



The Canton Connection

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE CANTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

President's Message

I have been told on several occasions by a number of different City officials that the CCA is one of the most, if not *the* most, influential community association in Baltimore City. I don't know whether that is true, but I do know that we play a significant role in the community thanks to the work of many fine, talented people.

Development in Canton continues, and it is unrelenting. The City solicits feedback from the CCA on projects and permits that affect the neighborhood; we do our best to be your voice through the CCA's Economic Development Committee (EDC). The EDC is open to any Canton resident who would like to know more and have a voice in the evolution of the neighborhood. Spurred on in part by the City's Department of Planning's "Guidelines for Rowhouse Additions" document, the EDC was encouraged to come up with the first iteration of our own "Guidelines for Neighborhood Development" document. Both documents guide the EDC as we evaluate every development project that comes before the committee. The EDC's document is a historic first attempt at articulating the community's concerns on development in the neighborhood. As always, we welcome your feedback on our progress. The EDC's document is detailed in this newsletter and both documents can be accessed through our web site at <http://www.cantoncommunity.org/welcome/edc/index.html>.

Parking and Transportation is an issue that affects all of us. The CCA supports incremental improvements such as angle parking, and we participate with State and Federal officials on larger, ongoing transportation issues such as the Volpe and Red Line studies (also detailed in this newsletter). We are working diligently on this and on many other issues and we welcome your ideas and participation.

Best Regards,
 Stephen Strohl, President, Canton Community Association
<http://www.cantoncommunity.org>, E-mail: info@cantoncommunity.org
 Phone: 410-342-0900

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Political Forum with the Maryland Delegation is the topic for the **Tuesday, May 24** public meeting. Confirmed participants at this time include Delegates Pete Hammen and Brian McHale. We will discuss the most recent session of the Maryland State Government in Annapolis, as well as take your questions and hear your concerns. Don't miss this opportunity to meet your elected officials.

You are invited to join us for the **Sixth Annual CCA Meet 'N Eat Neighborhood Party** on **Tuesday, June 28**. The Meet 'N Eat will feature food generously donated by local restaurants. Best of all, it is absolutely free and it's a great opportunity to meet your neighbors. And we'll be giving away door prizes! **Volunteers** are needed to help plan, set up and break down the event. To participate, please email info@cantoncommunity.org or call 410-342-0900.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CCA Public Meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of each month at Canton United Methodist Church, 1000 S. Ellwood Ave., 7 – 9 pm. Doors open at 6:30 for you to meet your neighbors.

Visit our website for a full listing of upcoming events:

<http://www.cantoncommunity.org>

Tuesday, June 7, July 12, 7-9pm

CCA Board Meetings

Tuesday, March 22, 7-9pm

CCA Public Meeting, "CCA Project Updates"

Tuesday, April 22, 7-9pm

CCA Public Meeting, "Greening the Neighborhood"

Tuesday, May 24, 7-9pm

CCA Public Meeting, "Political Forum with the Maryland Delegation"

Tuesday, June 28, 6:30-9pm

CCA Public Meeting, "Annual Meet 'N Eat Neighborhood Party"

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Stay Informed with CCA Email Distribution Lists

Receive timely notification of upcoming CCA events, volunteer opportunities, meetings, and fun community activities through our email distribution lists. Currently, the CCA oversees two email distribution lists:

- **Announcements:** distributes information from the CCA Board to Association members

- **Canton Dog Park Announcements:** distributes information among people who are interested in events and issues related to the Canton Dog Park

Subscription information is available on the CCA website at http://www.cantoncommunity.org/communication/email_lists/index.html.

PLEASE NOTE

The CCA will never sell, trade, or share any e-mail address that you provide. Further, the CCA will never place you on an unsolicited e-mail list. The information supplied you supply will never be used for any type of unsolicited bulk email.



CCA PUBLIC MEETING RECAPS

January Open Forum and Board Elections

Bill Cunningham, President of the Living Classrooms Foundation, discussed the proposed waterfront memorial to the victims of the March 2004 *Lady D* accident. The memorial would be a 9-foot tall panel inscribed with the names of the victims, topped with a bell and placed in a 48' x 24' landscaped area.

The floor was then opened for the nomination of new Board members. With 33 ballots cast, twelve Board members were elected:

- Sheila Anderson*
- Denise Aversa
- Michele Barnycz*
- Marisa Capone
- John Cumor
- Lisa Faherty*
- Matt Hoffmann
- Darryl Jurkiewicz*
- Susanna Madox
- Dominic Nicolini
- Liz Phelan
- Stephen Strohl*

* = returning member

Treasurer Lisa Faherty provided a financial report: main checking account, \$14,537.53; Canton Dog Park account: \$2,053; main account (after the Canton Home & Garden Tour 2004): \$7,820.04.

