



# 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 October 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: St. Francis Neighborhood Center**

This is a very exciting time for **ST. FRANCIS NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER!** We are gearing up to implement several new programs here at the Center. Our latest program, "Personal Finance Management Seminar," teaches you how to get the most bang out of your buck. Come to this FREE seminar October 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> at St. Francis Neighborhood Center at 6:30PM!

St. Francis Neighborhood Center is able to bring you these new and innovative programs thanks to the support of our generous donors. We welcome all levels of donations. Thank you in advance for your kind contribution.

Please remit donations to:  
St. Francis Neighborhood Center  
2405 Linden Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21217

St. Francis Neighborhood Center is a 501(c)(3) organization. All donations are tax deductible.

### **Greening Reservoir Hill**

#### **Cleaning Up in Reservoir Hill**

RHIC staff met with personnel from the Initiative for a Cleaner Greener Baltimore to target clean up work in several areas of the community. The targeted areas include: (1) Removing large piles of fill material and concrete from the 2400 block of Lakeview Avenue. (2) Removing debris and a dead tree, and mowing high grass on the 2400 block of Lakeview Avenue. (3) Creating a Green Garden Area on the 2400 block of Lakeview Avenue. (4) Removing trash and debris from rear yards on the 2300 block of Linden Avenue, the 2400 block of Lakeview Avenue, the 2300 block of Callow Avenue, and the 2500 block of Brookfield Avenue. (5) Removing trash piles and discarded household items in the alley between Brookfield Ave and Lakeview Ave (800 Whitelock Street to 700 Druid Park Lake Drive). (6) Weed whacking the community garden on the 900 block of Whitelock Street. (7) Cleaning out debris and cutting down overgrowth in tree wells on the 800 and 900 blocks of Newington Avenue. (8) Mowing grass and trimming dead limbs from the large oak tree in John Eager Howard Park. (9) Clearing of debris and flushing out the storm drain at 801 Newington Avenue.

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

## **Get Your Rakes Ready! Baltimore City Leaf Collection Begins**

Starting immediately DPW will begin 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)

## **Tree Canopy Implementation Plan**

RHIC recently finalized a work plan to significantly facilitate the increase of Reservoir Hill's tree canopy. The goal we have decided on is to increase the current tree canopy by 33% in ten years. This means 328 new trees in 10 years and on average 32 per year. We have 66 tree wells that are empty and ready for new trees. The first year of the project we propose to expand the 66 tree wells, plant 100 new trees and cut 20 new tree wells. RHIC staff and the Green Team will work towards getting maintenance agreements signed by the property owners and residents at the locations of empty tree wells so we can plant new trees in them. Since there is a new ordinance that tree wells must be at least 30 square feet, we will also work towards expanding all the existing wells. RHIC plans to partner with John Eager Howard School to plant new trees with youth on the school yard and on Linden Ave by the school. To help people in maintaining the new trees, RHIC will provide gator bags for new trees and rain barrel workshops to help residents collect water for watering the trees. If you have a place you want a new street tree, or want to get involved in volunteer activities or workshops on tree care and rain barrels get in touch with Christiana Usenza.

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

## **Seven New Trees for Newington Avenue**

RHIC was awarded a Parks & People Foundation grant to cut seven new tree wells on the 700 and 800 blocks of Newington Avenue. These should be cut by the end of October and new trees placed by early November.

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

## **Dead Trees and Stumps Reported for Removal**

Using the recently completed iTree survey, RHIC staff has reported to the city for removal dead trees and stumps on the 2400 and 2500 blocks of Madison Avenue, the 2100, 2200, and 2300 blocks of Mt. Royal Terrace, the 1900, 2000, 2100, and 2200 blocks of Park Avenue, the 900 block of Whitelock Street, the 2100 block of Bolton Street, the 800 and 900 blocks of Brooks Lane, the 2100, 2200, and 2400 blocks of Callow Avenue, the 900 block of Chauncey Avenue, the 2200, 2300, and 2400 blocks of Eutaw Place, the 700 block of Lenox Street, the 1900, 2000, and 2400 blocks of Linden Avenue, the 2200 block of Brookfield Avenue, the 800 block of Druid Park Lake Drive, the 2400 block of Lakeview Avenue, the 800 and 900 blocks of Newington Avenue, and the 700 block of Reservoir Street.

