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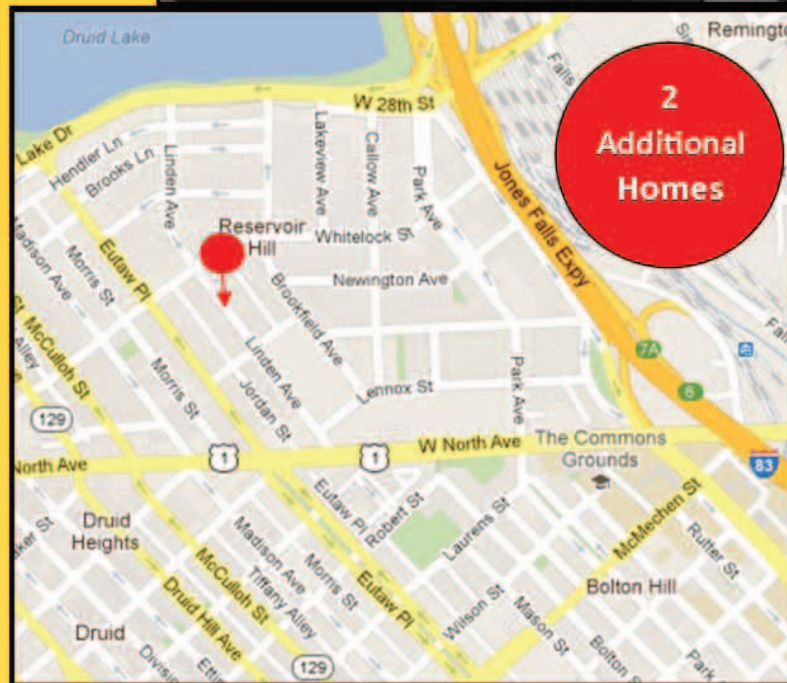
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For More Information
Contact

Chloe Williams
410.523.1350

*Income restrictions and other regulations apply per Healthy Neighborhoods and other funding sources. The seller reserves the right to make changes without notice or obligation. Additional Homes are Available.



Our Mission is to cause, encourage and promote community self-empowerment through the development of economic, educational, employment and affordable housing opportunities.



Druid Heights CDC is a 501 (c) 3

Druid Heights Community Development Corporation / 2140 McCulloh Street / Baltimore, Maryland 21217

DRUID HEIGHTS



NEWSLETTER

Jan., Feb., March 2013



1st Quarter/Edition I

DRUID HEIGHTS Spotlight

In our continued efforts to salute individuals and business owners in the community who are making significant contributions, **The Trumpet salutes MR. ERIC SOMERVILLE.**

"For the sake of community transformation, consider self-transformation"



Mr. Eric Somerville is a native Marylander who grew up in Columbia, Maryland. He graduated from Howard High School and attended the Tai Sophia Institute in Laurel, Maryland where he received his Masters in Transformational Leadership and Social Change. He also attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he received his Doctorate in Communication Studies. Mr. Somerville enjoyed volunteering all his life. After college, he took the time to focus in the area of health and wellness. He spent several years as a fitness instructor and opened up several properties (fitness spas and wellness centers) in the Maryland and D.C metropolitan area. When he moved to Baltimore, he worked to open up a fitness center in the downtown area. He has volunteered in the Samaritan community in West Baltimore where individuals recover from homelessness and addiction. He eventually began researching organizations that holds the same values and principles as he does. This is where the opportunity to operate the Y.M.C.A. Druid Hill location presented itself. He feels he can incorporate his life lessons in order to bring change to the community's health and wellness initiatives.

Questions & Answers with Mr. Eric Somerville

Q: How long have you been here at the Y.M.C.A. Druid Hill location?

A: "I've been here at this location for about four months now".

Q: What is your position?

A: "I am the Center Director of the Druid Hill Family Center Y.M.C.A".

Q: How do you feel regarding the conditions of the community?

A: "One thing that really was an eye opener for me was the neighborhood indicators across Baltimore and looking at Druid Heights and how it fared with regards to other neighborhoods in the city. From every domain, whether it's social economic or environmental, there is a lot of need. I think there's a lot of support where I think leaders in the community have to step up and deliver. Especially when you look at the health disparities. You know, there would be an individual who lives in the Roland Park neighborhood whose age expectancy is a twenty year difference compared to someone who grows up in West Baltimore and Druid Heights. When I think about a fact like that, and data has proven this, I think there's a lot of work that needs to be done. I'm fortunate to hopefully be a part of the solution".

Q: With that being said, what changes would you personally like to see in this neighborhood and Baltimore at large?

