

# Riverside Neighborhood Association

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

## NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, JAN. 27

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

### 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  
and Kevin Donovan  
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

### Happy New Year, Riverside - *Shane Laporte*

I hope that you all had safe and good holidays, and that you all made resolutions to become involved in the community this year.

Now that the busy pace of the holidays has passed, the busy pace of the New Year begins. 2014 appears to be a particularly busy year for the peninsula.

2014 will see the local landscape change dramatically as the pace of construction and future development in and around our neighborhood is staggering. Nearby construction at Riverside Wharf, Horseshoe Casino and 2 East Wells is all well underway. Work at the old GE site at Fort and Lawrence may get started this year and potential additional local development is in the news on an almost daily basis.

2014 will also be busy politically because this is an election year. US House, Governor and State Executives, State Senators and Delegates and School Boards are all on the ballot this year. We hope to have all interested local candidates come to speak at upcoming meetings. Please keep an eye out for the announcements, as this will be a chance to speak with and ask questions to the candidates in a relatively small setting.

Finally, 2014 will be a busy year right here in Riverside. Volunteers have already started gathering plants and trees for projects at the park. Among the projects, the west side of the park will get some much needed attention this year. Thanks to Domino's continued support, preparations for the Summer Concert Series are also about to begin. As we heard from Councilman Cole at our December meeting, we are scheduled to see another round of city funded park improvements in 2014. This stage will focus on the lower ball fields and the area beyond the outfield fences that is owned by CSX. The money for the improvements is in the city's budget, but the transfer of ownership of the CSX land is still currently being worked out.

These are some of the bigger items on tap for 2014, but there are many others. With all that is set to happen this year, please look to our social media outlets to keep up to date on items and news. Please send emails with any specific questions, ideas, or to make good on those resolutions.

## Upcoming Activities

### Monday, January 27

Neighborhood Meeting, 7pm @  
Salem Lutheran Church

### Saturday, February 1

Park Cleanup, 9 am

### Monday, February 3

COP Walk, 7 pm

### Development - *Ann Fiocco*

As we begin a new year, I thought it would be a good time to give a few updates and a general review of RNA goals regarding development within our boundaries. First, the updates. Riverside Wharf, the property known as the Walgreens site on the corner of Lawrence and Key, is progressing quickly and has tentatively signed a new tenant. It looks as if Medstar Health, owner of hospitals including Union Memorial, Harbor, and Franklin Square, will be leasing a large amount of office space above the Walgreens. We are waiting for confirmation. Negotiations are still underway with Bozzuto/Solstice and Locust Point regarding the old GE site on the corner of Lawrence and Fort. The project is set to be a 9 story building of apartments and retail, including a first floor restaurant. LPCA is the main voice in this negotiation because it is within their boundaries, but RNA is following the issue closely because of our concerns about traffic flow on the peninsula.

This is also a good time to review RNA goals in regards to development. 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. We have spent countless volunteer hours over the years

(continued on p.2)

2014 Dues are Due!  
see page 6 for details

studying plans, meeting with developers and lawyers, and meeting with city planning officials. RNA is not interested in interfering with single family home renovations. We have standard requests for individual renovations that basically ask for projects to stay true to the existing homes in the neighborhood. Our only real requirement involves 3rd floor construction. We ask that if a resident adds a 3rd floor and wishes to put a deck on top that they use an outside stair structure to the roof and not build any rooftop access/doghouse. These basically amount to a 4th floor which is not in keeping with the neighborhood. RNA will get more involved with any development plan that involves 2 or more homes including apartment buildings, and the recent two projects on Barney and on Light that are plans for 2 homes on each site. When negotiating with developers we consider massing, parking, and any other factors pertinent to the specific location of the project. Residents are welcome and encouraged to reach out to our Board members with questions and concerns about any project. As with every other issue in the neighborhood, RNA will always have updates at meetings and in newsletters.

## Crime - Shannon Sullivan

I have some good news to share, Officer Vaught, (aka) Butterbean, has recovered from his work related car accident and has returned to work! Hopefully we will see him at the next RNA meeting.

## Food, Drinks and COP

**Homeslyce** has generously offered to provide all COP participants ½ price sandwiches and \$2 off draught beers after our monthly Citizens on Patrol walks. So come out and support your neighborhood, the police and a local business. Our next walk is scheduled for **Monday, February 3rd at 7pm**. We meet at the Riverside Park gazebo and we always walk with a police officer. Check RNA's Facebook page (you do not need to have a Facebook account) for updates. Thanks again Homeslyce!

