



# The East Baltimore Bulletin

A publication of Historic East Baltimore Community Action Coalition and its many community partners

Volume I, Issue I

Winter 2007

## Special Points of Interest:

- *Good Things Happening in Collington Square*
- *Community Building in Ashland Gardens*
- *Rayner Brown Chess Team Take Top Honors*
- *Community Residents Honored for Volunteer Work*

## Inside this Issue:

*Building Community with Ashland Gardens* 2

*Retracing Oliver Community History* 2

*Community Association Meetings* 2

*East Baltimore Leaders Honored for Service* 3

*Celebrating with Collington Square* 3

*Vacant Lot Restoration* 4

*Outreach Project Targets East Baltimore* 4

## Community Partners Celebrate During 13th Annual HEBCAC Board Meeting

Historic East Baltimore Community Action Coalition recently held its 13th Annual Meeting. The meeting celebrated the working relationships developed between HEBCAC and its community partners.



Violet Blackmon (left) and Margaret Diggs, Mura Street Association members.

working with the community and is there to help. I appreciate all the work that they are doing in the community," said Blackmon.

Edward Sabatino, executive director of HEBCAC, thanked community partners for an opportunity to work with them in East Baltimore.



Darrell Johnson, community volunteer at the East Baltimore Technology Resource Center.

More than 75 guest mingled with HEBCAC

board members and other community partners. Violet Blackmon, a member of the Mura Street Association, said she didn't know that so many community associations were involved with HEBCAC. "It's good to know that HEBCAC is



Sister Agnes Rose McNally (left) and Michele Dobrowolski from the Family and Community Resource Center at Tench Tilghman School.

## 901 Building Near Completion

The redevelopment of the 901 N. Milton Ave. building is scheduled for completion by the end of the year, with occupancy scheduled for late January 2008.



901 N. Milton Street

When completed, the 55,000 square foot building, will house several nonprofits and have a community space for resident activities. The building will be the new home of Moveable Feast, a nonprofit that provides

home-delivered meals to its clients throughout the state. A grand opening ceremony is scheduled for March 2008 to celebrate the completion of this exciting project and to thank the many groups and individuals who helped make this project possible.

## Building Community on Ashland Avenue

The 2500 block of Ashland Avenue has gone green. Thanks to several grants from the Baltimore Community Foundation, Parks & People, and Comcast Believe in Your Neighborhood, the Ashland Garden Community has planted trees, flowers, and evergreens.



2500 block of Ashland Avenue in full bloom.

“We have done a lot of beautiful things in the 2500 block of Ashland,” says Linda Long, Ashland

Garden Community block captain. “We have had six trees planted, 23 flags installed, and 23 flower boxes installed. We have also planted beautiful flowers in the flower boxes and planted evergreen plants in flower pots in front of every home.

Long and Cathy Vise, another block resident, decided to beautify

their block after homeowners received \$5,000 exterior grants administered by Historic East Baltimore Community Action Coalition and funded through Empower Baltimore Management Corporation. The grants paid for exterior repairs to 30 homes in the 2500 block of Ashland Avenue and the 800 and 900 blocks of Luzerne Avenue.

Members of the block club also painted doors and windows on vacant houses. Long says the club had a lot of help from adults and children in the community. “Although it took hard work, members had a lot of fun and are looking forward to doing bigger and better things in the community,” said Long.

## Oliver Community Going Strong After Two Centuries

The Oliver Community can trace its roots back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century when large tracts of land were laid out and surveyed. In 1815, Robert Oliver purchased one of these tracts, know as the Green Mount estate, the eventual name of the historic cemetery found there.

Over time the Oliver family sold their holdings and in the 1880s and 1890s the area experienced an unparalleled housing boom brought on

by the Industrial Revolution. During this time, middle class merchants, low-income immigrants, and the affluent residents of Caroline and Broadway streets created a diverse and bustling economy within the community.

A turning point came with the wars of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, bringing housing shortages. Home

ownership dropped and absentee landlords increased in numbers. A loss of neighborhood identity came, and homeowners no longer held a stake in their community.

*“The 1990s ushered in a resurgence of new families.”*

The 1990s ushered in a resurgence of new families. The Oliver Community is bounded by the south side of North Avenue, west side, Broadway, north side, Biddle Street, and east side of Ensor Street.

## Monthly Community Association Meetings

Building community takes a lot of hard work and dedication. Get involved in your community by attending a monthly meeting.

