

# RIDGELY'S RECORD

A Newsletter for the Residents and Businesses of Ridgely's Delight, an Historic Community

August 2017

## The Ridgely's Delight Association Community & Board Meetings

There will be NO community or board meeting on the first Wednesday in August. Instead, we hope you will join everyone for an informal potluck to celebrate National Night Out on Tuesday.

### National Night Out

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships with a common goal of making our neighborhood a safer place to live. Join the effort to strengthen community spirit as we celebrate National Night Out and enhance the relationship between our neighborhood and local first responders.

The Ridgely's Delight Association is hosting a potluck on Tuesday, 1 August 2017 from 6-9 p.m. in Conway Park. Representatives from the Baltimore City Police Department's Southern District and the Baltimore Fire Department's John F. Steadman Fire Station are scheduled to attend. Bring your favorite dish and lawn games to share. For more information, go to the Ridgely's Delight Facebook page.

### Ahoy Mateys!

We will be sailing the high seas of the Chesapeake Bay during our August First Friday Happy Hour on Friday, 4 August 2017. We will board the great pirate ship *Fearless* at the Ann Street Pier in Fell's Point at 7 p.m., sailing at 7:30 p.m. You and your neighbors will dress, talk and drink like pirates during this hour-long, bring your own grog, Pirate adventure. Tickets are available for \$25.00 on-line at [urbanpirates.com](http://urbanpirates.com) or at multiple discount ticket venues. *Tickets are going fast, so don't delay.* Visit [urbanpirates.com](http://urbanpirates.com) for directions to the boarding location, parking information and other details.

#### Pick-up Day Reminder

Trash pick-up: Wednesdays  
Recycling pick-up: Fridays

## Got a Glove?

Then you are all set to join the Ridgely's Delight softball team as they attempt to bring the trophy back to the neighborhood during the 9th Annual South Baltimore Softball Classic. On Saturday, 5 August 2017, Ridgely's Delight will compete against teams from Pigtown, Federal Hill, Downtown Partnership, and Canton at Swann Park, 300 W McComas St., South Baltimore. Warmups start at 10 a.m., with Ridgely's taking the field at 10:30 a.m. against Pigtown. Bring food and drinks to share; grills will be provided. Spectators and players wanted. No prior experience needed, *heck, even the glove is optional.*

## Movie in the Park

On Wednesday, 23 August 2017, we will watch *Moana*, a Walt Disney animated, PG rated movie. Follow *Moana's* ocean journey as she sets to undo the curse cast on her Polynesian island by the cruel Demigod, Maui. Don't miss this action-packed adventure shown on a large screen in the middle of Conway Park. The movie will start at dusk, but come early to spread out your picnic blankets and lawn chairs.

Mayor Catherine E. Pugh and the Baltimore City Recreation and Parks are offering over 140 FREE concerts and movies in the parks. Visit [bcrp.baltimorecity.gov](http://bcrp.baltimorecity.gov) to get a complete list. Follow Recs and Parks on Twitter @RecNParks or call 410-396-7900 to check for weather cancelations.

## African American Festival

The 43<sup>rd</sup> African American Festival will take place Saturday, August 12, 2017, 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. at Druid Hill Park. For more information, visit [www.africanamericanfestival.net](http://www.africanamericanfestival.net).

#### Street Sweeping Reminder

Odd Side: every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday  
(August 16<sup>th</sup>)  
Even Side: every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday  
(August 23<sup>th</sup>)

## Delightful Gems

*This article continues our series that focuses on past and present businesses in our community. This month we are focusing on former businesses at 337 – 339 South Fremont Ave.*

The building dates to the 1890's and originally housed a seafood packing plant called The John T. McNaney Oyster Company. Fremont Ave. was originally called Cove Street, a bustling, north-south route for the commercial fishing industry in the young City of Baltimore. Therefore 337 - 339 S. Fremont Ave. was the perfect location for a small, family-owned packing business. Here, Chesapeake Bay oysters were shucked, cleaned, and canned for both local consumption and national distribution on the lower floors, while John T. McNaney and his family lived upstairs.

After 1945, the building became a warehouse for Samuel T. Epstein and Sons, a local department store chain. The warehouse served two nearby stores, one at 755 Washington Blvd and one at 2008 W. Pratt Street in West Baltimore. The Epstein Department stores closed in 1962 and the building was transferred to Zenith Lighting, Incorporated, a commercial supplier and manufacturer of lighting equipment. Zenith Lighting, Incorporated, was in operation at this location for over 30 years before closing their doors.

Many perspective owners have been drawn to this building due to its intricate exterior woodwork, including the detailed dentil tooth molding. The National Register of Historic Places noted, "the brickwork and detail are extremely fine, the façade composition is of a quality rarely exceeded in West Baltimore, sophisticated and in scale with the neighborhood – a remarkable late Victorian brick adaptation of an Italian Palazzo for commercial use". Only time will tell what will be the next chapter in the life of this Ridgely's Gem.

*- This editor would like to give a heartfelt thanks to the members of the 1992 Ridgely's Delight Association Board, who orchestrated the Ridgely's Delight Neighborhood House and Garden Tour, from which this article was heavily sourced.*

## Ping Pong Tournament

Save the date for the first neighborhood Ping Pong tournament to be held on Saturday, 9 September 2017 in the Melvin and Penn Street Park.

