



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 November 2009

Happy Thanksgiving to All!

RHIC Bids Farewell to John Ruffin

John Ruffin has been with RHIC since 2002 as its Executive Director, helping guide the organization through a phase of great growth, both for RHIC itself and the community. John is now moving on to work with affordable housing, and assist other community organizations in developing programs. We are grateful to John for his discerning mind in putting together a powerful staff that made it possible to accomplish much over the last seven years. These early decisions led to a highly respected housing counseling program, a greening and urban environmental program that has garnered respect throughout the city, and a host of relationships that have raised the profile of RHIC and Reservoir Hill in a range of arenas in the city. In John's early years with RHIC he worked to bring to fruition a partnership between RHIC and Pennrose Development to rehab the old Housing Authority scattered site units in Reservoir Hill, and include an ongoing supportive services partnership. These rehabbed buildings significantly reduced the blight in the community and improved living conditions for many families, but the effects went beyond the community. Today, such partnership agreements with the community in which a development is occurring is a regular aspect of contracts. John's deep love of people, this community, and RHIC itself, and his desire to assure fairness in development decisions gained him the respect of many.

John played a major role in building RHIC over these last years, and he will be missed, as a friend and a colleague, but we all wish him well on his new ventures.



Reservoir Hill is a Healthy Neighborhoods community

RHIC Office News

Over the coming weeks filled with holidays, RHIC will maintain reduced public hours. Staff and volunteers will be in and around the community five days a week, and can be available to you if you call first, but to assure the public of hours where simply dropping by is possible, residents can count on someone being available at the office on Monday and Wednesday, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm.

Intake for housing and tenant counseling will be conducted by Carl Cleary on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Appointments are necessary for counseling sessions.

The RHIC offices will be closed 25 – 27 November, 24 – 25 December, and 30 December – 1 January.

As with so many other organizations and households, RHIC has seen a decline in financial support. In order to ensure that we continue to provide effective leadership and community project coordination, RHIC will restructure its staff and focus on engagement of community residents to achieve our collective goals. In January 2010 we should have a more thorough announcement regarding the structure of the staff for the coming year.

Please be assured that RHIC will continue all of its current programs and projects. Tools for gardening and clean-ups can be acquired through RHIC's Tool Shed by reserving the tools by phone. We ask for your patience as we *remodel* our house to meet the current needs.

As readers noted above, RHIC's former executive director, John Ruffin, has moved on. RHIC will undertake a search for a new executive director early in 2010. In the interim, H. Alexander Robinson, a member of RHIC's Board of Directors will act as RHIC director. Mr. Robinson brings some 25 years of non-profit experience to RHIC. A former CPA, Robinson is a native of Richmond, Virginia and holds degrees in accounting and political science as well as an MBA.

If you need information on RHIC programs and volunteer opportunities, contact Christiana Usenza and Rick Gwynallen at 410.225.7547.

Holiday Impacts on Services

Department of Public Works' Offices will be closed Thursday, 26 November 2009, Thanksgiving Day, and Friday, 27 November 2009, a mandatory furlough day.

On Thanksgiving Day:

- + Trash and recycling will not be collected.
- + Saturday, 28 November will be the holiday make up collection for trash and recycling in those areas that are normally collected on Thursdays.
- + There will be no bulk trash collection scheduled.
- + Citizen drop off centers will be closed (all yards including Quarantine Road Landfill, the Northwest Transfer Station and the Eastern, Western and Northwestern Sanitation Yards).
- + Parking meters will not be in effect.

On the Mandatory Furlough day:

- + Trash and recycling, both curbside and City containers will be collected as usual.
- + There will be no bulk trash collection scheduled.
- + Citizen drop off centers will be closed.
- + All City buildings will be closed with the exception of the Police Headquarters complex. Citizens will be unable to pay City bills or obtain permits at City offices. Some bills can be paid online; please visit www.baltimorecity.gov.
- + Parking meters will be in effect.

