



**A Community Linked in Unity**

# The Rockville Gazette

Volume 1, Issue 1

September 2011

Welcome to the first edition of the Rockville Gazette, a newsletter to provide information to Rockville residents about current and upcoming projects. The newsletter will be distributed as needed to provide important information on community happenings.

## Rockville Community Outreach, Inc.

Who makes up this organization? You do! Any resident of Rockville is considered to be a member of the organization. This organization is **NOT** affiliated with Mt. Olive No. 1 Baptist Church. Therefore, you do **NOT** have to attend or be a member of the church to participate in the meetings or use any of the proposed facilities.

Lisa Burrell is the organizer/incorporator and President of the Board. The organization is governed by a nine member Board of Directors. The Board members will work on your behalf and if you have any concerns please feel free to contact one or all of them.

The organization is in the process of being officially incorporated with the state and federal government and

*continued on page 2*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** Rockville Community Outreach, Inc.
- 1** Plans for the Old School House
- 2** Meetings and Who to Contact

## Plans for the Old School House Site

First and foremost to dispel rumors and clear up misunderstandings. The Old School House property belongs to the **COMMUNITY**, not the church.

For years the Old School House has sat in a state of decay. Several months ago the men of the community began the process of tearing the building down. Plans are underway to replace the building with a picnic pavilion (much like the one at the pool in Jackson). We will be working with the Clarke County Parks and Recreation Department to help fund the project.

The County requires that we provide matching funds which can also be in time and labor spent building the pavilion. If you can provide electrical work and/or wiring, help dig water lines, hammer nails, or any other construction related skill we need you. Or if you are willing to donate materials or money, that would be great. If you think your company would be willing to donate to this project, please let us know.

If you can help in any way with this project please contact Johnny Burrell (JB) or Roger Williams.

## Fundraising

As with any organization we need operating funds. We need funds to be able to pay utility bills for the proposed pavilion, educational programs for the children to encourage academic excellence, community cook-outs and to pay for state and federal fees needed for the incorporation of the organization. To help with these expenses, **we are asking each resident to pay \$5.00 per month.**

We are gearing up for a car wash and need volunteers. The location of the car wash is Auto Zone across the street from Wal-Mart. The date, time and cost will be decided at the September 10<sup>th</sup> community meeting. If you are unable to help wash cars, please stop by and

most importantly will apply for IRS 501c3 tax exempt non-profit status. We are currently waiting to receive the Certificate of Incorporation from the Secretary of State's Office and then will proceed with the IRS application.

The major benefits for applying for the 501c3 tax-exempt non-profit status from the IRS are:

- Being exempt from paying taxes means that our organization will not have to pay federal taxes, and in many locations sales taxes and property taxes are also exempt. We will have to submit a tax return but don't have to pay taxes.
- [501c3](#) recognition also has the ability to make the organization more credible in the eyes of the public and other entities within the community. After being approved by the IRS as a 501c3 organization we will have the ability to clearly state our 501c3 nonprofit status on all materials we distribute and any announcements made about the organization. This notifies any interested parties that we are a legitimate organization and have proven to the IRS that the work we are doing is serving the public.
- Another major benefit to becoming a 501c3 [nonprofit](#) organization is having the ability to give tax deductions to individuals who make a donation to your organization. As a 501c3 organization all donations made, whether monetary or in-kind, can be claimed on that individual's personal income taxes. We can be given a form at the end of the year with a total of all of the money you've donated.
- Having 501c3 nonprofit status also makes it much easier to solicit donations. Many individuals and companies will not make contributions to organizations that are not recognized as 501c3 nonprofit organizations since they are unable to receive any benefit from their donations.
- Having 501c3 nonprofit status will also allow our organization to be eligible for many grants.

## MEETINGS

The next meeting is September 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 at Mt. Olive No. 1. The location is due to the church being large enough to hold all residents. The signs are posted the week leading up to the meeting date.

We are also planning a fish plate fundraiser and will be taking orders. The cost of the plate will be \$7 and will include fish, hush puppies, cole slaw and baked beans. The date will be decided at the September 10<sup>th</sup> community meeting. If you don't want to purchase a plate we will gladly accept any donations. If you have other fundraising ideas we need you. Please contact Lisa Burrell, see contact information below.

## 4-Wheel Rider

We've had 2 four-wheeler accidents this summer and thankfully there were no major bodily injuries.

It is state law that if any child under the age of 16 is involved in an accident the parents are liable for any damage if it is determined that the minor child is at fault.

Helpful hits for safe 4-wheel riding:

- Automobiles have the right-of-way. Please move over to the side of the road to allow the vehicle to pass.
- Slow down when going around a blind curve.
- When riding in the sand-bed please enter and exit on the north side of Lady Landing. This will help ease the run off of sand erosion.

**Note:** Lisa Burrell has been in contact with County Commissioner Tyrone Moye to ask when the bush machine will be back in our community to clear the blind curves.

## Who to Contact

Lisa Burrell, Board President, can be reached at 246-0180 or via email at [RockvilleCommunity@gmail.com](mailto:RockvilleCommunity@gmail.com) or stop her on the street.

Board Members are: Lula B. Worthy, Avice Williams, Kevin Jackson, Johnny Burrell, Eric Jackson, JoAnn Jackson, Osie (Shorty) Jackson and James Wheeler.