



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 May 2009

Kids on the Hill – Past and Present – 28 May

Recently, the community learned that Kids on the Hill, hit hard by the economic downturn, will be ending the unique program it has offered young people for the past twelve years. Kids on the Hill will be in full operation throughout the summer, after which executive director Rebecca Yenawine will work on a new project called New Lens. New Lens will continue the Kids on the Hill approach to working with young people to use art and media for inspiring social change, and will focus more on how to use the work to make systemic change. Kids on the Hill has extended its appreciation to the many dedicated staff and supporters over the years without whom the work that nurtured and changed many lives and created impactful art and media could not have been done.

We here at RHIC are extremely grateful for the cutting edge programs Kids on the Hill pioneered in working with our urban youth. They remain one of the most innovative, forward thinking, and important programs to have blossomed in Reservoir Hill, and for that matter, in Baltimore.

To celebrate the last twelve years and honor this process of transition, Kids on the Hill will host a free and open event on 28 May. This will be a time to show videos and photos of the past and present, to tell stories and reflect on all that we've accomplished together. Everyone is invited and to come and help the KOH staff, Board members, youth, and volunteers celebrate, remember and say goodbye.

**Thursday, 28 May
6:00-7:30 pm**

**Maryland Institute College of Art, Gateway Building Black Box Theater
1601 Mt. Royal Avenue (on the corner of North Avenue and Mt. Royal Avenue)**

Around the Community

Reservoir Hill Improvement Council Board of Directors Seats Open

The 2009-2010 Board of Directors of Reservoir Hill Improvement Council will be elected at the Annual Meeting in October 2009 (date and location to be announced). There are three seats open at this time, each for a three-year term. Those wishing to stand for the Board must be sponsored by an RHIC Member Organization in good standing, and must have their application filed by 31 July 2009 at the RHIC office at 2001 Park Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21217. Please contact the office for copies of the application.

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



Reservoir Hill is a Healthy Neighborhoods community

Garden & Home Tour Less Than a Month Away

It is 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. This year's tour will expand to include newly rehabbed homes along Linden Avenue. 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

Canvass Team Forming to Discuss Weatherization with Residents

The City of Baltimore will be receiving a large jump in its weatherization funds. The leap is from less than \$2 million to \$16-\$18 million. RHIC's goals are to ensure that all Reservoir Hill residents are aware of the services to be offered and the process for accessing those services, and that no one falls through the cracks. This requires that we (1) get information out to residents, (2) have our office serve as a center to help people apply as necessary, and (3) that we work with other organizations to ensure that the current weatherization program addresses the problems of the past. To that end, RHIC is forming a canvass team to conduct a community-wide canvass in June. We anticipate two trainings will precede the canvass. We hope to recruit at least 20 organizers for the canvass so that people could work in pairs and we would have enough organizers to cover the community. If we have enough people we may be able to organize the canvass so people are assigned blocks in their own neighborhoods. The new weatherization funds offer the possibility of a great benefit for many households, but only if people know about the program. From our experience with door-to-door canvassing for recycling, there is nothing like personal contact. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Rick Gwynallen

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

Can You Sponsor a Reservoir Hill Child for Summer Camp?

Once again, John Eager Howard Recreation Center is offering a summer camp program. Camp Baltimore 2009 runs from 22 June - 7 August at the recreation center at 2100 Brookfield Avenue. It's a great program with a wide range of art, nutrition, athletic, and computer activities. Camp Baltimore is one of the largest summer programs for Reservoir Hill youth. The cost for the program is \$150 per child, a fee well beyond the means of many Reservoir Hill families. Can you sponsor a child for Camp Baltimore this year? If so, you have several ways to do so. **If you do not care whether or not your donation is tax-deductible**, you may send your contribution in the form of a money order to John Eager Howard Recreation Center, 2100 Brookfield Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21217, Attn.: Camp Baltimore 2009. Make the money order out to Director of Finance. **Only money orders are being accepted.**

If you want to make contribution as a tax-deductible donation, you may make your check out to Reservoir Hill Improvement Council (earmarked for Camp Baltimore 2008), and mail it to 2001 Park Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21217. RHIC will send a money order to the Director of finance, and provide a receipt to each sponsor.

This is a great opportunity to help the children in our community. Each year several residents help children attend camp. We hope you can sponsor a child this year.

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

German Park Has New Entry Off Whitelock Street

If you have not already seen it, take a look at the new entry to German Park off Whitelock Street between Brookfield Avenue and Linden Avenue. A section of the wall that was concrete blocks came down through a grant from Parks & People Foundation to St. Francis Neighborhood Center. The project spearheaded by Brian Morrison had that section of the wall taken down and the debris removed to open German Park up on the Whitelock Street side. City personnel cleaned up the treed area around and west of the new opening. The area had been a litter collector for a long time.

