

Riverside Neighborhood Association

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

NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 25

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

We Learn More at School 84! - *Shane Laporte*

At the end of this month, my oldest daughter will be heading off to 'Big Kid School' for the first time. Like every parent before me, I am filled with a mix of feelings and emotions; excitement, pride, nervousness, and the sense that she is growing up way too fast. Fortunately, I, and many of us in this neighborhood, do not have one added feeling in the mix: apprehension about the quality of our school. Thomas Johnson Elementary is among the best around.

Several years ago, before my wife and I married, we each had homes in other neighborhoods on the peninsula. When we decided to consolidate into a new home, we chose Riverside for several reasons that still hold true today; it is a quieter, friendlier, more walkable neighborhood than some of our immediate surroundings. The quality of the neighborhood school is one criterion that has played a large role in our desire to stay here and is the one to which we paid no attention. We simply got lucky.

Thomas Johnson's principal, James Dendinger, his teachers, staff, and the PTO work very hard to make the school what it is. It has paid off in glowing remarks from parents, as well as excellent scores on standardized tests. Real estate for sale in the neighborhood makes a point to highlight the school when the property is in Thomas Johnson's zone.

The success of the school is good news for those of us with families in the neighborhood, but it is also good news for those of you without families. The neighborhood that we all know and love is strongly shaped by families that have forgone the suburban exodus. Whether it be increased involvement in the neighborhood, increased vigilance, or an increase in the amount of time spent at the park, families have a positive influence on their surroundings. We have Thomas Johnson to thank for some of that positivity. Please take the time to support them whenever you get the chance. An easy way to do this is to link your Harris Teeter VIC card to the school via their T.I.E. program. Certain purchases throughout the year will create donations to the school. Please remember that it is necessary to re-link each year after August 1st. Please google "Harris Teeter Together In Education" for details.

Sounds of Summer



Naked Blue fills the park with music Aug. 10



Another satisfied crowd enjoys good food, drinks, tunes and each other

Upcoming Activities

Wednesday, August 20

Street Sweeping - Odd Sides

Monday, August 25

Neighborhood Meeting, 7pm
Salem Lutheran Church

Wednesday, August 27

Street Sweeping - Even Sides

Saturday, September 6

Park Cleanup, 9am

Monday, September 8

Citizens on Patrol Walk, 7pm
Meet at Park Gazebo

Sunday, September 14

Summer Concert Series -
Speakers of the House

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. There are no updates this month but we should see quite a bit of development activity in the coming months. If you have any questions or concerns all residents are welcome to contact me at annfiocco@yahoo.com. Please remember to refer to baltimorehousing.org for any permit questions or concerns.

**RNA Officer Election Coming in
September- See p.3 for more details.**

Squirrels, Pigeons, and Rats... Oh My!

RNA has been asked by many residents to post a message about feeding the squirrels and pigeons in the neighborhood. One resident stated that in the 10 years they have lived here, they had never seen a rat in their alley. Now they have a baby, and they also have someone "feeding the squirrels in their alley", and have a new and irritating rat problem that endangers the safety of their child. Before you start tossing bread and peanuts in tree pits, alleys, and the park please keep the following in mind:

- It is illegal and punishable by a fine.
- When you feed squirrels and pigeons, you are also inviting rats to the feeding area.
- Some children have severe peanut allergies and are at risk playing in the park or other public areas if they encounter peanuts piled up at the base of trees or spread throughout the grass.
- It can be argued that you are not promoting squirrel health by feeding them food they would not find naturally in the wild.

Parks & Recreation - Jackson Fisher

As this month's newsletter hits your doorsteps, summer will be coming to a close. The park has seen lots of activity and a significant increase in foot traffic. It will need some love in the coming weeks. The next park clean up will be September 6th for a little trash pickup, tree trimming, and planting. Please donate a little time to our wonderful resource.

Concerts - Joelle Fisher

We must thank everyone who contributed to the August concert. Special thanks to the band, **Naked Blue**, as well as **Domino Sugar**, **Bistro Lunch Box Food truck**, **Miss Twist**, **Union Craft Brewery**, **Little Havana**, **Murphy**, **Washo**, and **Gunsiorowski**, **Hersch's**, and the volunteers who make these concerts possible.

Our last concert in the series will be **Sunday, September 14th** with music by **Speakers of the House**. A great way to unwind at the end of the Star-Spangled Spectacular weekend with music, beer, wine, **DaRua** food truck, and **Miss Twist**. See you there!

One More
Concert to go:
Sunday,
September 14!



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

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**Proud to be part of
our community.**

I'm pleased to support our local
Riverside Neighborhood Association.



Another Great Summer at Riverside Park Pool

We have had a great summer in the pool. The pool staff is amazing, professional, friendly, kind, and quick to go above and beyond for patrons every day. If you missed out on another amazing summer at the pool, you missed great staff, swim lessons, baby country club, 3 twilight swims, kayak lessons, family fun day, 5 days of bootcamp each week, 4 days of masters swim every week, and a big beautiful refreshing pool. There is still time to enjoy this incredible resource in our very own backyard □ See you at the pool!



Thanks again to our friendly pool staff



Twilight Swim August 1 is a big hit!



Kids kick and splash during swim lessons



Children play in the Kiddie Pool on Family Fun Day
July 27

RNA Officer Election – Monday, September 29th

Here's what you need to know:

- The election will take place at our monthly meeting on Monday, September 29th at 7pm at Salem Lutheran Church.
- Only dues-paying residents may vote. See back page of newsletter to find out how to pay your dues.
- Any resident who lives within our boundaries can run for the office of President, Vice President, Treasurer, or Secretary. If you plan to run and would like us to share a picture and/or 1-2 paragraphs of information about yourself in our September newsletter and on our website, please e-mail it to rnabaltimore@gmail.com by September 8th.
- Want to get involved, but are not interested in being an elected officer? Please email us or chat with us at the next neighborhood meeting. We're always looking for more volunteers!





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THE Eric Figurelle TEAM

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Crime - Shannon Sullivan

Summer is almost over, but we still need to do the simple things that deter crime such as keeping bikes inside, locking house windows and doors, having a neighbor take in your mail if you are away, and REMOVING ALL ITEMS from your vehicle. I wish we could be as trusting as the residents of Mayberry, but the reality is we can't. I'd give the same advice if we lived in the suburbs. Keeping outdoor lights on, paying attention to your surroundings, participating in COP walks, and calling 911 when you see suspicious activity proactively keeps our community safer.

As we know, however, some crimes are not easily prevented, such as the stabbing death that occurred in our area (1533 Marshall St) earlier this month. It resulted from a domestic dispute between a boyfriend and girlfriend who were illegally staying at the house after they had already been evicted. Neither were from the area, and the police made the arrest quickly. If there are questions about this crime, the police can provide more details at our next meeting.

Lastly, don't forget our monthly crime walks! Because of the holiday, September's walk will be held on Monday, September 8th (weather permitting). The walk starts at the park gazebo at 7pm and ends at Homeslyce where participants are eligible for discounted food and drink specials. Check our public Facebook page for updates.

In the meantime, if you have any crime related questions or concerns please contact me at sullivansox@yahoo.com.


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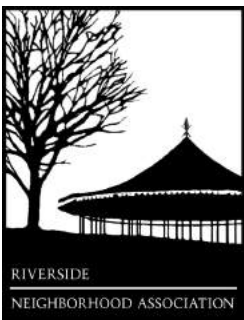


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