

SoBoImCo

South Baltimore Improvement Committee • March 2007



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Survivors Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE) is offering a \$1,000.00 scholarship to a graduating high school senior. Schools are responsible for submitting applications no later than March 1, 2007. The recipient of the scholarship must meet the qualifications listed below. Emphasis will also be placed on the applicant's response to the essay question. For additional information, please contact Robin Singletary Haskins at 410-361-9301.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

1. Applicants must have loss an immediate family member (**mother, father, sister, brother, child**) of their family to homicide;
2. Applicants must have been residents of Baltimore City at the time the homicide occurred;
3. Applicants must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0;
4. Applicants must have verification that they have been accepted to an accredited institution of higher learning;
5. An applicant must be a student attending a school in Baltimore City;
6. The recipient of the scholarship must begin classes no later than the Spring semester of 2008.

All applications must be submitted no later than March 1, 2007.

Mail completed applications to:

Survivors Against Violence Everywhere
110 North Calvert Street – Room 410
Baltimore, MD 21202
ATTENTION: Robin Singletary Haskins

REMINDER: Daylight Savings Time begins March 11th—
change your clocks forward one hour.

COMMUNITY MEETING

**Next General Meeting:
Tuesday, March 6th**

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, March 9th & 23rd



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

GET OUT!

Boat Fishing Season Begins

Thursday, March 1st

Liberty and Prettyboy Reservoirs

Walk-in Gallery Tour

Walters Art Museum

Saturdays & Sundays in 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.

St. Patrick's Day Parade

Sunday, March 11th

2:00p.m.

Charles St. to Central Ave.

Neighborhood Social

Monday, March 12th

7:30p.m.—9:30p.m.

RUB BBQ—1843 Light Street

Enjoy \$5 sandwiches, \$2 domestic drafts and good company.

LIVE! CENTERSTAGE

Young Professionals Happy Hour

Thursday, March 22nd

6:30p.m.—

CENTERSTAGE Theatre

700 N. Calvert St.

For \$25, enjoy a pre-show happy hour, featuring food from Akbar, performance TBA, discounted drinks and prizes and a ticket to the performance of Eugene O'Neill's comedy, "Ah, Wilderness!". Visit www.centerstage.org for more info.

Neighborhood Cleanup

Saturday, March 24th

8:00a.m.—12:00p.m.

Corner of Light & Heath Streets

Gloves, bags & brooms provided.

See page 6 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 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

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

By Julie Tice

This little 12-page publication you're reading is a pretty good measure of just how far our neighborhood association has come over the years. When I first joined SBIC in 2001, the newsletter was a four-page, corner-stapled, hand-delivered flyer. With the talents and tenacity of the three Editors who preceded me, we have grown to three times the content, have a consistent base of advertisers and now reach our 1900 households via the US Postal Service. However, the one thing that has not, nor will not, change is that the success of the newsletter, in both content and circulation, is a testimony to volunteerism: Volunteers chair committees; Volunteers submit articles; Volunteers edit the newsletter content; Volunteers label the newsletters for mailing; Volunteers take the newsletters to the post office. Behind each of these steps that is so critical to getting this information into your hands, is a crack team of concerned neighbors, who gladly give up time every month for YOU.

Please take your time enjoying this production and all the interesting and important information it has to offer, then please take some time to volunteer to make this neighborhood even better than it already is—you might be surprised at how a couple of hours a month really can change your world.

LOTS HAPPENINGS AT THE LIGHT STREET BRANCH LIBRARY

SAY IT IN SIGN

Monday, March 5, 6:30 pm
Ages 10-17. Come learn American Sign Language (ASL) basics. This week: the alphabet and how to count to 10.

MOTHER GOOSE ON THE LOOSE

An interactive nursery rhyme program with music and movement.

Wednesdays, 10 a.m. For non-walking children and their parents or caregivers.

Wednesdays, 11 a.m. For walking children up to the age of three and their parents or caregivers.

THE CIRCUS IS COMING

Wednesday, March 7, 3:30 pm
Ages 6-12. Join us for 3 Ring Circus fun, a craft and refreshments.

FRIENDS OF THE LIGHT STREET BRANCH

Thursday, March 8, 6:15 pm
Monthly meeting of the Friends. Come make a difference!

