

UNION SQUARE

news and notes from around the neighborhood

PRESIDENT'S LETTER | CHRIS TAYLOR

Greetings! Once again we had a great turnout last month. This is our second meeting in a row with over 50 people in attendance. With all the new members that signed up at the last meeting, we have once again surpassed 100 members. This is now our 5th straight year in reaching this goal. Having 100 members is a great accomplishment for any neighborhood, but especially for Union Square since geographically, we are one of the smallest neighborhoods in the city. Many of you have heard me say this, but for those of you that just joined the association (or still plan to), the size of our membership is directly correlated to the timeliness and responsiveness of the city and our elected officials to our concerns. Last week, I was asked to speak on a panel about community building. There were 5 other community leaders in attendance. In terms of size, the largest neighborhood there had over 6,400 homes and the smallest besides us had 2,000 homes. Union Square has roughly 500 homes and yet no other neighborhood had even close to our membership.

I know it sounds like I am beating a dead horse with this issue, but it is truly why we have had such astounding results. And although we have many different opinions in our neighborhood, it is very hard to argue with the successes that we've achieved by working together. For example, our crime statistics are extremely low and continue to go down. We have gone 27 months without a homicide, which

sadly no other surrounding community can say. The results of our community mapping show that our vacancy rate has decreased from 41% to 24% in three years. At our last meeting, we saw the enthusiasm and effort so many neighbors are putting forth on their own free time to contribute and give back to the community. Ivan Leshinsky, Al Reed, and several other dedicated community members are busy planning the Sowebo Landmark 5K; Emily Cochran has volunteered endless hours and her computer skills to create an interactive community map; Dave Cochran and Cari Schemm worked to secure a \$5,000 grant for neighborhood beautification and over a dozen neighbors went out one Saturday in September to plant flowers, weed, and pick up trash along Calhoun Street. Andrea Leahy used her creativity to design a banner for our lampposts and a sign for our trash cans. These are just a few examples of the people in our association making a difference.

So I'll say it again. It's very important for you to come out to our monthly meetings. It's only once a month. We want you to be an active participant in the meetings and to join the association.

This is a voting night. We are going to vote on issues related to the banner design you see in this newsletter. We will vote on and discuss among other things: the location of the banners, whether or not to approve the design or the use of banners at all, whether we'll allocate any money

...continued next column

MEETING: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2010

The Association meeting will be at our usual location in the Neighborhood Design Center, 1401 Hollins St., at 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA: This month's meeting there will be a discussion and vote on banners for Union Square, as well as a discussion on a new architectural review committee. There will be a presentation by Piper Booher of the Strasburg Group.

President's Letter continued...

toward their creation, if so how much money, etc. We all need to give our input into this matter since it affects us all. This agenda item will be up toward the beginning of the meeting, so come out and be heard. Remember, you have to be in attendance to vote. You cannot vote by proxy, but if you have any concerns and cannot make the meeting, please feel free to email me at tayfour@msn.com and I will make sure you are heard.

CALHOUN BEAUTIFICATION | CARI SCHEMM

Thank you to all the wonderful neighbors that came out for our first Calhoun street beautification event in September. I was so pleased to see so many new faces. The blocks with the new planters look great! We have another work day coming up on Saturday, October 16 from 8 to 10 a.m. to plant trees. Our goal is to plant three trees. Meet up with Dave Cochran at the corner of Calhoun and Lombard. This event is supported by the Baltimore Community Foundation Neighborhood Grants Program.

If you can't make it that weekend, stop by the following weekend for a Calhoun street clean up! See the Streetscapes committee article for more information.

25TH ANNUAL COOKIE TOUR

It's never too early to start planning for the Cookie Tour. We would love to have 25 houses on tour for our 25th year. We already have 7, just 18 more to go! If you are interested in putting your house on the tour this year, please contact Fran Rahl at francis.rahl@verizon.net

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UNION SQUARE BANNERS | VOTE ON THE ISSUE

Banners tell people that they have arrived “somewhere” special. Banners make a neighborhood look more cohesive. Please come out to discuss the possibility of installing neighborhood banners on the city street light posts and to see the proposed banner design. The cost of each banner plus installation is approximately \$140. The local Baltimore sign shop, DNA Design LLC. has offered to donate the construction and labor of making the banners. Additional ways to cut the cost of the banners will be discussed during the meeting. Your input is very important and we hope to see you there!

STREETSCAPE COMMITTEE | ANDREA LEAHY

Come join us! We are a group of neighbors getting together to work on small projects and clean-ups once a month. We help to beautify our neighborhood. Our next meetings are at Zella's on Oct. 10th and Nov. 7th at 6 p.m.

