

SBIC Membership Application

Are you in? 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 is 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

**Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage Paid
Baltimore, MD
Permit No. 7931**

To Our Neighbors

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SoBoImCo

South Baltimore Improvement Committee ~ July 2007



Summer in SoBo

'Tis the season for rooftop parties, cookouts and weekends at the beach, and with that in mind, SBIC will not be holding General Meetings in July or August. Instead, we'll be hosting our own block party and silent auction in August, with the date and location to be announced in next month's newsletter.

We're also working on South Baltimore night at Camden Yards in either August or September. Hopefully by then, the O's will have pulled themselves out of their slump.

If you're heading out of town on vacation, you can ask the Southern District Police to do a drive by of your home and car, but still make sure nothing of value is visible in your car, and be sure all of your home's windows and doors are securely locked (especially rooftop deck accesses).

With the high temperatures of summer here, please be sure to check in on your elderly and ill neighbors, and if you have outdoor pets, be sure they have plenty of water and shelter from the heat.

Even though the meetings are on hiatus, there are still plenty of activities to get involved with in the neighborhood. So, whether you've got a whole weekend or just an hour, please take the time to get involved.

Reminder:

City offices will be closed on Wednesday July 4th for Independence Day. No trash will be collected.

Community Meeting

There will be no General Meeting in July or August.

The next General Meeting will be
Tuesday, September 4th

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

Recycling Days

Paper recycling is the 2nd & 4th
Fridays, July 13th & 27th



Bottles, Cans & Jars are the 2nd & 4th Mondays, July 9th & 23rd
All recycling collected streetside

Get Out!

Baltimore's 4th of July Celebration
July 4th

11:00a.m.—10:00p.m.

Inner Harbor Amphitheater

Featuring street performers from 11:00am—4:00p.m., and musical entertainment until the fireworks display at 9:30p.m.

Jazzy Summer Nights

July 5th

6:00p.m.—10:00p.m.

Hopkins Plaza, 2 Hopkins Place

July's installment of first Thursdays' summer jazz performances features Maysa Leake.

Federal Hill Sidewalk Sale

Saturday, July 7th

10:00a.m.—5:00p.m.

See page 6 for more info.

Artscape

July 20th—22nd

Fri & Sat: 12:00p.m. - 10:00p.m.

Sun: 12:00p.m.-8:00p.m.

1200 Block Mt. Royal Avenue

The region's premier celebration of the arts, featuring continuous musical performances, artists' market and street theater. Visit www.artscape.org for more info.

Neighborhood Cleanup

Saturday, July 21st

9:00a.m.—12:00p.m.

Corner of Light & Heath Streets

Gloves, bags & brooms provided. Participants will receive free lunch at Mad River. See page 14 for more info.

Billie Holiday Vocal Competition

Saturday, July 21st

12:00p.m.—3:00p.m.

Meyerhoff Symphony Hall

Vocal competition commemorating Holiday's contribution to music, designed to encourage and support emerging vocal talent in Maryland.



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 Jim Salvucci

The past few weeks have been a busy time for the SBIC.

Swann Park

On April 19, the city closed Swann Park at the end of McComas Street on the Middle Branch because of the discovery of decades-old industrial arsenic contamination in the park. On June 14, the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry released a preliminary study of the contamination and the danger to those who regularly used the park. Several residents from McComas and others were present at the public meeting held at Digital Harbor High School. The good news is that the levels of arsenic initially measured in the park and even in people's yards are probably too low to be harmful. The Maryland Bureau of the Environment will conduct larger-scale testing, but the early signs are positive.

The bad news is that residents on McComas are left with the frightening reality that their houses have been sitting on contaminated land for at least the past few decades.

Anyone who is interested can view the preliminary report online at www.baltimorehealth.org. The public is welcome to comment on the report through July 30.

