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

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!

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**Calendar of Events**

- **October 3rd 9 am – 1 pm**
  - Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off
  - 2400 Susquehanna Ave.
  - Coldstream Homestead Montebello Community Corporation

- **October 4th 12 noon**
  - Belair-Edison “Beer & Wine Fest!”
  - Herring Run Park - Beall Rd.
  - 2800 Chesterfield Ave.

- **October 7th 5:30 PM**
  - School Board 200 E. North Ave.
  - ATTENTION: Parents of REACH & Heritage High School Students
  - After Raising 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 Ratherly Listed As A Priority “Year 1” School For Renovations And Improvements. New 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. That, 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 1st Noon**
  - “A Day At Clifton Mansion” and St. Vincent Cemetery Clean-Up Day
  - Clifton Park

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

- **October 25th**
  - Mayor’s Fall Clean Up

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By Colin Campbell, The Baltimore Sun

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

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 Schools 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.
Baltimore City Public Schools Proposal To Renovate Fewer Schools Disappoints Parents

By Gwendolyn Glenn  September 26, 2014

The Lakewood 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 Lakewood 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 a facelift, 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)