



The East Baltimore Bulletin

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

Volume 1, Issue 2

Spring/ Summer 2008

Special Points of Interest:

- YO! Achievers Honored
- Collington Square School Ready to Garden
- Police Explorers Building Future Leaders
- Celebrating 99 years

Inside this Issue:

| | |
|---|---|
| Car Loan Program Helps Low Income Families | 2 |
| Achievers Ceremony Held for YO! Members | 2 |
| New Computer Store Opens on Monument St. | 2 |
| Garden Ready to Bloom for Collington Square | 3 |
| Monthly Association Meetings | 3 |
| Church Opens Doors for All to Enter | 3 |
| Community News | 4 |

901 N. Milton Building Open and Ready to Serve the Community

Moveable Feast, Episcopal Housing, and a community center are just three of the tenants moving into the newly renovated building located at 901 N. Milton Avenue.

It has taken more than two years and \$8 million to renovate the building for use by several nonprofits and the community. HEBCAC worked in partnership with the community and numerous other groups and individuals to complete the project.

“This is a great example of what can happen when residents work together. We hope this building will serve as an anchor, and as a reinforcement for the



901 N. Milton Street

many great things that residents do on a regular basis to make East Baltimore better,” said Edward Sabatino, executive director of HEBCAC.

The 55,000 square foot building will also house a community center that will have after-school activities and other

programs. The facility, formally a garment factory building, sat vacant for years before the community, HEBCAC and other organizations pooled their resources to renovate the building. An open house for the building has been planned for sometime in May.

Delegate Celebrates 80th Birthday

Delegate Hattie Harrison, board chair for Historic East Baltimore Community Action Coalition (HEBCAC), celebrated her 80th birthday last month in Annapolis with HEBCAC board members, staff, and family. Delegate

Harrison, who was the first African-American



Delegate Hattie Harrison

woman to chair a legislative committee in Maryland, has been chair of HEBCAC’s board since 1994. She has been very instrumental with helping HEBCAC fulfill its mission of improving neighborhoods.

YO! Honors Academic Achievers with Ceremony

An academic achievement ceremony was recently held for the HEBCAC Youth Opportunity Program (YO! Baltimore) members.

This ceremony acknowledged the gallant efforts and determination of YO! members to achieve academic goals. Victor Hamilton, the keynote speaker for the ceremony and a 2007 graduate, delivered words of encouragement and advice to members who will take the GED exam in the coming months. He advised his peers to study hard, attend classes regularly, ask questions, and stay focused. Hamilton also encouraged them to take advantage of tutorial services offered by the program on Monday and Friday mornings.

Lastly, he emphasized the importance of earning a GED and

the impact it will have on changing one's life. By sharing his personal achievements with the group, Hamilton told how getting his GED has allowed him to overcome barriers and have hope for a brighter future. A future he says away from the streets and jail.



YO! members and academic achievers Fatimah Wilkins (left) and Amber Wilson (right), pose with Glen Burns, assistant director, of YO!

Hamilton is currently taking biotechnology classes at Baltimore City Community College and plans to enroll as a full-time college student in the fall of 2008. A formal graduation ceremony for students who complete their high school credentials will be held in July at Johns Hopkins University's Homewood Campus in Shiver Hall.

Meanwhile, YO! staff also acknowledged one of its fallen students. Zechariah Hallback, a much loved and dedicated member, who was murdered in January during a robbery attempt, just weeks after taking his GED exam. A week after his funeral YO! received news that he had passed his GED exam.

Car Loan Program for Low Income Comes to Baltimore

Ways to Work, a national car loan program that has provided affordable car loans to working families for more than 20 years, is now helping low-income families in Baltimore.

The Board of Child Care, a Baltimore-based nonprofit, multi-service agency serving children and families, recently launched the first Ways to Work Program in

Maryland. The Baltimore office with a main focus on East Baltimore will provide low-interest loans of as much as \$4,000 to qualifying families to buy the reliable transportation needed to remain employed and to access goods and

services. The loan is geared toward families that can not otherwise qualify for a conventional loan.

The loan is geared toward families that can not qualify for a conventional car loan.

For more information on the Ways to Work Program, contact the Board of Child Care at (410) 534-1388.