1201 S. Charles Development

On June 12, the developers of 1201 S. Charles Street (the old Lutheran Mission) appeared before the Board of Municipal Zoning Appeals. Because the developers have not presented plans to the neighborhood, the SBIC was forced to protest the approval, and the BMZA told the developers to present to the neighbors.

Since then, the SBIC has invited the developers to present their plans to the next General Membership meeting in September. Stay tuned.

Mother's Expansion

Mother's Federal Hill Grille plans to expand its facilities into the building behind the current restaurant. This 3,800 square foot expansion has been a cause for serious concern in the neighborhood because many residents feel that the area is over saturated with drinking establishments. While Mother's is a fine restaurant, many people feel that late-night on weekends the drinking crowd takes over and that a significant expansion will only contribute to the drunken mayhem that has begun to overwhelm our weekends.

Dave Rather, the co-owner of Mother's, described his plans at a General Membership meeting on June 5, but that meeting lost quorum before we could reach a decision on how to respond to the expansion. Subsequently, the SBIC Executive Board decided to pursue an agreement with Mother's to reduce the late-night problems.

Before a Liquor License Board hearing on June 14, the SBIC presented a conditional agreement to Mother's that asked the bar to supply extra security (particularly hiring a police officer for special events), improve the parking situation, clean the immediate area on weekend mornings, and create some permanent structure (a separating wall, booths, etc.) that would keep the expansion from becoming just a massive drinking establishment late at night. Mother's was supportive of hiring the officer, but nothing else.

The SBIC was forced, then, to oppose the expansion. At the end of the hearing, the Liquor Board ruled to approve the expansion.

The SBIC will continue to monitor these situations among others.

Where were you last night?

no idea?

1649 HANOVER ST.

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- * **SHUFFLEBOARD**
- * **GOLDEN TEE 2007 LIVE**
- * **BIG BUCK HUNTER**
- * **SMOKE FREE BAR**

* **1453 LIGHT ST., SoBo, MD 21230**

Sanitation & Beautification

By Amy Mutch

Please help by pitching in for our next cleanup. A free lunch coupon is being donated by Mad River for every volunteer. We will meet at the corner of Light and Heath between 9am-12noon on Saturday, July 21st, so mark your calendars NOW to work up an appetite and enjoy lunch.

Design Review

By Steve Zaleskiwicz

At a recent BMZA meeting, the developers of 1201 S. Charles St. asked for a postponement of their hearing so that they could meet with SBIC to discuss this project. They will also be presenting this project to the General Membership at the September meeting. This is a result of a strong showing of SBIC and concerned neighbors at the BMZA hearing. Projects of this size are a great concern to many of our community members and of the immediate neighbors adjacent to this project. The GM meeting for this project is very important and all members are urged to attend and have their voices heard.

There is another large-scale project proposed for the 1100 block of Light St, and includes 1105 Light Street (the old Epstein Building for you old timers), rear lots, and some infill lots on Cross and William Streets. Several of the neighborhood groups have had preliminary meetings with the developer, but we are waiting for more concrete plans to present to the Design Review Committee. We will then ask the developer to come to the General Membership and present their project. This is a rather large project, and once again we urge members to attend all meetings concerning this project.



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Lots Happenings at the Light Street Branch Library

SUPER TERP TO THE RESCUE
Tuesday, July 3, 11 a.m.

Learn about pollution threats to the Chesapeake Bay, visit the hands-on Discovery Lab to play games and meet live Bay animals. Presented by the Aquarium on Wheels.

MOTHER GOOSE ON THE LOOSE
July 11, 18, 25

An interactive nursery rhyme program with music and movement.

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

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

FRIENDS OF THE LIGHT STREET BRANCH

Thursday, July 12, 6:15 pm
Monthly meetings of the Friends.

THE FLYING TORTOISE PUPPET SHOW

Tuesday, July 17, 11 a.m.
A puppet show about a trickster tor-

toise named Mbeku. Presented by Carolyn Koerber.