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

## **A Roving Green Volunteer Team**

In some areas of the community where green projects have been implemented the residents are not able to maintain the areas as they once did. These green projects have thrived, but now some residents need more help. RHIC is forming a team of green volunteers who would be willing to help their neighbors out when necessary. RHIC's tool closet will supply all the tools, and RHIC will provide the coordination needed for each project. If you are interested in taking part in this team, contact Christiana Usenza.

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

## **Update on Reservoir Street Park Renovations**

A meeting was held with community residents from Bolton Park Neighbors and the Reservoir Hill Mutual Homes to discuss with city planners the final designs for the re-design of the Reservoir Street Park. There were no objections to the designs as drafted and input from prior meetings with residents had been included in the final designs. The plans should be on display at the Annual Meeting, and a presentation will be made at a future community meeting.

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

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

RHIC staff met with John Chalmers from the City's Solid Waste Department and Eric Booker and Terry Booker from Sanitation Enforcement. The purpose of the meeting was to begin coordinating actions between these departments to address sanitation problems in Reservoir Hill. Particular items of discussion were the current requests for services through 311, the need for dumpsters at some of the larger rental properties because of the overload to the existing ones, and the bulk trash problem in the Linden and Brookfield alleys. The lack of access by residents to the rear of many multi-dwelling units in the area was a major topic of discussion. Code Enforcement stated that when licenses are issued for multi dwelling units there is a required inspection. They will begin to request that inspectors also check to see how the trash would be disposed of in the building when those inspections are made. At present, Solid Waste will pick up four bags per resident and it is the owners' responsibility to remove the excess trash using a private sanitation service. Solid Waste will send letters to landlords regarding the need for private pick up and distribute information regarding proper trash disposal. Copies of the letters sent by Sanitation will be sent to RHIC. RHIC will then send an additional letter which would be a reminder coming from the community. After a reasonable interval after the letters are issued, Solid Waste will then clean up any areas with excess trash and Code Enforcement will begin to cite residents and owners that did not comply. All parties urge residents to call 311 whenever possible for trash and housing issues. Code Enforcement commits to resolving all 311 calls within 24 hours. Sanitation Code Enforcement now has a roving patrol that includes property inspectors. This patrol has caught several persons illegally dumping. RHIC's small canvass team has been distributing fliers door-to-door describing appropriate trash disposal and proper recycling.

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

## **RHIC Tool Shed**

Just a reminder to all that RHIC's Tool Shed has a range of tools for outdoor work. Residents may have the use of our tools to check out for temporary periods of time when you have outdoors projects going. Available tools include: hoes, rakes, metal rakes, brooms, shovels, pick axes, trowels, cultivators. Large lawn & leaf bags are also available. You may check out the tools you need for a specific period of time of no more than two weeks. 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)

## ***Housing***

### **Buying in Reservoir Hill**

Did you know that there are 124 properties for sale in Reservoir Hill, or that the current average home for sale in Reservoir Hill lists for \$199,950 with a price ranging from \$765,000 to \$35,000? Or that the average Reservoir Hill apartment rents for \$ 1,250.00 per month? This information along with other tidbits of Reservoir Hill real estate lore is available courtesy of Realtor.com, the official website of the National Association of Realtors. Reservoir Hill abounds in ownership opportunities, tell a friend. Check it out at: <http://neighborhoods.realtor.com/MD/Baltimore/Reservoir-Hill/480445/Real-estate/>

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

### **Stan Janczak Returns to Code Enforcement Role for Reservoir Hill**

Reservoir Hill welcomes the return of Stan Janczak, a City of Baltimore Code Enforcement official who has been reassigned to an area that once again includes Reservoir Hill. Stan is a longtime friend and ally in our effort to bring negligent property owners into compliance with Baltimore City codes. We applaud Stan's past results and look forward to his continued good work.

