

## **GBA 2004 Annual Summary – Working for you!**

### GBA Promotion

- **GBA Business Directory** – GBA printed and distributed approximately 20,000 2004 Community Guide and Business to people who live, work, and worship in the GBA area.
- **GBA Gazette** – New project intended to facilitate communication between businesses and residential community. The GBA Gazette newsletter is distributed to all business members and is posted on the York Road Partnership (YRP) website.
- **GBA Business Acknowledgments / Public Relations** – In 2004, GBA began acknowledging GBA businesses for awards and/or for ‘businesses in the news’ via the GBA Gazette and GBA Meetings. Also, in a joint venture with the YRP, ‘Good Neighbor Awards’ were selected and presented to those businesses improving the streetscape and appearance of their properties.
- **Improving Communication** – GBA distributed a Business Survey to all businesses, in an effort to gather communication information about business needs, and increase the e-mail distribution for Meeting Notices, Crime Alerts from Northern District, etc.
- **YRP Reorganized in 2004 and GBA is no longer able to be an official YRP Partner** – GBA participated in the YRP Reorganization Task Force. It had previously been a partnership between the businesses, residents and religious/non-profit organizations. YRP leadership proposed bylaw changes to become a residential community advocacy group, allowing neighborhood action regarding the control of GBA business properties. Of course, the GBA was not able to remain an official ‘partner’ in the YRP restructuring, however, GBA continues to work with community members on projects of mutual interest.

### Main Street Affiliate Activities

- **Main Streets** – Since Govans was selected as one of two Baltimore Main Streets “Affiliate” designations, GBA members have been participating in Main Streets meetings, seminars and conferences. The first Main Streets Technical Meeting, entitled *Keys to Enhancing Business District Performance*, was held December 6th. The second, entitled *Raising Funds for your Main Street*, was held on February 8.

### Business Opportunities Promoted

- **Enterprise Zone Expansion** – GBA supported the BDC proposal to expand the Baltimore City Enterprise Zone (EZ) to include the GBA business area, increasing incentives for our businesses. Support letters were sent from the GBA and individual GBA members. GBA hosted the hearing required for the process, and it became official on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2004.
- **Façade Improvement Grant Program** - The GBA promoted this Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) program through the GBA Gazette, direct mailed flyers and letters, GBA board and annual meeting announcements, and focused area meetings, etc. Two GBA businesses received grants in 2004.
- **Signs for Success Grant Program** - GBA promoted this BDC program, which offered opportunities for multiple building owners to revitalize (especially related to exterior signage items) together.
- **Shop Baltimore Loan Program** - GBA promoted this BDC program, which offered attractive loans

### Crime Control Efforts

- **Community Block Watch** - GBA requested that businesses be included in the Community Block Watch Program currently in existence for residents. This request was granted.
- **Crime Alert** - Northern District began e-mailing Crime Alert notices, and GBA forwards the notices to those businesses with e-mail.
- **Northeast Police Department** - GBA promoted the Northern District policy to accept phone calls or e-mails about any criminal or police concerns businesses may have, and also to visit businesses to review potential security risks.

- **National Night Out against Crime** – GBA contributed toward 2004 National Night Out (NNO) community events in the Govans area.

### Streetscape Beautification Projects

- **GBA Streetscape Plans** – Engineering funding for Phase Ib (blocks 5500-5700 York Road) has been obtained, we understand, and should be implemented in 2005. GBA collaborated with YRP in 2004 to continue the streetscape efforts (YRP Master Streetscape Plan) as a part of the Strategic Neighborhood Action Plan (SNAP). In support of this Master Streetscape Plan and the GBA businesses, GBA distributed a petition to remove the bus stops at Belvedere Avenue (without moving other stops).
- **Bellona Triangle** – GBA members continue to maintain the Bellona Triangle, the Tunbridge planter box and tree pits along York Road. Major efforts included Spring Clean up and Fall Community Outreach Day with Loyola College, with GBA-CARES maintenance. GBA obtained a grant, coordinated with Stone Hill Designs on a new garden plan, and we are awaiting Spring 2005 implementation of the new planting.
- **Loyola Community Outreach Day** - GBA was awarded a Parks & People grant and coordinated with Loyola Community Outreach Day in October, planting tree pits and gardens along York Road.
- **Smart Growth** – GBA assisted in the planting replacements necessary in the Fall of 2004. (In 2003, brick piers, metal fencing and new plantings were installed, complimenting the GBA streetscape work, and further improving the MTA bus stop area at York and Woodbourne. A committee, including GBA business members and YRP neighborhood representatives, had submitted a Smart Growth Transit program application proposal to the State of Maryland for improvements. Fortunately, we were awarded a grant, the GBA administered the funds, and work was implemented in the Fall of 2003.)
- **Curran Memorial** - In 2003, the Smart Growth committee joined with Stadium Place project representatives (GEDCO members, Govans Presbyterian Church and the Curran family). The carillon bells (only) on the iron ‘belltower’, are being removed and repaired and will be incorporated into the new Stadium Place project, a GEDCO project. A concept design sketch indicating improvements of the existing iron tower structure was presented to the GBA Board and to the community for input.
- **GBA-CARES** (refer to program description below) - GBA funded a weekly street cleaning effort to help tackle the on-going trash issues, which helped clean up and beautify York Road.

