

# Fells Point Citizens on Patrol INC.

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

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## Downtowners Finds Way to Fells Point

Downtown Partnership of Baltimore Inc. announced plans last month to extend its reach through Inner Harbor East and into western Fells Point, a move that would add another layer of overlapping boundaries on a neighborhood whose terrain already is embraced at least in part by its Historic District, Urban Renewal District (except for the hole in the doughnut), the Harbor East Community, and the Southeast Community. These various frontiers are crisscrossed by those of more than a dozen smaller community groups that usually lay claim only to several blocks each.

The Downtown group formed in 1992 under state legislation authorizing it to tax property owners—beyond what already is paid to the City—in order to enhance the appearance and security of the commercial center. Its proposed expansion would embrace properties developed in Inner Harbor East by bakery owner John Paterakis and extend to Fells Point's new Bond Street Wharf Building, built by Struever Bros. Eccles & Rouse. Reportedly the Downtowners are in search of more revenue and initially sought inclusion of all Fells Point but found the commerce too scattered and small to sustain the proposed new services.

Any expansion would require approval of 60 percent of affected property owners. Little Italy already has opted out and the Fells Point Homeowners' Association is formulating objections. A less commercially oriented version of the special tax district approach has been adopted by the Charles Village and Mt. Vernon neighborhoods and occasionally has been considered, without enthusiasm, by Fells Point groups.

### . . . Inner Harbor's Out Phase

A principal reason for downtown's drift eastward is the near building out of the Inner Harbor, and last month also saw an attempt at rationalizing that process. The city's Baltimore Development Corp. presented a \$200,000 study commissioned to find ways of improving traffic and pedestrian flows and maximizing development of remaining properties in the Inner Harbor. The only recommendation specifically affecting Fells Point involved tweaking the Promenade as it heads east by widening the bridge that carries it diagonally through the National Aquarium and Power Plant properties. The consulting architects suggested that housing replace the concert tent on the Pier Six Pavillion, which is where Inner Harbor meets Inner Harbor East.

The study does extend to the vacant Allied Chemical site, projecting on its western shore the park that is to be a substantial portion of what is now a recuperated brown field. Many in Fells Point have hopes of the park being closest to them, adjacent to the Living Classrooms' park-like project at the foot of Thames Street that includes a sailboat repair yard.

## Threats to Tax Credits

Almost 80 interested parties, including representatives of the Preservation Society of Fells Point and Federal Hill, appeared at a state Senate hearing in Annapolis that is considering cutback or elimination of the Rehabilitation Tax Credit program. The credits have helped pay for significant restorations throughout Maryland. A state tax credit of 20 percent is available for residential and commercial projects approved by the Maryland Historical Trust. It helped relocate the Daily Grind on Thames Street, restore the Hippodrome Theater downtown and it is expected to provide \$100,000 for creation of the Maritime Museum in the Preservation Society's ex-Trolley Barn on Thames.

Critics of the program enacted in 1996 have argued that its expense is skyrocketing while the state budget deficits grow, and that the city is disproportionately the beneficiary. Indeed, several residential and commercial projects have benefited in Baltimore, particularly in Fells Point. Commercial rehab projects can also obtain federal tax credits. Yet the Preservation Society, in counseling use of the credits, has found that many residential rehabilitators were unaware of the program, which only recently has attracted broad attention. The Society is urging advocates to make their views known to their legislators. One proposed change in the program would eliminate nonprofit groups, such as the Society, from participation.

### Rec Pier Proposals Flow In

With the city's end-of-February deadline for Recreation Pier proposals at hand, the *Sun* reported on three submittals and the Preservation Society filed one as well. The Society's would seek support to have the pier accommodate recreational use and the community's historical tourism efforts, in addition to the berthing of Pride of Baltimore II. The proposals surveyed by the *Sun* include, variously, a hotel, a 12-floor condominium, a restaurant and parking.

### New Faces on Ann Street Wharf

Members of the Center for Clinical Trials (CCT), which is part of the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, are moving into their new offices on Ann Street Wharf. CCT's 60 faculty, staff and graduate students are mostly on the main Hopkins medical campus but more of them may join the members in the expansion site at the foot of Ann Street. CCT operates jointly with the Bloomberg School of Public Health and the School of Medicine.

Hopkins leased the Ann Street space after the previous tenant, Network Technologies Group (NTG), collapsed in scandal. NTG's former CEO pleaded guilty last month to fraud. The company had installed communications cable.



