



The Coldspring Community Association

End Of Year Report For 2009



Roland Patterson School

CCA continues to meet with representatives from the City, Baltimore City Public School, and the Charter/Transformational Schools located in the former Roland Patterson School on Greenspring. The school ceased operation as a public school several years ago and now serves as the location for KIPP Academy, MATHS Academy, and Baltimore Civitas. The school is in desperate need of repair to the HVAC system and is functionally obsolete in terms of school design. The future of the building is uncertain and the existing schools are considering their options which could include relocating from the facility. CCA is drafting a letter to Dr. Alonzo, CEO of Baltimore City Schools and the Baltimore City School Board to invite them to meet with the CCA Board and interested residents from the community to develop a "concept plan" for the property. This plan would highlight the continued use of the property to serve the children of Baltimore while exploring other opportunities to enhance the site for the residents of Coldspring. It would also serve as a guide for BCPS by highlighting the communities interest which they should take into would considering the site's future.



Jones Falls Bike Trail

CCA has agreed to support the development of the Jones Falls Bike Trail through our community. The trail will enter the neighborhood next to Tamarind Rd and West Coldspring Lane; travel around behind the Waldorf School and Parkview Apartment; then exit on to Springarden Drive. It will continue along Springarden as a Bike Lane to Greenspring Ave before turning right and traveling towards Cylburn Arboretum. Construction is expected to begin in the spring of 2010 and take eighteen (18) months to complete. There will be no major disruptions to the community. The Coldspring entrance sign at West Coldspring Lane and Tamarind Rd will have to be relocated and rebuilt at this location at no cost to the community. Springarden Drive from the entrance to Parkview on towards where it dead ends will be removed in order to create a trailhead for the bike trail.

The community has asked that the City repair Springarden Ave and the adjoining sidewalks by patching the cracks and potholes with concrete in addition to marking the bike lanes and providing signage to alert drivers.



Speed Cushions on Springarden

CCA has engaged the Baltimore City Department of Transportation (DOT) in an effort to determine if speed cushions could be placed at strategic locations along this street. Springarden is a frequent cut through for those seeking to get from Greenspring Ave to Coldspring Lane. Vehicle travel through this area often at a high rate of speed which endangers residents walking in the community. Previous efforts to obtain Speed Humps were unsuccessful do to the fact that the Baltimore City Fire Department's concern that the humps reduce there response time.

The Speed Cushion is a modified speed hump that would allow for large emergency vehicles to pass over the hump through two cut outs. Passenger cars and other smaller vehicles with narrower wheel gauges would still have to slow down in order to pass over the hump. If speed cushions are approved by the City along Springarden, the community will work with the City to determine the appropriate locations and design so that they blend in aesthetically with the community (i.e. concrete or brick pavers as opposed to asphalt)



Coldspring Light Rail Station

CCA has been meeting with Baltimore City Planning Staff, BG&E, and MTA to discuss possible improvements to the Coldspring Light Rail Station. CCA has moved to "claim" the Light Rail Station as an extension of our community...much in the same manner as Woodbury, Westport, and Cherry Hill stops not only serve but also represent the communities that bear their names.

Part of this effort involved determining if some of the vacant and underutilized land including the old BG&E gas tower could be developed in a manner that could bring addition residential and possible commercial activities to the area surrounding the station. Any enhancement in this area would benefit the residents of Coldspring by providing additional retail services and increase the likelihood that residents would utilize the station and surrounding development via the Jones Falls Trail connection.

CCA hopes to join efforts with the Roland Park Civic League and develop a Master Plan that includes this Light Rail Station and surrounding property and have the plan adopted by the City.



Heritage Walk

Coldspring Newtown was host to 30 members of the Baltimore Heritage, Inc. on April 25, 2009.

The group assembled in the community cottage and given a presentation on the history, architecture, and community overview of Coldspring Newtown. Following the presentation a guided tour of the expansive property was conducted stopping at key community points and touring two resident condo units and the Ruscombe Mansion Health Center. The walk concluded with refreshments and historic overview of the recently restored Stone Mansion.

The great spring weather, birds singing, trees and flowers bursting out in Coldspring pride all added to this occasion.



Sustainable Coldspring Committee

The committee was organized in spring 2008, meeting monthly to find opportunities to reduce our energy use and carbon footprint, as well as promote a healthier environment in Coldspring Newtown.

We have partnered with the CCA, 1A, 1B and Woodlands Boards to initiate or accomplish the following projects:

- Survey the community on Greening needs and interests in the community.
- Improve garage trash room heating systems to reduce electric costs and energy use.
- Encourage the boards to update garage light fixtures using BGE Empower MD funds, lowering costs and energy while increasing light levels.
- Encourage the reduction of herbicide and pesticide used to treat community lawns, in order to decrease chemical exposure, improve lawn health, and protect the Chesapeake Bay watershed.
- Begin the recycling program at the pool of Coldspring's Swim and Tennis Club. Plan for planting free indigenous trees from the Tree-Baltimore City Greening program with planting taking place on October 17. High school students are earning service learning credit.

Frank Lee and Libby Baker chair the committee. Committee members include Ursula Scheffel, Holly Howard, Charlie Cooper, Carl McGrew and Paul Trattner. We appreciate the cooperation of the various boards and ACM in our endeavors to reduce our energy use and carbon footprint, as well as promote a healthier environment in Coldspring Newtown. We welcome any resident participants who want to make a Green difference in our community.



Waldorf School Update

Here are some of the things that are happening at the school.

- The school year began with an increase in enrollment from 172 to 179
- Work has started on adding 4 classrooms to the existing elementary school on Tamarind Road. These classrooms are being built on the second level of the garage.
- The All School Open House will be held on Sunday, November 8 beginning at 2:00 p.m.
- The Holiday Fair will be held on Saturday, December 5 from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.
- You can read our weekly newsletter on line at www.waldorfschoolofbaltimore.org; click on "Parent Resources" and then on "Newsletter". The current edition as well as recent editions are posted at this site.



CCA Picnic

Once again the Big Band of Baltimore City performed for the annual CCA picnic in the Park at Coldspring. The smooth sounds and sultry songs of cool jazz permeated the community. Children were playing ball, Chef Joe prepared hot dogs and hamburgers while the Ruscombe Gardens had delicious bakery treats for all to enjoy. Several vendors set up tables to inform the community of their services and a few took the opportunity to walk the Labyrinth. Many neighbors got a chance to meet other residents and share the evening as the band played on.



Security review

Except for a few major incidents during the year Coldspring experienced little crime for 2009. Much of this can be attributed to the Wackenhut security patrol. The 365 days of visible security has made our community a comparatively safe environment in which to live. As always it is important to be observant of our surroundings in entering and leaving our homes and report any suspicious activities to the police 911.



2009 Pool Review

Due to the summer weather (cool and rainy) and the economy (cool and rainy) our 2009 pool season suffered a reduced outside membership that impacted our budget. We experienced a loss of revenue and will have to adjust our 2010 season. The response of those attending the pool this year was positive and many remarked on the overall physical improvements made during the year. The café got off to a great start but again due to the weather and poor attendance was not as successful as the café operators anticipated.

Remembrances - In 2009 the Coldspring community lost two prominent residents.



Harriet Griffin

Harriet Griffin - former CCA board member, Decknotes editor, and activist.



Eleanor Louge

Eleanor Louge - was a friend of all stray animals and supporter of all community events.