A: "You know, personally I would like to see a cleaner community. I think about when I drive through certain communities the first thing I see. When I drive through West Baltimore I see an abundance of trash on the sidewalks. I'm sure it will get cleaned up. Maybe a couple of days later, but I wonder how it impacts the kids. And you know I would like to see things cleaner. I think a physical environment can have a physiological impact on someone's well-being. When you are walking in

DRUID HEIGHTS Spotlight (continued on page 2)

Executive Director's Corner

Kelly D. Little

Let me take this opportunity to invite everyone to join us at the community Health Fair on Saturday, June 22, 2013. The fair will start at 10:00 a.m. and conclude at 4:00 pm. Druid Height CDC and the seniors have partnered to bring a wide variety of health resources to our community. One of our goals for 2013 is to have a happy, healthier population in Druid Heights and Baltimore City at large. We are planning lectures about health, private health screenings, HIV information, physical exercises, nutrition, and preventive care, senior and medical resources. As a result of the health issues that negatively impact our community, the residents need to have conversations on the health disparities that plague our area. We need to develop ideas and strategies to address the root cause of our unhealthy environment. We hope that all residents will be able to participate in the upcoming health fair. We encourage all residents to assist in the battle to improve the overall health issues in our community.

Just as a goal of the redevelopment of the community was driven by the residents, our health and wellness must be placed at the top of the agenda. Currently, Druid Heights CDC provides health practitioners to mentor our re-entry population and the G*SQUAD for girls program offers workshops about health to the participants. We need everyone to come out and give their input as we work on making Druid Heights a Healthier community.

Druid Heights Community Meetings

Saturday, April 27th

Saturday, May 25th

Meetings will begin at 1:00 pm

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an environment and there's trash everywhere, I think you may feel a certain way and you might get use to it. Think about when you go to the beach or when you are in an environment where there is a lot of trees and nature, it has a feel. I think this feel could have a lasting effect on someone's health and well-being. I'd like to see things change and for people to experience a different life in West Baltimore".

Q: How can these changes be brought forward to the community through the services at the YMCA?

A: "Well you know, I think specifically with regards to the cleanliness, in order to transform a community you need to transform yourself. So when I am looking for external change I always look inward. How many times do I walk down the street and see trash and walk by it? Did I put it there? Did someone else put it there? Will someone come get it later? Am I OK with it? I think it about us doing our part. I make sure I call 311 or city services. It is all about taking personal responsibility. If everyone does this then there becomes a tipping point and an adopted behavior".

Q: What is one service that the YMCA provides that a lot of people do not know about?

A: "I am going to talk about a service we will provide. We are starting a table tennis club. Table tennis is an active intergenerational game. So an eight year

old can play an eighty year old. Someone standing can play someone in a wheel chair. It's easy to enter regardless to your physical abilities. With most sports, there is physical contact and there is a kind of toughness that comes with the games. With table tennis there is none of this. So your physical attributes do not affect your play. It's good for eye and hand coordination. Table tennis is kind of an opportunity for mentorship. So if a senior plays a youth, maybe something magical happens in terms of mentor/mentee".

Q: Is there anything else people should know about you or the YMCA?

A: "We are here for the community. A lot of times people see membership because that's what they see in advertisements and they think it is too expensive. Well, we provide financial assistance programs to the community. I'm constantly working with community residents to see who can sponsor a youth for things such as a sports mix. So come see us. We've been a beacon of light in the community for many decades. There was a mission to build this facility and its services to support the community and we still believe in that vision. So I hope people come see us, speak to some of our service representatives, take a tour and hopefully be a part of our YMCA family". *Druid Heights CDC congratulates Mr. Somerville* for his great work in the community and wishes him the best in his future endeavors.

Article Written by Tavon Benson
Community Organizing Associate/Youth Ambassador

SENIOR LIFE IN THE COMMUNITY

SENIOR LIFE AT CHARLES UNCLES SENIOR PLAZA (CRU)

Since the beginning of the year, we have celebrated some milestones. The residents got together and had a terrific New Year's Party. Kudos to the organizers! Of course there were our Ravens, and we all celebrated each Purple Friday in full gear. The residents went absolutely crazy with the rest of Baltimore when we won the Super Bowl this year.

In March, a Spaghetti Dinner was held to welcome 5 new residents. We now have a full house again.

All are excited about our upcoming trip to Atlantic City in June. A roundtrip ticket is only \$35.00. This trip is not limited to seniors. ALL ARE WELCOME!. Seats are still available. For more information, contact Mrs. Manning at 443.872.0683. The food is great, and we hope you will join us.

