

SoBoImCo

South Baltimore Improvement Committee • September 2006



ALLEY GATING & GREENING

AN UNPRECEDENTED OPPORTUNITY FOR
BALTIMORE RESIDENTS

Alley Gating & Greening Hearing:
September 20th, 2006, 5 pm, City Hall, Curran Room, 4th floor,
south side of building

Soon Baltimore residents will have the unprecedented opportunity, should they choose, to significantly improve the blocks on which they live by gating and greening their alleyways and we are going to need you to voice your support at a hearing on September 20th at 5 pm at City Hall, Curran Room, 4th floor, south side of the building.

For the past three years a number of organizations -- including the Patterson Park Community Development Corporation, the Patterson Park Neighborhood Association, Inc., The Upper Fells Point Improvement Association, and Community Greens along with pro bono counsel from the University of Maryland at Baltimore Law School and the law firm of Hogan & Hartson L.L.P. -- have been working with City Council members, the Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods, State Delegate Pete Hammen, and Mayor Martin O'Malley to give residents the option, should they choose to take it, to gate and green their alleyways.

Why Gate & Green the Alleys?

Residents in Baltimore are interested in improving the quality of their lives and the safety of their neighborhoods. We know from existing in-

Alley Gating (Continued on page 9)

GET OUT!

Star Spangled Banner Weekend
September 8th, 9th & 10th

Fort McHenry National Park
Celebrate Baltimore's oldest holiday with War of 1812 reenactments, parades, fireworks and more!

Neighborhood Cleanup
Saturday, September 9th
8:00a.m.—

Corner of Fort Ave & S. Charles St
Gloves, brooms and bags provided.

Riverside Park Summer Concert
Sunday, September 10th
6:30p.m.—

Riverside Park
Free admission.

Fall Social
Wednesday, September 13th
7:00p.m.—

Grumpies Pour House, 25 E. Cross St
Join your neighbors for a little fun & food. \$5 for members, \$8 for non-members. See page 3 for details.

2006 Maryland Lighthouse Challenge
September 16th—17th

Visit any or all of the nine lighthouses and one lightship and receive commemorative souvenirs at each stop. Visit www.cheslights.org or call 410.437.0741 for more info.

Street Beat Festival
Sunday, September 24th
11:00a.m.—7:00p.m.
S. Charles St, btw Hamburg & West
Free admission. See page 6 for details.

Baltimore Book Festival
September 29th, 30th & Oct. 1st.
Friday—5:00p.m.—9:00p.m.
Sat & Sun—11:00a.m.—7:00p.m.
Mt. Vernon Place
Don't miss the mid-Atlantic's premier celebration of the literary arts.

REMINDER:

City offices will be closed on Monday, September 4th, in observance of Labor Day.

COMMUNITY MEETING

Next Meeting:
Tuesday, September 5th, 2006
7:30 p.m. at Olive Branch
United Methodist Church
(corner of S. Charles & Fort Ave.)

Guest Speaker:
Natasha Poole
Baltimore City Planning Department
*Review of Comprehensive
Zoning Meeting*

RECYCLING DAYS

Paper recycling is the 2nd & 4th
Fridays, September 8th & 22nd



Bottles, Cans & Jars
are the 2nd & 4th
Mondays, September 11th & 25th
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
eastenddesign@att.net

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

LOTS HAPPENINGS AT THE LIGHT STREET BRANCH LIBRARY

ANIME ADVENTURES

Wednesdays in September, 4 pm
Ages 10-17. Join us for free screenings of action-packed episodes of *Full Metal Alchemist*.

ELDERLIGHTERS

Wednesday, September 6, 10:30 am
Take a stroll down memory lane with this singing group of women ranging in age from 66 to 96 who reside at Brightview Assisted Living in Bel Air, MD.

A TALE OF TWO LIBRARIES

Thursday, September 7, 6:30 pm
All Ages. Explore the fascinating history of the Enoch Pratt Free Library with an emphasis on the Light Street Branch in a special presentation by Jeff Korman, Manager of EPFL Maryland Department.

LIGHT STREET CELEBRATION

Saturday, September 9, 12 pm – 3 pm
All Ages. Help the branch celebrate 120 years of serving South Baltimore & 35 years at our current location. Lots of entertainment (face painting, magic show, balloon art) will be provided and refreshments will be served.

