

# Historic Federal Hill main street news

july-august 2006



## BELLI FIORI BLOOMING IN FEDERAL HILL

by AMY Grace

*Belli Fiori* (beautiful flowers) are popping up all over our business district thanks to the support of local businesses and fabulous neighborhood volunteers. In addition to the flower baskets installed on the lamp posts three years ago in a joint project between Federal Hill Main Street and the South Baltimore Business Association, thirteen new large flower pots have been installed on sidewalk street corners, with more to come. Filled with geraniums, petunias and vines, the new pots add beauty to the business district and help discourage litter.

Thanks to the following businesses that have sponsored flower pots and agreed to maintain them • Big Jim's Deli • Charles Tiles • Federal Hill Income Tax & Financial Services • Fenwick Meats • Four Seasons Hair Salon • Green Door Properties.

Thanks also to the following neighbor who sponsored a flower pot: Michael Gallagher, A.I.A. of Gardenia Victoria Architects, Water Street.

Continued on page 2...

## NEW GARBAGE COLLECTION TIME IN FEDERAL HILL BUSINESS DISTRICT

Initiative is part of Federal Main Street's campaign  
to "KEEP FEDERAL HILL CLEAN AND GREEN"

Federal Hill Main Street, in its ongoing effort to improve the business district, has been working to clean up the district on many fronts. We are pleased to announce a new program in the fight against grime: "Keep Federal Hill Clean and Green," a comprehensive plan that touches all aspects related to keeping the business district clean and beautiful. Initiated in May 2006, the program has already begun in earnest and will hit full stride in the following months.

One of the key tasks for the Keep Federal Hill Clean and Green campaign was to work with the City of Baltimore in scheduling a **new garbage collection time of 10:00 a.m. within the business district's boundaries.**

The business district encompasses both sides of Light and Charles Streets, from Montgomery to Ostend, and everything in between. Residents *and* businesses within the business district will be affected by the new collection time, and may have already noticed that collection crews are picking up later on Tuesday and Friday mornings. The 10:00 a.m. collection time allows businesses and residents within the business district to place their garbage out on the street on the morning of collection and not the night before. By reducing the number of hours that garbage is left outside, associated problems created by weather, vermin, and people rifling through the trash will be greatly reduced as well. The 10:00 a.m. collection time applies to recycling pick-ups as well as trash pick-ups within the business district.

Read more about "Keep Federal Hill Clean and Green" on page 2...



*BELLI FIORI*, continued from page 1...

Thanks to the following businesses that agreed to water and maintain pots in front of their businesses • City of Baltimore Fire Department, Engine #2 • Federal Hill Wine & Spirits • Long & Foster Realtors • Plano-Coudon Construction Management • Shofer's Clearance Center • Shofer's Furniture • Theodore Cleaners • Vineyard Wine and Spirits.

The project would never have moved forward without the inspired leadership of Peter Bartels, Chair of Federal Hill Main Street's Public Spaces Committee. Peter had the early vision, organized events to raise the funds, and coordinated the purchase of pots, flowers, potting soil as well as the actual planting. Thanks also to Michael Fishman of Vineyard Wine & Spirits for hosting the wine tasting fundraisers. And thanks to the volunteers who supported the project: Anna Espilantis, Beth Hawks, Kathy Jo Harris, and Shane Mitchell.

Winter pansies are planned for the winter season.

To sponsor a flower pot or maintain a flower pot in front of your business, contact Peter Bartels by email at [publicspaces@historicfederalhill.org](mailto:publicspaces@historicfederalhill.org) or call the Main Street office at 410-727-4500.

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**“KEEP FEDERAL HILL CLEAN AND GREEN”**

Trash is a unifying issue. The majority of the complaints received by Federal Hill Main Street are about trash and litter. Spearheaded by Main Street's president, Jack Chaffin, the *Keep Federal Hill Clean and Green* program is already underway to address the problem and change people's attitudes about their part in the solution. Focusing on education and enforcement, the campaign provides a framework for change. Working directly with the Department of Public Works (DPW), the Mayor's Office, City Council, and Baltimore Main Streets, Federal Hill Main Street has implemented an action agenda to keep the neighborhood cleaner and more beautiful.

In addition to changing the trash collection time to 10:00 am to prevent trash from sitting out all night, the corner cans have been removed from primarily residential corners where there was repeated dumping and abuse, and have been placed, instead, in the heart of the business district and at the major gateways to the ball parks. There is already a significant improvement in the cleanliness of these areas, as well as improved collections of the corner cans in general. Sanitation offenses, including misuse of dumpsters, are being tracked, and monetary fines are being increased for repeat offenders. If the offending property owners do not address their infractions, the health department is visiting the sites. To ensure consistent results and continuing progress, Federal Hill Main Street initiated monthly meetings with the heads of the City Collections and Enforcement Departments, who have proved invaluable in their cooperation and perseverance.

Beautification of the neighborhood is well underway as the Public Spaces Committee continues its annual May Day event in cooperation with the Federal Hill Garden Club, which awards residential and business flower and garden displays. The neighborhood tree planting initiative is off to a good start with eleven new trees on E. Cross Street, along the south side of the Market. In a joint effort with the South Baltimore Business Association, flower baskets continue to adorn the street light baskets. And the *Belli Fiori* flower pot program is blooming.

Continued on page 3...

