# Federal Hillsider



The Monthly Newsletter of the Federal Hill Neighborhood Association

January 2015

## The President's Letter

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

First and foremost Happy New Year!

Now that the holiday season is winding down and you (hopefully) have a moment to relax, please keep in mind that we are right in the midst of our 2015 annual membership drive.

We are asking each neighbor to either renew his or her membership or sign up for the first time. Annual membership is \$20 per person and free for residents 65 years or older. Becoming a paid member provides you the opportunity to vote on important issues, such as election of the FHNA Board of Directors, funding of neighborhood projects and charities, requests for support from local businesses with regard to BMZA and the Liquor Board, and many other initiatives related to beautification and parking.

There are several ways to become a member. You can join by filling out the membership form on page 23 of the Hillsider and mailing it to FHNA, PO Box 27112, Baltimore, MD 21230, or you can go online to www. FederalHillBaltimore.org and click on the "Join Now" link under the "Become a Member" box on the far right. Lastly, we will have volunteers on hand at the annual RPP event on Feb 21<sup>st</sup> at Christ Lutheran Church who will be more than happy to help you become a member. If you have questions about membership, please email us at eHillsider@gmail.com.

PLEASE consider joining this year. Your support is critical to our success. If you have questions or want to get involved with making FHNA an organization that represents this great neighborhood to its fullest, please reach out to me or any of the other board members via our personal email or the FHNA email: eHillsider@gmail.com.

Hope to see you at our general membership meeting on January 20<sup>th</sup>.

Best regards, Beth Whitmer FHNA President

# Parking Pass Pickup February 21st

The annual FHNA parking pass pickup has been scheduled for Saturday, February 21, 9 a.m. to noon, at Christ Lutheran Church. To pick up your decal(s) and visitor passes at that time you must:

Have applied for or renewed and paid for your passes several days in advance of the pickup date either in person at 200 W. Lombard St. or online by Googling Baltimore RPP and following the instructions found at the City's site.

At the pickup you will be asked to produce:

- Your receipt from the Baltimore RPP
- Your driver's license
- Your vehicle registration(s)
- If you are new to the neighborhood, a copy of your lease or other proof of residency.

Residents with off-street parking spaces will only be able to receive decals for vehicles in excess of the number of off-street spaces at their residence.

# JANUARY DATES TO REMEMBER

	I O ILEI(IEI(IEI)
Jan 15	Third Thursday in Federal Hill
Jan 19	MLK Holiday – City offices closed
Jan 20	FHNA General Membership Meeting, 7 pm, Christ Lutheran Church
Jan 21	Street Cleaning ODD Side
Jan 28	Street Cleaning EVEN Side

## **INFORMATION PAGE**

## Federal Hill Neighborhood Association Board of Directors

### **Officers**

**President:** 

Beth Whitmer < whitmeba@gmail.com>

**Vice President:** 

Brooke McDonald <a href="mailto:brooke.mcdonald@houplastudio.com">brooke.mcdonald@houplastudio.com</a>

**Treasurer:** 

Beth Whitmer < whitmeba@gmail.com>

**Secretary:** 

Jessica Damen <jdamenart@gmail.com>

**Board Members at Large** 

Walter Ettinger <ettingew@gmail.com>

Gayle McClure <gaylefhna@gmail.com>

Bob Merbler <br/> <br/>bmerbler@homesale.com>

Deb Nelson <dmn2525@aol.com>

Aimee Sanfilippo <ms.lippy@gmail.com>

**FYI** 

Councilman Eric Costello 410-396-4816 Sen. Bill Ferguson 410-841-3600 Del. Pete Hammen 410-841-3772 Del. Luke Clippinger 410-841-3303

Del. Brooke Lierman TBD

## **FHNA Committees**

## **Consider Getting Involved**

Please contact Beth Whitmer at 512-965-4065 or whitmeba@gmail.com and express your interest. You will be welcomed.

Beautification/Green: Walt Saxon

Block Captains: Katie Guba

Grants: Peg McCarthy

Hillsider: Jeannie Malkiewicz

Bob O'Donoghue Ginny Gerhart

Liquor Advisory: Rufus Lusk

Membership: Beth Whitmer

Parking: Bob Merbler

Preservation/Design: John Thompson

Public Safety: Lynn Halperin

Schools Liaison: Jessica Damen

Social: Aimee Sanfilippo

South Harbor

Renaissance Liaison: Claire Johnson
Technology: Jennifer Nelson

Trees: Rich Polan



## RECYCLING AND TRASH

Set out by 6 a.m.

Trash on Wednesday (in cans with tight-fitting lids)

Recycling on Friday\*



\*Please put your recyclable materials in paper bags, cardboard boxes, City recycle bins or any container clearly marked "recycle", at the same location as your regular trash.

DO NOT PUT IN PLASTIC BAGS.

With single stream recycling, we send our materials to a processing facility which uses an automated system to sort and bale recyclables.