**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:**

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



### 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, March 10 -	glass, metal, and plastic
Friday, March 14 -	paper
Monday, March 24 -	glass, metal, and plastic
Friday, March 28 -	paper
Friday, April 11 -	paper





Jacquie Greff Photo

## Neighbors Along Lancaster Pitch In to Fend Off Blizzard

By Jacquie Greff

As the Monday of the great snow was the presidents' holiday, most Fells Pointers relaxed and stayed inside. But on Tuesday it began to hit people, especially along streets too narrow for plows, that their cars could be buried for the duration.

On Lancaster Street between Bond and Broadway, the transformation started late that morning. A Bond Street resident who was parked on our block decided to start digging. A man looking for work was enlisted. Several neighbors with nearby cars started helping. I decided to join—the exercise felt good. It seemed like a joke that we could get more than a few cars out. Mine was in the next block.

More people dug in. "Do you think this is worse than '96?" "I don't even remember '96. What was that?" "I think '96 was worse. Some cars were buried for months." "Did you see Durham Street? They have it totally cleaned already. We can't let them beat us." People left when they were tired, lending their shovels to new arrivals. The problem became not how to get the snow out of the street, but where to put it. Someone brought a tarp to drag mountains of snow to impassably narrow Dallas Street. Panic rose as the sun set. About three-fourths of the two blocks was clear. Not enough. Frosted neighbors redoubled their efforts and finished the job.

When, by the weekend, the city's belabored crews had yet to clear Fells Point's larger streets, Mayor Martin O'Malley called Struever Bros. Eccles & Rouse. Could the construction company use its equipment to help? The word went out by word of mouth, phone, and flyers—get as many cars off the streets as possible. Overnight parking in the Thames Street Garage, just built by Struever, would be free or, later, low-fee. Nothing worked perfectly, but soon the streets indeed were finally clear, with lessons learned for, alas, a sequel.

## Printer's Ad

## Bawlmer's Cherce Eateries

In a full-page tour of Baltimore restaurants for the February 19 *New York Times* Dining In section, R.W. Apple ventured out of the Inner Harbor for a test of taverns and such, headlined: "In Bawlmer, Hon, Crab Is King." Five of Fells Point's finest made his list—Duda's, Henninger's, Blue Moon, Black Olive and Pierpoint.

## Walking Tours Step Off Briskly

Starting March 15 and running to November, The Preservation Society's walking tours will take up anew from the Ann Street Visitor Center, with a requirement this year of reservations in advance. Tickets are \$12. Maritime History tours are on the second and fourth Saturdays each month at 10:00 AM. The third Saturdays are for Bonds of History tours on the local impact of slavery. Every Saturday at 12:30 PM is Immigration. Each Friday at 7:00 PM, starting March 21, is the haunted history, Ghostwalk. Free self-guided Architectural Tours are available from the Center. One for the calendars: On Mothers' Day, May 11, the Historic Harbor House Tour.

## When Walking's Not Enough

Every Tuesday, the Evening Harbor Run/Walk crowd meets at 736 South Bond Street (specialty shoe shop, 5K) at 6:45 PM for a three to six mile step off, all paces welcome. On Thursdays, it's the mornin' Run/Walk, 7:15, at Patterson Park's White House, Patterson Park Avenue and Lombard Street - two to six miles, all paces. More info: 410.342.0305.



Doug Grinath Photo

*Busy beaver forsakes Jimmy's for breakfast on fallen channel wall off Lancaster Street.*

## Photos Foil Beaver Skeptics

Critics flooded in on the first tide after the Newsletter's chronicle two months ago of Fells Point wildlife. Raccoons perhaps, they said, but beavers, favoring fresh water, never. Now Doug Grinath of Living Classrooms has released photographs documenting the rodents at their salty site along the Patapsco west of Caroline Street. "They come every spring," Grinath said. They'll surely be welcome.

## Newsletter Needs Carriers

The vaunted volunteer newsletter distribution team lost a couple of stalwarts in the snow drifts and is seeking a few new feet for less than one hour each second Saturday of the month, or thereabouts. If you would like to help, please call Jacquie Greff, 410.675.4128, or e-mail the Newsletter.

## 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.

**Fells Point Marketing Group:** (Third Monday of every month) 6:30 PM at Kooper's, 410.276.1410.

**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.