



TUSCANY-CANTERBURY

Fall 2009

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION P.O. Box 26223 Baltimore, Maryland 21210

Fall Meeting Will Include Talk on “Village at Home,” a Community-Based Home Care Model

TCNA members attending the Fall Membership Meeting on October 27 will hear our guest speaker, Susan Newhouse, describe an innovative community-based model called **Village at Home**. Ms. Newhouse chairs the board of this nonprofit enterprise that will soon come to North Baltimore.

Home is where over 90 percent of Americans wish to remain as they age, according to AARP research. In our modern world, it takes an organized Village to provide the practical means and the confidence people need to stay in their own homes as they grow older.

Village at Home will offer one-call access to both volunteer services and proven providers. At the core of Village at Home will be an organized cadre of volunteers. Often it is the little things a volunteer can do that make the difference: reading to someone who has vision problems, changing that hard-to-reach light bulb, taking out the recycling, or programming the remote. For services such as home repair and home health aides, Villagers will be

“Home is where over 90 percent of Americans wish to remain as they age...”

referred to trusted vendors, many of whom will offer a discount. The Village advocates for its members with vendors, and vendors, knowing that the Village will bring repeat customers, have added incentive to provide excellent service.

For an annual fee, yet to be determined, anyone of any age residing in the North Baltimore service area may join Village at Home, a nonprofit organization. Tuscany-Canterbury is included in the Village service area, and volunteers and members will learn the details from our guest speaker. **—SUE TALBOTT**

TCNA Fall General Membership Meeting

**Tuesday, October 27, 2009
7:30 p.m.
Calvert Middle School Cafeteria
Parking available off Charles Street entrance**

Agenda

- Opening Remarks
- Treasurer’s Report
- Committee Reports
 - Traffic and Parking
 - TCNA-Calvert Liaison
- New Business
- Announcements
 - Dumpster date
 - Fall leaf cleanup
 - Linkwood Road update
 - Stony Run restoration
- Speaker: Susan Newhouse, Board Chair, Village at Home
- Adjournment

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All terms through May 2010

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From the President

We've had a busy summer here in Tuscany-Canterbury. Many neighbors have noticed the grassy plot that has replaced the fraternity house at 3906 Canterbury Rd. Calvert School oversaw the demolition of the house, and one day an addition will be built next to the Lower School. I want to salute **Liz Nilson**, who chaired the TCNA-appointed Calvert-Community Committee that worked diligently to ensure that the project was done carefully and without disturbing the neighbors. The success of this endeavor has demonstrated again that collaboration among neighbors, under effective leadership, can bear fruit.

Another well-known and much appreciated activist is our City Councilwoman, **Mary Pat Clarke**. Over the summer, Mary Pat worked closely with the TCNA Board to handle several pressing issues in our community. The Halstead, at 3900 North Charles St., has been out of compliance with a variety of fire and police safety regulations; and Mary Pat called a summit meeting to examine problems that had been identified by City agencies: Fire, Police, Housing, and the Commission on Aging and Retirement Education (CARE). As a result of this summit, work is now under way at the Halstead to secure the safety of residents there.

Mary Pat also assisted the TCNA Board in dealing with neighborhood complaints about excessive noise emanating from the party tent at the Colonnade. The TCNA Board has requested that the zoning administrator, Geoffrey Veale, **NOT RENEW** the expired permit for this tent.

Mary Pat has also helped TCNA in our efforts to work more closely with Salem Reiner, community liaison director for Johns Hopkins University. Many JHU students live at the Halstead, and we want to welcome them to Tuscany-Canterbury so they will learn more about the neighborhood and have opportunity to meet long-time residents.

And I want to salute the **members of the TCNA Board of Directors**. We met every month over the summer, and individual members have willingly taken on extra assignments in addition to their Board responsibilities. We who live in Tuscany-Canterbury are fortunate to have generous and talented neighbors working in behalf of our community. If you would like to volunteer some of your own time for the common good, please contact me.

—SUSAN W. TALBOTT, PRESIDENT

Demolition of Frat House Finished on Schedule



Demolition of the former fraternity house at 3906 Canterbury Rd. was completed in mid-August. The property was graded and seeded, with a protective layer of straw covering the seed. Several hard rains have swept through since the stabilization, but the cover has held.

On behalf of the Calvert-Community Committee and the Tuscan-Canterbury neighborhood, I would like to thank the demolition subcontractor, Cole Ventures, Inc., for performance that exceeded expectations. Cole's workforce essentially dismantled the fraternity house by hand down to the foundations, working smoothly, efficiently, and doggedly. Everything the community had asked them to do was done—trucks and workers' cars parked on Calvert's property and not on the street, asbestos protection, runoff prevention, demolition debris kept off neighborhood streets, agile and fascinating use of equipment on site to pull out huge trees and destroy large blocks of stone and concrete.

