

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.

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 included 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.



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

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To Our Neighbors

SoBoImCo

South Baltimore Improvement Committee • May 2007



PRESIDENT’S CORNER

By Marci DeVries

Last month the Executive Committee held several meetings with Ray Horseman, the owner of Rayzer’s, a small bar on the corner of Randall and Harden Court that had been the subject of much discussion between nearby residents at the time of the bar’s annual liquor license renewal.

Through these meetings, we were able to come to some agreements with the owner of Rayzer’s about what could be done to limit the noise and external activity near the bar. The agreements include:

- Exterior lights on both Randall St. and Harden Court will be maintained in proper working order.
- The side door on Harden Court and the front door on Randall St. will be closed after 8 pm, or when the juke box is being used, or when there are more than 5 patrons in the bar
- Interior and exterior video cameras will remain in functioning order
- The owners and bar staff will report instances of loitering and/or suspected drug transactions within 100 feet of the premises to 911 immediately
- The owners will meet with the commander of the Baltimore Police Department Southern District and SBIC redevelop a plan for removal of criminal activity on the sidewalks and the alley behind the bar.

If these conditions are not being met, please contact Marie Sennett at 410.837.1132 or sennettmarie@yahoo.com and we will relay concerns to the owner of Rayzer’s for correction.

We hope for a more positive relationship between the immediate neighbors and this establishment in the future, based on improved communication and cooperation in respecting everyone’s rights in the neighborhood – residents and business owners alike.

**REMINDER:** City offices will be closed on Monday, May 28th for Memorial Day. No recycling will be collected.

**COMMUNITY MEETING**

Next General Meeting:  
Tuesday, May 1st

Guest Speakers:

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, May 11th & 25th



Bottles, Cans & Jars are the 2nd Mon-  
day, May 14th

All recycling collected streetside

GET OUT!

**Maryland Film Festival**  
**May 3rd—6th**

*Various Locations*  
See page 6 or visit [www.md-filmfest.com](http://www.md-filmfest.com) for more info.

**Baltimore Flowermart**  
**May 4th & 5th**  
**11:00a.m.—7:00p.m.**

*Mt. Vernon*  
90th Annual Flowermart, featuring vendors and entertainment. Visit [www.flowermart.org](http://www.flowermart.org) for more info.

**Baltimore Green Week Ecofest**  
**Saturday, May 5th**  
**12:00p.m.—5:00p.m.**

*Druid Hill Park*  
Green Week events continue May 7th—11th. Visit [baltimoregreenweek.org](http://baltimoregreenweek.org) for more info.

**Baltimore Farmer’s Market**  
**Every Sunday, starting May 6th**  
**8:00a.m.—12:00p.m.**

*Holliday & Saratoga Sts..*

**Kinetic Sculpture Race**  
**Saturday, May 5th**  
**9:30a.m.—4:30p.m.**

*Opening Ceremony at AVAM*  
Visit [www.kineticbaltimore.com](http://www.kineticbaltimore.com) for race route and more info.

**Pee Wee Preakness**  
**Tuesday, May 15th**

*Federal Hill Park*  
A mini-Preakness, just for the kids. Visit [www.preaknesscelebration.org](http://www.preaknesscelebration.org) for more info.

**Neighborhood Cleanup**  
**Saturday, May 12th**  
**9:00a.m.—12:00p.m.**

*Corner of Light & Heath Sts.*  
Gloves, bags & brooms provided.  
See page 10 for more info.

**9th Annual BikeJam Festival & Races**  
**May 26th**

*Patterson Park*  
See page 6 or visit [www.bikejam.org](http://www.bikejam.org) for more info.



#### SoBoImCo

SoBoImCo is a monthly production of the South Baltimore Improvement Committee, Inc. whose mission is "to encourage, through regular meetings, the formal exchange of ideas; to work with local law enforcement in promoting safety; and to assist individuals and families in the continuing process of neighborhood renewal." We welcome articles, ads and photo submissions via mail or email:

**South Baltimore Improvement Committee**  
P.O. Box 6364  
Baltimore, MD 21230  
eastenddesign@att.net

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

## IN A MINUTE

By Jocelyn Rodgers

The meeting on April 3<sup>rd</sup> was a busy one with several speakers. Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, the president of Baltimore City Council, was there along with her office's community liaison Jayson Gordneer and our City Councilman Ed Reisinger. Her main purpose at the meeting was to hear our questions and concerns. Questions from the audience spanned parking, nuisance crimes at bar closing time, the Guardian Angels, lighting in the area, property taxes, the current shortage of policemen, and the video poker machine bill; I will update you on a couple of these.

