

Fells Point Citizens on Patrol INC

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

November 2002

Volume 4 Number 10

723 Owner Files to Reopen

Owner George Karabelas of the shuttered bar and restaurant on South Broadway known as the 723 filed an occupancy permit application for an unnamed prospective proprietor to replace the one whose liquor license the Liquor Board revoked last April. The Board acted after community groups, including that of other bar-restaurant owners, complained that the 700-capacity establishment was a blight on the neighborhood. Board inspectors had found repeated instances of alcohol sales to the under aged, while residents complained of noise, health hazards and destructive practices by customers spilling into side streets at quitting time.

An official at the Planning Department said it would ask owner Karabelas to meet with the community and to identify the proposed proprietor and his intentions. Although the property was ordered shut, cosmetic changes have been undertaken at the site in the quiet of the recent months.

COP Neighborhood Watch Resumes Training November 20

It was a dark and stormy night on Sunday, October 20, for the first in a semi-regular series of Fells Point Citizens on Patrol (FPCOP) neighborhood watch training sessions. Three volunteers showed up and drove around with Police Officer Melvin Penn, learning what to watch out for and how best to inform the police and the city of problems and issues in our neighborhood.

The next training session will be held, RAIN or MOONSHINE, on Wednesday, November 20, at 7:00 PM in the FPCOP office behind the St. Stan's Church on South Ann Street just below Aliceanna. If the weather cooperates, we will go out and patrol for the session. If it is again raining we will retire indoors to conduct the training.

Come one, come all, as this training is useful for all and not just for the regular patrollers.

COP Needs a Few Good Feet

The COP Newsletter still seeks volunteer deliverers willing to put in less than an hour, once a month. Blocks with no volunteer end up with no Newsletters. Call Jacquie Greff at 410.675.4128 or email jacqueline.greff@pobox.com

These are the untended routes: Lancaster (Broadway to Caroline); 1600 Thames (Waterfront businesses, shops and residences); Eastern (Caroline to Broadway); 400 South Ann, 400 South Regester, 500 Durham, Eastern (Ann to Wolfe).



Trash and Recycling Schedule



Trash should be placed outside in metal trash cans. After 6:00 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 7:00 AM on collection day. Recycle paper tied, in paper bags, or in a box; glass, metal and plastic should be in blue recycling bags.

Monday, November 11 - glass, metal and plastic
Friday, November 22 - paper
Monday, November 25 - glass, metal and plastic
Monday, December 9 - glass, metal and plastic
Friday, December 13 - paper

Night Hawk Heaves Ho



The schooner Night Hawk that long adorned the Thames Street waterfront at Ann Street Pier as the "official tall ship of Fells Point" went off for Wilmington, N.C., without so much as a cannon round after being sold. This stirred conjecture that the Living Classrooms Foundation might be induced to dock one of its classic skipjacks in the partially emptied basin, along with the Seaport Taxis it already operates there.

Another bedraggled watermark, the dormant grain pier across the harbor in Locust Point, came to the attention of Mayor Martin O'Malley in October. In a meeting with the state Transportation Department, owner of the deepwater pier, he said the city might host the visit of an aircraft carrier next year and it might well dock there. This raised the possibility that the state at least would remove the ignominious fallen end of the grain conveyor that collapsed in a storm in June 2001, halting more than 200 years of grain exports through the port and making the pier resemble a scrap yard.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Friends and Neighbors,

I want to acknowledge the great help given me by Jeff Lipkin and George Bauer, owner and cook respectively at the Armadillo Restaurant. On Tuesday, October 8, at 10:15 AM my small cloth purse was yanked off my shoulder as I walked along Broadway between Aliceanna and Lancaster. The culprit ran away, with me following but I lost sight of him after he turned the corner at Aliceanna. I went into Armadillo's, where Bauer called the police. When Lipkin arrived in a few minutes, the two men took off in different directions searching for him. This man is known to them from similar past thefts. You may have seen him playing a flute on the street. The police are after him and if he returns to Fells Point, many eyes will be watching for him. I appreciated so much the help and support of the two young men.

Sincerely, Maggie Kirkpatrick

Annual Holiday Boat Parade

Don't miss the annual parade of decorated boats on Saturday evening, December 7. The boats, adorned with festive lights and spinning holiday tunes, will ply up the water from Canton, passing in review off the Broadway Pier. The main square, by then, will be a Festival of Lights, thanks to the Business Association.

