



SBNA Newsletter



A publication of the South Baltimore Neighborhood Association June/July 2012

LOVE YOUR COMMUNITY HAVE A HAPPY AND HEALTHY SUMMER !!!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER: Love YOUR Community

Now that we all love our neighbor and neighborhood, SBNA is branching out to say Love your Community!! Do you really appreciate where you live? Do you understand how fortunate you are to live within a 5 minute walk, bike, circulator or taxi ride from so many wonderful experiences? Well I am going to tell you in this article because you are blessed! Two national sports teams play in your back yard. The Ravens and Orioles bring energy, fun, and excitement to South Baltimore. A cruise ship can take you to the Bahamas or Bermuda and you need not fly but could walk or hop on a cab with a duffle bag! The inner harbor provides routine enjoyment, fireworks, and particularly this month as the SAILABRATION

commences. Fort McHenry with its spectacular views of the bay allows one respite from the closeness of an urban rowhouse. You can also play in Riverside Park (newly redone) or Federal Hill Park. The Maryland Science Center and National Aquarium are great places to visit with children and grandchildren. We have a walkable local and regional business district. What amazes me is how each one of us can make ALL this even better by caring for our neighborhood as a part of the bigger picture. Please take the time to maintain your property by keeping our sidewalks clean, plant flowers, scrub your marble stoop, and pull weeds. Let us make a wonderful impression on June 14th as 1 million visitors come to South Baltimore to celebrate the War of 1812 for the 200th year celebration. Our forefathers will be smiling on us from above!!!

Community Meetings:

June 5th

July 3rd

7:00pm

No August Meeting!

Church of the Advent

1301 S. Charles Street

(enter on Patapsco)



The Federal Hill Historic Picnic was a huge success! SBNA, Federal Hill South and Federal Hill Neighborhood Association came together beautifully for the event and everyone seemed to have a great time. What could be a more affordable and relaxing way to spend your Sunday afternoon than eating a free buffet of sandwiches, BBQ ribs, cupcakes, salad, all prepared with loving care by your neighbors? Harris Teeter provided the cake and the neighborhood associations provided utensil, plates, and water. The only cost of admission was a potluck dish! Mark your calendars for next year!

Photo: Amy Mutch, SBNA President and Ryan Hada, FHNA President cutting the cake together.

Come out and get involved! SBNA is looking for more volunteers! We have a great group and we are looking to grow and expand. Some of the activities you can expect to be involved with when joining the board of SBNA: meeting local business owners, learning about zoning code in your neighborhood, meeting with local politicians, learning about the new developments in the neighborhood, working with teens at the recreational center, learning about the

liquor board rules and licenses, working with local law enforcement, working in the community garden, or publishing the neighborhood newsletter. This experience will make you a better neighbor, a more informed homeowner, and will give you a voice in what happens in your own community! You can commit as much or as little time- depending on your position. You may even want to run for office which is something you could put on your resume as well!



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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 SoBolmCo. 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 (unapproved)

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

05/01/12

NEXT COMMUNITY MEETING – Tuesday 6/5/12

1. Treasurer's Report – Dennis Plouff

Current account status: General Fund= \$3,969.49
Heath St. Garden Fund=\$2,935.56
Light St. Garden Fund = \$ 312.93
Teen Council Fund = \$1,103.05
Tree Fund = \$ 97.00
Total= \$8,418.03

2. Minutes Approved

3. Introduction of Guests, new members and officers

4. President's Report:

A. 1901 S Charles, Stanley Fine, Jonathan Mayers, Candice Hebron (on-site property manager)

i. Candice Hebron desires to become an active part of the community and SBNA

ii. Parking Report – 193 units, garage has 290 spaces. Each unit comes with one parking space, additional spaces are available for rent to apartment dwellers, if a tenant declines a space they are required to prove they do not own a car. The developer, Jonathan Mayers stated that 1901 S Charles is outside of Area 30, they do not qualify for RPP and will not challenge their exclusion from the program.

iii. Stanley Fine is requesting our support to extend the purple route circulator to Wells street.

B. After discussion about potential harm to homes along the circulator route, the SBNA membership voted to support an evaluation of extending the purple route with an impact study on the effects of the properties along the route.

