

A publication of the South Baltimore Neighborhood Association

**July 2011** 



### This is our Parking Edition of the SBNA newsletter- We hope that you find it informative.

Parking is a serious issue in South Baltimore. When my husband and I first moved here in June 2009- we noticed that the parking signs were being changed to limit parking for non-residents in Area 30. And for the first year we were able to park in somewhat close proximity to our home between the hours of 5-7pm during the week. However, this past year the parking on our block and the surrounding areas have become increasingly tight. If you are arriving home after 8pm- there is a good chance you will be driving around looking for parking after a long workday. This is certainly not news to any of you that are forced utilize street parking.

So, my husband and I decided to take the big plunge. Are we buying another home or taking a huge vacation or starting our own business? No. We are now a one-car family. I am a confessed budget-hawk, and I have been trying to get rid of my husband's 1998 Camry for years. And when the Camry started to have some major problems, I finally talked him into going down to 1 car by just selling it and not purchasing a replacement vehicle.

Here are the annual numbers that I came up with for Year 1 of going down to 1 car:

i <del></del>									
	Insurance	<u>Parking</u> Permit	Payments	Extra Cash from sale of Toyota	Registra- tion/ Emissions	<u>Oil</u> Change/ Misc.	<u>Cabs</u>	<u>Zipcar</u>	Total
2 Cars	1,920	40	7,200		142	100			\$ 9,402.00
1 Car plus ZipCar and Cabs	960	20	3,600	(700)	71	50	300	890	\$ 5,191.00

Total Cost for 5 years: 2 Cars, \$47,010 1 Car, \$28,755

The ZipCar column includes 10 hours of ZipCar a month and the yearly membership fee. Now, I don't know about you but I am happy to save \$4200 a year on car expenses- not to mention the hassle of owning a car in the city. In the first year of parking in SoBo, we had a passenger-side mirror taken off, 4 bogus tickets and our tags stolen. (not included in the analysis) Of course, one less car per household will not work for everyone- many people have to commute out of the city to work locations without public transportation access. But consider taking the big plunge if you can and if you haven't already!!

Submitted by: Lisa Hughes-Wilde, Newsletter and Business Liaison Chairperson

'Note: this is a simple, general analysis. A technical analysis would involve depreciation, taxes, interest, increased maintenance cost and opportunity cost.

### **July Social TBA**

Please check our website for our upcoming socials! Or email Christie at social@mysobo.org



Free appetizers & Drink Specials! Family friendly!!! ~ Join your neighbors ~

## Community Meetings:

Tuesday, July 5th, 2011 Tuesday, Aug 2nd 2011 7:00pm Church of the Advent 1301 S. Charles Street

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

06/07/2011

### Teen Council Report - Marie Sennett

Since Marie is stepping down from chairperson of the Teen Council and is actively searching for volunteers to replace her, she wanted to explain how the Teen Council works and what the volunteer responsibilities are.

The Council meets every Thursday evening from 7:00 to 8:30 at the Ella Bailey Recreation Center. Volunteers need not attend every meeting and can volunteer for selected meetings to assist with selected issues. A coordinator of all the volunteers is also needed.

Volunteers assist the member teens with all types of life issues and give them skills for life, such as job training, safe sex discussions, college entry requirements, arts & crafts and many others. A popular annual program is Teen CSI wherein the teens interact with the States Attorney Office, the Office of the Public Defender and the City Police to play out a simulated crime, from investigating the crime scene all the way through to the trial.

Next year's projects are already planned out, including a program to rid the neighborhood of constant nuisance trash.

There are 25 teens that participate most of the time. Of those, a core group of 12 normally attends every meeting. Two of the teens attended this General Meeting to explain what the Council has meant to them. Kristin explained that the Council was responsible for getting her life back on the right path. Megan said the Council has been a great learning experience for her and it definitely needs to be kept going since there are not many other activities to productively occupy the neighborhood teens.

Marie emphasized that the Teen Council has dramatically changed the teen's lives. The teens have far exceeded her expectations. Her involvement in the Council has been one of the most rewarding experiences she has ever had.

### Treasurer's Report - Matt Eskridge

Account Balances:

General Fund = \$3,211.66

Heath Street Garden Fund = \$3,220.46

Light Street Garden Fund = \$2,512.13

Sitting Park Fund = \$ 18.30

Teen Council Fund = \$3,006.34

Tree Fund = \$ 97.00

Total = \$12,065.89

The water service for the Light Street Garden will be paid in the future by City Farms and will be coordinated by the Clean and Green Committee.

