

RIDGELY'S RECORD



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

March 2015

Community Meeting on March 4th

Our community meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 4th, at 7pm, upstairs at Sliders.

A link to the meeting agenda can be found on our Facebook and Twitter pages. The meeting is a community-sanctioned event, and attendance counts toward becoming a Ridgely's Delight Association member in good standing. The RDA board will hold their monthly meeting immediately after the community meeting.

If you live, work or own property in Ridgely's Delight, you are invited to attend the meetings; however, only board members can vote at the board meeting.

Ridgely's Recreational Park (tot lot)

If you want to learn more about the currently planned improvements to the park at the corner of Melvin Dr. and Penn St., please come to the meeting on **Monday, March 30th at 7pm** on the second floor of the Camden Pub. We will review the existing plans and answer questions. We have received casino resources, which will enable the City to move forward on some aspects of the existing plans. Sarah Hope, design planner and playground safety coordinator with Department of Recreation and Parks, will be available to answer questions and walk us through the next steps of the project. The existing plans are available at www.ridgelysdelight.org. If you cannot make the meeting and have questions for Sarah Hope, please email sharon@ridgelysdelight.org. We will have notes from the meeting available on the website including Sarah's answers to your questions.

Pick-up Day Reminder

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

Happy Hour at Sliders

We'll meet up for First Friday happy hour on March 6th at Sliders in the upstairs room, starting around 6:30pm. Come out and meet your neighbors and bring a few extra bucks for the 50/50 drawing. Look for happy hour specials at www.ridgelysdelight.org/events.

The Story of Tesfa

Since college, Patrick and Melissa Corkum dreamed about one day owning a coffee and tea shop. They were captivated by the nuances and character of small, locally-owned, independent shops. Busy with their six kids, opening a shop seemed like a pipe dream until they caught a vision to combine their love for high-quality coffee and tea with their passion for helping orphans. In 2013, more than 23,000 children in foster care aged out of the system¹. Without family or any other dependable adults to rely on for assistance, these young people often lack necessary life skills and find themselves homeless and jobless or worse. What if a cafe could serve unparalleled coffee and tea and locally-sourced food and create a community gathering space while providing a training grounds and support system for youth aging out? In July 2014, the Corkums bought Sidewalk Espresso Bar, and, in December, Cafe Tesfa was born. "Tesfa" is a word from Ethiopia, the birthplace of coffee, meaning "hope." The shop currently has one short-term intern helping to coordinate community events such as game nights, happy hours, and artist events (the shop walls showcase local visual artists). They are actively seeking partnerships with other community organizations and social enterprises who also serve the foster youth population. For more information about Cafe Tesfa, visit www.cafetesfa.com or stop by and visit!

¹ SOURCE: Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) FY 2013 data

Some Property Assessments Revised

Property owners may have received more than one property tax assessment notice from the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT). When the original assessment notices were mailed, SDAT realized that some of them were incorrect. Therefore, on January 30th, SDAT sent out supplemental assessment notices to the 8,121 affected property owners. These supplemental assessment notices were sent out for a variety of reasons, including:

- * to inform a new owner of the market value of a recently transferred property
- * to revise the value of a property on which new improvements were made
- * to revise the property value, which an SDAT supervisor of assessments deemed inaccurate

More than 42 percent of the revised notices were sent to the South Baltimore Peninsula because properties in the southern third of the City were assessed this year. SDAT is considering sending out a letter of explanation; however, we have not been informed whether this will happen.

Property owners may appeal the revised market value on a supplemental assessment notice within 45 days of the notice date. For more information on the appeal process visit the SDAT's website at www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/appeal.html or call the SDAT Assessments Office for Baltimore City at 410-767-8250. It is important to note that the 45 day notice is what is listed on SDAT's website.

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Parking Rules and Reminders Update

As in any city neighborhood, parking in Ridgely's Delight can be a challenge. The Ridgely's Delight Association parking committee recently conducted a month-long study of parking in our neighborhood to get a better idea of the situation. We found that there are several residences with more than one active visitor pass, and many are used on the same vehicle every day as permanent passes in violation of Baltimore City parking code. Therefore, the RDA has asked the Baltimore City Parking Authority to contact residences with more than one visitor pass to ask that one be turned in. Visitor passes that are not turned in will be deactivated and will no longer be valid. The RDA has also asked the Parking Authority to contact the owners of area 5 visitor passes being used in the same vehicle for three or more days for three consecutive weeks.

