

South Baltimore
Improvement
Committee, Inc.
PO Box 6364
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To Our Neighbors

BE ABOVE THE FOLD

SoBoImCo has just successfully launched the first all-mailed newsletter on the South Baltimore peninsula, guaranteeing delivery to over 1900 households per month. We are currently seeking a premier advertiser for the mail face of the newsletter, which will include a 1/2 page ad and sponsorship label on the address side.

If you have a business that you'd like to promote with consistent, monthly delivery, please contact Julie at eastend-design@att.net or 410.547.7467 to discuss rates and terms.

SBIC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

It's time to renew your dues for 2007! For just \$5 per person, you can become a member of the South Baltimore Improvement Committee, a non-profit 501(c)3 community organization. Your dues help SBIC promote and support a number of activities in the neighborhood, including youth events, social events, community clean-ups, public safety, beautification projects, newsletter printing and distribution, and donations to other local non-profits. All members must be residents of SBIC which is bounded by Light, Cross, Race, and McComas Streets.

To become a member, please fill out and return this form with payment to: SBIC, PO Box 6364, Baltimore, MD 21230, or bring it to a General Membership meeting. Please do not mail cash.

Name 1 : _____

Name 2: _____

Street Address: _____

Preferred Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

All dues are tax-deductible under Federal guidelines.

SoBoImCo

South Baltimore Improvement Committee • February 2007



MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

By Pat Christenson

Hi, my name is Pat and I live in South Baltimore. I moved here last February from DC, but for 31 years I lived in Eagle River, Alaska. Yes, it is the land of the Midnight Sun, it is cold for a good part of the year, and the night skies are like black velvet and the stars are like diamonds. The moon reflects off the snow lighting up roads and yards. During the summer the 20 hour daylight allows for lots of fishing, hiking, biking and horse back riding until 11 pm. The early bird is up at 4 a.m. to hear the birds, and get in some fishing. Somewhere during the day we went to work because life up there is not free and not necessarily easy.

In the early days, I lived in a Quonset Hut. It was military issue, on 2 ½ acres, had no running water, but it did have electricity and a 2 burner oil stove. This was home for 3 years. I hauled water in 5 gallon jugs from the local gas station, learned about "Honey Buckets", went to the local Laundromat to do both the laundry and take a shower and friends always backed up to the stove. I decorated my home in what was known as "Early Poverty" which was anything decent in other people's basements that they wanted to get rid of. There was the box spring, 2 mattress bed that was great when the heat rose and the floor was icy, (otherwise known as a two dog night—they didn't want to be on the floor either!) I was used to putting on my fleeced lined boots first thing in the morning, breaking the ice in the dog's water dish, and moving quickly while water boiled and work clothes were found in the closet. Electricity and phone service were not guaranteed and I soon learned to be both resourceful and have a sense of humor.

I was not alone in my lifestyle. In 1970, many of us lived in like circumstances and that formed the basis for learning how to get things done. If we wanted a children's theater, we started one (it is currently celebrating over 30

(Meet Your Neighbor, Continued on page 7)

GET OUT!

Walk-in Gallery Tour
Walters Art Museum
Saturdays & Sundays in Feb. & Mar.
11:30a.m.—Sat, 2:00p.m.—Sun.

Walters Art Museum
600 N. Charles St.

Meet in the Centre Street Visitor Lobby.
Join experienced docents for free tours of the permanent collection and special exhibitions. Visit www.thewalters.org for more info.

LIVE! CENTERSTAGE
Young Professionals Happy Hour
Thursday, February 8th
6:30p.m.—

CENTERSTAGE Theatre
700 N. Calvert St.

For \$25, enjoy a pre-show happy hour, featuring food from Dionysus, performance by human beat-box Shodekeh, discounted drinks and prizes and a ticket to the performance of Alice Childress' "Trouble in Mind." Visit www.centerstage.org for more info.

Raw Art Sale
Sunday, February 18th
11:00a.m.—6:00p.m.
Maryland Institute College of Art
Meyerhoff House
140 W. Lafayette Ave.

A selection of relatively inexpensive MICA student artwork on sale to the public. Prints, photographs, paintings, drawings, sculptures and other "raw" artwork are available. Call 410.225.2300 for more info.

Neighborhood Cleanup
Saturday, February 24th
8:00a.m.—
Corner of S. Charles & Fort Ave.
Gloves, bags & brooms provided. See page 5 for more info.

REMINDER: City offices will be closed on Monday, February 19th, in observance of Presidents' Day.

