October 2007
Volume 1, Issue 1

Greater Coppin Heights/ Rosemont Community News

Coppin Heights Community Development Corporation (443)984-3766 or (410)951-3622

Special Interest Articles:

- New Housing and Support Coming to North Avenue
- Road Map to Financial Freedom
- MTA Changing Route for Bus #16
- Stoppin Lead In Coppin
- Join CHCDC!
- Women's Health Symposium

New Programs at Coppin Heights CDC!!

Through the support of dedicated community residents and the Baltimore Community Foundation, Coppin Heights Community Development Corporation (CHCDC) has launched a block-by-block blight project.

The blight battle – which has attracted the attention of the Barack Obama campaign camp -- and other CHCDC efforts, past and upcoming, are vital parts of a bigger war, explains Michelle McEachern, CHCDC's Executive Director.

As McEachern describes it, CHCDC is out to "revitalize" the whole neighborhood surrounding Coppin as the university continues its "historical" community outreach commitment. "The university has its overall role, our job is to work at the grassroots level," she says.

New programs starting at CHCDC in October include:

- Healthy Neighborhoods – a homeownership and community investment program
- Roadmap to Financial Freedom – a financial literacy program targeting residents 16 and older
- Stoppin' Lead In Coppin – a joint community outreach and education project between CHCDC, the Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning and Coppin State University.

Healthy Neighborhoods Comes to Coppin Heights

Healthy Neighborhoods helps strong but undervalued Baltimore neighborhoods increase home values, market their communities, create high standards for property improvements, and forge strong connections among neighbors.

Healthy Neighborhoods offers:

- innovative below market **financing** for acquisitions/rehabilitations and home improvement,
- **professional advice**, including housing counseling and free architectural advice for rehabbers
- **grants** for marketing and community projects that build a positive image.

Healthy Neighborhoods offers low-interest purchase/renovation loans for houses on our Target Blocks. You can do anything you want from landscaping to remodeling the kitchen to installing central air, and everything in between.

<u>Target Blocks for Purchase/Rehab Loans</u>

1500-1800 Moreland Ave

1600-1800 Ruxton Ave

900-1800 N Bentalou St

Any owner occupied property in the neighborhood may be eligible for a Refinance/Rehab Loan.

To learn more about below-market rate Healthy Neighborhoods loans, Call Dominique Clark at 443-984-3766 or 410-951-3622

New Housing and Support Coming to North Avenue

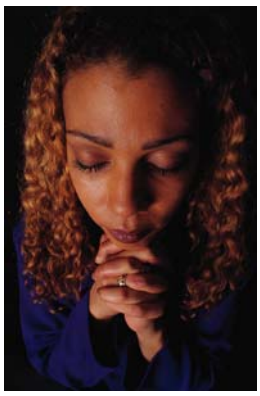
CHCDC, Coppin State University, and others partner to revitalize North Avenue to attract for New Homeowners

Through the generous support of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Historically Black Colleges and Universities Program, Coppin State University will provide economic assistance to CHCDC to carry out neighborhood revitalization in Greater Coppin Heights/Rosemont and to further strengthen its relationship, involvement, and effectiveness in addressing community needs. A major CHCDC activity under the project is to develop three new homes for first-time, low-income homebuyers; providing direct economic assistance for home (façade) improvements to 14 low- to moderate-income owners of occupied properties adjacent to the proposed new homes, to ensure that current residents' properties are made aesthetically comparable to the newly developed homes. In addition to CSU, key project partners include the Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development, Ash-Co-East/Coppin Heights Association, W.L. Blair Development, Rosemont Neighborhood Improvement Association, and Neighborhood Housing Services of Baltimore.

