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THE SOUTH BALTIMORE PENINSULA POST

FEBRUARY-MARCH 2022

Connecting the communities of the South Baltimore (Md.) peninsula

A Solid Technology Hub Grows in SoBo

What do you see at the end of S. Charles Street when you look up at the soaring tower of the century-old Pabst Brewing Company building? A relic of South Baltimore's industrial past imitating an even older era of castles and kings?

Take a look inside and you see something very different: a fast-growing SoBo-born global technology firm on the verge of becoming a billion-plus dollar publicly traded company.

In a part of Baltimore that has many remnants of its industrial past still standing, the peninsula has become home to many industries of the future – tech companies creating everything from cybersecurity systems to industrial automation software to augmented-reality experiences. You may not notice these new businesses as you walk down the street – no new smokestacks or factories rising – but over the last decade, SoBo has solidly established itself as a tech hotspot.

"We're like the Brooklyn of Baltimore," says Todd Marks, president and CEO of **Mindgrub**, a digital agency that moved to Locust Point in 2012. "Back in the early 2000s, companies started to set up shop in Brooklyn in old industrial space, and it's just blown up and is now the place to be for tech. We're seeing the same trend here."

Marks moved Mindgrub to the peninsula in part to take advantage of its central location along the I-95 corridor. The company now sprawls across nearly an entire floor of the former Phillips Seafood headquarters building (1215 E. Fort Avenue).

That former Pabst Brewing building (1834 S. Charles Street) is where cybersecurity expert and tech startup veteran James Foster moved his company **ZeroFox** in 2015. ZeroFox got its start two years earlier as Riskive in the Betamore coworking space at 1111 Light Street, within easy walking distance of his home in Federal Hill.

Also in 2015, a "decrepit former city garage" (*Baltimore Sun*), just south of I-95 at Hanover Street, was renovated by Sagamore Development as a 130,000-square-foot hub of tech activity. **Ready Robotics**, a tech-transfer company that makes it easier to automate industrial robots, and **Balti Virtual**, a studio that designs immersive experiences with augmented and virtual reality technology, were among the first companies to get their start in City Garage (101 W. Dickman Street).

What has helped SoBo evolve into such fertile ground for tech companies? Among other things: a rich pool of nearby talent, a supportive network of tech professionals, and twenty-somethings.

ZeroFox CEO Foster points to the technical talent coming from Baltimore's universities and the area's defense-industrial base. "Baltimore and Maryland have some of the best cybersecurity talent in the world," he says.

Mindgrub's Marks also points to the local talent. "The ecosystem that has developed here over the last 10 or 15 years through a couple of generations of startups has really started cooking with gas," he says. "We have a lot of



Top: "Immersive experiences" using virtual and augmented reality are created at Balti Virtual with the help of staff like 3D generalist Steph Walter. Photo by Plaid Photo. Bottom: ZeroFox CEO James Foster (center) and some of his team outside the global cybersecurity company's S. Charles Street headquarters. Photo by Mary Braman.

universities, a lot of talent, and a lot of incubators now."

"When I wanted to take Mindgrub to the next level, I knew I needed to attract the twenty-somethings to work here," recalls Marks about his move from Catonsville. "And they were all basically living in the city, in places like Federal Hill."

For Balti Virtual CEO Will Gee, a big draw to the area was the nucleus of

like-minded tech companies at City Garage, where they moved in 2016. "On a tour of the space, one of the tech firms was partnering with Volo City to play cornhole using drones to drop the bags. 'Okay,' we thought, 'this is the place for us.'"

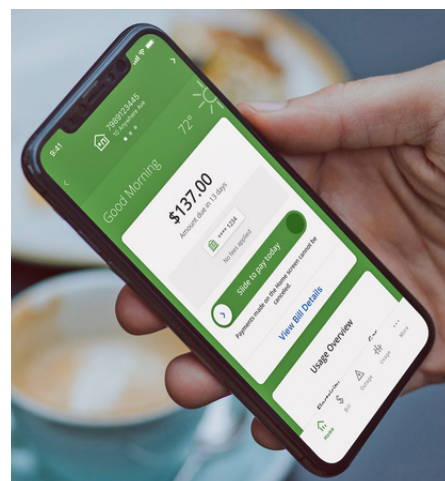
"Being at City Garage in the middle of all of that activity at that time in our company's growth was really transformational for us," Gee explains. "It opened up a lot of avenues."

SoBo tech firms provide a dizzying array of products and services and have followed dramatically different trajectories in building their businesses.

From its start in the Betamore coworking space in 2013, ZeroFox has grown into a global cybersecurity company with nearly 550 employees worldwide. It announced plans in December to acquire an Oregon-based digital security firm and go public as a combined company valued at over \$1 billion. Foster expects that deal to be finalized by summer.

Originally focused on cyber threats via social media, the scope of the company's cloud-based "software as a service" is much bigger now, says

Continued on page 6



Mobile phone apps are just one of the end-to-end creative and support services that Mindgrub provides to clients.

From the Editor

Many Thanks from a Grateful One-Year-Old

This community newspaper turns one on March 12. Issue #1 was dedicated to the many resilient and supportive “pandemic heroes” in South Baltimore. That kind of community not only makes this a great place to live, it also makes a fledgling newspaper like the Peninsula Post thrive.

