

Fells Point Citizens on Patrol INC

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

December 2002

Volume 4 Number 11

Citizens on Patrol, and Its Newsletter, Need Money Now!

Fells Point Citizens on Patrol has empty pockets. Recently, two things happened to deplete the treasury:

- The printer who put out the Newsletter free of charge left the neighborhood.
- Paper and ink that was purchased by the Police Department from grant money has not been forthcoming.

Occasional donations normally cover related expenses—telephone, post office box and postage for Newsletters mailed to government officials—but now have been used to pay for printing. Although Copycat here in the Point is doing it at a generously reduced rate, the overall expenses of the Newsletter are about \$60 per month—and by that much beyond the beleaguered organization's monthly budget. COP members pay no dues.

A most welcome initial contribution of \$100 came in from Bertha's of Broadway. We admonish all patrollers and residents: *Eat Bertha's Mussels.*

FPCOP asks help, however modest, from community members and particularly Newsletter readers. To contribute, make checks payable to: Fells Point Citizens on Patrol and send to P.O. Box 6137, Baltimore, MD 21231, or call 410.342.7354 to make other arrangements.

Beware of Thieves Baring Gifts

Fells Point Citizens on Patrol wishes everyone a safe holiday season while issuing its annual list of reminders to protect yourself, your property and the entire community:

•To those of you who are traveling during the holidays, ask a trusted neighbor to remove circulars and newspapers from your doorstep. An uncollected pile of papers is a dead giveaway that you are away from home.

•Use timers for your lights and radios.

•Do not leave packages or other property in your car in full view. A welcome policeman was "ticketing" cars on the square recently with this advice, so often unheeded. Thieves brag about the few seconds needed to break car windows and grab your belongings that are on display.

•Do not leave money or expensive electronics out within sight, through your home's windows, of passing pedestrians. A young woman on Bank Street was shocked when she entered her living room and saw her unlocked front window being raised. An arm was reaching for her purse on a table near the window.

•Be aware of your surroundings when packing or unpacking your car. Lock car doors and house doors each time you go in or out of your car or house. One neighbor carrying in packages was surprised by someone who slipped in behind him, assaulted him, and took his wallet.

Finally, in the spirit of the holidays, look out for all of your neighbors!



Homeless Census to Take Place in April

Teams of outreach workers, homeless service providers and volunteers will be recruited and trained to conduct a census of homeless people in Baltimore.

On the day of the Census, during normal business hours on a day in April, teams will conduct surveys at non-shelter service agencies such as soup kitchens and health clinics. They will also gather data from police departments, correctional facilities, treatment centers and hospitals. During evening hours, a shelter staff member and a volunteer from the Office of Homeless Services will administer surveys in homeless shelters.

Finally, a street count will be conducted after bars close for business at 2 AM. This is a collaborative effort by the Office of Homeless Services, the Center for Poverty Solutions, and the Stop Homelessness and Reduce Poverty Coalition. Input from community members regarding the census, its methodology, or other concerns is welcome. Call Ucheoma Akobundu, Census Coordinator, at 410.366.0600 or e-mail uakobund@povertysolutions.org.

Christmas Chestnuts

— On Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24, at 11:00 PM, a Community Candlelight-Carol Service at the Vagabond Theater - 806 South Broadway; On Christmas Day at 11:00 AM, the Town Crier's Traditional Walk will take place through the streets of Fells Point.

— Throughout the winter, ice skate at Patterson Park's Mimi DiPietro Family Skating Center, Pratt Street and Linwood Avenue. Admission \$4, skate rental \$2. Tuesdays 12:00 – 2:00 and 7:00 – 9:00 PM; Thursdays 12:00 – 2:00; Fridays 7:00 – 9:00; Saturdays and Sundays 3:00 – 5:00 and 7:00 – 9:00 PM. Skate with Santa! Saturday, December 21, 3:00 – 5:00 PM Doll Show, Friday, December 27. Registration 12:30, judging 1:00 PM. Bring a doll and skate for free, 3:00 – 5:00 PM.



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, December 23 -glass, metal and plastic

Friday, December 27 - paper

Monday, January 13 - glass, metal and plastic

Friday, January 17 - paper

Monday, January 27 - glass, metal and plastic

Friday, January 31 - 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.

