

If you have something to say

"SPEAK UP"

AUGUST 2001

This newsletter features several sections to share information and ideas for contribution by all: **EMPOWER THE PEOPLE**, section is dedicated to articles about training, self-help programs and any other information that can possibly increase the readers potential.

WORD ON THE STREET, section passes along information as to what is going on in the Jonathan Street neighborhood and other communities. Listed may be notification of employment opportunities, home or business ownership developments, and whatever else is going on in our community that can benefit or affect us all.

SPEAK UP, the opinion and editorial section, if you have something to say, *SPEAK UP!*

Subscription is free and remarks are welcomed. Contact: Brothers United Who Dare to Care, Inc. 131 West North Avenue, Martin Luther King Center 2nd Floor, Hagerstown, Maryland 21740, phone 301-393-9290, e-mail buwdc131@hotmail.com or page Andy Smith, at 301-745-2000.

EMPOWER THE PEOPLE

Stay Involved! If you are a participating factor, here are ways that you can continue to move our neighborhood ahead:

Donate your time and computer parts to continue distributing computers in our neighborhood . *Pure Elegance* is in need of funding for uniforms, boots, new drums, and transportation. We need to get scholarship funds to help our people afford college and training schools.

EACH ONE TEACH ONE. On August 25th an event will be held at Wheaton Park to promote a commitment by adults to mentor and partner with the children of Hagerstown. Lead organizer *Brian Robinson* puts this event together with support from *Brothers United Who Dare To Care*, *Hotspot Coordinator Carolyn Brooks*, *Bethel Gardens Apartment's Manager Cathy Dotson* and the *Community Enrichment Coalition (CEC)*. The event has a growing list of participants to include representation from: *The Boys & Girls Club*, *Boy Scouts Troop 9*, *the Department of Social Services*, *the Health Department Prevention Services Division*, *the Mental Health Center*, *Brothers United* and *CEC*. If you or your organization would like to contribute or send a representative to participate in the "Each One Teach One" event contact Brian Robinson through the Brothers United Who Dare To Care office 301-393-9290 or email buwdc131@hotmail.com.

SHARE. *Self-Help And Resource Exchange* is a non-profit food cooperative based on volunteerism and community. Working through a large network of volunteers at community sites across Maryland (such as *Christ's Reform Church* on 130 West Franklin Street Hagerstown 301-733-4144), *SHARE* provides a monthly food package to folks who pay \$15 per package and volunteer two hours anywhere in their community. Call 800-474-2735 for more information.

WORD ON THE STREET

Neighborhoods 1st News Bulletin is expected to highlight a *Back To School* theme this month. Worth a look. Contact Lynn Washington for a copy.

Blacks in Business.

Bravo on the accomplishment of brothers *Dana and Ronnie Johnson* owners of "JRJ Liquors, Inc." The two have managed to expand the facility that houses their business located at 926 Pennsylvania Avenue Hagerstown. Store hours are Monday to Thursday 9am – 10pm; Friday and Saturday 9am – 11pm; Sunday's 12pm – 9. Ronnie's says his next move is retirement.

Steve Swayne "State Farm Insurance" business owner, was impressed by the work of Brothers United and has offered to help sponsor the "Speak Up" newsletter. Steve's insurance office is located in downtown Hagerstown across from the Post Office. Call 301-791-3384.

We would like to welcome several business associates of "Kuumba Enterprises" to the neighborhood. *Basil, Jihad, Ya-yah, Mwamba and Ajamu* for their effort to provide a variety of African products and consultation to the community at their open market location on the corner of Jonathan and Bethel Streets. Come and be blessed by a wonderful black experience.

First Data "JOB OPENINGS": Technical Processing Specialist; Processing Specialist II; Contact Center Associate. Forward your resume or application with salary requirements to: First Data Merchant Services Corp. Human Resources, One Western Parkway Hagerstown MD or FAX 301-745-7100 email: hagerstownhr@firstdata.com. Job Hotline 877-JOBS1ST.

Head Start "POSITIONS ANNOUNCEMENT": Executive Assistant \$10.62 - \$13.81 hour; Bus Driver \$10.62 - \$12.74 hour; Bus Assistant \$6.11 - \$7.34 hour. contact: Human Resources, Resources for Children and Families, Inc. 325 W. Memorial Boulevard, Hagerstown MD or call 301-733-000.

