



# Communiversality

Coppin Heights Community Development Corporation Inc.

COMMUNITY  
UNIVERSITY  
TOGETHER



Greetings Coppin Heights Family and Friends,

We would like to thank every organization, association, city official, and interested friend in partnership with us as we close out this year and celebrate the Coppin Heights Community Development Corporation's first ever home being sold. One thing that sets us apart as an organization is our willingness to take risks and to do what is necessary for the betterment of our membership and our community. This is our commitment to the community. So when naysayers said that no one will buy in that area, or why are you building there, "we proved them wrong" said Dr. Rodwell.

The CDC has approached community revitalization in a comprehensive fashion. In the North Avenue corridor, the CDC will invest in affordable housing, student housing, economic development, green open space management and other initiatives directly involving the residents, with more to come.

On January 10, 2011, we began the construction of the new homes in Phase I of our revitalization plans, which called for the provision of three new units for homeownership. Additionally, the CDC has enhanced and strengthened revitalization plans by partnering with major West Baltimore stakeholders. Those stakeholders will not only rebuild the bricks and mortar in our neighborhoods, but invest in the economic and social development of our families. This effort, led by the CDC, CSU, and the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City, is known as the Coppin Heights Urban Revitalization Partnership (CHURP). The Partnerships' goals are to restore the Coppin Heights Community to its rich heritage and position it for future prosperity.

Bringing developers together with university and community leaders was one of the goals of the CDC. As we accomplish this first milestone together, we leave each of you with actions to take so that we will continue to have a positive impact. The CDC will continue in the New Year to gather with leaders to explore the latest in sustainable community development, green space initiatives, and solutions. An important component of this strategy is the community.

We won't forget that.

# LIVE NEAR YOUR WORK

Live Near Your Work is a Baltimore City program designed to increase homeownership in Baltimore City. The city will give new homeowners a grant of up to \$2500 to match the employer's contribution. The purpose of the program is to entice employees to live near their workplace within the boundaries designated by the employer.

Esperance Sutton from Institutional Advancement was the first participant in Live Near Your Work program. Kevin Carr...customer service representative...second participant in Live near your work. Both received \$3,000 from CSU and \$2500 matching grant from Baltimore City.



Esperance Sutton



Kevin Carr



# A HEART IN THE HOUSE

Mrs. Georgina Clinton is the first new homeowner of the "New North" avenue. Mrs. Clinton is a longtime resident of the area having lived on Thomas Avenue for 30 years. It is poetic justice that someone that was a part of the rich history of this community is a very real part of its bright new future. Congratulations Mrs. Clinton



## STRICTLY BUSINESS

### Your Community at Work

On June 21st, the CDC began meetings with community association presidents and citizen leaders to formulate action plans to address the concerns of the community. The framework set up will focus on two major areas. The first is the physical structure of the community -- our streets, vacant properties, green space, and development. The second area is the human capital the people, the residents. The CDC was very pleased that the call to action was well received. Most embraced this opportunity to improve the lives of hundreds of West Baltimore residents. Leaders were asked to come up with a list of points to be addressed, and to come up with action solutions. Two strategic sessions have been held to date with more to come in 2012. Look for updated information on CDC link at Coppin website address, [www.coppin.edu/chcdc](http://www.coppin.edu/chcdc)

One item that was agreed upon by those in attendance was a return to respect for one's property, neighborhood and its neighbors. People are tired of the littering and dumping of trash in and around their homes. The CDC, along with members of each association, will be implementing an aggressive beautification effort. The effort will include a social marketing plan in effort to teach youth and residents not to litter. We will enlist the cooperation of businesses in the area (the corner stores and fast food establishments) and the schools to keep their areas clean and litter free. Where to call for help numbers and neighborhood association information will be distributed to each homeowner. City public works and sanitation officials will be asked to attend area association meetings so that we will have the latest information available. Flowers and trees will be making a big return to our neighborhoods. In the new year, the CDC will hold informational meetings about planting and caring for our green spaces. New and existing urban farms and gardens will be spotlighted. The CDC has opened its Urban Farms Initiative in the 2700 block of North Avenue and is working with Mr. Herbert Clarke as an advisor. Mr. Clarke's garden oasis is located in the rear of the 2400 block of North Ave.