Road Map to Financial Freedom

Using, curriculum from the Family Economics & Financial Education (FEFE) Project of the University of Arizona, the Road Map to Financial Freedom (RMFF) provides residents in the Greater Coppin Heights/Rosemont Community with the skills and training necessary to manage their money, make sound financial decisions, and decrease their debt. RMFF provides a feasible strategy for combating the rising rates of evictions and foreclosures in the community. In addition to combating the rise in evictions and foreclosures in the community, through RMFF, residents learn about the disadvantages of using alternative financial services (e.g., check cashing centers, payday loans). Residents are assisted in opening checking and savings accounts at mainstream financial institutions. RMFF provides one-on-one financial counseling to low-income adults as well as financial literacy training to residents 16 and older.

For more information, call Ms. Mwuese Igyor at 443-984-3766 or 410-951-3622



Prayer Breakfast to Support Rosemont - 10/13/07

The Rosemont Neighborhood Improvement Association will host a Prayer Breakfast at Whitestone Baptist Church on Saturday, October 13th starting at 9am. The cost is $8 per person. Come on out and enjoy a delicious meal and fellowship in support of your community.

For ticket information, call Robert Hunt at 410-908-1769.

MTA Changing Route for Bus #16

The MTA will hold public hearings to present proposals to change several bus routes including Bus #16 (Mondawmin-Brooklyn Homes). The proposed change will eliminate service through south of North Avenue on Warwick and all service on Bentalou and Whitmore Avenue. From Mondawmin, under the new route, the bus will make a right onto North Avenue from Warwick and head west until Bloomingdale. The bus will turn left onto Bloomingdale and right onto Poplar Grove. From there it will turn right onto Edmondson Avenue. The new route eliminates most service to Coppin Heights and Rosemont.

It is not too late to save our bus service. Plan to attend one of the following public hearings to make your concerns known:

Tuesday, October 9
Noon- 2pm
World Relief Headquarters
7 East Baltimore Street

Wednesday, October 10
5PM-7PM
Charles Carroll Barrister Elementary School
1327 Washington Blvd.

Monday, October 15
Towson Library
320 York Road

Transit Information Call Center: (410)-539-5000

Coppin State University Hosts BET's Women's Health Symposium

Women's Health Symposium in partnership with Coppin State University and Super Natural Woman Conference. To be held on the CSU Campus Saturday, November 3, 2007, from 7:30am to 5:00PM . The FREE event is targeting women 18+. Register on line at www.ahealthybet.com or contact Sherrye Larkins McKay at 410 951-3819.

The event includes breakfast refreshments, lunch, fitness class, panel discussion, interactive workshops, door prizes, cooking demonstration, health screenings, and much more.

A special celebrity performance is also scheduled.

A Special Gift will be provided to all pre-registered attendees (while supplies last).

Special Presentation by Mayor Sheila Dixon

REGISTER TODAY!

"Remembering Our Health"

SAVE ANOTHER YOUTH TALENT SEARCH

Save Our Youth!

Our Families!

Our Communities!

If you can sing, dance, act, do positive rap, stand-up comedy, write and read poetry, model, or have a similar talent, Rev. Willie Ray, Chairman of Save Another Youth & Stop the Violence Coalition wants to hear from you.

For ages 8-30, register to audition by contacting Rev. Ray at 410-945-6712 or stop by 2858 Harlem Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21216

You may also contact Debbie White at 410-718-1388 or Mr. Victor Clark at 410-669-1752

This talent showcase is dedicated to families and friends that have lost loved ones to violence.

We must stop the violence!

Community Safety Meetings

Western and Southwestern Districts of the Baltimore City Police Department hold monthly meetings and they want to hear from you!

Western District
1034 N. Mount Street
Baltimore, MD 21217 Major
Garnell Green 410-396-2477

Southwestern District
24 Font Hill Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21223
Major Thomas J. Cassella
410-396-2488

Meetings are held the last Wednesday of each month.

Western – 6PM

Southwestern – 6:30PM

Greater Coppin Heights/Rosemont Steering Committee Meeting

"Making Greater Coppin Heights/Rosemont an event better place to live, work, and play!"