I would also like to thank the main contractor, Delbert-Adams Construction Group, and its construction manager, Taylor Classen, for ensuring compliance with requirements that the neighborhood had negotiated with Calvert School in covenant amendments. Mr. Classen participated in our Liaison Committee meetings, held about every two weeks, right to the end of the project. The demolition proceeded without interruption; small problems were nipped in the bud, and issues were discussed and resolved amicably. Many thanks to Calvert for having chosen a first-rate team!

John Robinson, who lives on Highfield Road, will be taking over as chair of the Liaison Committee as it moves into its next phase, during which the property at 3906 will be maintained as an interim site prior to the eventual construction of an addition to Calvert's Lower School. I give sincere thanks to my committee and to everyone involved in its work for accomplishing the demolition of 3906 with minimal disruption to the neighborhood.

**—ELIZABETH NILSON, CHAIR, CALVERT-
COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE**

Collecting Fallen Leaves Prevents Parking, Drainage Problems

It's that time of year again—the leaves will be falling soon. TCNA requests that you make a particular effort to gather those that end up along the curbs and gutters that border your property. This is the responsibility of all homeowners, apartment owners, businesses, condo associations, and other property owners or managers. The leaves can be bagged and put out with the Tuesday trash collection.

Problems occur when leaves are not collected. They block storm drains and become matted, then freeze when temperatures drop. This makes it difficult to pull out of parking places, especially when it snows...and finding a usable parking place is difficult enough as it is!

Thank you for your cooperation.

**—KENNA FORSYTH, CHAIR,
GARDENING COMMITTEE**



Safety, Noise Issues Spark Action by Neighborhood Relations Committee; City Officials Meet with Management at Halstead, Colonnade

TCNA's Neighborhood Relations Committee (formerly the Peace and Quiet Committee) was created to help the Association's Board of Directors deal with certain troublesome issues within the neighborhood, especially those involving complaints and disputes brought to the Board. Over the past year, these issues have been chiefly about safety and noise.

During the summer, the Board, in concert with City Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke, addressed myriad problems at the Halstead apartment building at 3900 N. Charles St. These included complaints about frequent false fire alarms, excessive noise blamed on some of the student tenants, and safety and security within the large multistory building. In order to deal with the many concerns of tenants and neighbors, Councilwoman Clarke requested that staff in four City departments—Fire, Police, Housing, and Aging—visit the Halstead, meet with the manager, and report back to her and the TCNA Board. Their reports were presented at a “summit” meeting on July 29. Each of the four reports summarized problems the individual departments had identified and the action taken by the Halstead’s manager in response to mandates issued by City officials. At this time, all required improvements have not yet been completed in the Halstead, but the situation is being monitored by City staff. Periodic reports are given to Councilwoman Clarke and the TCNA Board.

Another matter claiming the Board’s attention is related to the influx of student tenants at the Halstead. Because most of them attend Johns Hopkins University, the Board has met with Salem Reiner, director of community affairs at the university, and with Carrie Bennett, a JHU security officer assigned to deal with complaints about student conduct in neighborhoods surrounding the Homewood campus. A second meeting to discuss ways in which local community associations might work positively with Hopkins students was held September 9. Because JHU students also live in Guilford and Oakenshawe, the presidents of the community associations for these neighborhoods were invited to attend this meeting. The dialogue among the associations and with JHU community liaison staff will continue.

A third source of complaints brought to the TCNA Board was excessive noise from the party tent at the Colonnade. Residents of the St. James, the Ambassador, the Halstead, and 100 University Parkway have long objected to the noise from late-night parties there. They have been frustrated by the lack of response from hotel staff to their complaints. Councilwoman Clarke met with the Colonnade’s manager, and she asked the TCNA Board to meet with him as well. After doing so at its August meeting, members of the Board voted unanimously to request the City Zoning Board not to issue a permit for the party tent. For some time, the Colonnade has operated the party tent without a current permit and without a liquor license.

The Neighborhood Relations Committee will continue to respond to concerns and complaints from Tuscany-Canterbury residents with the intent of resolving problems in a timely and fair manner. —**SUSAN TALBOTT, ACTING CHAIR, NEIGHBORHOOD RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Stony Run Restoration Proceeding on Schedule; Introduction of Native Fish Species Looks Successful

The phased restoration of Stony Run is moving forward on schedule. Two phases have already been completed, and work on the third is under way, according to Bill Stack, acting chief of surface water management for Baltimore City.

