



Relay Improvement Association Newsletter

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Relay Improvement Association Board of Directors 2011-2013

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May, 2013

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy Spring! The state of the Relay Improvement Association (RIA) is good. Sadly, the Women's Club of Catonsville has disbanded after 80 years because they were unable to fill their leadership



position. This is not the case with us. We are fortunate to have continuing active community support and we don't take it for granted. We will hold elections at the upcoming meeting in May. With minimum arm twisting, we were able to find candidates for each of the executive positions and there may still be others who will run. I would like to express my thanks to Kim Box who has served as membership chair for the past two years. She has also previously served as president for four years and as vice-president. Anyone who knows Kim appreciates her quiet grace and attention to detail. We will miss her, but she promises to return to the board after she retires. In her place, we have a relative newcomer to the neighborhood association, Jean-Paul Courneya, serving as membership chair. It will be a pleasure to have him on the team.

I am happy to announce that on January 27 of this year, after a lengthy and sometimes nail-biting process, the IRS approved our application for 501 (c)(3) status and the Relay Improvement Association is officially a nonprofit organization. What this means for our membership is that any donation to the RIA will be tax deductible with one exception. This does not include the \$15 membership fee, but anyone contributing a monetary donation above that amount will receive a letter acknowledging the amount for tax purposes. I would like to acknowledge that there are many who have consistently donated without receiving a tax write-off for many years. Every amount helps and

those of us who try to keep things going do appreciate what you have given.

Finally, I would like to share a personal experience that never would have happened without the help of my good friends in Relay. At one of our neighborhood gatherings, I was having a lively discussion with a Relay resident about education back in the day and how much I appreciated my third grade teacher at St. Paul's in Ellicott City. Without her steady diligence, I would not even be able to write this paragraph. As fate would have it, this particular neighbor had a cousin who knew how to locate my third grade teacher. She gave me the contact information and on St. Patrick's Day, I spent a wonderful

afternoon reminiscing and reacquainting with her (see photo). When I told her that I live in Relay, the first town in the United States that



was built for the railroad, she smiled. I sensed that she had heard the story before. As it turned out, she had spent the first six years of her life in Relay and had cherished memories of the town the railroad built. It still amazes me how the fabric of our lives is woven together. I am happy that one thread of mine has always run through this town.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 4 – Historic Relay Tour

May 13 -RIA General Meeting-Town Hall

May 15 - Bookies Meeting

May 19 - Covered Dish – (Youngs 5-8 PM)

June 9 - Covered Dish (DeSas 3-6PM)

June 19 - Bookies Meeting

August 21 - Bookies Meeting

August 26 - RIA Meeting Agenda Review

RELAY HISTORIC TOUR - May 4, 10 AM – noon

America's First Railroad Town—Join historic researcher Kyle Bacon and the Preservation Alliance for Baltimore County for a tour of Relay, our charming Antebellum and Victorian town that is thought to be the first developed around a railroad stop. Register online at **Baltimoreheritage.org/tours**. (Kyle is the son-in-law of long time Relay residents Gina and Bill Hrybyk.)

RIA GENERAL MEETING – Town Hall – May 13, 7:30 PM

At the upcoming Relay Improvement Association meeting on Monday, May 13, we are pleased to have guest speaker Steve McCoy, Park Ranger and Acting Park Manager for the Patapsco Valley State Park. Ranger McCoy will highlight some of the park activities and events planned for this spring and summer that might be of interest to Relay residents. He will also let us know ways that we, as “good neighbors” can help preserve, enhance and support this rich natural resource in our community.

At the meeting we will be collecting food for donation to SWES as a part of our community outreach program. Thanks to all those who have donated in the past.

This is our election year. Please show up to vote for our officers and fearless leaders.

COVERED DISH - May 19 and June 9



Many thanks to Al and Mary Hergenhan (pictured above) and Sarah and Steve Potter for hosting the covered dish events this winter.