SHAMROCK SHINDIG

Monday, March 12, 6:30 pm
All Ages. Live Irish music and a performance by the Catholic Community Step Dancers.

TEEN CAFÉ

Tuesday, March 13, 4 pm
Ages 10-17. Come mingle with teens, make a craft or play games. Refreshments served.

SAY IT IN SIGN

Monday, March 19, 6:30 pm
Ages 10-17. Learn American Sign Language basics. This week: greetings and how to sign your name.

SMALL BUSINESS CONNECTIONS

Friday, March 23, 8:30 am
Network with other small business owners. Naomi Hafter, Enoch Pratt Free Library, will discuss a variety of topics to help develop your marketing plan.

Call 410-396-1096 to register for all programs

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Marci DeVries

During our last general meeting, we began discussion about the new low income housing efforts underway in Sharp Leadenhall and their expansion into the SBIC area. We would like to continue this conversation with more of you at our next meeting. This issue has become a topic of great debate among our residents, and as a community we should develop or stance, whether it is pro or con regarding these projects is up to you. Please come and participate in the dialogue.

We will also discuss other issues that directly affect the neighborhood, such as the proliferation of poker machines in our bars, residential parking changes by the City, and public safety & sanitation.

The SBIC meetings are your opportunity to voice your opinions and then as a neighborhood we can approach the City of Baltimore to create change for the better in our community.

See you March 6 at 7:30, Olive Branch Church (corner of Fort and Charles)

IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD

Make tracks for the B & O Railroad Museum and check out these great programs available in March!

Thrifty Tuesday

Tuesday, March 6, 2007
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

All Aboard! The B&O offers half-price admission for all visitors the first Tuesday of every month! Visitors can tour many of the Museum's facilities including the 1884 Roundhouse where you can climb aboard a real locomotive and see the most comprehensive collection of American railroad artifacts in the world. Free train rides are offered on Thrifty Tuesdays from April through December.

Rosie the Riveter

Saturday, March 10th & 24th, 2007

10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Learn about the contributions that women made to the railroad industry by filling traditionally male dominated jobs in the B&O's shops and in track gangs along the main line during both World Wars. Learn how necessity and determination helped change how women in the workplace were perceived.



BALTIMORE & OHIO RAILROAD MUSEUM

901 W. Pratt Street
Baltimore, MD 21223
410.752.2490

M-F: 10:00a.m.—4:00p.m.

Sa: 10:00a.m.—5:00p.m.

Su: 11:00a.m.—4:00p.m.

Last admission is 1/2 hour prior to close.

SBIC COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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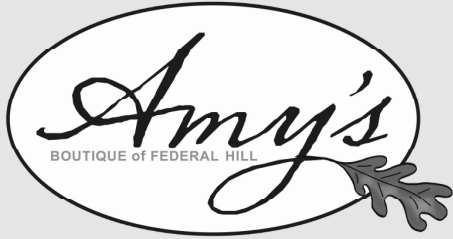
Other Contacts:

Area 30 RPP Representative

Cynthia Griffin
410.466.5686

area30parking@gmail.com

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Tues, Wed, Fri, Sat—11am—6pm, Thurs—11am-7pm
1133 S. Charles Street, 410-244-1133

LIQUOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

By Al Evans

SBIC recently formed a new committee, the Liquor Advisory Committee. The purpose of this committee is to be the eyes, ears and voice of the citizens within the SBIC boundaries for any issues or concerns related to liquor licenses. This committee will endeavor to create and maintain an amicable relationship between liquor license holders and neighbors, where business owners can conduct a profitable business and neighbors can enjoy an acceptable quality of life. We will learn and share with the community the state liquor laws and regulations as they apply to Baltimore City. We will stay abreast of proposed changes in the laws, transfers of licenses and other topics that may have an impact on our community, and will relay that information to the general membership. We will work with elected officials, Liquor Board, State's Attorney office, Community Law Center, Police Department and other agencies and individuals as needed to keep our community a safe, healthy and enjoyable place to live.

If you would like to participate in this committee or have any issues or concerns you would like to discuss, please contact me at footnote96@verizon.net.

