

Fells Point Citizens on Patrol^{INC}

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

September 2003

Volume 5 Number 8

Waterside Groundbreaking Sept. 30 For Douglass-Myers Maritime Park

With the letting of contracts for extension of the Promenade and bulkhead around the west end of Thames Street, Living Classrooms will break ground September 30 on the Frederick Douglass-Isaac Myers Maritime Park. They will start with a school building addition to the historic round-cornered warehouse now in restoration that is often referred to here as the Sugar House. It dates to the early 1800s and is the harbor's oldest industrial building.

All are invited to the ceremony at the site, which will become a public—but not a city-operated—park. The city sold the acreage to the nonprofit Living Classrooms for \$1 after assembling it through swaps with previous owners. The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation has granted \$1.5 million to assist the project and Rep. Ben Cardin was key to obtaining \$3 million in federal funds for the bulkhead. Tentative plans for the ceremony include having the City College marching band form up at the foot of Broadway and play their way to the site. Living Classrooms obtained further grants and it will use the buildings for students in its Crossroads Middle School and training programs for disadvantaged young people.

While much has been written about the abolitionist Douglass, who spent his formative years in Fells Point, less is known of Myers, the black post-Civil War shipyard owner here. He with 14 others founded in 1866 what became the Chesapeake Marine Railway and Dry Dock Co. on Philpot Street just west of the new park. The city's African-American Genealogical Society has researched the group to honor them in the Founders Room of the upcoming Alex Brown Maritime Education Center, as the Sugar House will be known.



The Sugar House now in partial renovation beside temporary repair shed



The envisioned Weinburg Center of the new park, with building about to be started

Archaeologists have studied the site and signs will point out the findings. A main feature will be a marine railway that will allow dry-docking for the sailboats of Living Classrooms and others.

Sept

Police Say Robberies Spree Ended With Suspect's Arrest

A pair of shop robberies early this month in Fells Point are unrelated to the multiple cases in August that ended with the capture of a suspect on August 19, said Southeast Police Det. Todd Tugya. The suspect from West Baltimore remains in custody and has been charged with five shop or bar armed robberies on or near South Broadway's 700 block. He is suspected in two others but no witnesses have emerged in those.

The September robberies include that of Subway, in the same area, of a small amount of money. The suspect being sought in that case is another African-American male. In a shop robbery on Thames Street, the police are seeking an Hispanic male. The August spree resulted in a concentration of police in the area that residents and merchants contend has been needed all along.

Southeast's new police commander, Maj. Scott Williams, met at his headquarters with several dozen area-wide

residents in August, saying he hoped to revive the community relations council that effectively had disbanded under his predecessor. He also said he welcomed working with Citizens on Patrol. He said this was a city-wide effort and he noted that Officer Melvin Penn is again available for training. While he expressed sympathy with calls for foot and bike patrolmen who might coordinate with COP efforts, he cited staffing and budgetary shortages.

Williams, a 17-year veteran, fielded sometimes bitter complaints of failure of police to respond to calls or unresponsiveness of officers who do show up. He said that anyone with a complaint about police performance should call himself or public affairs Sgt. Rufus Dawson at 410.545.6513. Drugs and prostitution are primary concerns in the broad area, he said, and as for Fells Point, "I want to get a bike officer down there... but I can't guarantee it."



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, September 12	paper
Monday, September 22	glass, metal, plastic
Friday, September 26	paper
Friday, October 10	paper

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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EBLO Users' Guide to Park

Education-Based Latino Outreach, occupying the city-owned former Pratt Library branch at 606 South Ann Street, is encouraging Fells Pointers to use the little-known park accessible only through the building. The nonprofit group also offers its fall schedule of English and Spanish classes as well as bilingual computer instruction.

The interior park, bounded by Register Street and buildings along Aliceanna, Ann and Fleet Streets, is available to residents Monday through Friday from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. and Saturday 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. It was re-landscaped last year by volunteers from Struever Bros. Eccles & Rouse. Community groups can schedule picnics or other events by calling 410.563.3160 or stopping at the EBLO office.

EBLO also has rooms available for meetings of community groups on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 5 to 9 P.M. Room reservations require registration as do evening classes, which start September 22 and include:

- * English as a Second Language, 6 to 9 P.M., Mondays and Wednesdays until January with three levels of study. Free.
- * Beginning Computer. bilingual. Two classes on Mondays and Wednesdays, and on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6 to 8 P.M. Free.
- * Spanish Classes, 10-week beginner course on Tuesdays, 7 to 8:30 P.M. \$120.

'Point Looks to Main Street Program

Under President Susan Singer, the Fells Point Business Association has applied for inclusion in the federally funded Baltimore Main Street Program that could help provide for a community promotion manager and pay for improving the appearance of the shopping area. Singer told the Homeowners Association that the result could be revival of closed shops and reduction of panhandling.

To obtain \$72,000 in aid from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the business group has obtained locally pledged of \$26,000, including \$500 from the Homeowners voted at their meeting September 3. For their part, the Homeowners are seeking to form a Friends of Thames Street Park to provide improvements not forthcoming from the city.

The 37th Fells Point Fun Festival that helps sustain the Preservation Society will be held October 4-5, 11 A.M. to 7 P.M. Among the new attractions: Better Homes & Gardens' Experience truck, here for a big look at little gardens.

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Two Wakes for Revered Artists

Fells Point lost to cancer a musician and a painter, both of whom found expression in the neighborhood's characteristic venue, its bars.

~ Point's Song Ere Will Lilt in Memory ~

William Whitman was the Walt Whitman of Irish song in Fells Point for 25 years. His death at 51 alike deprived venues in Washington and on Locust Point, the latter where his impassioned cohorts and fans gathered for a wake in July at J. Patrick's. "Though an accomplished flute and whistle player, Bill was, more than anything else, a singer. And his specialty was the comic song," said colleague Terence Winch.

Whitman nowhere was more sonorous and witty than at the Cat's Eye on Thames Street. He commuted to work at NPR in Washington but contributed to his neighborhood by sustaining his wife Denise in her direction of the Fun Festival that underwrites the Preservation Society. She was a voice in his song, so in turn was their daughter Katie—and the three of them made a grand Festival of Ann Street.

~ The Face on the Barroom Stool ~

Charles C. Newton Jr., 74, found subjects throughout Maryland but saloon scenes, conceived and often hung in 'Point joints, were his signature. As the Sun's Dan Rodricks put it, "Charlie had a broad canvas—from big sky on the Chesapeake to rainy nights in Fells Point." The artist's "After Work," of a blonde on the lam in a bar, accompanied the column.

A large, motley crowd of regulars sent him off August 9 at the Dead End with his pictures on the wall. His son William of Reisterstown, where Charlie was in a care center, wrote a dirge to his dad that includes:

"It was a kind of a reunion for the pictures painted by you. With their backs against the wall, they looked out, frames searching for their creator's brush. Each one a reflection in the eyes that viewed them."

Street-Tested Security Tips

Community leaders Darcy and Charles Norton and their shop, Sheep's Clothing, are longtime residents of Shakespeare Street and have an eye for the foibles of new neighbors less alert to the ground rules of urban security. Darcy offers these:

* Never leave anything in plain view in your car, no matter how insignificant. Thieves think nothing of breaking a window for a pack of cigarettes or a few pennies left on the dash. You may be left with an expensive repair or an increase in your insurance premiums. Either way, you got robbed!

* According to police, most robberies are crimes of convenience—people make it far too easy for a would-be thief to strike. Keep up the appearance that someone is home: use automatic timer lights, have a trusted neighbor take in your mail while you're away, and don't leave your trash can on the sidewalk for days at a time.

* If you are in a particularly vulnerable area, install window grates, and no matter where you live, make sure you have dead bolts on doors.

Remember that carelessness not only puts you at risk, it puts your neighbors at risk as well.

Editor's note: This is the first Newsletter contribution from the Nortons since the recent illness and death of Darcy's father. Their note concluded, "We would like to thank our neighbors for their thoughtfulness and support during our time of loss. It was very much appreciated."

Neighborhood Association Meeting Schedules

Fells Point Citizens on Patrol: (Third Monday of every other month) 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.