

## No Ground Broken in '09 But Vows Revised for '10

As the year ends, the projects that have been promised--a couple of them for years--to renovate Fell's Point have yet to begin: Rec Pier, Marketplace and, more recently, the Square. On Dec. 4, however, came announcement of \$30.8 billion in stimulus funding for Marketplace, renewing prospects. Here are the latest excuses and predictions:

**Rec Pier**--Its restoration and conversion to a 130-room hotel have been in abeyance for five years, punctuated by occasional promises of progress from the City as seller of the 1914 structure. Joe Clarke, of the purchasing developers, says the deal is done "in escrow." That is because solution of the long-running deal-breaker, the now-permanent relocation of Moran Tugs, has a deadline of March. "They have leased their new space on Clinton Street and are building a steel service building there, he said. "We expect them to be gone before March. . . . The pier construction will (Continued)

## Main Street II: New Initiatives

By Jannette Barth

### President, Fell's Point Main Street

Funding for Main Street's efforts to revitalize Fell's Point comes from the Baltimore Development Corp, memberships, sponsorships, program fees and grants. In our fifth year (until last year known as the Fell's Point Development Corp.), we spend a lot of time trying to obtain grants for particular projects. Many involve close interaction with others to improve the ambiance and safety of our wide-ranging area--such as a grant, from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, to support a security project in the upper blocks of South Broadway in collaboration with the Hispanic Business Association.

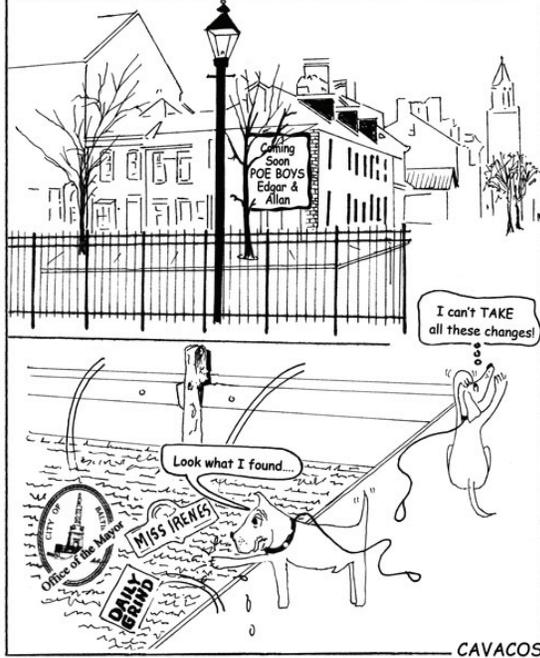
Other examples include our applications for state funding of new playground equipment at Thames Street Park, and a grant to improve sidewalk safety with brighter street lighting on the 1600 to 1900 blocks of Aliceanna St.

We have been awarded a grant from Preservation Maryland to develop a Building History Program, for which we need volunteers with detailed knowledge of our buildings. The purpose is to encourage visitors to walk through the community, learn about the historic buildings, and shop here along the way. The idea resulted from a state Community Legacy grant that we used to canvass community groups and individuals for mutually desired improvements.

Our new Arts Initiative is intended to help Fell's Point become an arts-focused destination for potential residents, businesses and tourists. Main Street is proposing to work closely with all interested parties. Suggestions include expansion of the existing Art Loop.

Our Organization Committee is coordinating a drive for new members who can contribute time and skills to one of our committees--Promotions, Design, Economic Restructuring and Organization. We also need members who may have little time but can contribute membership fees or sponsor an event. Dues are \$25 for residents and from \$50 to \$150 for businesses. Most action happens in committees. The chairs, voting members of the board, present plans formed at monthly committee meetings. Full membership meets twice a year. Visit [fellspointmainstreet.org](http://fellspointmainstreet.org) or call 410.675.8900.

