



The Porch Light

Coldstream Homestead
Montebello Community
Corporation

Volume I Issue 2
March & April 2008

Community Meeting 7:00pm, Thur April 11, 2008
@ CHMCC Building, 3220 The Alameda

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Activity Center Nears Grand Opening Date

Its time to "Spring Into Action." May will mark the completion of one the most ambitious community volunteer projects ever undertaken by CHMCC, the grand opening of the

Feeling Great In 08

CHMCC Youth & Activity Center. Hundreds of community and private sector volunteers joined forces to make this dream a reality. This facility, complete with computer learning center, library, televisions, video

games, pool and foosball tables, music, dance and performing arts theater, fitness center, basketball court and community common area is the culmination of a 30 year CHMCC vision. The focus of

the center will be to strengthen the minds and bodies of our community youth. Focusing on dietary and other health related issues that plague our community, this facility will provide a safe and structured environ-

ment for our children to be nurtured and to grow. The list of thank you is too long to list here, but to all that helped God bless you, for you have truly performed a miracle.



Senior Tutoring

HNI Makes \$\$ Available For Home Improvements

Despite Slow Market, Healthy Neighborhood Draws New Residents

Matching grants from Healthy Neighborhoods Inc. (HNI) for home improvements are on the way. These low interest loans with matching grants will allow many CHM residents to boost the equity in their homes and increase its value. This loan program in conjunction with recent HNI projects, housing seminars and community action have led to contracts on four homes in as many weeks, with one home on 33rd Street selling in just two weeks. This good news comes despite a sluggish national economy and declining housing market. Home

prices in CHM, for the most part, have held steady and interest in our community continues to grow as our marketing efforts expand into the surrounding jurisdictions. An upcoming capital improvement grant for Martin Luther Park to bring new lighting and landscaping, and the Baltimore Office of Promotion selecting CHM for two new murals highlights the growing positive interest in our community. Since the introduction of the Healthy Neighborhoods program in CHM last fall, seven homes in the target blocks have sold, four are under contract to be sold. Currently,

ten homes, priced between \$112K and 180K are available on the Healthy Neighborhoods target blocks.

Recent home sales /HNI target blocks & price

1603 Chilton	\$76,000
3124 Harford	\$88,000
1931 E. 30	\$125,000
1921 E. 31	\$139,000
1603 E. 32	\$145,000
1634 Chilton	\$149,900
1917 E. 31	\$183,000





Elected Reps Go To Bat For CHMCC

Despite growing pressure from some within the Baltimore City Public School System to oust CHMCC from it's 35 year home, **Delegate Maggie McIntosh**, honoring a campaign commitment and **Council Woman Mary Pat Clarke** stood and delivered for the CHM community.

In correspondence sent to school board CEO Dr. Andres Alonso, Delegate McIntosh reaffirmed her commitment to fund renovation of the CHMCC facility while Mary Pat Clarke applied the subtle pressure she is known for to the right sources to move along the long term lease negotiation. While the battle is far from over it is reassuring to know that we have two of the best elected officials to protect our interest.

Hopkins Seeks Drug Treatment site in CHM

A March 3, 2008 meeting with representatives of Johns Hopkins Hospital ended in a stalemate as neither side was able to reach an agreement on the hospitals request to house fifty recovering addicts at the old Second Genesis facility in the 2900 block of Harford Rd. CHMCC staunchly opposes this move and use request by Johns Hopkins since it would severely limit the progress the community has made over the last few years, undermine the Healthy Neighborhoods initiative in the community, suppress even further a declining real estate market, and increase urban flight. When asked how this action by Johns Hopkins would benefit the CHM community and its efforts to turn the neighborhood around, Hopkins officials could not fashion a response. This issue, which requires city council action, requires close scrutiny by the residents of CHM given the enormous clout Johns Hopkins has in the region.

Highlighted home of the month

Situated on the Healthy Neighborhood target block at **1802 Chilton St**, this four bedroom, two and a half bath home has been lovingly renovated and now features gleaming bamboo flooring and ceramic tiles plus amenities that have appeal to savvy home buyers. The home, priced at \$155K, is price below other recent sales on the block but within the range of others in the community.



Buyers can take advantage of below market interest rates by using the Healthy

Neighborhoods loan. For more information on the property, please contact the real estate agent **Ron Harmon** at 443-789-0413.



Civic Works & CHMCC To Give Out Free Light Bulbs

Earlier this year Coldstream Homestead Montebello Community Corporation Inc. (CHMCC) and Civic Works helped over 150 residents reduce their energy bills and promoted health and safety by replacing bulbs and showerheads and by offering free carbon monoxide sensors. The program stirred lots of interest in the community but was set to expire by the middle of February.

The interest generated by this program has been so strong that later this spring and early summer, residents who missed the opportunity to lower their bills will have another chance. While this newsletter, "The Porch Light", will keep the community informed once the program restarts, residents can in the meantime call Coldstream Homestead Montebello Community Corporation Inc. to add their names to the registration list.

