



TUSCANY-CANTERBURY

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 26223 Baltimore, Maryland 21210

Spring 2009

Candidates for the 2009-2010 TCNA Board of Directors

The TCNA Nominating Committee has submitted a 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 attending the spring general meeting on June 2. The complete roster of nominated officers and other board members is provided below. Those whose names are followed by an asterisk (*) are members of the current board.

President:

Susan Talbott (The Warrington)*

Vice President:

A. J. O'Brien (Cloverhill Road)*

Treasurer:

Michael Godack (Cloverhill Road)

Secretary:

Ellen Wasserman (The Halstead)

Anne Perkins (Tuscany Road)*

Sherry Christhilf (Linkwood Road)*

John Robinson (Highfield Road)

Cartan Kraft (Tuscany Court)

Kevin Moore (The Colonnade)

Kenna Forsyth (Canterbury Road)*

Nicholas Goffeney (100 W. University Pkwy.)*

Any member of the Association in good standing may nominate any other member to any of the positions filled by

Changes to Bylaws Proposed for Vote

Members of TCNA attending the General Membership Meeting on June 2 will vote on several proposed changes to the Association's bylaws. Among them is one that would eliminate the positions of "president-elect" and "past president" and substitute a new position, "vice president." Another change would allow officers to be re-elected by the membership.

For details of the proposed changes, please see the bylaws section on the TCNA website at <http://www.tuscanycanterbury.org/bylaws.html>.

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 (Nicholas Goffeney) at least 15 days prior to the spring general meeting. Nominations may not be made from the floor at that meeting.

**—KENNA FORSYTH, CHAIR,
2009 NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Tuscany Canterbury Neighborhood Association Spring General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

7-9 p.m.

First Church of Christ, Scientist

102 W. University Pkwy.

Lower Meeting Room

Enter on either side of the building

Agenda

- Introductory Remarks
- Financial Report
- Linkwood Road Construction Update
- To Be Voted Upon by TCNA Members
 - Approval of Changes to TCNA Bylaws
 - Neighborhood Traffic Initiatives
 - 39th Street and Canterbury Road: Pedestrian Traffic Signs
 - 39th Street and Charles Street: Left-Turn Signals
 - Election of New Officers
- TCNA Committee Reports
 - Calvert-Community Liaison
 - Traffic and Parking
 - Membership
 - Gardening
 - Peace and Quiet
- Introduction of Elected Officials
- Discussion of Baltimore City Zoning Initiative
- Presentation of the New TCNA Website
- New Business
- Adjournment by **9 p.m.**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nicholas Goffeney | President

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(443) 386-9669 (m)
president@tuscanycanterbury.org

Andrew "A.J." O'Brien | Past-President

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Shreve Simpson | Treasurer

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WEBSITE

www.tuscanycanterbury.org

From the President

Dear Neighbors,

As I write this letter to you, my last as president of TCNA, the calendar tells us that it's spring, a time of renewal. And such it is for Tuscany-Canterbury, a time of renewal, although reminders of a difficult season continue to haunt us.

The sewer repair and construction project on Linkwood Road, entering its second year, is destined to continue for some months. But all involved assure us that the lengthy repairs to the infrastructure along Linkwood are nearing completion. Details are reported elsewhere in this issue of the *TCNA Newsletter*, so let me just say here that we will see the construction project finally finished this summer—and Linkwood Road itself reopened before then.

Progress has been achieved on another long-standing matter of importance to our neighborhood—the disposition of the former Phi Kappa Psi fraternity house at 3906 Canterbury Road. At the beginning of my term of office I presided over the conclusion of lengthy negotiations, headed by our very own Ralph Kurtz, between Calvert School and Tuscany-Canterbury over the purchase of that property. With the consent of residents, given in a vote taken at our special meeting last fall, Calvert purchased the property under conditions that embody the best interests of all involved.