COMMUNITY MEETING

Next General Meeting:
Tuesday, February 4th

Guest Speaker:
Betty Bland-Thomas
Sharp-Leadenhall Urban Renewal Plan

7:30 p.m. at Olive Branch
United Methodist Church
(corner of S. Charles & Fort Ave.)

RECYCLING DAYS

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



Bottles, Cans & Jars is the 2nd & 4th
Mondays, February 12th & 26th

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

BOOKS IN MOTION

Monday, February 5, 12, and 26, 3:30 pm

All ages. Come to the library and enjoy watching your favorite books on video.

CHECK OUT LOVE @ THE LIBRARY

February 5th – 9th

February is Book Lovers’ Month. Come to the library and craft a special bookmark to celebrate.

WINE TO IMPRESS

Monday, February 5, 6:30 pm

Clayton’s Tavern’s wine expert will uncork the secrets of wine selection. You will learn how to be wine savvy just in time for Valentine’s Day.

MOTHER GOOSE ON THE LOOSE

Wednesdays, 10:00 and 11:00am
An interactive movement and music program for parents or caregivers and children, birth through age 3. The 10:00 a.m. session is for non-walking children and the 11:00 a.m. session is for walking children. Please choose the session that best fits your needs. Call 410 396-1096 for more information.

ANIME ADVENTURES FOR TEENS

Wednesdays in February, 4 pm
Free screenings of action-packed anime adventures.

FRIENDS OF THE LIGHT STREET BRANCH

Thursday, February 8, 6:15 pm
Join us for the monthly meeting of the Friends Group.

FOND OF YOU FONDUE

Monday, February 12, 6:30 pm
Entertain with a flare after you learn some tantalizing tips for fondling your fondue pot.

BE YOUR OWN BOSS

Tuesday, February 13, 10:30-11:30 am
Are you ready for self-employment? Robyn Jacobs of Women Entrepreneurs of Baltimore will explore the myths and realities of being in business for your-

self and share resources to get you started.

YA CAFÉ

Tuesday, February 13, 4 pm

Ages 10 –17. Mix and mingle with other teens while making Buckeyes, those delicious chocolate-covered peanut butter balls.

LOVESONGFEST

Thursday, February 15, 6:30 pm

DJ Larry McCoy returns to take requests and spin love songs. Bring your valentine or meet someone new. Love can ignite at Light Street. Dancing is encouraged and refreshments will be served.

FORGOTTEN ROAD WARRIORS: AFRICAN-AMERICAN SOLDIERS AND THE KOREAN WAR

Thursday, February 22, 6:30 pm

All ages. Join Louis Diggs, author of *Forgotten Road Warriors* and other veterans of the 231st Transportation Truck Battalion to learn about African-American military clubs. These gentlemen have fascinating stories to tell about their experiences in the Korean War. Mr. Diggs will be available for book signing after the presentation.

WEST AFRICAN DRUMMING & DANCING WORKSHOP

Monday, February 26, 7 pm

All ages. Note: Deb Taylor needs to confirm
Celebrate Black History Month! Listen to African drumming and learn African dance routines from a professional drummer & dance instructor.

SMALL BUSINESS CONNECTION

Tuesday, February 27, noon

Come network with other small business owners while Naomi Hafter, Business Information Librarian, leads a discussion on a variety of topics pertaining to small business.

Call 410-396-1096 to register for all programs

(Scoop on Poop, Continued from page 9)

seen in infected cats, but the other symptoms are the same. Dogs and cats can be infected with hookworms in utero, via ingestion of their mother’s milk while nursing, thru penetration of the skin by larvae, or by ingesting infective larvae. Dogs and cats become infected with larvae by ingesting contaminated fecal matter, often just by walking around outside, especially in parks, then licking their paws.

Roundworms, like hookworms, live in the small intestines of animals. Pets with roundworm infection often show no signs of illness, but symptoms can include vomiting, diarrhea, weight loss, and distention of the abdomen. Transmission of roundworms occurs through ingestion of milk during nursing and ingestion of infective larvae through fecal-oral contact. Puppies can also be infected in utero. Roundworm eggs are quite hardy and can survive in the environment for months to years.

Whipworms are a type of parasite that live in the large intestine of infected dogs. This parasite is a very common cause of acute and chronic diarrhea in dogs. The diarrhea is often intermittent and usually contains blood and mucous. Aside from diarrhea whipworms can also cause weight loss and poor appetite. The eggs are shed intermittently in the animal’s stool which makes it difficult to diagnose because of false negative fecal exam results. Whipworm eggs are almost impossible to remove from the environment once there, and can survive for years.

