

Riverside Neighborhood Association

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

NEXT MEETING: Monday, October 30

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

PUBLIC SAFETY FORUM HELD IN RIVERSIDE – *John G. Paré Jr.*

On Monday, September 18, the South Baltimore Public Safety Forum was held in the Riverside Neighborhood. The panel included Mayor Catherine Pugh, City Council President Jack Young, State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby, Baltimore Police Department (BPD) Commissioner Kevin Davis, BPD Southern District Major Steve Ward, and State's Attorney's Office Chief of Juvenile Division Gavin Patashnick. The forum was organized by City Councilman Eric Costello, the representative for the city's eleventh district. The event gave approximately 350 residents from Riverside and the South Baltimore Peninsula the opportunity to ask questions and hear directly from city leaders on crime reduction and prevention.

At one point during the Forum, Commissioner Davis mentioned the effectiveness of Citizens on Patrol (COP) Walks. As a reminder, our very own COP Walks, organized by Shannon Sullivan the chair of Riverside Neighborhood Public Safety Committee, occur on the first Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. starting at the gazebo in Riverside Park. These walks are a great way to invest your time in the community and meet some of your neighbors in the process. The next COP Walk will be on Monday, November 6. I hope to see you there!

RNA Calendar of Upcoming Events

OCTOBER

- Oct 28 SOBO Halloween Bash
- Oct 23 Community Conversation with Brooke Lierman
- Oct 30 RNA Meeting

NOVEMBER

- Nov 4 Riverside Garden Club
- Nov 6 Community Safety Walk

DECEMBER

- Dec 2 Riverside Garden Club
- Dec 3 Gazebo Lighting
- Dec 4 Community Safety Walk
- Dec 18 RNA Meeting



October Guest Speaker

Nikhil Gupta with Tread
See article on page six.



RIVERSIDE PARK RENOVATIONS – *Jackson Fisher*

In late September, the Board of Estimates approved the purchase of a piece of CSX property just to the south of Riverside Park. The property had been a major stumbling block in the phase 2 renovations of the Riverside Park ballfields. In 2012, Riverside Park saw major improvements to the walkways, lights, benches, and trash cans in the Phase 1 renovations to the historic areas of the park. Initially, RNA and the city had expected the phase 2 work on the ballfields to commence in 2014 but acquiring the CSX property did not progress as expected. With the purchase approved, the renovations of the ballfields moves onto the next step.

Once an environmental assessment is complete, design and planning for the Riverside ballfields can begin. The areas included in Phase 2 are the basketball courts, softball fields, and the old (red) field house. Details of the work are not finalized but we are expecting a complete overhaul of the athletic amenities in the park and extensions of the sidewalk along Johnson. (Lights, backstops, fencing, drainage, sod, basketball court, and field house renovations.) The CSX property will enhance the design by allowing a full sized softball field, extra space for lighting, and possibly a small parking area for the fields. At this point, we are hopeful that the design and planning will occur in 2018 and the work will start in 2019.

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Looking for a way to get involved?

RNA is always looking for involvement from our community members. If you are looking for a way to dip your toe in the RNA waters, then newsletter delivery and/or sorting is a great way to start! Once a month, RNA publishes this old school, paper format newsletter and it is hand delivered to your front door by a neighborhood volunteer. (Why in this digital age? The answer to that question is for another newsletter - although if you're currently reading this, then you already kind of get it.) This is where you can help, in one or both of two tasks: newsletter sorting and newsletter delivery.

Newsletter delivery. This is a play-when-you-can volunteer opportunity (and how many of the current/past RNA board members began their involvement), you volunteer when you can and have a fairly loose schedule to complete your task. The process: Your name is added to our email list of "potential" deliverers. Each month, the potential deliverers are emailed to determine availability for delivery. The available deliverers are each assigned a route that typically includes 1-2 neighborhood blocks. The deliverer picks up their route assignment and newsletters from a porch on Webster St and has one week to deliver their newsletters. This is a great way to explore your neighborhood, discover little corners you didn't know existed, and see all the variety that can exist in a fairly simple concept, the two story, 10-12 foot wide rowhouse.

Newsletter sorting. This for those of you who prefer to stay at home, in the comfort of your own living room. For this task, the newsletters are picked up from the printer, sorted into groups (one for each block), and each block is assigned to a deliverer. Pick-up typically happens on a Friday and the newsletters should be sorted by Sunday. While RNA would love a permanent volunteer (or two who split) for this duty, we currently are accepting sign ups for one month each. If you'd like to sign up for 2018 newsletter sorting, please visit here: <https://goo.gl/forms/CzqSIIZruwFbhBNn2>

Any questions before getting involved? Please email Joelle at RNAtreasurer@gmail.com.



