

SBNA Newsletter



A publication of the South Baltimore Neighborhood Association

May 2011

It's spring again in Baltimore! Other than the Raven's football season, this is my favorite time in the city. Everywhere you look in South Baltimore, true spring is greeting us. The trees lining Charles Street slowly turn green, shouting at Riverside Park herald the return of playing children, and the whirl of the fast pitch from adult softball teams at Latrobe proclaim spring sports are back.

As you begin to seek more outdoor activity, I would like to remind everyone about all the great things to do here "at home" in SoBo. First, and arguably most important, meet your neighbors! Greet newcomers to your block and rekindle old friendships. Some of my fondest summer memories are of Block parties, and impromptu Sunday afternoon alley way Bar-B-Q's.

Secondly, there is a wide variety of ways to enjoy your community without heading downtown. If you have internet access at home (all Pratt Libraries are free) you can search events at www.mysobo.org (the SBNA site), or www.southbaltimore.com, as starting points. The Baltimore Sun provides a handy weekend guide to events in two formats; the Weekend Update section in Thursday's paper and in their free daily "b". You will be surprised at how rapidly your summer can fill up within 5 minutes of scanning these resources. Other personal favorites to consider; church bulletins, your child's school newsletter, the community board at Shoppers grocery store on Fort Ave, and of course, word of mouth. The best part about most events in SoBo, they are free!

Regardless of how you choose to enjoy the spring weather and summer sun, I'd like to encourage everyone to simply get out of doors. A leisurely evening stroll down your block, jogging around Tide Point, or Sunday picnic at Fort McHenry are excellent chances to meet new friends, spend quality time with family, and simply enjoy your community. I firmly believe your community is what you make it and we are truly blessed to have such a dazzling array of community amenities; you just have to get out into them!

Happy May and wave "Hi" to the next jogger you see, because it might just be me enjoying SoBo.

Submitted by your neighbor: Ryan Eakin

May Social!

Where: Nicks Fish House

When: May 9th

6-830pm



Free appetizers & Drink Specials!

~ Join your neighbors ~

Next Community Meeting:

Tuesday, June 7, 2011

7:00pm

Church of the Advent

1301 S. Charles Street

(enter on Patapsco)

SBNA is a monthly production of the South Baltimore Neighborhood Association 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

Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 6474

Baltimore, MD 21230

Newsletter@mysobo.org

We reserve the right to edit or reject submissions. Articles represent the opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of SoBo-ImCo. 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 SBNA. Just contact an SBNA officer for more information.

Meetings

Community meetings of SBNA are usually held on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the Church of the Advent located at the 1301 S. Charles Street.

Website

www.mysobo.org

The South Baltimore Improvement Committee is now operating as the South Baltimore Neighborhood Association.

MEETING MINUTES

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

04/05/2011

1. Officer Butterbean began the meeting by reporting that auto larceny and all other crime categories are down from last year, due in part to the vigilance of residents. He can be reached at Kevin.vaught@baltimorepolice.org, 443-681-0920.

A discussion ensued regarding the recent Irish Stroll event. Members were pleased to see that the Fire Marshall was out enforcing occupancy codes by temporarily shutting down several establishments until the number of occupants was within code.

There was much dissatisfaction voiced that an event of such magnitude and with such potential adverse effects on the neighborhood could be allowed by the City without contingency plans or clear line of authority to shut it down if it became out of control. The Hospitality Association projected an attendance of 7500. Why shouldn't such an event be required to obtain a permit and provide security as do the regular summer street festivals?

It was suggested that we start now to organize a game plan for the next Halloween pub crawl event - perhaps work to have ticket sales limited.

It was agreed that we will send a letter of concern to the Liquor Board, our Councilman and our State Representative.

We were reminded that if we need any police assistance, call 911, not 311. We need to be ready to provide the address where a problem may exist. That address will then be logged in to start a history of occurrences.

2. Ross Albers, our area's Assistant State's Attorney, introduced himself. He lives in our area and will be getting more involved in all the neighborhoods in his jurisdiction. After listening to our pub crawl concerns, he suggested we combine forces with other nearby neighborhood associations that share our concerns. He can be reached at 410-396-4000, ralbers@statattorney.org.

