



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 February 2009

Come to the Annual Reservoir Hill Unity Day And Winter Carnival

21 February, 2009, 3:00 pm- 6:00 pm
John Eager Howard Recreation Center
2100 Brookfield Avenue

Free to the public, the event features the Douglass High School Performing Band, Dave the Magician, a community dinner, games for adults and kids, bingo, arts & crafts, and more!

Housing

Healthy Neighborhoods Loan Rate at 3.83% - Lowest Rate Yet!

The current rate for the Healthy Neighborhoods Acquisition/Rehab and Refinance and Rehab loan is 4.27 percent. Reservoir Hill homeowners interested in completing \$ 5K to 40K in home repairs should take advantage of an all time low rate of 2.25 percent.

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

New Healthy Neighborhoods Website

Healthy Neighborhoods, Inc. (HNI) totally revamped their website. With more pull down menus, virtual tours of all the HNI neighborhoods, interactive tools, an online loan pre-application, new program guidelines and neighborhood descriptions, the site not only has a new look, but a vast range of resources. Check it out: <http://www.healthyneighborhoods.org/>

Project Contact: Carl Cleary, (410) 225-7547, 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



Reservoir Hill is a Healthy Neighborhoods community

Whitelock Corridor Update

RHIC staff submitted the results of its November and December 2008 meetings with Member organizations to Parameter, the contractor working on architectural specifications. An Interim plan and final designs are now being prepared, and will be presented at a community meeting on 3 March 2009 at 7:00 pm at the John Eager Howard Recreation center, 2100 Brookfield Avenue. This product is the result of eight small group meetings, numerous discussions with residents, input from groups and individual residents, and the professional expertise of the contractors, all building on the work done by residents in 2004 and 2005 to stimulate a new strategy for Whitelock Street.

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

RHIC Chosen to Lead HABC Housing Counseling Classes

RHIC's Neighborhood Development Coordinator and housing counselor was recently selected by the Housing Authority of Baltimore City (HABC) to conduct its housing counseling classes for HABC's tenant conversion program. The participants are part of HABC's job training program. The program assists low-income tenants to move toward homeownership and stable jobs. Upon completion of the classes, a participant will be eligible for the tenant conversion program

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

Homebuyer Tax Relief

The Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 includes a number of provisions that will help prevent foreclosures, reinvigorate the housing market and strengthen the nation's economy. These provisions include a \$7,500.00 tax credit and property tax relief for some homeowners.

Opportunity of a Lifetime for First-Time Buyers

For aspiring home owners who find their goal stubbornly elusive, newly enacted legislation providing a tax credit of as much as \$7,500 for first-time home buyers might just be the opportunity of a lifetime. Time is of the essence for buyers who want to take advantage of this outstanding opportunity. Only homes purchased on or after 9 April 2008 and before 1 July 2009 are eligible.

First-Time Home Buyer Tax Credit at a Glance

- The tax credit is available for first-time home buyers only. Maximum credit amount is \$7,500.
- The credit is available for homes purchased on or after April 9, 2008 and before July 1, 2009.
- Single taxpayers with incomes up to \$75,000 and married couples with incomes up to \$150,000 qualify for the full tax credit.

The tax credit works like an interest-free loan and must be repaid over a 15-year period

Property Taxes

The legislation will provide temporary tax relief for home owners who do not itemize their deductions. For tax year 2008, taxpayers who do not itemize their deductions but pay property taxes will receive a \$500 additional standard deduction (\$1,000 for married couples). This provision will particularly benefit home owners who have paid off their mortgages. Use the links below to learn more about the tax credit. <http://www.federalhousingtaxcredit.com/>

Project Contact: Carl Cleary, (410) 225-7547, 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

Greening Reservoir Hill

Community Gardens

If you would like a plot in one of Reservoir Hill's Community gardens to grow your own food or plants, please contact us at RHIC and we can give you more information.

