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Quip Town News

News for the People, by the People

Issue No. 37



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Thank you!

October 2013

Hope Returns to Aliquippa - Mayor Walker

"It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, and spends himself in worthy cause"- President Theodore Roosevelt



Mayor Dwan B. G. Walker

Although the One Aliquippa administration has only been in office about a year and a half, the major question unremittingly asked by several community stakeholders is, "What has this administration done to improve the condition of Aliquippa's stressed community status?" Many questions reflect previous findings attributable to previous governing bodies, e.g., Act 47 concerns, budget short-falls, lack of transparency, accountability and integrity, a negative city image, the crime rate, major economic issues, previous leadership, etc.. However, this administration sees the 'power of hope' as indispensable in addressing these concerns. Winston Churchill when asked by a reporter what his country's greatest weapon against Hitler's Nazi regime was, answered without pause, "It was what England's greatest weapon has always been, hope."

The City Administration adopted recommendations to alleviate the city of the Act 47 distressed city recognition. Progress is being made in several areas including internal financial management, increased government management, transparency, computerization, recordkeeping, better accounting practices and budget management. The Department of Community Economic Development (DCED) strongly advised that the city pursue and hire staff personnel in the city office for increased management and accountability. Through a

DCED grant, we are in the first phase of updating and upgrading our interoffice and telecommunication systems. Recently, more modern computer hardware was installed to improve performance and efficiency of management and administrative staff duties. The City's financial administrative duties and transactions from recording, revenue receipts and disbursement invoices, tracking accounting entries, monitoring bank and funding accounts, reconciling monies spent with city general fund and tracking funds inflow into the pension funds are now electronically processed through a new Microsoft Windows integrated software system. In the second phase, we expect the integrated system to connect the tax collector's receipts by property owner's name, address, parcel number, assessment value and mapping for better management of City property values, assessments and reporting. By the end of this year, all City governing offices including Fire, Police and Street Departments will be upgraded and integrated into a single computer system to meet the modern challenges faced by the City.

The DCED report suggested city government hire experienced management personnel with strong Financial Management, Accounting and Human Resources credentials. Please allow me introduce to you the City's hard working staff... Mr. Samuel L. Gill, City Administrator. He brings to the city administration a master's degree in Business Administration and over 23 years in government and nonprofit management and accounting. In Finances, Cheryl McFarland, City Fiscal Officer, holds a degree in Accounting and a wealth of experience in administrative accounting in nonprofit as well as for-profit. Serrone Emerson, our Payroll Technician, is experienced in Administrative Payroll, staff duties and responsibilities, and working with city residents. She has many years of experience working with Congress

Altmire's office. Kelly Callen, Office administrator, has worked many years in day-to-day city government administrative services. She handles the collections for garbage and city resident's complaints and concerns. Code Enforcement Officer, Mike Demcak has over 30 years experience enforcing Zoning Laws and Residential/City Codes. He helps with code enforcement and rewriting and revising any and all city ordinances. We have changed and or amended 7 city ordinances to closer align our codes with current codes and laws requirements. I have advisors with over 30 years leadership experience and advanced degrees working with the City Council.

These changes render this administration more accessible, accountable, and transparent to her citizens and ensure unanimous administrative vision and goals to meet our city's challenges. The City Administrator meets regularly with Department Supervisors to ensure City Council is aware of issues and needs of the Fire, Police and Street Department and ensures ongoing communication about personnel issues, emergency matters and budget spending.

Conforming to DCED recommendations revealed many previous city shortcomings occurred because of poor accountability and transparency. One Aliquippa has taken steps to address such issues and satisfy resident concerns. *Hope* allowed us communicate effectively with Department of Community and Economic Development, acquire more resources and hire appropriate personnel.

"Live right and you will eat from the life-giving tree. And if you act wisely, others will follow" Proverbs 11:30.

-Mayor Dwan B. Walker

WHY WE MUST VOTE

By Mr. James Carter

During the non-presidential election cycles, the American people have a tendency to vote in very low numbers. We then ask how obstructionists can be elected. The answer is, low voting numbers. In these elections people are ushered into office with majority votes of only 10 to 20% of registered electorate casting their ballots. When you calculate the number of unregistered voter residents in the community, only 5% of your population is deciding local, county and state offices representation. Oddly enough, these are the people who tax you the most and have control over money filtered down from the Federal Government. Simply put, these are the elections in which you should be most involved.

For those who think your one vote does not count, rest assured that it does. The resolution to our problem is that don't stop at casting the vote. Below, are my recommendations for how you can be more actively involved in government:

If not registered to vote, do so by October the 5th.

Don't depend on someone telling you how, or who to vote for when you arrive at the poll. Research and study the candidates' positions on all topics, but more specifically those that apply directly to you.

Ensure friends and family members have good information regarding candidates so they can make informed decisions.

Schedule a time to go to the polls individually, or as a group and celebrate your accomplishment at a lunch or dinner together.

