

Riverside Neighborhood Association

Encompassing Neighbors from Lawrence Street to Light Street and from Key Highway to the Railyard

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, May 20th
7 pm at Salem Lutheran Church (corner of Randall & Battery)

Green Thumb Day - *Jackson Fisher*

The Friends of Riverside Park teamed up with Thomas Johnson Elementary/Middle's greening committee for the student Green Thumb Day on May 2nd. **Green Thumb Day** is an opportunity for the students to learn about and participate in planting activities in flower beds along Heath St. The students planted 200 plants, mulched all of the beds (about 3/4 of a dump truck worth of mulch), weeded, and watered. A core group of middle school students served as mentors to the younger elementary students. **Nancy Baum**, who teaches Pre-K, organized different classes to come out every 30 minutes. There were 200-250 kids who participated in the planting. Overall, the kids did a fantastic job and have transformed the area in front of the school.

Typically, the school funds the annual spring planting by hosting a plant sale. This year, the school received \$913 from the Parks and People Neighborhood



Students Planting at Thomas Johnson

Greening grant program. The grant money was used to purchase 28 roses, 30 daisies, 30 black eyed susans, and 144 liriopse. The grant did not cover mulch so the school and Riverside Neighborhood Association contributed to the purchase of 15 yards of mulch. Additional plant material was acquired from several sources. Tree Baltimore supplied 4 Eastern Redbud trees. **Jon Mayers** from Chesapeake Realty Partners (2 E. Wells/1901 S. Charles) donated material from 2 E. Wells (barberry/day lillies/shrubs). An ornamental oak and 10 boxwoods were acquired at the Mid-Atlantic Nursery and Trade Show (MANTS). Tools were provided by Parks and People's CGRN toolbank. This event has been very successful over the past 3-4 years and has been supported by many people/organizations. We are looking forward to continuing these efforts again next spring!

Friends of Riverside Park Cleanup: Saturday June 1st 9am-Noon.

We will work on mulching and weeding the entrance flower beds/roses, some maintenance on the Riverside Park sign, picking up trash, and some light pruning. Cleanups are all ages and abilities. Dogs, children, and those with short attention spans are always welcome.

Riverside Park Pool

The Riverside Park pool opens at the end of May. Starting on **May 25** until June 9, the pool will be open on the weekends. The pool will open 7 days a week starting on June 15 and continuing until August 11th. Pool admission is \$2; a season pass costs \$30. General pool hours (open swimming) is 12pm-7pm (Monday-Saturday) and 1pm-6pm (Sunday). Note: The pool is closed daily from 3:30-4pm for safety inspections and employee lunch/break. The pool is offering several programs this year outside of open swimming times (swimming lessons/mommy and me swim times/lap swimming etc). If you are interested, there is some basic info on the Baltimore City Aquatics page. (It should be updated with the current info; however, I would encourage anyone with specific questions to stop by the pool and ask Nikki.) (As of press time, I don't have any additional info to pass on about the pool programs; however, we are trying to meet with them about programs before the pool opens. I might have some info later in the month; you can contact me at jkf42@yahoo.com.

CONTACT US:

On the Web:

www.RiversideActionGroup.org or
find us on Facebook.

Questions & Comments:

ragsoebo@yahoo.com

Newsletter:

RNA.Newsletter@comcast.net

Mail:

Riverside Neighborhood Association
841 E. Fort Ave., Suite 219
Baltimore, MD 21230

2012-2013 OFFICERS

President: vacant
Vice President: Dave Urbanek
Secretary: vacant
Treasurer: Joelle Woolston

2012-2013 COMMITTEES

Newsletter: Brent Burgess
Crime: Shannon Sullivan
Friends of Riverside Park:
Mary Braman
Development: Ann Fiocco
Trash/Clean-up: Dave Urbanek
Historian: Paul Stysley
Forestry/Street Trees: Jackson Fisher
Communications: LaRee McCuan

LOOK!
We Are
Meeting One
Week Early This
Month Due to
Memorial
Day

RNA June Calendar of Events

Saturday, June 1 – Friends of Riverside Park (FORP) park cleanup and planting, 9 AM at the Gazebo

Monday, June 3 – Citizens on Patrol (COP) Walk, 7 PM at Riverside Park Gazebo

Sunday, June 23 – Concert in the Park!

Monday, June 24 – Neighborhood Meeting, 7 PM at Salem Lutheran Church.

