

With CHAP Safeguards at Hand, City Agency Is in Flux

As the Preservation Society with support of most groups on the community-wide Task Force accelerates efforts to obtain protected status for Fell's Point under Baltimore's Commission on Historical and Architectural Protection, CHAP is caught up in a City Hall taffy pull that could increase but might also diminish its currently modest powers.

The Society's quest for CHAP status comes as a consequence of its losing court battle to prevent demolition of the art-deco ex-Wills Dairy building at Fleet and Castle Streets last June. While Fell's Point holds federal distinction as an historic site and it has some protection under the City's urban renewal ordinance, neither association prevented the demolition. In addition to monitoring conformity with historic structural patterns in designated areas, CHAP guards against destruction of those properties. Most homeowners must approve the application for inclusion and the Preservation Society and others are working toward canvassing the area.

Meanwhile, a bill to reconstitute CHAP under Planning was introduced by southeastern Baltimore's

new city councilman, Jim Kraft, and several others. This has come prior to the final report of a panel studying ways to strengthen CHAP, and a leader of that effort, Director Johns Hopkins of Baltimore Heritage, is vigorously opposing the bill. He cites two provisions, the proposed elimination of CHAP's executive director post, and the inclusion on the Commission of the heads of the Baltimore Development Corp. and the Department of Housing.

The backdrop of the legislation is the recent de facto incorporation of CHAP into the Department of Planning, a move widely read as a threat to its autonomy and that of its director, currently Kathleen Kotarba. He contends further that the housing and development agencies have primary concerns often antithetical to historic preservation. The 11-member commission proposed by Kraft's bill designates mayoral appointments from designated areas, with enough ambiguity to make unclear which way it might lean on a critical development vs. preservation issue.

The Churches of Broadway— Once Methodist, Now Baptist and Lumbee, With a Tad of Pentecostal

By Tamara Nelson-Faulstich

Stroll up Broadway and you're bound to become a churchgoer, or at least a church observer. We've decided to listen in each month on these congregations, from steeples to store fronts, the current and past places of worship along this ethnically diverse avenue that helps define Fell's Point.

On a bitter cold Sunday morning, my daughter Jordan and I strolled up the avenue to a clean-cut, red brick structure at 211 South Broadway and stepped into the toasty warmth of South Broadway Baptist Church. It was the first time either of us had been inside a Baptist Church—or any other lately, either. We caught only the conclusion of the sermon, by a guest minister, who advised congregants to "take things one day at a time." We soon learned that this is the spiritual home of Baltimore's Native American community, The Lumbees.

The building that houses South Broadway Baptist started back in 1848 as Broadway Methodist Church. The Reverend Ed Schell, who was its pastor from 1953 to 1960, now handles the museum at the historic Lovely Lane Methodist Church on St. Paul Street and is pretty much a walking history book regarding 211 South Broadway. Rev. Schell says it was in 1919 that Baltimore's Goodwill Industries was started in the basement of the church.

The site officially became South Broadway Baptist Church in 1978 after Mayor William Donald Schaefer and the city helped church leaders arrange a loan to rehabilitate the building, which was purchased from the Methodists for \$90,000. The membership now is about 120 and while many are Lumbees, everyone is invited.

Writers Around the Point

An author of 40 books from romance to mystery, Louise Titchener has turned to the historical novel with *Gansby*. Its post-Civil War setting in Baltimore includes a sharpshooter's tense nights in Fell's Point bars. Titchener lives in Scarlet Place on President Street but gets to the Point, particularly to Mystery Loves Company at 1730 Fleet Street, where Kathy Harig says Titchener is selling just behind Laura Lippman (*Butcher's Hill*) and Tim Cockey (*The Hearse You*

Came In On). Titchener's mysteries include *Buried in Baltimore*, Jacqueline Greff of Tonal Vision LLC, *The Fell's Pointer* and Lancaster Street has contracted with Arcadia Publishing to write a brief history, heavy with black-and-white photos, of Fell's Point. It will join a widely sold series notable for sepia covers. Geoffrey Footner of Fell Street, notable for his nautical writings, says he is about half way on his longer history of Fell's Point, heavy with words.



Photo by Jordan Faulstich

Church at 211 Broadway has watched neighborhood take ethnic swirls.

