



TUSCANY-CANTERBURY

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Spring 2010

P.O. Box 26223 Baltimore, Maryland 21210

Planning Under Way for Stony Run South Trail

Residents of Tuscany-Canterbury and of other neighborhoods adjacent to Stony Run have met to explore the feasibility of building a trail along the stream that would extend from Cold Spring Lane south to the vicinity of Wyman Park. It would follow and enhance the footpath that already runs through the greenway. The vision for the trail draws upon the work of T-C's Kirsten Day and the Friends of Stony Run.

A Steering Committee to guide the exploration of the trail-building project was organized by A. J. O'Brien, with assistance from the Greater Homewood Community Corporation. Other Tuscany-Canterbury members of the Steering Committee include Anne Perkins, Sue Talbott, and Ralph Kurtz. Karen DeCamp and George Shardlow, from GHCC, are contributing to the feasibility study.

Representatives from six neighborhoods met on March 6 to exchange ideas for the Stony Run South Trail. They came from Guilford, Keswick, Tuscany-Canterbury, Wyman Park, Hampden, and Remington and were joined by representatives from the Johns Hopkins University and from Parks and People.

At this gathering the group identified uses for a Stony Run South Trail, such as walking, running, and bicycling, as well as connections to bike lanes on University Parkway, the Jones Falls Trail,

and neighborhood streets. Also discussed were the protection of vegetation, erosion control, stream and habitat restoration, and sanitary sewer lines. There was agreement that the trail's history be recognized as a segment of the old Ma & Pa Railroad right-of-way between Baltimore and York, Pennsylvania.

Given the enthusiasm expressed at the March meeting, the Steering Committee has identified consulting firms qualified to develop a concept plan, which would encompass neighborhood input, working with government agencies, and fund-raising for the project. Members of the Steering Committee have already begun soliciting funds to pay for the concept plan and to define its scope. The committee will work with the Roland Park Civic League to ensure that, at its northern end, the Stony Run South Trail is incorporated into the open space streamside planning north of Cold Spring Lane.

Steering Committee members met on April 1 with officials of Baltimore's Department of Public Works and their consulting engineers to review progress on the stream restoration under way. A planning firm was to have been selected by mid-April, with review of the proposed plan by neighborhood representatives to follow. Please look for news of further developments in the TCNA newsletter, e-mail alerts, and in other publications.

—Ralph Kurtz

Tuscany-Canterbury Neighborhood Association Spring General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, June 8, 2010, 7:30–9:30 p.m.
Calvert Middle School Cafeteria
(Enter cafeteria from Tuscany Road;
enter parking lot from Charles Street.)

Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Opening remarks
3. Treasurer's report
4. Committee reports
5. Old business
6. New business
 - a. Ratification of bylaw changes
 - b. Election of Board of Directors
See page 4 for list of nominees.
7. Guest speaker Philip Spevak, M.D., immediate past president of the Roland Park Civic League, will present the Greater Roland Park Master Plan. (During the past year members of TCNA participated in creating various aspects of the plan.)

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TCNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

All terms through May 2010

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All zip codes, unless otherwise noted, are 21218.

WEB SITE

www.tuscanycanterbury.org

From the President

SPRING . . . how welcome it is after such a long, cold, and snowy winter. A walk around Sherwood Gardens, alive with tulips and flowering trees, almost erases our memories of snow mountains that made roads and walks impassable for what seemed like an eternity.

Despite the inconvenience caused by the February blizzards, there were two key bright spots: A.J. O'Brien and TCNA's e-mail alerts. First off, I join Marianna Busching in saluting A.J. for his tireless efforts to get snow cleared from our streets, alleys, and walks. (Be sure to read Marianna's snow story in this newsletter.) The updated TCNA e-mail system enabled me to pass along information about local snow conditions. I received dozens of e-mails from TCNA members who expressed appreciation for the timely updates. One resident told me, "I felt lonely and isolated until I looked at my e-mail and found the TCNA updates, which seemed to come in almost hourly. They made me feel connected to my neighbors in our shared plight." I hope we will never again need to make such frequent use of the e-mail system, but it certainly helped us stay in touch during a very stressful time.