C. 1444 (old Centro) Cecilia Benalcazar – Ms. Benalcazar and her husband are the new owners of the property. They want to create a "farm to table" family style restaurant. They will serve beer and wine. SBNA voted to support the transfer of the liquor license.

D. Federal Hill Picnic – Sunday May 6th Please come and support – pot luck

E. Slyce – Riverside establishment – no show

F. Victory House – 1702-1708 Light Street - both the health department and police department are investigating possible sanitation violations and illegal activity. During the cop walk (May 7th) the plan is to bring the issue to the Police Commissioners' attention.

5. Live Entertainment – Ryan Hada and Eric Costello from FHNA are in attendance to review the draft of the SBNA Protocols for Live Entertainment Conditional Use

Applications Agreement

A. The agreement applies to the bars in the business district

B. The document is comprised of basic guidelines

C. SBNA will only consider LE for bars in good standing with the community

D. The agreement includes 3 days of live entertainment per week

E. Nobles Bar, in the Federal Hill NA, have agreed to the guidelines

F. Zoning will not allow a floater day. Zoning requires the bars to designate permanent days due to enforcement issues.

G. The zoning board and Baltimore city liquor board will be the enforcement authority.

H. FHNA plans to create a committee with about 10-15 members to help enforce the agreement and report violators to 311.

I. The fines are established by the city council.

J. SBNA membership reviewed and voted to support the general guidelines in cooperation with the FHNA.

6. Committee Reports/Task Forces

A. Police and Community Relations: - There are new LED lights in Riverside Park. The Police Commissioner will be at the May 7th cop walk

B. Liquor Advisory Committee – see Live Entertainment

C. Clean & Green – Ryan Stanley – New Chair

D. Parking – Cynthia & Debbie Alt– Anyone can Park/ Anyone Can Pay will start – no more free parking for Handicap tagged vehicles. 1901 is not in Area 30

E. Teen Council - Melissa Wooster/Marie Sennett – Year is winding down, always looking for volunteers

F. Social - Danny Young (not present) social at Brewer's Cask went well

G. Design Review – Stephan - 1834 S Charles Street interested neighbors are attempting to schedule a meeting with Green Door Properties to review drawings, the owner is revitalizing the outside of building

H. Newsletter – Lisa (not present) June/July newsletter is coming out, there were two households present that have not received their copies

Respectfully Submitted,

Melanie A. Ambridge
SBNA Secretary

SBNA Executive Board Members

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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

At the April meeting, the SBNA general membership voted to support general guidelines for bars/restaurants applying for live entertainment (LE) in the Federal Hill business community zoned B2-3. The guidelines were developed working with the Federal Hill Neighborhood Association (FHNA) as we both claim the north side of Cross Street. Other neighborhood associations on the peninsula had limited participation in the process, by their choice, as all were welcomed to the table. The specifics of the guidelines can be read on our web site. For those who do not have com-

puter access SBNA will have hard copies at our general membership meetings.

Due to the numbers of bars and potential workload with LE applications, SBNA has co-chairs for the liquor advisory committee. One chair will work with FHNA and bars located in the business district while the other will focus on bars south of Ostend. ALL applications will be presented at the general membership meetings allowing our residents a chance to voice concerns. If you currently have experienced specific issues with a particular establishment you can always inform your liquor advisory chair. This will be considered valued information when

an applicant seeks LE.

