

# Riverside Neighborhood Association

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

## NEXT MEETING: Monday, September 28

RNA Social at Little Havana - 1325 Key Highway

### Update on Harborview Liquors Electronic Signs – *John G. Paré Jr.*

Harborview Liquors, located at the south-west corner of Fort Avenue and Jackson Street, installed two electronic signs that were in violation of the Zoning Code of Baltimore City. After an inspector for the Baltimore City Permits and Code Enforcement evaluated the installation and determined the signs were in violation and issued fines, John Giorgakis, the owner of Harborview Liquors, filed an appeal to be able to use the signs he installed.

A hearing was set for August 25, 2015. The Riverside Neighborhood Association (RNA) opposed the appeal because the signs create an unnecessary and unwarranted safety issue, they are in direct violation of the Zoning Code of Baltimore City, and they diminish the historic nature of our area. We sent a letter of opposition on August 11, 2015 and I testified at the hearing.

We were very disappointed to learn that Baltimore City recommended a compromise solution prior to the hearing that was

shared with Harborview Liquors, was not shared with RNA, and which ultimately became the resolution issued on September 2, 2015. Harborview Liquors appeal was granted and it will be able to use the signs with a few restrictions including height of signs, no flashing or blinking lights, no animation, movie clips or sound, and a minimum of ten seconds between sign transitions.

In summary, while we do not believe these restrictions go far enough to address our safety concerns and the impact to the historic nature of our neighborhood, we urge Harborview Liquors to abide by the zoning restrictions in the September 2, 2015 decision.

### Recreation & Parks – *Jackson Fisher*

#### Pool Season

Labor Day marked the end of another pool season and while some would point to a couple late August parties as a reason to close the facility, I would argue that we had one of our best seasons in recent memory. This year, the neighborhood association and the pool staff sat down before the season to work on programming and marketing that would help improve attendance at the pool. Here's what we accomplished: 3 Twilight swims that each drew 200+ people, Family Fun Day with 100+ attendees, Little League Day (since the parade was canceled) drew 75 people, Parent/Child swim time had 15 families, Master Swim program had 30 participants that swam 28,700 laps (14 participants made the 1000 lap club), fitness classes several times a week. Attendance this year was up and there were lots of new faces and plenty of old ones who dropped by throughout the season.

Planning for next year has already started. Top on the list is funding. The pool needs significant renovations and RNA is working with our local and state representatives to push for the funds for these upgrades. A complete overhaul of the pool would cost about \$2.5 million and is probably not achievable through city money alone. We will look into options for state, local, and private partnerships to fund this project. In the meantime, there are many areas where small investments in amenities could benefit our pool. Concrete repairs, painting, chairs, and tables are all items that come to mind. Programming is another planning area. We will work with the pool staff to evaluate all of the programs from this year and work on

### Upcoming Activities

**Sept 28** – RNA meeting (at Little Havana)

**October 3 Community** –

Yard Sale

Park clean-up

Thomas Johnson Fall Festival

**October 5** – Citizens on Patrol (COP) walk

**October 21** – Street sweeping, odd sides

**October 25** – Sobo Halloween Bash

**October 26** – RNA meeting

**October 28** – Street sweeping, even sides

**October 31 Halloween** – Please drive safely and watch for children!

## See Summer Photos



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a set of programs for next year. The programming discussion will include the permitting process for the private party rentals (i.e. the issues with promoter-based party events). With the 2015 pool season behind us, RNA and BCRP-Aquatics has started looking forward to the 2016 season.

Thank you to all of the patrons who came to the pool and participating in the programs. Special thanks to the pool management (Nikki and Anthony) who did a great job with a very young crew of lifeguards this year. If you have any comments, questions, or suggestions please send them to Jackson (jfk42@yahoo.com) We look forward to seeing everyone back in the water for the summer of 2016!

### Upcoming Riverside Park Garden Club Events

10/3 Daffodil Planting (with Civic Works' Day of Service) 9am-12pm. Meet near Johnson/Heath entrance.