JEWELRY MAKING

Monday, July 16, 6:30 pm
Teens: Can you say bling bling? Learn how to turn a hobby into a business.

MOVIE NIGHT: HOMEWARD BOUND

Thursday, July 19, 6 p.m.
Bring your dinner. The popcorn and drinks are on us.

COMMUNITY COLLAGE

Tuesday, July 24, 1 p.m.
Ages 6-12. Create a masterpiece with your neighbors. Be inspired by artwork from our picture books and create your own collage.

LIVING HISTORY: A CHILD'S LIFE IN EARLY MARYLAND

Monday, July 30, 6:30 p.m.
Experience a colonial child's life in this hands-on history demonstration from the Mount Clare Museum House.

TALL TALES OF THE WILD WEST
Tuesday, July 31, 11 a.m.

Saddle up for a hilarious ride through American folklore. Listen to stories featuring Paul Bunyan and Pecos Bill with lots of audience participation.

READING ROAD TRIP

Be sure to sign up for Summer Reading Programs for all ages. We have programs for the "read-to-me" set, elementary school and teens AND for adults as well. There are prizes and give-aways and reading adventures for everyone! Sign up at the Light Street Branch beginning June 9. The programs end on August 4. Don't get left in the dust – sign up now!

Call 410-396-1096 to register
for all programs

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Youth Committee

OPEN

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

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area30parking@gmail.com

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In Memoriam:
Andrew Christopher Fair



Andrew Christopher Fair, age 25, of Millers, Maryland, born on August 27, 1981 to Donald Richard II and Genevieve May “Sue” McNeal Fair died on June 14, 2007 as the result of an automobile accident in Hereford, Maryland. He was the boyfriend of Sharron E. McCulloch, Baltimore. Mr. Fair was a graduate of North Carroll High School, Class of 1999, served in the United States Marine Corps from 1999 to 2004 and graduated from Towson University, May 25, 2007 with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Systems. He enjoyed spending time with family and friends and had many interests including his sailboat, motorcycles, and Corvette. He was an avid outdoorsman and particularly enjoyed sailing, surfing, and rock climbing.

Surviving in addition to his parents and girlfriend is his sister Emily L. Fair, Hampstead, brother Donald R. Fair III, Baltimore, brother and sister-in-law Ryan K. and Linda J. Fair, Oceanside, California, grandmothers Louisa M. McNeal, Baltimore, and Vera Joyce Fair, Lake Wales, Florida, niece Caroline M. Fair, Oceanside, California, nephew Taylor M. Beatty, Hampstead and best friend Corey J. Schuette, Baltimore, also survived by numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

A funeral service was held at Trinity Assembly of God, 2122 Joppa Road, Lutherville, Maryland, 21093 on Thursday, June 21, 2007 at 11 a.m. with the Reverend Earl Baldwin officiating. Interment followed in Lineboro Cemetery, Lineboro.

A memorial fund has been established in Andrew's honor.

Visit www.andrewchristopherfair.blogspot.com for more information.



Baltimore Animal Rescue and Care Shelter, Inc.

301 Stockholm Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21230
BaltimoreAnimalShelter.org



Lucky, kennel 91

Lucky is a nice girl likes to be petted and held. This well-rounded brown tabby is both soft & loving as well as very playful & inquisitive, and has beautiful green eyes. Her former family reports that she is good with children and appears to be housetrained. Already spayed so she can go home today!



King, kennel 12

To know King is to love King. He is a beautiful big lug who is mellow and cuddly. This Chocolate Labrador Retriever Mix enjoys going for walks and leaning against your side. Walks nicely on leash and isn't frazzled by young pups barking and jumping to get his attention. More interested is sniffing the air and hanging with you.

*** Here longest of all the cats-- over 3 months. ***

3 years old and 7.14 lbs as of arrival date. Brought to the shelter on 3/3.

4 years old and 70 lbs as of arrival date. Brought to the shelter on 5/7 because his family could no longer care for him.

