Keeping our neighborhoods beautiful... keeping them real.

CHABA Meets (and Exceeds) “Obie” Scholarship Goal

We admit: we were a little leery at first. But as momentum built our hopes got higher, and in the end our very first internet crowdsourcing campaign (with Rally.org) netted OVER $1000 for a college-bound senior STEM graduate of this year’s Bridgeton High School class. In record time too! Heartfelt thank-yous to everyone who contributed!

Of course the best is yet to come when we get to meet the students competing for the award and find out what they’ve been inspired to discover about Oberlin Smith, the Ferracute Co. genius the award is named for. And then comes the hard part for us: choosing the student most qualified for the award.

In an interesting case of synchronicity, the City Council is considering a proposal for redevelopment of the landmark Bridgeton Ferracute site on May 6. Will YOU be there? We hope so. This could be one of the most important developments in the recent history of what Mayor Kelly calls the ultimate sustainability of the Bridgeton Historic District, combining good economics, good cultural planning, and ecological sensitivity.

First HomeFronts Historic Preservation Workshops en ESPAÑOL

¿Pueblo de Bridgeton...Adelante!!

If you’ve been a regular on our e-list, you know that last October we rolled out our new Spanish translation of the Bridgeton Historic District Design Guidelines.

On Saturday, May 3, we took our next major stride: Our very first community “HomeFronts” presentation dedicated to the Spanish-speaking community was hosted by Fr. David Rivera and held in the Immaculate Conception church parish-house downstairs meeting-room. Thanks to both Father Rivera and Maria Cerda-Moreno—CHABA’s talented bilingual preservation architect—the introductory workshop was conducted almost entirely in Spanish. Turnout was small but engaged and excited about next steps.

MAKE NOTE OF THESE DATES: On this coming May 17 and May 31 we are planning two hands-on BI-LINGUAL workshops on the Repair of Historic Windows. Windows are often the first features of historic homes to be sacrificed to what people rightly feel are energy and cost savings. Yet original windows can be saved and made MUCH more efficient, and their contribution to the “profile” of an architecturally historic house can be enormous.

For details on time and location, click here.

REMEMBER: CHABACON 2014 is coming October 11-12 with Featured Speaker, author and distinguished environmental activist Lester R. Brown. You will not want to miss this historic homecoming.

Contact CHABA for specially-priced copies of Brown’s recent autobiography, Breaking New Ground.

[chaba] the Center for Historic American Building Arts
31 West Commerce Street Bridgeton, NJ 08302 856-221-3276
Want to be part of this initiative? Please contact us at centerhabarts@gmail.com