When it comes to the Lumbees, the woman to talk with is Linda Cox, described by her daughter as the "Mother Theresa" of Baltimore's Lumbee people. Cox is vice chair of the Baltimore Indian Center just up the street at 113 South Broadway. She says the Lumbees started migrating from their home state of North Carolina to Baltimore in the 1950s, primarily in search of construction jobs.

With the neighborhood's ever-expanding ethnic diversity, officials at the church have also opened their doors to the Latin American Iglesia Pentecostal El Jordan, which has been holding Sunday services here for many years at 2PM.

The South Broadway Baptist Church community holds its annual Homecoming Feb. 13 from 9AM to 6PM. Fell's Pointers are also invited to the Baltimore Indian Center's upcoming Pow Wows May 20-21 and August 26-28. For more information, call 410.732.8460.

Happenings

Visitor Center Stalwart Bartenfelder Dies at 88

Dorothy O. Bartenfelder was recruited from retirement four years ago by her daughter to be a volunteer greeter at the Visitor Center on S. Ann Street. She commuted to the job from Rosedale and by all accounts well fulfilled it unless illness intervened, as it did conclusively on Jan. 28. She was born June 5, 1916, in East Baltimore. Denise Whitman of the Preservation Society and Fountain Street held a service for her mother on Feb. 3 at Lilly and Zeiler on Eastern Ave. at Ann, with the Rev. Jack Trautwein, family and friends.

Charter School Session Feb. 15

The recently approved Patterson Park Public Charter School, which could have room for Fell's Point students, will hold an open house from 3 to 8PM on Feb. 15 at 27 N. Lakewood Ave. with application forms available. www.ppc.org or 410.558.1230. The school's purview is neighborhoods bordering the park, but if the 350 initial slots are not all filled, others can apply.

Beeline to the Red Line

The Maryland Transit Authority will hold a public meeting at St. Patrick's Church on Broadway at 6PM Feb. 23 to learn potential users' hopes for the proposed Red Line east-west rapid transit line. It could bring light rail, express buses or even a subway through Fell's Point, but whether, and when?

Parking Decals Due on 28th

Area 16 parking permit decals must be in place by Feb. 28 and those ordered on line will be distributed at the Vagabond Theater from 7 to 9PM on Feb. 24. Decals can be obtained at Baltimore Parking Authority, 200 W. Lombard Street, where parking is free for that purpose.



Beans & Bread of Bond Street Welcomes Volunteers

By Kathleen Spain
Director of Beans & Bread Outreach Center

For many of us, the harsh realities of the winter season remind us to "weather-proof" our homes and cars. However, for the guests we see every day at the Beans & Bread Outreach Center of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the winter season reminds them to start with adequate shelter in an effort to "weather-proof" their life and do whatever it takes to find protection from the cold. Since 1976, Beans & Bread has served as a resource for this community by providing over 1 million guests with life-sustaining services.

Beans & Bread Outreach Center is on the corner of Bank and Bond streets in Fells Point. Each day, over 400 individuals come to our facility for free hot meals, counseling, case management, information and referral, telephone access, basic triage health care, adult education and links to other services. This hub of activity is also home to Fredrick Ozanam House—a transitional housing program for 20 formerly homeless men. Through intensive case management for a maximum two-year residence, these men receive life skills training, employment readiness and other support services to become active community members who contribute positively to the city.

Last year, Beans & Bread served 98,610 meals. To further ease the pains of hunger and homelessness, we are seeking more volunteers. Greater volunteer support will allow us to expand hours of operation as well as the services we provide. Last year, volunteers put in more than 40,000 hours at the Center, which nevertheless has an operating budget of

about \$1.1 million. As a program of St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore (www.vincentbaltimore.org), Beans & Bread prides itself on living out our organization's philosophy every day—Working together, improving lives—in your community. To schedule a tour or sign up as a volunteer, please contact me at 410.732.1892 or kspain@bbfoh.org.

Taking up Ms. Spain's offer of a tour, your editor visited the Center, which stands in lively contrast to the crumbling walls of long-gone row houses across the street. Inside the buildings, the overall impression is of order, cleanliness, and for the most part activity. The staffer responsible for the spotless residency, David Shepherd, said the duty of the men who live there is to keep it that way. They can become eligible upon maintaining sobriety for six weeks. The shiny furniture is the same put in place when the House opened seven years ago, he said. Rear apartments have views overlooking Perkins Homes public housing, with the downtown skyline as a backdrop.

