



## **Canton Crossing expansion threatens industrial firms**

*10/28/11, Baltimore Business Journal, Gary Haber*

The Terminal Corp.'s Jay Watt is worried his business won't be seen as a good fit alongside the planned shopping center at Canton Crossing. Berlin had its infamous wall separating East Germany from the West. Now, a group of industrial companies located next to the site of a glitzy new shopping center proposed for Canton say they need a 12-foot-high wall to separate themselves from the shoppers and outdoor diners expected to flock to the area. And they want the developers of the multimillion-dollar District at Canton Crossing to pay for it. Without a barrier, this group of industrial business leaders is worried the noise, dust and dirt from their gritty operations could be unwelcome in a gentrifying neighborhood and eventually lead to calls. [Read more...](#)

## **Port of Baltimore sets record for coal, salt in 2010**

*11/7/11, Baltimore Business Journal, Scott Dance*

A record level of salt passed through the Port of Baltimore in 2010. Coal and salt passed through the Port of Baltimore at record levels in 2010, according to Census data and the Maryland Port Administration. The port handled about 13.8 million tons of coal exports, 1 million tons more than a record set in 1981. And the port received 1.8 million tons of salt imports, beating a mark of 1.4 million tons in 1994. CNX and CSX marine terminals export coal from Baltimore, while Rukert Terminals handles salt imports. China was the destination for about one-fourth of the coal exports, the largest share. South Korea and the Netherlands also imported significant amounts of coal from Baltimore. The surge in coal and salt cargoes helped the Port of Baltimore move up in national rankings for tonnage and value of cargo in 2010. The port ranked 11th nationally for the value of its cargo and 13th for its tonnage.

## **Real-Estate Investors Target Neighborhood That Is Looking Up**

*11/15/11, Smart Money, Annamaria Andriotis*

Americans are moving into real estate at a blistering pace. Only this time, they aren't snatching up McMansions or even fixer-uppers. They are moving into one of the real estate industry's few bright spots: shares of professionally managed property portfolios. So far this year, investors have poured roughly \$6 billion into publicly traded funds of U.S. real-estate investment trusts, or REITs, which mostly buy commercial properties like apartment buildings, office parks and shopping malls. That is up 18% from all of 2010 and 400% from 2009, and a pace unseen since before the financial crisis, according to Citigroup Global Markets. Though striking, investing pros say the move isn't surprising, given investors' appetite for income. Through October, the FTSE Nareit All Equity REITs index, which tracks property REITs, had a return of more than 7%, including dividends. By comparison, the Standard & Poor's 500-stock index was up 1% and change. [Read more...](#)

## **Governments on the Prowl**

*11/9/11, Wall Street Journal, Maura Webber Sadovi*

Municipalities in many parts of the U.S. are buying properties rather than renting or building them to take advantage of the weak sales markets. In parts of the country where values have remained anemic, governments are buying buildings out of foreclosure or simply taking advantage of the multitude of properties on the block. Take the experience of Marin County, Calif., an area struggling with an office vacancy rate that stood at 21.8% at the end of the third quarter, compared with 12.5% in San Francisco's northern financial district, according to Reis Inc. Marin officials have been wrestling for years to find a location for a new emergency-operations center and were on the verge of spending \$102 million on a new building. But then 1600 Los Gamos Dr., a largely empty, 315,000 square-foot office building in San Rafael, was put on the market by a subsidiary of Cigna Corp., which foreclosed on it in 2009. The county now has an agreement to buy the building. Total cost: \$82 million, which includes \$29 million to acquire the building and \$53 million to build it out. [Read more...](#)

## **Harbor East warehouse to be developed into shops, restaurants**

*11/18/11, Baltimore Business Journal, Nicholas Griner*

Harbor East hipsters will have some new places to shop and eat in the trendy, waterfront neighborhood under a plan being hatched by a Baltimore developer. Chesapeake Real Estate Group wants to turn a vacant warehouse at South Central Avenue and Fleet Street into high-end space for multiple stores and restaurants. The company spent \$3.1 million in cash to buy the 25,800-square-foot building at 511 S. Central from the Bohager family. The sale closed Nov. 10.