## 311 vs 911

City Living 101 tip - do not use 311 if you want the police to respond. If DPW didn't pick-up your trash or if there is a pot hole in the road then call 311. If you need the police, even if it does not constitute an emergency, then dial 911. The 911 operator will prioritize the call before sending it to the dispatcher so don't worry about calling if you see suspicious behavior or for something you might consider minor. The police use 911 call volume, location and type of call to deploy resources, track crime trends and for other purposes such as their nuisance abatement program.



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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](mailto:sullivansox@yahoo.com) or come speak to me after the meeting.

## Review of the Gazebo Lighting - *Joelle Woolston*

Thanks to everyone who helped with the Gazebo Lighting, especially Joyce and Stefanie, who did the behind the scenes work; Dan, who was very jolly; Langermann's on Light, for the delicious mac-n-cheese; and Jackson & Scott, for actually stringing the lights. Also, many many thanks to the TJEMS choir, Mr. Saenz, and Mrs Kugler. Their performance was wonderful! Despite it being a fairly cold night (relatively speaking, before we knew the true cold of a polar vortex), the most frequent review of the event was it gave everyone a "warm and fuzzy" feeling. If anyone has any good pictures of the event they'd like to share, please email them to me at [FriendsOfRiversidePark@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsOfRiversidePark@gmail.com). It looks like we might have a new annual event!

### Riverside Park Concert Series:

We're getting the band back together! Okay, it's actually the group that organizes the bands but that just didn't have the same flow. If anyone would like to help with organizing the Riverside Park Summer Concert Series, please email me at [RiversideConcerts@gmail.com](mailto:RiversideConcerts@gmail.com). We'll be starting our committee work within the month and we'd love any additional help.



## Mmmmm... Cookies - *Rachel Wagner*

Our first holiday cookie contest was a big hit! It was so fun to bring our community members together to eat [cookies], drink [milk], and be merry! While each cookie had its own unique flavor, there were three distinct winners. Lauren Swiston's Chocolate-Cayenne Cookies snagged third place, Joey Scollan came in second with her Chocolate Fudge Cookies with Candy Cane Buttercream, and Christie Getman swept the competition with her first-place Chocolate Caramel Thumbprints (find recipe on our Facebook page). Many thanks to Domino Sugars for donating three prize buckets filled with sugar products and gift cards! We hope to do this all over again next year, so you've got plenty of time to refine that prize-winning recipe you've been waiting to unveil!



## New Year - New You!

So many of us make resolutions at the start of a new year, especially the infamous vow to get in shape and shed those holiday pounds. How about making a resolution to not only better yourself, but to also better the lives of others? Here are a few ways you can resolve to strengthen your hold in the community and improve the quality of life of those around you:

- Become a one-on-one reading tutor for a young child in a neighboring school. Reading Partners train willing volunteers to work with struggling readers in under-resourced schools. If this interests you, visit [readingpartners.org](http://readingpartners.org) or come to our next neighborhood meeting on Monday, January 27 to chat with a Reading Partners coordinator.
- Go to [jakeslaw.org](http://jakeslaw.org) to purchase a t-shirt and/or make a donation to support the cause of a Riverside family who lost their 5-year-old son to cell-phone distracted driving. Their non-profit organization is working to create legislation that aims to eliminate distracted driving and save others from the tragedy they endured. Along with your donation comes the pledge to yourself and those driving around you to not use your mobile device while driving. [Itcanwait.com](http://Itcanwait.com) is another venue that allows you to formally make this pledge. Once you buy a shirt, make a donation, and/or take the pledge, take it a step further and spread the word!
- Get involved with RNA! The board members and a small army of volunteers work so hard to deliver newsletters, put on neighborhood events, keep the park looking sharp, and much, much more! We're always looking for more volunteers with a variety of talents and interests. If you would like to help out during a park cleanup, by delivering newsletters, or in any other way, drop us an e-mail at [rnabaltimore@gmail.com](mailto:rnabaltimore@gmail.com), introduce yourself, and tell us what you have in mind! You can also chat with us at the next neighborhood meeting on Monday, January 27th!