Tapeworms do not often cause clinical signs. Animals contract this parasite by ingesting fleas, lice, and rarely rodents. This type of worm will often be seen by the pet’s owner, and is often described as small “rice” or “cucumber seed” shaped worms seen on the stool or around the rectum. Treating this parasite not only involves medication to kill the adult worms, but also using proper flea prevention.

Giardia and coccidia are one-celled protozoan parasites. Both can cause diarrhea in dogs and cats. They are transmitted through ingestion of the infective cyst stage of the parasite.

Coccidia can also be transmitted by ingestion of mice infected with coccidia. Giardia can be transmitted through drinking of contaminated water.

All of the above intestinal parasites are diagnosed by microscopic examination of a stool sample. Sometimes, special smears or antigen tests may be used, usually to diagnose Giardia. In the case of roundworms owners may see these in their pet’s stool or vomit. As discussed above tapeworms are usually diagnosed when the owner sees them. The Companion Animal Parasite Council (CAPC) recommends that fecal examinations be done 2-4 times during the first year of your pet’s life, then 1-2 times a year in adults. Routine fecal examinations are an important part of your pet’s health.

Pet parasites can also be a human health concern. Some intestinal parasites found in animals can be transmitted to people, this is called zoonosis. The most common source of infection for people is fecal matter contaminated with infective eggs. Roundworms and hookworms can cause larva migrans syndromes in people. These syndromes occur when infective larvae burrow into the skin (hookworms), internal organs (hooks/rounds), and eyes (roundworms) of people. To help prevent these potentially serious zoonotic infections you should pick up your pet’s stool daily, wash your hands after cleaning up pet waste, keep pets free of fleas, and maintain pets on a regular deworming schedule recommended by your veterinarian.

Baltimore City has a high concentration of people and pets in a small area. Not only does animal waste on the streets and sidewalks detract from the beauty of our neighborhoods, it is a health risk as well. Children play on the streets and sidewalks, put their hands and other things in their mouths and are potentially at risk for zoonotic infection. Please, please, please pick up after your pet.

For more information contact your veterinarian or visit the following websites:

www.noworms.com
www.capcvet.org



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46TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

PETER A. HAMMEN

Email: peter_hammen@house.state.md.us

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410-841-3772

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ECONOMIC MATTERS

Annapolis Office
310 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401
410-841-3319

Baltimore Office
801 Light Street, 2ND Floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21230
410-244-8404

Brian_McHale@house.state.md.us

PARKING, PARKING EVERYWHERE

...BUT NOT A SPOT TO BE HAD

By Donnie Fair

SBIC is accepting community feedback for parking solutions. The city has made it clear that its solution to the parking problem in South Baltimore is to not create more parking, but rather to simply write more tickets! This means that if you want more parking in your neighborhood, then you are going to have to take the initiative to get it.

A good example of an excellent parking solution is the section of Randall Street between Light Street and Hanover Street. Converting this street into a one-way street with angled parking not only increased parking, but it also decreased traffic. Is there a street in your area that could be one-way? Is your street wide enough for angled parking?

The rehabilitation of South Baltimore continues. While this is good for your property value, it is bad for your parking situation – and it’s only going to get worse. Neighbors need to join the campaign now for more parking. If you would like more parking on your block, please contact Donnie Fair at SBICparking@gmail.com.



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(N.I.C.E. Thoughts, Continued from page 7)

our legal system, but we too can learn the law and work it to our advantage to rid our neighborhood from this plight.

I call on you to unite with your neighbor against the drug problem. Report drug activity, look out for and protect your neighbor and his property. Assist your Police Officers with drug activity information. Prosecute drug users and stand with your neighbor through the legal process.

Lets stand and unite with our neighbors and make the drug users fear us and our laws!

Let's take back our neighborhoods! Winning this war is not going to be easy, for we have allowed the drug users to gain so much ground and their foothold is strong. This is a result of little or no action or a lack of follow through in the legal process on our part.

Freedom is not easy and it's not cheap. Our actions against drug users will have a cost, but the price of inaction will be much greater.

Finally, I call upon our politicians, our political candidates, organizations such as the American Legion, VFW, Knights of Columbus, our churches and leaders in our community to help organize our neighbors and to teach them to fight this scourge in our neighborhood.

