

Fells Point Citizens on Patrol^{INC}

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

July 2003

Volume 5 Number 7

Mayor, at Living Classrooms, Says Rec Pier Should Stay Public

Mayor Martin O'Malley, helping break ground for Living Classrooms' Mikulski Workforce Development Center on Caroline Street last month, told the Newsletter that Recreation Pier in Fells Point should remain in public hands and means must be found for its preservation. Asked to comment on the city's requests for pier proposals from private developers, he said, "My staff may have got out ahead of me on that one."

Five proposals, from condos to a hotel, are before a committee mostly of city officials but including a representative of the Fells Point Task Force, Lori Guess. The applicants have been asked to refine their submittals following attempts to measure public opinion. Fells Point commentators and a survey taken at a session in the ballroom indicated preference for none but instead for rehabilitation of that grand hall and maritime uses of the pier. All would include a home dock for Pride of Baltimore II.

Latest Developments

* A representative of Struever Bros., Eccles & Rouse, developers of the Allied Chemical site that is being billed as Harbor Point, told the Task Force that the property owner has ruled out residential use of the rehabilitated brownfields. It once included a chromium plant. He said present thinking is for several large but low office buildings on the east side, two hotels, and the requisite city park and unspecified public building to the west. The Promenade would cover the waterfront and a bridge near the point would link to the mainland.

* Swann's Wharf, at Wolfe and Fell Streets, has a new developer: Hanover Co. of Houston, which seeks to modify an approved proposal for 262 residential units and parking on the waterside site. Eight townhouses would be for sale instead of 22. The main rental building would be eight stories, marginally lower than before, and monthly rentals were estimated as in the \$1,400-3,000 range.

Historic Baltimore

Did you know that to hold public office, Baltimoreans had to believe in the Holy Trinity? Or why Baltimore is called the Monumental City? And that the dead were buried standing up or facing down? The Joseph Center, 430 S. Broadway, offers four one-hour sessions on the city's picaresque history on consecutive Tuesdays at 7 P.M., starting July 22. Classes are \$10 each. Register by July 15 and receive a discount. 410.732.5000.

For the already captivated who wish to become involved, there's the Baltimore City Historical Society, dedicated to the proposition that a clear record of the city's past is essential to accommodating its present and future. 410.685.3750, Ext. 379, www.historicbaltimore.org



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, July 11	paper
Monday, July 14	glass, metal, plastic
Friday, July 25	paper
Monday, July 28	glass, metal, plastic



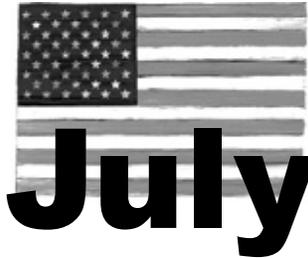
Mikulski Center Underway

The June 16 ceremony at Living Classrooms featured Sen. Barbara Mikulski, who obtained \$300,000 in federal funds for the Development Center. It is to house job training programs for East Baltimore teens as well as the fledgling Crossroads Middle School. Recalling her early years in Fells Point, she said she preferred not to be remembered by buildings but "as a social worker with power." The city's contribution, O'Malley noted, was \$35,000, "and that's why it's the Mikulski Center." The stars of the groundbreaking, though, were current students, who rapped and sang and recited their thanks. The mayor asked them to look to their future and repeat, "My city needs me." They did, lustily.

It was a literal groundbreaking in the sense that Mikulski and the youngsters went to a nearby student-built greenhouse and troweled the plants that are to become the green roof—a first for the harbor—on the two-level, ship-shaped Center. One of the community proposals for the Rec Pier is that its deck become a swath of green.

4 Douglass Historic Markers

Street signs now mark four sites in Fells Point associated with the life of Maryland's one-time slave and abolitionist Frederick Douglass. The project is a collaboration of Louis Fields of Baltimore Black Heritage Tours and two City offices, marking stages in the life of 19th century America's most prominent African American. Signs are at Dallas and Fleet, 1815 Aliceanna, Wolfe and Lancaster, and Thames west of Bond.



Trista Snyder

The FPCOP Newsletter goes on vacation in August and will not reappear until the September issue.

