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Historic Federal Hill

main street news

March-April 2005

NEW FEDERAL HILL BUSINESSES POPPING UP LIKE SPRING TULIPS

Just as the spring bulbs are starting to poke their green heads out of the winter turf, new businesses are starting to sprout up in Federal Hill. The businesses bring new, vital services to the community, fill vacant spaces, and improve properties and street facades with new paint, signage and structures. We welcome the new businesses to Federal Hill and encourage our neighbors to support the neighborhood by patronizing local businesses.



Allease's 1130 S. Charles St.

In addition to the new **SunTrust Bank** opened on Light Street, (see feature article), **Urbia** (1030 S. Charles), opened on March 18th, selling contemporary jewelry and fine art. And **Allease's** (1130 S. Charles, 410-528-8855), opened a few months ago, offering services for nails, makeup, and waxing as well as sales of cosmetics

and accessories. Allease's is open Monday-Saturday, 9-5.

Ladybugs and Fireflies, (1049 S. Charles), will open April 8th. This new business is a children's consignment boutique and is already excited about participating in the community. The new building façade will soon enliven that block of Charles Street. And a welcome new addition to Light Street, **American Apparel**, (1117 Light Street,



www.americanapparel.net), is coming soon. This manufacturer, distributor and retailer of tee shirts and related products is one of the fastest-growing consumer apparel brands in the United States.

SUNTRUST BANK NOW OPEN IN FEDERAL HILL

You may have seen ongoing construction at 1037-39 Light Street between the South Baltimore Recreation Center and Trattoria Annamaria – but now the dust has cleared and the doors of SunTrust Bank's Federal Hill office are open for business! This full service branch will now serve the needs of Federal Hill, Otterbein, Sharp-Leadenhall, Federal Hill South, Locust Point, and downtown Baltimore. The branch opened quietly on March 7th, and they immediately began showering curious visitors and happy clients with gifts, contests, and other promotions. In April, they will have their biggest prize yet – a 32" plasma television will be given away after a month-long drawing. Be sure to stop by and enter.

Office Manager Mike Major and his banking team – Sabrina Harvey, Marcus White, and Thomas Dove are looking forward to serving the entire South Baltimore community. Their first goal is to become a good neighbor and become engrained in the community. To begin with, SunTrust created a new community website designed to give individuals, families, merchants, churches, schools, and non-for-profit organizations an online hub to post community events, promote their causes, and even classified ads, all for free. You can visit the site at www.FederalHillOnline.net (continued next page)

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As manager, Mr. Major has already begun criss-crossing the neighborhood meeting people and finding out what makes Federal Hill tick. A 15-year veteran of the banking industry, Mike began his career with Loyola Federal, and has worked in the Catonsville, Ellicott City, Pikesville, and Mount Vernon offices, where he was most recently manager of the SunTrust office on North Charles Street. He has developed a reputation as an honest, forthright and positive community banker, knowledgeable in lending, networking, and community development.

Mike has already made several goodwill visits to various community and merchant associations in South Baltimore. This has resulted in a seat on the Board of Directors of Federal Hill Main Street, as well as membership in the South Baltimore Business Association. "Our number one goal for 2005 is to be the kind of business and neighbor that people want us to be," Mike stated recently. "I found it very satisfying to announce at a recent neighborhood meeting that SunTrust was opening an office in Federal Hill, which resulted in spontaneous applause – something unheard of to me in fifteen years of banking."

Branch hours are Monday-Thursday 9-3, Friday 9-6, and Saturday 9-12. If you would like to arrange a meeting with Mike Major or have any questions regarding SunTrust, please call Mike at 410-385-4006, or email him at mike.major@suntrust.com. (Equal Housing Lender, Member FDIC)

* GARDEN CLUB *
* GEARS UP FOR SPRING! *

* Spring flowers are finally here! Please join the Federal Hill South Garden Club for an upcoming planning and social meeting on Wednesday, April 23, at 7:30 p.m. (email garden@federalhillsouth.org for location information). We will discuss upcoming greening efforts and begin planning our fall house and garden tour. Dues and green thumbs not required! Come join us!