Recent RNA Activities

March

- Park Clean-Up
- COP Walk
- Meeting with City for Residential Parking (RPP)
- Residential Permit Parking Committee Meeting

April

- Park Clean-Up
- Mayor's Spring Clean-Up
- COP Walk
- Meeting for new Casino
- Ongoing correspondence with City for Residential Permit Parking (RPP)

Crime - *Shannon Sullivan*

A big thank you to all the RNA residents who came to the May COP walk. We were joined by Council President Jack Young who learned a lot about our concerns during the 45min tour through the neighborhood. He was very responsive to our issues and before the walk concluded he was working with both Housing and the Department of Parks and Rec to provide solutions. He was a great addition to the patrol and because of his support it was a very productive evening. I would also like to thank Delegate Luke Clippinger who walked with us as well and who has been working closely with me for some time on drug nuisance properties.

Our next walk is scheduled for **Monday, June 2nd** at 7pm so mark your calendar now.

In the meantime, please remember to remove all items from your car before locking it and remind any visitors to do the same. And, if you have concerns or would like input on crime/police related activity please remember that you can contact me at anytime by emailing sullivansox@yahoo.com or come speak to me after the meeting. Officer Vaught, aka Butterbean, is still recovering from the car accident so he is unavailable at this time.

Riverside Roundup *Dave Urbanek*

Guests for May Meeting

Stu FitzGibbon from Domino Sugar to talk about Domino's involvement in the neighborhood and their new long-term partnership with RNA.

Abby Moore from AmeriCorps VISTA to talk about the Baltimore Energy Challenge, a program out of the City's Office of Sustainability designed to



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JUST LISTED



1221 Patapsco St

Beautiful 2 BR home steps from the heart of Federal Hill! Featuring hardwood floors, decorative fireplace, granite counters, stainless steel appliances, private rear patio, master walk in closet, stacked washer and dryer and much more! 1st floor space for den/office or a 3rd BR! Also with 2 Year Home Warranty!!

JUST LISTED



1805 S Charles St

Elegant home located on quiet Federal Hill street! Beautiful European molding, tray ceilings & recessed lighting create a warm feeling throughout! Features include hardwood floors, exposed brick, granite counters, stainless appliances, decorative fireplace & large master bath! 2 tiered roof deck w/ city views great for entertainment and an off street PARKING pad in the rear!

office: 410-547-5700

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help Baltimore reduce its energy consumption by 15% by 2015 through low- and no-cost tips and tools. As part of their effort to help residents lower their energy consumption, she will also give out free kits of energy saving tools for everyone in attendance!

Elections at June Meeting

Elections for all board positions will be held at the neighborhood meeting on **June 24**. If you or someone you know is interested in running, please think about nominating him/ her/ yourself. Also, please note that as we are now officially a non-profit organization, only dues-paying members are able to vote. See the "Dues are Due" section of this newsletter for information on how to submit your payment.

Upcoming Events in and Around the City

Baltimore Museum Week

May 19 – 24

Various Locations

Baltimore's museums and cultural attractions will take center stage in May. Baltimore's cultural community is rolling out the red carpet to celebrate our extraordinary museums and attractions. Explore Baltimore with experiences including behind-the-scenes museum tours, a Mount Vernon walking tour, an outdoor art festival in Druid Hill Park, and buy one, get one free admission to 20 of the city's museums and attractions. For more information, visit baltimore.org/museumweek.

Baltimore Builds: Using FHA 203(k) for Rehab Financing

Wednesday, May 22, 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

1601 N. Baker Street

Come learn about HUD's 203(k) program for rehab financing, which allows participants to purchase a home with finances included to make repairs and improvements. Admission to this workshop is free, but seating is limited and pre-registration is required. For more information about the Baltimore Builds Workshop Series, or to register, call 410-396-4111 or email V2V@baltimorecity.gov. For more information about Vacants to Value, visit www.baltimorehousing.org/vacants_to_value.

MayPlay 2013 at Thomas Johnson

Tuesday May 28th, 5:00-6:30 pm,

Come enjoy a night of healthy fun. MayPlay is a community fitness event that will give people of all ages a chance to play together while learning about staying active and keeping healthy. Activities include: games, health screenings, Zumba, home energy savings kits, mini-chair massages, CPR demos, and much more! TJEMS is located at 100 E. Heath St. For additional details, please visit: www.facebook.com/events/147290762112348 or email Sharicca at sms205@hotmail.com.

