

RIDGELY'S RECORD

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

August 2012

Community Meeting is August 1st

The monthly meeting of the Ridgely's Delight Association (RDA) will be held on Wed., Aug. 1st at 7pm. The agenda will include a Grand Prix update and information about a new plan to give police access to private security cameras.

Anyone who lives, works, or owns property in Ridgely's Delight is welcome to attend.

National Night Out Picnic August 7th

Ridgely's Delight will again participate in the National Night Out with a pot luck picnic in Conway Park on Tues., Aug. 7th, beginning around 6pm. The Night Out is a nation-wide program to promote safety, and officers from Baltimore City and University of Maryland Police always attend. This is a good chance to meet your neighbors and learn about living safely in the city. RDA will provide hamburgers and hot dogs. Bring your beverage of choice and a dish to share. Children must be supervised by a parent or guardian.

Grand Prix Alert

The Baltimore Grand Prix will take place on Labor Day Weekend, **starting on Fri. Aug. 31st**. However, street closures and other service interruptions that affect our neighborhood will begin a few days earlier. Note that streets into the neighborhood will once again be closed to the general public, and your car must display an area 5 parking permit or visitor's pass to enter Ridgely's Delight during the period when race restrictions are in effect. For more info about the race, go to <http://raceonbaltimore.com/>

Get the 311 on City Services

To report a non-emergency situation to the City, such as graffiti, fallen trees, broken street lights, potholes, construction without a permit or similar issues, all you have to do is call 311. The City makes it easy for you to report and track issues with your smartphone using the Baltimore 311 app. You can even upload a picture of the area in question.

Baltimore Restaurant Week Returns

Baltimore Restaurant Week is already here! From July 27th to Aug. 5th, summer's Restaurant Week is offering a unique dining experience which encourages guests to dine their way through Downtown. Participating restaurants offer specially selected three-course prix-fixe dinner menus for \$30.12 and \$20.12. For more info, go to <http://www.baltimorerestaurantweek.com/>

Community Happy Hour is August 3rd

This month's First Friday happy hour will take place at Dempsey's Brew Pub & Restaurant on the first floor of Camden Yards warehouse, beginning at 6pm. Dempsey's is offering \$2 home brewed pints and appetizer specials. The Orioles will be out of town, so we will have plenty of room to mix and mingle.

Ridgely's Food Tour Special

Charm City Chews is offering Ridgely's residents a 28% discount off the regular price of its 2.5-hour walking tour of Little Italy. Join your neighbors on Sat., Aug. 11th from 1-3pm to enjoy small plates at five restaurants. You'll learn interesting tidbits about each dish's origins, the chef and Baltimore's history as you wander through historic Little Italy on your way to the next culinary surprise. For find more information, go to www.charmcitychews.com. To reserve your ticket, email sharon@charmcitychews.com. The group is limited to ten people, so don't delay.

Community Clean-up is August 11th

Before your weekend gets into full swing, please consider helping at the community clean-up from 9-11am on Sat., Aug. 11th. We will meet at the community shed in the Burgundy Street Lot. Pickles will provide free beer and pizza for volunteers afterward.

Welcome Back Party in the Park

To welcome students back to school and year-round residents back from summer vacation, we're getting together in Conway Park for a pot luck cookout on Fri., Aug. 24th, beginning at 6pm. We'll provide the grill; you provide a dish and BYOB. Please RSVP at www.facebook.com/RidgelysDelight

August Events At-A-Glance

Now-8/5 Restaurant Week

- 8/1 Community Meeting
- 8/3 First Friday Happy Hour
- 8/7 National Night Out Picnic
- 8/11 Community Clean-up
- 8/11 Charm City Chews Food Tour
- 8/18 South Baltimore Softball Classic
- 8/24 Welcome Back Party
- 8/25 African American Walking Tour
- 8/31-9/2 Baltimore Grand Prix

Renovation Reminder

Ridgely's Delight is an historic community, and all renovation work requires a city permit. Additionally, work on the outside of your home requires CHAP approval prior to beginning work. Be sure to visit www.ridgelysdelight.org/chap to review the guidelines before beginning your next project.

Please contact the Ridgely's Delight Architectural Review Committee (ARC) with any renovation related questions at RidgelysDelightARC@gmail.com

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African American Walking Tour

Explore Carroll Park with the Mount Clare Museum and learn about the history of African Americans at Mount Clare on Sat., Aug. 25. The 45-minute tour will explore African Americans' contribution to the history of Mount Clare starting with the enslaved workers and finishing with the integration of Baltimore's golf courses in the 20th century. Tickets are \$5 per person. After the walking tour, you can take a tour of the mansion for an additional \$3. For reservations, call 410-837-3262, ext. 105. The walking tour starts at the museum entrance at 9am.

Information...On the Record

If you would like to contribute to the Ridgely's Record, please email Michele at mvitolo@umaryland.edu before the 24th of each month. We will include as much contributed material as space permits.



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Clark-Morley Salon

Hair styling by neighbor, Susan Clayton

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Now That You're Here

Ridgely's Delight welcomes new residents. If you're trying to figure out everything you need to do to get settled, visit the *Residents'* section of www.ridgelysdelight.org. For any additional information, go to www.livebaltimore.com/resources.

