

SoBoImCo

South Baltimore Improvement Committee • January, 2006



SECTION A PARKING PERMIT PICK UP



Don't Forget!

Friday, January 20, 2006

6:00-8:00 p.m.

*Olive Branch United Methodist Church
Corner of S Charles St. and Fort Ave.*

In order to pick-up your Area A permit you must have registered or renewed your permit(s) online at : www.baltimoreprefparking.com or in person at the Baltimore Parking Authority (200 W. Lombard St., Baltimore, MD 21201; Hours: M-F 8:00-5:00; Phone 443-573-2800) no later than the close of business on Monday, January 16, 2006.

In order to be given your permit at the January 20th pick-up, you will need to bring a photo ID and your vehicle registration(s). You may serve as a proxy for someone else and pick up their permit provided you show a photo ID and vehicle registration for that person.

Also, everyone needs to be aware that the designation of the north side of the 100 block of W. Clement Street is changing from Area A to Area 30 as of January 1, 2006. Please remind our residents that they should not park there if they are not in possession of an Area 30 permit.

GET OUT!

Neighborhood Cleanup

Saturday, January 7th

8:00am to 1:00pm

Meet at the corner of Fort Avenue & S. Charles Street. A dumpster will be provided.

How to Appeal your Property Tax Assessment Seminar

Tuesday, January 10th

7:00pm to 9:00pm

Held in the auditorium of Digital Harbor High School. Please enter through the glass doors on the west side of the building nearest Cross Street and Riverside Avenue. Parking is available in the adjacent lot off Covington Street.

Area A Parking Permit Distribution

Friday, January 20th

6:00pm to 8pm

Olive Branch United Methodist Church on the corner of S. Charles St & Fort Ave. This is distribution only, sign up will need to be online at www.baltimoreprefparking.com or in person at the Parking Authority at Eatuw Street.

February SBIC Meeting

Tuesday, February 7th

7:30pm

Olive Branch United Methodist Church on the corner of S. Charles St & Fort Ave. Please join us - everyone is welcome!

COMMUNITY MEETING

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, January 3rd

7:30 p.m. at

**Olive Branch United
Methodist Church**

(corner of Charles & Fort Ave. S.)



RECYCLING DAYS

Paper recycling is the 2nd & 4th
Fridays, January 13th & 27th



Bottles, Cans & Jars
are the 2nd & 4th

Mondays, January 9th & 23th
All recycling collected streetside



SoBoImCo

SoBoImCo is a monthly production of the South Baltimore Improvement Committee, Inc. whose mission is "to encourage, through regular meetings, the formal exchange of ideas; to work with local law enforcement in promoting safety; and to assist individuals and families in the continuing process of neighborhood renewal." We welcome articles, ads and photo submissions via mail or email:

**South Baltimore
Improvement Committee**
P.O. Box 6364
Baltimore, MD 21230
ajconway22@yahoo.com

We reserve the right to edit or reject submissions. Articles represent the opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of SoBoImCo. We believe all sources of information are reliable, however, we do not guarantee completeness or accuracy.

Membership

Residents of South Baltimore are encouraged to become members of SBIC. Just contact an SBIC officer for more information.

Meetings

Community meetings of SBIC are usually held on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Olive Branch United Methodist Church located at the corner of Charles Street and Fort Avenue.

YOUTH COUNCIL

By Marie Sennett

January 5, 2006 Panel with Councilmember Reisinger, Sgt. Proctor, Business Leaders, Mayoral Representative, and Neighborhood Association Presidents to talk about how to improve the environment of South Baltimore. 7- 9 p.m.

January 12, 2006 Teen Council discussion on what steps to take to improve environment of South Baltimore. 7-9 pm

January 14, 2006 Special Tour of American Visionary Art Museum with Ms. Maggie. We will have a FREE tour with Ms. Maggie to see the unique art work at the museum and begin our special art program for four weeks with Ms. Maggie. Noon - 2 p.m.

January 19, 2006 Opening of Youth/Teen Council Art Show at Light Street Branch of the Enoch Pratt Library. The art we have been making with Ms. Sandy will be on display. We will have an official art opening at the Library from 6-8 p.m.

