



SOUTHWEST PARTNERSHIP

A community newsletter for all the need to know information from the Southwest Partnership.

Photo of Wicomico Building – 1100 Wicomico Street Baltimore, MD 21230

Summer Edition 2018



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The Southwest Partnership is seven neighborhood associations and six anchor institutions building community together in Southwest Baltimore.

We are the neighborhoods of Barre Circle, Franklin Square, Hollins Roundhouse, Mount Clare, Pigtown, Poppleton, and Union Square. The Southwest Partnership began in 2012 as a small group of concerned community leaders organizing around the over-concentration of drug treatment facilities in the area.

We realized that seven neighborhoods working together would have a greater impact than seven neighborhoods working alone. The Southwest Partnership envisions an awesome, healthy, architecturally beautiful, diverse, cohesive community of choice built on mutual respect and shared responsibility. We embrace all diversity: from race, gender, and sexual orientation to economic, education, and housing choice. Our diversity is our strength.

Community members collaborate to advance our goals in seven program areas: education, commercial development, historic preservation, housing, public safety, vibrant and walkable streets, and workforce development.

Stay in touch

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Twitter: twitter.com/swp_baltimore

Instagram: [swp_baltimore](https://www.instagram.com/swp_baltimore)

The Southwest Stamp newsletter Summer 2018 Edition is sponsored by **Baltimore Community Lending** and **Enterprise Homes**. Thank you for your support and contribution. For more information about our sponsors and their developments, visit their website using the information below.

Baltimore Community Lending -- <http://www.bclending.org/>

Baltimore Community Lending is a US Treasury certified nonprofit Community Development Financial Institution. Working in Baltimore City exclusively, BCL provides loan capital for bricks real estate development. We work with different types of borrowers—from developers and individual investors, to nonprofits and community partners—to transform and revitalize Baltimore neighborhoods.

Enterprise Homes -- <https://www.enterprisecommunity.org/>

Enterprise's mission is to create opportunity for low-and moderate-income people through affordable housing in diverse, thriving communities. We are driven by our mission, fueled by business discipline and sustained by donors and investors. Since 1982, Enterprise has worked with partners in communities nationwide. One of America's original social enterprises, we bring together the people and resources to create affordable housing in strong neighborhoods. Within Enterprise are entities that lend funds, finance development and manage and build affordable housing.



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DEVELOPMENT

Southwest Stamp

Summer Edition 2018

Bon Secours Farm Increase Variety Of Produce, Scheduled To Expand Summer 2018



Farmer Rich Kolm working in a Bon Secours Farm hoop house

Urban agriculture--farms in cities--is a growing movement across the country and there's a new farm right here in Southwest Baltimore. Bon Secours Community Farm, on N Fulton Ave, promotes eating healthy by giving community members access to healthier food, grown in their communities, while educating them on how to prepare healthier dishes. "In 2017 we produced just over 500 pounds of food" reports Special Projects Liaison Colin Smith, and produce is currently distributed at Franklin Square Elementary Middle School, Bon Secours Hospital, and local Hungry Harvest PRODUCE IN A SNAP events. "Because of the winter weather we are limited to what we grow. For now we have collard and mustard greens, radish, and even herbs like thyme and arugula", says Bon Secours Community Farmer, Rich Kolm. The farm is expanding rapidly through: a second farming hoop house will be built in June, increasing the variety of produce grown to include more

fruit, the farm has purchased a trailer and are in the process of retrofitting and refurbishing it to wash and preserve produce on site, and a delivery service and mobile retail market are both planned for September. "We want to supply food to at least 75 families weekly", says Colin. Despite all the activity, the farm is still in the planning stages and Bon Secours continues to work with community leaders and neighborhood associations for input on what they would like to see grown and the pricing for produce. The Farm is one component of a partnership between Bon Secours Community Works and Kaiser Permanente, called *Future Baltimore*. Future Baltimore addresses the social determinants of health by implementing nine purposeful programs in West Baltimore. Bon Secours Community Works is a non-profit organization that caters to the long-term economic and social viability of West Baltimore neighborhoods. Located on Fulton Avenue, Bon Secours Community Works (or BSCW) provide resources such as family support, GED and adult basic education classes, teen parent support groups, counseling, housing and neighborhood revitalization, the TYRO program for the previously incarcerated, eviction and tax services, and many more.

