



# The Canton Connection

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE CANTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

## Upcoming Meetings and Events

Join us on **Tuesday, January 25**, at the next CCA public meeting where **we will elect 11 new Directors to the CCA Board**. As a CCA Director you will be involved in helping your neighborhood address important issues that affect us all. All paid CCA members are eligible to run for the Board and vote in the elections. The Membership committee will be available to accept new memberships at the January 25 meeting. To become a member now, please send in the membership form that is included with this newsletter along with your dues. Also on January 25 there will be an "Open Forum" to discuss matters that are of concern to our neighborhood. Please bring your questions, suggestions, and your enthusiasm. It is only with your help that we can make Canton an even better place to live.

**Jim Kraft, our new 1<sup>st</sup> District City Councilperson**, will be present to explain his vision for the new 1<sup>st</sup> District and address your issues and concerns on **Tuesday, February 22**. Come and start a dialogue with our new representative at City Hall.

**CCA Projects Update** is the theme for our **Tuesday, March 22** public meeting. Randy Capone will provide an update on our new **Two Rivers Park** project (please see the detailed write-up of the project in this newsletter). We will also get an update on the **Canton Dog Park** from the CCA's Dog Park Committee and an update on what's going on in **O'Donnell Square** from the Friends of O'Donnell Square.

### President's Message

The newsletter that you are holding represents the cumulative efforts of a number of community volunteers over the last five years. Thanks to our partners at Long & Foster, we are able to mail this newsletter out to everyone in Canton – more than 5,000 individual homes and businesses. The Canton Community Association (CCA) is a not-for-profit volunteer neighborhood organization for those who live, work, or play within Canton. The CCA is committed to promoting and protecting the beauty, safety, stability, cleanliness, and social and economic viability of the neighborhood by fostering alliances with the local residents, merchants, and government officials. The CCA is your voice in the community. Our goal is to make Canton the best, most diverse, dynamic neighborhood in all of Baltimore City. To do this we need you. We need your thoughts, your ideas, and a commitment from you. We encourage you to become a CCA member if you're not one already. We also would like to invite you to become an active volunteer with us. We're always looking for people who can devote an hour or more per week. Depending on your interests, you might choose to run for the Board or volunteer to help out at an event during the year. The CCA is a vibrant organization. We have members on the Board who are long time residents of Canton and people who moved in just last year. Our public meetings are the fourth Tuesday of each month (except for July, August, and December) and our board meetings, which are open to all CCA members, are held the first Tuesday of each month (except for August and December). We hope to see you at one of our upcoming meetings.

Best Regards,  
Stephen Strohl, President  
Canton Community Association  
<http://www.cantoncommunity.org>  
E-mail: [info@cantoncommunity.org](mailto:info@cantoncommunity.org)  
Phone: 410-342-0900

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Visit our website for a full listing for more information:

<http://www.cantoncommunity.org/cca/meetingschedule/meetingschedule.html>

**Tuesday, December 7, January 4, February 1, March 1, 7-9pm**  
CCA Board Meetings

**Tuesday, January 25, 7-9pm**  
CCA Public Meeting, "Open Forum & Board Elections"

**Tuesday, February 22, 7-9pm**  
CCA Public Meeting, "Jim Kraft, 1<sup>st</sup> District City Council"

**Tuesday, March 22, 7-9pm**  
CCA Public Meeting, "CCA Project Updates"

**Tuesday, April 26, 7-9pm**  
CCA Public Meeting, "Greening the Neighborhood"

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# CCA PUBLIC MEETING RECAPS

## September Neighborhood Building & Zoning Issues

The September public meeting featured Laurie Feinberg, from Baltimore City's Department of Planning. Laurie discussed zoning and building issues that affect Canton and Southeast Baltimore. She mentioned that the Volpe Company has been hired by the State to study the traffic and transportation issues of the southeast portion of Baltimore City, including the light-rail system. Recommendations are due this winter. The Red line has been proposed from Woodlawn/Security area to Canton; however, the first phase of the project is not expected to reach Canton. The Purple line is proposed from Penn Station to Bayview Hospital and then down into Canton Crossing.

The American Can site has been approved for one additional building. The signature building will be made of steel and glass and it will be very different from the current development. Ground breaking on the new building is imminent.

The Canton Crossings development had previously been approved for a 1.5 Million Square Foot Building and a 17-story tower. They are now proposing changes to the Planned Use Development (PUD) to include 3 additional towers for residential use. The new proposal will increase the number of residential units from 100 to 504.

Much of the residential portion of Canton is zoned R-8. R-8 zoning limits the height to 35 feet. Residential properties of less than 16 feet in width are non-conforming. Therefore any additions require a zoning hearing in front of the Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals (BMZA).

