

SoBoImCo

South Baltimore Improvement Committee • April 2007



15TH ANNUAL LOTTA ART

Saturday April 21, 2007

Continuous Cocktail Buffet begins at 5:30 p.m. *Catering by The Brass Elephant*
Drawing begins promptly at 7:30 p.m.

The Annual LOTTA ART Benefit is School 33's largest and most popular fund-raising event. You are invited to attend an evening of art, food, and fun! More than 100 local artists generously donate works in all mediums and styles to benefit School 33 Art Center's exhibition and education programs. At the event, a lottery-style drawing is held and each ticket holder brings home a work of art. Attended by more than 250 persons, LOTTA ART is considered by many to be one of the most exciting and unique special events in town!

TICKETS ARE ONSALE NOW:

\$150 for non-Annual Fund Supporters

\$135 for Annual Fund Supporters and Participating LOTTA ART Artists

\$35 for Guest tickets (does not include artwork)

To order tickets by phone, call 410.396.4641

PRE-EVENT ART EXHIBITION

Make your list of choices in advance by previewing the works April 10 – 20!!
Special gallery hours for this exhibit are Tuesday through Friday, 10 am – 7 pm and Saturday, noon – 4 pm. The exhibition is free and open to the public.
Visit www.school33.org for more information.

GET OUT!

Inner Harbor Easter Celebration

Sunday, April 8th

11:00a.m.—7:00p.m.

Harborplace Amphitheatre

Orioles Home Opening Day

Monday, April 9th

Oriole Park at Camden Yards

Super Clean Sweep Thing

Community Cleanup

Saturday, April 21st

9:00a.m.—12:00p.m.

Corner of S. Charles St & Fort Ave.

Gloves, bags & brooms provided.

See page 4 for more info.

Lotta Art

Saturday, April 21st

Cocktail Buffet: 5:30p.m.

Drawing: 7:30p.m.

School 33

1427 Light Street

Use the City Paper's "Best Way to Buy Art" and support our local artists. See page 1 for more info.

Household Hazardous Waste Day

April 28th—29th

Sat: 9:00a.m.—3:00p.m.

Sun: 11:00a.m.—4:00p.m.

Polytechnic Institute

Properly dispose of household hazardous waste (motor oil, paint, chemicals, cleaners, etc.) for free.

Neighborhood Cleanup

Saturday, April 28th

9:00a.m.—12:00p.m.

Corner of S. Charles St & Fort Ave.

Gloves, bags & brooms provided.

See page 4 for more info.

Spring Block Party

Sunday, April 29th

11:00a.m.—7:00p.m.

North Side of Cross Street Market

Enjoy two stages of live music. Admission \$5. See page 2 for more info.

REMINDER:

City offices will be closed on Friday, April 6th for Good Friday. No trash will be collected.

COMMUNITY MEETING

Next General Meeting:
Tuesday, April 3rd

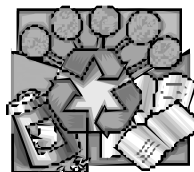
Guest Speakers:
Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
City Council President

&
Baltimore City Office of Emergency Management

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, April 13th & 27th



Bottles, Cans & Jars are the 2nd
& 4th Mondays, April 9th & 23rd

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

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Marci DeVries

The SBIC is getting involved in the planning for the Middle Branch River redevelopment master planning because our association boundaries bump up against this development area. Currently touted as the "second Inner Harbor" the City is interested in creating a more residential, recreation-oriented harbor to complement the hardscape of the Inner Harbor. If you are interested in this process, or concerned about what may be happening, the City has a number of open positions on planning committees that you can join to make sure your voice is heard. Just contact me and I will help you get onto a committee that best suits your interests.

As our area continues to develop aggressively, it is important to actively participate in the way our development happens. Get involved with the SBIC to make sure you are informed about the significant changes happening in our area and make sure your own interests are protected. We have open membership so get involved today!

IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD

SPRING BLOCK PARTY

Sunday, April 29th

11am to 7pm

Cross Street on the north side of the Market

\$5 Admission

Festival season is upon us! Get ready for the Spring Block Party! This is the street festival that kicks off the festival season in Baltimore. The party will take place along the north side of the Cross Street Market in the heart of Federal Hill. And that's what it is, a party! Ten bands will play on two stages throughout the day as we celebrate the coming of Spring. (Once again, out of care and concern for our canine friends, dogs will not be allowed at the Spring Block Party.) For more details as the date approaches, including a list of bands, check out our website at www.historicfederalhill.org.

Volunteer! Be a part of the excitement and volunteer at a booth at the Spring Block Party on Sunday, April 29th. Pouring beer, selling tickets, greeting people at the door – they are all unique ways to enjoy the festival and meet your neighbors. You will receive free admission, free drinks, and a festival t-shirt. You'll be helping Federal Hill Main Street help the neighborhood. And it's fun! To volunteer, contact volunteers@historicfederalhill.org or call 410-727-4500.