Upcoming covered dish events will be: (please note the different times)

- May 19 from 5–8 PM at the Young's house - 1212 Arlington Ave.

- June 9 from 3-6 PM at the DeSa's house - 1816 Sutton Ave. Bring your bathing suits and towels. As usual, please bring something to share. If you're interested in hosting a covered dish, kindly contact coordinator extraordinaire Laura Vetock 410-302-8511.

RELAY BOOKIES - May 15, 7:30 PM

The Relay Bookies meet on the third Wednesday of the month at the Town Hall at 7:30 PM. On Wednesday May 15, we will discuss *The Language of Flowers: A Novel* by Vanessa Diffenbaugh. Selections for the summer are *Gone Girl: A Novel* by Gillian Flynn and *The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern.

On Wednesday, September 18, 2013, we will mark the 10th anniversary of the formation of the Relay Bookies. Please mark your calendars.

Special thanks to Kathy Plitt for sending cookies from England to sweeten the Bookies meeting in January. (held here by Linda Kacur)



MEN'S CLUB – May 2

Men's Club meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of every month, with about 15 consistent members. For information, contact Bruce Packal at 410-413-3057.

CATONSVILLE FARMERS MARKET – May 1

Starting May 1, enjoy the Catonsville market on Wednesdays and Sundays all summer.

DEPARTMENT STORES REMEMBERED - May 20 at 11AM.

Join local historian and author Michael Lisicky at the Arbutus Library to reminisce about Baltimore's bygone department stores.

SASSAFRAS

Young sassafras trees free to a good home. Contact Theda Mayer 410-737-9319

RELAY HISTORY DAY A SUCCESS!

On Saturday March 16, Relay resident historian Ray Chism (pictured below) entranced more than 51 people in the Town Hall with his fascinating stories



about the history of Relay and vivid images. Many residents, thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon of listening, chatting and reminiscing about the past. People were reminded about the importance of Relay to the history of our country.

In addition to opening our eyes to the past, Ray raised 300 dollars and the Town Hall will soon be sporting a new welcome mat. Thanks to Diana Chism, Theda Mayer and Faith Hermann for providing refreshments and to Ray Chism for his wonderful talk and for being such a committed Relay advocate.



Relay residents enjoying the event

THE OTHER TGIF - THIS GARBAGE IS FINISHED!

In February a dozen members of the Patapsco Heritage Greenway TGIF (This Garbage Is Finished) crew (including Relay neighbors) collected over 625 pounds of trash from the floodplain under the Viaduct. In addition to bottles and plastic the crew found auto parts, children's furniture and a toilet. For more information, contact betsy@patapscoheritagegreenway.org.

SPRING CLEAN-UP AT TOWN HALL

Many thanks to the In-Amen Church, Relay Men's Club, Town Hall Committee and caring Relay residents who showed up on Saturday morning, April 13 to help clean up the Town Hall. Kudos to the Men's Club for the biggest turnout. Volunteers worked for 2½ hours to prepare for grass seed.



Worker bees on this project included the Reverend Ahn, Ray Chism, Julia, Naomi, and Kriste Corns, Richard Gloth, Bill Hermann, John Kim, Alvin Marquess, Frank Meek, Dick Mencken, Bruce Packel, Rob Ring, Andy Shriver, Jon Sheets, Andy Wheeler, and Bob Young.

THE BRICK CAMPAIGN IS BACK

The Relay Improvement Association is once again selling engraved bricks for the front entrance to the Town Hall. We have 60 bricks available this time and it is first come, first served.

The order form for the bricks is on the last page of this newsletter. Each brick has three lines available for engraving, 17 characters per line. Bricks are on view at the current walkway if you wish to see what others have had engraved in the two previous fundraisers.

Deadline for submitting your order form and \$75 check is Saturday, June 1, 2013. Checks payable to the Relay Improvement Association, along with this order form, should be mailed to Faith Hermann, 5009 Hazel Avenue, Relay, MD 21227. Questions about the bricks or the project can be directed to Richard Gloth at 410-536-0389.