A new spirit of agreement and cooperation exists now between Tuscany-Canterbury and Calvert School. The Calvert-Community Liaison Committee, formed to foster communication between Calvert and the neighborhood, has been working to produce results already apparent. The 3906 property has been cleaned up and stabilized, and is scheduled for demolition. School traffic backups on Tuscany Road have been significantly reduced. It is my profound wish that as new difficulties present themselves, this elevated level of cooperation and communication will serve as a template for the Tuscany-Canterbury neighborhood.

The *TCNA Newsletter* publishes periodic reports on issues and developments important to residents, but it has become apparent this year that we need another, more frequently updated venue for keeping neighbors informed and in touch with their community. With this in mind I am working with local developers, including our longtime website manager, Fred Chalfant, to redesign the TCNA website in the coming months. It is my goal that during the year ahead the website, www.tuscanycanterbury.org, will become a place for exchanging ideas, concerns, and offers of service that will bring together those who live in this great neighborhood. Please let any of us at TCNA know if you have ideas or suggestions for how the site would best work for you.

I would like to close by thanking all of you, especially the members of the TCNA Board of Directors, for the work that has kept our neighborhood one of the finest in Baltimore. It has been a great honor to serve you over the past year.

—NICHOLAS GOFFENEY, PRESIDENT

Demolition of Former Frat House to Begin in June; Nearby Residents Will Get 10 Days' Advance Notice



The Calvert-Community Liaison Committee met on March 11 with representatives of Calvert School and Calvert's demolition project manager to review a request for proposal (RFP) going to prospective demolition contractors. Work on taking down the former Phi Kappa Psi fraternity house at 3906 Canterbury Road is to begin in June.

Attending the March meeting with Liaison Committee members were Joe McGraw, Calvert's Director of Finance and Operations, and Delbert Adams, of Delbert Adams Construction Group, which Calvert has named to manage the demolition. Contractors' bids were due by April 6.

The purpose of the meeting was to ensure that the RFP included all requirements stipulated in covenants negotiated between Calvert and the neighborhood. Ten days before demolition begins, Calvert will distribute notification

leaflets to residents whose homes are within 500 feet of the site. The demolition contractor's vehicles must be parked on Calvert property and not on neighborhood streets.

In response to concerns expressed by the Liaison Committee, Calvert readily agreed to construct and maintain a silt fence at the edge of the property during demolition and to create a berm to redirect water flow off the site. The fence and berm are intended to minimize silt and water runoff onto neighborhood streets and residential properties. After the demolition, the site will be modestly landscaped and stabilized. The date for construction to begin on the site has not yet been set. The Liaison Committee requested that Calvert continue monitoring the property for trash and to clean up when necessary until demolition gets under way.

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

LANDMARK DESIGNATION FOR TEMPLE AND CASTALIA

Two notable Tuscany-Canterbury buildings, the Scottish Rite Temple and Castalia, are finally to be officially designated as historic landmarks. Mayor Sheila Dixon will officiate at a signing ceremony on Wednesday, May 6, at 10:30 a.m. in City Hall to confer landmark status on these and other Baltimore structures. Several hundred residents of Tuscany-Canterbury signed petitions supporting the initiative for the Temple and Castalia. All are invited, with friends and neighbors, to attend the ceremony.

Legislation to landmark the Scottish Rite Temple was approved by the Baltimore City Council and signed by Mayor Sheila Dixon on February 17. Thanks go to the Tuscany-Canterbury residents and nearby neighbors who supported the effort of many months to ensure the preservation of this architectural treasure.



Castalia, the historic house designed by Laurence Hall Fowler in 1928, has been owned by Calvert School since 2005.

Linkwood Sewer Project Nearing Completion; Delays Attributed to Bedrock Formation



The long-delayed sewer repair and construction work on Linkwood Road is nearing completion. This welcome news, given to me by the contractor, signals the beginning of the end of more than a year of road closures and local traffic disruption. The expected completion date of the

project, managed for the City of Baltimore by the Carpa-Seca Corporation, was pushed back repeatedly due to unanticipated environmental conditions. Chief among these was the discovery of an extensive bedrock formation beneath Linkwood Road that took months to work through.

According to project manager John Lancey, the sewer work that closed Linkwood Road is almost finished. Once this phase is complete, Carpa-Seca will put down short-term pavement to permit traffic on the road by early May.

