



The Canton Connection

A Quarterly Newsletter of the Canton Community Association



CCA Meetings

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

**Board Meetings are generally held the first Tuesday of each month (except August) from 7-9pm at Canton United Methodist Church. Elections for the board are held at the January public meeting. Board officer elections are held in February.

Visit our website for a full listing for more information:
<http://www.cantoncommunity.org/cca/meetingschedule/meetingschedule.html>

Upcoming Events

Jack and the Beanstalk

Dec. 2-18
 Fridays & Saturdays at 8pm; Sundays at 2pm
 Fells Point Corner Theater
 251 S. Ann Street

2nd Annual Holiday Greening

Saturday, Dec. 3
 11am-2pm
 The Canton Library
 1030 S. Ellwood Avenue

20th Annual Holiday Cookie Tour

Sunday, Dec. 11
 12pm-5pm
 Union Square
 1401 Hollins Street

Proposed Lighthouse Point Development Raises Concerns

by Mary Jo Lazun

In an interview with the Baltimore Sun, CCA President Stephen Strohl probably expressed the feelings of all concerned when he said, "I think both sides felt, 'Why don't they get it?'"

Cignal Corporation's Armando Cignarelli and the owner of Lighthouse Point, Dr. Selvin Passen, recently expressed their desire to construct a multi-building complex on the parking lot between Tindeco and the shops at Lighthouse Point. The Cignal plan, called The Icon, includes townhouses, condominiums, shops, restaurants, and a boutique hotel. As part of Harbor Marine Center, LLC, they envision the redeveloped Lighthouse Point as a destination for Baltimore tourists and locals. In an interview with the Sun last July, Marco Greenberg, Vice President of Cignal Corporation, said, "We're trying to raise the quality of the development at Lighthouse Point, which was developed before Canton was cool." For more on the proposed Icon, please visit <http://www.iconatcanton.com>.

However, at two public meetings held this summer the Canton community voiced strong opposition to the proposed development. City Councilman James Kraft (1st District), whose district includes Canton, has publicly stated that he opposes the Cignal proposal and will not introduce the required re-zoning that the proposed project requires to the Baltimore City Council. Traditionally and as a courtesy, Council members introduce development-related measures that occur in their districts; as a result, Kraft's opposition would normally mean the death of the project. However, following Kraft's decision, Cignal Corporation made it clear that they will evaluate any and all measures at their disposal to obtain the zoning changes that they need to move forward with their project including seeking support from the office of Mayor Martin O'Malley and asking the Baltimore City Department of Planning to introduce the required zoning changes before the City Council. Baltimore City

Department of Planning Director Otis Rolley III has not yet made a decision on The Icon project, but he is on record as saying that he is open to a proposal that is well designed.

While awaiting Rolley's decision, Cignal Corporation is also trying another tack that, if successful, would bypass the need for City Council approval altogether. Cignal contends that, based on its reading of the Canton Waterfront Urban Renewal Area Plan and the Planned Unit Development (PUD) for the Lighthouse Point site, Cignal already has the legal "right to build" on the property without the need to re-zone it.

Because Councilman Kraft, Cignal Corporation, and the Planning Board all differ about what can and cannot legally be done on the property, Kraft and City Council President Sheila Dixon have asked City Solicitor Ralph S. Tyler to review the pertinent documents and render an opinion. Tyler's decision, like Rolley's, is pending as of press time.

Councilman Kraft's interpretation of the Lighthouse Point PUD is that the area is already "built out." Cignal's development of the Moorings and North Shore, as well as its modifications to the Boatel, have increased the waterfront density so much that added housing would need to pass the City Council, Kraft contends.

If City Solicitor Tyler agrees with Kraft that the area is already built out, then a City Council vote is required for any development to take place. If, on the other hand, Tyler agrees with Cignal Corporation that they do have the right to build on Lighthouse Point, then development of The Icon could well proceed.

Stay tuned. The Canton Community Association continues to follow this issue closely and will ensure that residents' voices continue to be heard by all concerned.