Most importantly, the Coppin Heights Community leaders will develop a letter that will be given to each resident -- homeowners and renters alike -- reinforcing the notion that they are important members of this community. The letter will include history of the area and expectations of each resident who looks to remain in good standing with this community. We will no longer let a few people who "may not know any better" trash this community. We are painfully aware of all the issues and challenges, but we are confident with the buy-in of all of the Coppin Heights communities now working together. We will have a positive effect resulting in cleaner, greener, beautiful neighborhoods with healthier and happier neighbors.



## More Work

The CDC and Coppin State University are working closely with Baltimore City's Department of Planning on the Greater Rosemont and Coppin Area Master Plan, (GRACE PLAN) GRACE Plan is a community planning effort with the mission of creating a long term vision for the revitalization of the Greater Rosemont, Coppin Heights and Greater Mondawmin areas. West Baltimore residents have been meeting and continuing discussions on the plan. After those initial meetings, an open forum was held where participants could voice their opinions and discuss actions. They then voted on the items that they collectively thought were the best plans to move forward. Meetings are ongoing. The next meeting will be held February 11, 2012 at Coppin State University.

## CHURP Urban Farms Initiative

The CDC started the Churp Urban Farms Initiative in July 2011 in the 2700 block of North Avenue. The farm will have plantings of vegetables and flowers. We are looking forward to planting in the spring and encourage all interested parties to get involved.



## NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The CDC welcomed four new board members to the CHCDC in September 2011.

### **Cynthia Boersma (Cindy)** General Counsel, Maryland Office of the Public Defender

"I strongly support the mission of the CHCDC, to better integrate Coppin University with its community, and to revitalize the Greater Coppin Heights Community through a comprehensive, holistic, constructive approach that is based upon the strengths and challenges of the community. This mission is similar to that of the Maryland Public Defender's office and Baltimore City in particular, which is to provide comprehensive, holistic advocacy for our clients based in their communities and responsive to those communities and clients. This is a personal vision for the public defense services as well as the vision of the public defender. The Office of the Public Defender is a partner with the CHCDC and with Coppin State University in pursuing these shared visions for the Greater Coppin Heights Community specifically. I welcome the opportunity to expand the partnership and support the CHCDC's mission more directly by serving on the CHCDC Board of Directors."

### **John Edward Carrington** Program Support Specialist, The ARC of Baltimore

"As a longtime resident of the community, I have worked with several entities to improve and strengthen the community. Over the years I have sought continuous opportunities which provided program activities that promoted positive change within individuals, families and communities. Working closely with the CDC and its partners affords me the opportunity to continue that effort on the front line."

### **Gwendolyn D. Shelton** System Technician, Mayors Office of Employment Development

"The CHCDC is a vital part of revitalization in my community"

### **Johns Hopkins** Executive Director, Baltimore Heritage Inc.

"Professionally and personally, I believe strongly in working for revitalization of communities in West Baltimore. The Coppin Heights CDC, I believe is growing in the organization's ability to help people and neighborhoods, and I would be pleased to try to be of assistance."



# IN THE NEWS

## Coppin State University Executive Director Appointed to U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

By: Tia Lewis



Dr. Gary D. Rodwell, Executive Director of Coppin State University's Coppin Heights Community Development Corporation, was appointed to the Maryland State Advisory

Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. The 17 member committee will investigate and offer alternatives to incarceration as charged in the proposal, "Disparities in Incarceration Rates." The confirmation process began two-years ago with nominations from Sen. Ben Cardin (D-Md.), Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.) and Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-Md.).

Through the study, the committee will investigate the dynamics related to the alarming number of African Americans who have been incarcerated in Maryland and suggest other options instead of prison or jail.

"I hope [the study] will provide useful and important information to decision makers, advocates and policy makers about the reasons surrounding the disparities in incarceration rates and then provide alternative approaches to incarceration," he adds.

Dr. Rodwell spearhead the efforts of the committee as they focus on the year-long comprehensive study.

Dr. Rodwell has been a member of the Board of Directors and Vice-President of the Maryland Chapter of American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) for over five years. He was the lead plaintiff and successfully settled the first and longest running lawsuit against racial profiling known as "Driving While Black." In the 1995 ruling, the police agreed to not use race as a factor in drug searches and to keep records of all traffic stops and drug searches, reports the Baltimore Sun.