For parking, Ms. Rawlings-Blake suggested multi-space meters which issue receipts for each car as having been effective around other business districts; they allow a higher density of cars and easier enforcement. For the police shortage, the City is currently trying to address it with money and by working to improve recruitment and retention. Currently the most recently graduated class from the academy does foot patrolling for about three months until the next class graduates. The foot policing and other community policing initiatives give the policemen a different perspective on their job and strengthened ties with the neighborhoods.

Ms. Rawlings-Blake also emphasized her initiative "Investing Where Baltimore Lives." She has introduced a reso-

lution on arts, dining, and entertainment, meant to encourage the culture in Baltimore by loosening up zoning regulations in a responsible manner so that there will be more local entertainment options. Hearings on this resolution are coming up, and she encouraged us to get involved and be heard. Signing up with her office's Roll Call is one way to keep informed about these matters.

Major Jordan from the Southern Police District was also at the meeting to give us an update. Over the previous week the narcotics squad had made 11 arrests. Year-to-date, there have been only 7 burglaries down from 30 last year at this time. Larceny from autos is up, especially in our immediate area, but the officers are aware of the problem and actively addressing it.

Finally, a former owner of Vespa came to let us know about the soon-to-be-reopened restaurant. The restaurant and wine bar will have approximately double the seating area, and the old executive chef will be back with an expanded menu. They hope to open under a new name in early summer.

In addition to these speakers, there were updates from our very active committees, and the meeting was still done before 9 PM. Come check out the next meeting to get more scoop on what's happening in the neighborhood!

## YOUTH COUNCIL NEWS

By Marie Sennett

The teens went to work on April 12, 2007 with neighborhood adults. They had varied and wonderful experiences. The teens came back to the Ella Bailey Recreation bubbling with stories of their day. Some have better ideas for potential careers; others learned of new opportunities for meaningful work never considered before. Special thanks to all our SBIC adults who offered to show the teens their job and their work. They were great mentors for the day.

During the month of May the Youth Council will settle on their Service Learning Projects. They are considering a website, expanding their recycling program, and other ways to help the community. The teens are looking for a few good adults to help them make their neighborhood a better place. Please join us Thursdays at the Ella Bailey Recreation Center, 100 E. Heath Street, and the back entrance of the Johnson Elementary School.

You think you know, but you have  
**no idea?**

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**Come party with  
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Sat. May 5th, 8pm-1am & Sun. May 6th, 3pm-8pm**

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**TUESDAY  
BALTIMORE'S BEST TRIVIA NIGHT**

**Opening at 6am for Cinco de Mayo with  
25¢ Coronas and Margaritas**



## SANITATION & BEAUTIFICATION

By Patrick Mutch

### Next Scheduled Clean up

Spring has been an active clean up time in the communities of SBIC. Our third clean up in less than a month is scheduled for May 12<sup>th</sup> at the corner of Light and Heath streets between 9-12. Please consider volunteering your time, if only for an hour. In particular, we would like to see more of you young professionals begin to get involved in your community association. Select one area and give just one hour a month. It will make a difference for the community and you.

### Be Considerate of Your Neighbors in Putting Out Trash

Since we live in a neighborhood of dense living in row homes, we all need to be considerate of how we put out our trash and its impact on our neighbors and surrounding area. Here are some basic rules of etiquette which in some cases are City codes punishable by citations and fines:

**Place trash in tied plastic bags and in cans and place out the night before or early morning of pick up.** Putting out untied bags of trash or throwing trash in your can without bags is simply unacceptable. These lazy practices lead to more trash on the street.

**Place recycled trash out on the correct days and do not**

**leave it out if you misjudged the date.** Many of us make this mistake but why should your neighbors look at this trash for the next week. Furthermore, the pile of recycled trash usually gets wind blown or kicked opened making more of a mess.

