

Bmore City Center

The Newsletter of the City Center Residents Association

Issue 6. Spring 2019



It's Spring in City Center . . . and the CCRA is hard at work building community and putting a fresh face on our neighborhood! Our Aesthetics & Infrastructure Committee has launched a monthly community clean up program. Anyone and everyone is invited to join us. Our team convenes at Center Plaza at 10:00am on the last Saturday of every month. We then head to that month's target block(s) for a morning of cleaning, sweeping, trash collecting, planting, and community camaraderie! Launched in February, our first two clean ups (February 23rd and March 30th) have met with great success. *(continued at Page 3)*

Mission

The City Center Residents Association (CCRA) serves and supports our neighborhood by building community among residents, engaging all stakeholders, advocating for residents, and promoting Baltimore's City Center as a great place to live and locate businesses that meet our residents' needs.

Bmore Transit

E-scooters are all the buzz—so much so that CCRA President Bill King was recently invited to speak on a panel about their impact on our community. *(continued at "Bmore Transit," Page 6)*



Above. Members of the CCRA's Aesthetics & Infrastructure Committee ready supplies for the February clean-up. *From left to right:* Committee Co-Chair Ethan Burbridge (who brought the bags and gloves), Committee Member Mark Chaffer, and CCRA Board Member and Committee Co-Chair Sue Carlin (ready for the cold weather!).



President's Message

Thanks for your interest in Baltimore's City Center Residents Association (CCRA)! Our team is off to a roaring start this year! Inside this edition of *Bmore City Center*, you'll find exciting updates from our Aesthetics & Infrastructure, Safety & Security, Events & Community Service, and Retail & Development committees!

Their accomplishments so far this year include—

- Launching a monthly community clean up initiative
- Launching a monthly happy hour series
- Preparing a survey asking how residents use City Center's parks and public spaces (and exploring how we can improve those spaces going forward)
- Drafting a one-pager of public safety and community improvement resources tailored just for residents

... and there's much more on the way!

As always, their efforts are supported by the CCRA's Finance & Fundraising and Communications & Social Media committees (which get less of the glory, but deserve equal credit)! It's not too late to get involved. If you'd like to join a committee, fill out our interest form at <http://citycenterresidents.org/committees/>.

City Center is welcoming some exciting new retailers this year, including the recently opened Alexander Brown Restaurant and R&R Taqueria. They are both excellent spots, and we look forward to seeing you at our neighborhood happy hour at Alexander Brown on July 25th!

It's a great time to be in City Center! As always, please feel free to reach out with any questions by emailing president@citycenterresidents.org.

To advertise in our next quarterly newsletter, email ccrafinance@gmail.com.

Thanks for reading!
-Bill King, President



Baltimore BEACH

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

Beginner-Expert League Play
Sixes, Fours & Doubles
coed, men, women & junior divisions

20th Anniversary of Fun Competition

Professional Grade! equipment, sand & courts

Free Weekend Play
Validated Parking
for league players

"The Beach" also has clinics, tournaments, hosts parties, corporate team-building and charitable events

BaltimoreBeach.com

Bmore Clean & Green

(Continued from cover feature) On February 23rd, and again on March 30th, a dedicated band of City Center residents and our community partners braved the cold to collect trash from vacant lots, parks, streets, and sidewalks on City Center's west side. The February clean up (our first ever) was the definition of a grass roots effort! Committee Co-Chair Ethan Burbridge arrived with a plastic shopping back full of large green trash bags and gloves. Our team geared up and got to work, ultimately filling several large trash bags full of bottles, bags, take-out containers, napkins, and various paper products that had been strewn around the neighborhood. We made some friends along the way, including long-time residents and property owners, who praised our efforts and even volunteered to pitch in.

Kristen Mitchell, the Executive Director of our long-time community partner the Market Center Merchants Association (who has hosted similar clean ups in the past) joined us at the March clean up and has pledged to provide additional support and supplies anytime our team goes out! At that second clean up, committee member Myron Burkholder had the great idea to bring a luggage scale to document the volume of trash collected. Within a few hours, our team removed a whopping 400+ pounds of garbage!

Our next event will be a special Arbor Day tree planting, scheduled for the morning of Saturday, April 27th! Email ccra.aestheticsinfrastructure@gmail.com for more information about our clean and green programs!



Above and Below. Some of the many "before and after" images captured during the March clean up.



Somebody Call 3-1-1!

When our team is not out hitting the pavement, they're coordinating with local leaders to get even more work done around the neighborhood!

The CCRA's own Myron Burkholder has led the charged, filing a series of "311 requests" for the city to clean up various vacant and city-owned properties on City Center's west side.

Thanks to Myron's careful work and perseverance, and the support of Councilman Eric Costello, several blocks on City Center's west side have now gotten a clean scrub courtesy of the City of Baltimore!