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

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



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VICTORY HOUSE DEMOLITION

– Shannon Sullivan

As you may know, the Victory House, a 38 room property near the corner of Light and Heath, has been torn down. What you may not know is that it took years of persistent emails, calls, public safety walks, meetings and inspections to get this result. The boarding house received numerous 911 complaints on everything from assault to drug dealing. The property was poorly managed and maintained, making the conditions inside unsafe and unhealthy for the residents. The number of volunteer hours spent working with the police, housing department/code enforcement, fire department and elected officials to reach a suitable resolution is a sign that it was worth it. It also signals that the neighborhood association is a powerful entity when residents step-up and become engaged. The demolition of the Victory House is a victory for the neighborhood and has been a key component in turning around the corner of Heath and Light. Kudos to all of those who helped.



Annual Gazebo Lighting

December 3, 2017

Join us at 5:30 pm for a performance by the TJEMS Choir and the annual lighting of the gazebo by a special guest. Cocoa, cookies, and the "snowball" fight to follow.

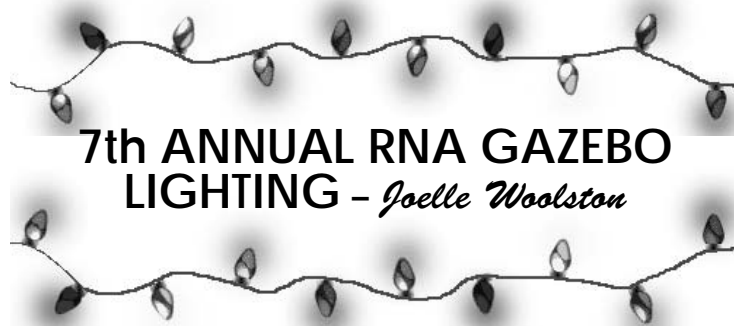
NEWS FROM SALEM LUTHERAN

Hurricanes, wildfires, earthquakes. Debates over who deserves healthcare, safe places to call home, and the respect of being treated with the basic dignity God has given to all people. The rising—again—of bold-faced racism and antisemitism. A massacre in Las Vegas.

"Woe" isn't a word that gets used a lot these days, but it is common in both Hebrew and Christian sacred texts. It has been uttered by prophets and teachers, widows and priests, the wealthy and the poor, alike. Even the divine voice whispers "woe" at the brokenness of the world. Far from being a flip expression, "woe" is the word that is traditionally spoken—cried—as one looks into the grave of a loved one. As one watches a city washed away. It is a lament in the face of death. If you're feeling like me, perhaps it is a word that resonates all too well right now.

It would be easy to lose our hope, energy, and fight in this woeful climate, but, beloveds, don't. The world as it is not the world as it must be. In this coming season of thanksgiving, I pray we can all take stock of the gifts we've been given. The ways we've been loved and empowered in our families and in our daily work. The beautiful ways we've been entrusted to care for others and the creation around us. The glimpses of hope we can—and do—see, even in a hurting world. And in gratitude, I pray we might rise to serve and support those in need, both here in Riverside and beyond. I pray that we would love ever more mightily. I pray that each of us would find solace, hope, purpose, and joy in the days ahead.

Peace,
Pastor Lauren



7th ANNUAL RNA GAZEBO LIGHTING – Joelle Woolston

Come enjoy the TJEMS choir at the Annual Gazebo Lighting at Riverside Park on Sunday, December 3rd at 5:30 pm. Hot cocoa and cookies will be provided.

Schedule (times approximate):
5:30 TJEMS choir performance
5:45 Santa arrives
6:00 Gazebo lighting
6:01 Snowball fight!

Also, looking for someone to fill a *special* volunteer role at both the gazebo lighting and TJEMS Breakfast with **Santa**. Interested parties should email RNAtreasurer@gmail.com or tjemspto@gmail.com

"WEEK OF WILL" AT THOMAS JOHNSON

– *Stefanie Ogar McKenzie*

Under Armour and The Heart of America Foundation came together in September for the "Week of Will" providing a much needed makeover at Johnson Elementary Middle School. "Week of Will" is a volunteerism initiative through UA aimed at giving back to the city. As the UA press release states, "#WEWILL celebrates and honors Baltimore, the city that Under Armour is proud to call home. This campaign shines a light on the amazing people of Baltimore and Under Armour's commitment to our communities."

Approximately 1,200 UA volunteers participated providing 6,000 volunteer hours. Improvements to Thomas Johnson Elementary Middle School include a renovated gymnasium with new athletic tile flooring, new glass basketball backboards, a new scoreboard, and painted wall graphics. Hallways, classrooms and the cafeteria also received fresh coats of paint, wall graphics, replacement of broken ceiling tiles, and Baltimore themed murals. Landscape improvements were also made throughout the planters surrounding the school.

Volunteers also donated time participating and inspiring students to reach for their goals. Additional donations include over 300 library books, new sports equipment, and gifts for students and staff.

Similar improvements were made at neighboring George Washington Elementary School. Thank you Under Armour and Heart of America for these contributions to our neighborhood!



PUBLIC SAFETY REMINDERS ROOFTOP DECKS AND DOG ETIQUETTE

There were two deck fires on the peninsula last month. One originated from a hot grill and the other, fireworks set off from a neighbor's deck in the middle of the night. Living in a rowhome can often mean that a fire on one deck turns into an entire block suffering from fire, smoke and water damage. Respect your neighbors by not setting off fireworks from rooftop decks and removing grills from decks. RNA double checked with the city and it is illegal to have grills on decks per Sections 307 and 308 of the Baltimore City Fire Code.

