SoBoImCo

South Baltimore Improvement Committee • June 2006



IN MEMORIAM: GENE JOHNSON

By AMY Grace

Our neighbor, Gene Johnson, passed away on Saturday, May 20, after a valiant three-year struggle with esophageal cancer. One month shy of his 58th birthday, Gene died on a day he loved very well: Preakness in Baltimore.

Most of us knew Gene through our associations with his activist wife, Gilda Johnson, who had been his partner for nearly eighteen years of marriage. But he was always there behind the scenes cooking burgers at the community picnic, counting and stuffing newsletters, and supporting the neighborhood association's efforts to improve South Baltimore. Gene was also an accomplished volunteer activist on his own serving as a Past Master 32nd Degree Mason and as Secretary to the Baltimore City Board of Elections among many other activities.



As Gilda recalls Gene certain adjectives come easily to her mind: a very determined man with a sunny personality; always a positive thinker. Gene was a can-do kind of person who never took "no" as an answer. A 33 year veteran of the shipping industry including 10 years with COSCO

(Continued on page 5)

COMMUNITY MEETING

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 6th, 2006 7:30 p.m. at Olive Branch United Methodist Church (corner of Charles & Fort Ave. S.)

> **Guest Speaker:** Councilman Ed Reisinger

There will be no meeting in July

RECYCLING DAYS

Paper recycling is the 2nd & 4th Fridays, June 9th & 23rd



Bottles, Cans & Jars are the 2nd & 4th Mondays, June 12th & 26th All recycling collected streetside

GET OUT!

National Boating & Fishing Week June 3rd—11th

Go jump in a lake! (or bay, or river).

Neighborhood Cleanup Saturday, June 10th 8:00a.m.—Noon

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

Federal Hill Jazz & Blues Festival Sunday, June 11th 11:00a.m.—7:00p.m.

Charles St. between Hamburg & West Enjoy three stages of sultry music and 100's of craft and food vendors. Bring the kids for the return of Little Ones Lane. Free admission. See page 6 for info.

SBIC Social Event Monday, June 12th 7:00p.m.

The Bicycle Restaurant
1444 Light Street
Join us for fun, food and friends (new and old). \$8 for members, \$12 for non-members. See page 5 for info.

African American Heritage Festival June 16th—18th

Oriole Park at Camden Yards
The 5th African American Heritage
Festival. Visit www.aahf.net for more info.

Baltimore Pride 2006 June 17th—18th

Mt. Vernon

Parade and Block Party, Saturday June 17th and Festival, Sunday, June 18th. Visit www.baltimorepride.org for more info



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 eastenddesign@att.net

We reserve the right to edit or reject submissions. Articles represent the opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of SoBo-ImCo. 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

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Lori Hardesty

Life can be quite a roller coaster! At times, it's exhilarating and full of joy – at the peak, you wish you could freeze the moment. Other times, you feel like things are spiraling out of control – just when you think things couldn't get worse, you take another loopty-loop. The last few weeks have brought both challenges and celebrations for me directly, but also for others neighbors.

The fact that we live in the same community physically brings us together. Had it not been for living in South Baltimore for the last 4 years and being involved with SBIC, my husband and I might not have met the many great people we know today who care about their neighborhood. In addition, being small business owners within our community only enhances that experience, people who have special bonds with their pets.

Relationships can take time, trust, and is a two-way, give and take process. There can be some vulnerability and risk in getting to know new people, but the rewards of support, caring, and new experiences can be endless. I truly enjoy being caught in such a great web of support, and amazed by the fascinating people I call both friends and neighbors who weave it every day!

(President's Corner continued on page 3)

SANITATION & BEAUTIFICATION

By Amy Mutch

Monthly Cleanup!! Come join the effort on Saturday, June 10th between the hours of 8am-12noon to rid South Baltimore of accumulated trash!! We will meet at the corner of Light and Heath Streets where the dumpster is located. We sweep, shovel the curbside and collect bulk trash that pollutes our streets and alleyways. The sitting park on Heath Street will also receive some attention. Many of you have benefited from the efforts of a small group of dedicated volunteers. The best way to demonstrate appreciation is to join us on Saturday morning. Cleaning the neighborhood benefits ALL residents of our community.

