

The GBA Gazette

November 2003

published by the Govanstowne Business Association

Vol. 1, No. 1

Larry Ford named as new Executive Director

After many years of great service, Susan Hodges has retired to literally sail into the sunset. Susan and her husband Charlie have moved onto their own sailboat and plan to sail throughout the Caribbean. We will all miss Susan.

We have a new Executive Director, Mr. Larry Ford, who has begun working for us back in August. Mr. Ford can be reached at the office at 410-433-8289. He is in and out of the office frequently, so please leave a message if he can't answer your call. If there is an emergency, feel free to call our president, Mr. Rick Swanson, at his office 410-435-6211.

Mr. Ford will be stopping in to all of the businesses of the GBA to introduce himself over the coming weeks. Larry hopes to get more businesses involved in our group efforts to improve the commercial district that runs from the City line to 43rd Street.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Community Charrette, November 15, 9 am, at the Church of the Nativity.

York Road Partnership Meeting, December 3, 6:30 pm at St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Christmas Tree Light lighting, December 4, at 6 pm at Loyola Offices at Belvedere Square

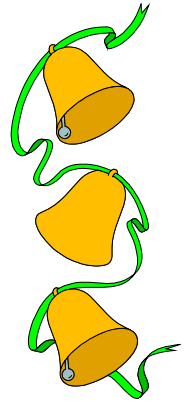
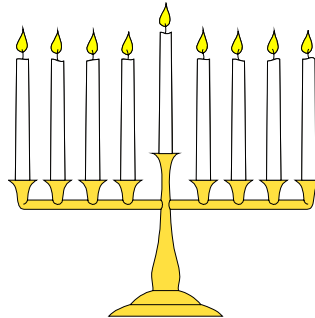
Carolers at Belvedere Square, Dec. 6, 13, 20 from noon to 2 pm

101.9 will be at Belvedere Square on December 14 giving away 101 stocking stuffers, and again on December 20, giving away 101 pointsettias

Next GBA Meeting will be January 7 at Jerry's Belvedere. Breakfast at 8:30 am and meeting begins at 9:00 am.

1st Annual Holiday Decorating Contest

Deck the Halls, windows and walls. Help bring a little holiday cheer to Govans by decorating your storefront.



We are encouraging all of our members to brighten up the corridor with your holiday finest. And to sweeten the pot, Santa Claus (aka Larry) will go out

December 19th and award the best and the brightest with a treat. All members of the GBA are eligible and all you have to do is decorate to your hearts content. Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or a winter wonderland. Let's show the city (and our customers) our spirit.

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*

*The GBA wishes
everyone Safe &
Happy Holidays*

Community Charrette November 15, 2003

at the Church of the Nativity
419 Cedarcroft Road • 9 am

Community News

The York Road Partnership is promoting a charrette regarding commercial development along the York Road corridor at the County/City line. The focus of the charrette will be:

- ✍ determining the role (context) of the area given its setting in the local and regional retail market;
- ✍ figuring out what mix of uses make the most sense given this context;
- ✍ creating short term recommendations on development that work within this context on key opportunities sites.
- ✍ creating design principles;
- ✍ creating long term design guidelines;
- ✍ creating a long term strategy for sustainable growth.

For those who aren't familiar with the Drumcastle Shopping Center, it is currently vacant, along with the old supermarket site on the west side of York Road. There is a proposal for the Drumcastle Center to have a Walgreens store move in which will require several zoning ordinances to meet the store's requirements. Across the street, an Eckard's Pharmacy wants to locate there.

The local community group opposes the Walgreen's and has, so far, successfully blocked it. The charrette is the community residents idea for deciding what type of business(es) they want. They will probably include many micromanagement decisions such as acceptable colors, design, hours of operation, accepted uses, and anything else they may agree upon.

It is important for as many business owners as possible to attend this charrette to offer insight, input and balance into this process. Many of the people attending have no idea of what it takes to make a successful business and need our members' valuable input.

The Govanstowne Business Association has taken a position supporting the Walgreen's development because we felt that it is a reputable business that could help fill the vacancies that currently exist. The GBA feels that vacancies are an acute problem that must be addressed immediately before an area looks blighted. We are concerned that without business owners input that the residents might come up with wonderful ideas that are not achievable, that would lead to long-term vacancies.