Susanna Madox of the CGA reviewed the Club's work, alongside the Friends of the Canton Library, on the Canton Library's gardens, the Canton Greening Program, collaborative projects with the Southeast Youth Academy, and efforts to plant sidewalk trees in the neighborhood.

Mary Jurkiewicz of the Friends of the Canton Library discussed the upcoming "Canton Memories" program at the Canton Library on February 26th from 2-4pm. The Friends also have two book

sales every year and will reprint the popular *Canton Centennial Cookbook* next year.

Michele Barnycz spoke about the Friends of O'Donnell Square and provided the City's 24-hour Liquor Board hotline: 410-545-6360. Residents are encouraged to call to report violations.

For the Baltimore Harbor Watershed Association (BHWA), Michele Barnycz presented an update on the City's installation of a trash collector in the Harris Creek Outfall, which empties into the Harbor by Safeway. More information about the BHWA can be found at <http://www.baltimorewaters.org>.

The featured local business was City Pet Center, located at 3125 Eastern Avenue. Michael Kohl discussed the range of pet boarding, daycare, grooming services, and pet supplies they offer. The Center offers a 25% discount for CCA members. For more information, call 410-732-8292 or visit www.citypetcenter.com.

February Open Forum with 1st District Baltimore City Councilman James B. Kraft

Marco Greenberg of Cignal Corp in Timonium reviewed the plans for converting the Boatel at Lighthouse Point into residential units. The promenade there will be closed during construction, with a floating promenade as a substitute.

Baltimore City Councilman Jim Kraft spoke to CCA members about his plans and concerns on behalf of the 1st District. Mr. Kraft expressed his continuing support of the CCA and other community associations. He invited residents to attend a City hearing on March 2 on a proposed drug nuisance law. He answered questions on zoning and density issues, and discussed

pending legislation to hold Zoning and Planning meetings in the evenings so that residents could attend. Other questions included penalties to curb handbills and fliers, abuse of liquor licenses, and sanitation enforcement. Contact Councilman Kraft with your questions or concerns:
District Office, 522 S. Robinson Street
Baltimore, MD 21224, 410-522-1324 (phone), 410-522-1325 (fax)
info@jimkraftcc.com
http://www.jimkraftcc.com
http://www.baltimorecitycouncil.com/

News and events of interest were then reviewed. Baltimore City has approved Key Coffee's proposal to open a Daily Grind coffee shop in the Firehouse on O'Donnell Square. A proposal that the CCA coordinate snow removal for elderly residents was discussed. Councilman Kraft noted that he would be meeting with City agencies to discuss traffic calming devices on O'Donnell Street through the Square.

Officer Ron Starr of the Baltimore County Police Department, a 30-year veteran of the Baltimore Police Department, is the new liaison officer for the Southeast District. Officer Starr answered members' questions and pointed out that the old Block Watch program is now the Crime Watch program. Pamphlets were distributed and members were encouraged to participate. Officer Starr also circulated a signup sheet for members interested in attending the Civilian Police Academy.

March CCA Projects Update; Two Rivers Park, Dog Park and Friend of O'Donnell Square

Matt Hoffman discussed the Meet 'N Eat planned for June 28. Volunteering information will be available at the April public meeting.

Major Steele, the District Commander of the Southeast Police District, invited people to attend the Community Affairs

Council meeting on April 5 at 7 pm and to attend the Civilian Police Academy in April. He also encouraged participation in the Citizens on Patrol program.

Leslie Rubinelle of Special Olympics discussed the 1.5-mile walk through Canton on Saturday, April 9. Registration begins at 10 am at the Du Burns Arena.

Dr. John Dowling of the Baltimore Harbor Watershed Association provided an update on trash collection at the Harris Creek Outfall. The BHWA is a registered 501c3 nonprofit, so grants and donations can now be accepted.

Carol Creed discussed recent and forthcoming events at the Canton Dog Park. To resolve complaints of dog excrement on sidewalks, Carol reminded owners to carry plastic bags. The Park accepts donations of extra plastic shopping bags; just leave them on the park fence for collection. For more news, see Carol's article elsewhere in this issue.

CCA Vice President Dominic Nicolini reviewed the Friends of O'Donnell Square's successful efforts to have a fence installed around the O'Donnell statue. Volunteers can assist with a cleanup on April 10 at 8 am. Councilman Kraft will be meeting with business owners and citizens at the Kolbe Center on April 27 at 8 pm to discuss the negative effects of the St. Patrick's Day festivities.

The Friends of Two Rivers Park presented the final plan for the park. BGE has agreed to relocate the wires that cross the space, but funds are needed to pay for this. Fundraisers and grant applications are planned.

Lesley Gardiner of the Friends of Patterson Park is looking for volunteers to join maintenance teams. Free donuts are offered. Volunteers are also needed for a tree planting scheduled for April 23. The Friends intend to plant a

garden in the park extension if a water line can be installed.