A dog recently stole a child's soccer ball and popped it, as the owner struggled to get control of the dog. This, and several other similar incidents, have been brought to the attention of the police and they will be enforcing leash laws in the coming weeks.

These two public safety reminders brings us to the following...

Every year RNA puts "Doggy Etiquette" guidelines in the newsletter. Rather than take up all that valuable print space we instead remind everyone to respect personal space. If you are walking, biking, running through the park, alone or with dogs and/or children, it is your responsibility to respect others using the park. Invading the personal space of others, by you or your dog, is wrong and ruins the park experience for everyone. Living in the city has many benefits. But it is important to remember that living in the city also means a lot of people living in a smaller area. Respecting neighbors goes a long way in making the city great for everyone.



CIVIC WORKS RICKY MYERS DAY OF SERVICE - *Jackson Fisher*

On Oct 7, RNA hosted a volunteer group from Civic Works for a park cleanup. Each year, Civic Works hosts a city-wide Day of Service to remember Ricky Myers, a staff member who dedicated his life to serving Baltimore's communities. During this year's event, volunteers helped to prune 16 trees in the park around the pool house and near the gazebo. The volunteers were given a crash course in tree pruning techniques and sent out under RNA's watchful eye. The volunteers successfully moved all of the pruned material to the dumpster that Baltimore City's Dept of Public Works provided for this event. We would like to thank all of the volunteers who came out and Civic Works for organizing this event. We look forward to having everyone back next October!



FEATURED HOMES FOR SALE

1257 Riverside Ave Unit C Contemporary TH with 1 car Parking pad. Beautiful brand new kitchen, new master bathroom, new HVAC & new exterior doors. 2 bedr 2 full baths, finished basement & roof deck. \$334,900 BA10077954

2910 Keswick Avenue Hampden Spacious 2 bedr 2.5 bathrooms, renovated in 2013 w newer systems & finishes. New concrete parking pad just poured—potential to fit two Cars ! Located next to Wyman Park Dr, avenue to JHU approx 1/4 mile walk or ride up the hill \$234,900 BA 10078375

**1835 Jackson Street BA10051491 SOLD In
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THREAD TO LAUNCH PROGRAM AT DIGITAL HARBOR – *Nikhil Gupta*



This January, Thread is launching their newest program at Digital Harbor High School. Thread supports underperforming high school students by providing each one with a family of volunteers for 10 years. Thread volunteers do whatever it takes to support their students, from rides to school to homework help; Sunday night dinners and even dating advice. By building intentional relationships across lines of race and class, Thread breaks the cycle of crime, poor educational and economic outcomes; radically and permanently reconfiguring the support system of all involved. The success of Thread's movement relies on committed volunteers who believe in the potential of the students and our city.

Contact Us:

On the Web:

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

Questions & Comments:

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Newsletter:

rna.newsletter.21230@gmail.com

Mail:

Riverside Neighborhood Association
200 East Wells Street
Baltimore, MD 21230

2017-2018 Officers

President: John G. Paré Jr.
Vice President: Jen McLaughlin
Secretary: Rebecca Celotto
Treasurer: Joelle Woolston

2017-2018 Committees

Newsletter: Stefanie McKenzie
Crime: Shannon Sullivan
Friends of Riverside Park:
Jackson Fisher
Development: Ann Fiocco
Trash/Clean-up: Vacant
Historian: Paul Stysley
Forestry/Street Trees: Jackson Fisher
Communications: Rachel Wagner

Email volunteer@thread.org or go to www.thread.org to learn how you can help Thread build a new social fabric in South Baltimore.

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**Please call for a
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*As a South Baltimore resident, I would be
happy to meet at a location convenient to you.*
Call Anytime!

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

This fall, Delegate Brooke Lierman is holding a series of Community Conversations in District 46 - and all residents of the district are invited to attend! These events will feature a chance to hear from Brooke, learn about the upcoming 2018 legislative session, and to engage with agency leaders. There will be a Q&A session at every Community Conversation.

Join Brooke, guest speakers, and your neighbors on October 23 from 6-8 p.m. at Thomas Johnson Elementary Middle School

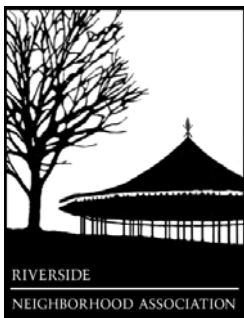
Guest Speakers:

- Reginald Moore
Director of Rec & Parks
- Anne Kaiser,
Chair of the Ways & Means Cmte
Kirwan Commission Member

Questions?

Email BLFD2018@gmail.com

Hope you can join us!



2017 Riverside Neighborhood Association Dues Payment Slip

\$5 per person

Riverside Neighborhood Association
200 East Wells Street
Baltimore, MD 21230

Please note: You can now pay dues and make donations on RNA's website: riversideneighborhoodassociation.com.

Name(s): _____

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