Several projects, in addition to those on which I reported in the winter edition of the Newsletter, are moving ahead:

- **Street trees** have been planted on Cloverhill and Canterbury. If you would like to have a street tree planted near your home, go to the TCNA Web site, under Government Services, for instructions on how to apply for one.
- **The Stony Run South project** is moving ahead. Ralph Kurtz reports on progress in this issue.
- **Traffic flow on 39th Street** should be

improved by summer's end. See Anne Perkins' update on that and other traffic issues.

- **Dumpster dates** will be scheduled for October. The dates, times, and locations of the two dumpsters will be announced in the fall newsletter, on the Web site, and by e-mail alert.
- **The TCNA fall picnic** will be held on Saturday, September 25. (Rain date is October 2.) This event especially attracts young families, as children can run and play on the Calvert field alongside Tuscany road. Volunteers will be needed to help organize the picnic. Please call A.J. O'Brien to offer your help (410-235-6093).
- **First Fridays** continue to be well attended. We thank Alizee for hosting these fetes, and we express appreciation to La Famiglia for hosting us in prior years.
- **Revision of the TCNA bylaws** has been completed, thanks to hard work by board members Anne Perkins and Kenna Forsyth. Members of the Association will be asked to ratify the changes at the June 8 general meeting. Please review the current bylaws and proposed revisions on the TCNA Web site.
- **Area 21 parking permits** will be handled by Meg Hyman, with the able assistance of Stuart Chaitkin. Meg succeeds her husband, Carl, former TCNA

(cont. from page 2)

president, who shouldered this thankless task for many years—to him our thanks!

- **It is time for TCNA gardeners** to lend a hand in our neighborhood's three community plots. Kenna Forsyth chairs our Garden Committee. Contact Kenna if you would like to volunteer your help, at (410-467-4891; kjforsyth@verizon.net).

The TCNA Spring General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 8, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Calvert School. This will be a very important meeting, and I urge you to attend. We will elect new TCNA Board members and vote on proposed changes to our bylaws. Following the business meeting our guest speaker will be Philip Spevak. Dr. Spevak has led the effort to create the Greater Roland Park Master Plan during his term as president of the Roland Park Civic League. Two TCNA members, A.J. O'Brien and Ralph Kurtz, have been actively involved with this initiative.

In March, prior to completion of the Master Plan, the TCNA Board met with Dr. Spevak and Mr. Al Copp, to provide Tuscany-Canterbury's input on such key elements as possible redesign of the Cold Spring Lane commercial corridor, the renovation of Stony Run, and traffic patterns in and around our neighborhood. I am sure you will want to learn about the plan and the ways in which it will positively affect Tuscany-Canterbury. —**Susan W. Talbott**

Improvement Expected on Local Traffic Problems

TCNA's discussions in recent months with the Baltimore Department of Transportation and Councilwoman Mary Pat Clark have been fruitful. Out of them have come agreements that promise relief for traffic problems that have long troubled Tuscany-Canterbury.

Intersection of North Charles and 39th Streets: The removal of several metered parking spaces will allow creation of a left-turn lane for eastbound traffic on 39th Street turning north onto Charles. A left-turn traffic signal and electronic walk/don't walk signals will be installed there. Pedestrian crossing lines will be painted on the pavement. This work is to be completed by the end of summer.

39th Street and Canterbury Road: The Traffic Department has concluded that the volume of traffic through this intersection is not heavy enough to qualify for either a traffic signal or four-way stop signs. The department is exploring the feasibility of a traffic circle here and will have a proposal for TCNA's Traffic Committee and Board of Directors in May. The board will take no action on this proposal until it has been reviewed at the association's general membership meeting in June. Meanwhile, several measures to calm traffic and improve pedestrian safety with signs and pavement lines are being tried. The aim is to balance safety and aesthetic considerations. This intersection is definitely still a work in progress.