January 28, 2006 We begin our art work with Ms. Maggie at the American Visionary Art Museum. We will be working with new materials and learn new art forms beyond charcoal and watercolors.

To volunteer to have more fun than you thought could be possible, call Marie Sennett at 410-837-1132 or e-mail msennett@believewireless.net

DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE

By Steve Zaleskiwicz

Members of the design and review committee held a meeting to discuss problems with the building project at 1439 S. Hanover St.

In attendance were the Committee, City Planner Beth Strommen, owners of the property and their architect. The owners agreed to resubmit corrected drawings and plans to BMZA showing all changes including additions, windows, and decks for a zoning appeals hearing. The zoning appeals hearing will also be to sub-divide the property into 3 single dwelling units. The drain pipes dumping water on the sidewalks will also be removed when sidewalks are raised for BG&E work. The owners also agreed to get all the proper permits for this project.

This meeting was brought about by concerned and vigilant members of our community. This is our community and we will not tolerate the disrespect, lack of community input and the failing of due process by certain builders/contractors. As always please report any work being done without permits. Happy Holidays To All.

To join the Design Review Committee contact Steve Zaleskiwicz at 410-752-1799 or email sjz300@verizon.net

FROM MY POINT OF VIEW

By Lori Leonard

As a resident of this neighborhood for the last 3 ½ years, I have had the chance to meet many wonderful people. However, it's been my involvement with SBIC that served as a vehicle for getting to know people on a different level.

My now husband and I moved into a home on Clarkson Street in May 2002. I was intrigued by the SBIC newsletter and decided to go to the next General Meeting. At that June meeting, a volunteer was needed to take minutes for the Secretary who was on vacation and I volunteered. Why not – I could help out. I ran for Secretary the following fall and for three years, continued to take "note" of all of the great teamwork, creativity & effort made by volunteers. Let me repeat, *volunteers!* I just recently became Vice President to continue to support this community in different ways.

I can tell you how my involvement with SBIC has made a difference for me.

Friendships made within this neighborhood have led to our adoption of a terrific puppy (Strummer will be 2 in February). Numerous neighborhood clean ups spearheaded by the fearless Steve Z. have resulted in some amazing before and after pictures. I can easily renew my parking permit online and pick it up within the neighborhood at a convenient time for me. I've participated in Youth Council Events led by Marie such as the 2004 Mischief Night Dance at the Ella Bailey Rec Center and a tour of Southern District Police Station, both well attended by youth (and adults, too) seeking positive activities. We've attended some neat social gatherings coordinated by Tammy. It's even led us to the purchase of the already-existing business Lucky Lucy's Canine Cafe, a pet bakery and boutique.

I truly enjoy walking through the neighborhood and seeing people I know through these connections. I credit that to SBIC. Some join for information gatheri

ng through General Meetings. Clean ups have drawn many neighbors out of their homes on designated Saturdays – others (like my neighbor Frank) make it a daily routine. Safety is a priority for many/most. Citizens on Patrol (COP) really flourished under Sharron in conjunction with other partners such as Shannon Sullivan and Jack Baker with the Southern District's Police Community Relations. Some neighbors crave festive activities (social events *always* draw a great crowd).

You know what's important to you, perhaps one or all of the aforementioned topics. I can't tell you that. However, I understand taking a risk. You never know where life will take you once you open a door. Why not go ahead and enter into what may seem like uncharted territory? Become a member of SBIC!

For some reading this article, I can't wait to meet you. For others, I look forward to seeing you again!

