

The GBA Gazette

February 2004

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Larry "Santa" Ford poses in the front of Vaughn Greene Funeral Parlor in its holiday best. Vaughn Greene was judged the best of the best for its beautiful decorations. Let's see how many businesses in 2004 can outdo them.

Winners of the 1st Annual Holiday Decorating Contest

Twenty-one businesses received a box of Dunkin Donuts for having the best decorated stores along the York Road corridor. The prize was delivered by Larry "Santa" Ford on December 23rd to all of the winners.

The winners, in no particular order, were:

43rd Flavor Barber and Beauty Shop
JAI Medical Center
Vaughn Greene Funeral Home
Value Village Thrift Shop
Swanson Graphics
Academy Cleaners
Corner Carry Out
Penza Associates Architects, Inc.
Mike Egan Insurance Company
Field's Old Trail
Savannah House
Cafe Zen
Van Dyke & Bacon
Wells Liquors
Belvedere Cleaners
TechLab
Saigon Remembered
The Wee Pub
Taru Hair Braiding
Matava Two
Matinee Cafe

Congratulations to every business that decorated and we look forward to everyone participating next holiday season.



City Loan Program and Facade Improvement Grants Available

For all of our member businesses, there are some very attractive programs that are being offered.

First is the **Shop Baltimore Loan Program**. This program can allow you to borrow up to a maximum of \$100,000 (50% of total project costs). The interest rate being offered at below market with terms up to 15 years for real estate transactions. These funds can be used for real estate acquisition, rehabilitation and new construction, leasehold improvements, facade improvements, machinery and equipment, and certain other costs associated with opening or expanding a small business.

The other is the **Facade Improvement Grant** program. Under this program, grants can be obtained for a maximum of \$2,500 (up to 50% of the total improvements being made). This is a grant, not a loan, and does not have to be repaid. This program can be used for architectural and related fees, exterior painting, door and window replacements, installation of siding and trim treatments including awnings, flower boxes, signage, new facade construction and facade renovation.

If you are interested in either of these programs, call Kevin Malachi at Baltimore Development Corp. 410-837-9305.

Letter from the President

I want to start out by thanking all of the business owners who take time out of their busy schedule to attend GBA board meetings and even more time helping us with projects to benefit all of our members.

We had applied for Main Street designation and were awarded affiliate status for this upcoming year. For details about what this means, be sure to read the article on the next page. As part of this designation, we are embarking on a program to tackle the growing vacancies along York Road. Helene Perry, from Loyola College, Laura Penza of Penza Associates architects, Bruce Campbell of Wallace H. Campbell real estate, have volunteered time and effort to work on the area from the old Crown Station up to the old International House of Pancakes. Currently this effort is in the early initial stages, and we hope to have more news about it later.

Speaking of vacancies, there are two separate proposals for the old Superfresh site on the west side of York Road and for the Drumcastle Shopping center on the east side. Walgreen's is attempting to obtain the necessary zoning changes in order to invest \$5 million dollars into a new building at 6301 York Road. If this project goes forth, they estimate that it will pump \$1 million dollars a year into our local economy through property taxes and payroll. And right across the street an Eckerd's Drug store is planned. There is some neighborhood opposition to the Walgreen's plan and it would be helpful if you could let your city councilman and mayor know your feelings on these projects. Councilman Ken Harris can be emailed at kharris@baltimorecitycouncil.com and Mayor O'Malley can be reached at mayor@baltimorecity.gov. Remember your voice does count and our elected officials need to know where you stand on this important issue.

If any of you want to share your expertise and help with our efforts, please call Larry at the GBA office and volunteer.

Also you can help us help you with problems in your immediate area. Just let us know what the problem is and what you would like as a solution. We will do everything in our power to implement your solution or try to find an alternative that will help. This is what you pay dues for so don't be shy to call on us to work for you.

Speaking of help, GBA is entering into an arrangement with CARES to help employ neighborhood teenagers ranging from 14 to 20 years of age. CARES will act to screen these children and give them a short instruction on what is expected of them in the work world. These kids will be available for part time work for a variety of projects. Whether shoveling snow, gardening, or cleaning up, help yourself and one of these energetic kids. Give it a try, there is no obligation and we will find the right person for you.