LAWRENCE KOLITAS JR
Owner / General Manager

Office: 410-247-4763
Cell: 443-465-7176
Email: lkjr@comcast.net



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Columbia, MD 21044



NOTICE TO HOLDERS OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSES IN BALTIMORE CITY AND COMMUNITY RESIDENTS

The Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City will close its February notice of transfers at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, February 6, 2007 and there will be a special hardship advertisement which will close on Tuesday, March 6, 2007. After these deadlines, no applications for new licenses, transfers, expansions, or requests for live entertainment will be advertised until the next advertisement closes on Tuesday, May 8, 2007.

Licensees must file their renewal application for the new license year on or before March 31, 2007 at the office of the Board located at 231 E. Baltimore Street, 6th Floor. Protests against the renewal of licenses for the new license year must be filed at least 30 days before licenses expire on April 30th. All protests must, therefore, be filed at the Board's office by March 30, 2007 and must be signed by not less than ten residents, commercial tenants, who are not holders or applicants for any liquor license, or real estate owners in the immediate vicinity in which the licensed place of business is located. Protests must be based on specific complaints as to the operation of the establishment.



Introducing South Baltimore
Neighborhood Nights...

Your personal discount card for
15% your total bill each visit

Just bring in this ad and sign-up for your RUB Neighborhood Discount Card*

*Offer valid all day & night excluding Fridays and Saturdays after 5 PM
Dine-in only. Does not include retail items. Not valid on holidays or special events.

RUB is open 6 days a week!

Happy Hour Specials

Monday-Friday*: 3 PM – 6 PM

Restaurant Hours of Operation

Sunday-Thursday*: 11:30 AM – 9:30 PM

Friday-Saturday: 11:30 AM – 11:00 PM

*Closed Tuesdays

Vibe hair studio

Urban chic at a savvy price

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

PARKING

By Donnie Fair

I've received some complaints about illegal parking in the neighborhood, so I'm putting this out there: If you think there's some illegal parking going on in your block, please get in touch with me as the Department of Zoning, via the Parking Authority, is taking a hard look at people who are in violation of the parking code. Parking code, you say? Yes, parking code. Specifically, Article 31 of our City Code: Transit and Traffic. There are 175 pages of regulations governing parking and vehicle traffic, which can be found online at <http://cityservices.baltimorecity.gov/charterandcodes>.

Be a diligent car owner and heed this advice: Do not leave your car unattended.

In much the same way that you have someone watch your house while it is unattended (like when you go away on vacation) you should at the same time also have someone watch your car while it is unattended.

Parking restrictions may be in effect with limited notice, such as for a race, a stadium event, road surface repair, water meter repair, sidewalk repair, tree trimming, a street festival, or a snow emergency – leaving your car unattended is simply asking to have it towed.

So, the next time you have someone watch your house while you're away, make sure to have them watch your car as well.

WANTED: NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

If you have something to say that the neighborhood might want to hear about, please feel free to submit newsletter articles, editorials, recipes, or announcements to Julie at eastenddesign@att.net or 410.547.7467. The deadline is the 15th of each month. All submissions are subject to editing for space or content.

YOUTH COUNCIL NEWS

By Marie Sennett

Wanted, adult role models!

The Youth Council is looking for a few good role models. The teens are creating this year's service learning projects and need ideas from the community. Even more importantly, the need adult volunteers to come to the Ella Bailey Recreation Center, 100 E. Heath Street, Thursdays from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. to help plan and execute the projects. In exchange, the teens offer fun, laughs, a learning experience, and the satisfaction of making a difference. Please call Marie Sennett at 410-837-1132 to give of your self.

Take a teen to work April 12, 2007

While other teens in Baltimore City are taking Spring Break, our teens are looking to learn more about themselves. Thursday, April 12, 2007 they are asking to go to work – with you. The teens want to learn about job opportunities for their future. What better way than to see you in action. To offer to take a teen to work call Marie Sennett at 410-837-1132. If your employment has special needs – like a hard hat – let us know so the kids can be prepared.

Survivors Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE) scholarship available

If you know a City high school senior who has lost a family member to violence, please be sure to let them know about this \$1000 scholarship opportunity. Details are available on the cover page, or by calling 410.361.9301.