\*University Relations Department, Coppin State University

## OTHER APPOINTMENTS

November 2011

Gretchen M. Spell, Director of Special Programs at the CHCDC, has just been elected as Vice-Chairman of Total Health Care's Board of Directors. Total Health Care is a federally qualified health center, and is the largest minority operated health center in Maryland. Ms. Spell has been on the Board of Directors since November 2010.

Dr. Gary D. Rodwell, Executive Director of the Coppin Heights Community Development Corporation named Chairman of the Board of the BCCC Board of Trustees. Dr. Rodwell served as vice-chair and has been on the Board of Baltimore City Community College since July 1, 2009.

Dr. Rodwell was named Associate Vice President for Community Development at Coppin State University

### GRACE Plan Meeting Schedule

Please come out to the GRACE Plan Community Meetings. This is your chance to make sure your voice is heard. The Greater Rosemont and Coppin Heights (GRACE) Plan is a community planning effort with the mission of creating a long term vision for the revitalization of the Greater Rosemont, Coppin Heights and Greater Mondawmin areas.

### All Neighborhoods And Southern Sector Meeting

**Date:** Saturday, February 11, 2012

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Location:** Coppin State University, 2500 West North Ave. Baltimore, MD 21216

For more information contact:  
Kate Edwards  
kate.edwards@baltimorecity.gov  
410-396-5934



## FINANCIAL TOOL BOX

Gretchen Spell is the CDC's Special Programs Director created and will be administering the "Tool Box" program. This "Tool Box" was born out of the current need in this community for basic financial education in a language that is plain, simple and to the point. "Our message to our target audience is that we will provide them with the tools needed to improve the quality of their lives. We will nurture them and take the time that is needed to reach their goals. For example, if someone wishes to be a homeowner, but have credit issues, we will work on their credit issues and work with them until they reach their goal as a homeowner", said Spell.

The programs dual objectives are to combine the financial literacy program and the homeowner education program. By doing this, the CDC creates a one-stop-shop to address needs that the community may be facing whether it is homeownership or credit worthiness.

Ms. Spell states, "We can tailor the workshops to fit whatever station in life our clients may fall into, and meet them at the level of their needs". Individuals needing help to better understand their finances should contact the CDC at 410-951-3622.

Gretchen Spell is trained and certified in Financial Literacy and Housing Counseling.

Coming soon, listen to "Spell's Financial Tool Tips" on Doni Glovers Empower Hour Tuesday's at 10a.m. WOLB 1010 AM Radio and on [www.BMORENEWS.com](http://www.BMORENEWS.com)

# IN THE COMMUNITY



World Aids Day at Coppin State University



Community clean-up with the help of Coppin Heights residents and community service workers



Porch meeting with community residents



Dr. Hyacinth Ezeka and his students participating in the Mayor's clean-up day.



Dr. Clark with a student in the community



A little bit of the Napa Valley right here in our community. Mr. Clark's tireless commitment to urban farming has created a small but beautiful concord grape trellis on North Ave.



# Receive a minimum of \$14,000 off closing cost.

The Coppin Heights Urban Revitalization Partnership (CHURP) is making West Baltimore more beautiful. We have newly constructed and energy-efficient homes available now with closing cost assistance.

Less than \$900 in monthly mortgage payments including principle, interest taxes, and insurance.



**Wayne Davis, Associate Broker/ABR**

Maizon Real Estate, LLC

25 Hooks Lane Suite 310

Pikesville, MD 21208

(office) 410.630.1256 • (fax) 443.548.0990 • (cell) 443.324.5623

(email) [wdavis@mris.com](mailto:wdavis@mris.com)



\*Dr. Kirk Crawley is a lawyer and teacher who lives in Baltimore. He has been the CHCDC board chair since 2009.

**"Community Development is a long-term value based process which aims to address imbalances in power and bring about change founded on social justice, equality and inclusion." - National Occupational Standards (NOS) for Community Development Work (2009)**

According to NOS, community development is a long-term value based process which aims to address imbalances in power and bring about change founded on social justice, equality and inclusion. The process is said to enable people to organize and work together to identify their own needs and aspirations; to take action to exert influence on the decisions which affect their lives; and to improve the quality of their own lives, the communities and societies of which they are a part.

