



Tuscany-Canterbury Neighborhood Association Newsletter

Spring 2008

P.O. Box 26223

Baltimore, Maryland 21210



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Spring Members' Meeting

Tuesday, May 20, 2008
7:30 pm
Scottish Rite Masonic Temple
Auditorium

*Use side entrance on 39th Street
near Charles under green awning
Parking available in Temple lot.*

Agenda

Introduction: State of the Neighborhood

Introduction of new Tuscany-Canterbury residents

Treasurer's Report

Election of Officers and Board

Committee Reports

Disposition of 3906 Canterbury
(former fraternity house)
39th Street improvements
Traffic and parking problems
Stony Run update
Community gardens
Art & Architecture

Comments from elected officials

New Business

Speaker: Karen Stokes,
Executive Director
Greater Homewood
Community Corporation

Meeting will end promptly at 9 p.m.

President's Message

Isn't it wonderful to be outdoors again! The warm weather and the added hour of daylight after work enable us to enjoy the many outdoor delights of our neighborhood. Out of doors again we exchange shut-in privacy for the pleasure of meeting our neighbors. In bygone years our forebears would sit in their front yards (notice the patio stones) and greet folks walking by. Today Tuscany-Canterbury has back alleys lined with high wooden decks. Apartment buildings now have outdoor cafes such as Chocolatea and One World. In this environment we can greet our neighbors and invite them to our own outdoor spaces.

The opportunity to get to know our neighbors makes Tuscany-Canterbury an attractive place to live. A community is bound together by its human interaction. Tuscany-Canterbury is a village within the city of Baltimore. Let's share it with one another. Bring on the alley parties and the small potluck suppers. The Memorial Day weekend is an ideal time for such get-togethers.

Our Tuscany-Canterbury community gardens can use your help. Kenna Forsyth and Susan Talbott manage the planting, weeding, and maintenance schedules for the gardens. They would welcome your assistance. Their phone numbers and email addresses are in the newsletter listing of board members.

My term as President of the Association ends in June. It has been enjoyable and I am grateful for the cooperation of so many T-C residents. We have had an exciting--and sometimes stressful--year. My primary concerns as your President have been for public safety, historical landmarking, and the structure of the Association itself (incorporation and membership). We have filed the documents necessary to incorporate TCNA, and we now have a functioning membership roster. Finally, I wish to thank the members of your hardworking Board of Directors for their help and support throughout the year.

-- A.J. O'Brien

Board of Directors(continued)

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Newsletter Editorial Committee

Marianna Busching,
 George Dengler,
 Vince Ercolano,
 Kenna Forsyth,
 Paula Franklin,
 Jack Goellner,
 Ralph Kurtz
 Susan W. Talbott

TCNA: Working Hard for You!

TCNA doesn't merely hold meetings and plan picnics. Many projects have been taken on by the Association. Some are finished, others are under way. Here are a few of them:

Neighborhood traffic TCNA's Traffic and Safety Committee is working steadily with city councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke to solve some of the traffic safety issues in the neighborhood, including the confusing and dangerous intersections of University Parkway with Linkwood and with Canterbury. A traffic light was installed recently at University Parkway and Canterbury, possibly at the request of Johns Hopkins University; now TCNA is working to get crosswalk zebra stripes for pedestrians and painted lines indicating where vehicle traffic should stop at red lights.

Recycling The Association's directors are striving to get more recycling programs going, especially in the high rise buildings with many residents and limited space for recycling containers. Contacts with Baltimore City have been made regarding the Ambassador, for instance. This is an ongoing project.



The 39th Street Median TCNA is in negotiations to keep delivery trucks from parking on the median near University Parkway and is prodding the city to build walkways and place groundcover near the Hopkins Deli. (Late-breaking news: three new trees have recently been planted in the median.)



First Fridays These neighborly gatherings at the Spice Company in the Colonnade each month were begun by TCNA last fall. They have proved a real success. If you haven't attended one et, by all means drop in on one--and chances are you'll keep coming back.

