

# GREEKTOWN CDC



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Colonel John E. Gavrilis

## Message from Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer, John E. Gavrilis

Greektown has seen great progress over the past few months. Athena Square began building another new row of townhomes and Kettler, a Virginia based developer is ready to break ground as early as this summer. Our Healthy Neighborhood designation has created a lot of interest by homeowners. With the coming of Spring it was wonderful to see many Greektown neighbors participate in the City's Spring Clean Up, Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake even stopped by to help clean our community and award the CDC with a citation! We need your help to continue our momentum, please join us in our efforts to ensure Greektown's success.



**Believe in your community!**



The Healthy Neighborhoods program has started and is now processing existing loans. They will soon be ready to start new applications on the Greektown target blocks!

Take advantage of our Healthy Neighborhoods initiative; there are special incentives to the program that include low interest mortgages and matching grants. The target blocks are 500-600 Lehigh, Macon Street and Newkirk Street, 600-900 Oldham Street and Ponca

Street. The homeowners may qualify for loans and community block grants. Those qualifying residents have access to interest rates at 4%. For details, please call us at 410-327-3306 to schedule an appointment.

**Quality of Life** The Greektown CDC has requested and received assistance from the Baltimore City Department of Public Works (DPW) to ensure cleaner sewers. DPW has placed the Eastern Avenue sewer line on a bi-annual maintenance schedule to prevent sewage back-ups to our residents.

On April 17, 2010 many neighbors came out to clean our community. Thanks to the City for supplying brooms, shovels, bags and a dumpster. When we all pitch in, it makes a difference.

## IMPORTANT DATES!

May 15 @ 10:00 am Community Clean Up and Dumpster, 700 block of Quail Street

June 10 -13. St. Nicholas Greek Folk Festival, 520 Ponca Street

June 15 @ 6:00 pm Community Meeting, St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

August 3 @ 7:00 pm National Night Out

August 14 @ 10:00 am Community Clean Up and Dumpster, 700 block of Quail Street

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## Mentoring Program

The Greektown CDC facilitated a trip to the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) for the 7th and 8th grade aspiring artists of John Ruhrah Elementary/Middle School. This mentoring day was focused on fostering the individual talents of these students while providing them with a set of obtainable goals to pursue these talents. The students met with MICA recruiters, met with college students and participated in an art project. Special thanks to the administration of MICA for providing such a wonderful tour, the students were very appreciative! Rebecca Barringer was recently awarded a citation from Mayor Stephanie-Rawlings Bake for her efforts in the mentoring program. Congrats!



Greektown hosted the annual Greek Independence Day Parade on March 21, 2010. We were joined by a Delegation from Greece, Mayor of Baltimore and other local elected officials, members of the Greek Orthodox churches from Maryland, dance groups, marching bands, Greek organizations, community groups, Spartan warriors and hundreds of spectators. The Greektown CDC is proud to have participated in this recent parade. We plan to continue the strong partnership with the newly formed parade committee Chairpersons Emmanuel Matsos and George Stakias.

## Farewell and Good Luck!

Jason Filippou, our Executive Director, has resigned to seek other job opportunities and explore public service. Jason was an asset to our organization and we wish him success in his future endeavors.

## COMMITTEE NEWS

The Greektown CDC has active committees comprised of community residents dedicated to different aspects of community development. These are their updates:

*The Green Committee* has successfully planted 11 new trees on the 300 block of South Newkirk Street and expect many more. They are looking for more residents to request trees on their blocks to help green the neighborhood.

*The Planning Committee* has made headway into creating new Greektown signage on the corner of Oldham and O'Donnell Streets that will help identify the neighborhood.

*Latino Affairs committee* had helped participate in the recent Greektown Health Fair by inviting Latino residents throughout the Southeast Baltimore community.

*The John Ruhrah Affairs Committee* continues to take the lead on the mentoring program and has three more mentoring days set up for the end of the school year, including a trip to the US Naval Academy.

*The Housing Committee* has participated in the recent Healthy Neighborhoods workshop and is now ready to start taking applicants for the program, please call the CDC to join this committee.

To join a committee and meet the fantastic residents who are making them effective, please call Greektown CDC at 410-327-3306.