Historic Federal Hill
main street

LOTS HAPPENINGS AT THE LIGHT STREET BRANCH LIBRARY

SAY IT IN SIGN

Monday, April 2, 6:30 pm

Ages 10-17. Come learn American Sign Language (ASL). This week: City, State and locations.

MOTHER GOOSE ON THE LOOSE

An interactive nursery rhyme program with music and movement.

Wednesdays, 10 a.m. For nonwalking children and their parents or caregivers.

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

TREATMENT FOSTER CARE

Thursday, April 5, 6:30 pm

Learn about treatment foster care and how to become a foster parent. Rachell Chmielewsky will talk about this new program sponsored by the Children's Guild, a non-profit organization that serves emotionally disturbed youth.

TEEN CAFÉ

Tuesday, April 10, 4 pm

Ages 10-17. Come mingle with teens, make a craft or play games. Refreshments served.

FRIENDS OF THE LIGHT STREET BRANCH

Thursday, April 12, 6:15 pm

Monthly meeting of the Friends. Join us!

WALT WHITMAN: POET OF DEMOCRACY

Thursday, April 12, 6:30 pm

Celebrate National Poetry Month! Carrol Peterson, portraying the larger-than-life Walt Whitman, discusses his views on poetry and politics in America and recounts his Civil War experience. Sponsored by the Maryland Humanities Council.

SAY IT IN SIGN

Monday, April 16, 6:30 pm

Ages 10-17. Learn American Sign Language. This week: Basic Questions and Statements.

ONCE UPON A SIGN

Tuesday, April 17, 3:30 pm

All Ages. Storyteller Kathy MacMillan will take you to a land of kings and dragons, queens and castles. Through stories and songs of magic, you'll also learn a bit of American Sign Language.

TWO IF BY SEA: LIVE MUSIC

Monday, April 23, 6:30 pm

All Ages. Live performance by indie alternative band, Two If By Sea.

A FOOL NAMED "O"

Wednesday, April 25, 4 pm

Mime artist and clown extraordinaire Mark Jaster tells the story of "O" with live music, outrageous acrobatics and wordless wit.

PRESCHOOL PRINCESS BALL

Thursday, April 26, 6:30 pm

Don your finest attire or dress up as a prince or princess for the Princess Ball. Live music and dancing for the whole family.

SMALL BUSINESS CONNECTIONS

Monday, April 30, 7 pm

Network with other small business owners. Naomi Hafer, 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

SBIC COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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B'MORE GREEN

By Nicole Killion, RN,
bmoregreen@yahoo.com

Even though organic food has become more common and almost 25% of consumers are purchasing organic food, I've had several people recently ask me what "organic" means. There are lots of different terms that are used right now so here is a brief review of some of them.

ORGANIC- Food must be grown without the use of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides and sewage sludge. Cannot be genetically modified or irradiated. No hormones or antibiotics can be used on animals, they must have access to the outdoors, and can only be fed organic feed. In studies, organic produce has been found to have higher levels of vitamins, minerals and antioxidants.

USDA ORGANIC- US Department of Agriculture (USDA) certification of approval that the product meets the above standards and can label itself as "organic."

NATURAL- The product has undergone minimal processing, but is not necessarily organic.

GRASS-FED- Usually refers to beef, dairy products and lamb. The animals are outside in pastures all day, eating grass, leaves, bugs- all of which are their natural diet. In our modern day beef industry, cattle are fed grain, corn, soy, lemon peel, and other waste products from industries. These items are not what cows would normally eat and they frequently become ill, requiring lots of antibiotics. Grass-fed products contain higher levels of Vitamins A and E, more omega-3 fatty acids, less saturated fat and fewer calories than grain-fed beef products.

FREE RANGE- Usually refers to poultry, eggs and beef. The USDA only certifies free range poultry. Poultry are required to have access to the outdoors where they can eat food that is natural to them. Similar to grass-fed.

CAGE-FREE- Usually refers to eggs. Similar to free-range in that hens are allowed access to the outdoors. This is not a USDA certified label so there are no standards as to how much access is required.

(B'more Green, Continued on page 15)

PLAY BALL!

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

April 9—11 vs. Detroit
April 12—15 vs. Kansas City
April 20—22 vs. Toronto
April 23—24 vs. Oakland
April 25—26 vs. Boston

Other Stadium events:

April 1—Fanfest
April 9—Opening Day
April 28—Spring Football Fest
April 29—March of Dimes Walk

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

SANITATION & BEAUTIFICATION

By Amy Mutch

Thanks to South Station residents Dave, Jarrett, Peter and the student coalition SBIC had one of its BEST clean ups ever!! I also had my tried and true support from SBIC-Marci, Steve, Donnie, Jim, Donald, and Nicole. To those of you who live in the 1600, 1700, 1800 blocks of S. Charles and Light Streets you can thank these volunteers who cleaned the trash, leaves, litter from your curbside and sidewalks. The 1800 block alley of Marshall Street required a BIG effort to remove bulk trash and nine bags of trash were removed from the rear property of the Advent Episcopal Church.

