefing June 2008

Bidding Sarah Taylor of St. Francis Neighborhood Center Farewell and Good Adventures

Sarah Taylor, who has been, for the past two years, the Assistant Director of St. Francis Neighborhood Center, is leaving at the end of June. She is moving to Tennessee, to found an artist and activist community envisioning and enacting social change in Knoxville, Tennessee. The focus is to develop relationships and form community networks, to change hierarchical power structures, address root cause of social ills, and teach social and personal responsibility.

During her tenure at St. Francis, she has implemented planning for the future, organized the programs including the Health Fair, needed renovations on the building at 2405 Linden Avenue, and opening of the Library and Computer Lab. She leaves a large footprint and large shoes to fill. We wish her only the best of success and happiness.

St. Francis Neighborhood Center Community Hour –21 July

St. Francis Neighborhood Center hosts a safe place where Reservoir Hill residents can have open discussion on the challenges that they encounter. This session continues work on the survey of traffic needs initiated at a previous Community Hours. These monthly informal discussions take place every third Monday from 7pm- 8pm at the St. Francis Neighborhood Center, 2405 Linden Avenue (Corner of Linden Avenue & Whitelock Street). Residents take active roles in planning and leading community initiatives, topics and projects.

Project Contact: Sarah Taylor, (410) 669-2612, staylo@mac.com

Next Reservoir Hill Peace Patrol Walk – 23 June

At the June Reservoir Hill Community Meeting, considerable concern was expressed about recent incidents of violence and drug related activity. Recently, there have been increased levels of crime ranging from open air drug markets to assaults to actual gunfire. With summer approaching we need to be even more proactive than usual and send a clear message to those who attempt to detract from the quality of life we want and control our streets. The meeting participants were overwhelmingly in favor of getting more neighbors on the streets saying "no" to this kind of activity in our neighborhood. To that end, people committed to joining the next Peace Patrol walk. If you have not joined the walk before, or walk with the peace patrol only infrequently, PLEASE attend the next walk on 23 June. We need maximum participation now in order to take back our streets.

The Reservoir Hill Peace Patrol will hold its next walk on 23 June 2008 commencing at 7:00 pm from St. Francis Neighborhood Center at 2405 Linden Avenue. Come hear about the changes in the team and why the new name, and join in your neighbors as they walk. Peace Patrol members are volunteers who patrol their communities. Residents do not take enforcement action; they only observe. Peace Patrol volunteers do not carry weapons and are encouraged to avoid confrontation.

Project Contact: Joe Lazazzera, (410) 669-4060, grlazazzera@verizon.net

Reservoir Hill Resource Fair – Next Planning Meeting 25 June

St. Francis Neighborhood Center, along with community residents, are planning a resource fair. The goal is to promote healthcare, employment and social services to citizens (with a special concentration on young males of color). This will be accomplished through the creation of a positive holistic environment where the community can access needed services. The fair will take place on a Sunday, on either 7, 14, or 21 September 2008 from 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm. The next meeting date is 25 June 25 at 7pm in St. Francis Neighborhood Center at 2405 Linden Avenue.

Project Contact: Phillip Lovett, (410) 624-6648, pjlovett1@verizon.net

New Farmers Market Opening on 27 June

A new Farmer's Market is opening 27 June at Lafayette and Druid Hill Avenue in the Henry Highland Garnet Park in Marble Hill. It will be open from 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm every Friday through October. The market will feature fresh fruit and vegetables, a BBQ, information on community events, and an update on plans for the park. For information, contact Matthew Tuttle of the Marble Hill Community Development Corporation,, or Tom Chandler of the Mid-Atlantic Gleaning Network. The market is also supported by Parks & People and the Baltimore Department of Recreation and Parks.

Project Contact: Matthew Tuttle, (301) 672-6612, mtuttle194@earthlink.net
Tom Chandler, gleanit@yahoo.com

Community at the Zoo Day – Starting 28 June

The Maryland Zoo in Druid Hill Park is offering a very special admission rate on select days to residents of the communities surrounding Druid Hill Park, but you need to have a reduced fee ticket. The dates for Community at the Zoo Day are June 28, 2008, July 19, 2008 and July 26, 2008. Admission with a ticket is \$1.00. Also, any one needing tickets to the zoo should contact Darryl Smith.

