

The Fell's Pointer

Monthly Publication of the Fells Point Citizens on Patrol

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FPCOP Seeks New Direction; Major to Lead Patrols

By Michael Arida

President of FPCOP

The Fell's Pointer is alive and well, and many thanks go to Jacquie Greff, Sabrina Hall and Lew Diuguid for the hard work they put in each month to deliver, compose and compile the newsletter.

Printing costs have increased since the closing of CopyCat and cutoff of its subsidy. To save funds, we propose turning off the COP telephone line. We will still be in contact via the P.O. Box internet, and on the street. If you feel this is a bad idea, please let us know. The phone line will still be active until July, depending on the status of St. Stan's. Our donated office space there is about to give way to redevelopment in any case.

COP Elections

It is time once again for the neighborhood watch/COP part of the organization to hold elections for officers this September, more details will follow. The FPCOP can always use new blood, new ideas and new hands. We also want to compliment the members of the community who have been vigilant and alert as a result of COP training as well as the assistance of the Southeast Police Department. These factors and many others have made this community one of the best places to live in the coun-

try. Some residents have expressed interest in renewal of patrols or of trying a block-watch reporting system. At the Homeowners' Association last week, the new commander of Southeast Police, Major Michael Kundrat said he welcomes help from COP groups and would join with the citizens of Fell's Point to patrol in the near future. Look here for details in July. Please send any thoughts or officer nominations (President, Vice-president, Treasurer, Secretary) to us. ALL members of the community are welcome and encouraged to participate.

Fells Pointer Donations Needed

FPCOP asks for help, however modest, from community businesses, members and newsletter readers to defray operating expenses. Crabby Dick's kindly continues to provide \$50 monthly but this no longer covers the cost of publishing The Fell's Pointer. To contribute, make checks payable to: Fell's Point Citizens on Patrol and send to P.O. Box 6137, Baltimore, MD 21231. Our heartfelt thanks in advance. We also thank again the distributors who cover the community block by block.

Major Michael Kundrat said he would join with the citizens of Fell's Point to patrol on Friday-Saturday, June 24-25. All interested should meet at Thames St. Park at 7PM either night.

Happenings

Nominees for 9-11 Service Award:

Please submit letters of nomination for the 9-11 Selfless Community Service Award by Aug. 15 to Jack Trautwein (PJ), 1704 Lancaster St., 21231. The 9-11 Award winner will be announced at the 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony. For further information, 410.746.7494.

Duclaw's Call Falls on Deaf Ears: The Homeowners' Association, after listening to a call by the manager of Duclaw's for support of an entertainment license for his bar-restaurant at Bond Street Wharf, voted to oppose the application before the Liquor Board. Nearby residents and other businesses charged that the micro-brewer had created havoc with loud music even though it lacked a license, and that the help was unresponsive to complaints. The manager and a representative of the building's owner sought to assure neighbors that the entertainment now envisaged would be limited to acoustic guitars.

Night on Town for Patterson Park: Gecko's at 2318 Fleet Street, www.gecksonline.com, offers its finest food and drink for a worthy cause on Thursday, June 16, from 6 to 9PM. Thirty percent of the tab, plus proceeds from a raffle, go to the general fund of the Friends of Patterson Park.

Black-Eyed Susan Snipped: The Fell's Point Task Force of community groups acted to thwart a proposal that the city provide permanent dockage for the stern-wheeled dinner cruise boat Black-Eyed Susan on the public pier at the foot of Broadway. Del. Pete Hammen, head of the umbrella group, informed the Board of Estimates that the 'Point opposes permanent commercial concessions on the pier, which is used for tie-up of visiting ships, from tugs to historic vessels. The Task Force also seeks amplification of the existing Pier Policy for Fell's Point, which interprets as forbidding dockage of the sort sought by the 'Susan. It would include appointment of a manager who would collect fees for short-term dockage on all of the community piers. Hammen's letter specifies that the Task Force does not oppose the 'Susan picking up and discharging passengers at the pier. Residents contend that the boat is decorative for the Mississippi but not for the era of sail upon which this once bustling port reflects.