Community Gardens The Association has taken responsibility for planting and maintaining the common garden spaces in Tuscany-Canterbury. The Garden Committee can always use more volunteers. If you'd like to help, get in touch with Kenna Forsyth. A green thumb is not required.



Newsletter This newsletter's written, assembled and distributed by volunteers for the benefit of all our neighbors

This is only a partial list of projects TCNA has under way for the betterment of our neighborhood. Stand by for more updates.

--Marianna Busching

Candidates for the 2008-09 TCNA Board

The TCNA Nominating Committee submits the following slate of candidates for election to the Board of Directors. These (and any other candidates nominated by TCNA members in accordance with the Association bylaws) will be voted on by the members who attend the Spring meeting on May 20. The complete roster of nominated officers and other board members is included here. Those whose names appear in italics were chosen in a prior election and need not stand for re-election now. Those whose names are followed by an asterisk (*) are members of the current board.

President: *Nicholas Goffeney* (100 W. University Pkwy.) *
 Past-President: *A.J. O'Brien* (Cloverhill Rd.) *
 President-Elect: To be announced
 Treasurer: *Shreve Simpson* (Tuscany Rd.) *
 Secretary: *Marianna Busching* (The Ambassador) *
Kenna Forsyth (Canterbury Rd.) *
Susan Talbott (The Warrington) *
 Tom Bonsell (The Gardens of Guilford)
 Heidi Moylan (Tuscany Road)
 Marie Payzant (Berkeley House)
 Anne Perkins (Tuscany Rd.)
 Sherry Christhif (Linkwood Rd.)



Any member of the Association in good standing may nominate any other member to any of the positions filled by election, provided that the nominee has agreed to serve if elected. Nominations from the membership must be in writing and must reach the current president (A.J. O'Brien) at least 15 days prior to the Spring general meeting. Nominations may not be made from the floor at that meeting.

-- *Nominating Committee:*
Carl Hyman and Kenna Forsyth



Tree Planting Scheduled for Stony Run



Volunteers will join forces to plant trees, flowers, and ferns in Stony Run Park on Saturday, May 10th, beginning at 9:30 a.m. The project is being organized by the Jones Falls Watershed Association. Project coordinator Suzanne Greene emphasizes that this is not a clean-up but aims rather at beautifying the park along the stream. Along with planting, volunteers will also remove invasive non-native species that threaten the park. Work is to start at Wyndhurst and extend downstream along the greenway. Several church groups and neighborhood associations have signed up to supply the work force, but individual volunteers are welcomed. For more information on where to meet and what to bring, call Suzanne Greene at the JFWA office (410-366-3036) or email her at www.jonesfalls.org.

Temple Nears Landmark Status, Castalia Hearing Postponed

Someday the prime movers who decide our destinies may come to understand that the character of a city as a fit place for men and women to live depends on the survival of intriguing vestiges of the past. They give a city the historic dimension that, whether people are entirely conscious of it or not, imbues the inhabitants with a certain dignity they would not otherwise attain.

John Dos Passos wrote that in his foreword to *A Guide to Baltimore Architecture*, by John Dorsey and James D. Dilts (2nd Edition, 1981). Dos Passos at one time was a Tuscany-Canterbury resident, living at 3911 Canterbury Road--and he cared deeply about the architectural heritage of our neighborhood. Those of us who have been spearheading the effort to obtain landmark status for both the Scottish Rite Temple and Castalia believe Dos Passos was prescient.

The Baltimore Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation (CHAP) had voted unanimously in favor of designating both buildings as landmarks; and at its February meeting the City Planning Commission gave unanimous support for landmarking the Temple. Unfortunately, despite CHAP's approval, the Planning Commission deferred its decision on Castalia at the request of Calvert School, postponing the hearing to April. Then, at its hearing on April 17th, the Planning Commission again deferred a decision on Castalia, once more at Calvert's request. With the intervention of Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke, the Planning Commission Chairman agreed to a continuance of the Castalia landmarking hearing to May 15th.