Around the Community

In Memory of Lee Newton

Long time Reservoir Hill resident Lee Newton passed away this month. Mr. Newton was a resident of Chauncey Street and a former Vice President of the Reservoir Hill Mayor's Station, the institution that preceded and gave birth to Reservoir Hill Improvement Council. Mr. Newton remained active in the community, having just last month attended the meeting of Druid Community Association. Among Mr. Newton's many business ventures was the first black-owned delicatessen in Baltimore, a jazz night club, and the construction and real estate management company currently operated by his son, Tony Newton. As a businessman and an active community resident, Mr. Newton was a positive force in Reservoir Hill and the city for many decades.

John Eager Howard Recreation Center Call for Donations

John Eager Howard Recreation Center is asking for gloves, hats and socks for our After - School Program participants. If you want to donate please bring the donations to recreation center at 2100 Brookfield Avenue between the hours of 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm, Monday through Friday. We would like to have all donations by 14 December 2009. Thank you in advance.

Project Contact: Carolyn Newton, (410) 396-7849, carolyn.newton@baltimorecity.gov

Update on The Druid Café

The Druid Cafe, which is intended to open early next year at 2501 Madison Avenue, received zoning approval this last March. The owners have completed their business plan, and are currently seeking funding. The café intends to serve pastries, gourmet sandwiches, and delicious coffees and teas, and provide a neighborhood gathering place. Contact Jacob Corbin for more information.

Project Contact: Jacob Corbin, (410) 929-2501, Jacob.corbin@yahoo.com

More Changes Coming to the Upper Park Avenue Fountain!

Folks may have noticed the rehabbed grounds around the fountain on the 2200 block of Park Avenue. Come spring a variety of flowers will be shooting forth from 500 bulbs planted this fall, and the dogwoods that replaced the overgrowth behind the fountain should be beautiful. In the coming weeks a wrought iron fence will be erected around the fountain. Also, a mural will go up on the old electrical box in December. New Lens (formerly Kids on the Hill) will be creating a mural with a design that will blend into the surroundings.

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

Update on Community Sign

The very long awaited community sign to be erected in the triangle media strip at Eutaw Place and Druid Park Lake Drive received CHAP approval. RHIC awaits final approval from the Baltimore City Department of Recreation & Parks. The contractor is prepared to erect the sign in December following receipt of the right-to-entry.

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

Update on Kids on the Hill-RHIC Signs on Whitelock Street

People may have noticed that two of the signs painted by Kids on the Hill (now New Lens) and raised by RHIC have fallen down. The signs are being re-erected at the corner of Whitelock Street and Linden Avenue and will be stable. In addition, the area around the sign will be landscaped.

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

Join the Friends of Druid Hill Park

Druid Hill Park is a gem not only for the Westside of Baltimore but the while city. Still, it's our backyard, and we encourage everyone to take part in activities hosted there, and just go run, hike, or picnic there to enjoy the beauty of the park. But also, you can help promote and improve the park by joining the Friends of Druid Hill Park. Check the group out at <http://DruidHillpark.org> or call 410-383-0603. You can also visit the Friends on My Space: <http://www.myspace.com/druidhillpark>

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

Engage in Your Community – RHIC Leadership Teams Need You

In 2009, more than 200 people helped with RHIC events and projects. Are you interested in building recycling in Reservoir Hill, improving park space, gardening, planting trees, lowering energy use? If so, consider joining RHIC's Green Team. The Green Team will hold its first meeting of 2010 in January. Contact Christiana Usenza for information.

Would you like to help improve the schools that serve our young people, and work to improve youth opportunities. Resident volunteers and RHIC staff are re-establishing the Better Schools Initiative Task Force. The Task Force will hold its first meeting in January and will explore school matters and more broad youth issues, including recreation center needs and more. Contact Rick Gwynallen for more information.

Not a team person? There are many things a single active resident can do to help our community. Contact us and let's talk.