Clean-ups: Calhoun St. Oct. 23 | 9 a.m.-11 a.m.
Lombard St. Nov 13 | 9 a.m.-11 a.m.

Location: Neighborhood Design Center, 1401 Hollins St.

NEED A BABYSITTER?

Alesia Robinson, a lifelong member of Union Square, wants to help you out! She is a graduate of The School of the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen and is the Sophomore Class President at Baltimore City College. She is responsible, experienced, and loves kids. If you have any babysitting opportunities, please email Alesia at agrrobinson@gmail.com for more information.

CLAY POTS... A PLACE TO GROW | 1635 W. PRATT ST.

Thursday Night Coffeehouse | 7:30-10:00 p.m. every Thursday

October 14 - Special Music from local group City Slides

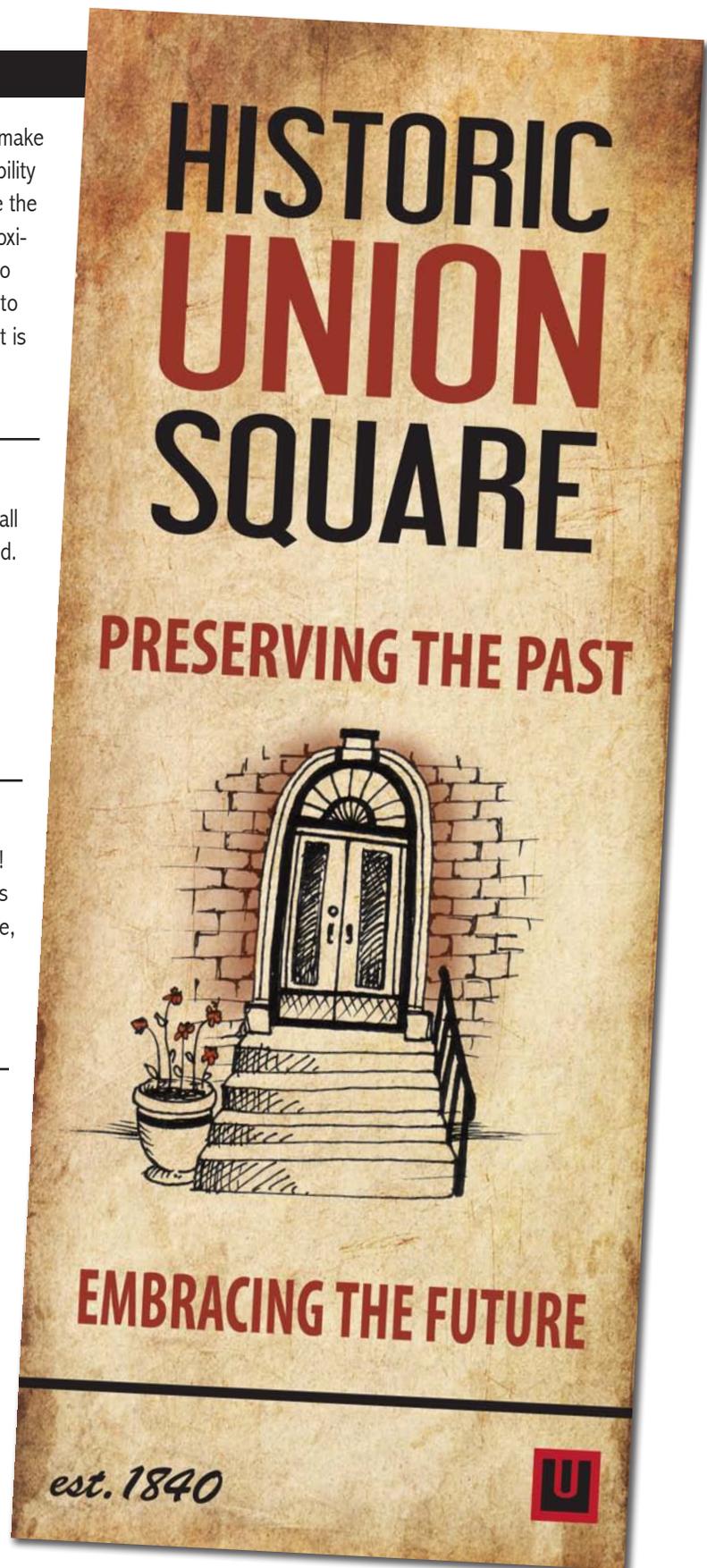
October 21 - Spoken Word/Poetry Night

Friday Night at the Movies | 7 p.m.

October 15 - Tombstone

October 29 - Robin Hood

Events are free!



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