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

SANITATION & BEAUTIFICATION

By Amy Mutch

Spring cleaning is a fact of life!

Our next dumpster is scheduled at the corner of Light and Heath for Saturday, March 24 from 8am-12noon. Please join us anytime between these hours to help give our neighborhood a clean sweep!

Last month, I noted that this column would begin to identify streets/blocks that are especially dirty and need attention from their residents. If you live on one of these blocks, consider asking some of your neighbors to volunteer for the monthly clean up, which does make it easier to clean up and haul away the debris. If you can't round up anyone to help, let me know and with your help, we will direct our volunteers to your block. The dirty blocks include the even side of 1400, 1600, 1700 South Charles, 1500 Bird Street, 1600 South Hanover, West Street between Charles and Hanover, Cross Street between Charles and Hanover, the alley behind the even side of 1300 Hanover (which is often the worst spot on our monthly clean ups), and Heath street.

A handful of volunteers routinely participate in monthly cleaning efforts to rid South Baltimore of trash. We always welcome new faces and you will be offered a free ride in Steve's truck as we scour the alleys hunting down discarded rubbish. I promise your morning will end with a good feeling of accomplishment.



Isn't it nice to know
you're never just a number?

You're a patient and so much more.
As your neighborhood veterinarians and fellow pet owners, we promise you'll feel better here with quality medical and dental care that keeps your best friend healthy and happy.

We also believe in treating you like family and taking the time to really get to know your pet (even their funny little habits). Plus, we offer a variety of convenient in-house services and free parking on-site. We're CityPets. Now you know.



827 E. Fort Avenue Baltimore Maryland 21230 410-752-7122

B'MORE GREEN

By Nicole Killion, RN,
bmoregreen@yahoo.com

Well, the snow finally arrived along with the bitter cold. Many scientists are now referring to "climate change" instead of "global warming" because some places are getting warmer while others are getting colder. No doubt about it, the climate is changing. Allstate Insurance announced that it will no longer offer house insurance on the Eastern Shore and other Maryland coastal areas because they are projecting major storms, and major damage, in the future due to climate changes. Will Baltimore be next? "Jeff Williams, regional counsel for Allstate, said that Risk Management Solutions predicts the chances that a hurricane will strike Baltimore in the next five years have increased by as much as 30 percent." Let's protect our future by making changes. Below is just a small list of things that you can do.

Easy- you can start today

- 1) Turn off the lights when you leave a room
- 2) Take shorter showers
- 3) Only run the dishwasher when it is full; Don't do laundry unless you have a full load
- 4) Use your car less by walking and riding a bike (One Less Car organization promoting safe and accessible walking and bicycling in Maryland; info@onelesscar.org; 410-235-3678)
- 5) Donate to, or better yet join, an environmental organization (Sierra Club, Chesapeake Climate Action Network, Natural Resources Defense Council, Environment Maryland, etc)
- 6) Don't leave the water running while you brush your teeth
- 7) Recycle, Recycle, Recycle! Try to minimize what you throw in the trash by recycling, donating, selling, and composting
- 8) Offset your carbon footprint (www.carbonfund.org)
- 9) Use real plates, cups, and silverware at your next party instead of disposable paper or plastic
- 10) Buy less stuff
- 11) Sign up at <http://mdecosystem.e-actionmax.com/default.asp> to get email action alerts about important environmental issues in Maryland
- 12) Turn off electric appliances when not in use

Medium

- 1) Buy local produce and products (expends less energy on transportation due to the shorter distances traveled by you and the product; A great place to start is a farmer's market)

(B'more Green, Continued on page 7)

(B'more Green, Continued from page 6)

- 2) Take advantage of the heat of the sun by opening curtains during the winter and closing them during the summer
- 3) Use cloth napkins instead of disposable napkins
- 4) Keep your car tires properly inflated
- 5) Install a programmable thermostat (available at Home Depot, Lowe's, etc) for heating and cooling
- 6) Make sure your house is well insulated
- 7) Have an energy audit of your house done and fix any problems found
- 8) Plant a tree (absorbs carbon dioxide; if in front of a window, provides shade in the summer, and sunlight in the winter when the leaves have fallen off)
- 9) Buy a flat screen monitor for your computer which uses 1/3 the energy of the conventional model. Make sure to donate or recycle your old monitor. It can't be thrown in the trash due to the heavy metals within.