10/24 Mayor's Fall Cleanup

### Fall Reminders

-Please turn on your outside lights. It helps with safety and security in the neighborhood. A switch with an automatic timer is a cheap and effective way to ensure your house is lit up even when you are away.

-Street Sweeping (10/21 odd side; 10/28 even side) As the leaves fall on the streets and in the gutters, clearing cars for the street sweeping becomes much more important. Please pay attention to the October/November dates for the street sweeping and move your vehicles.

-Soil recycling. I have a few locations in Riverside Park that could use some additional soil. Topsoil is preferable; however, I will take some potting soil. I don't want your old dead tomato plant so throw that away and give me the soil/roots.

-Tree Planting The City plants street trees in the late fall. If you have an empty pit or dead tree, now is the time to put in a request for removal/replanting. Use the 311 system for planting/removal requests (get a confirmation number).

-Newsletter articles/photos? We hear lots of interesting stories past and present about the neighborhood. If you have something interesting and would like to share, please send us an article or a photo. If you send a photo, please give us a short description of the context.

## Recent RNA Activities

### August

- Summer Music Series
- Neighborhood meeting
- Back-to-School Day
- Doggie Swim at Riverside Pool
- Sobo Softball Classic
- Riverside Garden Club

## AVAILABLE HOMES

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3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and 2-car parking pad.

**Coming Soon!! 1703 Belt St (Federal Hill) Lovely home just a stone's throw to Riverside Park. Large granite kitchen, hardwood flrs, 2 bedr ,1.5 baths, Spacious finished basement with storage room & unique level walk out, 2 decks & parking for a small car. Contact me for pricing & details!**

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## Final Concert at Riverside Park

The Riverside Summer Music Series has sadly come to a close. Many thanks to our primary sponsor, Domino Sugar, who not only donates the money to put on the concert, donated gifts baskets for us to raffle off. Thank you to Murphy Washo Gunsiorowski & Associates for providing beverage cups and wine and Union Craft for the kegs, as well as Little Havana's, Captain Larry's, The Smoking Swine, Green Bowl, Fowl Play, Bistro Lunchbox, Baba's Mediterrean Kitchen, and Miss Twist for their contributions and to the bands and Shaun Wilson, the sound guy.

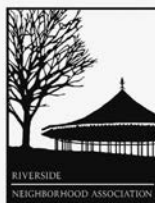


## COMMUNITY YARD SALE

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3**

**9AM - 1PM**

**RIVERSIDE PARK**



**BUY:** Swing by the park and score some new-to-you goods.

**SELL:** Rent tables at \$10 each. Register & pay online [riversideneighborhoodassociation.com](http://riversideneighborhoodassociation.com); Or send your name, e-mail, phone number, and nonrefundable prepayment to RNA Yard Sale, 200 East Wells Street, Baltimore, MD 21230 by September 19th. Limited day-of tables may be available for \$15 each.

**DONATE:** Want to get rid of things without the hassle of selling? Drop them off to the RNA table by 9:30am that morning. Proceeds from your donations will benefit RNA.

FRESH SALT MEATS

★ 14th Annual ★

# PIGTOWN FESTIVAL

**SATURDAY OCT 10**

Extra Quality

12PM to 7PM  
700-900 blocks of Washington Blvd.

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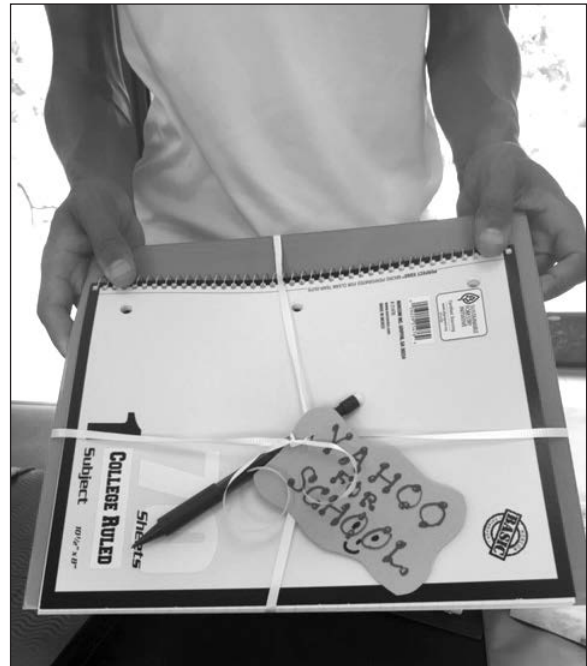
Live MUSIC BY **KELLY BELL BAND**  
★ **JAH WORKS** ★ **NELLY'S ECHO**