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

HANDLS Returns to Reservoir Hill

Residents may have noticed the white trucks in a vacant lot on Whitelock Street near Brookfield Avenue in the past weeks. The Healthy Aging in Neighborhoods of Diversity across the Life Span study is back in Reservoir Hill. HANDLS started their study in Reservoir Hill a few years back. The goal is to study the rate of health change as people grow older. If you are a current HANDLS participant who had a home interview after 2004, it is time for your follow-up examination. No new participants are being accepted. Current participants who have not scheduled appointments should do so by calling 1-877-677-9538.

Project Contact: 1-(877)-677-9538

Housing

Healthy Neighborhoods Loan Pool Interim Financing

Healthy Neighborhoods has been informed that the Federal Office of Thrift Supervision has directed Bradford Bank to no longer provide interim financing for the Healthy Neighborhoods Loan Pool. Bradford Bank provided interim financing for and managed the loan program since its inception. They are working to identify a source of interim financing for the program. This action will have no impact on borrowers or loans which are closed or homes under renovation. Bradford will continue to manage and service their loans.

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

Current Permit Fees

Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development changed its permit fee schedule in July. To view the current fees go to: http://static.baltimorehousing.org/pdf/permits_fees.pdf Baltimore Housing's Office of Permits & Building Inspections enforces the Baltimore City Building Code, as well as state laws pertaining to construction and occupancy. This office issues building permits and provides subsequent inspections for; construction, alteration, electrical, mechanical and plumbing work in both commercial and residential structures. File your completed application in person at: The One- Stop Shop, 417 E. Fayette St., Room 100. Not sure if your project requires a permit? Call 410-396-3360,

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

CDBG'S First-Time Homebuyer Program

The Office of Homeownership established a new program designed to assist first time homebuyers. First time Baltimore homebuyers with a counseling certificate from a City Approved Counseling Agency are eligible. The program called the Community Block Grant Program, can give qualified first time homebuyers \$5,000 toward down payment and settlement expenses.

Upon receiving a counseling certificate, the borrower can then find a property and sign a contract to purchase. Once executing a contract, the borrower must bring that contract back to the Counseling Agency to have the CDBG program application completed. The property must be inspected utilizing an HQS inspection. Please be absolutely certain that there is no peeling, flaking, chipping paint inside or outside the purchased property.

Additionally, active City employees may already qualify to receive \$3,000 in home buying incentive funds. If you attend the Eastside Trolley Tour September 12th at City College High school, you may qualify for another \$3,000. Also, if you purchase before November 30, you may qualify for the \$8,000 Homeownership Federal Tax Credit. The new CDBG program has income limitations and you must be within certain income limitations to qualify for this program. For information contact Carl Cleary.

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. RHIC offers 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

"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. 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 grant has 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

Free Trees Still Available

The Fall is starting to wind down and it's been a busy season for TreeBaltimore. Trees, both FREE and reduced priced, for public and private spaces, are still available. If your or someone you know would like trees for their neighborhood, school, place of worship, business, park etc., please contact us. Anne Draddy below or Charles Murphy at (443) 984-4058 or by email at Charles.murphy@baltimorecity.gov

Project Contact: Anne Draddy, (443) 984-4058, Anne.draddy@baltimorecity.gov

The Baltimore Neighborhood Energy Challenge Underway in Reservoir Hill!

The Baltimore Neighborhood Energy Challenge is in full swing. Everyone in Reservoir Hill should take advantage of this opportunity. Anyone who wants to sign up to the challenge to reduce their energy consumption will receive a free energy upgrade from Civic Works. This means a team will come to your house to install 12 CFL light bulbs, a hot water heater wrapper, aerators for your faucet, and a low flow shower head. You will also receive information about other ways how you can save money on energy bills and other ways to reduce your energy consumption and help give the earth a break. You can receive information on cool roofs, green roof, solar power, wind power, etc. Reservoir Hill's goal is to sign up at least 200 homes in 2009. Once you sign up, we can track the progress in the neighborhood and we will hope to reach the goal of reducing Reservoir Hill's energy consumption by 15%. For more information you can go to the website:

<http://baltimoreenergychallenge.org/systems/energy>. Also if you want to sign up for the Energy Challenge, please contact Christiana.