SBIC COMMITTEE CONTACTS

President

Shani Ahearn
410.685.4072
sabshier@mindspring.com

Design Review Committee

Steve Zaleskiwicz
410.752.1799
sjz300@verizon.net

Vice President

Lori Leonard
410.727.1169
lleonard@umbc.edu

Newsletter Editor

Amy Conway
410.667.5280
ajconway22@yahoo.com

Secretary

Marimargaret Reichert
410.244.7060
marimargaret@verizon.net

Police/Community Relations

Sharron McCulloch
410.659.5159
smcculloch@osiristx.com

Treasurer

Dakota Bailey
410.659.1665
zimbu668@yahoo.com

Sanitation & Beautification

Amy and Patrick Mutch
410.468.0118
amyemutch@yahoo.com

Grants & Fundraising

Gilda Johnson
410.752.6671
cece706@aol.com

Social Committee

Tammy Brown
410.528.1157
tpinchin55@hotmail.com

Parking

Catherine Frate Witt
410.468.3172
cafrate@hotmail.com

Business Liaison

OPEN

Youth Council

Marie Sennett
410.837.1132
msennett@believewireless.net

SANITATION & BEAUTIFICATION

By Amy Mutch

Happy New Year!!

We have a new year dumpster scheduled on January 7th at the corner of E Fort and S Charles Streets. Sorry it is so early in January - I requested it to be later in the month but the City assigned us the earlier date. SBIC will continue to provide monthly dumpster services. Alternating sites will also continue with Light and Heath Streets.

Christmas Tree Disposal

You can expect tree pickup on Friday & Saturday, January 6th & 7th and 13th & 14th. Your tree will NOT be picked up on other trash days (i.e.: Tuesday or Wednesday). If you place your tree on the sidewalk please be mindful of pedestrians.

Mind Your Trash

Being mindful is a major part of sanitation issues. Your trash belongs to YOU. It is the waste that you and your loved ones (including Dogs and Cats) have created as a result of living. Others around you should not have to live in it too! That includes something as small as a cigarette butt!!

Last but Not Least

I am searching for a co-chair of this committee. I BELIEVE there is someone out there who dislikes trash as much as I do. If so please consider joining the campaign in a meaningful way.

HOW TO HELP YOUR NEIGHBORS HELP THE CITY

Editorial by Donnie Fair

Everyone knows that the city is hard up for cash. If you're one of the few who are paying attention, you know that the city knows that certain communities are cash cows for revenue. I'm not saying that South Baltimore is one of them, but have you looked at your property taxes recently? Do you know they are going up on January 1? When was your last parking ticket? Does it really cost \$30 to issue a sticker? Let's not forget all the other taxes inculcated upon us: Want to sell your house? Recordation tax. Want to heat your home? Energy tax. Call your mom? Telecommunications tax. Pay your property tax? Yes, but not until after you pay your income tax. And on and on.

But I digress.

I learned long ago that if you can't beat them, then join them. In that vein, I propose yet another measure to help fund a municipal budget currently in the throes of an accelerating deficit: Make friends with your lazy neighbors who refuse their civic duty of shoveling their sidewalk by calling 311 and having a Sanitation Officer dispatched to remind aforementioned neighbor that if one lives *in* the city, then one is, by extension, also responsible *for* the city. Usually, this reminder is in the form of a \$50 citation, payable, of course, to Baltimore City. Naturally, this money gets wasted by the city in any number of immeasurable ways, but it at the very least helps keep the city that much further from self immolation.

All of this said, there are children and elderly that use your sidewalk. Beyond the fact that it is a city ordinance that your sidewalk be kept clear of snow and ice, it should come at least as common sense and hopefully as civic pride that you afford this gesture to accommodate your community. But if you do get that \$50 reminder, you can bet that if I didn't have anything to do with it, I most certainly wish I did.

Enjoy the weather; we only have a few more months of it and the city desperately needs your neighbor's money!

THOR'S CRAB QUICHE

Great recipe idea for
New Year's Eve!

Ingredients:

- 1 pastry shell (9 inch), partially baked
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 2 tablespoons shallots, minced
- 1 cup crabmeat
- 1 tablespoon flour
- 1 1/2 cups Swiss cheese, shredded/divided
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup half and half
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- dash white pepper or hot pepper sauce
- dash nutmeg
- minced parsley

Preparation:

Have a 9-inch pastry shell partially baked. Sauté shallots in butter until tender, about 2 minutes; mix with crabmeat and flour; set aside. Sprinkle 3/4 cup the cheese in the pie shell, then spread with crab mixture. Sprinkle with remaining 3/4 cup of cheese. Beat eggs, cream, salt, pepper, nutmeg, and parsley until mixed. Pour into shell. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes at 350 degrees. Serves 6 to 8.

