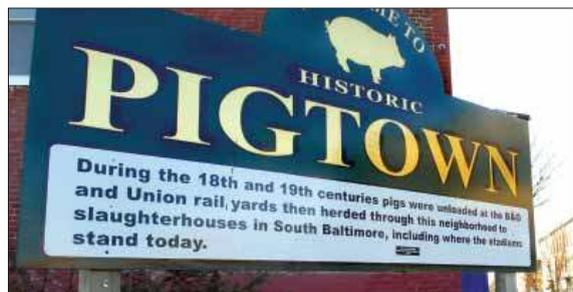


A brief description of the history of Pigtown can be found at the corner of Washington Boulevard and Barre Street.



# 10 BEST THINGS

## PIGTOWN

### MIRACLE ON MAIN STREET

When Baltimore launched its citywide Main Street Program initiative, Pigtown was considered its most challenging neighborhood. Today, Pigtown is the city's strongest in the program and the only one completing all program points in tandem. To read more about Baltimore's Main Streets, visit [www.baltimoremainstreets.com](http://www.baltimoremainstreets.com).

### COMFORT FOOD

Carol Ott comes from a long line of women who soothe souls by reaching for the flour. Feeding Pigtown's residents, visitors, and the community at large is a task Ott embarked on last fall when she opened Evelyn's, a quiet, cozy coffeehouse and café on Main Street in Pigtown. Ott offers a variety of teas and coffees, a delicious homemade veggie cream cheese and daily sandwich specials. Visit her Web site for more information [www.evelynscafe.com](http://www.evelynscafe.com).

### WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Pigtown's colorful history dates to the 1800s when the area was industrial and Mount Clare Mansion still operated as a plantation. With the B&O Railroad came the "Running of the Pigs," referring to when pigs were herded from the train depot to the Union Stockyard in south Baltimore. This quirky ritual paved the way for a positively unique community. To witness a re-enactment of this historical event, check out Main Street's Annual Pigtown Festival.

### WHERE PIGS FLY

Main Street's sixth Annual Pigtown Festival is scheduled for Sept. 8 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. In addition to festival basics (arts and crafts, food vendors, wine from Boordy Vineyards, cultural booths and children's activities) check out the Pigtown Pooch Pageant, the Iron Pig BBQ cookoff and the legendary "Running of the Pigs." The festival is free to the public and takes place on the 700 to 900 blocks of Washington Boulevard. Check the Web site for more information: [www.pigtownfestival.com/index.html](http://www.pigtownfestival.com/index.html).

### GO PUBLIC!

Pigtown is proud to announce that local public school George Washington Elementary was one of

six schools statewide to be named a Maryland Blue Ribbon School of Excellence by State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick. Other schools teaching Pigtown kids include: Charles Carroll the Barrister Elementary, Diggs Johnson Middle and Southwestern High. Visit the Baltimore City Public School Web site for more information: [www.bcps.k12.md.us/index.asp](http://www.bcps.k12.md.us/index.asp).

### LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION!

Pigtown is bounded by Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. on the east, Monroe Street on the west, Russell Street on the south and the B&O Railroad (just south of Pratt Street) on the north. That location makes it easy to hop on and off Interstates 95, 395, 295 and 695. It's also convenient to the amenities at the Inner Harbor, both stadiums and other city neighborhoods. Get where you're going on foot or take the No. 11 or 31 bus line.

### LIFE IS ART

Pigtown has its very own sculpture garden. Where there was once a field of broken glass and car parts, there is now green space complete with trees and sculptures by international sculptor, Rodney Carroll. Pig Iron Works Sculpture Garden, located on Cross Street, just north of Washington Boulevard, was created and is maintained by local residents Rodney and Narda Carroll. Their dogs, rescued Pigtown strays, enjoy the space, but someday the couple hope to use it for juried exhibitions. To view Carroll's work online, visit [www.rodneycarroll.com](http://www.rodneycarroll.com).

### SOMETHING TO DO

At the north end of the neighborhood is the B&O Railroad Museum ([www.borail.org](http://www.borail.org)), recognized universally as the birthplace of American railroading. To the west is Mount Clare Mansion ([www.mountclare.org](http://www.mountclare.org)), a 1760 Georgian home built by one of Maryland's first state senators, attorney Charles Carroll. Carroll Park surrounds the mansion providing residents with two baseball diamonds, six tennis courts, a golf course, skate park, playground and plenty of green space.

### REHABBERS DELIGHT

Not only do neighbors and agents



look for Pigtown equity to continue to escalate, but they have easy access to the "ever-changing inventory of decorative objects" at resident shop, Housewerks. Built in 1885 as a Valve House, it's the perfect storefront for architecturally historical objects. Specialties include architectural antiques, industrial salvage and pre-World War II decorative building materials including mantels, plumbing fixtures, entry doors, stained glass and decorative ironwork. Address and hours are at [www.housewerksalvage.com](http://www.housewerksalvage.com).

### THE PIG BASH

If you can't wait for fall to join the Pigtown festivities, check out Pigtown Main Street's "Year of the Pig" Bash on Sunday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Housewerks. Neighbors and visitors will celebrate the Chinese Year of the Pig (symbolizing wealth and fertility) while supporting the Pigtown Main Street Program. It's a fundraising event, so not only does your \$25 ticket get you Asian tapas, wine and beer, but it's also tax deductible. For details, visit [www.pigtownfestival.com/yearofthepig](http://www.pigtownfestival.com/yearofthepig).



While not an official designation, the revitalization of the business district along Washington Boulevard is also referred to as Main Street.