Please contact us by:

phone - 410.327.7446

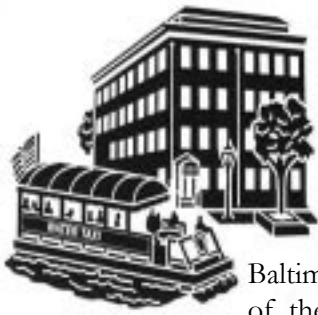
410.342.7354 leave message

e-mail - FPCPatrol@aol.com

or write to - P O Box 6137

Baltimore, MD 21231

Book Gifts, and This Season's Ornament



Shoppers may find just the right gift for a family member or friend at the Preservation Society's Visitor Center on Ann Street. There are books about Fells Point's glorious maritime history, books of photographs and two studies of Baltimore's African-American slaves and of the free blacks of Fells Point. There are stocking fillers for youngsters, prints, t-shirts, and the 2002 Christmas tree decoration—based on local landmarks and cut in brass. This year's scene is shown herein and the store has most of the previous year decorations on sale, too.

Some of the books available are: Ralph Clayton's study of the African-American free population of Fells Point prior to the Civil War: "Slavery, Slaveholding and the Free Black Population of Antebellum Baltimore." Also his new investigation, "Cash for Blood: The Baltimore To New Orleans Domestic Slave Trade." Another is Robert C. Keith's perennial favorite, "Baltimore Harbor—A Picture History," in a revised edition. The store's book collection includes, too, Geoffrey Footner's new book, "USS CONSTELLATION - From Frigate to Sloop of War," a study of the 205-year history of the U. S. Navy ship built in Fells Point in 1797 and still surviving today in Baltimore's Inner Harbor. Footner refutes the latter-day revisionists who claim that the ship on display was built in Norfolk in 1854. His older standby, "Tidewater Triumph: The Development and Worldwide Success of the Chesapeake Bay Pilot Schooner," is also on sale along with other books about Baltimore and Maryland.

The Visitor Center is open seven days—Noon to 4:00 PM.

Point Pointers

Active Yardage, Passive Defense

A readers' guide to life on the Fells Point streets:

Don't leave items out on the street that can be used as weapons, for example a 2 by 4 or loose bricks. Drunk and angry people love to improvise.

Do not confront a person who is being aggressive unless you are sure of your martial arts. But do let people who are disturbing the peace know you are there. Often the presence of others will moderate their behavior.

Printer's Ad

Point's Maritime Past Ties Pride II to Rec Pier

By Charles Norton

The Fells Point waterfront, so crucial in early commerce and defense of the United States, faces a new challenge as the city has called for proposals to redevelop its venerable Recreation Pier. Tugboats that dock on its west side are links with that working port of the past. A natural addition to the rest of the pier would be a berth and museum with pride of place for the Pride of Baltimore II—which although built in the Inner Harbor was commissioned in Fells Point in 1988 and which accordingly fires its cannon in passage, as it did leading this year's parade of festive boats last Sunday.

The original, "Pride of Baltimore," was built in Fells Point 1812 under Capt. Thomas Boyd to blockade the coast and the Admiralty. The boat bears the name Chasseur.



Chasseur, the "pride of Baltimore," was built in Fells Point and sailed under the British flag. It was the British barrass the Pride II's life-time name.

This spring the Radcliff maritime collection of the Maryland Historical Society will be installed in the Preservation Society's horse car barn across from Rec Pier. What could be more appropriate and educational than to have a Pride of Baltimore Museum, the schooner and its maintenance needs on the pier?

Other classic Chesapeake Bay boats and visiting vessels also could utilize the visibility and protection that the pier affords. An exterior-interior promenade would showcase them. Built in 1914 to serve both commercial ships and the community as a recreational facility, the pier has a broad archway supporting a second-story colonnade and ballroom noted for its decorative plasterwork. It should be in use for community events, including fund-raisers.

Such a plan would open vistas for residents and visitors alike and reaffirm the mission statement of the Pride of Baltimore, to foster economic growth and promote our working waterfront heritage.

Well-Lit Armada on a Cold Night - - After nightfall on Saturday, December 7, an astonishing flotilla lit up the harbor from Canton to Light Street. The Fells Point Yacht Club's Parade of Lighted Boats floated by at stately pace for most of an hour.

City Rat Update

The city government assures that the rat population is falling, down to 320,000 from double that four years ago. To encourage the trend, it is distributing rat-proof garbage cans free, initially in poor neighborhoods — which are rich in rats. Fells Point doesn't qualify for now, except on the abundance of rats, but perhaps the Business Association could donate cans to shops, restaurateurs and residents who put out garbage illegally, unprotected in bags. Rubbermaid is selling the cans to the city for a quarter of the retail \$24 each.

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.