Unfortunately, the reopening of Linkwood Road will not signal the end of the project. Some three months of work remain to be done on and under the hill near the intersection of Linkwood Road and University Parkway. During this period, we will still experience construction-related traffic on and around Linkwood. When the entire project is finished, Carpa-Seca will replace the temporary pavement on Linkwood with a long-lasting surface.

Some Tuscany-Canterbury residents have expressed hope that the roadway and sidewalks along Stony Run can be made friendlier to pedestrians and joggers. While this is a possibility, altering the road structure would require modification of the contract between Carpa-Seca and the city, entailing additional time and expense. We can, collectively, discuss the costs and benefits of further changes at the TCNA General Membership Meeting on June 2. If all goes as now planned, we can focus our discussion on the possibilities ahead rather than on the difficulties we dealt with during the past year.

—NICHOLAS GOFFENEY, PRESIDENT, TCNA

It's Almost Time for Tuscany-Canterbury's Almost Annual Alley Sale



It's time again to collect your old treasures and unwanted to sell for cold, hard cash at Tuscany-Canterbury's almost annual alley sale. We call it an alley sale, rather than a garage sale, because most sellers set up in the alleys behind Cloverhill and Canterbury roads. For residents without alleys of their own, we can find spaces in the Cloverhill and Canterbury alleys, or we can publicize a different venue and direct buyers there.

Two different dates are being considered: Saturday, May 30 (that is **not** Memorial Day weekend), and Saturday, June 6. The rain date for each would be the following Sunday. Suggestions for other dates are welcome. The final selection will be the date preferred by most—so let us hear from you. Sale hours will be 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Many volunteers will be needed to help with publicizing the event and putting up signs. Please let us know if you are willing to help make the alley sale a success. Contact either **Adele Wakefield** at (410) 366-2627 (or www.adelewakefield@yahoo.com) or **A. J. O'Brien** at (410) 235-6093 (or ajjp1@verizon.net). If you e-mail, please put "alley sale" on the subject line. We would like to hear from you no later than May 10.

The last Tuscany-Canterbury alley sale was very successful, attracting many sellers and buyers. Everyone had fun. Such events boost community spirit in a big way.

—ADELE WAKEFIELD

There Are Things We Can Do in Tuscany-Canterbury To Make the Good Life a Little Less So for Rats

Rat sightings are increasing in the Tuscany-Canterbury neighborhood. And they appear to correlate with an increasing number of bird feeders in our backyards. Seeds scattered to the ground from feeders are manna from heaven for hungry rats—and rats are always hungry. They are also omnivorous, and will banquet as readily on dog feces as on seeds scattered beneath bird feeders.

Before Calvert School's demolition of the former fraternity house on Canterbury Road gets under way in June, Calvert will have the property baited to exterminate resident rats. Some will outwit the exterminators, though—some always do—and relocate in the alleys and backyards of the surrounding neighborhood.

Rats thrive where food is plentiful, so a few commonsense measures by homeowners will make our neighborhood less attractive to them:

- Containers for trash and kitchen waste set out for pickup should be tightly lidded. Rats can squeeze through remarkably small cracks and holes. (Be aware that Baltimore City threatens a \$50 fine for failure to use rat-proof trash cans.)
- Dog walkers should always equip themselves with disposable plastic bags—and use them, putting the waste into rat-proof containers.
- Although attracting songbirds to feeders also attracts rats to spillage from the feeders, it is helpful to use feeders that minimize scattering and to remove spilled seed regularly, as well as possible, from beneath feeders.

Rats have always been an unwelcome fact of urban life, and we will never get rid of them altogether in Tuscany-Canterbury, but good neighbors will do all they can to make rats feel unloved and unwelcome among us.

TCNA News & Notes

PARKING PERMITS

Tuscany-Canterbury residents eligible for Area 21 parking permits will soon be receiving an informational flyer describing the registration process, deadlines, and fees. The flyer will be delivered to residents' homes in mid-May. Questions? Call A. J. O'Brien at (410) 235-6093.

