

SoBoImCo

A publication of SBIC—the South Baltimore Neighborhood Association



January 2009

It's Membership Renewal Time

The new calendar year marks the new membership year, so if you have not renewed or joined since November 1, 2008, please use the application on the back of this newsletter and mail in or bring your dues to the next General Membership meeting. Dues are \$5 per person, and are tax-deductible.

January General Meeting Agenda

By Julie Tice

The next General Membership Meeting, to be held on Tuesday, January 6th, will be an important one, and I encourage you all to attend. On the agenda for the evening, the Developers of 1201 S. Charles Street will be presenting their revised proposal for an eight-story boutique hotel at the corner of S. Charles and West Streets. They will also be seeking our organization's support for the project as they pursue a variance before the Board of Municipal Zoning Appeals.

Also on the agenda is the confirmation of the committee chairs, which have been appointed to serve for another year. Many of them have thankfully volunteered to maintain their positions for another year, and we have been lucky enough to fill the remaining vacancies with some terrific new faces, and even coerced one former board member to come back, which will bring some great new energy to the organization. But, just because we have a full slate of Committee Chairs, don't think that we don't need or want you to volunteer. Each committee is open to anyone interested in participating, just contact the com-

(January, Continued on page 6)

Reminder:

City Offices will be closed on Thursday, January 1st for New Year's Day and Monday, January 19th for Martin Luther King, Jr Day.

Community Meeting

The next General Meeting will be
Tuesday, January 6th
at 7:00 p.m.

at Olive Branch UMC
(corner of S. Charles St. & Fort Ave.)

Recycling Days

All paper, cans, glass, and numbers 1-7 plastics shall be collected on the 2nd & 4th Fridays, January 9th & 23rd.



All recycling collected streetside

Get Out!

Jazz at Riverside Stage
January 10th

Riverside Stage, 1530 Battery Avenue
Be Mo Jazz presents The Todd Simon Quartet in a concert celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. See page ## for more info.

Edgar Allan Poe Bicentennial Birthday Celebration
January 17th—18th

Westminster Hall
Come toast Poe's 200th birthday while enjoying a rare exhibition of Poe artifacts along with a number of special performances. Visit www.nevermore2009.com for more info.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade
January 19th
12:00p.m.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard
Residents of Baltimore and surrounding areas are invited to take part in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade, which celebrates the life of one of America's most influential civil rights, political, and social icons. The event steps off at the intersection of Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and Eutaw Street, proceeds south on Martin Luther King Boulevard.

2009 Baltimore Boat Show
January 21st-25th

Baltimore Convention Center
The 2009 Baltimore Boat Show, Maryland's largest and longest running indoor boating event, is returning January 21-25, 2009, packing the Baltimore Convention Center with hundreds of boats and marine accessories at the best deals of the year. The Show offers visitors more boats, more exhibits, and more family fun than ever before. Visit www.baltimoreboatshow.com 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 7:00 p.m. at the Olive Branch United Methodist Church located at the corner of Charles Street and Fort Avenue.

Website

www.soboimco.org

Design Review

By Steve Zaleskiwicz

Mr. Adam Smolen will be presenting his project to erect a Boutique Hotel at 1201 S. Charles St. that is located at the intersection of S. Charles St. & W. West St. The concept of a boutique hotel is well-received by some people, but the overall size and height of this project as presented has been met with many unanswered questions. The height of this project dwarfs all the adjacent buildings and any buildings in the nearby business district by more than 50 feet. This boutique hotel will not have any on site parking and with a proposal of 96 units and no guaranteed parking, this will present another problem for our neighborhood that is already over-burdened with parking. The overall height and parking are the main concerns of many people that attended previous meetings about this project. The Design Review Committee is urging anyone with concerns about this project to attend the January General Membership meeting. This is the time to voice your concerns and be heard.

