



# 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](http://www.reservoirhill.net)

## **Community Briefing November 2008**

*In each issue of the Community Briefing RHIC will feature another Member Organization. This space is open to whatever the organization would like to promote about itself. It should be current news, current or upcoming programs, organizational changes, or fundraising drives.*

*To feature your organization, please send text of 150 words or less to [rgwynallen@reservoirhill.net](mailto:rgwynallen@reservoirhill.net)*

### **Featuring: Kids on the Hill**

Kids on the Hill is a community based organization offering young people support, quality programs and an opportunity to make change in their community through an experiential education approach to learning about social issues, art action projects and civic engagement. And Kids on the Hill was born right here in Reservoir Hill!

Kids on the Hill has a new website! Check it out: <http://www.kidsonthehill.org/>

Also, attend Kid on the Hill's annual TV Dinner. It's a great evening of good food, fun, and a selection of videos produced by Kids on the Hill teens. The TV Dinner will be held on Wednesday 3 December 2008 at 6:30 pm at St. John's of Baltimore United Methodist Church at 2640 St. Paul Street. Check out the notice under the Calendar of Events in this Briefing for videos being shown and admission.

Kids on the Hill  
2117 Brookfield Avenue  
Baltimore, Maryland 21217  
(410) 383-7200

### **Greening Reservoir Hill**

#### **Baltimore City Leaf Collection**

DPW is collecting bagged leaves from city residents. Leaves will be collected on the second trash collection day each week, which falls on either Thursday, Friday, or Saturday. Leaf collection season will continue through 31 January 2009. DPW will collect an unlimited number of bags during leaf collection season. Please do not place bagged leaves in the gutter or public right-of-way. For additional information, please call 311.

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

#### **Free Trees Available Through RHIC**

Redbud and Sycamore saplings. Redbuds will grow to be about 30-40 feet, sycamores can grow to be about 100 feet. Let us know you want one by 12 November. These are to be planted in front or backyards on private property only.

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Reservoir Hill is a Healthy Neighborhoods community

### **Nine New Trees on Newington Avenue!**

Four new tree wells have been cut and five existing tree wells have been expanded on Newington Avenue. A group of 10 volunteers helped in the process of working on the new tree wells to get them ready to plant the trees. RHIC extends thanks to all of them. The city will plant nine new trees before the year is over. If you want a tree on the sidewalk in front of your house as well, contact Christiana Usenza. You can fill out an agreement form and RHIC will place a bulk order for next spring's planting season with the city.

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

### **Sanitation Update: *Pride in Reservoir Hill is Picking Up!***

RHIC is holding a monthly meeting with city departments responsible for sanitation. The meetings are intended to help coordinate efforts to improve sanitation conditions in Reservoir Hill. The November meeting included John Chalmers from the City's Solid Waste Department and Stan Janczak of the Department of Housing & Community Development's Code Enforcement division. Reservoir Hill's Housing Inspector has identified eight primary problem spots upon which citation activity will be particularly concentrated. One of these will be used as a control block and will be revisited on a regular rotation. RHIC began distributing fliers on Election Day informing residents that citation activity will begin, and how to properly dispose of trash. The Solid Waste Department has set new standards for sanitation workers. The workers will pick up all bags left. If the worker determines that a bag cannot be taken, they will inform a supervisor who will immediately visit the site and make a determination. If the bag cannot be taken, the resident will be informed, and a citation to the resident may be issued. Further, if sanitation workers see debris left from home renovation they will file a request for service, which will result in a citation. As to bags left in allies, Code Enforcement personnel will be searching the bags for signs of the identity of the one who dumped the bag, and citations will be issued to that person.

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

### **How to Avoid a Sanitation Citation**

The City of Baltimore is beginning an aggressive effort in Reservoir Hill to reduce trash problems. The following are tips that we can all follow to make the community a cleaner place to live.

- If you have rear pick-up, please leave trash in cans with a lid on in your back yard.
- Those blocks with front pick up will need a trash can with a lid on placed in front of their house.
- Do not leave trash just in bags. It needs to be in a trash can.
- Do not leave trash piled in what have been common collection points in alleys. Sanitation workers will walk down the alleys that are too narrow for a truck.
- Citations start at \$60.00 and are progressive for repeated violations. Anybody with trash not in a can with a lid will be cited.

