



Relay Improvement Association Newsletter

Relay Improvement Association Board of Directors 2021-2023

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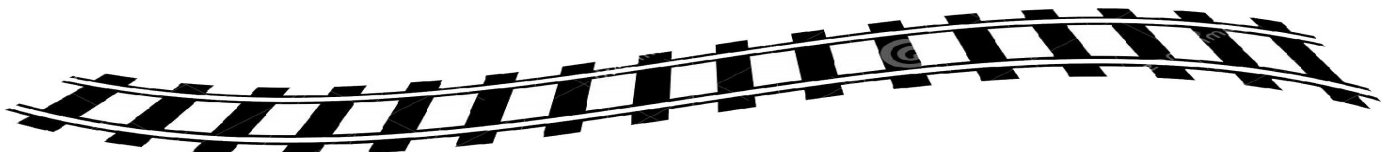
February 2024

Upcoming RIA Events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Feb. 12	7:30 p.m.	Improvement Association Meeting	Town Hall
Feb. 13	10:30 a.m.	Senior Coffee	Town Hall
Feb. 18	5 p.m.	Covered Dish	Theda Mayer, 5163 Viaduct Avenue
Feb. 15	7 p.m.	Men's Club	Town Hall
Feb. 21	7 p.m.	Bookies	Town Hall
March 7	7 p.m.	Men's Club	Town Hall
March 14	7 p.m.	Stitch & Wine	Town Hall
March 17	5 p.m.	St. Pat's Covered Dish	Town Hall
March 21	7 p.m.	Men's Club	Town Hall
March 20	7 p.m.	Bookies	Town Hall
April 4	7 p.m.	Men's Club	Town Hall
April 11	7 p.m.	Stitch & Wine	Town Hall
April 18	7 p.m.	Men's Club	Town Hall
April 17	7 p.m.	Bookies	Town Hal
April 21	6 p.m.	Covered Dish	Aubrey and Ben Young, 5119 S Rolling Rd
May 2	7 p.m.	Men's Club	Town Hall
May 9	7 p.m.	Stitch & Wine	Town Hall
May 15	7 p.m.	Bookies	Town Hall
May 16	7 p.m.	Men's Club	Town Hall
May 21	6 p.m.	Covered Dish	Marian and Joe Newell, 5109 S Rolling Rd

Thank you to our newsletter contributors: Penny Lemmerman, Kathy Plitt, Frank and Mary Beth Meek, Caroline and Howard Wellman, Ray and Diane Chism, Kurt and Karen Hoffman, Joe Sherren, Mary Hergenhan, Ed Hardester and JP Courneya.

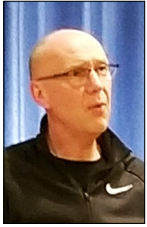
Do you have community news to share? Email Karen Sampson Hoffman at RelayStDenisNewsletter@gmail.com.



President's Letter

Happy 2024, Relay,

From all of us, it is our sincere wish that you all remain healthy and safe this new year.



RIA President
Frank Meek

At this time, I wish to thank both Ed Hardester and Kurt Hoffman for their invaluable service to all things Relay. While they may no longer serve on the board, I'm happy to report both will continue to remain active in Relay. Equally, I wish to thank our new board members Barbara McClung and Joe Sherren for their willingness to volunteer their time to Relay.

Because we have much planned for 2024, community engagement and involvement will be our top priorities. We began work on these in 2023, 2024 is the year we carry through on these priorities. We have several chair positions, per our bylaws, that require volunteers. We need someone to take control of Community Relations, Events and Zoning. If you can find the time, let's discuss, we would be grateful for your time.

For our February general meeting to be on Monday, February 12, 2024. Our agenda will include a vote on the 2024 budget, membership sign-up, the calendar of events, and, as always, hearing from our elected officials.

Hope to see you there and once again, have a happy and prosperous new year.

Thank you!
Your president,
Frank Meek

Officers and committee and club leaders:

Officers:

President Frank Meek
Vice President Casey Jackson
Treasury Barbara McClung
Secretary Joe Sherren

Newsletter & Community Relations– Karen Sampson Hoffman
Welcome Baskets – Kathy Plitt
History – Ray Chism
Senior Coffee – Kathy Plitt

Committees:

Nomination — Kurt Hoffman
Town Hall – Ray Chism and Ed Hardester

Clubs:

Men's Club – Ed Hardister
Bookies – Deanna Edmunds
Stitch & Wine – Kurt & Karen Hoffman

Future Events

We welcome suggestions for future community events. We can help you get started and have the resources to host community events. Please speak with the board president or any of the board members to volunteer.