Project Contact: Darryl Smith, (410) 225-7547, dsmith@reservoirhill.net

A Reservoir Hill Display at Community at the Zoo Day – Can You Help? – 28 June

At Community at the Zoo on Saturday, June 28, 2008 there will be an opportunity for each neighborhood to have a display of the community's pride. There will be a prize given out for first, second and third place. This contest has happened annually and we have never won a prize. RHIC is requesting that a few community residents volunteer to assist with designing a display we can be proud of and win the event for once on behalf of Reservoir Hill. Please contact Darryl Smith if you are interested.

Project Contact: Darryl Smith, (410) 225-7547, dsmith@reservoirhill.net

National Healthy Homes Festival – 12-14 September

The National Healthy Homes Festival will be held at Druid Hill Park 12-14 September. The festival will bring together national and local community partners; lead and asthma prevention programs; Healthy Homes organizations, health, housing, and environmental agencies; local universities; federal, state, and city agencies; and the citizens of Baltimore in an effort to promote the benefits of Healthy Homes. The purpose of the festival is to inform and educate the public about what actions to take in their homes to prevent harmful diseases and illnesses caused by toxins such as lead, mold and other home base environmental hazards while reinforcing Mayor Dixon's "Cleaner Greener Baltimore" initiative. The festival is expected to attract more than 10,000 people. Hold the date and stay tuned for updates.

Project Contact: Michelle LeDonne, (410) 534-6447, mledonne@leadsafe.org

"Agent of Positive Change" Awards Luncheon & Silent Auction – 20 September

Coppin Heights Community Development Corporation (CHCDC) recognizes individuals and organizations for their work to bring about positive social and economic change in Baltimore City and their work on behalf of the Greater Coppin Heights/Rosemont Community. CHCDC presents the "Agent of Positive Change" Awards at an annual luncheon and silent auction event as a salute to those exemplifying leadership in positive change. The event will be held on Saturday, 20 September 2008, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm at Coppin State University, 2500 West North Avenue, in the Dining & Meeting Hall. Costs: Members \$20 | Future Members \$25 | Students \$15. All proceeds from this event will benefit CHCDC's neighborhood improvement and youth development initiatives. To purchase tickets or inquire about sponsorship opportunities, call (410) 951-3622.

Project Contact: Michelle Nusum McEachern, (410) 951-3622, chcdc@coppin.edu

Getting Your Recycling Bins Through RHIC

RHIC wants to get the level of recycling in Reservoir Hill up and the amount of trash down. RHIC is stocking a small number of recycling bins at the office so residents can buy them locally. As they sell, we will replace them. The 18 Gallon bins are \$5.00 and the 25 gallon bins are \$12.00. Please make your checks or money orders payable to RHIC. The bins can be picked up at the RHIC office on the "Hill" at 2001 Park Avenue from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. Best to call first to see how many are on hand. Any questions can be directed to Rick Gwynallen.

Project Contact: Rick Gwynallen, (410) 225-7547, rgwynallen@reservoirhill.net

Park & North Sites Selected for New Murals

A committee of community residents will be meeting soon to discuss the mural design and to select the artist to paint the mural. The mural project could be completed by the end of summer.

Project Contact: Darryl Smith, (410) 225-7547, dsmith@reservoirhill.net

Bolton Park Neighbors Launches Website

Bolton Park Neighbors has launched their own website. You can check it out at <http://www.boltonparkneighbors.com/>

Project Contact: Nick Mosby, (410) 523-2523, nickjmosby@hotmail.com

Additions to the RHIC Website

A guest opinion blog has been added to the RHIC website. You can access it on the RHIC home page at <http://www.reservoirhill.net/> This first guest opinion comes from 11th District Councilman Bill Cole on reviving the dollar house program. You may read the guest opinion and add your comments on to the piece. We will be inviting other guest writers on a variety of subjects and hope this addition to the website will be informative and useful for everyone. We hope to add on new opinion pieces every two weeks. Feel free to write back to me with your comments and suggestions, and thoughts on future topics.