Additionally, there are four proposals to build a new arena with a 300 room hotel downtown at the 1st Mariner Arena, so there is the question of if there really is a need for another hotel in our area. Please contact me at 443-790-4520 if you have any concerns and cannot attend this meeting.

Police/Community Relations

By Ashley Cichowicz

HAPPY NEW YEAR SOUTH BALTIMORE! My name is Ashley Cichowicz and I will be your new Police / Community Relations liaison. I have been a resident of South Baltimore for over ten years. In those years I have seen a neighborhood with much promise prosper!

My husband is a Retired Baltimore City Police Officer and the last fifteen of his twenty two year career were spent at the Southern District. I have met many wonderful police over the last ten years that do truly care about our community. That being said, myself as well as many of you have very valid concerns as to the quality of police protection and service we are all entitled to and deserve. I do already have some information about specific issues that need to be addressed and resolved, now I need some information from you. Please take a few moments and think of the top three police involved issues that matter to you. Please call me at (410) 949-4990 or e-mail me at Ashley.Cichowicz@soboimco.org and let me know what they are. If they matter to you they matter to me! This will help me find a starting point and I am confident that with the cooperation of the Major, Deputy Major, Lieutenant, Sergeants, Detectives and Patrol Officers a vast majority of these issues will be resolved immediately.

Please if you are the victim of a crime or you are witnessing what appears to be a crime in progress DO NOT HESITATE, CALL 911! If you are able take notice of the time it takes for the police to respond as a timely response is crucial to solving crime.

I am eager to serve all of you and am looking forward to your feedback!

SBIC Committee Contacts

President

Julie Tice
410.547.7467
President@soboimco.org

Vice President

OPEN

Secretary

Joe Costa
410.539.1902
Secretary@soboimco.org

Treasurer

Dennis Plouff
410.385.9969
Treasurer@soboimco.org

Clean & Green

Marianne Armstrong
443.622.5141
Marianne.Armstrong@soboimco.org

Newsletter Editor/Business Liaison

Larry Wargo
215.205.2845
Larry.Wargo@soboimco.org

Social

Christine Simeone
443.629.8375
Christine.Simeone@soboimco.org

Design Review

Steve Zaleskiwicz
443.790.4520
Steve@soboimco.org

Parking & Traffic

Debbie Alt
410.576.1017
Debbie.Alt@soboimco.org

Youth Committee

Marie Sennett
410.837.1132
Marie.Sennett@soboimco.org

Liquor License Advisory

Tom Jones
410.528.1358
Tom.Jones@soboimco.org

Police/Community Relations

Ashley Cichowicz
410.949.4990
Ashley.Cichowicz@soboimco.org

Other Contacts:

Area 30 RPP Representative

Cynthia Griffin
410.446.5686
area30parking@gmail.com

Lots Happenings at the Light Street Branch Library

MOTHER GOOSE ON THE LOOSE

Wednesdays, 10 a.m.
For children up to the age of three with their caregivers.
An interactive nursery rhyme program with music and movement.

PRESCHOOL STORYTIME

Wednesdays, 11 a.m.
Ages 3-5. Stories, songs, and fun for preschoolers.

SLICE YOUR FOOD BILL

Thursday, January 8, 6:30 p.m.
Take action against high grocery prices. Learn how to eat better for less. Delicious and inexpensive recipes included! Presented by Mark Rifkin, a Registered Dietician. Please call 410-396-1096 to register as space is limited.

OLD TIME AMERICAN FOLK MUSIC

Thursday, January 15, 6:30 p.m.
Families! Sing along with Bruce Hutton as he plays traditional folk music on more than a dozen handcrafted instruments.

CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS

Saturday, January 17, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Ages 5-17. Explore different art forms and learn to make original artwork using a variety of materials. Presented by Sandy Anderson.

BOOK BUNCH

Thursdays, January 22 & 29, 4 p.m.
Ages 6-12. Book discussions, activities and an after school snack.

BOOK CLUB

Thursday, January 22, 6:45 p.m.
Book discussion group for adults. January's selection: *The Corrections* by Jonathan Franzen.

