

GBA 2005-2006 Annual Summary

March 25, 2006 (Fiscal year: March 1-February 31)

Reba Hawkins became the GBA Executive Director this year – working hard for you!

GBA Business Promotion

- **GBA Gazette** –The GBA Gazette newsletter is distributed to GBA business members and community leaders, and is posted on the GBA and York Road Partnership (YRP) community websites.
- **GBA Website** –The GBA website was created and promoted to increase communication.
- **GBA Business Acknowledgments** – Awards and/or ‘businesses in the news’ were acknowledged.
- **Improving Communication** – Business Surveys were distributed. E-mail addresses were requested to increase the e-mail distribution for Gazette, Meeting Notices, Crime Alerts from Northern District, etc. Efforts to continue in 2006, including neighborhoods.
- **Business / Residential Relations** - GBA works with the community on projects of mutual interest, and GBA and YRP met to discuss projects. In 2006, trash issues and more effective trash collection were a priority; the GBA continued to work with YRP on the new streetscape improvements along York Road; GBA coordinated York Road holiday decorations and the first annual holiday event for the community.
- **Main Streets Education** – GBA members participate in Main Streets meetings, seminars and conferences. As a Main Street Affiliate, GBA receives technical support, including informative meetings in 2006 entitled *Keys to Enhancing Business District Performance*, and *Raising Funds for your Main Street*.
- **Miracles on Main Street** – holiday promotion including free parking, gift basket raffle/prizes
- **York Road Yuletide** - Main Street holiday event, including music, food, Christmas tree lighting.
- **Façade Improvement Grant Program** - promoted BDC program and assisted GBA businesses with applications; four (4) received grants in 2005; (1) pending.
- **Main Street Architectural Services** – available to GBA businesses; one (1) business participated.
- **Enterprise Zone (EZ) Expansion** – a Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) program that allows benefits for GBA businesses.

Crime Control Efforts

- **Community Block Watch** - worked with the Northern District to extend this program to businesses.
- **Crime Alert / Security options** - GBA forwarded the Crime Alert notices from Northern District to those businesses with e-mail addresses provided.
- **Northern District Police Services** - GBA promoted the Northern District policy for accepting phone calls or e-mails about any criminal or police concerns businesses may have, and also the Northern District’s offer to visit businesses and homes to review potential security risks.

GBA Programs/Projects

- **GBA/CARES** – The joint venture program between GBA and the Civic and Religious Emergency Services, (CARES), which is a division of Govans Ecumenical Development Corporation (GEDCO). The youths are trained in resume preparation, interviewing, work ethics, etc. In addition to other jobs from the community, GBA funded consistent weekly employment in the form of street cleaning, in an effort to help tackle the on-going trash issues, which helped clean up and beautify York Road (one of our biggest challenges).
- **Curran Memorial Renovation** – GBA continues to coordinate the renovation of the existing Curran Memorial tower at York/Woodbourne to become a new clock tower, working with GEDCO Stadium Place project representatives, community members and the Curran family. Project is pending fund raising, and we are getting closer to our goal!

- **York Road Streetscape** – GBA Streetscape Phase Ib (blocks 5500-5700 York Road) finally began in 2005, and has been extended up to Northern Parkway. Some history: In 1995, GBA applied for a grant to fund the design/engineering phase I, which was awarded in 1996, and the Conceptual Master Streetscape Master Plan and Report was prepared. In 1998, the Conceptual Master Streetscape Master Plan Phase II: Revitalization Plan was prepared and submitted to the City. GBA collaborated with YRP in 2004 to continue the streetscape efforts between the previous areas, and issued the YRP Master Streetscape Plan. When GBA discovered that the furniture color had been changed from the original green color proposed by GBA and YRP, GBA worked hard to promote the YRP Master Streetscape Plan, which continued the green furniture that had already been installed at Woodbourne. The color black was ordered, however, despite years of community decision-making. The city did commit to repainting the existing furniture, however.
- **Bellona Triangle** – we worked with a GBA landscape architect on a new garden plan, obtained grant funding, began the weed removing efforts and the installation of the new plantings. A new banner sign was also purchased.
- **Parks & People Streetscape Greening** - GBA was awarded a Parks & People grant for colorful Spring/Summer planting of tree pits and gardens along York Road. An Adopt-A-Planter program was initiated for businesses.
- **Loyola Student Government Training Day** - GBA provided plants and coordinated with Loyola students in August, weeding and planting more tree pits and gardens along York Road.
- **GBA Membership Packages** – membership welcome packages were assembled and delivered to all businesses.
- **Community Playground** – GBA supported the playground efforts by providing volunteers, funding the GBA-CARES youths, and sponsoring the Climbing Wall with a financial donation.
- **York/Woodbourne Site Redevelopment** – GBA contacted the district manager of Family Dollar to discuss business and residential community concerns for this site, including site maintenance. Due to the community need for a grocery store, Family Dollar began a cooler program to provide milk, eggs, etc. Regarding the additional square footage available for lease, GBA has been coordinating efforts of BDC, as well as contacting potential businesses. Discussions will continue with the property owner to better maintain the property.
- **Fire Hydrant Painting** – GBA was included in the YRP Streetscape Committee in 2003, which began a fire hydrant painting program for hydrants along York Road. In 2005, to assist the community efforts, GBA solicited the donation of paint/supplies from Budeke's Paint for YRP use.

GBA Grantwriting

- **Parks & People Grant** - GBA applied for a grant to plant tree pits and planting beds along York Road in the Spring/Summer, and we received \$970.00 for that beautification effort.
- **Baltimore City Capital Improvement Grant** – GBA implemented the new garden plan for the Bellona Triangle garden, utilizing an \$18,000.00 grant awarded to GBA.

Community Financial Donations:

- **Northern District Police Explorer Program Fundraiser** – GBA purchased ten Orioles tickets and coordinated a trip for the GBA-CARES youths to attend the game
- **SAX** - Sponsorship of two Govans area youths to attend the **Summer Activity Extraordinaire: Summer Music and Dance Camp (SAX)** on the Loyola campus.
- **Community Playground** – GBA members participated in the project, and sponsored the Climbing Wall with a financial donation.
- **GEDCO Senator Classic** - sponsored two tickets
- **St Paul's Jazz Band** – donation in gratitude for their Yuletide performance