

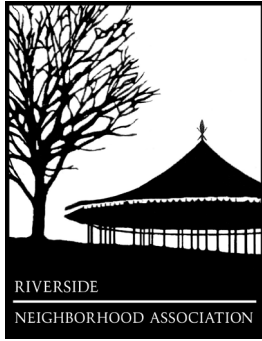
Riverside Neighborhood Association

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

NEXT MEETING: Monday, January 30

7 pm at Salem Lutheran Church (corner of Randall & Battery)

Recent Crime Surge on South Baltimore Peninsula



Eric Costello provided the following information, after speaking with Commissioner Davis regarding the increase of brazen evening robberies and car jackings (as well as auto thefts) and following up with Major Hance of the Southern District, and his boss Chief Worley, of the Patrol Division.

BPD NEXT STEPS TO A SOLUTION: By tomorrow evening (Jan 17), there will be an additional and significant surge of officers patrolling the Peninsula on foot, during evening

hours. This deployment will stay in place until the robberies stop and the suspects are caught.

HOW YOU CAN BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION: There are three critical ways you can be involved:

1) immediately dial 911 if you see anything suspicious; 2) file a Community Impact Statement; and 3) participate in a regularly scheduled community safety walk.

DIAL 911: If you see ANY suspicious behavior (ex., peeking in windows, checking door handles on houses and cars, following individuals closely), if you even have to think for a split second about whether or not a person's personal safety or property are at risk, please dial 911 immediately.

COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENTS: After a defendant pleads guilty or is found guilty of a crime, a Judge sentences the defendant (whether they are an adult or juvenile). The Judge responsible for sentencing the defendant reads and considers Community Impact Statements before setting the sentence. A Community Impact Statement includes three things: 1) "brief" summary of the harm or trauma suffered by you and your community as a result of the crime; 2) a summary of the economic loss or damage suffered by you and your community as a result of the crime; and 3) a concise statement of what outcome that you and your community would like and the reasons to support this opinion.

Since much of the recent crime is believed to have been committed by juveniles, it is critical for community



associations and surrounding neighbors to file a Community Impact Statement with the State's Attorney's Office. Court proceedings are closed to the public (based on State law), so the Community Impact Statement is the only way to let the Judge know how much of an impact this incident had on you, your family, and neighbors.

RNA has filed several community impact statements and will continue to do so in future. Residents can also get more information by contacting our Southern District liaison Derrick Greene at dgreene@stattorney.org.

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January Guest Speakers:

BG&E will be back to present the plan for the remainder of Phase II gas line replacement and to answer resident questions and concerns

&

Balt City Rec and Park's Fran Spero will attend to discuss some the department's activities with the Casino funds, park activities, and potential movie nights.

What is RNA up to?

January

- Jan 7 Riverside Cleanup (remove Gazebo lights)
- Jan 10 BCRP FORP planning meeting
- Jan 13 MANTS conference/plant pickup
- Jan 18 DOT Hanover St Meeting

Coming soon...

- Jan 30 RNA Meeting
- Jan 31 DOT Hanover Street Bridge Public Meeting 6pm-8pm Harbor Hospital Auditorium
- Feb 4 Riverside Park Cleanup (weather dependent; check facebook)
- Feb 6 Crime Walk
- Feb 27 RNA Meeting

At Our February Meeting...

Nominations and Elections for RNA Officers for two-year terms. Come out and vote or volunteer for

one of our committee positions



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COMMUNITY SAFETY WALKS: Participate in a regularly scheduled community safety walk. These walks are conducted monthly on the peninsula (and other places throughout the city) with the Baltimore Police Department. They are a great way to discuss recent crime activity, meet the officers who work in your community, and identify areas that need additional police and other city department resources. RNA walks are the first Monday of every month

BACKGROUND: There have been at least five incidents since Jan 5 of robberies or car jackings. I do not have other specific information on the incidents and some of the hours below may be slightly off. Please note that I do not plan to research these any further. If you have information related to any of these incidents that could be helpful to BPD, please call the Southern District Police Station at 410-396-4816. If you have specific questions related to any of the incidents below, please contact Officer Sheena Newman, at Sheena.Newman@baltimorepolice.org