NICOLO WHIMSEY

Wednesday, September 13, 10:30 am
Enjoy a special storytime with children's entertainer, Nicolo Whimsey. Come experience color, music and merriment in this fun & interactive program.

MUSICAL FLASHBACK – 1971

Thursday, September 14, 6:30 pm
All Ages. Come show your '70's soul and take a musical ride back in time. DJ Larry McCoy will spin classic tunes from 1971. So don't be a square, dress in your 1970's best, and come get psychedelic.

FRIENDS BOOK SALE

Thursday, September 14, 12-7 pm; Friday, September 15, 12-4:30; and Saturday, September 16, 10-2. Come buy gently used books and videos. Support your local branch.

LOOKING FOR LOVE

Saturday, September 16, 11 am – 1 pm.
BARCs (Baltimore Animal Rescue Center) will once again be at the library to provide information on how to adopt a pet and will bring along some special animals who are looking for love & a good home.

GLUE & GO COSTUMES

Monday, September 18, 6:30 pm
Halloween is just around the corner. Join Holly Cleeland, author of *Glue and Go Costumes for Kids* to learn how common household items can easily be made into clever and crafty children's costumes.

MOTHER GOOSE ON THE LOOSE

September 20 & 27, 10:30 am
An interactive nursery rhyme program with music and movement for children to age three and their caregivers.

FRIENDS' MEETING

Thursday, September 21, 6:15 pm
Monthly meeting of the Friends Group.

BALTIMORE'S BOOK/EYES ON THE PRIZE

Thursday, September 21, 6:30 pm
All Ages. Come watch a special video on the civil rights movement and then discuss Baltimore's Book, *The Watsons Go To Birmingham* by Christopher Paul Curtis.

IRISH STEP PERFORMANCE

Monday, September 25, 7pm
All Ages. Back by popular demand, the local group of Irish Steppers from Catholic Community School (led by instructor, Christina Spadora) will entertain and delight with their spirited dancing.

PYCTURE THYZ

Thursday, September 28, 6:30 pm
Come help us close out our month-long anniversary celebration and groove to the soulful, live jazz tunes from the library's new house band, Pycuture Thyz, led by Larry McCoy. This program is too good to be missed. Refreshments will be served.

Call 410-396-1096 to register for all programs

SANITATION & BEAUTIFICATION

By Amy Mutch

Another GREAT cleanup was held at the corner of W. Fort and Race Streets. Thanks to Chad, Doug, Donnie, Tim, Val, Marcie, Andy, Steve, Steve's truck, Pat and Donald we made a BIG improvement along the train tracks in the 1500 and 1600 blocks of Race Street. We also cleaned the the following locations: Olive Street behind 1339 S. Hanover; Olive Street behind the Stonewall Democratic Club; Birkhead Street behind the old A&P on Fort; the alley behind the Leatherite building on Randall and Marshall. Unfortunately many of these trouble spots are repeat problem areas for dumping. Residents need to call 911 if they see dumping in progress or 311 to report the mess "after the fact".

"Extreme Clean" is the motto of the Sanitation/Beautification Committee. We are working hard to set a standard for cleanliness that includes every resident in South Baltimore. Keep America Beautiful reported during a land and under-water cleanup that cigarette butts and filters accounted for 34% of debris collected while food wrappers and containers represented 10% of trash (Capital-Gazette Newspaper, August 16th, 2006). The article continued to explain how major cities are promoting the use of a palm-sized ashtray that allows a smoker to cleanly dispose cigarette butts before entering a smoke-free building. South Baltimore needs to embrace the "battle of the butt": just placing a small glass jar adjacent to your stoop to collect butts helps keep our streets and bay cleaner.

Block captains are needed to promote our "extreme clean" campaign and help with beautification projects. We would like to see more trees planted and need to notify the city NOW for Spring planting. The procedure for obtaining a tree will be posted on the SBIC web site or email amyemutch@yahoo.com.

