

SoBoImCo

South Baltimore Improvement Committee • February 2006



SBLC OPEN HOUSE

The South Baltimore Learning Center (SBLC) will celebrate its 15th Anniversary with an Open House event on Thursday, March 2nd from 6-8pm and on Saturday March 4th from 11am-1pm. Tours of the historically renovated 1896 Southern Police Station building will take place every 15 minutes throughout the event. Light refreshments will be served. All are invited to join SBLC celebrating 15 years of changing lives through literacy. The South Baltimore Learning Center is located at 28 E. Ostend Street in Federal Hill. Snow dates will be 3/9 and 3/11.

SBLC is a community-based nonprofit organization providing functional literacy and life skills training, in addition to career preparation services, to residents in the Baltimore Area. The mission of SBLC is to improve the self-sufficiency of educationally disadvantaged adults. Classes will be taking place during the Open House and visitors will have the opportunity to view programs in action. Also housed in the building are three non profit tenants: Baltimore Station, Performance Workshop Theatre and National Council on Alcohol & Drug Dependence. Their office areas will also be open for viewing during the building tours.

Come and learn about a special piece of Baltimore's unique history, and see how the building has evolved into a state-of-the-art adult learning center! SBLC was able to complete the award-winning historical preservation of this Victorian structure with historic tax credits received from the State of Maryland. If you or some one you know has experienced a piece of South Baltimore Police Station's history, we would like for you to share your story at the Open House or contact us at 410-625-4215. For information about our programs and a history of the building, visit www.southbaltimorelearns.org.

GET OUT!

Coole Lady by Sam McCready
Every Friday, Saturday & Sunday in February

Performance Workshop Theater
28 E. Ostend Street

Sam McCready's production of COOLE LADY, directed by Mr. McCready and starring Joan McCready as Irish playwright, poet and political firebrand Lady Augusta Gregory, who launched a literary renaissance in Ireland.

Neighborhood Cleanup
Saturday, February 11th

Corner of Light & Heath
Gloves, brooms and bags provided.

BARCS Adoption Meet & Greet
Saturday, February 11th
Noon -2:00p.m.

Lucky Lucy's, 1126 S. Charles St.
Maybe meet the four-legged love of your life! See page 7 for more info.

COMMUNITY MEETING

Next Meeting:
Tuesday, February 7, 2006
7:30 p.m. at Olive Branch
United Methodist Church
(corner of Charles & Fort Ave. S.)

Major Eric Jordan
Southern District Police Station

RECYCLING DAYS

Paper recycling is the 2nd & 4th
Fridays, February 10th & 24th



Bottles, Cans & Jars
are the 2nd & 4th
Mondays, February 27th
All recycling collected streetside

STRETCH for Justice
Saturday, March 4th
9:00a.m.—2:00p.m.

The Hippodrome
Support Community Conferencing
by collecting pledges or donating to
attend a variety of fitness classes.
Visit

[www.communityconferencing.org/
SFJ.asp](http://www.communityconferencing.org/SFJ.asp) for more detail.



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.

Website

www.soboimco.org

YOUTH COUNCIL

By Marie Sennett

Our Youth Council Art Show was a hit! Thanks to all who came to support us on January 19, 2006 for the opening. Our new found artists came to the Library to view their art work on display. Ms. Sandy, our artist in residence, arranged the teens art work in a colorful display with some help from friends. The show will be at the library for the rest of the Month so take an opportunity to go and see it. The teens did an amazing job and took some real chances to learn how to express themselves. The work is amazing!.

Every Thursday we meet at the Ella Bailey Recreation Center to have fun, get to know each other, and find out new and exciting things. This month we have lots of surprises planned. Come on down to the Rec Center at 100 E. Heath Street (the back entrance of the Thomas Johnson School) Thursdays between 7:00 and 9:00 p.m.