Please keep in mind the following rules regarding parking permits and visitor passes (Baltimore City Code Article 31 Subtitle 10):

- * It is illegal to use a visitor pass in lieu of a decal.
- * Area 5 decals can only be used by residents of Ridgely's Delight. Once someone moves out of the neighborhood, the decal is no longer valid.
- * It is illegal to duplicate or sell a decal or visitor pass.
- * Abuse of a visitor pass is defined as use of a visitor pass in the same vehicle three or more days a week for three consecutive weeks.

If you are found guilty of violating Parking Authority rules, you will lose your right to buy a decal or visitor pass in the future, and you could be fined up to \$1,000.

Additional reminders:

- * Be sure to move your vehicle often. According to Baltimore City code, you could be ticketed if it is parked in the same space for more than 48 hours.
- * To make as much room as possible for everyone to park, don't leave a lot of extra space between your vehicle and the one in front of it.

**Thank you to Work Printers for printing
the Ridgely's Record.**

Safety Alert

Baltimore City Police are asking residents to sign up for the Neighborhood Crime Watch program. A simple application form is available at www.ridgelysdelight.org/safety. Please fill it out and return it to the Southern District office at the address or fax number on the form. You will receive a crime watch number that you can use for a faster response if you need to call the police. It is important to apply for a number because the police will pay more attention to the neighborhood if there are a large number of crime watch numbers in Ridgely's. If you have a question about crime and safety, contact safety@ridgelysdelight.org. If it's an emergency, call 911.

Adopt a Garden This Month

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, the second annual Adopt a Garden contest will take place from April 1st to September 30th. Nine unique spaces located throughout Ridgely's Delight will be up for adoption at the March community meeting. Come early to get your first pick! The contest will run for 6 months starting April 1st with judging taking place each month and a final winner named in October. Feel free to team up with a neighbor who can serve as back-up for your garden care if you're out of town. Gardeners can get reimbursed for up to \$50 for plants, and the Ridgely's Delight Association will provide free mulch, top soil and use of community tools. Photos of the top two gardens will be placed on the Ridgely's Delight website and social media sites, and the winner will earn the right to display the "Best Garden in Ridgely's Delight" sign.

Gardens are located at:

Penn and Melvin

Washington and Russell, north corner

Washington and Russell, south corner

Eislen and Russell:

The Gateway Garden at Fremont and Penn

Washington and MLK, north corner

Washington and MLK, south corner

Warner lot

Farnham memorial, Conway Park

Please contact admin@ridgelysdelight.org with any questions.



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For your buying, selling or rental needs, please reach out to Matt@TaylorProps.com or 443-380-3625. As a home owner, past board member and advocate for the neighborhood, I will use my in depth knowledge of the housing market to help you obtain your real estate goals.

Hours
Mon, Tue, Wed
7:00am—8:00pm
Fri
7:00am—8:00pm
Thurs
7:00am—11:30pm
Sat—Sun
8:00am—6:00pm
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Community Clean-up on March 14th

The monthly community clean-up will be held on Saturday, March 14th. We will meet at the community shed at the Burgundy Street lot at 9am. Pickles will provide free pizza and beer to volunteers after the clean-up. In the event of bad weather, we will send an email and post on our social media pages regarding cancelation or postponement. The clean-up is a community sanctioned event. If you know of areas where we should concentrate our efforts, please notify president@ridgelysdelight.org.



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Hours: 10am-9pm Mon.-Thurs., 10am-10pm Fri.-Sat., Closed Sun.

Ridgely's Gamers Return

Please join your friends and neighbors March 19th at 8pm at Tesfa Café for the first official Ridgely's Gamers event in a few years. We will start off meeting once a month and see where it goes from there. For the first meeting, we plan on Trivial Pursuit. Bring your set if you have one, and we'll mix it up. Contact Jennifer Hammitt at jenniferhammitt@gmail.com for more information. Better yet, join the Ridgely's Gamers Facebook group and interact with other gamers.

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