**Berea/Eastside Community Association:** 4th Monday, 7:00 pm, 2600 E. Hoffman Street.

**CARE:** 4th Tuesday, 6:00 pm, 219 N. Chester Street.

**Collington Square Association:** 4th Tuesday, 6:30 pm, 2110 Mura Street.

**Douglass Homes Tenant Council Meeting:** 3rd Wednesday, 2:00 pm, 1500 E. Lexington Street.

**McElderry Park:** 3rd Wednesday, 6:00 pm, 611 Montford Avenue.

**Madison East End:** 3rd Tuesday, 6:00 pm, 3100 E. Madison Street.

**BCPD Community Relations:** Eastern District Police Station, Last Tuesday, 7:00 pm, 1620 Edison Highway.

**Oliver Community Meeting:** 3rd Thursday, 7:00 pm, 1400 E. Federal Street.

# East Baltimore Leaders Honored for Volunteer Work

Community leaders and residents in East Baltimore are doing extraordinary things. Congratulations to the many unsung heroes working to build stronger communities.

**Elroy Christopher**, president of Covenant Community Association, was recently honored by the Baltimore Ravens as one of five Ravens Community Quarterback Awardees.



Elroy Christopher

The award recognized the hard work he does as a volunteer to make the community better. As part of the award, Christopher received two tickets to a Ravens game, a Ra-

vens gift bag, a plaque, and a \$2,500 check to the association from the NFL.

**Lewis Sharpe**, lead resident of the Duncan Street Garden, was recently awarded a 3rd place Garden Crusader Award from Gardener's Supply Company. The national award honors individuals who are improving the world through gardening. As part of his award, Sharpe received a \$500 gift certificate for gardening supplies.



Lewis Sharpe

**Martha Benton and Jean Booker-Bradley** were recently

recognized for their community service work by the McKim Community Association and the Honorable Joan Pratt, city comptroller. Benton is the chair of the Douglas Homes Tenant Council and Booker-Bradley runs the nonprofit group Parents Against Drugs.

**Mitchell Henderson**, president of Madison East End Neighborhood



Mitchell Henderson

Improvement Association, will receive the Fullwood Foundation 2008 Valued Hours Award during a recognition breakfast on January 12, 2008. Henderson is being honored for his many years of service to the community.

# Collington Square Celebrating 10 Years of Community

Collington Square Neighborhood Association, (CSNA) will be celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2008. Although small in numbers, the association continues to be an agent for change in East Baltimore.

With eight hardworking, core members the association has formed a solid partnership with the Episcopal community, Baltimore city agencies, and other groups. "Good things are happening in

Collington Square," says Ella Durant, association president. The focal point of the community is Collington Square Park, a beautiful green area with trees, a playground, and benches. The Collington Square Charter School and a Baltimore City recreation center are also positive points in the community.

As part of its beautification efforts, CSNA members par-

ticipate in neighborhood clean-ups, an annual celebration in the park, and provide area school children with coats, hats, and gloves. The association also provides Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets,

school supplies, haircuts, and many other community needs. Association meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of each month at 2110 Mura Street.

*"Good things are happening in Collington Square."*

# Volunteers Transform Vacant Lot into Faith Garden and Chess Park

A vacant lot in the 2300 block of Chase Street has new life. Thanks to volunteers from the community and other organizations the lot is being transformed into a Faith Garden and



Chess Park, complete with authentic New York style tables.

The idea for redeveloping the lot came from Rev. Roxcelanna Redmond of KidScoop. Since then, Rayner Brown Academy volunteers,

local businesses, and community volunteers have partnered with Civic Works, Historic East Baltimore Community Action Coalition and a host of other community groups to design the park and raise funds. It's anticipated that the lot, which is located directly across from Rayner Brown Academy, will be completed within the next nine months.

# Community News and Events

## Rayner Brown Chess Team Excel at State Level

The Rayner Brown Ravens chess team won first place in a recently held Maryland Chess Association competition. The team recorded 17 out of 20 wins to claim the overall first place finish.

The Ravens played in the kindergarten to fifth grade section. The team is a member of the Baltimore City Kids Chess League and is led by Mr. Steven Alpern.

## Outreach Project Targets East Baltimore

A community outreach project designed to educate and train community residents about the dangers of pests and pesticide use, and safer and alternative methods to control pests is being conducted in three communities near the Johns Hopkins University Hospital.

The project is being administered by Morgan State University School of Community Health and Policy in partnership with the Maryland Pesticide Network (MPN) and Beyond Pesticides.

Dr. Andrea Kidd Taylor, an assistant professor at Morgan State Uni-

versity and the Director of the Community Outreach Project, Dr. Yutaka Aoki, assistant professor, and Kyle Esdaille, a 2007 Morgan State graduate from the School of Community Health and Policy, will be visiting neighborhood associations and groups to conduct surveys and provide training to residents.

For more information regarding this project, please contact Dr. Taylor at (443) 885-2044

***The East Baltimore Bulletin* is a quarterly publication of Historic East Baltimore Community Action Coalition and its community partners. To submit comments or story ideas, please call Anita Stewart-Hammerer at 443-524-2800 or email [ahammerer@hebcac.org](mailto:ahammerer@hebcac.org).**



**HISTORIC  
EAST BALTIMORE  
COMMUNITY  
ACTION COALITION**

1212 N. Wolfe Street     Baltimore, MD 21213