



DRUID HEIGHTS
Community
Development
Corporation

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

DRUID HEIGHTS

Trumpet

AND NEWSLETTER

Quarter 3/2023



Druid Heights Community Development Corporation / 2140 McCulloh Street / Baltimore, MD 21217 / 410-523-1350

Edition I

DRUID HEIGHTS Spotlight

In our continued efforts to recognize individuals who are making outstanding contributions to the community **The Druid Heights Trumpet and Newsletter** salutes **Mrs. Sofia McMurry**.

Mrs. Sophia has been a resident of Druid Heights for over 23 years as she is a homeowner in the community. Mrs. Sofia has been married to Mr. McMurray for over 34 years. In her own words, Mrs. Sofia believes that it is important for her family to see a united family and have a strong bond because it shows unconditional love even when there are flaws. She is well known for her environmental stewardship on the 400 block of Gold St. Every day, she sweeps and cleans the streets utilizing Druid Heights' environmental resources to ensure the job gets done. Her grandchildren have been employed by Druid Heights through the summer youth works program and attended the DHCDC After School Program. Additionally, Mrs. Sophia consistently provides snacks and food for the young people of Druid Heights.



Mrs. Sofia traces her roots to the Sandtown community where she lived from the age of seven. Sofia communities need to stick together more, help each other, and try and assist in keeping the neighborhood clean. Her family is in the process of opening their own business on the historic Pennsylvania Ave, where they will be selling American and Caribbean cuisines. In her opinion, she has a beautiful family, which includes six children whom she loves and cherishes dearly. She hopes that her family can get as much out of life as possible and reach their highest potential.

One of her proudest moments is watching her loving grandchildren graduate from school. She hopes to leave behind a legacy of doing good and hopes her children will always have good in their hearts. As a child, she was taught by her loving mother to always have love for her family because "family is important". Her message to families in Druid Heights is to be more kind to each other and never forget to keep kindness in their hearts for one another. Mrs. Sofia's message to the youth is for them to "finish school" and do whatever their hearts desire; as all their goals are attainable if they believe. Druid Heights Community Development Corporation gives a heartfelt Thank You to Sophia McMurray for her continued efforts in assisting Druid Heights Community Development Corporation and keeping our community clean, supporting organizational programming, starting her new business, and always being a great example of a loving mother and grandmother in our Druid Heights community. Her passion and dedication to her family is greatly appreciated and admired.

Executive Director's Corner

JohnDre Jennings

Greetings to our community residents, stakeholders, and friends of Druid Heights Community Development Corporation (DHCDC). On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff, we welcome you to the Spring edition of Druid Heights Trumpet and Newsletter. As we continue to move forward, I'm excited to be serving with the Druid Heights team and look forward to continuing to connect with residents and community members throughout the Druid Heights community.

We welcome Fall in our Druid Heights community! This Fall we are ending the year in gratitude for all we have and have been given. As always the end of the year will continue to share resources and services throughout the holidays. DHCDC continues to connect with our residents through our departments which include Community Outreach, ReEntry Program, Housing Counseling, and Real Estate Development. Through these programs and services, DHCDC strengthens lives through community partnership, community development, and community outreach efforts.

During the past months, DHCDC has been able to partner with community stakeholders to assist with providing summer programming to our youth and families! We have partnered with several organizations which include Youth Clean & Green Team, Baltimore Civic Works, PNC Bank Baltimore Community Foundation and Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods. Through partnerships, DHCDC continues to engage our youth in our Druid Heights After School Program. The youth programs include Health & Wellness, Druid Heights STEAM Academy, and Youth Clean & Green Team. DHCDC is also able to continue supporting individuals who are working to return to society. Through our ReEntry Program, DHCDC can partner and connect with stakeholders to continue providing workforce development and life skills training to over thirty-five (35) individuals. DHCDC continues to build homes through our Bakers View Homeownership Development Project. We were excited to celebrate the continued Bakers View Homeownership Development Project! The Bakers View Project focuses on affordable homeownership within the Druid Heights community. While we are providing homeownership opportunities, DHCDC is also able to create sustainable partnerships to provide housing counseling support for families.

DHCDC continues to serve individuals as a HUD Certified Agency, serving over 400 individuals every year. The Housing Counseling Team connects with our community members through our First Time Homebuyer Workshops, One-on-One Counseling, Reverse Mortgage, and Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF). Through these programs and services, DHCDC can assist families who want to purchase, maintain, and sustain their homes in Baltimore City.