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

### **Order Recycling Bins through RHIC**

Place an order for a Baltimore City yellow single-stream recycling bin through RHIC! Send a check or money order made out to RHIC to RHIC, 2001 Park Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21217. The 18-gallon bins are \$5. The 25-gallon bins are \$12. Please have your order to RHIC by 14 November 2008 for the next delivery.

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

### **Help Reduce Waste - Please Recycle on a Regular Basis**

Reservoir Hill is in Zone 2, and recycling pick-up is every second and fourth Wednesday of the month. Information on acceptable items for recycling is available at the RHIC office. For a recycling calendar go to the RHIC website: [http://www.reservoirhill.net/trash\\_recycle\\_calendar\\_2008.pdf](http://www.reservoirhill.net/trash_recycle_calendar_2008.pdf)

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

## **RHIC Tool Shed**

Available tools include: hoes, rakes, metal rakes, brooms, shovels, pick axes, trowels, cultivators. Large lawn & leaf bags are also available. Residents may check out tools for no more than two weeks at a time. The tools can be signed out and picked up at the RHIC office on the "Hill" at 2001 Park Avenue from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. It's best to call ahead. You will be responsible for returning the tools to the office in good condition when you are finished so other people can use them too. Best wishes on all your projects.

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

## **New! Community Greening Resource Network**

An initiative of Parks & People Foundation and Maryland Cooperative Extension, Community Greening Resource Network (CGRN) is a membership program supporting Baltimore City community gardeners. Baltimore City has many community gardens, and the volunteers who manage these gardens often depend on unreliable sources of funding and donations. Many organizations work to support community greeners. CGRN seeks to coordinate these resources to create a comprehensive and consistent network. There will be four CGRN sites around the city and RHIC is one of them! At these sites, CGRN hosts for its members: (1) Four annual Give-away Days (providing seeds, compost, vegetable seedlings, bulbs, perennial flowers). (2) Tool Banks with hand tools to borrow. (3) Workshops held by gardeners and other Baltimore City greening organizations on gardening and access to community gardens. (4) A 20% discount on renting equipment. CGRN also provides to its members a "See Green" Newsletter (with calendar of events, articles and more), networking opportunities, and annual celebrations. CGRN is accepting applications for 2009 this fall! It is \$10 for a year for a Community Garden Membership, and \$5 for an individual membership. You can get an application and more info at the RHIC office, or contact Sarah Kroner at Parks & People Foundation at 410-448-5663 x 114, [sarah.kroner@paraksandpeople.org](mailto:sarah.kroner@paraksandpeople.org).

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

## **Housing**

### **New Planner for Central District**

Alexandra Hoffman is the Planner for Baltimore City's Central District, which includes Reservoir Hill. Ms. Hoffman is a lifelong Baltimorean, and comes to this position from a position as Associate Planner for A. B. Associates, a Baltimore-based land planning consulting firm. Ms. Hoffman can be reached by phone at (410) 396-8484, or by email at [alexandra.hoffman@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:alexandra.hoffman@baltimorecity.gov)

*Project Contact:* John Ruffin, (410) 225-7547, [jruffin@reservoirhill.net](mailto:jruffin@reservoirhill.net)

### **Study of the Reservoir Hill Market**

A study of the Reservoir Hill market by Copes Colvin, Inc analyzes the slow down in the Reservoir Hill real estate market, and provides recommendations for city and community stakeholders that could reinforce and build on the progress the community had known before the market downturn. The study had its genesis in discussions between RHIC staff and Healthy Neighborhoods, Inc. (HNI) in early 2008. HNI commissioned the study and RHIC personnel met periodically with JoAnn Copes and Julien Colvin. Many of the recommendations of the study are consistent with RHIC activities and others have been adopted into our work. The study will be available on the RHIC website in November 2008.

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

### **Spring '09 Housing Tour – Committee Members Needed**

RHIC is seeking volunteers to assist with the marketing and promotion of an upcoming housing tour. The event is planned for early spring 2009 and will require a lot of work to make it successful. Reservoir Hill has a reputation for well conducted tours and this event is expected to be more of the same. We are asking residents, realtors, contractors and others to be involved, so why not you too.