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

Compost Workshop:

There will be a FREE workshop on composting on Tuesday February 10th at St. Francis Neighborhood Center at 7pm. It will be taught by Mike Gaffney and Kids on the Hill teens will assist. Each participant will learn how to make a composting box and where to find the right kind of worms that turn food into soil and how to properly set up the box. This is not smelly! It is done in a way that does not produce smell or attract flies. The soil produced can then be used in a home garden or potted plants or donated to a local garden. It reduces waste and produces soil, an essential resource for growing food.

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

Changes Coming to Whitelock Street Community Garden

Kahlid Tacuma, one of the current gardeners at the community garden on Whitelock Street is project coordinator for a new endeavor called We Shall Reap What We Sow. Sponsored by the Soul School Institute, We Shall Reap What We Sow plans to cultivate the community garden as an organic garden that will serve to teach adult and youth gardeners the benefits of growing and organic food, and how to grow and prepare it. The produce will be donated to the healthy cooking class at John Eager Howard Recreation Center. The project seeks to promote healthy eating habits and the basics of sustainable agriculture. We Shall Reap What We Sow is currently seeking funding for the project and has scheduled a garden clean up in March 2009.

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

Capital Projects Update

The funding for the long awaited community sign is now in place. Healthy Neighborhoods is funding the project. The sign itself should be in production by March. The restoration of the fountain on the north end of Park Avenue is still waiting on final paperwork from the Department of Recreation & Parks.

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

Pride in Reservoir Hill is Picking Up! – Maximize 311 Calls for Illegal Dumping

Stan Janczak, Superintendent of Inspections, Housing Inspections Services Housing & Community Development, spoke at the February Community Meeting to update participants on the current sanitation initiative in Reservoir Hill. A key thing that residents can focus on is maximizing calls to 311 for all incidents of illegal dumping. It is very important that when you call in such incidents that you specifically say that you are reporting an incident of "illegal dumping." The use of that term allows inspectors to take the time to open the dumped bag or other container and look for information that would lead them to the owner of the trash. Otherwise, the citation for a dumped bag will be issued to the property owner.

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

Order Recycling Bins through RHIC

You can order city recycling bins through RHIC. \$5 for 18-gallon, \$12 for 25-gallon bin. All recyclable items go in same bin. Pick up is every other Wednesday (2nd and 4th). Call RHIC office to order one!

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

Tree Canopy Project Update – Toward 150 New Trees in 2009!

The Green Team has been very active in January getting the agreement of residents to care for trees to be planted outside their houses in empty tree wells. RHIC's Tree Canopy Project's first goal is to fill all of Reservoir Hill's 66 empty tree wells in the spring of 2009, including removing all stumps and dead trees from tree wells. Before planting, RHIC will expand the wells to city standards. Residents who have agreed to maintain the trees, or anyone interested, will receive training on tree planting and tree care, including amending soil in the wells, planting trees, and watering. RHIC will provide the means to make maintenance easier depending on what works for each block. It could be a hose bib in front of a house, a key to the fire hydrant, a rain barrel, or gator bags. We will be offering a workshop on construction and use of rain barrels. New trees will be planted this spring. In the autumn the team will begin cutting new tree wells. If you want to get involved, contact Christiana Usenza at RHIC.

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

Reservoir Street Park – Renovations Expected to Start in June

The renovation of the Reservoir Street Park is expected to be put out to bid in March 2009. The last item required before it goes out for bid is the Department of Public Work's sediment erosion report. The proposed flower plantings will be scaled down, and the variety of shrubs increased. In the center of the park will be a planter where the community can take charge of plantings. The City expects construction to start in June 2009, and take four to six months to complete. The community will enter into a partnership agreement with the Department of Recreation and Parks for maintenance of the plants and shrubs.

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

John Eager Howard Park Renovation Plans Still Pending

The design for the renovation of the John Eager Howard Park has not made further progress. City designers and other personnel are still working to resolve the placement of the basketball court and the issue of the pool.

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

Get the word out on Recycling!