Bowling for BARCS

Wednesday, May 29, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

AMF Timonium Lanes, 2165 York Road, Timonium

Join the Baltimore Animal Rescue and Care Shelter and Baltimore Ravens wide receiver **Torrey Smith** for an evening at the lanes! Proceeds benefit the new BARCS Medical Care Fund, which provides resources to care for the shelter's homeless cats and dogs. Tickets are \$100 and include two games, shoe rental, and dinner—plus the opportunity to meet Torrey as he visits each of the 36 lanes. A raffle will be held for the chance to bowl a game with Torrey! Tickets can be purchased through Mission Tix. Only ticket holders will be allowed entry; memorabilia or autographs will not be permitted. For more information, visit baltimoreanimalshelter.org.

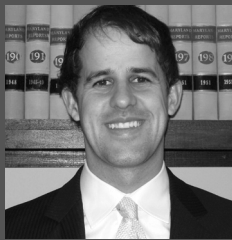
Summer Socials at West Shore Park

Friday, June 21, 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Live music by *Strykers Posse*, a Waterfront Kids Play Area, Food Trucks, Beer, Wine and Mixed Drinks, and the Walter Sondheim Interactive Fountain! Bring a blanket and enjoy the evening at West Shore Park, located between the Maryland Science Center and Baltimore Visitor Center. **FREE.**

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410-279-2348

MatthewFarr@cohendwin.com

**Please call for a
FREE CONSULTATION!**

*As a South Baltimore resident, I would be
happy to meet at a location convenient to you.*

Call Anytime!

Greetings and peace, Riverside Neighbors.

Greetings and peace! I hope this letter finds you in good health and good spirits. We've had a lot of great neighborhood stuff happening at Salem. I want to take this opportunity to publicly thank the good folks of the SoBo Halloween Bash and Thomas Johnson Elementary School for hosting their events at our place. Both went off very well from my understanding and I'm grateful that these respective groups chose our fellowship hall for their activities. And we are always glad to host you, the good people of Riverside, at RNA's monthly meeting. Please know that we do have a spacious room for larger gatherings and we love to have folks in from the neighborhood when possible. Feel free to contact me for more details.

A programming note on upcoming events. We will be having an ice cream social for families on **Friday, June 7th from 6:30-8:30pm** at our church. Our Vacation Bible School, which we are doing with Christ Inner Harbor, will take place in the evenings of **August 12-16**. We will have a program for parents so that you can drop your kids off and enjoy some bonding time with your fellow laborers of love. More details will come in the next few months so stay tuned. Lastly, as part of Salem's focus on justice, we hope to have a town hall meeting sometime in August on the unfortunate issue of sexual violence against women and what we can do to combat the culture surrounding it. Although it is held as a faith-based event, it is open for the community because to provide the true social change needed in addressing this issue, I really believe that it takes a village. So if you are interested in helping us with this event, please let me know.

We continue to enjoy a beautiful worship service every Sunday at 10am, where the only thing missing is your presence (and your family too!). Our numbers have increased as people have felt welcomed in our faith community. In conjunction with this, we are continuing to find new ways to do ministry that get everyone excited. The good people of Salem would love to have you be involved in something that interests you, especially concerning justice issues in our area. Again, please feel free to inquire about this. We also continue to meet at *Captain Larry's* **every Wednesday at 7:30pm** and are enormously grateful for the support we receive from John, Ivars and Mara. As the weather gets warmer, I'll be walking around more with the collar on and I love to get stopped and meet new people (and their adorable pets!). Hope to talk to you soon!

Pastor Jacob Simpson



Your Neighborhood Realtor



THE PERFECT STORM!

Hello Neighbors,
Spring is the most popular time to list your home: Inventory remains low & buyers are actively looking for homes. Interest rates remain historically low. It is, without a doubt "The Perfect Storm"!

If you have been waiting to list your home, please call me today to schedule an in home consultation.



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Jackie McGee

6080 Falls Road
Baltimore, MD 21209
JMcGee66@gmail.com
410-370-1673



S W E E T !

Free concerts at Riverside Park are back.

Riverside Summer Music Series
presented by

Domino Sugars

Bring a picnic and spend a Sunday evening enjoying live music with your friends and neighbors.

- June 23: School of Rock
- July 21: Captain Jack
- August 18: Mambo Combo
- September 8: Sac au Lait (tentative)

Attention Parents and Dog Owners and Parents who are also Dog Owners

A few items for everyone who fall under these categories...

