



Information You Can Use. Action You Can Take.

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The Green Issue! March 17, 2005

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DON'T TEST YOUR LUCK CHOOSE A SOBER DRIVER THIS ST. PATRICK'S DAY



Every year on March 17th - St. Patrick's Day - many Americans, particularly young adults, head out for a big night of green beer and Irish celebrations. But it is also a very dangerous night out due to drunk or impaired drivers.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 32% of all traffic deaths on the nation's highways around St. Patrick's Day in 2003 were the result of impaired drivers with blood alcohol content levels of 0.08 % and above. Despite the tireless efforts of thousands of advocates and organizations, impaired drivers continue to kill someone every 30 minutes, nearly 50 people a day, and almost 18,000 residents a year.

In Maryland alone, 179 people were killed in 2003 in alcohol/ drug related fatal crashes. That's about 27% of the total number of crashes.



RELY ON A SOBER DRIVER, RATHER THAN YOUR LUCK!

Drunk driving is no accident. It is a serious and deadly crime that continually kills every 30 minutes. Whether you are just meeting a few friends at the corner pub or attending a big local parade or party, if you plan on using alcohol, here's some things you can do:

- Designate a sober driver before the party begins and give that person your car keys; rely on a sober driver, rather than your luck!
- If impaired, don't even think about getting behind the wheel. Ask a sober friend for a ride home; call a cab, friend or family member to come and get you, use mass transit, or stay where you are until you are sober;
- If you think a friend is about to drive while impaired, take the keys.

Don't test your luck this St. Patrick's Day. Designate your sober driver before the party begins.

VOLUNTEER TO HELP ADD SOME GREEN TO LOCAL SCHOOLS

As part of Baltimore Green Week, the Neighborhood Design Center is participating in the Arbor Day project, which will plant trees and habitat gardens at two schools – Cross Country Elementary in northwest Baltimore and Waverly Elementary near the old Memorial Stadium.



For the past three years, NDC has been working with the Irvine Nature Center on school greening projects – planting trees and gardens that improve the appearance of the schools, serve as outdoor classrooms, and teach children about the environment. This effort is in conjunction with Baltimore's Believe in Our School Campaign.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to help on either the prep day (Saturday April 2, 12 noon-4 pm) or planting with students (Wednesday, April 6, 9am – 2pm). The Arbor Day project is a joint effort of many partners, including the Maryland ASLA, AIA Baltimore Committee on the Environment, and the Irvine Nature Center. Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks is helping by donating trees and shrubs. Contact Mark Cameron at 410-233-9686 x102 (mcameron@ndc-md.org) to volunteer and help Baltimore City schools.

NDC mobilizes volunteer professionals in support of community-sponsored initiatives to improve local neighborhood livability and viability. NDC provide technical assistance to: (1) Strengthen community participation in neighborhood development initiatives; (2) Educate the public about the value of good design, planning and preservation as community revitalization tools; and (3) Increase investment in the sensitive rebuilding of neighborhoods.

GREEN PARKS AND CLEAN STREAMS

As spring gears up and we prepare for the burst of bright green, local organizations are getting ready. Consider joining local residents for one or more of these fun events!



PROJECT CLEAN STREAM Saturday, April 2, 2005 - 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Join hundreds of volunteers on Saturday, April 2, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon, to clean streams throughout the Jones Falls Watershed as part of Project Clean Stream.

How can you help?

- Volunteer to be a Site Captain and help coordinate efforts at a particular location.
- Pick up trash at a clean-up site.
- If you have a truck, volunteer to help haul trash from clean-up sites to dumpsters.
- Recruit volunteers from your school, scout, church or community group to help clean.

For more information, to suggest a clean-up site, or to volunteer for Project Clean Stream, contact the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay at 410-377-6270 or visit www.acb-online.org.

MAKE IT BEAUTIFUL DAY! Friday, April 8th and Saturday, April 9th, 2005 - 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. each day
'Make It Beautiful Day' is a city-wide Spring Cleaning in Baltimore City. Join individuals, neighborhoods, schools, and businesses who will volunteer their time in their favorite city parks.

Participants can design a project of their own or find out which location most needs their help. Projects include tree plantings and mulching, cleanup, painting, and more. So, pull on your boots, come outside, and show that you BELIEVE in a greener Baltimore.

Contact: andrea.claypoole@parksandpeople.org or kidada.feilds@parksandpeople.org

SEEING GREEN: HOWARD COUNTY'S FIRST NATURE CENTER

Folks in Howard County are seeing green as a land purchase and private gift bring Howard County's first nature center closer to reality. Through a cooperative arrangement with a private individual, the Middle Patuxent Nature Center Foundation, Inc. and Howard County Recreation & Parks, the County has purchased 18.4 acres of land adjacent to the southeast tip of the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area.

Under the terms of the \$2.1 million purchase, \$1 million will be donated back to the County to begin the design, planning and construction of Howard County's first Nature Center. The Center will introduce visitors to the natural values of the Middle Patuxent and enhance their discovery of the valley's ecological significance. It will be open year round and incorporate interpretive programs, opportunities for wildlife research and serve as a gateway into the pristine preserve surrounding the Middle Patuxent River.

County Executive Robey commented, "We envision a sanctuary...a place to retreat... quite frankly, a portal that brings visitors one step closer to the beauty of nature that Ms. Anne Robinson wanted preserved for generations to come."

Gathered for the announcement are (l. to r.) County Council Chairman Guy Guzzone, Howard County Executive Jim Robey, Gary Arthur, Director of Recreation & Parks, Councilman Ken Ulman (District 4) and members of the Middle Patuxent Nature Center Foundation Jeff Ring and Fredric Leffler representing Ms. Anne Robinson, the individual whose generosity to her community and love of nature made it all possible.



ARE YOUR FRIENDS GREEN WITH ENVY?

Are your friends green with envy because you are getting important information about events and projects around the region? Share the good fortune and invite them to join B'More Involved!!



To invite a colleague, neighbor, or friend simply do one of the following:

- At the bottom of this email, click on "Forward". This will take you to a page where you can send up to 8 people an invitation to join B'More Involved.
- Tell them to go to the B'More Involved page (<http://www.baltometro.org/eNews/BMoreInvolved.htm>). All they have to do is hit "Click here to Join" and register.
- Tell them to contact Monica Haines at 410-732-0500 x1047 or mhaines@baltometro.org to register.

This e-newsletter is a publication of the Baltimore Metropolitan Council. Its goal is to help citizens learn more about and become engaged in transportation planning, equity, and environmental justice. To receive this newsletter on a regular basis, please contact Monica Haines at 410-732-0500 x1047 or mhaines@baltometro.org [Baltimore Metropolitan Council](http://www.baltimoremetropolitan.org)