



Relay Improvement Association Newsletter

Volume:19 - Issue:02 www.relaymaryland.com

Relay Improvement Association Board of Directors 2017-2019

President- Christopher Zach, cz@alembic.crystal.com, 410-536-4909

Vice-President- Peter Sonntag, pwsontag@gmail.com, 443-745-6456

Secretary- Karen Sampson Hoffman, karensampson95@yahoo.com, 716-410-1096

Treasurer- Harry Frank, dogsnipper54@gmail.com, 410-952-8271

SPRING 2019

When	What	Where
MAY		
Monday, May 13 - 7:30 PM	RIA General Meeting	Relay Town Hall
Wednesday, May 15 - 7:00 PM	Relay Bookies	Relay Town Hall
Thursday, May 16	Men's Club	Relay Town Hall
Sunday, May 19 – 6-8 PM	Covered Dish	Kathy and Andrew Plitt
JUNE		
Thursday, June 6	Men's Club	Relay Town Hall
Sunday, June 9 – 6-8 PM	Covered Dish	Penny and Ben Lemmerman
Wednesday, June 19 - 7 PM	Relay Bookies	Relay Town Hall
Thursday, June 20	Men's Club	Relay Town Hall
JULY		
Thursday, July 4	Relay Water Stop	More information coming via email
Thursday, July 18	Men's Club	Relay Town Hall
AUGUST		
Mid August- anytime	Newsletter Submission	Your House

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to Spring, Relay Citizens!

While this was probably the latest Easter I have seen, spring has arrived with a beautiful bang here in Relay. The cherry and apple trees have all completed blooming, the daffodils have marked their boundaries, the tulips are all up, and everything has turned from brown to green. Unlike some other years, the weather has been cool and nice, and it looks like we're getting a proper spring this year.

And with spring we are busy here at the Improvement Association: Relay Day is fast approaching, and we need volunteers to run the event as Jennifer Gleason and Laura Vetock are stepping down after years of running amazing events. The covered dish dinners have been running very well, and I would like to thank everyone who has opened their house to the community!

The May meeting will also be the time for Relay officer elections. All officer positions will be up for a community vote, and with everything that is happening, I encourage people to run and help serve the community. If you would like to run for a position, please contact our nominations chair, Bill Hermann for details.

Hope to see everyone at the May meeting and looking forward to a very nice summer.

Christopher Zach

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

Please join us at the next community meeting on Monday evening, May 13 at 7:30 PM.

As usual, we will hear neighborhood event updates, along with information from our representatives in Annapolis and our safety update from Officer Wareheim.

Please continue to bring your non-perishable food for **Southwest Emergency Services (SWES)** to the RIA General Meeting. Thanks to Dot Teipe for transporting the food to SWES.

Important Votes at the May general meeting

The proposed slate of Relay Improvement Association officers for 2019-2021 is:

President- Chris Zack

Vice-President- Peter Sonntag

Secretary- TBD

Treasurer- Ed Hardester

We are still hoping for a volunteer for Secretary to serve a two-year term.

Only RIA members may vote in elections or on issues. We currently have 118 members. If you have not yet joined for 2019, please come to the meeting with your \$15 and join so that you can vote.

COVERED DISH – Sunday, May 19, 6-8 PM

Next covered dish events:

May 19, 6-8PM – Kathy and Andrew Plitt

June 9, 6-8PM – Penny and Ben Lemmerman

Covered dish events are always fun, tasty and a wonderful way to connect with our neighbors. Hearty thanks to Kris and Rob for hosting covered dish dinner parties at their house.



If you are interested in hosting a covered dish at your home, usually on the third Sunday of the month from 6-8PM, please contact Kathy at 410-294-3479.

BOOKIES – Wednesday, May 15 at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall

The Bookies usually meet the third Wednesday of the month at the Town Hall at 7:00 PM
Thanks to Theda for hosting our special local author, Heather Rounds to discuss her book. *Light there is to find*. We were very lucky to have Heather join us!!



Please plan to join us for any or all of the discussions. Books are held at the Arbutus Public Library each month for us. Just pick up your copy and begin to read!

MEN'S CLUB – Thursday, May 16

Men's Club meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of every month. For information, contact Ed Hardester at edward.hardester@ngc.com or 443-257-9981.

WELCOME BASKET BRIGADE

Please consider joining our merry band of do-gooders who distribute welcome baskets to new neighbors.

