

# Riverside Neighborhood Association

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

## NEXT MEETING & SOCIAL: MONDAY, MARCH 31

6:30 pm at Captain Larry's

### CONTACT US:

#### On the Web:

riversideneighborhoodassociation.com  
facebook.com/rnabaltimore  
twitter.com/rnabaltimore

#### Questions & Comments:

rnabaltimore@gmail.com

#### Newsletter:

RNA.Newsletter@comcast.net

#### Mail:

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

#### 2013-2014 OFFICERS

President: Shane Laporte  
Vice President: Jen McLaughlin  
Secretary: Sandy Asirvatham  
Treasurer: Joelle Woolston

#### 2013-2014 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

### Help Us Help You - *Shane Laporte*

Over the course of the past few months, one of the things that RNA has spent a good amount of time discussing is how we can improve our communications with the neighborhood. While the one-on-one communications have long been a strong suit for RNA - a walk through the park on most days can serve as evidence of that as board members are often stopped to talk about various topics - The challenge has been: how do we cast a wider net to communicate with more of you?

Our consideration of 'communications' covers many things. It can include being able to better inform the neighborhood about events and occurrences in the neighborhood. It can mean having informative speakers at our meetings that bring attention to issues or new businesses. It can also refer to the means by which we communicate. We are trying to focus and improve in all of these areas. Our goal is to create a neighborhood association that truly serves as a connector for the neighborhood and makes everyone feel welcome to participate to whatever extent they desire.

So what have we been doing to work on this?

We have been trying to fill our regular meetings with relevant guest speakers. The recent and upcoming months' speakers have centered on the upcoming state elections. This gives all of us a chance to meet with and ask questions of the candidates that will help shape our state and city for the next few years. After the election cycle, we will have speakers who represent local businesses and events. Good suggestions for speakers are welcome. We have also been mixing in social meetings every few months. The hope is that those who want to ask questions in an informal atmosphere will come out and do so. March's meeting at Captain Larry's will be one of those, so please come join us.

We are also working on improving our communications between meetings and newsletters. We have a Twitter account and Facebook pages that are updated throughout the month with current news. Up until very recently, our Facebook page had been what is known as a 'Fan Page'. On this type of page, posts by our followers were seen by RNA but were not automatically broadcast for the rest of our friends and neighbors. Because we are still learning, it took us a while to figure out that there is a better way to connect the neighborhood. To that end, we recently set up the RNA Neighbor Connect Group on Facebook. This group will allow all of its members to interact more easily. For current events and questions, this will be the timeliest way to give and receive information. The best part is that it will tap into the whole neighborhood as a resource. As I mentioned, connecting the neighborhood is the goal. Please take the time to join the group (more info on page 4).



Join us for our RNA "Think Spring" Social. Come out, meet your neighbors, and learn something new about RNA. Social is at Captain Larry's starting at 6:30pm. Owners Mara and Ivars have graciously offered your first drink free.

## Upcoming Activities

### Monday, March 31

Neighborhood Meeting & Social, 7pm @ Captain Larry's

### Saturday, April 5

Park Cleanup, 9am

### Monday, April 7

COP Walk, 7pm

### Saturday, April 26

Community Yard Sale, 9am-1pm  
details on page 4

You can now donate and pay dues ONLINE!

## Development - *Ann Fiocco*

Development Committee Goals: RNA seeks to promote responsible development that will enhance life for everyone on the peninsula and within our neighborhood. We want to listen to our residents and balance resident concerns/wishes with the overall best interests of improving city life for everyone. 130/132 E. Barney has been purchased by a new developer. We are confident that this developer will work with our community on their plans. Updates will follow at the next meeting. The property currently housing Matty's Diner on the corner of Fort of Lawrence has been purchased. This property includes the parking lot behind the diner. The developer has no definitive plans as of our newsletter deadline, but we will keep everyone informed as plans develop. Look for demolition to begin on the old funeral home on Fort Ave. This will be developed into 5 rowhomes. Please remember to refer to baltimorehousing.org for any permit questions or concerns.

## Parks & Recreation - *Jackson Fisher*

### Riverside Trash Cans

The corner trash cans at the Randall entrances are prone to overflow during busy weekends or snow events. According to the labels on the cans, one side is for recycling and one side is for trash. Currently, the city does not provide separate trash and recycling service for the parks so both cans are emptied by the trash crew. If you come across a can that is full, please place the trash into the recycling side of the can. We are working with the city to either re-label the tops or provide recycling pick-up. I will let everyone know if the policy changes; in the meantime, we may as well take advantage of the extra trash can space.