Recreation & Parks – *Jackson Fisher*

MANTS

Friday the 13th was a lucky day for RNA. As part of an annual tradition, RNA went to the convention center for the conclusion of the Mid Atlantic Nursery and Trade Show. The show provides us an opportunity to acquire donated plant material for Riverside Park. This year, we were able to acquire two trucks full of perennial plants, shrubs, and trees that will be used to fill in the entrance gardens and areas around Thomas Johnson Elementary. Special thanks to Scott H, Scott W, Casey, Steve, and Ann for helping to load and unload the plants.

Covington St Raking Coordinator?

I am looking for a person or group of people to coordinate some leaf raking along Covington. The trees held their leaves late this year and I wasn't able to get a volunteer group out to help bag them up. If the weather cooperates, I would like to coordinate an effort to remove them from the park edge and parking area. There are quite a few leaves there but if we get several people, we could clean most of the area in a couple hours. RNA can provide tools (rakes, broom, shovels) and bags. If you are interested, send me an email (jkf42@yahoo.com)

Casino Funds

The good news: the casino is making money; the better news: Riverside is getting some casino impact funds. Balt City Rec and Parks is planning to spend some of the money on park improvements including new roof and some paint for gazebo and a replacement bench along Randall (for Doug; sadly, his bench was flattened by a trash truck). Forestry is working on a contract to have some tree pits expanded on the street and to have some new pits cut. Look for these activities to occur later this spring/summer when the weather improves.

Planning - Summer Concerts/Movies


Planning is underway for the summer concert series (4 dates) and possibly a few movies. So far, the concert schedule is set and the permits have been pulled. The committee has started working on signing bands and food trucks. Last year, we hosted our first movie night at the pool just before school went back and it was a huge hit. RNA has been thinking about adding another movie night or two. If you have an interest in movies or would like to help at the concerts, let Joelle or I know. (Riversideconcerts@gmail.com;jkf42@yahoo.com)

**Learn more about newly announced MTA bus routes. <https://mta.maryland.gov/baltimorelink>
Comment period ends February 21, 2017.**

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

Call Anytime!

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Riverside Park Maintenance Updates

RNA met with BCRP-Carroll Park to discuss Riverside Park Projects for the upcoming year. They are planning remove several of the big dead trees and limbs from a couple locations in the park. The playground should get a replacement for the damaged music note panel and repairs to the sliding board mounts. Painting the red house was discussed; we didn't get a firm commitment but we are hopeful that will occur this year. The flag lights and the path light next to the pool area are going to be evaluated by the BCRP electrician. The flag lights consistently fail so they are going to evaluate some other bulb options to see if there is a better solution. Sadly, there won't be field renovations in the near future but there should be activities in other areas of park maintenance.

Park Cleanup Dates

With the uncertainty of the winter weather, I will announce the park cleanup/planting activities in February through RNA's facebook account.

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COMING SOON! Several Homes in the area In February & March...Please stay tuned!



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Update on Cross Street Market Revitalization – *John G. Paré, Jr.*

After years of inertia, plans to update and invigorate the Cross Street Market are underway. An advisory committee has been formed to help ensure that the Cross Street Market revitalization project represents the interests of our community and is as inclusive as possible. The second meeting of the committee was held on January 9, 2017, and I attended as the RNA representative on the committee. Items on the agenda included schedule updates, options for existing merchants, and liquor license proposals.

What we Learned at the Meeting

- The developer's, Caves Valley Partners (CVP), overall vision of an airy and inviting environment with specialty shops selling produce, flowers, cheese, meats and seafood; upscale restaurants; wine and beer tasting venues; and both indoor and outdoor seating has not changed.

- Renovations are on schedule with demolition expected to begin in May. The Market will be closed during construction which is projected to last ten months.

- CVP's plan includes a liquor license that will cover all venues operating within the Cross Street Market.

What we still need to Learn

- Which existing vendors will have leases post-revitalization is yet to be determined.