This 2013 fundraiser, we hope, will provide funds for us to construct a more attractive and stable set of steps, a walkway and lighting from the parking lot to the Town Hall.

You can own a permanent addition to the historic Relay Town Hall. An engraved brick makes a perfect graduation, birthday, anniversary or wedding gift! Act now to reserve your brick.

CATONSVILLE HOMES TOUR – May 4, 10AM – 4PM

Join a Heritage Homes Tour sponsored by the Catonsville Historical Society. See eight homes and gardens on Saturday, May 4 from 10 AM to 4 PM. For tickets/information please call [410-242-8854](tel:410-242-8854) or email Lucymckean@comcast.net.

ATTENTION RELAY HOME-BREWERS!

If you would like to participate in an Octoberfest beer-tasting at the Relay Town Hall, please contact Richard Gloth at 410-536-0389.

EMPTY THAT ATTIC! MAKE A BUCK! – September 21

The annual Relay-St. Denis Community Yard Sale is on Saturday, September 21 from 8 AM-1 PM. Please mark your calendars and plan to participate. The RIA will publicize the event online, in local newspapers and posted signs. Start cleaning out closets, basements and attics to find those items you wish to sell or give away!

WE LOVE RELAY DAY - September 29

You may be thinking it's only just spring, but we are already looking forward to our favorite fall event, Relay Day. Last year's Relay Day was a huge success. It brought together young and old, from near and far, canine and human for a terrific celebration. The success was due in part to the amazing contributions of more than 35 community volunteers. We raised over \$800 dollars for the Town Hall. This year's Relay Day will once again be held at our fabulous Town Hall. Please contact Sheila Muccio, relayday12@gmail.com, with any suggestions for this community event, contacts for local music acts, vendors and of course, to add your name to our volunteer list.

RELAY HOUSE TOUR – December 7

We're starting early to identify willing volunteers to showcase their homes at the Relay House Tour. We love the finished beauties but we also don't mind a work in progress. If you are interested, contact Theda Mayer 410-737-9319 or Faith Hermann 410-242-4134.

WATER MAIN TO SERVE HOWARD COUNTY

Contractors will begin replacing a 36-inch diameter water main running from the railroad tracks, near Clark Boulevard, down to South Street and then through the Patapsco State Park. The new line, which will serve Howard County, will be 5,500 feet long. Construction is expected to start in March 2013 and be finished in about two years. For more info, contact enginrng@baltimorecountymd.gov.

HISTORIC DISTRICT INFORMATION

Many people in Relay have questions about being a Historic District. So, in the next few newsletters we will be sharing key frequently asked questions and answers. The excerpt below is from the overall FAQ that can be found on the county website or on the RIA website www.relaymaryland.com. If you have questions you can go to the websites or call Greg Senkus at 410-737-0230.

Q - What is a historic district?

A historic district is a specific geographic area that according to Baltimore County law is “*an area in the county wherein there are located structures which have historical, cultural, educational or architectural value, the preservation of which is deemed to be for the educational, cultural, economic and general welfare of the inhabitants of the county.*” After the County Council enacts an area as a County Historic District, homeowners within the district are expected to maintain their homes to retain the historic character of the neighborhood.

Q - What about the tax credits? If I am working on my house, what work is eligible for a tax credit?

Any work that you do to maintain the historical part of a building will qualify for these tax credits. Painting, replacing a roof, restoring original windows, renovating an existing bathroom, installing central air conditioning provided minimal changes are made to the original house, are examples of projects eligible for Maryland Historical tax credits.

Q - How do I know if I need to go through the review process with the Landmarks Preservation Commission?

You need to go through the review process if you

are making changes to the exterior of your home or building or proposing to demolish any “structure” on your lot. Adding a garage or shed also needs review as does a fence.

WILD LIFE OF RELAY

Bald Eagle Alert!