STITCH-N-KNIT

Saturday, January 24, 11 a.m.
Calling all needle enthusiasts! Do you knit, crochet or cross-stitch? Come meet new people, trade tips and techniques.

READ ME

Tuesday, January 27, 4 p.m.
Teen forum to discuss book themes relating to everyday life.

Call 410-396-1096 to register for all programs



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BUTCHERS HILL \$289,900

Brand New 2BR, 2FB, 2HB
Renovation Parking Pad!
Crown Molding,
Exposed Brick,
Finished Basement,
Recessed Lighting, Open
Floor Plan, Updated Kitchen
w/ Custom Cabinetry,
Granite Counters &
Stainless Steel Appliances!

BA6844926
Chris Reda
410.977.6752



FEDERAL HILL \$268,000

Gorgeous 2BR, 2.5BA
Home In Federal Hill!
Hardwood Floors,
Stainless Steel Appliances,
Granite Counters,
Private Rear Patio,
2 Master Suites
w/Full Baths
Granite Vanities,
Tile Floor & Much More!

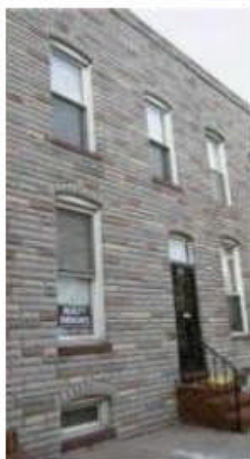
BA6841508
Chris Reda
410.977.6752



FEDERAL HILL \$349,900

Fabulous 3BR, 3.5BA
Federal Hill Rehab!
Spacious Rooms, Exposed
Brick, Hardwood Floors,
Recessed Lighting,
Wet Bar, C- Tiled Baths,
Stainless Steel Appliances
& Granite In Kitchen!
Rear Patio & Rooftop Deck
& Much More!

BA6874796
Kathy Merz
443.415.6287



CANTON \$1,600 Monthly

3BR, 1.5BA Home
In The Heart Of Canton
Just Steps From Square!
Huge Living Room & Sitting
Room,
Separate Dining Room!
Over 9Ft Ceilings, 3 Large
Bedrooms w/Huge Closets
Parking Pad & More!

BA6818472
Chris Reda
410.977.6752



LOCUST POINT \$289,900

Gorgeous 2BR, 2BA
Home w/ Parking!
Hardwood Floors,
Exposed Brick, Large
Kitchen w/ SS Appliances
& Granite Countertops!
Finished Basement, Rear
Deck w/ Great Water
Views & Much More!

BA6846287
Debbie Kuper
410.916.6170



CANTON \$232,500

Amazing 3BR, 2BA
Home w/Parking!
Spacious Rooms, Exposed
Brick, Hardwood Floors,
Marble Floors in BA's,
Open Floor Plan,
Large Kitchen w/
Stainless Steel Appliances
Breakfast Bar & More!

BA6853488
Steven Murphy
443.627.2910



CANTON \$224,900

Gorgeous 2BR, 1BA I
Great Canton Location!
Kitchen w/ SS appliances &
Granite Countertops,
Separate Dining Area,
Exposed Brick, Wood Floors,
New Carpet on 2nd Level,
Updated Bath w/Ceramic
Tile, Recessed Lighting,
Large Fenced Patio & More!

BA6901545
Steven Murphy
443.627.2910



FEDERAL HILL \$239,900

Beautiful 2BR, 1BA Home!
Gorgeous Wrought Iron
Detail On Front Of Home!
Brick patio w/More
Wrought Iron Detail!
Hardwood Floors w/In-lay
Borders, Tall Ceilings,
Formal Dining Room,
Eat-In Kitchen,
Exposed Brick, Skylight,
Full Basement w/Storage!
Backyard & More!