Washington County Government "POSITION AVAILABLE": Facilities Engineer \$40,803 minimum with benefits; Laboratory Technician I \$22,044 minimum; 2 Bus Attendants \$9.09 hour; Plant Operator Trainee \$20,412. Apply at the Washington County Department of Human Resources, 100 W. Washington Street, Room 202, Hagerstown MD or call 301 791-3175

Washington County Department of Social Services "VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT": Human Service Associate II \$20,090 - \$29,712 (contractual). Contact Betty Dattilio WCDSS, 122 N. Potomac Street, Hagerstown, MD for applications or call 240 420-2139. Minority Candidates are encouraged to apply.

Washington County Community Partnership for Children & Families is a *State of Maryland Local Management Board Initiative* located at 33 W. Washington St. 2nd fl. Phone 301-791-3486. Visit their Web-site: www.wccp-online.org (cool graphics, good music) for more information.

Community Enrichment Coalition (CEC) will provide two *SHARE food* packages a month for Brothers United to donate to anyone in the neighborhood. Jonathan Street area *Boy Scouts Troop 9* delivered the food packages containing meat, fresh vegetables and dried goods last month to senior residents in the Jonathan Street community. Interested? Call 301-393-9290.

SPEAK UP

One would never had thought that suggesting the name “Africa Avenue” for the Jonathan Street name change would have sparked the response it received from a “few” of our readers. Africa Avenue was suggested by the editor because of it’s uniqueness as a name possessing the potential to stimulated ethnic pride within a neighborhood that predominantly has ancestry ties to Africa. Apparently some of us in the Jonathan Street area are upset with our heritage. This newsletter is a platform for positive influence and not to promote division, segregation or separatism. We hope our readers will become positive participating factors in the greater community of our city and not be inflicted with self hate or take to racial shame. Most other nationalities proudly display their ancestry heritage with pride and value, not outrage at the mention of it. James Brown sang in a song “Say it loud I’m Black and I’m Proud. I don’t hear those words even whispered anymore, let alone sang openly. Hey, no one even dares to hum a bar of “We shall overcome”. People get up off your knees, the light is on, move forward with your head up! It is okay to be black. At least, I believe it is okay for me to be black. Oh, did I say something wrong? I do not believe anyone owes me anything because of the color I am. I do not accept that I am restricted because of my color. I am not an a Black Activist. I am an Activist that happens to be black.

Andy Smith, Editor

Jonathan Street name change RESPONSES:

I recommend *Heritage Boulevard or Kwanzaa Street...*
 I think it should be named after *Cpl. Wilson*, Hagerstown’s Medal of Honor winner, also they should rename Wheaton Park after *Mr. Step Washington...*
 Please not *Martin Luther King...*
 What about *Malcom X...*
 I don’t think *Africa Avenue* is a black thing, we don’t need that...
Africa Avenue would be another way for them to segregate us...
 Don’t name it *Africa Avenue...*
 Who said name it *Africa Avenue...*
 I don’t care, does it matter what it’s named after, it’s just a name...
 Why are they changing the name anyway...

Mr. Walt Washington is a good neighbor, he gives rides to seniors and helps out. I would like to thank him on behalf of the neighborhood.

Submitted by Cora Levi

Thanks to Steve for Jesus Street and taking our kids to Lions & Lamp camp.

Submitted by Priscilla Taylor

David Dinkins a free agent for the Buffalo Bills! The Pittsburgh resident is the cousin of Lucille Russ. Lucille has taught at Washington County Head Start for 35 years, and will retire June of 2002. Hopefully we will see David in the Buffalo vs. Pittsburgh game in August.

Submitted by Lucille Russ

Calendar Of Events

August 5	“Ssuuna” final of the four-event in the Wheaton Park Concert series 3pm
August 18	Brothers United Regular meeting at the Martin Luther King center 10am
August 22	Commission on African American History & Culture meet at Bethel Gardens 11am
August 24-25	Boy Scout Troop 9 “Camp Out in the Neighborhood”
August 25	“Each One Teach One at Wheaton Park 11am - 6pm