*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

## **HUD Secretary Steve Preston Allocates Nearly \$4 Billion to Stabilize Neighborhoods in States and Local Communities Hard-Hit by Foreclosure**

HUD's new Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) will provide targeted emergency assistance to state and local governments to acquire and redevelop foreclosed properties that might otherwise become sources of abandonment and blight within their communities. State and local governments can use their neighborhood stabilization grants to acquire land and property; to demolish or rehabilitate abandoned properties; and/or to offer down payment and closing cost assistance to low-to moderate-income homebuyers (household incomes not exceed 120 percent of area median income). Maryland's estimated allocation is \$ 46 million dollars with over \$ 4 million being slated for Baltimore City.

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

## **"Hope for Homeowners" Program to Help More 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)

## **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)

## ***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).

### **Getting Young People Back in School**

RHIC staff has been working with Baltimore City School System and Madison Avenue Family Life Center to assist the school system in contacting students who dropped out of school. We were provided a list of dropouts that resided in zone 17 and asked to knock on doors and invite the students back to school, in some cases accompanying them to the school or the school headquarters on North Avenue. As a result of our efforts at least seven students have returned to school so far.

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

### **St. Francis Neighborhood Center Resources Fair a Success**

Last month's Resource Fair sponsored by St. Francis Neighborhood Center was attended by over 150 residents, including children and adults. There were more than 10 vendors from different fields which included health and employment. There was also food and a youth basketball game that ended in overtime.

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

### **Reservoir Hill Outreach Team Starting**

During RHIC's September canvass, canvassers spoke with more than 49 residents, got 30 new people on the mailing list, and distributed more than 70 fliers on proper trash disposal and recycling, and invitations to the Annual Meeting. In order to reach a larger segment of the community with information, understand people's needs, and get more people active, RHIC organized a canvass team to go out in the community September – November. We'll be inviting people to events, inquiring about opinions through a survey, and getting people involved. Over these next months there are a lot of opportunities for people to be involved in the community, and there is simply a need to be meeting and talking to more people so everyone has the opportunity to be part of the community and have a voice. RHIC trains the canvassers and coordinates the operation. Anyone interested in taking part should contact Rick Gwynallen.

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

### **Mural Project Put on Hold**

A meeting was held to review the ten submissions for the proposed mural designs for the two walls facing North Avenue on the south side of North and Park avenues. Only a few residents attended this meeting and a design was chosen. Subsequently, because of the low participation and low number of submissions, the city decided to postpone the mural until the next season and to request submissions earlier in hopes that more designs would be submitted. The city also indicated that though the original concept included two walls, the City was only prepared to complete one wall at a time. It was suggested that the wall designs would have to be coordinated so that the walls would have a cohesive look when they were complete. The next committee choosing a design would perhaps choose two designs even if the walls were completed at different times.

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

### **Street Resurfacing and Capital Improvements**

In 2006 RHIC submitted a list of road and sidewalk improvements to the Department of Transportation. Some of these needed repairs have languished for a long time, but progress is starting to happen. The new look of Madison Avenue and Lakeview Avenue is attributable to Mayor Dixon's citywide Operation Orange Cone. The resurfacing completed on the two streets this summer was part of a group of 158 sites selected by Department of Public Works to get a new look. The remainder of work left to be completed in Reservoir Hill is sidewalks, curb and gutters, and alleys. To check on planned projects go to: <http://www.baltimorecity.gov/orangecone/>