### BULK ITEM PICK UP

You may place up to three items out for collection. One day per month is set aside for this collection. All citizens have to do is call 311 and give the following information:

your address your telephone number what three items Call 3 or more working days before your scheduled date.

If you do not know your day, please call 311. You may also schedule a collection at 311 online.

## Behind the "Believe"

By Cindy Conklin

Congratulations to all the winners of this year's Federal Hill Decorating Contest, brainchild of Clark W. Griswold and Cousin Eddie (aka John DeLong and James Boicourt). One of the most eye-catching decorations was the "Believe" sign strung across the 800 block of William St. (which was this year's Grand Prize winner). Hoping to get the inside scoop on the sign, I spoke with Diana Sugg, one of the residents involved in the block's decorations.

"For the last few years," Diana said, "I had been trying to find something beautiful and inspiring to string across William Street. But the signs I found were all too expensive and too heavy. Then I realized it would be perfect just to have a sign that said simply, 'Believe.' When John DeLong told me he could make the sign for me, fairly easily and cheaply, I was so excited. And it turned out to look incredible. John and the other co-founder, James Boicourt, figured out how to hang the sign and helped us get it up. It goes about 85 feet across the street and is held in place through the third floor windows of each house."

"I'm so grateful to John and James for all their work and for their creation of the Federal Hill Holiday Decorating Contest. The neighbors on the 800 block of William St. have had so much fun decorating. And many other people enjoy the twinkling lights."

To see photos of all the winners and read about the history of the contest, go to John and James's website

www.federalhillholiday.com or check them out on their Facebook page for Clark W. Griswold.

# **Bridal Show at the Baltimore Museum of Industry**

Tuesday, January 13, 5:30–8:30 pm FREE!

Are you planning a wedding or special event? Join us for our annual bridal show and meet local caterers, florists, photographers, DJs and more. Win great door prizes like a one-hour engagement photo session with South Baltimore—based Eric Stocklin Photography! Free admission and on-site parking! www.thebmi.org



photo by Tyler Merbler





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## **December Restaurant Review: Byblos Lebanese Cuisine**

1033 Light Street

Dine In/Take Out

Food style: Lebanese\Middle Eastern

BYOB with no cork fee

*Wait staff:* Incredibly friendly and welcoming. The service was attentive without hovering. The menu is small but representative of the Lebanese cuisine. Since we had no questions about the menu there was no opportunity to dialogue with the owner/wait staff about menu options.

Ambiance: Warm colors and local artwork adorn the walls. The floor is tile and the tables and chairs are made of both finished and roughhewn wood. The lighting was bright enough for reading the menu, but no so bright you needed sunglasses. The background music was fine: unobtrusive Middle Eastern music featuring the sitar.

Tablecloths: No. Real cutlery: Yes. Water offered: No. Vegan friendly: Yes.

Bread served before meal: No, but it comes either as part of or with almost every appetizer or entrée.

Byblos serves traditional Lebanese food. It has been a staple of the neighborhood restaurant scene for many years.

The hummus is a popular and extremely tasty appetizer. We preferred the country style hummus with roasted peppers to the "regular" or "plain" because of the added complexity of flavors. The babaganoush is smooth and tasty, with a lot of tahini, which is how we like it. It rivals some of the best babaganoush that we have eaten up and down the East Coast. Another favorite appetizer is the spinach pie, served as a warm pita-type bread wrap surrounding a spinach stuffing with a hint of lemon.

continued on page 5





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continued from page 4

The beef swarma sandwich comes as a wrap in pita bread. It is warm, well spiced, with a good ratio of lettuce and tomatoes to beef. The falafel platter is full of flavor and our favorite of the dinner servings. It came with hummus, pita bread, a side salad, and, of course, falafels. The falafels, well balanced with flavors of fried chickpeas and tahini cucumber or yogurt sauce, can be eaten with a knife and fork or wrapped in pita bread.

Despite multiple trips to Byblos, we have never tried the deserts. There are several choices, but for us, after multiple appetizers and sharing of main meals, we never seem to have any room left. But despite eating just a little too much, there is still money left over in your wallet. This is because Byblos is reasonably priced and the portions generous.

A special consideration for serious coffee drinkers: If you are looking for a coffee experience either with or after the meal, you should try Byblos at least once. Much like Turkish coffee, the Lebanese coffee is served in an expresso cup, flavored with cardamom, and meant to be sipped and savored like a fine after-dinner liquor.

Byblos is family owned and operated. Going into this restaurant feels a little like going into someone's home. We have gone here with friends, family, and business associates. We have brought wine and laughed and shared stories. We hope you enjoy it as much as we do.

by Fran and Freddy Hill

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## **Christmas Trees & Other Green Decorations**

By Walt Saxon

The City Solid Waste crews will pick up Christmas trees and other "green" decorations (real wreaths and garland) in January. Please put out with your REGULAR trash on Wednesday (not recycling day). DPW asks that all decorations, ornaments and the like be removed prior to placing outside with your trash. Hope you all had a wonderful Holiday season. The lighting in the neighborhood this year was fantastic!