The Planning Commission is working on developing guidelines for 3rd floor additions.

To search for building permits visit <http://www.baltimorehousing.org>. All building permits issued by any authorized agency in Baltimore City should be found on this website.

Gary Baverstock reported that the Canton Home & Garden Tour was very successful. The gross revenue was about \$18,000. The Canton Community Association and the Canton Garden Club each netted approximately \$7,000.

Randy Capone reported that Friends of Two Rivers Park has been formed as a subgroup of CCA. Two Rivers Park is located between Curley and Potomac Streets, just south of Hudson Street. We are currently working with BGE and the City on installing an additional utility pole to mitigate the number of overhead wires hanging over the site. Design plans for the park are being worked out to minimize the maintenance required. If you want to get involved, contact Randy at 410-342-0900 or e-mail [blockreps@cantoncommunity.org](mailto:blockreps@cantoncommunity.org).

Dominic Nicolini is the new chair of the membership committee. New Individual and Business membership prices and schedules were announced. The slight increase in dues is to offset the cost of mailing newsletters to all of Canton.

Carol Creed and Aileen Flynn are the new co-chairs of the Dog Park Committee.

Jack Stout reported that there were plans to open a large tavern in the former Modern Music, S&K Cleaners, and Friday's Child Day Care buildings on O'Donnell Square. However, due to the legislation passed in the past two years by State Senator George Della, and sponsored in the House of Delegates by Pete Hammen, Caroline Kysiak and Brian McHale, no new liquor licenses may be moved into the area surrounding O'Donnell Square. This effectively ended the effort to bring a large tavern to O'Donnell Square and currently the buildings are for sale.

Parking and Transportation co-chair George Hofferbert reported that an effort is underway to bring angle parking to South Lakewood in the 500, 600, 700 and 800 blocks. Petitions are circulating and if a majority of the people on those blocks approve the City will change the street to a single traffic lane, one lane of parking and a row of angled parking.

Liz Phelan is the new Education liaison. She is currently the principle of Father Kolbe School. Her focus is to work with schools in the area to keep Canton a family-friendly neighborhood.

John Cumor is our new Crime and Safety liaison. He is looking into the Citizens on Patrol (COPS) program to see if there is an interest in starting a similar program in Canton.

The featured local business was Allstate Insurance, 2829 O'Donnell Street. Jim Craig and Patty Buckner explained how they handle both insurance and investment needs. Contact 410-522-6100 for more information.

## October Political Forum

The October public meeting featured a 1<sup>st</sup> District City Council Political Forum. All three of the registered candidates for the new single-member 1<sup>st</sup> City Council District were in attendance: Matt Clark, Green Party Candidate; Jim Kraft, Democratic Party



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Candidate; and Roberto Marsili, Republican Party Candidate. The audience was given the opportunity to ask questions of the candidates.

Laurie Feinberg and Natasha Poole from Baltimore City's Department of Planning clarified the pending legislation that is before the City Council for the Planned Unit Development (PUD) for Canton Crossing. The proposed legislation would increase the number of residential units from 104 to 504, increase the maximum allowed restaurant space from 50,000 sq. ft to 120,000 sq. ft., and change the maximum height of the development from a particular number of stories to a height in feet. Currently the maximum office space limit is 1,700,000 sq. ft. and 450,000 sq. ft of retail space is allowed. Representatives from 1<sup>st</sup> Mariner Properties answered questions from the audience.

At the end of the presentation a motion was made "To oppose the changes to the PUD as presented" and the resolution passed to oppose the proposed change to the PUD.

There was also a presentation regarding the 600 block of South Luzerne. This project involves converting a commercial space into 16 homes. Jake Ruppert and Marty Cadogan had originally presented their project at a previous board meeting and based on feedback that they received, they amended their project. No zoning variance is needed for this development. A motion was made to "support the project as presented" and the resolution passed.

The featured local business was Live Baltimore, which began in 1997. Larry Baxley explained how the organization promotes living in Baltimore City. Their website helps residents find resources like Real Estate Agents, Brokers, and Lenders. For more information please visit <http://www.livebaltimore.com>.

## November CCA Update

The November public meeting focused on a community update covering a wide array of issues that have presented themselves over the course of the past year. Pete Little, the Director of Baltimore City's Parking Authority, provided insight into the many parking challenges facing Canton. Mr. Little also took questions from the audience. Some of the possible solutions that were mentioned included angled parking, meters, residential permit parking, and parking garages. Laurie Feinberg, Baltimore City Department of Planning, discussed the City's proposed new rezoning regulations and how these new changes would affect Canton. The CCA committee chairs provided updates on their committees. Robin Shotola reported that Fusion Bay, a local technology company in the Broom Factory, has agreed to improve the administrative functions of our web site, pro bono.