Please make the effort to properly contain your trash on collection days. Improperly tied bags and loose lids invite birds and rats to a feeding frenzy!! You are only allowed to place your trash can for pickup the night before collection and if you use bags the morning of collection. Cans are NOT permitted in the front of a property. You can get a citation for this infraction. Mayor Dixon has committed greater efforts regarding sanitation for Baltimore City. Several articles have been written about her campaign to cleanup our neighborhoods. You can expect more citations to be issued for violations. I suggest everyone reading this article take notice of their trash habits and make changes to avoid paying fines!!

We have two cleanups in April: April 21st, in conjunction with the Mayor's Super Clean Sweep Thing; and our regular monthly cleanup on April 28th. For both events, meet at S. Charles and W. Fort between the hours of 9am-12noon. A dumpster will be at that location with energized volunteers. I look forward to seeing some new faces.

Trust over 30 years of experience in Maryland and a resident of SoBo with your real estate needs. If you or someone you know is interested in buying or selling a home for the best price possible in the quickest time, give us a call today!



YOUNG TEAM

ANDY YOUNG & KATIE YOUNG

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www.andyyoungrealtor.com



If your property is presently listed with another Broker, this is not a solicitation of the listing or any other business.

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Columbia, MD 21044



N.I.C.E. THOUGHTS

By Kathy Hodson

The NICE Subcommittee has received several complaints about the no-response to 911 calls that have been made over the past few months, by citizens and business owners alike. When this concern was raised before, several members of SBIC visited the 911 Call Center to observe the operations. We learned that while all 911 calls are dispatched to the appropriate jurisdiction (Southern District dispatch, for example) calls are prioritized as to urgency. As such, while the issue that you called on may be important to you and your neighbors, it may not have been as critical as the domestic violence, burglary or shooting that also occurred in our district.

But please don't be discouraged !! You need to continue making those calls – **unreported crime is a serious problem** for several reasons, one of which is that by not reporting, you are assuring the ultimate success of the crime and the probability that the criminal will attempt it again. We cannot allow criminal activity (including but not limited to the drug market) to flourish in our area, and the only way to curb the activity is to report it – the Southern District Police Commanders continually encourage citizens to call 911 (not 311) to report crime in progress. Even if another call takes priority, your call is important in that it registers a complaint – an unmade call is an unreported crime.

Some concerned citizens have developed a database to track calls made to 911, which serves multiple purposes. Not only does it allow the community to visualize what may be a recurring problem in their neighborhood which goes beyond what they can see from their front door, it acts as verification of complaints if further action is taken against a person or nuisance property. We encourage you to participate in the 911 call tracking, whether it is within the existing database or one of your own. Some residents prefer to keep their information more private, and we encourage those people to have a 'block captain' to keep track of their calls – either way, it is important that you continue to make the calls, and keep records! We know from experience that record keeping is critical.

Remember – **unreported crime is a serious problem**. If you didn't report it, it didn't happen.....

BOCCE COURT UPDATE

The contract for maintaining the Bocce Ball Court was renewed with the City's Department of Parks and Recreation two weeks ago, keeping the court available for public use for yet another year, and insuring the property will be maintained by the City, including mowing and fence repair.

BOARD POSITION AVAILABLE

Due to the recent vacancy of the position of Treasurer, The South Baltimore Improvement Committee is seeking a responsible volunteer to take this position through the end of this year's term.

The Treasurer:

- Maintains the funds of SBIC, manages bank accounts, keeps all financial records
- Responsible for making or assigning the preparation of financial reports to the Executive Committee subject to periodic review
- Makes a financial report at all General meetings.
- Maintains the organization's membership list

If you are interested in nominating yourself or another for this elected position, please contact Marci DeVries at 443.858.7392

SPRING IS IN THE AIR...



My Flower Box has fresh stems, gardening supplies, floral arrangements and window boxes to brighten your home.

Stop by for our "Happy Hour" every Friday from 4pm-6pm and receive 15% off fresh flower stems.

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1616 Clarkson St.

\$274,900 BA6285599

Open airy and bright Federal Hill rehab w/ 2 Bedrooms and 2 full baths. Second bedroom can be used as an office, for guests or is ideal for room-mates! Amenities include: beautiful hardwood floors thru-out, exposed brick, a ton recessed lighting, crown molding, laundry on main level & an 8x11 shed for outdoor storage. Abundant cabinet and counter space is perfect for the avid cook. This house is an amazing buy! Come see for yourself!!



The Sacks Team
Marni Sacks

410-375-9700

410-484-SALE

TheSacksTeam@aol.com



Prudential

**Carruthers
REALTORS***



IN A MINUTE

By Jocelyn Rodgers

As your new SBIC secretary, I'm writing a summary of the two speakers from the city government at the March meeting to fill in those who couldn't make it and to hopefully encourage you to come participate in the next meeting.