You can credit me with the initial idea of this newspaper, but it takes a supportive community to make it come alive. Like the talented volunteers who contribute their writing and photography skills.

The shopkeepers who let us distribute the paper inside their doors. The businesses who advertise in issue after issue. The community groups that gave us a forum at their meetings. And the 39 donors (so far) who sent checks or contributed online.

The Peninsula Post is certainly still a toddler as far as publications go (what bimonthly doesn’t want to grow up to be a monthly, or a weekly?), but with your support and encouragement, we will continue to serve this great community. – Steve Cole, Editor-in-Chief

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AROUND THE PENINSULA

Unearthing Backyard History

Pieces of history can be found in our own backyards, which is where Evan Woodard typically digs for historic relics. He and his Salvage Arc team have turned up hundreds of artifacts, such as glass bottles and ceramics, since they started in 2020. A lover of history, Evan has donated around 50 relics to the Baltimore Museum of Industry.

He and his team explore places in and around Baltimore, researching potential sites before approaching owners of homes or businesses to ask permission to search their properties.

A recent dig took the team to a home on Montgomery Street near Federal Hill. The property, erected in 1830, had a depression in the brick patio, which led to a privy below. The privy, or the space under what used to be an outhouse, is where people often discarded bottles, trash, even animal bones, all of which Evan turned up during the dig.

If you have a sinkhole in your backyard that you think could hide a privy and pieces of history, consider contacting Evan to take a look (salvagearc.com). He always leaves behind some artifacts for the homeowners to enjoy and share. – J.T.

Bmore Stronger in the Alley

If you heard shouting and clanging metal coming from a back alley on the peninsula, chances are you would either hurry away or call the police. But, follow that noise into the alley behind the 1200 block of Wall Street, and you’d be surprised to find Josh Strasser and his neighbors and friends deadlifting, hoisting massive sandbags, and taking underground strength training to a whole new level.

Josh is the mastermind behind South Baltimore Strength Athletics, a bare-bones gym dedicated to strength training that he runs out of a two-story building behind his William Street home. Josh, a veteran of the Scottish Highland games and a former strongman competitor, rents the space and is building it out himself. He plans to



About two dozen parents attended the “Mini Makers” Fall Youth Showcase at Digital Harbor Foundation on December 15. Tech Center manager Robert Moore (right) talks with students about their projects. Photo by Mary Braman.

open the gym for everyone this spring, complete with atlas stones, barbells, a yoke, and more.

“I invite those interested to come and train with us to see if we’re a good fit,” Josh says. “If we are, then it’s \$40 a month flat rate.” Contact Josh for more information at bmorestronger@gmail.com. – J.T.

‘Constructed Wetlands’ Approved

A city-funded project to create new wetlands along the shores of the Middle Branch of the Patapsco River was approved in December. The city’s Board of Estimates agreed to contribute \$5.1 million to the “Middle Branch Resiliency Initiative” targeted at protecting South Baltimore neighborhoods from storms and flooding while restoring the environmental and recreation benefits of the shoreline.

The first phase of the project, which begins this year, will build wetlands and vegetated berms adjacent to BGE’s Spring Gardens natural gas facility on the peninsula in Ridgely’s Cove and at Middle Branch Park in Cherry Hill and Brooklyn. The project is expected to be completed within three years.

South Baltimore Gateway Partnership is administering the new city funding for the project. – S.C.

Tackling Trash, One Bag at a Time

Sam Farrell has been on a one-man crusade since moving here in the summer of 2020. Every day he walks around his neighborhood near Cross Street Market and picks up at least one shopping bag full of trash from the street. He’s out there early on weekday mornings before clocking into his job as a mortgage loan originator.

His mission: to encourage people to take care of their environment, no matter where it is, and to get across the idea that even small, individual acts matter. “Do the little things,” he says. “The more people that have that mindset, the better off the world will be.”

Sam dubbed his crusade “The Regrowth Project,” which he launched in 2020 after a summer job picking up trash in a park near his hometown in New York State.

As of January 15, Sam had collected 2,350 bags of trash. You can follow his daily exploits [@theregrowthproject](https://www.instagram.com/theregrowthproject) on Instagram or contribute to his efforts on Patreon.

Want to pitch in? Sam says he is available to organize group cleanups; just contact him through his website: theregrowthproject.com. – S.C.

‘Mini Makers’ Spring Sessions Begin

Registration is open for after-school programs at the Digital Harbor Foundation (1045 Light Street), where elementary and middle school students can make cardboard creations and build simple circuits and arcade games. Two six-week “Mini Makers” sessions are offered starting February 7 and March 21.

The Digital Harbor Foundation offers beginner, intermediate, and advanced programs in core technology and maker skills. The “Maker Foundations” program for middle and high schoolers focuses on website development with HTML. The “Advance Makers” program introduces students to artificial intelligence and machine learning.

For more information about Digital Harbor Foundation programs and to register, visit digitalharbor.org/whatwedo/youth. – S.C.