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

## **Plan for Neighborhood Stabilization Funds in Reservoir Hill**

A recently developed proposal would form the basis for a request to bring a considerable amount of federal community development dollars to Reservoir Hill. In August 2008 Congress passed HR3221, The Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 (HERA). That legislation created Neighborhood Stabilization Funds (NSF) in Housing & Urban Development (HUD). NSF is designed to assist communities mitigate the problems created by foreclosures. The guiding principle for the proposed use of these funds in Reservoir Hill is to support and solidify neighborhood improvements made in the past few years. The permissible use of the funds is fairly restrictive, and there are time constraints for committing funds to specific projects (18 months), and for actually spending the funds (four years).

The City of Baltimore through its Department of Housing and Community Development has been allocated 4.1 million dollars of HERA funding for citywide activity. Additional funds from the State HERA pool may supplement that allocation. Reservoir Hill Improvement Council, working in conjunction with the Baltimore Homeownership Preservation Coalition, has started discussions to determine the best use of some of these funds in the Reservoir Hill area.

The Reservoir Hill real estate market was the focus of an earlier study conducted by Copes Colvin, Inc.. The firm headed by JoAnn Copes and Julien Colvin produced, "A Call to Action," a report analyzing the slow down in the Reservoir Hill real estate market. Included in the Copes Colvin report were recommendations meant to be undertaken by the city to "re-start" the progress Reservoir Hill had been enjoying prior to the housing downturn. The Copes Colvin team was therefore asked to build upon its prior work and look at priority uses for NS funds that may be directed to Reservoir Hill.

Funding priorities target vacant abandoned and foreclosed upon buildings. Particular attention has been given to blocks that have been strengthened by new homeowners or high quality affordable rental rehab, but which are not yet fully stabilized.

- Funding is limited to properties that will house individuals and families with incomes that do not exceed 120% of area median income.
- The legislation prohibits the use of funds by State or local governments for eminent domain.
- The legislation requires that purchases of property with NS funds must be at a 5% discount from the current market appraised value to ensure that purchasers are paying below market value for these properties.

Consideration of the following priorities highlight the proposal;

- Acquisition and Rehabilitation of vacant buildings on the 2200/2300 blocks of Linden Avenue
- Acquisition and Rehabilitation of vacant buildings on the 700 block of Reservoir Street
- Acquisition and Rehabilitation of vacant buildings on the 2500 block of Madison Avenue

Additional blocks are under consideration as potential targets. The goal would be to select blocks with a total of about 35 vacant buildings and to ask for a commitment of NS funds for Reservoir Hill of up to \$3.5 million. Given the overall foreclosure problem citywide, we realize it is quite possible the commitment could be less.

Suggested use of funds is for Soft Second Loans for buyers of targeted properties to make them affordable to the targeted population. Criteria for actually making funds available to individuals or developers still need to be developed and will occur over the next several months with our input. However, the application to HUD for the funds must be completed by the City by 15 November.

Given the short time available to develop input for the City's application, an extensive community planning process was not practical. We did, however, want to make our members aware of the application process, the legislative limitations, and that we are preparing a suggested set of priorities in the hope some of these funds will be directed to our community.

The full Neighborhood Stabilization funding application proposed to be submitted by the City should be available on the Baltimore Housing website on 15 November 2008.

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

## **Whitelock Corridor Update**

RHIC staff has been meeting with block clubs and member associations to get their final thoughts on the Whitelock Corridor concept plans submitted by Parameter Inc. The predominate thoughts that we have been hearing more and more center on two very specific design points of the plan:

- 1) There seems to be overwhelming agreement that the commercial buildings proposed in both concept options be re-located to Whitelock Street.

The Parameter options placed the buildings within a newly developed parcel that would bring about the elimination of German Park and add a new street called Whitelock Mews, for the purpose of providing access to the commercial spaces.

Most comments expressed the concern that Whitelock Street was better suited for three or four story structures because they would be more in line with the height of other existing buildings along Whitelock. This was in line with concerns regarding backing the multi-storied commercial buildings against the two story residential properties on Chauncey Avenue. It was also felt that historically commercial activity had been confined to Whitelock, so why create different traffic patterns now.

2) Another extremely popular perception was that the elimination of German Park would detract from the community's tangible assets.