Harder-more time or money necessary

- 1) Put solar panels on your roof. Baltimore gets a lot of sun and there aren't many trees to block it
- 2) Buy a tankless water heater which eliminates keeping water hot 24 hours a day. This heater heats water on demand. Available at Home Depot, online
- 3) Compost your kitchen scraps
- 4) Buy a hybrid car
- 5) Install double paneled windows for better insulation
- 6) Buy Energy Star appliances (www.energystar.gov/)
- 7) Grow your own organic food

http://www.examiner.com/a-564317~Allstate_delays_plan_to_stop_writing_coastal_policies.html

SOCIAL EVENTS

By Ugur Erickson

It's about time we have a social meeting. So come on out and meet us at our new local barbecue place, RUB, for dinner. The restaurant has SBIC specials; 2 sandwich to choose from for \$5 and domestic draft beers \$2, just for the neighbors. And don't forget there are other things to choose from their unique menu.

We all hope to see you there!



Where: RUB BAR BQ, 1843 Light Street

When: Monday, March 12. Between 7.30 and 9.30

SBIC member specials: \$5 sandwiches and \$2 domestic draft beers.

GREEN SPACE IN SOUTH BALTIMORE

Development continues for the little park at the corner of Heath & Light. The response from the community about this valuable space has thus far has been fairly tepid. However, several additional volunteers have come forward to take a more active role in the future of this little part of the neighborhood.

In next month's newsletter, we will outline the intended use of the current space, as well as the working project plan, which will include an estimated budget, a preliminary design and some hopeful funding.

If you would like to get involved in this process, or would like to share your opinion, please contact Donnie Fair at drf3rd@hotmail.com or Amy Mutch at amye-mutch@yahoo.com.



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Charming home! Filled with all the modern conveniences! Located right in the middle of Federal Hill, 3 Levels all living space! New Renovation with 3 large bedrooms, Kit w/SS Appls & Granite! 2 Full Baths, 2 Half Baths, Stunning wide plank hardwood flrs, Exposed Brk, Sep Dining lots of room for your furniture! Master Suite on 3rd Level, Room for office, deck, patio, and public parking lot only 3 doors down!

The CHRIS REDA Real Estate Team
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"

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

Tue, 3/6

CURTIS BAY –
meet at The Curtis Bay Recreation Center,
Curtis Ave & Filbert St

Thu, 3/8

OTTERBEIN / SHARP LEADENHALL –
meet at S Sharp & W Henrietta Sts

Mon, 3/12

FEDERAL HILL / FEDERAL HILL SOUTH –
meet at Porter's Pub,
E Cross St & Riverside Ave

Mon, 3/19

CHERRY HILL (C.H.A.T.) –
meet at Cherry Hill & Terra Firma Rds.
With The Guardian Angels

Tue, 3/20

CARROLLTON RIDGE –
meet at Samuel F. B. Morse Recreation Center,
Pulaski & Ashton Sts

Wed, 3/21

RIVERSIDE / SBIC –
meet at Riverside Park Gazebo,
Riverside Ave & E Randall St.

Tue, 3/27

LAKELAND –
meet at Lakeland Recreation Center,
2921 Stranden Rd at Wegworth Ln.
With The Guardian Angels

Wed, 3/28

PIGTOWN –
meet at The Village Center (Bath House),
904 Washington Blvd.
With The Guardian Angels

Thu, 3/29

BROOKLYN -
meet at The Park & Ride,
Hanover St at Frankfurst Ave

NOW OPEN

CHARLOTTE'S

**1542 LIGHT STREET
410-244-6767**

SPECIAL EVENTS

**MARCH 12: GUEST BARTENDER—
BRIAN FOX OF SLY FOX PUB**

MARCH 13: WINE TASTING

WEEKLY SPECIALS

**MONDAY: TRIVIA NIGHT
BRING YOUR TEAMS!**

**TUESDAY: WINE-CHICKS-FLIX
WINE, POPCORN, AND GREAT MOVIES**

WEDNESDAY: LIVE MUSIC

WE'RE DOG FRIENDLY!