RHIC will be visiting Member Organization meetings during February and March to discuss our recycling drive. RHIC staff is moving through the community street-by-street over 2009 to increase recycling in the community. Please help RHIC get the word out on recycling. We need people to bring fliers to their neighbors' houses with information about recycling in Reservoir Hill, when to recycle, what to recycle, where to recycle and how to order a recycling bin. This is part of RHIC's effort to reduce waste and trash build up in Reservoir Hill and to help the environment. If you are willing to do door-to-door to drop off flyers to your neighbors, please let us know. The RHIC office will provide the fliers and work with you with any questions you may have.

Project Contact: Christiana Usenza, (410) 225-7547, 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

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

Become a Member of the Community Greening Resource Network (CGRN)

Join Baltimore's Greening Network--Become a member! CGRN supports 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! 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 Krones at Parks & People Foundation at 410-448-5663 x 114, sarah.krones@paraksandpeople.org. Link to application: http://www.parksandpeople.org/publications/Guides/CGRN_Brochure.pdf. CGRN is an initiative of Parks & People Foundation and Maryland Cooperative Extension, Community Greening Resource

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

Around the Community

2009 Reservoir Hill Resource Fair Planning Committee

St. Francis Neighborhood Center takes great pleasure in announcing our 4th Annual Reservoir Hill Resource Fair! PLEASE JOIN THE PLANNING COMMITTEE AND HELP:

- Bring employment, academic, social service, and health vendors to the community
- Finalize logistics, such as date, time, and space for the fair
- Spread the word via radio, media, fliers, etc...
- Organize fun activities such as basketball tournaments, free food, music, and entertainment
- And much more!

Planning Committee meetings will be held once every other week and last one hour. All opinions and ideas are welcome and encouraged! Our first meeting is February 17th at 6:30pm at St. Francis Neighborhood Community Center. If you would like to participate, contact Sarah Tarighi. SFNC is located on 2405 Linden Ave, Baltimore, MD 21217. If you would like to join the committee, but can't make it on this date/time, please let the center know and we will keep you in the loop for upcoming meetings and meeting minutes.

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

Time to Plan the Garden & Home Tour Again!

It's that time of year again when Bolton Park Neighbors Inc. and Historic Mt. Royal Terrace Association of Reservoir Hill, start preparing for the Garden and Home Tour. The 15th Annual, 2009 tour will be on June 6th and 7th. This year's theme is "There's No Place Like Home!" The tour committee is looking for individual or corporate sponsors to promote the tour. This support would be either services that will be needed for the tour and, most importantly, cash support to defray the cost of the event allowing us to use more money towards neighborhood improvement. If you are interested in supporting the tour or helping with the planning, contact Dave Horn.

Project Contact: David Horn, (443) 600-1542, DWHornII@aol.com

Friends of Druid Hill Park Update

The Friends of Druid Hill Park website -- <http://www.druidhillpark.org/> -- now includes a brand new web calendar! We want all events occurring in Druid Hill Park to be on this calendar! If you have an event you can add, please send the following to abby.cocke@parksandpeople.org: Include the Name of the event, Date and time, Location/address, and a brief description, if appropriate, including where to go for more information. For more information on the Friends of Druid Hill Park, visit <http://DruidHillpark.org> or Call 410-383-0603. You can also visit us on My Space: <http://www.myspace.com/druidhillpark>

Project Contact: Anne Draddy, (443) 984-4058, friendsofdruidhillpark@gmail.com

Café to Open on Madison Avenue

Reservoir Hill residents Madeline Beal and Jacob Corbin recently received zoning approval to open a new café at 2501 Madison Avenue. Madeline and Jacob live above the proposed café. The project has been under discussion for several months at Upper Eutaw/Madison Neighborhood Association as residents worked with the café owners to come to an agreement over the operation of the business in this residential neighborhood. Though they are through the zoning hurdle, the owners expect the project to take six months to a year before it opens. The café is expected to operate Wednesday through Sundays, 7:00 am – 3:00 pm. The menu is not completely set but the basic plan is to sell a full range of coffee drinks, teas, hot chocolates, and other specialty drinks like smoothies and fresh ades. They expect breakfast items will include homemade pastries, breakfast sandwiches and burritos, and bagels, and for lunch, salads and sandwiches. The café may also sell some items for take home like quarts of pasta or potato salad, and whole pies and desserts. The café will have wireless and expects to have about 20 seats at tables plus capacity for another ten or so people on couches and arm chairs.

