

THE VILLAGE REPORTER

Washington Village/Pigtown Neighborhood Planning Council 904 Washington Blvd. Baltimore, MD 21230 (410) 385-8494

Community Bulletin:

Neighborhood News: WPNPC is doing it's part to strengthen the communities crime prevention efforts. With the recent increase in home invasions/break-ins, WPNPC is informing the residents on how not to make yourself a target. WPNPC has developed a Public Safety brochure that provides helpful information. For example:

General Home Safety Considerations:

- ⇒ Install a heavy-duty deadbolt throw lock on entrance doors.
- ⇒ Secure windows and ensure they are locked when you are not at home.
- ⇒ Use alarm systems with audible horn or bell to deter burglars.

Community Safety:

- ⇒ Know your neighbors, build trust in each other and alert each other to suspicious characters in the neighborhood.
- ⇒ Form agreements with neighbors to watch out for each other's children, homes, vehicles and property.

Stop by 904 Washington Blvd. to pick up a Public Safety Brochure and/or sign up to be a Block Representative (Training and Incentives Provided). Call the Public Safety Office for more info. @ 410-385-8494.

News from WPNPC:

Here's some of the latest...

This year commenced our 13th year of service to the communities of South-west Baltimore. We have many exciting projects underway and are committed to fulfilling our vision of "Building Neighborhoods of choice to Live, Work and Play". Our Public Safety program was recently nominated to the Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Justice Achievement Award. Through our Land Use initiatives, WPNPC has provided capital funds to local merchants and developers to revitalize our historic community. Our Career Center continues to provide job placement, case management and literacy services to adults and out of school youth. With support from the Verizon Foundation's "Check into Literacy" program, we have been able to expand our literacy classes to evenings and weekends.

In addition, WPNPC has been making revisions to our by-laws and board composition. These changes will improve our communication structure with the communities that we work in. This month, WPNPC will reseal a new Board of Directors, while remaining 51% representative from the community.

Lastly, our Executive Director, Lesley Smith, is leaving the organization after 9 years of service to WPNPC. The Board and staff appreciate and acknowledge the hard work, progress that has been achieved and the dedication she has demonstrated to WPNPC and the communities we serve. WPNPC is excited about what 2008 will bring and although we are about to embark on several transitions in the organization we are confident a smooth transition will take place.

Public Safety** Councilman Bill Cole and his assistant spoke at WPNPC's Public Safety meeting on 2/20, applauding WPNPC and residents' efforts on the Public Safety Tips brochure, C.O.P. Walks, and consistent communication of public safety issues to police and agencies. Mr. Cole also participated in last month's C.O.P. Walk.

Community Partner News:

•Tri-Churches Housing will be offering a Home-buyer Education Workshop at 765 W. Hamburg St., 2nd flr. (Head Start bldg.) on March 13 & 20 & April 3rd & 10, 2008. Call 410-385-1463 for more details.

• WPNPC wishes Major Michael McDonald well in his retirement from Baltimore City Police Department, as of 3/12/08. Maj. McDonald has been a staunch supporter of WPNPC and the various Public Safety programs, including informational brochures, C.O.P. Walks, and innovative partnerships with Parole and Probation. He will be replaced by Major Scott Bloodsworth who accompanied our 2/27/08 Citizens on Patrol walk.

Volunteer Opportunities:

• Come join the community clean-up on Saturday March 29 @ Cross & Nanticoke & April 26th @ Hamburg & Scott Street. Meet at the Bath House at 9am and help make the community a cleaner, more beautiful place to live, work and play!



Business News:

•Free tax help is being offered at various sites throughout the city. For more information on site locations call 410-685-0525 or for appointments call 410-234-8008. When you come to the free tax locations, bring the following:

- Social Security Card for each family member.
- W-2 forms for all jobs worked in 2007.
- Child Care provider tax ID number.
- All banking account info.
- A copy of last year's tax return.
- All 1099 forms & any other tax related documents.

Home Energy Tips!

If you are feeling the crunch from the energy increase, here are some tips that will help save money.

- ⇒ Replace your regular light bulbs with high-efficiency fluorescent bulbs. They give off as much light, but use up to 75% less energy & lasts 10 times longer.
- ⇒ Turning the temperature setting by one degree can cut your heating cost 3 to 5%.
- ⇒ Check for and caulk gaps between your basement foundation & house.

For more information contact the Office of Home Energy Programs @ 410-396-

WPNPC will be helping to launch a new initiative Operation: Identification, where residents can mark and catalogue their property with the police department in order to guard from theft. Stay tuned for details!

Upcoming Events: March 4th; 10-12:00, 311 Blitz in Pigtown, coordinated with Cliff Sawyer, with City Agencies patrolling Pigtown to cite housing, sanitation, and other violations on an interagency basis. **April 19--'Tot Lot' Walk-a-Thon**, to occur in Carroll Park starting at 8:00A.M., to be followed by a cookout at the Tot Lot at Carroll and Archer Streets; pledges benefit the Tot Lot Christmas Bazaar, 2008.

Land Use**

In conjunction with the Community Law Center, WPNPC and area community associations have been discussing the future of the liquor license for Jack's Bar on Scott Street. Under the agreement, Jack's Bar is to sell the liquor license. Since this had not occurred by the required date, an extension through the Liquor Board was granted, based on the new agreement that the owner of the Jack's Bar host a fund-raising event to be held before May 31, benefiting both WPNPC and the Citizens of Pigtown.

Workforce Development** If you are in need of employment, come see one of our staff. Through our Career Center, we offer career counseling, job placement, resume writing, computer lab, life skills/employment readiness training, literacy and skills training referrals, case management services, and post placement/retention services. WPNPC offers GED classes with continuing enrollment. Classes are open to people age 16 and up who are not enrolled in Baltimore City Public Schools OR adults looking to get their diploma. Classes are offered Tuesday and Thursday mornings, Monday and Tuesday evenings as well as Saturday mornings. For more information call 410-385-8494 or walk in for an appointment today.

March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 Friends of Carroll Pk 7pm 410-528-1211 Morrell Pk. 7pm 410-525-2622	5 Union Sq. 7pm 410-945-4422 Ridgely 's Delight 7pm 410-752-8746	6	7	8
9	10 Carrollton Ridge 7pm 410-233-6920 Hollins Roundhouse	11 Citizens of Pigtown 6:30pm Powerhouse 410-919-5519	12	13 Barre Circle 6:30pm 410-752-5622	14 <i>Recycling pick-up</i>	15
16	17 New SW Mt. Clare 7pm 410-566-6658	18	19	20 Southern District Police Community Relations Council 7pm	21	22
23	24 Morrell Park & St. Paul Assoc. 7pm 410-644-8080	25 New Monroe 7pm @ Learning Bank 443-919-8850	26 COP Walk <u>Meet @ The Bath</u> <u>House 7pm</u>	27	28 <i>Recycling pick-up</i>	29 Community Clean-up <u>Roll-off Location Cross &</u> <u>Nanticoke. Call Thomas @</u> <u>410-385-8494.</u>
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Community Association Meetings

Community Events

The following WPNPC Committees also meet monthly.
For information on joining a committee please contact 410-385-8494:

Board of Directors, Lesley Smith, Executive Director, ext. 115
Land Use, Lesley Smith, ext.115
Public Safety Committee, Lou Takacs, ext. 108
Workforce Committee, Lesley Smith, ext. 115