### Spring Planning and Friends of Riverside Park Projects

Spring is coming. March is the typical start of the monthly park cleanups and park projects. FORP applied for a \$5,000 Partnerships in Parks grant from the Parks and People Foundation. We will find out in late March if we have received the money. This year, we are hoping to plant a garden at the Heath/Johnson entrance, work on the stonework at Randall/Covington, repair the fence at Heath/Covington, move some trees, and plant various perennials and trees throughout the park. We invite everyone (big and small) to join us on the first Saturday of the month (9-noon). We have the supplies/tools so participants only need to bring gloves. Hope to see you this spring! If you have any questions, feel free to contact Jackson at jkf42@yahoo.com



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Sold in Federal Hill moved to Perry Hall	\$350,000	<b>\$1,750 credit</b> ✓
Bought in Towson sold in Federal Hill	\$730,000	<b>\$3,650 credit</b> ✓

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### Riverside Concert Planning

Planning has started for the summer concert season. Domino Sugars is once again providing us with sponsorship to make these concerts possible. We are looking for a few additional volunteers to help with preparation and concert day tasks. If you are interested, please contact Joelle at Riversideconcerts@gmail.com. See page 4 for concert dates.



### Crime - Shannon Sullivan

Baltimore City State's Attorney, Gregg Bernstein, attended our February meeting and not only did he address our criminal justice concerns, he asked to come back to our April meeting and provide us with an update. Specifically, he promised to look into the cases of individuals who repeatedly commit crimes in our neighborhood. While most of the arrests are for non-violent offenses, the nature of the crimes negatively impacts the quality of our lives. So please come out to the April meeting for an update on this critical issue.

Also discussed at the February meeting was the recent number of breaking and entering (home burglaries) crimes that have occurred. Sometimes owners left their doors or windows unlocked but in other instances wooden doors were simply kicked-in. Unfortunately, our home was one of them. However, we have a large dog and a very loud alarm system and nothing was taken. In almost all of the other cases, the residents didn't have an alarm and items were removed. And, while I should have more positive news on this topic for the March meeting, I strongly encourage people to remember to lock their windows and doors and invest in an alarm system. Alarm systems can be a deterrent and they also alert the police and your neighbors if there is a problem. And, as a proud new owner of a steel door, I can say that is a good investment too.

And don't forget to attend our monthly crime walks. Alarms and other security measures are great but the best way to reduce crime is to be proactive and get involved in the community. Our walks are safe and are always accompanied by a police officer. During the walk, we visit blocks that have recently had crime problems and talk with the police about recent criminal activity. **The next walk is Monday, April 7th** starting at the Riverside Park gazebo and ending at HomeSlyce, which gives all Citizens on Patrol participants a discount on beverages and sandwiches. If it is raining, 32 or below or 90 and above at 6pm the walk is canceled. But check RNA's facebook page for walk updates.

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](mailto:sullivansox@yahoo.com) or come speak to me after the meeting. Officer Vaught, aka Butterbean, is also available via email at [Kevin.vaught@baltimorepolice.org](mailto:Kevin.vaught@baltimorepolice.org).

### FUN at the BMI



**April 1** - The newest exhibit explores the banjo as a Maryland tradition since the 1740s. A banjo concert will be presented on **May 18**, when local musicians showcase their talent and knowledge of American traditional music.

**April 12** - *Breakfast with the Easter Bunny*  
Bring the family to the Baltimore Museum of Industry for a continental breakfast, egg hunt, and a holiday movie. Bring your camera to capture your meeting with the Easter Bunny! Reservations and info at [www.thebmi.org](http://www.thebmi.org)

**May 4** - *That Nest of Pirates on the Chesapeake - Baltimore and the War of 1812*, 1pm  
Wayne Schaumburg's illustrated program looks at the city's role in the war, the people, places and events that tell the story of our city's defense, as well as the famous flag and the writing of a song that 117 years later would become our national anthem.

**May 24** - *Big Truck Day*  
Baltimore City's work trucks and emergency vehicles will be in the parking lot of the Baltimore Museum of Industry for kids of all ages to inspect and enjoy. Free to the public; museum admission is half price.

Spring means racing season has begun. **Please look for announcements regarding foot races in the neighborhood.**



The first race will be coming in the next few weeks. We will work with race planners to avoid any major shutdowns in our neighborhood.

### Federal Hill Tax Service, Inc.

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## RNA Neighbor Connect - *Rachel Wagner*

Did you know that when you post a question or notice to the Riverside Neighborhood Association Facebook page, it doesn't show up on RNA's followers' timelines? In order for our followers to see your post, they have to go to the RNA Facebook page and find the obscure box on the right side of the RNA timeline. It's not a good way to share information with your neighbors, but the RNA Neighbor Connect Facebook group is!

To join, visit <http://bit.ly/rmaconnect>. When you post something, it will show up on every group member's timeline, and you'll get the reach you're looking for! Please help us grow this positive group of interconnected neighbors by joining, and then by inviting your Facebook friends who live in and around Riverside. This is a great place to post questions, seek recommendations, share information about upcoming local events, post relevant news articles, etc. We hope you'll find this new resource helpful!

# COMMUNITY YARD SALE

Saturday, April 26th  
9am-1pm @ Riverside Park

*Rain Date: Sunday, April 27th*



RIVERSIDE  
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

- ◆ Sellers: Visit [riversideneighborhoodassociation.com](http://riversideneighborhoodassociation.com) to register and prepay by April 12th; OR mail your name, e-mail, phone number, and \$10/table nonrefundable prepayment to RNA Yard Sale, 841 E. Fort Ave., Suite 219, Baltimore, MD 21230.
- ◆ Limited tables will be available the day of for \$15 each.
- ◆ Want to give stuff away? Donate your items to the RNA table by 9:30 that morning. RNA will sell your stuff and keep the proceeds!

