

# UNION SQUARE NEWS

March 2004

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Neighbors:

This Spring the Union Square Association is happy to report we are getting more organized and proactive in tackling neighborhood issues! Please come to your association meetings, as we want to hear from all the blocks in our neighborhood about what your priorities are. One of our goals at the March 3 meeting will be to make sure we have identified a block captain for each block, who will represent the needs and concerns of your block at meetings, and help pass out flyers so everyone knows about meetings and events. You could be co-captains too!

The Association has just applied for another grant from the Baltimore Community Foundation (we received one in 2002) to finish the second phase of landscaping and improvements to the square, our namesake. We also hope to help pay for planters on your blocks and to plant flowers and

street trees in the tree wells. Again, we need block captains from each of the blocks to help lead these projects and to get your neighbors to participate. So I hope to see you at our next meeting (hint!).

We also have an active housing committee and a sanitation committee. We have been successful in getting a rowhouse rebuilt by the city at 4 S. Gilmor, and getting trash cans replaced on the square. You will begin to see more sanitation enforcement and reduction in vacant properties. AND... you'll see it faster if you will come help!

Future general meetings will have guest speakers from the **Live Baltimore** Marketing Center (March 3); **Preservation Maryland** and **CHAP**, about the requirements and tax credits to renovate properties; and **The Watershed 263 Neighborhood Greening Project** (dates to be announced).

So... I look forward to seeing you and your neighbors on Wednesday night!

Greg Grass

## Union Square Association General Meeting

Wednesday, March 3, 7:00 pm  
1401 Hollins Street

### Agenda Topics:

- Review and Approval of Minutes
- Announcements of:
  - General Meeting dates for the next year
  - Guest Speakers scheduled to date
  - BCF Grant applied for
  - Garden tour status
  - Watershed 263 Project
- Sign up of new/continuing block captains
- Guest speaker from **Live Baltimore**
- Newsletter volunteers needed
- Sanitation concerns
- Committee members needed

## What is Watershed 263?

It is a 900-square acre area in southwest Baltimore. All or parts of 11 neighborhoods are part of **Watershed 263** and 30,000 people live in the watershed.

**Watershed 263** is entirely urbanized with mixed industrial, institutional, and residential land uses, plus public parkland and private open spaces.

It is called a "stormshed" because all the natural streams have been paved over and all stormwater travels through an underground pipe system that flows into the Harbor.

Within southwest Baltimore, neighborhoods include: Sandtown-Winchester, Harlem Park, Franklin Square, Poppleton, **Union Square**, **Hollins Market**, Carrollton Ridge, New Southwest / Mount Clare, Washington Village, Carroll Park, and Carroll - Camden Industrial Area.

The city is developing a watershed restoration plan to improve environmental conditions and affect quality of life. They are identifying issues of importance to the people who live, work, and play in Watershed 263.

Baltimore City is working on this project with the DPW and the Parks & People Foundation. Additional partners include: The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the US Forest Service, Long Term Ecological Research, the Baltimore Ecosystem Study, the Department of Natural Resources, the Chesapeake Bay Trust, and the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks.

For more information about the Foundation for Baltimore Recreation & Parks, go to their web site: [www.parksandpeople.org](http://www.parksandpeople.org)

## March Calendar

Tuesday, March 2nd  
**Primary Election Day**

Wednesday, March 3rd  
**Union Square Association General Meeting 7 PM**

Sunday, March 14th  
**St. Patrick's Day Parade 2 PM Charles to Pratt Streets**

Wednesday, March 17th  
**St. Patrick's Day**

Saturday, March 20th  
**Spring Begins**

Thursday, March 25th  
**Maryland Day**

No holidays affect the trash schedule this month, so it will be the usual Monday and Thursday pickups:  
Mondays 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th  
Thursdays 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th