Newsletter Stories Wanted

Own a business and want to place an ad for more exposure? Have exciting news about development in your area and want to tell someone? Contact Southwest Partnership and YOUR story could be in our next issue!

Call 667-210-2105

DEVELOPMENT

Southwest Stamp

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War Horse Cities CDC's Vision Plan For Southwest Baltimore And Revamping Hollins Market



Jim Mills in Warhorse building on Hollins Street

Big changes are afoot for Hollins Market. War Horse Cities CDC plan to renovate the oldest operating public market building in Baltimore to make it more accessible and inviting to the diverse communities of Southwest Baltimore. During an exclusive interview with Jim Mills, the director of design and development at War Horse, Jim expressed how War Horse is currently in the pricing stages and are looking to sign a contract with the city to release the building and start construction in Fall 2018. “We consider Hollins Market to be the front porch of the community” says Jim. Because they see the market as an inviting outside space for the community, they want to renovate Hollins Market to reflect that idea, creating seating areas inside and outside the market and even broadening the sidewalks for the

outside seating to do so. “We want to host more events in and outside the market similar to this” Jim says as he points outside the window at the Light City Festival called Neighborhood Lights. The vision plan for the Hollins Market is not complete and War Horse Cities have currently attended community meetings with neighborhood associations and community leaders of the Hollins Market area on April 11th and May 3rd to share their market concepts with the community. As of now, based on community input, the vision for Hollins Market is to cater to all ages. For example, based on data collection from community meetings, a lot of people want the market’s food to reflect the diversity of the community. The older generations want typical stations within the market such as fresh produce, a butcher shop, fresh seafood, however, the youth want to create restaurant style eatery places, and healthy prepared grab & go stations. More meetings are to come but are not scheduled just yet. For more information about the Hollins Market developments visit www.bmorehollins.com. War Horse Cities CDC was founded by Scott Plank in 2010 as a means for using his background in finance and city planning to channel his passion for urban communities and desire to magnify and improve the lives and relationships of people living in them. War Horse Cities CDC has been involved in a number of projects across the Baltimore area working in private equity, educational enhancement, and most recently sustainable foods. Their new field office is located on Hollins St, near Hollins Market.

COMMUNITY NEWS

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Free Public Outdoor Bike “Fix-It” Tool Station And Air Pump Installed In Hollins Market Area



Fix-It Bike Station and Air pump

The warmer seasons are approaching and days are getting longer which is a relief for most bike commuters. However, the joys of warm weather can be shattered by the annoyance of blowouts or flat tires due to the pressure increase and stress on your rubber tire. Because repairing a bike on such short notice can be stressful, the Southwest Baltimore community is striving to help bikers who may feel stranded get instant results. Hence the decision to place a bike Fix-It Station within the Southwest Partnership community of Hollins Market. The Fix-It Station is a free public access service that allows bikers to not only pump air into their bike tires, but also repair your bike with eight different tools such as

screwdrivers and Allen wrenches. Stephanie Compton, a bike commuter and project organizer for the Fix-It Station in Hollins Market, was inspired to place a Fix-It Station in our community after bonding with a neighbor over his flat tire. “I called out to him that he could use my bike pump. He didn’t just need an air pump, he needed a patch kit and the tools to do it” Stephanie said. Stephanie applied for the Southwest Partnership 2018 Event Grant sponsored by MECU to help with creating the station. Location of the Fix-It Station is in the parking lot between Hollins Market and Zella’s Pizzeria (1145 Hollins Street). The bike station’s official opening date was Sunday, May 6, 2018.

KEEP IT NEAT
FROM STOOP TO STREET.

