

ISSUE NO.



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THE SOUTH BALTIMORE PENINSULA POST

APRIL-MAY 2022

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

Your Spring Guide to SoBo Outdoor Fun

Spring has sprung! And with the mask mandate lifted and Covid concerns fading, many peninsula residents are ready to escape the living room and head outdoors. Whether you just want to stretch your legs, start a new fitness routine, reconnect with old friends, or watch a ball game, you'll find plenty of options nearby to get active and have some fun.

Being surrounded by water on three sides means there are lots of aquatic activities to choose from, including kayaking, sailing, paddleboarding, and rowing. Peninsula sports are on solid ground, too, with everything from Little League to beach volleyball and cup-in-hand kickball.

Here is your guide to many of the exciting sports and outdoor activities you can get involved in this spring and summer.

....

To get away from your work-at-home desk, you might be tempted to take to the water and paddle far, far away. The **Canton Kayak Club** can help you with that. Don't let the name fool you. While the club was founded in Canton, it has launch points all around the area, including two on the peninsula: at Nick's Fish House, next to the Hanover Street bridge, and Tide Point at the Under Armour headquarters in Locust Point.

Joining CKC is somewhere between renting and having your own kayak. After paying a seasonal fee and passing orientation, you can access boats at any of 10 CKC locations from May through October.

CKC is completely volunteer run, and the club's "paddle pals" regularly schedule excursions for members to tour the surrounding waterways with them. The season begins in early May, depending on the water temperature. For more information, visit cantonkayakclub.com.

Once you've mastered kayaking, feel free to join the weekly **Inner Harbor Kayak Tours** sponsored by Baltimore City Recreation and Parks and the Waterfront Partnership. The tours leave from the Maryland Science Cen-



In advance of spring leagues starting in late April, volleyball and baseball players are already getting practice in at the Baltimore Beach Volleyball courts in the Inner Harbor and the South Baltimore Little League fields in Locust Point. Photos by Mary Braman.



ter on a 3-mile paddle around the Inner Harbor, from the USS Constellation to Mr. Trash Wheel and Fells Point and back.

The tour season begins May 1 and runs until October. There are two tours every Sunday, at 9 am and 1 pm. Like CKC, you need experience on the water to participate, but if you haven't learned yet, Inner Harbor Kayak Tours also provides plenty of kayaking lessons. To find out more, visit waterfrontpartnership.org.

Want a more competitive paddling experience, something that will help improve your strength and coordination? **Baltimore Community Rowing** could be what you're looking for. The boathouse is located just across the Hanover Street bridge on Waterview Avenue. The club hosts daily practices for all age groups. More than a dozen community groups and rowing teams

from schools and universities call the boathouse home.

If you don't have competitive rowing experience but want to get involved, Baltimore Rowing offers adults a monthly "Learn to Row" program that teaches the basics. You'll progress from learning strokes on land to rowing on the water in team boats. The club also offers noncompetitive programs where you can still get out on the water in a racing shell.

The competitive rowing season starts in early April. For more information, visit baltimorerowing.org.

A relative newcomer to peninsula waters, **B'More SUP** returns to the Inner Harbor with stand-up paddleboarding this year. If you don't have paddleboarding experience, sign up for a lesson next to the Rusty Scupper.

Continued on page 4



Baltimore Community Rowing offers competitive and noncompetitive programs on SoBo's southern shore. Photo by Mary Braman.

From the Editor

Fun for Everyone at 'I Love SoBo Day'

Bringing peninsula neighborhoods together through fun community events was one of the first things the South Baltimore Peninsula Post did way back in the spring of 2020, even before releasing Issue #1 of this newspaper, when face-to-face gatherings were banned due to the pandemic. That May we launched the socially distanced "Chalk It Up SoBo" sidewalk art challenge and the "Walk/Run/Bike 1000K to Peninsula Parks" Covid-relief fundraiser, followed in the fall by the "O Say Can You See SoBo?" scavenger hunt.

Now that Covid distancing protocols are in the rearview mirror, the Peninsula Post and our parent nonprofit organization South Baltimore United are hosting our first in-person event – "I Love SoBo Day" – to advance our mission of connecting South Baltimore neighborhoods and the people who live and work here.

I Love SoBo Day combines several of our distanced events with a kaleidoscope of new activities, including the opportunity to meet and support many of the "SoBo Made" businesses profiled in the Peninsula Post. Check out the full schedule of events on sobopost.org or scan the QR code in the SoBo Day ad on page 3 of this issue.

We chose May 1 for the SoBo Day celebration to commemorate another community-building event in Baltimore history. On that day in 1788, citizens from across the city gathered for a "spirited picnic" atop Federal Hill to celebrate Maryland ratifying the new U.S. Constitution.

We hope I Love SoBo Day becomes a welcomed addition to the annual schedule of great peninsula community events. See you there May 1!

– Steve Cole, Editor-in-Chief

The South Baltimore Peninsula Post is published bimonthly by South Baltimore United, Inc., 145 W. Ostend St., Suite 600, Baltimore, MD 21230; tel. 410-340-8819.