Meanwhile, given the endorsement of both CHAP and the City Planning Commission, Mayor Dixon will soon present a bill to the full City Council supporting landmark status for the Scottish Rite Temple. Councilwoman Clarke has assured us that this bill will find favor with her colleagues. When the bill is passed, the Temple will be awarded full landmark status.

Currently, the Masons are working with a consultant toward increasing the use of both the auditorium (which seats 1000 people) and the large public spaces which are often rented out for special events. In addition, the assistance of local architects has been sought to determine what might be done with the large, unfinished space on the 2nd floor. Councilwoman Clarke and Johns Hopkins, Director of Baltimore Heritage, view these positive steps as a sign of real progress, and they want T-C residents to know that their efforts to help the Masons stay in their building are appreciated.



Entrance to Castalia



Main Doors of Masonic Temple

At the Planning Commission hearing on Castalia, now rescheduled for May 15th, TCNA will again present copies of the petitions that many of you signed in support of landmarking Castalia. A total of 648 signatures were obtained from residents of Tuscany-Canterbury and neighboring communities. This outpouring of support is unprecedented, according to Johns Hopkins, who has served as a consultant to TCNA on landmarking initiatives.

Thanks to all who have lent their support to keeping the Scottish Rite Temple and Castalia as architectural landmarks in Tuscany-Canterbury. We have shown that grassroots community action can be a positive force for our neighborhood.

-- Susan W. Talbott

Co-Chair, Architecture & Art Committee, TCNA

3906 Canterbury Road

The 3906 Committee continues to monitor development of this property (the former Phi Psi fraternity house) in discussions with the current owners regarding their plans for its future and the current lack of maintenance at the site. Our discussions with Calvert School are likewise ongoing about conditions for the school's purchase of the fraternity house property. These include addressing traffic control on Tuscany and Canterbury Roads, demolition of the current structure, and design and construction of the proposed addition. We've also researched alternative actions should Calvert's or any other purchase fail.

An article in the last TCNA newsletter described the Committee's work from last October through January of this year. During that period, a representative of Calvert sent us the following word: "The Board's Executive Committee has met, and we are engaging an array of professionals to work with us to prepare an expanded, comprehensive package of materials and plans requested in your (TCNA's) letter of Jan. 3. Our hope is to submit to you in February a package that is fully responsive to what the neighbors have requested."

On March 15th Calvert presented its first proposal for an addition to the building on Canterbury Road and for controlling Tuscany Road traffic. On the following Saturday the 3906 Committee met to review Calvert's presentation, and on March 31st we sent our response to Calvert. Meanwhile we have contacted parties that had previously expressed interest in the property, in order to gauge their current interest and their conditions for buying it. We recently learned that Calvert has entered in to another purchase agreement with the housing corporation.

Given how many months have passed since we first learned of Calvert's interest in the fraternity house property and because the fraternity's intent is often difficult to determine, predicting a resolution's problematic. We remain active in our discussions with Calvert, however, since the school seems to be the likeliest buyer and with certain provisions would create an asset for our neighborhood.

Stay tuned.

*--Ralph Kurtz, Chair
3906 Committee*





Not a TCNA Member Yet?

Please Join Now

All residents, businesses, and institutions within the TCNA neighborhood are eligible for membership in the Tuscany-Canterbury Neighborhood Association. To join, simply fill out the form below and mail it with your dues payment (see below). Membership includes voting rights at the TCNA annual spring meeting: one vote per individual or business/institutional member, two votes per family membership.

2008 Membership Form *(please print clearly)*

April 25, 2008

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ **Email:** _____

I would like to receive email news from TCNA:

___ *Yes*

___ *No thanks*

2008 Annual dues (calendar year basis): Individual - \$15; Family \$20; Business/Institution - \$50.

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

I'd like to volunteer or want more information on:

- ___ *Newsletter and Distribution Committee*
- ___ *Garden Committee*
- ___ *Traffic and/or Safety Committee*
- ___ *Stony Run Park Committee*
- ___ *Neighborhood Youth and Elderly Committee*
- ___ *Welcome Committee/Hospitality*
- ___ *Other interest or concerns:*