Volunteer to work on getting the vote out on Election Day. The candidates, as well as the County Committees for the various parties have plenty of work for you to do.

The key to success in our system is to know that after the election, it is not over. Whether your candidates wins or loses the election, requires you to stay totally committed to the cause.

Be an active member of your party.

Stay informed on issues. Don't depend on Pundits, learn the facts regarding situations and proposed laws for yourself.

Attend County Commissioners, school board, local government and their various committee meetings where positions are formed.

Although unable to attend State Legislature or Senate meetings, their information can be obtained online at:

<https://bay171.mail.live.com/default.aspx?id=64855&owa=1&owasuffix=owa%2f#n=1562240324&fid=1&mid=d40687ad-2107-11e3-bfd4-002264c24d08&fv=1>

Once registered this information will be sent to you daily when both houses are in session.

If you need clarity, ask the elected officials at their forums, by phone, email or in person via a scheduled meeting.

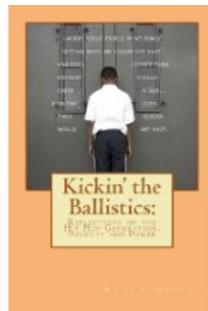
Do not sit on your information, pass it forward to your family and friends.

As we push for people to have the right to vote in other nations, we must be in the position to show them the value of their efforts by being involved in our country. Remember, it is the few who were duly elected by a few that seek to disenfranchise many people in our country again.

-Mr. James Carter, is from Aliquippa and the current District Leader of the 106th Legislative Democratic Committee.

Hip-Hop Inc., CEO & Author Visits Aliquippa's B.F. Jones Library

Book: *Kickin' the Ballistics: Reflections on the Hip Hop Generation, Poverty and Power*



Dr. Robert Godbolt, author, will visit the Library to talk about his new book, "Kickin the Ballistics: Reflections on the HIP HOP Generation, Poverty and Power". Dr. Godbolt is a Professor at the Graduate School of Public Administration at Cheyney University of Pennsylvania and President/CEO of Helping to Inspire Positive and Healthy Opportunities for Progress Inc. (HIP HOP INC), a

youth development agency located in the Philadelphia area. His book explores issues of urban poverty, crime, education, public policy and Hip Hop culture. Make it a date to meet him on **Tuesday October 29 at 6:00pm at B.F. Jones Memorial Library.**

Aliquippa School District: Red Ribbon Week

"SAY NO TO DRUGS & BE FREE TO FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS"



Dear Parents,

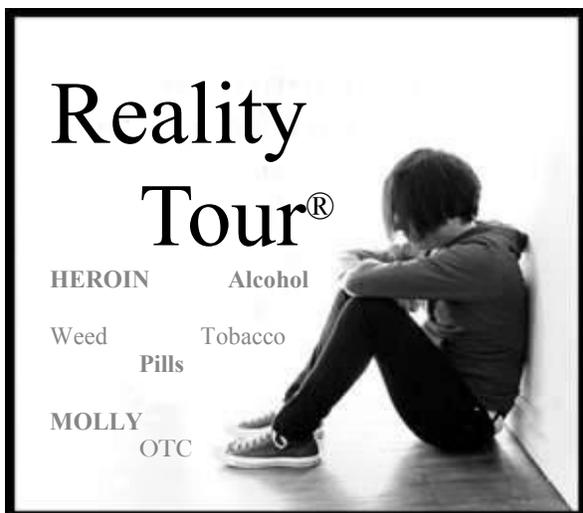
October 23-31 is Red Ribbon Week Drug Awareness Celebration. We cordially invite you to join us in one of the two small assemblies scheduled for October 23rd. at 9:30-10:30a.m. and at 1:00- 2:30p.m. in the Aliquippa Elementary School Gym (a light breakfast and a light lunch will be served). The Red Ribbon Week originated in 1995 after the murder of DEA Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena. Since then, parents, youth and teachers in communities across the United States began wearing Red Ribbons as a symbol of their commitment to raise awareness against the use of drug within our school community. The Red Ribbon Week is the oldest and largest drug prevention campaign in the United States.

Experts in the field of substance use point-out that children of parents who talk to their youngster regularly about drugs are 42% less likely to use drugs than those who don't talk to their children.

We recognize parents' power and influence on their children and we want to discuss and explore effective ways to educate our students on this serious matter.

We look forward to our partnership as we engage to educate and oversee the well being of our children.

Best regards,
Cristiana White
Aliquippa Elementary School Counselor



Choose Today.
Attend Beaver County Reality Tour.
Change Tomorrow.
Be the biggest influence in your child's life.

Tours are held from
6-9 PM
(please arrive at 5:45) at
Pathway Church
239 Braun Road
Beaver Falls, PA 15010

Registration is required*.

Your registration will be confirmed by telephone or email.
Please arrive promptly at 5:45 PM at Pathway Church for Reality Tour®.