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
Write to P.O. Box 6137
Baltimore, MD 21231

FPCOP Newsletters are online @ www.fpcop.com

Flower Woman Back on Job, And Friends Again Have Hair

by Heather Harris

Lisa Chaplin Suit has had her share of hardship, although you would never know it from a casual conversation. Lisa runs the Fells Point Flower Shoppe and is sharing space with Shades of Light, between the new Maritime Museum and the Cat's Eye on Thames Street. With tiny frame and fey grin, she approaches her arrangements as an artist. Last spring the single mother of two young girls fought her second battle with cancer. She was coordinating a marketing event for the small businesses of Fells Point when she discovered the lump. She was forced to cancel the event, undergo surgery, and begin chemotherapy, which left her with diminishing hair and diminishing income.

Colleagues in commerce came up with a solidarity drive, offering shaved heads for contributions—and bald pates popped up behind counters around the 'Point. The neighborhood rallied. A benefit was held and quiet support offered. "I couldn't walk into any bar or restaurant without someone asking if I had eaten. And my kids knew that any business in the neighborhood was a safe place for them. I can't put how that felt into words, except to say it was awesome." Lisa has finished chemo and radiation, her friends' hair is back, too, and she feels good. Her message to Fells Point: "Thank you. I love you. You are my family. And I'm ready to dive into work again, so please don't hesitate to call." At 410.276.1410.

Art World Wagathon

Dogs are sniffing out a Wagathon sandwich board at the Fells Point Art Gallery, 1716 Thames Street, advising them to "have your owner enter your picture" within. Maria Cavacos, a local dog owner and one of about 45 members of the non-profit artist cooperative, came up with the pooch pulchritude contest. Two top dogs will pose for a pastel and a caricature by members. The co-op dates to the 1970s.

Patterson Park Summer

The Friends of Patterson Park programs, augmented by the Audubon Project, offer too many daily summer diversions to detail here—from Music on Pagoda Hill, Sundays at 7 P.M., to plumbing the treasures of the Boat Lake, Saturdays at 10 A.M. Fee to swim in the pool? \$1.50, or \$25 for all summer. Audubon's particulars are found at 410.299.2346 or www.audubonmddc.org and Friends' particulars at 410.276.3676 or www.pattersonpark.com.

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Printer's Ad

Defenses Can Be Deployed To Fend Off Identity Thieves

Fells Pointer's misfortune offers lessons:

"In my mailbox on June 10, with the regular bills and fliers, was a thick envelope from a bank with a loan payment book for a car that I did not purchase. A call to the bank confirmed that someone using my name, social security number and date of birth, had bought a car.

How he or she got this information I still do not know. I had taken all of the precautions I knew about: shredding or otherwise destroying all documents that have important identifying information, and requesting my free annual credit report from the three major credit agencies. Still, someone had gathered enough data to buy a very expensive vehicle using my name."

Based on this experience, here are some tips that can minimize your risk:

- * Contact each of the credit agencies by phone and in writing to notify them of any such event, ASAP! The agencies can put a hold on your "instant credit" so that you or anyone else attempting to open new credit in your name will need to call and confirm with you first. This hold is temporary but you can request it to remain in place for up to seven years, and renew it every seven years thereafter.
- * Report the identity theft to the police and get a complaint/report number. Lenders and the credit agencies may need a copy of the report or the report number to process your claim of fraud. Rather than having to get a separate report for each incident resulting from a theft, it helps to hold off the final report until you receive your credit reports and can include all of the events. The Southeast District officer who responded that morning was very helpful.
- * Maryland law allows you to receive one free credit report per year from each agency. Stagger your free credit reports throughout the year—one every four months or so. I had requested all three of my reports at the same time, five months ago, and would have missed this until I was in default if the thief had given a valid postal address.

The Baltimore police Check and Fraud Division phone is 410.396.2400. Two useful government information sites on this rapidly growing crime are:

<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/pubs/credit/idtheft.htm>

<http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft/>

The contact information for the three major credit agencies are:

Equifax—www.equifax.com. To order report, 1.800.685.1111. To report fraud, 1.800.525.6285.

Experian—www.experian.com. To order report, 1.888.397.3742. To report fraud, 1.888.397.3742.

TransUnion—www.transunion.com. To order report, 1.800.916.8800. To report fraud, 1.800.680.7289.

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.