



# The Porch Light

*Be a good neighbor; remember to keep the porch light on at night !*

**Coldstream Homestead  
Montebello Community  
Corporation (CHMCC)**

Volume I Issue 5

September 2008

## **\*Community Meeting 6:30pm, Thur. Sept 11, 2008\*** **@ CHMCC Building, 3220 The Alameda**

### **LiveBaltimore hosts home buying fair at our City College High School Saturday Sept 13th**

Hundreds of prospective home buyers, from the Baltimore region and as far as Washington DC, Philadelphia and beyond, will converge on Coldstream Homestead Montebello's City College HS on Saturday September 13 from 9 am to 2 pm for the 11<sup>th</sup> annual LiveBaltimore Homebuying Fair and Neighborhood Tours. This program which exposes buyers to dozens of neighborhoods on Baltimore's east side, provides a wealth on information on the home buying process, while also familiarizing participants with incentive programs for home

ownership. The first fifty four participants who purchase a home on the east side within ninety days of the event will receive \$3000 help with their home purchase. Our community will use this event to market our community to show participants what a wonderful neighborhood we have. Residents are encouraged to offer a hearty welcome to these visitors who we hope will soon become residents to our community. To register for this event contact LiveBaltimore at 410-637-3750 or online at [www.LiveBaltimore.com](http://www.LiveBaltimore.com)

### **CHMCC welcomes New Residents**

Over 400 new homeowners have moved to our community in the last three years. To formally recognize them and to encourage them to spread the word about the community to their friends, co-workers and others, CHMCC will hosts a small celebration as part of our monthly meeting **Thursday September 11, 2008 beginning at 6:30 pm.**

New and old neighbors alike are invited to take part in the celebration at **3220-A the Alameda.**

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### **Make your home GREEN and Eco-friendly And save a lot of green (\$\$\$)**

Are you thinking about redoing your bathroom or kitchen, or maybe struggling with how to make your home more energy efficient? Are you confused about where to best focus your HNI rehab loan dollars to get the biggest bang for your buck? And are you overwhelmed by the sudden surge in "green" or energy efficient products for the home? And why does "green" refer to energy efficiency one minute and "healthy" for your family or

"earth friendly" the next, anyway? The Neighborhood Design Center (NDC), with the support of the Baltimore Community Foundation (BCF) is working to help de-mystify these and other issues surrounding "going green" for residents in Baltimore's Healthy Neighborhoods. NDC has put together a 40-minute presentation to introduce you to some of the best options for making your home more energy efficient, healthy for you and your family, and

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### **Project Light bulb...free energy efficient 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 expire by the middle of February.

The interest generated by this program

was so strong that beginning in mid October, residents who missed the opportunity to lower their bills will have another chance. Residents can in the meantime call Coldstream Homestead Montebello Community Corporation Inc. At 410235.6715 to add their names to the registration list.

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## Neighborhoods for All Ages Launches in Coldstream Homestead Montebello

August marks the launch of CHMCC's new senior services program called *Neighborhoods for All Ages* (NAA). The program recognizes that older adults are a vital and valuable part of a strong community. NAA aims to provide seniors with practical services and information essential to happy, healthy and successful aging. Here are some of the services offered by the program:

**Home Repair:** Improving homes means improving quality of life for the community's older adults and the entire neighborhood. That is why Neighborhoods for All Ages (NAA) provides home repair services to qualifying seniors.

**Home Safety:** Accidents at home remain a top cause of

injury and death in the United States. As part of the service, NAA can assess home safety risks, address fall hazards, install needed grab bars and help improve lighting conditions.

**Energy Efficiency:** Rising energy costs can place a financial strain on us all. Participating older adults may wish to take advantage of energy-saving light bulbs, water saving faucets, cool roof coatings and more.

**Transportation:** The program strives to meet the transportation needs of seniors by coordinating shuttles to grocery stores, doctor appointments and community activities. In addition, door-to-door transportation may

be arranged on an as-needed basis.

**Community Connection:** Nonprofit organizations, state and local government and many other groups offer services and benefits to older adults. However, finding and applying for help is not always simple. NAA offers assistance in linking seniors with these services.

We believe helping older adults live better will make our neighborhoods safe, strong and vibrant for residents of *all* ages.

For more information or to enroll in the program, please contact Christy Bullman at (410) 235-6715.

## Register to Vote



The 2008 national election is less than two months away. Voter registration deadline in Maryland, Tuesday October 14, 2008, is swiftly approaching. With so much at stake in what will be a history making election, please be sure you are eligible to cast your vote on Election Day, November 4. In order to register before the October 14 deadline please contact:

### **Baltimore City Board of Elections**

Benton Office Building, Rm 129  
417 E. Fayette Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202-3432  
**410-396-5550**

## Don't throw out your television ...yet

### **\$40 Coupons Available for FREE!**

On Feb. 19, 2009, all full-power television stations are required to begin broadcasting a digital signal only. What this means is that many households that receive their television signal through an antenna on an older TV set may find themselves staring at a lot of "snow" if they haven't prepared.