- Where and how current vendors who will be leasing post-renovations will conduct business during the

ten-month closure is yet to be determined. Although CVP offered to help temporarily relocate vendors to Lexington Market or Hollins Market, most vendors do not see this as a viable solution. CVP has also offered to work with the vendors to find locations in Federal Hill.

- What mechanism will be utilized to allow the Market to serve beer, wine, and liquor is yet to be determined. CVP wants to have a site-wide liquor license which would allow any vendor within the Market to serve alcohol as well as accommodate proposed beer and wine tasting rooms. In order to obtain the proposed site-wide license, a bill would need to be introduced in Maryland's General Assembly.

RNA strongly supports the revitalization of Cross Street Market. It is past overdue and we believe that if the project holds true to its vision it will once again be the center for shopping and leisure for both residents and tourists. As excited as we are to see progress on the project, we have a few concerns related to the current vendors and the proposed site-wide liquor license.

A complete shutdown of the Market for ten months will have a devastating impact on both customers and vendors alike. Many of us regularly visit Cross Street Market to pick up fresh items or a quick meal. Almost all of us walk to the Market and have long-standing relationships with the vendors there. Many of the vendors have spent years and years building up their businesses and clientele and are concerned not just for the profitability of their businesses during the ten-month disruption, but whether they will be able to survive at all.

RNA strongly urges CVP to reconsider complete closure of the Market during renovations. Preliminary discussions of construction plans allowed for vendors to remain open by renovating half of the Market at a time. This provides the least disruption to the current vendors' business operations and allows them to maintain their existing customer base. In addition, neighbors who utilize the Market for their shopping will not have the inconvenience of finding another place to shop. If partial closing is impossible, we advocate that CVP put maximum effort into relocating vendors as close to the Market as possible. We applaud the revitalization plans, and believe that there is a solution that can move the project forward without jeopardizing the dreams and livelihood of the vendors and those who depend on their success.

There is much concern that a site-wide liquor license will translate into a "mega bar" attracting unruly and disruptive patrons. RNA supports CVP's concept of a site-wide liquor license. Allowing restaurants to serve alcohol responsibly provides value to all parties and beer and wine tasting rooms will attract locals and tourists alike. However, the implementation needs to be in line with the current structure and standards and our community values. Most businesses with

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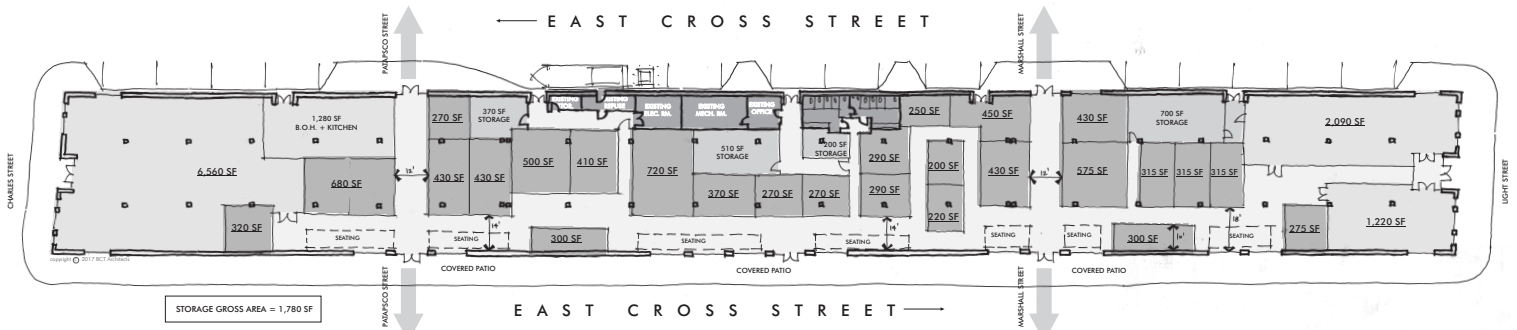
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a liquor license in the area sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which outlines the terms and conditions in which the establishment will operate. A MOU is an effective tool to ensure alcohol consumption does not escalate to unwanted and unsafe behaviors, and similar language should be incorporated into any proposed legislation to establish a site-wide liquor license. RNA urges both CVP and legislators to work with those on the advisory board when drafting the legislation to ensure that the intended spirit of the use of a site-wide liquor license is upheld at reopening and in the future.