**Store trash cans in rear of property.** Many residents do not have trash pick up to the rear of their home so rather than carrying trash through the house twice a week, they place the cans out in front of the house. This is unacceptable, and can be subject to a fine.

**Do not allow your dog to defecate in your back yard or on the street without cleaning it up in a bag and taking the bag with you to your home.** Feces is the number one food for rats. Do we need to say anything more?

**Pick up your daily and weekly newspapers.** Why would residents walk over the newspapers on their porch or worse kick them onto the sidewalk? If you don't want the newspapers, email the editors of the Examiner or Guide. The City passed the flyer ban which has helped keep our city cleaner but more newspapers are sitting on porches or being blown apart than ever before.



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### Just Listed-GORGEOUS 4 STORY TOWN HOME IN CAMDEN CROSSING!



This light filled home features 4 bedrooms, 2 full baths, 2 half baths, a deck off the kitchen, 1 car garage and a parking pad. Main level is home to a recreation room, study, and half bath. On the 2nd floor, the kitchen boasts 42" cabinets, large table space, ceramic tile floor and recessed lighting. Living room-Dining room combo is huge and has hardwood floors. There is also a half bath on this level. Upstairs the Master Bedroom has wall to wall carpeting, ceiling fan and walk-in closet. Full bath located in Master Bedroom offers dual vanity, ceramic tile and tub. Also on this level, 2 other bedrooms offer wall to wall carpeting, closets and a separate laundry area. Full bathroom located in the hallway has ceramic tile floor and tub. Top level is a loft and home to the fourth bedroom. This room offers 2 walk-in closets, a walk-in attic and an additional closet. This home has storage galore!



**874 Ryan Street \$389,900**

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410-468-4605 or 410-727-4644

Federal Hill Office

1210 Light Street, Baltimore, MD 21230

stevenmurphyrealestateteam.longandfoster.net



## LOTS HAPPENINGS AT THE LIGHT STREET BRANCH LIBRARY

Call 410-396-1096 to register for all programs

### TOY TIME

Saturdays in May, 10-11 am

Make a play date with toys that stimulate reading readiness.

### MOTHER GOOSE ON THE LOOSE

An interactive nursery rhyme program with music and movement.

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

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

### TEEN CAFÉ

Tuesday, May 8, 4pm

Crafts, games and refreshments for teens.

### FRIENDS OF THE LIGHT STREET BRANCH BOOK SALE

Thursday, May 10, 12-7:30 pm; Friday, May 11, 12-4 pm; and Saturday, May 12, 10 am – 2 pm. Gently used books and videos will be available for purchase to benefit the Light Street Branch.

### LOOKING FOR LOVE

Saturday, May 12, 11 am – 1 pm

Meet and greet cats and dogs available for adoption through BARCS (Baltimore Animal Rescue & Care Shelter).

### DRAMA DAYZ

Monday, May 14 and May 21, 6:30 pm

Teens participate in fun theater games and improv exercises.

### GOING, GOING, GONE

Thursday, May 17, 1 pm

Learn ways to protect the Earth and meet some live animals. Presented by the Maryland Zoomobile.

### SMALL BUSINESS CONNECTIONS

Thursday, May 17, 6:30 pm

Learn the basics of starting a business in Maryland, the basic components of a business plan, tips on managing the business, and the benefits of SBA's financing programs while networking with other small business owners. Presented by the Small Business Administration, Baltimore Office.

### LOVE BLOSSOMS

Thursday, May 24, 6:30 pm

DJ Larry McCoy casts a spell spinning love songs and plays your requests.



1209 South Charles Street  
Baltimore, MD 21230

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## SBIC COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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SBICParking@gmail.com

### Liquor Advisory Committee

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footnote96@verizon.net

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

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kathy.nice@yahoo.com

Other Contacts:

### Area 30 RPP Representative

Cynthia Griffin  
410.466.5686  
area30parking@gmail.com



## DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE

By Steve Zaleskiwicz

The Chair of the Design Review Committee of SBIC along with the Chair of Historic Federal Hill Main Street met with Mr. Jake Ruppert of Ruppert Homes to discuss his proposal for eight new townhouses at 1100 S. Charles Street (formerly Cross Street Automotive). This project includes ground floor storefront for retail on Charles Street, and off-street parking for each unit. Both SBIC and Main Street gave their approval because of the project's compatible design with the existing neighborhood character.