* To join the Garden club contact Chairwomen Laura Steensen and Shannon McMahon:
* garden@federalhillsouth.org. *

NEW! FEDERAL HILL CAB STAND

Jack Baker, South Baltimore Business Association Crime Committee, reports that kudos go out to Sgt Anthony Proctor, Community Relations Officer from the Southern District Police Station, for his efforts in getting the South Baltimore Business District its first, very own



"CAB STAND." The stand is located directly across the street from the Charles Street entrance to the Cross Street Market. The three parking spots will be reserved with signs announcing: "NO PARKING – CABS ONLY from 9:00 PM until 3:00 AM, Friday and Saturday Only." Baker says that this is only the first of what he anticipates will be many efforts from the Southern District Police Officers in working together with the Federal Hill business district.

DESIGN ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FROM BALTIMORE MAIN STREETS

Baltimore Main Streets has renewed its agreement with David H. Gleason Associates, Inc. to provide design assistance to Federal Hill Main Street, Inc., and other Baltimore Main Street districts. Richard Wagner, AIA, will again be principal in charge, assisted by either Eric Feiss or Robyn Charbascz. By providing commercial property and business owners with free professional design assistance through Federal Hill Main Street, the Design Assistance Program is intended to improve the quality of design of buildings and signs, as well as public improvements, as part of a comprehensive approach to business district revitalization.

David H. Gleason Associates, Inc. provides schematic design services for business signage and new and existing building facades on a first come-first serve basis. To find out more about how to submit a Request for Design Assistance, please contact Federal Hill Main Street's Design Committee at design@historicfederalhill.org, or call the Main Street office at 410-727-4500.

2005 NATIONAL MAIN STREETS CONFERENCE IN BALTIMORE “OLD BUILDINGS – NEW ATTITUDES”

The National Main Street Conference, the premier conference for commercial district revitalization, will be held in Baltimore on May 7-10. With the focus this year on “Cool Cities,” the conference will be looking at what communities like Federal Hill are doing to bring people back to commercial districts to live, work, play, and create community.

The Federal Hill Main Street program is one of more than 1,600 Main Street programs nationwide, one of eight in Baltimore. The program works to revitalize communities, using historic buildings and innovative ideas to bring new businesses, new people, new uses, and new life to traditional commercial areas. The focus of this year’s conference in Baltimore will be on urban neighborhood district revitalization. Through more than 80 educational sessions, more than 20 tours and field sessions, instructional sessions, expert speakers and an exhibition hall, attendees from across the United States will have a chance to learn and network together on solutions for their own programs.

Conference attendees will be touring in Federal Hill as well as other Baltimore neighborhoods. For more information on the conference, please contact **Bonnie Crockett** at bcrockett@historicfederalhill.org or 410-727-4500.

First Fridays are back!

Come down to Cross Street and enjoy the live music during the South Baltimore Business Association’s “First Fridays”, beginning on Friday, May 6th from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm.

Sponsorship Opportunity

Looking for an easy (and inexpensive) way to get your name out to Federal Hill businesses and residents? Sponsor this newsletter. We will place your ad and feature you as the month’s highlight.

Contact Federal Hill Main Street at newsletter@historicfederalhill.org or call 410.727.4500.

THIS MONTH’S SPOTLIGHT:



Ron Zimmerman Realtor and Associates

Ron Zimmerman Realtor and Associates is the longest established agency in South Baltimore dating back to its original 1977 founding year. Practicing in the community for over forty two years; the firm has been staffed by two generations of the Zimmerman family.