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One-Woman Embroidery Business Sews to Order

Kelsey Holden's German Shepherd/Lab mix Bohdee is the inspiration for her home business, Good Dog Designs. Bohdee shares a rowhouse with Kelsey and her husband on S. Charles Street, where Kelsey operates her one-woman machine embroidery company that specializes in custom orders, "punny" designs, and seasonal gifts.

Her products for men, women, kids, and dogs range from hats and bags to bandanas and leashes. Bohdee, of course, models all of the dog products. While interviewing Kelsey for this story, I had the privilege of meeting Bohdee, sporting a custom bandana and leash, and I can confirm he is indeed a good dog.

Good Dog Designs is now part of the "Made in Baltimore" network of local makers and businesses. This past year, Kelsey shipped about 300 custom orders across the country and sold even more in bulk to local retailers, including Sugar Boat Goods and Gifting in Federal Hill and Pat's Porch in Catonsville.

A city resident since 2014, Kelsey started the business in 2018. At the time, she was working 9 to 5 for a healthcare company. "I didn't have much creativity in that job," she recalls. "I just was looking for a creative outlet and so I was like, 'well, I'll just take an [embroidery] class and see.'"

Kelsey took her first embroidery class at the Foundry makerspace at City Garage in Port Covington, a place where people with common interests gathered to work on projects while sharing ideas, equipment, and knowledge. After completing the class, Kelsey rented an embroidery machine from the Foundry and created an online Etsy store, fielding custom orders.

When the Foundry closed in 2019, Good Dog Designs was out of commission for nearly a year until Kelsey reignited her passion and purchased her own industrial embroidery machine in 2020. With COVID-19 forcing everyone to quarantine, Kelsey doubled down and grew her business online. "Everyone needed some sort of way to get through the pandemic mentally, and my coping mechanism was embroidery," she says.

Kelsey sources her materials from Baltimore-based Allstitch supplies and makes her designs to order. If you don't see a garment you like on her Etsy page, you can send her a link to one and she'll order and embroider it before shipping the final product to you.

Kelsey walked me through the process of creating an order from scratch. Once she gets a request on Etsy, she creates the design in the embroidery software, Embrilliance, on her computer using fonts and icons and then transfers that design onto her embroidery machine in a process called digitizing.

Then it's time to prepare the materials. First, a tiny component called a bobbin is wound with white thread and placed in the base of the machine, directly under the needle. The needle is then threaded with the desired color and is guided through the top of the machine to the needle head. A pair of curved scissors can help easily guide the thread through. The fabric that's getting embroidered is stretched taut on a hoop and secured between two circular frames that fit tightly together so that the fabric does not move during this process.

Next, it's time to start sewing. Kelsey



Kelsey Holden has operated her machine embroidery business Good Dog Designs from her home on S. Charles Street since 2018. Photo by Mary Braman.

places the hooped fabric under the needle and turns on the machine, which churns out the uploaded design. Whenever the needle with the colored or "top thread" punches through the fabric, it catches the white thread from the bobbin below to create the stitch. It takes less than 10 minutes for the machine to stitch a design on a hat.

Kelsey is not completely removed from this automated process, however, as there is always the risk of machine error. Throughout the embroidering, she keeps an eye on the operation, swapping thread colors, refilling the bobbin if needed, and making sure the hoop stays taut.

This year, Kelsey hopes to broaden her catalog of custom items and collaborate with local artists and makers. As a member of the Made in Baltimore community, she continues to make new local connections, collaborate with other makers, and attend fairs and craft festivals.

"I would love to expand and do more Baltimore-themed apparel and accessories," she says, "maybe incorporate some iconic graphics and designs into them that resonate with [those of us] who love everything Baltimore."

Visit Good Dog Designs online at gooddogdesignsco.com or etsy.com/shop/gooddogdesignsco