(Name Omitted), Property Owner

Do you have any idea when this letter was written? Doesn't it sound like it could have been written yesterday? Now you may have noticed that I said the letter was in "The Enterprise", which may have clued you into the fact that this was not a recent incident. Actually, **it was 11 ½ years ago !!** How sad.....for those of you that think the current situation on our streets is an anomaly, think again. It is our inaction that continues to allow the drug activity to flourish. Nothing has changed, nor will it change until we accept responsibility to make a difference. It's time to take a stand...



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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Marci DeVries

At the next SBIC General meeting, we welcome Betty Bland-Thomas as our guest speaker. Ms Thomas is the president of Sharp Leadenhall's neighborhood association, and she is leading the transition team for Sheila Dixon. Ms Bland-Thomas will review the Sharp Leadenhall Urban Renewal Plan (URP), which will have several direct effects on the residents of SBIC. Several of the projects mentioned in the URP will take place within our boundaries, so it is in the best interest of all residents to be there.

Specifically, the URP includes projects slated for Hanover street in the blocks from Cross Street to Ostend street. This is your chance to ask questions and let your voices be heard. This is a significant project that was approved by the City of Baltimore in December.

We will see you February 6 at 7:30 in Olive Branch Church, corner of Fort & Charles Streets.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S NOTE

By Jim Salvucci

The South Baltimore Improvement Committee wants to hear from you. The SBIC is you and your neighbors - people who love South Baltimore and see it as a great community for all. Some of these neighbors go to monthly meetings to help make decisions, some run active committees such as Sanitation and Beautification, some start programs such as the Youth Committee, and some pitch in with these groups. What these neighbors have in common is their upbeat view of South Baltimore and its residents, the belief that true communities build themselves through shared interests and efforts.

In just the past year, the SBIC has taken on a local problems, started neighborhood projects, and sponsored community events that welcomed all - always with the best interests of South Baltimore's citizens in mind. Whether you are currently active in SBIC, have not attended a meeting in a while, or have never participated at all, your voice is welcome in making decisions, and your fresh ideas and help are needed.

While the SBIC represents everyone's interests and has long opened its meetings to different views and opinions, full voting involvement can only come with membership. At five dollars a year, membership is a real bargain. So, please, help SBIC help all of us by getting involved and by becoming a voting member at the next regular meeting. You matter most because you are South Baltimore.

SBIC COMMITTEE CONTACTS

President

Marci DeVries
443.858.7392

marci@mdvcommunications.com

Newsletter Editor/Business Liaison

Julie Tice

410.547.7467

eastenddesign@att.net

SBIC Parking Representative

Donnie Fair

443.324.7752

SBICParking@gmail.com

Vice President

Jim Salvucci

410.916.6579

jsalvucci@believewireless.net

Police/Community Relations

Sharron McCulloch

410.659.5159

smcculloch@osiristx.com

Liquor Advisory Committee

Al Evans

410.935.1295

footnote96@verizon.net

Secretary

Marimargaret Reichert

410.244.7060

marimargaret@verizon.net

Sanitation & Beautification

Amy and Patrick Mutch

410.468.0118

amyemutch@yahoo.com

Neighbors Invested in Community Environment (N.I.C.E.)

Kathy Hodson

410.935.7496

kathy.nice@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Erika Haws

410.499.2901

erika2101@comcast.net

Social Committee

Ugur Erickson

410.576.1020

uerickson@comcast.net

Other Contacts:

Design Review Committee

Steve Zaleskiwicz

410.752.1799

sjz300@aol.com

Youth Committee

Marie Sennett

410.837.1132

msennett@believewireless.net

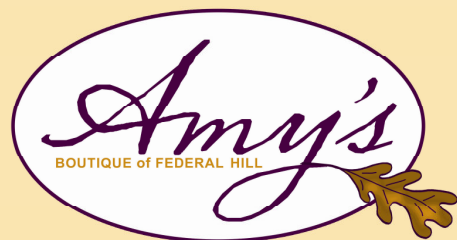
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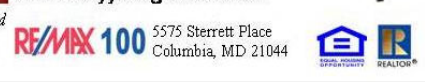
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ANNUAL MEETING

Historic Federal Hill
main street

WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 28, 2007
6:00-8:00 PM

METROPOLITAN COFFEEHOUSE & WINE BAR
902 S. CHARLES STREET, 2ND FLOOR

Please join Federal Hill Main Street, Inc. for its 7th Annual Meeting of Members. Learn about what Main Street volunteers have been doing during the past year. Discuss the things you would like to see Main Street doing in the future.