Jayson Gordneer, a community outreach liaison for the City Council President, explained that his job is to keep the City Council informed of concerns and issues in the communities. He will be attending many community association meetings and he hopes to learn from us both what our concerns are and what has helped us thrive.

Ed Reisinger, our City Councilman, came to speak about the city budget and tax rate. In a midterm budget meeting, the council discussed spending \$17 to \$25 million more on overtime to get more police on the streets. Also, for the last several years the City has had significant budget surpluses, and he would like to address that by lowering the property tax rate by *more* than 2 cents. He asked that the community initiate an e-mail and letter campaign to the local politicians in order to get the votes for a significant decrease in the property tax rate.

Councilman Reisinger then responded to the questions and concerns of many in the audience. Community members asked about:

- Other ways to create property tax relief.
- A City Council bill relating to poker machines in bars.
- Getting more police available to deal with the recent spate of robberies in the business district and of auto larcenies.
- The increasing tightness of parking in the neighborhood and the lack of enforcement of parking time regulations.
- Using some of the budget surplus to increase staff in the recreation centers.

The SBIC monthly meetings offer an opportunity to talk face-to-face with people doing work relevant to our neighborhood and to learn what is going on with all the SBIC committees, led by other neighbors who care about South Baltimore. I hope you can make it to the next meeting!

NOW OPEN

CHARLOTTE'S

1542 LIGHT STREET
410-244-6767

SPECIAL EVENTS

MARCH 22: PINT NIGHT
FREE PINT GLASS WITH PURCHASE OF
ANCHOR STEAM

WEEKLY SPECIALS

MONDAY: TRIVIA NIGHT
BRING YOUR TEAMS!
\$2 BLUE MOONS

TUESDAY: WINE-CHICKS-FLIX
1/2 PRICE WINE, POPCORN, AND GREAT MOVIES

WEDNESDAY: LIVE MUSIC

GET \$10 OFF YOUR TAB WITH THIS AD

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: MARLYN G. ROBINSON

By Pat Christenson

A Federal Hill Resident since 1989, Marlyn, a co-founder of the Performance Workshop Theatre, earned degrees in theatre from University of Delaware and from Case Western Reserve University. She is a former Equity actress with extensive performance credits at university and regional companies, she has taught and directed throughout the Mid-Atlantic States and has been nationally recognized for her workshops. Though involved in theater, either as an actor, teacher, or director, Marlyn found the time to raise two daughters and one son. Though her role as "mom" continues, she auditioned and won the part of grandmother to five grandchildren.

She, and co-founder Marc Horwitz, are Artistic Producing Directors of the Performance Workshop Theatre, located in Federal Hill, a professional non-equity Company, offering plays written by writers with a reputation for depth and perception about life and that draw energy and a passionate desire from the actor to perform in these dramatic pieces. Always mindful of the importance of the audience, the organization is interested

(Neighbor, Continued on page 13)

PARKING

By Donnie Fair

I'm making some progress with the City to have the parking situation in South Baltimore addressed. Forthcoming will be information about a meeting with collective representatives from the Parking Authority, Parking Enforcement and the Department of Transportation. This will be a productive meeting and is likely to include many, if not all of the community associations in South Baltimore.

In preparation for this meeting, if you want your concerns heard or if you want the city to know you are concerned about the ever-increasing scarcity of parking, I need to hear from you NOW. The City has the authority and the money to make the changes we need to traffic and parking to improve our quality of life. However, if more people don't show any interest in this, the city will gladly continue to overlook your problems and spend your tax dollars elsewhere.

I'm also working to expand restricted parking, including the conversion of Area A south of Clement/west of Charles to Area 30, and adding restricted areas about other areas.

parking to blocks not already included in the program. If you think this is a good idea or if you think this is a bad idea, I sure would like to hear your opinion.

In a recent email conversation, Dan Gertler on Clement Street asked: "Donnie, Just out of curiosity, is there any reason why fed hill isn't just all one parking area?"

This is a great question, Dan, and one that I have asked many times before. The answer is very simple and likens to an 80's sitcom: Different strokes for different folks. Back in the day (and perhaps currently) people couldn't come to an agreement how they wanted their parking restricted. So, you get what we have here today: Fractionalized restricted parking - except that

Do you think Federal Hill should be all one "zone"? Do you think the Stadium Authority should pay for your parking passes? Do you think that we need to revise the conditions of restricted parking? Are you in favor of "zero hour" restricted parking? Do you want to know what "zero hour" restricted parking is?

I'm pretty snappy with the emails. Get in touch with me. One lunatic fighting City Hall is not going to be able to accomplish much - that's why I need others. The first ingredient in the solution to the parking situation in South Baltimore is your willingness to be a part of the solution.

NEWSLETTERS LABELED IN RECORD TIME

By Julie Tice

I'd like to extend a heart-felt "thank you" to the volunteers who helped label March's edition of SoBoImCo in preparation for mailing. With a crack-team of thirteen, we managed to label and crate all 1900+ newsletters in under 45 minutes, leaving plenty of time for socializing and eating the pizza provided by Marie Sennett. I'd also like to thank Jerry for inviting us to use the back room at Heath Street Pub—all of us appreciate the gesture of outreach, and enjoyed listening to Jerry's "stories".