As we end this 2023 year, DHCDC will continue to empower our residents by creating long-lasting community partnerships, providing equitable community development practices, and creating sustainable outreach efforts within the Druid Heights community. We hope that you enjoy reading about the programs, projects, and services that we will continue to offer to our community residents in Druid Heights and the greater Baltimore community. As always we look forward to seeing you in the Druid Heights neighborhood!

Yours in Service,
JohnDre Jennings

Upcoming 2023 Community Meetings

Saturday, November 18th
Saturday, December 16th
Saturday, January 27th
Saturday, February 24th
All meetings begin at 1pm

First-Time Home Buyers Classes

Saturday, November 4th
Saturday, December 2nd
Saturday, January 6th
Saturday, September 9th
All classes are from 9am-3pm
Call in advance to reserve a seat.

Tavon Benson - Editor
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Executive Director

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Druid Heights ReEntry Program Men's Rap Sessions

On average, our program serves 50 returning citizens annually. As re-entry is a lifelong process, our program maintains ongoing connections with participants at various stages of their transition. One of the key highlights of our program is Men's Rap, a support group that offers participants the opportunity to talk with each other. Open to men and women, the group invites everyone from recovering addicts to ex-offenders that have changed their lives and working toward being productive members of society to offer support, encouragement and motivation to live healthy lifestyles.

Men's Rap meets every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month from 6-8 pm at the CDC.

For more information contact Andre Fisher – afisher2@druidheights.com



Maggie Quille Intergenerational Project

DHCDC facilitated a community engagement project between the youth and elders of Druid Heights community. The Youth interviewed several residents in the neighborhood about their experiences in West Baltimore and their overall contributions to the Maggie Quille center. The Maggie Quille Intergenerational Project is ongoing as its goal is to create an archive of stories that highlight the meaning/impact of the Maggie Quille center. These in depth interviews allow the youth to create personal connections to their history and underscores the importance of storytelling. Thank you to Cinematographer Cole Hite and Set Director Nikiea Redmond for their invaluable work on this project! Special Thanks to Mrs. Jacquelyn Cornish (Founder), Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Charlotte Tires and Dr. Elizabeth Johnson.



Druid Heights Summer Fun Camp

Druid Heights CDC was able to enjoy 95 summer campers and youth workers! This year our youth in the summer camp enjoyed several trips, swimming and a closing ceremony. Special THANK YOU to Baltimore Community Foundation Tree House project, Hardware Plus, My New Book, Inc. and all the parents and community members who shared and showed love during our summer camp. We look forward to seeing our youth on next summer.

Teen Mental Health and Wellness Cookout



On June 9, 2023, DHCDC, in partnership with Cultivating & Embracing Change Inc., hosted a Cookout for Teens in the Druid Heights Community. The evening was filled with music, games, food, and an abundance of joy and laughter! This cookout allowed the teens to connect with each other while providing an emphasis on mental health and wellness. Special Thanks to Ms Lola Russell, Executive Director of Cultivating & Embracing Change, Inc.



2023 Druid Heights National Night Out



Each year the Druid Heights community residents connect with our police officers, firefighters, and first responders. On August 1, 2023, Druid Heights CDC held its Annual National Night Out. We were honored to have special guests, elected officials, and our youth workers to discuss the important issues in the Druid Heights community. National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. Special Thanks to Baltimore City Mayor's Office, Councilman Torrence, Councilman Costello, Comptroller Bill Henry, R.I.C.H. Collab (University of Maryland) and Western District.



•• WHAT'S NEWS IN THE HEIGHTS! ••

Bakers View Homeownership Development Project

On the morning of October 25, 2023, at the corner of Baker & Division Street, the community witnessed the successful completion of four (4) units for Bakers View TownHomes! For the ribbon-cutting celebration, speakers included Mayor Brandon Scott, Council President Nick Mosby, Senator Antonio Hayes, Comptroller Henry, Councilman James Torrence, Howard Tutman (DHCD), and Mrs. Jacquelyn Cornish (Founder). The guest speakers spoke about the importance of the Bakers View project in the West Baltimore Community. Phase II includes the new construction of eight (8) units in the 2300 block of Division Street (2309-2323 Division Street). We would like to extend a special thank you to P&J Contracting, C.L Myles Contracting, Arch Plan, KCW Engineering, Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, Neighborhood Impact Investment Fund (NIIF) and Baltimore City Department of Planning.