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The Canton Connection

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Pub Tour for Two Rivers Park A Rousing Success

by *Randy Capone, Chair, Friends of Two Rivers Park*

Inclement weather on Saturday, October 22, did not deter 60-odd people from making the rounds of seven Canton bars as part of the Two Rivers Park Canton Pub Tour. The event, the second fundraiser for Canton's newest park, raised \$1,225. Several revelers carried on well past 9pm, more than three hours after the event officially ended!

Special thanks go to Ben Straub, Vice-Chair, for organizing the event. Besides recruiting the participating bars, he arranged for Heineken to sponsor the event. Gabriella Ferraro designed the popular Pub Tour/Heineken t-shirts. We still have some, and they can be yours – while supplies last – for a \$10 or more donation each.

The winner of the 50:50 raffle was James Arp. Congratulations!

In other news, BGE has placed the new electrical pole and begun relocating the wire. When finished, the 18 wires will be reduced to three, allowing the trees room to grow. Then the real work – groundbreaking and landscaping – can begin!

Our thanks to Delegate Peter A. Hammen for helping us to secure a Park water supply. We will be applying for free use of the fire hydrant on the corner of Hudson & Potomac Streets. That way, the water supplies of neighboring homeowners won't be affected.

Give a Gift that Helps your Community

by *Mary Jo Lazun, Friends of the Canton Library*

Looking for an original gift this holiday season? How about a brand-new reissue of a Canton classic?

Twenty years ago, over one thousand copies of *Canton Cooks* were printed and sold to celebrate the library's centennial in 1986. Since very few of the original cookbooks are still in existence, the Friends of the Canton Library recently decided to reprint the book to introduce Canton's newest generation to a local treasure.

During this holiday season the cookbook has something for everyone. The library sponsored a cookie contest and many winners have included their recipes (see the 1985 grand prize winning oatmeal lace cookies at the right). There are also a number of rather unique seasonal recipes like Japanese Meatloaf, Porcupine Meatballs, Minnesota Mom's Spaghetti Sauce, Rinderrouladen, Polish Delights – and just about every possible recipe that could include crab.

History lovers will discover bite-sized stories about the Canton community and its library. One recipe, for example, is accompanied by a story about an enterprising daughter who absconded with a supposedly bad batch of cookies discarded by her mother, entered them into the Christmas Cookie Contest, and won a prize!

What makes the cookbook distinctive is its artistic touch. Each section begins with one of nine specially commissioned drawings of neighborhood and Baltimore landmarks by local artist Carey Winters. These detailed pen and ink drawings add charm as well as texture to the cookbook.

Cookbooks are available at the Canton Branch Library and on the CCA website, and at local retailers such as 2910 on the Square and in Fells Point at A Good Yarn. The cost is \$12. All proceeds go directly to the Friends of the Canton Library to help fund programs at our local library.

Four Paws Up for Canton Dog Park Howl-o-Ween

by *Cathi Webster, President, Friends of Canton Dog Park*

Great news! This year's Howl-o-Ween costume contest was a big success. The annual Dog Park fundraiser was held on Saturday October 29th at the Can Company. The dogs looked great and we had some very imaginative costumes. The winners of the Most Original category were Oliver and Gigi, French Bulldogs owned by Beth Christman. They were dressed as Donald Trump and Martha Stewart – complete with hand knitted poncho!

This year the Friends unveiled its calendar containing over 120 dog photos by park users and friends along with our other dog park merchandise. We raised about \$3,000, one of our best fundraising events ever. Thanks to all who participated and supported the event.

Canton Dog Park merchandise is great for holiday gift giving! Find it on the CCA website (www.cantoncommunity.org) or contact the Friends. We will also be selling merchandise at the monthly Dog Park cleanup on December 3rd from 10-12 a.m.

We're always looking for volunteers. Information is available on the website or at our monthly meetings held the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Methodist Church at Dillon and Ellwood.



2005 Howl-o-Ween contest winners and their human friends.
Photo: Mandi Kurek

Highlandtown for the Holidays *by Katie McKenna*

Turn your attention, Cantonians, to the eclectic collection of stores and businesses to your north. Things are changing in Highlandtown, and the holiday season is a great time to take a stroll down Eastern Avenue.