If you're looking for a quick way to give some energy to the neighborhood, please feel free to join us at our monthly labeling parties. They will be held twelve days prior to our monthly meeting.

The venue will change each month, so contact Julie at 410.547.7467 or eastend-design@att.net, if you're interested in volunteering.



What is your home worth?

For a FREE Comparative Market Analysis, call the Chris Reda Real Estate Team at 410.468.4607.

The CHRIS REDA Real Estate Team
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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 Sharon McCulloch at 410-659-5159.

Citizens On Patrol Schedule

All Walks start at 7p.m. unless noted otherwise

Thu, 4/5

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

Mon, 4/9

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

Tue, 4/10

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

Mon, 4/16

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

Tue, 4/17

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

Tue, 4/24

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

Wed, 4/25

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

Thu, 4/26

BROOKLYN -
meet at The Hargrove District Courthouse
700 E. Patapsco Ave.

Tue, 5/8

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

BALTIMORE ANGEL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The *Baltimore Guardian Angels* is a non-profit volunteer-driven organization that is looking to provide security and support to our community. The Guardian Angels work in cooperation with local police, community organizations, neighborhood watch groups, schools, and individuals in hopes of helping us build a stronger and safer community, as well as to inspire positive change. The primary goal of the Guardian Angels is to support communities through neighborhood patrols and education initiatives with children and families about violence prevention and safety awareness. They have a proven success rate, as February 2007 marked the 28th anniversary of The Alliance of Guardian Angels serving communities in need across America and around the world.

So what are the 2 things holding us back from moving forward with this promising endeavor? They need volunteers and a facility to base their recruitment efforts from. They are an extremely dedicated and determined group of individuals that are willing to help where requested, mentor when needed, and give hope while serving the city of Baltimore. We can not let their efforts and willingness to help our city slip away from us! So please help this organization grow, and contribute to the positive change in our area by volunteering in either the adult Angel (> 16 yrs of age) or Junior Angel (< 16 yrs of age) programs. Also - if you know of a school, a warehouse, a church, a community center, or any facility where they can base their training and recruitment efforts from, please let somebody know.

If you have any questions or would like more information about the Baltimore Guardian Angels and how you can get involved, please contact Marcus "Strider" Dent at baltimoreguardianangels@gmail.com or 410-808-6806 or visit www.baltimoreguardianangels.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

Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
City Council President

Guardian Angels Update

Marcus "Strider" Dent

C.O.P. Update

Shannon Sullivan

Neighborhood & Council Updates

Jack Baker & John Rehmert

This month's meeting is scheduled for *April 19th, 2007* at *7:00 PM* at the Southern District Police Station, 10 Cherry Hill Road.



Baby.
Kennel 74

A unique female orange tabby with a beautiful, round face. Baby is a quiet girl who loves to be held. She is sad to find herself at a shelter as she reaches middle age. Do have the heart to take in a meek,

chubby lady longing for a retirement home? Here longest of all the cats... over 3 months.

8 years old 10.4 lbs. Brought to the shelter on 12/18 after losing her way home.



Fiona.
Kennel 14

Smart and sassy, and what a looker! She walks well on leash and knows how to sit. An athletic girl with puppy energy who no one would guess is a senior! She will be fun to train even more because she looks to you for guidance and rubbings. Fiona will impress you every day with her brilliance -- she is smart and not afraid to say so. Can you say Diva? She has been here longest of all the animals... over 3 months.

8 years old, 50 pounds. Fiona was brought to the shelter on 12/3 when she lost her way home.

To learn how to adopt these orphans, stop by BARCS at 301 Stockholm St (near Ravens' Stadium), phone 410-396-4695 or visit www.BaltimoreAnimalShelter.org

MONTHLY HEARTWORM PREVENTION (YES, MONTHLY!)

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

Alright all you dog owners, you're giving that dose of heartworm preventative every month right? Or maybe you stopped giving it during the winter, or you missed a couple doses here and there. Or maybe you're just not convinced that heartworm disease is really all that common or important. Hopefully by the end of this article you'll feel differently. And don't worry cat owners, I haven't forgotten about you.

The first thing to know about heartworms is that they are spread by mosquitoes. A mosquito bites an infected dog or cat and ingests larvae (immature heartworms). The mosquito then bites another dog or cat and passes the larvae into that animal's bloodstream. The larvae mature into adult heartworms and the female heartworms then start producing microfilaria (baby heartworms). The life cycle has now run full circle 6-7 months after the dog or cat was initially infected.