The P.O. Box comes up for renewal at the end of July. We should receive a notice and invoice in July.

All invoices received to date have been paid.

### Social Committee Report - Christie Blake

Attendance at SBNA socials has been very light and needs to improve. The next social is 6/28 at Delia Foleys. There will be free appetizers and drink specials - so please attend and socialize with your neighbors!

Since the new family addition will arrive in 2 months, Christie is looking for a volunteer to take over as chair of the Social Committee.

Bill Romani related his efforts to work with other neighborhood associations and the Federal Hill Hospitality Association to start a common ground discussion to resolve the adverse affects on residents caused by the regular alcohol "frenzy" issues. The bar owners spend \$6,000 per month for added security within the bar perimeter area, but at 2:00 AM, bar patrons are encouraged to disperse and leave the perimeter, resulting in large boisterous groups passing through the residential areas.

There is minimal enforcement of the Public Nuisance Laws, which can result in fines of \$500 to \$750. Those issued a citation can opt for public service instead. An arrest warrant can be issued for those that don't show up for the hearing.

Continued on page: 3

### SBNA Executive Board Members

President Gregory Blake 410.209.2349

President@mysobo.org

Vice President Amy Mutch 410.468.0118

VicePresi-

Secretary **Dennis Plouff** 410.385.9969 Secretary@mysobo.org

Treasurer Matt Eskridge

Treasurer@mysobo.org

Clean & Green

**NEEDS YOU!** 410.929.1GRN (1476) CleanGreen@mysobo.org

Design Review

Justin Wilde/Stephan Lawrence

Design@mysobo.org

Liquor License Advisory Melanie Ambridge 410.935-0222

LiquorAdvisory@mysobo.org

**Business Liaison/Newsletter** 

Lisa Hughes-Wilde 410.878.0171 Newsletter@mysobo.org

Parking & Traffic Debbie Alt 410.576.1017 Parking@mysobo.org

Police/Community Relations

Gilda Johnson 410.837.1132 PoliceRelations@mysobo.org Social

Christie Blake 410.209.2349 Social@mysobo.org

Teen Council

Marie Sennett/ NEED YOU!! 410.837.1132 TeenCouncil@mysobo.org

Attendees commented that police need more manpower, otherwise our complaints will fall on deaf ears. It was also mentioned that drunk driving and parking enforcement should be part of the overall discussions.

In response to a question as to why we don't just go straight to Commissioner Bealefeld, Bill mentioned that his group is contacting the individual just below the Commissioner who is in charge of enforcement, as well as working with the Southern District.

It was unanimously voted that SBNA will strongly support Bill in his efforts to work out a resolution with all stakeholders to alleviate these issues.

### Parking Report - Cynthia Griffin

A parking survey will be issued to residents to obtain opinions on numerous pertinent topics. The survey can be found and filled out at http://westfederalhill.com. It will also be issued in the next Newsletter. It needs to be returned to Cynthia by 7/15/11. Surveys were also passed out to meeting attendees. The survey results will be issued to SBNA.

She reminded us that there are 1100 households in Area 30 and that 2000 parking stickers have been issued.

Current talking points among the city-wide parking liaisons are:

Need for better enforcement and improvements to registration procedures - use of new technologies to accomplish that.

Options to raise more money to help the RPP address parking issues

- Increase permit/visitor pass fees, tiered pricing (charge more for additional permits after the first or second permit), increase cost of tickets/violations.

Decrease the number of permits allowed per household (with consideration for hardships).

Frank Murphy at the City approved the street width of the 100 W. Fort Ave. block for angled parking. That block of Fort Ave would become one-way. A petition from the residents on that block is needed to formally initiate the process.

### Design Review - Justin Wilde and Stephan Lawrence

Julie Tice, the architect for the proposed project at 127 W. Fort, presented revised plans in response to neighborhood comments voiced at a past meeting with neighbors immediate to the project area.

By rights, the owner could build one large 6-story building on the site or could build 7 buildings of 2 units each which would be a condominium situation. The owner is not interested in either of those scenarios and continues to propose 10 single family units.

In response to recent neighbor concerns, the height of the buildings fronting on Fort Ave. has been reduced to 3-stories. A 5-foot building separation from the existing house on the south side of the site has also been provided. A height variance is no longer required from the Zoning Board. Two other variances are still required for % Lot Occupancy and Rear Yard setback.

### Continued on Page 8



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# Want to help with the newsletter??