## All Cracked Up!

By Sharon Johnson

Cheese Galore and More's Second Annual Recipe Contest using the almost-famous Asiago cheese spread was a success! Barry Heyman's Crack Tots won First place, Derek Seefeldt's Bacon Crackaroni & Cheese won second, and Rich Gorman's Chicken Salad Deluxe won third. Thanks to all the contestants for their delicious entries and to the judges, Andrea Sommer, Tamara Nelson, Deb Alt, and Melanie Holloway.

Next contest is in the Spring for JDRF Fundraiser!





Crack Tots
1 bag Tater Tots
1/2 lb Asiago spread
Bacon, cooked and crumbled, for garnish

Cook Tater Tots in oven until crispy. Transfer to oven-safe casserole dish. Top with Asiago spread and crumbled bacon (if desired).



**Bacon Crackaroni & Cheese** 

1 lb penne pasta
2 lbs Asiago spread
1 lb pepper bacon
½ lb Tillamook cheese
½ lb fresh mozzarella
Red pepper
Paprika
Frank's Hot Sauce

Prepare pasta as directed. Cook bacon and crumble it. Mix all of the cheeses and the bacon. Add red pepper, paprika, and hot sauce to taste. Layer the pasta and bacon/cheese mix. Bake covered at 400 degrees for 1 hour. Uncover and bake an additional 30 minutes.



Chicken Salad Deluxe
Mix chopped or shredded cooked
chicken into Asiago spread. Serve on
crackers or bread.

# Clean-Up Crew Brings DH, Fed Hill Together

Have you ever walked through Federal Hill and wondered

about what the people who live here think of our school? Of our students? Why don't we work with them, or why aren't we getting more support from them? Or how about all the problems some students have caused in the neighborhood—fights, drugs, vandalism, thefts, and cursing?

It is a pretty well known fact that people in the neighborhood do not like it when we litter or curse. But they love it when we help clean up the community.

When we heard about Ms. Broersma wanting to start a community clean-up initiative, we thought it was a good



idea, but we did not think it was going to help. However,

since it started, the community clean-up initiative has been such a huge success.

The clean-up has been going on for about two months now, and we have been out in the community four times so far. When we go out to collect trash, we stop and say hello to all the neighbors and let them know that we are students from Digital Harbor.

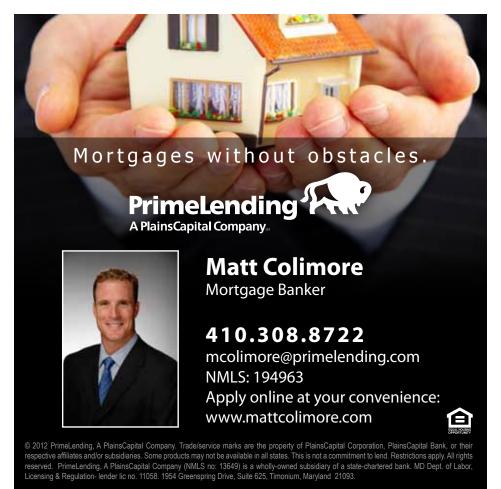
We have already seen a huge difference in the community by just the

simple act of picking up trash. But it is not just about picking up trash; it is also about making a change and showing that we are not all bad students. Also, we want to help and we want to be united since Digital Harbor has been having a

lot of conflicts within the community lately.

This mission has been about changing people's minds about us and changing our minds about how we interact with the community. Hopefully we can work together with community members to make a bigger difference in OUR neighborhood. And we hope that the community will see that we want to make a change, and not give them a reason to fear us. One community member recently said, "My impression of Digital students has definitely changed for the better." That is how you make a difference!

Guest Column by ASHLEY PENA and BRITTNEY BURY, DHHS students
Ashley Pena and Brittney Bury are freshmen in Ms. Broersma's Clean-Up Crew. Together with approximately 15 classmates, Pena and Bury have been picking up trash and building relationships with community members while working to improve Digital Harbor's image and reputation in Federal Hill.





DHHS teacher, Kerry Broersma





Editor's Note: The pictures were taken at the Holiday Luncheon and Cookie Decorating for the kids who have been working to clean up our neighborhood. This was put on by volunteers from FHNA and FHMS. If you'd like to help with future luncheons, please contact Jeannie Malkiewicz at jmm127@verizon.net.







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# Adoptable Aarfies of the Month—Scooby-Doo & Nala

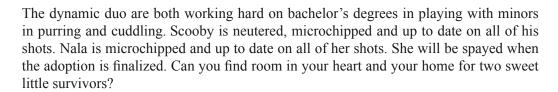
Introducing...Scooby-Doo and Nala!

Remember the Doublemint gum slogan "double your pleasure, double your fun"? Well, you can do just that with the dynamic duo, Scooby-Doo and Nala.