David Key from Key Coffee presented his plans to open a Daily Grind in the Firehouse on O'Donnell Square. A motion was made "to support the project as presented" and the resolution passed.

The featured local business was the Southeast Youth Academy. Hannah Siewers, Volunteer Coordinator, spoke about the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Program and the after-school programs for students. For more information call 410-327-1045 or email [hsiewers@southeastyouthacademy.org](mailto:hsiewers@southeastyouthacademy.org).

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The CCA would like to thank the Long and Foster Canton Office, Francine Litter, and REALTOR™ Angela Dean for sponsoring this newsletter.



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## Two Rivers Park: Canton's Newest Park!

The CCA is proud to announce that Kimberley Flowers, the Director of the Baltimore City Recreation and Parks, has given the CCA the authority to renovate the vacant lot at 902 S. Potomac Street/903 S. Curley Street. Instead of seeing two additional residential units be built on the vacant lots, the unsightly lots will be turned into a green pocket park for the enjoyment of the neighborhood.

The community initiative, led by CCA Block Rep Liaison Dr. Randolph Capone, began in March when word of the lot's imminent sale to developers surfaced. Originally on the City inventory as the Hudson Potomac Park, the park is being renamed Two Rivers Park after Hudson and Potomac Streets.

Plans for the park are being finalized and fundraising efforts are beginning. A gathering at the site to unveil the plans and formally kick off the project will be held in the near future. Special thanks go to Senator George Della, Delegate Peter Hammen, and Elizabeth Weiblen in the Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods for their efforts on our behalf to preserve this space as a green pocket park.

If you are interested in becoming involved and would like to help make this project happen, please join the Friends of Two Rivers Park. Please call 410-342-0900 or email Randy at [blockreps@cantoncommunity.org](mailto:blockreps@cantoncommunity.org).

## Canton Home and Garden Tour

Rainy skies gave way to an absolutely beautiful day for the third Canton Home and Garden Tour, co-hosted by the CCA and CGA on September 19. With thirteen houses on the tour and close to 400 tickets sold, many people were able to walk around the neighborhood and see the diversity that Canton offers.

Congratulations to the winners of the raffle drawing held in the Canton Library's Reading Garden. Winners included: Grand Prize, Eugene W. McCollum DDS; Second Prize, George Hocker; Third Prize, Dan Lott. Many, many people donated their time and their talents to help make the tour a success. Special thanks goes to our homeowners, without them the day wouldn't have been possible; our corporate sponsors, Equitable Trust, Long & Foster, and 1st Mariner Bank; and our advertisers – many of whom are Canton-based businesses. Special thanks also go to The Can Company for hosting registration. Our committee chairs deserve special recognition for their dedication and hard work. Finally, all of the contributing members and volunteers deserve a round of applause because they were integral to making the tour a success. Thank you one and all.

## Canton Community Association's E-mail Lists

To keep up with everything that's going on with the CCA, please sign up to the CCA's Announcements e-mail list or the Dog Park Committee's Dog Park Announcements list. Complete information is available on our web site, [http://www.cantoncommunity.org/communication/email\\_lists/index.html](http://www.cantoncommunity.org/communication/email_lists/index.html). To sign up to one or both lists, please e-mail [majordomo@cantoncommunity.org](mailto:majordomo@cantoncommunity.org). You do not need to include a subject in the message. As the ONLY text in the BODY of the message, type: **subscribe announcements** or **subscribe dogpark\_announcements** (depending upon which list you're signing up for). Once you are subscribed to either list, you will automatically receive confirmation of your subscription as well as some brief instructions and an introductory message from the CCA. At the bottom of each message that goes out from this new service there is a footer with instructions on how to unsubscribe as well as for contacting the CCA. If you have any questions, please call 410-342-0900 or e-mail [webmaster@cantoncommunity.org](mailto:webmaster@cantoncommunity.org).

## Membership changes

The following membership changes have been made for 2005:

### Individual Membership -

Choice of 1 year or 2 year level:

- 1 year - \$7
- 2 years - \$10

### Household Membership -

Choice of 1 year or 2 year level:

- 1 year - \$10
- 2 years - \$15

### Business Membership:

#### Basic Membership -

Choice of 1 year or 2 year level:

#### Churches, Associations, Non-Profits:

- 1 year - \$20
- 2 years - \$35

#### Corporations, Companies, Businesses, For-Profits:

- 1 year - \$25
- 2 years - \$40

#### Platinum Membership -

Choice of 2 year or 3 year level:

#### Churches, Associations, Non-Profits:

- 2 years - \$100
- 3 years - \$150

#### Corporations, Companies, Businesses, For-Profits:

- 2 years - \$125
- 3 years - \$175

Individual membership benefits include: a subscription to the quarterly CCA newsletter, the right to vote on issues at the CCA public meeting, and discounts at select Canton businesses. Business members receive the same benefits as Individual members plus exposure on the CCA website and the opportunity to advertise in the CCA newsletter.