BA6889508
Steven Murphy
443.627.2910



WASHINGTON VILLAGE \$235,000

Fabulous 3BR, 2BA Home
W/Attractive Price!!
Completely Remodeled
Master Bedroom w/
Balcony, Hardwood
Floors, Granite Counter-
tops In Kitchen,
Fenced Yard,
Finished Recreation
Room, All Appliances
Included

BA6898759
Patty Kallmyer
410.562.6815



**To join this dynamic office contact Paige Cosgrove
for a confidential interview. 443-627-2911**

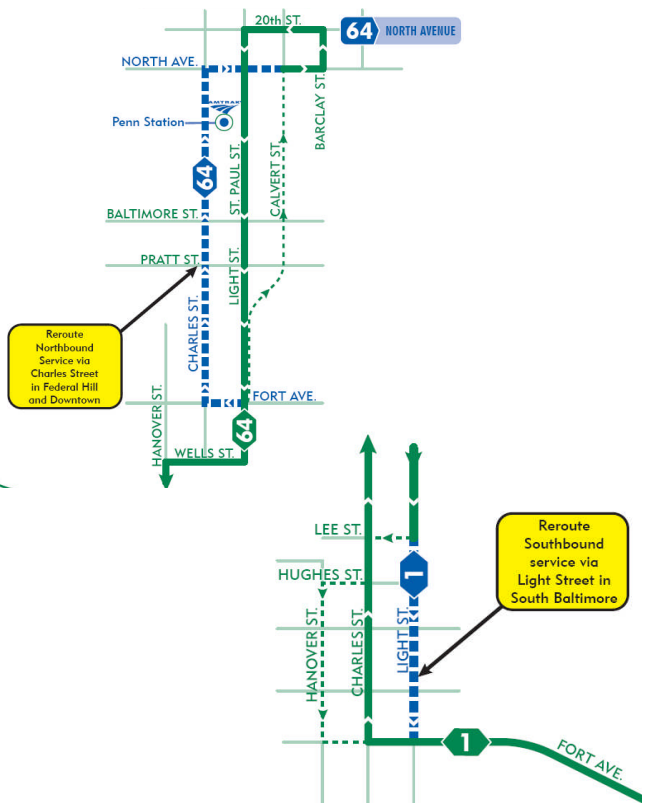


Proposed MTA Bus Route Changes

By Donnie Fair

The MTA has proposed changes to two bus routes in South Baltimore: The #1 and the #64 bus routes. Please see the attached diagrams for the specific changes, or visit http://www.mtmaryland.com/Nolmap_092608.pdf and http://www.mtmaryland.com/No64map_092608.pdf

If enacted, these changes will take effect in February 2009. More information is available at the MTA website, www.mtmaryland.com. If you have any concerns or if you wish to be collectively represented by fellow neighbors and the neighborhood association, you may contact Donnie Fair via telephone at (443) 324-7752 or via email at donnie.fair@soboimco.org.



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410-336-6118,
SethRosenberg@gmail.com

In a Minute

By Joe Costa

December General Items

Grants--SBIC is looking into grants from Lowe, Home Depot, Walmart and other possible sources to support neighborhood beautification. Community members who have ideas for sources of money that would benefit the community can provide such information to a board member or at an SBIC general meeting.

Volunteer--If you are a concerned member of the community, consider volunteering to become an SBIC officer. You can make a difference.

Slots Advisory Council—State Senator George Della contacted Julie Tice about possible SBIC representation on an Advisory Council for Slots that the State is creating.

Community Needs—Ian Hines of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods wants to know our needs as a community. If, as a community member, you see a need that you believe should be brought to the attention of the City, let a board member know or let the community know at an SBIC general meeting. Nothing is too small or big. A squeaky wheel can be very effective.

Clean-up your Block—We all know the City can do more to keep our streets clean. Each of us can also help by pitching in on our streets, and calling 311 when there is a clean-up requiring the City's attention.