Those members who have donated \$10 or more to Federal Hill Main Street in the last year may vote for, or run for, the Federal Hill Main Street Board of Directors, which is comprised of the following 11 seats: 4 committee chairs (appointed); 3 business owners, 2 residents, and 2 members at-large.

Take this opportunity to get to know your neighbors who are working to make a difference in the neighborhood. The Main Street directors and committee chairs are looking forward to the opportunity to meet you. Please join us at the Annual Meeting and share your vision of the future of the Federal Hill business district.

This will be a meet and mingle meeting without a lot of speeches. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, contact Bonnie Crockett at bcrockett@historicfederalhill.org, or call 410-727-4500.

SLOW DOWN! YOU'RE IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD!

By Donnie Fair

The Baltimore City Department of Transportation has published on their website the criteria and process for installing speed humps:

<http://www.baltimorecity.gov/government/transportation/speedhumps.html>

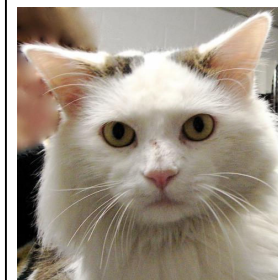
A speed hump is one of several effective tools used as a traffic-calming device in residential areas. They are typically installed in neighborhoods where speeding is a problem. Speed humps do not disrupt the flow of traffic on low volume streets, but help keep traffic moving at the posted speed limits.

If you think your street could use some "traffic-calming", please contact me at SBICparking@gmail.com.



Baltimore Animal Rescue and Care Shelter, Inc.

301 Stockholm Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21230
BaltimoreAnimalShelter.org



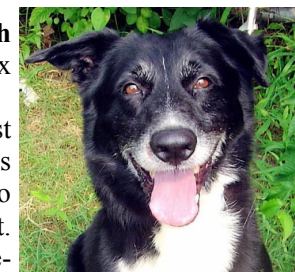
Marcel
Domestic Long Hair
White & brown tabby.

Marcel is a proper gentleman who is well worth a visit. 2 years old. 11 lbs. Brought to the shelter after losing

his way home.

Ralph

Spaniel/Labrador Retriever mix



Ralph is as mellow as they come. Really just being near you is good enough for him. He is curious about the world but sees no reason to get riled up about it.

5 years old. 62 lbs. Appears to be house-trained and to get along with other dogs. Already neutered so he can go home today! He was brought to the shelter on 1/16 because his family felt he was sweet but he needed more attention than they could give him.

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

THE SCOOP ON POOP

By Jill Shook, DVM, jssdvm@aol.com

This month's pet topic is intestinal parasites; fun, fun, fun! Most people don't realize that 95% of puppies and kittens are born with intestinal parasites. Adult dogs and cats are typically more resistant to certain parasites, but infections are still fairly common. There are several types of parasites that can infects your pets, but the ones more commonly seen are roundworms, hookworms, whipworms, tapeworms, giardia, and coccidia. General symptoms of parasite infection include vomiting, diarrhea (sometimes bloody), weight loss, poor haircoat, and poor appetite.

Hookworms live in the small intestines of infected animals. The type of hookworm found most commonly in dogs feeds on blood, which can cause severe anemia in infected animals. Other symptoms include vomiting, diarrhea, dehydration, and poor growth. The type of hookworm that typically infects cats feeds on tissue more than blood, so anemia is not often

(Scoop on Poop, Continued on page 11)

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.

Please join us for the *Meet and Greet* that will be taking place at this month's SDPCRC meeting with Curtis Sliwa - founder and president of The Alliance of Guardian Angels. A night of "RED BERETS" is in store for us as The Guardian Angels approach their 28th anniversary! Angels from DC, Pennsylvania, and parts of New Jersey will be on hand. Learn how the Angels are helping the Southern District fight crime and violence.

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 months meeting is scheduled for **February 15th, 2007 at 7:00 PM** at the Southern District Police Station, 10 Cherry Hill Road.

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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

Thursday, February 8th at 7pm -
OTTERBEIN / SHARP LEADENHALL
S. Sharp & W. Henrietta Sts.

Monday, February 12th at 7pm -
FEDERAL HILL
Porter's Pub
E. Cross St. & Riverside Ave.

Tuesday, February 13th at 7pm -
RIVERSIDE/SBIC
Riverside Park gazebo
400 blk of Randall St. & Riverside Ave.