DUES REMINDER

TCNA membership dues for **calendar year 2009** were to have been paid by March 31. If you have not yet paid, please fill out the form on the back page of this issue of the TCNA Newsletter and send it in with your payment. You may also pay your dues at the TCNA General Membership Meeting on June 2. Only paid-up members are eligible to vote in the election of officers and directors and on other business brought before the membership.

FIRST FRIDAYS IN NEW VENUE

Despite the loss of our longtime venue at the Spice Company, which closed in January, Tuscany-Canterbury's popular First Friday neighborhood gatherings are continuing. The March event was hosted in the area's newest restaurant, **La Famiglia**, 105 W. 39th St., which provided complimentary North Italian hors d'oeuvres and offered drinks at "happy hour" prices to the lively crowd. **The next First Friday happy hour will be June 5, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Summer happy hours are scheduled for July 3, August 7, and September 4.** If you are interested in making reservation for dinner following happy hour, please phone La Famiglia at (443) 449-5555. For more information on First Friday happy hours, please contact Kenna Forsyth at (410) 467-4891 or kjforsyth@verizon.net.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Last November the Baltimore City Forestry Department planted some 20 trees, mostly black gums, on curb lawns along Tuscany-Canterbury streets. If one of these new trees is near your residence, please "adopt" it and keep it watered throughout its first year. That will give it a good start and help ensure its survival. It takes a village to raise a tree.

Tuscany-Canterbury Offers the New and the Updated in Restaurant Dining

For a small residential neighborhood, Tuscany-Canterbury offers a surprising range of quality eating establishments, ranging from the time tested to the new, from sophisticated to casual.

Alizée opened in February at the Colonnade in the space formerly occupied by the Spice Company. Owner Joe Chen describes Alizée's bill of fare as French-fusion, and the initial response from diners has been altogether favorable. The menu offers small plates as well as entrées, and soon a sushi bar will be added. An extensive wine collection is on offer. Joe, who owns the well-regarded Moulin de Paris French Bakery & Café in Severna Park, looks forward to hosting a TCNA First Friday event once the restaurant has been open a while. (There is an item on First Fridays in the "News & Notes" section of this issue of the TCNA Newsletter; you can also check the TCNA website for news on First Friday events.)



Also new in Tuscany-Canterbury is **La Famiglia**, featuring a northern Italian cuisine. Find it on 39th Street where Tatin used to be. (For more on La Famiglia, see "News & Notes.")

The Carlyle Club, owned by Kir Singh, who formerly hosted our First Fridays at the Spice Company, reopened in early April following extensive renovation. The new menu features a most interesting southern Indian cuisine, and the attractive dining room is highly conducive to conversation.

Traffic and Parking Committee to Offer Proposals at June 2 Membership Meeting



TCNA's Traffic and Parking Committee met on April 13 to discuss Baltimore City's suggestions for alleviating traffic problems in Tuscany-Canterbury. Proposals emerging from that meeting will be put before residents attending the spring General Membership Meeting on June 2.

We live in a busy part of Baltimore. Traffic throughout the neighborhood is increasing, bringing with it additional safety concerns. Parking problems are getting worse. Whether you live in an apartment building or a townhouse, finding a parking place near your home is probably becoming more difficult. The sewer construction on Linkwood Road, student parking on Tuscany, trucks on 39th Street, and spillover from nearby institutions and businesses are all affecting residential parking in Tuscany-Canterbury. The Association has been working with the city government to find ways of improving these conditions. Ideas developed in this cooperative effort will be presented at the June meeting.

A final note: For several years, Carl Hyman has managed everything to do with Area 21 parking permits for neighborhood residents. Carl is now retiring from that job. Many thanks for all your hard work, Carl.

—ANNE PERKINS, CHAIR, TRAFFIC AND PARKING COMMITTEE

TV Service in Tuscany- Canterbury: Cable or Satellite?

Many Tuscany-Canterbury residents have been switching from the Comcast television cable service to satellite service. Price and a wide choice of channels are among the reasons given for changing. One drawback to satellite TV locally is that Channel 26 (WETA) and Channel 19 (WHUT) are so far not available. Additionally, some subscribers find that cloudy weather reduces signal quality.