"Sales of City Owned Properties" List—This is a list of properties that the City considers a blight to a community. If you have such a property on your block, consider reporting it to the City via its 311 help number for inclusion on this list. The more people on your block who report such properties, the more likely they will be placed on this list, and the City will do something about them.

"Festive Flavors of Federal Hill"—On December 2, this annual holiday event in our area was held. It consists of a Food and Wine "crawl" of our area's businesses and restaurants. This year's event was well attended and enjoyed by all who participated.

Pot Luck Holiday Party—On December 9, SBIC had a pot luck party in lieu of a regular general meeting. There was plenty of food provided by and for attendees.

Federal Hill Improvements
Home Repair & Remodeling
over 30 year's construction experience
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your neighbor since 1985
 MHIC 98860

(January, Continued from page 1)

mittee chair via email or phone, and they will be happy to have you work with them.

Also new in 2009, we will be transitioning the organization's brand from The South Baltimore Improvement Committee to The South Baltimore Neighborhood Association. We are in the process of updating our website, letterhead, and the newsletter to reflect these changes, and to use the technology available to make disseminating information to our residents easier. I'd like to thank John Wolowski, Donnie Fair, and Marianne Armstrong for tackling the technological side of this transition.

American Craft Council Show Returns to Baltimore

More than 700 top contemporary craft artists will present their latest handmade works including jewelry, clothing, furniture and home décor items at the 33rd annual American Craft Council Show in Baltimore, February 27-March 1, 2009 at the Baltimore Convention Center. Through a rigorous jury process, master artisans from across the country were selected to participate in the event as well as a select group of Canadian artists who will be exhibiting at an American Craft Council show for the first time.

HOURS: Friday, February 27 (10 am - 9 pm)

Saturday, February 28 (10 am - 6 pm)

Sunday, March 1 (10 am - 5 pm)

WHERE: Baltimore Convention Center

One West Pratt Street

Baltimore, MD

TICKETS: \$14 per person, \$20 for a two-day pass

Free: Children under 12; American Craft Council members

Tickets may be purchased online at www.craftcouncil.org/baltimore

The largest, juried indoor craft show in the nation, The American Craft Council Show in Baltimore has something for everybody. In addition to aisle after aisle of one-of-a-kind items, special show features and categories include:

- **CRAFT4KIDS:** Artists will present their latest lines of clothing, furniture, toys, home décor and more designed especially for children.
- **GREENCRAFT:** Responding to contemporary issues, this category will feature artists incorporating recycled or found materials and eco-friendly techniques into their work.
- **SEARCHLIGHT ARTISTS:** Selected from the nation's leading craft colleges, museums and residencies, 15 artists who have never exhibited at the

show have been invited to present and sell their work in a stunning gallery space on the show floor.

· **SCHOOL-TO-MARKET:** To help bridge the gap between academic programs and the marketplace for sculptural and functional craft, the Council has invited crafts students of Virginia Commonwealth University and Savannah College of Art and Design to curate a section of their work. An unparalleled opportunity to see new work revealed for the first time in public.

· **ALTCRAFT:** The Council invited artists whose work illustrates the innovative techniques and materials of the burgeoning new handmade craft movement to apply to a special section of the show, and 15 have been selected through a rigorous jury process. The Council is proud to present a national stage for these artists who tend to exhibit at smaller, local craft shows.

· **DEMO STAGE:** Lively demonstrations will take place throughout the weekend.

The AMERICAN CRAFT COUNCIL is a national, nonprofit public educational organization founded in 1943 by Aileen Osborn Webb. The mission of the Council is to promote understanding and appreciation of contemporary American craft. Programs include the bimonthly magazine *American Craft*, annual juried shows presenting artists and their work, a leadership conference, the Aileen Osborn Webb Awards honoring excellence, workshops, seminars, and a research library.



In Your Own Backyard

At the B&O Railroad Museum:

Maryland Zoo Members Receive Free Admission to the B&O!