SANITATION & BEAUTIFICATION

By Amy Mutch

I am pleased to say the 1400 blocks of Charles and Hanover are much cleaner thanks to a handful of individuals. We had the usual suspects with a few new faces to join our ranks. Willette and Ben can enjoy the appearance of their blocks thanks to their labors. The more volunteers the more we can accomplish. It's that simple!

Speaking of volunteerism, I read in *Invisible Acts of Power* by Carolyn Myss, that individuals who spend 4 hours of voluntary service monthly are healthier people in general. I have no doubt that this is true. As a nurse practitioner I am always searching for answers to health promotion. For those of you who seek a balanced life you may want to add an element of service to your biography!!

Our next cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, February 11th at the corner of Light and Heath Streets. We usually have the dumpster filled before noon, so those of you interested in helping should arrive before 11am.

A GATED COMMUNITY

Tired of finding someone else's trash in your paper path? Tired of finding people in that small alley behind your house who do not belong? Tired of not having room to grow fresh vegetables for your dinner? Well we have good news for you! You and your neighbors can get together and gate the paper path or foot alleys behind your homes. These are the small alleys, not the ones you can drive a car into. The details are in the Gates Memo included in your newsletter. The Police suggest that neighbors get iron gates on the alleys to prevent people from hiding things in your alley or hiding themselves to use or sell drugs. SBIC is looking for a gate manufacturer who will give us a discount due to the number of gates we would be adding to the community. The added advantage is the City encourages a community garden in the alley if you and your neighbors want to grow some tomatoes or flowers. If you have questions, contact the NICE Subcommittee Gate team at msennett@believewireless.net.

MEET THE MAJOR

Major Eric Jordan of the Southern District Police Station will be present at our meeting to discuss his State of the District Address. The Major will speak in detail about crime in 2005 and what he hopes to accomplish in 2006. Other representatives from the Police Community Relations Council will be present to discuss the role of the council, as well as inform our neighbors about the benefits of *Citizens On Patrol* (COP).

Major Eric Jordan is a 23 year veteran of the Baltimore Police Department, who is married with two adult children. Major Jordan has been assigned to numerous investigative and patrol areas within the police department during his career, to include seven of the nine police districts in the city. Major Jordan began working in the Southern District in November 2003, as the Deputy Major and was promoted to Major in January 2005.

We as a community support Major Jordan and all of the police officers who work in our neighborhood. Thank you for all of your hard work, and for supporting us as a community to discuss and create safer ways to work together. Educating the public on how we can prevent and reduce crime by developing neighborhood-based public safety strategies, is something we are working on every day. We encourage everyone in the neighborhood to attend and meet the Major one on one!

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THE RESULTS ARE IN

By Lori Leonard

Thank you to those who've completed South Baltimore Improvement Committee Surveys! In the event that you didn't have time to fill them out over the holidays, we thought we'd extend them into February. What we have so far is:

- All nine areas/subjects received interest, as indicated by those who filled them out. The "sampling" thus far has demonstrated that the top three areas of interest are Police/Community Relations, Sanitation and Beautification, and Parking (from #1 - #3).
- For both clean ups and social events, a range of interest was indicated, a minimum of 2 and maximum of 15 events per year. It appears that both activities are highly valued within the community.
- Regarding the format and delivery of monthly newsletters, just over half of those surveyed reported that they would both be open to and prefer receiving the newsletter in email form.

It was VERY exciting to see that even some of our neighborhood youth filled out surveys with some terrific feedback!

Spring is soon upon us, therefore with more cooperative weather for special projects. Please give us your feedback on what you are interested in AND the great ideas you have!

MY POINT OF VIEW - WARNING: STINKY CONTENTS!

By Lori Leonard

I believe I can boldly make the following statement: no one likes to step in pooh. (Disclaimer - my choice of noun for this article is "pooh." Some might prefer excrement, #2, feces, business, etc.) And yes, I'm a dog owner, and yes, my dog Strummer does, in fact, pooh.