— John Thomas



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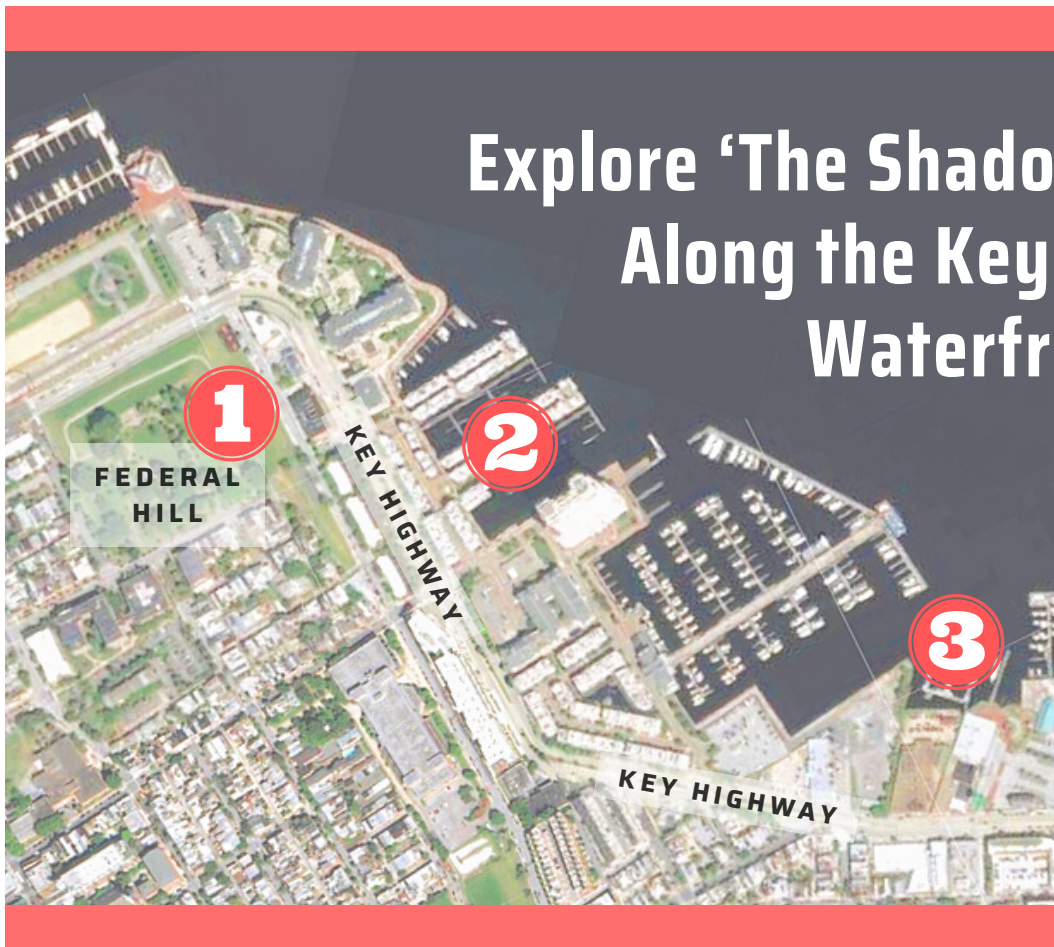
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Top: The Bethlehem Steel Key Highway Shipyard dominated half a mile of waterfront along Key Highway for decades until it closed in 1982. Center: At the base of Federal Hill, directly across from the shipyard (right center), stand two former whiskey warehouses that are now part of the American Visionary Art Museum. Photos courtesy of Baltimore Museum of Industry Archives. Bottom: A “whirley crane,” once employed at the Key Highway Shipyard, now stands on the grounds of the Baltimore Museum of Industry, which occupies the former Platt & Company oyster cannery. Photo by Mary Braman.



Explore ‘The Shadow Along the Key Highway Waterfront

A trek along Key Highway today is graced with sights of luxury homes, sailboats, a neon LOVE sign, and sleek apartment buildings. It is a place wholly transformed over a couple of generations from a waterfront packed with industry and commerce that stretched all the way from Federal Hill and the Inner Harbor into Locust Point along Key Highway East.

Much of that past is now gone. A few ghosts remain, like the green crane that towers over the Baltimore Museum of Industry. Some hardy survivors endure, still busy keeping workboats afloat and American diets sweet. But cruising along today’s Key Highway waterfront, it’s hard to imagine the industrial past that once dominated the landscape.

Last year, staff at the Baltimore Museum of Industry worked to make that past come alive with a self-guided walking tour of the area. “South Baltimore: In the Shadow of Industry” features the tour and accompanying videos from Baltimore Heritage that highlight 10 industries and historic sites along the waterfront and nearby Fort Avenue.

Here we present an adaptation of selections from the walking tour with historical photos to take you back to a past that is not that long gone. – Steve Cole, Editor-in-Chief

1 Baltimore Copper Paint Company, James Distillery

The three brick buildings at the base of Federal Hill that are now home to the American Visionary Art Museum (800 Key Highway) originally served two very different Baltimore industries: paint and whiskey.

The building at the corner of Covington Street and Key Highway – the museum’s main exhibit space – was built in 1913 to house the offices of the Baltimore Copper Paint Company. Founded in 1870 by Oliver Reeder, the company was one of many paint manufacturers in the city at the time. Its namesake “copper paint” inhibited the growth of barnacles on the bottoms of boats sailing in salty waters – a must-have product in a shipbuilding town like Baltimore. The copper paint was used on all of the Liberty ships coming out of the city during World War II.

The two other buildings were completed soon after Prohibition ended in 1934 to serve as warehouses for James Distillery, Inc., which made whiskey at its plant across the street on Key Highway. The warehouses had simple brick exteriors with intricate timber

frameworks inside to support the whiskey barrels, wall, and roof.

The current Sculpture Barn (with the exterior LOVE sign) held up to 6,000 barrels; the larger Jim Rouse Center building (with O SAY CAN YOU SEE sign) had a capacity of 20,000 barrels. In the 1940s, the distillery was purchased by F. V. Goldsborough Distilling Corporation, which continued operations there through the early 1950s.

2 Bethlehem Steel Key Highway Shipyard

Stretching half a mile along the waterfront from the AVAM whiskey warehouses to E. Clement Street, the Bethlehem Steel Key Highway Shipyard was part of the largest ship repair operation in the country at the time.

