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NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2011 AT 7:30 PM
CRISTO REY, 420 CHESTER STREET, BETWEEN BANK STREET AND EASTERN AVENUE

TRAFFIC LAW CHANGE

NEW LAW ADVISORY: As of January 1, 2011, TRIAL DATES FOR MINOR TRAFFIC OFFENSES WILL NOT BE AUTOMATICALLY SET.

If you get a PAYABLE traffic ticket, you must do one of the following within 30 days:

- Pay the full fine
- Ask for a waiver hearing to plead guilty with an explanation
- Ask for a trial

If you don't respond within 30 days, the District Court notifies the Motor Vehicle Administration to begin the driver's license suspension process.

Remember, trial dates will not automatically be set.

This law does not affect "Must Appear," which are more serious, non-payable traffic offenses.

This does not apply to parking tickets.

For full details, go to https://local.nixle.com/alert/4494196/?sub_id=5238.

NEWSLETTER ROUTES OPEN

Several routes are open to deliver the newsletter, please contact Rhonda at coopwol2@earthlink.net.

- 100-300 S. Register
- 1900 Gough
- 2000 Aliceanna
- 2000 Fountain
- 600 S. Washington

HOW TO FIGHT YOUR TAX ASSESSMENT

If you received an assessment notice dated December 28, 2010, and you feel the total new market value on your notice (Box 7) does not reflect the market value of your property, you may use that form to file an appeal and/or obtain information on the property from the State Department of Assessments and Taxation.

You have until February 11, 2011 to file this appeal.

Gather supporting documentation to make your case for your appeal. Supporting documentation should include recently sold properties (COMPS), which are comparable to your property. This data can be gathered with the help of a local real estate agent. Use the following site to look up other properties in the area to compare assessments:

http://sdatcert3.resiusa.org/rp_rewrite.

Tips & Warnings

- Be prepared to support your argument with ample documentation.
- Pinpoint items that affect the value of your home.
- Bring any errors to the attention of the assessor such as the square footage of the home and the number of bedrooms or bathrooms.
- For best results, avoid the following: focusing on a past value, the percentage amount of the tax increase, additional metropolitan costs, the amount of the tax bill, properties in other taxing jurisdictions, and services rendered or not rendered.

Read more:

How to Appeal Tax Assessment at http://www.ehow.com/how_2340548_appeal-tax-assessment-maryland.html#ixzz19ith5reE

A MESSAGE FROM DELEGATE CLIPPINGER

Dear Friends,

The 2011 Legislative Session for the Maryland General Assembly has begun! Over the past couple of fast-paced, exciting days, I have already begun to see the concrete ways in which we are working to move Maryland forward in these tough economic times. With transparency in mind, each week I will be sending you a legislative update, detailing any new developments affecting our great state of Maryland, South Baltimore, and Southeast Baltimore.

With many challenging issues before us this year, I want to hear your constructive thoughts and opinions on the various controversial topics that will arise. I encourage you to contact me with any ideas, suggestions, or comments regarding each week's legislative updates and I also welcome respectful dialogue in response to any legislation through email luke.clippinger@house.state.md.us or through my Facebook page.

BALTIMORE TRUCK STUDY PUBLIC MEETINGS

Keeping commercial vehicles on their designated routes is a major challenge throughout Baltimore City due to the changing economic and neighborhood conditions within the city. While truck traffic is necessary to maintain commercial and industrial activity, it is possible to reduce its impact on communities.

Many truck routes have not been examined for their appropriateness and practicality in several decades. The Baltimore City Department of Transportation has conducted an audit of existing truck routes to analyze and ultimately re-route truck traffic to balance both economic viability and community livability.

Four February 2011 meetings have been scheduled to give residents an opportunity to view the citywide map in its entirety. Closest location to Fells Prospect: Tuesday, February 15, 6:00–8:00 pm. Enoch Pratt Free Library, Orleans Street Branch, 1303 Orleans Street. Visit <http://www.orange-coneproject.com> for details about locations.

FEST-OF-ALL FASHION & FUN IN FEDERAL HILL

by Jacqueline Dudas

Beat the winter doldrums at THE party of the season! The 4th annual Fest-of-All Party & Fashion Show is on Saturday, February 26, 2011, 7 to 11 pm at The Baltimore Museum of Industry.

