



# TUSCANY-CANTERBURY

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 26223 Baltimore, Maryland 21210

Fall 2011

## “Friends of Stony Run” Comes to Life

**M**ore than a year ago a group of volunteers from Tuscany-Canterbury, Remington, and Charles Village began working to build community consensus for developing a walking path along Stony Run. The aim was to align it, where possible, with the original Ma & Pa Railroad bed. Seven communities south of Cold Spring Lane have supported such an alignment, recommended by landscape architects Carol Macht and Matthew Fitzsimmons.

Members of this pilot group were T-C residents A.J. O'Brien, Bill Eberhart, Ralph Kurtz, Anne Perkins, and Sue Talbott. Joining with them were Matt Greenwood, from Remington, and Sandy Sparks, from Charles Village.

Fortunately, the alignment effort coincided with the completion of the massive Baltimore City sewer reconstruction project parallel to Stony Run along Linkwood Road south of Cold Spring Lane to Wyman Park Drive and Sisson Street. The group negotiated with the City's departments of Public Works and Recreation & Parks to route the walking path under the Wyman Park Drive stone bridge near to where Stony Run flows through underground tunnels, then up to the south side of Wyman Park Drive. For several years, while the sewer project was under way, contractors used the City's baseball and soccer fields for construction headquarters.

With the contractors gone, restoration of the playing fields allows for the Stony Run Walking Path to pass safely along Wyman Park Drive. New fences and bollards define the space for the path. Trees will be planted along the pathway, which will continue across Sisson Street in front of the Boy Scout headquarters, then connect with the Jones Falls Trail at the Steiff building trailhead.



**The University Parkway bridge over Stony Run will be a major passageway for the newly developed walking trail.**

### TCNA Fall Membership Meeting

**Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2011 7:30-9:30 p.m., in the cafeteria, Calvert Middle School** (Enter the cafeteria from Tuscany Road; enter the parking lot from Charles Street.)

#### AGENDA

- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Call to order       | 6. New business        |
| 2. Opening remarks     | • Bylaw revision       |
| 3. Treasurer's reports | (see p. 3 for details) |
| 4. Committee reports   | • Presentation of new  |
| 5. Old business        | TCNA Website,          |
|                        | by Kevin Moore         |

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## WEBSITE

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# From the President

**By now, the horrific heat of the summer will have passed and soon the leaves on our beautiful trees in Tuscany-Canterbury will begin to turn.** This thought leads me to tell you that Kenna Forsyth and I met with the new city arborist, Erik Dihle, to talk about the condition of the street trees in Tuscany-Canterbury. He suggested that TCNA do a street-tree census, which will enable us to make a plan, in concert with the City, to take better care of the street trees we have and to identify places in which to plant new trees. In order to accomplish this census, we need volunteers who will work in teams, in cooperation with Mr. Dihle and his staff. If you have an interest in this project, please contact me.

**Another volunteer activity we hope to sponsor relates to the storm drains that one finds on each street and alley in our community.** If you would be willing to "adopt" a storm drain on your block, to keep it clear of debris, please let me know. This would be a great project for a parent to do with a school-aged child—a good lesson in civic responsibility. (Yes, I can hear some of you saying, "This is a job for the City to do, not us; we pay taxes for city services, etc.") I agree, but we need to accept the fact that some jobs are not being done due to lack of manpower, so some civic-minded citizens need to step up to the plate.)

**Many of you have commented on how awful the 39th Street median looks—we agree.** Thanks to TCNA board member David Bedingfield, who is conferring with City agencies, a plan to make this area green again is under way. Stay tuned.

**The plan for the roundabout at 39th Street and Canterbury Road** was voted

upon and approved by a large majority at TCNA's annual meeting last June. Construction of the roundabout will begin in the spring of 2012.

**An appeal to dog owners to pick up after their pets is in order,** according to neighbors on Tuscany Road. Remember, there is no "poop fairy" that will swoop in to clean up after your dog!

**Work on the new TCNA website continues . . .** A new logo will soon appear! Thanks to Kevin Moore, Andy Parsley, and David Bedingfield for their work to create a new and more user-friendly website. We intend to "roll out" the new website at the November 1 TCNA meeting at Calvert School.

**Also at the TCNA fall meeting, members will be asked to ratify a change in the by-laws** that will change the current calendar-year membership (January–December) to a 12-month membership year, which will begin with the month in which a member joins TCNA. Kevin Moore has explained that the new website and its accompanying database will enable the Membership Committee to set up an automatic renewal reminder system, together with online payment options.

**The Membership Committee is continuing its campaign to recruit residents of the high-rise buildings on Charles Street.** This effort has benefited from a generous donation by Melanie Vaughn, a former member of the committee. We appreciate her continuing support of TCNA!