Shipyards in this area played a pivotal role in Baltimore’s shipbuilding industry from the 1820s until Bethlehem closed the Key Highway Shipyard in December 1982. Boat-building brothers William Skinner Jr. and Jeremiah Skinner established the Skinner Shipyard at the base of Federal Hill in the early 19th century. Their descendants carried on the family business and consolidated other small shipyards, eventually creating the 35-acre Key Highway complex.

After World War I, the company went into receivership and Bethlehem Steel acquired the yard. In 1923, Bethlehem Steel reorganized its various Baltimore locations and moved all of its shipbuilding to Sparrows Point and its repair facilities to Key Highway. Two massive floating dry docks were moved to the Key Highway shipyard.

During the Bethlehem Steel era, the Key Highway facility was known as the “upper yard” to distinguish it from the company’s “lower yard” adjacent to Fort McHenry. The Key Highway yards repaired more than 2,500 ships during World War II.

3 Platt Oyster Cannery, Hercules Shipbuilding, ‘Whirley Crane’

Several different businesses had roots on the site of the current Baltimore Museum of Industry complex. The oldest remaining structure is occupied by the museum itself (1415 Key Highway). The Platt & Company oyster cannery, built in the 1860s, was one of the earliest industrial sites in Locust Point. It is one of the last cannery buildings still standing out of the 80 that once operated around Baltimore’s harbor.

Shadow of Industry' Key Highway Waterfront



The state-of-the-art oyster cannery continued packing oysters until the early 1900s. Platt added fruits and vegetables to his product line, and the company's hermetically sealed cans were sold all over the world. By the 1970s, the cannery had closed. The vacant building was purchased by Baltimore city government and re-opened as the BMI in November 1981.

The Hercules Shipbuilding Company owned the neighboring three-and-a-half story, 20th century Colonial Revival brick office building (1425 Key Highway). The company was an active player in Baltimore's maritime industry, building vessels for commercial and leisure use and conducting wartime naval construction and repair.

Hercules specialized in repairing and retrofitting cargo holds. One of the tools that workers used was a drop forge to shape heavy steel. The company's drop forge stands on the BMI's outdoor campus across the parking lot from the office building next to the "Working Point" sculpture.

The tallest historical structure on the BMI campus – the 1942 Clyde "whirley crane" – is a relative newcomer to the site but no stranger to the Key Highway waterfront. The crane, named for how the boom on top could rotate 360 degrees, worked in the Bethlehem Steel Key Highway Shipyard starting in World War II and remained active until the shipyard closed in 1982.

The whirley crane once stood on Pier 3 in the shipyard, approximately where HarborView Towers (100 HarborView Drive) stands today.

4 General Ship Repair

General Ship Repair (1449 Key Highway) maintains the rich shipbuilding tradition long associated with this part of South Baltimore. Charles "Buck" Lynch founded the company in 1924, moved to this location in 1929, lost the company during the Great Depression, and managed to buy it back at auction. Today, Ryan Lynch, the fourth generation of the family, operates the company.

The business repairs a variety of vessels, from schooners and steamships to paddle wheelers and even Mr. Trash Wheel. Workers perform maintenance work on ships in two 1,000-ton floating docks.

General Ship Repair serves as the tug and barge repair facility for the Port of Baltimore. The machine shop on-site allows General Ship crews to weld and fabricate steel parts there.

5 American Sugar Refining, Inc.

This Domino Sugar refinery on Key Highway East is one of the last major working industries along Baltimore's harbor. Raw sugar from Florida and tropical and subtropical countries arrives at the plant by ship and barge. Granulated sugar is the refinery's main output, but its dozens of production lines also make confectioners, light and dark brown, liquid, and pharmaceutical grade sugars as well as several types of molasses. About 70% of this sweetness goes to commercial bakers and other food producers.

The 30-acre campus was constructed in 1921 and began producing sugar in April 1922. When the refinery opened, it had 1,500 employees and produced up to 2.2 million pounds a day. Now the Baltimore refinery produces nearly triple what it did a century ago with one-third the workforce. About a dozen of Domino's 510 employees live on the peninsula.

Baltimore was once home to six different sugar refineries. This industry boomed between 1865 and 1873 when Baltimore's rail system and shipping channels attracted six manufacturers to the area. The industry fell apart in the 1870s when a major importer of sugar and molasses declared bankruptcy.

6 Procter & Gamble

Procter & Gamble selected the Locust Point site on Key Highway East in 1928 to build a soap manufacturing plant because of its proximity to cargo shipping routes and the city's transportation infrastructure along the Atlantic seaboard.

The plant, which opened in 1930 with 220 employees, churned out a variety of soap products until it closed in September 1995. At its height, the P&G Baltimore plant employed 550 people making products like Camay, Tide, Cascade, Spic and Span, Ivory Snow, and Cheer. At one point, the plant produced 28% of all Ivory soap (115 million floating white bars).

The site was transformed into the Tide Point office park and is now home to Under Armour's world headquarters.

THANKS to the Baltimore Museum of Industry for permission to adapt the "South Baltimore: In the Shadow of Industry" walking tour for this article. To dive deeper into Baltimore's industrial past, visit the BMI website: thebmi.org.