This fall BARCS reached out to AARF to help with two very special kittens who had suffered shocking abuse. Five-week-old Scooby-Doo had terrible burns. Just a few weeks later, 5-week-old Nala was beaten with a brick and partially blinded. With lots of TLC, both of these sweet, innocent babies pulled through. Now, after three months of healing side by side, they are ready for their forever home.

The two really bonded during their shared experiences in recovery, so they must be adopted together. Scooby-Doo is Mr. Personality, breaking into peals of purring when he sees his foster mom or dad. His fur will probably never completely grow back in a few areas and part of his left ear was burned off, but he is still a very handsome boy. Nala is the shy gal until she

gets to know you with lots of sniffs and paw pats. Her vet says she has regained so much of her sight that if she were a person she would probably only need really thick glasses.



Their adoption fee is \$150 each and includes all routine vetting, rabies, and distemper/parvo vaccinations, FelV/FIV testing, deworming, spay/neuter surgery, heart worm testing, monthly heartworm prevention, microchip, boarding and transportation costs if applicable, along with an offer for 30 days of free 24PetWatch pet insurance! Please visit <a href="https://www.animalalliesrescue.org">www.animalalliesrescue.org</a>

to fill out an adoption application today.



Scooby-Doo



Nala







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Good to know.

## Regi's Is the "Cheers Bar" of Federal Hill

By Patti Neumann, CITYPEEK.com & CITYPEEK Hospitality Media Solutions

Regi's American Bistro is known as the "Cheers Bar" of Federal Hill, a spot where locals, ages 30 to 75, flock daily to kibitz, catch up on the day, and just relax, eat, and sip their favorite cocktail. Pikesville native Alan Morstein, who

co-owns the downtown bistro with his wife, Sande, loves what he does, and it shows. Everyday, 365 days a year, Regi's American Bistro is open to serve its community and visiting guests.

Morstein, who stays true to his Jewish roots and the Baltimore community, started his career in restaurants, working at the Pimlico Hotel as a dining room manager, where, more than 40 years ago, he "learned so much from the owners." He then opened Alan's Deli in Ocean City and soared to heights in the '90s with Talk'n Turkey, expanding the Baltimore-based chain to include more than 36 units nationwide.

But Morstein puts his Baltimore Jewish heart in Regi's and his regulars, mostly non-Jewish, love him and the ethnic education he provides

from his scratch kitchen, which grows its own herbs and tomatoes, in season, buys local whenever possible, and serves chicken noodle soup, regularly.

On Sundays, the bistro makes French toast with challah made by the Pikesville-based Gary Rosendorff, known as the challah kingpin. In the early years, Rosendorff and his parents and siblings worked together to produce Rosendorff's challah, which they sold from their home to friends and neighbors. With rave reviews and by word of mouth, Rosendorff's became the favored challah in the area. Today, Rosendorff's produces several thousand challahs weekly, and their challah and other baked goods are sold in stores all over the Baltimore-Washington area.

Regi's serves bagels from Goldberg's Bagels, made fresh in a kosher baking facility in Pikesville. The New York—style bagels are boiled before baking, lovingly crafted with the same recipe that Isadore Goldberg brought with him from the

Old Country in the early 1900s to New York's Lower East Side. Here in Baltimore, bagel aficionados know that a true New York bagel can be found at Goldberg's, where the original recipe has been kept a secret for three generations.

On Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, Morstein serves first-cut brisket, served with locally owned Tulkoff's horseradish. From a simple produce stand started by Jewish immigrants Harry and Lena Tulkoff in the 1930s, Tulkoff Horseradish Products Co. has become the nation's largest food manufacturer of horseradish items. When the "Brisket Special" is added to Regi's menu, it historically sells out.

Morstein personally drives and buys jelly donuts from Goldman's Kosher Bakery of Pikesville, open since 1965. Going the extra mile, Morstein

also decorates the bistro with candles, menorahs, and blue and white tinsel. "My people love to eat," he says, "and I love making them happy."





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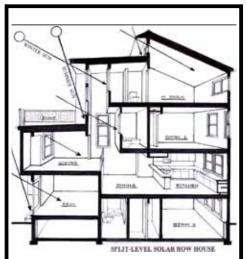
January 15, 2015 6-8 p.m.

Enjoy shops, galleries & restaurants Balloons signal participants on Charles, Light & Cross



www.shopfedhill.com

3rd Thursdays are sponsored by FHBA Fed Hills 200+ businesses are listed @ www.historicfederalhill.org



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## The Wizard Makes a New Year's Resolution

By John Ginovsky

It's become a tradition on my block for the neighbors to get together four days after Christmas and a couple days before New Year's. By that day, most of the relatives have gone home and those who have traveled have come back. Yet it's too early to start manufacturing any energy for the next official party.

So there we were, in my living room no less, about 12 to 15 of us (people came and went; there's no set structure to this particular gettogether). That included, of course, my neighbor, the Wizard Awry. He's become quite popular at neighborhood gatherings, and I've noticed that he, in his own awkward way, has become quite fond of being the center of attraction.

