



Bright idea

HarborView Towers to turn beacon back on. **3A**

Barely passing

State gets mediocre grade for small business climate. **5A**

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Harborview beacon returns to city skyline

Lighting ceremony scheduled for Tuesday night

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After being dark for nearly a year the beacon on top of **HarborView Towers** will again light up Baltimore's skyline.

HarborView representatives, and Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, will turn on the new beacon during a ceremony scheduled for Tuesday night.

"In my view it's something that shows Baltimore and makes it distinctive and different. I look at pictures of Sydney, Australia and their opera house, and I see the Arch in St. Louis, and I see the dome on top the Empire State Building, and when the blimps come to Baltimore to telecast the Orioles and Ravens I want them to show this beacon atop the **Inner Harbor**, and make it a symbolic architectural element of the Baltimore community," said John Cochran, president of the **HarborView Towers Council of Unit Owners**.

The beacon is enclosed in glass at the top of the building and rises to 30 stories.



FILE PHOTO

The Harborview Tower rises to 30 stories, its beacon visible for miles.

The beacon produces light shows that are visible in surrounding neighborhoods and to motorists traveling on Interstate 95.

Renovations of the beacon involved removing 384 florescent fixtures that had been installed in the 1990s. The beacon will now use the same LED system that is used on the Empire State Building for its light shows. The new system is anticipated to reduce energy costs by 87 per-

cent.

In addition to restoring the beacon, which will have light shows for occasions such as holidays or after one of the city's sports teams win, the towers have also undergone \$6 million in exterior renovations including a new roof, upgraded water proofing and a state-of-the-art mechanical systems.

"The entire building just needed some

love, attention and care and that's what it's getting," Cochran said.

The owners association is also expected to vote Tuesday on giving final approval to planned interior renovations at the building that could include improvements to guest suites, the lobby and banquet room.

HarborView Towers, a 27-story luxury-condominium building, was one of the first residential properties built along the waterfront on Key Highway and was completed in 1993. The building is part of a larger 42-acre community with a variety of luxury-housing options.

In 2010, a resident in one of the penthouse units of the 249-unit building sued the owners association and the property management for \$5 million because of mold in his unit. The plaintiff, who had purchased the unit for \$1.15 million in 2009, alleged fraud pertaining to a resale certification. The lawsuit argued the owners association were aware of extensive leaking and mold issues at the development.

But the lawsuit was thrown out by **Baltimore City Circuit Court** Judge Lawrence Fletcher-Hill in April 2012. He ruled that the owners' association and the property management company had met their obligations regarding disclosure.