



Quarterly **Southwest** Review



Welcome Message



The first three months of this year have been a whirlwind of progress for Southwest Partnership. We hosted our first community Gala attracting over 150 residents and supporters out on the coldest (and most windy) day of 2026. We were not going to let bad weather keep us from celebrating the amazing work happening in our communities. From installing over 15 blocks of string lighting to successfully getting all of our neighborhoods into the [Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative](#), SWP continues to create partnerships that bring meaningful resources to our residents.

Over the winter, we have not been idle; we've been planning for a summer full of activities and programs with our partners to continue to build positive momentum in our neighborhoods. We have also hired a new Marketing Manager, who is improving how we communicate and coordinate across our neighborhoods about all those activities. Please [check out our calendar](#) to stay connected, and please share this report with your neighbors and anyone else interested in knowing more about what SWP is working on in Central Southwest Baltimore.

Tony Scott

Executive Director
Southwest Partnership

Keep Us In The Loop

Have a story, event, or neighborhood moment you think deserves to be featured in a future newsletter? We'd love to hear from you. Please reach out to Jakerya Randolph, Marketing Manager, at jakerya@swpbal.org to share ideas and help us continue highlighting the people, places, and progress that make Southwest Baltimore

Jakerya Randolph

Marketing Manager

Housing Development

Building Stable and Vibrant Neighborhoods



Exterior view of 109 Schroeder Street

We are working to strengthen housing stability and expand opportunities for homeownership across Southwest Baltimore. Through strategic partnerships, SWP is helping ensure residents can remain and thrive in their communities.

SWP is a recipient of funding through the Baltimore Vacants Reinvestment Initiative (BVRI) to tackle vacant housing according to our community-developed [Housing Action Plan](#). This spring marks an important milestone as construction begins at our first property—109 Schroeder Street—part of a broader whole-block redevelopment effort aimed at revitalizing vacant properties and bringing new life to the surrounding neighborhood. All houses developed with BVRI funding will be eligible for \$20,000 in downpayment assistance in addition to other City and State incentives to increase affordability for lower-income families.

SWP also continues its collaboration with the South Baltimore Land Trust (SBLT) to support permanent community ownership and affordability. Several organizations are working alongside Southwest Partnership to provide critical housing resources to residents.

Housing Happenings

Several organizations are working alongside Southwest Partnership to provide critical housing resources to residents:

- [Rebuilding Together Baltimore](#) - Partnering to provide home repair assistance for Southwest Baltimore residents.
- [HomeFree USA Housing Counseling](#) - Providing financial wellness and housing counseling services to help residents navigate homeownership.
- [Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative](#) - Providing below-market home improvement and home purchase products to help residents improve their existing homes or buy a new home at affordable rates.



Demolition underway at 109 Schroeder Street

To stay connected to this housing work, please attend [our monthly hybrid Housing Committee meeting every second Thursday](#).

Commercial Development

Supporting Local Businesses and Entrepreneurs

Southwest Baltimore's business community is on the move. This quarter, Southwest Partnership doubled down on its commitment to thriving neighborhood corridors — supporting local entrepreneurs, revitalizing commercial spaces, and building the kind of business networks that keep communities strong.

A key milestone this quarter: the reorganization of the SWP Commercial Committee, bringing business owners, community stakeholders, and development partners into closer collaboration than ever before. To mark the occasion, SWP hosted a Commercial Committee Business Mixer — a lively gathering of entrepreneurs and partners from across Southwest Baltimore, united by a shared vision for what's possible.



Photo from the February Commercial Committee Business Mixer

Commercial Development Improvement Program (CDIP)

The **Commercial Development Improvement Program**, supported by the **Maryland Department of Housing & Community Development (DHCD)**, is nearing completion after assisting local businesses with storefront upgrades and operational improvements.

SWP is currently working with eight local businesses to enhance their spaces and strengthen their long-term presence in Southwest Baltimore.

Businesses In Progress:

Here's a look at the commercial projects SWP is actively supporting this quarter:

- **Black Cat Bakery** — Equipment purchase currently in progress to support continued business operations.
- **Lil Ms. Butterfly** — Equipment purchase underway, with a newly installed awning now complete.
- **Bills Place and Baltimore Street Cafe**— A facade improvement is in the works for this corridor address. A rendering has been developed, and more details will be shared as the project advances.
- **Ramsey Art Gallery**— Exterior facade work is actively underway at this Hollins Street creative space.

Southwest Baltimore Business Owner Spotlight:

Knockout Cuts By Kevin, Owned by Kevin Richards



Meet Knockout Cuts by Kevin is located at Lombard & Carey in Union Square.