SBNA Executive Board Members

President Gregory Blake 410.209.2349 President@mysobo.org	Vice President Amy Mutch 410.468.0118 VicePresident@mysobo.org	Secretary Dennis Plouff 410.385.9969 Secretary@mysobo.org	Treasurer Matt Eskridge Treasurer@mysobo.org
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Design Review Justin Wilde/Stephan Lawrence Design@mysobo.org	Parking & Traffic Debbie Alt 410.576.1017 Parking@mysobo.org	Teen Council Marie Sennett 410.837.1132 TeenCouncil@mysobo.org	
Liquor License Advisory Melanie Ambridge 410.935-.222 LiquorAdvisory@mysobo.org	Police/Community Relations Gilda Johnson 410.837.1132 PoliceRelations@mysobo.org		

3. Jack Baker, liaison with the Southern District, was present and reminded us that he holds his meetings at the Southern District the 3rd Thursday of every month. All residents are invited and encouraged to attend.

Teen Council Report - Marie Sennett

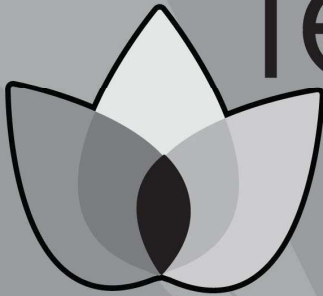
Marie again announced that she is looking for a new Council Chair or Co-Chair, as she will be stepping down in the near future. Please contact her to find out more about this rewarding opportunity.

Parking Committee Report - Debbie Alt

Debbie again stated that she is working toward getting Parking Area 30 under SBNA jurisdiction. Area 30 parking area is presently under the jurisdiction of the West Federal Hill Homeowners and Residents Association. SBNA does not have a parking area assigned to it and therefore does not have a vote at the Parking Authority.

A discussion took place regarding plans by The Reserve for valet parking. Members expressed concern that the valet reserved spaces would be taken from Area 30 spaces. It was explained by others that the valet spaces would be open parking spaces, not Area 30 permitted spaces and that it is in the residents' interest to park customer cars off the street at a valet lot.

Continued on page 9.....



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Design Review

By: Stephan Lawrence

The SBNA Design Review board has received information for a proposed project at 127 W Fort Ave, located at the corner of Fort Avenue & Race Street. This project is divided into 5 lots within an R-8 Zone.

Variances are requested when the site conditions causes undue hardship that prevent zoning code from being applied. The applicant is applying for 3 variances:

Height: In an R-8 Zone, the maximum allowed height is 35'-0". The drawings currently show 43'-6" for 6 buildings.

Lot Occupancy: In an R-8 Zone, the maximum Lot Occupancy is 60%. This means that the total building footprint cannot exceed 60% of the total site square footage. 6 buildings currently show 100% Lot Occupancy. 4 buildings show approximately 68%.

Rear Yard: In an R-8 Zone, the building is not allowed to be located within 25'-0" of the rear property line. 6 buildings currently show no set back. While 4 buildings show a 20'-0" set back.

The neighbors of this site have been informed by both the SBNA as well as the developer and are, at the time of this printing, determining the best course of action.

UPDATE: E 20 Fort Avenue

The 10 building project between Fort Ave and Birkhead Street along Patapsco Street, which received a letter of approval from the SBNA, has sent an update. The project cleared the zoning board in February. The Developer has entered Permitting and has to make some adjustments to conform as part of the process and is nearing the end. The developer hopes to pass permitting within the next 60 days and will begin demolition once allowed by Baltimore City.



Parking Meeting

5/12/2011 7pm

Church of the Advent—1301 Charles (enter on Patapsco)

Come listen to our neighborhood Rep. give us the low down on what is going on with the RPP– changes maybe coming to a block near you... Share ideas, talk solutions or just vent... let us know what we can do to alleviate your parking problems in South Baltimore..

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Get on the List!!