Just the other day on a morning walk with Strummer, I encountered several mounds of pooh in the middle of the sidewalk. I believe that because I'm a dog owner, I get *even more* frustrated about seeing such a thing. I am aware of the negative perception that exists about dog owners, that all dog owners do not pick up their dog's pooh. However, as a dog owner, I know this is not the case. In my experience and observation, many dog owners within the neighborhood actually do pick it up.

This is the challenge of making a blanket statement when it comes down to *anything*. LABELS can be dangerous when making negative statements. It's easier for our brains to "organize" information in separate boxes or stereotypes instead of taking the time to get to know the individual and what makes that person unique. Be cautious when using the word "assume," as it makes an "!!@ out of you and me." I have learned from my own experience that when I've used this word ("I assumed you were OK with..."), I did **not** take the time to find out more information, and both parties get burned in the end.

So to avoid being hypocritical, I started thinking, what would lead to such piles of pooh? Perhaps someone ran out of bags or forgot to grab some on the way out. I recently ran into someone along Race Street in this very predicament. I saw the "pause" from a block down, the owner's face of "shoot, what am I going to do?" I happened to have a bunch with me and it worked out fine. Or perhaps it was dark and/or you were on your cell phone and didn't/couldn't see it? You might have gotten most of it, but maybe not all of it.

Then I have seen the "self walkers." These dogs are not strays, but appear to walk themselves without their owners. Perhaps the dog just does its business right out front and that's it. The dogs come back in the house, and as soon as they can, the owners go out and clean up the pooh. However, I have seen a few dogs out and about – without their owners looking on, how can they know when and where they've done their stuff? Without making assumptions, perhaps these dogs sneak out on occasion, as they enjoy the freedom? If it were Strummer, I would be worried about him getting hit by a car or mistakenly picked up by Animal Control.

I am always most intrigued by the bags of pooh that are captured in a plastic bag, but then just lying out on the sidewalk or in the street. What happened there? Then I remember that I myself committed this act several months ago. Strummer and I walked up to The Laundry Mutt (we LOVE it and highly recommend them!) at 214 East Fort Avenue, (410) 962-8057, for Strummer's bath, and sure enough, Strummer did his business on the way up. I left the bag outside, thinking I would get it on our way out. Did I? Nope – left it right there, surely because I was distracted by how good Strummer looked and smelled. Two weeks ago when we went back for Strummer's bath, I apologized to owner Matt Montgomery. This time, I remembered the bag on my way out.

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LOTS HAPPENINGS AT THE LIGHT STREET BRANCH LIBRARY

Rainbow Storytime

Wednesdays, October 6, 13, 20 & 27,
10:30 am

Ages 2-5. Songs, books and nursery rhymes put children on the road to becoming good readers.

Friends of the Light Street Branch

Thursday, October 14, 6:15 pm

Monthly meeting to discuss future events to support the library. All are welcome.

Family Reading Circle

Mondays, October 18-November 22, 6 pm

Bring your family and join us for a six-week series of book discussions. Read and discuss books over dinner! Books and dinner are provided. For children ages 10-15, accompanied by a parent or adult caregiver. Registration is required.

Ghostly Urban Legends of Baltimore

Thursday, October 21, 6:30 pm

Ages 12 – Adult. Discover through words and pictures, the origins and

history of Baltimore's supernatural legends: Black Aggie, the Ouija Board, the O'Donnell Heights Phantom, Westminster Cemetery and others. Presented by Layne Bosserman of the Maryland Department.

Light Street Readers

Monday, October 25, 6:30 pm

The group will discuss *Not Without Laughter* by Langston Hughes. Books will be available beginning September 27th.

Exercise for Active Adults

Wednesday, October 27, 10:30 am

Staff from MedStar Hospitals will talk about the importance of exercise and the relationship between physical activity and lower risk of heart disease, hypertension, diabetes, obesity, arthritis and other ailments. They will also perform body fat testing, B.M.I. (Body Mass index) computations and other screenings.

It's Alive at the Library

Saturday, October 30, 2 pm

Ages 10-17. Join us for a haunting experience at Light Street. Come in costume and enjoy ghoulish games and frightful fun. No masks please. Registration required.