Upcoming Senior Coffee Social

Please join your Relay neighbors for a Senior Coffee morning. It will be on Tuesday, February 13, from 10:30 a.m. to 12 n. at the Relay Town Hall. Coffee, tea and donuts will be served. This is a free event. All are welcome!

Please RSVP: Kathy 443-255-8277, or plittk@yahoo.com.

RIA Committees & Clubs

Relay Men's Club

The prestigious Relay Men's Club continues to meet on the first and third Thursday of each month. The meetings begin at 7 p.m. and include refreshments, entertaining discussion, and poker games.

The Men's Club actively supports functions of the Relay Improvement Association on an as-needed basis. In October, the club members manned the annual pit beef and burger stand for Relay Day 2023. Contact Ed Hardester at 443-257-9981 or at ehardester@icloud.com for more information.

Stitch & Wine

Our stitchers and winers are forming into a nice group, but we are always looking for more community members to join us! We meet at the Town Hall at 7 p.m. the second Thursday of the month. Join us for an evening of handicrafts, grownup coloring books, needle arts, board games, or any other portable hobby you'd like to work on. Bring along your favorite snack or beverage to share. We also have a variety of beverages—soda pop, iced tea, sparkling waters, in addition to a bottle or two of wine—to enjoy. For more information contact Karen Hoffman at KarenSampsonHoffman@gmail.com.

Welcome Baskets

We delivered one welcome basket today. Welcome to Dot, Zac, and Tilly Alexander of Arlington Avenue. Thanks to the team of volunteers who help fill baskets: Rose Gloth, Jan Vidmar, Nancy Mays, Theda Mayer, Sue Carnevale, Nathan Kapur, Caroline Wellman, and Kriste Korn.



Relay & St. Denis History

The Baltimore Sun
01 Feb 1924, Fri ·Page 22

Fines "\$1 PER MILE PER HOUR"

Motorist, Said To Have Been "Doing Fifty," Pays \$50

A dollar "per mile per hour" was the fine paid by Julius Mearkoff, 2929 Parkwood avenue, last night

According to Motor Cycle Patrolman H.S. Dunn, stationed at Halethorpe, he saw an automobile flash past him on Washington Boulevard. He caught the machine at St. Denis. Then patrolman testified Mearkoff "did every bit of 50" in an effort to escape, Mearkoff paid \$50 and was released.

(From the editor: This is the equivalent of \$892 in February 2024. The current speed limit on Washington Boulevard, St. Denis, is 40 MPH.)

Relay Bookies



The Bookies met at Theda Mayer's home in January to discuss upcoming bookies for 2024.

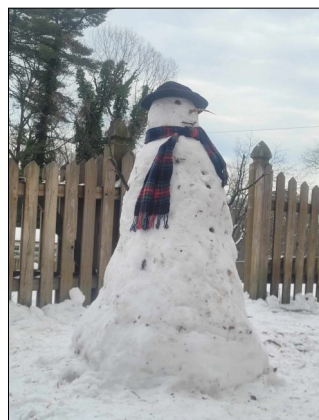
The Relay Bookies is a neighborhood book club that meets regularly at the Relay Town Hall on the third Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. Books will be available at the Arbutus Library. All are welcome!

This years' reading list:

- February 21: The Underground Abductor: An Abolitionist Tale by Nathan Hale
- March 20: Go as a River by Shelley Read
- April 17: The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde
- May 15: All Sinners Bleed by S. A. Cosby
- June 19: Running with Sherman by Christopher McDougall
- July 17: The Silent Patient by Alex Michaelides
- August 21: The Demon of Unrest by Erik Larsen
- September 18: The Berry Pickers by Amanda Peters
- October 16: The Boys in the Boat by Daniel James Brown
- November 20: The Maid by Nita Prose
- December 11: Small Things Like These by Claire Keegan

For more information or to be added to the email distribution, please contact Deanna Edmunds, Deanna.Edmunds@gmail.com.

Winter's Brief Visit



Winter stopped by in January, bringing us the first real snow we've had in two years.

Snowman and picture courtesy of Shelia Muccio.