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LOTS HAPPENING AT THE LIGHT STREET BRANCH LIBRARY

TAX TALK: HOW TO UNDERSTAND YOUR PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT

Wednesday, January 4, 10:30 am

Your property tax bill can be confusing. Learn how assessments are conducted & what types of credits are available. Presented by a representative from the State of Maryland Department of Assessment & Taxation.

MOTHER GOOSE ON THE LOOSE

Wednesdays in January. 10:30 am

Bundle up the little ones and join us for an interactive nursery rhyme program with music for children under the age of three and their caregivers.

FAMILY GAME NIGHT

Thursday, January 5, 5-7:30 pm

Jump into the new year by participating in a variety of board games for all ages and skills. The library will provide the games, you just come and enjoy the fun!

IT'S A CROCK!

Monday, January 9, 6:30 pm

Looking for new ways to use your slow cooker? We'll show you how to make an entire meal – from appetizer to dessert. Taste the results and bring your own recipes to share.

FLY AN AIRPLANE

Wednesday, January 11, 3:30 pm

Ages 5-12. Celebrate the anniversary of aviation in America. Come to the library, learn about the history of flight & make a plane to take home. Registration is required.

FRIENDS OF THE LIGHT STREET BRANCH

Thursday, January 12, 6:15 pm

Want to make a difference in your community? Join the Friends of the Light Street Branch!

BECOME A MILLIONAIRE: SAVINGS, CHECKING & CREDIT FOR TEENS

Tuesday, January 17, 4 pm

Ages 10-17. Lesley Mason of the Federal Reserve Bank will discuss ways to become a financial success. Are you the next Donald Trump? Join us and begin your journey to wealth & riches.

ART EXHIBITION: LOCAL TEENS SHOW-CASED

Thursday, January 19, 7 pm

Celebrate the "opening night" of the art show of pieces by members of the Youth Council of the Ella Bailey Recreation Center & the South Baltimore Improvement Committee which will be on display in the library through the end of February. Refreshments will be served.

NONPROFIT GRANTSEEKING BASICS

Monday, January 23, 6:30 pm

What is a foundation grant? What are the basic steps in researching grant prospects? Where can I find information about proposal writing? Andrea Snyder, from the Social Science and History Department, will teach you about the process, as well as the resources that are available at the Pratt Library to assist you.

BED TIME STORIES

Thursday, January 26, 7 pm

Ages 3-5. End your day at the library with books, fingerplays, songs & lots of fun! First of a 4 week series.

A STRUMMIN' GOOD STORYTIME WITH MISTER NORMAN

Monday, January 30, 6:30 pm

Join us for a special musical, storytime event. Playing various instruments, Mister Norman will entertain all ages with his whimsical songs.

Call 410-396-1096 to register for all programs

SOUTH BALTIMORE IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE SURVEY

Dear Neighbor,

The following survey is a way for you to tell us what you would like to see happen in South Baltimore and in what order. Your feedback will help guide the South Baltimore Improvement Committee for the next year and we heartily thank you for your input. We welcome your ideas and suggestions and look forward to making SoBo an even better place to live and work. Please do not hold anything back that can help us strengthen our neighborhood - no idea is too big or too small!

~Best, Shani, Lori, Dakota, and Marimargaret

PLEASE RETURN SURVEY TO : SBIC , PO BOX 6364, Baltimore, MD 21230 or drop it by the meeting on 1/4/06.

Please rank the following subjects in order of their importance to you with number 1 representing the most important subject:

Sanitation & Beautification _____

Parking _____

Police/Community Relations _____

Social Functions _____

Youth Council _____

Newsletter _____

Design Review _____

1) How many social events do you think SBIC should schedule per year? _____

2) How many neighborhood clean-ups do you think SBIC should schedule per year? _____

3) Would you prefer to receive your neighborhood newsletter in email form? _____

4) Would you be open to receiving the SBIC newsletter in email form? _____

Please use this space to write additional comments:

5) What neighborhood association events (i.e. socials, youth council, general meetings, neighborhood clean-ups, etc.) have you participated in? Have you taken advantage of any of our services (i.e. parking permit pick-up) ? Please explain

6) If you have not participated in a social event or neighborhood clean-up, please share why not and/or how we can remove those obstacles for you?