Fest-of-All is a great celebration of city living, featuring fine food & drink (open bar), live music, dancing, salsa performance, Fashion Show, Silent Auction, and more. Federal Hill restaurants and taverns contribute fine fare, and the newest spring fashions from the great boutiques of Historically Hip Federal Hill are always a hit on the runway. An awesome silent auction rounds out the evening. Everyone has a great time with old friends and new; the event grows every year.

Proceeds from Fest-of-All go to the national award-winning nonprofit Federal Hill Main Street program for its community revitalization efforts, including small business assistance, promotion, and beautification. A portion of this year's revenues will be used to support a new Federal Hill Main Street small business revolving loan (continued in next column)

BUS TRIPS

On Sunday, April 10, there will be a bus trip to Atlantic City. The bus leaves the Burger King parking lot promptly at 9:30 a.m. and returns around 9:30 p.m. The tentative casino we will be going to is the Hilton. This could change depending on the rebate package. Casinos aren't finalized until five weeks before the trip. The cost is \$27.00 per person, and the rebate ranges between \$15 to \$20 per person. For reservations contact John Cieslak at 410-327-1368 or Dennis Smedberg at 410-732-3035. Payment must be made in advance of the trip.

On the way up to Atlantic City we play 11 games of BINGO. Cards cost \$1 per pack and cover each game. The winner of each game receives a \$1 prize. We have a grab-bag drawing. Tickets are \$1 per strip, or three strips for \$2. We draw for 36 prizes. We have a 50/50 drawing. Tickets are \$1 per strip or three strips for \$2. We draw 2 winners and each winner receives 25% of the ticket sales.

On the way home, each person receives a goody bag consisting of a sandwich, bag of cookies, bag of chips and a soda or bottled water. We also show a movie while we drive home.

The second Atlantic City Bus Trip will be on Sunday October 23. The above information will remain the same.

The third bus trip will go to St. Michael's, Maryland. There will be lunch at the Crab Claw restaurant, two hours of free time in St. Michael's, and 2 1/2 hours of shopping at Queenstown Prime Outlets on the way back. Date, time, and cost will be forthcoming at a future time.

fund. Many fine community volunteers are helping to make this event even better than last year.

Tickets are \$60 in advance, \$75 at the door, and include fine food & drink. Don't miss out on the fun and support a good cause! For tickets and more information, please visit www.historicfederalhill.org.



LOCAL HISTORY EDWARD JOHNSON, MAYOR

*An ongoing series by Zippy Larson,
Baltimore historian, speaker, and tour guide*


One of the most accomplished mayors in Baltimore history is also one of the least remembered. To find evidence of his legacy, leave Harbor Place and travel south on Light Street; follow it to an industrial dead-end at the Baltimore and Ohio rail-yards. On a pole at that intersection a street sign proclaims Johnson Street. Near this site, a small fortification called Fort Covington was erected during the War of 1812 to prevent the British from attacking Fort McHenry from the rear. From here, Americans fired on the British fleet, sinking enemy ships and killing British sailors.

Edward Johnson's leadership of the city occurred at a time when a new America was so untested that it was preposterous to consider fighting—much less winning—a battle with the largest naval force in the world. Baltimore was the target of Britain, upon whose colonial empire the sun never set. How did all this begin?

After America won a war for independence in 1776, peacetime efforts focused on commerce. The wharves and warehouses along the waterfront buzzed with activity. Horse-drawn wagons brought tobacco of excellent quality, which stevedores hoisted by hand onto sailing ships. Wheat grown in the hinterlands became grist in mills along the Jones Falls and emerged as flour that resisted spoilage indefinitely; it was soon bound for European cities. Owing to the attraction of jobs created by the pending Industrial Revolution, these cities were growing at a staggering rate. While trade with Europe was vital for our fledgling economy, our attempts to conduct commerce with France angered the British, who were engaged in a war with Napoleon's France. Britain began interfering with our free trade, stopping American ships, confiscating their cargoes, and even impressing American men into service on British ships. Fresh from winning a war against Britain, and no doubt feeling pretty smug, our fledgling Congress issued Letters of Marque, authorizations for private ships to act as war ships, and the stage was set.

This article will continue in the March issue.

The next meeting of the
Fells Prospect Garden Club
is February 21 from 6:30 to 7:30 pm.
Contact thin2lm@gmail.com
for location.



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FELLS PROSPECT MEMBERSHIP

To become a member of Fells Prospect, send a check made payable to Fells Prospect, Inc. and mail to Fells Prospect, PO Box 38291, Baltimore, MD 21231. Or go online to www.fellsprospect.org to join. You can use Paypal to pay your dues. Dues are \$10 per person per calendar year.



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