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## TAX-FREE SHOPPING AUGUST 23<sup>RD</sup> -27<sup>TH</sup> FOR QUALIFYING CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR

From August 23<sup>rd</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup>, qualifying clothing and footwear sold in Maryland and priced at \$100 or less will be exempt from Maryland's 5% sales tax. The 5-day event gives shoppers a unique incentive to shop locally for back-to-school, summer clearance, fall fashion and other purchases. To qualify, clothing and footwear must be "worn on or about the human body," such as, "belts, coats, jackets, pants, shoes, socks and sweaters." Special clothing, like football pads, and accessories, like "handbags, jewelry, ties and umbrellas," do not qualify and remain taxable. Each qualifying article of clothing or footwear selling for \$100 or less will be tax-free, no matter how many are sold at the same time. Items that cost more than \$100 are taxable, even if they would otherwise qualify. For more information, call the Maryland Comptroller's Office at 410-767-1300.



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## STREET BEAT FESTIVAL • SEPTEMBER 24



Always the biggest festival of the year, with **FREE ADMISSION** for the first time since 2002, this celebration of city living promises to be the biggest street festival Federal Hill has ever seen. To be a Sponsor, enjoying exposure to thousands and many amazing sponsorship benefits, contact Bonnie Crockett at [bcrockett@historicfederalhill.org](mailto:bcrockett@historicfederalhill.org) or call 410-727-4500. Arts & Crafts and Food Vendors, get your applications in soon! Details are available online at [www.historicfederalhill.org](http://www.historicfederalhill.org).

## "KEEP FEDERAL HILL CLEAN AND GREEN"

Continued from page 2...

As the Keep Federal Hill Clean and Green program continues, a number of additional initiatives will be undertaken focusing on the key components of education, enforcement, maintenance, beautification and potential legislative initiatives. Visit the Federal Hill Main Street web site at [www.historicfederalhill.org](http://www.historicfederalhill.org) to view the complete *Keep Federal Hill Clean and Green* campaign strategy.

Changing attitudes about waste and its handling reduces litter and dumping. Educating and involving people helps them appreciate their environment more and learn that their actions matter. Thousands of volunteer hours have already been invested in developing and implementing the *Keep Federal Hill Clean and Green* campaign, but it will require continuing community support to make it an ongoing success. Join Federal Hill Main Street and volunteer a few hours a month. Make a real difference in the neighborhood.



## FEDERAL HILL MAIN STREET SIGNS LEASE FOR PUBLIC COMFORT STATION

After five years of negotiation between Federal Hill Main Street, the Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC), and the City of Baltimore, the parties signed a 25-year lease (with two 20-year renewal periods) for the old Public Comfort Station at 42-44 E. Cross Street.

Federal Hill Main Street plans to transform the derelict building, within historic guidelines, into the Historic Federal Hill Visitors Center and Main Street office – a much anticipated and needed project. Half of the first floor will house the Historic Federal Hill Visitors Center, while the other half will house the Main Street office. The second floor will be a completely renovated rental property, and the rental income will be used to pay the construction loan debt.

"The historic renovation of this property will save a fine example of local architecture, preserving a part of Baltimore's past," said BDC President M.J. "Jay" Brodie. "It will fill a real need of the community."

Business owners and residents have been volunteering for Federal Hill Main Street and working together for six years in an effort to make Federal Hill a 'destination.' A Visitors Center will go a long way toward making that happen.

## How Can a Busy Business Owner Help?

We hear business owners say they would like to participate in Main Street's efforts, but they already work long hours running a business and don't have time to join a committee. We want you to know that there are lots of ways you can participate and support Main Street. Some of our volunteers take on one project, (like booking the music for the festivals, organizing Little Ones Lane, hanging and taking down banners). Others help us with our day-to-day efforts, (like moving file cabinets, handing out Main Street posters and fliers, accepting deliveries, and letting us plug our snow machine into their electrical outlet). If you would like to get more involved in Main Street, contact Bonnie Crockett at [bcrockett@historicfederalhill.org](mailto:bcrockett@historicfederalhill.org), 410-727-4500.

## BUSINESSES ON THE MOVE

**PANDORA'S BOX CONSIGNMENT SHOP** is moving from 16 East Cross to 50 East Cross Street. See their great collection of "cool stuff." 410-547-6812

**FOUNTAINHEAD TITLE GROUP** has moved from their S. Charles Street location to new digs at 1200 Light Street. 410-752-6200. [www.rgsfountainhead.com](http://www.rgsfountainhead.com)

**DINNER AT YOUR DOOR** has moved from S. Charles into the Cross Street Market where they serve lunch and take dinner orders with pick-up as well as catering services. 410-727-4393. [www.dinneratyourdoor.com](http://www.dinneratyourdoor.com)

**RYLEIGH'S BREW PUB** at 32-36 E. Cross Street is in the middle of a large expansion, shutting down its in-house brewery and adding extra bar and restaurant space. 410-539-2093 [www.ryleighs.com](http://www.ryleighs.com)

### COMING SOON

**AMY'S BOUTIQUE** A new women's clothing store coming to 1133 S. Charles Street

**ILLUSIONS MAGIC BAR & LOUNGE** Opening sometime around Labor Day at 1025 S. Charles Street. 410-292-7486 [www.illusionsmagicbar.com](http://www.illusionsmagicbar.com)

**PHINA'S LUXURY LINEN COLLECTIVE** Opening Fall 2006 at 919 S. Charles Street.

**SZECHUAN RESTAURANT** is making plans for outdoor seating and a new façade at 1125 S. Charles Street.



Thank You Truck #6 for helping Federal Hill Main Street by installing a last-minute banner across Charles Street during the 2006 Jazz & Blues Festival!

## Shopping in historic Federal Hill is unique, fun & easy!

A variety of shops, art galleries, pubs and many of Baltimore's finest restaurants line the streets. At it's heart is the Cross Street Market. Come explore this enchanting neighborhood.

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