➔ PIG RACES! PLAYWORKS KIDS ZONE! LOCAL EATS & DRINKS!

# Another Great Year at Riverside Pool



The last fun event at Riverside Pool was the back to school celebration. Every child received a little bundle of school supplies from the pool staff and RNA.



## Computer Gaming

### Discussion –

*Thursday, October 1*

*5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.*

*Game On: The History of Computer Gaming in Maryland.* Join legendary software developer Sid Meier (*Civilization, Railroad Tycoon, Pirates*) and other video game professionals for a lively discussion of this burgeoning local industry.

**Free event.**



## The Band That Wouldn't Die –

*Tuesday, October 20 – 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.*

Academy Award winner Barry Levinson's extraordinary documentary tells the story of Baltimore's Marching Ravens..

**Free event with popcorn, beer, and soft drinks available for purchase.**

## Free Fall Baltimore –

*Saturday, October 24 – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.*

In cooperation with the Baltimore Office of Promotion & the Arts, the BMI is pleased to offer free admission all day long.

**Free admission.**



## Greetings and Peace, Riverside Neighbors

I hope and pray that this letter finds you in good health and good spirits. I want to first thank those in the neighborhood that participated in our two September events: our **Revival and Basket Bingo**. Both were huge successes respectively and I am grateful for the support. Especially with the Basket Bingo, the money given helps to keep our many ministries functional. We have two big events coming up back-to-back in October: our **Pet Blessing** returns at Riverside Park on **Sunday, October 4 at 12pm**. There's no Ravens game that day so feel free to hang out as long as you want. And then that **Saturday, the 11th**, our third annual Oktoberfest will be at Captain Larry's (601 E Fort Ave) from **12-5pm**.

And speaking of Captain Larry's, our *Love Thy Neighbor Gatherings* have returned! We are there every Wednesday night at 7:30pm for good food, good drinks and good conversation. Our topics are always posted on our Facebook (facebook.com/SalemBaltimore) and Twitter pages (twitter.com/SalemELCABmore). More information can be found on our (newly redesigned!) website (salessouthbaltimore.com). You do not need to be religious to participate. Hope to see you there!

Finally, I want to address something personal that I do not often do in this space: I want to lift up the leadership of Riverside Neighborhood Association and commend them for a job well done given the recent issues surrounding the park. RNA has worked hard for years to build relationships with those who operate the park and pool and those relationships benefit our community. So when there is an issue of crime, there is never a break down in communication with what is going on. I realize that not everyone is going to agree with where RNA stands on things (sometimes I do not) but I think in working together, we can continue to make this a great community for all.

All the best,

*Pastor Jake*

### 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  
200 East Wells Street  
Baltimore, MD 21230

### 2014-2015 OFFICERS

President: John G. Paré Jr.  
Vice President: Jen McLaughlin  
Secretary: Sandy Asirvatham  
Treasurer: Joelle Woolston

### 2014-2015 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



**Jim Craig**  
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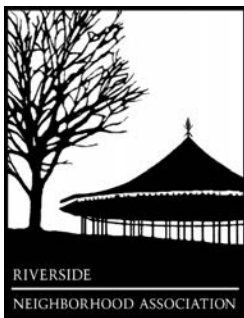


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## Proud to be part of our community.

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



## 2015 Riverside Neighborhood Association Dues Payment Slip

**\$5 per person**

**Riverside Neighborhood Association**  
**200 East Wells Street**  
**Baltimore, MD 21230**

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