—Cheek gets

(Continued from page A1)

has been duplicated and widely circulated on the Howard campus.

Alan Hermesch, information officer at Howard, said that Cheek has a driver on many occasions; that the house in Shepherd Park is nice and in a nice neighborhood but would not be called a mansion; and that it is the policy of the university not to give out salaries.

Hermesch also said that the stories about Cheek leaving the campus for a post in Africa are "unfounded and not confirmed."

The Raleigh story written by Liz Clarke, carried the headline "Howard president under fire..students, faculty chide former Shaw president James Cheek."

Clarke, in her story, detailed the recent uprising at the University where students took over the administration building on the campus to protest the appointment of Lee Atwater, Republican National Committee chairman to the Board of Trustees at Howard.

It also revealed the salaries of Howard professors and how the university has grown under Cheek's leadership.

A 14-paragraph story under the headline "Cheek brought exciting times to Shaw, left it in debt" appeared in the same edition of the paper. It was also written by Clarke.

That story said "And by 1969, when he left for Howard University, Dr. Cheek had won the respect of the students, faculty and local officials for deftly keeping the peace at Shaw throughout the most volatile period of the civil rights movement."

Model Search

If you haven't noticed, the summer season is upon us and soon the beaches will be filled with people trying to escape the summer heat.

In celebration of the upcoming fun in the sun, the AFRO is currently conducting a search for local female models to appear in our first annual swimsuit issue that will be published May 20.

Only serious inquiries please. Professional modeling experience preferred, but not necessary. Send photos and resumes by May 1 (if available) to: AFRO Swimsuit Model Search, c/o Delfield S. Yoes, III, Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers, 628 N. Eutaw Street, Baltimore, MD., 21201.

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METRO PROFILE

■ Lifestyle B4
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EDITOR'S NOTE:
During the past two weeks the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper has discussed the problems of finding safe, affordable housing in Baltimore. This week we cover housing from a different angle: The problems confronting low and moderate income citizens who are fortunate enough to qualify for a government or private mortgage loan program, but don't know where to turn to get all of the information.

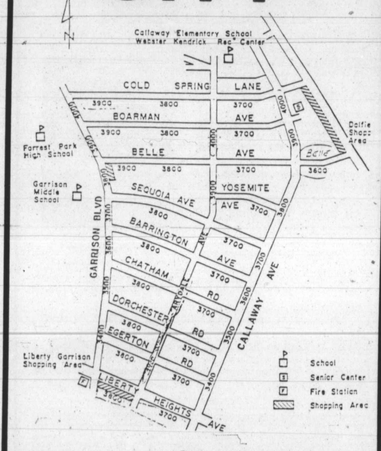
By Charles H. Brown
AFRO Staff Writer

HOME IN THE CITY

Let's take a walk in the city.

The smells of new grass and flowering azaleas are everywhere. Already some of the neighbors have begun the annual ritual of spring cleaning and repair. Some paint, some prune. Some are cleaning away the fallen leaves beneath flowering dogwood trees and trimming back spreading borders of clover and ivy.

Neighbors climb into the family pickup and head for nearby hardware stores, long lists of necessary supplies in their hands: seeds for the vegetable gardens, paint for the shutters, new rakes for the lawn, filters and charcoal for the grills.



All of the things necessary for those who are fortunate enough and have decided not to move to Baltimore, Anne Arundel, Howard and Carroll counties, but have instead chosen to make their Home In The City.

The housing situation in Baltimore is an often recited political hot potato.

The tale of two Baltimores is told in antonyms: Decay and development; wreckage and reconstruction; the "Harbor" and the "Hood" -those neighborhoods not privy to the fiscal spillover that touched such communities as Ridgely's Delight, Otterbein and Federal Hill.

Many of the neighborhoods once considered paradise to the black homebuyer are now beginning to shows signs of neglect as the buying dollars commute beyond the beltway to the newer subdivisions of Baltimore's surrounding counties.

Older neighborhoods, both east and west, are fighting a battle against increased vacant housing, decreased community involvement and rising single to multi-family conversion — and they are fighting the battle with an increasingly aging residential population.

However, through the combined efforts of city and non-profit church and private organizations, areas that once contributed to the "rot beneath the glitter" are now themselves beginning to shine.

For prospective homeowners of all incomes this presents an opportunity for a wider variety of affordable housing and enough programs to be nearly certain of finding one tailor made to their needs.

It also presents a maze of opportunities that may alter the question from, "where do I turn," to "Where do I turn first?"

For both the low and middle income groups the mushrooming of homeownership programs and low income home buyers assistance groups have turned the house for sale ads from a "wishbook" to a wish come true.

In an attempt to clarify the home buying process, the city's Home Ownership Institute is holding two Home Buying Seminars on April 24, and 27 from 7-9 pm at the Central Branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library.

"It will be a homebuyers workshop," said Bill Toohey, communications director for the city's Department of Housing and Community Development.

"Information will be provided on local, state and federal programs to purchase and rehabilitate housing. There will also be a list of homes available for purchase with government funds."

The Conservation Area program, a pilot project involving three city neighborhoods and administered by the city, is one attempt to reduce the gradual slide of targeted neighborhoods into disrepair.