Project Contact: Rick Gwynallen, (410) 225-7547, rgwynallen@reservoirhill.net

Greening in Reservoir Hill Newsletter

RHIC has kicked off a new e-newsletter focused on its greening work. Given the wide breadth of work with RHIC, we thought having a program-specific newsletter might be a useful way of keeping everyone apprised of developments and opportunities. We hope the new newsletter will be helpful. We plan to begin printing some copies for mailing to those without e-mail access and having it available at the community meeting. You can also access the newsletter on the RHIC website at <http://www.reservoirhill.net/>

Project Contact: Christiana Usenza, (410) 225-7547, cusenza@reservoirhill.net

St. Francis Neighborhood Center Seeks Program & Volunteer Coordinator

As many know, Sarah Taylor is leaving the area, and, thus, leaving St. Francis Neighborhood Center. The Center is now seeking to fill the position as soon as possible. The purpose of the position is to continue managing current volunteers, and programs while bringing in and promoting skills building classes in the existing Library and Computer lab. The person filling the position will also continue to develop innovative programs that will further St. Francis mission "*breaking the cycles of poverty through education, inspiring self-esteem, self-improvement, and strengthening connections to the community*". If interested, contact Father Tom Composto. For information on St. Francis Neighborhood Center, please visit their website at <http://www.stfranciscenter.org/>

Project Contact: Father Tom Composto, (410) 669-2612, composto@verizon.net

Green Rehab Series

After the success of RHIC's first introductory workshop on green rehab, RHIC has decided to coordinate a series of more in-depth workshops on topics ranging from cool roofs, to green roofs, to composting, to solar installation and more. We are hoping to start with a Cool Roof workshop in July. We will keep you informed. If you have interest or suggestions for courses you may like to attend, please contact Christiana Usenza. Here is a link to an article by the Director of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, Mike Tidwell, about why cool roofs may prove effective and why it is so important that we all do our part for the environment. It has some fascinating information and ideas about global warming problems and solutions:

<http://www.orionmagazine.org/index.php/articles/article/2956>

Project Contact: Christiana Usenza, (410) 225-7547, cusenza@reservoirhill.net

Looking for Carpenters, Electricians, Painters, etc.?

The Mount Royal Improvement Association maintains a very good directory of contractors and other workers recommended by Bolton Hill residents. You can view the directory at http://www.boltonhill.org/resources/r_hird_listings.html

Project Contact: Carl Cleary, (410) 225-7547, ccleary@reservoirhill.net

4 ½% Loans for Remodeling Your Home! Lowest Rate in 4 Years

Get a low-interest Healthy Neighborhoods loan to remodel your home! Free architectural advice and low-interest rehab loans are available through Healthy Neighborhoods. Other exceptional loan features are: an ability to borrow more than the after-rehab value of the home, as well as no mortgage insurance requirement. Contact Carl Cleary to learn more, or to take the first step in applying for a Healthy Neighborhoods loan.

Project Contact: Carl Cleary, (410) 225-7547, ccleary@reservoirhill.net

Use This Link to Make a Donation to RHIC Online! Thank You!

<http://www.reservoirhill.net/donate.htm>

Any questions relative to the policies or programs of RHIC should be directed to Executive Director John Henry Ruffin at 410.225.7547, or by email to jruffin@reservoirhill.net.

Mission

RHIC unites, empowers, and mobilizes residents and organizations as a vehicle by which to define and take action on issues common to the Reservoir Hill Community.

Goal

To revitalize the physical and human infrastructure of Reservoir Hill without resulting in full-scale gentrification and significant displacement, including rehabilitation of deteriorating buildings; alleviating poverty and its attendant problems, including, sanitation, public safety, education, low homeownership, and unemployment; and making the organized, informed voice of residents influential and effective.

Strategy

As an umbrella organization, the foundation of RHIC's approach is to aggregate the power of local associations and institutions through a community-wide infrastructure for educating residents, training leaders, promoting mutual support among community associations, developing common perspectives and strategy, and implementing collective projects and campaigns. The underlying principles of this strategic approach are that organized people and economic development lead to community empowerment; empowerment achieved as a result of networking, combining talents and resources, and wielding the power of an educated, united citizenry in a program grounded in economic and social equity.

Reservoir Hill is a



Community