

RIDGELY'S RECORD

A Newsletter for the Residents and Businesses of Ridgely's Delight

March 2009

Community Meeting – Guest Presenters

The monthly meeting of the Ridgely's Delight Association (RDA) will be held on Wednesday, March 4 upstairs at Camden Pub at 7 p.m. Anyone who lives or works in Ridgely's Delight is welcome. Guest speakers for the monthly meeting include:

Johns Hopkins Executive Director of Baltimore Heritage - Founded in 1961 Baltimore Heritage, Inc. is the citywide, nonprofit historic and architectural preservation organization. Baltimore Heritage Inc. works to promote the preservation, appreciation, and economic potential of Baltimore's distinctive architecture, historic neighborhoods, and heritage resources through advocacy, education, and technical assistance. Baltimore Heritage seeks to establish historic preservation as a public and governmental value to ensure a high quality of life for Baltimoreans now and in the future.

Indian Pavilion - Kevin Gisriel will be presenting his renovation plans for the Indian Pavilion structure on Pratt Street.

Conway Park Improvement Plan - Many of you have noticed Park improvements to Conway Park continue into spring 2009. The entire south east side of our neighborhood is now enclosed with decorative aluminum fencing. We have also learned that the final grading of the park is complete and we are ready to begin construction on the Rev. Barney Farnham memorial and pergola. Building permits and drawings were submitted to the City for review and supplies were delivered last month. Time has been set aside at the March community meeting to develop a work plan. If you are interested in taking part of this monumental effort please email Mark James at dufour.sail@yahoo.com or attend the March community meeting. Mark will also have electronic copies of the Conway Park Improvement Plan if you are interested in viewing the final plans.

March Recycling Dates:

Friday, March 13 and March 27

First Friday Happy Hour March 6

Sliders Bar & Grill will be hosting our March First Friday Happy Hour. Come over, meet your neighbors and have the spectacular staff of Sliders help you get over the winter blues. Drink special will include \$2.00 domestic drafts and rail drinks, \$4.00 wings special and \$2.00 off all other food items. Hope to see you there. People usually start showing up around 6:30 p.m.

Daylight Saving Time – Spring Forward

Don't forget to set your clocks one hour forward on Sunday, March 8. This is also a great reminder to change the batteries in your home smoke detectors.

Homestead Tax Credit Reminder

Due to a change in Maryland law, homeowners must now file a one-time application to get a tax credit on their primary residence. Previously the credit had been applied automatically. The credit caps your Baltimore property tax increase at 4% regardless of the assessment increase. The application was included in the recent assessment notice sent to all property owners. You can also submit the form online at www.dat.state.md.us. Contact the Department of Assessments and Taxation, 301 W. Preston Street, Baltimore, MD 21201 if you have any questions.

Garden Swap Is Still On

Wouldn't it be great to have an email list of potential recipients that can walk over and pick up your extra bulbs? By the same token, if you are a new gardener, here's a way to start your garden on a shoestring budget. Your neighbors would like to start and email list so we can email each other throughout the spring and summer. If interested in joining the list, please email Sharon@reuter.net with a subject line of "Plant Swap".

CHAP Reminder

All exterior work in Ridgely's Delight requires a permit and CHAP approval. For more information, visit www.ridgelysdelight.org/history/chap.html. If you have questions, please send an e-mail to chap@ridgelysdelight.org or call 410-499-0183.

Crime Update

Neighbors, those of you that live on Paca Street have undoubtedly noticed an increase of drug trafficking at the corner of Paca and Freemont. I am writing especially to those of you on the south end of Paca Street in hopes that you will help remove these criminals from your neighborhood by simply calling the police. The large vacant property at 701 Washington Blvd (formerly Sav-A-Lot) continues to attract vagrants, trash, and now addicts. The panhandlers you see on MLK or Russell Street have been seen purchasing drugs from the dealers now set up on the corner of Paca and Freemont. I encourage you to contact Bill Cole, our district council representative, about the vacant property and the resulting problems. However, it is important that we all keep calling 911 when there is suspicious activity on our streets. We cannot argue that officers are needed if there have been no calls about crime.

I know that at times it is very easy to believe the police department does not respond or that the police department is incapable of truly making an impact. However, there is absolutely no reason to make it exceptionally easy for dealers and addicts to use our neighborhood as they please.

There is no secret to having Baltimore Police Officers on our streets. All it takes are phone calls to 911 when you see anything suspicious. Don't worry about hurting someone's feelings or the sense of harassing them. You don't have to confront anyone, or even give your name to the 911 operator. Please remember this is the Department's job and use of your tax dollars. The Police are trained and better equipped for confrontation—so please use them.

Realistically I hope you know that when you call 911 absolutely nothing may happen—nothing immediately gratifying. Given the seriousness of this problem—I understand that frustration. I don't ask that you lower your expectations; I simply ask that you keep calling 911. If you prefer adages, "the squeaky wheel gets the grease". You can take down license plates, or take pictures... but all you need to do is call 911. Then, do your best to describe what you've just seen or are seeing that is suspicious.

More calls = More cops. If you'd like to tell me what you've seen and who you've seen doing it please feel free to contact me, because I would like to know.

jay.pendell.jones@gmail.com or drop by Quigley's on Monday nights before the COP walk at 7:30 PM—don't feel obligated to walk.