We are looking for volunteers! We need blockmasters, a block captain that would be in charge of all of the blockmasters, and help with all other phases of the newsletter.... Learn about publishing and editing while helping your neighborhood!

Contact: newsletter@mysobo.org

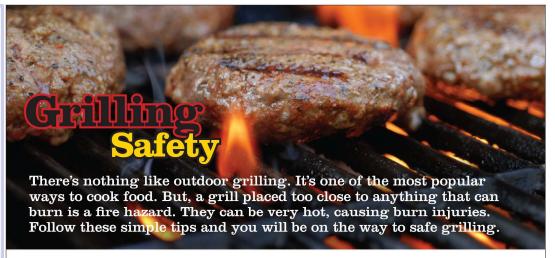




### 127 W Fort Project:

The latest plans are on our website www.mysobo.org

Please be sure to check our site to stay informed!!!



### **SAFETY TIPS**

- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- ))) Keep children and pets away from the grill area.
- ))) Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- ))) Never leave your grill unattended.

### **CHARCOAL GRILLS**

- There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.
- ))) If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- NY Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.
- When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

# PROPANE GRILLS

Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles. If your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off the gas tank and grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department. If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not move the grill.

### **FACTS**

- Fire departments respond to an average of 7,900 home fires involving grills, hibachis or barbecues each year, including 5,000 outside fires and 2,900 structure fires.
- ! June and July are the peak months for grill fires.
- (1) Thirty-three percent (33%) of home grill structure fires start on an exterior balcony or unenclosed porch.

www.nfpa.org/education



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# **TULY 2011**

Wed

Tue

Mon

Sun 2 R Kelly 1st Mariner Arena Wicked SBNA Meetings are the If you have an event you Kennedy Center Trace Adkins 1st Tuesday of each would like to appear on Pier 6 month.... Same time, same our calendar - email: Little Italy film: "Moonstruck" place... newsletter@mysobo.org <u> Little Italy</u> 5 SBNA 9 Monster Jam Farmers Market COP WALK- 7pm at General Fells Point Films or First Thurs. in Mt "Falling in M&T Bank Jones Falls EXP. Riverside Gazebo... Meeting.... the Pier: relax by Vernon Park-free Love"- open air show-530pm 7am-12pm. the water and enjoy music concert ing of movies; music Forth of July Firea movie for FREE! 530pm 7pm ...movies start at worksl (Just bring a chair!) 9pm Broadway Pier -Flicks from the Hill: Features will be "Airplane" shown at dusk (around 8:45 PM) "The Fighter" 10 Farmers 12 13 14 Flicks from the 16 <u>Artscape</u> 12-10pm Market Jones Falls Yoqa/Zumba/Salsa Zumba Fells Point Films on Hill: "Austin Powers" One of America's largest Parking survey Due!!!! Express 101/Adult Ballet www.baltimoresal the Pier: American Visionary celebration of the arts 7am-12pm www.baltimoresalsal salessons.com "The Social Net-Art Museum outdoor Artscape 12-10pm over in Mount Vernon.... essons.com 1541 Light work" free film... Under the stars on Federal Hill. Little Italy Film: HipHop/Salsa 101 "No reservations" www.baltimoresalsale Pat Benatar- Pier 6 ssons.com Fort Merritt-After hours party 9pm-2am 17 18 19 20 21 Frank & Nic's & 22 📆 Little Italy Farmers Yoga/Zumba/Salsa Zumba Fells Point Films or Heavy Seas Brewery-Film: Market 101/Adult Ballet www.baltimoresal the Pier: special 4 course "After the Fox" The War Came by Train Jones Falls Express www.baltimoresalsal salessons.com "Iron Man 2" offering- Heavy Lecture Series 1541 Light Seas brew paired B&O 12pm 7am-12pm essons.com HipHop/Salsa 101 with each dish. Tickwww.baltimoresalsale ets: \$40 Caribbean Spice @ Enoch Artscape 12pm-8pm ssons com Pratt-Light Street Flicks FT Hill: Branch Some like it hot." 3pm 24 26 28 Flicks from the Yoga/Zumba/Salsa Fells Point Films on Hill: "Duck Soup" Farmers Zumba 101/Adult Ballet Market www.baltimoresal the Pier: Little Italy Film: Jones Falls Express www.baltimoresalsal Get him to the "On the town" salessons.com 7am-12pm essons.com 1541 Light Greek" Riverside Pool is looking to hold HipHop/Salsa 101 www.baltimoresalsale adult swim on Tues/Thurs. 5-7 if 31 ssons.com there is enough interest. \$1.5 entry Mother Goose Baby fee. Stop by and check it out. See steps- Enoch Pratt you at the pool!!