This happened to be his first time at this particular gathering, though, so he asked, "What do we all do at this?"

"Well, other than imbibing adult beverages, I guess we all just kind of relax," I said. "Most of the holiday pressure is off."

We all nodded and imbibed. Then Oscar, from down the street, piped up. "Hey! Let's go around the room and each of us say a New Year's resolution!"

Most of us groaned, of course, but Oscar persisted. "No, really! It'll be fun! Here, I'll start. In the New Year, I resolve to actually laugh out loud when I type LOL to the person I'm texting to."



Silence. But then Betty cleared her throat and, with a small smile, said, "I will stop buying worthless junk on eBay, because QVC has better junk."

Bob raised his hand. "I will pay off my credit cards every month in full, with my other credit cards."

MaryAnn said, putting down her scotch and soda, "I will start listening to opera and singing along very loudly in an Italian-sounding, made-up language when driving my teens and their friends places in an effort to get out of always having to drive them places."

Veronica said, "I will lower my cholesterol level by raising my caffeine level."

Someone then asked me for my resolution. I took a swig, and said very seriously, "I will balance my checkbook on my nose."

By now people were actually laughing and going, "Ooh! Ooh! Me! Me!"

Douglas: "I will talk with a robot voice all the time."

Fred: "I will finish a chapstick."

JoAnn: "I will buy jeans that are two sizes bigger so it just looks like I lost weight."

Susie: "I will read my horoscope at the beginning and end of each month to monitor for accuracy."

Richard: "I resolve to go to Mariachi Plaza because mariachi is totally awesome."

By now I guess the adult beverages began to really kick in because I swear we all heard Sport, the schnauzer sitting in the corner, say, in a doggy voice: "I will not chase the stick until I see it leave the guy's hand."

Not to be outdone, OK (for obese kitty) paused from shredding the side of my couch and said: "I have two resolutions. On January 1, I will kill the sock. The rest of the year, I resolve to relive my victory over the sock."

By now it was the wizard's turn. You should have seen the look on his face morph from frozen astonishment to utmost disdain through to a smirky smile.

"I don't know whether to resolve to find better neighbors...or to embrace all my good friends!"

We all laughed, but then the laughter trailed off as it really wasn't quite clear what he meant.

"Oh, come on!" he shouted. "Can't a wizard kid a little bit once in a while? Happy New Year, my friends!"













## UNIT AMENITIES

Ceramic tile in baths • Bamboo floors • Stainless steel appliances • Walk-in closets

Granite countertops in kitchens and baths • Central heating and air conditioning • Custom wood cabinets with modern hardware

Double kitchen sinks with garbage disposals • Oversized windows • 9- and 10-foot ceilings

Washer and dryer in unit • Patio (select units)

### COMMUNITY AMENITIES

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### PLEASE CALL FOR AVAILABILITY AND SPECIALS TODAY.







# The Hill Street News: The Sommer/Schmollinger Family

By Jane Wehrle

It has been my great pleasure—like for many of you—to work side by side in 2014 with ANDREA SOMMER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR of FEDERAL HILL MAIN STREET. She, her husband ROBERT "BRUISER" SCHMOLLINGER, and daughters GRETCHEN and JO, have gained a reputation as "the hardest working family for Federal Hill." As we close one

year and embark upon new community adventures for 2015, I enjoyed getting some feedback from this very busy family on how they manage to pull off all their exploits and on their vision for the months to come. Meanwhile, I'll take the liberty of speaking for the neighborhood by saying a big 'Thank you!' and "We appreciate the hard work!"

Questions for Andrea: Jane: What is the best part of being the leader of Federal Hill Main Street?

Andrea: I very much enjoy the variety — you can never tell what any particular day will bring! The position allows me to work with local businesses, community members, and neighborhood and city organizations on many different issues: from festivals to facade

improvements, from trash issues to decorating. I get to speak with and on behalf of merchants and the community on so many things that affect their daily lives. It is exciting to hear what people want and need, both as business owners and as residents, and then work to achieve those goals. Main Street serves as a uniting force in Federal Hill, and I very much enjoy being a part of many positive dialogues, initiatives and projects.

*Jane:* What are some exciting new things that you look forward to for 2015?

Andrea: Along with almost everyone I've spoken to in the neighborhood, I'm very excited to see what changes the New Year will bring to the Cross Street Market. Currently, it's one of my favorite parts of Federal Hill, and you'll find me there daily. I have gotten many a last-minute meal together from the Market! It's amazing what is already available, and

there's such potential to once again make it the centerpiece of our business district.

Federal Hill Main Street will also be updating our website, and I am excited about the possibilities of interacting with the community in a whole new way. Fest-of-All will be February

28th this year, and we will once again be celebrating everything Federal Hill at the Baltimore Museum of Industry. It is one of those nights that you think "it can't be as much fun as last year," but yet, it always is! If you've not enjoyed Festof-All in the past, be sure to check it out.