The first restored section extends from Northern Parkway to Wyndhurst Road. This part of the project involved uncovering a stretch of the stream, that had been covered with concrete, in order to create three wetland areas. Tests on the largest of these, just below the end of Deepdene Road, conducted by students from University of Maryland Baltimore County and James Madison University, showed that it is performing an ecological function known as denitrification, removing excess nitrogen from the water. A year and a half ago Towson University students introduced black-nosed dace, a species of native fish found in many trout streams, to see how they would fare. Happily, the fish are flourishing.

The second completed phase of the Stony Run restoration reaches from Wyndhurst Road to Cold Spring Lane, a stretch whose banks had been severely eroded by stormwater runoff. Despite major storms that hit after the work there was completed, the restoration appears to be holding well. The College of Notre

Dame is working with the City on a feeder branch of Stony Run that flows along the campus and through the Evergreen House acreage toward Charles Street. Restoration of this small tributary is to begin in the near future.

Currently, Stony Run restoration is under way in the Linkwood Park area from Cold Spring Lane to a point approximately a quarter-mile south of University Parkway. The aim is to finish this section by spring 2010. Under evaluation are options for a pedestrian stream crossing just north of the University Parkway bridge. This will permit hikers to get back onto the streamside trail where it picks up on the west side of Stony Run and continues southward into Wyman Park.

Restoration of the part of Stony Run in the Wyman Park area is expected to begin in about a year. According to Bill Stack, Johns Hopkins University environmental engineers are collaborating with the City in planning ways and means to eliminate and prevent the massive accumulation of debris where Stony Run goes underground. As throughout the entire greenway, north to south along Stony Run, the restoration here will include the removal of invasive non-native species of vegetation. **—KIRSTEN DAY (KIRSTEN.DAY@VERIZON.NET)**



Construction machines put rocks in place as part of Stony Run restoration near Linkwood Park.

TCNA News & Notes

Dumpster Day

TCNA's popular "Dumpster Day" has been scheduled for **Saturday, October 31, and Sunday, November 1**. The City will put a roll-off dumpster at the corner of Highfield and Canterbury on Friday the 30th and remove it the following Monday. T-C residents are invited to pitch into it those large, unwieldy items not suitable for regular trash pickup. This is a great opportunity to clear out your basement, garage, and backyard.

Numbers, Please

Baltimore City police have requested—again—that Tuscany-Canterbury householders display their numerical street addresses prominently on both the front and rear of their houses. If you need the police in a hurry, you don't want them to have trouble finding your house.

Attention, Dog Walkers

Calvert School asks its neighbors in Tuscany-Canterbury to keep their dogs off the now vacant lot on Canterbury Road, formerly a fraternity house site. The area has been seeded with grass and will be kept parklike until construction of the lower school addition gets under way.

"Ambassadors" Named in New City Program

Tuscany-Canterbury residents **Kirsten Day** and **Cartan Kraft** have volunteered to represent our community as Ambassadors in Baltimore's recently created **Cleaner, Greener, Healthier, Safer—Ambassador Program**. The aim of the CGHS—AP, according to the Mayor's Office, is "to help communities use City initiatives, programs, resources, and services to improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods." The role of Ambassadors is to keep their neighborhoods informed about available resources within the City government. City agencies will work with the Ambassadors to provide and disseminate such information. Kirsten's responsibility is for the environmental (Greener) segment of the program, while Cartan's is for neighborhood safety.

Grazie, La Famiglia!

A warm neighborhood thanks to La Famiglia for continuing to host our monthly First Friday gatherings. The complimentary Italian finger food the bar and restaurant at 105 W. 39th Street provides has been enjoyed to the last crumb, and drinks are still happy hour-priced. Anyone missing these get-togethers with friends and neighbors is missing good times.

Please be sure to put the next First Fridays on your calendar: October 2, November 6, and December 4.

TCNA Delegate Appointed to Police Council

A tip o' the hat to **Cartan Kraft** for agreeing to serve as TCNA's first delegate to the Northern District Police Community Relations Council. He will represent the T-C neighborhood at the council's bi-monthly meetings and act as our liaison with the Baltimore City Police. Cartan is a new member of the TCNA Board of Directors.

Preservation Award Goes to TCNA

TCNA has been honored with a 2009 Historic Preservation Award for "leadership in preserving Castalia and the Scottish Rite Temple." Baltimore Heritage, the organization making the annual awards, named nine T-C residents in its announcement recognizing their leadership in getting the two notable buildings officially designated as historic landmarks. They are **Mary Pat Clarke, George Dengler (deceased), James Harris, John Held, Ralph Kurtz, Kevin Lowery, A. J. O'Brien, Gary Sachau, and Susan Talbott**. Kudos to all!