## 2014 Riverside Summer Concerts

**Second Sundays of the Month:**

June 8  
July 13  
August 10  
September 14



We're still in the process of booking the bands, so keep your eye on the website and future newsletters for updates.

## WANTED

Searching for volunteer(s) to sort the newsletter each month. This involves approx. 3 hours of your time on either the 2nd or 3rd weekend of each month, depending on how the calendar falls. The sorting entails separating 1900 newsletters into routes for deliverers, labeling routes, and then delivering all of the stacks to the front porch of another resident's home by the Sunday of that weekend. For instance, March sorting is 2nd weekend of the month but April will be the third. If you are interested and would like more specifics contact Ann at [annfiocco@yahoo.com](mailto:annfiocco@yahoo.com).

## Recent RNA Activities

### February

- COP Walk
- RNA Board Meeting
- Summer Concert Planning
- Residential Permit Parking (RPP) Coordination with Local Institutions
- Pool Advisory Council Meeting
- Community Yard Sale Planning
- PayPal/Online Dues & Donations Set-Up
- Pruned Fort Ave Street Trees
- Clement St Angle Parking Survey
- Parks & People Riverside Toolbank Inventory
- Neighborhood Meeting

## Greetings and Peace, Riverside Neighbors

I hope and pray that this letter finds you in good health and good spirits. I want to thank all the folks and businesses that helped make our inaugural basket bingo a huge success. We had a turn out of 100+ people and thanks to the various donations we received, were able to present folks with a lot of awesome gifts for the games that they won. The proceeds from the bingo go to benefit the many and various ministries we are trying to do at Salem, including trying to start a food pantry to service people in need who live on our peninsula. Again, we are very thankful to all who helped.

At Salem these past few weeks, we've been conducting a listening campaign with BUILD (Baltimoreans United in Leadership Development). We are trying to talk to folks in our neighborhood in advance of the Governor's race on what the issues are that are facing our city. BUILD and its affiliates are attempting to listen to over 5,000 people in the Baltimore metro area. We would love to hear what you have to say about our neighborhood, what your thoughts/cares/concerns are and how we can take these issues to the candidates. If interested in talking, please e-mail me (pastorjacob@salemsouthbaltimore.org).

We continue to have our *Love Thy Neighbor Gatherings* every Wednesday night at 7:30 at Captain Larry's. We always welcome to folks from all different backgrounds or folks who have no particular interest in religion. It is a fun way to discuss interesting topics and current events and eat some good food while you're at it. And in the coming months, we'll be getting together for special worship dates on Tuesday, April 1st, Thursday, April 17th and Friday, April 18th for Lenten and Holy Week observances. All times are at 7pm. This is not to mention our traditional 10am worship service. We hope to see you as we walk this Lenten journey together.

All the best,

*Pastor Jacob Simpson*

### 11th Annual MammoJam Music Festival Returns April 11th

The MammoJam Music Festival, Inc. is proud to present the 11th Annual MammoJam Music Festival on **Friday, April 11, 6:30pm** at Baltimore's famed 8x10. This year's festival will again celebrate the best of emerging local and regional artists in support of area breast cancer awareness, detection, and treatment programs.

MammoJam is a nonprofit, all-volunteer organization dedicated to promoting breast cancer screening and treatment programs for underinsured and low income women. Since October, 2003 MammoJam has raised over \$100,000. Festival tickets are \$40 in advance and \$50 at the door and can be purchased at the 8x10 or at [www.mammojam.org](http://www.mammojam.org).



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## Donations and Dues

Thanks to Rachel Wagner for establishing the online payment system (and all the other RNA online presence work she does). And thank you to all of those who have paid your dues and/or donated, both online and otherwise. If you have any questions about your dues/donation payment, please email Joelle at [RNAtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:RNAtreasurer@gmail.com).

## 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.

## Upcoming Guest Speakers:

The midterm elections are just around the corner. The following candidates will be joining us at these upcoming neighborhood meetings:

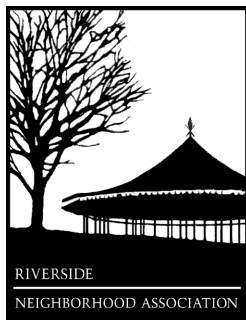
### April 28th:

**Bill Ferguson, Incumbent**  
*running for re-election as State Senator*  
**Liam Davis, Candidate for State Delegate**

**May 19th** (earlier meeting date due to Memorial Day):

**Peter Hammen & Luke Clippinger, both Incumbents**

*running for re-election as State Delegates*



## 2014 Riverside Neighborhood Association Dues Payment Slip

**\$5 per person**

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

Please note: You can now pay dues and make donations on RNA's website: [riversideneighborhoodassociation.com](http://riversideneighborhoodassociation.com).

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email/Phone: \_\_\_\_\_