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AROUND THE PENINSULA

Riding 'Key to Keys' for Cancer Aid

On April 23, twenty-two bicyclists from around the country will gather on Key Highway to begin a ride to Key West, Florida, to raise awareness about young adult cancer and the support programs offered by the Baltimore-based Ulman Foundation. Among them will be two peninsula residents who are completely new to long-distance cycling.

Sheryl Segal and Ann Madden started training a few months ago with new bikes purchased just for this event. The annual Ulman Foundation "Key to Keys" ride has cyclists biking up to 100 miles a day for eight straight days during the supported ride, stopping at cancer treatment centers along the route before arriving in Key West on April 30.

Sheryl first got involved with the Foundation after a friend's battle with cancer, participating in its "Cycle to Inspire" spin fundraisers at Baltimore Soundstage. "I fell in love with the organization and their support system for young adults and their families going through cancer treatment," she recalls.

Sheryl, who did not even own an outdoor bike before signing up for the Key West ride, has been training on her new bike since January while seeking donors to support her ride. One of the people she reached out to was Ann, her former neighbor near Federal Hill who now lives in Locust Point. Ann donated and signed up to join the ride the same day.

Ann has seen the "amazing" positivity of cancer patients herself in her work as an anesthesiologist. "And I'm in the age range of 20 to 39 that cancer could affect me," she says. "So if I can bike and raise money for this Foundation, why wouldn't I?" Ann is an experienced mountain biker, but this will be her first road ride. Ann's training includes loops around Fort McHenry and the BWI Airport bike trail.

To help raise money for the ride, Ann hosted a "Crushes for Cancer" fundraiser on March 27 at City Limits Sports Bar in Locust Point. The event raised \$1,800 from drink sales, a raffle, and a bake sale. Donations to the "Key to Keys" riders can be made online at give.ulmanfoundation.org/KeytoKeys2022.

Watch our SoBo Events online calendar for details on the riders' April 23 send-off. – S.C.

A SoBo Jazz Scene Is Born

The newborn arrived the evening of Saturday, March 12, in a setting that fit the genre: a one-time waterfront warehouse in a backroom that you probably never knew existed. The Herb Scott Quartet from Washington, D.C., played two sets, 7:30 and 10 pm., followed by a jam session with Baltimore players that stretched until 1 am.



Peninsula residents Ann Madden (left) and Sheryl Segal are among the cyclists who will be biking from Baltimore to Florida to raise awareness about young adult cancer and the support programs offered by the Ulman Foundation. Photo by Mary Braman.

This first show of what producer and SoBo resident Ed Baldi hopes will become a monthly neighborhood jazz series was a success, he says, selling out the 50-seat venue for the first show and nearly half the seats for the second. And the next concert is already scheduled. On April 22, saxophonist Lionel Lyles from Baltimore brings his quintet to the newly christened "Hemingway Room" at Little Havana restaurant on Key Highway.

The SoBo jazz series emerged from the convergence of the pandemic, passion, and proximity. Ed's business in corporate marketing and events production took a hit during the pandemic, and he found himself with more time to devote to his passion for

music. A keyboard player and member of an area rock band, Ed has an office in a back corner of the Little Havana building, less than a block from where he lives with his wife and two teenage sons.

Early in the pandemic, Ed started talking with people at Little Havana about using a space in their building as an intimate jazz venue. He teamed up with D.C.-based photographer Nick Moreland, a chronicler of the area jazz scene who is also Ed's nephew, to launch the "Sonic Lifeline" series.

The first show and the vibe of the new venue have been well received, says Ed. "The musicians told me that it felt like the place had been there forever." Other bands have already expressed interest in playing the Hemingway Room.

Ed hopes his Sonic Lifeline series will be a positive addition to South Baltimore. "I've always felt we lack live music, particularly jazz, on this side of town," Ed says. "Having a thriving music and arts scene is important to a neighborhood." – S.C.



The Herb Scott Quartet played the first Sonic Lifeline jazz concert on March 12. Photo by Mary Braman.

Census Data Reveal SoBo Changes

A new, in-depth analysis of the 2020 U.S. Census data issued by the Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance at the University of Baltimore's Jacob France Institute shows how city neighborhoods changed differently over the previous decade. The analysis follows the release of citywide census numbers last summer.

Issued online as a series of reports called the "Baltimore Community Change Project 2010-2020," the analysis divided the city into 55 areas based on census tracts. Two of these areas cover

Mon-Thurs
9am-5pm

Friday
9am-4pm

"A taste only generations of experience can produce" - Louis Pfefferkorn Sr.

the SoBo peninsula: “South Baltimore” includes Locust Point and most of the Riverside and South Baltimore neighborhoods, and “Inner Harbor/Federal Hill” covers the other peninsula neighborhoods plus Ridgely’s Delight and parts of downtown, south of Pratt Street.

