

Riverside Neighborhood Association

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

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, OCTOBER 28th
7 pm at Captain Larry's - Come Early for Happy Hour!

CONTACT US:

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

2012-2013 OFFICERS

President: Shane Laporte
 Vice President: Jen McLaughlin
 Secretary: Heather Chiaro
 Treasurer: Joelle Woolston

2012-2013 COMMITTEES

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

Farewell to Summer, Here Comes Fall - *Shane Laporte*

Greetings Neighbors! I hope you are all ready for fall because, like it or not, here it comes. The kids are back in school, the Ravens are back in town, and the O's are keeping us on the edge of our seats.

Before the summer becomes a distant memory, we should thank a few folks for making this summer memorable. Foremost among them are our friends from Domino Sugars. The successful Summer Concert Series could not have happened without their generous support. Joelle, Stefanie, and Joyce also deserve a huge round of applause for putting in all the work to pull off four excellent concerts.

Another event for which we should all be cheering is the recent seizure of a neighborhood drug house. This was a very long process... 10-plus years. Many folks throughout the city played roles in making this happen, including some from RNA. Their patience and perseverance have made the neighborhood a better and safer place for all of us.

The Saturday Morning Kiddie Swim was very successful this year, too. Stefanie did a great job organizing this for all of us and we look forward to working closely with the pool's management for another successful summer next year.

Finally, anyone who spent even a minute of time in the park this summer (or any other part of the year) should say a thank you to Jackson, who organizes all of the maintenance, improvements, and upkeep at the park. His efforts span the gamut from planting, watering, and trimming of trees and plants to fixing gates and fences.

The folks that I mentioned above are not the only ones who have dedicated their free time to making the neighborhood a better place, so I would like to say 'Thank you' to all of the volunteers that have pitched in as well. That 'Thank you' extends not only to the people who have helped out at organized events or clean-ups but also to everyone who, on their own, has pulled weeds or picked up trash throughout the neighborhood. Regardless of how that trash came to our streets, everyday there are residents who care enough, and have enough pride in our neighborhood, to help clean it up. I challenge each of our residents to take part in this; spending a few minutes to improve the look of our neighborhood is the easiest way to make the neighborhood a better place. Your neighborhood will thank you for it. If your street is clean, just wait; the leaves will be here soon. As I mentioned, fall is coming.

**October
 Calendar of Events**

Saturday October 5
 Yard Sale, 9-1

Saturday October 5
 Park Cleanup, 9-12

Saturday October 5
 Pet Blessing, Noon

Monday October 7
 Cop Walk

Saturday October 27
 Halloween Bash, 1-6 pm

Monday October 28
 RNA Meeting, 7 pm
Captain Larry's

Community Yard Sale
October 5th 9am-1pm in Riverside Park

Have stuff to sell? Pay \$10/table when you register on our website and send your pre-payment to RNA Yard Sale, 841 E Fort Ave, Suite 219, Baltimore, MD 21230, by October 2; or pay \$15/table on the day of the event. Day-of tables are limited and will be rented on a first-come, first-served basis.

Want to give stuff away? Donate your items to the RNA table that morning. We'll sell it for you and keep the proceeds.

Rain Date: October 6th. Stay tuned to Facebook or Twitter for the latest updates.



Great Summer, Good Times - *Ann Fiocco*

Off the Wall

Riverside was the fortunate recipient of the Walters Art Museum public art installation. The painting, located in the garden in Riverside Park at the Heath Street entrance on Covington Street, is a beautiful addition to our park. The 16th century work of Italian art has been enjoyed by all passersby, large and small. Thank you to the Walters for including our park in their *Off the Wall* program.



Successful Summer at Riverside Pool

We had a great summer at the Riverside Pool. For those of you who didn't come to the pool this summer there were several very popular activities. Every Saturday there was a "mommy and me" baby/toddler swim. This allowed parents to introduce their tots to the big pool without big crowds. There was water bootcamp on Wednesdays and Saturdays, a great workout with a highly qualified and fun instructor. Family Night on Wednesday evenings was a big hit and a nice activity for parents and their children after a long day of work. There was the one Twilight Swim which was so successful that we have had requests for more than one next year. Daily lap swims on weekday mornings gave people a chance to get their workout in before work. Finally, the summer ended with a doggy swim on the last day. A big day with a huge crowd of water loving dogs.