Questions for Bruiser:

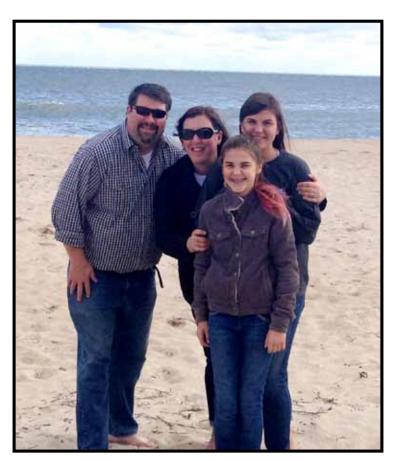
Jane: What does it feel like to have such a close relationship with Santa Claus?

Bruiser: I first met Santa when Andrea owned Ladybugs & Fireflies; Santa has a special place in his heart for small independent neighborhood stores. Being a part of the holiday enjoyment for the families in our neighborhood is very special. His one piece of advice that I've always remembered is that with

great power comes great responsibility. It's hard to keep up with all the children in our neighborhood and whether they are naughty or nice. Based on the number of Frozen and Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles gifts that were under the Christmas trees in South Baltimore this year, I think our kids tend to be on the nice list. I also heard there was a puppy or two that made their way into some SoBo homes on Christmas morning.

*Jane:* Would you share with us some of your most rewarding community service experiences of 2014?

Bruiser: I think my favorite activity in 2014 was the inaugural Field Day event. I thought it was a great example of how folks from the residential and business communities could come together and put on an event that celebrated our shared community. I hope that there is even more support of this event in 2015 (and, no, Andrea did not ask me to say that!).



continued from page 16

I also enjoyed supporting the local businesses on "Shop Small Business Saturday" when I was serving hot chocolate made by Jo and Gretchen to our neighbors and visitors to our neighborhood who were out shopping and/or dining in Federal Hill.

*Questions for the girls:* 

*Jane*: Why do you think your family is so successful in doing so many positive things for your community?

*Gretchen:* I think that our mom is the reason we do so many things in the community. She's always helping out with one activity or another and has Jo and I volunteer where we can.

*Jo:* We've been living in Federal Hill since I was born, so I think our familiarity with the neighborhood allows us to do many positive things for our community. Also, my Mom has been a huge part of why we volunteer. She's been involved in our neighborhood for as long as I can remember, and her job now also provides us with many opportunities to make a positive impact in our community.

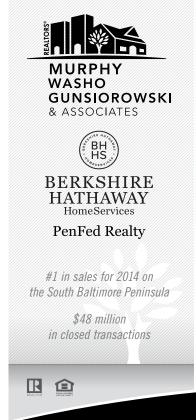
*Jane*: What do you enjoy doing the most among these things?

*Gretchen:* My favorite activity is helping Santa in the market. Seeing all the kids get so excited when they see Santa is amazing, and volunteering there gets me off the naughty list, too.

Jo: I also enjoy helping Santa. I love being able to interact with the kids, helping them with the crafts and listening to what they say after they see Santa. They're

always saying, "He knew my name," and telling me what they want for Christmas in case Santa forgets. I think it gets me in the Christmas spirit as much as the kids.







Thank you for making 2014 a big year for Murphy Washo Gunsiorowski & Associates. We are looking forward to an even bigger 2015 as a part of the Berkshire Hathaway Homeservices Family!

Best wishes for a Happy, Healthy New Year!

Steve Murphy, Jeff Washo, Jim Gunsiorowski, Kevin Cooke, Beth Leety, Jody Buck, Leslie Gibbons, Shannon Crook and Malory Guenoune

# Scenes from the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Loop Holiday Gala



Councilman Eric Costello Presents Jane Wehrle with Baltimore City Council Recognition Award for Community Service through The LOOP and The LOOP Annual Gala.



BOB GISRIEL, CLAIRE BOGDANSKY, and CAROL SHOLES, Long-time Loopsters, Party Down and Were All Big Winners in The Silent Auction.



FRIEDA ULMAN helped Coordinate and Set-Up the Huge Silent Auction Which by Itself Raised Approximately \$6000 for the Benefitting Groups. She and LINDA ELDERKIN Survey the Scene Here.



\$300+ Mega Raffle Winner, SUSAN SIMONETTE. Each Non-Perishable Food Item Donated to the American Rescue Workers Food Bank Earned an Attendee a Free Raffle Ticket



ANDREA SOMMER and KATIE GUBA greeted the large crowd at the main entrance.



KIM CALLARI and the Gang from The Baltimore Station Fend Off Photo-Bombing Allen Center Director RYTA ARRINGTON. Both Groups Had Display Tables and Were Benefitting Groups.

CHRIS RIEHL wowed the crowd with his entertaining skills at Karaoke.