**Friends of Stony Run is a new organization that seeks to engage residents of all communities along the Stony Run.** It

## “Friends of Stony Run” Comes to Life cont.

will take many years and the work of many volunteers to restore the walking path. I hope that many T-C residents will join and volunteer to take part in various projects ([www.stonyrun.org](http://www.stonyrun.org)).

**Finally, I would like to welcome two new board members: Deborah Rose and Michael Matunis.** Deborah serves on the Membership Committee and Michael on the Traffic and Parking Committee.

I look forward to seeing you on November 1 at the fall TCNA meeting.

—Susan W. Talbott

## Proposed Bylaw Change

A bylaw change will be voted on at our November 1 membership meeting.

**Current wording of Article III, Section 2:** “Members shall be considered to be in good standing after they have paid membership dues for the current calendar year. Members in good standing may vote on Association business, as described below.”

**Proposed change to Article III, Section 2:** “Members will be considered to be in good standing for a period of twelve months from the date of their initial payment of membership or the date of their last renewal, whichever date is later. Members in good standing on November 1, 2011, will be considered to be in good standing for a period of twelve months from the date of their initial membership or the date of their last renewal, whichever date is later. Members in good standing may vote on Association business, as described below.”

As champions for building the Stony Run walking path, the original group of volunteers, recognizing that the path and surrounding parkland will require tremendous community-based volunteer support, has embarked on the formation of an organization called the Friends of Stony Run, which became a Maryland nonstock corporation on July 22, 2011. It is described officially as “a volunteer-based organization incorporated to support and sustain the quality of life and long-term stewardship of the Stony Run stream valley in Baltimore City.” The Stony Run organization is modeled on the highly successful Friends of Wyman Park Dell. Greater Homewood Community Corporation serves as its 501(c)(3) fiscal agent.

**The website for Friends of Stony Run is [www.stonyrun.org](http://www.stonyrun.org). —Sandy Sparks**

*Editor's note: Sandy Sparks serves as facilitator of the organizing committee for the Friends of Stony Run. She has 30 years of experience advocating for parks and helping found friends groups for parks. Contact her at [srsparks@verizon.net](mailto:srsparks@verizon.net).*



**This tree, toppled by hurricane Irene onto a Cloverhill home, was removed by the City of Baltimore within several days. Although the cleanup took place between midnight and 2:00 a.m., neighbors endured the noise, appreciative of the City for its efficiency.**

# In and around the Neighborhood

by David Beningfield

Here are some highlights of long-range activities planned and under way in and around Tuscany-Canterbury.

## Reaching Out to the City for Help with the 39th Street Median

**Most of us would agree that the 39th Street median, a gateway to our neighborhood, is currently unlovely to behold.** The median strip was dug up last fall so that a waterline could be replaced. When the job was completed, the median was reseeded by a subcontractor. That effort failed, and the median is barren and brown. Now TCNA is working with the City to find ways to improve the looks of the median. We hope to have a landscape architect study the area and make recommendations for landscaping that can be maintained with minimal effort. Since even minimal maintenance will carry a price tag, we are exploring options for obtaining financial assistance that would help pay for upkeep once a plan for improvement has been developed.

## New JHU Lacrosse Facility

**Work on JHU's new lacrosse building should be well under way by the time you read this.** The university assures us that construction trailers will not encumber curbside parking spaces along University Parkway as work goes forward. Construction personnel have been encouraged to park in JHU's facilities rather than in neighborhood spaces. Additionally, we have been told that construction will comply with Baltimore City noise regulations and that every effort will be made to minimize noise-related disruptions in the neighborhood. JHU has asked that we inform them of concerns about the project's impact on Tuscany-Canterbury. If you have such concerns, please report them immediately, in as much detail as possible, to Sue Talbott, at talbottsue@gmail.com. TCNA will continue to track this project and report on significant issues as they arise.

## North Charles Street Construction

Another, larger undertaking planned for our area is the reconstruction of North Charles Street. This \$30 million project entails a complete makeover of Charles between 29th Street and University Parkway. Work is expected to begin in November 2011 and will require two years to complete. To keep construction time and cost at a minimum, frequently used streets will be closed and detours established. To track this project, including street closings, the City has established a website at <http://charlesstreet.mdproject.com>. Take a look at it to see renderings of the soon-to-be approved project design and notice the attractive streetscaping, which will include public art. T-C resident Anne Perkins chairs the Baltimore City Public Arts Committee, which determines how "1% for Art" is to be spent on projects around the City, including art installations in the Johns Hopkins stretch along Charles Street.