Community Updates

Relay/St. Denis Bookie Members of the Catonsville Women's Giving Circles

Several of the Bookies are members of Catonsville Women's Giving Circles and SWES is one of the grantees. We had asked if people would like to donate at our last meeting of the year and the response was terrific, we gave almost \$500 in gift cards to be added to SWES's Christmas baskets. The representatives from SWES were astounded by our generosity. Thank you, Bookies!



Covered Dish Dinners

What fun it was to see so many neighbors at the January Covered Dish at Mrs. Dolores Plitt's house. Twenty-four years ago in January of 2000, I went to my first Covered Dish at Herb & Dolores' house. What a wonderful, longstanding tradition to kick off each year. Thank you so very much, Mrs. Plitt.

Mark your calendars now so you can be at the next several gatherings:

February 18, hosted by Theda Mayer. Come to 5163 Viaduct Avenue from 5-7 p.m. There

will be some Mardi Gras traditions celebrated this night.

March 17 will be hosted by the RIA Board at the Town Hall on Arlington Avenue from 5-8 p.m. Wear your green and get your Irish on!

April 21, Aubrey & Ben Young welcome good neighbors with good food at 5119 South Rolling Road.

May 19, first-time hosts Marian & Joe Newell are excited to have you at 5109 South Rolling Rd. Bring your best dish and be polite so they'll host again!

Baltimore County Zoning Hearing Was Held Regarding Viaduct Avenue Property

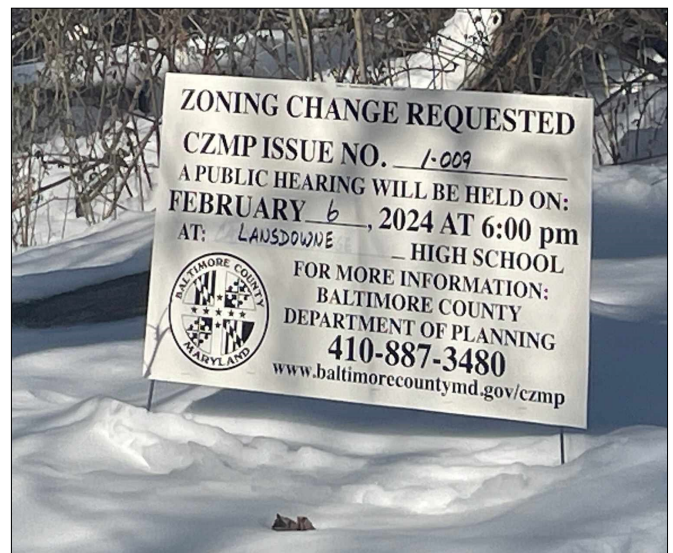
There was a public hearing scheduled at the end of January as part of the CZMP process whereby every four years the county grants anyone a request for zoning change. As luck would have it, we had a zoning request change in our area of the world located on Viaduct Avenue. It's approximately 1.75 acres. The zoning request change is from RC-5 (Rural Conservation) to BM (Business Office). The attachments highlight the salient points along with a map for your review.

The property in question; approximately 1.75 acres was originally part of the Keech property that was cut off from the larger portion of the property by I-95. This larger portion is accessed from Gun Road. Both pieces are currently owned by Chetan Mehta who is petitioning the county to change the zoning from a RC-5 (Rural Residential) to BM (Business Major or Office Residential). We believe he would like to establish an event/vacation resort entering from Gun Road. Many members of the Gun Road community oppose the change in zoning.

Arguments opposing this zoning change:

1) The topography does not support development. A fault line runs across Viaduct Avenue. This happened when the water table was changed due to the building of I-95. The house formerly owned by Jack Herbert needed to have 13 pylons placed in the ground to keep his house standing. He sued the state for this reason and won. Also, the backyard of the property on Woodland, formerly owned by Mr. Johnson, sunk considerably and had to be filled back.

2) The property in question lies along the 100-year flood plain. The last time this happened was in 1972 when Hurricane Agnes



hit and devastated the area. However, this is now happening more frequently due to the overdevelopment of the land. Neighbors are aware that in the past two years Avalon State Park has been closed more than once due to flood damage.

3) The residents of the area are not in favor of a change in the zoning. It was only four years ago when the zoning of Relay East of I95 was changed to permit only one dwelling per half acre. The infrastructure on Viaduct Avenue does not support high density or commercial use.

If you have any questions, please send inquiries to relaytownhall@gmail.com or contact Frank Meek at 703-300-2351.