## Crime Prevention Tips

The Baltimore City Police Department needs our help to reduce crime in our neighborhood. Please review the following simple, yet effective home safety tips. All of us working together can make an impact:

- Illuminate the perimeter of your house.
- Use light timers throughout the house that have variable time changes, while you are away.
- Secure an attached garage as you would your house; it is an access point into your home.
- Secure window air conditioners to prevent them from being pulled out or pushed in.
- Consider investing in an alarm system. They are available in different price ranges and may make you eligible for an insurance discount.

## Protect Your Bike

Bike theft is one of the more common crimes in Baltimore City. You can reduce your chances of becoming a victim by following a few simple steps:

- Secure your bike in the garage overnight with the door closed and locked.
- Lock your bike and both wheels to an immovable object that cannot be cut or broken.
- Use a good quality-locking device, such as a hardened steel "U" shaped lock or a hardened steel chain and padlock.
- Take a photograph of your bike, to include the serial number. Etch a personal ID onto the bike frame if you cannot locate the serial plate.

## Prevent Theft from Automobiles

Unfortunately, all of us have seen the disheartening sight of shattered auto glass on a city sidewalk. Some of these incidences could have been prevented by following two tips:

- Lock your car doors and close your windows. *Thieves target unlocked vehicles.*
- Do not leave valuables in your car. *Thieves like to "window shop".*

Visit our new Crime Prevention Page, from our Ridgely's Delight Home Page, for even more tips.

## The Road to Birdland Starts Here!

The Babe Ruth Museum is hosting a baseball road trip to Harry Grove Stadium in Frederick, MD, on Friday, 11 August 2017. Learn the names of prospective Orioles players as they play for the Fredrick Keys in a minor league game against the Potomac Nationals. The gates open at 6 p.m. with first pitch at 7:05 p.m. The Babe Ruth package includes a ticket to the game, a pre-game buffet, including hot dogs, burgers, chips, pulled pork, cole slaw, watermelon, iced tea/soda/water, and post-game fireworks. Beer and wine will be available for purchase. Transportation is not included. The price is \$40.00 for adults and \$35.00 for children ages 3-14. Reservations required, call Cathy Z. at 410-727-1539 x3051 to reserve your spot.

## Free Entrance to Our National Parks

The National Park Service turned 100 years old Thursday, 25 August 2016! Celebrate the start of their second century by visiting a park in 2017. Entrance fees to over 400 National Parks, including Baltimore's own Ft McHenry, have been waived on their birthday, Friday, 25 August 2017. Plan your visit and enjoy our country's historical sites and nature preserves. For a complete list of parks, visit: [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).

## Free Housing Resource in Baltimore City

Baltimore Neighborhoods, Inc. (BNI) is a nonprofit organization that operates a Fair Housing program and a Tenant-Landlord program. BNI operates a Tenant-Landlord Hotline, 410-243-6007, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Their counselors provide impartial information on local laws, *not* legal advice, to tenants and landlords throughout Maryland.

They commonly address questions about security deposits, essential services, rent escrow, evictions, and much more. The Tenant-Landlord department also participates in community education activities and sells useful publications such as legal guides and sample legal documents for landlords. Questions may also be submitted anytime via their website: [www.bni-maryland.org](http://www.bni-maryland.org).

Should you suspect that you have been discriminated against in any aspect of home seeking—BNI is the place to call.

## Weed and Wine Night

An event that is being billed as the "biggest science event in history" will happen on Monday, 21 August 2017 through several southern U.S. states. While Baltimore may not be in the path of the Total Solar Eclipse, we should see some magical skies above our city the night before. Come share the evening, Sunday, 20 August 2017 from 7-9 p.m. with friends and neighbors in the Melvin and Penn Street Park. We will be drinking wine and pulling weeds in our new landscaped beds under a gorgeous summer sky.



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## Neighborhood Trivia

Each month we post a neighborhood trivia question, with the answer published in the following month's Ridgely's Record. Last month's trivia question was, "Who was Barney Farnham, the gentleman who the neighborhood honored by dedicating the Conway Park Rose Garden?" The answer: Barney Farnham was a retired Episcopal Rector who moved to Ridgely's Delight in 1998. Barney Farnham had been a rector at the Memorial Episcopal Church in Bolton Hill for 29 years and lived in a home owned by the church, with his wife Suzanne and their four children. One night they walked through our neighborhood after attending a gathering at the Babe Ruth Museum and found a "boarded up wreck" on South Paca St. They knew they had found their new Baltimore City residence. Working with the Maryland Historic Trust, they spent a year and close to \$100,000, to restore their new home. Barney and Suzanne Farnham spent their retirement bettering the lives of their new neighbors and meaningfully improving our neighborhood.

This month's trivia question is, "Quigley's Half Irish Pub, at 633 Portland Street, has been a staple in our neighborhood for over 10 years. What was the name of the bar that Quigley's replaced?"

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## Connect with your Neighborhood

- Bookmark the neighborhood website: [www.ridgelysdelight.org](http://www.ridgelysdelight.org)
- Follow us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/RidgelysDelight/](http://www.facebook.com/RidgelysDelight/)
- Join Nextdoor: [Ridgelysdelightmd.nextdoor.com](http://Ridgelysdelightmd.nextdoor.com)
- Stay informed: Add yourself to the Ridgely's email list and keep in touch with what's going on in the neighborhood. Sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/h72yu7d>.

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