Weeds!! Yes it's that time of year when all life-form blossoms. Weeds growing around foundations and sidewalks give the impression of neglect. Pulling up a weed before it establishes a strong root system is the best defense. Pouring salt on a weed after a rainfall will ease removal.

Last but certainly not least!! The Examiner newspaper is littering our streets and calling attention to absent homeowners. I met with Michael Barnum, VP of Circulation for The Examiner, regarding the problems from doorstep delivery. Litter and safety concerns regarding absentee homeownership were discussed and one solution offered is to replace The Examiner from the previous day during routine delivery for a few days and then stop all delivery to that address unless a request is made. He also offered to help clean our streets during our monthly cleanups. Until this resolution is firmly in place, please collect the newspaper if it is being delivered to your doorstep and/or neglected on your neighbors stoop.

LOTS HAPPENINGS AT THE LIGHT STREET BRANCH LIBRARY

GET A CLUE! Young adult and adult Summer Reading Kick-off

Thursday, June 1, 6:30 pm

Join us for mystery & mayhem as the Summer Reading Program begins. Sign on for a summer of "whodunit" thrills.

STITCHING B'S

First & Third Saturday in June (3 & 17), 11 am Bring your needlework project to the library and socialize while creating your knitting, cross stitch or crochet masterpiece.

CLUELESS ABOUT COMPUTERS?

Tuesdays in June (6, 13, 20 & 27), 11 am Are you technologically challenged? Here is your opportunity to have one-on-one training with Light Street Adult Volunteer, Cheli Derry, and solve the mysteries of using the computer. You will learn how to navigate the internet, set up a free email account, obtain your free credit report or fill out an online job application. Sessions will last for 1 hour and are by appointment only. Call 410-396-1096 to register.

THE BEER FACTS

Monday, June 5, 6:30 pm

More taste or less filling? Beer can be confusing, but not after you learn the facts from the Clayton's Tavern crew. Beer brewing, types of beers, and how to enjoy them will be revealed.

DRUM PUM PUM

Thursday, June 8, 6:30 pm

Ages 7 and up. Learn about Persian drums and join the drumming circle to experience the different rhythms.

FRIENDS OF THE LIGHT STREET BRANCH

Thursday, June 8, 6:15 pm

Get involved in your community library: join the Light Street Friends at their monthly meeting.

LIVING HISTORY: CULTURES AT JAMESTOWN

Saturday, June 10, 10:30 am

For all ages. Be a part of the excitement as the tall ship, *Godspeed* docks in Baltimore's harbor, celebrating the 400th anniversary of Jamestown. Before you visit the ship, start your day at the Light Street Branch to learn about the colony as it was 400 years ago. Housing, tools, clothing and food of that era will be demonstrated.

DO YOU HAVE A CLUE?

Monday, June 12, 3:30 pm

Ages 5-12. Start off your summer on a mysterious note. Join us to kick off the Summer Reading Program with books, games and refreshments.

IT'S A GRAND, OLD FLAG

Thursday, June 15, 6:30 pm

Ben Kreshtool of Fort McHenry will discuss our American flag, debunking old myths and promoting it as the proud symbol of our country.

MYSTERIES OF THE DEEP

Monday, June 19, 6:30 pm

Fascinated by shipwrecks and pirates? Learn more as Steve Smith, president of the Atlantis Rangers, presents a program about the pirate Blackbeard and diving for shipwreck artifacts off the coast of North Carolina.

PICTURE THYS/LIVE MUSIC

Thursday, June 22, 6:30 pm DJ Larry McCoy is back! But this time, he is bringing his band with him. Come listen to original compositions and soulfully smooth jazz.

Call 410-396-1096 to register for all programs

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(President's Corner Continued from page 2)

As the new President of SBIC, I look forward to this ride with both excitement and anticipation. Many neat opportunities and challenges lie ahead. However, I know that I will not nor cannot do it alone within a vacuum. Thanks to Marimargaret, Sharron, Marie, Amy & Patrick, Cheryl, Steve, and Julie for their continued hard work and determination in their respective areas/committees. Talk about some amazing people!

I welcome Ugur Erickson, our new Social Chair, as well as the new Treasurer (although *not* new to SBIC), Erika Haws. Good luck (but not good-bye) to former President Shani Ahearn and husband Aaron who are on their way to San Francisco. "Congratulations" on beginning a new chapter in your lives! Shani, your passion and energy are inspirational - so is your amazing knack for gardening, love of cats, and sense of cuisine!