During the months of January and February 2009, the B&O is granting Maryland Zoo of Baltimore members free entrance into the B&O Railroad Museum with presentation of their Zoo membership card. Card holders with Family memberships will be allowed entrance for 2 adults and 2 children. Train rides are offered weekends in January, tickets are \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children (2-12).

Weekend Train Rides at the B&O!

Saturdays & Sundays in January 2009

Saturday, January 3 through Sunday, February 1, 2009

Got the winter blahs? Hop on board a weekend train ride at the B&O! Train rides are FREE for B&O members, \$1.00 for children ages 2-12 and \$2.00 for adults and seniors.

The Museum reserves the right to cancel train rides due to safety, weather, or equipment issues.

Thrifty Tuesday

Tuesday, January 6, 2009

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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

Toddler Time

Wednesday, January 7, 2009 & January 21, 2009

10:30 a.m.

Visit the Museum and enjoy story time as you listen to classic railroad children's books. Kiddie train rides are included in the price of admission.

Recommended for children between the ages of 2-5.

At The American Visionary Arts Museum:

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Free Day!

Monday, January 19, 2009

10 a.m. — 6 p.m.

A celebration in honor of the life and dreams of one of the greatest visionaries in recent history. Join us for guided tours, birthday cake, performances, demonstrations and other fun stuff for a FREE day at the museum! Museum is open 10AM-6PM. MLK programming takes place between 1PM and 4PM. A special invitation extended to educators and all the wonderful people who help to empower the next generation! Call the museum for programming details. 410.244.1900

At the Maryland Science Center:

Preschool Storytime

Fridays

2:00 PM

Storytime includes stories, music, science activities, and lots of hands-on fun!

In the Kids Room

Fridays After Five

Every Friday until March 27, 2009, the Maryland Science Center is just \$8 for admission to its exhibit halls, planetarium, and IMAX Theater on Friday evenings beginning at 5:00pm or later. One low price covers everything except national touring exhibitions. Children under 3 are always free! Plus, Maryland Science Center Members are admitted to Fridays After Five free of charge. Click here for more information.

Tuesday Talks

Tuesday, January 6, 2009

9:00AM

Join us for an intimate discussion with Dr. Sharon Gerecht, as we learn about Stem Cells for Vascular Regeneration from an engineering prospective. Dr. Gerecht is the winner of the 2008 Outstanding Young Scientist award, and works in the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at Johns Hopkins. Please RSVP 410-545-5940 or email amyers@marylandsciencecenter.org For more information, click here.

Party Like A Penguin!

Thursday, January 8, 2009

2:00 PM

Join us in the Kids Room and take part in some penguin party favorites! Experiment to find out what keeps penguins warm as they waddle around. Find out how hard it is to walk around like a daddy penguin and learn how a penguin's beak is perfect for catching fish.

Bundle Up!

Thursday, January 29, 2009

2:00 PM

Brrrrrr it's chilly out there! Come play in the snow and discover what makes our winter clothes warm and keeps us dry. Learn about insulators and conductors (not the guys who drive the train) and you'll stay nice and toasty in the winter weather.

RecycleMORE BaltiMORE

Effective January 2009, Baltimore City residents will be able to recycle **MORE** items. So fill up a recycle bin or two or **MORE!** Remember, if we all do our part, one person at a time and one home at a time; together as a City we can make a difference. Do your best to recycle and not trash the below material. Working together, we can minimize the damaging affects to our natural environment and the amount of energy needed to produce new products (everyday household items) from raw natural materials versus producing new products from recycled material.

Acceptable Recycling Material:

- ◆ Clean paper - all colors and types. - This includes catalogs, magazines, junk mail, newspapers and non-metallic wrapping paper
- ◆ Cardboard and paperboard boxes (including cereal boxes without liners and frozen food packaging)
- ◆ Books (including paperbacks, textbooks and hardbacks)
- ◆ Aerosol Cans (empty)
- ◆ Glass containers such as jars and bottles
- ◆ Metal food and beverage containers
- ◆ Narrow-neck plastic containers (other than for motor oil) which carry codes 1 through 7 on the bottom.