March 31, 9-Noon
Franklin Square
Sun Village
220 N. Carey

May 26, 9-Noon
Union Square, Hollins & Barre
1122 Hollins SWP Parking Lot

July 28, 9-Noon
Poppleton
Greater Model Park
N. Schroeder & W. Lexington

September 29th, 9-Noon
Mount Clare & Pigtown
Traci Atkins Park
401 S. Stricker

COMMUNITY CLEAN UP!
All cleaning equipment will be provided. Just bring yourself...and maybe a friend or two!
FREE! Light Breakfast and Catered Lunch

Contact: Christine Verdin • christine.verdin@gmail.com • 424-215-9039

The mission of Southwest Partnership's community cleanups are to build community relationships and unify all seven neighborhoods through community beautification efforts. To volunteer for a cleanup or for more information about the project, contact Christine Verdin at christine.verdin@gmail.com

HIGHLIGHTS

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Southwest Partnership's Small Neighborhood Grant Winners Are Announced, Grant Applications Open in July



Blueprint image of renovations for vacant lot in 1800 block of West Saratoga St. The image above was created by a collaboration of individuals including the Franklin Square Community Association, OperationWinInLife CDC, Bon Secours Community Works Clean and Green Landscape Team, Bon Secours Baltimore, and residents of the blocks of 1800 Saratoga St., 1800 Mulberry St., 300 Fulton St., and 300 Monroe St.

Southwest Partnership awarded over \$30,000 to community residents, groups, and organizations to assist in projects that increase the vibrancy of public spaces, reduce blight, and improve the quality of life for area residents. The winners of the Small Neighborhood Grant are SAFE Alternatives Foundation, Union Square Association, Mount Clare Community Council, Franklin Square Community

Association, Black Cherry Puppet Theater, Barre Circle Neighborhood Association and the Southwest Garden Club. Projects using the Small Neighborhood Grant include expanding the SAFE Center Farm and Greenhouse in Poppleton and emergency roof repair for the Black Cherry Puppet Theater. However, projects are also geared towards community aesthetics including funding for neighborhood signage in Union Square, landscaping, furniture, signage and other improvements for vacant spaces along South Carey Street, West Pratt Street, and the 1300 block and 1800 block of West Saratoga Street. The next round of applications for the Southwest Partnership Small Neighborhood Grant begin July 1st and ending September 1st. For more information on how you can apply or if your project qualifies, contact us by email at grants@swpbal.org, or call 667-210-2105.

Southwest Partnership Semi-Annual Palooza Returns in September



Community members at Semi-Annual Palooza 2017

Come out and join your neighbors for a family fun day at our Semi-Annual Palooza event. Southwest Partnership's semi-annual event is a chance for our staff, board members, and committee members to meet face to face with

the residents they serve showcasing our latest community projects, grants, and gather feedback from the community. In this exciting event, you will learn what's happening in Southwest Baltimore while enjoying free food, games, prizes, family fitness, and a kid-zone area with a moon bounce and dunk tank. The Palooza will be **September 29, 2018** from **1pm to 4pm** at **Model Park**. Model Park is located behind Francis M. Wood High School on the corner of Lexington Street and Schroeder Street. To learn more information or to RSVP for the event, go to our website at www.southwestpartnershipbaltimore.org/palooza2018.

JOB RESOURCES

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Job Placement Program “Southwest Works” Works: The Success Story of Sandra Kendell



Sandra Kendell outside of University of MD, Baltimore

Finding a new job is difficult. According to an article from The Balance by Allison Doyle called How Long Does it Take to Find a Job, “experts have estimated it would take one month to find a job for every \$10,000 of the paycheck you would like to earn. So, in theory, if you were looking to earn \$60,000 a year your job search could take six months.” Although this may not be relevant to every job search, to help community members with the challenges of looking for work, Southwest Works was created. Southwest Works, a job placement program created by Southwest Partnership partnered with the Mayor’s Office of Employment Development (MOED), was designed to help Southwest Baltimore residents find and sustain quality jobs. Southwest Works helps clients create a resume or cover letter, accurately fill out online applications, job readiness by

facilitating mock interviews, obtain professional reference referrals, and many more. Sandra Kendell, a recent Southwest Works client can attest to the importance of the program. Kendell has been searching for employment since July 2017 and was introduced to Southwest Works through a flyer she saw. “At the time, I felt overwhelmed with the job search however when I reached out to Southwest Works and services at UMB’s Community Engagement Center I felt less overwhelmed. I felt like I hit the jackpot when I found these services in my community” says Kendell. Once connected to a career navigator, Sandra Kendell took a career assessment which asked her a series of personality questions. The results of the assessment would tell her exactly what career matched her personality and the education or certifications necessary to obtain such a job. If you do not have the needed education or certifications to be hired, Southwest Works can connect you to training opportunities within the South Baltimore area and free GED courses. After connecting with Southwest Works, Kendell found a career at The University of Maryland Baltimore in a matter of three months. “I did my part and you guys did your part and it was a great match for success,” says Kendell.