### GBA Programs

**GBA/CARES** – In 2004, GBA began the joint venture between the Civic and Religious Emergency Services, (CARES), which is a division of Govans Ecumenical Development Corporation (GEDCO). The youths were trained in resume preparation, interviewing, work ethics, (as well as some limited financial savings techniques). GBA-CARES T-shirts were purchased for the youths and volunteers. GBA funded a weekly street cleaning effort, which provided these youths with consistent work. Six youths began working in 2004, and the program has grown to include nine youths.

### 2004 GBA Special Projects

- **Walgreens** – GBA supported the Walgreens development at the Northeast corner of Walker and York Road (Drumcastle Center). GBA members continue to work hard to provide a fair opportunity for viable proposals to invest in our community and provide jobs and income to Baltimore City, because GBA believes strongly that it is for the greater good of our Community, and Baltimore City. GBA held a forum in January to discuss the issues with all parties, however community representative(s) did not attend (despite a positive RSVP). GBA members participated in the Planning Commission Hearing, met with Dominick Murray, from the Mayor’s office, to discuss the nature of community opposition and methods for working positively with the community. Due to select community opposition, Walgreens is proceeding without zoning variances requested for a drive-thru and additional parking. Of course, that means that our

community will not be benefiting from the benefits offered in return for community support, such as the upgraded façade design and the budgeted \$80,000.00 worth of landscaping improvements of the corner lot.

- **Eckerds** – GBA supported the Eckerds development at the Northwest corner of Gittings and York Road. Unfortunately, due to community opposition, Eckerds is proceeding without zoning variances requested for a drive-thru and additional parking.
- **Belvedere PUD Amendment** – GBA supported the amendment to the Belvedere Planned Unit Development (PUD) to allow live music (affecting Ryan’s Daughter). The amendment was approved.
- **Coldspring Business District** – We worked hard to begin revitalization efforts in the Coldspring Business District (CBD). GBA assisted YRP and BDC in the application for Community Legacy grant money specifically directed to the area, although unsuccessful. In 2004, GBA set up special focused meetings, promoted BDC grant/loans, met with Main Streets representatives to confirm the extension of Main Streets Affiliate status benefits to this specific area, met with the Main Street architect available, met with Councilman Harris to discuss crime prevention methods and the expedition of streetscape items in the Coldspring area, etc. We had meetings to discuss façade improvement issues, and requested a meeting with Councilman Harris and religious institutions in the Coldspring area regarding crime control.
- **Crown Station and Mini-Mart** – GBA members worked with concerned neighbors to develop a successful Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the new Crown business at Winston Ave., and the Radnor Winston and Winston-Govans neighborhoods.
- **Parking Issues** – parking concerns at the northwest corner of Belvedere and York. GBA reviewed alternatives and issues regarding the proposed expansion of parking by Jerry’s Belvedere. GBA met with Café Zen, and attended the BIA meeting with Ken Harris and other city officials, and businesses.
- **Save-A-Lot (SAL) / Site Redevelopment** – GBA began the year by contesting a quote by YRP leadership in the Messenger and Jeffersonian (stating that the YRP did not want Save-A-Lot), because this statement did not accurately reflect the opinion of the YRP membership (of which GBA was still a member). GBA successfully met with Save-A-Lot to discuss trash and graffiti issues. Later in the year, when SAL planned to close the store, GBA met with them again to discuss other grocery store and shuttle opportunities. GBA has been coordinating efforts of BDC, as well as contacting potential businesses.
- **GBA Membership Packages** – Planning began for membership packages for all businesses.

#### GBA Grantwriting

- **Community Legacy Grant** - GBA applied for a grant to expand the GBA-CARES program, and to further improve the cleanup efforts along York Road; unsuccessful.
- **Parks & People Grant** - GBA wrote a grant to plant tree pits and planting beds along York Road, and we received \$950.00 for that effort.
- **Baltimore City Capital Grant** - GBA worked with City to obtain a grant that had been ‘on hold’ to provide a new garden plan for the Bellona Triangle garden.

#### Financial donations included:

- **SAX** - Sponsorship of two Govans area youths to attend the **Summer Activity Extraordinaire: Summer Music and Dance Camp (SAX)** on the Loyola campus.
- **Good Neighbor Awards.**
- **National Night Out**