German Park is 1.01 acres (approx. 44,000 sq. ft.) of open recreational space. It is currently communally used as a respite from hot houses in the summer and as a place to hold family and community gatherings by area residents. Most that commented on its elimination feel that the most important issue is to keep German Park's total land area somewhere within the footprint of the proposed project site. Residents have been clear that although they are cognizant of the historical significance attached to German Park's present location, they are willing to concede its relocation or reconfiguration in exchange for maintaining the park's open space in its entirety.

Both recommendations would involve revisiting the number of housing units to be built. The design concept presently includes fifty-four (54) and forty-nine (49) planned units of townhouse style housing. If the plan changes to incorporate 44,000 square feet of open recreational use space the number of proposed housing units will probably decrease significantly. Such a reduction in units built might have the ancillary effect of increasing the cost of the housing to the eventual end user (lower number of units produced increase the per unit costs to the developer). More discussion is needed and your input is welcome.

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

### **American Dream Downpayment**

Baltimore City has announced funding for BALTIMORE CITY "ADDI" a homebuyer assistance grant being made available for Baltimore city residents to help reduce the upfront money obstacle that prevents many would be first time homebuyers from buying. The maximum \$10,000 grants have homebuyer education requirements and can be used with other buyer assistance programs.

*Project Contact:* Baltimore City - Office of Homeownership, (410) 396-3124

### **"Hope for Homeowners" Program to Help Struggling Families Keep Their Homes**

The *HOPE for Homeowners* program will refinance mortgages for borrowers who are having difficulty making their payments, but can afford a new loan insured by HUD's Federal Housing Administration (FHA). The program is available only to owner occupants and will offer 30-year fixed rate mortgages. The *HOPE for Homeowners* program began 1 October 2008 and ends 30 September 2011.

For more information, go online to: <http://www.hud.gov/hopeforhomeowners/>

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

### ***Around the Community***

#### **Join Bookworms – Help Kids in our Neighborhood!**

Broaden the horizon and smile of a child simply by reading to him or her once per month. Bookworms is a program offered by the Beth Am Social Action Committee and John Eager Howard Elementary. We're looking for a few great Reservoir Hill readers to join this exciting program. You provide your love of reading, a book of your choice, and one hour of your time per month. We provide 3-4 children eager to learn and a program chair grateful for your participation! To learn more about this exciting opportunity, contact Octavia Shulman

*Project Contact:* Octavia Shulman, (410) 523-5641, [Octavia.shulman@gmail.com](mailto:Octavia.shulman@gmail.com).

## **Annual Meeting Very Successful – Two New Board Members Join the RHIC Board**

About 125 people gathered on the veranda of the Maryland Zoo Mansion House in Druid Hill Park to mark another year of both struggles and progress in Reservoir Hill. Two residents were elected to the Board of Directors, Rev. Karen Brown and Myrine Buford, both long term residents and very active in community affairs. The evening also marked the end of the terms for two Board Members, Joe Lazazzara and Remington Stone. We thank both for their contributions to the community and wish them both success in their projects. The keynote address was delivered by Diane Bell McKoy, President and CEO of Associated Black Charities. Ms. McKoy's presentation stressed the need to increase homeownership in the city among African Americans. In Reservoir Hill, African-Americans make up 92 % of the population, but only 21 % of black residents own homes, whereas 51% of white residents own homes while only comprising 7% of the population. Several residents and organizations were honored with awards: Robin Boston, Denys Davidson, Howard Fink, Paul Hartzell, Adam Meister, Russ Moss, Joel White, Newington Avenue Neighbors Association, and Parks & People Foundation. In addition, RHIC introduced a new Planting Roots recognition award that of residents who have lived in Reservoir Hill for 50 or more years. The mayor's office provided citations marking this milestone. The honored this year were Thelma Bailey, Lenora Hewitt, Charles Myers, Harry Peaker, Emmit Pope, Daisey Stevenson, Mildred Sturdivant, and Georgia Winder. Reservoir Hill resident and jazz vocalist Tamm E. Hunt and her band entertained the participants. The buffet dinner was catered by Andy Nelson's Barbeque and The Yabba Pot.