Recently, Verizon offered a package deal adding television to its telephone and Internet services. Since Verizon does not yet have a contract with Baltimore City for sending television signals by telephone line (as is permitted in neighboring counties), the company will install TV satellite dishes until such time as the use of phone lines for TV is permitted.

The city's zoning code prohibits the placement of satellite dishes in Tuscany-Canterbury where they are visible from the front of residential properties. Baltimore City Revised Zoning Code Section 4-202(2) states that a satellite dish may be mounted on only the rear half of the roof of the principal building and must be at least five feet behind the centerline of the roof. If your satellite dish can be seen from the sidewalk or street in front of your house, you are in violation of the code. Installers are expected to know code requirements, but because satellite dishes in our neighborhood need to face southwest, some installers have deliberately ignored the code. You should request that your installer reposition your satellite dish to bring it into compliance with the zoning code.

—A. J. O'BRIEN

Babysitter available

Retired teacher, experienced grandmother,
available for babysitting in Tuscany-Canterbury area.
Call Adele Wakefield at (410) 366-2627.

What the Considerate Neighbor Does...

Keeps a watchful eye on the house of a next-door neighbor known to be away on vacation, picking up newspapers, circulars, and such that would disclose the absence of the resident.

- Displays a house number on the rear of the house if an alley runs behind it, so that the address can be seen from the alley as well as from the front. The police and fire departments have requested this.
- Avoids leaving a car parked in front of a neighbor's house for days or even weeks at a time. In much of Tuscany-Canterbury, parking is tight.
- Heeds no-right-turn and no-parking signs in the neighborhood.
- Puts out trash only on the evening before pickup rather than leave it out on the alley or on the curb all week long.
- Complies with the Baltimore City code requiring that satellite dishes be mounted only on the rear portion of the roof at least five feet behind the centerline.
- Keeps the gutter, curb lawn, and sidewalk in front of the house free of litter—and perhaps does as much for the house next door on either side.
- Volunteers to pitch in on neighborhood projects.

Are you a considerate neighbor?

TCNA Committees: Finding Opportunities to Serve Our Community

Traffic and Parking

Anne Perkins • Chair • annep315@verizon.net
Bernard Guyer, Richard Kagan

Newsletter

Susan Talbott • Chair • talbottsue@hotmail.com
Marianna Busching, Vince Ercolano, Julia Evins,
Kenna Forsyth, Paula Franklin, Jack Goellner

Gardening

Kenna Forsyth • Chair • kjforsyth@verizon.net
Lisa Akchin, Rich Bruning, Ann Finkbeiner, Jack Goellner,
Tom Greene, Meg Hyman, Barbara Lamb, Mary Matheny,
Tracey Roberts, Barbara Ruland, Ellen Silbergeld, Shreve
Simpson, Susan Talbott, Ellen Wasserman, Kristen Whitney

Internet and Webpage

Fred Chalfant • Chair • fchal@charm.net

Membership

Sherry Christhilf • Chair • s.xhilf@comcast.net
Kenna Forsyth, Heidi Moylan, A. J. O'Brien, Shreve Simpson

Calvert-Community Liaison

Liz Nilson, Canterbury Road • Chair • liznilson@comcast.net
Anne Perkins, Tuscany Road • Vice Chair
Don Akchin, Tuscany-Lombardy Community Corporation
Howard Casey, Gardens of Guilford
Ferd Latrobe, Canterbury Road
Joe McGraw, Calvert School

Peace and Quiet

Nicholas Goffeney • Chair • ngoffeney@gmail.com

TCNA Membership Form Not a Member Yet? Please Join Now

All residents, businesses, and institutions within Tuscany-Canterbury are encouraged to join the Tuscany-Canterbury Neighborhood Association. To join, or to renew your membership, simply fill out this form and mail it with your dues payment for **calendar year 2009** (see 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 EMAIL ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM TCNA: Yes No thanks

2009 ANNUAL DUES (CALENDAR YEAR BASIS):

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

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