Druid Heights CDC's Annual Community Clean Up

We would like to extend a special thank you to Councilman James Torrence Councilman Eric Costello, Department of Planning, Clean Corps., Tool Bank, and Baltimore Civic Works.



ACHIEVE YOUR DREAMS!

JOIN THE CRADLE TO CAREER PIPELINE PROGRAM
FOR YOUTH BETWEEN THE AGES 10 TO 18

A Mayor's Confidence Employment Center CDC, Inc. program funded by the Mayor's Office of Recovery Programs

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| After-school S.T.E.A.M. Science, technology, engineering, art and math enrichment Virtual Reality & Webpage training | H.U.T. Heading-Centered Groups Creativity, Engagement, and problem-solving from trauma to healing Focusing on social skills, development and health and wellness needs support | Job & Career Readiness Job training and placement Career development and advancement resources, and support | Violence Prevention Youth mentoring, restorative justice, and enrichment opportunities to prevent juvenile crime and promote by violence |
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For more information visit: www.druidheights.com

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(410) 523-1350

Food Giveaway
First Come, First Served!

2140 McCulloch St. Baltimore MD 21217

Every Thursday:
9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Please bring a market bag for the food as guest receive an average of 20 pounds of food.
Food drive participants are responsible for personal transportation of food.

DRUID HEIGHTS

DRUID HEIGHTS CDC

SPRUCE UP WEDNESDAYS

"VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR COMMUNITY CLEANUP"

Be a part of the change and join our organization for a recurring neighborhood cleanup.

LITTER PICKING | STREET SWEEPING | COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION

EVERY 2ND + 4TH WEDNESDAY

For more information visit www.druidheights.com

OUR COMMUNITY, OUR RESPONSIBILITY
2140 MCCULLOCH STREET 21217 410-523-1350

Thank You!

- Residents of Druid Heights
- Mrs. Charlotte Tires, Community Volunteer
- Mayor Brandon Scott,
- Council President Nick Mosby City Council
- Senator Antonio Hayes, Maryland's 40th District
- Congressman Kweisi Mfume, 7th Congressional District
- Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development
- Baltimore City Department of Planning
- Commissioner Alice Kennedy, Dept. of Housing
- Councilman Eric Costello, 7th District
- Councilman James Torrence, 11th District
- Comptroller Bill Henry
- Jason Johnson, Black Wall Street Charm City
- Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin
- Ms. Delores Banks, Baltimore Public Schools Home and Hospital Care Program
- Mr. Deitrick Goodwin, Piano Instructor
- Mr. Lee, After School Tutor
- Sarah Forsett, Aziza Peace
- Mr. Edward Lewis, Owner, Hardware Plus Fulton Bank
- The Furniture Bank Charles Lee Patterson Ashbury A.M.E. Church
- St. Peter Claver Pius V. Roman Catholic Church
- St. Martins Church of Christ
- Morgan State University
- Volunteers Un-tap
- District Court of Baltimore Office Community Service
- Whole Food Market
- Walmart Store
- QVC
- Behavioral Health Inc.
- Ms. Kimberly Knox, Baltimore City Green Coordinator
- Ms. Renata Southard, City Planner
- National Wildlife Federation
- Dept. of Natural Resources
- Moms on Demand
- Tree-House Project
- Ms. Ashley Jeffries, Girls Scouts of America
- Mr. Eugene Tilghman Wells Fargo
- George Mason Mortgage
- NeighborWorks Baltimore Community Foundation
- PNC Bank
- Verizon Foundation
- New Baltimore Contractors, LLC
- P&J Contracting Co., Inc.
- C.L. Myles Contracting
- Shante Colbert & Family
- Chesapeake Bay Trust



MAYOR'S OFFICE OF
CHILDREN &
FAMILY SUCCESS



Strategic Targeted
Eviction Prevention
(STEP) Program



Maryland.gov

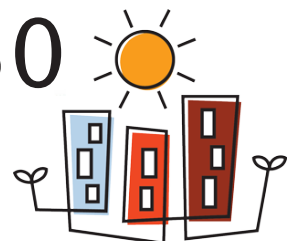
Rent & Mortgage Assistance Resources

TENANTS, LANDLORDS AND HOMEOWNERS

**CALL
Us
TODAY!**

Druid Heights Community Development Corporation is a HUD Approved Housing Counseling Agency. HUD Certified Housing Counselors are on staff and available to assist you with applying for mortgage and rental assistance available to eligible households who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and other financial crisis.

410.523.1350



OR E-mail: housing.druidheights@gmail.com

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