CRIME ALERT: LARCENY FROM AUTO

A recent report from the police department indicates that larceny from auto is up 57% from this time last year in our area. The police remind you that larceny from auto occurs only to vehicles that either have something of value inside or have something that merely looks of value inside – even if that value is only a few dollars; a few dollars goes a long way if you're a junkie.

If you see a suspicious person looking into car windows or pulling on car door handles, CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY. Tell the operator that there is a person actively attempting a larceny from an auto. Make sure you give an accurate location as well as an accurate physical description of the person.

The less resistance these thieves feel from the community, the longer they will hang around the community – breaking into your car and stealing your stuff.



Lucky
kennel 72

Lucky is a big, fluffy boy who is ready for a warm lap. His former family reports that he is good with children.

2 years old. 15.4 lbs.
Domestic Long Hair,
Gray and White. Already

neutered so he can go home today! Brought to the shelter on 1/17 because his family could no longer care for him.

Payson
kennel 10



Yep. This short guy looks like a puppy but is an adult! Payton is a friendly guy who likes to be petted and go on walks.

2 years old. 37 lbs.
Hound mix. Brought to

the shelter on 12/2 because his family could no longer keep him -- here longest of all the dogs over 2 months.

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

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.

Agenda includes, but is not limited to:

Southern District Update

Major Eric Jordan

& Deputy Major Mike McDonald

Officer of the Month Award

Deputy Major Mike McDonald & Jack Baker

Guest Speaker

Colonel Douglas DeLeaver,

Chief of the MTA Police Force

Guardian Angels Update

Marcus "Strider" Dent

C.O.P. Update

Shannon Sullivan

Neighborhood & Council Updates

Jack Baker & John Rehmert

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

THE FACTS ABOUT LEPTOSPIROSIS

**By Jill Shook, DVM—CityPets Veterinary Care & Wellness,
jssdvm@aol.com**

In December of 2006 there was an area news report about a disease called Leptospirosis. As a result, our office, and several other veterinary clinics all over the city began receiving phone calls from concerned dog owners wanting more information. I wanted to take the opportunity in this article to educate pet owners about this disease and what we have been seeing in our area.

Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease that typically affects the liver and kidneys. The bacteria can be carried by rats and other mammals. Infected and recovered "carrier" dogs can also serve as a source of infection. Ingestion of infected urine or objects contaminated with infected urine is the most common mode of transmission. However, the bacteria can also penetrate mucous membranes and abraded skin. Symptoms typically appear 4-12 days after infection and include fairly non-specific signs such as fever, lethargy, and not eating. Because the kidneys are often affected increased drinking and urination are often observed, as well as vomiting and diarrhea. Dogs can become jaundiced indicating liver failure. There are hemorrhagic forms of the disease as well; blood can be visible in urine, vomitus, and stool. Bruising and areas of hemorrhage may also be seen on the skin, gums, and white part of the eyes. Infection with Leptospirosis can be subclinical (no symptoms) to life threatening.

Making a definitive diagnosis of Leptospirosis can be difficult because the symptoms are not specific to this disease alone. There is no one definitive laboratory test either. Blood testing and antibody titers for Leptospirosis, in combination with clinical signs and examination findings can aid in diagnosis.

Once an animal has been diagnosed, hospitalization and inten-

(Leptospirosis, Continued on page 11)



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RESTRUCTURING A LIFESTYLE: WALK

By Amy Mutch

Having raised children in the suburbs and spent hours upon hours in the car, I am overjoyed to write an article about the value of walking. Seeing my neighbors walking dogs, pushing strollers, shopping, or doing errands all on foot is a lifestyle revisited. What you may not have considered is the choice to walk is a healthy one not only for yourself, but others as well.

The health benefits from walking are enormous: You improve cardiovascular functioning; The low impact from walking allows for musculoskeletal strengthening avoiding joint injury caused by high impact exercise. A fun read on the weight control benefit of walking is the popular book, "French Women Don't Get Fat", which has a major premise that in spite of the high fat content in French food, walking before and after a meal keeps the body trim.