The Greater Coppin Heights/Rosemont Steering Committee meets the last Monday of each month at 5:30pm at Calverton Middle School, 1100 Whitmore Avenue. This group of residents, city agency reps, business owners, and community leaders meet to discuss and develop strategies to address our community's priority areas:

(1) Slum and Blight Removal

(2) Community Safety

(3) Health and Education Disparities.

We would love to hear your thoughts and have your energy to support making our community an even better place to *live, work and play!*

Stoppin Lead In Coppin

The Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning (CECLP), in partnership with CHCDC, Coppin State University, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will launch a one-year, intensive outreach campaign targeted to the Coppin Heights and Rosemont Communities called *Stoppin Lead In Coppin.*

Last year, 1 in 5 children tested for lead in the 21216 zip code had an elevated blood lead level. *Stoppin Lead in Coppin* seeks to implement community awareness, education, and services to make the community's housing environment safer for families.

Under the leadership of CHCDC staff and a CECLP Program Coordinator, Coppin State University students will conduct door-to-door education and home assessments in the Greater Coppin Heights/Rosemont Community and connect residents with health and legal services.

Community events and trainings will also be conducted. Through the Coalition's HUD-funded Operation LEAP Baltimore project, residents in Coppin Heights can access window replacement and other housing related services through CHCDC.

The official launch is October 1, 2007. Community residents interested in receiving lead poisoning prevention services should call 410-534-6447 or visit the Coalition's website at www.coppin.edu

Coppin State University School of Dance

Fall Semester: September 10- January 27, 2008
(Open Registration until November 1, 2007)

Spring Semester: January 29- May 10, 2008
(Open Registration until February 1, 2008)

CSU Youth Dance Company Auditions (Ages 8-17):
Saturday, October 6, 2007@ 2:00- 3:00
Coppin Center Dance Studio
Gala Concert: Friday, April 4, 2008 @ 8:00 p.m.
James Weldon Johnson Auditorium

CSU Modern Dance Ministry Audition (Ages 8-Adults):
Friday, October 5, 2007 @ 8:00 -9:00
Coppin Center Dance Studio
Gala Concert: Saturday, April 5, 2008 @ 7:30 p.m.
James Weldon Johnson Auditorium

For more info:
www.coppin.edu/dance

Directed by:
Vanessa Jackson,
Assistant Professor of Dance
vjackson@coppin.edu
410.951.3355

Coppin Heights Community Development Corporation

1100 Whitmore Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21216

PHONE:
(443) 984-3766

VOICEMAIL:
410-951-3622

FAX:
(410) 545-7849

E-MAIL:
chcdc@coppin.edu

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.coppin.edu/chcdc

Mark Your Calendar for CHCDC 2008 Events!!

April 19, 2008
11am to 2pm
"Agent of Positive Change"
Community Awards Luncheon
Coppin State University
Dinning & Meeting Hall

June 7, 2008
10am to 2pm
2nd Annual CHCDC Housing Fair
Coppin State University
Dinning & Meeting Hall

August 16, 2008
10am to 2pm
1st Annual CHCDC Financial Literacy & Education Fair
Location: TBD

CHCDC seeks volunteers to serve on its Events Planning Committee. To Volunteer, call 410-951-3622

Join CHCDC!

Membership is about showing your support for the activities of CHCDC – continuing to make our community a great place to live. Many of us chose to live here because this community is special and it is up to us to take care of it. Your annual dues of only $5 (per person) makes a huge difference. Our goal is 200 members this year! Won't you join?!

Your dues help to cover operating costs, this newsletter, community events, Open Space maintenance, and more.

You do not have to be a member to receive this newsletter or participate in our events, but your support would be greatly appreciated. Call 410-951-3622 to request a membership form.

About Our Organization…

CHCDC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established in 1995 by the Coppin State University Development Foundation. The mission of CHCDC is to be a catalyst for suitable and affordable housing for low to moderate income residents and to stimulate economic development within neighborhoods immediately adjacent to CSU through the establishment of social, economic, educational and affordable housing development initiatives that collectively increase the stability and sustainability of our community.

CHCDC
1100 Whitmore Ave
Baltimore, MD 21216