

# Fells Point Citizens on Patrol<sup>INC</sup>

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

June 2003

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## Ed Kane, Hailing His Last Taxi, Embraced Fells Point, Rec Pier

*Jacquie Greff of Lancaster Street, Jacquie@TonalVision.com, interviewed Ed Kane, commodore of the Water Taxi fleet with which he graced the harbor, on the day before his death at 72 last month. This picture and excerpt are from the tape she made as part of a documentary of Fells Point:*

“One of my fascinating stories about Fells Point, frequently forgotten, had to do with back in 1794, the legislature authorized incorporation of Baltimore City. It didn’t happen until 1797. Why was that? The reason for that is—Fells Point didn’t want any part of it. They didn’t want any part of it because they were absolutely certain that those people in Baltimore were going to filch away the tax monies and improve the inner basin to the detriment of Fells Point. Because they thought of themselves as separate entities.

“Well, that ability to argue and fuss and fight... remains. It rears its head every once in a while. It certainly showed itself in the road battle, and I can pretty much guarantee that it will show itself in this battle. We do not need condos on Rec Pier. We do not need town houses on Rec Pier... And what could be built commercially there is a mere pittance to the future. What could be achieved there socially and municipally is a great contribution in terms of it being a center of activity, a center of activity to which people can walk. They won’t need their cars. A center of activity that is the outlet onto



Jacquie Greff

the water. We have access to the water by the Promenade. We have sight lines to the water. But where do we get the use of the water?

“That facility should somehow lend itself to I’ll call it a public-private partnership of how do the citizens of Baltimore get to the water and use it. And the city needs space for fire boats and they need space for police boats and we need a home for the Pride of Baltimore that’s in context. We need a place for visiting vessels. All of these things come together and create a Baltimore Marine Activity Center that fills a need that goes far into the future. And that’s my personal view on it. Benefiting the whole bay.”

## Zippy Duda’s, Through the Beers...

*by Heather Harris*

Cindy has been tending bar and waiting tables at Duda’s Tavern, on the corner of Thames and Bond, for 23 years. She started by working the Friday night shift that nobody else wanted. Friday night was \$1 import night, and there were 50 imported beers to keep straight. With no significant knowledge of beer, but with a young daughter and a friendly personality, Cindy rose to the challenge. Soon she picked up more shifts. Many of her regular customers were employees of Allied Chemical, which was still in full operation, and the Coin Laundry across the street on Bond. They would come in to see her after work, dodging the freight trains that ran on Thames and Bond.

On a particularly eventful day in Fells Point, Cindy and her customers watched Barry Levinson burn down the warehouse across the street (where RTKL and Su Casa occupy the new Bond Street Wharf building) for his movie “Avalon.” When I asked Cindy about old Fells Point’s reputation for hard and rowdy drinkers, she laughed and shook

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her head. “It was pretty quiet by 8 o’clock on this end of Thames. We would watch movies and I would make hot chocolate and popcorn for the neighborhood folks who would stop in.” Cindy is equally nonchalant

about the new growth on the old face of the neighborhood, and the changing typical customer: “Most of the groups that come in now designate a driver.” Her daughter grew up, and these days Cindy spends time with her two grandchildren. But Duda’s, and the regular customers she continues to attract, are family as well.

### ... and Cannon Makes a Splash

When workers building a bulkhead for the Promenade beside Bond Street dredged up a 200-year-old French cannon they provoked a confession from a resident of Fells Point in the 1950s:

William Rohrman, 68, told The Sun how he and prankster friends tossed the 500-pounder into the drink with the help of a handcart. It already had been knocked off a decorative perch by a passing truck. Rohrman grew up on South Bond Street and moved to Shrewsbury, Pa., only five years ago. “In my day, it was all working-class, seamen and stevedores,” he said. “Now these phony people, well, that don’t set right with me.”

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.

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FPCOP Newsletters are online @ [www.fpcop.com](http://www.fpcop.com)

### Trash and Recycling Schedule

Trash should be placed outside in metal trash cans. After 6 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 AM on collection day. Recycle paper in paper bags, in a cardboard box, or tied with string; glass, metal, and plastic should be in blue plastic bags.

