

Fells Point Citizens on Patrol

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

July 2004

Volume 6 Number 7

Newly Revived Business Association Spawns Fells Point Development Corp.

This neighborhood of community organizations has a new kid on the block, and it's a prodigy: the Fells Point Development Corp., born in the marriage of the Business Association with the federally funded Main Street Program. Under the presidency of Susan Singer, the Association obtained affiliate status with Main Street through creation of the nonprofit Corporation "to promote, preserve and beautify the commercial district for businesses and residents alike."

The first tangible is up to \$2,500 in matching funds for businesses that improve their facades; hence, eighteen are freshening their faces on the street. On its own, the Corporation has collected over \$12,000 in working funds, according to Singer, and has hired an assistant. Seeking to qualify for full Main Street participation, the Business Association has become one arm of the Corporation, focussed on promotion. Design issues are being addressed by the Design Review Committee of the Preservation Society, and Singer's husband Steve Schulhoff is recruiting business members. Initial projects have included greening up the square, hosting the recent chili cook-off and strengthening ties to other community groups.

While the new group has no individual memberships per se, it is seeking six more volunteers for its board, projected at eleven members. It also seeks contributors. The Corporation plans a kickoff cookout at the Visitor Center on September 9 at 6PM, with all invited.

. . . And an Historic Addition

Helping the new Development Corp. accentuate Fells Point's history and thereby build up tourism is yet another new undertaking: A small group headed by Jack Trautwein



Mark Walker enlists Punch and Judy to teach an all-ears generation on July 4 weekend about Fells Point's history.

and Beverly German of Lancaster and Fell Streets, respectively, is looking to celebrate next year's 275th anniversary of the original land purchase by William Fell.

The group seeks volunteers to plan and lead reenactments, street theater, pocket dramas and more on the 2005 holidays, culminating in the November 8 anniversary of Fell's purchase. This, in turn, is an attempt to popularize the neighborhood's history leading up to its high mark in the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812. Trautwein's phone is 410.746.7494 and German's is 410.276.8555. Her e-mail is bgerman@towson.edu.

In preparation for this, Fell's Point residents and businesses will be given tours at 7PM on Wednesdays, July 28, August 11 and 25 and 9AM on Saturdays, July 31, August 14 and 28. Meet in front of the Visitor Center. Each tour will last about 1-1/2 hours.

The Readers Have Whispered

Response to the Newsletter's plea last month for more communication from the readers was heartening in that the respondents expressed satisfaction with what they have been reading, yet distressing, since less than a dozen bothered to report in. One volunteer surveyed her neighbors and turned up more avowed readers than that.

Not all of the respondents cited a preference in the proposed name change. Most who did favored *Fells Pointer*. So scant was the response that we are extending the contest. The thought is to change the name to something less security minded than *Fells Point Citizens on Patrol* since Fells Pointers no longer patrol. The Newsletter does not publish in August, so unless an upswell of new names cascades into the addresses boxed below, the Newsletter is likely to return in September, a bit daunted, as the *Fells Pointer*.

A couple of representative responses: "I read the Newsletter every month, and when I haven't received one, I go in search for it at the Daily Grind. I find it informative and full of helpful information. I like the name *Fells Pointer* or *Fells Point Newsletter*." "If we're going to have a newsletter, then let's stick to facts and be inclusive of the wide-ranging group of folks who make Fells Point a great community."

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
New E-mail! fpcop@verizon.net
Write to P.O. Box 6137
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FPCOP Newsletters are online @ www.fpcop.com

July

We wish to thank Bill Bauer for his encouraging note and \$25 donation. Also, we discovered two week ago that our answering machine had been flooded with fax spam, and was not able to receive calls. Any messages left from June 1-13 were irretrievable. If you did not hear back from us during this time, please call again.

Preservationists Lose Battle to Save Ex-Will's Dairy Site

The Preservation Society took its case for saving the art-deco ex-dairy building at Fleet and Castle Streets to court when the owner began demolition last month. It won a temporary stay but ultimately saw the City housing commissioner's earlier decision in favor of the owner-developer reaffirmed. The City had issued that decision without a hearing required by the Urban Renewal Ordinance, and the Society sought the injunction. District Court, in issuing its stay for a hearing, required the Society to post \$500 bond daily to cover loss to the developer, who had already begun demolition to make way for new town houses.

When the Housing Department's in-house hearing found the 1930's home of Will's Dairy inappropriate for renovation, the Society chose not to risk further legal outlays but to build defenses for future challenges—anticipated because of rising demand for land. One tactic under consideration is a campaign for Fells Point to become a district of the City's Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation. That status previously was rejected, but it might have offered the means to prevent the Will's loss. CHAP's requirements for inclusion are under study.

With the Preservation Society leading the way, the Fells Point Task Force of community groups had voted to oppose the demolition. However, the group most affected, Midpoint, backed the developer, citing frustration with blight that surrounded the vacant structure. The demolition includes an adjacent row house where the Wills operated what may be the original ice cream parlor.