Tuesday, February 20th at 7pm -
CARROLLTON RIDGE
Samuel F.B. Morse Recreation Center
Pulaski & Ashton Sts.

Thursday, February 22nd at 7pm -
BROOKLYN
The Hargrove District Courthouse
700 E. Patapsco Ave.

Wednesday, February 28th at 7pm -
PIGTOWN
The Bath House
904 Washington Blvd.

Thursday, March 1st at 7pm -
RIVERSIDE / SBIC
Riverside Park gazebo
400 blk of Randall St. & Riverside Ave.

POLICE/COMMUNITY RELATIONS

By Sharron McCulloch

We all know the fear that grips our stomach when we realize that we left that important item in the back seat of our car. We know that items left in cars provide an opportunity to make a quick buck for those who are desperate. Then we find out that the person who broke into the car has done this so many, many times before, but many of the charges were dismissed. Then the person comes back to the neighborhood and does it again, to the next person's car, only to have those charges dismissed yet again!! Why is that? Too often victims and witnesses involved in a case do not go to court. The insurance check came, we can't miss work, we are afraid, or other reasons prevent us from going to court. As a result, the case is dismissed and the next car is broken into. Isn't it time we take control and take back our streets from these crimes? How can we end these, and other nuisance crimes in South Baltimore?

Being the victim of a crime may mean appearing as a witness in court. As a witness you are providing an important service for your community. Dealing with the criminal justice system can be intimidating, confusing, and frustrating! Appearing in court can be intimidating and inconvenient. But we cannot let that get in our way. If your work schedule is a problem, call the Assistant State's Attorney assigned to the case and have them work with you. If you are feeling intimidated, let the Assistant State's Attorney know, so they can help you out. Stick with it and stay strong! SBIC is encouraging ALL victims and witnesses of crimes to come forward and stand up for what is right. Call 911 when you see a crime in progress. Call 911 as soon as you realize you have been the victim of a crime. But most importantly -- follow through with appearing in court to testify against those whom have harmed you, or have harmed someone else. This harm may come in the form of larceny from auto, theft from a business or home, or a number of other crimes. Once the word is out that the citizens of South Baltimore go to court, we will see a decrease in these crimes. The time is NOW for the citizens of SBIC and surrounding neighborhoods to take a stand in what is right. Please do your part and appear in court. And most importantly please be safe!

GRAFFITI NOTEPAD

As you travel around Baltimore and see Graffiti, record the information you will need to call 311 to request graffiti removal:

- What is the street address or common location?
- Is the graffiti on public or private property? (public, private, or unknown)
- What type of surface is the graffiti on? (i.e. - brick, cement, marble, metal, painted wall, stone, stucco, wood, plastic, etc.)
- What type of structure is the graffiti on? (i.e. - alley, bench, billboard, building, dumpster, mailbox, sidewalk, etc.)
- What is the approximate size of graffiti in square feet? (hint: avg row home is 13 ft wide; avg sidewalk is 4' x 4')

Let's keep the crime and grime in South Baltimore down by reporting graffiti to the 311 call center.

SITTING PARK AT LIGHT & HEATH

SBIC is currently accepting community feed-back for the development of a revitalization plan for the neighborhood park at the corner of Light and Heath Streets. We are looking for even more feedback to what has already been suggested.

On the table include the ideas to:

- Pave it.
- Sell it.
- Keep it as an open green space.

Please contact Donnie Fair at dfair@capitalsource.com or Amy Mutch at amye-mutch@yahoo.com to get involved in the future of this valuable open space.

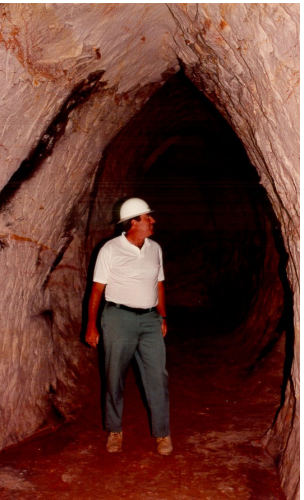
Vibe hair studio

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Open Tues-Fri: 11am-7pm, Sat: 10am-4pm
1539 Light Street * 410-347-2003
appointments recommended, walk-ins welcome

Mention this ad and get 10% off your first visit

IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD



It is a little-known fact that beneath Federal Hill is a network of underground tunnels. The hill at present-day Federal Hill Park was mined over two centuries ago, first for sand to produce glass and then later for clay to manufacture pottery. The mining continued for over fifty years and left a network of tunnels that extend as far south as present-day Cross Street.