Coldstream Homestead Montebello Community Corporation Inc. (CHMCC) and Civic Works are urging CHM residents to take advantage of the free energy efficiency service to all neighborhood residents. In each home Civic Works will replace up to fifteen incandescent bulbs with new energy efficient compact florescent lamps (CFL). These new bulbs can help reduce energy use by up to 75% and will last up to fifteen times longer than traditional bulbs.

In addition to changing your bulbs, Civic Works will offer to replace your current showerhead with one that will help reduce water usage, leading to lower water bills. The organization will also install a carbon monoxide sensor in each home. All these services are offered free of charge but residents are encouraged to take advantage of this offer quickly. To save energy and money simply call CHMCC at 410 – 235-6715 . Leave your name, address, and a daytime phone number.





Greetings from the Deputy Major Russell, NEBPD

Dear CHM Community,
I bring you greetings from The Northeast District (NED). For those that I have not had the pleasure of meeting just yet, I am Deputy Major Melvin Russell, the executive officer of the NED. I'd like briefly share with you the crime statistics and trends of your community, our strategy for policing your community, and how we will create an active partnership between CHM residents, businesses, churches, schools and police.

Below shows crime comparison between 2006 and 2007; followed by crime year to date (as of 2/28/08).

We want the community to know that the NED is the only district in the city running a pilot schedule. Rather than the patrol officers working eight hour days for six days straight before having off, they now are working ten-hour days for four days straight. This schedule allows the officers to have overlapping shifts, which equates to officers always being on the streets. This schedule also allows

the time frame of 9pm to 2am to have double manpower giving police commanders to put more police in the rough spots of The NED. Because of this extra manpower we are able to put at least two extra patrol cars into the CHM community every night. We are also running periodic crime initiatives in the CHM community. The most recent initiative on February 5, 2008 led to us raiding thirteen CHM homes netting fourteen arrests and large amounts of cocaine and marijuana. Additionally, The NED will be utilizing other resources within the police department such as the "Get Out Of The Game" program and Senior Bracelet Program.

The churches, businesses and schools have come together to provide numerous resources to benefit the community. I would like to see the residents of the community take a stronger vested interest in itself by becoming more involved. I'm a firm believer that "there is no improvement without involvement."

So I'm asking all to help us by helping yourselves and you can do this by getting involved in one or all of the following:

- Become a anonymous Crime Watcher (formerly Block Watcher)
- Utilize the 311 and 911 services
- Be a good neighbor, look out for each other.
- Get involved with your weekly Citizen On Patrol
- Get involved with your weekly Neighborhood Walks
- Be alert and be nosey
- Come out and support your community meetings – You are missed

If you have any questions feel free to contact me or my Neighborhood Service **Sergeant Chris Tserkis** at 410 396-2444.

Stay Safe,
Melvin Russell
Deputy Major-NED

Citizens on Patrol reclaim streets

On the fourth Thursday of each month CHM residents take to the streets as a show of support and to send a clear message that we're taking back our neighborhood. Block by block these dedicated angels of the night walk, observe and report nuisance and criminal activity. These patrols seem more like an evening stroll than a public safety effort. Light hearted conversation and good company make these twice a month excursions fun and festive.

To join the Citizens on Patrol for their next walk on Thursday April 24th, at 7:30pm, please meet us at the CHMCC building, 3220 The Alameda
Phone (410) 235-6715.

First 1/4 Crime Down in CHM

The first quarter crime stats for CHM parallel the crime reduction across the city as category (I) crimes saw a sharp decrease. Implementing a new policing strategy that focuses on the most violent repeat offenders, **Mayor Dixon** and Commissioner Bealfeld have helped to give communities like CHM the support they need to help compliment the department's new public safety strategy. Newly assigned NE district **Major Dickson** and **Deputy Major Russell** have assumed the mantel of leadership in a positive and inviting way. Building bridges in the community and responding quickly to community needs and concerns. Together they make a great team for CHM.

	2006	2007	2008
HOMICIDE	4	6	1
RAPE	5	4	1
ROBBERY	67	61	10
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	121	110	14
BURGLARY	68	119	12
LARCENY	117	139	23
AUTO THEFT	63	72	3
ARSON	8	5	0

- April 8– Dumpster placed on the 1600 block of Homestead
- April 10 – 7:00 pm Community Meeting, 3220 The Alameda
- April 16 – 7:00 pm NE Police District community meeting. Good Samaritan Hospital
- April 18 – 10:00am Senior Meeting, 3220 The Alameda
- April 19 - Mayors Cleanup Community wide
- April 24, 2008– 7:30 pm Citizen on Patrol 3220 The Alameda
- April 26, 2008– 12noon - 4pm Community Block Party, 28th & Tivoly

Schedule of Events April 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

The Porch Light is the monthly newsletter for the Coldstream Homestead Montebello community. Neighbors' are encouraged to submit articles, ideas, comments etc., to the Porch Light.. Please submit your thoughts using one of the methods below:

Coldstream
Homestead
Montebello

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