The symptoms of heartworm disease are

related to the body systems they affect, namely the heart and lungs. Coughing, lack of energy, tiring easily and weight loss are some of the common clinical signs. Fluid in the abdominal cavity, syncope (loss of consciousness), and coughing blood are seen in advanced disease. Secondary liver and kidney disease may develop in some pets. Heartworms average 5 to 14 inches in length and as many as 100 worms have been found in a single dog! The higher the numbers of adult heartworms that are present the more severe the symptoms. Cats with heartworm disease typically have very few worms present, usually 1-3, but symptoms can still be severe. Heartworm disease can cause irreversible damage to the heart and lungs and is fatal.

Testing for heartworms in dogs requires a small blood sample. Most veterinary clinics run the heartworm test in-house, and have results in about 10 minutes. The test detects antigens (proteins) from adult female heartworms, and most veterinarians recommend yearly heartworm

testing. If doses of preventative are missed, or the product being used for prevention is changed, testing may be done more often. Heartworm testing in cats is much more difficult. Because cats typically have just 1-3 worms, and some infections may consist of only male heartworms, tests can be falsely negative and difficult to interpret.

Prevention of heartworm disease is the key. Heartworm disease can be treated in dogs, but is expensive and can have serious side effects. There is no treatment for heartworm disease in cats. There are several different products available for heartworm prevention and they are very effective when used properly. Some of the more common preventatives used are Interceptor, Sentinel, Heartguard Plus, Revolution, and Tri-Heart Plus. Bayer has a new product available called Advantage Multi. These products are given orally, or applied topically, once a month. It is important to give heartworm preventative **every month, year-round, for the lifetime of**

(Heartworm, Continued on page 10)



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(Heartworm, Continued from page 9)

your pet. And remember that fun article a couple months ago about all those intestinal parasites? Well, most of the products used for heartworm prevention also deworm for the more common intestinal parasites. Some products control fleas as well.

The veterinary community does not vary much in recommendations for testing and prevention for heartworms in dogs. However, heartworm disease in cats is not as straight forward and there is much less consensus among veterinarians when making recommendations for cats. Heartworm disease in cats is receiving much more attention lately and the hope is that better testing will be available in the near future. The products used for heartworm prevention in dogs can be used in cats as well.

However, the oral products are large tablets that are difficult to administer to cats so compliance becomes a big issue. Revolution, which is a topical product, is available for cats. Advantage Multi, also topical, has just become available and will make heartworm prevention in cats much easier.

Heartworm prevention is an important part

of basic healthcare for pets. Heartworm disease has been diagnosed in animals in all fifty states. It is a serious disease that is easily preventable. Eighty percent of the dogs rescued after Hurricane Katrina were heartworm positive. There were several organizations that coordinated animal rescue efforts, finding homes for those pets all over the United States. I certainly commend their efforts but I also predict there will be a rise in the number of heartworm cases over the next several years. A large population of heartworm positive dogs was spread out across the United States and those animals will serve as a reservoir of infection. In my first 5 years as a veterinarian I treated maybe 2 or 3 dogs for heartworm disease. In the past 9 months I have treated 4 cases of heartworm disease in dogs.

For more information on heartworm disease and prevention you can contact your veterinarian, or visit the websites listed below.

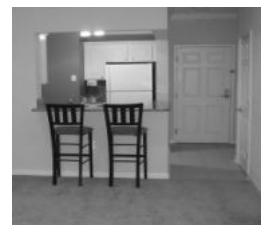
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YOUTH COUNCIL NEWS

By Marie Sennett

NEED A CHANGE IN YOUR LIFE?

Think you are too old to have a good time? We'll prove you wrong! Come join us at the Ella Bailey Rec Center on Thursdays from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. We have live entertainment, lots of laughs, and you might just learn something about yourself while there.

March 22, 2007 - Brainstorming about Service Learning Projects— We begin to map out the youth's service learning projects that get them into the community doing something to make a difference. Pizza to be served with brainstorming.

March 29, 2007 - Dancing our way through the planning process for service learning. We will be working out kinks and planning away to make those service learning projects come to life.

April 5, 2007 – Get a Job already. The teens will and adults will learn tips on job hunting, employment rights, and who hires teens for real jobs!

April 12, 2007 – Job Shadowing Day. It may be spring break, but our teens want to go to work with you to learn about new and different (not necessarily exciting) professions that are open to them. A chance to open the eyes of our youth and have them peek into the future. The youth will spend a full work day with an adult.

April 19, 2007 – Firm up learning service projects. Set dates for the final pieces to make it happen.

April 26, 2007 – Bowling to celebrate our work on our service learning projects!!!!!!

We meet at the Ella Bailey Recreation Center, 100 E. Heath Street, the back entrance of the Johnson Elementary School. We look forward to seeing you there! Call Marie at 410-837-1132 or e-mail at msennett@believewireless.net to become more involved with our youth and change a life— yours and theirs!

URBAN GREENING ON THE FORT AVENUE CORRIDOR

By Donnie Fair

A hopeful grant from Parks & People is earmarked for the greening of the Fort Avenue corridor. The Federal Hill South Neighborhood Association is partnering with SBIC and the Riverside Action Group to have tree pits cut into the sidewalk and plant trees all along Fort Avenue.