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

In Your Own Backyard

The Wedgwood International Seminar brings special exhibit to Mount Clare Museum House

Three Centuries of Wedgwood at Mount Clare, an exhibition of over 300 wares produced over more than three hundred years by Josiah Wedgwood & Sons, will be shown at Mount Clare Museum House now through Saturday July 7, 2007. The exhibit has been extended due to its popularity with visitors. An extensive variety of Wedgwood wares will be featured in room settings, as original owners, been collectors. Mount Clare's 18th century setting is the perfect backdrop for a display of Wedgwood wares. Over 300 pieces of Wedgwood are displayed in the house, in every room as appropriate to their use. Many of the featured items are on exhibit for the first time in memory, of which many are rare and very unusual pieces, not to be found in museum collections, or in the many books on the subject.

The exhibition is included with regular museum admission.

Mount Clare is the 1760 Georgian summer home built by Charles Carroll, Barrister, is Maryland's first house museum and is the oldest house in Baltimore City, located in historic Carroll Park. Original furnishings of the Barrister, his wife, Margaret Tilghman would have been seen had the Carrolls, the Carroll, and their heirs have been preserved in the house and provide an accurate interpretation of 18th century colonial living. Mount Clare Museum House is operated by The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in the State of Maryland. The house is open for guided tours Tuesday through Saturday beginning at 10 o'clock. For more information, or group tour reservations, please call 410-837-3262 or visit us on the web at www.mountclare.org.

The special exhibit, Three Centuries of Wedgwood at Mount Clare has been extended now through July 7th.

4

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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!

All walks start at 7:00p.m., unless noted otherwise. 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, 7/3

NEW SOUTHWEST MT CLARE

Wilkens Avenue Mennonite Church,
1616 Wilkens Ave

Thu, 7/5

MORRELL PARK-ST PAUL'S

Italiano's Restaurant,
2229 Washington Blvd

Mon, 7/9

FEDERAL HILL / FEDERAL HILL SOUTH

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

Thu, 7/12

OTTERBEIN / SHARP LEADENHALL

S. Sharp & W. Henrietta Sts.

Tue, 7/17

CARROLLTON RIDGE

Samuel F. B. Morse Recreation Center,
Pulaski & Ashton Sts.

Wed, 7/18

LOCUST POINT

place to be determined.

Mon, 7/23

RIVERSIDE / SBIC

meet at the Riverside Park Gazebo,
Riverside Ave. & E Randall St.

Wed, 7/25

PIGTOWN

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

Thu, 7/26

BROOKLYN

The Hargrove District Courthouse,
700 E Patapsco Ave.

(LAC, Continued from page 5)

Everyone that participated in the walk agreed that there was great benefit to the walk-along, and are encouraging more. They also voiced that there needs to be more active dialog between community groups and liquor establishments, promoting communication and positive outreach. The SBIC community is one of the first areas where this program has been carried out and the Board expressed its hope that this program will be duplicated throughout the city. We hope to be invited to participate in future walk-alongs.

The inspectors encourage citizens to report any violations or concerns regarding liquor licenses directly to them, by calling 410-396-4384 during business hours, or the Complaint Line @ 410-545-6360 after 4:30pm. An inspector will respond to your call. If you make a call to the liquor board, please let me know by email at footnote96@verizon.net so I can record the call for follow-up.

The SBIC LAC continues to work on liquor related issues and concerns, encouraging community unity and willingness to work with the liquor licensees to create a peaceful co-existence and create the best possible quality of life in our community. Only with your help and support can we make a difference.

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

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 *July 19th, 2007* at *7:00 PM* at the Southern District Police Station, 10 Cherry Hill Road.