The next cleanup is Saturday, September 9th at the corner of W. Fort and S. Charles. We welcome all volunteers throughout the morning between the hours of 8am-12noon. We have access to a street sweeper and are exploring using it on cleanup Saturdays. No parking signs would be posted prior to the cleanup to alert residents. Please attend the Tuesday meeting to learn more about street sweeping and express concerns. We know parking is a serious issue and want to minimize any inconvenience.

A filthy city is NOT the image we want to project as the Baltimore tour bus drives through our neighborhood. South Baltimore is a place rich in character, diverse, welcoming and honoring traditions in the proud rowhouses that line the streets. Now let us honor those that scrubbed their stoops and step up to the challenge of EXTREME CLEAN!

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IMAGINE INDEPENDENCE—*THE POSSIBILITIES FAIR*

The National Federation of the Blind (NFB) will host the fifth annual *Possibilities Fair* for Seniors Who Are Losing Vision. The NFB Community Partnership Board invites the public to attend the *Possibilities Fair*, which will provide seniors with a hands-on opportunity to learn methods for improving their lives.

The Fair will take place on Thursday, October 19, 2006, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The cost is \$15, and lunch will be provided. It will be held at the National Federation of the Blind Jernigan Institute, located in south Federal Hill at 1800 Johnson Street. To find out more, call (410) 659-9314, extension 2419 or 2297.

Americans are living longer, and vision loss occurs more frequently among those who are older. More than fifty percent of the 70,000 individuals who become blind in this country each year are over the age of sixty-five. This population is expected to more than double by the year 2030. The training these seniors need—general adjustment to blindness, independent living skills, Braille—is not readily available to them.

Seniors, though, are eager to learn about the strategies that will enable them to continue living independent lives. “American seniors have a strong desire to remain independent as they age. This is no less so for seniors who are losing their vision. The NFB Jernigan Institute, which works to develop innovative training methods and education for all blind people, places a high priority on the needs of these seniors who are often not provided the services made available to blind people of working age,” states NFB President, Marc Maurer.

Demonstration stations will include speech output devices, mobility practice sessions, techniques for the kitchen as well as a display of helpful gadgets and gizmos available to make life more accessible. Participants will learn about books on tape and newspapers over the telephone, talking computers, and magnification devices. The Fair will also include helpful hints about losing vision and enjoying life! In addition, there will be an interesting mix of nonprofit partners that will have an array of information, demonstrations, and displays for the seniors to enjoy.

With over 50,000 members from 700 local and state affiliates covering all fifty states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, the Federation is truly the *voice of the nation's blind*. With its national headquarters located in Baltimore since 1978, the NFB has become the leading force in the blindness field today. The National Federation of the Blind is *changing what it means to be blind* through its dedication to improving the lives of all blind people by coming together, sharing resources, and developing useful programs that encourage self-confidence and independence.

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SOCIAL EVENTS

By Ugur Erickson

Take some time out of your busy life and join SBIC for our quarterly social events: It's a great opportunity to hang out with your neighbors, and maybe try a neighborhood spot you haven't been to yet.

The Fall social will be held on Wednesday, September 13th at 7:00p.m., hosted at Grumpies Pour House, located at 25 E. Cross Street.

Cost is \$5 for members, \$8 for non-members, and includes two drinks and hors d'oeuvres.

Hope to see you there!



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DESIGN REVIEW

By Steve Zaleskiwicz

The Design Review Committee is continuing to work with concerned neighbors and business owners about the proposed 5-story building at 1201 S. Charles Street. In addition to concerns about the size and scale of the building, as well as the developer's failure to communicate directly with affected neighbors on West Street and SBIC, we remain concerned about parking problems that could be generated by the proposed twelve 3-bedroom condo units that are currently designed to have only one parking space available, as well as joining the adjacent property owners in their concern for the impact a 70-foot tall building will have on older foundations.

We have been in communication with the Planning Department, Councilman Ed Reisinger, and Delegate Brian McHale, and with their support, hope to be able to either force the developer of this project to work on a suitable compromise with the community, or abandon the project. Additionally, there is a petition available for signing for those who are interested: please contact me or come to the next meeting to sign it.

There is a tremendous amount of developing going on in our neighborhood, and it's up to us to pay attention to what's going on, and voice our concerns and opinions, and offer support to those projects that are good for the neighborhood.

IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD

Federal Hill Main Street's largest festival of the year, the Street Beat Festival, will be **FREE** this year for the first time in years! The music and arts festival that celebrates city living has returned to its roots to say thank you to the neighborhood and its supporters.

The festival will feature nonstop music with 17 internationally, nationally and regionally acclaimed bands playing an eclectic mix of music on three stages throughout the day. Enjoy the exciting sounds of the **Pietasters, the Eric Lindell Band, Kelly Bell Band, Kirk Joseph's Backyard Groove, Jr. Cline and the Recliners, the Weekapaug Orchestra** and many more.

The Street Beat Festival offers a variety of activities and fun for all ages. Stroll along tree-lined streets and browse booths filled with art, antiques, jewelry and crafts. Enjoy



STREET BEAT FESTIVAL

Sunday, September 24th

11am to 7pm

S. Charles & Cross Streets in historic Federal Hill

FREE ADMISSION!

delicious food and libations from Federal Hill's celebrated restaurants. Children can have a blast in **Little Ones Lane**, a special area featuring games, crafts and hands-on fun for kids. Plus live performances from comic magician **Tom Lilly, Eric Energy, Wildlife Adventures and Kinetic Dance Theatre**. Both Arts & Crafts Lane and Little Ones Lane are sponsored by Mercy Medical Center in its continuing effort to support the downtown Baltimore community.

VOLUNTEER! It's a unique way to enjoy the festival and meet lots of people. You'll be helping Federal

Hill Main Street help the neighborhood. And it's fun! Volunteer positions are available in two shifts, 10:30am-3pm and 2:30pm-7pm, at beer ticket sales, beer pouring, and frozen drink sales. All volunteers receive a free 2006 festival t-shirt and complimentary beverage tickets. Please contact volunteers@historicfederalhill.org or call 410-727-4500.

For more information about the Street Beat Festival, including a complete band line-up, and for the latest information about any other Federal Hill Main Street initiative, visit www.historicfederalhill.org.

THE STEVEN MURPHY REAL ESTATE TEAM

Feature Property of the Month

708 S. Charles Street

\$439,900



Gorgeous highly upgraded 2 BR, 2.5 BA home in Otterbein! This home offers a gourmet kitchen with stainless steel appliances and granite counters, separate dining room, sunken living room with 9.5' ceiling, wood burning fireplace, master bedroom has a full bath, full finished basement, private patio, attached garage and much more. Located just steps from the Inner Harbor, Stadiums and other local attractions in Charm City. Come see for yourself!

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Baltimore Animal Rescue and Care Shelter, Inc.

301 Stockholm Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21230

BaltimoreAnimalShelter.org



Dizzy
kennel #1

Dizzy is quite a character! He knows sit on command and shoe off his inquisitive, coy side. Affectionate and fun.

Labrador Retriever mix.
4.5 months old. 30 lbs.

Mr. Sandy Pants
kennel in lobby

Mr. Sandy Pants and his very cute siblings are ready for forever homes. They are about 8 weeks old and full of exciting kitty antics, including curling themselves up in blankets and posing for pictures!



Brought to the shelter on 7/3 after being found in front of a school.

Well worth visiting... Come get your kitten 'fix' 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. on Saturdays in September, except September 9th, from Noon—2:00p.m. to learn about the next adoption event and get to meet an adoptable dog from BARCS like those featured above. Call Lucky Lucy's for more info: (410) 837-2121



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You can now receive an electronic copy of the SBIC newsletter in your email. Please visit our website at www.soboimco.org and follow the links to join our newsgroup. By joining the newsgroup, you will receive a copy of the SBIC newsletter in your email and stay abreast of community news.



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PLAY BALL!

Upcoming home O's games for September are as follows:

Sept. 8—11 vs. NY Yankees
Sept. 12—14 vs. Boston
Sept. 21 vs. Detroit
Sept. 22—24 vs. Minnesota

Home Ravens games:
Sept. 17 vs Oakland

Other Stadium events:
Sept. 30—Taste of Baltimore

Save yourself a ticket and tow: please be mindful of the stadium event restrictions for Area A and Area 30 parking.



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CITIZENS ON PATROL

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!

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.