There are so many people who touch my life in so many ways that make this position, but more importantly, *being a neighbor* worth it every day. Thank you!

POLICE/COMMUNITY RELATIONS

By Sharron McCulloch

Stoop Night

Now that Stoop Night has been reintroduced into our Spring and Summer schedules, lets keep the communication between neighbors rolling!

Our goal once again is to get as many neighbors out of their houses and onto their front steps starting at 7 pm. We as a community can help deter *CRIME* and DRUG ACTIVITY from our streets. What a fantastic time to exchange ideas about ways to improve our neighborhood. It is also a great opportunity to meet neighbors and talk to friends!

This is how it works: When the Baltimore Oriole's are <u>OFF</u>, Stoop Night is <u>ON</u>. It's that easy!

Here is the Stoop Night schedule for June and July:

Monday, **June 19**th Monday, **June 26**th Monday, **July 10**th Wednesday, **July 12**th Thursday, **July 20**th Monday, **July 24**th

Public Safety and other important numbers:

1 ubite Safety and other important numbers.	
To report illegal drug activity	410-666-DRUG
To turn in guns to the Police Department	410-685-GUNS
To get information on drug treatment	410-637-1900
To report crimes in-progress	911
To report non-emergency police assistance	311
To report illegal dumping	410-396-4707
To learn crime prevention techniques	410-396-2525
To learn how to prevent fires in your house	410-396-5752









SCHOOL 33 UPDATE

School 33 Art Center, your neighborhood contemporary visual art center located at 1427 Light Street, is pleased to announce the renovation of its building. The Center, which contains exhibition and artist studio space, in addition to classrooms for its art education program, hasn't received a facelift since 1979. The renovation will bring the addition of an elevator to make the building more handicap accessible, expansion

of the gallery, and general repair and recondition of the classrooms and artist studios, as well as a revamped heating and air conditioning system.

Major renovation and construction will begin August 1 and may impact those located at Clement, Birckhead, and Light streets. Neighbors can expect typical construction equipment conducive to demolition, construction, and repair. In addition, children should be forewarned to be extra cautious during this time. Renovation is expected to be completed by January.

For more information, please contact School 33 Art Center at 410-396-4641 or by email at school33@promotionandarts.com.

C.O.P. WALKS

Are you worried about crime in the neighborhood? You can change things by getting together with neighbors who share your worries. Anyone and everyone can take the most basic actions, like reporting suspicious behavior or crimes in progress to the police. Whatever the contribution of time, energy, talent, and resources you can make, small or large, it will help! Citizens on Patrol (COP) is just one way you can help in making our streets smarter and safer. Take a stand and help protect your neighborhood!

Monday, June 5th at 7pm

- CHERRY HILL

Meet at the Cherry Dale Apartments Leasing Office, 118 Cherry Hill Rd.

Wednesday, June 7th at 7pm

- OTTERBEIN/SHARP-LEADENHALL

Meet at S. Sharp and W. Henrietta Sts.

Monday, June 12th at 7pm

- RIVERSIDE/SBIC

Meet at the Riverside Park gazebo, Riverside Ave and E. Randall St.

Tuesday, June 13th at 7pm

- CARROLLTON RIDGE

Meet at the Samuel F.B. Morse Rec Center, Pulaski and Ashton Sts.

Monday, June 19th at 7pm

- CHERRY HILL

Meet at 631 Cherry Hill Rd (across from Town Center).

Wednesday, June 21st at 7pm

- FEDERAL HILL

Meet at Porters Pub, Riverside Ave and E. Cross St.

Thursday, June 22nd at 7pm

- RIVERSIDE/SBIC

Meet at the Riverside Park gazebo, Riverside Ave and E. Randall St.

Thursday, June 29th at 7pm

- BROOKLYN

Meet at the Park & Ride on Hanover St.

Please visit the Southern District Police Community Relations Council website for the latest COP scheduled updates (www.sdpcrc.org), or call Sharron McCulloch at 410-659-5159.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

By Ugur Erickson

Please join us at our next neighborhood social, which will be held at The Bicycle Restaurant at 1444 Light Street on Monday, June 12th at 7pm. Wine, cheese, and light hors d'oeuvres will be served. The cost is \$8 for members of SBIC, \$12 for nonmembers.