## Thanks to our Team!

Ever wonder how your complimentary newsletter gets to your doorstep? A bunch of dedicated volunteers, that's how!

Our previous blockmasters that went out in the winter cold for us: Andrew and Christie K, Paul T, Kelly H, Christie B, & Cynthia

Our long-term blockmasters: (they have stayed with me the entire time! Wow!) Amy and Patrick M, Andrea E, Barb E, Gilda J (huge route! Thanks Gilda!), Melanie A, Tammy, Katie and Alex, Scott B, Stephanie M, Tara M, Marie S, & Teri P.

Our newest team members: (thanks for stepping up!) Bonnie C, Nancy M, Heidi, Debbie A, Stephan L, Dan R (huge route! Thanks Dan!), Ele F, Monica & Amy B

I cant thank you enough for volunteering! We deliver 2100 newsletters each month and it is quite an accomplishment for a group of volunteers- thanks for your support!!

Also- thanks to our printer- David and Sid over at Federal Hill Printing who has made our newsletter affordable while providing elite, professional service with a personal touch! Basically, they put up with me each month.



Julie asked that SBNA rescind its letter of opposition that was sent to the Zoning Board. A vote was taken in opposition to rescinding the letter on the grounds that the members at this meeting did not know the position of residents immediate to the project on the revised plans. SBNA represents those residents and first needs to hear their current opinions on the revised plans.

The zoning board hearing is scheduled for 6/21/2011. (UPDATE: The zoning board hearing is scheduled for 7/5/2011)

Respectfully Submitted,

**Dennis Plouff** 

"The Friends of the Light Street Branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library wish to thank all who supported our May 2011 book sale and made it a great success! All proceeds will go to purchase new children's books, to sponsor children, teen and musical programs at the library and our participation in the National Library Week celebration. New members are always invited to join the Friends group. Stop by the library to learn about our organization. And, thanks again!"

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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.

The June Cop Walk was great. A neighborhood dog sniffed out some drugs, we had about 15 Explorers walk with us, as well as the Department's PIO's and Baltimore Sun's Justin Fenton. Come out and for an exciting evening that promotes safety in the 'hood.

# 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 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...

### **Neighborhood Parking Survey**

### Make your voice heard at the Parking Authority of Baltimore City!

An opportunity has opened for residents in the Baltimore City residential parking program to express their opinions/make suggestions for improvements to the residential permit parking program by simply filling out an easy two page survey.

### How did the survey come about?

The Executive Board of the Parking Authority has asked the Advisory Board (comprised of area parking reps) to develop a comprehensive plan to improve the Residential Parking Permit program. To aid the Advisory Board in developing the plan, the Parking Authority has applied for and was granted a Mayoral Fellowship program that will help research, examine current practices, and identify improvements to the current program. Every parking rep was tasked with getting feedback and opinions from the residents of their parking area. There are up to 42 neighborhoods who will participate in the suggestion process. The survey will be used to provide certain information towards the development of the comprehensive plan.

### Who is eligible to complete the survey?

Area 30 is the first neighborhood to participate in this survey process. The survey was distributed at the June 7<sup>th</sup> SBNA meeting for area 30 residents to complete. For those who could not attend, the survey is also available online at <a href="www.SoBoParking.com">www.SoBoParking.com</a> or via email by requesting a copy from area30parking@gmail.com. The deadline for submission of the survey is July 15, 2011.

### What topics are on the survey?

The Neighborhood Parking Survey asks for the resident's opinion on: (1) Use of technology to improve online experience and enforcement capabilities; (2) Permit cost increases to cover these improvements, including possible tiered pricing; (3) The number of permits allowed per residence; (4) Yearly and temporary visitor pass access and pricing.

### Who will see the results of the survey?

Once these surveys have been collected and the data collated, the results will be made available online as well as being submitted to the Advisory Board for inclusion in the development of the comprehensive plan.

Questions about the survey? Send an email to Area30Hotline@gmail.com.

Submitted by: Cynthia Griffin, Area 30 Representative.