39th Street and University Parkway: An additional No Turn on Red sign will be installed to curtail the dangerous practice of drivers who turn north onto University Parkway from 39th Street when the traffic light is red for them or has just changed. Running this red light creates serious danger for cars entering University Parkway from Linkwood Road. Strict enforcement of the no-turn-on-red prohibition will be necessary.

—**Anne S. Perkins**



TCNA Board of Directors Nominees

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 8. The complete roster of nominated officers and other board members is included here. Those whose names are followed by an asterisk (*) are members of the current board.

President:

Susan Talbott (The Warrington)*

Vice-President:

Andrew Joseph "A.J." O'Brien (Cloverhill Road)*

Treasurer:

Cartan Kraft (Tuscany Court)*

Secretary:

Ellen Wasserman (The Halstead)*

Sherry Christhlf (Linkwood Road)*

William Eberhart (Tuscany Road)

Kenna Forsyth (Canterbury Road)*

Ned Lewison (Gardens of Guilford)

Kevin Moore (The Colonnade)*

Margaret Olson (The Ridgemedes)

John Robinson (Highfield Road)*

Any member of the Association in good standing may nominate any other member to any of the positions. Nominations from the membership must be in writing and must reach the current president (Susan Talbott) at least fifteen days prior to the spring general meeting. Nominations may not be made from the floor at that meeting. —**A.J. O'Brien, Chair**

2010 Nominating Committee

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

Report from the Northern District

The safety of residents depends on informed cooperation between neighbors and the police. Tuscany-Canterbury falls within the jurisdiction of the Baltimore City Police Department's Northern District, commanded by Major Russ Bazzuro. Community groups within the Northern District, including TCNA, meet bimonthly with Northern District police to discuss their concerns. At the January and March meetings, Major Bazzuro briefed community representatives on key crime trends in our neighborhoods:

- Violent crime is down citywide and the Northern District has the lowest homicide rate in Baltimore City.
- Robberies (of individuals) have decreased.
- Break-ins and burglaries of houses and other buildings are increasing, as are automobile thefts.
- Thefts of geographic positioning system devices (GPS) account for 75 percent of all larcenies.

Sgt. L. Gary Yamin, head of the Police Department's computer and electronics crime unit, provides advice at no charge to any district resident. He may be telephoned at 443-984-7135. His e-mail address is: lewis.yamin@baltimorepolice.org.

As general precautions Sergeant Yamin offered these recommendations:

- Never give out personal information over the telephone.
- Record the serial numbers of all your electronic equipment.
- Find out if your wireless router is secure (the manufacturer can tell you). If it is not, someone driving by your house might be able to obtain personal information.
- Readily purchased "bouncers" securely record user names and passwords for safe access when you need them.

—**Cartan Kraft, TCNA Ambassador to the Northern District Police**

News & Notes by A.J. O'Brien

E-mail alerts are the quickest way to get important neighborhood information, so if you are a member of TCNA and don't yet subscribe to our e-mail alerts, you should! For example, the TCNA board used alerts to keep in touch with members during the February snowstorms. To subscribe, send your e-mail address to TCNA's membership chair, Sherry Christhlf (s.xhlf@comcast.net), and she will add you to the list.

Area 21 parking has a new residential parking coordinator, Meg Hyman, who will be assisted by Stuart Chaitkin. Meg will represent Area 21 and manage the Stoney Ford area, while Stuart will be responsible for the Canterbury-Cloverhill area. Residents eligible for Area 21 parking stickers will soon receive an informational flyer describing the registration process, deadlines, and fees. Please go to the TCNA Web site for updated information on Area 21 parking renewals as it becomes available.