This important project needs volunteers. If you can help to coordinate the work, pick out tree species or liaison with the Division of Forestry, please get in touch with me or Amy Mutch.



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(Neighbor, Continued from page 6)

in classic and contemporary plays with a resonance for today's contemporary environment and that arouse a response in the audience not necessarily from the play itself but an awareness of something that has happened or affects the individuals own life or thoughts.

The Performance Workshop Theatre is now located in the South Baltimore Learning Center, at 28 E. Ostend Street. It is there that you will find a creative environment where student actors are developed by professional resident artists who train them and offer them opportunities to participate in company classes and productions. Classes include acting, voice and movement, scene study, acting and directing Shakespeare, fencing dialects and diction, and audition technique. There are adult classes, teen classes and individual training scheduled year round. Classes are limited to no more than 10 students.

Whether you are interested in performing or in being entertained, check out the Performance Workshop Theatre. Their works have been applauded and favorably reviewed by both The *Baltimore Sun* and *City Paper*. Some of the productions have been taken on the road to many different audiences. Your next opportunity is in May. *Philadelphia, Here I Come!* Written by Brian Friel and directed by Sam McCready, the play is about a young Irish lad and his thoughts the night before he is due to leave Ireland, his home, his family and friends. Tickets are \$20 General Admission and \$12 for Students. Please call 410-659-7830 or e-mail www.performanceworkshoptheatre.org for more details.



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SOCIAL EVENTS

By Ugur Erickson

On March 12, we had our neighborhood social event at Rub Bar BQ on Light Street. As we BELIEVE that the very south of our neighborhood will develop into cleaner, safer and drug-free place, we are pleased to see new business opening soon enough to let this change begin. Rub Bar BQ is one of them and we are really happy to have them in our neighborhood.

The owners, Mike and Dave, did a really good job decorating the place with a lot of wood, exposed brick and metal. The menu seems pretty simple with good selection of authentic Texas food. For our social event, they gave us a \$5 sandwich special with your choice of side dish. I must say I really enjoyed their specially flavored chopped beef. The place has a bar-dining area as well as the upstairs non-smoking area that you can take your kids with no worries.

So if you missed the social at Rub, I highly recommend that you try to go there sometime. It is a good neighborhood-friendly business that we should support as they are the first ones to light our quite, dark section of our neighborhood with their big neon sign. Thank you Rub!



Neighbors having a good time at RUB

WORK IT OUT

Our teens have decided that they don't want a break this spring. While other neighborhood kids are playing the day away, our teens want to spend one day of their spring break going to work and learning about jobs, jobs, jobs for the future. Help keep a kid off the corner and into the work force. Volunteer for Job Shadowing April 12, 2007.

Call Marie at 410-837-1132 or email at msennett@believewireless.net to have a teen see you at work!

LIQUOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

By Al Evans

Baltimore City Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake has accepted an invitation from the Liquor Advisory Committee to address the concerns of SBIC residents. One of the concerns is City Council bill #05-0294, which proposed an increase in the number of video poker machines in bars, and is back in the Land Use and Transportation Committee after being withdrawn just before a full City Council vote. This bill was designed entirely in favor of video poker machine owners/operators without any concern or participation from the general public. We realize that this bill will most likely move forward because of the long history of support between politicians and the liquor industry. The Liquor Advisory Committee with the approval of the SBIC Executive Committee requested a meeting with Councilman Reisinger and Councilman Kraft, Chair and Co-Chair of the Land Use and Transportation Committee respectively, to present an amendment to the bill to give it accountability. Several requests to the Councilmen have yielded no response as of this writing. We are trying to get some accountability from our elected officials and the poker/bar industry to register their machines, pay the proper taxes due and include real penalties for violators.

Our research found that the poker machine industry and their supporters have close ties to the very crime that we as a community are working hard to eliminate. The bill in its present form only legalizes the illegal activity. One of the study resources, The Abell Report at <http://www.abell.org/publications>, showed that the video poker machine industry goes hand in hand with book-making, loan sharking, drug dealing and bribes to liquor inspectors. This study also showed that many illegal enterprises run out of Baltimore bars, which are also handy places for laundering money.

If we are serious about improving the quality of life in our community, we need to address difficult and sensitive issues and concerns of this type. If you have an opinion on this topic, we welcome your thoughts and ideas and encourage you to come to the next SBIC General Meeting on Tuesday April 3rd and get involved.

If you have any issues or concerns for **your** community, the City Council President is giving you the opportunity to be heard.

One of the duties of the SBIC-LAC is to work with both the neighbors and liquor license holders in our community to create and maintain the best quality of life that we can. This committee is not anti liquor license; our purpose is not to shut down bars, but rather to work along side the businesses in SBIC to promote the idea that we are all neighbors and want what is best for the community as a whole. We will work with citizens, businesses, law enforcement, State's Attorney, Liquor Board and other agencies to address issues that are brought to our attention regarding violations of existing laws, rules and regulations, and will work together to promote change in laws which may improve the quality of life in SBIC.