The plans for Cross Street Market are exciting and show imagination and foresight. There is a way to achieve the goals of a revitalized Market without sacrificing the livelihood of its small businesses, forgoing the shopping needs of our neighbors, or diminishing the historic nature and family atmosphere of our neighborhood. The key is implementing strategies to help our local vendors stay in business during renovations and including language to safeguard against future liquor license abuses from the beginning.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact me at RNABaltimore@gmail.com or you can attend the next advisory committee's meeting on February 13 at 6:00 p.m. at Leadenhall Baptist Church.



February at the BMI

VIRTUAL REALITY

How does 360-degree panoramic photography work? Find out as the BMI goes virtual with local tech entrepreneur Aaron Altscher.

WHEN: Wed, Feb 8 / 6pm—7:30pm

COST: Free / Advance registration suggested, contact info@thebmi.org

WINE AND CANVAS

Sip, relax, and create some Baltimore-inspired love as instructors guide you step-by-step to make your own painting. No experience necessary.

WHEN: Wed, Feb 22 / 6:30—9:30pm

COST: \$40 per person / Advance registration required at www.wineandcanvas.com.



AMERICAN VISIONARY ART MUSEUM

Join the AVAM for a hands-on, drop-in, art-making workshop once a month in the AVAM classroom! Supplies and boundless inspiration provided!

Dates: SATURDAYS: February 4 • March 11 • April 8 • May 13 • June 3

Time: 1pm-4pm

Cost: \$5 per participant (museum admission not included)

Ages: All ages welcome (under 16 must be accompanied by an adult)

Where: 2nd floor Classroom, Jim Rouse Visionary Center

February 4th: Cosmic Egg
Make your own mini version of artist Andrew Logan's Cosmic Galaxy Egg sculpture with a special clay-like material and sparkly bits!



Latest Happenings at Salem Lutheran Church

Or, with apologies to the Beatles; "You say Goodbye and I say Hello". By now, many of you are aware that Pastor Jake has left Salem. He and his family have moved to New York where his wife Sandra has accepted a new job. So you won't be seeing Jake at his usual table at Starbucks on Thursdays anymore. We are very pleased to welcome Pastor Lauren Muratore as our "Bridge" Pastor while the congregation takes some time to think about the future of Salem and our place in the greater Riverside community. We do know we will be continuing our popular "Pay it Forward" events at Captain Larry's and our participation in RNA events in the park. We'll have our Designer Bag Bingo on April 1st at the Glen Burnie Elks Lodge.

Pastor Lauren is with us on a part-time basis for the next couple of months. She has a bright, effervescent style that has been embraced by everyone at Salem. Pastor Lauren certainly continues the road Pastor Jake led us down of being a very welcoming church, always ready to greet visitors from the neighborhood with a smile. Services are each Sunday at 10:00. On behalf of Pastor Lauren, the members of the church council and all the Salem community, we extend a warm invitation to come visit and worship. We're at the corner of E. Randall and Battery. Visit our website www.salemsouthbaltimore.com and find us on Facebook and Instagram.

Jack Ratzsch
Council President
Salem Lutheran Church

CONTACT US:

On the Web:

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Questions & Comments:

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Newsletter:

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Mail:

Riverside Neighborhood Association
200 East Wells Street
Baltimore, MD 21230

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Crime: Shannon Sullivan
Friends of Riverside Park:
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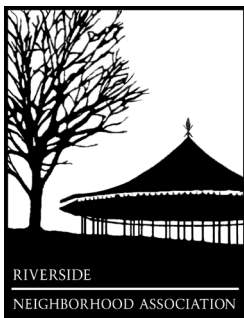
I'm pleased to support our local Riverside Neighborhood Association.

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