Southwest Works

Connecting Southwest Baltimore residents to good jobs and stable careers.

Our community Career Navigator is ready to assist Southwest Baltimore residents in finding great jobs within the South Baltimore area. Connect with Rachel for more information.

Rachel Goodrich
rgoodrich@oedworks.com
410-396-1052

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

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Block Captain Program Strives For Community Improvement Compared To Latest Reports



Block Captains at Neighborhood Institute 2018 (From left to right): Janeé Franklin, Wanda Perry, LaShawna Williams, José Resendiz.

Throughout the winter and spring seasons, Block Captains have made strides for community improvement increasing the use of Baltimore 311 by 21% within the Southwest Baltimore area. Besides Baltimore 311, block captains are seen all over the community dropping off flyers to local businesses, attending community events to spread information, and even hosting events of their own. The Block Captain Program, established in 2016, is a volunteer community outreach group created by Southwest Partnership (SWP) in collaboration with the University of Maryland Baltimore Community Engagement Center (CEC). The program consists of residents within seven Southwest Baltimore communities who demonstrate and improve healthy communication networks between residents, the University of Maryland Baltimore Community Engagement Center, and the Southwest Partnership. The seven communities within the program are Barre Circle, Poppleton, Pigtown, Franklin Square, Mount Clare, Hollins Roundhouse, and Union Square.

Block Captains act as community liaisons, sharing information from the Southwest Partnership and UMB Community Engagement Center to their neighbors which will increase community awareness during developmental change and the awareness of local resources. The goal of the program is to help residents gain control by becoming active participants in their neighborhood. Volunteers benefit from the Block Captain Program because they gain professional communication skills, great job references, and direct access to the Southwest Partnership and the UMB Community Engagement Center. For more information on the Block Captain Program, contact Southwest Partnership by email at swp_baltimore@swpbal.org or phone [667-210-2105](tel:667-210-2105).

They Did What? WOW! Block Captain Applaud



The Block Captain Program wants to applaud José Resendiz for his enduring commitment, exceptional dedication, and outstanding service to the Block Captain Program. José has shown leadership by using Baltimore 311

to report property blight and facilitating training events. José received the Block Captain Achievement Award for his efforts during the Southwest Partnership Annual in January. With deep appreciation, we want to thank you for your outstanding efforts which have made the difference between just being good and being great. We encourage you to continue your volunteer service with us, spreading awareness of the Block Captain Program and helping your community become a better place.

FEATURES

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Life Working For Southwest Partnership

Employees LaShawna, Ruth, and Rebecca (Becky) answer questions about the culture of Southwest Partnership and their experience working for the small non-profit organization.



From left to right: Rebecca (Becky), Ruth, and LaShawna

Q: What is your role at Southwest Partnership?

Ruth:

I'm a UMB intern who's job is to support workforce initiatives, grant writing, and other smaller projects.

Becky:

I'm a UMB intern working with the Education Committee and their Community School initiative. The community school initiative needed a planning year to be implemented to move forward, so I started on that – getting to know all the important people in the community and starting focus groups with them to find out what were the most concerning issues for them and all the strengths they had.

LaShawna:

I'm an AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteer In Service To America) sited at Southwest Partnership. My position is a Communications Coordinator. Here I try to maintain an effective communication network between all 7 SWP neighborhoods by organizing the outreach program called the Block Captain Program, creating a community resource guide for public use, and creating community newsletter such as the one you are reading now.

Q: Tell me about yourself? Name? Age? Hobbies?

Ruth:

Born and raised in Baltimore. Hobbies include reading books, articles, listening to podcasts, taking walks around Baltimore, and hanging out with friends.

Becky:

I'm 27, and currently a student at the University of Maryland Baltimore's School of Social Work. When I'm not in class, at SWP, or working at my part-time job at the gym, I like to swim, be outside, hike trails, and travel.

LaShawna:

I'm a warm-spirited 25 year old who loves to play video games, listen to music, watch anime, and dance.

