



Bring a friend meeting!

When you come out to this month's meeting, bring a friend who isn't yet a member! Please remember, the size of our association membership directly correlates with our ability to affect positive outcomes with the city concerning our neighborhood.

Union Square Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 20520
Baltimore, MD 21223

union square online:
<http://www.union-square.us>
email: union-square-association@googlegroups.com

OCTOBER

Important Dates:

- Next General Meeting
Wednesday, October 7th
at 7pm, Immeasurable
Chicken and Waffles
1700 W. Pratt St., Balti-
more, MD 21223

2009 Board Members

Christopher Taylor
President

Kim Chrichlow
Vice President

Ivan Leshinsky
Treasurer

Megan Schulze
Recording Secretary

Jason Bass
Corresponding Secretary

Fran Rahl
*Director of Historic
Preservation*

Sylva Browning
Director at Large

David Cochran
Director at Large

Vote

Union Square has the technology to send alerts, notifications, updates, via text message. Would you like to stay connected?

[] Yes or [] No

Presidents Letter

By Chris Taylor

Greetings! This month's meeting will be held at **Immeasurable Chicken and Waffle at 1700 W. Pratt**. I first met **Steve and Dwoyne Brooks**, the owners of the restaurant, when I was working on the mulching project on the 1700 block of Pratt. We struck up a conversation about different aspects of the neighborhood and immediately they asked me what they could do to help. Since then, they have adopted the 100 block of Mount St and the huge vacant lot across from his property, keeping it clean, well-maintained, and free of people sitting on the corner. In addition, they showed up to both of the last two movies and handed out free food. Now it's our turn to show our support and the strength of our community. This will also be a celebration for our association. This year we have 103 paid members. This is our fourth straight year of over 100 members. This is an amazing accomplishment considering that we have start back at zero every January, we are one of the smallest neighborhoods geographically in the city, and we still have many vacancies. I would really like to surpass our previous high mark of 106 set my first year as president. Please come out; your talents and your voice are appreciated, needed, and welcomed.

I asked **Dave Cochran** to compose the rest of this month's president's letter. This is Dave's first year on the board and I cannot say enough how much I appreciate his effort and hard work in the name of Union Square. On a personal level, it helps me to have such a dedicated person to help take some of the pressure off of serving as president of the association. Much the of the hard work goes unnoticed, but I want to make sure that Dave and the rest of my board know how much they are appreciated. Thanks.

My name is Dave Cochran and I am a board member of the Union Square Association and have been for the last year. I have lived on the 1700 block of Hollins Street for the last two years. I love seeing the high level of community involvement in our neighborhood and seeing how quickly things can turn around when people put forth the effort to take control of their neighborhood. We have dealt with many issues on our side of the neighborhood, but by taking advantage of the tools that the city gives us, in addition to using the support and power of our association, we have gotten results. There are many ways to get things accomplished within your own block and we have seen how taking on personal responsibility for your property and block can make a huge difference.

I would like to talk with you this month about how to make the Baltimore City 311 system work for you. We all realize the frustrations of calling and nothing being accomplished. Before you give up on the system, let's try to unify our efforts with this plan of attack. Your first step is to identify a discrepancy in the neighborhood (trash dumping, graffiti, vacant properties that require boarding up, high weeds, etc.). You can dial 311, between the hours of 6 am and 10 pm, to make the initial report, giving as much detailed information as possible! The 311 operator will give you a tracking number at the end of your call; **you must write this number down and track it**. The problem I have come across with this first step is that sometimes I get a recording that the service or number is not working. There is an alternate phone number, also

Presidents Letter Continued...

used when outside city limits. That number is: **443-263-2220**. This number will take you to the 311 operator as well. You can also make a report by using the CITY TASK SERVICE REQUEST SYSTEM online. Simply log onto "Baltimorecity.gov" and follow the 311 service request dropdown menus. However, after trying many times, I have not been able to make a request using this system.

You will be given a time frame, along with the tracking number, stating when your request will be handled. It would be helpful during this time to take photos of the discrepancy. Once the service request has been viewed by the city, you will receive a postcard in the mail. This postcard in no way identifies anything about your request, it is simply sent out once the request has been verified. You can use the city's online tracking service to follow up with your request. Then, if the discrepancy has not been properly taken care of, we have a trail. I would suggest one person on each block record and track all of your 311 requests. Then bring this information to the Union Square Association board members, and we can proceed from there.

Recycling Bins

We had great turnout at our first give away of the free recycling bins at the last Movie in the Park. We gave away 60 free bins to anyone who came out and signed up saying they would use the bin to begin (or continue to) recycle. We still have 40 left. These 40 will be given away to Union Square Association Members only. The next opportunity to get a free bin will be this Wednesday night at our monthly meeting at 1700 W. Pratt.

October Meeting Update

This month's meeting will be held at Immeasurable Chicken and Waffle, located at 1700 W. Pratt (at the corner of Pratt and Mount). Immeasurable Chick and Waffle has shown up to two of our last community events and donated a large amount of food. To show our support for this new business, we are going to hold our monthly meeting at the restaurant. We will make a few announcements, discuss the upcoming Cookie Tour, save time for new business, and then stay on and enjoy food and company at our neighborhood's newest restaurant.

We will begin at 7pm. Food will be offered and The Immeasurable Gospel Group will treat us to a performance.

Calling all Cookie Tour Volunteers!

It's that time of year again and we need your help! In order to make this year's Cookie Tour a success, we are asking for volunteers to help in several different areas. Remember, the Cookie Tour is our biggest fund-raiser throughout the year. It is what allows us to purchase a new fountain for the park and support the different projects we do throughout the year. Please email schulzemegan@gmail.com and sign up to volunteer to do one or more of the following jobs:

- Open your house. Sign up to put your house on the tour. Tour is on Sunday, December 13 from 12-5pm.
- Hang decorations around the park and at the library on the morning of Sunday, December 13. 2 hours max.
- Collect money and pass out programs at the library from 11-5 on Sunday, December 13. Sign up for a two hour (or longer) time slot.
- Hang up posters around town a couple of weeks before the event. At your own convenience.
- Pass out flags and programs to the Cookie Tour houses the morning of December 13. One hour max.
- Pass out postcards around town a couple of weeks before the event. At your own convenience.
- Bake cookies for a house on the Cookie Tour. Between 300-500 cookies.
- Secure an advertisement (or more) for the Cookie Tour booklet. Find a business to buy an ad for the booklet. Should be completed 2-3 weeks before the tour. We'll supply pricing and size information.
- Find a media outlet to cover the Cookie Tour. At your convenience. We will supply text and any information necessary.

Pre-sell 5 tickets. Take the responsibility to pre-sell tickets for the Cookie Tour. Materials to be provided.

Friend Union Square on Facebook

Union Square is on Facebook as "Unionsquare Baltimore". Friend Unionsquare Baltimore to stay connected with neighbors and up to date with events.