



The GBA e-Gazette

Summer 2008



The Taste of Govanstowne 2008

What a fun day at the Senator Theatre!

Fifteen wonderful food establishments in our area provided delicious treats for us: **Atwater's, Neopol, Fractured Prune, Edible Arrangements, Ryan's Daughter, Egyptian Pizza, Negrill, Saigon Remembered, Zen West, Café Zen, Govans Old Trail Pub, Popeye's, Starbucks, Bombay Garden, Tam Tam African Restaurant.** Food was delicious and portions were large and plentiful!

Special thanks to our Taste of Govanstowne 2008 Sponsors!

Silver Sponsors included Provident Bank, Loyola Clinical Center at Belvedere and M&T Bank.

Bronze Sponsors included Enterprise Car Rental, Loyola College in Maryland, Jr. League of Baltimore, Penza Bailey Architects, Wallace H. Campbell & Company, Yama Studio. Patrons included Mid-Atlantic Muffler & Brake, Judy Mercier and Calvert School.



The Senator Theatre was the perfect venue for the event. Many neighbors also enjoyed massages and guitar music and won auction baskets. Thanks to all of our volunteers and attendees!

We appreciate all the feedback - with so many positive comments that we've heard - we know we'll see many of you again next year!



❖ Presenting the new Curran Memorial Clock Tower



The Dedication Ceremony was quite well attended, with many distinguished guests, including Governor Martin O'Malley and Judge Katie O'Malley, Lt. Governor Anthony Brown, Mayor Sheila Dixon, Ellen Curran (Mike Curran's widow), Joe Curran, Bobby Curran, many City Council members. With over 200 attendees, it was quite an event at the corner of York and Woodbourne. It was quite a scene even the day before, as the Department of Transportation, the Department of Parks and Recreation and Grass Roots Landscaping worked on the finishing touches to the site.



Memorial plaques have been included for J. Joseph Curran, Sr. and also for Martin E. "Mike" Curran, in commemoration of their many dedicated years of City Council service. Since the tower has been privately

funded, a third plaque lists those donors who made substantial contributions to this exciting project. We appreciate everyone's support and commitment to the Curran family and the Govanstowne community.

Special thanks to the Curran Memorial Committee and the Baltimore City Dept. of Transportation. They are currently coordinating the permanent electric power required for the clocks and chimes, as it is now only temporarily powered.

We hope everyone enjoys the new clocktower, as the latest community revitalization project.



GBA Businesses Fight against Crime

Please help fight against crime! **Business Crime Tips** from the Northern District and Baltimore County:

- Keep storefront windows and doorways clear of signs and posters, in order to allow natural surveillance. Robbers know that police cannot see into cluttered windows.
- Keep businesses well lit outside.
- Always have at least two employees working, especially at night.
- Practice good hiring techniques by checking references, and have good employees recommend other applicants.
- Keep side and back doors locked at all times and have employees use the main entrance.
- Advertise at the entrance that there is only a minimal amount of cash in the register, and that large bills are not accepted.
- Keep a minimum of cash in your cash drawer, and make regular drops into a safe.
- Vary banking routines, and carry cash in a variety of ways. Make your bank trips unpredictable, by varying times and locations of deposits.
- Watch for suspicious persons lurking outside businesses – especially in cars and phone booths.
- If someone is acting suspicious call 911.



Why hassle over the grass, weeds and leaves this Summer and Fall?

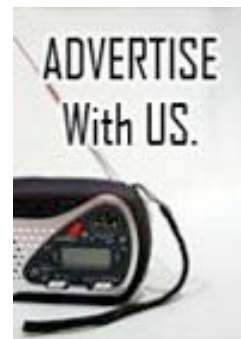
Grass Roots Landscaping Co. is a locally owned company, licensed and insured. A cut above the rest! Call Ira Burks now for a good rate: 410-241-2619, email/ iburks1@comcast.net

Advertise Your Business in the Gazette

Please help support our GBA Gazette publication. To help us defray costs of the newsletter, please consider placing an ad for your organization - or a note to the community or an individual. Advertise for the full year (six issues), and enjoy one free advertisement!

- Business Card size B/W - \$30.00/issue; \$150.00/six issues
- Quarter Page B/W - \$65.00/issue; \$325.00/six issues
- Half Page B/W - \$125.00/issue; \$625.00/six issues
- Full Page B/W - \$200.00/issue; \$1000.00/six issues

Ads are due to GBA by the GBA meeting dates to be included in the following Gazette publication.