And what better time to take that stroll than during Highlandtown's first **Christmas Crawl & Gift Trawl**? All of our buildings and businesses will be dressed in their holiday finest for Main Street's second holiday decorating contest; and the three winning businesses will be announced as part of the festivities. Carolers will be roaming the Avenue, serenading passers-by with holiday classics. Your favorite stores will throw open their doors with later hours, sales, specials, giveaways, and more. Watch for an appearance by a big guy in a red suit, munch on some roasted chestnuts, and sip some hot chocolate as you join your neighbors at Highlandtown's signature holiday event.

Where to trawl for gifts? Check out some of the businesses that appeared on Eastern Avenue this year . . . **RetroMart** offers funky home furnishings and accessories, as does **Maxim Furniture**. **Doggie Depot** has everything your pet ever asked Santa for. **Creative Styles** is full of just that – clothing for men and women. **Avenue Framing and Gallery** can turn a poster or picture into a work of art. Pay attention – some of your favorite Highlandtown businesses may have new looks. **Sneaky Feet** moved down the street and has more shoes, soccer jerseys, and other sports stuff than ever before. **Southeast Jewelry and Loan** got a new look at the corner of Eastern and Conkling, and many others have new paint, new signs, clean brick, and more.

Shopping make you hungry? Highlandtown's full of great eats – new restaurants like **Dunstin's**, **Odyssey**, or **Blimpies** and old favorites like **Eastern House**, **Matthew's Pizza**, or **G&A**. **Chicken Rico** and **La Sirenita** serve up excellent food with a Latin twist at a low price. **Brewer's Hill Pub & Grill** reinvented itself last winter; and **High Grounds** has hot drinks galore (and a fine selection of books, too!) to help you stave off the chilly winter weather.

Your neighbors to the north are eager to welcome residents of lower Highlandtown into their businesses. Join us on December 15th for the Christmas Crawl & Gift Trawl, and we think you'll keep coming back!

Ever wonder who makes Highlandtown happen? The Highlandtown Main Street program has committees working on the Promotion, Design, and Economic Restructuring of our commercial district. To get involved, or just get more information on this and the other programs of the Southeast CDC, contact Katie McKenna at (410) 342-3234 or katie@southeastcdc.org.

Harris Creek Trash Netting Facility Coming Soon

by Phil Lee, Baltimore Harbor Watershed Association

A trash netting facility is scheduled for installation at the Harris Creek Outfall, located at the intersection of Boston Street and Lakewood Avenue, this December. The Baltimore Harbor Watershed Association (BHWA) has been working with representatives from Baltimore City, with State Delegates Peter Hammen, Carolyn Krysiak, and Brian McHale, and with Senator George Della for over two years to install this facility. The facility's four large trash bags will prevent trash and debris from entering the Harbor, and will also help raise public awareness of the deplorable condition of the harbor. Ultimately, the BHWA would like the City to install similar facilities throughout Baltimore Harbor.

Because Baltimore Harbor is located at the headwaters of the Northwest Branch of the Patapsco River, the majority of trash entering the harbor does not leave it. Trash entering the harbor from the various outfalls includes:

- Styrofoam containers, cups, and plates
- Plastic bottles, bags, and wrappers
- Cigarettes, matchbooks, and packs
- Syringes, condoms, and other paraphernalia
- Dead animals and rodents

Water quality concerns at the harbor outfalls include petroleum, product, and sewage discharges into the storm drains. Sewage discharges are a result of illegal connections and an aging system in need of maintenance or replacement. The recent 8,000-gallon oil spill at the Linwood Avenue outfall served only to mask the constant sewage flow. There are numerous water quality issues, as well. Visit the BHWA website at www.baltimorewaters.org to learn more.

The four trash bags – weighing up to 1,000 lbs. each when full – will likely be changed 30 times annually. Changes are to occur on a monthly basis and after each major rain event. The estimated annual cost for maintaining the trash netting facility is \$30,000.

The City will maintain the facility for the first year, and then turn over the responsibility

to the BHWA. Accordingly, the BHWA will request residents, businesses, and other organizations to contribute to future maintenance. All contributions are tax deductible.

