



Ashburton NEWS LETTER



Ashburton Area Association

Baltimore, MD

www.ashburtoncommunity.com

Summer 2008

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SPECIAL POINT OF INTEREST

Ashburton Area Association meeting Tuesday, July 8th at 7pm at Hanlon Park Pavilion

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Neighbors,

Summer is here!!! I really look forward to the blooming flowers that beautify many Ashburton homes. So many neighbors are adding tremendous "curb appeal" by adding lots of color, hardscape, and beautiful water features.

While we can enjoy all the beauty that summer offers it is very important to be mindful of safety. According to the Burglary Prevention Council, which keeps statistics nationwide on where intruders break in; summertime is peak season for house thefts. The good news: You don't need an expensive high-tech alarm system. A few well-placed (and low-priced) locks and security devices will do the trick.

- **Garage:** A side-mounted indoor lock maybe a tad inconvenient, but it offers extra security in case burglar bypasses your electronic garage-door opener
- **First-Floor Windows:** You need sash locks, of course, but easy-to-reach windows should get double protection. This wireless alarm system sounds off every time a window is opened to scare away would-be intruders.
- **Front Door:** Most break-ins occur here, so invest in a solid, pick resistant deadbolt lock (and remember to lock it!) An added step: Keep your outdoor entry light on a timer so it illuminates your house at night.
- **Second Floor:** It's easy to overlook areas that are high off the ground. Make sure all your windows have sash locks, which come in many different styles.
- **Basement:** Motion-activated security lights near grade-level windows or entrances give prowlers nowhere to hide.

Most importantly, every neighbor must stay vigilant if we are to keep Ashburton safe. Don't hesitate to report suspicious activity.

Finally, please join the neighbors in Hanlon Park under the pavilion on July 8th at 7pm. We'll have food and drinks but please feel free to bring something out to share with the neighbors.

Enjoy your vacations and summer!!

Kendra Watts Abaidoo

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

BALTIMORE FARMERS' MARKET Fresh fruits, vegetables, breads, organic foods, smoked meats, cheeses, artwork, crafts, and more fill the state's largest producers-only market, Sundays, now until -December 21, 8am-noon

BALTIMORE'S FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION

An array of entertainment throughout the day culminating with a fireworks spectacular Friday, July 4, 2008 fireworks at 9:30, Inner Harbor

CARIBBEAN CARNIVAL FESTIVAL , July 11-13

Traditional island costumed parade; soca, reggae, and steel drum bands; live international entertainment, elaborate costumes, and Caribbean cuisine.

ARTSCAPE 2008

The region's premier celebration of the arts on **July 18-20** featuring continuous musical performances by local, regional and national talent on four outdoor stages, with crafts and works of art for sale, opera and dance performances.

FESTAFRICA, August 9 & 10

an African festival with traditional music, dances, food, crafts and art, Saturday & Sunday noon - 8 p.m., Patterson Park at Linwood and Eastern Avenues

BALTIMORE BOOK FESTIVAL, September 26-28

The mid-Atlantic's premier celebration of the literary arts offers well-known authors, local bookstores, publishers, children's writers, storytellers, author signings, crafts, refreshments and entertainment

3 Steps Towards "Going Green"

by Donald Chambers

1. Almost 50% of the energy used in homes is for heating and cooling, move your thermostat down 2 degrees in the winter and up 2 degrees in summer, you could save almost 2,000 pounds of carbon dioxide.
2. Planting a tree can absorb a ton of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere over the life of the tree, as well as reducing energy costs with its shade.
3. Properly inflated tires can improve gas mileage by more than 3 percent keeping 20 pounds of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere for every gallon of gas saved.
4. Most importantly don't forget to recycle.

Ashburton Block Party/Homecoming – September 9, 2008

Mark your calendars! The 9th annual Ashburton Block Party/ Homecoming is coming in September. Plans are underway to have a great time again this year on Dorchester Road (at Hilton Rd). We will have food, entertainment, children's games, adult card games, music, dancing, vendors; honoring the elders; recognizing residents of Ashburton for 40 or more years; recognizing new residents, returning residents; and having an overall good time.

As usual, it's the volunteers that make the block party such fun. You can be among the many who each year contribute desserts, favorite dishes, sodas; games, entertainment, equipment; the finding of vendors; help with clean up; and whatever else is needed in the planning and operation of the block party. You can also make financial donations, which are very much appreciated. Please make your contribution known by calling **Bea Scott 410-367-1302 or Kendra Watts Abaidoo 410-664-7899.**

Bess Family Aquatic Gardens in Ashburton

If you want to give yourself a real treat, take a short trip on over to the corner of Liberty Heights Ave and Cedarale Rd (3506 Liberty Hts) and enjoy the fascinating ponds of George and Barbara Bess. They built their first pond in 1990 in their back yard and eventually it transformed into a series of six connecting ponds along with a gazebo. The Bess Family enjoy sharing the beauty of the ponds and are used to lots of attention. In fact, classrooms of excited children are occasionally brought over for them to have the “pond habitat” learning experience.

Mr. Bess has become quite an expert on Japanese koi and on the building and maintenance of ponds. He’s the “go to” person in Ashburton about ponds and is always ready to offer guidance and information. In fact, Mr. Bess and his associate, Sylvester Carr, have helped numerous others get their ponds up and going.

The Bess Family, along with other Ashburton residents, were features in an August 1997, Baltimore Magazine article on ponds. The group, called Urban PondScapers, also had a pictorial showing of their ponds at the Baltimore Aquarium. If you are the owner of an Ashburton pond, please let the Ashburton Association know so that we can feature your pond in an upcoming newsletter. Call 410-664-7899.

Become an Author This Summer!

www.AshburtonStories.com

Your child can become the author of a published book this summer! And so can you. Now, family members can tell the stories and preserve cherished memories and pictures in hardbound storybooks that will last for generations. Imagine your child engaged in making his/her own book - expressing thoughts and feelings with the written word; seeing himself on the cover (maybe with Grandma, a sibling or parent). Imagine your child interviewing family members or telling about friends, school or about special interests – in his book. Imagine younger persons helping seniors to preserve their precious memories and photos in a book!

The Ashburton Area Association now has its own book-making website with Heritage Makers! Reasonably priced 21 page storybooks (or more pages) can be created by you over the internet and then shipped directly to you. All you have to do is go to our website at: www.ashburtonstories.com and learn all about it. Then get your family started on celebrating its heritage! Get those old pictures out and preserve them in a book. Celebrate births, family reunions, special occasions. You can direct your questions to our resident expert on the subject, Bea Scott, at 410-367-1302. And, if you want to see the electronic version of Bea's own storybook, "Elders In My Life" via email, contact her at: beascott2@msn.com she'll email it to you. We look forward to developing many new authors in Ashburton (also the extended Ashburton family everywhere) and to the many stories that speak to our lives.

“I want you to be concerned about your next door neighbor. Do you know your next door neighbor?”

Mother Teresa



Dues and Support Contribution Invoice

Select your category and bring to the next community meeting or mail this invoice and your check, payable to:

Ashburton Area Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 67132

Baltimore, MD 21215

Individual Household Membership \$20.00

Non-Profit Supporter \$50.00- \$99.00

Business Supporter \$100.00 to \$150.00

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Committee Interest _____

Save the Dates for 2008

General Body Meetings

Tuesday, July 8 (held at Hanlon Park)

Tuesday, Sept 9

Tuesday, Nov 11

Special Events

Block Party - Saturday, September 13

Holiday Party - Tuesday, December 9

Ashburton Area Association
P.O. Box 67132
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

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