Nicholas Batey CHEF/OWNER

Saundra Jackson GENL MANAGER

open six nights a week for dinner Monday - Thursday 5:30 - 10:00 pm Friday & Saturday 5:30 - 11:00 pm Opening Soon for Sunday Dinner

> 1444 light Street Baltimore, MD 21230 410,234,1900 reservations strongly recommended www.bicyclebistro.com

Serving Creative Colectic Cuisine

SUMMER HOURS

In honor of the Independence Day holiday, and due to the fact that most of you will have fled the neighborhood for the long weekend, there will be no General Meeting in July.

We will return to our regularly scheduled programming in August.

Enjoy the break! Do something fun!

THAT SPEAK



1431 Patapsco Street \$319,900

Charming rehabbed 2 bedroom 1.5 bath rowhome in a great location offering bright open living space. This home features wood floors, tin ceilings, and a finished lower level with 1/2 bath. Don't let the form stone fool you, this home has tons of charm and is just waiting for your personal touch!

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"Results That Speak For Themselves"

(Gene Johnson Continued from page 1)

North America, his current employer, Gene worked as General Manager of the Baltimore office and Regional Sales Manager for states in the mid-Atlantic region. In 2004 he was selected as a recipient of COSCO's Sales Star Award for sales achievement. He was one of 50 honorees internationally and two based in the United States. A few weeks before his death, Gene's firm bestowed a lifetime achievement award upon him for his contributions to the company and his courage in dealing with his illness. He was still going to work at COSCO even nine days before his death. No wonder his many friends think of him as unstoppable.

Not easily discouraged by anything in life, Gene's relentless optimism and courage were especially evident as he accepted the cancer diagnosis in 2003 saying to his doctor, "Tell me what we have to do and I'll do it." Through radiation treatments, chemotherapy regimens, experimental drug therapy, and all of the attendant pain and misery associated with the treatments, Gene never complained, not even on his last day of life.

He was a devoted father to his beloved eleven year old daughter, CeCe, and a devoted son-in-law to Gilda's mother, Carlyn Johnson. There was simply nothing that anyone would ask Gene to do that he would not do. His generosity was limitless. He provided for his family; he wrote his own memorial service; he even pre-arranged for flowers on the altar at Christ Church for Sunday, May 28th – as a gift to Gilda to celebrate their 18th wedding anniversary.

A memorial service was held on Friday, May 26, at Christ Church.

IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD



Sunday, June 11th 11 am to 7 pm on S. Charles & Cross Streets in historic Federal Hill.

Free Admission for the first time in years, as a special thanks to our long-time supporters, neighbors and friends!!

Federal Hill Main Street's 6th Annual Jazz & Blues Festival is coming on strong with a vibrant mix of both legendary and up-and-coming artists. Headlining this year is famed New Orleans blues singer Marva Wright. Best known as the "Queen of Blues, " she is renowned for putting her heart and soul into her vocals. The singer has performed at the White House and at numerous national Jazz festivals over her eighteen-year singing career. Other exciting artists include Rumba Club, Greg Hatza ORGANization, Lafayette Gilchrist, The Oxymorons, Buzzy's Cousins, The Bridge, Old Man Brown, Robert Lighthouse, Mofofunka, Blues Therapy, and more...

Children can enjoy Little One's Lane, a special area featuring games, crafts, and hands-on fun from Walters Art Museum, the Maryland Science Center, the Baltimore Museum of Industry, and lots more. Highlights include performances by Kidsinger Jim, a live animal demonstration by Wildlife Ad-

ventures, a moonbounce, a fun slide, and more!

Peruse booths of antiques, jewelry, unique art & crafts. Enjoy delicious food and libations. Stroll down the tree-lined streets of historic Federal Hill to the sounds of music. It is a lovely way to spend the day!

Federal Hill Main Street, Inc., an IRS Code 501(c)(3) nonprofit Maryland corporation, is one of the seven nonprofit urban revitalization programs created in Baltimore City in October of 2000. Modeled after the National Main Street program, (created by the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1977), Federal Hill Main Street's purpose is to revitalize this urban business community in ways that will preserve its unique and historic character. It is a comprehensive, common-sense process that deals with problems and takes advantage of opportunities to stimulate and maintain economic development.