The BHWA, which spearheaded this effort, works to protect and improve the environmental quality and natural beauty of

Baltimore Harbor and its tributaries. The organization was the result of meetings of the Anchorage Condominium Association, beginning in December 2002, to discuss the trash problems in the Baltimore Harbor, particularly at Harris Creek. BHWA continued to grow and in November 2004 received 501(c)3 non-profit

status. Dr. John Dowling, a resident of the Anchorage, is the Board President as well as the driving force behind the BHWA.

Even with the success of the BHWA's efforts, collecting trash is only a short-term solution. The BHWA's long-term goals are to develop City-wide K-12 environmental education programs, and to address directly the water quality issues of Baltimore Harbor and its tributaries. For the education programs, the BHWA plans to collaborate with Parks & People, The Living Classrooms Foundation, and the National Aquarium in Baltimore. These organizations have already developed successful education programs in City schools, but now is the time for a single program to be implemented City-wide. City and nearby County residents need to develop a new attitude and take responsibility for trash.

This change can be accomplished. Clean cities do exist in this country and elsewhere. Look at Canada, for example. Their cities are clean. We have to ask ourselves why we have trash in the streets, which eventually ends up in the Harbor. Just remember, you know when you see a clean environment. You can't hide a clean city.



Phil Lee stands by the Harris Creek Outfall (in more ways than one). Photo: Kathryn Eberhart

President's Message

"What's the role of a community association and why should I care?"

Good question.

First and foremost, the CCA is not a condo association! That's a common misconception.

Community associations play an important role in the success of your local government. Successful neighborhood associations can create many benefits. Here are just a few highlights:

- The opportunity to know and better understand your neighborhood.
- Getting to know and getting involved with your local and state government officials.
- Establishing a better line of communication with both your neighbors and the City.

Sound Off

The CCA hosts approximately 9-10 public meetings per year. Your input and feedback is essential for us to focus the meetings on your concerns. Past meeting topics have included open forums with some of our most prominent elected officials such as Baltimore City Council President Sheila Dixon, 1st District Baltimore City Councilman Jim Kraft, and our entire Maryland State Delegation. If you have an idea that might make a good agenda item, please get in touch with us. Meetings for the beginning of 2006 include:

Tuesday, January 24 — Open Forum & CCA Board Elections.

Tuesday, February 28 — Education Issues in the Neighborhood (with Principals and representatives of Father Kolbe, Canton Middle, Hampstead Hill Academy, and the new Patterson Park Charter Public School).

Tuesday, March 28 — Open Forum with 1st District Baltimore City Councilman Jim Kraft.

Get Involved

The CCA plays an important role in our community; however, we need your participation and involvement to make the neighborhood even better. The CCA works with our local and state officials on the issues that matter here in Canton. Join us and play a part in shaping the policies that affect all of us, meet your neighbors, and have some fun. Regardless of the amount of time you have to offer, there is a role you can play with us. If you have any questions about who we are and what we do, we'd love to hear from you.

The CCA would like to thank our friends Gary Addington, Laura Albert, Kevin Beal, Christian Dunn, Kim Huskins, Valanti Koliotofis, Frank Lanham, Liz McPherson, Jakob Metz, Todd Nemerof, Tom Rybczynski, Linda Shoemaker, Colleen Schindledecker and Tony Ziolkowski at the Fells Point office of Coldwell Banker for their generous support and sponsorship of the new Canton Connection.

*Stephen Strohl, President
Canton Community Association
info@cantoncommunity.org*

Parking Committee Report

by Denise Aversa and Darryl Jurkiewicz

The CCA Parking Committee members have attended meetings on three topics of interest and concern to the Canton community, where we voiced our concerns about parking and congestion. First was a federally funded study by the Volpe Group into ways to ease traffic in Southeast Baltimore. The City is currently considering their recommendations.

Routes for the proposed Red Line connecting Eastern and Western Baltimore are still under consideration, including Eastern Avenue, Fleet Street, and Boston Street. An environmental study still has to be done, and various modes of transportation are still being discussed. This project appears to be at least a few years away.

Darryl Jurkiewicz is involved with the Red Line Education Program to help civic leaders advocate effectively for their communities in the Red Line planning process, by sharing information and visiting other transit systems in Boston, Denver, Portland, and Los Angeles. Participants met with local civic, community, and business leaders and discussed the pros and cons of mass transit. The goal is to maintain open lines of communication among all individuals and groups throughout the entire process and to plan, plan, plan.