Rick Swanson
President

Community News

- The GBA's directory is at the printer and should be mailed out in March. We will be distributing approximately 20,000 copies throughout the surrounding neighborhoods.
- Precision Tune has begun work on the site at the intersection of Bellona and York and should be opening soon.
- A new gas station/convenience store is planning to open at the site of the old Crown Station in the 5100 block of York Road. The owner met with the community and the project looks like it will be proceeding.
- Enterprise Car Rental has begun steps to lease the vacant IHOP building at 5201 York Road.
- A bill was introduced in the City Council on Monday, February 9 to allow for the zoning changes necessary for Walgreen's to build on the site of the old Drumcastle Shopping Center (6301 York Road).

Send your news briefs to:

*GBA Gazette
414 Lyman Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21212*

or fax them to 410-435-7435



Responsibilities of Business Owners

The recent snow falls this winter have brought out a number of complaints about businesses that fail to clear their sidewalks in front of their property.

Baltimore City law requires that you clear the snow from the sidewalks bordering your property within 3 hours after the snow stops falling, or if the snow stops between the hours of 3 pm and 6 am the sidewalks must be cleared by 11 am.

If you fail to clear your sidewalk the city can issue a citation/fine. Remember, not only is it the law, but it only makes sense that businesses want to keep access to and from their businesses open so that customers can come and shop.

CARES for Hire

Do you need some part-time help? Maybe cleaning up the outside or inside of your store; how about shoveling the snow from your sidewalks?

CARES is screening teenagers from the area who can use part-time jobs and will make sure each child has the necessary work permits. These children will range in age from 14 through 19 years of age and will undergo a short training session that will stress the importance of dependability and a proper attitude. They will also be taught about how to present a professional and appropriate appearance when they show up for their jobs.

The GBA will be coordinating this program and will assist any business looking for part-time help for almost any type of project. Taking care of your landscaping, painting, cleaning up, or any job that teenagers can help with.

This program will help these teenagers in the community learn what it takes to get and keep a job and it will provide you with a labor pool for taking care of those small projects that seem to get pushed aside.

Any questions you might have can be directed to the president of the GBA, Rick Swanson, at 410-435-6211.

SCHEDULE OF GBA BOARD MEETINGS 2004-2005

Each regular board meeting will be held on the second Tuesday of every other month.

March 9, 2004—Annual Meeting: Elections

May 11, 2004

July 13, 2004

September 14, 2004

November 9, 2004

January 11, 2005

All of these meetings are held at Jerry's Belvedere located at York Road and Northern Parkway. Breakfast is served starting at 8:30 am and the meeting begins at 9:00 am. Meetings generally end before 10:30 am.

In addition to regular board meetings there are various committees that may hold separate meetings at their convenience.

Good Neighbor Awards

The York Road Partnership (YRP) has been giving out good neighbor awards to businesses that they consider have done above and beyond in keeping their premises clean and nice. Six awards were given out in 2003 and those businesses will receive framed certificates acknowledging that fact.

The following businesses received the awards for 2003:

1. Law Office of Taiwo Adbaje for renovation of building
2. US Post Office for landscaping improvements
3. Loyola College for landscaping
4. Jai Medical Center for landscaping
5. Traditions Inc. for eye-catching displays
6. Matinee Cafe for being the freshest new face in the area

Let's see if all of the GBA members can earn this recognition from the community this year.

Volunteers Needed

The GBA is attempting to expand our mission through a new committee designed to work on encouraging development along the York Road corridor.

This committee is open to all, including residents, interested parties, businesses, property owners, etc. We need help in order to formulate plans and work to get them implemented to improve the area for the benefit of everyone.

If you are interested, please contact Larry Ford at the GBA office: 410-433-8289 or by email at govanstowne@aol.com.

Annual Meeting

The GBA Annual Meeting is scheduled for March 9, at 8:30 am to be held at Jerry's Belvedere. See the insert for details.

Your GBA Officers

Larry Ford, *Executive Director* 410-433-8289

Richard Swanson, *President* 410-435-6211

Laura Penza, *Vice President*

Richard Croke, *Treasurer*

Nancy Egan, *Assistant Treasurer*

Doug Campbell, *Secretary*

Board Members

Richard Croke

Bruce Campbell

Robert Gibbs

Ed Stude

Trudy McNair

Greg Clanzy

Doris Bradley

Kurt Graham

Dr. Alan Eidelberg

Latavia Ehoize

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