The featured business was the Maryland Chapter of the Multiple Sclerosis Society. Bob Witt and Donna Chase spoke about the upcoming MS Walk scheduled for April 9, starting at the Living Classrooms Foundation. Donna provided Dominic with a plaque in honor of last year's Canton team, which was the largest in the Baltimore walk.

Living in a Historic District Can Pay-Off . . . In Cash

By Sharon Seitchik, O'Connell and Associates

Maintaining and updating a home in a historic district can be costly. Owners are responsible for preserving and, in some cases, incurring a great deal of expense to replace or update, things in the home. However, people living in a historic district are eligible for State and City tax incentives that can put cash in your pocket and provide significant savings on future property tax bills.

Do you qualify? Find out more by reading the complete article at the CCA Economic Development Committee (EDC) website:
<http://www.cantoncommunity.org/welcome/edc/>

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Hats (And Leashes) Off for the Canton Dog Park!

By Carol Creed, dogpark@cantoncommunity.org

The Canton Dog Park is an off-leash haven for neutered/spayed friendly dogs, without regard to breed, color or ethnic origin. It's a great place to socialize your puppy and meet canine-loving neighbors. Open during daylight hours, the park is fenced, double gated and divided into areas for large, rambunctious dogs and small, older or nervous dogs. Use of the park is "at your own risk" for both people and animals, but adherence to the rules and the use of common sense has prevented most mishaps.

Baltimore City, which owns the land, has an official understanding with the CCA regarding rules and maintenance. The rest is up to volunteers, who plan fundraisers, maintain the park, and act as "park police." Everyone who uses the park is encouraged to volunteer, whether reminding visitors of the rules, helping on clean-up days, or serving on a committee. General meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at the United Methodist Church, at the corner of S. Ellwood and Dillon Street. Everyone is encouraged to attend – *sans* canines, though!

News Highlights

Once day a month, the Dog Park closes for maintenance, including raking up straw and putting down grass seed and lime. Thanks to the volunteers who participated in the March cleanup, we raked over 100 trash bags full of straw! The April cleanup marked the start of the 2005 Paws campaign.

The Dog Park Barbeque fundraiser will be held on Saturday, June 11. If you are interested in volunteering, e-mail Aileen or Carol at dogpark@cantoncommunity.org. The rain date for the Barbeque is June 12

Our major improvement planned for 2005 is to install pea gravel in the small-dog park, pending the availability of funds. We are also working with the City to get additional trees planted outside the park.

More information is available at <http://dogpark.cantoncommunity.org>. See snapshots of last year's Howl-O-Ween, read updates, and find great Dog Park merchandise there. For more information, e-mail dogpark@cantoncommunity.org.

Guidelines on Neighborhood Development

The Economic Development Committee (EDC) has developed guidelines to assist developers and architects in creating plans that maintain the historical and architectural character of Canton. CCA usually opposes all construction that would alter the integrity of an existing block.

The CCA will evaluate each proposed development on a case-by-case basis. The project's specifics will determine whether a letter of support or opposition will be written on behalf of the proposed development to the Board of Municipal Zoning Appeals (BMZA). The CCA has no governing authority, and merely strives to represent the interests of the neighborhood in dealings with the City and State governments. To review the guidelines, visit the EDC homepage at <http://www.cantoncommunity.org/welcome/edc/>

Two Rivers Park: Canton's Newest Park!

By Randy Capone, President, Friends of Two Rivers Park & CCA Block Rep Captain, For more information on the Block Rep program, please e-mail blockreps@cantoncommunity.org

For years, the vacant lot in the 900 block of S. Potomac and S. Curley Streets has been a neighborhood disappointment. However, that's about to change soon. The now-vacant lot is about to become Canton's newest community revitalization initiative, **Two Rivers Park**. Thanks to a coalition of CCA members, the Canton Garden Association, and our neighborhood group, the Friends of Two Rivers Park, this once-neglected space is due to be open later this year as Canton's first green space pocket park.

Believe it or not, for years the lot has been listed on Baltimore City's property inventory of as a public park – **Hudson/Potomac Park**. Last year the lot was scheduled to be sold to developers for the construction of two housing units. The CCA counter-proposed that the lot be renovated into an attractive green space for Canton residents to enjoy. Thanks to the hard work of representatives of the CCA, CGA, and the Friends of Two Rivers Park, along with the invaluable assistance of Delegate Pete Hammen and Maryland State Senator George Della, the City accepted the proposal. The park's name pays tribute to both Hudson and Potomac Streets, as well as the famous rivers of the same names.