## Keeping the Storm Drains Cleared

**TCNA always assumes our residents want to be responsible, helpful citizens. With that in mind, and being aware of the City's tight fiscal environment, we contacted Baltimore's Stormwater Maintenance Department (SMD) to see if there is some way we can help keep the 118 storm drains in Tuscany-Canterbury cleared to prevent flooding and pollution of the Chesapeake Bay.**

At the suggestion of the general superintendent of the SMD, we are seeking a T-C resident to head up a citizens' effort to keep our drain inlets open year around. If you have an interest in becoming the neighborhood's storm drain czar or czarina, please let Sue Talbott know, at [Talbottsue@gmail.com](mailto:Talbottsue@gmail.com). We can provide you with the City's guidelines and a map of all the T-C drain inlets, along with pictures of common problems at the drains. This will be an important way to assist the City at a time when resources are scarce as well as to help improve our environment.





Until we have mounted this citizens' effort, please take note of the drain inlets near your residence. If you see choked drains, phone 311 to create a service request. The City's goal is to work all requests within seven days. Remember, the debris you notice at the drain inlets may seem insignificant; however, a buildup of trash or debris can result in flooding conditions, public safety emergencies, and environmental damage. *Please give serious consideration to heading a "Mind the Drains" volunteer effort for T-C.* This could be a very worthwhile effort for responsible, dependable young adults (at least 18 years old), as well as others with the time and willingness to help. If you can't head up the effort, think seriously about volunteering to help with it in some way.

## Other Areas of Interest

**We have continued to monitor the zoning and liquor board hearing dockets.** In June, a liquor board issue involving the commercial area of the Colonnade Condominium was scheduled, and TCNA was present for the hearing. That hearing was canceled, but is expected to be rescheduled. There have been no zoning board hearings regarding properties in T-C since publication of the last TCNA newsletter. We will continue to monitor both dockets.

**Are you familiar with the Citizens' Planning and Housing Association?** If not, you might want to check out their website, at [www.cphabaltimore.org](http://www.cphabaltimore.org). Since 1941, CPHA has acted as a citizen action organization, providing assistance to community associations and association leaders across Balti-

more City. This organization sponsors workshops and briefings useful to any City community organization. TCNA has recently completed a comprehensive CPHA questionnaire, which seeks to obtain as much information as possible about all community associations, allowing them to design helpful activities that support the needs or organizations like ours. Note to all condominium and co-operative boards and committees: CPHA welcomes your participation in their workshops and other offerings that cover topics that might benefit your private ownership communities. While membership is not required for participation in these CPHA offerings, it is suggested. Memberships are quite reasonable. Feel free to contact Melvin Freeman, Executive Director of CPHA Baltimore, at [melf@cphabaltimore.org](mailto:melf@cphabaltimore.org), for more information.

### **A TCNA board member continues as a member of the Greater Roland Park Master Plan Advisory Committee.**

Quarterly meetings of this committee review the latest ongoing master plan activities. New efforts of master plan implementation are focusing on a "street tree" inventory, restoration of the water tower and its grounds, and obtaining co-operation to control unwanted and encroaching vegetation, which prevents full and safe use of pedestrian and vehicular lanes, streets, and sidewalks.

**Finally, we trust you have noticed restoration of the area under the West University Parkway bridge, where the multiyear sewer project (now completed) had badly damaged the green space along a portion of the long-planned Stony Run walking path.** This restoration and the recently announced incorporation of the Friends of Stony Run are huge steps forward for this wonderful effort. These accomplishments are a great tribute to the work of the several T-C residents who have labored long and hard to get to this point. We hope you will strongly support this continuing project, which will create a major enhancement of our neighborhood. **Check out their website, at [www.stonyrun.org](http://www.stonyrun.org), and e-mail Sandy Sparks at [srsparks@verizon.net](mailto:srsparks@verizon.net), if you have any questions.**

## News & Notes by A.J. O'Brien

**Traffic Alerts: Major reconstruction of Charles Street south of University Parkway will disrupt traffic flow in the year ahead.** (See David Benningfield's "In and Around the Neighborhood" elsewhere in this issue for more details.) Also sure to disrupt traffic will be construction of the much-discussed roundabout at the intersection of West 39th Street and Canterbury Road, scheduled for late winter or spring of 2012.

**Street Lights: Malfunctioning traffic lights should be reported by calling 311.** The response may not be immediate, however, since the City must send a report to BGE, which makes repairs. One Monday evening in mid-July, Tom Forno and I did a survey in our neighborhood. We found seven street lights out, three of them in front of residents' homes, the others on Charles Street and University Parkway. When notified of these outages the City stated that no one had reported them. Please call 311 to report street light outages for better nighttime safety.