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
or write to - P O Box 6137
Baltimore, MD 21231**

City Seeking Proposals For Reuse of Rec Pier

The City's Department of Housing and Community Development has called for proposals by early next year to lease or buy and redevelop the storied but sagging Recreation Pier, and it stressed the importance of accommodating community interests. Fears of a commercial takeover that would result in exclusion of the neighborhood—as when most of the pier was leased to become a studio for the television show “Homicide”—have fueled efforts by community groups to find a compatible use.

Lack of funding and diversity of opinions have proven to be barriers. A study by the City found that about \$4 million is needed to shore up the east side of the Pier, which dates to 1919. A joint committee reported to the Fells Point Task Force late last month that a redevelopment with benefits for the community looked promising in view of the City's initiative but that “we should be prepared to give something in order to get something.”

Perceived community interests include revival of the Pier's upstairs ballroom as a grand meetings site and of the sun deck as a playground. The pros and cons of parking as a use are hotly debated. By most accounts, the presence on the west side of Moran Tugboats is a clear asset. Remarkably, the old building comes equipped with an interior ramp to make it accessible to the handicapped.

In the September issue of this Newsletter, Water Taxi owner Ed Kane proposed a relocation to Rec Pier of nautical elements that could transform it into a Maritime Center.

Point Pointers

Parking Limitations Are a Two-Way Street

This is the first in a series of insights for life on the streets of Fells Point by a couple on its west side

Do not block fire hydrants or park close to the corner on small side streets. Recently, a fire engine could not get past an SUV that was parked overhanging the corner of Lancaster and Bond. Obey the “no parking” signs no matter how frustrated you are that you can't find a place to park. If there is no limiting sign, at least make sure that no part of your vehicle blocks the sidewalk curb cuts. This also makes it possible for those who use wheelchairs or push strollers to move freely.

Printer's Ad

Kane's Option Needs Close Look

By Geoffrey M. Footner

Reviewing Ed Kane's suggestion, I agree with the basic premise: that the City make greater use of Recreation Pier rather than letting it stand mostly idle or, worse, be developed for something non-maritime such as a shopping mall. Kane's suggestion that the City allow Ed Hale's Canton Crossing Project to relocate the government's marine services at Canton Waterfront Park, along with the fireboat, to Rec Pier has merit. However, the effects on Fells Point and Canton must be examined carefully.

1. Do these neighborhoods gain or lose by the construction of a cruise ship terminal at the location vacated by the city marine divisions? An in-depth study should be made of this aspect of Hale's plans so that such a terminal would not bring deterioration to the adjacent park—a rare people's asset.
2. Will Rec Pier handle the city's marine operations without extensive alterations and without disrupting Thames Street in the heart of a belabored historical district?
3. Will Hale be obligated to renovate the second-floor ballroom of the pier so that Fells Pointers gain a needed meeting-concert hall?
4. Should the neighborhoods be asking for other compensation and guarantees from Hale and the City?

There are important reasons for relocating the fireboat and its facilities now adjacent to the National Park Service's Fort McHenry dock. With the expansion of heritage programs to include Locust Point, greater access by boats, including water taxis, is needed. It seems that problem could be handled quickly and separately by the mayor and his new director of heritage programs. Certainly, the closer the fireboat is located to possible fires the more all of us benefit.

Thanks to Diligent Neighbor, Encroaching Couple Removed

Neighbors in two blocks anxiously tried to rid the neighborhood of two people, who showed up with no place to stay and wouldn't leave. For two months, they were on everyone's steps, at their doors, not always coherent, sleeping in the park, frustrating residents. Police suggested using vagrancy and aggressive-panhandling laws to try to remove them, but everyone agreed they'd quickly return.

Finally, one neighbor tracked down the woman's family in Boston and the man's family in New York, confirming mental illness in both. After many expensive phone calls, the purchase of an unused plane ticket to Boston, several visits to hospitals, it was determined that the woman's family had to drive to Baltimore to get her. The next day, the man was put on a train to be reunited with his family in New York. The problem was solved.

Neighbors along Lancaster and Durham Streets are grateful for the extraordinary effort and time given by one in their midst. Gratitude is expressed to those neighbors who sent contributions to help defray the expenses.

Neighborhood Association Meeting Schedules

Fells Point Antique Dealers Association: (meetings as needed) Call 410.675.4776 for more information.

Fells Point Business Association: (Third Tuesday of every month) 9:00 AM at EBLO, 606 South Ann Street.

Fells Point Community Organization: (Second Monday of every month) 7:00 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.

Mid-Point Community Association: (First Tuesday of every month) 7:30 PM at Conrad-Miller Gallery, 2007 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, the second Monday of the month) 7:30 - 8:30 PM at 1637 Eastern Avenue.