



The East Baltimore Bulletin

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

Volume 2, Issue 3

Fall 2009

Monthly Community Association Meetings

All For One

1st Thursday, 6:00 pm
901 N. Milton St., 3rd Floor

BCPD Community Relations Eastern District Police Station

Last Tuesday, 7:00 pm
1620 Edison Hwy.

Berea/Eastside Community Association

4th Monday, 7:00 pm
PAL Center,
2600 E. Hoffman St.

CARE

4th Tuesday, 6:00 pm
219 N. Chester St.

Collington Square Neighborhood Association

4th Tuesday, 6:30 pm
2111 Mura St.

Douglass Homes Tenant Council Meeting

3rd Wednesday, 2:00 pm
1500 E. Lexington St.

McElderry Park Community

3rd Wednesday, 6:00 pm
611 Montford Ave.

Madison East End

2nd Tuesday, 6:00 pm
901 N. Milton Ave., 3rd floor

Oliver Community Meeting

3rd Thursday, 7:00 pm
1400 E. Federal St.

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Facade Grants Spruce up Monument Street

The Monument Main Street Program is changing the look of businesses on Monument Street. Over the last several years, more than \$100,000 has been invested in facade improvements.

Thanks to a grant from Neighborhood Business Works, the Monument Main Street Program has been able to help businesses improve the exteriors of their buildings. Merchants can be reimbursed one dollar for every dollar they spend. Suggested work includes awnings, new signs, cornice and window restoration and painting.

Several Monument Main Street businesses that have already taken advantage of the grant program include Jackson Hewitt, Reboot, and My Flag Supermarket. In order to be eligible for funding a business and the building owners must submit an application and have it approved before beginning work on the project. Free architectural services are available.

“This program is a great opportunity for businesses on Monument Main Street to upgrade their facades and receive financial help in doing it,” said Maria Oliver, Main Street Manager. “Making even small changes have proven to increase sales.”



Jackson Hewitt Tax Service is one of several Monument Street businesses that have utilized a facade grant to make exterior improvements.

All applications for facade grants must be approved by the Main Street Design Committee and the Maryland Historical Trust. Projects must enhance the appearance of Monument Main Street while respecting the historical integrity of buildings. For more information on how to apply for a grant, contact Maria Oliver at (443) 524-2800. ■

FREE! Save Money and Energy!



Civic Works, a nonprofit organization, is proud to offer the following **FREE** services with HEBCAC:

- ▶ Exchange 15 traditional light bulbs for Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFL). CFLs:
 - Use 75% less electricity!
 - last up to 10 times longer than other bulbs!
- ▶ Replace 1 showerhead and 2 faucet aerators to save water (pressure maintained)
- ▶ Insulate hot water heater & 6 ft. of pipes
- ▶ Install a smoke/carbon monoxide detector
- ▶ Share other simple ways you can save money on your energy bills

How to Get Involved with this FREE PROGRAM:

- You must live in a Historic East Baltimore Community Action Coalition community;
- Call 410-366-8533 ext. 208 and leave a message for Project Lightbulb;
- Include your name, address and daytime phone number;
- A representative will call you to set up a weekday appointment for the Project Lightbulb team to come to your house and install these energy and water saving devices.

A FREE service provided by Civic Works and Historic East Baltimore Community Action Coalition, Inc. ■

The Club at Collington Square: Where the Action Is!

Great things are happening at The Club at Collington Square, an after-school and summer program for youngsters 5-14 years old.

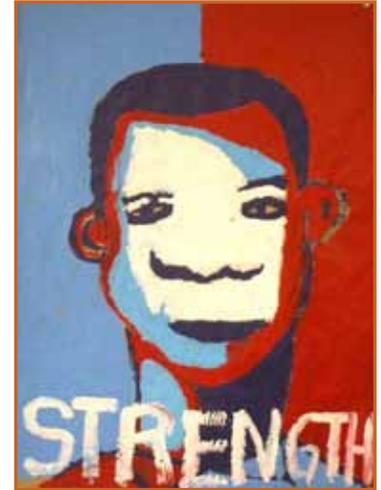
The Club provides academic support, community arts, and other enrichment activities for youth. While in the program, young people receive healthy snacks and meals, homework help, tutoring and a variety of enrichment activities – field trips, guest speakers, family dinners and community service projects. The Club operates three days a week from 3:00 – 6:00 pm at the Collington Commons Apartments located on East Biddle Street.

The Club's community arts program has inspired many great pieces of art by the members, including a series of paintings based on Matthew Fahey's portrait of President Barack Obama. Tee shirts and other fun items depicting the students' work are available at www.cafepress.com/bmorehope.

Many local groups are involved with the Club including the Collington Square Neighborhood Association, Loyola

College and Johns Hopkins. This summer, Club members worked with Bridges, an education program at St. Paul's School for Boys that provided an intensive two-week program of high school preparatory tutoring. They worked with their St. Paul peers to strengthen math and language arts skills. Club members also participated in other academic studies as well as weekly trips to Lake Clifton to swim.

To become involved or to learn more about The Club visit www.ecsm.org. ■



Community Gardens—Hidden Gems in East Baltimore

East Baltimore is fortunate to be home to many community-managed open spaces—all started by people who wanted to make a difference to their neighborhoods from the ground up.

There are large spaces, such as the new Faith and Chess Park at Montford and Chase Streets, the Duncan Street Miracle Garden located in the 1800 block of Duncan Street, and the Garden of Eden in the 900 block of Glover Street. Even a small space, such as the Milton-Montford Rose Garden in the 800 block of Montford Avenue can make a big difference in the neighborhood.