The report notes that “the pattern of population change in Baltimore has remained consistent since 2000,” with “many communities in the east and west part of the city declining by more than 10% while communities along I-83 and around the Inner Harbor grew.” The South Baltimore area had the second largest percent population increase over the last decade in the city with 28%; the Inner Harbor area grew by 17%.

While racial diversity within communities grew across much of the city, the report points out that “Baltimore continues to remain a relatively segregated city.” South Baltimore experienced the largest percentage growth in African American residents of any area in the city (121%), but the report notes that the area’s “overall number of African Americans remains low.” The Hispanic population also saw a big jump, increasing 160% in South Baltimore and 86% in the Inner Harbor.

The reports, including interactive maps and graphs, are available at communitychange-bniajfi.hub.arcgis.com. For more information about the Alliance, visit bniajfi.org. – S.C.

New After-School Program Opens

The South Baltimore Engagement Center opened its doors on March 21 to provide after-school help for students from fourth grade through high school. The new program, located in the basement of the South Baltimore Learning Center at 28 E. Ostend Street, is run by God’s Best Family, a local nonprofit organization that advances the cause of community services for children in Baltimore.

Staff and volunteers of The South Baltimore Engagement Center work



Turell Brooks is program director of the South Baltimore Engagement Center, a new after-school program for peninsula youth. Photo by Mary Braman.

with area students Monday through Saturday afternoons. Activities include tutoring in reading and math, homework, team building, and having fun.

Turell Brooks, program director and president of the nonprofit, says that students currently come from Federal Hill Preparatory School and Thomas Johnson Elementary/Middle School, where he is working with the principals to grow the program. Turell grew up in the peninsula’s Sharp-Leadenhall neighborhood and recalls experiencing a lack of financial and emotional support, which inspired him to create this program to help kids with similar experiences.

The South Baltimore Engagement Center is looking for people who have a passion to give back to the community and support and mentor youth. Interested volunteers can contact the program through the organization’s web-

site at godsbestfamilymd.com/contact-us.

Turell says that God’s Best Family will be starting other community programs soon, including one for “parent-pair groups” of adults who want to meet and talk about the challenges of raising kids and another for ex-addicts that will provide essentials such as toiletries and offer support through conversation. – M.B.

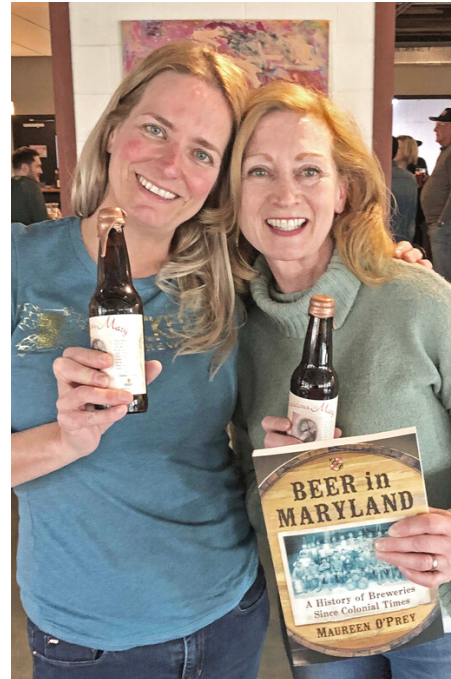
Women Brew Four Historical Beers

About 50 beer lovers were taken back to a time before international beer conglomerates, microbreweries, and brewpubs, when beer was commonly made at home and the brewer was the woman of the house, during a special event at Checkerspot Brewing Company on March 5. Four limited edition beers were served at the S. Sharp Street brewery, each made on site from recipes published 200 years ago by Englishwoman Mary Eaton.

Checkerspot owner Judy Neff and local beer historian Maureen O’Prey collaborated on the event – and the brewing of the beers – to celebrate Women’s History Month and proudly proclaim, in Maureen’s words, that “women have reclaimed their place at the brew kettle.”

The pair started the project two years ago by brewing a special occasion ale following the recipe in Eaton’s 1823 book *The Cook and Housekeeper’s Complete and Universal Dictionary (Including a System of Modern Cookery, In All Its Various Branches, Adapted to the Use of Private Families)*. The ale was aged for one year in an Old Line Spirits Rum barrel, bottled, and aged another year.

Just thirty 12-ounce bottles of the “Pernicious Mary” ale (12.1% ABV) were brewed, reserved for the event’s VIP ticket holders. The ale’s name is a nod to Eaton and a tongue-in-cheek reference to her view that beers brewed in ale houses (like Checkerspot) were of dubious quality, given the unsanitary conditions of her day.



For Women’s History Month in March, Checkerspot Brewing Company owner Judy Neff (left) and historian Maureen O’Prey collaborated on brewing four beers from 200-year-old recipes. Photo by Steve Cole.

Three other Eaton beers flowed freely at the event: an economical “Good Beer,” similar to an English bitter (6.5% ABV); a low-alcohol “Wholesome Beer” (4.3% ABV); and a dark “Agreeable Table Beer” that could be brewed in just days (5.4% ABV).