- RNA has worked hard to plant new trees and plants in the park. It would be nice if parents would help us teach children to respect the beauty of the park. Two of our newly planted trees were destroyed by press time. It is sad to see the volunteer hours wasted by vandals.

- Dogs are not allowed in the playground. It is against the law and signs are posted stating as much. There are no exceptions to this law. Please respect everyone else in the playground that may be afraid and/or allergic to dogs.

- Children and parents should not be using bad language in the playground. There are many small children in the playground on a daily basis and everyone should respect their right to play without hearing bad language from adults and older kids.

These three items are all about respect. Everyone should be able to use the park at anytime during the day. But you are not in a bubble and you should respect the people around you and respect the park.

Federal Hill Jazz & Blues Wine & Art Festival



Come on down on **Sunday, June 2, 11 am to 7 pm**, for this fun and **FREE** event that everyone has something for everyone. It all takes place in the heart of Federal Hill, on South Charles Street, between Hamburg and West, and on Cross Street next to Cross Street Market.

This festival is known for its great music, and this year is no exception. We're excited to have **BONERAMA** and **HONEY ISLAND SWAMP BAND**, right off the New Orleans JazzFest stage! Also appearing will be **Jamie McLean Band**, local favorite **Cris Jacobs Band**, **Speakers of the House**, **Soul Island Rebels**, and lots more.

Be sure to stop by the **Boordy Wine Garden** and our **Artist Alley** to see works by area artists, including local gallery owners **Mark Cottman** and **Crystal Moll**. Arts & crafts vendors will offer a variety of wares, such as jewelry, hats, purses, and t-shirts. And, of course, you'll find lots of great food & drink. **Greyhound Express** bus will also be on site doing some promotions.

Kids' Kross Street will feature the usual moon bounces, toddler play area, crafts, and face painting, organized and staffed by community

parent volunteers, financed by Federal Hill Main Street. You'll also find some **Urban Pirates**, gymnastics performances, kid-friendly cooking lessons, and lots more. And, it's all **free**.

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*At participating locations.



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Doggy Etiquette

The law states that dogs must be on a leash no longer than six feet. However, as we have recently received several complaints of dogs running up to people walking through the park with no controls or discipline from their owners, I feel that too many people are not respecting the rights and personal space of others. The following guidelines are simple rules of doggy etiquette that I occasionally place in the Riverside Newsletter. I thought it was the perfect time to remind the dedicated dog walkers in the park:

- Rain, snow, sun, knee deep in mud...pick up after your dog. Think of the park as your own yard, because it is. Oh yes, and it is the law!
- Your dog should be firmly under your control for the safety of the dog, and everyone else in the park.
- Your dog should never approach a dog on a leash unless invited by that dog's owner.
- Your dog should never approach people walking through the park without their invitation.
- Doggy playtime should be centered in the middle of grassy areas and not near pedestrian paths.
- Dogs who play too aggressively (growling, biting, etc.) can be frightening to passersby. The dogs should be separated and/or play should be moved to the lower field.
- If your dog breaches etiquette, a simple reprimand to the dog and a sincere apology to the other person will usually diffuse the situation. (Saying "he won't hurt you" only makes people angry)
- Your home's proximity to the park is not a license to open your front door and let your dog go to the park without you. That immediately violates all of the above.

The only way for everyone to enjoy the park is to respect the personal space of others. You wouldn't run up to a stranger in the park and jump on them (hopefully), and neither should your dog. We are fortunate to have a large, wonderful park in which to exercise our dogs, and following these simple suggestions will help to continue everyone's enjoyment of the park.

Ann Fiocco

Board Member
Riverside Neighborhood Association and
Mother of Fergus

April 20th was the Mayor's Citywide Cleanup and we had a nice turnout of helpers, including employees from Domino Sugar, to work in the park, in front of Thomas



Johnson Elementary, and the surrounding streets. Here are some improvements to the Gazebo.

Dues are Due

RNA is now officially a Non-Profit Public Charity and is exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to us are now deductible, and we are qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts. This also means we must start 2013 dues collection. Now that we are non-profit, you cannot vote on any issue without paying dues. They are a very-affordable \$5 a year and can be paid at a neighborhood meeting or by using the tear-off slip below.

2013 Riverside Neighborhood Association Dues Payment Slip

\$5

**Riverside Neighborhood Association
841 East Fort Avenue
Suite 219
Baltimore, MD 21230**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email/Phone: _____