

ALLISON HILL NEWSLETTER



An initiative of Tri County Community Action

JANUARY 2022 • VOLUME 1 • ISSUE 4

HEART OF THE HILL UPDATES

The Heart of the Hill Plan was developed by engaging residents and stakeholders to identify their shared values: housing and public space, sense of community, safety and youth. You can check out the full document here: bit.ly/hoh-action-plan

Projects in Progress!

What a year it has been on the Hill! Recently, you received a mailer with information about the Heart of the Hill Plan. Over 700 residents were involved in the community planning process and your voice was heard! Some projects such as the planter mural project, the Allison Hill Farmers Market, boarding up vacant properties, and reclaiming vacant lots have been ongoing since the plan was released. As part of the Allison Hill Safety Project, we are seeking feedback from you about how you perceive safety in the neighborhood in various places and times of day. Please fill out the Allison Hill Perceived Safety Survey here:

<https://forms.gle/yMHBQWeRoweN1DD58>

This information will guide the safety working group for the Heart of the Hill Plan to ensure we are working on projects in areas where residents note safety concerns.

Did you know that you can submit a report to the Harrisburg Police Department online? If your answer is “no” to any of the following questions, an online report may be right for you:

- Is this an emergency?
- Did this incident occur outside of Harrisburg, PA, city limits?
- Are there known suspects?
- Did this occur on a state freeway?
- Did this incident occur more than two (2) weeks ago?

This online reporting allows you to submit a report immediately and print a temporary copy for free. Upon review, if further investigation of your case is needed, you may be contacted.

<https://harrisburgpa.gov/bureau-of-police/police-online-reporting/>

Cleanup Efforts

Tri County Community Action is the Keep Pennsylvania affiliate in Harrisburg/Dauphin County. The Great Harrisburg Litter Cleanup is coordinated by Clean and Green Harrisburg and community partners. The issue of litter can be mitigated through a variety of means including participating in Two Minute Tuesday by taking two minutes on Tuesdays to pick up litter and clean up the space in front of your home or office. Share your photos using #2MinTuesday and like the Clean and Green Harrisburg Facebook page.



You can also join the Stop the Drop campaign by signing up for a Stop the Drop lid. This campaign promotes the use of trash cans for use by the public as they walk through the neighborhood. These lids are covered with artwork and the whole drilled on top allows residents to use the can which deters litter from being thrown on the streets and sidewalks.

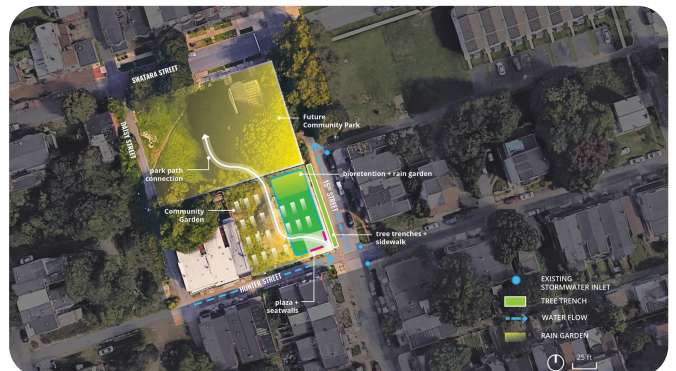
Lastly, we are looking for **block leaders** to help spread important neighborhood information and keep a pulse on what's going on on the Hill. Signing up to be a block leader includes important responsibilities and a training session. Block Leaders hold an important role on the Hill and we need you! *Be sure to check out our block leader cartoon on the last page!!

If you are interested in joining any of these efforts, reach out to stu@cactricounty.org for more information!

Construction Projects

The 15th & Swatara Street lot has been vacant for a long time. Capital Region Water is beginning a stormwater infrastructure project to catch stormwater in high flood areas such as the space at 15th & Hunter. Below are renderings for the lot as well as visible and underground infrastructure that will begin next summer.

Swatara Park
STORMWATER DESIGN



Your feedback is needed! Here are a few questions to consider when reviewing these renderings:

- What do you think this area could benefit from most?
- If this space provided raised garden beds to grow your own food, how interested would you be in having a plot?
- If this space was converted into a green space, seating space or park/playground, how often would you visit?
- What safety improvements do you think need to be made to this space?