When asked to describe the future café, Madeline had the following to say: "This will be a laid-back cafe serving seasonal, local, and delicious foods at an affordable price with a focus on environmental sustainability, health, and culinary craft. There will no doubt be a bit of discernible southern style to the food because I was born and raised in the South. The ambiance will be relaxed, funky, and a tad bit hippie because my husband was born and raised in San Francisco. Our goal is that this cafe will become a neighborhood gathering place, a location for Reservoir Hill residents to be able to meet their neighbors or take their friends for lunch."

Project Contact: Madeline Beal, (510)333-4017, madelinebeal@gmail.com

St. Francis Center Call for Volunteers

St. Francis is starting a new program in the Spring of 2009 called R.O.C.K. (Reach. Opportunity. Creativity. Knowledge). It is a youth development program that is comprised of three components: education (academic achievement), the arts (art, music, and dance), and mentoring. The program would run in the evenings Monday-Thursday. We are seeking volunteers to fill the following positions:

- Tutors
- Mentors
- Chief Academic Instructor
- Chief Art Instructor
- Chief Dance Instructor
- Chief Music Instructor
- art, music, and dance aids

If you are interested, contact Sarah Tarighi.

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

Call for Submissions for Spring Newsletter

RHIC's newsletter is returning in the Spring, and we are planning a new feature. The spring issue of the newsletter will initiate a community comment section that will print comments from people on a targeted subject. Last spring, RHIC's sanitation survey indicated that most respondents saw significant improvement in sanitation conditions over the years. A new sanitation initiative has been underway the past few months, and there has been a marked increase in comments received regarding those conditions continuing to improve. So, we thought to ask broadly what people think. Therefore, the spring question is "How much improvement have you observed in the Reservoir Hill sanitation condition?" Please submit a comment of 50 words or less to Rick Gwynallen, rgwynallen@reservoirhill.net, no later than 1 March 2008. Also, please make any suggestions for how this campaign can continue to improve Reservoir Hill sanitation. The issue will be published in late March.

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

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.

Around the City and State

Protecting School Funds in the Maryland Budget

In tough economic times, families, communities, and governments face tough choices. However, RHIC does not believe that the education of our children should be one of those sacrifices. The proposed budget from Governor O'Malley cuts over \$100 million in education funds, with Baltimore City and Prince George's County bearing 80% of the cuts. While the loss of funds and the apparent inequity in the sharing of the burden is bad enough, even more problematic is that the proposed budget, referred to as the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2009, allows the State to bypass existing mandates. As regards schools, this means that the Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act, also known as the Thornton act, that mandates equitable funding of education, and sets the formula for equitable means, can be set aside. The Governor and others argue that the pending federal economic stimulus legislation will fill the holes in education spending created by these cuts. In fact, the federal economic stimulus package will be passed before the Maryland General Assembly concludes and adopts a budget. However, whether or not federal funds fill the holes, the mandate for equitable spending on education will have been set aside, and the danger exists that it may not be reinstated, despite the best intentions of elected officials today. Our position is that the budget should effect changes in existing law. The laws should remain as they are, including Thornton, and the federal funds should fill holes that already exist or that are otherwise created by necessary State spending cuts beyond mandated spending. Please watch for RHIC Action Alerts on this subject. The participation of all of our residents is very much needed to ensure that the budget act is not used to change existing law and that equitable funding for education is not altered. For background information on the Bridge to Excellence in Education, the American Civil Liberties Union website offers a good explanation: <http://www.aclu-md.org/aTop%20Issues/Education%20Reform/Thornton.html> Those interested can read the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2009 online: Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2009