NEW (to be included in your curbside single stream recycling bin—January 2009):

- ◆ Wide-mouth plastic containers used for margarine, yogurt, cottage cheese, mayonnaise and sour cream. Empty prescription bottles (lids and caps **do not** need to be removed) and plastic drinking cups
- ◆ Aluminum foil and aluminum pie pans
- ◆ Clean milk and juice cartons

NEW (to be taken to the citizen drop-off center and placed in container marked "rigid plastics"—January 2009)

- ◆ Rigid plastics which include milk/soda crates, buckets, laundry baskets, lawn furniture, totes, plastic drums, coolers, flower pots, water bottles, pallets, pet carriers, shelving, closet organizers, empty garbage/recycling bins.



Don't make excuses. Make a difference.






The Maryland House of Delegates

BRIAN K. McHALE
ECONOMIC MATTERS


<p><i>Annapolis Office</i> 310 Lowe House Office Building Annapolis, MD 21401 410-841-3519 Brian_McHale@house.state.md.us</p>	<p><i>Baltimore Office</i> 801 Light Street, 28th Floor Baltimore, Maryland 21202 410-244-8404</p>
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The Maryland House of Delegates
46TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

PETER A. HAMMEN

<p><i>Annapolis Office</i> 161 Lowe House Office Bldg. Annapolis, MD 21401 410-841-3772 peter_hammen@house.state.md.us</p>	<p><i>District Office</i> 821 S. Grundy Street Baltimore, MD 21224 410-342-3142</p>
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EDWARD L. REISINGER

Tenth District
Baltimore City Council

Room 504, City Hall
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
Phone: (410) 396-4822
Fax: (410) 545-7353
Email: ereisinger@baltimorecitycouncil.com

Neighborhood Concerns: A Recipe for Success

Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods

Below you will find a guideline to help you better address your concerns more efficiently. Communication, holding people accountable and follow-up are the keys to resolving neighborhood and quality of life concerns. As a resident one should utilize the system in place to adequately address neighborhood problems.

1. **First call 311 for all non-emergency concerns.** Record the service request (confirmation) number and the timeframe provided to get the concern addressed.
2. If not addressed within the timeframe provided please contact 311 or go to 311 online to check the status of your request.
3. Provide your service request number to the 311 Call Center to advise that your concern has not been addressed.

Below you will find guidelines on how to best address on-going or complex concerns from a neighborhood perspective. Listed are neighborhood concerns and the city agency responsible for them. You will also see contact names, emails and phone numbers to better assist you. We encourage residents and community groups to build a working relationship with your respective outreach personnel below. The goal is to have city stakeholders and government on one accord working together to stabilize neighborhoods.

Listed are neighborhood concerns that come up frequently and how to address them:

Housing (Vacant properties that are open, have trash and debris, need mowing, and other code enforcement concerns)

- Call 311 to report your concern.
- If not addressed within the timeframe provided to you, call 311 for follow-up or your Housing Inspections Office Assistant Superintendent (410-545-1851) at the Southern District Housing Inspection Office with your Service Request Number for detailed information
- Always get the contact name of the person you talk too
- Follow-up, follow-up, follow-up
- Note: Ask if there is a notice on the property and if it has been sent to Property Management at the Department of Public Works for cleaning, mowing or boarding.

Sanitation Enforcement (for occupied properties that have trash or high grass and weeds that violates the city code)

- Call 311 to report your concern
- If not addressed within the timeframe provided to you, call 311 for follow-up or your district Sanitation Enforcement Officer, Leon Green, (410-396-1712 x22008, leon.green@baltimorecity.gov) at the Sanitation Enforcement Office with your Service Request Number for detailed information
- Always get the contact name of the person you talk too
- Follow-up, follow-up, follow-up
- Note: Ask if the property was cited and if it will be referred to housing inspections for further code and legal enforcement.