A DRUID HEIGHTS SUCCESS STORY



Bettye Cassandra Alston started as a volunteer at the community center and was promoted to a Case Manager for Druid Heights CDC Women's Re-Entry Program. She is best known for her leadership skills and strong character. She began in this capacity when she wrote a proposal to start a reentry program for women and became an advocate for women ex-offenders and women who are struggling with substance abuse. The program helps women with the necessary resources to reconnect back into society (housing, out-patient treatment, detox treatment, women's support groups, GED, and family services along with individual counseling. Ms. Alston is also the case manager for the Women at the Carrollton House Program. This program is for women who are independent, employed, attending GED classes and are succeeding in the process to move forward into their own housing. Prior to these responsibilities, Ms. Alston volunteered at Druid Heights CDC to help people in the community. She was extended an opportunity to work on the environmental stewardship team, from there she became the receptionist at the front desk and now she manages the women's program. Today Bettye is studying Substance Abuse Counseling at Baltimore City Community College and will be graduating in June of 2013. In a statement from Ms. Alston shows her humility and gratitude. "I am so grateful to be able to give back to women who have traveled the same road of substance abuse and incarceration as myself." Druid Heights CDC is pleased to have such a strong person and team player as a part of our family. She stands as an example of what a leader and success story truly is.

YOUTH FYI'S

Application Registration Starts
Monday, May 20, 2013
Deadline: Monday, June 17, 2013

Summer Camp Mandatory Parent Orientation:
Wednesday, June 19, 2013 at 5pm

G*SQUAD Step Team
Wednesday, May 1, 2013
Orientation & Registration at 5pm (Community Room)
Middle & High School Girls Age 12-18
interested in Dance, Stepping & Modeling.

... WHAT'S NEWS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD! ...

WE CAN ACHIEVE PROGRAM



On Wednesday, February 6, 2013, Former Mayor Sheila Dixon was the guest speaker for the Druid Heights Re-Entry and We Can Achieve programs. She emphasized the importance of advocacy and why it's vital to advocate

for yourself. The participants in the program gravitated to the Former Mayor as she inspired them to reach their goals in life.

Druid Heights Hosts the Baltimore Freedom Academy High School

On Thursday, March 23 2013, the Druid Heights CDC hosted students from the Baltimore Freedom Academy. The visit was to teach and enrich the students about community engagement and the importance of being involved in their community.



The students sat in and learned of all the different programs and services that Druid Heights provides. They also took a tour of the neighborhood as they saw our brand new homes and beautiful murals. The kids seemed to have gotten a lot out of the experience and were eager to come back as volunteers. Druid Heights is thankful for the opportunity to showcase to the kids what we do best.

The 44th District Night in Annapolis!



On Thursday March, 14, 2013, the 44th Legislative District was celebrated in Annapolis, Maryland. On this wonderful day, the community residents boarded a coach bus and headed to the state capital. The night was sponsored by our state Legislators, Senator

Verna Jones-Rodwell; Delegates Keith Haynes, Keiffer Mitchell and Melvin Stukes. The night celebrated people who are making a difference in the 44th district. Legends and Leaders were recognized. Shaleece Williams, Tavon Benson, Dustin Carpenter and Carde Cornish were issued a Citation from the State of Maryland for their work as Youth Advocates in the 44th District. All of these young people are employed full time at Druid Heights CDC. Mrs. Jerilyn Manning was awarded for the great job she performs on behalf of the seniors in the 44th District. The residents enjoyed music, food and inspiration as they represented this wonderful district.

A Special Thanks

We would like to give a special thanks to Shake N Bake Recreation Center for their generous donations. Shake And Bake held a can good drive where they received over a 1,000 can goods. In return, can goods were distributed throughout



the community. This includes families, churches, and Druid Heights residents. This kind donation was used to help a lot of people and we are so grateful to have Shake And Bake as a beacon of light in our community.

Thank You List

- Home Depot Store #2504
- Home Depot Store #2577
- New Life Recovery Program
- MD Institute College of Arts
- Mrs. Virginia Rollins for donated books
- The Dresher Foundation

Druid Heights Community Celebrates Black History Month

Saturday, February 23, 2013, Druid Heights Community Center hosted, in honor of Black History month, our very own Black History Celebration. This celebration was a remarkable event, spearheaded by amazing entertainment and performances and accompanied by delicious food. The performances captured important figures, institutions and ideals that transcended their time and brought about traits that we still have today. Cassia Poet started the event by speaking on the beauty of being black and capturing the spirit of overcoming all obstacles and roadblocks. Marcko Brown presented his spoken word piece on Henry Box Brown, one of the abolitionist speakers alongside Frederick Douglass. Paul Newson shared the story about his grandfather and his mark on history for just being a hardworking and loving family man. And last but not least, Kelly Little, Executive Director, gave us a History presentation on "Old West Baltimore" and the different institutions that were paramount in Black History in Baltimore. The day was capped off by soul food and the screening of the amazing movie, "Soundtrack for a Revolution" presenting the Civil Rights story through song.