Thanks, Myron . . . And thank you, Councilman Costello!



Bmore Yearbook

On Wednesday, December 12, 2018, City Center residents and our community partners gathered to celebrate the first Annual Meeting of the City Center Residents Association. The event was generously sponsored and hosted by our long-time supporter, the Lord Baltimore Hotel. Many thanks to Lee Johnson, Heather Johnson, and the entire LB team for their unwavering enthusiasm for City Center Baltimore's rapidly growing residential community!



Above. City Center residents and community partners gather at the Lord Baltimore Hotel on December 12, 2018 to celebrate the CCRA's first Annual Meeting.

The night began with a neighborhood update delivered by Councilman Eric Costello, followed by a Q&A session. CCRA President Bill King delivered brief remarks on the history of the CCRA, touching on the CCRA's many accomplishments during its founding years. Since the summer of 2016, the CCRA has hosted over 20 neighborhood events and launched advocacy efforts on a myriad of issues impacting the residents of City Center.

Right. Baltimore City Councilman Eric Costello and CCRA President Bill King address the crowd at the CCRA's Annual Meeting.



Above. The CCRA presented its 2018 Neighborhood Impact Award to the organizers of Charm City Night Market. *From Left to Right:* CCRA Vice President Alexa Milanytch presenting the award; representatives of The Chinatown Collective posing with the award.

Photos by John Czczulin.

In addition to electing new officers and directors to the 2019 CCRA Board, the CCRA awarded its 2018 Neighborhood Impact Award to The Chinatown Collective for putting on the wildly successful Charm City Night Market in September of 2018. We look forward to seeing all that CCRA will accomplish before our next Annual Meeting, currently scheduled for November of this year.

In partnership with the Baltimore City Health Department and local Community Partners

BALTIMORE



AIDS WALK & MUSIC FESTIVAL

Presented by **Quest Diagnostics**

Sunday, June 9, 2019

Registration opens 8 a.m.
Event 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Power Plant Live! and Inner Harbor
34 Market Place
Baltimore, MD 21202

HIV ENDS WITH US

U=U | Undetectable =
Untransmittable

Are **U** in the Conversation?

Funds raised from the 2019 AIDS Walk & Music Festival support local community organizations with HIV/AIDS programming and Chase Brexton Health Care's Infectious Diseases Center of Excellence.

www.BALTIMOREAIDSWALK.org

Bmore Transit

(Continued from cover) On April 1, 2019, a delegation of state and local government officials from Philadelphia, and members of the greater Philly business and non-profit communities, visited Baltimore to learn more about the e-scooters that descended on our city last year. Baltimore is considered something of a trailblazer on account of its active response to the scooter “drop”—working with Bird and Lime to launch a pilot program, releasing a survey to gather perspectives on the scooters, and now crafting a system of regulations that will hopefully pave the way for safe enjoyment of these new gadgets for years to come.



Above. Visitors from Philadelphia meet with transit leaders to discuss the impact of Lime, Bird (and now others!) scooters in Baltimore.

CCRA president Bill King was invited to speak on a lunch panel on this topic, representing the perspective of residents of Baltimore’s downtown core—a neighborhood heavily trafficked by e-scooters. Bill relayed the general sense of optimism and excitement about the scooters that has been communicated by members of our community, but did note certain safety concerns that have been raised, including unsafe operation of the scooters (usually by juveniles) and concerns about parked scooters blocking pedestrian walkways. **Fellow panelists included Councilman Leon Pinkett, John Laria (Chair of the Mayor’s Bicycle Advisory Commission), Meg Young of the Baltimore City Department of Transportation, and representatives of the non-profit Bikemore.**

Many thanks to Bikemore Executive Director Liz Cornish for inviting us to participate!

Annapolis Update

This spring, the Maryland General Assembly passed a bill that has transit advocates cheering! HB 130, sponsored by our own Delegate Robbyn Lewis, may be a giant leap forward in the war to improve bus transportation in Baltimore. If enacted into law, it will require the Maryland Transit Administration (“MTA”) and the Baltimore City Department of Transportation (“DOT”) to study and analyze dedicated bus lane enforcement mechanisms in use by peer transit agencies and develop an enforcement plan.



Interested in transit-related issues?

You can get in touch with our Board member (and transit guru) Sue Carlin at ccra.aestheticsinfrastructure@gmail.com!

Bmore Quirky

Did you know?

City Center was home to the nation’s first electrified “el line”. The since demolished railway extended from Saratoga to Biddle Streets along Guilford Avenue from approximately 1895-1950!



Bmore Social

The CCRA's monthly happy hour series is off to a great start thanks to Events & Community Service Committee Co-Chairs Alexa Milanytch and Jim Welkos!