### BRICK BANTER



## Preserving the Society

By Mark Walker

### Preservation Society Board Member

The Preservation Society has launched a campaign to stave off a financial crisis aggravated by the recession, dwindling membership, the cost of maintaining historic but high-upkeep buildings, and hefty charges by the City that cut into earnings from the Society's fund-raising Fun Festival.

The Rev. John Trautwein and I are reaching out to past, prospective and other present members to join the effort, which we relate to the crisis 40 years ago that brought about the Society's founding--the fight against building an Interstate grid that would have destroyed Fell's Point and Federal Hill. The Society receives no funding from the City or State. While several people have donated buildings, the Society is circumscribed by stipulations that donations not be sold. Some are costly to maintain. But if we don't protect these buildings, who will?

The Society relies for income on its programs, mainly the 2-day Festival. Unlike Artscape, which is funded largely by City, the Festival has found the fees it pays the City for help in staging and policing the event are cutting into profits. The Residents' Association has helped by reviving the Harbor Ball and designating profits to the Society, but income still falls short. The City recently lost two of its oldest ethnic festivals, the German and the Irish, to the Timonium Fairgrounds. In 2008, the Preservation Society commissioned Forward Analytics, a research group from Pittsburgh, to analyze the festival finances. They estimated that the festival attracted 700,000 people, of which 31% visited from outside the metropolitan area. Over 50% were single. The total economic impact was estimated at \$40.2 million.

From its inception, the Society has structured its programs on preserving the traditional building heritage. We provide annual House Tours, maintain the Visitor Center (with restrooms), and provide walking tours to teach the 'Point's history. The Society is on the front line when developers threaten the historic integrity of this community. It needs your help and welcomes your membership, from \$25, and/or tax-deductible donations. Visit [www.preservationsociety.com](http://www.preservationsociety.com) or stop at the Visitor Center--where you can buy historic tree ornaments and cookbooks. To phone, 410.675.6750.

## Happenings

### Mailboxers Beware

I'm a resident of the 1800 block of Aliceanna St. and recently have had mail stolen from my mailbox. The thief stole a netflix movie and I'm not sure what else. On the day my movie was to arrive I found my mailbox lid open, but the box empty. I have found the mailbox like this several times but always received a large amount of mail the next day. It's as if the thief was looking for something and didn't want us to know our mail was being monitored. After losing the movie, though, I installed a mailbox with a lock, and I recommend the move. A neighbor's box with no lock was wide open and empty the other day. Case closed. I bought my box at Loew's near White Marsh Mall for about \$33. --Anon [Ed.'s note: Hi's Variety of Fleet St. has a box with lock for \$13.50.]

### Carols, and a Hutzler's Classic

The Annual Christmas Candlelight Carol Service will be conducted at 7:30PM in the Visitor Center, 1726 Thames St., by the Rev. John Trautwein. He and fellow Towne Crier Michael Lisicky will herald in Christmas Day with their Greetings through the Streets. This begins at Broadway and Shakespeare St. at 11AM. For more information call 410.746.7494.

Lisicky, a resident of Belt's Landing, received a rave review from The Sun's Frederick Rasmussen for the Symphony oboist's new book with a large dollop of holiday reminiscence, "Hutzler's: Where Baltimore Shops." "If this doesn't become the hottest local holiday gift this year I'll be very surprised," said Rasmussen. "It's beautifully written, obviously by someone who has an affinity for department stores." The book is for sale at the Visitor Center for \$20.



To the despair of the pro-apostrophe-in-Fell's crowd, the ex-Daily Grind hung out a new sign on Thames St. An ownership shift in what had become a chain of Daily Grinds forced the half-hearted name change.

## Only in Fell's Point-XXVI: For Jack Gaylin, Foot of Broadway Was Magical

By Mark Walker

Jack Gaylin is a master magician who, like me, knew Dantini the magnificent when he pulled rabbits out of hats along the foot of Broadway. Jack moved to Fell's Point in 1936 at age 5, when his mother purchased the Liberty Bar at 708 S. Broadway. She paid \$500, which included the building and liquor license. It had a rooming house upstairs. His father Tom ran a carnival business. People Jack met through him showed the boy magic tricks that served him well while he attended the No. 6 School at Aliceanna and Ann Sts.