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

RHIC Coordination with City Departments

RHIC works with numerous city departments every month. To give readers an idea about what interactions between the city and RHIC occur, we will try to give brief updates in each monthly Briefing. RHIC will be hosting Housing & Community Development (HCD) personnel in February to brief HCD employees on RHIC priorities over the next year, and the state of current development projects. The monthly meetings with personnel from the Department of Solid Waste and HCD Code Enforcement continue, and have effected increases in both community education on trash disposal and issuance of citations, and changes in how trash collection personnel pick up trash and report dumping. In January 2008, RHIC staff and volunteers conducted a survey of pedestrian lighting and tree trimming needs, met with Councilman Cole, and through his office submitted the survey to the Department of Transportation (DOT). The Department of Forestry has completed the tree trimming required before DOT performs its own lighting survey as a precursor to planning additional pedestrian lighting. The Tree Canopy Project works closely with both the Department of Forestry (DOF) and the Department of Transportation, both of which have been good partners in implementing the Tree Canopy Project. DOF will be supplying the trees for the Tree Canopy Project. RHIC staff met in January with Department of Recreation & Parks about increasing pedestrian access to Druid Hill Park and better coordination between RHIC and the department over park programming and recreation center programming. Meetings will continue in February over these matters and other recreation center needs.

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

Resources

Baltimore Sustainability Plan Available

The Baltimore Sustainability Plan, revised 4 February 2009, is available online:

http://www.baltimorecity.gov/government/planning/sustainability/downloads/0209/020409_Baltimore_Sustainability_Plan.pdf

The plan was the result of an extensive process of public discussion, and is being looked at as the road map for public policy development aimed at integrating social, economic, and environmental needs in Baltimore. City residents should be familiar with the document.

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

A Great Opportunity for Girls – Apply by 16 February

Running Start is accepting applications for their 2009 Young Woman's Political Leadership Retreat. Please share the information with teachers and encourage any high school girls you know to apply!!! They do need to already be interested in politics. Running Start encourages high school girls from across the country to channel their leadership into politics. Participants will meet extraordinary women leaders of diverse backgrounds and learn the importance of having more women in political leadership and running for office. Even if the girls are not interested in politics, this is a great program way for them to build self-esteem, practice public speaking and learn to collaborate with other young women. The program is open to rising sophomores, juniors and seniors in high school. It will be held at American University in Washington D.C, July 15-19, 2009 (no applications will be accepted after February 16, 2009). The program is entirely free of charge, and travel scholarships are available. APPLY ONLINE: <http://www.runningstartonline.org/leadership-program/index.php>

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

Opportunities for High School Students

GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY Science & Engineering Apprenticeship program (summer) - Applications due: Feb. 27, 2009 - This program places academically talented H.S. Students (at least 16 yrs old, sophomores/ juniors) with interest in science & math in Dept. of Defense laboratories for an 8-wk period over the summer. This is an invaluable experience in the world of scientific research, with hands-on exposure to scientific & engineering practices not available in the HS environment. It is a paid apprenticeship (\$2,000) and the students are assigned a scientist or engineer as their mentor. To apply online or get more information about the program: <http://WWW.usaeop.Com>. Students must submit their transcript (minimum GPA 3.0) and teacher recommendation to the program director for consideration and daily transportation is the student's responsibility. Program runs from 22 June – 14 August 2009.

FREE!! The National Center for Health Marketing's Global Health Odyssey Museum is pleased to offer the 2009 CDC Disease Detective Camp (DDC). DDC is an academic day camp for students who will be high school juniors and seniors during the 2009-2010 school year. Campers will take on the roles of disease detectives and learn how CDC safeguards the nation's health. The camp will be offered twice from June 22-26 and July 13-17. For more info and to apply to go to WWW.cdc.gov/qcc/exhibit/camp.htm. Deadline is 20 April.