HEART OF THE HILL UPDATES CONTINUED

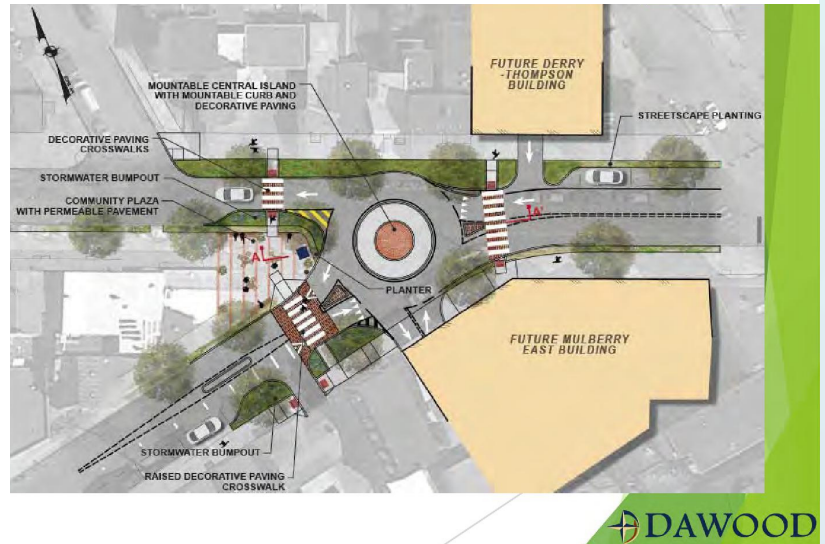
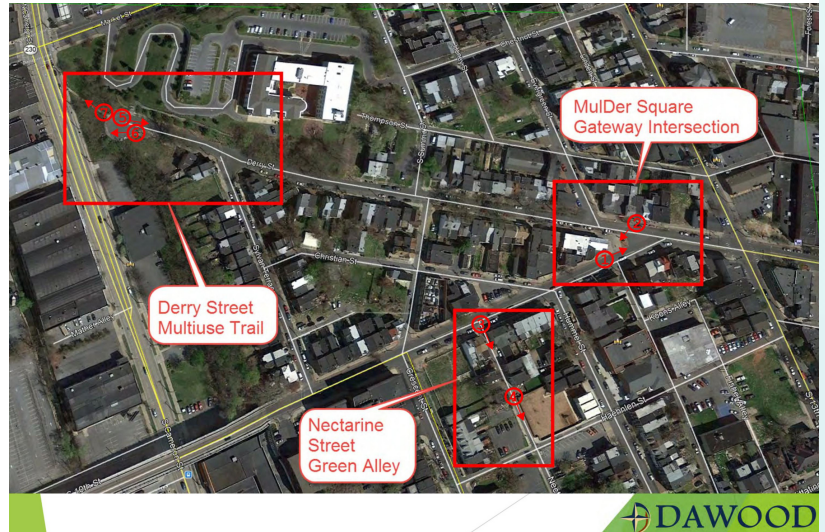
MULBERRY STREET ROUNDABOUT

There are many other construction projects coming in 2022 on the Hill including at the intersection of Mulberry Street and Derry Street. This project will create a neighborhood gateway by improving lighting and safety, reducing stormwater runoff onto Mulberry Street, and establish a pedestrian focused public space. There are three main focus areas for this project: The Derry Street Multiuse Trail, Nectarine Street Green Alley and MulDer Square Gateway intersection. The Derry Street multiuse trail will be developed by removing the cul-de-sac and curbing to create a green space. The trail will be ADA compliant and bicycle friendly. This space will also include rain gardens, a seating area, a lit path and potentially a woodland restoration and mural wall.

The Nectarine Street Green Alley plans include crosswalk improvements and porous pavers that absorb water. This new green alleyway will provide safe passage for cars and pedestrians alike while also addressing stormwater concerns.

The MulDer Square Gateway intersection is centered around a new roundabout to improve the flow of traffic at one of the major entrances to the Hill. These plans include more stormwater infrastructure, decorative paving crosswalks and planters to enhance the streetscaping on Mulberry and Derry Street. Additionally, there will be a community plaza with permeable pavement for further stormwater mitigation.