Community Updates

Police Community Outreach

The 44th Community Partnership Academy Program, formerly known as the Citizens Academy Program, will begin April 3. The program is an opportunity for Baltimore County citizens to learn about the police department that serves them. The CPA is a free nine session program that presents information on patrol operations, traffic enforcement, residential security and other exciting topics. The participants will have a chance to visit our training academy, range, courthouse, and special operations facilities. The participants will meet the commanders of the Baltimore County Police Department and receive a certificate of completion.

If you are interested in participating in this wonderful opportunity to learn about the Baltimore County Police Department, you can apply online. If you have any questions, please call 410-887-8599.

Officer B. Tippin #3948, 410-887-5165
Baltimore County Police Department

Office of Councilman Pat Young

Budget Town Hall

Every year, prior to submitting the budget to the Baltimore County Council for approval, the county executive has town hall meetings in each Council District to provide communities the opportunity to speak and present their priorities directly to him. The budget town hall for District 1 will be on Wednesday, March 27, at 6:30 p.m. at CCBC Catonsville's Center for the Arts Building. The town halls are held in-person but are also livestreamed on Baltimore County Government's YouTube page. For those who don't wish to speak but want to offer ideas, you can email townhall@baltimorecountymd.gov.

Thirty minutes prior to the budget town hall, there will be a Baltimore Community Cabinet open house in the same building. Representatives from most county agencies (DPW, Rec & Parks, DEWD, etc.) will be available to answer questions and share information about available resources. The community cabinet for District 1 will start at 6 p.m. This is a great opportunity for community members who have concerns about roads being

Spirits giant Diageo, owner of Guinness Open Gate, seeks to sell beer portfolio on margin

Diageo is seeking to divest its beer portfolio on margin concerns, except flagship brand Guinness, Axios reported, citing sources familiar with the world's largest spirits maker. Guinness Open Gate Brewery is a tourist destination at the edge of St. Denis; the owners had worked to build a relationship with the Relay/St. Denis community when the brewery was first proposed and during its first year of operation.

The company is looking to sell beer brands including

Relay Elementary Teacher of the Year



Principal Lisa Grace, Teacher of the Year Ann Marie Gillooly, and Assistant Principal Kate Matulonis.

Relay Elementary Teacher of the Year

Reading specialist Ann Marie Gillooly is Relay's Teacher of the Year. She is humble, kind, helpful, knowledgeable, and so very much appreciated. It is a joy to honor her!

— Relay Elementary Principal Lisa Grace

paved, or trash pickup, or general neighborhood concerns to come in and engage with departments and the county executive directly.

Office Hours

Councilman Young has set aside Thursday afternoons specifically for constituent concerns. Every Thursday, from 12 n.-5 p.m., anyone can walk in the office and speak with the councilman on any subject of concern. We just ask that you call ahead so we can make sure you don't have to wait if you do walk in. The councilman can also meet folks outside of Thursdays, please contact the office to set up a meeting. He can also meet virtually or over the phone.

Any member of the community is more than welcome to reach out to our office regarding any neighborhood issues or concerns. They can email Legislative Aide Eimaan Imran at Eimran@BaltimoreCountyMD.gov or the District 1 email at Council1@BaltimoreCountyMD.gov.

Smithwick's, Kilkeny and Harp Lager, based in Ireland, and Tusker in Kenya, among others, Axios reported, adding that its beer brands were a margin drag on the rest of the business.

Diageo declined to comment on the report. Beer sales of 3.36 billion pounds (\$4.23 billion) accounted for just over 14% of total sales at Diageo for the year ended June 30, 2023, whereas spirits sales contributed a mammoth 81%.

Quarterly Relay Senior Coffee

The Tuesday following our quarterly Relay Improvement Association meeting our senior neighbors gather at the Town Hall for a coffee social. The get-together is free and open to Relay and St. Denis residents. For more information, contact Kathy Plitt 443-255-8277, or plittk@yahoo.com.

Photos courtesy of Kathy Plitt.



Relay Improvement Association
Regular Meeting
November 13, 2023

Secretary's report: accepted as posted.

Officer Tippon:

- Worked at Wilkins precinct for 28 years.
- Only 4 calls in this area, 3 were car accidents.
- Grand theft auto is a big problem with Hyundai's and Kia's. Mostly juveniles are stealing the cars, thanks to TikTok. This is up over 500%.
- This precinct has had 70 thefts this month. This is down 8%.
- Car break ins to steal airbags, mostly from Honda Accords. They sell them to repair shops.
- Lock up your work tools in your work truck.
- South Rolling and Gun Rd. Speed trap 63,000 cars went through, 50% were going 15mph or more over the limit.

