

# Fells Point Citizens on Patrol<sup>INC</sup>

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

February 2004

Volume 6 Number 2



*Snow or no, vehicles turning left from Broadway into Aliceanna Street face a dilemma.*

## Rec Pier as Promenade's Destination

As authorities weigh proposals by two finalists for rescue and redevelopment of the city-owned Recreation Pier, the group that promotes the harbor's waterside Promenade is looking to shore up one of its weaker links along the 1700 block of Thames Street that constitutes the heart of historic Fells Point.

A wide and handsome Promenade embraces the foot of Broadway Pier just to the west, but pedestrians continuing eastward along the water must funnel into a narrow brick walk in which cherry trees—while appealing in bloom—contest for space with lamp posts and overhanging bumpers of vehicles parked head-in, and free, on what is the community's most treasured land. As often as not in summer, a drunk or two on the steps of what was the Pier's headquarters for *Homicide* either ask passersby for alms or sleep off the hangover procured by the previous day's begging.

The Baltimore Waterfront Promenade Partnership is considering proposals that include widening the eight-foot walkway to the requisite 20 feet for the Promenade, perhaps with additional footage for the trees and streetlights. This could be accomplished by incorporating the space now devoted to parking, perhaps allowing parallel parking on the waterside of the only marginally narrowed south side of Thames. It is hoped that the winning Rec Pier project might include extension of the Promenade around and through the Pier. Water taxis might dock at the south end of the Pier, and their passengers would come and go through a gallery perpendicular to Thames.



# February



## Law and Order Broadway Car Quiz: How to Do a Good Turn?

You are driving on Broadway alongside the Market, in either direction, and you want to turn left onto Eastern Avenue or Fleet Street. The light is green and you initiate your turn. Then what? Because of the wide median, embracing the Market buildings, you immediately face a red light barring entry into the Broadway lane headed opposite that from which you just turned. Can you halt until that traffic—including pedestrians—passes, then proceed through the red light? Or must you wait for the light to turn green? Surely you agree that you have no right to proceed without having stopped?

Actually, some drivers make no such concession, and collisions and citations often result. Drivers who are consulted on this turn, when they are not caught in the act, generally acknowledge uncertainty about what the law allows—although you can get some pretty firm opinions in nearby bars. Even the police differ on what is legal. Some have ticketed cars for running the red light, others not, as additional horn-toting drivers waiting to turn left tied up the corner. There is no sign of help; in a few words, what could a sign say? How about, "Yield"? We asked Officer Melvin Penn of community relations for the Southeast Police District for help. Checking with traffic engineers, he found them well versed on but frustrated by these intersections.

The engineers favor installing phased turn-signal traffic lights that presumably would move turners through unambiguously. But that would be expensive. A cheaper option would be to phase the existing lights so that first one side and then the other—and finally the east-west traffic—could pick among their options unobstructed. This would mean waiting for a longer light cycle to run. Actually, sign makers already have addressed this ambiguity at intersections of Broadway above Hopkins Hospital. Going north on Broadway as you wait for the light on Madison, you'll see "Left-turning vehicles yield to southbound traffic." At Preston, a variant says "Yield to opposing traffic when turning left." Going south on Broadway at Monument you'll see "Left-turning vehicles yield to northbound traffic." But through a red light? And that's a mouthful for an historic street anyway.

The next investigative step was to the city's Legislative Reference and from it to State's, since that is where the law ultimately lies. A researcher concurred that these corners need help but a state statute seems unequivocal: a vehicle facing a red light "shall remain stopped until the signal to proceed."

Do you give a toot? Is the status quo preferable to changes suggested? Is there another option? We welcome readers' responses by any of the contacts listed herein.

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 410.342.7354 leave message

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FPCOP Newsletters are online @ [www.fpcop.com](http://www.fpcop.com)



## 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.

Monday, February 9	glass, metal, plastic
Friday, February 13	paper
Monday, February 23	glass, metal, plastic
Friday, February 27	paper
Monday, March 8	glass, metal, plastic
Friday, March 12	paper

**Special Note:** Garbage WILL be picked up on Thursday Feb. 12, it WILL NOT be picked up on Monday Feb. 16 (so please don't put it out).



## Immigration Story Finding Roots From Point to Point and in Canton

The rapidly evolving effort to learn and tell the history of Baltimore Harbor as a major port of immigration could find a major source of funds. The Preservation Society is leading efforts to obtain a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities' Historic Places Initiative. The Society's program would be called, "Gateway to America: Recovering Baltimore's Immigration History."