Only a few decades ago, the bald eagle was headed towards extinction; however, they have been making a spectacular comeback. This spring, there have been multiple sightings of bald eagles in Relay. The massive birds have been seen flying high over head, landing in sites along Viaduct Avenue and even flying down South Rolling Road carrying a fish (They have been known to take the trout stocked in the nearby Patapsco!).



Bugs Alert!

Camel Cricket - Loads of basements and garages in Relay have some of these, as they like dark, damp locations and will even nest inside walls. They are brown, have humped backs and might have patterns of spots or stripes of similar color. They have long legs and antennae and can grow up to two inches. They are somewhat random hoppers - as likely to leap forwards towards you as away. While they do not bite and pose no threat to humans or pets, it can be unnerving even for seasoned bug swatters to confront such a head on charge!

Mosquitos - Ok, they drink blood and spread infectious diseases. What's to like? Although you probably just want to kill them, you might be interested to know that the ones biting you now are Asian Tiger Mosquitos.

Stink Bugs - There are a lot of different types of stink bugs in Maryland. The brown marmorated stink bug established a presence in Maryland in 2009. And by ‘established a presence’ we mean invaded. All stink bugs are largely resistant to most pesticides, making them a much more destructive pest when they arrive in great numbers, as the marmorated stink bug has done. They are most active between June and October. While they won't

bite or harm humans, they will eat vegetables. And, no surprise here, they stink when you crush them.

SPRING PLANT TIPS

Late April and May is the perfect time to plant a vegetable garden. We traditionally wait until the first week of May to ensure the last frost is long past, but several of our neighbors begin vegetable planting by mid-April. And they have had great success, so you probably can't go wrong. For truly warm-weather crops, like beans, carrots, cantaloupes, pumpkins and watermelons, wait until mid-May when the soil is warmed up.

This is also a great time to plant warm season annual plants. When buying plants - look for stocky transplants with healthy root systems. Gently break up the roots of root-bound transplants. Summer annual bulbs like gladiolus, tuberous begonias, cannas, caladium and dahlias can be planted now. Perennial plants can be safely divided and moved at this time.

May is an ideal time to put down organic mulch (like bark) as it will suppress weed growth that will otherwise run rampant.

To deter squirrels from eating your bulbs or little shoots, sprinkle crushed oyster shells over the surface of the garden. Also, protect newly planted bulbs with a piece of chicken wire extending at least a foot beyond the edge of the bed and mulch.

Moles are active, and while they don't eat plants, they do create raised tunnels in lawns. Some recommend tamping down tunnels with your feet whenever you see them, but whether this really deters the pesky critters or just makes you feel better is actually up in the air.

Rather than using poison, prepare a solution of oil, dishwashing soap, castor oil and cayenne pepper. Dilute it with warm water. Spray over mole hills and into any openings. This will drive them away. You can also mole-stalk. This involves sitting quietly on a chair and awaiting movement along their known routes. They are blind, but sensitive to movements/vibrations, but if you act quickly you can block their tunnels with a shovel and dig the out with another. If you see your neighbors stalking their moles, please send photos for the newsletter.

WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS

If you are out and about, please welcome the following new folks to the neighborhood:

- ⇒ Chester and Serita Turner at 1835 Clarke Blvd.
- ⇒ Cheryl Reed at 1716 Magnolia Ave.
- ⇒ John and Debbie Brohawn at 812 Francis Ave.
- ⇒ Gordon and Sheryl Morris-Snyder at 1601 South Rolling Road
- ⇒ Ray Miller at 606 Gun Road
- ⇒ Dennis, Michele, Sean and Erin Shehan at 5007 Hazel Ave

Welcome baskets containing homemade salad dressing, local honey, seed packets, cookies, black bottom cup cakes, a dish towel and a flower were delivered to our new neighbors thanks to Lucy McKean, Rose Gloth, Theda Mayer, Karen Shannon, Caroline Wellman, Barbara Reeves and Kimberly Box. Thank you ladies for your contribution to the baskets!