**What do you need to do to be prepared?** If you subscribe to a paid television service, such as cable or satellite TV, you probably don't need to do anything. Your provider will ensure that you continue receiving local broadcast programming. However, check with them to see if

you will need to purchase or rent any new equipment in the future and if any additional fees will be charged. If you currently receive over-the-air programming using an antenna — either roof-mounted or set-top ("rabbit ears") — you need to determine if each television in your home is equipped with a digital tuner. If you purchased a television in the past year, it may already be DTV-ready. Televisions that are more than two or three years old are probably analog. Check with your TV's manufacturer or local electronics retailer if you have questions about your set. If you have analog TVs, you will need to replace them or purchase digital-to-analog converter boxes to continue



watching broadcast television on those sets. These devices are about \$50 to \$70, easy to install and available at most retailers. Plus, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration is offering up to two \$40 coupons per household to help defray the cost of converters. All households are eligible. Call toll-free **1-888-388-2009** or visit [www.dtv2009.gov](http://www.dtv2009.gov) to apply for your \$40 coupons.

You don't have to wait until 2009 to make the switch, either. Most stations already are broadcasting a digital signal.

## Project Light bulb

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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.

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, & daytime phone number.



## CHMCC Youth Activities & Learning Center

The CHMCC After-School Program will kick off on Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 2:45pm. Our motto is "Unleashing the Possibilities in YOU".

**"The best way to predict your future is to create it"**

*Abraham Lincoln*

We believe that all children in the CHM community have greatness on the inside

of them and through our wide range of program and activities in our after-school program we will not only discover their greatness but they will recognize how to walk in their greatness. Our goal is to help each child with his/ her homework and provide math and reading tutors for all. Our program will also provide a computer lab where the children of our community can utilize for their school work. Also, we will have a chess club, tennis and dance classes, basketball team, and mentor program for community children and youth.

Our program will run from Monday-Thursday, 2:45-6:00pm.

### Operation Dates:

Sept. 15 – Nov. 18, 2008

Dec. 1 – Dec. 19, 2008

Jan. 12 – April 3, 2009

April 14-June 5, 2009

Note: The after-school program will be closed on any day that the Baltimore City Public School System is closed due to inclement weather and during the holidays when school is closed.

## Volunteer for CHANGE

The renaissance taking place in our community is the result of the work and dedication of many who have give their time, energy and even money. As the community continues on its path we continue to rely on this spirit of giving and volunteerism. Below are opportunities to volunteer on project of significant benefit to us all.

**"Volunteers are seldom paid; not because they are worthless, but because they are PRICELESS!"**

*--author unknown*

## Go Green and Save Money

*Continued from pg 1*

adding real value to your property.

NDC's presentation looks at two main approaches you might consider in taking on a remodeling project. The first emphasizes: "I want to redo my (fill in the blank) kitchen, so how I make it a healthy environment for my family, energy efficient and what products might make less of a demand on the environment?" And the second is: "I need to reduce my BGE bill as much as possible, so how do I figure out if I need new windows, insulation or a new roof to make the greatest dent in my monthly bill?"

It won't be long before what are considered cutting-edge green technologies and sustainable practices will be standard and reflected in normal building practices and

local codes. For now, it is still up to consumers to pick their way through a "green forest" of information and products.

**Make your Home Green & Eco-friendly**  
**Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008 – 6:30 pm**  
 3220-A The Alameda  
 Call 410.235.6715 or Email [LivelnCHUM@verizon.net](mailto:LivelnCHUM@verizon.net)

On Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm (place and time TBA) NDC will be coming out to our neck of the woods to help get you started in asking the right questions before starting your remodeling project. After the presentation, Kristen Humphrey, greenNDC program coordinator will be available to answer your questions and refer you to reliable resources for additional information.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

All residents living in a

Healthy Neighborhood are eligible for low-interest loans for project ranging from \$5,000-40,000 with an

additional \$10,000 in grant money available for those who qualify. While HNI, Inc. does not require that this money be used for "green" home improvements, the organization does strongly support its use on materials (whether eco friendly paint or energy efficient heating and cooling systems or Energy Star home appliances) that will make your home healthier, cheaper to heat and cool as well as more marketable down the line for having "green" features.



### CHMCC Youth Activities & Learning Center

Mondays thru Thursdays, 2:45-6:00pm.

Tutors, instructors and mentors needed.

#### **Ricky Meyer's Day**

**Saturday October 4, 2008  
8am-4pm**

All hands on deck to skill set needed to perform beautification projects around the community

#### **James Rouse Day**

**Saturday October 11, 8am-4pm**

All skill sets needed to landscape, paint, clean etc, the five acre site near City college HS and Shepherd Clinic.

Please call **410.235.6715** or email

**LivelnChum@verizon.net** for questions and to volunteer.

## Calendar of Events

September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008 – 6:30 pm

Community Meeting

3220-A The Alameda

September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008 – 9am-3pm

Community Pitch In (Dumpster)

1600, 1700 Blocks of 33rd & Chilton

September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008 – 9am -2pm

Live Baltimore Tour

City College High School

September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008 – 2:45-6:00pm

After-School Program Opens

Mondays thru Thursdays

September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008– 7:pm

NE District Police Meeting

Good Samaritan Hospital

September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008 – 6:30 pm

Make your Home Green & Eco-friendly

3220-A The Alameda

September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008 – 10:00 am

Senior Meeting

3220-A The Alameda

September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008 – 7:00pm

C.O.P. Walk

3220-A The Alameda

September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008 - 7:30 pm

Tailgate Party

Clifton Park

## September 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:

Mail: 3220-A The Alameda, Baltimore MD 21218

Phone: 410-235-6715 Fax: 410-235-7456

E-mail: [LivInChum@verizon.net](mailto:LivInChum@verizon.net)

## Volunteer Opportunities

For more information Call 410.235.6715

**\$5000-10,000 Matching grant with  
Healthy Neighborhood loan still available.**

For information

**Call 410.235.6715**



Visit us on the web at [www.LivInChum.org](http://www.LivInChum.org)