Computer Store Opens on Monument Street

Buying a computer on Monument Street has just gotten easier thanks to the recent opening of ReBoot Computer Store and Business Center.

The area's only computer store is conveniently located at 2341 E. Monument Street. The store is run by Historic East Baltimore

Community Action Coalition, a nonprofit community development organization founded in 1994 to work with residents and other stakeholders to improve neighborhoods.

ReBoot offers a variety of services including reliable desktops, refurbished laptops, fax and copy

services, computer repair, installation of software and upgrades, flash drives, and P.O. boxes for rent. ReBoot is open Monday through Friday from 11am to 5pm. For more information, call (410) 534-BOOT.

Collington Square School Garden Ready to Bloom

Collington Square School has partnered with the Duncan Street Community Garden to cultivate a community garden of its own.

Lewis Sharpe, garden manager, has generously offered to provide two plots to Collington Square students to begin cultivation of their very first community garden. Under the leadership of Mr. Sharpe, students will learn about



Lewis Sharpe, posing with ribbons won for vegetables grown in the Duncan Street garden, will teach youngsters from Collington Square gardening techniques.

horticulture, agriculture, healthy eating, and the fundamentals of gardening.

Participants will have an opportunity to watch their plants grow, learn fun and healthy ways to prepare their food, as well as sell produce to community members at local Farmer's Markets. The garden club which will be open to 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students will meet two times a week after school with Community Schools Director, Kelia Murray, and interested volunteers.

In addition to selling produce at local Farmer's Markets, students will sell to Collington parents, and have the opportunity to continue working in the garden during the summertime.

The Duncan Street Garden was established in 1989 by a local men's association after the city tore down a group of row homes. Located on about an acre of land the garden is located between North and Collington Avenues. Beans, eggplant, squash, cucumbers, melons, and tomatoes are just a few examples of the variety of vegetables grown annually by gardeners on Duncan Street.

Community Church Opens Doors for all to Enter

In just eight years, Dynamic Deliverance Cathedral in the 600 block of Linwood Avenue has grown from 3 members to 500 members.

Bishop James Adams, pastor of Dynamic Deliverance, attributes the church's success to being able to understand the community and reaching out to it. "We are set up to meet the needs of the community," said Bishop Adams. We are a

growing church that ministers to the less fortunate, he said.

The church offers a host of ministries including childcare, transitional housing, an after-school program, and

computer literacy training. The church also has an outreach ministry that feeds more than 150 people a week.

For more information about outreach programs, offered by Dynamic Deliverance, call 410-522-7272.

"We are a growing church that ministers to the less fortunate."

Monthly Community Association Meetings

- **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 Neighborhood 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 Community:** 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

Community News

Explorers Post 9443 Helping to Build Future Leaders

For Police Explorers at Post 9443 in East Baltimore, the “Ring of Life” has become a part of the learning experience incorporated in the development of youth.

“For an hour, Explorers talk about teen problems and issues they have when it comes to their lives and going into adulthood,” said Officer Ricardo Burrell, advisor for Post 9443. By using this different approach toward the youth development, Officer Burrell said the 15 member group is able to write plays, songs, and poems that are then performed for various groups throughout the city.

Police Explorers is a Learning for Life Career Education Program for young men and women between the ages of 12 and 20. The purpose of the program is to provide experiences to help young people mature and prepare them to become responsible and caring adults. Exploring is based in a unique and dynamic relationship between Learning for Life, Baltimore City Police, youth, and adults from the community.

Explorer meetings for Post 9443 are held Friday nights at 7pm at the Eastern District Police station. The program is free. For more information, call at (410) 396-2433.

99th Surprise Birthday Party Held for Church Elder Bradley

Apostle Moses Bradley recently celebrated his 99th birthday during a surprise birthday party given by his wife, Jean Booker-Bradley, friends, and family members. Mrs. Booker-Bradley is a board member of Historic East Baltimore Community Action Coalition. Both are members of United House of Prayer for All People.



Apostle Moses Bradley and wife, Jean Booker-Bradley, pose for photographers during birthday celebration.

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.



**HISTORIC
EAST BALTIMORE
COMMUNITY
ACTION COALITION**

1212 N. Wolfe Street Baltimore, MD 21213