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

Can You Share Your Knowledge and Skills with Others?

Over the last six months, there has been a marked increase in the number of teens and adults approaching the RHIC office asking direction to classes in a variety of topics, including GED classes, SAT prep, carpentry skills, financial literacy, resume prep, and more. We send people to those resources in the city we know to be good, but some are a bit of a distance from Reservoir Hill. Recently, RHIC has discussed a partnership with John Eager Howard School and the John Eager Howard Recreation Center to test out an Open University at the school where classes in a range of skill and knowledge building subjects can be taught. This kind of community school model has been pioneered in a variety of states. Classes could be offered by anyone skilled in a particular subject or hobby. It would be exciting to see Reservoir Hill residents with particular skills share them with others in Reservoir Hill and the surrounding communities. If you would be interested in teaching a class and being part of this venture please contact the RHIC office. We are in the very early stages of project planning and more details will be forthcoming over the next month.

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

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

St. Francis Center Youth Program Opens

The Power Project, St. Francis Neighborhood Center's (SFNC) youth development program made its debut on 15 April. The program is now beginning enrollment. SFNC is enrolling youth in grades kindergarten (age 5) through second grade at this time. Youth must live in the Reservoir Hill neighborhood and attend school in the community as well. The program runs Monday-Thursday from 3-6pm throughout the academic year and the summer months. The Power Project consists of three major components: academic achievement, the arts, and mentoring. For more information on this program please visit www.stfranciscenter.org. This program is free for the youth! Interested parents or guardians should contact LeVar Jones for enrollment information.

Project Contact: LeVar Jones, (410) 669-2612, LJones@stfranciscenter.org

Call for Volunteers!

St. Francis Neighborhood Center's Power Project is seeking volunteer tutors, mentors, and art aides. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Sarah Tarighi for more information. Visit www.stfranciscenter.org and click on 'get involved' for more information on The Power Project volunteer opportunities.

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

Volunteers Needed for Fountain Renovation

RHIC and Park Avenue residents, spearheaded by Howard Fink, have planned the restoration of the fountain on the north end of Park Avenue. The fountain is located on the median at Whitelock Street and Park Avenue. In conjunction with the work that is being done, there is a need to remove the dirt that is in the fountain. Years ago the fountain was converted to a planter and filled with dirt. We need three or four volunteers to assist with the dirt removal. RHIC has the tools. Please contact Darryl if you are interested. The time and date will be decided after we have identified the volunteers. Thank you in advance for your willingness to help.

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

Housing

Pre-apply for Healthy Neighborhoods Loans on the HNI 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

Some Advice for First Time Homebuyers and Tips on Refinancing

Buying your first house is exciting and filled with details. Recently, RHIC prepared some simple guidelines for those involved in their first purchase of a home, suggestions that will help provide a basis for sound decision making as you enter the home buying process. The paper is called "Buying Your First House." In addition, RHIC offers some tips for those considering refinancing in "The Dos and Don'ts of Refinancing." You can both of these informational sheets from the RHIC website at <http://www.reservoirhill.net/>

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

Healthy Neighborhoods Loan Rate at 3.65% - 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

"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

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

Greening Reservoir Hill

Big Jump in Reservoir Hill Recycling Coming!

The RHIC office received great news. Several Reservoir Hill Mutual Homes residents have started recycling since our campaign began last spring, but now Reservoir Hill Mutual Homes has decided to supply its residents with recycling bins. That will be a jump of 150 bins.

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

Community Gardens Update

Both community gardens, the Lennox Street garden and the Whitelock Street garden, have rented out all available plots. Congratulations to both gardens. It's the first time both gardens have been completely full in years. The Lennox Street Community Garden will be included in a clean-up of the Bolton-Park neighborhood on 30 May from 10:00 am - Noon, with a pot luck to follow at 2:00 pm at the Triangle Park behind the 700 block of Reservoir Street.

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

Update on One Plus One Proposal

On 18 May, the One Plus One proposal passed the second reader in City Council with a vote of 8-5 in favor. The third and final reader is scheduled for 8 June. If passed by the city Council at that time, the bill will go to the Mayor for signature.

One significant change from the original proposal is in the amount of trash to be picked up. In the original proposal, households were asked to limit their trash collection to 64 gallons once a week with recycling being unlimited. The new proposal raises the limit from 64 gallons to 96 gallons. This does not include yard waste or recycling.