All you need to do is provide a small welcome treat for our new neighbors. Something homemade, home grown, or store bought, all are very much appreciated! Please contact Kathy Plitt at [443-255-8277](tel:443-255-8277) or plittk@yahoo.com if you would like to contribute, help fill, or deliver a basket. Baskets are also welcomed. If you know of a new neighbor who should be welcomed, please contact Kathy.

ORIGINAL POETRY

From our very own Adrienne Wheeler

The beast in the wild
and
the beast in the zoo
Are two different beasts indeed
One is but mild and
One is pure proof
Of things you already believe

The shark in the sea
And the shark in the tank
Are two different sharks, you see
One's free and wild
And one has a keeper
For all of the things that it needs

The cultivated pearl
And
The gem from the sea
Both shine like stars in the sky
Though one was made with a will and a way
And one was a gleam in God's eye

HISTORY TALK

Thanks to Ray Chism for giving a presentation on Relay history in March at the Town Hall. Ray is a treasure of our community and we value how he is keeping our history alive. All proceeds were donated to the Town Hall.

EARTH DAY UPDATE

Missed going paperless with Medicare on Earth Day 2019? It's not too late!
Visit [Medicare.gov/GoPaperless](https://www.Medicare.gov/GoPaperless) to sign up for your "Medicare & You" eHandbook.

LUEY TO THE RESCUE

We all know that dog is man's, or in this case woman's, best friend. My Luey (Theda's), #11 of eleven born and runt of the litter, was not considered a candidate for a working home. But he showed us better. At around 4:30 P.M. my 75-year old brother-in-law who walks on two metal knees and my nephew, Nolan were in my driveway and I needed to get them home. Luey was going along for the ride. I locked my house door and ran up the hill to the car but after we were all strapped in, I couldn't find the car and house keys. Panic ensued. We all got out. I handed my brother-in-law the leash and tore the car apart. I have a spare car key and flashlights, but they were locked in the house. I crawled on the garage floor, pulled the back seats down, slid seats back and forth and looked in all the pockets. No luck. My only resource is a friend who has my house key about 45 minutes away in rush hour traffic. I called him. Finally, I got an idea.



Luey and I had a nose work class about a year ago. It was fun. Luey was good but we hadn't practiced. I thought maybe I should let Luey take a look. I tell him "find it" and follow him around the garage. I open all the car doors and let him search. He looked like a highly trained search and rescue dog that you might see on TV. His nose went to the car floor, then up along the seats. He signaled to check under the seat near the console.

I told my brother-in-law to hold the leash, but be careful while I took another look. He's a strong dog. Just as I put my hand between the driver's seat and the console to feel the keys with the tip of my finger, I heard my brother-in-law yell, "OMG how do you walk this dog? He almost pulled me to the ground!" Next I felt Luey on my back and we had the keys. Amazing.

Did you know that the original Rin Tin Tin brought from Europe in 1914 was a medium sized dark sable male with very dark brown eyes? Luey is the hero in my world. That's him in the photo in case you might be confused. I don't know who deserves the credit, but I do love this dog.



THREE SUPER FOODS FOR SPRING

The sense of renewal that comes with spring can also extend to mealtime. Healthy foods can be quite tasty and reward you with energy and enjoyment. Here are just three of many great options for your next trip to the grocery store:



Asparagus – The spear of choice for delicious meals, it's loaded with nutrients, including vitamins A, C, E and K, and is a source of fiber, folate and antioxidants. It's good roasted, grilled or in stir-fry.

Strawberries – Just one serving has half of your daily recommended dose of Vitamin C, making these a spring staple. You'll also get other immune system boosters like lutein and the cancer-fighting ellagic acid.

Spinach – This green, leafy vegetable has always had a healthy reputation, and for good reason. It's full of vitamin C, iron, vitamin B6, magnesium and potassium.

RELAY HISTORIC DISTRICT NEWS

By now, most people in Relay are aware that 1603 S Rolling Rd is for sale. The listing makes it clear that the seller hopes to get a high price for a subdivision property with multiple units on site. Unspoken is our (Relay's) assumption that the historic residence will be demolished.

There are a few different issues at play here:

- 1) The zoning of the property that would allow for subdivision;
- 2) The ability of Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) to control what action takes place on that property;
- 3) Our ability as a community to affect those outcomes.

1) Zoning:

Teri Rising of LPC says:

"Historic preservation has no involvement with designating Baltimore County zoning designations. Having a historic designation or being in a County Historic District does not limit what you may do with your property by right or by special exception granted from the Baltimore County Office of Administrative Hearings. I have no knowledge of the property's zoning history or when it was granted or changed. Some of that information is online in the Baltimore County My Neighborhood interactive map and you may also contact the Zoning division of the Department of Permits, Approvals and Inspections.

https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/permits/pdm_zoning/index.html

I would also recommend discussing future issues relating to zoning changes with your Councilperson since the next Comprehensive Zoning cycle is beginning shortly. That is the process that allows for changes in zoning designations.