Coppin Heights Community Development Corporation (CHCDC) is in a somewhat unique position. We are a community development corporation positioned at a historically black university (HBCU) which serves a surrounding community in need of many resources. The specific value statement of the HBCU Development Action Coalition further underscores the unique positioning of the HBCU's and CDC's in its adopted statement of values. The Coalition embraces as a value the promoting of community empowerment, community self-determination and fostering indigenous leadership.

Having reached an understanding of the definition, and the fundamental values of community development, it is essential to clarify that community development is not community engagement. Community development isn't merely "tokenism" or consultation. Community development is much more than consulting on decisions already made or serving as a sounding board to those resistant to trusting the community to make economic based decisions. Nor is it the same as Community Engagement. Community engagement is generally initiated by agencies or people in positions of power to seek community involvement in planning and reviewing services or engaging in democratic life. Community development starts from the communities' own concerns. Community development helps communities to develop clear ideas about what they want to say and the changes they are seeking from others, and then to consider which forums and networks will help them pursue their interests through their collective voices.

The relationship that Coppin State University(CSU) and the CHCDC currently find themselves in is a truly unique one. CSU has created the Community Development department which Dr. Gary Rodwell is the Associate Vice-President, and the Executive Director of the CDC. In the upcoming months, we will work together to define the role of that department, and its role to create and maintain economic viability in the community.

In closing, the community development industry creates wealth, builds healthy and sustainable communities and achieves lasting economic viability. "When individuals and communities do not govern self, they risk being ruled by external forces that care less about the well-being of the village."

---T.F. Hodge, [From Within I Rise: Spiritual Triumph over Death and Conscious Encounters With the Divine Presence](#)

## About Us

The Coppin Heights Community Development Corporation (CHCDC) is a 501 (c) 3 not for profit organization established in 1995 by Coppin State University to advance the broader community improvement and neighborhood revitalization agenda for the Greater Coppin Heights/Rosemont community.

## Our Mission

The mission of the CHCDC is to be a catalyst for suitable and affordable housing for low to moderate income residents by stimulating economic development within neighborhoods immediately adjacent to CSU. This is done through the establishment of social, economic, educational and affordable housing development initiatives that collectively increase the stability and sustainability of the community.


## Staff

Dr. Gary Rodwell	Associate Vice President for Community Development CSU Executive Director CHCDC
Ms. Vernice Turner	Executive Administrative Assistant
Ms. Gretchen Spell	Director of Special Programs and Policy Analysis
Ms. Wendy Blair	Development Consultant
Ms. Lynette Locke	Healthy Neighborhoods Coordinator/ Community Organizer


## Board of Directors

Dr. Kirk Crawley	President
Ms. Gwen Shelton	Vice President
Dr. Hyacinth Ezeka	Treasurer
Dr. Gary Rodwell	Executive Director-Ex-Officio
Mr. Robert Hunt	
Ms. Cynthia Boersma	
Mr. John Hopkins	
Mr. John Carrington	
Mr. Herman Pittman	
Mr. Reginald Exum	Ex-Officio
Mr. Randy Hall	Ex-Officio
Mr. Albert Robinson	Ex-Officio

## Coppin Wellness Center



### WALKING CLUB




Join Coppin Wellness Center's Walking Club. Walking is a great way to add physical activity to your work day.

-EVERYONE FREE

To learn more about dates and times and registration please call Kyra Baker at 410-951-3395.

### WOMEN ON WEIGHTS


The "WOW" Women on Weights 6 week program is designed to help women become comfortable and familiar with free weight



Members: Free  
Non-Members: \$25

This program begins the week of November 7, 2011.

### GROUP EXERCISE



Classes take place on a daily basis in the fitness center morning, afternoon, and evenings. You can purchase a FitPass and go to as many classes as you want in an 8-week session

Members: \$25  
Non-Members: \$40

To learn more about dates and times and registration please call Kyra Baker at 410-951-3395.



Contact the Coppin Heights CDC healthy neighborhoods Coordinator  
Lynette Locke: llocke@coppin.edu | 410.951.3625



churp  
Coppin Heights Urban Revitalization Partnership

Phone 410-951-3622  
Fax: 410-951-3623  
chcdinfo@coppin.edu  
www.coppin.edu/chcdc