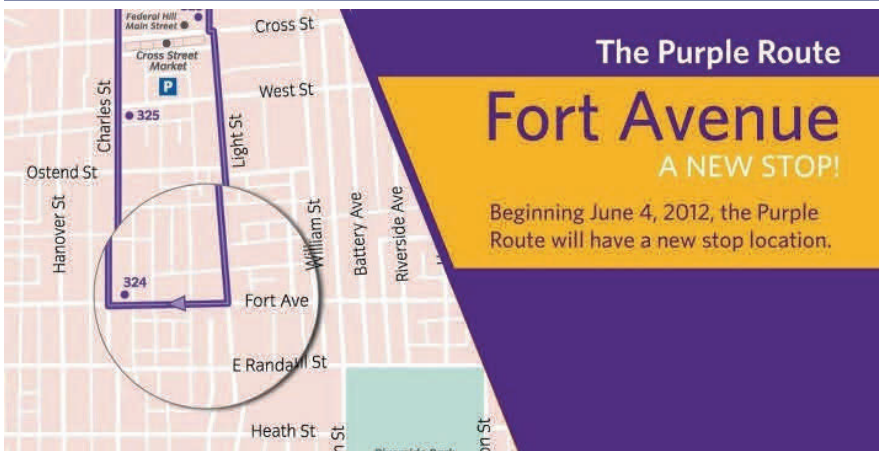
Live entertainment can range from a solo comedian to a large rock band. It has the potential to bring a welcomed clientele who want to enjoy an acoustic performer at Sunday brunch or hear a popular band. SBNA intends to work with each business owner in a respectful and cooperative manner just as any neighbor would expect. However, if we believe the relationship is not reciprocal and abuses are evident we will contest their license. We understand the "bar scene" can bring unwanted nuisance crimes, noise, and parking problems to our neighborhood. Therefore, help us to do our best to GET IT RIGHT!

AREA 30 PARKING UPDATE

RPP Resource Site
Cynthia Griffin 410-446-5686

The Parking Authority of Baltimore City is always on the lookout for resource tools for residential parking permit residents and they have now provided us with another site that could put more pertinent parking information at our fingertips.

Does my new address qualify for a permit? For people looking to move into the area 30 parking district, but cannot tell whether their perspective address actually qualifies for parking permits, we now have the Rpp Online Map... one simply types in an address and the site does the rest!



RPP Online map (now accurate up to 99%):
<http://cityview.baltimorecity.gov/cv/map.aspx?question=159>

If you know of anyone moving to our neighborhood, please share this link with them. The Parking Authority and parking rep get calls too often from new residents who were led to believe that their new address qualified for permit parking, only to find out after the lease is signed or the settlement has taken place that their new address does not qualify for parking permits.



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Angie's list



QUICK TIPS ON CONTAINER GARDEN- ING IN SOUTH BALTIMORE:

Your Quality of Life May Depend on It

Submitted by : Jim Salvucci

Recently, someone smashed a boxwood planter in front of my house. Not remarkable in South Baltimore, I know. But in front of my house, a first in a long time. You may very well ask what my secret is. How can a significant sidewalk garden survive the mean streets of South Baltimore? No, it is certainly not because everyone respects my property. Nor is it because I live so far off the beaten path. My garden, I have theorized, offers a psychological edge. It is as formidable as it is beautiful. Those who love beauty adore a successful garden and would never harm it. Everyone else finds it weirdly intimidating.

You are still, perhaps, wondering how this concretopia of urban flora has flourished in the midst of destructive drunks, random vandals, and herbicidal maniacs. Well, now, we need to get back to that broken pot--the first in years. The first since that unstable guy who used to knock on doors at 3 AM and smash stuff up. The poor boxwood in question, which--by the way--

survived just fine (thanks for your concern), was obviously lifted straight up and abruptly dropped. Did I mention that the terra cotta container weighed about 50 pounds? Right, because my planters also include rocks, bricks, and chunks of concrete.

QUICK TIP 1: Rocks, bricks, and chunks of concrete are not only really heavy, but they also make for excellent drainage.

QUICK TIP 2: Rocks, bricks, and chunks of concrete are readily available all over the streets of South Baltimore, and putting them in planters helps keep your local alleys and empty lots clean.

But is not just the rocks, bricks, and chunks of concrete at the bottom of squat containers that helps keep them safe. Nor is their safety entirely attributable to their low centers of gravity.

QUICK TIP 3: Use only planters with low centers of gravity. Never use a planter on a pedestal, no matter how classy. It is just itching for a tipping.

Sure, every now and then I find a planter jostled out of position, and this boxwood dropping, although a rarity, was not utterly unheard of. So why do the drunken county

boys and destructive local vandals generally stay away?

I can think of two reasons. One is the intimidation factor I mentioned earlier. Due to some earlier failed experiments with more "organic" or "Romantic" planter arrangements, I took a new tack some time ago. Now, I array the front row of containers in a semicircle enclosing all the other planters. This front row-- until the recent damage-- consisted of heavy square boxes and a large circular pot, containing hardy shrubbery (hence, the boxwood) and tall, leafy lilies. It looked a little like a short rampart--call it a homage to the heroic fortress two miles down the road at the terminus of our peninsula.