The Liquor Advisory Committee is currently working on two major issues: A group of SBIC neighbors is considering moving forward with a Protest of Renewal of Liquor License for a problem bar in our community; and another group of neighbors is concerned about the possibility that a bar in our area may become a 'mega bar' thru expansion, thus creating parking noise and health issues. We will be closely following progress on that reported expansion.

If you have any thoughts or ideas, we would like to hear from you.

DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE

By Steve Zaleskiwicz

Spring is not too far off, and the flowers are not the only things popping up: unsavory and unscrupulous contractors and con artists just waiting to get their hands on your money. There can be a long list of things that need to be freshened up after winter: from windows and doorways that need a fresh coat of paint, to steps and sidewalks in need of repair, or yard fences that could use a little realignment, or you may be looking to remodel the kitchen or bathroom or some other part of the house. While some of this work can be done yourself, often larger or more time-consuming projects are best left to professionals. However, please heed this warning: **BEFORE YOU SELECT A CONTRACTOR OR SIGN A CONTRACT** you should get several estimates first, so that you can compare prices. Go over the project thoroughly with the contractors and make sure everyone agrees to the scope of work that is to be performed. All phases of the project should be in the contract before you sign, such as framing, dry-wall, painting, flooring, cabinets, electrical, HVAC, plumbing, etc., including the types of materials to be used and permits. **PLEASE** check out the contractor's references and ask to see work that they have done in the neighborhood. **PLEASE** do not pay any contractor all the money up front (and be wary of anyone who asks you to). Reliable and competent contractors will do a three-phase payment plan, with the third and final payment not due until the project is completed, inspected and to your satisfaction.

With good weather coming, rehab work is going to pick up in the neighborhood. If you suspect that work is being done without permits you can check the status of permits online at www.baltimorehousing.org, or call 311 and file a report – be sure to ask for a confirmation number from the operator, or contact the Design Review Committee at 443-790-4520.

POLICE UPDATE

By Sharron McCulloch

On March 16th, 2007 - Major Eric Jordan addressed the audience at the Southern District Police Community Relations Council (SDPCRC) and gave a district update, which included:

Larceny from autos:

Up 32% from this time last year. Larceny from autos is still a big problem in our area. PLEASE do not leave anything visible in your cars!

Aggravated assaults:

Down 31% from this time last year. High percentage of aggravated assaults in our area occur between people who know each other (relatives, acquaintances, and friends).

Arson:

Down 5 incidents from this time last year.

Burglary:

Up 5 incidents from this time last year. Burglary is still a problem in our area, but the police have a few suspects they are investigating. The Major pointed out that many of the burglaries occur because residents are not locking their doors, especially at night! Please make sure your house is secure *whenever* you leave, even for just a few minutes.

Robbery:

Up 5 incidents from this time last year.

Violent Crime:

DOWN 14.9%

Overall Crime:

DOWN 6.9%

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(B'More Green, Continued from page 4)

FAIR TRADE- Farmers and artisans are provided a fair wage for their products which allows them to have a decent income to support their families, keep their children in school, and invest in the local community.

rBGH- Recombinant bovine growth hormone is a synthetic version of a natural hormone produced by cows. rBGH forces cows to produce more milk, but it also has 20 other toxic effects, including mastitis which requires treatment with antibiotics. rBGH milk often has pus in it due to the mastitis (inflammation of the udder). The milk produced has trace levels of rBGH in it and high levels of Insulin Growth Factor-1, which has been linked to certain cancers. Organic milk and dairy products do not have rBGH.

GENETICALLY ENGINEERED (GMO)- A gene is inserted into the gene of a different species to modify it to get a desired result that is not normally occurring. For example, a gene from cold water fish was taken and inserted into tomatoes so that the tomatoes won't freeze in cold weather. Studies have shown numerous toxic effects to humans and lab animals from eating GMO foods. Scientists around the world are protesting their use. Europe has banned foods containing GMOs.

PESTICIDES- Pesticides are chemicals used by farmers (as well as people in their backyards) that kill or harm insects, weeds, mold, mosquitoes, and other pests. Studies have linked pesticide use to cancers, birth defects, asthma, Parkinson's and infertility. It is illegal for a company to claim that a pesticide is safe, because by their very nature they are formulated to kill. Organic food is grown without the use of pesticides.

You can buy organic food at stores like Whole Foods and Trader Joe's, and many supermarkets are now also selling organic food. Look for the USDA Organic seal and make sure that the product is made in the United States. For example, Wal-Mart sells organic products that come from China where organic standards are less stringent. The local farmer's market is another place to buy high quality organic food (and it's usually much cheaper than grocery store prices). Many small farmers can't afford to apply for USDA Organic certification, even though they are growing organic produce. Make sure to ask them if they use pesticides and herbicides since they may not label their food as organic.

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: _____

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All dues are tax-deductible under Federal guidelines.

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