Get on the E-List

Ridgely's Delight has a new email system that provides important updates and reminders about the neighborhood. To register, visit our website at www.ridgelysdelight.org or our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/RidgelysDelight. Also, if unable to attend the RDA's monthly meetings, but still interested in community discussions and decisions, you may find the minutes detailing each meeting at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Ridgelys_Delight/

South Baltimore Softball Classic

Ridgely's Delight will once again participate in the fourth annual South Baltimore Softball Classic on Sat., Aug. 18th from 10am-2pm at Swann Park, 296 West McComas St. The first pitch is at 11am. The tournament has expanded to four teams, with the original Pigtown/Ridgely's Delight rivalry still going strong. Joining us this year are Locust Point and South Baltimore Neighborhood Association from Federal Hill. We need players, both male and female, to field our team, which will attempt to regain the championship trophy from Locust Point. If you are interested in playing, please email Chris at cjc7913@yahoo.com. Even if you don't want to play, come out to cheer on Ridgely's Delight and enjoy an afternoon with neighbors from various South Baltimore communities for the pot luck cookout.



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Crime Prevention Tips*

While the crime rate in Ridgely's is lower than in most parts of Baltimore, it's still important to take steps to protect yourself.

Theft from Vehicles

Theft from vehicles is the most common crime in Ridgely's Delight. August and September have traditionally been big months for car break-ins in Ridgely's as unsuspecting new students move in and leave their belongings in plain view to anyone who passes their car. Please be alert. Don't leave anything visible in your car, even if it's only a few pennies in the ashtray or a CD or candy bar on the floor, because somebody may break in and steal it. Take a few moments to clean out your car. It could save you a lot of time and money in replacing your windshield and belongings. If you see someone suspicious hanging around cars, get a description and call 911.

Burglary

Burglary is one of the more preventable crimes. By taking a few precautions, you can dramatically reduce your risk. Most burglars do not give a great amount of thought to planning the job, but understanding how they choose a target can go a long way in reducing the chance of becoming a victim. Most burglars look for and unoccupied home with easy access, low visibility and something worth stealing.

How to Prevent Break-ins

1. Fool them by making your home look occupied at all times. Most burglaries happen during the day when homes tend to be vacant.

- Use automatic timers on lights when away from home.
- Place radios on automatic timers.
- Lower the sound of your telephone ringer and answering machine.
- Never leave notes on your door that can tip off burglars.

2. Eliminate hiding places. Most burglars in this neighborhood gain entry through the rear of the house. Most homes have a high rear fence that can hide a burglar.

- Install motion detector lights to illuminate rear door and windows. Remove bushes and shrubs near doors and under windows.

3. Use common sense and caution. We live in a community with a lot of foot traffic. Think safety, and make it routine.

- Call 911 if you see anything suspicious. (Do not call 311 if you want police response.)
- Know your neighbors.
- Always lock all doors and windows, even when you step out for just a minute.

- Use a peephole to identify visitors.
- Do not tell strangers your daily routines.
- Don't hide a spare key outside the house. Give one to a trusted neighbor instead.
- Don't leave anything of value in view of a window.
- Don't put out the box from your computer or TV for recycling. (Cut it up and put it in a trash bag.)

4. Make your home a harder target. Most burglars will spend no more than 4-5 minutes trying to break into a residence. With a few simple steps, residents can make their homes harder for a burglar to enter.

- When moving into a new residence, have the locks changed. Consult a good locksmith to make sure you have the correct types of locks on doors and windows.
- Secure exterior doors with good quality deadbolt locks.
- Secure windows by installing additional locks, and impact-resistant glass within 42 inches of a door lock.
- Secure patio doors with a pin-type lock, a key lock or a steel rod inserted into the door channel.

5. Make your house look the same whether you are home or away.

- Tell a trusted neighbor that you will be gone for a few days. Ask him or her to pick up mail, newspapers and pizza flyers.
- If you are away from home on garbage pickup day, ask a neighbor to bring your garbage cans back in. Burglars sometimes check for empty cans as a sign that residents are not home, so don't leave them an invitation. This is a particular problem on Portland Street and Melvin Drive.
- Have a plan in place to have the grass mowed or the snow shoveled.

6. Inventory and mark your belongings. Use an engraving pen to mark your belongings, so they can be traced and returned, if stolen. Never mark them with your social security number.

7. Be a good neighbor. The easiest and most enjoyable way to prevent crime is to know your neighbors. Who belongs in the community and who does not?

- Attend community meetings and events. Baltimore City Police and University police make periodic presentations on crime issues.
- Join the Citizens on Patrol (COP). Get some exercise, walk your dog, and help fight crime.
- Join the neighborhood Watch Program. Applications are available at community meetings and from the Baltimore City Police.
- Call 911 if you see anything suspicious. Don't call 311 if you want police response.

**Information provided by the University of Maryland Police.*

Ridgely's Supports Our MiniMart

The Ridgely's MiniMart is on the list of businesses slated to lose their liquor licenses as the City works to lessen the negative impact that alcohol is having on some neighborhoods. The Ridgely's Delight Association has sent a letter to City officials to verify that the store is an asset to the community and document the neighborhood's desire that it be allowed to keep its license. The MiniMart also has a petition that it plans to present to the City. If you'd like to sign it, please stop by the store.

Neighborly Request

Please help keep of community beautiful.

Have some drought resistant weeds grown up along you fence line? No worries, RDA has gardening tools, hedge clippers, and a weed whacker to assist you. An RDA board member will unlock the community shed for you to borrow the necessary tools. Please email Chris at cjc7913@yahoo.com.

However, please be wary of trees that have overgrown onto power lines. For safety reasons, BGE must be called for their removal. BGE tree trimming can be contacted at 800-685-0123.

If you have a moment, please try to keep storm drains and sewers free from debris and obstructions to help prevent flooding during storms.

Ridgely's is a dog friendly community and quite a few four-legged family members live in our neighborhood. Please make it a habit to pick up after your pooch.

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