B'more Green

By Nicole Killion, RN, bmoregreen@yahoo.com

It really bothers me when I see my neighbors' trash full of paper, plastic bottles, glass jars and aluminum cans because these are not trash, but recyclable items. While I acknowledge that Baltimore City does not make it easy to recycle, we all need to make the extra effort to do it. All household trash in Baltimore City is incinerated. Have you ever noticed that huge white smoke stack that is located on Russell Street where 295 ends in Baltimore? You can also see it from 95. This is the RESCO municipal incinerator and it's in our neighborhood. Everything that you throw into the trash at home is delivered to Resco and incinerated. While this may be a quick solution to getting rid of trash, it creates big problems for the environment and our health. South Baltimore has one of the worst air qualities in the country and our kids suffer from asthma and other respiratory ailments at higher rates than other counties. Could it be because incinerated trash releases dangerous mercury, lead, dioxin, and other hazardous chemicals into the air? The ashes of incinerated trash are sold to fertilizer companies who in turn sell their prod-

uct to farmers who turn grow the food that we eat- gross! (non-organic food only). RESCO does make attempts to filter the air released into the environment, but it's not complete. Other counties put their trash in landfills and room is running out.

We need to minimize what we throw out by using the three R's of Recycling: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. To reduce means to make smart purchasing choices. Chose produces with little or no packaging. For example, buy loose apples instead of apples that come wrapped in cellophane. Purchase fewer items. Do you really need a new cell phone every year? To reuse means to keep using an item until it is no longer usable. Repair items instead of throwing them out. Donate used books, clothing and household items. Use that cell phone or TV until it breaks. To recycle means to divert the item from the waste stream and to convert it into another usable item. Recycling conserves raw materials by using old used ones. Recycling saves energy and reduces the emission of greenhouse gases. Recycling one aluminum car saves enough energy

to run a TV for three hours. Recycling one glass bottle saves enough energy to power a 100-watt light bulb for four hours.

Paper recycling in our neighborhood is every 2nd and 4th Friday. You can include cardboard, newspaper, magazines, envelopes, phone books, etc. Plastic bottles #1 and 2, cans and glass are collected every 2nd and 4th Monday. You can call 311 and get a free calendar with the recycling schedule. We are in Zone 4. If you want to recycle your paper before the next schedule pick up, you can take all paper except cardboard to the Abitibi Paper Retriever box at the Science Center on the Light Street side. Don't forget that electronics need to be recycled as well because they contain heavy metals. Go to <http://earth911.org> to find near by places that recycle items not collected by the City. I have compiled an extensive list of recycling resources, which I am happy to email to you if you contact me. Recycling is an easy way to do something good for the environment and our health. Start doing your part today!

Liquor Advisory Committee

By Al Evans

On Friday June 1st, two members of the SBIC Liquor Advisory Committee participated in a "bar walk-along" sponsored by the Baltimore City Board of Liquor License Commissioners. Members of the Liquor Board, including Executive Secretary Sam Daniels, the new Chief Liquor Inspector, and two liquor inspectors including former Chairman Mark Fosler, led the walk. Other invited participants were a representative of the Licensed Beverage & Hospitality Industry Association, an attorney from the Community Law Center, and several members of various other community groups outside of SBIC. The Walk-along began at 8 p.m., visited three local taverns, spoke with bar owners and patrons, and ended at 10 p.m.

The Liquor Board instituted this "walk-along" program in May 2006 under the direction of then Acting Executive Secretary/Chief Liquor Inspector Samuel Daniels. The program was designed by the Board to help residents deal with problem bars, foster a better understanding of liquor laws and to create partnerships and dialog between business owners and neighborhood groups. During these walk-alongs, the participants are able to observe while the business inspection is conducted.

(LAC, Continued on page 12)

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Come stroll, shop, eat and play.

Join us Saturday, July 7th from 10:00am to 5:00 pm for our 1st annual Federal Hill Sidewalk Sale. We'll have dozens of great deals, discounts, and giveaways from some of the finest shops in the neighborhood... right out on the sidewalk. Mark your calendar and don't miss out on the fun.