The "neighbor blast" is our email mailing list.... And you need to be on it in order to know what is going on in your 'hood! Socials, neighborhood news, upcoming building developments, our meeting agendas.. they all will come sailing into your inbox when you sign up.

Go to www.mysobo.org and click on "How to get involved" or just send the phrase "Get on the list" to newsletter@mysobo.org and we will sign you up...

Result to last months poll question



How do you feel about bars in the neighborhood??

60%- Love it. That is why we moved here.

40% They are great but I would like other businesses to grow...

0% What bars?

0% I would like the bars to move on to another area....

Thanks for playing!!!!

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THEME PARTIES & FUNDRAISING EVENTS
SATURDAY NITE KARAOKE**



To quote our patrons, "a night at The Tree is like a night in a John Waters movie"



COP WALKS!!!

The SBNA/RNA walks are held the first Monday of every month. They begin at 7pm at the Riverside Park gazebo and usually last about 45min. The police always walk with us and well behaved dogs are welcome. However, if it is raining, 32 degrees or below or 90 and above at 6pm the walk is canceled.



BOOK SALE

Light Street Branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library

1251 Light Street - 410-396-1096

The Friends of the Light Street Branch of the Enoch Pratt Library will be holding a book sale in the lower level of the library on May 5 (1 to 7 p.m.), May 7 (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.), and May 9 (1 to 7 p.m.). There will be new and gently used hardbacks, paperback, DVD's, CD's and more! All proceeds go directly to the library. (Donations of these items are always welcome and can be dropped off at the library during library hours all year long.)



The top 5 Brunches in Fed Hill

by Christie Blake

BEST FAMILY BRUNCH

Mother's- 1113 South Charles St.

Fast service, kid-friendly menu, not to mention you get to draw on the table! Sometimes they have cartoons on the tvs. If not, assuming there aren't any games on, if you ask they'll put on Scooby Doo or something for the kids. Occasionally they have a PJ's Sunday, you can wear your jammies to brunch!

BEST FANCY ADULT BRUNCH

Corks- 1026 South Charles St.

Great atmosphere, calm and relaxed. Excellent wine selections and early afternoon cocktails. Try the eggs benedict or the quiche!

BEST CASUAL BRUNCH

Ryleigh's- 36 Easy Cross St.

Bar none, the best oysters around! Kid friendly menu, great for watching your favorite sporting event. They have a Bloody Mary bar, where you can make your own, spicy (or not) as you like!

BEST BREAKFAST BUFFET

Nick's Fish House- 2600 Insulator Dr.

Breakfast with a view! Plenty of seafood, omelet bar, carving station, waffles, salad bar and dessert. Complete with unlimited Bloody Mary's or Mimosa. During the warmer months, the outside seating is amazing, usually with live music. Kids under 10 get the buffet for \$10.

BEST OVERALL BRUNCH

Bluegrass Tavern- 1500 South Hanover St.

While small inside, the food is big on taste at a totally inexpensive price. Very interesting food and well prepared. If your feeling adventurous try the bacon jam!

SBNA POLL

What changes would you like to see to the RPP Program?

- A. Vouchers for businesses so that our businesses remain vital and competitive
- B. Get rid of Visitor Passes.. People abuse them. Set up daily passes as needed like Otterbein.

C. Nothing. It is set up the best way possible

D. Lower the amount of decals to 3 per home. (from 4 per home currently)

E. Something else... your idea here.....

Email responses to: newsletter@mysobo.org

You can pick more than one!!

Meeting minutes continued.....

Design Review - Justin Wilde

Julie Tice presented the proposed project at 129 W. Fort Ave., at the corner of Fort and Race, currently a vacant lot. Project consists of 10 residential units. Julie is the project architect and owner's representative. Units will be 3 bedrooms, 2500 square feet, 3 stories on Race Street side, 4 stories on Fort Ave. side. One off street parking space will be provided for each unit. Membership in Area 30 is desired.

A bank owns the property and would like to sell the entire project as a whole, but may sell individual units.