MTA Open to Ideas for Bus Routes: On Monday, June 13, from 12 noon to 8PM at War Memorial Plaza, the Maryland Transportation Administration will listen and take notes as it hears bus riders' reactions to proposed major changes in city bus routes, including those passing through Fell's Point.

Nothing Pale at Ale Mary's: A new bar is settling in at Washington and Fleet Sts.: Ale Mary's--"Food, Fine Wine and Heavenly Ales."



In 1968, Latin Palace was still Broadway Theater, its neighbor was Lakein's, and at the corner was a drug store

MOVIES-II: Flickering Images Linger From Broadway's Screens

By Mark Walker

Marketing Analyst & Puppeteer

Back in the early 1900s, when Fell's Point was a veritable Broadway of competing movie theaters, most of the action appropriately was on Broadway--and more than one of the prime palaces bore that very name. The petite BIJOU, for instance, opened about 1907 in the 400 block of Broadway and changed the name to the BROADWAY in 1910. This first with that name closed in 1913.

In 1906, the PALACE opened on the first floor of a three-story house at 228 S. Broadway. Shows lasted 15-20 minutes, with up to 20 reels daily on the hand-cranked projector. In 1910, the Palace became the RED RAVEN and soon closed--due to competition from the LEADER, at 248 S. Broadway. One of the longest operating movie theaters in the city, the Leader also presented vaudeville acts. In the days of silent movies it was common for managers to station actors behind the screen to talk or sing in synch with the actors on the screen.

If you think Fell's Point is strange now, imagine what neighbors thought when one exhibitor hired a "human fly" to scale the building as a promotion. Another hired an aerialist to walk a tightrope across Broadway. Although the Leader closed in 1958, the building is still there, obscured behind brick and Formstone.

The ROYAL, at 308 S. Broadway, lasted from 1912 to '15 and that building also endures, incognito. On the opposite side of the street was the CLIFTON, from

1909 to '27.

During a 1950 showing there of "The Black Hand," with Gene Kelly, a large contingent from Little Italy packed the house. When the film star pulled a knife to show how he was going to avenge his father's death, the entire audience stood and cheered, according to Robert K. Headley in his wonderful book, "EXIT," on which this series is based. A new edition is waiting in the wings.

The current Polish Home Club at 510 S. Broadway also operated as a movie theater. In 1919 it was the NOWOSCI, which is Polish for "novelty."

The last movie in the 500 block was the FAMILY THEATER at 518. Headley notes that in 1918 a patron applauded when the Kaiser appeared on the screen. This created such a disturbance that the moviegoer was arrested for disorderly conduct. The theater closed in 1921.

Fell's Point's last legitimate picture show was at The ORPHEUM. It was a pocket theater on Thames St., upstairs at the one-time barn for horse-drawn trollies that now is the Maritime Museum. Until six years ago, George Figgs offered often rare old films for less than the price of popcorn elsewhere. As it happens, you can still find an aisle seat. The once plush chairs--which allegedly served at the Gayety on The Block before settling into the Orpheum--are now on sale at Second Chance, near the Ravens' stadium. They're going fast. Figgs is not far off, either, collaborating on a film series for Creative Alliance at the former Patterson movie theater in Highlandtown.

The Churches of Broadway—V Paint Replaces Pews in German Methodist

There's no mistaking an ecclesiastical contribution to the facade along Broadway of Budeke's, the nation's "oldest family-owned paint store": a churchly A-frame roof set well back from the sidewalk broods over the commerce below. That one-time German Methodist Church—founded 150 years ago, even before the paint store—is a rare reminder that German once was spoken along the main street of Fell's Point.

Stored paint now fills the sanctuary where the pews were, but the choir loft is intact and the decorated ceiling looks almost, well, freshly painted. "Another Church on Broadway," says the 1854 headline of a weekly Baptist newspaper, True Union, quoted in a small shrine at the entrance to the sanctuary, which is upstairs in Budeke's. An 1868 photo shows phalanxes of sailors parading along S, Broadway to mark the start of North German Lloyd steamer service between Baltimore and Bremen.

The church closed with the onset of World War I in 1914 but not the adjoining stores that had been an innovation from the start. The complex was bought in 1930 by Budeke's, which had started out a few doors north in 1868. A fifth generation of Budekes is represented in the current owner, Brian Koerber. The current facade came with a makeover in 1969.