Solid Waste (Dirty alley or street, missed recycling or collection, graffiti)

- Call 311 to report your concern
- If not addressed within the timeframe provided to you, call 311 for follow-up
- Follow-up, follow-up, follow-up
- Note: If the concern was not resolved please make it clear to the 311 Call Center and ask that they send it to the appropriate agency.

Department of Transportation

- Call 311 to report your concern
- If not addressed within the timeframe provided to you, call 311 for follow-up or your Transportation Community Outreach Liaison, Grishae Blackette (443-984-9095, grishae.blackette@baltimorecity.gov) at the Transportation Community Relations Office with your Service Request Number for more details
- Always get the contact name of the person you talk too
- Follow-up, follow-up, follow-up
- Note: For traffic calming concerns please contact their office directly to start the process.

Police Department -Main number (District)

- For emergencies call 911
- Non emergencies (police concerns) call 311
- If police non-emergencies are not addressed, call your Police District Neighborhood Service Unit at 410-354-5169 at the Southern District
- Always get the contact name of the person you talk too
- Follow-up, follow-up, follow-up
- Note: Please attend their Police District Community Relations Council the 3rd Thursday of each month at the Southern Police District Office at 10 Cherry Hill Road to meet the district major, lieutenants, sergeants and patrol officers that work in your district. These meetings are held to address public safety concerns in your neighborhood which they play a vital role in building better relationships to better serve your community.

If, after taking the steps outlined above your concern is still not addressed, please contact Ian Hines, Southern District Liaison in the Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods, at 410-396-4735 or via email at Ian.Hines@baltimorecity.gov.

Thanks for helping Baltimore become a "Cleaner, Greener, Healthier and Safer" City to live, work and play.

Sincerely,

Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods

Foster and Adoption, More Than a Lifetime of Positive Change

By Michael Dannenberg, Recruiter, Baltimore City Department of Social Services



Gigi Glynn and her family

Foster parenting and adoption provides an opportunity for fulfillment few people ever experience. From the testimonials from these exceptional people, you would think, fostering and adoption would be much more popular. Take Gigi Glynn, for instance, who talks about the two brothers she adopted, "They are my life and I am absolutely crazy in love with them. They drive me crazy, pretty much daily, and my house will never be clean until they go off to college but I wouldn't trade a single moment with them for a hundred biological children."

Of course many more of us are skeptical that we can or should become foster or adoptive parents. Common thoughts run to what will be our parent's reaction. The Ross family's experience provides an example. "Our parents were dismayed and perplexed when my husband Andy and I announced that we were "taking in" a foster child of 15. At 27 and 28 we were a young, professional, childless couple with a bright future ahead of us. Why would we saddle ourselves with this, they wondered?" Changing the perception, experience and outcomes of foster children is a challenge Baltimore City and the State social service agency have taken on. First requirement is raising public awareness of the benefits of fostering and adoption because, as its new motto acknowledges, "Nothing matters more to a child than a place to call home." The troubled 15 year old boy the Ross's fostered who agency workers didn't want to raise expectations for success, now over 35 years later, maintains a close relationship, even helping his foster parents and siblings when he can. The Ross's reflect on their experience, "Somehow, in the grittiness that is life, and over time, one can have faith in and believe in human beings and how relationships are built on challenge and struggle."



The Ross family

The story the above parents tell underscores the special need to bring older children, sibling groups, children with special medical needs and pregnant or young women with babies into a family environment. The process begins with a willingness to learn more about fostering and adoption. Baltimore City Department of Social Services provides weekly informational sessions lasting approximately two hours to tell about the children's needs, the approval process and the resources committed to making a placement successful for the child/children and the family. For further information about attending an informational session, please call recruiter Michael Dannenberg at 443-677-9067.

The personal stories referenced in the above article and many others are available on-line at www.adoptuskids.org.

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To Our Neighbors

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SBIC Membership Application

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

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

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