### **BASIC PARKING STUFF....**



Are you on a block that is <u>not</u> included in the Area 30 or Area 42 Parking program? Do you want to be included so that you can get a sticker? There is a process that involves a petition and jumping a few hoops to get your block included- but you may find it is worth it! Please contact your Area Rep. to find out all of the details: Area 30: Area30Parking@gmail.com or Area 42: parking@mysobo.org

Angle parking can increase the amounts of parking spots on your block- do you think that your street could be wide enough? Are you interested? Angle parking can be requested- and of course there is a process to follow to get it approved if it is possible on your street and your neighbors have to be cool with it: contact your Area Rep. for more details. The city has to come out and measure, there needs to be a petition, some legwork, etc. etc.

Hey you! On 100 block of W. Fort Ave! Some of your neighbors are looking into changing 100 W. Fort into a one-way street with angle parking to accommodate more spaces. Want to get involved or put in your two-cents? Again, contact the Area 30 Rep. She has all of the nitty-gritty details on this proposal.

Area 30 Parking stickers expire in January- Mark your calendars! For the annual Area 30 renewal; there will be neighborhood pickup locations/times/dates announced later in the year. The Area 30 rep can bring your stickers to the neighborhood for pickup so that you will not have to make the trip downtown. (Thanks Cynthia & her crew!) Check out www.soboparking.com for the details near the end of 2011.

The visitor passes do have rules. Visitor passes are for visitors to your home and are not allowed to be used for parking for special events. (Ravens games, etc.) Also- don't let your relatives that will not move out of your basement use your pass everyday. Remember "ABUSE OF A VISITOR PASS IS DEFINED AS ANY VEHICLE DISPLAYING THIS PERMIT 3 OR MORE TIMES A WEEK FOR 3 OR MORE CONSECUTIVE WEEKS. PERMITS MUST BE SURRENDERED TO THE PARKING AUTHORITY UPON REQUEST."

All other information about parking can be found: www.soboparking.com or at Baltimorecity.gov under "parking authority".

Submitted by: Lisa Hughes-Wilde, newsletter committee

Ne	eigh	bor	hood	Parl	king	Surv	ev
	0						~ <i>J</i>

AREA

reighborhood rarking burvey	_30_	
Part 1: Technology		]
Which of the following updates and/or changes would you like to see mad Permit program?  [ ] More consistent enforcement – more officers in RPP area on consistent basis	e in the Residentia	al Parking
[ ] Use of technology to increase ease of enforcement and management of permit office (i.e. to turn off permit/visitor pass if revoked or if resident moves)	s by the Parking Au	thority
[ ] Upgraded software for ease of renewal – a more "user-friendly "online renew	al site	
Part 2: Permit Costs		
Currently all revenue generated by citations, parking permit fees, etc., goes integrated to fund to pay off construction bonds, with annual surplus amounts forwarded to to the Parking Authority or Enforcement (DOT).	_	_
If the Residential Parking program were to include some or all of the above i and/or changes in the Residential Parking Permit program, what level of perincrease would you support?	= =	
[ ] \$5.00 [ ] \$10.00 [ ] \$15.00 [ ] None [ ] Other \$	_	
In an effort to limit the number of vehicles with parking permits, some parki "tiered" pricing, for example the first permit issued per residence is \$X, with same address priced higher.		
Would you support "tiered" pricing for permits?		
[ ] Yes [ ] No If no, why not:	-	
Part 3: Number of permits	_	
Do you believe that the number of permits allowed per residence should be	changed?	
[ ] No change		
[ ] Fewer permits allowed per residence (now allowed up to 4 permits/4 cars)		
How many permits would you like to see allowed per household?		
CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE		

Part 4: Visitor Passes
Do you believe that there are too many visitor passes in use that limit parking availability for RPP permit holders in your area? [ ] No [ ] Yes
Of the following, what changes to the visitor passes would you support (mark all that apply)
[ ] No Change
[ ] Fewer passes per household
[ ] Limit their use further (currently 3 X's in 3 weeks)
[ ] Restrict their use during certain events
[ ] Increase rates for Visitor Passes
[ ] Purchase as needed via the Internet or at the Parking Authority
If purchased via the internet as needed, what length of time would they be valid for:
[ ] 24 Hours [ ] 7 Days [ ] 1 Month [ ] 3 Months [ ] 1 Year
Are you: [ ] Homeowner? [ ] Renter? [ ] Landlord?
Thank you for taking the time to fill out this survey!
Email survey back to <a href="mailto:area30parking@gmail.com">area30parking@gmail.com</a> , or fax to 410-741-3574,
mail/drop off at 107 W Ostend (mail slot)
Survey also available online at www.soboparking.com.
Cutoff date for submission: 7/15/11.

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