QUICK TIP 4: Military structures can be both attractive and off-putting.

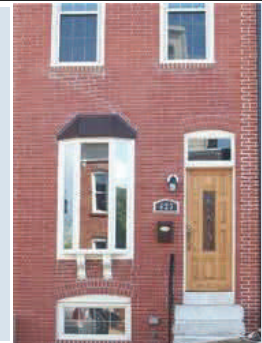
In my most idealistic moments, I like to think that the other reason my garden remains intact is the beauty of it all. Behind the terra cotta redoubt flourishes a sidewalk full of flowers and small trees. In fact, it is the remnant of the Romantic garden that I mentioned before. And I forgot to mention what started it all, the sad, little Charlie Brown tree--some sort of cypress I pulled out of a dumpster we were

Continued on page 8...

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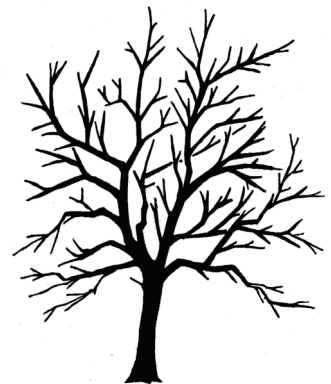
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A Comment on Drug Addiction

Laws and law enforcement are important in combating the drug problem but to be successful the "war on drugs" needs to place heavy emphasis on prevention and treatment.

What some people fail to realize is that when drug addicts finally seek treatment, they are desperate-they have often ruined health and family life, faced job loss, financial crisis, and are often criminal court ordered to be in treatment. Some think of drug addiction as a psychological weakness. However the overwhelming evidence suggests that it is a true physical disease requiring treatment. People in the grip of drug addiction undergo physical and emotional changes which make control of their drug usage impossible. To just say

"no" is not easy.

Another misconception is that all you need to do to break an addiction is to get a person to stop using drugs, and then to go through physical withdrawal. Although the withdrawal may be painful it is only a small part of what is involved. The psychological dependence on drugs, the need to feel "high" and the attitudes, lifestyle, and drug-supporting relationships are hard patterns to break. Many addicts need help in learning how to come to grips with their feelings and have healthy relationships, and end self destructive patterns. They also need help in setting new goals, and finding things to fill the void left from abstinence from drugs/alcohol.

Support groups like Alcoholics Anonymous are essential for a

person who is serious about ending their addiction. In addition treatment for co-occurring mental disorders is important.

As a community and in our efforts to reduce crime we need to deal with the issue of drug addiction. We need to support our youth with drug alternatives .. Lets get some dialogue and action going in South Baltimore to keep this great neighborhood safe and thriving!

Your comments/questions are welcome...Feel free to e-mail at leslieebert1@comcast.net

Written by: Leslie Ebert, LCSW-C
Psychotherapist
1147 S Hanover St.
Baltimore, MD

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Continued from page 5...

filling during an epic neighborhood clean up. The pot was gone, but the root ball was intact. It was touch-and-go for a while before I could nurse it back to health and reclaim my maternal birthright: a green thumb. It has since been transplanted behind the house (the tree, not the thumb) in a container that is too large and odd for the front--my old BELIEVE garbage can.

QUICK TIP 5: Some cypress trees grow way too fast for container gardens. Get a slow-growing tree, such as an arborvitae, or--better still--a dwarf spruce, or be prepared to use trash barrels as planters.

Aside from the Charlie Brown tree, which was my initial impetus, I developed another major motivation to create this garden. I wanted to inspire my neighbors. My block, while filled with a delightful diversity of folks, is devoid of greenery and color. It is, in fact, a desolate stretch of pavement. I hoped that my immediate neighbors (and those living far and wide beyond) would see my garden and embark on

their own horticultural adventures. Some did, haltingly, but none so enthusiastically took up the challenge.

QUICK TIP 6: Beautiful things can beautify even an ugly gray pavement.

I am easily impressed by psychological studies that show how environment can affect behavior. For instance, research demonstrates that people who find themselves surrounded by litter will be more inclined to litter. People who find themselves in pristine locations are less likely to litter. In other words, people in Baltimore tend to litter because of all the trash their neighbors generate. People in, say, Toronto tend not to litter because the city is "clean enough to eat off the streets."

QUICK TIP 7: Avoid eating off the streets of Toronto or any other city. And never, ever eat off the streets of Baltimore City! (See Quick Tip 2.)

Although my efforts have not inspired my neighbors the way I hoped, persistence has

paid off. My little corner looks like someone cares, just a bit, at least. Too bad all that South Baltimore trash keeps blowing up into my garden.

QUICK TIP 8: Persistence pays off, sort of.

A neighborhood is a neighborhood because neighbors demonstrate they care, each in their own way. They do not have to agree, but reasonable people can disagree. What is important is that their neighbors and their visitors can see how passionate they are. My favorite neighborly quote was from some years ago when the residents of my block banded together to confront a house that was launching fireworks after the bars closed. One of the unneighborly pyromaniacs, faced with this communal outrage, said, "I didn't realize this was a real neighborhood." Whatever that means.

QUICK TIP 9: Resolve to live in a "real" neighborhood, and make it so.

DESIGN REVIEW

The Pabst Building located at 1834 South Charles Street is currently in the process of being returned to its historic use. A Committee of Interested Neighbors for 1834 South Charles Street (CoIN) has formed and met with the building owners as well as the business owners intending to occupy the Historic Pabst building.

Much of the confusion arose when a notice regarding the transfer of the old Baja Beach Club liquor license was posted earlier this year. Liquor licenses expire if not housed in an active business establishment. The owner of the license attempted to reset the clock of expiration by temporarily transferring it to the abandoned Pabst building. No actual business plans were ever developed to utilize this liquor license, or return the Baja Beach Club or similar business model to South Baltimore. Unfortunately, none of this information was made clear to the Neighborhood until after the notification became public and strong opposition already formed. The license did not transfer to the Pabst building and should have already expired.

The current business owners, Mike McDonald and Spike Owen, are currently in contact with the CoIN and had their first meeting on May 16th 2012. During this meeting, their plans as well as the concerns of the neighbors immediately in the vicinity of 1834 South Charles Street were made clear.

Both of the business owners are longtime residents of Federal Hill and the South Baltimore Neighborhood. They are jointly starting a company named Chesapeake Craft Brewers, LLC with the primary purpose of establishing and developing a full-scale production brewery specializing in craft American and English ales. Effectively, they are returning the Pabst building to its original historic purpose as an onsite brewery. The brick work being performed is intended to help preserve the building for this use. Their product is intended for off-site retail consumption, via bars, liquor stores, restaurants, etc., throughout the Greater Baltimore - Washington Metropolitan areas and potentially beyond.

Initially, Chesapeake Craft Brewers will produce only kegs and cans. As only a Produc-

tion Brewery, the State of Maryland prohibits onsite alcohol sales. The owners do hope to eventually open a taproom as their second stage of growth, where they will serve food and market their own beer to an intended maximum capacity of 80 seats. As a Brewery, the business will provide the required 10 off street parking spaces for employees. Should the tap room reach fruition; the owners will seek additional off-site, parking options. The largest vehicles directly accessing the site via Olive Street should be box trucks, picking up completed product and containers of spent grain for local farms and ranches. Raw materials will potentially be brought by 18-wheel tractor trailer trucks and fork lifted in, so the large truck will not have to navigate the narrow alley. Deliveries and pickups should only happen during normal business hours.

Barring any significant delays, brewing operations should begin sometime in late October or early November. The owners have voiced interest and willingness in continued communication and meetings with the neighborhood.



Have you ever walked by the corner of S. Charles Street & E. Heath Street and wondered what those folks are doing? (Besides playing in the mud, of course.) The corner lot, which was once an unofficial, unkempt dog park, is now a blooming community garden. The garden has 20 raised beds, each rented annually by a local family from Baltimore City's City Farms program. Farmers are given liberty to plant what they wish in the

beds and are responsible for maintaining them throughout the growing season.

Right now, we are still in the "cool" or spring season of growing. You can see the following veggies being harvested now: lettuces, kale, chard, bok choy, peas, and garlic. Just spouting are tomatoes, corn, carrots and other warm weather growies.

As always, feel free to stop by and ask the gardeners any questions.