

Fells Point Citizens on Patrol^{INC}

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

October 2003

Volume 5 Number 9

THE GREAT INSURGENT STORM OF '03



Residents paddling their own canoe on Wolfe Street run a light at Aliceanna.

Fells Point Endures Isabel's Wrath, Retakes the Land and Holds It

Now that the streets, cellars and not a few eyes are dry, a consensus has emerged: Fells Point, with the help of friends, weathered with grace the tumult of Tropical Storm Isabel on September 18-19.

Well before the water crested above Aliceanna Street, police and fire teams in wet suits and slickers had waded or paddled in search of the beleaguered along a waterfront that, alas, on calmer nights never sees a foot patrol. Then, as the flood receded, truckloads of city workers arrived to help neighbors already helping neighbors. Dumpsters arrived early, filled quickly and were replaced. With the power out, restaurants fed workers and residents as best they could from their unplugged stocks. Koopers set up a free grille in the square after health inspectors had to close the waterlogged restaurant. Pierpoint offered crab cakes, smoked or traditional, out front and pizza was on the house at BOP. With lines down, cell phones passed around like community property. Salvation Army pulled up a lunch wagon. Mayor Martin O'Malley came early and often. BGE supplemented crews with out-of-towners and lights re-lit.

Lessons From an Imperfect Storm

This was the most water blown ashore in the memory of most 'Pointers, and it left some impressions along with the flotsam:

~ Besides the washed-out waterside rooms of the Inn at Henderson's Wharf, merchants and residents with inundated storage basements were the most affected. Some charged that utility portals were ill-designed and acted as siphons.

~ Marinas' floating piers paid for themselves in effortlessly protecting their boats. The posts on which the piers rise were barely high enough in some cases, though, and the operators are looking to greater heights.

~ The Promenade generally stood its ground, especially where bricked to the bulkhead, but sections of the boardwalk portions floated up with the surge.

~ Sandbagging can help. The Maryland Historical Society's new Maritime Museum on Thames Street was one of several properties that stayed dry below the water line thanks to stacked sacks of sand.

Within days, the Federal Emergency Management Agency opened a disaster center at St. Stanislaus, along with city, state, and Red Cross representatives. Insurance agents made the scene. Budeke's offered free primer and discounted paint. By a week, most commerce was on its feet and looking for customers. The Business Association invited the



Photos by Jacquie Greff

Using pedals not paddles, a biker bogs down on Lancaster.

mayor to a September 26 press conference on the Square to proclaim Fells Point open and Baltimore "the city with the best mayor in America." Appropriately aw shucks, he said, "I'm the face on the work others do." Embattled merchants joshed with declarations that colleagues still offered "free beers. . .free pizzas. . .and free bears," the latter alluding to the Great Bears proprietor on Thames, who acclaimed help from neighbors. A representative of Whitman-Requardt, the engineering firm newly on Bond Street that has seemed a bit distant, laid in praise for the buoyant community response to Isabel.

Residents joined the event, which felt more spontaneous than scripted. Representatives of interests often at loggerheads coalesced. While The Sun in its generally ample coverage had a story the next day on the recovery, it failed to note the rally with the mayor. The paper's reader representative offered no explanation.

As it happened, one of the mayor's earlier initiatives—distribution of free trashcans donated by Rubbermaid—had reached the 'Point just before the flood. A few proclaimed "Believe" bobbing in the waters.

Maritime Park: Under Water Then Underway

On September 30, Living Classrooms laid in the next stage of the recuperation, breaking ground for the Frederick Douglass-Isaac Myers Maritime Park at the west end of Thames Street. The storm had inundated the site and timbers from a destroyed pier littered the mud, yet the event went ahead dry and on time—with City College's marching band high-stepping in from the square.

Ten years in the planning, the privately owned yet public park will be a training site for the young people to whom Living Classrooms is devoted. They leavened a ceremony set

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Lew Diug

City College band parades by Wells House on Thames to Maritime Park.

October



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off by Pride of Baltimore II and a cannonading fire boat off-shore. Frederick Douglass IV was master of a speakers' stand that included Lt. Gov. Anthony Steele, NAACP President Kweisi Mfume, State School Superintendent Nancy Grasmick, Congressmen Dutch Ruppersberger, Elijah Cummings and Ben Cardin—all of City College, it was noted. But Living Classrooms student Anthony Flemings, seeking his high school equivalency, stole the show with a poem ending, "Don't forget to believe."

Douglass quoted his abolitionist-'Point caulker-orator ancestor at that point, "Once you learn to read you will be forever free."

The last stage of the neighborhood's return to normality came, appropriately, last weekend with the 37th Fun Festival. The sun took its time, but shone. Denise Whitman of the Preservation Society was at the controls in her golf cart, the Pride roared off a couple of rounds, and the savor of beer, crab, Icelandic fish and funnel cake evoked reminiscing about festivals past among visitors drawn from distances to make sure that Fells' folly still was fun.

To put the recovery into figures, the FEMA Center reported this week that it had received not quite 200 applications for assistance, while Whitman estimated the Festival crowd on the sunny Sunday at 450,000.

Hazardous Waste, Leaves—Hazardous items at Polytechnic parking lot, Coldspring Lane and Falls Road, October 36-26, 9 AM to 3 PM. Bagged leaves on second trash day of each week.

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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

COP President Asks for Answers

Dear Fells Point Residents,

We need your feedback, input and help. If you think COP's foot patrols are useful or useless, please let us know. If you have other suggestions that you believe would be a better use of our volunteer resources, let us know that as well.

Our contact information is here below, and our next steering committee meeting will be Monday, October 20 at 7 PM in Bertha's upstairs room. All are invited to attend. Please come with your neighbors to let us know what you think.

Michael Arida for the Fells Point Citizens on Patrol

COP's Founder Saluted by Community

Nancy Conrad, a founder of Fells Point Citizens on Patrol and a community leader for decades, received the first annual September 11 Award for service to the community in a ceremony on the square in late September. The Rev. John Trautwein, better known as Preacher Jack, conceived the award and read a salutation expressing the 'Point's appreciation of the efforts by Conrad benefiting the community in all of its levels.

PJ also has proposed that a means be found of honoring city workers, the Salvation Army and the Red Cross for their efforts following the September 19 flood.

Fells Point Documentary—Jacquie Greff of Lancaster Street and Tonal Vision LLC is producing a documentary for public television on Fells Point and she seeks to interview people with pieces of its story. She can be reached at 410.675.0591 or Jacquie@TonalVision.com.

Thanks for Perkiar Park—Employees of Struever Bros. Eccles & Rouse, in collaboration with the Business Association, cleaned up the Thames Street Park on September 27 to mark James W. Rouse Community Service Day.

Antique Dealer Map Update—The Fells Point Antique Dealers Association is revising its handout map of its shops, with a deadline of November 31. Bring data to Another Period in Time, 1708 Fleet Street.



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, October 10	paper
Friday, October 24	paper
Monday, October 27	glass, metal, plastic
Monday, November 10	glass, metal, plastic

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.