Q: What has your experience at SWP taught you about yourself?

Ruth:

I've learned that I am definitely interested in community work and would like to continue with similar efforts after graduation.

Becky:

I have been able to learn a ton about community schools and that has influenced where I'd like to see myself professionally in the next few years.

LaShawna:

Working for SWP has taught me so much about myself. For example, it taught me to be confident when placed in leadership roles, time management, public speaking, and how to stop listening to respond but to listen for support and clarity.

Q: Describe the work culture of SWP?

Ruth:

Informal, inviting, welcoming.

Becky:

Fun such a free and open-ended internship

LaShawna:

Supportive, creative, informal.

Q: Any advice for future employees?

Ruth:

Do some things that make you uncomfortable, get to know some folks, and have fun!

Becky:

Keep on Keeping on!

LaShawna:

Before developing any new plans, learn the culture of the community, it's strengths and weaknesses. These things will help you navigate successfully through your time at SWP.

EVENTS

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**JULY
4TH
&
AUGUST
1ST** **SWP Workforce Development
Committee Meeting**
Location: Southwest Partnership (1138
Hollins St. Baltimore, MD 21223)
Time: 7pm

**JULY
5TH
&
AUGUST
2ND** **SWP Education Committee
Meeting**
Location: Vivian T. Thomas Medical
Arts Academy (100 N Calhoun St.
Baltimore, MD 21223)
Time: 7pm

**JULY
11TH
&
AUGUST
8TH** **SWP Housing Committee
Meeting**
Location: UMB Community
Engagement Center (870 W. Baltimore
St. Baltimore, MD 21201)
Time: 7pm

**JULY
17TH
&
AUGUST
21ST** **SWP Board Meeting**
Location: UMB Community
Engagement Center (870 W. Baltimore
St. Baltimore, MD 21201)
Time: 7pm

**JULY
18TH
&
AUGUST
15TH** **SWP Block Captain Meeting**
Location: UMB Community
Engagement Center (870 W. Baltimore
St, Baltimore, MD 21201)
Time: 6pm

**JULY
20TH
&
AUGUST
17TH** **SWP Workforce Roundtable**
Location: Bon Secours Community
Works (26 N. Fulton Ave, Baltimore, MD
21223)
Time: 3pm

**JULY
16TH
&
AUGUST
20TH** **SWP Historic Preservation
Committee Meeting**
Location: Irish Railroad Workers
Museum (918 Lemmon St. Baltimore,
MD 21223)
Time: 6pm

**JULY
24TH
&
AUGUST
28TH** **SWP Commercial Development
Committee Meeting**
Location: Suspended Brewery (912
Washington Blvd, Baltimore, MD 21230)
Time: 7pm

**JULY
25TH
&
AUGUST
22ND** **SWP Public Safety Committee
Meeting**
Location: Southwest Partnership (1138
Hollins St, Baltimore, MD 21223)
Time: 7pm

**JULY
26TH
&
AUGUST
23RD** **SWP Vibrant & Walkable Streets
Committee
Meeting**
Location: Southwest Partnership (1138
Hollins St, Baltimore, MD 21223)
Time: 7pm

**SEPT.
29TH** **SWP Semi-Annual Palooza**
Location: Model Park (behind Francis
M. Wood High School on the corner of
Lexington Street and Schroeder Street)
Time: 1pm - 4pm



Southwest Partnership

We are a partnership of...

7 Neighborhood Associations

6 Anchor Institutions

7 Committees



Barre Circle Community Association
Hollins Roundhouse Community Association
Citizens of Pigtown
Franklin Square Community Association
Mount Clare Community Council
Poppleton Now!
Union Square Association

Workforce Development
Commercial Development
Vibrant & Walkable Streets
Public Safety
Education
Housing
Historic Preservation

The University of Maryland Medical System
Bon Secours Baltimore Health System
The B&O Railroad Museum
The University of MD, Baltimore
The University of MD, BioPark
Wexford Science & Technology

We are residents, business owners, workers, visitors, church members, and partners who come together to create effective change. Our goal is to create strong communication networks, beneficial resources, and economic stability between all neighborhoods. At Southwest Partnership, we aim for cohesive communities of choice where our diversity is our strength.

www.southwestpartnershipbaltimore.org