EMAIL UPDATE

You may receive contact information, covered dish reminders, crime alert info, etc. via email without being an RIA member. If you are interested, please send your email address to Kim Box at RIA.email@comcast.net. Also, if your email address has changed, please let her know.

RELAY'S PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR

Congratulations to Relay student Adam Antoszewski for being chose for the 2013 Presidential Scholars Program.

A FIRST BIRTHDAY



Grayson Hardester

Please wish happy first birthday to Grayson Hardester, grandson of Ed and Pat Hardester. Grayson on May 23, 2013.

Or could this be a baby picture of Ed himself?

BRANDON BRANHAM'S WEDDING TALE

Clare Marie Desrosiers and I got married on the March 23, 2013. On that day it was important to us to take the wedding pictures at our house here in Relay – especially after all the work we've done thus far! As luck would have it, the photographer took me down to the side of the Carriage House in the back yard. Clare then came down to surprise me and take our first pictures there (I was mixed about this of course since I hadn't spent a dime making that old thing pretty, but what could I say?) Fortunately, we then went back to the main house for the rest of the pictures. After photos we scooted off to the wedding ceremony at Crossroads Church in Ellicott City and honeymooned in Williamsburg.



The happy couple

THANKS TO NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS!!

Thanks to this newsletter's contributors: Theda Mayer, Bill and Faith Hermann, Barb Reeves, Howard and Caroline Wellman, Laura and Jeremy Vetock, Sheila Muccio, Cole Sheets, Lucy McKean, Brandon Branham, Kim Box, Greg Senkus and Ed Hardester.

Articles, comments or photos for the newsletter are welcome. Please contact caroline.wellman12@gmail.com or 443-799-4042.

Relay Improvement Association - 2013 Calendar of Events

<i>Event</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Contact</i>
Men's Club	May 2, 16 & 30, 2013	Bruce Packal
Relay Historical Talk	May 4, 2013	Lucy McKean
RIA General Meeting	May 13, 2013	Theda Mayer
Relay Bookies	May 15, 2013	Karen Shannon
Covered Dish Dinner- Young 5-8 PM	May 19, 2013	Laura Vetock
Covered Dish Dinner- DeSa 3-6 PM	June 9, 2013	Laura Vetock
Men's Club	June 13 & 26, 2013	Bruce Packal
Relay Bookies	June 19, 2013	Karen Shannon
Men's Club	July 11 & 25, 2013	Bruce Packal
Men's Club	August 8 & 22, 2013	Bruce Packal
Relay Bookies	August 21, 2013	Karen Shannon
Men's Club	September 5 & 19, 2013	Bruce Packal
RIA General Meeting	September 9, 2013	Theda Mayer
Covered Dish Dinner- Mayer 6-8 PM	September 15, 2013	Laura Vetock
Relay Bookies	September 18, 2013	Karen Shannon
Community Yard Sale, 8-2 PM	September 21, 2013	Bill and Faith
Relay Day Festival, 12-5 PM	September 29, 2013	Sheila Muccio
Wine and Cheese	September 27, 2013	John and Linda
Men's Club	October 3, 17 & 31, 2013	Bruce Packal
Relay Bookies	October 16, 2013	Karen Shannon
Senior Luncheon	October 18, 2013	Karen and Theda
Covered Dish Dinner	October 20, 2013	Laura Vetock
Neighborhood Cleanup	November 9, 2013	Rob Mintz
RIA General Meeting	November 11, 2013	Theda Mayer
Men's Club	November 14, 2013	Bruce Packal
Relay Bookies	November 21, 2013	Karen Shannon
Covered Dish Dinner	November 24, 2013	Laura Vetock
Men's Club	December 5 & 19, 2013	Bruce Packal
Holiday House Tour	December 7, 2013	Theda and Faith
Cookie Exchange	December 15, 2013	Faith Hermann
Relay Bookies	December 18, 2013	Karen Shannon