Top: Procter & Gamble opened its Baltimore soap manufacturing plant in 1930 and churned out Tide, Ivory Snow, Cascade, and more until it closed in 1995. Center: The American Sugar Refining plant next to Procter & Gamble has been producing Domino Sugar products since April 1922. Photos courtesy of Baltimore Museum of Industry Archives. Bottom: General Ship Repair has been fixing working boats at its Key Highway location since 1929. Photo by Mary Braman.



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SOBO TECH HUB, continued from page 1

Steve Ianelli at work in South Baltimore’s City Garage on Ready Robotics’ automation software for industrial robots and manufacturing. Photo courtesy Ready Robotics.

Foster. “Our focus is external cyber-security: anything beyond your traditional firewall. Since the pandemic changed how everyone works, with people no longer inside an office building and inside a closed network, no one is behind their firewalls now. As a result, our security solutions are needed by a lot more customers than they were a few years ago.”

SoBo-born Ready Robotics has attracted more than \$40 million in venture capital to date by developing systems based on university research that make it easier to deploy industrial robots and automation on the manufacturing floor. Launched in 2016 by Kelleher Guerin and Benjamin Gibbs from Johns Hopkins University, the six-person startup was hot. After releasing its first product in 2017, the company received a big infusion of investor capital and within a year moved its headquarters to Ohio. A small technical team continues to work out of City Garage, testing new iterations of the underlying software and improving the user interface.

At first, Ready Robotics sold a ready-to-use hardware/software platform that included a robot with an intuitive, flowchart-style interface (no coding required). The company has now moved away from selling robots to focus on its core automation software.

“We make software that makes robots vastly easier to use and empowers anybody to control the entire work cell from a single interface,” says Erik Bjornard, Ready Robotics vice president of marketing. “We support about 70% of robots that were sold last year. Our goal is to be the universal operating system for automation.”

But not all SoBo tech firms focus their energies on building the next must-have software system or digital essential. Some are adept at creatively wielding tech tools like augmented reality and smartphone apps to meet the needs of a wide range of clients.

Balti Virtual has worked with such companies as HBO, Under Armour, Hallmark, and the Baltimore Ravens to create “immersive experiences” with virtual and augmented reality technology. Started in 2015 by veteran video game makers David Thompson and Will Gee, the company has created over 100 projects with a wide group of brands and agencies. The staff has grown from four to about a dozen today.

Mixed in with Balti Virtual’s client work are some projects of their own, including HoloTats, a temporary tattoo that when scanned with a smartphone app displays an animated 3D creature, like a shark, swimming around. Squad Snaps is a project launched last year with the Ravens that lets fans take virtual selfies with their favorite player from a touch-screen kiosk in the stadium.

“It’s been great to have a fun mix of products, but it can be very demanding to constantly be building completely different things week after week,” says Gee. “What we’re trying to do now is find a couple of areas of focus, to build a sustainable company focused on a vertical or two.”

Mindgrub’s Todd Marks has taken a very different approach, steadily expanding the scope of his enterprises year after year. Starting with mobile phone apps and then adding web development services, Mindgrub has morphed from a technical group to a “digital agency” providing clients like Exelon, NASA, and Royal Farms with end-to-end creative and support services. With annual sales now at about \$30 million, the company has 200 employees, most working in the Baltimore area.

In 2018, Marks opened Mindhub, a startup incubator and coworking space next to the Mindgrub offices. In 2021, Mindgrub added a venture capital group to work with startups. The company recently purchased space in Pigtown for possible expansion. And a robotics startup is in the works to commercialize a robot called SNAX (originally created to deliver snacks around their offices) to help visitors and staff in hospitals.

The solid foothold that tech firms have made in South Baltimore over the last decade may be just the beginning for this part of the city.

Marks, for one, is bullish on the area’s potential. “This whole area is now solidly catering to the 20-year-old professional knowledge workers,” he observes. “The area west of Federal Hill is getting developed, and that’s going to have a lot of knowledge-working businesses. And the whole I-95 corridor from Port Covington to Montgomery [Park] is growing fast.” — Steve Cole

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The South Baltimore peninsula has many neighborhood groups working to make our part of the city a great place to live. **SoBo 2GETHER** is a regular column of updates from these organizations on community projects that you can get involved in.

Federal Hill Main Street business district

fedhill.org
cathy@fedhill.org

We are writing a grant to install **string lights over the sidewalks** up and down S. Charles, Light, and E. Cross streets in the Federal Hill Main Street business district. We are also exploring adding security cameras in key locations to improve safety for everyone based on advice from experts on best practices.

Our free **Fed Hill Fun weekly events** will be expanded this year to run from April to October, featuring music, dance, fun workshops, and more. We will be reaching out soon to get your input for the entertainment lineup. In the meantime, please send any suggestions about type of entertainment or specific artists to lin@fedhill.org. Thanks!