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

The Tree Canopy Project Continues

As most readers know, RHIC is completing a goal of planting 100-150 new street trees in 2009. Last spring we planted 86 new trees in Reservoir Hill. This Fall RHIC requested from the city that 26 stumps will be ground, and 46 new trees will be planted. RHIC will be expanding all tree wells that we are planting in to 30 square feet as well in order to increase permeable surfaces to both filter water and expand the lifetime of the street trees. The city will be completing the planting request by the end of December 2009. If for some reason the City cannot plant all of our requests this season we will at least see all new trees requested on Callow Ave and Eutaw place and the rest will be planted early next Spring.

For next spring, if you want a tree in front of your home on the sidewalk, let us know. You can request a tree if you have an empty tree well or even if there is no tree well, we may be able to cut you a new one, if there is space on the sidewalk for a new tree (it must be 25 feet from another tree or lamp post). Also you will need to sign an agreement that you will maintain it for the first two years, by watering it with 20 gallons of water two times a week from May to October (if there is no rain). If interested, contact Christiana Usenza as soon as possible.

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

Got Greening Projects?

If you have a greening project you would like to complete, there is funding from Parks & People Foundation. You can apply for the Neighborhood Greening Grant if you attend a workshop on 15 or 17 December at the Parks & People Foundation office. Please RSVP by 11 December to Sarah Krones at sarah.krones@parksandpeople.org for the workshop. Deadline for the Application is 29 January 2010, postmarked or in hand by 5:00 pm. Neighborhood Greening Grants of up to \$1,000 are awarded to community or neighborhood groups completing projects such as: tree plantings, vacant lot clean-ups and restoration, community gardens and green spaces, schoolyard plantings, water quality improvements, and environmental education activities. If you need advice, contact Christiana Usenza below.

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

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

November City Feature! Cylburn Arboretum Re-Opens!

The Cylburn Arboretum is a public park located across Greenspring Avenue from Sinai Hospital in northwest Baltimore for over 50 years. Now, after being closed for a year of construction to build a modern visitor center and handicap-accessible pathways and add new landscaping, the Arboretum is almost ready to formally open again to the public. The official opening date will be in April 2010 but the Arboretum grounds are open now. Visitors to the park can enjoy:

- Landscaped gardens and mature trees with horticulture interest.
- The historic Cylburn Mansion, built in the 1870's and given to the city in the 1940's.
- The new Vollmer Center, a "green" visitor education building with a 250-seat auditorium and visitor attractions.
- The Nature Museum in the historic Carriage House, with its major collection of mounted Maryland birds and their habitats, butterflies, fossils, and other natural history artifacts.
- More than three miles of woodland trails in the forest areas.

Programs at Cylburn Arboretum include:

- A horticulture skills training program, preparing young adults for work in landscape maintenance, plant nurseries, garden centers, etc.
- Workshops on horticulture and nature education, environmental issues, bird watching, composting, growing vegetables, constructing a rain barrel, etc.
- Cultural programs such as a chamber music series and art and botanic exhibits.

CPHA Opens a New Education Series

Citizens Planning & Housing Association (CPHA) will sponsor a new "Activate Your Inner Citizen" series of events over the next seven months that will explore innovative programs in neighborhoods around Baltimore as well as critical issues facing our City and metropolitan area. The series will start on 5 December, 10:30 am - 1:00 pm with a tour of Central Baltimore, where four City neighborhoods are capitalizing on the transit asset of Penn Station and a flourishing local arts scene to attract new investment, while protecting affordability for long-time residents and artists. For more information on the series go to: <http://www.cphabaltimore.org/> One can register for the 5 December event or the whole series by check now, or look for online registration coming later this week.