From Possible New Traffic Signals to Perils of Playground Parking, Traffic and Parking Committee Addresses Multiple Neighborhood Concerns



Soon after the TCNA General Meeting on June 2, the Traffic and Parking Committee met to plan strategies for moving ahead on issues discussed by members at the meeting and to address new problems that have emerged. Following is an item-by-item summary of the Committee's action agenda:

- **Canterbury Road & 39th Street intersection:** We are asking the City to install a traffic light here. We believe a light would be preferable to a four-way stop or a traffic circle. We requested a traffic light once before and were turned down by the City, but it is worth trying again. (Helpful hint for drivers going south on Canterbury: At 39th Street, pull out into the intersection all the way to the thin white line before coming to a full stop. This improves your ability to see cars coming from east and west.)

- **Charles Street & 39th intersection:** We have requested the removal of several parking spaces on the south side of 39th Street so that a left-turn lane can be created for cars turning north onto Charles; and that a left-turn arrow be added to the traffic light at this intersection.

- **Canterbury Hall:** Residents of Canterbury Hall, on 39th Street at Canterbury, are not currently eligible for Area 21 parking permits. This apartment building has no onsite parking for tenants, but there is plenty of parking along Canterbury Road adjacent to the building. We have recommended that tenants in Canterbury Hall be made eligible for Area 21 permits.

- **Overhill Road one-way:** Tuscany-Canterbury residents were surprised—and dismayed—last spring when Overhill Road from Keswick west to University Parkway was made one-way for eastbound traffic. After discussion with Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke, the Committee concluded that the most realistic approach would be trying to persuade the City to make Overhill two-way again for the entire University Parkway-to-Linkwood Road stretch and to add speed bumps to slow Overhill traffic. Letters have gone to adjacent neighborhoods asking that we be notified before traffic changes are requested for roads going in and out of Tuscany-Canterbury.

- **Playground parking:** Families with young children going to the Linkwood Playground now must park on the south side of Overhill Road. We have requested that parking be switched to the north side of Overhill so that children will not have to cross the road when getting in and out of cars.

- **Stony Run Trail:** This popular hiking/biking trail running through Linkwood Park now is interrupted at the footbridge across Stony Run before picking up again in Wyman Park south of the University Parkway bridge. Several members of the Committee are working with the Community Law Center to determine whether the trail can be made continuous along the west side of Stony Run into Wyman Park. (For more on this, please see Kirsten Day's story on the Stony Run restoration project elsewhere in this issue.) —ANNE PERKINS, CHAIR, TRAFFIC AND PARKING COMMITTEE

City Schedules Hazardous Household Waste Drop-off

The Baltimore Department of Public Works has scheduled an October drop-off for hazardous household waste materials. The drop-off is set for Saturday and Sunday, October 10 and 11, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Poly parking lot at Falls Road and Cold Spring Lane.

Hazardous materials that must not be put into trash and recycle bins or poured down the drain should be brought to the drop-off for disposal. Examples include car batteries, paints and solvents, pesticides and weed killers, floor care products, and straight fluorescent light bulbs. **The drop-off is for Baltimore City residents only, who must show proof of residency when arriving at the site.**

TCNA Committees Provide Opportunities to Serve Our Community

Calvert-Community Liaison

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Anne Perkins, Tuscany Road • Vice Chair • annep315@verizon.net

Don Akchin, Tuscany-Lombardy Community Corporation

Howard Casey, Gardens of Guilford

Ferd Latrobe, Canterbury Road

Joe McGraw, Calvert School

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TCNA Membership Form

Not a Member Yet? Please Join Now

Please note: If you join the Tuscany-Canterbury Neighborhood Association anytime before December 31, 2009, or if you renew your membership by December 31, you will be credited with full payment of dues through all of 2010.

All residents, businesses, and institutions within Tuscany-Canterbury are encouraged to join TCNA. To join, or to renew your membership, simply fill out this form and mail it with your dues payment, which will cover **the balance of calendar year 2009 and all of 2010** (see rates below). Membership includes voting rights at the TCNA General Membership Meeting, held each spring: one vote per individual or business/institutional membership, two votes per family membership.

2009 MEMBERSHIP FORM (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Name(s): _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

I WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE E-MAIL NEWS AND OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM TCNA: Yes No thank you

ANNUAL DUES (INCLUDES BALANCE OF 2009 AND ALL OF CALENDAR YEAR 2010):

\$15 Individual \$20 Family \$50 Business/Institution

Make checks payable to "TCNA" and mail to: P.O. Box 26223, Baltimore, MD 21210