If you have any questions, or if you would like to become a member, please email [membership@cantoncommunity.org](mailto:membership@cantoncommunity.org) or mail a check with your name, address, telephone number and email to: Canton Community Association, P.O. Box 5125, Baltimore, MD 21224.

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## Fancy Dress Dog Competition & Festival

The 5th Annual Howl-o-Ween Fancy Dress Dog Competition and Dog Festival, sponsored by the CCA's Canton Dog Park Committee and hosted by The Can Company, was a huge success again this year. The event was bigger and better than ever, raising more than \$1600 for Canton's Dog Park. More than 500 people attended the event. There were also 15 exhibitors and a moon-bounce for the kids. This annual celebration of all things canine had 60 entries in the competition, and in one specific category, their human companions as well. This year included a mixed canine and human swarm of bees and their keeper, a quintessential Baltimore Hon and her pooch, and a stoop-sitting beagle complete with a row house. The most original category was won by a pair of French bulldogs posing as The Newlyweds, Nick and Jessica Simpson. A Speedo sporting boxer decked out as Michael Phelps, complete with gold metals, eye-goggles, and a swimming cap was the winner of the most Baltimorean group. A group of canine spider mites won the scariest category. Lilo & Stitch were winners of the matching dog and human category.

As in past years, entrants in the competition went all out in their efforts to wow the crowd. The judges had a difficult job choosing the winners. Baltimore Sun style writer, Sloane Brown; Canton Community Association President, Stephen Strohl; Pet ER Vet, Lisa Tinanoff; and WMAR Meteorologist, Jen Gilbert, thought all the entrants were fantastic. The event was emceed by Mix 106.5's Jo-Jo, who entertained everyone with his lively commentary as dog-themed music played in the background.

CCA wants to thank the event sponsors: Mix 106.5, Eastern Animal Hospital and The Can Company. Thanks to everyone who entered, volunteered and supported the event. The event continues to grow. We look forward to next years contest. Look for even more elaborate costumes, more vendors and exhibitors and continued excitement for this annual celebration of human and canine kinship! The growl on the street is that Canton's canines are already planning their costumes for next year's event! Mark the date of Saturday, October 29, 2005. To get involved, call the CCA line at 410-342-0900 mailbox 8 or email Carol and Eileen at [dogpark@cantoncommunity.org](mailto:dogpark@cantoncommunity.org).

## Canton Art & Antique Market


The last CAAM for the season was held on Sunday, November 21. Shoppers were out enjoying the weather, while getting a jump on their holiday shopping. Various antique dealers were in attendance selling their collectibles such as vintage lobster decorations, pressed glass, and retro drinking glasses. Our local artists were selling great art such as handmade holiday cards, by Monica Bailey, and wonderful etchings, jewelry and glass candle-holders. The CAAM started in May of this year and was organized by the Community Arts Committee of the CCA. If you are interested in helping out next year as a volunteer, we'd love to talk to you. Please email [arts@cantoncommunity.org](mailto:arts@cantoncommunity.org) for more information. We'd like to thank both 1st Mariner Bank and The Can Company for their generosity in allowing us to use their parking lots to hold this great event.

## New Businesses in Canton

- Canton's Pearls (3301 Boston Street) specializes in seafood and new American food.
- Canvas Ink ( 913 S. Lakewood Avenue) specializing in turning photographs into canvas paintings.
- Mojo Side Stage (2239 Essex Street) has replaced Cardwell's Tavern as a live music venue.
- Caribbean/American Carryout (3221 O'Donnell Street) has opened specializing in subs and Trinidad style Caribbean dishes for takeout or delivery.
- PortSide Tavern (2821 O'Donnell Street) has opened specializing in seafood and steak.

Coming Soon: Daily Grind in the Firehouse.

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

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**Canton Community Association**

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***Canton Community Association's  
Winter 2004/2005 Newsletter***

*Canton Community Association is a not-for-profit volunteer organization for those who live, work, or play in Canton. CCA is an I.R.S. 501(c)(3) organization exempt from federal income tax. Your donations are tax deductible.*

**Canton Community Association**

P.O. Box 5125  
Baltimore, MD 21224

*A voicemail phone number is always available at (410) 342-0900. Please leave your name and number if you want a committee chairperson to respond to you.*

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

*Newsletter created by Stacey Grabowski, 410.558.3604*

**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)*

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*\*Platinum Business membership includes an ad on our website.*

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