The Vine at 1500 S. Hanover Street has requested hearing before the Board of Municipal Zoning Appeals to expand the building for a second & third floor apartment unit, as well as increase the bar's operation to include a full kitchen, second floor dining area and outdoor seating on W. Fort Ave. The hearing was originally scheduled for April 17th, but the owner, Shane Mitchell, agreed to a postponement so that the community has time to review the project in depth and offer comments.

If you are interested in being part of the Design Review Committee, please contact me by phone at 410.752.1799 or email at SJZ300@aol.com.

# SPRING IS IN THE AIR...



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## LIQUOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

By Al Evans

Senate Bill 344 (SB344) by Senator George Della went into effect June 1, 2006 which states in part that:

"This bill requires the Baltimore City Board of Liquor License Commissioners to consider, before approving an application and issuing an alcoholic beverage license: (1) the public need and desire for the license; (2) the number and location of existing licenses and the potential effect on existing licensees of license applied for; (3) the potential commonality or uniqueness of the services and products to be offered by the applicant's business; (4) the impact on the general health, safety, and welfare of the community; and (5) any other necessary factors as determined by the board.

Bill Summary: The license application must be disapproved and the license for which the application is made must be refused if the board finds that (1) the granting of the license is not necessary for the accommodation of the public; (2) the applicant is not fit to receive the license; (3) the applicant has made a material false statement in the application; (4) the applicant has practiced fraud in connection with the application; (5) the operation of the business, if the license is granted, will unduly disturb the peace of the residents of the neighborhood in which the establishment is to be located; or (6) there are any other reasons, in the board's discretion, why the license should not be issues.

Upon receipt of an application for new license, a license transfer, a license class change, a request for live entertainment on the licensed premises, or an extension of the licensed premises, the Baltimore City Board of Liquor License Commissioners must advertise and post notice of the application or request. The board must hold a public hearing on each request for a new license, a license class change, a request for live entertainment, or an expansion of the licensed premises."

As licensees investigate ways to grow their businesses and see expansion as a viable alternative, keep in mind that you can have a voice. The public hearings are a great way for you to show your support for your local business neighbor, or express your concern.



**Baltimore Animal Rescue and Care Shelter, Inc.**

**301 Stockholm Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21230**

[BaltimoreAnimalShelter.org](http://BaltimoreAnimalShelter.org)



**Sparkles**  
**Kennel 94**

Sparkles is a gorgeous ginger and blue tabby/tortie (dilute torbie) who curious, yet calm in her kennel. Would love a house of her own to explore. Sweet girl who loves to greet you at the door. Already spayed so she can go home today!

4 years old and 5.8 lbs. Brought to the shelter on 1/16. Here second longest of all the animals.

**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](http://www.BaltimoreAnimalShelter.org)**

**Ace**  
**Kennel 11**



"What's that you say? Looking for a pup to play with every day? OK-- I'm all ears!" Ace is a handsome, playful boy. His former owners report he is housetrained and good with both children and other dogs.

8 months old and 44 lbs as of arrival date. Brought to the shelter on 1/31 because his owner could no longer care for him. Here longest of all of the dogs.

## FLEAS AND TICKS AND DISEASE (OH, MY!)

By Jill Shook, DVM—CityPets Veterinary Care & Wellness, [jssdvm@aol.com](mailto:jssdvm@aol.com)

The weather is getting warmer and it's time to start thinking about keeping those little creepy crawly critters off your pets. The critters I'm referring to are fleas and ticks. In addition to just being a nuisance these parasites can also carry diseases that can affect the health of your pet.

Fleas are the most common ectoparasite of dogs and cats and are the cause of the most common skin disorder of dogs and cats; flea allergy dermatitis (FAD). The flea life cycle involves 4 life stages consisting of egg, larval stages, pupa, and adult. Adult fleas lay eggs that fall off the host (your pet) and into the environment (your house and yard); these eggs then hatch into larvae. The larvae go through two molts and the third stage larvae spin cocoons around themselves and then become adult fleas. This life cycle from egg to adult can take as little as 14-28 days. However, under certain environmental conditions third stage larvae can remain in their cocoons for months, waiting to emerge as adults when the right host comes along.