The previous project approved for this site consisted of 8 residential units. Julie stated that the new proposed project has 10 units in order to be financially viable for the bank, which has \$2 million invested in it. Fitting 10 units on the property requires that 6 units be 4 stories in height. She stated that the project does not require a zoning variance.

The Board of Zoning Appeals hearing will be May 10, 2011. Signs will be posted on the property 4/29/11.

Concerns were expressed about impact on parking and a future detailed discussion with Julie will be scheduled.

Respectively Submitted,

Dennis Plouff



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can officially count you
in!!!

MAY 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Farmers Market Jones Falls Ex- press 7am-12pm	2 COP WALK- 7pm at River- side Gazebo...	3 SBNA General Meeting.... 	4 	5 Book Sale!! Light Street Branch 1-7pm ABBA Pier Six 630	6  Thomas the Tank- B&O 830-5pm	7 Book Sale!! Light Street Branch 9-4pm Thomas the Tank at B&O...
8 Thomas the Tank at B&O 830-5pm. Farmers Market Jones Falls EXP. 7am-12pm.	9 Book Sale!! Light Street Branch 1-7pm SBNA Social Nicks Fish house 630 pm!	10 	11 James Taylor at Hippodrome.. 8pm Ticketmas- ter.com	12 Parking Meeting Church of Advent 7pm 	13  Shrimp Feast & Bull Roast 7pm-11pm 1338 Hull St.	14 Patterson Park Flea Market and Craft Fair.... Art, jazz, treas- ures....
15 Farmers Market Jones Falls Express 7am-12pm	16 Spring Tree walk at MD Zoo.. 8am- 10am	17 Pee-Wee Preakness 1130 am Federal Hill Park...	18  Toddler time at B&O ... stories and Crafts	19	20  Black Eyed Susan Day at Pimlico...	21 Preakness!! Charm City All Stars vs. Gotham Girls Duburns Arena
22 Farmers Market Jones Falls Ex- press 7am-12pm	23	24	25 	26	27 	28 Brew at the Zoo and Wine too! Food/Bev/Music and fun at the MD Zoo! Marylandzoo.org
29 Farmers Market Jones Falls Ex- press 7am-12pm	30 Memorial Day	31	<div> <p>SBNA Meetings are the 1st Tuesday of each month.... Same time, same place...</p> </div> <div> <p>Day out with Thomas the Tank at the B&O-Petting Zoo, hay maze, pony rides, spin art, moon bounces and much more!! www.borail.org</p> </div>			



Independent Consultant: Dan Roche

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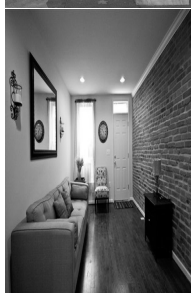
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Jeff Washo



BALTIMORE RAVENS 2011-12

1 Sep 11 PIT @ BAL M&T Bank Stadium 1:00 PM

2 Sep 18 BAL @ TEN LP Field 1:00 PM

3 Sep 25 BAL @ STL Edward Jones Dome 4:05 PM

4 Oct 02 NYJ @ BAL M&T Bank Stadium 8:20 PM

5 Bye

6 Oct 16 HOU @ BAL M&T Bank Stadium 4:05 PM

7 Oct 24 BAL @ JAC EverBank Field 8:30 PM

8 Oct 30 ARI @ BAL M&T Bank Stadium 1:00 PM

9 Nov 06 BAL @ PIT Heinz Field 8:20 PM Tickets NBC

10 Nov 13 BAL @ SEA Qwest Field 4:05 PM

11 Nov 20 CIN @ BAL M&T Bank Stadium 1:00 PM

12 Nov 24 SF @ BAL M&T Bank Stadium 8:20 PM

13 Dec 04 BAL @ CLE Cleveland Browns Stadium 1:00 PM

14 Dec 11 IND @ BAL M&T Bank Stadium 1:00 PM

15 Dec 18 BAL @ SD Qualcomm Stadium 8:20 PM

16 Dec 24 CLE @ BAL M&T Bank Stadium 1:00 PM

17 Jan 01 BAL @ CIN Paul Brown Stadium 1:00 PM

Then off to the playoffs we go!!!!