Committee members also attended meetings on the hotly disputed MTA Greater Baltimore Bus Initiative. For the time being, at least, the #7 route through Canton will remain the same.

The Parking Committee is working to get angle parking in the area, which will create more parking spaces. This would require the approval of residents on the blocks involved. The committee also monitors curb cuts.

Learn more about Baltimore mass transit:

www.baltimoreregiontransitplan.com
www.cphabaltimore.org
www.gbc.org
www.ndc-md.org

Stay Informed with CCA E-mail Distribution Lists

Receive timely notification of upcoming CCA events, volunteer opportunities, meetings, and fun community activities through our e-mail distribution lists. Currently, the CCA oversees two e-mail 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, or place you on an unsolicited e-mail list. The information you supply will never be used for any type of unsolicited bulk e-mail.

The CCA would like to thank the realtors of Coldwell Banker for sponsoring this newsletter:

Gary Addington
Laura Albert
Kevin Beal
Christian Dunn
Kim Huskins
Valanti Koliotofis
Frank Lanham
Liz McPherson
Jakob Metz
Linda Morgan
Todd Nemerof
Tom Rybczynski
Colleen Schindledecker
Linda Shoemaker
Tony Ziolkowski
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Friends of the Canton Library Update

by Jeannette Pierce and Mary Jo Lazun

The Friends are having a very busy fall. Despite a Ravens game and a blustery wind, the October 16th book sale at the Can Company, in conjunction with the Canton Art & Antique Market, raised over \$650 dollars to fund gifts and events at the Canton Branch.

One such event, "What Rhymes with Boo?" was held on Saturday October 29th. Some of the youngest Cantonites came dressed in their Halloween finest to enjoy nursery rhymes, music, and movement fun! The Friends served Halloween refreshments and provided surprises for the cutest, scariest, and funniest costumes.

The Friends also raised funds by wrapping gifts at the Holiday Wrap for the Canton Library on November 26 at the Barnes & Noble in the Inner Harbor.

The 2nd Annual Holiday Greening Party at the Canton Branch will be on Saturday December 3rd at 11:00 a.m. The Friends co-host the event with the Canton Garden Association (CGA). CGA will make holiday decorations for the library and neighborhood nursing homes. Create your own holiday arrangements to take home. The Friends will be providing complimentary refreshments and plenty of holiday good cheer.

Register now because space is limited to 20 people. Registration is \$8.00 per person. RSVP by leaving a message on the CCA voicemail ((410) 342-0900), e-mailing info@cantoncommunity.org, or stopping by the Canton Branch.

The Friends will also host a Holiday Open House from 2:00-4:30 following the Holiday Greening Party. Join your friends and neighbors in wishing the library staff a happy holiday season. Enjoy refreshments while listening to carols sung by the students from Father Kolbe School in Canton.

Wanna be a Friend? Basic membership is only \$5.00 and patron membership is \$15.00. Membership forms are available at the library. The Friends meet at the Canton Branch (1030 S. Ellwood Avenue) on the fourth Monday of the month at 6:30 pm.

Built in 1886, the Canton Branch is one of the four original branches established by Enoch Pratt. It is the only one of the four that is still a library today.

United Evangelical Church
United Church of Christ

3200 Dillon Street
 Baltimore, MD 21224
 410-276-0393
 Fax 410-176-0788
uecucc@juno.com



www.united-evangelical.com

Sat. Contemporary Worship - 5:30 p.m.
 Rev. Catherine Oatman Sunday Worship - 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
 Pastor Christian Education - 9:15 a.m.

Canton Cleanup

by Judith Myers

On Saturday, October 22, five brave souls aided by students from Canton Middle School, partook in the Canton cleanup effort. A representative from City Councilman Kraft's office was also there to spur us on. In total, we filled nineteen 3-foot-high paper bags with trash. All concerned considered the event to be a success.