To review the basics of the proposal as described in the April Community Briefing:

Under the new system, trash and recycling will be picked up at the same location to reduce the confusion. Pick up days will shift to Tuesday through Friday. This will become a four-day/10-hour-day work week which will relieve citizens from the Monday holiday problem and allow for a Saturday make-up collection for those impacted by a holiday later in the week. The crews will now begin collection at 6:00 am, which the City expects will get them off roadways during rush hour – reducing accidents, improving crew safety, and increasing route efficiency.

In addition to providing once a week trash pick-up and once-a-week recycling pick-up, as one operation on one route, crews that provide current recycling pick up will become a full-time street and alley cleaning operation, and will be able to respond quicker to citizens requests.

In addition, the city is increasing its code enforcement activity, and plans to distribute appropriate trash cans to each residence in the months following the start of the program.

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

Green Fair

Rain caused us to hold the Green Fair on two days. The first day, in pouring rain, 14 volunteers planted 14 trees on Whitelock, Brookfield, and Linden. On the rain date, the tree project was completed by mulching and tying the trees, flowers were planted in street-side flower pots on Chauncey Avenue, HeadStart kids planted flowers on "the Hill," and German Park was cleaned. The projects were followed by a celebration with bands and food to celebrate the progress on the tree canopy project, the Green Fair, and the opening of the wall on Whitelock Street at German Park through a St. Francis Neighborhood Center project. Green Fair was made possible by a grant from Healthy Neighborhoods, Inc.

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

Order Recycling Bins through RHIC – But, remember, you can make your own, too!

Order a recycling bin from RHIC. \$5 for 18-gallon bin, \$12 for 25-gallon bin. If you cannot afford the bin but are interested in recycling, please call anyway. You can also recycle without a City bin just by writing "Recycling" in big letters on any trash can, cardboard box, or other container. Recycling pick up is the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. To find out if your pick up is in the front or back of your house please call 311 and ask for the recycling department.

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

Sanitation Initiative Update

Since 1 January 2009 there has been over 100 citations issued in Reservoir Hill. Readers may recall from previous monthly briefings that since the new initiative got underway last November there have been specific target blocks and hotspots where enforcement has been concentrated to track progress. Within these targeted areas, both City personnel and RHIC staff believe progress has been made. In several cases, landlords have purchased trash cans for their tenants, repeat offenses have been minimal, and there has been a significant reduction in trash left out in inappropriate places or at inappropriate times. Dumping remains a problem in areas such as the 2300 block of Mt. Royal Terrace, the 800 block of Whitelock Street, and the 2300 block of Eutaw Place. The owners are receiving repeat citations.

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

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

To date, 70 new street trees and ten trees on the John Eager Howard schoolyard have been planted this spring. Thirty-four were planted by community volunteers and RHIC staff. PLEASE REMEMBER, if you signed an agreement to maintain a new tree in front of your house, please water it with 20 gallons of water per week (May through October for two years). In the fall, RHIC will complete the tree planting project by planting trees in the remaining empty tree wells and creating new tree wells. If you would like to fill out a tree request to have a tree in front of your house, please contact Christiana. Many, many thanks to all the groups that have us in this project: Jones Falls Watershed Association, St. Francis Neighborhood Center, John Eager Howard School, Parks & People Foundation, Chesapeake Bay Trust, Department of Park Conservation and Community Outreach, Department of Forestry, KPMG LLP, Stanley Morgan, the many individual volunteers, and the tree team leaders, Brian Morrison, Gerrie Okwesa, Rebecca Feldberg, Joel White, Joan Smith, Arthur Shulman, Eli Lopatin, and Alishea Galvin.

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

New Rain Barrel Installed at St. Francis

RHIC and Jones Falls Watershed Association partnered to teach at the St. Francis Neighborhood Center after school program. Kids on the Hill teens also participated in the class. The class focused on how litter, oil, and other debris from the streets pollute local waterways by washing untreated into storm drains during rain storms into the nearest river. The class discussed ways of reducing the flow of rain water into the storm drain system. One popular solution is rain barrels, which capture water from the roof which can then be used to water gardens. The pollutants in the rain water are then filtered by soil and vegetation, allowing the water that enters the groundwater system to be clean. The class culminated in the installation of a rain barrel on the Whitelock Street side of St. Francis Neighborhood Center. Take a look at the rain barrel the next time you walk by the Center.

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

Want a Rain Barrel?

If you would like a rain barrel for your house, RHIC can facilitate a rain barrel construction workshop where you will also learn to install the barrel. We need ten people for a workshop. If you would like to participate, contact Christiana Usenza.

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

John Eager Howard Park and Reservoir Street Park Update

The bid process is over for the Reservoir Street Park. The lowest bid will go to the Board of Estimates. It will take about a month for them to check the figures. If the figures are accurate a notice to proceed will be issued which will take about another month and a half. We anticipate work to be underway in August 2009. The total allocation for Reservoir Street Park is about \$170,000.00.