Thank You

Education Funding Rally, March 3

There is a rally in Annapolis at 6 p.m. on March 3, 2009 to oppose changing the law in a way that would reduce education funding for Baltimore City long-term. The goal is to get 3000 attendees. Can you attend and also invite friends? Please mark your calendar now. Children are welcome.

Red Cross Certification Training in Infant and Child CPR and First Aid

Do you want to feel more confident in your ability to handle medical emergencies with your infant or child? The Downtown Baltimore Family Alliance has arranged for a Red Cross Certification Training Course in Infant and Child CPR and First Aid.

The course aims to train lay responders to recognize and care for life-threatening respiratory or cardiac emergencies in infants and children, to help sustain life in an emergency, and minimize the consequences of injury or sudden illness until medical help arrives. The format of the course includes lecture, video, and hands-on practice with mannequins.

Date: Saturday, March 14, 2009 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
AND Saturday, March 21, 2009 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
(9.5 hours total including breaks)

Location: Wolfe Street Academy, 245 S. Wolfe Street, Baltimore, MD, 21231

Cost: The course is open to anyone who is interested—parents, expecting parents, nannies, family members; are all welcome! Limited to 20 participants. The cost is:

\$75 per person for DBFA members

\$85 per person for nonmembers.

\$95 to become a DBFA member and pay for the course

The cost covers the instruction in both Infant and Child CPR (one certification) and First Aid (another certification). Full payment must be received by February 25, 2009 to ensure participation.

Please note: Sign up only if you can attend both dates. If you cannot attend one of the dates, unfortunately, there will be no refund. Also, if you cannot attend both dates, you will not receive the certifications.

Each individual must register and pay separately, per Red Cross rules (even if both partners of a couple want to attend). Questions? Please contact DBFA member Eva Bazant at **evabazant@yahoo.com**.

Neighborhood Concerns: A Recipe for Success - Southern District – A Message from the Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods (abbreviated to fit)

Below you will find a guideline to help you better address your concerns more efficiently. Communication, holding people accountable and follow-up are the keys to resolving neighborhood and quality of life concerns. As a community leader or resident one should utilize the system in place to adequately address neighborhood problems. Listed are neighborhood concerns that come up frequently and how to address them:

Housing (Vacant properties that are open, have trash and debris, need mowing, and other code enforcement concerns)

- Call 311 to report your concern.
- If not addressed within the timeframe provided to you, call 311 for follow-up or your Housing Inspections Office Assistant Superintendent (410-545-1851) at the Southern District Housing Inspection Office with your Service Request Number for detailed information
- Always get the contact name of the person you talk too
- Follow-up, follow-up, follow-up

Note: Ask if there is a notice on the property and if it has been sent to Property Management at the Department of Public Works for cleaning, mowing or boarding.

Sanitation Enforcement (for occupied properties that have trash or high grass and weeds that violates the city code)

- Call 311 to report your concern
- If not addressed within the timeframe provided to you, call 311 for follow-up or your district Sanitation Enforcement Officer, Leon Green, (410-396-1712 x22008, leon.green@baltimorecity.gov) at the Sanitation Enforcement Office with your Service Request Number for detailed information
- Always get the contact name of the person you talk too
- Follow-up, follow-up, follow-up

Note: Ask if the property was cited and if it will be referred to housing inspections for further code and legal enforcement.

Solid Waste (Dirty alley or street, missed recycling or collection, graffiti)

- Call 311 to report your concern
- If not addressed within the timeframe provided to you, call 311 for follow-up
- Follow-up, follow-up, follow-up

Note: If the concern was not resolved please make it clear to the 311 Call Center and ask that they send it to the appropriate agency.

Department of Transportation

- Call 311 to report your concern
 - If not addressed within the timeframe provided to you, call 311 for follow-up or your Transportation Community Outreach Liaison, Grishae Blackette (443-984-9095, grishae.blackette@baltimorecity.gov) at the Transportation Community Relations Office with your Service Request Number for more details
 - Always get the contact name of the person you talk too
 - Follow-up, follow-up, follow-up
- Note: For traffic calming concerns please contact their office directly to start the process.

Police Department - Main number (District)

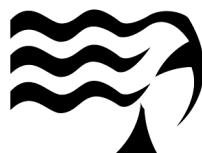
- For emergencies call 911
- Non emergencies (police concerns) call 311
- If police non-emergencies are not addressed, call your Police District Neighborhood Service Unit at 410-354-5169 at the Southern District
- Always get the contact name of the person you talk too
- Follow-up, follow-up, follow-up

Note: Please attend their Police District Community Relations Council the 3rd Thursday of each month at the Southern Police District Office at 10 Cherry Hill Road to meet the district major, lieutenants, sergeants and patrol officers that work in your district. These meetings are held to address public safety concerns in your neighborhood which they play a vital role in building better relationships to better serve your community.

If, after taking the steps outlined above your concern is still not addressed, please contact Ian Hines, Southern District Liaison in the Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods, at 410-396-4735 or via email at Ian.Hines@baltimorecity.gov.

Sincerely,

Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods



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