7) What topics would you like to see covered & which organizations/agencies would you like to hear from at a general meeting?

8) What projects would you like to see SBIC take on in 2006? Remember, no project is too big or too small to mention!

9) If you had to choose one thing that SBIC could do to provide the greatest positive impact on the neighborhood from your perspective, what would it be?

10) Are you interested in becoming involved with SBIC? If so, which aspect(s) of our work do you find most compelling? If you are not interested in becoming involved and are comfortable sharing your reasons with us, please do so.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Shani Ahearn

Happy New Year Everyone!

It is hard to believe that another year has come to a close, bringing with it the prospect of a new start and a fresh focus in 2006. For many people, the first days of January are a platform for introspection and reevaluation and the same is true for the South Baltimore Improvement Committee. This is an incredibly exciting time for South Baltimore, filled with opportunities and great promise for the coming year. We have much to do and many wonderful plans for the future as we look to resolve some lingering issues (including our sorely outdated website!) while moving forward in innovative new directions with projects that address your concerns and goals for our neighborhood.

To that end, we have included a survey in this month's newsletter that will help us understand what your priorities are and how we can best serve you as both advocate and resource. Please take the time to fill it out and return it to us either at a meeting or through the mail. If you prefer, you can certainly email your responses to any of the officers. We will also have copies of the survey available at future general meetings so feel free to drop by, meet some of your neighbors, and pick one up!

Thank you again for all that you do to make our neighborhood a vibrant community and I wish you much joy and prosperity in the coming year!

SOCIAL CORNER

By Tammy M. Brown

Another Year of Success

While I couldn't personally attend this year's holiday party I hear it was a great success! I would like to thank everyone who attended and especially those of you who contributed to the gifts for the shelters. The bags and bags of gifts are evidence of the giving neighbors we live among. I had the honor of dropping off the gifts to the women's shelter again this year and words cannot express their gratitude. Thanks again for successfully spreading the holiday cheer!

Why Let the Holidays End?...Join us for an After-the-Holiday's Happy Hour

When:
Thursday January 26th

Time:
7:00pm-9:00pm

Where:
NO IDEA Tavern
1649 S Hanover St
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(410) 685-4332

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Baltimore Animal Rescue and Care Shelter, Inc.

301 Stockholm Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21230
BaltimoreAnimalShelter.org



Dezi, (kennel #10) "One of the volunteers here at the shelter has donated money for my surgery for me to be neutered. She would like to see me have a new home this year! My adoption fee will be discounted to only \$22.00, thanks to one of the volunteers who walks me

every week. I am looking for a home that will give me lots of love and care. I love to take walks, get belly rubs, and lay on my back. I am very gentle, and I have been trained to do a few behaviors like "sit" and "give paw". I am also housetrained. I may look like a big dog being 54 pounds, but I am only 1 year old. I lost my way from home and I arrived at the shelter on 11/14/05. I hope to find a loving home this year where I can be cuddled, fed, played with, and taken outside for walks everyday. I have lots of love to give and I am looking forward to sharing it with someone who will love me just as much!" Collie Mix. 1 year old. 54 lbs.

Cassius, (kennel #111)

Cuddly Cassius came to BARCS because he was no longer wanted by his family. When you visit him at the shelter, he makes sure that you know he wants a new home! He loves to play and loves attention. His soft, luxurious coat is sure to impress any cat lover! Make a play date with Cassius today! Domestic Short Hair. 8 months old. 7.4 lbs.



Follow up: Last month's featured orphaned dog Ursula has found a home! We wish her and her new family well in their exciting new life together!

To learn how to adopt these orphans, stop by BARCS at 301 Stockholm St (near Ravens Stadium), phone 410-396-4688 or visit BaltimoreAnimalShelter.org