Grateful thanks go to the following Canton businesses for their support:

- Dangerously Delicious Pies and Coburn's for breakfast
- Quiznos, Mama's on the Half Shell/Nacho Mama's, and the Canton Pretzel Factory for lunch
- Canton Market provided plenty of spring water

And a special thank you goes out to Ara Shishmanian, the Principal of Canton Middle School, for allowing us to use his school as a staging area and for encouraging his students to engage in an activity that encourages civic pride.

Just a gentle reminder to the residents of the 5,000-plus households in Canton:

- It is illegal to NOT pull weeds that grow on your property
- It is illegal to put YOUR trash or trash can on ANOTHER'S property
- It is illegal to THROW items – especially perishable items – in any gutter

This is our community – let's keep it clean and tidy!

Don't Forget to Renew Your CCA Membership!

by Dominic Nicolini, CCA Vice President and Membership Chair

Beginning in 2005, the CCA membership cycle will now run from June to June. So, if you have paid for membership at any time in 2005, don't worry, you're paid up. However, if you have not yet renewed your membership this year, you need to do so either by mail or at a CCA meeting.

Membership benefits include the opportunity to vote at public meetings, a subscription to the quarterly Canton Connection newsletter, and discounts at participating businesses when you show your CCA membership card.

Business memberships are also available. CCA business members are listed on our website and are offered the chance to advertise in the Canton Connection. If you would like to learn more about becoming a CCA business member, please send an e-mail to info@cantoncommunity.org.

Membership rates are as follows:

- Individual: One Year - \$7, Two Years - \$10
- Household: One Year - \$10, Two Years - \$15 (max two votes per household)

Dues renewals can be mailed to:

CCA
 P.O. Box 5125
 Baltimore, MD 21224

The CCA appreciates your continued support!

The CCA Membership Committee needs volunteers! To find out how you can help, e-mail Dominic Nicolini at Dominic.Nicolini@morganstanley.com.

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The Parrot is Back!

by Christy Maier

Though it never actually left, the Pickled Parrot at Elliott and South Decker lost its identity for a while. New owner Gerry Balog and his wife Jennifer have brought the Parrot (as regulars affectionately know it) back to its former glory – and more. Just two blocks off O'Donnell Square, you'll find Gerry serving drinks with a smile. He took over the Parrot a year and a half ago intending to restore its corner bar feeling. Today's Parrot sports jewel-tone painted walls, a refinished dark wood bar, and a sharp new logo. In the spring, Gerry opens up the Parrot's spacious patio.

The real difference between the old and new Parrot is in the kitchen. Gerry says he wanted to create "a neighborhood bar with killer food." Mission accomplished. Chef Jeff's menu features traditional pub fare like chicken tenders and wings alongside bleu cheese ribeye steak with chef's potatoes. Variations on classics such as jalapeno poppers with sweet raspberry dipping sauce make the Parrot a must for both casual diners and gourmards. Our chili was thick, beefy, and spicy; and the garden salad was crisp and served on a cold plate. The ahi tuna bites were perfectly blackened and seared

rare. The Maryland crab soup doesn't deviate from tradition – always a good thing. The broth is full of vegetables, crabmeat and plenty of J.O. Chesapeake spice. Vegetarians need not worry, either.

The Parrot serves brunch on Sundays, with a free Mimosa or Bloody Mary with each entrée, including omelets, steak and eggs, and Maryland Eggs Benedict. Health-conscious diners can choose a brunch salad with greens, fresh fruit, and poached eggs topped with hollandaise. Okay, so hollandaise isn't healthy, but are you really looking for a completely healthy brunch?

It's hard to beat the Parrot for weekly specials, either. For discerning beer drinkers, the Parrot offers 27 ales and stouts and \$2 domestic pints. The wine list is short, but the selections are superior. Happy hour extends to Saturdays from 12-5, along with 25-cent wings. Entertainment includes a jukebox, videogame, pool table, Golden Tee machine, and foosball table.

Elliot Street has less foot traffic than O'Donnell Square, but the Parrot's identity and great food make up for it. Gerry envisions the Parrot as a place where patrons with Harleys and Beamers can hang out together; the feeling of camaraderie makes everyone feel welcome.

Gerry's long experience in the restaurant business makes him the perfect person to turn the Parrot around. If you haven't been back in a while, or have never been, now's the time!