Project Contact: Kelley Ray (410) 539-1369, ext. 100, kelleyr@cphabaltimore.org

Census 2010 Coming

The U. S. Constitution requires a national census once every ten years. Census forms for the 2010 census are scheduled to go out in early March 2010, and RHIC encourages everyone to respond. The census serves many purposes, including (1) political representation as it is used in determining the apportionment of seats in the U. S. House of Representatives and redistricting for state and federal legislatures, (2) planning by multiple departments at all levels of government, (3) the allocation of federal dollars to the states. The Bureau of Census estimates that in the 2000 census Baltimore City was undercounted by 14,000 people. With each family of four that is undercounted resulting in \$40,000 in lost revenue to the city, it is clear the City cannot afford such available funding being lost. One can look at the census questions that will be on the 2010 form by going to: <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/how/interactive-form.php>

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

Baltimore Energy Challenge Website

Visit the Baltimore Energy Challenge (BNEC) at their new website:

<http://baltimoreenergychallenge.org/systems/energy>

The BNEC website is loaded with features that can help you learn about conserving energy in the home, plan home energy retrofit projects, and find contractors and resources to keep your home healthy and energy efficient. You can even take the pledge and sign up to participate in the Challenge directly from the website! Other features are still in the works. Eventually, for example, you will be able to access and analyze your energy usage data from BGE directly from our website. We're excited about continuing to make our website as useful as possible for Baltimore residents.

Project Contact: Whitney Petty, (410) 396-5917, whitney.petty@baltimoreenergychallenge.org

Free of Charge Removal of Your Unwanted Vehicle

The City is partnering with Vehicles for Change to provide City residents an opportunity to dispose of an unwanted vehicle free of charge. To donate a car to Vehicles for Change, residents can call 1-800-835-3821. Vehicles for Change is a local non-profit whose mission is to help low-income families achieve financial and personal independence by making it possible for them to own a vehicle. More information on Vehicles for Change can be found on their website, <http://www.vehiclesforchange.org>

Project Contact: (410) 242-9674, vehfch@aol.com

Knowing Your Local Crime Statistics

Many residents have questions about local crime. You can query the police database online at <http://www.baltimorepolice.org/your-community/crime-map> By early December there will also be links on the RHIC website to allow residents to check databases.

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

Call 311 to Remove Abandoned Vehicles

If you have abandoned vehicles in your neighborhood call 311. The city will aggressively look for and remove vehicles abandoned on public or private property. Vehicles left in alleys, empty lots and on our streets by irresponsible car-owners will be addressed through this program. Most commonly, an abandoned vehicle is an unlicensed vehicle on public or private property. The city is encouraging residents to call 3-1-1 to report abandoned vehicles in their community. On a weekly basis code enforcement officers will identify abandoned vehicles. For vehicles on public property, the City will complete the legal process and tow the vehicle within five days. For vehicles on private property, it will take up to 15 days to complete the process and tow the derelict vehicle.

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.

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

Next Reservoir Hill Peace Patrol Walk – 30 November

The Reservoir Hill Peace Patrol will hold its next walk on 30 November. 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

Historic Mt. Royal Peace Patrol – 5 December

Historic Mt. Royal Terrace Association will sponsor its next Peace Patrol walk on Saturday, 5 December. We're interested in continuing the patrols into the future in coordination with the patrols already being coordinated on the western side of the neighborhood. Folks interested in participating can contact Carl Young.

Project Contact: Carl Young, (410) 456-3415, carl.m.young@gmail.com

2009 Poinsettia Tour – 5 December

Upper Eutaw-Madison Neighborhood Association will once again sponsor the Poinsettia Tour, a holiday tour of historic homes on Eutaw Place and Madison Avenue to take place on Saturday, 5 December 2009, Noon – 4:00 pm. Planning is underway. Save the date on your calendar!

Project Contact: Cynthia Lewis, (202) 327-0003, cmajor@jhmi.edu

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

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

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