**First Friday Happy Hours will continue through the fall and winter on October 7, November 4, December 2, January 6, and February 3.** These neighborhood gatherings are at Alizee Restaurant in the Colonnade Inn, from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

**Dumpster Days: Bulk trash may be put into a City dumpster** on Saturday morning, October 29, at the intersection of Highfield and Canterbury Roads. On Saturday morning, November 19, a dumpster will be on Linkwood Road, at the foot of Tuscany. Please do not leave anything outside the dumpsters.

**Friends of Stony Run (recently incorporated) is sponsoring various activities in the park near our neighborhood.** A major effort will be to rebuild the hiking trail on the old Ma & Pa Railroad right of way. The goal is to link this trail to the Jones Falls trail near the site of the Steiff Silver building. Stream cleanups and removal of invasive plants will be scheduled, for which volunteers are needed. A special walk along the trail is being planned for early fall, date and time to be announced in a TCNA e-mail alert.

## Where Have All the Leaves Gone?

**On the ground, in your yard, in your neighbor's yard, on the sidewalk, near the street curb, and under parked cars.**

Wet leaves in icy weather are risky: neighbors can fall; parked cars cannot grip pavement to move . . .



Your neighborhood association requests that you work with your neighbors on both sides to clear all leaves—in front and back, on the lawn and sidewalk, in the alley and the street gutters—before winter arrives. Baltimore City no longer clears the street of leaves, and so street and alley drains will be blocked unless all leaves are removed. The City sanitation crews will take away leaves that are bagged. Do you need help? If you cannot hire a neighborhood teenager, perhaps the association can find help. Please call A.J. O'Brien (410-235-6093) or Kenna Forsyth (410-467-4891) if you have questions.

Happy leaves are those nestled in bags. Happy neighbors are those who don't slip or slide on your leaves.

## Call to the Storm

*Rain is storming from the north  
on this dark, humid afternoon.  
The planet's clock is tugging August  
farther past the solstice, calling sparks  
of summer a few last times.*

*Come now! Rage in the hot roiled skies,  
your last chance to roar,  
to slam against the door of autumn  
rising fast as the rolling horizon.  
Look, the leaves are browning.  
It's time. Sweep a wet tantrum,  
spew your stinging drops, cool  
the sidewalks, then take your royal thunder  
home. September waits  
over the edge.*

—Marianna Busching



## How To Build Community

Turn off your TV  
Leave your house  
Know your neighbors  
Look up when you are walking  
Greet people  
Sit on your stoop  
Plant Flowers  
Use your library  
Play together  
Buy from local merchants  
Share what you have  
Help a lost dog  
Take children to the park  
Garden together  
Support neighborhood schools  
Fix it even if you didn't break it  
Have potlucks  
Honor elders  
Pick up litter  
Read stories aloud  
Dance in the street  
Talk to the mail carrier  
Listen to the birds  
Put up a swing  
Help carry something heavy  
Barter for your goods  
Start a tradition  
Ask a question  
Hire young people for odd jobs  
Organize a block party  
Bake extra and share  
Ask for help when you need it  
Open your shades  
Sing together  
Share your skills  
Take back the night  
Turn up the music  
Turn down the music  
Listen before you react to anger  
Mediate a conflict  
Seek to understand  
Learn from new and uncomfortable angles  
Know that no one is silent  
Though many are not heard, work to change this

Syracuse Cultural Workers  
([syracuseculturalworkers.com](http://syracuseculturalworkers.com))



## TCNA Committees Provide Opportunities to Serve Our Community

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**Stanley Gabor, Cloverhill Rd. • Chair •** sgabor@jhu.edu

**Anne Perkins, Tuscany Rd. • Vice-Chair •**

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Howard Casey, Gardens of Guilford

Ferd Latrobe, Canterbury Rd.

Arna Margolis, Tuscany-Lombardy Community Corp.

Joe McGraw, Calvert School

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Marie-Camille Havard, Meg Hyman, Barbara Lamb, Mary

Matheny, Margaret Olson, Jo-Ann Orlinsky, Tracey Roberts,

Ellen Silbergeld, Shreve Simpson, Susan Talbott, Kristen Whitney

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Arna Margolis, Michael Matunis, A.J. O'Brien, Anne Perkins,

Lili Rehak, Tina Trapane, Stan Whiting

## PLEASE JOIN THE TUSCANY-CANTERBURY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION FOR 2012

*Thank you for  
your support!*

All residents, businesses, and institutions within the 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 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 e-mail updates/alerts from the TCNA Board.

### Please print clearly

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to receive updates from TCNA by e-mail:** ☐ Yes ☐ No thanks

### 2011 Annual Dues:

☐ \$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