After school, Jack often went over to the Port Mission House, now shops and apartments on the Square, where merchant crewmen between runs taught wood-working to neighborhood youngsters. He, too, eventually joined the merchant marine, serving at sea during the Korean War. He remembers a 'Point long lost: when there were three wooden markets running from Thames to Fleet St. One of the stalls started featuring rabbit stew and neighbors soon noticed there wasn't a stray cat to be found near the markets.

Jack can name all of the occupants along the 700 block during WWII, and all but four were bars. Indeed, cartoonist John Hix of the old Washington Herald declared in his strip "Strange As It Seems" that this was a world record for bars in one block. Hix competed with Ripley's "Believe It or Not" (and also was akin to Walker's "Only in Fell's Point"--editor). Among the all-star cast: Sadie's, Toote's, Persian, Evelyn's and the Corral.

For Jack, a procession starting at St. Patrick's Church signified the war's end. A mock coffin with an effigy of Hitler was borne down Broadway and tossed in the harbor. Unfortunately, the coffin wouldn't sink. A passerby stripped to his shorts, jumped in and torpedoed the coffin lid. It sank and the crowd cheered.

Having a Sunday breakfast at Slainte's, Jack talked about his boyhood days at Recreation



*Sorcerers Jack Gaylin and Mark Walker commune with Dantini at his plaque on Broadway.*

souvenirs, "pawned" by returning servicemen, that were proudly displayed in the tavern window--from cartridges to flare guns and German potato bashers, i.e. hand grenades. Someone thought she was selling live ammunition, so the police confiscated the arsenal. About that time another innovation reached the pubs, indoor plumbing.

Jack's mother sold the bar around 1956. As we strolled down Fell St., he said, "When I lived down here, that's the area that people referred to as Fell's Point. Everyone called [Broadway and Thames] the foot of Broadway." After eight years at sea, Jack found his niche performing an illusion act. Until 1986, he performed at nightclubs and other venues throughout the Mid-Atlantic. Seeing the memorial Dantini plaque near the corner of Broadway and Lancaster St. revived memories of when he worked several ghost shows with the Thames Street Conjuror, Dantini. These midnight attractions were held in motion picture houses, such as the Grand and the Broadway, which had seen better days.

Jack now lives in Rosedale with his wife Patricia.

Pier. It had a seamen's library that delivered books to ships. A radio station (its tower still standing) contacted convoys. Inside were Ping-Pong tables, chess and other board games, along with a stage and theater. On the deck were basketball courts, swings, and hopscotch. The lady who kept law and order was about 60, quite ancient to the neighborhood children. She lived in the 600 block of Broadway, worked for Recreation and Parks, and was very strict--"she knew every kid by name or reputation." Right after the war, Jack's mother sold

### Gap in Thames St. Story

RE your article about a design for a building on Duff Hughes' lot at 1706-8 Thames St., I hope the gap can be filled soon. There was a minor error. The original structure was built in Revolutionary times and served as a residence, saloon and offices. It burned around 1938, amid talk of it being a victim of labor wars. The outline remains on the side of the Waterfront Hotel. In 1940 came a modern one-story building for the International Longshoremen--a landmark on the working waterfront but not known for beauty. Architecturally out of place, it was demolished by new owners about 1981. There was much discussion with the Preservation Society about the historic value of the union hall. Plans were drawn, some similar to the original, but the Society opted for a preservation fad of "contemporary" design with "traditional" materials. No one was satisfied and nothing was done. The Hughes family is loyal to Fell's Point and I am sure Duff will work with the community on the future of the site.

--Steve Bunker

### Schedules

#### Trash and Recycling

Current days for trash pickup are Tuesdays and for recycling are Thursdays. Residents are limited to setting out three 32-gallon cans of waste between 6PM on Mondays and 6AM on Tuesdays.