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

## **Putting Down Roots – Honoring Long-term Residents**

Building on the awards given at the Annual meeting to honor residents of Reservoir Hill who have lived in the community for 50 or more years, RHIC is asking each of you to help identify those residents who moved into Reservoir Hill in 1959 or before. Whether it is yourself or a neighbor, just send in the name of the person, the year they moved in, the street they live on, and the best way for us to contact them. In addition to what we hope to be an annual recognition at the Annual Meeting, RHIC is working on a permanent display that would recognize these residents and be added to each year. You can email or call in the information to Rick Gwynallen, or mail it to Reservoir Hill Improvement Council, 2001 Park Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21217.

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

## **Current RHIC Member Organizations**

The following 20 organizations are currently paid Member Organizations of RHIC: • Beth Am Synagogue • Bolton-Park Neighbors • 900 Brooks Lane Block Club • Corpus Christi Church • Druid Community Association • Families of 2200 Brookfield Avenue • Historic Mt. Royal Terrace Association • Kids on the Hill • Lakeside Neighbors Coalition • Lakeview Neighbors Association • Madison Avenue Family Life Outreach Center • Newington Avenue Neighbors Association • Parent-Teacher-Community Organization of John Eager Howard School • Pennrose Tenants Association • Reservoir Hill Boy Scout Troop • Reservoir Hill H.O.P.E. • Reservoir Hill Mutual Homes • SAC Childcare Center • St. Francis Neighborhood Center • Upper Eutaw Madison Neighborhood Association

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

## **Update from October RHIC Board Meeting**

At its October 2008 meeting, RHIC's Board of Directors adopted a new plan for its composition. The new plan adds five voting seats, which will be appointed by the standing Board of Directors. The purpose of these seats is to add particularly expertise to the Board to support the existing community Board Members. The terms will be staggered. Some will be one year terms, others two year, and others three year. RHIC Board and Staff members will be working over the next two months appropriate candidates, in hopes of filling the seats in early 2009.

Also at the October Board Meeting, a strategic plan was adopted to guide the work of the organization through 2012. CDs of the plan are available to Member Organizations for use with their members. In addition, the strategic plan will be placed on the RHIC website in November 2008. This is an ambitious plan. Staff will be attending the meetings of Member Organizations during December and January to outline key objectives the plan.

*Project Contact:* John Ruffin, (410) 225-7547, [jruffin@reservoirhill.net](mailto:jruffin@reservoirhill.net)

## **School Update**

The John Eager Howard Parent-Teacher-Community Organization (PTCO) held its first meeting of the year and elected officers. The PTCO's current officers are Lucy Lott-Mallard, President (parent), Darryl Smith, Vice-President (community member and former school parent), April Bailey, Secretary (parent), and Angela Jefferson, Treasurer (teacher). RHIC has been working with the PTCO and Madison Avenue Family life Outreach Center to get free lunch forms returned to the school. The goal was 805 return. By knocking on doors and making phone calls, the team was able to meet that goal.

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

## **Public Safety Around John Eager Howard School**

RHIC and John Eager Howard School issued joint letters to the State's Attorney's Office, Central District Police, and the Department of Transportation to (1) increase police presence around the school during times of day in which a high level of open air drug marketing was identified, (2) establish Drug Free Signs on the block containing the school, the recreation center, and John Eager Howard Park, and (3) establish signs directing motorists to slow their speed in the area of the school. Police presence has increased in the area around the school. The Department of Transportation has agreed to erect the slow-speed signs. RHIC is convening a meeting with the State's Attorney's Office, central District police, and the school to further the drive to obtain the Drug Free Zone signs. Once the signs are established, any one caught distributing drugs around the school perimeter will be subject to enhanced penalties.

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

## **Healthy Neighborhoods Capital Projects Update**

Two capital improvement projects awarded funding by Healthy Neighborhoods, Inc. (HNI) are in the final stages of getting the issuance of funds approved. The project to restore the fountain on the north end of Park Avenue is awaiting HNI approval of the final paperwork and issuance of funds. The community sign to be erected in the rose triangle at Eutaw Place and Druid Park Lake Drive is awaiting formal permission to proceed from the Department of Recreation & Parks, after which the paperwork will be fully submitted to HNI for approval and issuance of funds.