Fleas feed on the host's blood and in cases of heavy infestation can cause severe anemia. Flea anemia is most often seen in young puppies and kittens, or debilitated animals. Fleas also serve as the intermedi-

ate host for tapeworms, an intestinal parasite the dog or cat contracts when ingesting an infected flea. Fleas can also carry an organism called Hemobartonella felis, a blood parasite in cats. Hemobartonella can cause severe anemia and illness in infected cats.

Ticks are another ectoparasite, and like fleas, feed on the host's blood. Ticks are arachnids, like spiders, mites, and scorpions. Ticks have 4 life stages; egg, larva, nymph, and adult. Depending on the species of tick, and environmental conditions, the life stage can take anywhere from 2 months to 2 years to be complete. Adult female and male ticks will engorge themselves on the host's blood and then mate. The female tick then lays eggs, often as many as 3,000 to 6,000. The eggs then hatch into larvae. The larvae find a host, take a blood meal, and molt into a nymph. The nymph finds a host to feed on and molts into an adult. Ticks cannot jump or fly, they can only crawl. Ticks crawl onto tips of grasses or shrubs and wait for a host. When the animal brushes past the grass or shrub the tick crawls onto the host.

There are a lot of different species of ticks, but only a few that are commonly encoun-

tered in the United States. These include the American dog tick, the Lone Star tick, the Deer tick, and the Brown dog tick. Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Lyme disease, and Ehrlichiosis are the more commonly encountered tick borne diseases in animals and people.

There are several flea and tick preventatives on the market, and some work better than others. It is very important to make sure that any product you plan to use on cats is approved for use in cats. Cats are sensitive to certain flea products and improper use can result in severe toxicity and even death. The products I recommend for flea and tick control are Advantix (dogs only) and Frontline. Revolution is often used as well, but is not as good at tick control. There is also a product called Advantage, but it only offers protection against fleas. All of these products are applied topically, once a month, directly to the skin on the neck and between the shoulders. It is important to treat all animals in the household every month. Flea infestations are much easier to prevent than they are to get rid of once they are in the environment.



# 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](http://www.sdpcrc.org)), or call Sharron McCulloch at 410-659-5159

## Citizens On Patrol Schedule

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

Tuesday, May 1st at 7pm  
**NEW SOUTHWEST MT. CLARE**

Meet at Wilkens Avenue  
Mennonite Church,  
1616 Wilkens Ave.

Wednesday, May 2nd at 7pm  
**MORRELL PARK**

Meet at St. Mark's  
Church of Christ,  
1805 Wickes Ave.  
(w/ SW District Police)

Thursday, May 3rd at 7pm  
**MORRELL PARK – ST. PAUL'S**

Meet at Italiano's Restaurant,  
2229 Washington Blvd.

Tuesday, May 8th at 7pm  
**RIVERSIDE / SBIC**

Meet at the Riverside Park  
gazebo;  
400 blk of Randall St. &  
Riverside Ave.

Thursday, May 10th at 7pm  
**OTTERBEIN / SHARP LEADENHALL**

Meet at S. Sharp &  
W. Henrietta Streets.

Monday, May 14th at 7pm  
**FEDERAL HILL / FEDERAL HILL SOUTH**

Meet at Porter's Pub,  
E. Cross St. & Riverside Ave.

Tuesday, May 15th at 7pm  
**CARROLLTON RIDGE**

Meet at the Samuel F.B. Morse  
Recreation Center, Pulaski &  
Ashton Streets

Wednesday, May 16th at 7pm  
**LOCUST POINT**

Meeting place TBD, please  
check [www.sdpcrc.org](http://www.sdpcrc.org) for more  
information

Monday, May 21st at 7pm  
**CHERRY HILL (C.H.A.T.)**

Meet at Cherry Hill & Terra  
Firma Roads

Tuesday, May 22nd at 7pm  
**LAKELAND**

Meet at the Lakeland  
Rec Center,  
2921 Stranden Rd. & Wegworth  
Lane

Wednesday, May 23rd at 7pm  
**PIGTOWN**

Meet at The Village Center  
(Bath House), 904 Washington  
Blvd.