A draft of the proposal notes that "the history of the Locust Point, Fells Point and Canton Immigration Stations has been largely neglected by scholars and remains virtually unknown even" in Baltimore nearly a century after heavy immigration began to recede. "We propose, in partnership with the Baltimore Immigration Project, Johns Hopkins University, University of Baltimore, Locust Point Community Association and hopefully with the support of the Fell's Point Task Force and Canton Community to document and interpret the history of Baltimore's Immigration Stations."

Already the Immigration Project is planning to tell the story, through signs, displays and a monument, of the Locust Point Station site proximate to Tide Point. Preservationists hope eventually to engage visitors in the immigration story through displays in a rehabilitated and maritime-oriented Recreation Pier.

### You on the Aisle

**The Weir** begins in the hands of Scottish story tellers. Then the dam—the Weir—breaks. February 27-March 28, Fridays-Saturdays at 8PM and Sundays at 2PM, at the Vagabond, 806 South Broadway, \$12, 410.563.9135.

Comic **Black Snow** continues through February 13-14 at 8PM, and 15 at 2 PM at Corner Theater, 251 South Ann Street, \$12. Opening March 12, **Recent Tragic Events**. 410.276.7837.

### Fells Point Most Endangered?

Baltimore Heritage, with the assistance of the Preservation Society of Federal Hill and Fells Point, has submitted Fells Point for inclusion on the annual List of the Eleven Most Endangered Sites compiled by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The community, trying to balance developers' projects and rising land values, reportedly came in 12th last year.

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## If Spring Ever Arrives, Picnic in Ex-Library Park

The Fells Point Citizens on Patrol is hoping to hold a community picnic, with all residents invited, during April/May, at the little-known but accommodating park behind the old library. Access is through the building at 606 South Ann Street that now houses Education Based Latino Outreach (EBLO). The Southeastern District police mobile unit is to be there, with officers on hand to give information and training on crime watch and citizens' patrols as well as to answer questions.

Hamburgers, hot dogs and soft drinks will be provided. A dish to share would be a welcome addition. Look for more details in next month's newsletter. Also, if you are interested in volunteering with FPCOP, please contact us. Any help is greatly appreciated.

### Greening, Grants, Volunteering

**Gardening and Greening** classes are meeting each Saturday through March 27, culminating in the city's third annual Community Gardening and Greening Day on April 17. Classes are from 10:15 until noon at the Waverly Branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, 33rd and Barclay Streets. The series is free. Register by e-mailing name, address and phone number, along with a list of the classes you would like to attend to Dennis Bishop [dbishop@umd.edu](mailto:dbishop@umd.edu) or call 410.396.1888.

**City Arts** grants are available to involve communities with funds for creative programming in the visual, performing and literary arts. Applications are due by February 22. Made possible through funding from the Baltimore Office of Promotion and The Arts and the Maryland State Arts Council, Community Arts Project Grants are awarded to individuals or artist groups and nonprofit organizations and General Funding Grants are awarded to nonprofit cultural organizations. To receive an application, contact Gary Kachadourian at 410.752.8632 or e-mail [gkachadourian@promotionandarts.com](mailto:gkachadourian@promotionandarts.com).

**Neighborhood Mobilization and Leadership** grants ranging as high as \$12,500 also are offered by the city, with a March 1 deadline for applications. Details are available at the Baltimore City Foundation's Website: [www.bcf.org/grants\\_ngp.html](http://www.bcf.org/grants_ngp.html) or contact Ann Daniels at 410.332.4171, or [adaniels@bcf.org](mailto:adaniels@bcf.org)

**South East Senior Housing Initiative** seeks volunteers to assist older adults to continue to live independently in their homes and neighborhoods in the city's southeast. The volunteers help with shopping, transportation, yard work, and telephone reassurance. Contact John Lundquist at 410.327.6193 or by e-mail at [volunteer@seshi.org](mailto:volunteer@seshi.org).

Also, a program called **Learning Is For Tomorrow** (LIFT) needs volunteers. It offers adult literacy classes, pre-employment training, one-on-one tutoring for beginning readers, GED preparation, and computer instruction. Volunteers help with the basic reading skills needed to get a driver's license or a job. LIFT provides training, educational support, materials and tutoring space for tutors and their learners. Contact Lundquist as above or e-mail [LIFTvolunteer@hotmail.com](mailto:LIFTvolunteer@hotmail.com).

### 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 Max's on Broadway.

**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 EBLO, 606 South Ann 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.