Govanstowne Community Guide and Business Directory – coming soon

The new 2008-2010 Govanstowne Community Guide and Business Directory will be direct mailed to our surrounding zipcodes this Summer. We have been getting many calls about the directory, and we are now working on the final draft.

BUSINESS TRASH RESPONSIBILITIES: City Codes require that our businesses be maintained in good condition, including trash maintenance and clean sidewalks. **Business responsibilities include:**

- **Clean the front** of your business daily – businesses are responsible to maintain a clean sidewalk! It will make it more inviting for your customers, and also make a great first impression for prospective customers. Increase your profits!
- **Use trashcans with tight lids**, to properly rat/dog/bird-proof the trash containers. Trash bags for business trash are not acceptable. Each business may place up to four 20-gallon trashcans; businesses generating larger amounts of waste must arrange for private collection and disposal.
- **Do not use the street corner cans** along York Road. These cans are not intended for business trash, so please do not place your bags in these cans, which fill very quickly. Overflowing trashcans are not a welcoming sight for our community and citations have been issued.
- **Place trash out in the morning** of trash pickup, not the night before.



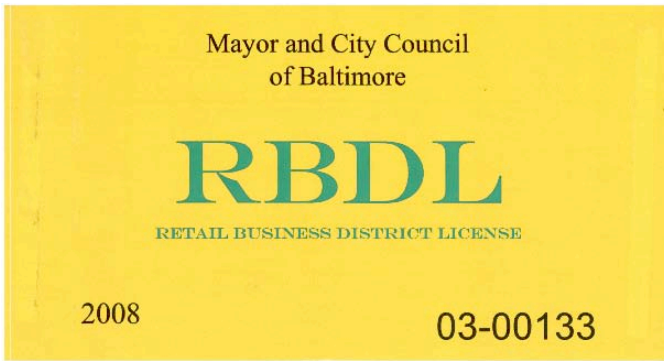
The east side of York Road is scheduled for Tuesday and Friday pickup, and the west side is scheduled for Monday and Thursday pickup. If your business opens after the early morning trash pickup, please make arrangements for someone to place your trash out early in the morning.

If any of these items is difficult for your business, for whatever reason, please contact GBA. We are currently gathering specific sanitation issues in Govanstowne – please let us know your concerns!



RBDL Certificates now on display – what does this mean?

It's hard to miss our new bright yellow and green certificates!



New RBDL certificates are now provided by the City to all businesses that are in good standing. RBDL (Retail Business District License) fees are collected by Baltimore City from all businesses located within ten designated business districts throughout the City. The funds are used by the individual districts to create an annual budget, which is approved by the general membership at the Annual Meetings.

The Govanstowne Business Association (GBA) Board of Directors, comprised of members from each area, including York-Belvedere, York-Woodbourne and York-

Coldspring, oversees the spending of these funds, which are used to promote and enhance the interests of the business members. RBDL funds have been used for proactively marketing and pursuing new businesses to join the York Road corridor. In addition to the informative GBA website and the Community Guide and Business Directory, GBA promotes business incentive programs and improvements projects, especially promoting the façade improvement grants available, and community events.

Enterprise Zone (EZ) Benefits – a bright idea!

If you think you might **hire a new employee** or **make improvements** (interior or exterior) to your property in 2009, you won't want to miss these tax credits available to the Govanstowne business district. **Even if you are not sure, there is nothing to lose and the forms are simple.**

- **Employee Tax Credit:** For new hires, the credit is a one-time (per hire) **\$1000.00 credit** against taxes, subtracted directly from income tax liability.
- **Real Property Tax Credit:** For renovations, the credit is a 10-year credit against local real property tax improvements - 80% of the taxes due on assessed value of improvements for the first 5 years, then reducing down (10% increments) to 30% in 10th year!

If you missed the opportunity this year, apply for EZ Certification today and take advantage of this opportunity for next year! Contact Elizabeth Weiblen (BDC EZ Administrator 410-396-9305) for additional information.