Presidents Report:

Thank you to Ed and Kurt for being on the board for the last 4 years.

Treasurers Report:

- Relay Day was Oct. 1, 2023. Total cash in was \$2950, net was \$1,526, we also had some new members join that day.
- Income for the year was \$15,944, plus a \$22,500 grant, \$300 for moving our accounts to Truist, and \$257 from Northwest from a lawsuit for charging too many fees.
- \$17,580 spent to date.

Elected Officials:

Delegate White Holland:

- Just got married, now Jennifer White Holland
- Championing a bill for wage transparency. Requires employers to post salary range in job posting. This would apply to all jobs.
- Another bill being pursued is Prescription Drug Affordability. Wednesday will be having a community forum at Randallstown community center.
- We want to hear from you about questions and concerns. You can schedule time for 1 on 1 meetings virtually and in person.

Ben Brooks Chief of Staff:

- Financial Literacy Forum for high school Senior's and Junior's at the Arbutus Library next Tuesday at 5:30.
- Senatorial scholarships will be available as of January 1st .

Speaker Adrienne Jones Community liaison:

- Will be focusing on LGBTQ employee protection from discrimination.
- Find new ways to revitalize communities.

Delegate N. Scott Phillips

- New Board of Elections Offices in the 10th district in Owings Mills. 45,000 square foot building. State of the art building.
- Juvenile Justice. Have been in 3 briefings since September. Want to move youth out of Adult jails.
- It is very easy for young people to learn how to steal air bags from TikTok.
- Most juvenile arrests are for car thefts. There is a small increase in assaults.
- 10 hours of briefings on 2022 Juvenile Justice Reform Act.
- Child Interrogation Act. Police officers cannot interrogate without parents and a lawyer.
- Cannot be arrested, with some exceptions. Creates some challenges.
- There will be a Dec 5th discussion. Collecting a lot of information from all sides.
- The club is a significant deterrent. Your local police station should have some available.

New Business:**Nominations:**

President: Frank Meek running unopposed.

Vice President: Casey Jackson running unopposed.

Treasurer: Barbara McClung and Christina McAlpine

Secretary: Joe Sherren and Michelle Monde

Treasurer: Barbara McClung

Secretary: Joe Sherren

Thank you to N. Scott Phillips for being our impartial pollster!

Senior coffee from 10:30 to 12:00 tomorrow. This is a standing event the Tuesday after the general meeting.

Engineering report on structural integrity of the town hall. We will try to have a meeting to discuss uses for the Town Hall second floor.

Committees:

- Covered Disk Dinner: This Sunday from 5 – 7 p.m. at Kathy and Andrew Plitt's house.
- Town Hall: No updates.
- Landmarks: Nothing to report.
- Community Relations: Karen has nothing to report.
- Men's Club: On hiatus until January.
- Nominations: Kurt Hoffman is now chair.
- Book Club: Demon Copperhead will be discussed this Wednesday at 7:00.

Relay Improvement Association

P.O. Box 24046
Relay, MD 21227

2023 Membership Form



Voting Membership is available to adults (18 years of age or older) living within or owning property within the boundaries of the Relay Improvement Association (RIA). Boundaries are the Patapsco River to the South, Route 1 and Herbert Run to the East, I-95 to the North, and Selford Avenue above I-95 to the West, including homes on both sides of Gun Road to the State Park property line.

RIA membership provides the right to vote on matters presented at the RIA General Meetings and discounts to RIA sponsored events. RIA members in good standing will receive a discount on all Town Hall rentals.

An Associate membership is available to anyone who lives outside our boundaries. Associate members will receive the newsletter and discounts on RIA sponsored events. Associate members cannot vote on matters presented at the RIA General Meetings and pay regular rates for Town Hall rentals.

Dues are \$25.00 per member. *Effective February 01, 2023*

Please complete the following form and return it with your check made payable to the RIA. *Please do not send cash through the mail.*

Member Name	1 st Line: Street Address 2 nd Line: City, State Zip Code	1 st Line: Phone Number 2 nd Line: E-mail Address	\$25 per Member
1			
2			
3			
		Donation for maintenance of Relay Town Hall:	
		Total amount of check:	

Please help defray our mailing costs. Check here to receive your newsletter via e-mail. ☐

PLEASE NOTE: Dues paid now are for the calendar year 2023 (January 1- December 31, 2023).