Over the past decade, instability of Federal Hill Park created by construction along the waterfront has resulted in at least two major collapses of these tunnels at the park. At the most recent collapse, this picture was taken of the exposed tunnel.

SANITATION & BEAUTIFICATION

By Amy Mutch

Our purple glow was all too brief in January. As our RAVENS look forward to next season, so does your beautification chair. With playoff expectations, I will be prepared to inform South Baltimore on how to transform our homes to illuminate purple passion. To those transplants from Philly, New York, Pittsburgh, San Diego you're on your own. You live in RAVENSTOWN!!!!

This month's clean up is scheduled for Saturday, February 24th at the corner of S. Charles and W. Fort. We will meet around 8am at the dumpster location and finish by noon. Lunch has been offered by The Rub at a special rate for those who participate. Come help us clean and then enjoy lively conversation with great food and drink at The Rub!

As a neighborhood resident it can be difficult to identify troubled trash areas because it appears you are insensitive to the complexities of trash accumulation. I understand wind and water flow may cause accumulation of trash on certain sides of the street and in particular blocks. You may have a negligent neighbor who improperly disposes trash resulting in an unsightly mess in front of your property. I do get it, but I still want the trash removed. Next month after our February clean up I will list the WORST blocks/addresses regarding trash accumulation. If you are concerned about public condemnation and already understand the problem let us know. We will work with you to solve the problems on your street.

The sitting park at Light and Heath has been relatively trash free thanks to a few individuals who routinely clean the park. Lack of grass and mud spots have prevented use of this "green space" but we hope to have a plan/funds by Spring. Donnie Fair, our new parking czar, has a BIG assignment and we need additional volunteers to help with the park. Anyone with grant writing expertise is needed ASAP.

It's that time when Crocuses and Daffodils are taking it up a notch. It's that time for baseball to step up to the plate. Please, residents of SBIC, it's that time to volunteer.

Don't forget that special someone this Valentine's Day. Be sure to place your order today. Receive a free mylar balloon with delivery dates prior to February 14th.

MY FLOWER BOX
1211 S. Charles St.
Baltimore, MD 21230
(410) 244-8890
www.myflowerboxonline.com

Mon - Sat 9am-6pm
Extended Valentines Day Hours
8am-8pm

YOUTH COUNCIL NEWS

By Marie Sennett

The Recycling Poster Contest was a success! We had very creative entries in two age groups. The judges had a difficult time selecting the winners. The winners in the 12 to 18 category were Alexis, Megan, and Kayla. The winner in the 6 to 12 category was Bryon. Congratulations!

Don't forget, if you want to have fun while make a difference in the life of our teens, and give them something to do other than hang on the street, come volunteer Thursday Evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Ella Bailey Recreation Center, 100 E. Heath Street, literally the back entrance to the Johnson Elementary School.

Here are the Scheduled Events for February 2007:

February 1, 2007 – Friendship House Challenge. The men from Friendship House will be coordinating with Mr. Sullivan to have a sports challenge evening.

February 8, 2007 - A visit to the Southern District Police Station – See how the Police Cameras work while having fun learning about your rights.

February 16, 2007 – Special Teen Dance for Valentines Day. The teens have coordinated the event and are selling tickets. It promises to be a fun filled night with real food and fun. The event starts at 9:30 p.m. and ends at midnight. Adult volunteers are needed to chaperone and dance the night away.

February 22, 2007 – Job Readiness Training – How do teens get jobs, what are the laws for teens to work, what can teens do for real money? Come find out and then be ready to get that Job!

B'MORE GREEN

By Nicole Killion, RN, bmoregreen@yahoo.com

We may soon have to change the lyrics of the holiday song, "Winter Wonderland" to "Balmy Wonderland." Have you noticed how warm it's been lately? While I love 60-degree weather, it's not supposed to be 60 degrees in January!!! I just read an article that Maryland is becoming the new North Carolina for trees. Trees native to North Carolina that formerly could not survive well here, are thriving. The cherry blossom trees in DC are blooming and my mom's crocuses are starting to come up. All this in January!