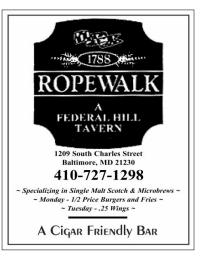
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HELP WANTED: NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTORS!

Are you familiar with the SBIC area? If not, are you interested in learning more? Did you deliver papers when you were younger? Have you more recently delivered newsletters for SBIC or a previous community association? Or maybe you just enjoy taking a stroll around the neighborhood?

SBIC is always looking for volunteers to help deliver our monthly newsletter to residents and local businesses. For less than an hour a month, you can help spread the word and stretch your legs!

We are also looking for people to assist with some "behind the scenes" efforts. including creating and coordinating distribution routes.

If this sounds interesting, please contact Lori Hardesty at lorel 207@hotmail.com.

Baltimore Animal Rescue and Care Shelter, Inc.



301 Stockholm Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21230

BaltimoreAnimalShelter.org



George, kennel #10 Shepherd mix

George is a such a good boy! He loves getting brush, is cooperative at bath time, and quiet in the car. He is excited to meet new dogs and people, politely sniffing them. A friendly fellow, George wags his

tail at everybody. Appears to be good with dog-savvy children

This coy guy likes to bury his head under your arm. Easy on leash. Appears to be housetrained. He jumps in his kennel because he is excited to meet you, but the jumping has led to him being overlooked for over 3 months. Do you have room in your heart for this all-around superstar?

This one and half year-old arrived here on 2/10 because his family was moving and couldn't take him.

Twinkle, kennel #101 Domestic Short Hair, Tuxedo

This young girl could be the twinkle in your eye! She is super sweet, gentle and loving with so much personality. She could just sit by your side and be loved forever!



If you have not met our Twinkle, then you are missing out. Twinkle might not catch your eye at first, but after spending mere seconds with her, she will capture your heart.

Come by and visit with this sweet little girl today!

1 year old. 7.4 lbs. Been at the shelter since February 1st.
Already spayed so she can go home today!

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



ADOPTION MEET & GREET!!!

Stop by Lucky Lucy's Canine Café at 1126 S. Charles St. from 12-2 PM on Saturdays, June 3rd & 10th to meet an adoptable dog from BARCS like those featured above. Call Lucky Lucy's for more info: (410) 837-2121

PLAY BALL!

Upcoming home games for June are as follows:

June 5-8 vs. Toronto June 20-22 vs. Florida June 23-25 vs. Washington June 27-29 vs. Philadelphia

Other Stadium Events: June 10: Ray Lewis Event June 16-18: African American Heritage Festival

Please be mindful of the stadium event restrictions for Area A and Area 30 parking.

THIRD THURSDAY

The Southern District Police Community Relations Council meets the third Thursday of every month. It is a non-profit organization designed to improve communication and understanding between the police department and residents. This month's meeting is scheduled for June 15th, 2006 at 7:00 PM at the Southern District Police Station, 10 Cherry Hill Road.

On the Agenda:

- 1 District Update by Major Eric Jordan and Deputy Major Michael McDonald
- 2 Formation of 5 groups as part of the District Plan
- 3 Buffet donated by The Youth Corps of Greater Baltimore

<u>Please decide which of the following groups you will participate in before the meeting begins:</u>

- 1. **Juveniles** getting more kids involved in civic activities.
- Housing / Trash how to reduce trash and stop illegal dumping and how to make sure homes are properly boarded up and that landlords are held responsible for their property and tenants.
- 3. **Information sharing / Crime prevention** increase anti-crime information through the different communities and from the communities to the police. Witness intimidation/snitching is also under this group.
- 4. **Broaden involvement** how do we get more residents of all ages involved?
- 5. Civilian Police Academy organize and begin a civilian police academy.



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Do you know anyone who would like to buy or sell a home in the Federal Hill, Canton, or Fells Point area? Contact the Steven Murphy Real Estate Team for exceptional results!!







South Baltimore Improvement Committee, Inc. PO Box 6364 Baltimore, MD 21230



To Our Neighbors