I recommend a meditation walk as a way to reflect, restore, and "center" yourself. On stressful days, a good walk will help refocus energies that have been consumed by the stressor. A nice walk allows you to visit several parks in our immediate neighborhood: Fort McHenry, Federal Hill

Park, and Riverside Park are ALL walking destinations depending on your stamina.

There are also financial benefits to walking: The money you save on gas can build discretionary funds and you also may find that less time in the car lessens the need for an extravagant model. A BMW or Lexus may not have the same value if it sits parked on the street rather than driving the road.

Crime prevention is at work when people are out doors watching all activity. You may never know what criminal chose a different neighborhood/victim because you, too, were on the street as a potential witness to a crime.

Urban renewal is dependent on an increase in foot traffic. You may be adding value to your home by just being out and about. The business district is working hard to develop businesses that promote street life at all hours.

In Webster's Dictionary, the prefix sub means "inferior to, lower than". Going from Suburbanite to Urbanite I can appreciate the lower standard of living in the Suburbs. It is simple. It's all about The WALK.



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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are looking for assistance in labeling and crating the newsletters in preparation for the monthly mailings. As tasks go, this one is really easy, especially with a good –sized group of people, and involves simply placing address labels on the newsletters and placing them in mailing flats. All labeling parties will be hosted at a neighborhood home or business, and is an excellent way to socialize and volunteer at the same time. Exact dates and locations vary monthly, but will be during the second week prior to the monthly SBIC general meetings, which are held on the first Tuesdays. The next labeling party will be Thursday, March 22nd, with the location to be determined.

If you're interested in joining in, please contact Julie Tice at 410.547.7467 or eastenddesign@att.net.

(Leptospirosis, Continued from page 9)

sive treatment are usually required. Antibiotics are started as soon as possible to clear the blood of infection. Prolonged antibiotic therapy is continued in the recovery period to clear the organism from the kidneys and urine so the dog does not become a carrier.

It is important to understand that there are several different serovars of Leptospirosis. Historically vaccines only offered protection against the two serovars that were more commonly associated with infection (*L. canicola* and *L. icterohemorrhagiae*). In the past several years other serovars of Leptospirosis have been seen in infected animals and have become more prevalent. These serovars include *L. pomona*, *L. grippityphosa*, *L. autumnalis*, and *L. bratislava*. There is a recently developed vaccine for Leptospirosis that vaccinates against four serovars (*L. canicola*, *L. icterohemorrhagiae*, *L. pomona*, and *L. grippityphosa*). It is important to understand that no vaccine is 100% effective and there are still other serovars of Leptospirosis not covered by this vaccine. The vaccine was developed to offer protection against the serovars seen most often in dogs, and the serovars that are associated with more serious illness.

Leptospirosis vaccines have historically been associated with vaccine reactions more often than vaccines given for other diseases. Vaccine reactions are typically mild and include lethargy and decreased appetite for 1-2 days. More severe reactions include vomiting, diarrhea, facial swelling, and hives on the skin. Anaphylactic reactions, though rare, can occur and require immediate attention. If your dog has any history of vaccine reactions please tell your veterinarian so the best course of action can be decided.

Most of the confirmed cases of Leptospirosis have occurred in the 21224 zip code. All cases were in unvaccinated dogs. All infected dogs were positive for *L. icterohemorrhagiae*, which is included in the available vaccine. However some dogs were also positive for *L. bratislava* or *L. autumnalis*, neither of which is covered in the available vaccine. Certainly it is likely that rats are serving as the source of infection. However, dogs or other mammals carrying the disease could also be a source of infection.

Because the previously available Leptospirosis vaccines only offered limited protection and because vaccination was often associated with reactions, a lot of veterinarians stopped offering the vaccine. Many veterinarians, including myself, have reevaluated their vaccination protocols and have started offering and recommending vaccination for Leptospirosis based on the recent increase in the number of cases.

Leptospirosis can be transmitted from animals to people. If you have an animal that has any possibility of being infected you should wear gloves when cleaning any areas that may have been soiled. You should not let the animal's urine contact your skin and any areas where the animal may have soiled should be cleaned with dilute bleach.

If you have any questions regarding vaccination for your pet you should contact your veterinarian. You can also visit www.veterinarypartner.com for more basic information on Leptospirosis.

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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.

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All dues are tax-deductible under Federal guidelines.