Citizens On Patrol Schedule:

OTTERBEIN / SHARP LEADEN-HALL

Wednesday, September 6th at 7pm
Meet at the corner of Sharp St. & Henrietta St.

RIVERSIDE/SBIC

Thursday, September 7th at 7pm
Meet at the Riverside Park gazebo; 400 blk of Randall St.

CARROLLTON RIDGE

Tuesday, September 12th at 7pm –
Meet at Samuel F.B. Morse Recreation Center, Pulaski & Ashton Sts.

LOCUST POINT

Thursday, September 14th at 7pm
Meet at Tide Point, Hull & Nicholson Sts.

CHERRY HILL

Monday, September 18th at 7pm
Meet at Cherry Hill & Terra Firma Rds (Town Center parking lot).

If it is over 85 degrees the Cherry Hill walk is cancelled.

RIVERSIDE/SBIC

Tuesday, September 19th at 7pm
Meet at the Riverside Park gazebo; 400 blk of Randall St.

PIGTOWN

Wednesday, September 27th at 7pm
Meet at The Bath House, 904 Washington Blvd.

BROOKLYN

Thursday, September 28th at 7pm
Meet at the Park & Ride, Hanover St. and Frankfurst Ave.

CHERRY HILL

Monday, October 2nd at 7pm
Meet at Nehemiah Homes, 3100 block of Round Rd.

OTTERBEIN / SHARP LEADEN-HALL

Wednesday, October 4th at 7pm
Meet at the corner of Sharp St. & Henrietta St.

****If it is over 90 degrees at 6:00 PM the scheduled walk is cancelled, unless otherwise noted.***

BALTIMORE CRIME KEEPS GOING DOWN

On June 12, 2006 the FBI released the preliminary 2005 Uniform Crime Reporting statistics, and Baltimore was only one of five large American cities to show a decrease in violent crime compared to 2004. Nationwide, violent crime was up 2.5% last year, the largest nationwide increase since 1991. However, Baltimore City had the second fewest number of violent crimes, and the fewest number of total crimes in more than 30 years. Commissioner Leonard Hamm attributed Baltimore's declining crime rate to several factors, including:

1. The improved relationship between police officers and community members
 2. Baltimore Police Department's relentless pursuit of repeat violent offenders, and
 3. The deployment of the Department's citywide camera system.
- Commissioner Hamm was quick to say that much work remains, but he expressed his complete confidence that the men and women of the Baltimore Police Department will some day make Baltimore the safest large city in America!!

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. Come by and listen to the *Southern District Update* with Major Eric Jordan & Deputy Major Michael McDonald. This month's meeting is scheduled for **September 21st, 2006 at 7:00 PM** at the Southern District Police Station, 10 Cherry Hill Road.

Visit www.sdpcrc.org for more information.

MINOR NIGHTTIME CURFEW IN EFFECT

It shall be unlawful for the parent of any minor to knowingly permit or, by insufficient control to allow, such minor, minor being any person under the age of 17 years, to remain in or upon any public place or any establishment:

1. Between the hours of 12:00 midnight Friday and 6:00 a.m. Saturday.
2. Between the hours of 12:00 midnight Saturday and 6:00 a.m. Sunday, or
3. between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. of the following day, or any other day of the week.

POLICE/COMMUNITY RELATIONS

By Sharron McCulloch

We would like to take a moment to thank the police officers working in the Southern District. All of your help, attention, and concern over the last few months and years has not gone unnoticed! Your dedication to our COP program, monthly meetings, and weekly communications is very much appreciated. SBIC is very honored and proud of the positive relationship that has developed between the police and our community over the years. We as a community are looking forward to great things to come with your help in crime prevention and awareness. Let's keep up the good work and keep moving forward together in our efforts against crime and drugs.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO:

Major Eric Jordan
Deputy Major Michael McDonald
Sgt. Anthony Proctor Sgt. M. Wingler
Officer Joe Schultz Officer Dena Roney
Officer Joe Goldberg Officer Timika Tate

These officers are being recognized for their relentless dedication and diligent work in our area!

SBIC would also like to give a big thanks to **Jack Baker** (President of the Community Relations Council) and **Shannon Sullivan** (Chair of Citizens on Patrol) for all of their devoted work and enthusiastic volunteer efforts in our neighborhood. We couldn't do it without you both. THANK YOU !!!



