



Coldstream Homestead Montebello Community Corporation

What Is Healthy Neighborhoods?

A Quick Review of the Possibilities:

- **Block Projects**—Healthy Neighborhoods provides grants for projects that make neighbors and friends, enhance curb appeal, add value and build strong blocks.
- **Refinancing and Renovation Loans**
 - 1% below the 60-day Fannie Mae rate
 - 30-year fixed rate
 - No private mortgage insurance
 - Loans to 110% of the after-rehab value
 - Free design advice from an architect
 - Eligible for \$10,000 Matching Grant for Rehab
- **Forgivable Loans** — to buy foreclosed, abandoned, short-sale homes, City owned *Vacants to Value* and developer partner renovated homes

HUD Certified Homeownership Counseling Agencies
 Belair-Edison Neighborhoods
 3412 Belair Rd. Baltimore, MD 21213
 Phone: 410-485-8422

St. Ambrose Housing Aid Center, Inc. 321 E. 25th St. Baltimore, MD 21218
 410-366-8550 x221, x222

NSP2 Program! **\$25,000** for buyers of foreclosed, Short Sales and City owned properties! Tell your friends and colleagues and call HNI representative at CHMCC today!
CHM Healthy Neighborhoods at 410-235-6715 or email chmc.corp@verizon.net.

Neighbors are encouraged to submit articles and ideas to the Porch Light.. Please submit your thoughts using one of the following methods:

3220-A The Alameda
 Baltimore MD 21218
 Mark Washington
 Executive Director

Phone: 410-235-6715
 Fax: 410-235-7456
 E-mail:
 chmc.corp@verizon.net
 www.liveinchum.org



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Fun Time At Live Baltimore Tour



Youth Build & CHMCC Start Fall Program

Continuing the commitment to youth development Youth Build started it's fall job training and skill development program. Headed by Sean Thames the Youth Build Program helps young adults develop the skills they need to successfully enter the work force. CHMCC is proud of our partnership with such a wonderful youth development program.



October 2014



The Porch Light



~Inside~
 BCPSS Recommends Deferring Lake Clifton Project

Calendar of Events

October 3rd 9 am – 5 pm
 Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off
 2840 Sisson Street

October 4th 12noon
 Belair-Edison "Beer & Wine Fest"
 Herring Run Park - Belair Rd. & 2800 Chesterfield Ave.

October 7th 5:30 PM
 School Board 200 E. North Ave.
ATTENTION: Parents of REACH & Heritage High School Students
 After Ranking the Lake Clifton Complex As The Only School Complex In The City With "Significant Structural Damage" And Describing It As "Sinking" the Lake Clifton Complex Was Rightfully Listed As A Priority "Year 1" School For Renovations And Improvements. Now Attempts Are Being Made By the Baltimore City Public School System Too Defer Indefinitely Plans For The Lake Clifton Complex And Remove The Facility From The 21st Century Schools Plan. Thus, Leaving The Complex To Stand Abandoned In The Middle Of Clifton Park If You Think Your Children Deserve Better, If You Think Our Community, Park And City Deserve Better We Ask That You Join Student Advocates, Lake Clifton Alumni, Community Residents And Park Supporters For This Important Meeting.

October 9th 7pm
 CHMCC Community Meeting

October 11th 9am
 "A Day At Clifton Mansion" and St. Vincent Cemetery Clean-Up Day
 Clifton Park

October 18th (All Day)
 Baltimore Running Festival Street
 Please Plan Accordingly

October 25th
 Mayor's Fall Clean Up

Baltimore Sun

Extra costs could delay renovations for city's most dilapidated schools

By Colin Campbell, The Baltimore Sun 10:41 PM EDT, September 23, 2014

When Baltimore city schools and the Maryland Stadium Authority adopted a plan to update the city's aging school buildings in January 2013, they hoped to rebuild or restore 30 to 35 schools in the first phase of renovations.

But studies to identify the schools' needs determined that the \$977 million in bond funding the system expects to receive would cover only 23 to 28 schools.

The city school commissioners at their board meeting Tuesday night reviewed a hotly contested recommendation to defer renovations to some of Baltimore's most dilapidated schools because they would be the costliest to renovate.

Other measures proposed by the school system and the stadium authority included increasing utilization rates to 90 percent, reconfiguring grade levels at one school and doing "strategic modernizations" where possible to create more flexible space.

Putting off the more expensive projects at Lake Clifton and Vivien T. Thomas Medical Arts Academy would free up money for renovations at more schools, said Alison Perkins-Cohen, executive director of the school system's Office of New Initiatives, and Gary McGuigan, project manager at the stadium authority.

If the recommendations are adopted, the 11 schools still set to be renovated by August 2018 would be Arlington, Forest Park, Frederick, Fort Worthington, John Eager Howard, Lyndhurst, Patterson, Pimlico, Robert Poole Building/ACCE/Independence, and the Arundel and Cherry Hill sites of Cherry Hill schools. Arlington would be reconfigured to an elementary school from an elementary-middle school.

Fort Worthington Elementary School in the Berea neighborhood and Frederick Elementary School in Millhill are in the design phase and are expected to open in the 2017-2018 school year.