Wednesday, May 30th at 7pm  
**RIVERSIDE / SBIC**

Meet at the Riverside Park  
gazebo;  
400 blk of Randall St. &  
Riverside Ave.

Thursday, May 31st at 7pm  
**BROOKLYN**

Meet at The Hargrove District  
Courthouse, 700 E. Patapsco  
Ave.

# 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 Michael McDonald

## Officer of the Month Award

Deputy Major Michael McDonald & Jack Baker

## Guest Speaker

Detectives from the Southern District

## Guardian Angels Update

Marcus "Strider" Dent

## C.O.P Update

Shannon Sullivan

## Neighborhood & Council Updates

Jack Baker and John Rehmert

This month's meeting is scheduled for *May 17th, 2007* at *7:00 PM* at the Southern District Police Station, 10 Cherry Hill Road.

# SAY "NO" TO PANHANDLERS

Courtesy of the Baltimore City State's Attorney's  
Office

As we spend more time outside enjoying the springtime weather, remember to say "NO" to panhandlers. This includes people who may approach you with an elaborate story asking for money.

In one common scam, solicitors will introduce themselves and tell some story about why they are stuck in town and need money to get home. Their car could be broken. Or they may say that a robbery put them in the hospital (they may even have a hospital bracelet). Sometimes they may pass off someone else's business card as their own – all in an attempt to seem legitimate. In most cases, not only is this panhandling, it's also fraud.

In such instances, tell the person that Traveler's Aid vouchers are available from Downtown Partnership and suggest they come to our offices at 217 North Charles Street. The vouchers are legit and available to those truly in need.

Remember, it's ok to give to charity but it is not smart to give to a panhandler, no matter how presentable or reasonable they may seem.

# B'MORE GREEN

By Nicole Killion, RN, [bmoregreen@yahoo.com](mailto:bmoregreen@yahoo.com)

Bringing your own lunch to work is a great way not only to save money but also to help the environment. Think of all the disposable plates, cups and forks that you are using and throwing away if you purchase your lunch every day. But I have to warn you that if you bring your lunch in a plastic container such as Tupperware or Gladware, you should not microwave the container. Multiple studies have shown that plastics leach chemicals into food when exposed to heat. Tupperware and other plastic containers state that they are microwave-safe and the FDA says that the amount of leakage is too small to cause harm. Personally, I would rather not have any plastic chemicals floating around in my blood stream.

One plastic that you should definitely never microwave is Styrofoam. Even the EPA confirms this fact and has

stated that short-term exposure can cause nausea and weakness while long-term exposure can cause liver and nerve damage. In addition, the chemicals leached from microwaved Styrofoam have been linked to certain cancers. #7 plastics (check the bottom of the container for the number) should also not be microwaved because they release Bisphenol-A, which has been shown to cause abnormalities in the endocrine system. Bisphenol-A is found in items such as baby bottles and sports drinks. The Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy warns that bottles labeled # 1 and 2 should be discarded after a single use. When used repeatedly micro-scratches on the surface leach chemicals into the beverage.

So what's a person to do? It is safe to store dry food in plastic containers (cereal, nuts, cookies, etc). Plastics # 4

and 5 appear to be the least problematic for this purpose. Nalgene bottles appear to be fine but to be on the safe side I purchased a lightweight Kleen Kanteen stainless steel water bottle for \$13.50 online. At home I store my food in Corning ware ceramics, which you can buy at any department or home store. For those work lunches, I bought small glass containers. I have found containers by Pyrex at Target and Bed, Bath and Beyond. Crate and Barrel also sells glass containers. Investing in these containers may be more expensive upfront but they will last you for many, many years, you will be protecting your health and that of the environment. When you do use a plastic #1 or 2 water bottle, remember to recycle it instead of throwing it into the trash. As the weather warms up, take your glass container outside and enjoy a little sunshine on your lunch break.