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

## **Reservoir Hill Scouts Recruiting**

The newly established Boy Scouts of Reservoir Hill is actively recruiting for the Cub Scout and Boy Scout troops, which we hope to have operating in January 2009. The ages for cub scouts is 6 - 14, and the ages for boy scouts is 15 - 18. Parents, if you want to involve your sons in the healthy activities of scouting, please contact Darryl.

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

## **High Profile Tours in Reservoir Hill**

Over the last month, RHIC staff has hosted visitors for two tours of Reservoir Hill to promote community marketing efforts and share our experiences. One of these tours was a group of economic and community development professionals from South Africa. That tour was created at the request of the Maryland Office of Employment Development. The other tour was facilitated in partnership with Healthy Neighborhoods, Inc., the City of Baltimore, and the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, Baltimore branch, to provide a look at neighborhood-level impacts of the housing market downturn, and the efforts of our neighborhood to respond to these challenges for Federal Reserve Governor Randall Kroszner.

*Project Contact:* John Ruffin, (410) 225-7547, [jruffin@reservoirhill.net](mailto:jruffin@reservoirhill.net)

## **Drive on for Better Pedestrian Lighting in Reservoir Hill**

In early 2008, RHIC staff and volunteers conducted a survey of lighting in Reservoir Hill, identifying areas in need of pedestrian lighting, and areas in need of tree trimming. The survey was provided to the Department of Transportation, which indicated they would perform a new survey of their own in autumn 2008. That survey has not yet been performed, and RHIC staff is actively pressing for the survey. We hope to have status report by the December Community Briefing.

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

## Resources

### Healthy Neighborhoods Loans - Remodel Your Home at the 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](mailto:ccleary@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](http://www.boltonhill.org/resources/r_hird_listings.html)

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

### Community Law Center Workshops

The Community Law Center offers a range of workshops that assist neighborhood associations to form and to enact effective projects. For more information visit the CLC website at [http://www.communitylaw.org/Upcoming%20workshops%20and%20events.htm#Battling\\_Bad\\_Bars\\_in\\_Your\\_Community](http://www.communitylaw.org/Upcoming%20workshops%20and%20events.htm#Battling_Bad_Bars_in_Your_Community)

*Project Contact:* Kelly Pheiffer; (410) 366-0922

### New Free Not-for-Profit Financial Counseling Hotline – (877) 254-1097

Baltimore CASH and Maryland CASH (Creating Assets, Savings and Hope) Campaigns and Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Maryland and Delaware, Inc. (CCCS) operate a free, not-for-profit, financial counseling hotline. It is the only free, not-for-profit statewide service provided by certified, nonprofit financial counselors that is available to anyone regardless of financial status. People are urged to call the financial advice Hotline *before* they run into trouble but regardless of one's circumstances, the Hotline's certified counselors will provide help and guidance. Whether one seeks budgeting direction or debt management, if someone is in crisis or just looking for guidance, the counselors will help consumers determine the level of service required and what they need to manage their finances. Follow-up meetings may also be arranged with trained counselors at various CCCS locations statewide. CCCS is independently accredited by the Council on Accreditation and all of its counselors and all been certified after rigorous testing through the NFCC.

*Project Contact:* Consumer Credit Counseling Service, 1 (800) 642-2227, [www.cccs-inc.org](http://www.cccs-inc.org)

### The Learning Cooperative

The Learning Cooperative is an innovative dropout prevention program serving Baltimore City students who are 14 – 17 years of age, and who have been out of school or not attending regularly. This is an extended day academic and life skills program that incorporates with academic preparation activities that include job skills training, financial literacy, and more.

*Project Contact:* Melissa Shaull-Thompson, (410) 662-8049, [learning.inc@verizon.net](mailto:learning.inc@verizon.net)

## Calendar of Events

### Roll-Off at Mt. Royal & Whitelock – 15 November

A roll-off will be available on 15 November at Mt. Royal Terrace and Whitelock Street. The roll-off might be dropped off the morning of 14 November. The roll-off is for use by residents. No contractors may use this dumpster. If you see illegal dumping, please note the license plate number, a description of the vehicle and driver, and the time and date you witnessed the dumping. Call 911 to report the act. *Types of Waste NOT Allowed by Bureau of Solid Waste:*