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NEIGHBORS INVESTED IN COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT (N.I.C.E.)

Having quality of life issues you want to discuss, like crime, abandoned property, nuisance properties, and garbage? Come to the NICE Subcommittee (Neighbors Invested in Community Environment) meeting on Wednesday, September 27, 2006 at 7:00 pm. At the Ella Bailey Recreation Center 100 E. Heath Street, the back entrance of the Johnson Elementary School. The NICE Subcommittee is having an open meeting to get a feel for what are the problem areas in SBIC. Please join us with your problems and thoughts on solving them.

Alley Gating (Continued from page 1)

terior-block greens in Baltimore and from the experience of those who live on alleys that have been gated and greened, that a number of wonderful things happen:

Right away, people get to know their neighbors. Because residents on a block have to petition the city for the right to gate & green their alleys, they have to come together as a group, get to know one another, agree on what they want to do, as well as plan and figure out how to pay for their alley improvements. So right away a better sense of community is formed. The residents of a block in Patterson Park that have gone through this process already feel a special bond with one another. They successfully petitioned the city, raised over \$14,000 for gates and greenery, and are on their way to a better future.

Because the alleys are gated and since people know one another, they also know who should or should not be on the green. They look out for one another and they feel safer.

We also know from studies done by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's Human and Environment Research Lab that violent crime is reduced when people have ready access to green spaces. Furthermore, adults' ability to "handle life" improves, girls' ability to concentrate rises, kids play "more creatively" in green spaces than they do in hardscape, and children's Attention Deficit Disorder symptoms are relieved more profoundly when they play in green (vs ungreen) spaces.

Alley Gating (Continued on page 11)

CURRENT BLOOD SHORTAGE THREATENS PATIENT SAFETY

Blood donations have fallen to critical status, and the current community blood supply levels are not enough to meet the needs of local hospitals. In response, the Greater Chesapeake and Potomac (GC&P) Region of the American Red Cross is urging all eligible whole blood donors to call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE to schedule a donation appointment right away.

The recent inclement weather in this area has only aggravated an already urgent situation. "We have lost thousands of potential blood donations over the last few days due to the flooding emergency," reported Red Cross Blood Services Senior Vice President Greg Vasse, "Due to falling blood inventories, the Red Cross is already rationing blood types O-negative, A-negative and B-negative in some areas."

Supplies of other blood types are also at risk, as local inventories are being quickly depleted. In this Region, the American Red Cross is unable to fulfill hospital orders for blood, and if the blood supply is not replenished quickly the situation will only become more critical. "If the community does not respond immediately by donating blood, we could find ourselves in a serious crisis," said Hector Garcia, Senior Director for Donor Services at the GC & P Region. "For patients who depend on the blood supply, volunteer donors are the only patient lifeline."

Members of the community are asked to call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE immediately to schedule an appointment to donate at any American Red Cross Donor Center or community blood drive. As a special thank you to the community, the Greater Chesapeake and Potomac Region of the American Red Cross is offering all blood program participants an exclusive "Be the One We Count On" t-shirt, as well as a chance to win \$100 worth of free gas in a weekly raffle.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO GIVE BLOOD:

DONORS MUST:

- Be generally in good health;
- Be at least 17 years of age, or in the state of Maryland only, 16 years of age w/ written parental consent;
- Weigh no less than 110 pounds;
- Have NOT received a tattoo within the past year;
- Have NOT donated whole blood within the past 56 days.

Information about Regional Blood Donor Centers or community blood drive locations and times can be found at www.my-redcross.org. Business and community groups that are willing to hold blood drives are asked to call 1-800-787-9282, x4925 for information.