Maureen, author of *Brewing in Baltimore* (Arcadia, 2011), described Eaton as an advocate of the healthy virtues of home brewing and a stickler for sanitation. Her recipes were characterized by a devotion to frugality and quality. In her talk about the history of women in brewing, Maureen noted that Cleopatra knew how to brew, and women commonly brewed beer as homemakers and tavern owners’ wives until the early 19th century when brewing started to move out of the home and into commercial breweries. – S.C.

THE SOUTH BALTIMORE
PENINSULA POST

I ♥ SoBo DAY

A community celebration of the South Baltimore peninsula

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SPRING OUTDOOR FUN, continued from page 1

If you do have experience, you're ready to hit the water on a journey that navigates around the Inner Harbor. More advanced groups can also paddle from the Sparrows Point location to Fort McHenry.

Simply paddleboarding with friends is just the beginning. SUP also hosts everything from full-moon sessions and yoga on the water to race training, trash cleanup, and even "doggy paddle" sessions where dogs can join in on the fun. The Inner Harbor location opens on June 1, while Sparrows Point opens on May 1. For more information, visit baltimoresup.com.

You can also get out on the water without any type of paddle, thanks to the **Downtown Sailing Center**, an organization geared toward educational and inclusive sailing experiences. The nonprofit, located on Key Highway at the Baltimore Museum of Industry, has been offering sailing instruction and affordable access to sailing since 1994.

Once you've demonstrated basic sailing competency by passing the sailing lessons, you can move into a membership, where you have unlimited access to boats. Starting in May, on the first and third Mondays of the month, the "Women on the Water" event encourages women to learn sailing. For more information, visit downtownsailing.org.

If you'd rather enjoy the springtime outdoors on dry land, the peninsula has plenty of choices for you.

Volo offers over 15 sport leagues in Baltimore City, including kickball, flag football, and softball. On the peninsula, teams play everywhere from Francis Scott Key Elementary/Middle School to South Point. Basketball and cup-in-hand kickball are the first spring leagues to begin play in March.

With an easy way to sign up via its app, Volo has streamlined the social

sporting experience. You can register with your friends as a team or sign up as an individual to be placed in pickup games at your convenience.

Volo is community-driven, and its motto is "We play so kids can play for free." Proceeds from membership dues go to offering free sports clinics for the children of Baltimore through the Volo Kids Foundation.

In addition to the myriad of sports opportunities, the league now offers a "Volo pass." This provides access to training facilities with certified instructors for yoga, endurance training "boot camps," and a variety of other fitness activities. In addition, you get discounts on all Volo sports leagues and free pickup games with other pass holders. Registration for summer leagues opens in early June. For more information, visit volosports.com.

This month, **Baltimore Beach Volleyball** at Rash Field on the Inner Harbor offers free drop-in games on the weekend (weather permitting) at its seven sand courts. The first games of the 2022 spring league season start in mid-April.

Baltimore Beach offers over a dozen coed leagues for different skill levels, ranging from "relaxing and making sand angels on the court while you play" to Olympic-grade competition. Deadlines for the spring season close April 8, but there's plenty of time to squeeze in a free pickup game before signing up for the summer. Registration reopens June 1. For more information, visit baltimorebeach.com.

Over in Locust Point, kids aged 4 to 12 are getting ready for the 66th season of **South Baltimore Little League**, with opening day scheduled for April 23. More than 150 boys and girls signed up this year, the largest group of baseball players the league has ever had, says league vice president Brendan O'Brien.



The Downtown Sailing Center offers a variety of sailing experiences for all skill levels from its dock on Key Highway. Photo by Mary Braman.

The coed league features five divisions: tee ball, machine pitch, coach pitch, minors, and majors. Younger divisions practice together to build camaraderie and focus on fundamentals. The mantra of the league is if you want to play baseball, you can do so here.

It's going to be a big year for the league. As evaluations and practice got underway in March, renovations started on the playing fields on E. Fort Avenue, including new pitcher's mounds, bases, and grass. Opening Day ceremonies will feature the National Anthem played by trumpeters from the

Peabody Institute. There's plenty of room to bring your lawn chair and watch the games all spring and summer. For more information, event news, and coaching opportunities, visit sobolittleleague.org.

Clearly, there is no shortage of outdoor fun to be had for all ages this spring on the peninsula – on land or on water. So, lace up your sneakers, grab your sunglasses, and get ready to shake off the Covid blues as we transition to brighter days and warmer weather. See you out there! – John Thomas

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Digging Into the History of Your Old Rowhouse

Kevin Lewis has long been interested in history and genealogy, so after buying a house on the peninsula in one of Baltimore's older neighborhoods in 2014, he did some research on his East Clement Street home. He discovered that it's decades older than the real estate listing stated and that the house was built on land once owned by a representative of France during President Thomas Jefferson's administration.

"It's like a detective story," says Lewis, recalling how he uncovered clues to the property that led him back to the early 1800s.

It's not unusual for new homeowners to be curious about the history of their house, particularly on the peninsula which boasts several historic districts. But even long-term residents might have had their interest piqued after spending more time in their homes during the pandemic. Fortunately for amateur researchers, much of the history of a house and the people who once lived there is available free online. Although once they start, they may find it difficult to stop.

"It's totally addictive, especially since you can do it all from your home computer," says Lewis. "You can be watching Netflix and at the same time go Google and see what you find."

So where to begin?

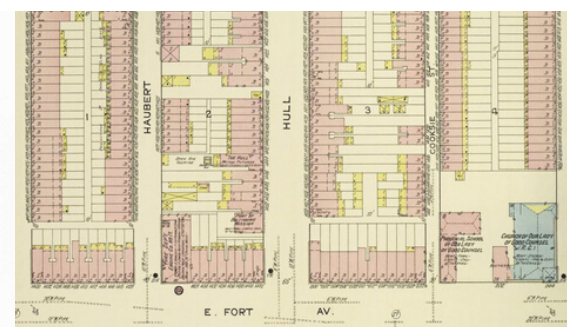
Start by looking at your house for hints of its history, suggests Julie Saylor, a librarian at the main Enoch Pratt Free Library downtown who has fielded questions from residents about their homes. "It's a physical artifact, and you can learn a lot by just looking with an eye to seeing what the clues are," she says.

For example, Saylor notes, one document records that the Central Library at 400 Cathedral Street was built in 1886. But the architecture is more like 1920s Art Deco, and the 1932 cornerstone confirms that the current library replaced the older building, Saylor says.

Next, track the house's deed as it transferred from one owner to another. Begin with the most recent transfer (your purchase) and work your way back. First, go to the Real Property Data Search (sdat.dat.maryland.gov/RealProperty) and select Baltimore City and Street Address. That will take you to a page where you type in your street address.

Your deed transfer should pop up. You will be listed as the grantee (buyer). Jot down the date of the transfer, the name of the seller (grantor), and the deed reference number. The reference number has two parts: the book (often called the liber) and the page number (folio).

To track older deed transfers, create an online account at MDLandRec.net. Once on the site, search under Baltimore City and plug in the deed reference number (book and page numbers). That should take you to the previous deed transfer when the prior



Kevin Lewis, shown with his wife Sera outside their rowhouse, traced his property's history from his home laptop. (Photo by Mary Braman.) An 1869 city map (top) predates their home by one year. Other online resources include Sanborn fire insurance maps like the one above from 1914 showing homes along E. Fort Avenue in Locust Point.

owner of your house purchased it. Again, jot down the names and date, along with the book and page numbers of the earlier owner's deed. Use those numbers to conduct a new search to find the next deed, and so on. Continue to go back as far as you can to trace the ownership of your property.

"If you're lucky, you can trace it back to a bare piece of ground," Saylor says.

That's what Lewis did.

His real estate agent had told him his house, like many in the area, is listed

as being built in 1900 because many of the original records were destroyed in the 1904 Baltimore fire. "That got me curious," he says.

Lewis began by tracking the deed history of his home. "Our house was actually built in 1870 by some German immigrants," he says. And the house remained in that family for three generations.

Tracing the land back further, Lewis discovered that a large area around Fort Avenue and Light Street, in-

cluding his lot in the 100 block of East Clement Street, was once owned by Louis Leloup. (An online search of the Maryland State Archives revealed that President Jefferson in 1806 recognized Leloup as France's "provisional commissary of commercial relation" in Baltimore.) The property stayed in the Leloup family until the mid-1850s, when Leloup's son sold the land and it was divided into lots.

You may also be able to find pictures of your house or block from decades ago. The Maryland Center for History and Culture, 610 Park Avenue, maintains the Passano-O'Neill index of published photos arranged by addresses. The index and some of the photos are available online, although the majority of the pictures are only available in books at the Center or Enoch Pratt, says Francis O'Neill, senior reference librarian.

"I'm such a nut about houses, that if

Continued on page 7

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Fed Hill Fun, Key Highway Lights, and New Eateries



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
gschiche@gmail.com

We're getting ready to launch our **Fed Hill Fun** weekly, free, family-friendly entertainment series on Wednesday nights that will run from April 27 through late September. With input from our community survey sent to local neighborhood associations, we have curated a broad mix of different types of music and dance – something for everyone! Our April 27 kick-off event features the Padonia Band.

All events start at 6:30 pm, outside on the north side of E. Cross Street, right next to Cross Street Market. Check our website, social media platforms, and the Peninsula Post calendar for details. We certainly hope you can join us. Happy Spring! – Submitted by Cathy Rosenbaum, Executive Director

Federal Hill Neighborhood Association
federalhillbaltimore.org
ehillsider@gmail.com

Now that spring has sprung and the pandemic seems to have loosened its grip, FHNA, SBNA, and FHMS are excited to host an in-person **Community Block Party** on Saturday, April 23,

from 1 to 5 pm on the north side of E. Cross Street. It will be a fun, family-friendly event with music, face painting, balloon sculpting, games, and much, much more. All are welcome. Keep an eye on our Facebook page as we provide updates on the day!

FHNA's annual election will be held at our general meeting on May 17. We love new faces, so if you think you might be interested in joining our board, please contact us at the email above to learn more about our organization! – Submitted by Beth Whitmer, President

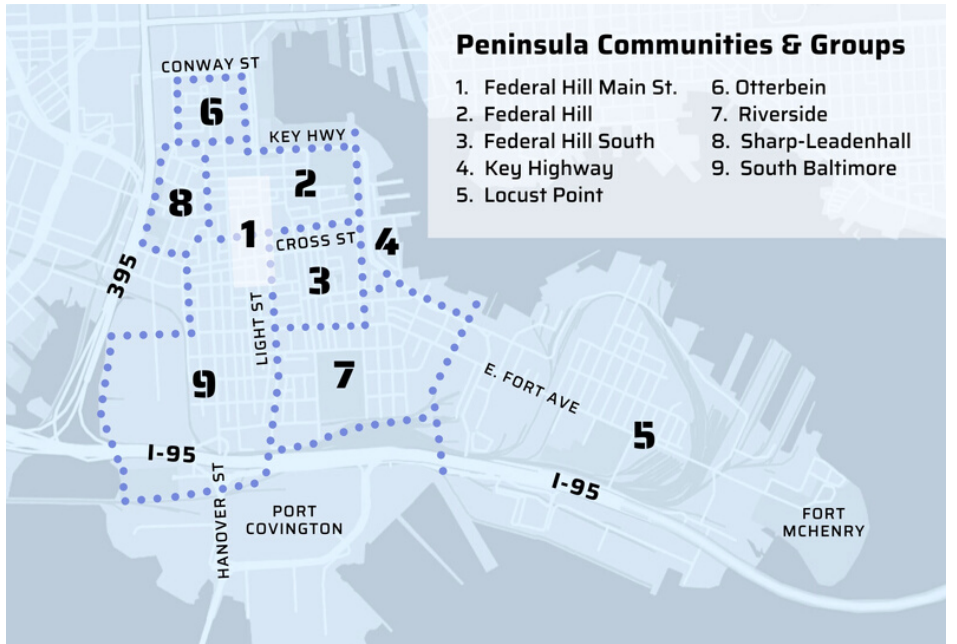
Federal Hill South Neighborhood Association
federalhillsouth.org
federalhillsouthna@gmail.com

FHSNA is busy planning events for the rest of 2022. Our **"Clean Up Green Up"** events (aka "Dumpster Days") are continuing on a quarterly basis, and this year we are welcoming volunteers from Digital Harbor High School to help clean up our neighborhood!

Our monthly meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month, hybrid-style. You can attend in person at the St. Ignatius Loyola Academy, 300 Gittings Street, or on Zoom. Be sure to join our Facebook group (facebook.com/groups/FHSNA) to keep up with news and connect with your neighbors! – Submitted by Melissa Evans

Key Highway Community Association
keyhca.org, keyhca@gmail.com

At the KHCA spring meeting on March 16, we announced that the **Key Highway Beautification Project**, which



had been in progress since 2013, has finally been completed. The lights under the E. Fort Avenue bridge at Key Highway are the result of the fundraising and other efforts involved in this endeavor.

Merritt Properties allowed its meter to include the power for the lighting. Councilman Eric Costello has been the No. 1 problem-solver in getting the project through the Baltimore City rules and permits.

KHCA hopes that in addition to bringing festive lights to the area, a degree of safety is provided to pedestrians who walk from the Cruise Ship Terminal to McHenry Row.

The lights are being programmed to celebrate Orioles' home games with orange, Ravens with purple, and other occasions with corresponding colors. At present, the lights are yellow and blue in support of Ukraine.

KHCA is looking to have an event to publicize the project and to thank all those who supported it. – Submitted by Janan Broadbent, President

Locust Point Civic Association
mylocustpoint.org
contacts@mylocustpoint.org

LPCA plans to host its first **in-person community meeting** in over two years on April 13, and all are welcome to join. LPCA meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm. Although meetings are usually held in the cafeteria of Francis Scott Key Elementary/Middle School, the April meeting will be held in Good Counsel Hall (entrance on Towson Street).

The Parks and Beautification Committee continues to prepare for the **Olmsted 200 Celebration**. The Dedication Ceremony for the historic marker plaque in Latrobe Park is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, May 21, at 10 am at the central entrance to the park. If you are interested in helping out, email Olmsted200LP@gmail.com.

Neighborhood Cleanup Day will be April 23. LPCA hopes that all neighbors will participate to help make Locust Point as beautiful and welcoming as possible.

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The FSK PTO is hosting its annual **Pasta Palooza** fundraiser on April 23 from 4 to 8 pm at the Knights of Columbus on Hull Street.

LPCA aims to improve the community in a number of different ways. If you live in Locust Point, contact us at the email above to learn about how to become a member. – Submitted by Kate McComiskey, President

Otterbein Community Association

theotterbein.org

At the OCA Board's quarterly meeting on March 16, we discussed upcoming spring events, our April community cleanup, and Earth Day. In addition, we are starting to plan our **"OCA Gives Back"** community outreach events. The OCA Gives Back campaign will organize donation drives and volunteer opportunities to give back to our community, bring residents and neighbors together to work toward a single cause, raise awareness of local needs, encourage community unity, and better the lives of the people around us.

Check out the most recent **Otterbein History Project** article, "Neighborhood Churches in the 19th Century," by David Safier. The article is on our website in the "Neighborhood" section under "History." – Submitted by Gregory Vander Ploeg, President

Riverside Neighborhood Association

riversideneighborhoodassociation.com
rnabaltimore@gmail.com

Living in Riverside and wondering what's happening in the neighborhood? There are several ways to stay informed and find answers through the Riverside Neighborhood Association.

Our **monthly meetings** feature discussions of updates on public safety, neighborhood cleanups, activity in the park, and much more. Meeting times and Zoom information are available on our Facebook page and via



Outdoor music and events return to E. Cross Street on Wednesday nights, sponsored by Federal Hill Main Street.

email. Here are some of the recent topics we've discussed.

The owners of Mind Pub at 554 E. Fort Avenue have applied for a liquor license to pursue their plans to add brunch and dinner to their current breakfast and lunch menu.

Ekiben, the fast-growing Asian fu-

sion take-out restaurant, will open soon at 801 E. Fort Avenue in the former location of Bar Licorice.

The Local Oyster will open soon at 838 E. Fort Avenue. The owners have applied for a liquor license to complement their offerings of Maryland oysters, crabcakes, and more.

Plans are underway for RNA's monthly summer concerts in the park.

In addition to RNA meetings, you can learn more about what's going on, volunteer, and ask questions by signing up for emails on our website, reading updates on our Facebook page (facebook.com/rnabaltimore), joining the "RNA Neighbor Connect" Facebook group, and emailing us at the address above. – Submitted by Rich Badmington, President

South Baltimore Neighborhood Association

mysobo.org
executive_board@mysobo.org

The reduction in Covid rates in Baltimore has allowed SBNA to return to in-person general membership meetings at Delia Foley's! Join us April 12 at 7 pm

for our next meeting. For now, there is not an option to attend remotely.

The Clean and Green Committee is planning a spring cleanup event to include a community dumpster on May 14. The focus will be litter cleanup and other greening activities. If you are interested in volunteering to help plan the event or other cleaning and greening initiatives, email cleanandgreen@mysobo.onmicrosoft.com. More information will be posted on our social media pages and website as we get closer to the event.

SBNA continues to work toward improving and reimplementing our memoranda of understanding with local alcohol-serving businesses, problem-solving neighborhood parking and traffic issues, planning cleaning and greening programs, and addressing other issues as they arise.

To keep up to date on these efforts and other SBNA activities and initiatives, follow SBNA on social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter), sign up for our emails on our website, or email us at the address above. – Submitted by Megan Spindler, Board Member

YOUR OLD ROWHOUSE, continued from page 5

people come in, I will drop everything and work with them," O'Neill says.

At the Center you can also look at Sanborn Maps for Baltimore from 1878 to 1951 that show the size, shape, and construction of dwellings and other buildings in the city. The maps were used by fire insurance agents for decades to assess the risk of insuring properties. (Sanborn maps are available online through Enoch Pratt Library and the Library of Congress.)

Be aware that your street name or house number might have changed over a century and a half, O'Neill says. Baltimore often renamed streets after annexing land with roads bearing the

same names as city thoroughfares, according to O'Neill. And twice – in the 1850s and 1880s – the city changed the numbers of addresses. (To find house numbers before the 1880s revision, go to msa.maryland.gov/bca/files/1887streetdirectory.pdf.)

The people who once lived in a house are also part of its history.

The Baltimore City Directory, published for hundreds of years, allows you to search for residents by name and lists their occupation and addresses. (Sea captains, coopers, and cordwainers were common professions in 1816 Baltimore.) Find many of the directories online at the University of

Maryland Libraries at bit.ly/3HTUI25.

Enoch Pratt Library also has a wide range of resources on its website, available to those with library cards. For example, go to bit.ly/3HMduIw for Historical Census Data from 1790 to 1940 to learn more about your house's former occupants. You can also search the library's archives of Maryland newspapers, including the *Baltimore Sun* going back to its founding in 1837.

There are plenty of other resources available, which you'll likely discover as you conduct your research. But these key tools should get you started in uncovering the story of your house. – Lena Ambrose



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SOBO EVENTS

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

- 4/10 – **Introduction to Modern Calligraphy**, Checkerspot Brewing Co., 1399 S. Sharp St. Class includes calligraphy kit and materials. 2-3:30pm. \$
- 4/13 – **Professional Jewelry-Making Workshop**, Sugar Boat Goods, 910 S. Charles St. Make your own custom spring earrings with a guest artist. 6:30pm. \$
- 4/16 – **Music: Tom Petty Tribute**, The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St. Doors 8pm. \$
- 4/16 – **Morning Monitoring Walk at Fort McHenry**, sponsored by the Baltimore Bird Club. A continuing survey of birds at the Fort and its wetlands. 9am-12pm.
- 4/19 – **Music: Sierra Ferrell**, The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St. Doors 7pm. \$
- 4/22 – **Music: Lionel Lyles Quintet**, Hemingway Room at Little Havana, 1325 Key Hwy. Sponsored by Sonic Lifeline. 7 & 9pm. \$
- 4/23 – **Earth Day Cleanup**, Latrobe Park, Locust Point. Help clean the park and paint murals on the Long House and picnic pavilion. 9am-12pm.
- 4/23 – **The Big Science Bike Party**, Maryland Science Center, 601 Light St. Try out different hands-on, bike-focused demonstrations. 12-4pm.
- 4/23 – **8th Annual Pasta Palooza**, Knights of Columbus, 1338 Hull St. Fundraiser for Francis Scott Key PTO. 4-8pm. \$
- 4/23 – **Homerun for Recovery** fundraiser for The Baltimore Station, Hammerjacks. 1300 Russell St. Gourmet fare, cocktails, and music. 6-9:30pm. \$
- 4/27 – **Music: Padonia Road**, “Fed Hill Fun” free outdoor concert series, 42 E. Cross St. Sponsored by Federal Hill Main Street. 6:30pm.
- 4/30 – **Neighborhood Cleanup**, Solo Gibbs Rec Center, 1044 Leadenhall St. Sponsored by Neighbors Meeting Neighbors and Friends of Solo Gibbs Park. 9am.
- 4/30 – **Card Printing Workshop**, Baltimore Museum of Industry, 1415 Key Hwy. Learn the art of rubber stamp making and print your own cards. 10:30am-12pm. \$
- 5/1 – **“I Love SoBo Day,”** Baltimore Museum of Industry pavilion, 1415 Key Hwy. Community celebration featuring activities and games. Sponsored by South Baltimore United and the Peninsula Post. 9am-12:30pm.
- 5/4 – **Music: Line Dancing with Dancing Baltimore**, “Fed Hill Fun” free outdoor concert series, 42 E. Cross St. Sponsored by Federal Hill Main Street. 6:30pm.
- 5/4 – **Sunset Booze Cruise**, Sagamore Spirit Distillery, 301 E. Cromwell St. Guided whiskey tasting and Baltimore Water Taxi cruise. 6:30pm. \$



Kinetic Sculpture Race returns, May 7

- 5/4 – **Music: CBDB with Walk Talk**, The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St. Doors 8pm. \$
- 5/7 – **Kinetic Sculpture Race**, American Visionary Art Museum, 800 Key Hwy. See human-powered, artful contraptions race across the city. Opening ceremony 9:30am.
- 5/7 – **Spring Fling**, Federal Hill Preparatory School, 1040 William St. Carnival-like fundraiser for Fed Hill Prep PTO. 12-5pm.
- 5/11 – **Music: Roses n Rust**, “Fed Hill Fun” free outdoor concert series, 42 E. Cross St. Sponsored by Federal Hill Main Street. 6:30pm.
- 5/12 – **PTO Social**, Checkerspot Brewing Co., 1399 S. Sharp St. Sponsored by Thomas Johnson Elementary/Middle School. 5pm.
- 5/14 – **Ya Gotta Tri**, Downtown Sailing Center, 1425 Key Hwy. Bike, run, and sail/kayak to raise funds for DSC.
- 5/14 – **Spring Cleanup**, South Baltimore and Riverside neighborhoods. Sponsored by South Baltimore Neighborhood Assoc. and Riverside Neighborhood Assoc.
- 5/15 – **Federal Hill Beyond the Views**, Federal Hill Park, 301 Warren Ave. Neighborhood historical tour sponsored by Baltimore Heritage. 9:30am. \$
- 5/16 – **Wellness on the Waterfront**, West Covington Park. Weekly free workout series with Marissa Welch; Mondays and Wednesdays through September.
- 5/18 – **Music: John Thomas Quartet**, “Fed Hill Fun” free outdoor concert series, 42 E. Cross St. Sponsored by Federal Hill Main Street. 6:30pm.
- 5/21 – **Farmers’ Market Opening Day**, Baltimore Museum of Industry, 1415 Key Hwy. 9am-1pm.
- 6/2 – **Music: Jazzy Summer Nights**, West Covington Park, 101 W. Cromwell St. Black Alley and DJ Darrin Ebron. 5-10pm. \$
- 6/3 – **Let’s Science Happy Hour**, Maryland Science Center, 601 Light St. Rooftop views and sampling of beers from Suspended Brewing Co. 6-8pm. \$



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