*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**

A new, free, not-for-profit, financial counseling hotline, 877-254-1097, has been launched by Baltimore CASH and Maryland CASH (Creating Assets, Savings and Hope) Campaigns and Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Maryland and Delaware, Inc. (CCCS). 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 certified counselors at 877-254-1097 will help consumers determine the level of service required and what they need to manage their finances. If necessary, 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**

### **Fall Harvest Cleaning & Greening – 18 October**

The Mayor's Fall Harvest Cleaning & Greening will start at 9 a.m. on 18 October. This year's Fall Harvest theme will showcase how communities come together to transform dumping sites into green urban spaces. Gardens will be highlighted that have been sustained over extended periods of time by the hard work and dedication of community volunteers. It will also be an opportunity to emphasize how other parcels may become future Adopt-A-Lot gardens. As always, this day also focuses on joining together with your neighbors for a special cleanup or green up - such as an alley, lot or illegal dumping site. DPW will provide brooms, rakes and bags for volunteers to clean and remove debris from these neighborhoods. The deadline for registering for Mayor Sheila Dixon's Fall Harvest Cleaning & Greening is Friday, 10 October 10, 2008. For more information or to sign up, call 311.

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

### **First PTCO Meeting of the School Year – 22 October**

The Parent-Teacher-Community Organization (PTCO) of John Eager Howard School will hold its first meeting of the school year on 22 October 2008 at 6:00 pm. Enter by the front door of the school at 2011 Linden Avenue.

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

### **Take Control of Your Personal Finances – 22 & 29 October**

St. Francis Neighborhood Center is sponsoring a new free class called Money Talks, Start Listening: Take Control of Your Personal Finances. The two-day seminar will include budgeting month-to-month, understanding interest, the risks of credit debt, the importance of one's credit report, managing investments, and more. The seminar will be held at the Center, 2405 Linden Avenue on 22 and 29 October at 6:30 pm. RSVPs are requested.

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

### **Next Homebuyer Workshop – 23 October**

The next homebuyer workshop is scheduled for 23 October 2008 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)

### **First Tree Well Expansion – 25 October – Volunteers Still Welcome**

On 25 October the Reservoir Hill "Green Team" (= anyone volunteers for RHIC Greening Projects) will get together on Newington Avenue to expand tree wells on the 600-800 blocks. There will be a diamond saw, some shovels, a wheelbarrow, gloves, and a truck to drive the debris away. RHIC will offer lemonade and pizza to anyone who participates. This project is in conjunction with the new tree wells being placed on Newington Avenue in efforts to increase the tree canopy in Reservoir Hill.

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

### **Next Reservoir Hill Peace Patrol Walk – 27 October**

The Reservoir Hill Peace Patrol will hold its next walk on 27 October 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)

### **RHIC Annual Meeting – 28 October**

Once again, RHIC will hold its Annual Meeting at the Mansion House in Druid Hill Park. The event is scheduled for 28 October 2008 with doors opening at 6:30 pm. Each year, the hall is filled with literature tables from groups around the city, live music, great food, and notable speakers. This year, Associate Black Charities CEO Diane Bell-McKoy will speak on building the African-American middle class in the city. Reservoir Hill resident and jazz vocalist Tamm E. Hunt will be performing. A wide range of residents and supporters attend to vote in new Board Members, honor volunteers of the past year, and get ready for a new year of work and celebrations. Please join us.

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

### **Piano Concert: Felix Mendelssohn's "Songs Without Words" – 2 November**

Pianist Jeffry Spangler will perform a free piano concert open to the public on Sunday, 2 November 2008, 1:30 pm at the First Unitarian Church, corner of Charles and Franklin Streets. First Unitarian member and Peabody Conservatory graduate Jeffry Spangler will play 24 of the 49 beloved "Songs Without Words" for solo piano by Felix Mendelssohn. Donations will benefit the church's historic Niemann Organ restoration.

*Project Contact:* (410) 685-2330, [office@firstunitarian.net](mailto:office@firstunitarian.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**