Some portions of Reality Tour® may be intense, and parental guidance is required.

Questions? Call CHC 724-432-3474 or email us at info@CommunityHealthChallenge.org

For more information or to download and print additional registration forms, please visit:
www.CommunityHealthChallenge.org

Reality Tour 2013-2014 Registration/Waiver Form

Please indicate your preferred date: ___ **November 7, 2013** ___ **December 5, 2013**
NOTE: If your preferred date is booked, you will be offered another open tour date ___ **February 6, 2014** ___ **March 13, 2014**

I permit my child/children listed to participate in Reality Tour® . Reality Tour® is appropriate for children age 10 to 18 years of age who **must** be accompanied by a parent.

I have read the information on this form and agree not to hold Candle, Inc., or its affiliates liable for any claims, damages, demands, actions or lawsuits that could arise as a result of my participation or my minor child's participation in Reality Tour®. *News photographers may be present at Reality Tour ®.*

Parent
Guardian _____
Signature

_____ (check if additional names on reverse)
 # of persons attending ___ @ \$5 EACH *=\$ _____

Some scenes may be intense. Please circle if you choose to opt out:

Peer Pressure Skit ER/Overdose
 Funeral Scene Arrest/Prison

Please make checks payable and mail to:
Community Health Challenge
1272 Mars Evans City Road, Ste 102
Evans City, PA 16033

Educators are eligible for ACT 48 credits.
 PDE# _____

Print Name _____ Today's Date _____
 Address _____
 City/Zip _____ Phone _____
 Email address _____
 Name of home school district _____

*The \$5 registration fee per person can be waived upon request.
 Reality Tour is a national project of CANDLE, Inc. All rights reserved.

**October
2013**

B. F. JONES MEMORIAL LIBRARY

663 Franklin Avenue, Aliquippa, PA 15001

724-375-2900 www.beaverlibraries.org/aliquippa.asp



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
CLOSED	9:00 - 7:30	9:00 - 7:30	9:00 - 7:30	9:00 - 5:00	9:00 - 5:00	9:00 - 5:00
Friend us on Facebook www.facebook.com/bfjones15001		1 11:00 & 1:30 Story time (Make way for ducklings) 6:00 Joie de Livre Book Club	2 6:00 Family Night Author visit - Floyd Stokes	3 National Denim Day tomorrow	4 10:30 HuMBugs Story time @ Hopewell Municipal Building	5 Noon Chess Club
6 CLOSED	7 Read an e-book on your nook or Kindle	8 11:00 Story time (Fire safety) 12:00 & 3:00 Basic Computer classes	9 G-Rated movies loan for 2 weeks	10 Free Wi-Fi and public computers	11 Free access to Ancestry.com in the Library	12 10:00 Reading Circle 2:00 Turn-about-readers Kick-off 3:30-Lego Club
13 TEEN READ WEEK CLOSED	14 Columbus Day CLOSED	15 11:00 & 1:30 Story time (yellow, orange, red) 6:00 Aliquippa Book presentation Basic Computer classes 12:00 & 3:00	16 6:00 Turn-about-readers Kick off 6:00 Teen Book Club Kick off	17 3:30 Zentangle class	18 10:30 HuMBugs Story time @ Hopewell Municipal Building 3:30 Jenga tournament	19 We offer pre-school story time three times each week for busy families
20 CLOSED	21 Download audio books on the Library's web page	22 11:00 & 1:30 Story time (Birds) Basic Computer classes 12:00 & 3:00	23 Create your resume using Learning Express	24 Try our new e-magazines using Zinio	25 10:30 HuMBugs Story time @ Hopewell Municipal Building 3:30-4:30 Lego Club	26 6:00-9:00 'AFTER HOURS' at the Library Fundraiser Event CLOSED 9-5
27 CLOSED	28 Send a fax for \$1/page	29 11:00 & 1:30 Story time (Halloween) 12:00 & 3:00 Basic Computer classes 6:00 Author: Robert Godbolt	30 Dr. Robert Godbolt author of Hip Hop Generation will visit on Tuesday Oct. 29	31 Happy Halloween	Join an online book club at Dear Reader	Sign up for the Library's e-newsletters



Ads & Articles Wanted

Promote your business or organization with an ad in the Quip Town News. Ads start from \$15 (business card).

All fee event ads now carry a charge of \$15/event/publication.

Mail check to QTN 1225 Irwin Street, Aliquippa.

Please email your articles/ads to

pastor@refreshingspringsministry.org.

Submission deadlines: **For November by October 15 & December by November 15.**

LIKE Quip Town News on

Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Quip-Town-News/154104904673017> and visit us at

www.quiptownnews.org.

Questions, comments, suggestions? Send all inquiries to 724-375-6675 or email pastor@refreshingspringsministry.org.



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THANK YOU FOR 3 YRS OF POSITIVE ADVERTISEMENT AND PUBLISHING IN THE QUIP!
MAY GOD BLESS DA QUIP!!



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