A note at the shrine says, "incorporating the stores as part of the property was a clever touch, as the rents could contribute to the support of the mission. German-language Methodist churches were successful elsewhere but—in the 1850s, at least—they did not do too well in Baltimore."



Photo by Lew Diuguid

German Methodists occupied Budeke's southern wing.

Kraft Acts to Clarify Limits on Property Sales:

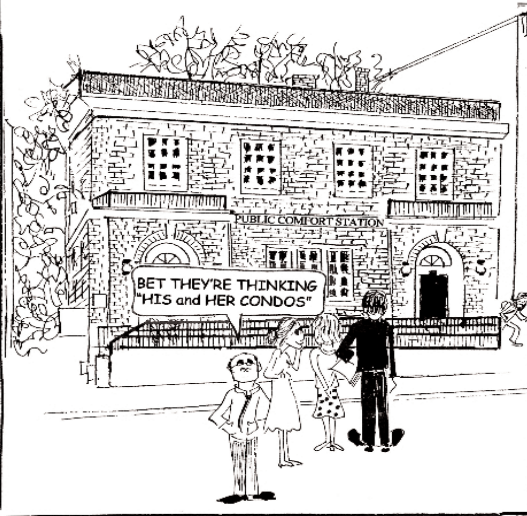
Councilman Jim Kraft introduced a bill to protect those buying or selling property who may be unaware of land use and design restrictions for residential properties. Kraft said he had the bill drafted because of confusion caused by the combination of zoning classifications, Urban Renewal Plans, historical district designation, covenants, and other land use and design agreements.

"Someone may buy a property that is zoned for commercial use, but may not know that the Urban Renewal Plan for the area only permits it to be used for residential purposes or that local historical designation makes it subject to design standards," he added.

21-Gun Salute to VonKarajan

Cameron Kane, president of the Water Taxis, sent the following to Ellen VonKarajan, executive director of The Preservation Society: "I don't think anyone has any idea yet how your work and the work of the Preservation Society has managed to act upon this tremendous victory in hosting the National Historic Trust annual meeting event [in May] as well as the National Main Street Conference. You all have managed to put Fell's Point in the spotlight for all the right reasons."

BRICK BANTER — CAVACOS



Greenspace Partners Look To Remake of Thames Park

The fledgling Greenspace Action Partnership has received a grant of \$800 to take a first step in the eventual reconstitution of the sole cluster of green in Fell's Point, the Thames Street Park. At the June meeting of the Homeowners' Association, members endorsed the proposal presented by GAP President Kay Hogan to remove the thicket of bushes that rim the troubled half-block park at Thames and Wolf Sts.

GAP has found in sessions with nearby residents that security is a major issue.:

- *The park's gazebo provides shelter for homeless, whose presence deters mothers with young children from making use of play equipment installed in an earlier makeover of the park several years ago. The homeless use the thickets along the perimeter as their bathroom, say neighbors. Late last month, a homeless man was found dead beside the gazebo, apparently having fallen off of it.

- *Teens not from the neighborhood are accused of using the site for taking drugs, and syringes turn up in the trash left there.

- *The bushes and fence interfere with observation of the park by police patrolling by auto. Some neighbors similarly advocate removal of the gazebo to deter the homeless.

- * Dog owners, probably the major users of the park, include many who disobey regulations—usually posted—of the city's Department of Parks and Recreation that require dogs be on leash and their feces be removed to receptacles.

Hogan said GAP expects to hold a community-wide meeting by the fall to seek consensus on residents' wishes for the park. The initial grant came from Parks & People Foundation and GAP is negotiating for partnership status with the city's admittedly underfunded parks department. At the Homeowners meeting, a representative of Struever Brothers, Eccles & Rouse suggested that the park project could undertaken by the company's volunteers on James Rouse Day in September.



Photo by Lew Diuguid

Obliterated sign cited rules for dog owners using the park.

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, June; 11, 25.

Paper and cardboard in paper bags, cardboard boxes or tied with string. Fridays, June 8,22.

Neighborhood Meetings

Douglass Place: Third Wednesday of every other month at the Polish National Alliance, 1637 Eastern Avenue, 410.563.1297.

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

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

Fell's Point Development Corp.: 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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