

# Fells Point Citizens on Patrol INC

A newsletter by and for the people who live, work, and own businesses within the Fells Point area.

January 2003

Volume 5 Number 1

## Cost Modest to Fix Pier for Pride II

Charles Norton's proposal in last month's Newsletter to bring the Pride of Baltimore II and a museum for it to the city-owned Recreation Pier - as an adjunct of the Maritime Museum in the works on Thames Street - is not only good for Fells Point but fairly quickly obtainable if the community and City Hall go for it.

The engineering study for the pier released in 2001 identified multi-million-dollar repairs needed to make the east seawall and portions of the parking deck safe for public use. But the bulk of the money would go to improving the underpinnings of the deck where it is built out over water. The first 237 feet of the structure, including the Thames Street building and 150 feet of the parking deck, are built on natural "fastland" and bulk-headed landfill. The cost of repairing this portion of the pier is estimated by the city at about \$200,000.

This would provide ample berthing for the Pride as well as access to dockside rooms for storage and maintenance as well as the museum. The Thames Street seawall to the east, erstwhile site of the Night Hawk, should be included to encourage visits by other historic vessels. An added benefit of the \$200,000 outlay would be recovery of about 30 of the 100 pier parking spaces closed to the public since the filming of "Homicide." —*Bob Keith*

## New Middle School on 'Point Shore

The Living Classrooms Foundation, under contract to Baltimore City Public Schools, is operating The Crossroads middle school on its waterside campus at Caroline Street. Starting with 50 students in the main building, within three years it is to accommodate 150 in grades six, seven and eight, in their own new building. Four elementary schools feed Crossroads, which emphasizes hands-on teaching of technology and the arts in small classes.

A spokesman for Living Classrooms noted that most students had entered with minimal reading levels but their test scores already have risen sharply in that skill. A random visit found young teens busy at round tables, with scarcely an eye wandering to the boats bobbing outside the glass wall of their new surroundings. Many of those boats also are occupied in more clement weather by underprivileged youths taking part in Living Classrooms' maritime programs.

## Tuesdays, It's Your Call

The Joseph Center on Broadway offers Tuesday Nite in Fells Point, for adults of all ages, with weekly evening classes in yoga, strength training, aerobics and in computers. Call 410.732.5000 and ask for the Tuesday Nite desk.

## Trash and Recycling Schedule

Trash should be placed outside in metal trash cans. After 6:00 AM on collection day, it is okay to use plastic bags. Trash collection days are usually Monday and Thursday.

Recycling material should go out by 7:00 AM on collection day. Recycle paper tied, in paper bags, or in a box; glass, metal and plastic should be in blue recycling bags.

Monday, January 13 -	glass, metal, and plastic
Monday, January 20 -	HOLIDAY
Friday, January 24 -	paper
Monday, January 27 -	glass, metal, and plastic
Monday, February 10 -	glass, metal, and plastic

## More Time for Rec Pier Proposals



The city has extended until February 28 the year-end deadline for proposals to redevelop Rec Pier, adding some leeway for an ad hoc but intense community effort to make it a home for Pride of Baltimore II and other maritime interests. With the Preservation Society taking the lead, community historians, photographers and enthusiasts put together a proposal that would rely on grant monies. This hit a barrier when it was determined that city ownership of the pier precludes funding under a state grant program that the group hoped to tap.

## Newsletter Thanks Donors

Fells Point Citizens on Patrol wishes to thank generous respondents to our plea for funds to support publication of the Newsletter. Crabby Dick's has underwritten the monthly printing costs and, including the gift from Bertha's reported last month, we have received almost \$500 to cover related expenses. The latest contributors are: Sheeps Clothing, Snippy the Rat, Charles Hepple, Edward and Rita Lumsden, Maggie & Bill Bauer, Anne Gummerson Photography, Bary Hearon, and Nancy Lee Conrad. We could not keep producing the newsletter without this help, so please thank and support these individuals and businesses.

## Nan Rohrer Moving On

Nan Rohrer, who became Southeast Neighborhood Liaison for the Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods in 2001 and soon earned the respect of Fells Point civic groups through her helpfulness, announced that she is leaving to become the Department of Recreation and Parks' director of partnerships. She is to create effective partnerships with neighborhood groups for maintenance of parks - having trained on the challenge of dealing with the disparate interests beneath the gazebo in Thames Street Park. She described such encounters in her departure statement as "fabulous experiences" and asked the community to be as kind to her replacement, Elizabeth Weiblen. Rohrer lives with her dog near Patterson Park.

## The Tree Lights Flickered

Duane Howard Butts, 40, a South Wolfe Street resident and a stalwart of the bar scene, died on December 21 at Hopkins from complications of cirrhosis, the *Sun* reported. He was a waiter, photographer and a booster of Fells Point, saying this was "a place where you can live anonymously or you can live out loud." A colleague recalled the Christmas season of 1994, which Butts punctuated by darting "around a one-block area of Fells Point, clad only in Christmas lights [on] an extremely long extension cord." A wake overfilled his favorite bar on Fleet Street.

**The Fells Point Citizens on Patrol Newsletter is published monthly by FPCOP Inc. Your questions, input, and participation regarding patrols and this newsletter, are welcome.**

**Please contact us by:**

**phone - 410.327.7446  
410.342.7354 leave message**  
**e-mail - FPCPatrol@aol.com**  
**or write to - P O Box 6137  
Baltimore, MD 21231**

### *Point Pointers*

#### **Share, With Care, the Uncrowded Sidewalk**

*A readers' guide to life on the Fells Point streets:*

When alone on the street, you are a potential target for (at worst) violence and (at least) unwanted solicitation, i.e. panhandlers. Therefore be aware of your personal perimeter—about a 35-foot radius. Be aware of all movement in your perimeter. If a vehicle or person enters it, determine whether you are comfortable with that proximity. If not, move quickly away to reestablish your safety zone.

Be aware of places from which you could be surprised—shadowed doorways, blind alleys—and keep sufficient distance to avoid potential harm. If you know your walking routes, this can become second nature. If you see someone who looks suspicious, ask one of your neighbors if that person agrees. This provides a reality check for both of you, as well as ready support if needed.

### **Opportunistic Knocking**

*Info from a concerned neighbor:* Several years ago my house was burglarized, and the individual had the nerve to come back several days later. This man is again out of jail and back in operation - looking through mail slots, ringing bells and taking notes on who is home or not and when, so he can return another time. If someone does answer the door, he asks if they need any work done.

He is a tall, slender white male, with light brown hair, mustache, mid-30s and he carries a large duffel bag typically containing more bags, a screwdriver, pry bar and gloves. He has already paid a return visit to our house, probably remembering the TV he stole and wheeled down the street in a shopping cart. Unfortunately no one stopped him as the TV rolled by.

#### **www.fellspoint.us**

Jacqueline Greff, who heads the Newsletter's Circulation Department and who contributed mightily to the animal story in this issue, maintains a web page as a public service for the neighborhood that will tell you some things that even the Newsletter hasn't reported. She invites community nonprofits to enter free listings and commercial service is available as well. She expects to put an electronic version of the monthly Newsletters on the web site.

For now, Greff is looking for a volunteer Newsletter team leader for distribution on the East Side. The job generally requires an hour or less on one Saturday morning per month.

### **Upcoming Events**

**Free Audubon Fun at Patterson Rink** - Call Jenny Kirkbride at 410.299.2346 to register. Workshops held around the fireplace. Saturday, January 11, 2:00 – 3:00 PM, Audubon Art: Winter Crafts (ages 4-11). Saturday, January 25, 2:00 – 3:00 PM, Pirates by Land (9 and up).

**Fire Safety in Historic District** - Steven Sass speaks on safe products and methods on Tuesday, January 14 at 6:30 PM at Preservation Society Visitor Center on S. Ann Street.

### **Printer's Ad**

### **Building a Better Mouse Map**

#### **- - And Annals of Fells Point Animals**

On the morning of the big snow, as promenaders swaddled their dogs in sweaters, the newspapers were as thick as a poodle's winter coat with animal stories: the human is a close cousin of mice, according to the DNA, and thus explorers of the genome are leaving no gene of the wee rodents unturned (*Sun* and *NYTimes*); mice make wondrous pets, always have (*Sun*); and dogs aren't really very smart, just enough to bilk humans into thinking they are, while cats can't be bothered (*NYTimes*).

Denizens of the animal house that is Fells Point know about dogs and mice as well as rats and pigeons. But were you aware of the homeless mother cat who lately has raised successive litters near Bond Street Wharf? This spring and summer also produced a number of opossum sightings. A Bond Street parking lot attendant saw one in a construction truck and thought that's how they arrived. However, a man on the lot said they have lived here for the 14 years. A boatman says a marsupial mom and two young live on his pier at Caroline Street.

A dogmatic beaver with a Lassie complex keeps returning to dam the inlet beside Living Classrooms. "We keep taking him away. We're afraid he'll be hit by the boats," said a spokeswoman. The Caroline boatman reports that a red fox dens down at the Red Star, that once and future eatery on Wolfe Street. Swans rendezvous and blue heron live on or visit three piers, says the boatman, who also has seen blue jays, red-headed woodpeckers, robins, orioles, and, of course, mallards, seagulls and doves. A chilly cardinal turned up on an East Lancaster feeder. Pier fishers find eels, crabs, bass (large- and small-mouth), catfish, perch, bluegills, sunfish, trout, and an occasional rock. On a smaller scale, fish in hidden tanks of the Aquarium annex at Wolfe and Alicanna Streets do time for science.

Barely a dog walk away, at Patterson Park, are bats, yellow-bellied sap suckers and other woodpeckers, roving red-tailed hawks and, when the boat lake is operating, wood ducks. Friends of Patterson Park issued a relieved seasonal bulletin saying the lake's beloved red-bellied turtle was responding to the turtleologists' shots for infected sinuses and was receiving visitors at the ice rink.

If the animals organized, they could seize the agenda at the Fells Point Task Force.

### **Doing the Du Burns Arena**

Just east of Safeway on Boston Street is a lively Department of Recreation and Parks service few 'Pointers know enough even to complain about - the Clarence "Du" Burns Arena, where the Baltimore Blast practice and legions of youngster leagues kick it around at indoor soccer. The games begin at 6:00 PM weekdays and at 7:30 AM on weekends and the doors don't close until midnight. There are four full-time instructors, adult teams play as well, and it holds 650 spectators. An outdoor field is adjacent.

Named for the ex-mayor, Burns Arena rents meeting rooms, hosts weddings and now books a banquet room holding up to 150. It offers a sweeping view of Canton's harbor - and also a glassed-off luxury-box look at the soccer, if desired. The room rents for \$125 per hour. The arena's front door is at 1301 South Elwood Avenue. Call for more information, for example, what hours this week the Blast will be kicking up a fuss: 410.396.4202.

### **Neighborhood Association Meeting Schedules**

**Fells Point Antique Dealers Association:** (meetings as needed) Call 410.675.4776 for more information.

**Fells Point Business Association:** (Third Tuesday of every month) 9:00 AM at EBLO, 606 South Ann Street.

**Fells Point Community Organization:** (Second Monday of every month) 7:00 PM at the Fells Point Visitor Center, 410.276.5471.

**Fells Point Homeowners Association:** (First Wednesday of every month) 7:30 PM at Bertha's 2nd Floor Studio.

**Mid-Point Community Association:** (First Tuesday of every month) 7:30 PM at Conrad-Miller Gallery, 2007 Fleet Street.

**Society for the Preservation of Fells Point and Federal Hill:** Call 410.675.6750 for more information.

**Eastern, Dallas, Bond Streets Association:** (Every other month, the second Monday of the month) 7:30 - 8:30 PM at 1637 Eastern Avenue.