Community Bulletin Board

CARES needs to restock its pantry at St. Mary's. Summers have always been difficult for the food pantry. This year, with the rising price of food and fuel, is no exception. We are all feeling the squeeze on our income, but this has been particularly hard for our clients at CARES. When out doing your grocery shopping, don't forget to pick up a few extra items for CARES! The pantry has a real need for **Peanut Butter, Jelly, Spaghetti, Spaghetti Sauce, Tuna, Rice, Macaroni & Cheese and Pasta**

Please drop off donations at CARES on Wednesday's from 9am or 12pm. CARES is located in the back of St. Mary's Catholic Church at 5502 York Road, Baltimore, MD.

If you are unable to drop off a donation at this time, please call 410-433-2442 to make arrangements.



FOR SALE: Kings Kidzlearning Center, 5820 York Road, is closing the center on August 22, 2008. If you are interested in purchasing a deep freezer, commercial refrigerator, tables, office chairs, toys, blocks, manipulatives, books, easels, etc., etc., call Turrayar Fizer, 410-433-2840.

GBA Façade Facelift Program

Thanks to Community Legacy and Neighborhood BusinessWorks grant funding and BDC Façade Improvement Grant (FIG) grant funding

Businesses - We have \$\$\$ for Your Façade Improvements!

We want to help you improve your building improvement! GBA has already been awarded State grant money for Façade Improvements in the Govanstowne business district. **Funds are available** on a first come first serve basis, while account lasts – call GBA today! We have had so much interest in this program that funds are depleting rapidly and we are considering an application for additional funds. Here are two completed improvement projects (more featured in next edition!):

Tax Express @ 5510 York Road



BEFORE



AFTER

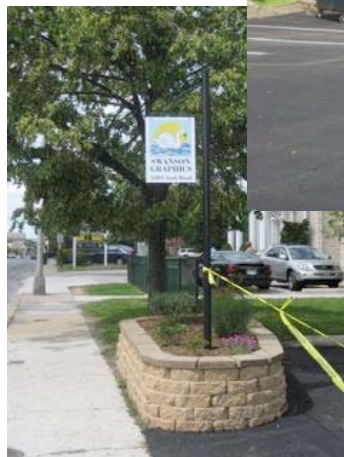
Swanson Graphics @ 5205 York Road



BEFORE



AFTER



New Sign and Planter

GBA Board Members 2008-2009

- ❖ YORK–BELVEDERE: **Bruce Campbell**, Wallace H. Campbell; **Tom Kiefaber**, The Senator Theatre; **Joan Flynn**, Loyola College; **Donal Doyle**, Ryan's Daughter Irish Pub; Marty Bacon, Van Dyk & Bacon Shoes; **Maria Johnson**, Wise Penny (*GBA Vice President*)
- ❖ YORK–WOODBOURNE:; **Richard Swanson**, Swanson Graphics (*GBA Past President*); **Laura Penza**, Penza Bailey Architects (*GBA President*); **Ken Macko**, **James Krantz**, Enterprise Car Rental; **George Davis**, Provident Bank
- ❖ YORK–COLDSRING: **Ed Stude**, Mid-Atlantic Muffler & Brake (*GBA Treasurer*); **Latavia Ehoize**, Nappee By Nature; **Sean McFadden**, 43rd Flavor Barber & Beauty Shop; **Steve Sturgis**, Atlas Auto Service
- ❖ NON–VOTING; **Kristen Forsyth**, BDC (Comm. Revitalization); **Louise Harris**, Mid-Govans Community; **Officer Jon Walter**, Northern District; **Rev. Dr. Eric T. Campbell**, Holy Comforter; **Rosemary Thompson**, GEDCO, **Mica Fetz**, Baltimore Main Streets; **Tori Soudan**, Morgan State

The GBA business district extends from the city/county line to 43rd street, along the York Road corridor (approximately 250 businesses). Our objective is to promote and enhance the interests of the business members. For more information about GBA, please visit the **GBA website**, www.govanstowne.org.
Contact GBA: P.O. Box 39278, 21212, 410-433-8289, e-mail: govanstowne@aol.com

All businesses are encouraged to join us for the next

GBA Business Meeting

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Breakfast and previous Meeting Minutes review at 8:30am, Meeting 9:00am – 10:30am

Jerry's Belvedere Tavern, 5928 York Road

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Wishing you a safe and enjoyable Summer!

The Govanstowne Business Association



WWW.GOVANSTOWNE.ORG