Plans for the park have been created, and construction is scheduled to begin this summer. Priorities are fundraising and the removal of the cacophony of wires hanging over the space. At a February meeting for residents who live adjacent to the vacant lot, people had the opportunity to review the proposed plan, provide feedback, and review the construction schedule and discuss fundraising activities. The Friends of Two Rivers Park provided another update at the CCA's March Public Meeting, where members enthusiastically supported the project and encouraged further progress.

If you would like to learn more about this exciting project, we would love to hear from you. We welcome your comments, support, and contribution of time and/or money.

Upcoming Can Company Events

Mark your calendar for these fun events at Canton's very own, historic Can Company! Come enjoy the celebrations, mingle with your neighbors, indulge in great food and drinks, and dance – or at least tap your feet!

The Can Company is located at 2400 Boston Street. For more information, call (410)-558-CANC (558-2262) or visit the Can Company's website at <http://thecancompany.com/>.

Cinco de Mayo at The Can

Thursday, May 5 - Saturday, May 7
Celebrate Mexico's independence with a few margaritas and some great live music!

Marshall Crenshaw will be performing live on Saturday, May 7.

First Fridays at The Can

The Can Company welcomes the spring and summer seasons with free live music outdoors and happy hour specials from 6-9pm on the first Friday of the month.

Friday, May 6: Donegal Xpress

Friday, June 3: Mambo Combo

Friday, July 1: Lloyd Dobler Effect

Friday, August 5: Kelly Bell Band

Friday, September 2: The

Crawdaddies


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CCA Director of Marketing

410-850-9131

tbumba@mdpennysaver.com



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CCA Website News

The CCA website is growing, changing, and getting better all the time – just like Canton! Point your browser to www.cantoncommunity.org and check out these new services and functions:

Our **online shop** is now open! Be the envy of dog-owners everywhere when you wear your Canton Dog Park baseball cap, T-shirt, or sweatshirt! Celebrate Canton's architecture with a beautiful streetscape print (available in three sizes). Our shop items also make great gifts for friends, former Cantonites, and people who are part of the community in spirit.

<http://www.cantoncommunity.org/welcome/merchandise/merchandise.html>

Updated **membership information** includes rates for different membership types; instructions for applying for membership; and an ever-growing list of community businesses that offer discounts to CCA members.

<http://www.cantoncommunity.org/ccal/membership/membership.html>

The Winter 2004 issue of the **Canton Connection**, the CCA's quarterly newsletter, has been added to the newsletter archives. The issue features recaps of public meetings, news, volunteer opportunities, and more. The newsletter archives features all back issues of the Canton Connection for download as PDF files.

<http://www.cantoncommunity.org/ccal/newsletter/newsletter.html>

Are you a business owner or a developer? Planning an addition to your house? Find up-to-date information on community development guidelines and procedures on the **Economic Development Committee's** page. In addition to contact information, meeting schedules, and useful links, you will also find copies of important EDC documents such as the new **Guidelines on Neighborhood Development** and the **Property Information Form**.

Review the EDC's comprehensive new FAQ to find the answers to many of your development-related questions.

<http://www.cantoncommunity.org/welcome/edc/index.html>

City Transportation Initiatives Will Affect Canton – Make Your Voice Heard!

*By George Hofferbert, Co-chair, Parking and Transportation Committee
parking@cantoncommunity.org*

The Economic Development Committee (EDC) has developed guidelines to assist developers and architects in creating plans that maintain the historical and architectural character of Canton. CCA usually opposes all construction that would alter the integrity of an existing block.

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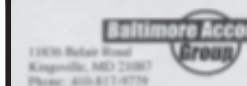
To review the guidelines, visit the EDC homepage at <http://www.cantoncommunity.org/welcome/edc/>



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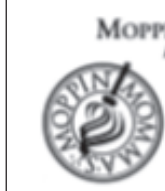


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***Canton Community Association's
Spring 2005 Newsletter***

Canton Community Association is a not-for-profit volunteer organization for those who live, work, or play in Canton. CCA is an I.R.S. 501(c)(3) organization exempt from federal income tax. Your donations are tax deductible.

Canton Community Association

P.O. Box 5125
Baltimore, MD 21224

A voicemail phone number is always available at (410) 342-0900. Please leave your name and number if you want a committee chairperson to respond to you.

The Canton Community Association (CCA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization—donations to which are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. A copy of our current financial statement is available upon request by contacting CCA (information above). Documents and information submitted to the State of Maryland under the Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act are available from the Office of the Secretary of State for the cost of copying and postage.

Newsletter created by Stacey Grabowski, 410.558.3604

Join the CCA! *CCA is an all-volunteer, federal tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization. Your donation is tax deductible.*

- Individual membership** *(Dues are \$7 per calendar year.)*
- Non-profit membership** *(Dues are \$20 per calendar year.)*
- For-profit membership** *(Dues are \$25 per calendar year.)*
- Platinum Business membership*** *(Dues are \$125 for two years)*

Name _____

Organization _____

Contact Person _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

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