Do you have any questions or concerns about these construction projects? Reach out to Stu at stu@cactricounty.org to share feedback with the Heart of the Hill team.



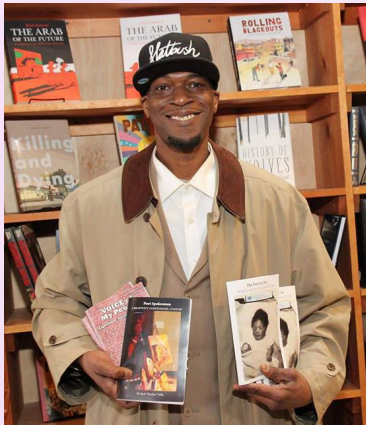
HISTORY ON THE HILL

There are many entrepreneurs in Allison Hill, filling the neighborhood with diverse restaurants serving food from cultures all over the world. One of the sweetest of these family businesses is Matangos Candy Inc. This candy company at 15th and Catherine Streets was founded in 1947 by Christoforos Matangos. Like many Allison Hill residents, Christoforos was an immigrant and wanted to bring a literal taste of his culture to the community. Christoforos was born in Greece and grew up in Turkey, before emigrating to the States.

After struggles during the great depression, Christoforos moved to Harrisburg and founded Matangos with his family out of their house. The business used recipes that Christoforos learned as a child in Turkey and quickly became known for their quality sweets. Christoforos passed away in the 70's, but the family continued the Matangos Candy Inc business. So far, three generations of the family have operated the business, and have sold their candy out of the same building for a total of 75 years. Serving up chocolates, truffles and caramels, there is something for everyone's sweet tooth at the oldest business on the Hill.



ARTIST CORNER



Basil Talib

Facebook: Basil Talib
Instagram: @talibbasil

How long have you been an artist? I have been an artist since I was 5 years old but I didn't know it. I came from a big family and the pen was my way to communicate. I began writing after my mother passed away. I wrote to family members in prison as I longed to learn more about my mother while I was growing up. I encouraged my family and they encouraged me through writing.

What motivates you to create? We all have strengths we need to realize. I hope that my writing can provide insight and understanding between people. I want to break the chains of ignorance and encourage people to think for themselves. I find power in the pen and my pen empowers others.

What are your favorite mediums? Poetry, writing, spoken word and workshops are my favorite mediums and settings for creating and teaching. I host workshops for people to understand the different styles of writing and poetry while also creating conversations about the meaning behind words. Teaching and leading by example are my most favorite mediums for creating and inspiring others to do the same.

What message would you like to share with aspiring artists? I would say to artists in my community, put the gun down and pick the pen up. Do not give up on yourself, rejection is a part of life. Some days are harder than others. Never represent something that does not represent you. Be patient, wait your turn, and believe in yourself. You matter, your words matter, your story matters and you are enough.

I Am 1

By Basil Talib

I am- Capable of so much.
I am- An instrument of peace, joy, love.
I am- Free to make my own choices.
I am- I am my best friend.
I am- Comfortable in my own skin.
I am- Going to make a difference in the world today.
I am- Most likely to succeed.
I am- In control of my own destiny.
I am- Going to follow my dreams just as my shadow follows me.
I am- Not going to let anything or anyone get in my way of me succeeding.
I am- Proud of myself.
I am- Bright just as my future.
I am- A leader.
I am- Strong and confident.
I am- Going to create my own path.
I am- Open and ready to learn.
I am- A testament of grace and beauty.
I am- Going to be the example I would like to see.
I am- Willing to face my fears.
I am- Going to get what I strive for.
I am- A big dreamer.
I am- An awesome reader.
I am- Perfect the way I am.
I am- A success story in the making.

WELLNESS CORNER

HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!

Allow flexibility. Offer yourself flexibility and give yourself grace. If you don't do well this month, try again next month! Instead of trying to set goals that might not benefit your mental health, find activities that make you happy instead.

