

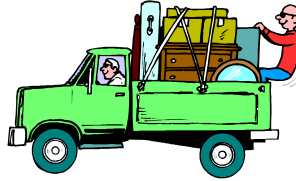
# The GroundBreaker

BREAKING NEWS FROM GROUNDWORK BRIDGEPORT

SPRING 2005 EDITION

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE – [WWW.GROUNDWORKBPT.ORG](http://WWW.GROUNDWORKBPT.ORG)

## GROUNDWORK HAS MOVED!



You heard right! Groundwork Bridgeport has moved to the East Side from our old site at 515 Washington Avenue. We are now located at the Bridgeport Trade and Technology Center at the corner of East Main Street and Barnum Avenue. **Our official new address is 510 Barnum Avenue, Suite 304, Bridgeport, CT 06608.**

On Friday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, fourteen students and three teachers from Fairfield Prep moved everything from desks to files into our new office space. The following day, John Tuminski, owner of Measure for Measure Carpentry, helped move our heaviest items, completing our relocation.

We are still settling into our ‘cozier’ accommodations. Please stop by and visit us. We promise it will be a short tour, but warm!

## *New Project in the Spotlight:*

### ‘Our Folks’

A unique new partnership has been formed between Groundwork Bridgeport and The United Way of Eastern Fairfield County. “Our Folks” is an effort to provide low income homeowners over the age of 62 assistance with lawn care and landscape maintenance.

“The reason for the program is simple; to keep our seniors in their own homes as they age. The elderly are *our folks*, and as such need to be



taken care of,” said Richard Tiani, Groundwork Executive Director.

Our focus this year is to use our experience and expertise to aid elderly home owners and also provide fieldwork for our job training programs. At Groundwork we combine projects to achieve maximum results!

Our ultimate goal is to make this a self-sustaining program, one that will take care of ‘Our Folks’ for years to come. Call 335-6126 if anyone you know is interested.

## *Upcoming Events*

### PARK CITY SWEEP

April 16th

9:30 AM to 12:30 PM

### COOKOUT to FOLLOW

This year’s Spring Park City Sweep will be better than ever! The Spring Sweep is a day-long project involving community groups across Bridgeport. Everyone will work together to build neighborhood pride while cleaning and beautifying city neighborhoods. We are expecting a record number of volunteers! Come out and join us! Contact: Dave Vosburg at 335-6126, or [parkcitysweep@sbcglobal.net](mailto:parkcitysweep@sbcglobal.net)

## *East Side Vacant Lot Regeneration Project*

### **Completion of Phase II!**

Groundwork Bridgeport has now completed phase II of our Vacant Lot Program in the East Side.

During the months of October, November, and December, staff member and Jesuit Volunteer Dave Vosburg, with the aid of Americorps members and Fairfield Prep Volunteers, scanned



Groundwork Bridgeport  
510 Barnum Avenue, Suite 304  
Bridgeport, CT 06608

the entire East Side for vacant lots. Their efforts produced a detailed map of all these sites, photos of every lot, and a comprehensive database containing all pertinent information on the properties.

Community meetings are now being held to help determine the best use of this land. With neighborhood needs in hand, Groundwork Bridgeport will integrate a development plan and present it to the City of Bridgeport.

## *BAT Program Expansion*

The **Butterflies Are Teachers** program is one of Groundwork's largest and most successful endeavors. Through **BAT**, Harding High School students are trained to mentor fourth and seventh graders in science, math and ecology through the life cycle of the butterfly. With the help of Joe Lanier, board member and Harding High teacher, Groundwork Bridgeport staff will be reaching out to two additional sites; the Multi-Cultural Magnet School and the Ralphola Taylor Community Center YMCA after school program.

As **Butterflies Are Teachers** expands, Groundwork Bridgeport continues to empower motivated high school students, educate hundreds of grade-school students and beautify Bridgeport with **BAT** gardens for all to enjoy.

## *Individual Self Sufficiency Program/Summer BAT*

Groundwork's Individual Self-Sufficiency Program is entering its second year. Through this program, high school students interested in landscape maintenance careers are given on-the-job experience and in-depth training. Participants gain a practical understanding of what it means to have a successful career in landscaping.

Along with field work and instruction, Groundwork will assist these young people with employment opportunities after graduation. Groundwork is partnered with local landscape maintenance companies in an effort to place motivated candidates. Although the program is focused on high school students, opportunities are available for those who have already completed their education.