Where is the snow?!! Maybe we won't get any this year and I can bet you that it's due to global warming. Hopefully by now you have been reading or hearing about global warming in the news. If you haven't seen Al Gore's movie, *An Inconvenient Truth*, run, don't walk, to go see it. You have to get informed quick! You can buy the DVD (and host a party showing it to all your friends), rent the DVD, or see it for free at tons of places (go to <http://www.gwipl.org/> to find a location). There is so much information out there on global warming that I'm only going to give you an extremely brief summary. Greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, etc) are a natural part of the Earth's atmosphere and keep global temperatures within a range that humans can tolerate. The problem is that since the Industrial Revolution in the 1800's, greenhouse gases have been accumulating at a much faster rate than they can be reabsorbed. This has resulted in too much warming of the atmosphere, hence the term, global warming. According to the EPA

(Environmental Protection Agency), "The warmest global average temperatures on record have all occurred within the past 15 years, with the warmest two years being 1998 and 2005. Most of the warming in recent decades is likely the result of human activities." Greenhouse gases increases are due to emissions from our cars and trucks, factories, mining, global deforestation (trees absorb carbon dioxide), among other things. The US is a major contributor to greenhouse gases and the current Bush administration has refused to sign the global Kyoto treaty which aims to decrease emissions worldwide.

The Earthday Network says, "Climate change is now accepted as a major threat to the world's continued viability." Some scientists say that we only have 10 years to fix the problem. Others give us 50 years. Which ever one is right, both of those timelines are with my life time and I still want to be around. We ALL need to take action NOW. There are lots of simple things that you can do right now. Start driving less and walking more. Change your light bulbs to compact fluorescent bulbs (Home Dept, Lowe's, etc). Turn off lights when you leave the room. Get informed by looking at the websites listed below. Next month I'll tell you more ways that you can help stop global warming.

<http://epa.gov/climatechange/>
www.chesapeakeclimate.org/
stopglobalwarming.org/default.asp
www.carbonfund.org

N.I.C.E. THOUGHTS

By Kathy Hodson

In researching articles on our community, I came across a Letter to the Editor that was printed in The Enterprise regarding a vicious assault on a citizen that occurred in our neighborhood. This attack prompted the victim to write to the newspaper, of which an excerpt of the Letter is contained below:

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE GOOD CITIZENS OF SOUTH BALTIMORE

Dear Neighbors:

As you well know, the Drug war has reached the streets of our neighborhood. Its soldiers, the drug pushers, the drug users, and the prostitutes are taking over our street corners, our streets and our neighborhoods. The drug users devalue our property with their presence. They damage, destroy and steal our hard earned property and possessions. You, the good, hardworking, law abiding citizens, live in fear of the drug users. They intimidate you. They make you afraid to sit on your own front steps, or even walk your streets. You fear they will influence your children and recruit them into the world of drugs. They make you fear for the safety of your loved ones. The situation is getting so bad that we are going to see our neighbors barricade their windows and doors with steal bars and lock themselves up in their homes after a hard day at work. We've seen this situation in so many of Baltimore's neighborhoods. We have become prisoners in our own homes.

It doesn't have to be this way. This is America, Land of the Free, Home of the Brave. We celebrate Independence Day, Veterans Day and Memorial Day. Many a good man has made the ultimate sacrifice on the battlefields over the last 200 years that we might be free. Was their sacrifice in vain?

I call on you, good neighbors, to organize yourselves, block by block, and fight back against the drug users with our laws. The drug users have worked our laws to their advantage, and we have become frustrated with

(N.I.C.E. Thoughts, Continued on page 10)



1242 William Street

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Chris Reda - Erica Canapp
Team Line: 410-468-4607
Long & Foster® Realtors®
1210 Light Street
Baltimore MD 21230
410-727-4644
Email: chris.reda@longandfoster.com



"Results That Speak For Themselves"

(Meet Your Neighbor, Continued from page 1)

years of operation), and if we wanted a children's hands on museum, we lobbied, collected money, and even had the tourists offering to paint midnight blue walls and ceilings with donated paint and equipment. The Imaginarium is still in operation. Kids were sent to the "lower 48" to compete in sports events, cancer patients had fund raisers, we had our community clean ups after the snow melted and spontaneous potlucks around bonfires provided neighborhood entertainment.

No place is a good place to live if the people aren't wonderful. I've found wonderful people wherever I've lived and South Baltimore is no different. In Alaska we were young, determined, and just knew we would succeed. In Baltimore, where I'm not so young chronologically, but still young in spirit, I find people are determined and know that they will succeed in bringing about neighborhood improvement without losing what seems to be a strong neighborhood spirit and community. I'm proud to be part of South Baltimore and hope you feel the same way.