Feb. 28th—Tin Roof Happy Hour

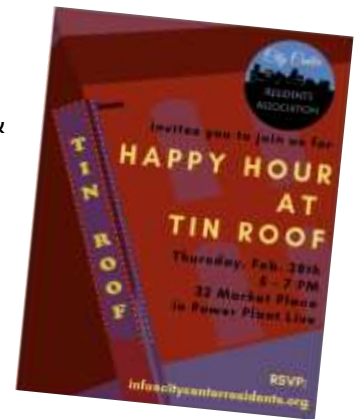
On February 28th, we kicked off the series with drinks and bites at an old favorite — Tin Roof. Located within the PowerPlant Live complex, Tin Roof is a relaxed neighborhood hangout, known for its live music.

Mar. 28th—R&R Taqueria Happy Hour

On March 28th, we headed to the all-new R&R Taqueria restaurant for another great evening of City Center camaraderie! Located at the corner of S. Charles and Lombard Streets, R&R offers a perfect combination of

fun cuisine and exciting experience (starting off with some funky statues and colorful décor right at the front door). Don't miss these notable "selfie" opportunities. So how's the food? Try the tacos—they're fairly priced, and they look and taste great. Order the cochinita pibil—pork, onion, and a hint of habanero—if you can take the heat!

Management plans to roll out more happy hours, live music, and longer business hours in the future! Chef Rod, the man behind the vision, has been on the Food Network's Top 5 Restaurants, and this franchise has already been awarded #1 Mexican Food Restaurant by Zagat.



Above. City Center residents enjoy light bites and conversation at R&R's colorfully outfitted mezzanine dining area.

Below. City Center residents pose for a picture while enjoying drinks and conversation at the March 28th gathering.



Bmore Curious

Nowadays, Baltimore is often called Charm City, but in the 18th century it had the nickname Clipper City! The *Clipper* was a warship built in Baltimore in the 1790s.





DIAMOND TAVERN

401 W. Pratt Street Baltimore, MD 21201

PRESENT THIS VOUCHER FOR A
COMPLIMENTARY APPETIZER
WITH PURCHASE OF ENTRÉE

FREE PARKING

Parking located at Hilton Baltimore; self-parking
for up to three hours, game days excluded



Bmore Thankful

Last month, the City Center community said goodbye to one of its greatest champions, Dave Wren. Dave was a small business owner in the Lexington Market area and served as Treasurer of the Market Center Merchants Association. Dave's cheerful personality and warm smile became something of a fixture at CCRA gatherings. He was often the first to arrive, and last to leave, and always had words of praise and encouragement for CCRA's organizers.

"He was one of those rare types who wasn't afraid to roll up his sleeves and get his hands dirty," said CCRA President Bill King. "Dave Wren was a 'feet on the streets' leader," said King, "and he taught me a lot about how the City works—the good and the bad." Dave was a passionate advocate for cleaner and safer streets in and around City Center and was a frequent and vocal participant at the MCMA's

Clean & Safe Task Force meetings. Dave put his money (and time) where his mouth was, volunteering on at least one occasion to "stake out" a city block all night to gather intelligence on drug trafficking in the neighborhood.



Dave passed away on February 8th. A memorial service for Dave was held at Lexington Market on March 18th. A second memorial will be held this summer in his hometown of Lynden, Washington.

Bmore Safe

The CCRA's Safety and Security Committee is dedicated to finding common sense solutions to City Center's persistent crime problems. This month, the team sat down with a local small business owner who relayed some of the very difficult situations he's encountered in his store (including robberies, muggings, and fights

in broad daylight). These kinds of stories are hard to hear, but they inspire us to continue the work we're doing. One of the committee's projects this spring will be releasing a one-pager of public safety and neighborhood improvement resources tailored specifically for residents. Our friends at Curry Printing have already agreed to print copies free of charge. Thanks, Curry!



Bmore Parks & Places

The CCRA has been invited to participate in a strategic planning process to guide the future of the Market Center district on our west end. CCRA President Bill King and Board member Sue Carlin recently attended a focus group just for residents, where they shared some of their ideas for this very important part of our community!

Our Retail & Development Committee will be rolling out a project of its own this month—a comprehensive survey looking at how City Center residents view and interact with the parks and open spaces in our neighborhood. The survey is being done in collaboration with the Waterfront Partnership, Center Plaza Foundation, and others. Stay tuned for the release!



Market Center, Baltimore's Historic Retail Core

COMMUNITY DAY AT THE BMI

SATURDAY, MAY 18

Celebrate the start of the Farmers'
Market season with free family fun!