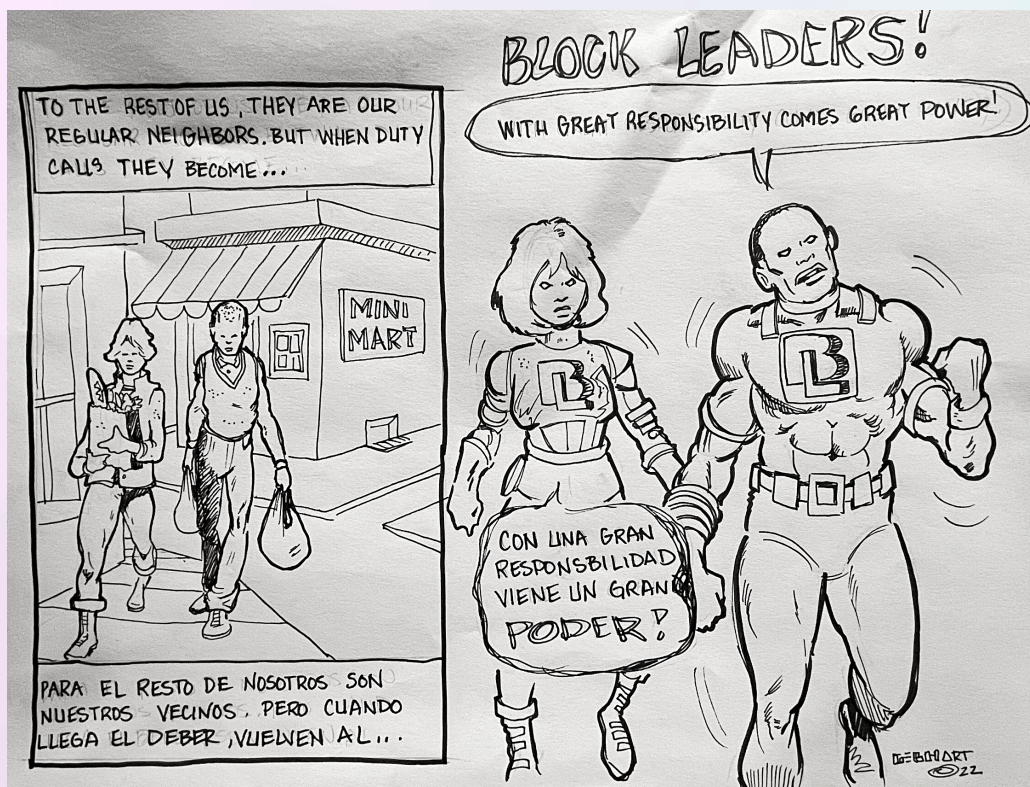
Create a timeline. Try to avoid being rigid in your timeline, and understand that your timeline should not be compared to anyone else's. It will be more proactive and productive to make small, incremental goals instead of extreme expectations.

Monitor your progress. Nothing changes overnight, so it might be helpful to find an accountability partner to help you monitor progress. Keep a journal to acknowledge your feelings and document your feelings about your goals and what obstacles you face.

Be reasonable. Expect yourself to fail at times, and know that results might be slow-moving. Understand that life happens and things can get in the way of your goals, so try to ensure your goals are healthy and can be achieved without harming your physical or mental health.

Credit: Martha Bowman, Centerstone

Full article accessible here: <https://centerstone.org/our-resources/health-wellness/how-new-years-resolutions-impact-mental-health/>



Cartoon by Bradley Gebhart

Winter Word Scramble

Can you unscramble these winter-related words?

taoc

sgoevl

olsvhe

ccleii

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Allison Hill Substation (nonemergency) (717) 558-6900

Capitol Region Water 888-510-0606

Childline (to report child abuse or general child well-being issues) 800-932-0313

Domestic Violence Hotline : 800-654-1211

HELP Ministries (717) 238-2851

Poison Control 1800 222 1222 or text POISON to 7979797 Animal Poison Control 888-426-4435

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 800-273-8255

National Sexual Assault Hotline 1-800-656-4673

ARTISTS AND WRITERS NEEDED!

Share your talents in this quarterly newsletter.

DO YOU WANT MORE INFORMATION OR ARE YOU INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED IN HEART OF THE HILL OR ALLISON HILL SAFETY PROJECTS? EMAIL STU@CACTRICOUNTY.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION!



Access a digital version of this newsletter by visiting our website:
cactricounty.org/allison-hill



@HeartoftheHill | @TriCountyCommunityAction



www.cactricounty.org