We are Building a Playground!

Sinai Hospital, Park Heights Renaissance and Neighborhoods United are building a playground at 4921 Park Heights Avenue. Your help is needed to prepare for this exciting day!

On October 30th, 2016, 8:30AM-3:30PM volunteers from Neighborhoods United, Park Heights Renaissance and Sinai Hospital will build a great new place for kids to play in ONE day. If you can’t volunteer with us on Sunday, come out for the prep day on Friday, October 28th, 8:00AM-4:00PM.

Sinai Hospital embarked on this project to commemorate the hospital’s 150th anniversary, wanting to share the celebration with the people in their community. The project is in partnership with KaBOOM!, the national non-profit dedicated to giving kids the childhood they deserve by bringing play to those who need it most.

To volunteer please email Shakera Lawson at slawson@phrmd.org or 410-664-4890 x114.
You might have noticed a transformation with blight occurring in Park Heights. The team behind that amazing change is the Park Heights Renaissance Clean and Green Team: The Transformers. If you want the Clean and Green Transformer Team to green a nuisance lot, follow the steps below:

1. Call 311 to report the lot
2. Write down your service request number, SRN
3. Call 410-664-4890 and ask to speak to Ms. Baker
4. Give Ms. Baker your SRN, the date you called 311, the address of the abandoned lot, and your contact information
5. You will be placed on a service work request list

Please be aware that the Clean and Green Transformer Team is in high demand. All work request are completed in the order in which we have received calls.

### Monthly Water Billing is Coming!

This October your water bill will change! Water bills will have a new look and will start arriving on a monthly basis. Everyone who receives a City water and sewer bill will see these changes.

The new easy-to-read monthly bill will make it easier to manage monthly household budgets, discover unusual water usage or leaks sooner, and allow customers to monitor how much water is used. The Department of Public Works, DPW, is also adding an online, password-protected website that will show hourly water usage and other account information.

Customers will also now be billed based on the amount of water used instead of a predetermined minimum. Minimum billing charges will be eliminated.

Finally, DPW is proposing a three year package of rate increases of 9.9 percent for water and 9 percent for sewer each year. However, due to the elimination of minimum billing and the change to the rate structure, the impact will vary depending on meter size and consumption. To calculate how these changes may impact your bill, DPW has developed an online interactive tool under the “New Water Billing System” tab on their website.

For more information on the new water billing system changes, rate impact calculation, water bill payment assistance and other information, please visit the DPW website, [http://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/new-water-billing-system](http://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/new-water-billing-system), or call 410-396-3835.

### Introducing James Ashford

James Ashford is the new Northwest District Planner for Baltimore City. James recently joined the Baltimore City Planning Department from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), where he worked on HOPE VI and Choice Neighborhoods planning and implementation grants. James is excited to join the comprehensive planning team in his new role and he looks forward to working closely with community members and neighborhood organizations in Park Heights and the NW District. He welcomes the opportunity to provide guidance on planning and redevelopment issues, to share updates on zoning and other relevant City Council bills, and to serve as the community planning contact for Park Heights. He will also be working closely with the Pimlico Community Development Authority (PCDA). You can contact James with any questions or to simply introduce yourself. He can be reached by phone at (410) 396-2929, and via e-mail at james.ashford@baltimorecity.gov.
**inspire**

Through the 21st Century Schools Initiative, Baltimore City Public Schools, in partnership with the Maryland Stadium Authority, Baltimore City, and the State, is investing nearly one billion dollars to renovate or replace schools over the next several years. The Department of Planning is leading an initiative for the neighborhoods surrounding each of the new or renovated schools called INSPIRE, which stands for Investing in Neighborhoods and Schools to Promote Improvement, Revitalization, and Excellence. Arlington Elementary Middle School and Pimlico Elementary Middle School (EMS) are both part of the 21st Century Initiative.

The Department of Planning in partnership with Park Heights Renaissance and Neighborhoods United recently hosted a community meeting to gather feedback on INSPIRE projects in the Pimlico EMS area. INSPIRE plans strive to partner with organizations and prioritize ongoing citywide initiatives. Throughout the INSPIRE planning process at Pimlico, the community has expressed concerns about vacant lots and the lack of clean and safe open space that can be used by youth and other community members. Directly across from the school on Pimlico Road is a vacant lot. INSPIRE has partnered with the Office of Sustainability’s Growing Green Initiative (GGI), which is a City-led effort to use sustainable, innovative, and cost-effective practices for stabilizing and holding land for redevelopment. GGI focuses on reusing vacant land to green neighborhoods, reduce stormwater runoff, grow food, and create community spaces that mitigate the negative impacts of vacant properties and set the stage for growing Baltimore.

INSPIRE and GGI have hosted several community design meetings, and the University of Maryland Landscape Architecture School led a collaborative design workshop with the students at Pimlico. Utilizing funding from GGI, Champion Hruby, a landscape architecture firm has used all the feedback to create a design for the transformation of the lots, and CivicWorks will be implementing the plan for a clean and beautified community managed open space this fall.

Safe Streets Park Heights has done it again. Through the dedication and hard work of the Safe Streets staff, the program is celebrating over 420 days without a shooting in the 612 police post of lower Park Heights. The team of seven are truly passionate about making a lifetime difference in the community that they love.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

Arlington Elementary Middle School Food Pantry
October 15, November 19, December 17
9:00AM-11:00AM
3705 West Rogers Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215

Expungement Clinic • October 20
12:00PM-3:00PM
Safe Streets Office
3939 Park Heights Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215

The Mayor’s Fall Clean Up • October 22

KaBoom Playground Prep Day • October 28
8:00AM-4:00PM
4921 Park Heights Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215

Wise Money Management • October 29
11:00AM-3:00PM
3939 Reisterstown Road
Suite 176
Baltimore, MD 21215

KaBoom Playground Build • October 30
8:30AM-3:30PM
4921 Park Heights Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215

Special thanks to Baltimore Housing, The Baltimore City Planning Department, The Pimlico Community Development Authority, and the Mayor’s Office of Economic & Neighborhood Development for their continued support of Park Heights Renaissance and their contributions to this newsletter.