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Both Cross Streets

DONATION LOCATION

Bring in your old clothes, household goods, and food items to our donation stand. Proceeds benefit the Baltimore Animal Rescue and Care Shelter. (www.baltimoreanimalshelter.org)

N.I.C.E Thoughts

By Kathy Hodson

South Baltimore is a wonderful place to live -- close proximity to quaint shops, restaurants, nightlife, sports arenas, the Inner Harbor, and great people! But when was the last time you took a leisurely walk around your neighborhood, taking in the surroundings, especially since the weather is so pleasant? When was the last time you and your neighbors gathered on the front steps to talk about trivial things? Not recently?

More and more I hear concerns from residents, both long timers and not, that they are no longer comfortable walking the streets or sitting outside like they once were, worried about the 'element' that has taken over the streets and corners in some areas. Where just a few years ago leisurely conversations with the neighbors focused on work, kids, family, vacation, who got married, who has moved in or out, now it's "So did you see what was going on last night around the corner?" "Did you hear about...?".

The "South Baltimore" style welcome that we extend to our new neighbors has changed too -- "You'll like it here (Hon!)"; "We have GREAT neighbors on our block"; and "Just call me if you need anything" is now cautiously followed by "but lock your doors, don't keep valuables in sight in your car, hope you have an alarm system in your house, and call 911 to report the suspicious activity".

What's the answer to getting our SOBO back to the good old days? Keep being good neighbors, get to know your new neighbors, be vigilant of what is happening on your block, and continue to report suspicious or illegal activity to 911. Don't go inside and shut your doors and your blinds and your eyes to what is going on outside, because it takes everyone to play their part to regain our neighborhoods. Turning our backs or a blind eye is what allows the activity to flourish, allows them to think they are safe, that no one will do anything -- it is only through constant effort and focus that the 'element' will feel the pressure and move on.

Don't give up the freedom to enjoy your home and your neighborhood and your city -- it's too much to lose. Keep the faith, and keep calling 911 -- it will work!

In A Minute

By Jocelyn Rodgers

The meeting on June 5th was a busy one with several speakers.

The first speaker was Officer Kevin Vaught, also known as 'Butterbean'. He is the supervisor in our area for the 4 PM until midnight shift. He noted that the burglary problem has taken a dip recently and encouraged people to continue taking valuables out of their cars. Officer Vaught also encouraged residents to be as communicative with the police as possible. If you call 911 and would like to be anonymous you do not need to give your name, address, and phone number, but providing as much detail as possible about the crime is quite helpful. He also checks e-mail daily (kevin.vaught@baltimorepolice.org) and will send a reply confirming receipt. E-mails with pictures of crimes in progress are also encouraged. Officer Vaught then answered questions about various residents' crime and safety concerns.

The second speaker was Terry Hickey, a candidate for the 10th District City Council seat. He teaches at the University of Maryland Law School and also runs a non-profit to teach young people how to speak about issues. After a brief introduction, he extended an invitation to residents to contact him to discuss issues of concern. He promised to get back in touch quickly for a conversation.

I spoke briefly about an upcoming zoning hearing (Tuesday 6/12) on the 1201 South Charles project.

At the end of the meeting, Dave Rather, an owner of Mother's, spoke about Mother's proposed expansion. He stated that the 3800 square foot expansion will be used to (1) create more customer space with a bar area, seating, and pool tables, (2) expand the bathrooms, and (3) triple the size of the kitchen. He had no drawings to share, but he said that 2400-2600 square feet would go to customer space, walking paths and the area behind the bar, about 700 square feet would go to bathroom expansion, and 500-700 square feet would go to kitchen expansion. A Liquor Board hearing about the expansion was scheduled for Thursday 6/14. In addition to verbally describing the expansion, he also addressed many questions from the audience on topics including crowd control, post-bar-closing behavior, and parking issues.