- The GBA's directory is at the printer and should be mailed out later this year. We will be distributing approximately 20,000 copies throughout the surrounding neighborhoods.
- On Friday, November 7, twelve students from Friends Middle School devoted their Community Service day to weeding, mulching and repairing a fence at Gallagher Mansion. They did a great job.
- About 40 students from Loyola College spent their Good Neighbor Day on Sunday September 7th painting over 20 fireplugs, installed tree-pit frames in the 5400 block of York Road, cleaned, weeded and mulched at various locations.
- The corner of Woodbourne and York got a much needed facelift. The area received a brick walkway and landscaping. This project was spearheaded by Helene Perry of the York Road Partnership.
- The GBA, in concert with the York Road Partnership, has applied for a Community Legacy grant to be used to make improvements along the commercial corridor from 43rd Street to Notre Dame Lane. As of the writing of this column we have not heard if we will receive the funds.
- For those interested in attending the York Road Partnership meetings, the next one is scheduled for Wednesday, December 3, at 6:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Church.
- Loyola College will be holding a seminar on tax benefits available to buildings located in Historic Districts. This will be held on November 22, at 9:30 am at Loyola College.
- December 6, 13, & 20 carolers will be strolling through Belvedere Square from noon until 2 pm.
- December 4, a 30 foot Christmas tree will be lit at 6 pm in front of the new Loyola offices at Belvedere Square. Santa will be there for photo ops.

Send your news briefs to us at:

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

or fax them to 410-435-7435.

CARES

What Is CARES?

Formed in 1993, CARES is an interfaith partnership in northeast Baltimore that pools resources to respond to the needs of people in the community who are facing financial hardships. They operate a food pantry and emergency financial assistance center through the generous help of volunteers, businesses, faith communities, and individual donors.

Services include emergency food packages, eviction and utility cut-off prevention funds, pharmacy assistance vouchers, and social service referrals. Whenever possible, people are linked to concrete tools that may improve their own lives far into the future.

How Does CARES Work?

Member faith communities and organizations provide support to CARES through volunteer assistance, food, and financial contributions. Members can be certain that they are helping people who have legitimate needs, as each client is carefully screened for eligibility and payments are made directly to vendors. Donations to the CARES program quickly translate into basic necessities of life for individuals and families in need.

People seeking assistance may be referred to CARES by one of one of its supporting members or simply walk in during regular open hours. The trained volunteers who serve as interviewers offer compassion and hope as they distribute food along with funds to help people remain housed, to have gas and electric power and to fill medical prescriptions.

Who Is Eligible For Help?

CARES serves individuals and families living in Baltimore City only, in the zip code areas 21210, 21212, 21239, and 21218 from the city line to 33rd Street.

To be interviewed for food assistance, applicants must provide a photo ID, Social Security card for each family member for whom help is sought, and proof of their Baltimore City address (such as a recent bill mailed to it). Financial applicants also must bring their utility cut-off notice, eviction notice from the court, or their medical prescription to be filled.

In 2002, 4600 area residents were given food and financial assistance. More than 45% of those helped were under 21 or over 75 years of age, among our most vulnerable neighbors.

How Can You Help?

Get involved. Volunteer. Organize a food drive. Donate non-perishable food. Call to discuss other ideas:

410-433-2442

CARES is the Civic And Religious Emergency Services, which is a project of the Govans Ecumenical Development Corporation (GEDCO).

CARES is located in St. Mary's Church in the Assumption Room. They offer financial aid, food and other services to those in need. They are looking for volunteers and financial contributions.

The GBA has given a \$200.00 cash donation and also proposed that CARES working with the GBA provide part-time employment for neighborhood youths to clean up. We would like our member businesses that could use some occasional or part-time help to also utilize these youths. It is a great way to keep the outside of your business looking sharp and helping some less fortunate neighbors. Another benefit is getting to know some of the youths in the neighborhood and getting them to know you.

CARES is open to serve people in need of food on Mondays and Thursday from 9 am to 11 am and on Saturdays from 10 am to noon. Financial assistance is available on Mondays and Thursdays from 9 am to 11 am.

Contributions of non-perishable foods and grocery bags may be delivered directly to CARES at 5502 York Road, at the rear of St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church.

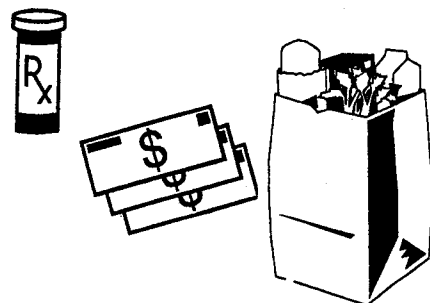
CARES is open to accept donations during its operating hours as well as on Wednesdays from 10 am to noon. Please call first to verify that volunteers are on site, especially during holidays, weekends or inclement weather.

CARES Office—410-532-2273

GEDCO Office—410-433-2442

Financial contributions may be made payable to GEDCO, noting CARES on the check. Please mail all financial contributions to GEDCO, 5513 York Road, Baltimore, MD 21212.

If you own a business and are willing to help, maybe by collecting non-perishable goods or helping in some other way, please contact CARES. Remember that need is a year-round problem, not just during this Holiday season.



Govanstowne Business Association

414 Lyman Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21212

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
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BALTIMORE, MD
Permit No. 5360

**WANT TO ADVERTISE
YOUR BUSINESS?**

CHEAP!

Call Larry at the GBA to place an ad
that will be seen by every business owner
from 43rd Street to the City Line along York Road.

410-433-8289