Visit www.my-redcross.org

DONATION CENTER LOCATIONS AND HOURS:

GLEN BURNIE DONOR CENTER

7310 Ritchie Highway
Suite 1007
Glen Burnie, MD 21061

MONDAY 12:00 pm - 7:00 pm
TUESDAY 12:00 pm - 7:00 pm
WEDNESDAY 12:00 pm - 7:00 pm
THURSDAY 12:00 pm - 7:00 pm
FRIDAY 7:00 am - 1:00 pm
SATURDAY 7:00 am - 3:00 pm

BEL AIR DONOR CENTER

Bright Oaks Courtyard
Suite 122/124
2021 Emmorton Road
Bel Air, MD 21014

TUESDAY 12:00 pm - 7:00 pm
WEDNESDAY 12:00 pm - 7:00 pm
THURSDAY 12:00 pm - 7:00 pm
SATURDAY 7:00 am - 3:00 pm

TOWSON/LUTHERVILLE DONOR CENTER

1134 York Road
Beltway Professional Building
Suite 301
Lutherville, MD 21093

MONDAY 12:00 pm - 7:00 pm
TUESDAY 12:00 pm - 7:00 pm
WEDNESDAY 12:00 pm - 7:00 pm
FRIDAY 8:00 am - 2:00 pm
SATURDAY 7:00 am - 3:00 pm

WHITE MARSH DONOR CENTER

White Marsh Health Center
8114 Sandpiper Circle, Suite 118
White Marsh, MD 21236

MONDAY 12:00 pm - 7:00 pm
TUESDAY 12:00 pm - 7:00 pm
WEDNESDAY 12:00 pm - 7:00 pm
THURSDAY 12:00 pm - 7:00 pm
SATURDAY 7:00 am - 3:00 pm

MT. HOPE DRIVE

Seton Business Park
4700 Mt. Hope Drive
Baltimore, MD 21215

FRIDAY 8:00 am - 2:00 pm
SATURDAY 7:00 am - 3:00 pm

COLUMBIA DONOR CENTER

10 Corporate Center
Suite 400
10400 Little Patuxent Pkwy
Columbia, MD 21044

MONDAY 12:00 pm - 7:00 pm
TUESDAY 12:00 pm - 7:00 pm
WEDNESDAY 12:00 pm - 7:00 pm
THURSDAY 12:00 pm - 7:00 pm
FRIDAY 7:00 am - 1:00 pm
SATURDAY 7:00 am - 3:00 pm

While Baltimore has a number of large parks, it lacks a lot of smaller neighborhood parks along with open green spaces. Greened alleys can help meet this need for greenery -- without placing additional demands on the city. At the same time, these greened alleys can afford adults a peaceful place to unwind at the end of a long day and offer children a safe place to play.

We know that when asphalt or concrete is replaced with greens that the environment benefits: less pollution and storm water runs off into the Chesapeake Bay. In fact, the ground actually filters pollutants and keeps them out of the bay. The added greenery may help reduce asthma rates since particulant matter in the air is filtered out by leaves and shrubs. The additional shade reduces the amount of heat captured during summer days, (reducing the “urban heat island effect”), and residents can more easily cool their house. As all these wonderful things occur, home values tend to rise along with municipal tax rolls. Seems like a golden opportunity for everyone, doesn’t it?

A Community-Friendly Ordinance

Our group has been working with the City of Baltimore for over three years to create an ordinance which would allow citizens to gate and green their alleys in a manner that is as community-friendly as possible. One of the largest outstanding issues that remains to be clarified is the percentage of people on a block needed to sign a petition requesting permission to gate and green an alley.

The city’s law department has contended that the city needs to “play it safe” and have 100% of the owners of all occupied homes sign the petition (vacant homes are not counted in the petition at all). Many community members, but not all, feel that it will be difficult to obtain the signatures of 100% of homeowners and that if the ordinance includes a 100% requirement, very few blocks will be able to take advantage of this opportunity. However, the community also recognizes that a simple majority of 51% may be too low a threshold as well. If a block is going to change the nature of access to an alleyway, then a supra-majority should agree. In Baltimore, if street parking is to be changed from parallel to diagonal parking, 70% of residents are needed to agree to that change. It seems that 80% would be a safe and fair threshold to allow for alley gating and greening. An 80% threshold also allows motivated citizens to move forward despite residents who either can’t be found or do not respond to a petition request. Any residents or property owners with concerns or questions regarding the project would have the right to present them at a public meeting prior to any decision to gate and green the alley. Given the number of absentee landlords in Baltimore and the likelihood that a number of them will never be found or respond to notifications, the most community-friendly approach to alley gating and greening would be to allow a petition threshold of less than 100%, with 80% being optimum.