JENNIFER JACOBS CLAUS and Mr. ROBERT SCHMOLLINGER "BRUISER" CLAUS Helped Make Spirits Bright and Passed the Hat and Boot for Donations for Veterans.

# Special election for Treasurer

will be held Tuesday, January 20th, at the FHNA general membership meeting.

> Please note: nominations must be submitted by Jan 10th at 12 PM to be eligible.





# Trash & Recycling Info for a Happy New Year!

## **Guide for Curbside Trash & Recycling Collection**

## Put out for recycling

- Clean paper of all colors and types, including catalogs, magazines, junk mail, newspapers & nonmetallic wrapping paper
- Cardboard and paperboard boxes
  - -Cereal boxes without liners
  - -Frozen food packaging
  - -Pizza boxes
  - -Milk & juice cartons
  - -[Not waxed fast food containers]
- Plastic containers: cups & bottles
- Metal food & drink containers
- Books (hardbacks & paperbacks)
- Aerosol cans, empty
- Glass containers: jars & bottles
- Aluminum foil & pans, clean

## Not acceptable for recycling

- Plastic (beverage) rings
- Food scraps
- Soiled napkins, tissues, paper towels
- Deli & salad bar containers
- Soiled aluminum foil
- Wire hangers
- Plastic bags (take to supermarket recycle bins)

# Bulk & mixed refuse trash, including scrap tires

Up to 3 items (furniture & appliances) or 4 rimless tires per month. [No building materials.]

- Call 311 or access 311 online at (http://www.baltimorecity.gov/311-services) to find day of bulk trash pick-up for Federal Hill;
- 2. 3 days in advance, call 311 and give your address, telephone #, and what items;
- 3. Mark items "bulk collection" & place in same location as regular trash pick-up.

Or drop off at Southwest Citizens' Convenience Center, 701 Reedbird Ave., 410-396-3367. Limit of 4 rimless tires per visit, but you can deposit rims in scrap metal container.

#### Yard waste

- Set out for regular trash pick-up in plastic or paper bags or bundled
- 5 bags/week limit
- Use clear or labeled plastic bags
- [No tree branches larger than 4 in. in diameter or longer than 3 ft.]

# Recycling at Citizens' Convenience Centers

## Styrofoam recycling

Northwest Citizens' Convenience Center, 2840 Sisson St., 410-396-7250

- Foam food service items & molded foam packaging accepted
- Make sure foam has #6 symbol on it
- Rinse cups/containers
- [No straws, lids, tape, or stickers]
- [No foam peanuts or insulation material]

## Electronic recycling

Southwest Citizens' Convenience Center 701 Reedbird Ave., 410-396-3367

- Laptop & desktop computers, mice, keyboards, printers, fax & copy machines
- TVs & VCRs
- Refrigerators, stoves, & other white goods
- Microwave ovens
- Power & network cables
- Cell & telephones phones & more

Trash collection is limited to 96 gallons (3 trash cans) per week. Trash must always be in a can with a tight-fitting lid. It's the law & lids stop litter and rats.

Don't invite rats to your home for dinner by storing your trash in plastic bags! Questions? Call the Baltimore City Office of Recycling at 410-396-4511.

# Solar Co-op to Come to Federal Hill; Join Info Session on Jan 29th

Join us for an information session to learn more about the basics of solar and how the co-op works! Neighbors in Baltimore are forming a Solar Co-op to go solar as a group and get a discount.

Based on the same principal as buying in bulk, the co-op will go through the process of purchasing solar systems together. The group will select a single contractor to install systems on all of the homes, but each participant owns their own system and will sign their own contract with the chosen installer.

By going solar as a group, members will save 30% off the cost of a solar system. They'll also have the support of the coop throughout the process instead of having to go it alone. The co-op is being organized by Civic Works' Retrofit Baltimore program and Maryland SUN. Anyone located in Baltimore City and Baltimore County is welcome to join.

#### **WHEN**

January 29th, 2015, 7 pm - 8:30 pm

#### WHERE

Federal Hill Main Street 42 E. Cross Street

### Sign up on our website

http://www.retrofitbaltimore.org/solar\_co-op\_info\_session or contact Paul Cole · pcole@retrofitbaltimore.org · (410) 929-6257.

#### Want to go solar? Join the Retrofit Baltimore solar co-op! Neighbors in Baltimore are forming a solar cooperative to go solar together and get a discount. If you've ever wanted to go solar, now is your chance! The Solar Coop Process 5. Review Bids 6. Get Individualized as a Group Proposal Attend an Info Session Coop members committee to review bids and select a single installer to complete all of the 3. Get a 2. Join Your Local Coop Roof Review 7. Sign a Contract Have your roof n a contract directly with the ic reviewed via satellite by CPN to make sure it's a good fit for solar 8. Installation 9. Celebrate! 4. Solicit Local Bids Once the coop has 20-30 members. CPN solicits bids from local installers or behalf of the coop. coop and help start other coops in your community! How much does solar cost? Example costs, not actual bid. System Size: 3 kW \$13,500 \$22,500 **System cost before incentives** \$4,050 \$6,750 Bulk Purchase Discount (estimated 20-30% of system cost) \*Solar Renewable Energy Credit (SREC) Upfront Payment \$900 \$1,500 Initial upfront cost \$8,550 \$14,250 Federal tax credit (30% of system cost) \$2,835 \$4,725 (Calculated after bulk discount & before SREC payment) Estimated annual electricity savings \$465 \$760 MD Residential Clean Energy Grant \$1,000 \$1,000