It was amazing to see all of the people who brought their dogs to the pool on the last day but had never been to the pool before that day. We worked very well with the pool staff to develop these popular activities and will be working with them to make next year even better. The staff was kind and helpful, volunteering to come in early and/or stay late to accommodate different activities. This pool is a wonderful resource that we are lucky to have in the middle of our neighborhood and I hope more people will take advantage of the many great activities we are planning for next year.

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SOLD in 6-14 Days:

37 Birkhead St, 3212 Leverton Ave, 1231 Riverside Ave, 1417 Webster St, 1021 Upton Rd, 3 Ridout Rd, 1705 S Charles St, 132 W Ostend St, 1400 Webster St, 1306 Towson St, 1704 Jackson St, 1507 Henry St, 3200 Foster Ave, 1117 S Baylis St, 1002 Olive St, 100 S Wolfe St, 1410 Patapsco St, 326 S East Ave, 911 S Charles St #409



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Development

The former nuisance property at 1701 Light will be auctioned off on October 4th. Please refer to baltimorehousing.org for any permit or renovation issues.

Parks & Recreation - *Jackson Fisher* October Cleanups

There will be two park cleanups in October. We will have the monthly Friends of Riverside Park Cleanup on Oct 5 @ 9am-noon. Bulb planting, trash pickup, and some weeding are the tentative plans. Later in the month, we will participate in the Mayor's Fall Cleanup. As of press time, I don't have the date (probably Oct 19th or 26th). For the Mayor's cleanup, I was going to focus on pruning some of the low hanging Riverside street trees. If you have a tree that is hitting pedestrians, send me the location and we will remove the low branches. (jjkf42@yahoo.com)

Riverside Summer Music Series - *Joelle Woolston*

The Summer Music Series came to a close on Sunday September 8th. While I have unabashedly been taking the credit and accepting the thanks for this year's concerts, there were many people who contributed to these concerts. I would like to recognize those that helped make it possible:

First and foremost, thank you to Domino Sugars for their sponsorship of this season's concert series and for their donation of a Radio Flyer Wagon stuffed with goodies that we raffled off at the final concert. Their generous donation enabled us to restart one of the neighborhood's great summer traditions.

Thank you to the bands (School of Rock, Captain Jack, Mambo Combo, and Sac au Lait) for their great music and to Shaun Wilson, our spectacular sound guy.

Thank you to Stefanie McKenzie and Joyce Jones, the two neighborhood volunteers who did most of the work involved in organizing the concerts.

Thank you to the RNA board members and other volunteers for all of their help, be it promoting, baking, selling raffle tickets, moving tables and coolers, watching my kids, etc.

And a final thank you to you, the RNA community and beyond, for coming out to enjoy the music, rain or shine, bringing your dancing shoes and your sweet tooth. We look forward to seeing you again next year, because Domino has announced they are sponsoring next year's concerts!

Next up on my list of things to convince Stefanie and Joyce to plan so I can take the credit: "Lighting of the Riverside Park Gazebo" in early December, with hot chocolate and (fake) snowball fights. Keep an eye on your newsletters to see if I'm successful.