1. Building Materials (5 dumping locations – call 410.396.8450)
2. Household Appliances and Tires: (Call 311 for pick-up)
3. Tire Rims: (should be taken to junk dealer)
4. Household Hazards: (call 311)

*Project Contact:* Frances Meekins, (410) 462-4365, [mfdesiree53@aol.com](mailto:mfdesiree53@aol.com)

### **Neighborhood Institute – 15 November**

Greater Homewood Community Corporation is sponsoring a one-day training for neighborhood activists. Sessions include community organizing, developing block projects, developing leadership in neighborhood groups, strong schools, drug nuisance abatement, and more. Speakers include Frederick Bealefeld, III, Baltimore Police Department Commissioner; Mark Sissman, Healthy Neighborhoods President, and Beth Stroman, Director of the Baltimore city Office of Sustainability. The event is free and open to the public. It will be held on Saturday, 15 November 2008 at the Charles Commons, 33<sup>rd</sup> Street between Charles Street and St. Paul Street from 10:00 am – 4:30 pm.

*Project Contact:* Olga Maltseva, [omaltseva@greaterhomewood.org](mailto:omaltseva@greaterhomewood.org)

### **Next Reservoir Hill Peace Patrol Walk – 17 November**

The Reservoir Hill Peace Patrol will hold its next walk on 17 November 2008 commencing at 7:00 pm from St. Francis Neighborhood Center at 2405 Linden Avenue. 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](mailto:grlazazzera@verizon.net)

### **Take Control of Your Personal Finances – 20 November – RSVP by 17 November**

St. Francis Neighborhood Center is sponsoring a new free seminar called Money Talks, Start Listening: Take Control of Your Personal Finances. The seminar will include budgeting month-to-month, understanding interest, the risks of credit debt, the importance of ones credit report, managing investments, and more. The seminar will be held at the Center, 2405 Linden Avenue on Thursday, 20 November 2008 from 9:00 am – 10:30 am. RSVPs are required and must be in by 17 November.

*Project Contact:* Sarah Tarighi, (410) 669-2612, [sarah.tarighi@stfranciscenter.org](mailto:sarah.tarighi@stfranciscenter.org)

### **December Community Meeting & Party – 2 December**

RHIC's monthly community meeting in December will be held as a community party. It will be a chance to meet Reservoir Hill neighbors you might not see regularly. RHIC staff will be available to discuss projects and activities in the community. Light refreshments and beverages will be provided. The event will be held on 2 December 2008 from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm at the John Eager Howard Recreation Center at 2100 Brookfield Avenue.

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

### **Annual Kids on the Hill TV Dinner – 3 December**

Join Kids on the Hill (KOH) for an evening of food, fun, fantastic youth created video, and feisty conversation! Videos will include: Why Suicide? & Got Stress?: Videos by 9th graders at ACCE Academy led by KOH teens, What's Up Officer?: A helpful and humorous guide to handling yourself when approached by the police, Dis/connect: Youth perspectives on connecting and not-so-much connecting to nature, Embracing Change: How older teens cope with change as they age out of the foster care system, Shape Your Destiny: A ditty from a presentation by Cornel West and Tavis Smiley about the role of race, gender, and class in American society, and Speak to Me: A video about the challenges of creating healthy relationships. Videos will be followed by engaging discussion on the issues of Environment, Relationships, and Police/Youth dynamics. The TV Dinner will be held on Wednesday, 3 December 2008 at St Johns of Baltimore United Methodist Church 2640 St Paul Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21218. Dinner will be served at 6:30 pm, and videos will start at 7:30 pm. Admission is \$12 for adults and \$2 for youth 18 and under. To RSVP, call (410) 383-7200.

*Project Contact:* Rebecca Yenawine, (410) 383-7200, [rebeccayenawine@kidsonthehill.org](mailto:rebeccayenawine@kidsonthehill.org)

## Next Homebuyer Workshop – 28 January

The next homebuyer workshop is scheduled for 28 January 2009 from 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm at St. Francis Community Center, 2405 Linden Avenue. The workshops provide a broad overview of each step of the home buying process, including budgeting and affordability, working with realtors, purchase and sale agreements, credit and credit reports, mortgages and the mortgage process, home inspections, settlement and closing costs, and post purchase counseling. The workshops are free, but pre-registration is required.

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