The cornerstone of the company’s long success is based on support of the community. Founder Ron Zimmerman believes that if one makes a living in a community, one must give back and support the welfare of the community. That principle has influenced the way Zimmerman participates in the real estate industry. Rather than managing many licenses, Zimmerman Realty has chosen to be more selective with the realtors hired to represent the firm and its clients. The majority of the staff practices real estate as a full time profession. The firm boasts a staff of agents committed to the welfare and the success of the entire group – no personal teams or personal assistants. Both agents and clients receive 100% support from the firm; no customer is ever at the mercy of the success of any one single agent or team of agents working under its license. Ron Zimmerman Jr. reports a high level of customer satisfaction. Customers report that they appreciate the caring and professional experience of conducting business with a private firm.

On behalf of the firm Ron thanks all of the Federal Hill and South Baltimore neighbors for the many years of their generous support. He considers it a privilege to live and work and be a vital part of this community. Ron Zimmerman Realtor, 1003 & 1234 Light Street, 410-752-1050, ronz@mris.com.

FESTIVAL SEASON IS APPROACHING

Federal Hill Main Street is gearing up for its 2005 street festivals to be held on the streets of Historic Federal Hill, and we invite you to be a vendor at one or all of them. Last year's festivals were very well attended due to our increased advertising and publicity and our growing reputation for well run festivals. This year, we are continuing this level of excellence and invite you to take part in its success. Federal Hill Vendors receive a special discounted price of \$50.00 per Arts & Crafts Booth and \$100.00 per Food Booth at each festival. As always, all of the festivals are rain or shine.

The Spring Block Party -- Sunday, May 1, 2005, 12 noon to 7:00 pm. This is the street festival that kicks off the festival season in Baltimore. The party takes place on **the unit block of E. Cross Street, (between Charles and Light), along the north side of the Cross Street Market.** And that's what it is, a party. It has developed a loyal following, which continues to grow. Generally filling to capacity of approximately 5,000 people, most of the crowd are twenty- and thirty-something's, there to drink beer, listen to live music and check each other out. With Spring in the air, we will have fun with the "singles" aspect of the party and hold a "Pot Luck Date" drawing. We generally have 30-35 vendors, (food and arts & crafts). This year, we will charge a \$3 admission.

Jazz & Blues Festival -- Sunday, June 19, 2005, 12 noon to 7:00 pm. In its fourth year, this festival takes place on **South Charles Street (between West and Hamburg) and E. Cross Street on both sides of the Market.** The mixture of jazz and blues and arts and crafts draws a sophisticated crowd in a wide range of ages -- from twenty-something's to empty nesters and everyone in between. One section of the festival is devoted to Little Ones Lane, attracting young families from the surrounding neighborhoods, as well as from Towson and other areas outside the city. In 2003, we estimated a crowd of about 10,000 people. We plan to increase that number this year by stepping up the level of live entertainment and publicity. We generally have 75-100 vendors (food and arts & crafts). This year we will charge a \$3 admission.

Street Beat Festival -- Sunday, September 25, 2005, 12 noon to 7:00 pm.* This festival takes place on the **South Charles Street (between West and Hamburg) and E. Cross Street on both sides of the Market.** Always the largest festival of the year, we hosted a crowd of between 12,000 and 15,000 people in 2003. The eclectic mix of bands draws a wide range of ages, and the music headliner draws the crowds. This year, we would like to continue to attract all ages, including young families, (there will be a Little Ones Lane again), so we will select our music headliner accordingly. We generally have 75-100 vendors (food and arts & crafts). This event received a lot of publicity in 2003 with The Smithereens performing, and we plan to make that happen again this year. Depending upon the music headliner, we will charge between \$3 and \$5 admission. [*Date subject to change based on Ravens game.]

Your participation in a festival will help to support Federal Hill Main Street, which, in turn, helps the business district. We appreciate your involvement. If you would like to participate in one or more of the festivals, please complete and return a vendor application along with your check to Federal Hill Main Street. Space is allocated on a first come, first serve basis.

For more information, visit our website at www.historicfederalhill.org or call 410-727-4500.