- 9 AM-1 PM | Opening day of the BMI Farmers' Market
- 9 AM-10 AM | Free yoga class - all levels welcome
- 10 AM-1 PM | "Weekend Workers" activities for kids
- 10 AM-4 PM | **FREE MUSEUM ADMISSION**
Grand opening of "Shattered: Images
from the Fall of Bethlehem Steel" -
Photographs by J. M. Giordano
- 11 AM-12:30 PM | "Aunt Sammy's Radio Recipes"
author talk with Dr. Justin Nordstrom



WORKIN' IT!

Join us for an evening of
true, personal tales about
making a living in Baltimore.

Live music • Food • Drinks

MAY 16 | 7 PM - 10 PM

Purchase tickets at:
bit.ly/BMIWorkinIt

BMI Baltimore Museum
OF Industry

1415 Key Highway | Baltimore, MD 21230
www.thebmi.org

Introducing BmoreTasty

Baltimore has always had a reputation for good food, but that reputation usually centers around traditional “Maryland fare.” Whether it’s Faidley’s famous, or one of the many other contenders in the city, the crab cake has long been a Baltimore staple and icon. However, Baltimore has so much more to offer beyond that single (though amazing) culinary delight.

Just this month Yelp has ranked Baltimore as number 9 on its list of Top Foodie Cities in the US. With dozens of eateries catering to a diverse crowd of residents, tourists, and business-people, it is not hard to see why the city has scored such a savory spot on the charts.

In upcoming issues of Bmore City Center, the “Bmore Tasty” section will feature restaurants, food trucks, and bars located in City Center. Some of them, like the Rusty Scupper, are well-known and have a large tourist draw, while others like R&R Taqueria, La Calle, Chez Hugo, and the Alexander Brown restaurant are new faces in an increasingly diverse food scene. Next time you’re making dinner plans, consider trying out one of these amazing establishments for yourself!

Right. A group of City Center residents, including CCRA member Gene Burchette (the editor of our new “Bmore Tasty section”), pose for a pic with a rustic sculpture inside R&R Taqueria.



Bmore In The Know

Don't miss out on the action! Mark your calendars for CCRA events coming up this spring and summer!



April 25th at 5:30pm—Happy Hour at The Center Club
[email info@citycenterresidents.org to RSVP]

April 27th at 10:00am—Special Arbor Day Community Clean Up

May 9th—Neighborhood Meet-up at Hotel Indigo with the Mount Vernon-Belvedere Association and Catholic Charities Alliance

May 30th—Happy Hour at Chez Hugo!

June 9th—AIDS Walk (Join the CCRA’s Sole Mates Team!)

June 27th—Happy Hour at The Capital Grille

July 1st—Kick-off for the CCRA’s Annual Christmas in July Collection Drive

July 25th—Happy Hour at the Alexander Brown restaurant

And don't forget these great events from our community partners . . .

April 24th—Market Center Mingle at CenterPoint Apartments
(Email executivedirector@marketcenterbaltimore.org for more info.)

May 18th—Baltimore Museum of Industry Free Admission and Opening of the BMI Farmers Market
(Visit <http://www.thebmi.org/programs-events/> for more info.)

May 18th—Preakness Celebration in Center Plaza

June 23rd—Rosé in the Garden at Preston Gardens
(Visit www.godowntownbaltimore.com for more info.)

July 12th—First “Flicks on the Hill” w/ American Visionary Arts Museum
(Visit <http://avam.org/news-and-events/calendar.shtml> for more info.)

And these recurring programs throughout the spring and summer:

Baltimore Farmers' Market & Bazaar—Sundays through December
(Visit <http://www.promotionandarts.org/events-festivals> for more info.)

Pratt Street Market—Thursdays 11am 2 -pm (starting in May)

Pints in the Park—Second Fridays (starting in May) from 5-8pm

Barks & Booze (1st Wednesdays from 5-7pm at Center Plaza and 3rd Wednesdays from 5-7pm at Preston Gardens)
(Visit www.godowntownbaltimore.com for more info.)

Free Concerts at The Peabody through May 19th
(Visit peabody.jhu.edu/events for more info.)

Bmore Engaged

Do you have a passion for improving our community? The CCRA has established neighborhood committees to tackle all sorts of issues affecting life in City Center. Let us know how you'd like to get involved by sending us an email. If you'd like to volunteer, we'll find a place for you!

Email: info@citycenterresidents.org

Bmore Connected



[City Center Residents Association](#)

...with 406 Facebook group members and counting!



[@bmore_ccra](#)

...with 341 Instagram followers and counting!

Also check out our Facebook page ([City Center Residents Association Baltimore](#)) and our Twitter ([@bmore_ccra](#))!



Board Members

Bill King

President

Alexa Milanytch

Vice President

Paul Sturm

Secretary

Brad Byrnes

Business Representative

Christian Amrod

Sue Carlin

Brendan Ferrara

Marla Johnson

Jim Welkos