The total allocation for JEH Park is about \$200,000.00. If there is money left from Reservoir Street it will be added to the JEH Park project. We have no date for action on this project.

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

Turn Your Backyard into a Certified Wildlife Habitat

Tired of all the concrete in your backyard? Do you want to contribute to a more sustainable environment? You can do that in your own back yard. Become a Certified Wildlife Habitat. Plant native plants to absorb storm water and attract wild birds. By making a few changes you can make your yard more functional and contribute to the greening of Baltimore.

Project Contact: Rebecca Feldberg, (410) 383-3484, rebecca.feldberg@gmail.com

RHIC Tool Shed

Available tools include: hoes, rakes, metal rakes, brooms, shovels, pick axes, trowels, wheelbarrows, and 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

Around the City and State

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. During the past month: RHIC staff worked closely with Cleaner Greener Baltimore, the Department of Transportation, Department of Public Works, and the Office of Neighborhoods to clean up sections of Reservoir Hill in April 2009. The Department Forestry responded to RHIC's requests for stump grinding and trees by grinding 30 stumps and supplied 70 trees. The Department of Forestry also continues to work with staff to identify the most useful reports to be generated from the data collected through RHIC's i-Tree project. RHIC staff continued its monthly meetings with Code Enforcement and the Department of Solid Waste to monitor sanitation conditions. Staff met with the Mayor's office to explore the uses of stimulus funds, including weatherization monies, get support for the promised lighting survey, and open up a new discussion around the vacant buildings in Reservoir Hill. Staff also worked with the Department of Transportation on road repair priorities and plans a June session with the Department of Transportation to review RHIC's remaining requests.

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

Economic Recovery for Neighborhoods Initiative

RHIC recently joined a task force organized by Citizens Planning & Housing Association to monitor the use of federal stimulus funds in Baltimore. The task force, the Economic Recovery for Neighborhoods Initiative (ERNI), intends to ensure that a community voice is present in City discussions around the stimulus funds, particularly through the Baltimore Economic Recovery Team (BERT), that the City goes for as much money as is available, that the general public has access to the information, and that funds reach neighborhoods and families effectively.

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

Baltimore Organizers Network

In 2008, RHIC worked with Greater Homewood Community Corporation to initiate a series of meetings aimed at fostering cooperation between a number of Baltimore organizations around training and public policy. Those meetings led to the revival of the Baltimore Organizers Network. The network meets monthly in a brownbag lunch session. Each session has a distinct topic. In May the participants explored the use of Community Benefits Agreements to ensure that communities receive direct benefits from development projects. Anyone engaged with progressive community or issue organizing is welcome.

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

Bike Baltimore Summer Events

There are a variety of biking events around Baltimore throughout the summer. Check out the following site for the schedule:

<http://www.baltimorecity.gov:80/government/transportation/planning/bikebaltimore/events.php>

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

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

Calendar of Events

Historic Arabbers Sunday Market – Westside Market Open Every Sunday

As of 3 May, the Historic Arabbers Sunday Market is open every Sunday until October from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm at Legends Park at Fremont Avenue and Laurens Street. Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Redevelopment collaborative, the market offers fresh locally grown fruits and vegetables, flowers, herbs and spices, an international food courts, and arts and crafts market, and music by local Gospel choirs. Reservoir Hill folks, this Westside market is only a little over a mile away!

Project Contact: Linda Richardson, (410) 669-5397, backacre@live.com

Next Reservoir Hill Peace Patrol Walk – 25 May

The Reservoir Hill Peace Patrol will hold its next walk on 25 May. The walks commence 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

Spring Fling at John Eager Howard – 29 May

The Dru Judy Center Partnership is holding its annual Spring Fling at John Eager on Friday, 29 May from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm at John Eager Howard School at 2011 Linden Avenue. The event is free for adults and children and includes food, fun, games, and information on housing, finances, health, and education. A raffle (free for parents and children) has prizes of a color television, toys, books, and more. The event will proceed rain or shine!

Project Contact: Cathy Frazier, (410) 396-0284

Bolton-Park Clean-Up – 30 May

Bolton-Park Neighbors is leading a clean-up of the Bolton-Park neighborhood on 30 May from 8:00 am - Noon, with a pot luck to follow at the Triangle Park behind the 700 block of Reservoir Street. This is part of prep for the 2009 Home & Garden Tour. Meet at the corner of Park Avenue and Reservoir Street. A city garbage truck will be available to pick up the trash.

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

Next Homebuyer Workshop – 23 July

The next homebuyer workshop is scheduled for 23 July 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

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