

THURSDAY EDITORIAL: Greens, greasepaint, rhythms and rhymes: We have the power to shape our city's future

Mar. 26, 2014 5:38 PM |

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We truly have the power to shape our city's future



Gauge Kenney, 6 months, takes a serious approach to swinging as he visits Ben's Red Swings in Salisbury with mom, Katie Watson. / Staff photo by Laura Emmons

WHAT MOVES YOU?

What would you like to see more of in Salisbury? Share your dreams and ideas by sending a letter for publication to opinions@delmarvanow.com.

A visitor to Salisbury who stumbled upon Ben's Red Swings, a lovely playground located just outside the west end of the Salisbury Zoo and across a parking lot from Picnic Island, would be entranced simply because it is such an unexpected amenity in a small-city park and zoo area.

If that guest could know that the playground was conceived, designed and built by the community, literally, without help from local government beyond permission to exist, you might get a raised eyebrow. But it's true.

Eleven years ago, 4-year-old Ben Layton lost his battle with leukemia and lit a spark that culminated with a community treasure. If you ever doubted one person could make a difference, visit Ben's Red Swings on a warm, sunny afternoon. The Laytons were determined to create something good from their loss; when the dust cleared, about 4,000 area residents had united to create a magical playground.

No one can deny Ben's Red Swings contributes mightily to the quality of life we enjoy in the Salisbury area.

What else might improve our daily lives in Salisbury? More art galleries or concerts? Additional biking trails or easier access for pedestrians?

Whether you are seeking more opportunities to get moving physically, engage in the arts in any form or simply enjoy the work of others, art and recreation in Salisbury are spreading.

What would be a worthwhile investment of your time, talent or treasure? More family-friendly events? Gathering spots for young adults or empty-nesters?

We have the power to shape our city's future.