Native plants will be offered for sale at Cylburn Arboretum's Market Day on Saturday, May 8, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. Cylburn's market days have long been popular with gardeners who come to browse and buy from among the wide variety of plants on sale there. Native plants will be available in the Guilford Garden Club's booth and will also be sold on May 15 in front of the Roland Park Library. Market Day at Cylburn follows the grand opening of the Vollmer Visitor Center on May 1. The arboretum's Web site, **listing all upcoming events, is www.cylburnassociation.org.**

The "dog patrol" reports improvement among neighborhood dog walkers in cleaning up after their pets. Unfortunately, that fails to hold true in Linkwood Park. What's needed there is a posted box of plastic bags available to dog walkers—and a City-supplied trashcan into which filled bags can be deposited.

Rat abatement procedures in Baltimore City have changed. In a new system of triage, residents wanting to request inspections for rats and service to get rid of them must first dial 311. They will be told what steps to take thereafter.

The new sanitary sewer line running alongside Linkwood Road and Stony Run—yes, the one that took two years to install—is still not operational. Nor will it be until work on the section south of the University Parkway bridge has been finished and "our" completed segment of the line can be connected to it. When will that be? Well might you ask.

First Fridays, the popular monthly gatherings of neighborhood folks, will continue through the summer and early fall in the Alizee Restaurant in the Colonnade. The dates to mark on your calendar are: June 4, July 2, August 6, September 3 and October 1.

Congratulations, Andy! The University of Pennsylvania will confer a doctorate in education on Andrew Martire, head master of Calvert School, in ceremonies later this month. Andy grew up in Tuscany-Canterbury and is a 1983 graduate of Calvert. Our community salutes his achievement.

Residents of Tuscany-Canterbury are invited to enjoy two movies in the Sunken Park at the corner of North Charles Street and Overhill Road. The dates, both Thursdays, are May 20 and August 19. The movies to be shown have not yet been selected, but TCNA will put the two titles on our e-mail alerts when they are made known.

This will be the fourth summertime film showing sponsored by Loyola College and the Guilford Association. Designed as an amphitheater by the architectural firm of Frederick Law Olmsted, the Sunken Park had as its original purpose the use of entertainment—music and theater—to promote good neighborliness. Admission to the movies is free; donations will be accepted. Beverages and snacks will be available.

The Blizzard of 2010: Storm Stories

The historic two-fisted snowstorm that hammered Baltimore in February will be remembered for chasing both saints and sinners out into the snow.

One of the “sinners,” according to e-mails received by TCNA, was Baltimore City itself, which quite reasonably chose to plow major streets first. Those plows, though, deposited an Alpine of snow at the intersection of University Parkway and North Charles Street, then seemed to give up entirely on the smaller streets in the neighborhood. Linkwood, Tuscany, Ridgemedede, Cloverhill, and other narrow streets became Arctic tracts best traveled by dogsled.

Dog walkers who chose not to clean up after their dogs and residents who left trash in the snow drew the ire of neighbors. Also on the sinner list were contractors who pushed snow piles into intersections and blocked cars in parking lots and alleys. In some parts of the city—but not ours!—snow was pushed into handicapped spaces and left there. This is inscrutable logic indeed.

But much more prominent were the Snow Saints and Blizzard Heroes. Snow Angel-in-Chief was Sue Talbott, who, via e-mails, kept TCNA members apprised almost hourly of neighborhood street conditions and occasional emergencies. Kudos go to Blizzard Heroes who cleaned their own walks, then helped others shovel theirs and joined forces to clear alleys.

A movement is afoot to canonize TCNA vice-president A.J. O'Brien. He not only tracked down and commissioned



contractors who actually showed up and moved snow, he also persuaded the city to pick up trash in Tuscany-Canterbury. A.J. entered the snowy fray personally, too, orchestrating a shovel brigade of neighbors who cleared the entire length of Cloverhill Road.

Another Snow Saint was Joe McGraw, of Calvert School: he cleared a long stretch of Tuscany Road with a front-end loader. Thanks go also to One World Café, which somehow managed to stay open and remain a warm and jolly meeting place in the midst of the white wilderness.