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

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

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

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

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

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 Shaul-Thompson, (410) 662-8049, learning.inc@verizon.net

Calendar of Events

Greening Reservoir Hill in 2009 Calendar of Events

- 2/10 Composting Workshop at St. Francis 7 pm RSVP to Christiana Usenza
- 2/12 CGRN "Community Organizing for Block Projects" presented by Community Greens at St. Francis at 6:30pm
- March-- Rain Barrel Workshop for community TBA
- 3/12 CGRN: "Transforming Blighted Community Spaces" presented by Community Greens at St. Francis 6:30 pm
- 3/28 Whitelock Community Garden-- Clean up Volunteer day 12-3pm*
- 4/18 Gardening Design Workshop at the Sculpture Garden on Madison Avenue taught by Erin Reilly 12-3pm
- 4/22 Earth Day Tree Planting at John Eager Howard School with RHIC and Jones alls Watershed, We Need volunteers*
- 5/3 Green Fair 10-2, Let Christiana know if you have a project you want to lead and we will provide volunteers*
- 6/27 Lennox Street Garden --Volunteer Clean Up day 12-3*

* we need volunteers!

Composting Workshop – 10 February

Learn how to reduce your waste, create healthy soil and help the environment by using vermiculture (worm composting). On 10 February, Mike Gaffney from Chesapeake Bay Trust (formerly from RHIC) will lead you in a Composting Workshop at St. Francis 7:00 pm. Teens from Kids on the Hill have been experimenting and have now become expert composters and a few will help lead the workshop. It is FREE. RSVP to Christiana Usenza.

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

Realtor Breakfast – 12 February

RHIC and Healthy Neighborhoods, Inc. are sponsoring a breakfast gathering of real estate professionals on 12 February, 8:30 am – 10:00 am, 2325 Callow Avenue (corner of Callow and Whitelock – enter by rear of the building off Whitelock Street). The agenda will include ways of marketing Reservoir Hill, a review of current and future development projects, and Healthy Neighborhoods loan products. If you are a real estate agent, developer, mortgage broker or other real estate professional, please join us for a light breakfast and a stimulating discussion. RSVPs are requested.

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

Next Reservoir Hill Peace Patrol Walk – 16 February

The Reservoir Hill Peace Patrol will hold its next walk on 16 February 2009 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

Largely Ludwig Chamber Ensemble – 15 February

The Largely Ludwig Chamber Ensemble, will appear Sunday, 15 February at 1:30 pm at the First Unitarian Church of Baltimore (Charles and Franklin Streets). In honor of Valentine's Day, this is a concert of Romantic works by Beethoven, Schumann, and Chopin. The Chamber Ensemble includes current and former Peabody Conservatory faculty. The concert is part of First Unitarian's 2008-2009 Cultural Series. Free and open to the public; free will contributions gratefully accepted. For more information: <http://www.firstunitarian.net/calendar.asp>,

Project Contact: (410) 685-2330, office@firstunitarian.net

Making Your Money Go Further – 18 February

The John Eager Howard Parent-Teacher-Community Organization, RHIC, and the Consumer Credit Counseling Services of Maryland and Delaware are sponsoring a free financial seminar on 18 February, 2009, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm, at the John Eager Howard Scholl, 2011 Linden Avenue. The seminar will focus on helpful tips on how to make your money go further. Light refreshments will be served.

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

March Community Meeting – Unveiling a Strategy for Whitelock Street 3 March

This has been a long process. Starting in May 2004, residents began crafting a strategy for the redevelopment of the Whitelock Street Corridor. During 2004 and 2005, several meetings were held that reached agreement around the framework of a vision for Whitelock Street. There was little progress with the City in furthering the proposal, but in 2008, RHIC secured funding to hire firms to perform a current market analysis and prepare designs for a proposal. After eight small group meetings, numerous discussions with residents, input from groups and individual residents, and the professional expertise of the contractors, a new proposal is ready. This community meeting will be devoted to a discussion of that proposal and getting community feedback. The meeting will be on Tuesday, 3 March at 7:00 pm at the John Eager Howard Recreation Center, 2100 Brookfield Avenue.

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

COMMUNITY NOTES & RESOURCES

Following the death of Mrs. Thomas, the Thomas family of Chauncey Avenue is selling antiques and old furniture. Mrs. Thomas had lived in Reservoir Hill for nearly 50 years. If you are interested in seeing the items, Juanita Garrison is serving as contact for the family: (410) 523-5868.

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