Friday, June 13	paper
Monday, June 23	glass, metal, plastic
Friday, June 27	paper
Friday, July 11	paper
Monday, July 14	glass, metal, plastic



### Crime Along Ann Street: an Arrest

Police arrested and charged with attempted murder a man identified by an Ann Street merchant as the wielder of a knife in a robbery on April 23, within view of the Visitor Center. The merchant told a neighbor his assailant had returned to the shop—twice. They called police and the neighbor tailed the man leisurely strolling toward Canton. A police helicopter picked up the trail and the man was arrested. He gave his residence as in Florida but Police Detective Todd Tugya said he has prior arrests and addresses in Baltimore. Tugya said the man is not suspected in other recent burglaries near the shop nor in other nearby armed robberies in the area—in five of six of which he has arrests or warrants. The shop owner, largely recovered from his stab wound, was gratified by the latest police reaction, which he felt had fallen short initially. He is in the market for a shop dog.

### Maritime Museum's Maiden Voyage

The Fells Point Maritime Museum at 1724 Thames Street is to open June 21 at 10 AM, with admission free for the first weekend. Transformation of the block-deep old Trolley Barn from its most recent incarnation—coffee house and upstairs movie house—to site of the Maryland Historical Society's collection has been so thorough that sidewalk skeptics at nearby Daily Grind tables have suggested it would never end. The Barn's endearing walk-on scales and rope-operated elevator survived to become features of the 2,600-square-foot exhibit space.

A cooperative venture with the Preservation Society, which owns the building, the museum will display models, tools, images and weapons to tell the sail-era saga of Fells Point as a premier shipyard and port in the 1780-1830 period. The Museum and upstairs offices now connect to the Society's Visitor Center on Ann Street. Museum hours are 10 A.M. to 5 P.M., Thursday through Monday: \$4 for adults, \$3 for students and seniors, children under 13 free.

### Seniors Beware

The Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office will host its annual forum for senior citizens on June 25 at 1 PM at the Joseph Center, 430 South Broadway, on topics from safeguarding self and property to avoiding fraud and scams. Representatives from governmental and non-profit agencies will attend. For more information contact Angela Fraser, 410.878.8586 or e-mail [afraser@stattorney.org](mailto:afraser@stattorney.org)

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### FPCOP POINTERS

*If you have an item of interest to the community, please email or mail it to the Newsletter, addresses herein, and we will do our best to include it, edited to the limited space as necessary.*

#### Look for a Climb in Tree Planting

Baltimore City has resumed the sidewalk tree plantings. If you know of detree'ed pits in your block, and would like them filled with trees, please write or e-mail us with the location and we will pass that information on to the proper authorities.

If there isn't a hole in your sidewalk, or if the hole holds a stump, that is a larger-bore undertaking. We are told that funds for this work are more limited, but it can be done by the homeowner. Don't forget to call MISS UTILITY at 1.800.257.7777 before you do any digging.

#### Eyes and Ears Can Abet Police

As we know, Fells Point, while a vibrant and generally safe community, still has room for improvement. Vandalism, panhandling, burglary, drugs and assault are all issues we face. We can help the police combat crime. If you see suspicious activity, call 311 and make sure you get an incident number to use if follow-up calls become necessary. If you see a crime happening, call 911. Unfortunately the city has limited resources for patrols and prevention, which is why our help is important in helping to address these issues. If you are interested in joining FPCOP, write or e-mail us.

#### Site-Side Parking Scam

This in from Jeff: "We are all aware there is much construction in our area and we need to be reasonably patient, but what about construction crews taking advantage by stealing our parking spaces for excessive periods of time with permits, or leaving dumpsters in them? It appears certain permits to originally restrict parking for large pieces of equipment are now reserving personal spaces for the workers. Is anyone aware of a city agency we can contact to reclaim these spaces?"

**Editor:** This sort of complaint is supposed to be a breeze with the City's 311 system. Give it a call and see what response you receive. Ask for a complaint number from the respondent so you can persist. Let us in on the outcome.

### Cain Acts to Limit Building Heights

City Councilman John Cain introduced a bill Monday that would substantially lower allowable heights on the Bohager's site and accompanying plots just west of Caroline Street near the water.

Accompanied by Fells Point civic leaders at a City Hall press conference, Cain called for maintenance of a buffer between high-rise Harbor East and low-rise Fells Point. He would accomplish this by attaching the blocks to the Fells Point Urban Renewal Plan rather than to that of Harbor East, as called for by City officials. Under their proposal, at least one apartment building could rise 120 feet.

### Neighborhood Association Meeting Schedules

**Fells Point Citizens on Patrol:** (Third Monday of every other month) July 21st, 7 PM at Bertha's 2nd Floor Studio.

**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 AM at EBLO, 606 South Ann Street.

**Fells Point Community Organization:** (Second Monday of every month) 7 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:** (First 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 Zoe's Garden, 1918 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, second Monday of the month) 7:30-8:30 PM at 1637 Eastern Avenue.