There is a tale, unconfirmed by this reporter, that a grill was set up in the snow on Tuscany Court and broiled goodies for shovel-wielding neighbors. True or not, that particular story demonstrates the resilient and caring spirit of the people living in our Tuscany-Canterbury neighborhood. It may well become a legend. Who's afraid of a little snow? —**Marianna Busching**



Footprint

*This shocking snowfall
sweeping aside the cusp of spring,
shut down the skies,
flung wild, spangled veils
between the streets, finally
gathered up its wailing winds
and traveled on,
leaving behind white depths
of silence and a footprint
on the mind.*

—Marianna Busching

A Heads-up on Traffic

Events at Calvert School and Johns Hopkins sometimes contribute to traffic and parking problems in the neighborhood. Here are some to know about:

Friday, May 14:

Calvert Alumni Luncheon

Wednesday, May 26:

Calvert Track & Field Day. All morning.
School closes at 12:15 p.m.

Thursday, May 27:

Johns Hopkins Commencement on Homewood Field

Thursday, June 3:

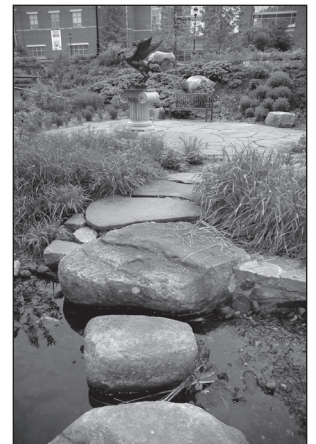
Calvert Lower-School Closing Exercises, 10 to 11 a.m.

Friday, June 4:

Calvert Graduation, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Calvert Memorial Garden

There is a charming memorial garden, dedicated to Mary Windsor “Molly” Harris, Class of 2013, on the grounds of Calvert School just below the gazebo. The meandering stream is its focus, and it encompasses lovely plantings, rock walls, and statuary. Molly’s parents hope that we all will visit it and enjoy it as a neighborhood sanctuary. They do ask that we stay on the paths while in the garden. The stream and its banks, the surrounding slopes, the many bulbs and other plants are all vulnerable to damage if trampled. Enjoy and tread gently.



TCNA Committees Provide Opportunities to Serve Our Community

Calvert-Community Liaison

John Robinson • Highfield Road • Chair • j.robin@verizon.net
Anne Perkins • Tuscany Road • Vice-Chair • annep315@verizon.net

Howard Casey, Gardens of Guilford

Ferd Latrobe, Canterbury Road

Arna Margolis, Tuscany-Lombardy Community Corporation

Joe McGraw, Calvert School

Gardening

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Lisa Akchin, Ann Finkbeiner, Jack Goellner, Tom Greene,

Meg Hyman, Barbara Lamb, Mary Matheny, Meg Olson,

Tracey Roberts, Ellen Silbergeld, Shreve Simpson,

Susan Talbott, Ellen Wasserman, Kristen Whitney

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Sarah Begus, Sherry Christhilf, Bill Eberhart, Michael Godack,

Jack Haake, Richard Kagan, Ralph Kurtz, Arna Margolis,

A.J. O'Brien, Lili Rehak, Tina Trapani, Melanie Vaughan,

Stan Whiting

TCNA MEMBERS: IT'S TIME TO RENEW FOR 2010! NOT A MEMBER YET? PLEASE JOIN TCNA NOW!

Membership Form for January 1-December 31, 2010

All residents, businesses, and institutions within the neighborhood are eligible for membership in the Tuscany-Canterbury Neighborhood Association. To renew or to join, simply fill out the form below and mail it with your dues payment (see below). Membership includes voting rights at the TCNA General Membership Meeting held each spring: one vote per individual or business/institutional member, two votes per family membership. Additionally, TCNA Members are entitled to receive email updates/alerts from the TCNA Board.

2010 Membership Form (please print clearly)

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

I would like to receive email news from TCNA: ☐ Yes ☐ No thanks

2010 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

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

- ☐ Newsletter Committee
- ☐ Gardening and Beautification Committee
- ☐ Traffic and Parking Committee
- ☐ Internet and Web Page Committee
- ☐ Membership Committee
- ☐ Other