The Pickled Parrot, 3020 Elliott St, Baltimore, (410) 342-1344.

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Noise Ordinance Before City Council

by Paul Lagasse

On October 31, City Councilwoman Stephanie Rawlings Blake introduced a bill that, if passed by the City Council, will add noise louder than 55 decibels to the list of public nuisances that are punishable under the City Police Ordinances. The proposed legislation, Council Bill 05-0270, "Public Nuisance Premises – Noise, was co-sponsored by Councilman Jim Kraft, whose 1st District includes Canton and Fells Point.

The bill proposes to treat violators – including noisy partygoers both at home and at neighborhood bars and restaurants – as misdemeanor offenders punishable with \$1,000 fines and possibly imprisonment for up to a year. Repeat offenders could face possible eviction. Following its introduction, the bill was referred to a City Council committee that will schedule public hearings. A full council vote on the matter is not expected for at least several months.

If the noise ordinance were enacted, Baltimore would join a growing list of cities and metropolitan areas that recognize excessive noise as a quality of life issue. "My office, and the offices of other Councilmembers, have gotten a number of complaints about rowdy groups of revelers," said Rawlings Blake in a press release. "This sort of disrespectful and rude behavior is unacceptable and cannot be tolerated."

"The ability to enjoy peace and quiet in our homes is a fundamental right," she concluded.

The Canton Connection and the CCA will continue to follow this story as it develops.

Learn how a bill becomes a law in the Baltimore City Council:

www.baltimorecitycouncil.com/how_bill_becomes_law.pdf

For details on bills sponsored and co-sponsored by Councilman Kraft:

www.jimkraftcc.com/bills.html

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

by O'Connell and Associates

Living in a historic district can mean incurring great expense to maintain and update your house. Did you know that tax incentives are available that can put cash back in your pocket while helping you save on future property tax bills?

Maryland and Baltimore City governments offer incentive programs for homeowners in historic districts. The State's program refunds homeowners 20% of their expense in the form of a tax credit if they spend at least \$5,000 over a 24-month period. If the refund exceeds what you owe in tax that year, the State will send you a check for the remainder.

The City program is a property tax abatement. Homeowners who invest 25% of the full cash value of their property as assessed receive a 10-year credit. For both programs, homeowners are generally eligible for credit for work done in 2002 or later.

Although the qualifying paperwork is fairly straightforward, the rules and parameters can be tricky. The State program, for example, is "all or none;" if one change disqualifies you, all other work done won't be eligible either. Trained consultants can help you avoid such pitfalls. We make the analogy that, although you can do your own taxes, it's usually in your interest to let an accountant handle it. The same holds true here. Our firm provides fair and affordable consultation. If you don't qualify, we don't get paid.

Interested in having us determine your eligibility? O'Connell and Associates offers free no-obligation visits and are always available to answer questions. Call (410) 837-5800.

Selling **Canton** since it was **Highlandtown**



*Front row, left to right: Colleen Shindlecker, Kimberly Huskins, Liz McPherson, Linda Morgan, Angela Vavasori, Linda Shoemaker, Laura Albert, Jakob Metz.
Back row, left to right: Todd Nemeroff, Tom Rybczynski, Gary Addington, Tony Ziolkowski, Frank Lanham, Kevin Beal, Valanti Koliofotis. Not pictured: Christian Dunn*

Our sales associates work and live in your neighborhood and are experts on the City's most historic communities. Let us share our unique knowledge of Canton and the surrounding area with you!
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Volunteers Needed!

You have talents and skills that you would like to share with your community . . . and the Canton Community Association would love to help you share them! We need help with a variety of community-oriented tasks ranging from welcoming new friends into the neighborhood, to serving on community committees, to picking up food for meetings. There's something for everyone to do at the CCA. Call (410) 342-0900 or visit www.cantoncommunity.org to volunteer your services.

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. Documents and information submitted to the State of Maryland under the Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act are available from the Office of the Secretary for the cost of copying and postage.

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 _____

*Platinum Business membership includes an ad on our website.

Mail to:
Canton Community Association
P.O. Box 5125
Baltimore, MD 21224