The three neighborhoods, Calloway-Garrison, Edgewood and Baltimore-Linwood, would be responsible for developing a master plan for their areas, maintaining strong involvement with neighborhood associations and by marketing their neighborhoods through information and referral services and welcoming new residents into the community.

According to the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) the goals of the program are simple.

"Basically, solid middle class homeowner neighborhoods will stay that way and signs of blight will stop," said Bill Toohey, director of communications for HCD. "We are still in the first year of the program and want to assess it and see which way it will go."

Baltimore's Home Ownership Institute is a city run program designed to assist both new and existing home buyers in purchasing homes.

By bundling the resources of the local, state and federal governments, the program attempts to stabilize the city's neighborhoods by stimulating increased ownership.

"We are already seeing affects," said Tom Jourdan, director of the Home Ownership Institute. "We are financing homes."

"Every time somebody buys a home it is a positive effect," agrees Bill Toohey.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development each week advertises its list of homes available for auction. For those interested in bidding on listed properties, Thomas Jackson special assistant to the Baltimore HUD director, St. George I. B. Crosse, says the route is simple.

"They have two options: First, they can talk to a real estate broker they feel comfortable with. Second, they can call us directly. The main thing here is to educate new buyers on the program and financing," Jackson said. "We are the education arm of HCD."

In addition to government programs, the private sector is also helping to lighten the burden of high housing costs. The Enterprise Loan Fund, began by Rouse Company founder James Rouse, is seeking to raise $2 billion for a low income mortgage pool.

The mortgages come out of what Enterprise officials refer to as a charitable investment fund.

"What is unique about this is that people can invest in a charitable service and get a 100 percent return on their money, plus earn 3 percent interest," said Rouse.

There are over 5000 vacant houses on the city rolls. The city would like nothing more than to sell off those vacant homes, but there is a Catch-22 style problem.

The city can't take over a home until a lengthy procedure has taken place. After that long many of the homes on the list are in need of extensive repairs due to years of neglect and vandalism. The cost of many of the repairs, if not corrected by the city, tend to put the home out of the reach of the average homebuyer. The homes then tend to remain vacant and the targets of continued vandalism and deterioration.

In a series of housing forums held in all six districts, community groups suggested ways that the city might step up the sale and repair of the vacant houses across the city:

"...holding more frequent tax sales to encourage purchases of vacant houses before they deteriorate...imposing a nuisance tax on vacants and matching vacants with homeless people."

A vacant house located on Liberty Heights Avenue (near Wabash Avenue) has drawn stares for years. Situated on a street of well kept homes, whose well kept lawns and fresh paint do their Ashburton neighbors proud, this particular home is the proverbial "sore thumb".

A variety of stories are circulating as to the ownership of the home and how it was allowed to deteriorate to its present condition. The only thing that remains constant is the level of interest in turning the shell into a home by neighbors and passers-by .

Larry Whitter buys and renovates homes for a living. He is familiar with the process of finding and financing homes for renovation and sale or rent. This time Larry Whitter has been bitten by the homeowner bug. On a warm spring day Whitter was sitting in front of the house making mental plans.

"I was told by someone that the city is about to take it over, so I decided to drive by today to take a look," Whitter said. "This is a personal interest, because I like the house. I would like to live in it."

Welcome to the club!

While homeownership seems remote for many, Tom Jourdan of the Home Owners Institute is certain the Homeowners Workshop on April 24 and 27 will answer any remaining questions.

For further information on the workshop call 396-3124.

Homebuyer's Directory

The following is a listing of local, state and federal agencies equipped to answer your questions regarding purchasing or rehabilitating home.

Homeowners Institute
396-3124 or 396-4125

St. Ambrose Housing Aid Center
235-5770

Housing Authority of Baltimore
396-4100

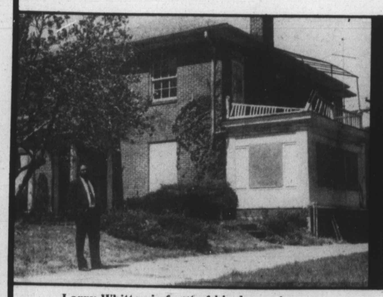
Citizen's Planning and Housing Authority
539-1369

Enterprise Loan Fund
964-1230

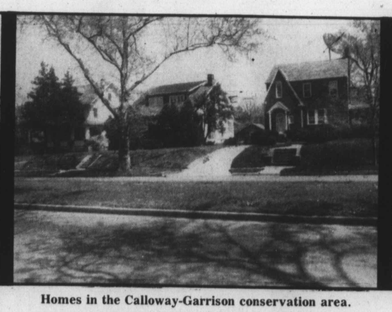
Housing and Community Development
974-3524

Housing and Urban Development
962-2924

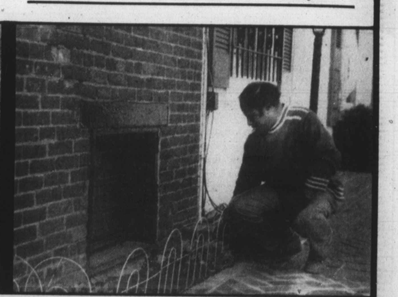
AFRO photos by Ricardo Gray



Larry Whitter is front of his dream home.



Homes in the Calloway-Garrison conservation area.



Robert Torrence doing spring landscaping.