Some 2021 highlights: This past year, FHMS had the business district cleaned five days a week year-round, planted and maintained 120 commercial planters, installed sidewalk art on S. Charles and Light streets, secured \$274,530 in grant funding to pass through to FHMS businesses, and produced 25 photo essays of small businesses that were posted on our website. – Submitted by Cathy Rosenbaum, Executive Director

Federal Hill Neighborhood Association

federalhillbaltimore.org
ehillsider@gmail.com

Our next two **monthly meetings** will be virtual due to continuing Covid concerns. Mark your calendars for February 15 and March 15 at 6:30 pm. Sign up for our email list at the address above. – Submitted by Beth Whitmer, President

Federal Hill South Neighborhood Association

federalhillsouth.org
federalhillsouthna@gmail.com

We are busy planning activities for 2022. Please save the date for this year's **Clean Up Green Ups**. These Saturday events feature a community dumpster available in the Digital Harbor High School parking lot as well as tools and bags for cleaning up your block. The dates for 2022 are March 26, June 18, August 27, and November 19.

We recently launched a member survey to see how we can better serve your needs. Please join our Facebook group (Federal Hill South Neighborhood Association) to keep in touch as the year moves ahead. – Submitted by Melissa Evans

Locust Point Civic Association

mylocustpoint.org
contacts@mylocustpoint.org

Latrobe Park will be part of the **Olmsted 200 Celebration**, which begins in April. Latrobe Park was designed by the Olmsted Brothers. The Olmsted family was very forward thinking in the 1800s and 1900s regarding green open space so that people could enjoy being outside.

LPCA is planning various projects to highlight the historical and community significance of both Olmsted and Latrobe Park. The LPCA Parks and Beautification Committee is putting together two task forces, one focused on the restoration of the longhouse in Latrobe Park and the other to organize a dedication ceremony for the historic marker plaque installed last spring that recognizes the Olmsted Brothers

Getting Ready to Clean Up and Green Up



The Friends of Riverside Park will be busy this spring with donated trees and perennials collected by Jackson Fisher (far left) and other volunteers at the annual Mid-Atlantic Nursery Trade Show. Shown here with Jackson are FRP volunteers (left to right) Scott Walters, Shannon Waldron, and Scott Huot. Photo by Mary Braman.

design. If you are interested in joining one of the task forces, please email LPCA at the address above.

We are looking forward to our next event, which will be a **Spring Mixer** in a couple of months. Stay tuned for more details on that!

LPCA aims to improve the community in a variety of ways. If you live in Locust Point, we hope you will join us! Email us to learn about how to become a member of the LPCA. We can't wait to meet you! – Submitted by Kate McComiskey, President

Otterbein Community Association

theotterbein.org

The OCA Board would like to wish everyone a joyous 2022! We can't believe another year has passed. While we look forward to seeing the other side of the pandemic, let's continue to be patient and kind with ourselves and with others.

Unfortunately, due to the recent Covid variant, OCA suspended all **community gatherings**. However, we are working on our Calendar of Events for the spring and summer!

Our next **quarterly meeting** will be held Wednesday, March 16.

Please be sure to check out the most recent **Otterbein History Project** article by David Safier, on Jos. A. Bank and his family. According to the Baltimore City Directory of the time, the Bank family lived and worked in at least 17 houses in and around what is now the Otterbein neighborhood. Download a PDF of the article at theotterbein.org/wp/history/. – Submitted by Gregory Vander Ploeg, President

Riverside Neighborhood Association

riversideneighborhoodassociation.com
rnabaltimore@gmail.com

Riverside Gathers Greens from Conventioneers – For more than 10 years, Jackson Fisher, leader of the **Friends of Riverside Park**, an RNA subcommittee, has made it his business to head to a local trade show with a couple of pickup trucks and a handful of volunteers. And this January, they were at it again.

Nursery operators and other commercial and wholesale growers of trees and plants regularly gather for the annual Mid-Atlantic Nursery Trade Show at the Baltimore Convention Center. At the end of the event,

exhibitors can donate a wide variety of trees and greens to local nonprofits.

This year, Jackson and his team filled two pickup trucks with 2-inch trees and dozens of perennials. These now await planting in prime locations at the entrances to Leone Riverside Park, on the grounds of Thomas Johnson Elementary School, and in empty tree pits in the neighborhood. Several of the park's river birch trees were acquired at this show.

"This event has been very beneficial for the neighborhood," says Fisher. "The show has provided us with a consistent supply of high-quality trees and perennials. The contribution can be worth as much as \$5,000."

Watch for Jackson and the other Riverside volunteers as they bring new green life to our community, once weather permits. – Submitted by Rich Badmington, President

South Baltimore Neighborhood Association

mysobo.org
executive_board@mysobo.org

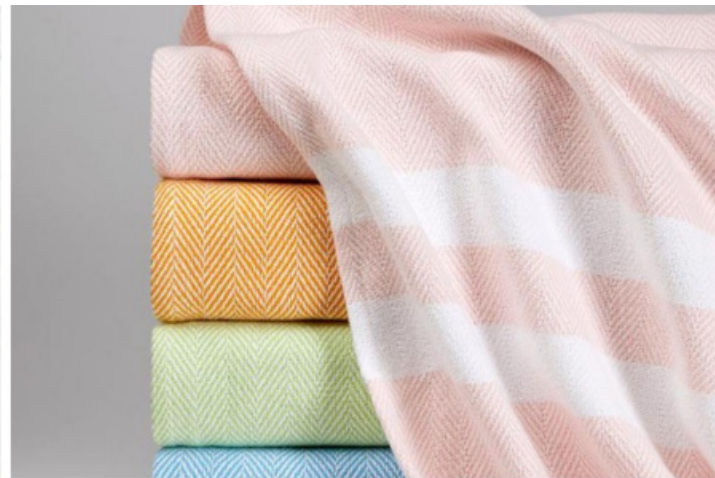
SBNA has resumed regular general membership meetings. Our first meeting of 2022 was held on January 11. Due to the current Covid surge, we have switched to an all-virtual meeting format, but we look forward to meeting in person at Delia Foley's (1439 S. Charles Street) when we can do so safely.