These community-managed open spaces provide social benefits such as creating a place for neighbors to meet and work together, reduce or eliminate illegal dumping and crime. They also provide access to a bit of nature in the city and health benefits such as exercise. Community gardens also produce fresh vegetables and environmental benefits such as a place for migratory birds to rest, and a place for storm water to

sink into the soil rather than wash pollution into the Chesapeake Bay.

Unfortunately, some green spaces are too often considered a marginal use of the land, something acceptable until a new building is built. And that means that the benefits of community-managed open spaces can be lost very quickly. A simple solution—and one used in cities such as Philadelphia, New York, Chicago, and Seattle—is to preserve community-managed open spaces in a land trust.

The gardeners still own the site in spirit—they do the work and enjoy the benefits. The land trust, however, holds the deed, deals with any tax issues, and also provides liability insurance and technical assistance. The neighborhood gets to keep its treasured open space, and all of Baltimore benefits.

Baltimore Green Space is a new land trust that partners with communities to preserve and support community gardens, pocket parks, and other open



The Duncan Street Miracle Garden located in the 1800 block of Duncan Street grows all types of vegetables from kale and broccoli pictured above to potatoes, peaches, and okra.

spaces managed by neighborhoods. The land trust is now working with Baltimore City's Office of Sustainability to develop criteria and procedures for preserving established community gardens. To learn more, write to bgreenspace@gmail.com or visit www.baltimoregreenspace.org. ■

Grants, Awards and Programs

Congratulations to the Madison East End Multi-Purpose Center, the Duncan Street Miracle Garden, All for One, Ashland Garden Community, and the East Monument Main Street Program for receiving neighborhood grants from the Baltimore Community Foundation. All five groups received grants ranging from \$1,800 to \$5,000 for various community projects.

The Duncan Street Miracle Garden located in the 1800 block of North Duncan Street received funding to purchase much needed supplies and fencing while the Ashland Garden Community received funding for a beautification project in the 2500 block of Ashland Avenue. All for One, a community group that manages the Delegate Hattie Harrison Community Center

located at 901 N. Milton Avenue, received funding for its summer camp; the Madison East End Multi-Purpose Center also used the funds to support its summer program and to launch a "Respect" campaign. The East Monument Main Street Program received funding for its annual Taste of Summer Festival.

The Neighborhood Grants Program of the Baltimore Community Foundation offers funding for resident-driven community-based organizations in Baltimore City and Baltimore County neighborhoods.

Congratulations are also in order for God's Glory to Glover Street Community Association and the Duncan Street Miracle Garden for receiving PNC Bank Neighborhood grants. The grants in amounts up

to \$1,000 are available to Baltimore City neighborhood associations and community-based, nonprofit organizations in need of extra money to fund activities such as festivals, fundraisers, street fairs and concerts.

The Maryland Energy Assistance Program (MEAP) is accepting applications every Thursday from 9am-1pm at the Delegate Hattie Harrison Community Center located at 901 N. Milton Avenue. MEAP provides assistance with home heating bills. Eligible residents can receive financial assistance through the program, and protection against utility cutoffs through the Utility Service Protection Plan. For more information, contact the center at (410) 558-1006. ■

Community Group and City Health Department team up to bring healthy food into neighborhoods

All for One, a community group that operates out of 901 N. Milton Avenue, has partnered with the Baltimore City Health Department to bring easy, convenient access to healthy food right into the community center.

Community members are invited to come to 901 N. Milton Avenue on Thursday mornings, between 10 am and 12:00 pm to place an order for groceries. Orders will be placed using the computer. Payment can be made with credit card, debit card, cash, or food stamps. Groceries will be delivered later that day, free of charge, directly to the community center. This project has been started to give community members easier access to healthy food.

"Getting to the grocery store can be difficult; many people do not drive, and people are spending \$5 and \$10 dollars just to get a ride to the supermarket. This program allows people who live in the neighborhood to walk a block or two to the Community Center at 901

N. Milton Avenue and place an order for healthy, affordable food that is fresher and less expensive than smaller corner stores," said Jennifer Monti, project director for the Virtual Supermarket.

"We will work with this community to make sure people are aware of the program and we will help people get groceries from the Center to their homes in the area," she said.

For more information about the Virtual Supermarket or to place an order, visit the community center located at 901 N. Milton Avenue or call (410) 558-1006. ■



Free Help for Marylanders with IRS Tax Disputes

Resolve your problems with the IRS now! Volunteer lawyers and accountants are available year round to help low-to moderate-income Marylanders with IRS issues such as denial of earned income credit, audits, innocent spouse relief, dependency issues, filing back taxes, or setting up payment plans.

If you have received a notice or letter from the IRS, call Maryland Volunteers Lawyers Service's (MVLS) at 410-547-6537 (Baltimore area) or 1-800-510-0050 (toll free outside of Baltimore area) between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm, Monday – Thursday to find out if you are eligible for this free program.

MVLS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide quality civil legal assistance to Marylanders in need. In addition to helping with tax questions, MVLS also assists with bankruptcy, collections, criminal record expungements, school suspensions, landlord/tenant disputes, divorce and other civil legal matters. For more information, see our website at www.mvlslaw.org. ■



Free Expression: A Youth Opportunity (YO!) Baltimore supporter painted this message on a boarded house in the 2000 block of Biddle Street. The mission of YO! is to help city youth receive the education and career skills training needed to become successful adults. YO! serves any out-of-school youth 16 to 22 years of age who's a resident of Baltimore City.

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 contact Anita Stewart-Hammerer at 443-524-2800 or email ahammerer@hebcac.org.



**HISTORIC
EAST BALTIMORE
COMMUNITY
ACTION COALITION**

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