Crime - *Shannon Sullivan*

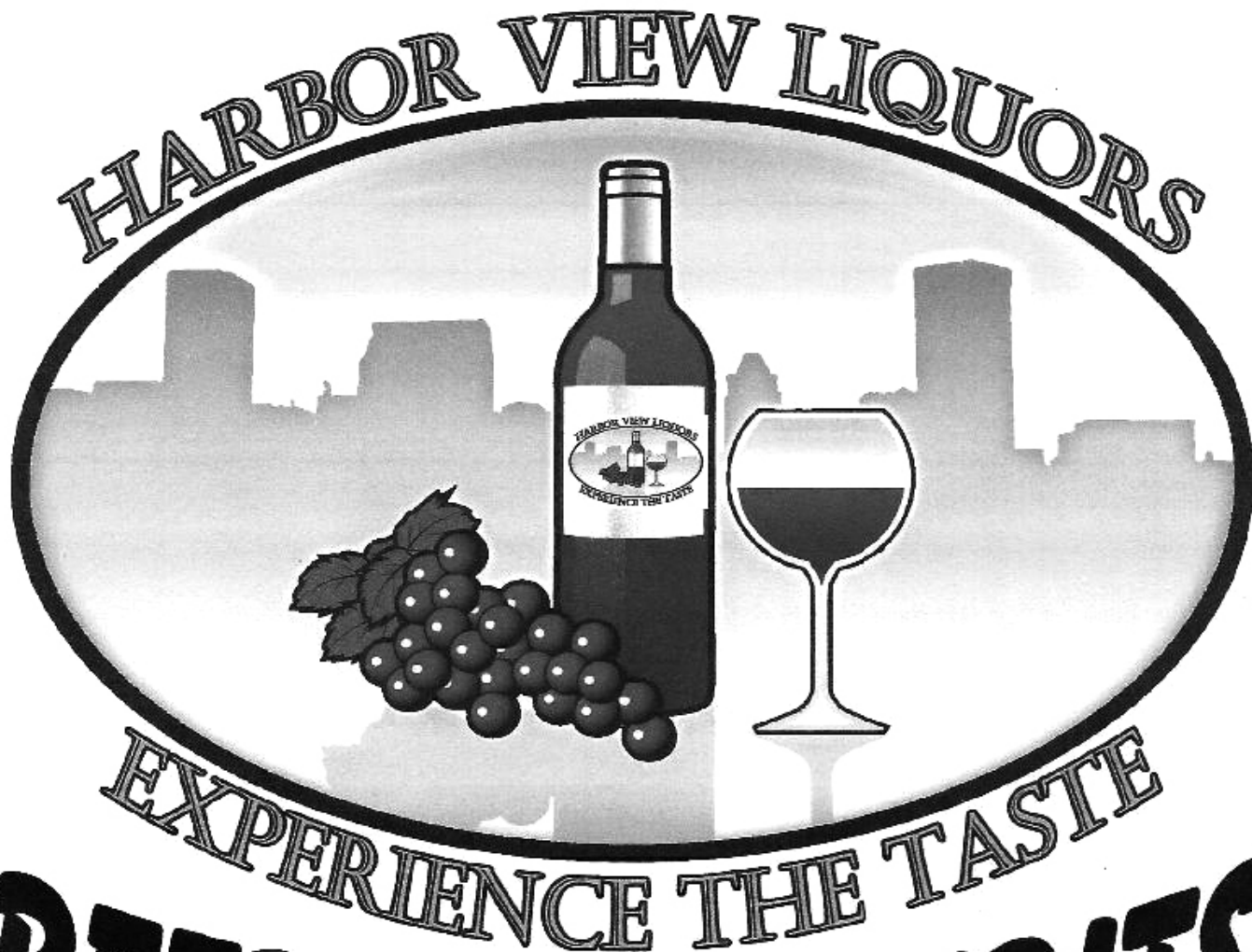
As many of you saw posted on RNA's Facebook page (you do not need a Facebook account to access our page), we've had some good news and some troubling news in the last few weeks. There were three robberies in our area in August. In these cases the suspects were looking for cell phones. Cell phones, smart phones in particular, offer a very easy way for criminals to get cash. Designed to give people the opportunity to recycle their phones (electronic waste is a major environmental issue), there are ATM type machines located throughout the area that allow someone to deposit a phone in exchange for money. While the initial thought behind this product was good, criminals have abused the intent. There is currently legislation that ban these phone for cash machines but we need to do our part as well. Remember to be aware of your surroundings, don't walk down the street or sit on the bus while talking on your phone as you are not only distracted, you've just shown all of those around you that you have a phone to take. The police are also doing their part, with arrests of several of the suspects.

In other news, 1701 Light Street, the property that was declared a Drug Nuisance back in 2008, was finally taken over by the State of Maryland. The owner, and seven other people who were living there, were evicted at the end of August. The auction for the property is set for 11am on October 4th. This took over 10 years, several court appearances, hundreds of emails and coordination, lead by RNA, between the Baltimore City Police Department and the Baltimore City Housing Department to finally happen, but it was worth it. I'll have more details on this at the next meeting but I wanted to pass along this good news.

On another note, don't forget about our monthly crime walks. The walks are the first Monday of the month, and begin at the Riverside Park gazebo at 7pm. If it is raining, 90 or above or 32 or below the walk will be canceled. But check RNA's Facebook page for any updates.

And as always, 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.





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Greetings and peace, Riverside Neighbors.

Greetings and peace! I hope this letter finds you in good health and good spirits. We at Salem have been very busy with our mission statement and plan but it has finally been revealed. Our new motto is "Sharing faith, hope and God's love with YOU!" We want to emphasize the "YOU!" because we are working hard at being a church that thrives outside of our walls and is beloved in our neighborhood. It is a lofty goal to be sure but we are in a great community and we want you all to know how much we care. In our new mission plan, we have parts devoted to serving our neighborhood and the people who share it. Please let us know how we can best serve you.