Call 410-396-1096 to register for all programs

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SAFETY IN NUMBERS

TIPS FOR CALLING 311 FOR PEOPLE LOITERING

Before you call get as much of the following information as possible:

- The number of people loitering
- What the people look like
- What the people are wearing
- Where they are loitering
- How long they have been there
- Whether the building is owned or empty
- Whether or not you know the police have told them to move on before.

Start the call by saying Major Jordan, the Commander of the Southern District told my community to call. (311 operators sometimes give callers a hard time about loitering calls.)

Tell the operator the location of loiterers and if the building is owned or empty

Tell the operator the number of people there and what they look like

Tell the operator how long they have been loitering

Tell the operator if the cops have told these people not to loiter in this location before

Tell the operator if you want to be anonymous

The operator will ask if you want to talk to an officer when they arrive – you can say no if you do not want to speak with an officer

Use your Operation Crime Watch number if you want to.

FOR CALLING 911

Before you call get as much of the following information as possible:

- What the people look like
- What the people are wearing
- Where they are
- What you saw them do
- Where the drug stash is located if you can see

If you saw a drug sale – or what you think was a drug sale – let them know you saw a “hand to hand transaction of a sale of drugs” that you saw an “exchange of U.S. Currency for small objects that looked like drugs”. This is language used by the police and the 911 operators respond to it well

Give the location as best as you can

Give a description of what the people look like and what they were wearing

Tell the 911 operator if you want to be anonymous

The 911 operator will ask if you want to talk to an officer when they arrive – you can say no if you do not want to speak with an officer

Use your Operation Crime Watch number if you want to.

If a 911 operator gives you a hard time, tell them Major Jordan want the community to call 911 about these problems

If a 911 operator still gives you a hard time, ask for a supervisor.

ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITY

The Ingenuity Project at Federal Hill Preparatory School #45 is extending the application deadline for its elementary program, grades 1-5, until February 20, 2006. Students currently in grades K-4 are welcome to apply, with kindergartners particularly encouraged. Successful candidates read well above grade level (which means kindergartners can read sentences to themselves), scoring at least in the 80th national percentile in national standardized tests, if they have taken them. Ingenuity students study the world-renowned Singapore math and have daily science classes from qualified teachers. A great emphasis is placed on research and discovery, with hands-on learning activities.

Ingenuity is a citywide program -- all Baltimore City residents are eligible to submit an application. Competitive admissions placement is done according to ranked admission test scores and report card grades.

More information and applications are available at the Ingenuity Project website www.ingenuityproject.org or by contacting Julie Bratton at 410-662-8665 or jbratton@ingenuityproject.org

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Chris, kennel #14 Begging to be your Valentine! Chris lost his way from home and wound up at the animal shelter for the last 2.5 months. He loves treats and is easy to train. He already knows sit! Good on a leash and appears to be housetrained. Volunteers

have been taking him to good behavior training and he excels because this formerly starving stray is very food-motivated. He would be great with someone who has the time and patience to provide him with love & exercise. Is there room in your heart for this ultra skinny guy? Pointer mix. 2 years old. 33 lbs.

Misha, kennel #119

Being a big girl with dark hair often gets you overlooked. That's been the case for our Misha. Her family got evicted and she ended up in the shelter for nearly 3 months. She may seem shy at first while she is in her cage, but her sweet, loving personality shines when she is brought into the play room! She loves attention and loves to have her ears rubbed. A very pretty girl. Come see for yourself! She has lived with other cats and is already litter trained. Won't you be her Valentine? 3 years old. 11 lbs. 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



***** Announcing an All New Event! *****

Adoption Meet & Greet!!!

Stop by Lucky Lucy's Canine Café at 1126 S. Charles St. the first Saturday after each SBIC meeting, February 11, between 12-2 PM to meet an adoptable dog from BARCS like those featured above Call Lucky Lucy's for more info:
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