#### Neighborhood Meetings

Douglass Place: Third Tuesday of every other month at Bertha's, dlh411@gmail.com.

Fell's Point Antique Dealers' Association: Call 410.675.4776.

Fell's Point Community Organization: Second Tuesdays at 606 South Ann St., 443.791.1717.

Fell's Point Main Street: office, 1730 Bank St. 410.675.8900.

Fell's Point Residents' Association: First Wednesdays, 7PM, Bertha's.

Greenspace Action Partnership: Second Tuesdays, 7PM, Obsidian Realty, 1816 Aliceanna St.

## thanks!

Printing expenses for this month's newsletter were shared by **Henderson's Wharf**, 1000 Fell Street, 410.522.7777, and a major contributor who prefers to remain anonymous. We welcome donations from readers to augment our tightened operating margin. Questions, complaints and submittals are also welcome.

Design and layout contributed by Tina Fleming of **Warren Communications**, warrencommunications@comcast.net.

## PRINTER AD

The *Fell's Pointer* is published monthly by volunteers of Fell's Point Citizens on Patrol, Inc. Questions, input and participation in patrols and this newsletter are welcome. E-mail [fpcop@verizon.net](mailto:fpcop@verizon.net). Online [www.fpcop.com](http://www.fpcop.com). Write P.O. Box 6137, Baltimore, MD 21231.

### Broken Ground *Cont. from front*

start with rebuilding the pier over water and raising the entire level four feet. That should take a year. Then the hotel will be built on the new pier. Visually, little will change, except it will be a lot cleaner and won't have pieces falling into the harbor." Scorecard for '09: the community loses the tugs that most pled to retain.

**Marketplace**--The \$60 million rebuilding of the markets and embracing blocks of Broadway was to have begun in October, according to a mid-year projection. But the new estimate from co-developer Dave Holmes is "early next year" and the City's designation of the federal stimulus funds should put that in reach. The project was introduced in 2006 and subsequent modifications have won over most critics. "We continue to overcome hurdles," Holmes said earlier. "As you know these are very challenging times." Resident Holmes put in a word for the Thames Street Park, a project of Greenspace Action Partnership that did advance this year toward completion: "The playground

looks great!"

**The Square**--The Baltimore Development Corp. said in the spring it had perhaps \$4 million to redo the Square and called community meetings with Councilman Jim Kraft's help for comment on a "concept" including a water fountain and visitor kiosk. Talk of a fall start was thought "too optimistic." Marianne Navarro of BDC now says the revised plan will go to the Commission for Historic and Architectural Preservation early in the year, with "an opportunity for additional community input at that time." Construction could begin by late spring, she said.

### Friends Plant Trees, Bulbs

The Friends of Patterson Park thanked volunteers for turning out on a cold Saturday in mid-November to plant 15 trees by the Boat Lake, 9 north of Ortman Field and more than 1000 bulbs by the Pagoda. "They are all happily mulched, watered and ready for hibernation," said the newsletter. To join the Friends: [www.pattersonpark.com](http://www.pattersonpark.com).

### FPCOP Leader Leaving - - Help Needed

Michael Arida, emeritus president of Fell's Point Citizens on Patrol since 2003, is moving to Locust Point, a major loss for The Fell's Pointer but an opportunity for residents concerned about security to attempt revival or evolution of the patrols that were the purpose of FPCOP at its outset 12 years ago. The newsletter endured but citizens quit patrolling and Mike was unable to find a replacement. That aspect of FPCOP is still

open for other individuals or organizations to pursue.

Mike delivered the largest newsletter route on the east side and Circulation Manager Jacquie Greff's need for volunteers is now acute. Blocks with no one willing to distribute the monthly will no longer be able to receive it. Please contact her at 410.675.0591 or send an email to [jacquie@TonalVision.com](mailto:jacquie@TonalVision.com).