The Francis of Assisi Pet Blessing returns **October 5 at 12pm** at Riverside Park! Come have your pet blessed, enjoy a reception outside at the church and be home in time for the Ravens game. Also, we are having our first annual Oktoberfest on Saturday, **October 19 at 12pm**. It'll be a fun day of great food and great drinks and we hope to see you there. To accommodate folks who cannot make it every Sunday, we are starting a monthly Tuesday night service beginning **November 5 at 7pm**. It'll be different from a traditional Sunday worship, having inspiring music, prayer and healing. It's not only for people who are busy on Sunday mornings, it's also for those who are looking for something unique. Salem's music coordinator and I are developing the order for the worship and we would welcome any feedback on what you would like to see that's different from churches you have been to in the past, including ours. Be sure to check out our Facebook page (facebook.com/SalemBaltimore) for all the latest updates.

We continue to meet at Captain Larry's **every Wednesday at 7:30** for our *Love Thy Neighbor* discussions. We've seen some new faces to go with the regulars but we would always love to see you. And our doors remain open for Sunday worship at 10am. All are welcome as always. Feel free to stop me whenever you see me walking around the neighborhood with the collar on. It's always a blessing to meet people from our community. I'm anxious to hear your stories and find ways that we can do ministry together.

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Jacob Simpson

Join your SOBO neighbors of all ages for a day filled with Spooky fun!



2nd Annual
South Baltimore Halloween Bash

Riverside Park

Sunday, October 27th
1-6 pm rain or shine

Food
Crafts
Games
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Moonbounce
Parade
and more!

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Be Careful Out There - *Heather Chiaro*

From the county to the city, there have been many noted instances of runners, walkers, and bikers who have been robbed. These thieves are looking for money, tablets, smart phones, and other big ticket items we all carry around on a daily basis. This is just a friendly reminder to everyone that we should err on the side of caution when out in the neighborhood. If it's possible, exercise with a partner. It also makes the time go by faster when you need that extra push to get outside and burn some calories! If you're outside and you have your earbuds in, it is always a good idea to tuck one earbud into your shirt so you can hear the world around you. This can also help you hear traffic, horns honking, dogs barking and people in the vicinity, just to name a few.

Sadly, the sun is setting earlier and earlier each day. So when you're outside, whether it's dark outside or not, don't forget texting and walking is a huge red flag. Since so many cell phones have been reported as being stolen, your best bet would be to conceal your phone when you are out. Don't let a thief look at you like a potential target. Let's have these thieves look at us like we know what's up and we don't have anything they want. None of us should be victims. Please pay attention. Let's look forward to a beautiful and safe fall to come.

Like, Follow, Subscribe- Stay Connected! - *Rachel Wagner*

Throughout the past few months, RNA has made great strides in the technology world. In case you are not yet aware, here are all the ways you can keep up with RNA on the web:

- Visit our new website, riversideneighborhoodassociation.com. The home page is a blog that is updated every few days, at the very least. You'll also find the history of the park, a community calendar, past and present newsletters, neighborhood resources, and more!

- Like us on Facebook, or follow us on Twitter @rnabaltimore. These are your best options for finding out the latest news, especially for those of you who already use one or both of these social media outlets on a regular basis.

- Subscribe to our e-newsletter, which is sent out near the end of each month. The e-newsletter provides you with a direct link to the print newsletter, reminders about upcoming events, and noteworthy news released after the print newsletter went to press. You can sign up by going to our website and completing the form within the right sidebar.

- Add our Google Calendar to your personal calendar. If you have a Gmail or Google account and use the calendar feature, you can go to the Community Calendar page of our website, and click the +GoogleCalendar button in the bottom right corner of the calendar. Then, our events will show up alongside your own.

If you have any ideas for our website or other digital ventures, please submit them to the Website Suggestions survey linked on the About Us>Contact Us page of our website.

RNA Membership

Become a member of the Riverside Neighborhood Association and help support the community. The \$5 per person membership fee helps to support RNA's efforts in the community, which include park maintenance, the Summer Concert Series, socials, and this newsletter. Each paid membership runs from January 1st to December 31st of each year, and you must be a paid member to cast votes for elections or other topics. Because RNA is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Public Charity, all donations, including membership dues, are tax deductible.

2013 Riverside Neighborhood Association Dues Payment Slip

\$5 per person

Riverside Neighborhood Association

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