An adjacent building houses a classroom-conference center created by Loyola College that provides a setting for student volunteers working for degrees. Johns Hopkins Hospital sends a substance abuse counselor to the Center once a week. Beans & Bread formerly was at the foot of Bond Street but needed more space at a lower price. When introduced to a couple of residents I learned that one of them is an attentive reader of *The Fell's Pointer*—things are looking up on upper Bond.

Rocked by Rap?

Take a Step Back—and Swing Sommer Gentry and Dorry Segev of Fountain Street are nationally recognized swing dancers, and starting March 7 they will swing in each Monday night to the Ausin Grill, 2400 Boston Street, with '40s music and lessons from 7:30 to 9 and dancing until 11.

The first half hour is free and the subsequent hour lesson is \$10. The fee for those who already know how to cut a rug and come to do so is \$5.



"This is a beginner-friendly venue with a great atmosphere," said Sommer, who met her husband at a swing session. He now works at Johns Hopkins and she is still in school. They teach "1940s smooth-style Lindy hop, collegiate shag and Balboa" in a studio at home, as noted on a website. The couple have placed repeatedly in nationwide competitions.

Go to www.charmcityswing.com for the next steps.

Notes to and from FPCOP—Crime Ticks Up

By Michael Arida
President of FPCOP

Mid-December to mid-January saw a spike in property crime in the area, as reported by newsletter readers. Events include a delivery van stolen from Aliceanna as well as several break-ins along that street. In addition, the Fell's Point Citizens on Patrol office was broken into in January, with an old computer stolen. We want to thank all who contacted us with this information. Due to the break-in, all phone messages from the second week in January until the end of the month were lost. Please call again or email—we welcome all correspondence at the numbers and addresses on this page.

Antoinette Flury of Duda's Tavern on Bond Street would like to thank all who brought or sent packages for their son and his platoon in Iraq. She guided the effort and, through the urging of neigh-

bor D'Arcy Norton of Sheep's Clothing, the December Fell's Pointer and its readers joined in.

We would like to welcome Major Michael Kundrat (Michael.Kundrat@baltimorecity.gov) as the new chief of the Southeastern Police District, and wish departing Major Scott Williams luck as head of the citywide Tactical Unit.

We received a nice letter from Delegate Brian McHale congratulating members of the Fell's Point community for their recent selection as one of the ten best in North America.

As the properties of St. Stanislaus Kostka Church on Aliceanna Street, where we have our office, are being sold, FPCOP is looking for a new room. If a reader has any suggestions, please contact FPCOP at the numbers on this page.

'Pointer Seeks Designer

Trista Snyder, whose volunteer career with this newsletter included the redesign that now graces *The Fell's Pointer*, is unable to continue in the crit-

ical post of electronic layout and design. The *Pointer* fervently asks for a replacement to step forward via email, fpcop@verizon.net.

Schedules

Trash

Place trash outside in cans or, after 6AM on collection day, in plastic bags. Mondays and Thursdays but no holidays.

Recycling

Place outside by 7AM on collection day. Glass, metal and plastic in blue plastic bags. Mondays, Feb. 14, 28.

Paper and cardboard in paper bags, cardboard boxes or tied with string. Fridays, Feb. 24, March 11.

Neighborhood Meetings

Douglas Place: Third Wednesday of every other month at the Polish National Alliance, 1637 Eastern Avenue, 410.563.297.

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

Fell's Point Citizens on Patrol: Monday, Feb. 21, 7PM, Bertha's 2nd Floor.

Fell's Point Community Organization: Second Mondays, 7PM, Fell's Point Visitor Center, 410.276.5471.

Fell's Point Development Corp.: First Wednesdays, 9AM every Tuesday, Max's on Broadway. Open to all. 410.675.8900.

Fell's Point Homeowners' Association: First Wednesdays, 7PM, Bertha's 2nd Floor.

Greenspace Action Partnership: Second Tuesdays, 5:30PM, Visitor Center, 410.675.6750 ext 10.

Society for the Preservation of Fell's Point and Federal Hill: Call 410.675.6750.

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.

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Printing at CopyCat
paid by:

