

SOBO EVENTS

Your guide to what's coming up on the South Baltimore peninsula. For updates and links to more information, visit sobopost.org/events.

Compiled by Alyssa Oliveri.

12/11 – **Weekly Group Rides**, Trek Bicycle Federal Hill, 1414 Key Hwy. Advanced/intermediate riders (40-50 miles) at 7:45am, beginner riders (12-15 miles) at 8:45am.

12/11 – **Christmas Caroling in Federal Hill**, Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church, 110 E. West St. 5pm.

12/12 – **Riverside Neighborhood Assoc. Cookie Contest**, Salem Lutheran Church, 1530 Battery Ave. 7pm.

12/13 – **South Baltimore Neighborhood Assoc. Holiday Party**, No Way Rose, 31 E. Cross St. 7pm.

12/13 – **"Baltimore's Amazing Garment Industry,"** virtual program sponsored by the Baltimore Museum of Industry. An in-depth look at Baltimore's clothing factories. 7pm.

12/14 – **Lunch and Learn: "Don't Buy Where You Can't Work,"** virtual program presented by the Baltimore Museum of Industry. Presentation on Baltimore's long civil rights movement. 12:30-1:30pm.

12/14 – **Locust Point Civic Assoc. Holiday Party**, Knights of Columbus, 1338 Hull St. 5:30-9pm.

12/14 – **Christmas Tree Lighting**, Digital Harbor Foundation courtyard, 1045 Light St. Sponsored by the Federal Hill Neighborhood Assoc. 6pm.

12/14 – **Music: Randy of Trailer Park Boys: Randy's Christmas Tour**, The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St. Doors 7pm. \$

12/15 – **Holiday Open House**, Federal Hill Main Street, 42 E. Cross St. 6-8pm.

12/15 – **Weekly Open Community Run/Walk**, Fat Patties, 1724 Whetstone Way. Distance 3-6 miles. 6:30pm.

12/15 – **Gingerbread House Contest**, Hair of the Dog, 1649 S. Hanover St. 7pm. \$

12/15 – **Music: Pocket Dog, The Lovely Parting Gifts, and Pack Tactics**, The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St. Doors 8pm. \$

12/16 – **Dial S for Santa: An Audience Interactive Murder Mystery Dinner Show**, Abbey Burger Bistro, 1041 Marshall St. 6pm. \$

12/16-17 – **Music: A Very Jerry Christmas with Cris Jacobs and Friends**, The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St. Doors 8pm. \$

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Scan for the latest
SoBo Events updates



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THE SOUTH BALTIMORE PENINSULA POST

FREE

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

Lend a Hand

Volunteer opportunities
of all kinds abound
across the peninsula

The holidays are often a time to take stock of the important things in our lives, a time when we acknowledge what we're grateful for and notice things we can improve on. Recent research in psychology and happiness points out that community involvement is one of the key factors for a happier life. Meaningful connections fostered in informal community settings give us a sense of belonging and add purpose to our lives.

There is no shortage of opportunities for community involvement on the South Baltimore peninsula. From tutoring and fundraising to event planning and neighborhood cleanups, there are rewarding volunteer opportunities here to match all types of interests.

Tutoring adults seeking their high school diplomas is the focus of the South Baltimore Learning Center at 28 E. Ostend Street. Adults of all ages from across Baltimore come to the center for one-on-one tutoring with volunteers for a few hours a week.

"I really enjoy working with the learners and helping them attain their edu-



THE BIKE-POWERED SANTAS of Pork 'N Pine Christmas Tree Delivery Service took to Locust Point streets after Thanksgiving for their seasonal deliveries of trees and Harborque pulled pork sandwiches. Co-owner Mike Santoro (above) reports they had 160 orders this year, with deliveries through December 17. Pork 'N Pine operates out of the Knights of Columbus on Hull Street. Photo by Mary Braman.

cational goals," said Judith Moreland, volunteer coordinator and lead tutor at the center.

Several organizations across the peninsula organize community events both large and small that are powered by volunteers. One of the largest an-

nual events is the Locust Point Festival in Latrobe Park. It's one of the activities that Caitlin Regan organizes as chair of the Locust Point Civic Association's social committee.

Continued on page 4

'Baltimore Peninsula' Prepares to Open at Port Covington

This January, the first prospective residents will tour the brand-new apartment buildings. In March, the first apartment dwellers will move in. And with that, the South Baltimore peninsula's newest neighborhood will be launched in the former industrial area of Port Covington.

The first phase of the massive community south of Interstate 95, which has been in the works since 2016, will open next year with a new name – "Baltimore Peninsula" – with planning underway to improve access to the neighborhood for its SoBo neighbors.

The new name was announced on November 15 by the project's development team with a social media blitz and a Baltimore Business Journal discussion held at one of the project's new office buildings.

"There was nothing wrong with 'Port Covington,'" said MaryAnn Gilmartin, CEO of MAG Partners, in explaining how the new name was chosen. "But we see this as a neighborhood, a place that we invite people to. We wanted to go bold and we wanted to go big."

"We leveraged two really important things. The authenticity of a peninsula. It is a peninsula, and I like things that are true to themselves. And then there's the brand – Baltimore – which we're really big on. We want to leverage the brand in the most positive and pioneering ways so that it can really represent in a trend-setting and pioneering way a model for urban place-making, a model for more equitable place-making."

Baltimoreans were not immediately sold on the new name, according to two independent online polls conducted the week following the announce-



A new name and a full suite of branding graphics were released November 15 via social media and stakeholder events.

ment. The WYPR-FM "Midday" program survey, which was conducted on Twitter and Instagram and received 73 responses, found that 10.3-13 percent of responders "loved" the new name while the rest "hated" it or thought it should be changed.

The Peninsula Post's online poll found that 5 percent of responders "liked" the new name, 5 percent had "no strong feelings" about it, and 90 percent "did not like it." The majority of responses (80 percent of the 308 received) were from SoBo peninsula residents.

Many of the comments received in the poll pointed out that the new name was confusing, since Port Covington is part of the larger South Baltimore peninsula. And the question was raised whether the Port Covington area is actually a peninsula.

Former SoBo resident Kevin Lewis, associate professor at Johns Hopkins University's Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, addressed this question in an email exchange with

the Peninsula Post:

"The word peninsula comes from *paene* (almost) plus *insula* (island). The whole South Baltimore peninsula is pretty close to an island, with only a small neck connecting it to the mainland. But is Port Covington 'almost an island'? I think not. A point or promontory would be a better geographic term. Even something like Sparrows Point is closer to a peninsula than Port Covington."

Whether peninsula, point, or port, how the Port Covington area connects to and impacts neighboring SoBo communities drew questions during the November roll-out.

In response to a question submitted in advance by the Peninsula Post about how the project plans to improve access for neighbors living across I-95, MAG Partners' Gilmartin said that her team is working on the issue.

"For people who live in Federal Hill, it's just not that easy to get here whether you're walking, biking, or in a car. We need to improve that. When I think about how we're going to make it better, I think about greenways and secure bike paths and pedestrian walkways."

A spokesperson for MAG Partners later confirmed via email that the development team is evaluating the proposed pedestrian/bike bridge from Westport to the Swann Park area presented last year in the Reimagine Middle Branch plan (see Peninsula Post, December 2021, page 2). No other details of planned access improvements were released.

Continued on page 2

From the Editor

Help Us Grow Our SoBo Impact in 2023

You are holding the largest issue ever of the free Peninsula Post: 12 pages, up from our usual 8 pages. It’s an unexpected development that is due to a jump in advertising support. And that jump was entirely organic, the result of local businesses recognizing how the newspaper connects people across SoBo. (No hard-sell required.)

Another essential in being able to give you a bigger issue is our all-volunteer staff of writers, which has also been growing.

They are a talented, hard-working crew who saw the newspaper and got involved to bring you news and features about the SoBo community.

Although we can’t say yet whether 12-page issues will be the norm in the new year, we can say that growing our impact in the SoBo community is our top priority. We are already planning the return of “I Love SoBo Day” in the spring, with the intent of making it an even larger community celebration.

You can help us keep this SoBo momentum growing in 2023 by making a donation to South Baltimore United, the nonprofit behind all this activity started by residents who love SoBo and want to see it thrive.

Our target is to raise \$8,000 by January 6. Turn to page 12 for the QR code that will take you to our GoFundMe campaign. Thank you for your support! – Steve Cole, Editor-in-Chief

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Digging into the Past in Sharp-Leadenhall

Lauren Schizsik had a hunch that buried beneath the playing fields, paths, and green space of Solo Gibbs Park were intact remains of houses and fragments of the lives of people who lived here as far back as the Civil War. The park in the historic Black neighborhood of Sharp-Leadenhall sits on land once filled with homes and shops razed in the 1970s to make way for I-395.

When Schizsik heard from Baltimore City Recreation & Parks that major renovations were being planned for Solo Gibbs Park – changes that would involve excavations down into that buried past – she recommended, in her role as archaeologist with the city’s Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation (CHAP), that Rec & Parks first conduct a careful archaeological investigation of the park.

“Knowing how the houses here had likely been demolished, I was pretty certain there was a likelihood of archaeological resources in this park,” Schizsik said in a recent interview. “Since the planned park renovations would involve excavations that could potentially destroy archaeological resources, let’s be good stewards and see what stories we can learn from those resources.”

Rec & Parks agreed, and in October, crews from Baltimore-based RK&K Civil Engineering arrived at Solo Gibbs and dug 16 carefully targeted trenches around the park to see what they could find. Most of the trenches were just 3 to 4 feet deep to get below the layer of rubble from the original demolition.

“We found about 12 archaeological features,” said RK&K project manager Karen Hutchins-Keim. “Building re-



Archaeologists dug 16 trenches across Solo Gibbs Park in October to look for remains of early Sharp-Leadenhall residences. Photos by Mary Braman.

mains or privy remains. Most were brick walls and foundations. We also found a basement floor.”

But the most interesting find to Hutchins-Keim was a feature that did not jibe with the historical city street maps they used to guide their search. “This is preliminary, but we believe we found a pit feature, likely a privy, that predates most of the houses that were built on the block. It’s probably from the antebellum period, maybe the 1830s. This specific area wasn’t developed until the 1850s with the modern streetscapes.”

The purpose of the October digs was to identify areas of archaeological interest, not to study them in detail, according to Hutchins-Keim. After collecting measurements and photos of the features and some artifacts from



the rubble, the trenches were all back-filled to keep the archaeological resources intact for possible future study. RK&K plans to submit a technical report on its findings to the city in December.

Findings and artifacts from the Solo Gibbs Park dig will eventually be used to create public interpretation materials and possibly displays, said Rec & Parks design planner Kate Brower. “From the start of the park renovation project, the Sharp-Leadenhall community has been very interested in including interpretation as part of the park. That could take the form of signage or programming in the park.”

Rec & Parks plans to hold a public meeting in the spring to update the community on the archaeological findings, Brower said. – Steve Cole

Peninsula Waters Continue to Improve in Annual Assessment

You may have noticed a recent influx of activity on the water surrounding the South Baltimore peninsula: dragon boats paddling out from the Under Armour dock, racing shells gliding in from the Middle Branch, Downtown Sailing Center’s “Ya Gotta Regatta” filling the area with sailboats of all sizes. But are peninsula waters, including the Inner Harbor, clean enough to support this increase in activity? Will it even be swimmable?

In 2016, when a group of tourists from Chicago shocked locals by taking a summer dip in the Inner Harbor, the water quality received an “F” in the annual report analysis by the Healthy Harbor Initiative. In its most recent “Harbor Heartbeat” assessment, released on October 6, the program declared that “the water is much safer for recreation than it was 10 years ago. We have reached the point where, with regular monitoring, we can manage the Harbor as a recreational natural resource.”

Reported sewage overflow has decreased to less than 30 million gallons,

compared to 2018’s roughly 250 million gallons. In addition, the bacteria levels in the harbor out to Fort McHenry are good and holding steady, and the levels throughout the Middle Branch are either very good or significantly improving.

The Healthy Harbor Initiative, founded in 2010 by the Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore, works to evaluate the bacteria and trash levels on a yearly

basis. Its goal is to make Baltimore’s harbor safer for swimming and fishing. Each year, the Harbor Heartbeat report tracks progress toward this goal by evaluating the bacteria levels and other factors in the city’s streams and harbor. The complete set of annual report cards (2011-2022) is available at waterfrontpartnership.org/healthy-harbor/report-cards.

– John Thomas

‘BALTIMORE PENINSULA’, continued from page 1

Sam Cogen, president of the South Baltimore Neighborhood Association, asked Gilmartin about plans to prevent city services such as fire and police from being drawn away from the rest of the peninsula as the new development grows.

“We’re creating a business improvement district,” Gilmartin said. “What that ought to do is be a supplementary way to enhance services and not strain

city services through a tax levied on participants in the Baltimore Peninsula footprint. That BID is in formation.”

Baltimore Peninsula is a 235-acre redevelopment project funded by Sagamore Ventures and the Urban Investment Group of Goldman Sachs. The current phase of the development will include 416 new residences, 20 percent of which will be on-site affordable housing units. – Steve Cole

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Playground Upgrade Coming to Solo Gibbs

This spring the existing playground in upper Solo Gibbs Park between Hamburg and Henrietta streets is slated to be replaced with new equipment selected by neighborhood children. The plans were presented by representatives of the Parks & People Foundation and Baltimore City Recreation and Parks at a community meeting October 26 in the park’s recreation center.

The plans were developed with input received in August at a community engagement session. Children picked from a wide range of types of playground equipment for different ages, and they also voted on their favorite color schemes.

New SoBo Businesses Open

Since our last issue in October, the following businesses have opened on the South Baltimore peninsula:

Fat Patties, 1724 Whetstone Way, McHenry Row. Restaurant featuring the iconic 1970s smash burger with an arcade, tap wall, and monster milkshakes. 667-260-2866.

Giant Foods, 857 E. Fort Ave. Full-service grocery store featuring a wide selection of items from local growers and makers, expanded global cuisine aisle, and sushi bar. 410-244-7134.

HK Fish House, Cross Street Market, 1065 S. Charles St. New York- and Creole-style comfort food featuring fresh seafood. 443-835-2058.

Taco Mama Cantina, 900 E. Fort Ave. Authentic Mexican cuisine and drinks, open for lunch and dinner. 443-438-4450.

Velleggia’s, Cross Street Market, 1065 S. Charles St. Revival of the classic Italian restaurant from Baltimore’s Little Italy neighborhood. 443-708-5176.

Blue and orange won the day for the playground, which will feature equipment designed for ages 2 to 12, including two “spinners” and a shell swing. Demolition of the current playground is scheduled to start in the spring, and construction is expected to take just a few weeks.

This playground renovation is part of a major overhaul of Solo Gibbs Park planned to roll out over the next two years. Part of that plan is to add more playground space next to the current playground near the tennis court. That new area will include a climbing structure and a musical play panel for toddlers.

The overall park renovation project is in the final design stages. The next major milestone residents will see is demolition of the school building on W. West Street, slated for early next year. Major construction work, including creation of the new playground space, will begin in early 2024. –S.C.



A COLORFUL MURAL designed by Nicole Buchholz (left) rose in October on a row-house overlooking the Locust Point Community Garden. Photo by Mary Braman.



CONSTRUCTION began in October on lower Riverside Park that will expand the playing fields and build new ball courts along Johnson Street. Photo by Mary Braman.

‘Casino’ Grants Support House Tour, Mentors

A children’s mentorship program and an historic house tour are a couple of the 11 projects funded by new community grants from the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership. The organization distributes local impact grants across South and Southwest Baltimore using revenues from video lottery terminals, including those at Baltimore’s Horseshoe Casino.

A total of \$346,735 in community grants were announced on October 20. Peninsula organizations receiving the latest round of grants include God’s Best Family, Inc., and the South Baltimore Engagement Center (28 E. Ostend Street), which was awarded \$30,000 to support a children’s mentorship program and parenting resources that improve family stability.

The Federal Hill Neighborhood Association received a \$5,000 grant to create an historic house tour, working with the Maryland House & Garden

Pilgrimage. The tour will “feature 8 to 10 architecturally and/or historically significant Federal Hill homes and gardens,” said FHNA social committee chair Sheri Hunt. “We’re excited to offer this program to encourage people to come downtown and see what makes Federal Hill unique.”

Other peninsula nonprofits benefiting from the new grants include St. Ignatius Loyola Academy (300 Gittings Street), one of four area schools sharing a \$49,000 grant to LET’S GO Boys and Girls, Inc., to expand STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) education services; Neighbors Meeting Neighbors for marketing to increase neighborhood pride and break through barriers historically separating the Sharp-Leadenhall and Otterbein communities (\$3,000); and Federal Hill South Neighborhood Association for containers and plants to beautify neighborhood street corners (\$2,000). –S.C.



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VOLUNTEER, continued from page 1

“You don’t need any particular skills to volunteer,” said Regan. “It’s a labor of love that brings the whole community out. We promote our restaurants and people that have a business or a band in our neighborhood. It really brings me joy to see this event take shape and all ages of the community enjoy the day.”

The nonprofit God’s Best Family, Inc., organizes community events, such as summer camps and holiday giveaways primarily in the Sharp-Leadenhall neighborhood, and offers after-school and youth mentoring programs. Volunteer coordinator Erin Lonon said the work brings her joy because she is “able to serve and give back to our community and to see our youth grow, mature, and excel in academics as well as in life.”

Lonon said she looks for volunteers “who have a heart for serving youth as well as people and the community in general.”

To help you find a SoBo volunteer opportunity, the Peninsula Post reached out to organizations across the peninsula that could use a helping hand. Below is a summary of what we heard from over 30 groups. Details about each of these opportunities, including contact information, is available online at the new “SoBo Cares” section of the Peninsula Post blog. The QR code and URL on this page will take you there. – Enakshi Roy

Academic Tutoring

South Baltimore Learning Center assists adult learners in earning their high school diplomas. St. Ignatius Loyola Academy provides grades 5-8 education to boys from underserved Baltimore neighborhoods.

After-School Programs

God’s Best Family, Inc., assists kids with their homework and provides them with enrichment activities.



Advocates for the Blind

The local chapter of the National Federation of the Blind supports activities at the organization’s headquarters.

Cleanups & Community Events

Neighbors Meeting Neighbors organizes Solo Gibbs Park cleanups and events in the Sharp-Leadenhall neighborhood.

Clean Streets

The SoBo Cleanup Crew weeds and cleans streets throughout the community, one block at a time.

Community Gardens

Digital Harbor High School Community Garden maintains a vegetable garden and pollinator garden on school grounds.

Community Improvements

Federal Hill Neighborhood Association connects neighbors to create a safer, more beautiful community around Federal Hill Park. Riverside Neighborhood Association seeks to enhance the quality of life in the neighborhood around Riverside Park. South Baltimore Neighborhood Association advocates for the residents of the area bounded by Light, Wells, Hanover, and Cross streets.

Community Service

The Catholic Community of South Baltimore provides opportunities for service at community events, a community garden, and Baltimore Station.

Elementary Student & Family Support

The Good Neighbor Collective’s SHARPkids program supports elementary school children and their families in their academic and personal lives.

Events & Community Building

Federal Hill South Neighborhood Association organizes events in the area bounded by Light, E. Cross, Covington, and E. Fort.

Food Pantry & Garden

Salem Lutheran Church operates a small food pantry and plants a community garden.

High School Student Support

The Thread program provides opportunities to support the academic and personal development of Baltimore youth, including students at Digital Harbor High School.

Homeless Women Support

Baltimore Outreach Services operates a shelter for homeless women and their children.

Informal Science Education

Maryland Science Center provides tours to school groups.

In-School Staff Support

The Francis Scott Key Elementary / Middle School Parent-Teacher Organization supports school operations with front office support and substitute teachers.

Library Programs & Fundraising

The Friends of the Light Street Branch works

to enhance programs at the local branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library.

Local Business Promotion

Federal Hill Main Street creates and promotes a vibrant business district that meets the needs of residents and visitors.

Low-Income Family Support

The Salvation Army of Central Maryland sponsors programs to provide food assistance and clothing to low-income families.

Meals for Homeless Veterans

The Baltimore Station supports homeless male veterans suffering from addiction and behavioral health challenges.

National Park Support

Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine provides access to cultural and natural resources at the 43-acre park.

Newspaper Reporting & Delivery

The South Baltimore Peninsula Post community newspaper keeps residents informed about news, events, and SoBo history.

Sailing Instruction

Downtown Sailing Center provides access to sailing for underserved communities.

School Fundraising & Support

Federal Hill Prep Parent-Teachers Organization sponsors an annual fundraiser. Thomas Johnson Elementary / Middle School Parent-Teachers Organization raises supplemental income for activities and resources.

Tech Education

Digital Harbor Foundation conducts after-school programs including presentations by guest technical experts.

Urban Tree Care

SoBo Green coordinates the planting of new trees and regular care of street trees.

Youth Leadership & Activities

Boy Scouts Pack and Troop 577 teaches young people life skills, leadership, and the value of service.

Youth Mentors

Boys & Girls Clubs of Metropolitan Baltimore enable young people in need to reach their full potential as productive, caring citizens.

Youth Sports

South Baltimore Little League coaches athletes ages 4-13 and maintains league ball fields and a concession stand.



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A World-Class Rye Whiskey That’s Maryland to the Core

Quite a bit of Maryland comes together on the southern shore of the SoBo peninsula to make whiskey that is leaving its mark around the world. **Sagamore Spirit** (301 E. Cromwell Street) blends limestone-filtered spring water and locally sourced rye, wheat, and corn to produce a variety of rye whiskeys and canned cocktails that have earned more than 150 awards. The distillery also collaborates with Maryland breweries and vineyards to create new flavors.

Another key Maryland ingredient – Under Armour founder and former CEO Kevin Plank – laid the groundwork for Sagamore Spirit through real estate purchases in the Port Covington area and the farm in Baltimore County that gave the distillery its name.

The attractive distillery campus, which opened its doors on the South Baltimore waterfront in 2017, features a tasting room and water tower sporting the brand’s distinctive, three-diamond pattern. Sagamore Spirit ships 7 percent of its products internationally to 11 countries, 10 percent inside Maryland, and the rest across the United States.

But it’s the farm about 20 miles north of the peninsula that gives the distillery its deep Maryland heritage, water, and grains. The year “1909,” prominently displayed on Sagamore Spirit bottles, marks the date that Charles A. Councilman built a springhouse on a limestone shelf near Glyn-don, Maryland, in Baltimore County. Limestone filters out certain impurities from water, making it the ideal proofing solution for whiskey distilling.

When Plank bought Sagamore Farm in 2007, initially for horse breeding, he realized the potential of the limestone-filtered water and began to entertain thoughts of distilling his own whiskey.

Now more than 250 acres, Sagamore



Farm grows all the corn used at the distillery and over one-third of the 4 million pounds of rye they mill. The staff also work with local farmers in Baltimore, Harford, and Carroll counties to grow wheat, barley, and other grains that kick off the whiskey-making process.

“We’re trying to learn as much as humanly possible about growing rye,” says Brian Treacy, Sagamore Spirit cofounder and director of marketing operations. “We plan on scaling up,

but slowly. That’s not something you can rush and do overnight.”

The grains and limestone-filtered water are trucked to the distillery where the grains are milled and sorted into “mash bills,” which are the grain mixtures that contribute to Sagamore’s distinctive flavor. What sets Sagamore’s Signature blend apart from other whiskeys is that the distillers combine two separate mash bills at the end of the distilling process.

The fine grains are ground and mixed



Left: Sagamore Spirit distillery uses a triple-distillation process where the alcohol is repeatedly converted from liquid to vapor and back again. At each step, the liquid can be observed in a series of three “spirit safes.” Photos by Mary Braman.

in a grain collector and sorted into the correct ratios for their respective mash bills – a mid-rye and a high-rye bill. The mixed grains are added to a massive mash tub cooker to start the cooking process. The liquid from a previous distillation is also added to the mash tub to help induce acidification in the mash bills. This is considered a “sour mash” distilling process that provides an ideal environment for fermentation. The mixture is cooked at precisely 210 degrees and then piped into one of eight 6,500-gallon beer wells, also known as “bubbling tanks.” Yeast is added to induce fermentation. The tanks are open at the top to allow the CO2 to escape. Coils filled with cold water line the inner walls of the tank to keep the temperature from getting too high.

During the three-day fermentation period, attendants keep the mixture

Continued on page 9

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A Voyage Around the

The SoBo peninsula reveals its many secrets when you see it up close from the water. Two Peninsula Post volunteers recently completed a kayaking trip around the entire shoreline, from the Inner Harbor to the Cove: Steve Cole gathered photographs from Dan Strodel, whose kayaking skills made the voyage possible. (See map on page 8)





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Around the Peninsula

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WHISKEY, continued from page 5

between 68 and 90 degrees. The end product is a mushy liquid referred to as “distiller’s beer” that looks like wet papier mache. Now it’s on to distillation.

The distiller’s beer is piped into the top of a 40-foot-tall copper column to begin the distilling process. The column, nicknamed “Penny,” is heated to 200 degrees and the distiller’s beer begins to separate. If you peer through one of the seven view ports, you can see that the bottom few are packed with layers of solid spent grains, while the alcohol becomes gaseous and rises to the top in a vapor. This vapor travels through a pipe into a horizontal copper tube called a condenser, where it becomes liquid again and settles into a “spirit safe.”

Sagamore uses three spirit safes in its triple-distillation process. In the first safe, the alcohol is considered “low wine.” This liquid is piped into a copper doubler, a squat vat that heats the mixture until it again turns into vapor. The vapor rises into a second condenser where it turns into liquid again to be observed in the second safe. Now it’s considered a “high-wine” mixture. The process is repeated a third time to produce a “higher-wine” mixture in the third spirit safe.

The higher wine is moved into a product tank where it is mixed with the limestone-filtered spring water. Another quality check is performed on the clear grain alcohol to ensure that it’s around 120 proof. Now it’s on to barrel aging.

Sagamore uses Kentucky-made white oak barrels, the insides of which are charred. That char activates the sugars in the whiskey during the aging process. Thousands of 53-gallon barrels are transported to the distillery. Once filled, the barrels are trucked to one of three in-state barrel houses called rack houses, the largest of



“Sour mash” is piped into a 6,500-gallon “bubbling tank” at the distillery. With yeast added, the mixture ferments for three days before the distillation process begins. Photo by Mary Braman.

which can hold up to 44,000 barrels. The whiskey is left alone to age in the non-climate-controlled rack houses for four years. While fermentation accounts for 40 percent of the whiskey’s flavor profile, barrel-aging accounts for the rest of the flavor and gives the clear alcohol its distinct amber color.

After aging is complete, the barrels are brought back to the distillery where the whiskey is poured into a

trough and the charred bits are filtered out. Then the high-rye and mid-rye mash bills are added in equal portions to a reducing tank, where they are mixed evenly for that signature whiskey concoction. More limestone spring water is added to bring the proof down to exactly 83 proof. Now it’s on to bottling.

At Sagamore, every bottle is bottled by hand. Up to eight attendants work the line, filling up to 2,500 bottles in a



One-third of the rye used at Sagamore Spirit is grown at Sagamore Farm, said distillery cofounder Brian Treacy (above). “We’re trying to learn as much as possible about growing rye. We plan on scaling up, but slowly. That’s not something you can rush and do overnight.” Photo courtesy Sagamore Spirit.

shift. Each bottle is closely inspected and held up to the light to see if any debris or bits of cork are floating inside. Once it passes inspection, each bottle is marked with a batch label and hand-initialed by one of the attendants.

Sagamore recently partnered with canning company Wildpack and released a line of canned cocktails. They’ve also released special blends with Monument Brewing, Heavy Seas, and Boordy Vineyards. “It’s really important to be a part of the neighborhood,” says Treacy, when asked about fostering collaboration within the distilling and local Baltimore communities. “The neighbors matter, and their opinions matter. We would not have gotten as far as this without them.” – John Thomas



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House Tour, Chili Cook-Off, and Holiday Events Galore



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

fedhill.org
execdirector@fedhill.org

It's been a big year for Main Street. We're capping our year with a **Holiday Open House** on December 15 from 6 to 8pm (42 E. Cross Street). Come enjoy holiday drinks with our board and staff and learn about ways you can volunteer and support our work and vision in the Baltimore community. We look forward to 2023 being filled with fun events; clean, green, and safe spaces; and a strong local economy. More than that, we look forward to you being part of our team. While this month marks the end of our 2022 events, we can't wait to give you a sneak peek into all the fun we are bringing to Cross Street in the upcoming year. It's going to be our biggest and best year yet! Keep an eye on our events page (fedhill.org/events) for the latest fun events. – Submitted by Taylor Schwartz, Executive Director

Federal Hill Neighborhood Association

facebook.com/groups/FHNA21230
ehillsider@gmail.com

FHNA will be holding a **Christmas tree lighting** and **holiday decorating**

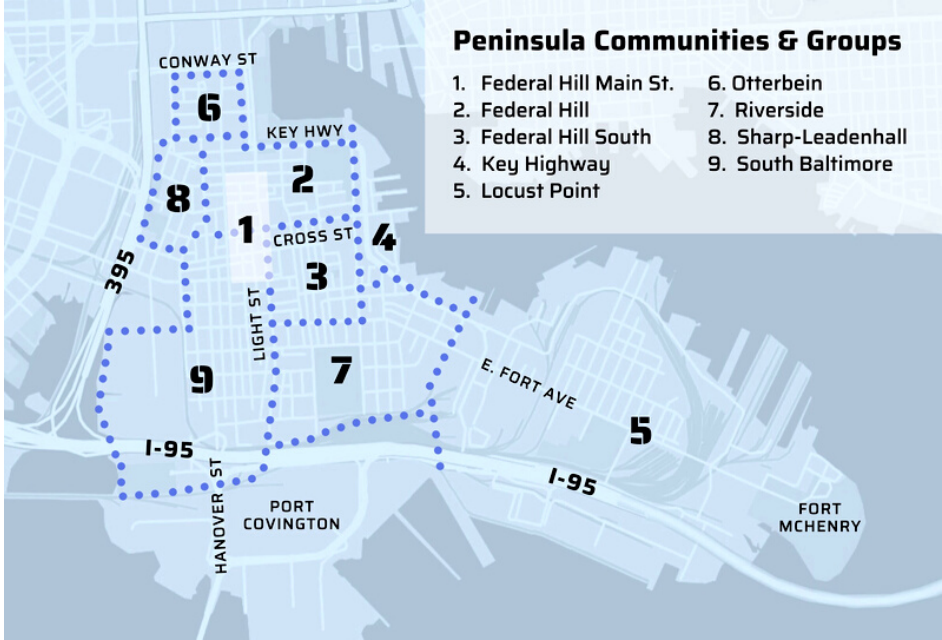
contest on December 14. Meet us in the courtyard of the Digital Harbor Foundation (1045 Light Street) at 6pm where we will light the tree while warming up with hot chocolate and cookies. Around 7pm, we will begin a leisurely stroll through the neighborhood, admiring all the beautiful decorations along the way. We will end up in the 800 block of William Street where we'll enjoy some mulled wine and do the hard work of deciding on a winner for the 2022 "best-decorated street in Federal Hill" contest!

We are excited to announce that Federal Hill will be part of the Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage house tour next year. The **Federal Hill House Tour** will be held May 21, 2023, from 10am to 5pm. There will be 10 historic and unique homes on the tour. We are encouraging participants to explore the many shops, boutiques, and restaurants in Federal Hill. We are excited to showcase our neighborhood! – Submitted by Beth Whitmer, President

Federal Hill South Neighborhood Association

federalhillsouth.org
federalhillsouthna@gmail.com

Join FHSNA for our inaugural **Jingle Mingle** on December 18 from 12:30 to 3:30pm! We'll have ornament decorating, games (including dreidel), snacks, music, and lots of fun. Tickets are only needed for those partaking in crafting and snacks: \$17 for the first participant and \$5 for each additional one. All kids and adults are encouraged to make their own ornaments. Tickets are available in our online store at fhsna.square.site.



- Peninsula Communities & Groups**
- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Federal Hill Main St. | 6. Otterbein |
| 2. Federal Hill | 7. Riverside |
| 3. Federal Hill South | 8. Sharp-Leadenhall |
| 4. Key Highway | 9. South Baltimore |
| 5. Locust Point | |

Save the date for the return of our **Chili Cook-Off** on February 5 at Little Havana. You'll be able to taste over 20 chilis and vote for your favorites. There will be cash prizes for winners. To enter, email FedHillChili@gmail.com. – Submitted by Meg Murray, President

Key Highway Community Association

keyhca.org
keyhca@gmail.com

On October 12, KHCA held its first in-person meeting since the pandemic began. Joe Woolman, attorney for Southern Land Company, made a presentation about a **proposed apartment building** at 1302 Key Highway. There was a lively question-and-answer session on this 70-unit building which will be 100 percent residential. It will replace an old gas station that has been an eyesore for many years.

The next KHCA meeting will be the **Holiday Party** on December 14, location to be announced. – Submitted by Janan Broadbent, President

Otterbein Community Association

theotterbein.org

OCA had a wonderful turn out for our **Halloween Costume Parade**, and we are looking forward to the lighting of the **OCA Holiday Tree!**

As part of the OCA Gives Back program, residents will be collecting donations again this season for Paul's Place (paulsplaceoutreach.org).

The next **Quarterly Meeting** will be held on December 21.

Check out the new articles from the **Otterbein History Project** by David Safier on our website's history page: "The Neighborhood in 1910" and "Elijah Cummings and the Integration of Riverside Park Pool." – Submitted by Gregory Vander Ploeg, President

Riverside Neighborhood Association

riversideneighborhoodassociation.com
rnabaltimore@gmail.com

Developers Pitch Seven-Story, Multi-Family Concept – At the October 24 RNA



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Kids decorated pumpkins October 9 at a community event sponsored by the Federal Hill South Neighborhood Association on the St. Ignatius Loyola lot on Gittings Street. Photo by Mary Braman.

community meeting, approximately 80 attendees heard representatives from Henry Street-based Southern Land Company introduce a plan to build a seven-story, **70-unit apartment building** rising over 70 feet above 1302 Key Highway, now the site of a food truck and closed service station. Residents raised many questions and concerns, while the developer explained that plans were preliminary and most details not yet decided.

A petition signed by over 130 residents opposing the project was shared with the RNA Board. RNA President Rich Badmington noted that the developers should expect the community to oppose the project until they provide essential details. Southern Land indicated they will refine their plans and look forward to continuing, yet-to-be-announced community discussions. Interested residents should sign up for RNA emails at our website above.

Annual Cookie Contest Resumes at Year-End Meeting – Attendees will note a very

different mood at our combined November/December in-person-only community meeting on December 12. An extremely short business meeting will be followed by our 8th Annual RNA **Cookie Contest**, sponsored by Domino Sugar. There will be wine, beer, and holiday fellowship. The meeting starts at 7pm at Salem Lutheran Church, 1530 Battery Avenue. There will be no Zoom broadcast. For cookie contest details, visit bit.ly/rnacookies2022. – Submitted by Rich Badmington, President

South Baltimore Neighborhood Association
mysobo.org
executive_board@mysobo.org

Please join SBNA at No Way Rose (31 E. Cross Street) for our **Holiday Party** on December 13 at 7pm, which will be held instead of our regularly scheduled general membership meeting. Hors d'oeuvres are generously being provided by No Way Rose. We're looking forward to celebrating the season with you!

The **Clean and Green Committee** continues to work toward implementing a project to create new tree pits in the community. If you are interested in having a tree pit created or an existing tree pit expanded near your home or are interested in volunteering for other cleaning and greening initiatives, please reach out to cleanandgreen@mysobo.onmicrosoft.com.

SBNA is happy to have Sam Cogen on for a second term as President and we welcome Justin Lane as our newest board member! Both were elected at our November meeting.

SBNA continues to work toward improving and re-implementing our memoranda of understanding (MOU) with local alcohol-serving businesses, problem-solving neighborhood parking and traffic issues, planning cleaning and greening programs, and other issues as they arise. To keep up to date on these efforts and other information on SBNA activities and initiatives, follow SBNA on social media (Facebook and Instagram), sign up for our emails on our website above, or email us. – Submitted by Megan Spindler, Board Member

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SOBO EVENTS

Continued from page 1

- 12/17 – **Fort McHenry Monitoring Walk**, Fort McHenry. Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. 9-11am.
- 12/17 – **Breakfast with Santa and the Grinch**, Knights of Columbus, 1338 Hull St. Pancakes and other goodies. 9am-12pm. \$
- 12/17 – **Ugly Sweater Drag Brunch**, Mother’s Federal Hill, 1113 S. Charles St. 12pm. \$
- 12/18 – **Music: Music of The Beatles for Kids and More**, The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St. Doors 11am. \$
- 12/18 – **Jingle Mingle**, Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church, 110 E. West St. Ornament decorating, games, snacks, and music. Sponsored by Federal Hill South Neighborhood Assoc. 12:30-3:30pm. \$
- 12/21 – **Music: Baltimore miniFEST**, The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St. Doors 6:30pm. \$
- 12/23 – **Music: Sensi Trails, Dale and the**

- ZDubs, and The Harbor Boys**, The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St. Doors 7pm. \$
- 12/26-1/1 – **‘Tis the Season for Science**, Maryland Science Center, 601 Light St. Celebrate the holidays with some seasonal science. During regular museum hours. \$
- 12/29 – **Music: UltraSloth and Chris Karns** with live visuals by Glass Crane, The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St. Doors 7pm. \$
- 12/30 – **Music: Tom Petty Tribute**, The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St. Doors 8pm. \$
- 12/31 – **Midnight Noon**, Maryland Science Center, 601 Light St. Everyone’s favorite ball drop before bedtime is back. 10am-2pm. \$
- 12/31 – **Music: New Year’s Eve with LITZ, Dizgo, and cryptoWAVEradio**, The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St. Doors 8pm. \$
- 1/4/23 – **Fort McHenry Monitoring Walk**, Fort McHenry. Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. 9-11am.
- 1/5 – **Weekly Open Community Run/Walk**,

- Fat Patties, 1724 Whetstone Way. Distance 3-6 miles. 6:30pm.
- 1/6 – **Grown Up Field Trip: Game On**, Maryland Science Center, 601 Light St. Get your game on and compete with and against your friends. 7-10pm. \$
- 1/7 – **Music: Phoam, A Tribute to Phish**, The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St. Doors 8pm. \$
- 1/8 – **Weekly Group Rides**, Trek Bicycle Federal Hill, 1414 Key Hwy. Advanced/intermediate riders (40-50 miles) at 7:45am, beginner riders (12-15 miles) at 8:45am.
- 1/12 – **Mocktail Mixer**, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Explore recipes for mocktails during this interactive program and vote for your favorite. 6:30pm.
- 1/14 – **Music: Music Pilgrim Trio**, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. The members of Music Pilgrim Trio will take listeners on a musical journey around the globe. 11am.
- 1/19 – **Kitchen Science**, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Conduct fun science experiments with common household items. 3pm.
- 1/20 – **Music: Dancing Bears, A Grateful Dead Tribute**, The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St. Doors 7pm. \$
- 1/21 – **Fort McHenry Monitoring Walk**, Fort McHenry. Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. 9-11am.
- 1/21 – **Music: Space Koi with Medicated Sunfish and Soundwaves**, The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St. Doors 7pm. \$
- 1/24 – **Playdate at the Library**, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Bubbles, toys, and enriching play time for kids up to age 5. 10:30am.
- 1/28 – **Music: Seven Teller with Eberwine and Mark Datter**, The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St. Doors 7pm. \$
- 1/31 – **Music: Neal Francis with Danielle Ponder**, The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St. Doors 7pm. \$
- 2/1 – **Fort McHenry Monitoring Walk**, Fort McHenry. Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. 9-11am.
- 2/2 – **Weekly Open Community Run/Walk**, Fat Patties, 1724 Whetstone Way. Distance 3-6 miles. 6:30pm.
- 2/3 – **Music: Better Off Dead**, The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St. Doors 7pm. \$
- 2/5 – **Chili Cook-Off**, Little Havana, 1325 Key Hwy. Sponsored by Federal Hill South Neighborhood Assoc. \$
- 2/5 – **Music: Flipturn**, The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St. Doors 7pm. \$
- 5/6 – **Kinetic Sculpture Race**, American Visionary Art Museum, 800 Key Hwy.



Help Keep SoBo Strong

With the help of generous donors and neighbors like you, **South Baltimore United** is wrapping up its first full year of working to build stronger community connections across the SoBo peninsula. And what a year it’s been!

With your support, this all-volunteer nonprofit has published 6 issues of the free *South Baltimore Peninsula Post* newspaper, distributed to over 5,000 readers, and sponsored the first-ever “I Love SoBo Day” community celebration.

We also post dozens of timely neighborhood news updates on social media and maintain the comprehensive “SoBo Events” online calendar.

And we have even more planned for 2023, including a bigger “I Love SoBo Day” in May. Thanks to our donors, local businesses that advertise in the newspaper, and a grant from the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership, we have a solid foundation to build on.

But we need your help to keep these community connections thriving and growing in the new year!

We’ve just launched our second Community Fundraising Campaign with a goal to raise \$8,000 by **January 6, 2023**.

Please donate today using the QR code below.



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