What started as a childhood hobby has grown into a barbershop that's been serving Southwest Baltimore since 2005. For nearly two decades, Kevin has provided precision cuts while creating a space rooted in community.

Knockout Cuts is more than a barbershop, it's part of the neighborhood's fabric.

Learn more about his business:

baltimorebarbers.com

Public Spaces & Organizing

Creating Safer and More Connected Neighborhoods

Southwest Partnership is supporting projects that enhance public safety, neighborhood connectivity, and shared community spaces throughout Southwest Baltimore. This quarter, several placemaking and safety initiatives are actively underway across Mount Clare, Hollins Market, and the Carroll Park Recreation Center corridor.

String Light Installations

New lighting improvements are underway across three focus areas to improve safety and visibility in neighborhood corridors:

Focus areas include:

- **Mount Clare**
- **Hollins Market**
- **Bayard/Herkimer/Washington Boulevard corridor, extending from Carroll Park Recreation Center**

Made possible through funding support from Pigtown Odd & Ends, string lights have been installed along nine block sides — improving visibility for youth traveling to and from programs at Carroll Park Recreation Center. Installation restarted in March and will be fully completed by the end of spring.



Installed string lights in the Mount Clare neighborhood

Current Placemaking Projects

Alley Gating Project In Mount Clare

A new alley gating initiative is moving forward in Mount Clare, with up to 16 gates planned across McHenry, Ramsey, Gilmore, Stricker, and Woodyear Streets. Led in partnership with the Mount Clare Community Council, the project aims to reduce illegal dumping, improve safety, and protect housing rehab investments from Make Space, SWP, and other developers. Contact safety@swpbal.org to learn more.

1300 Saratoga Street — Inner Block Park

Southwest Partnership and Bon Secours Community Works are transforming an overgrown interior lot at 1300 Saratoga Street into a cleaner, more accessible green space for Franklin Square residents. BRNI-funded, the upgrade builds on years of stewardship by the Franklin Square Community Association and complements nearby housing rehab work led by Bon Secours Unity Properties in partnership with Greater Harvest Baptist Church and BUILD — a true whole-block approach to community strengthening.

Get Involved In Southwest



To stay connected to these events and more, along with the latest updates, visit our calendar at swpbal.org/events. You can also follow the [SOWEBO Events Instagram account](#), a new collaboration between UMB, SWP, and the West Baltimore Renaissance Foundation.

Upcoming Events

Community Clean Up Days

Be part of a community clean-up on **April 11 and June 6, 9-12 PM**. Join your neighbors in keeping Southwest Baltimore beautiful, with a dumpster available at Gilmore and Hollins for easy drop-off.

Southwest Dumpster Days

SWP's Neighborhood Dumpster Days are back! Free community dumpsters are coming to the neighborhood on **April 11 (9AM-1PM) at 1331 Carroll Street, May 2 (9AM-1PM) at Scott & Pratt Streets, and June 6 (9AM-1PM) at 900 Bayard Street.**

Hollins Farmer's Market - April 18

The Hollins Community Farmer's Market launches April 18 and runs every third Saturday through October, 9AM-1PM at 1100 Hollins St, featuring fresh produce, local vendors, and great community energy.

Live Baltimore Trolley Tour - May 9

Join us for Live Baltimore's free Spring Trolley Tour on Saturday, May 9, 8AM-1PM at Mother Mary Lange Catholic School — a hands-on introduction to homebuying in Baltimore City with a spotlight on Southwest Baltimore neighborhoods, open to buyers at any stage of the process.

The Factory Anniversary - May 13

Join us Tuesday, May 13 from 4:00-6:30PM to celebrate The Factory's one-year anniversary — a milestone made possible by the community that brought this space to life. Follow [@westbaltren](#) on Instagram for updates.

SOWEBO Fest - May 24

Mark your calendars! Join us Sunday, May 24, 2026, from 12-8 PM around Hollins Market for SOWEBO Arts Festival — 43 years of art, music, and Southwest Baltimore spirit.

UMB Housing Fair - June 9

Happening at the Community Engagement Center, on Tuesday, June 9, 2026, this housing resource fair will connect Southwest Baltimore residents with developers, nonprofits, housing counselors, tax professionals, and more.

Public Safety Walk - June 24

Join us for our next Public Safety Walk on Wednesday, June 24 — we'll walk the neighborhood together with residents, community partners, and local leaders to identify concerns and work toward safer streets for everyone. **More details, including time and meeting location, coming soon!**

Thank You



This work is only possible because of you. We are deeply grateful to our community champions, residents, partners, and funders for your continued investment in Southwest Baltimore and your belief in our shared vision. Your contributions represent the true power of this community. We're grateful to do this work alongside you.



Get in Touch

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