## Upcoming Events in and Around the City

### American Visionary Art Museum

Through August 2014

The American Visionary Art Museum's 19th original thematic exhibition is a timely and playful examination of the serious impact of technology on our lives, as seen through the eyes of 40+ visionary artists, cutting edge futurists, and inventors. Pleasing to an audience of Nobel Prize winners and schoolchildren alike, this show asks, "Two billion personal computers later, post DNA-sequencing, are we on the road to becoming a better, healthier, happier, less warlike, human race?"

### Charm City Roller Derby Returns

Saturday, January 25

Du Burns Arena, 3100 Boston Street

The Charm City Roller Girls kick off their ninth home team season with a high-octane doubleheader featuring all four squads. First up, the muscular madams of the Mobtown Mods square off against the fleet-footed Speed Regime. Followed by the Night Terrors versus the Season 8 Home Team Champions, the Junkyard Dolls.

Tickets are available at the door for \$15, but patrons can save money purchasing online at [www.missiontix.com](http://www.missiontix.com); kids 5 to 12 are \$5; general admission is \$12; VIP tickets are \$25. Street parking is plentiful and paid parking lots are within walking distance of the venue.

### Take Your Toddler to the BMI

Tuesdays -- 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Your preschooler will enjoy exploring the museum with Miss Susan through stories, songs, tours, and crafts. A different theme each week! Feb. 4 - Musical instruments, Feb. 11 - Bakery & Valentine's Day, Feb. 18 - Trucks, Feb. 25 - Printing Press

BMI Members: free. General Public: kids - free, accompanying adults - \$5. Reservations recommended, contact Kelley at [kedelmann@thebmi.org](mailto:kedelmann@thebmi.org) or 410.727.4808 x132.

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## Recent RNA Activities

### October

- Park Clean-Up
- COP Walk
- Community Yard Sale
- Mayor's Fall Clean-up
- Neighborhood Meeting & Social

### November

- COP Walk

### December

- COP Walk
- Gazebo Lighting
- Holiday Cookie Contest
- Neighborhood Meeting

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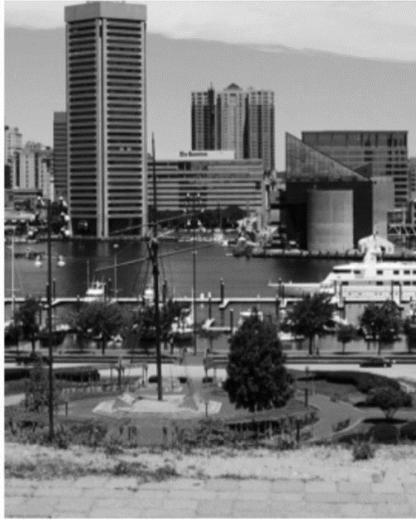
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## Greetings and Peace, Riverside Neighbors

Greetings and peace! I hope and pray that this letter finds you in good health and good spirits. I want to take the time to thank everyone who participated in our many December/Advent events. Salem is blessed with the presence of every person who walks through our doors, regardless of the reason. So we give thanks to God for the many blessings we had this past month.

It is an exciting time in the new year as we continue to find ways to fulfill our mission statement and plan. One of those ways is beginning the process of opening a food pantry in the south Baltimore peninsula. It is a long process and we need help organizing everything. Let me emphasize this: you do not need to attend our church or any church to get involved. If you have any interest in helping us with getting the pantry off the ground, please e-mail me (pastorjacob@salemsouthbaltimore.org).

On a more uplifting note, we are also starting a young adults group here at the church. We're targeting folks at any age from 25 to 35. It will probably include a mix of social activities, such as the Warrior Dash or another 5k, to service activities, such as the Habitat for Humanity. Again, you do not have to be a member to participate.

Due to the weather, I've taken to having "office hours" at Starbucks once or twice a week. The details of this are always posted on Facebook (Facebook.com/SalemBaltimore). And please feel free to drop in on our Worship services (Sundays at 10am) or our Love Thy Neighbor Gatherings (Wednesdays at 7:30pm at Captain Larry's). Check the website (www.salemsouthbaltimore.org). We hope to see you soon!

*Pastor Jacob Simpson*

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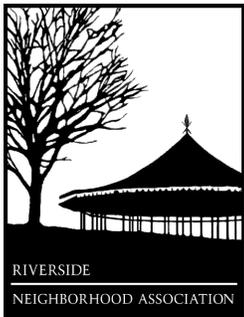
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## RNA Membership

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.



## 2014 Riverside Neighborhood Association Dues Payment Slip

**\$5 per person**

**Riverside Neighborhood Association**

**841 East Fort Avenue**

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