Notice Regarding Rayzer's Contract

If there's a problem with Rayzer's, the patrons or with crime in the immediate vicinity of Rayzer's, please contact Marie Sennett at 410-837-1132 or Patrick Mutch at 410-468-0118.

Election Season Now Open

It's election season, and many of the local candidates will be attending SBIC meetings between now and Election Day. Often, we don't know they're coming until they show up, so if you're interested in hearing from the people running for office, please join us at our General Meetings.

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July 27—29 vs. NY Yankees

Other Stadium events:

July 6—8 African American
Heritage Festival
July 21—Ray Lewis 5K Race

Meet Your Neighbor— Beth Van Houten

By Pat Christenson

Beth has been a neighbor since late March, 2001; however, she has lived on the East coast since she was born. She went to college in Virginia and studied abroad for some of her academic experience, living in the house of the French President. She joined the corporate world while living in the DC area and was active in the world of finance, as well as being involved in local politics, working with developers and her community on issues of "progress". During this phase of her life, she attended the meetings that extended into midnight, learned the language of planning and zoning, and won the trust of both the community and the developers. She was also involved with the arts in the DC area and knew the person, and enjoyed the work, of Liz Lerman. She was also active on that organizations' board in different areas of interest, considering it to be one of the most meaningful and purposeful things that she accomplished in her life. Beth was involved in raising money for non-profits also, so that they would have the freedom to pursue "making a difference".

Since people have many unexplored dimensions, and life provides opportunity for change, Beth studied art in the evenings and then opted out of

corporate and finance, and followed her passion as a painter. Beth traveled to Paris and Province several times, soaking up the beauty of the places, and incorporating that essence of beauty into her work. Though most of us would feel the uncertainties and anxieties of leaving what had been our financial support and security, Beth felt strongly that painting was what she wanted to do and she was determined to do it with no looking back and very few, if any, anxious moments. She believes that painting is a language, a way of expressing and preserving moments of just being and if one is really committed to one's passion, things will work out. Things have worked out for Beth: She spends her time in either her lovely home on Federal Hill, or on an island in Maine (just recently blessed with electricity) with dreams of more trips to Paris, if possible, to just be, and to capture those moments on canvas.

Though Beth has many paintings on her walls, none of them are of her creation. Asked if she calls herself an artist, she says a definitive "No". She is a painter and it up to the viewer to determine if she is an artist.

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Who Do We Think We Are?

That question can be pretty loaded, and in an effort clarify, educate, and hopefully recruit our residents to become members, the Executive Committee of SBIC has put together its collective job description. It's a brief summary of what each position is responsible for, which can serve as a tool to help you find the right person to contact. We also hope you will consider lending your energy to one of the Committees and consider becoming a future part of the organization's leadership.

Elected Officers

President

The basic functions of the President are: To preside over meetings; To appoint standing committee and ad hoc committee chairs; To act as spokesperson for the organization; To write official SBIC correspondence. In addition, the President has unofficial functions, including: To act as principal liaison with other neighborhood association and governmental leaders; To disseminate information to and communicate with the membership; To interpret, along with the Executive Board, the will and the state of the neighborhood; To act as principal interpreter of Bylaws, parliamentary rules, and standards of conduct; To invite guests to meetings; To monitor the activities of Executive members and of standing and ad hoc committees.

Vice President

The Vice President is responsible for membership development and communications, including notification of general meetings to the residents of the SBIC area; Presides over meetings in the absence of the President; And assumes the duties of the President if the office of President becomes vacant, until a new President can be elected by the membership.

Secretary

The secretary of SBIC takes notes at the monthly general and executive meetings and submits a formatted version of those minutes for approval at the next month's meetings. These notes and minutes should at a minimum contain record of all motions and decisions of those meetings. The secretary also writes a summary of each general meeting for the next month's newsletter. The secretary keeps the records and official correspondence of SBIC, including approved minutes, newsletters, and messages on the SBIC e-mail list. Finally, the secretary keeps a list of all committee members.