## How do I get started?

To learn more and join a co-op in your area, visit: <a href="http://www.retrofitbaltimore.org/solar">http://www.retrofitbaltimore.org/solar</a>



Total Cost (after one year)



\$4,250

\$7,765

Police Officer Butter Bean says:
Call 311 for City Services and
911 for Crimes or Suspicious Activities

## **How to Parallel Park**

by Bob O'donoghue

My father taught me this method many years ago. It allowed me to pass the test for my first driver's license even though I had never tried it before. I still keep it in my mind every time I park on Montgomery Street. Here is how it works:

- 1. Pull your car close (2-3 feet) to the car in front of your desired space so that your rear bumper is approximately even with theirs.
- 2. Cut your wheels all the way towards the curb and start to back up. If your rear bumpers were more or less lined up with the car in front of your space you will not be in danger of touching.
- 3. When your front door is even with the rear bumper of the car in front of your space straighten your wheels and continue to back up.
- 4. As soon as the front of your car can clear the rear bumper of the car in front of your space cut your wheels all the way towards the street and continue into your new parking space.
- 5. Make adjustments as necessary. If you followed these steps they should be minor.

One slight variation can occur if the car in front is parked further from the curb than normal. In this case you want to line up further out in the street than normal. This is counter intuitive but true.

# Santa Arrives In Style at Tree Lighting



# **Federal Hillsider 2015 Advertising Rates**

## 2015 Ad Rates (amount per appearance)

The Federal *Hillsider*, the monthly publication of the Federal Hill Neighborhood Association, is delivered through the mail slots of 1,300 households in the Federal Hill neighborhood and is placed in selected neighborhood businesses. Circulation is over 1,500.

The *Hillsider* is created each month by an all-volunteer staff; therefore, all advertising revenue in excess of printing expense is invested back into the community.

Thank you for your support of our neighborhood.

Placement Agreement Term	1 time	3 times	6 times	12 times
Size (in inches)				
Business Card (2.0 x 3.5)	\$35	\$30	\$27	\$25
1/6 Page (4.75 x 2.25)	\$60	\$50	\$48	\$45
Quarter Page (4.5 x 3.5)	\$90	\$83	\$79	\$75
1/3 Page (9.9 x 2.25 or 4.75 x 4.75)	\$120	\$110	\$105	\$100
Half Page (9.9 x 3.75 or 7.75 x 5)	\$180	\$165	\$158	\$150
Full Page (9.9 x 7.75)	\$300	\$275	\$263	\$250

The deadline for submission of ads is Close of Business on the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month.

Ads can be in PDF, TIF or JPEG format.

(We will assist with designing your ad, if desired.)

Send ads to <a href="mailto:fhnahillsider@gmail.com">fhnahillsider@gmail.com</a>

You will be invoiced for your ad on a monthly basis.

## PLEASE JOIN FHNA FOR 2015

A membership is \$20 per year for each adult in the household and free for those over age 65.

All new or renewed memberships are good through all of 2015. You can renew online at: <a href="http://federalhillbaltimore.org/become-a-member/">http://federalhillbaltimore.org/become-a-member/</a> or mail in the form below.



# 2015 FHNA Membership Form

If you prefer to pay by credit / debit card you can visit the FHNA website to register: www.FederalHillBaltimore.org and click on Membership in top right

Address:						
Member 1) Last Name:	First Name:					
Email:	Phone#:					
Check if Resident (Voting Member) Check if Senior Citizen (over 65 years old)						
Member 2) Last Name:	First Name:					
Email:	Phone#:					
Check if Resident (Voting Member) Check if Senior Citizen (over 65 years old)						
Annual dues are \$20.00, PER PERSON. (Membership for Seniors is complimentary with completed application)						
Make checks payable to: Federal Hill Neighborhood Association, Inc. Return via USPS to: FHNA c/o P.O. Box 27112, Baltimore, MD 21230						
Your top priorities for FHNA:						
1) 2)						
3)4)						

<sup>\*</sup> Your email address will be added to FHNA's confidential email database for internal use only. You will receive the e-Hillsider electronic newsletter and periodic updates on issues and events of importance to neighborhood residents. Your contact information will not be shared with 3<sup>rd</sup> parties.





Scott Lederer



## BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HomeServices

Homesale Realty

Federal Hill • 1011 Light Street • 410.727.0606



Cindy Conklin & Bob Merbler



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Dennis Woytowich



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Brian Kesler