# CHARITY CASES

By Donnie Fair

Special thanks to the Federal Hill Neighborhood Association for donating \$2,200 to the Southern Police District for radio batteries. The City didn't give the Southern District money for radio batteries so the Federal Hill Neighborhood Association did. An inadequate inventory of radio batteries was requiring police officers to spend less time working, and more time traveling back and forth to the station for fresh batteries. Problem solved, thanks to FHNA.

Special thanks to Midstate Oil, Baltimore Scrap and Weld World who collectively donated \$2,600 to the Southern Police District for new police bicycles. The Southern District police officers were fixing their dilapidated police bikes with their own tools, their own supplies and their own money. When Marcus Dent, a Guardian Angel and an employee of Midstate Oil, went to his boss, Alan Bock, owner of Midstate Oil, and asked him if he would consider a donation to help the officers, Mr. Bock took it one step further: He called Baltimore Scrap and Weld World and collectively raised enough money not just to fix these police bikes – but to replace them outright with new ones. When I spoke with Alan about this he said he felt very good about the opportunity to give back to the community – and he looks forward to doing it again.



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## 9TH ANNUAL BIKEJAM FESTIVAL AT PATTERSON PARK

BikeJam is the Mid-Atlantic's largest festival of bicycling, and it returns to Patterson Park on May 26, 2007. This day in the park is fun for the whole family. The RecRide is a chance for any rider to enjoy city routes on Memorial Day weekend. The Kelly Cup Bike Race, in Patterson Park, offers a full day of competition for every level of racer. The Toyota Family Fun Fest area and Carefirst helmet giveaway add to the fun.

The high point of the day is the Kelly Cup Men's Pro Race, a furious 40-lap race, featuring national and international racers. The one-mile road course is flat and fast but contains slight elevation changes and a few turns that add to the excitement.

Now in its ninth year, BikeJam also features interactive games

for the kids, live music from local bands, food and beer, product sampling, a bike stunt show and an expo with all the latest cycling gear. Admission is free for the festival and race viewing. For schedule of events and more information, visit [www.BikeJam.org](http://www.BikeJam.org)

About the National Racing Calendar (NRC) entering its 11th season in 2007, the National Racing Calendar (NRC) is an all-inclusive road cycling series sanctioned by USA Cycling. It is designed to provide a ranking system for all elite-level cyclists, both amateur and professional, through participation in the nation's premier cycling events. For more information on the NRC, visit <http://www.usacycling.org/nrc/>, or contact Justin Rogers at (719) 866-3266 or [jrogers@usacycling.org](mailto:jrogers@usacycling.org).

## PLAY BALL!

Home O's games for April:  
May 4—7 vs. Cleveland  
May 8—10 vs. Tampa Bay  
May 22—24 vs. Toronto  
May 25—27 vs. Oakland

Other Stadium events:  
May 11-12—Acquire the Fire Concert  
May 20—Oriole Advocates Walk  
May 26-28—NCAA LAX Tournament

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

## CALLING ALL FLEAS!

The excitement is building in anticipation of the return of the Light Street Church Flea Market and Silent Auction, scheduled for Saturday, May 19.

Already people are getting a head start in emptying out their attics, basements and garages and dropping off great stuff at the church, located at 809 Light Street.

There still is time to donate. For the Flea Market, just about anything will be welcome. This includes kitchenware, small appliances, furniture, lamps, linens, collectibles, desk supplies, tools, toys, books, working electronic games and gadgets, bathroom accessories and jewelry. Please, though, no clothing (except the rare, unusual or brand new.) For the Silent Auction, consider donating antiques, musical instruments, vintage items, china, crystal, silver, art objects, restaurant gift certificates, weekend getaways, legal or dental or personal services,

and any kind of interesting collection.

Area merchants in particular are encouraged to donate gift certificates or in-kind objects showcasing their wares. Volunteers from the church will soon be making the rounds soliciting their support.

Remember, as part of the day-long event, a variety of plants will be available for sale, as well as items from the bake table. An expanded lunch menu also will be provided at reasonable prices.

This fundraiser will help to support Light Street's current missions and ministries which include a sister parish relationship in Cuba, South Baltimore Emergency Relief, lunches for the Freedom School at Digital Harbor High, peacemaking commitments and ecologically sustainable development of the church property.



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