At our October 2021 meeting, the Government Services and 311 Committee brought up the issue of the reversal of the one-way street direction at Randall and Hanover streets. SBNA voted to support an option that would reverse Randall Street's direction between Hanover and S. Charles streets. That has been shared as the preferred option with the Department of Transportation.

The Clean and Green Committee is planning a spring cleanup event for April. The focus of this event will be litter cleanup and other general greening activities. If you are interested in volunteering for the event planning or other cleaning and greening initiatives, please reach out to cleanandgreen@mysobo.onmicrosoft.com.

For more information on SBNA events and efforts, follow SBNA on social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter), sign up for our emails on our website, or email us at the address above.

Our next virtual general membership meeting will be February 8 at 7 pm. The virtual meeting link can be found on our Facebook and Instagram pages. – Submitted by Megan Spindler, Board Member



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SOBO EVENTS

Visit sobopost.org/events for the latest updates and links to additional event information.

2/11 – **Music: Better Off Dead**, The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St. 7pm. \$

2/12 – **Valentine’s Day Makers’ Market**, Cross Street Market, 1065 S. Charles St. Featuring gifts from market vendors and pop-up shops. 12-5pm.

2/12 – **Dino Day**, Maryland Science Center, 601 Light St. Hands-on activities to uncover fossils and learn about techniques scientists use to explore these prehistoric creatures. 12-4pm. \$

2/14 – **Music: Wild Rivers and Corey Harper**, The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St. 7pm. \$

2/17 – **Virtual Artist Talk with Nancy Josephson**, American Visionary Art Museum. Josephson’s bead work and glass mosaic sculptures are featured in the museum’s “Healing and the Art of Compassion” exhibition. 7:30pm.

2/18 – **Wine & Dinosaurs**, Maryland Science Center, 601 Light St. Learn about the world of prehistoric predators and the science of wine with wine in hand. 7-9pm. \$

2/19 – **Morning Monitoring Walk at Fort McHenry**, sponsored by the Baltimore Bird Club. Continuing survey of birds at the Fort and its wetlands. 8am-12pm.

2/20 – **Music: Butte & Friends**, The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St. 4:30pm. \$

2/24 – **Music: Jonathan Sloane Trio with Bobby Thompson Band**, The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St. 7pm. \$

2/25 – **Music: Damn Right! Summer in the 90’s Album Celebration**, The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St. 9:30pm. \$

2/25 – **Registration Deadline: South Baltimore Little League**. Spring season sign-up for ages 4-16. sobolittleleague.org.

2/26 – **Draughts & Laughs 12**, Checkerspot Brewing Company, 1399 S. Sharp St. A night of stand-up comedy with headliner Mike Moran. 8pm. \$

2/26 – **Music: Splintered Sunlight**, The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St. 8pm. \$

3/2 – **First Wednesday Walks at Fort McHenry**, sponsored by the Baltimore Bird Club. Ongoing bird survey at the Fort and its wetlands. 8am-12pm.

3/5 – **Music: Moody Moose**, The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St. 8pm. \$

3/5 – **200 Years in the Making**, Checkerspot Brewing Company, 1399 S. Sharp St. Beer historian Maureen O’Pry talks about the history of women in brewing and new small-batch brews based on Mary Eaton’s recipes from 1822. 1-4pm. \$

3/9 – **Virtual Artist Studio Tour with Arthur Lopez**, American Visionary Art Museum. Tour Lopez’s home and studio in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and discuss his work in the museum’s “Healing and the Art of Compassion” exhibition. 7pm.

3/17 – **Music: Armchair Boogie, Moosejaw Bluegrass, Schu and the Souls**, The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St. 7pm. \$

3/19 – **Music: Joey Harkum Band**, The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St. 8pm. \$

3/26 – **Clean Up Green Up Day**, sponsored by Federal Hill South Neighborhood Assoc. Community dumpster and cleanup supplies available at the Digital Harbor High School parking lot.

3/30 – **Music: Toubab Krewe**, The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St. 7pm. \$

4/1 – **Music: Sensi Trails, Bonzai, Mystik Fool**, The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St. 8pm. \$

4/6 – **SBLC Learning Works Open House**, 28 E. Ostend St. Learn about adult education programs and how to enroll. 5-6pm.

4/6 – **First Wednesday Walks at Fort McHenry**, sponsored by the Baltimore Bird Club. Ongoing bird survey at the Fort and its wetlands. 9am-12pm.

4/8 – **Music Under the Dome: 90’s One Hit Wonders**, Maryland Science Center, 601 Light St. An immersive music show and cocktail hour. 7-10pm. \$



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