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Baltimore City Public Schools Proposal To Renovate Fewer Schools Disappoints Parents Good Morning. WYPR

By Gwendolyn Glenn September 26, 2014

The Lake Clifton Building, which has potholes along its driveway and peeling paint on all sides of the building, houses both Reach Partnership and Claremont High School. Claremont is scheduled to be moved to another location in coming years.

As buses picked up students at the large campus this week, Yolanda Parker waited for her daughter, a ninth-grader, to come out of the building. She says this is the first year her daughter has attended public school and she had not heard that the building's renovations might be deferred. The news, discussed at Tuesday's school board meeting, surprised her because she says the building obviously needs a lot of work.

"Walking into the building, I could see some of the foundation and construction seemed a little faulty," Parker said. "It would be great if they renovated it."

The Lake Clifton building is not the only one whose renovations maybe delayed by district officials. A delay is also proposed for the Vivien T. Thomas Medical Arts Academy. In addition, the number of schools set to be renovated or constructed in the first phase of the building plan would drop from a range of 30 to 35 schools to 23 to 28. Eleven schools would be built or renovated in the first year of the multi-year refurbishment plan.

The Maryland Stadium Authority oversees the finances for the school building initiative. According to Gary McGuigan, an MSA senior vice president, the school district's original estimates of what it would take to build and overhaul the larger number of schools identified for the first phase of the program were based on limited information.

"City schools conducted feasibility studies for the schools, which supplied a greater deal of information," McGuigan said. "Consultants went into the buildings, they looked at systems and came up with options and designs of what to do with the schools. So with that additional information, the range (of schools to be renovated or rebuilt) was changed to 23 to 28."

McGuigan said the main discrepancy involved renovation costs, which were much higher than expected. The district is funding the building program through bonds, which McGuigan said will be issued this fall. He estimated that nearly a billion dollars will be raised for schools through the bond issuance. And although McGuigan is optimistic about the latest number of schools that will get facelifts, he says prospects could change.

"There are still unknowns today, not only on the costs of schools, but also on the revenue side on how much money can be generated when we go to the bond sale. Even though it's a lot of unknowns today, and that's the reason for the five-school range, I feel pretty confident that by the end of the program we will be between 23 and 28 schools," he said.

A school board official did not know when board members will cast final votes on the first 11 schools to be renovated and rebuilt. Nor is it clear how long renovations for Vivien and Lake Clifton will be pushed back. But officials said they expect all of the phase one building fix-ups will be completed by 2020.

Audio: (4:09)



Mark Sissman Honored By Baltimore Basketball Elites
Perhaps better known for his work building communities as President of Healthy Neighborhoods, Mark Sissman is also well known on the basketball courts of East Baltimore. Honored by the Madison Square Buccaneers for his support and contribution to Baltimore basketball Mark was a deserving honoree at the 2014 Buccaneers Basketball reunion. Congratulations Mark and may you always keep your love of the game!

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Extra costs could delay renovations for city's most dilapidated schools

By Colin Campbell, The Baltimore Sun 10:41 PM EDT, September 23, 2014

Representatives of Lake Clifton alumni and neighborhood residents excoriated the proposal and the school board for considering it, saying the reason the building — which houses Lake Clifton High School, Reach and Claremont — would be so expensive is because it is desperately in need of updates.

Mark Washington, Executive Director of the Coldstream Homestead Montebello community corporation and Richard McCoy of the Lake Clifton Alumni Association said they worried that the school's needs would continue to be ignored. They said they had been assured when new schools CEO Gregory Thornton was appointed that the Lake Clifton renovations would remain a priority.

"This is a stunning reversal of fortune for this community," Washington said. "I asked specifically about it."

Thornton replied that it had been planned for the first phase of renovations before cost analyses had been done.

State Sen. Joan Carter Conway, who represents the 43rd District, appeared at the meeting to express concerns she'd heard from her constituents about the proposal to delay renovations on Lake Clifton. She opened the public comment portion of the board meeting by asking whether the commissioners planned to vote on the measure, or whether they were just hearing it out.

They replied that they were only reviewing the recommendations. A vote will take place by the board's next meeting on Oct. 14, said Keith Scroggins, the system's chief operation officer. The stadium authority, city schools and the city will present an update to the legislature on their progress Oct. 1.

The renovations will include piping for cleaner drinking water, better HVAC systems, safer wiring, adequate lighting, better energy efficiency and modern security features, as well as provide spaces for community use, the school system said in a release.

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Baltimore City Public Schools Proposal To Renovate Fewer Schools Disappoints Parents Good Morning. WYPR

By Gwendolyn Glenn September 26, 2014

A proposal by Baltimore city school officials to renovate or construct fewer schools than initially called for in the first year of the district's ambitious makeover program is drawing criticism from some residents. Several parents waiting to pick up their children at the Lake Clifton Building on St. Lo Drive, were upset that the school building may not be renovated in the first round of schools slated for major facelifts or replacements.

"The school should be renovated like everybody else's schools," said parent Angela Davis, whose daughter attends the Reach Partnership School, located in the Lake Clifton Building.

The Lake Clifton campus was supposed to be renovated or replaced in the first year of the district's 10-year plan to update crumbling and outdated schools. However, a recommendation before the school board now calls for Lake Clifton's renovations to be deferred, which doesn't sit well with Davis.