Treasurer

The Treasurer maintains the SBIC bank account and keeps all financial records; Each April, files the annual state Personal Property Return; Deposits all dues, grant money, advertising money, and other monetary inflow to the SBIC account in a timely manner; Pays all received bills and other SBIC expenses in a timely manner; Makes financial reports at Executive Council meetings as well as General Membership meetings, at a minimum to include the balance in the general fund as well as the various grants; Maintains the membership list.

Standing Committees

Design Review

The Design Review Committee is responsible for reviewing proposed development projects in the neighborhood and coordinating presentations to the General Membership, and communicates with the City Planning Department, Board of Municipal Zoning Appeals, and City Building Permits and Inspections to insure that construction projects are properly permitted and comply with local laws.

The Committee is working on preparing a set of design guidelines for new construction and additions.

Liquor Advisory

The Liquor Advisory Committee's task is to keep the SBIC informed of changes and proposed changes in liquor laws as they occur, also on matters such as Transfers of Liquor License, violations etc; To monitor compliance to the liquor laws by bar owners, when possible; To be the liaison between the licensee and neighborhood in regards to complaints of residents of the SBIC community; To review and make recommendations for any request from liquor license holders for changes and present them to SBIC; To recommend changes in liquor laws to the Baltimore City Liquor Advisory Committee, <http://www.bclac.com>, for the improvement of quality of life issues.

Newsletter Editor/Business Liaison

The Newsletter Editor assembles the content of the monthly newsletter, including articles and advertisements, and coordinates its printing and distribution through vendors.

The Business Liaison recruits and coordinates local business advertisers and sponsors for the newsletter and other special events, and is responsible for maintaining billing records.

These positions have been separate, but most of the past Newsletter Editors have volunteered to be Business Liaison due to the overlap in coordination with businesses.

Parking

The Parking Representative was established as the liaison between the Baltimore City Parking Authority and Area A Residential Parking Program participants.

The Parking Representative coordinates annual Area A parking permit resident pick-ups in January, attends eight Residential Parking Program board meetings held to discuss City-wide regulations and procedures, and assists residents in applying for adding new blocks to the Residential Parking Program, and also addresses other parking-related issues.

Police/Community Relations

The Police/Community Relations Liaison represents SBIC to the Southern District Police Department through involvement in the Southern District Police Community Relations Council. The Liaison also gives updated public safety information, including crime statistics, to the membership and coordinates SBIC's Citizens on Patrol.

Neighbors Invested in Community Environment (N.I.C.E.) is a subcommittee of Police/Community Relations, and acts as a taskforce for crime abatement, including nuisance crimes.

Sanitation & Beautification

The Sanitation & Beautification Committee is responsible for organizing cleanup events for the neighborhood, identifying problem areas within SBIC that may be a sanitation concern, informing SBIC residents of sanitation concerns, beautification projects, and notification of cleanup events, recruitment of volunteers to help with ongoing cleanups and specific projects of beautification, providing leadership for development and care of Sitting Park at Light and Heath and Bocce Ball Court at Charles and Randall, motivating residents to care about sanitation/beautification issues related to health and quality of life in South Baltimore, and acting as a liaison with City officials relating to sanitation and beautification.

Social

The Social Committee is responsible for coordinating informal membership activities, such as happy hours, barbeques, and other events, and involves contacting local businesses to negotiate the use of facilities and/or supplying of food or beverages.

Neighborhood socials are used as membership recruitment.

The goal of the Social Committee is to have at least one event per quarter.

Youth

Youth Committee was designed to offer the neighborhood kids an opportunity to participate in organized activities, make positive contributions to the community, to interact with adult role models.

The Chairperson is responsible for overseeing activities in conjunction with the Ella Bailey Recreation Center and organizing fundraising.

The Committee assists in chaperoning events hosted by the Ella Bailey Recreation Center.