<https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/planning/zoning/changingzoningmap.html>"

2) LPC and Development Plans

Again quoting Teri Rising of LPC:

"Just because someone has a specific zoning designation does not give them the ability to automatically build if they cannot meet the requirements in the Baltimore County Historic

Design Guidelines. In Relay, any proposal for new construction, alteration or grading is subject to prior approval by the Baltimore County Landmarks Preservation Commission. Just because you may be able to build houses by right, does not mean you can meet the requirements of the Historic Design Guidelines.

No actual development plan has been filed for this property to my knowledge but the process is managed by the Department of Permits, Approvals and Inspections. I recommend contacting their office to find out how you can stay informed about projects happening in your community and to ask questions about any related development hearings. https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/permits/pdm_devmanage/index.html

Should a plan in fact be filed, it will be flagged because of the Relay County Historic District designation and be required to go to the Landmarks Preservation Commission in addition to the regular development process. "

3) Community Actions:

The Relay community has already turned out to alert the County that this is an issue we are passionate about!

Howard Wellman, the RIA's liaison with the LPC, is in almost daily email contact with the LPC. He has also received phone calls from Councilman Quirk's office. Quirk is supposedly against any such development due to lack of local resources (fire/rescue, police, schools).

The Realtor has been contacted and informed that the property listing is incorrect in not alerting prospective buyers about the historic status of the property. He has promised to amend the listing. We have Relay members monitoring that website and listings.

At this time, too many messages simply expressing outrage sent to Quirk's or LPC's offices might be counter-productive. They are aware of our feelings. Please contact Howard Wellman (hbwellman99@gmail.com) if you would like to help by perhaps monitoring County websites and agendas (see the links provided by LPC above). If a sale ever goes through, and if a development plan is ever submitted, then that will be the time to

mobilize and prepare petitions, and mass attendance at public hearings. We will keep the community up to date on developments (pun intended) through the newsletter and email blasts.

**FURRY FRIENDS OF RELAY
PICKLES**



This is Pickles, a large fluffy Maine coon who enjoys eating, jumping high, and following us in to the children's room each night when we tuck them in. He is handsome and tolerates the children, but is stingy with affection. He sheds. All year long.

HOLLY



Holly is a golden shepherd mix that lives with Michele. She won her 2nd level 3 title in the sport of scent detection in April. Holly, who has been participating in this sport for over 5 years, turned 10 this past year. Here she is celebrating the milestone birthday.

ROSIE



This is Rosey Lopez with her favorite toy. She lives with Lisa and Bob Young. She is 2.5 years.

We recently had artificial turf put in our back yard inside the "pool fence area" from a company called Forever Lawns. If anyone would like to visit it because they are interested in having it installed they may stop by our house.

SATHI



Meet Sathi Wellman, a dalmation-whippet mix who is our hyper couch potato. She’s quite and generally either running like the wind or sleeping. And she’s accident prone.

MR FOX



OK. That’s a real fox that sometimes visits the Vetock’s yard. Here’s their PSA: Though he seems like a pet when he comes up close to you, it is important to remember that foxes are wild animals. Please do not feed them near your house!

FAREWELL

We wanted to let everyone know that after 25 years in Relay we have decided to put our home at 5007 Cedar Avenue on the market. As much as we love our community, our home it is just too big for the two of us. The kids have grown and we now have 3 beautiful grandchildren.

If any Relay resident has family that may be interested, please feel free to reach out to us. marleneday@gmail.com

PERSONALS

We wish Carol Malone a speedy recovery from her recent fall.

Brandon and Megan Fitzwater would like to announce the birth of their first child, Abraham Baylor Fitzwater. He was born on October 10, 2018.



He is the eighth generation Bennett/Fitzwater to grow up in Relay. Some of you may remember Margaret Bennett, Abraham’s Great-great Grandmother who worked for the Park Service for many years. His Great Grandfather is Grayson “Punky” Bennett. Mom says little Abe has his great grandfather’s blue eyes. More good news - Brandon and Megan are expecting baby #2 this October.

Special thanks to Newsletter contributors

Christopher Zach, Theda Mayer, Bill and Faith Hermann, Penny Lemmerman, Marlene Day, Adrienne Wheeler, Michele Monde, Laura and

Jeremy Vetock, Lisa Young, Howard Wellman and Kathy Trevey.