Mikulski Center Dedicated

With the dedication on June 21 of Living Classrooms' Mikulski Workforce Development Center, the new Caroline Street now has a monument to an early hero in the revival of Fells Point. Sen. Barbara Mikulski and the rest of the Baltimore area congressional delegation attended the ceremony, captivated by the students who will attend classes in the green-roofed building and the ex-offenders of Project SERVE who helped build it.

Sen. Mikulski reminisced about growing up in Highlandtown and then battling the highway bound for Fells Point in the sixties. She praised Living Classrooms' efforts for the needy young of East Baltimore and said she accepted the honor from the foundation "because it stands for what we believe in. You honor my family [of grocers and bakers]." Mayor Martin O'Malley, accentuating the "Workforce" in the center's name, said, "This woman is all about work."

Mikhaila Fornah, a 6th grader in the Crossroads School that will occupy part of the Center and who wrote a dedication to Mikulski, said, "She is a wonderful role model, and someday I hope to make such an impact on my community."

Bond Street Landing Celebrated

The developers of the west-end Thames Street waterfront invited kibitzing Fells Pointers into newly completed Bond Street Landing in July for draft beer, kabobs and praise for those who made the open space a reality. Original plans for the Bond Street Wharf building on the east of what is now a grassy plaza had provoked the ire of neighbors by cutting off the Bond Street view corridor to the water. A roomy compromise was reached after long bargaining sessions with community leaders as required of the developers, Struever Bros Eccles & Rouse and H&S Properties, under Urban Renewal strictures.

J. William Struever acknowledged state and city funding that helped pay for the Promenade traversing the plaza, and he sought suggestions for a centerpiece, perhaps rail related. The cobblestone extension of Bond Street into the plaza includes rails that connected a grid of tracks here to a dock to barge train cars to and from the main line across the harbor.

No FPCOP Newsletter in August; the staff is vacationing. The September issue should be at your door about September 11.

Rec Pier Outcome Awaited

The Task Force of community group leaders is to meet July 14 to determine how the neighborhood should show its preference among three proposals for Recreation Pier: developer Struever's plan for offices including those of Design Collective architects to pay for needed repair of underpinnings and renovation; Clarke Enterprises' proposal for a boutique hotel; or rejection of both. A citizens' group effort for rejection favors local public ownership.

These options emerged from a wider field drawn to the City's offer last year to sell, with conditions, the 1914 pier and head building. The group for rejection includes Robert Keith of Bond Street and Mark Walker of a Johns Hopkins office in the Bond Street Wharf building. They hope to see use of federal and state funds available to nonprofits to repair the pier and to offer more ample public uses. Lori Guess of Wolfe Street represented the Task Force on the City's committee guiding disposition of the pier, but she resigned.

Crimes against the Heedless . . .

A couple on Shakespeare Street reported stolen-identity losses, with their trash suspected of having rendered up checking account data. Several months ago a resident around the corner noted a collection worker rummaging through her trash and reported it to a solicitous Sanitation Department. The lesson: Don't give up crucial numbers to people seeking to appropriate them.


On the night of June 22, someone broke a window of a car parked on the 600 block of Wolfe Street to steal a wallet left on the dash.

. . . And Even the Attentive

From Lancaster Street comes the following: "I took the dogs for a walk around midnight. I was gone for about 10 minutes, leaving the door unlocked because my husband was in the kitchen and could see the length of the house. Also, we have an alarm that buzzes when the door is opened. Someone watching then took my husband's bag with his wallet, passport, etc., off the piano by the door.

"We didn't realize it was missing until I got a call at 2:30AM. A woman who lived about a block from my house on Aliceanna said she had found it up by Beans & Bread on Bond and Bank Streets. When I went over to pick it up, there was a police car on the street. The officer said he didn't want to accuse the woman of stealing it, but she was a prostitute, heroin addict and thief, and he recommended that I not give her a reward because she was probably 'double-dipping.' Fortunately, we got everything back except about \$100 in cash and a cell phone."


Selfless Community Service—The deadline for nominations for the second annual Fells Point 9/11 Award is August 8. Last year's winner was FPCOP founder Nancy Conrad, whose name has been inscribed on a plaque in the Visitor Center. Sponsor of the award is Town Crier Jack Trautwein of 1704 Lancaster Street. Nominations can be placed there or at the Visitor Center, and they must state how the candidate has contributed to community well being "without regard to recognition or monetary reward." For details, call P. J. at 410.746.7494.



Trash and Recycling Schedule

Trash should be placed outside in metal trash cans. Trash collection days are usually Monday and Thursday. Recycling material should go out by in paper bags, a cardboard box, or tied with string. Glass, metal, and plastic should be in blue plastic bags.

Friday, July 9	paper
Monday, July 12	glass, metal, plastic
Friday, July 23	paper
Monday, July 26	glass, metal, plastic
Monday, August 9	glass, metal, plastic



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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.
- Greenspace Action Partnership:** (Second Tuesday of every month) 5:30 PM at Visitor Center, 410.675.6750, ext. 10.
- Mid-Point Community Association:** (First Tuesday of every month) 7:30 PM at ID8 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, second Monday of the month) 7:30-8:30 PM at 1637 Eastern Avenue.