Until this ordinance passes, residents will not be able to gate an alley unless they buy it from the city, which is a time-consuming and expensive process. Under our proposed ordinance, legal entities consisting of homeowners whose residences abut the alley will be able to lease the alley from the city for a nominal fee. (Just to clarify, the folks at Patterson Park went through a process that was very similar to the one proposed here, but they were “grandfathered” in under a slightly different set of circumstances and were allowed to move forward with three out of four gates. Their fourth gate can not be erected until this ordinance passes. Without the benefit of the proposed ordinance, the process took three years and the concerted effort of residents, community groups, and probono counsel.)

What You Can Do

The city would have us “believe.” I would like us to not only believe, but also to “imagine.” Imagine how much better Baltimore would look and feel if a significant number of alleyways were greened. Like a necklace, these greens could adorn different blocks all over the city. They would bring a bit of peace into an otherwise busy city. Neighbors would get to know each other. Children would have safe places to play. The air would be cooler and fresher. Nature would be closer to home. The Chesapeake Bay would be cleaner and healthier. Home values would be higher and neighborhoods safer.

Please join us on September 20th at 5 pm in the Curran Room, 4th floor, City Hall, (south side), to voice your support for this unprecedented opportunity and ask that the ordinance be as community-friendly as possible. We all want an alley gating and greening ordinance to pass and don’t want to lose this chance. We also want an ordinance that will empower the residents of Baltimore, not frustrate them.

If you have any questions, comments, or want to learn more about “community greening” in general, please get in touch with Kate Herrod, director of Community Greens at kherrod@ashoka.org or call 703-527-8300 ext 224. Thanks so much.

Written by Community Greens: Shared Parks in Urban Blocks www.communitygreens.org

THANK YOU, SOUTH BALTIMORE!

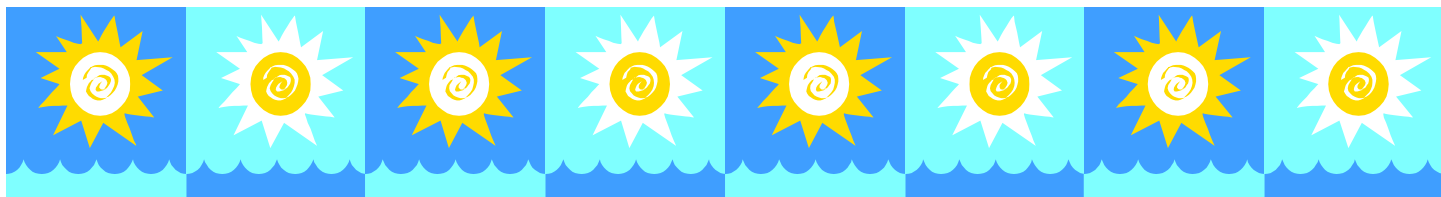
By Lori Leonard

Effective August 11th, 2006, I stepped down as President of SBIC. The last several months have been particularly difficult for me, both personally and professionally. After *much* thought and consideration, it was in my best interest to have stepped down.

I learned a lot in the four years that I have been involved with SBIC. This is a terrific neighborhood filled with many passionate people who care about their community and each other. The committed work of the members, partners, and beyond has been awe-inspiring. What continues to amaze me is the dedication and compassion demonstrated by those who *volunteer* their time to help, coordinate, and facilitate. Many of you know the time and effort that goes into meetings, projects, events, and the planning required. There is a reason for the different positions and roles at SBIC – all are integral to the success of our community! I have had the chance to speak to some about my decision, and look forward to having more conversations.

I will do what is in my ability to stay involved in different capacities to continue to support SBIC and those who live in this community: clean ups, social events, newsletter distribution, etc. The neighborhood is what geographically brings us together, but it's the special and unique relationships with *the people* that have made my experience so priceless!

Thank you to the Executive Committee and Committee Chairs: Marci, Erika, Marimargaret, Julie, Amy, Patrick, Sharon, Steve, Cheryl, Marie, Ugur, and Julie (and beyond)! Your support and understanding in this difficult time was truly touching. You are all truly wonderful!



South Baltimore

Improvement

Committee, Inc.

PO Box 6364

Baltimore, MD 21230



To Our Neighbors