

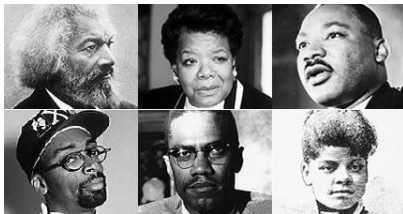
# The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

February 2011

Volume 41, Issue 1

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## CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH



## IMPORTANT!

**Bulk Trash Collection  
WEDNESDAYS  
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**

**Contact Bates Trucking  
and Trash Collections at  
(301) 773-2069 before 2pm  
on Tuesday.**

## Comprehensive Sanitary Sewer Study of the Northeast Branch Sewer Basin

The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) began conducting a comprehensive sanitary sewer study of the Northeast Branch Sewer Basin in December 2009. This pro-active study highlights potential sewer problems, avoids costly major sewer repairs and supports our efforts to protect the environment and public health. The project identifies sewer and manhole defects, such as sewer line leakage and exposed pipes in the towns and cities that are in the sewer basin. The information gathered from this study will produce a comprehensive rehabilitation strategy for the Northeast Branch Sewer Basin. The sewer study is scheduled for completion on or before December 31, 2011.

Starting January 2011 and ending in May 2011, manhole inspections will take place from 6:00 am to 5:00 pm. Monday through Friday in the towns of Riverdale, Berwyn Heights, and the City of College Park. The crews will use barricades to block off the manhole where the inspection is taking place; however, the barricades will not disrupt neighborhood traffic. The nature of these studies is quiet, so noise will be at a minimum.

All WSSSC contractors have been authorized by the Commission to perform a variety of activities related to the analysis work needed to complete the study. To report a water or sewer emergency, customers may call WSSC's 24 hour Emergency Response number at (301) 206-4002.

Northeast Branch Sewer Basin – Sanitary Sewer Study  
NET 31 – Riverdale

NET 31 Riverdale	STREET	BLOCK #	Estimated Start Date	Estimated End Date
	Cleveland Ave	5800		
	Cleveland Ave	5900		
	Harrison Ave	5800		
	Harrison Ave	5900		
	Dupont Cir	200		
	Oliver St	4500		
	Oliver St	4600		
	Oliver St	4700		
	Oliver St	4800		
	46th Ave	6100		
	Riverdale Rd	4500		
	Riverdale Rd	4600		
	Riverdale Rd	4700		
	Riverdale Rd	4800		
	Riverdale Rd	4900		
	Riverdale Rd	5000		
	48th Ave	6000		
	Lafayette Ave	5900		
	Rhode Island Ave	6000		
	Rhode Island Ave	6100		
		6200		
	Queens bury Rd	4600		

# Council Actions

December 6, 2010  
Regular Legislative Meeting

By Waverly Pollitt

1. **Approved-** November 1, 2010 minutes for the regular legislative meeting.
2. **Approved-** Resolution 2010-R-11 supporting MUTC recommendations to approve with conditions SP -060003-01/Wachovia Bank ATM.
3. **Approved-** To send a letter to the 22<sup>nd</sup> delegation requesting capital funding for youth/ community wing at Town Hall.
4. **Approved-** Resolution 2010-R-12, to authorize the town to enter into negotiations with Maryland - National Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) regarding the sale of property on 51<sup>st</sup> Avenue.
5. **Approved-** Optotraffic service agreement.
6. **Approved-** Resolution 2010-R-13, supporting the Town's Chesapeake Bay Trust grant application for rain gardens.
7. **Approved-** Resolution 2010-R-14, requesting State legislative to enable residents to ride Shuttle-UM.
8. **Approved-** Resolution 2010-R-15, adopting a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Hyattsville and the Town of University Park regarding the protection and preservation of Wells Run.

**Introduction-** Ordinance Resolution 2010-OR-09, an ordinance concerning Defined Benefit Pension Plan- Investment Guidelines.

January 3, 2011  
Regular Legislative Meeting

1. **Approved** - Minutes for December 6, 2010 regular legislative meeting.
2. **Approved** - To deny application SP-060003-01/ Wachovia Bank ATM.
3. **Approved** - Fence permit for a 6ft. fence located at 5512 Taylor Road.
4. **Approved-** Ordinance Resolution 2010-OR-09 concerning Defined Benefit Pension Plan Investment Guidelines [further Council action required]
5. **Approved** - Resolution 2011-R-01, a resolution to ratify amendments to the Town of Riverdale Park Defined Benefit Plan.
6. **Approved-** Resolution 2011-R-02 a resolution to approve amendment #10 to the Town of Riverdale Park Defined Benefit Plan.
7. **Approved-** Resolution 2011 -R- 03 a resolution to approve amendment #11 to the Town of Riverdale Park Defined Benefit Plan.

## Town of Riverdale Park

[www.riverdaleparkmd.gov](http://www.riverdaleparkmd.gov)

### Town Hall

5008 Queensbury Road  
Riverdale Park, MD 20737  
301-927-6381, Hablamos Español  
[town@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:town@riverdaleparkmd.gov)  
**Mayor** Vernon Archer, 240-832-2257  
[varcher@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:varcher@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

#### Council Members

**Ward 1**—Alice C. Ewen,  
Chair, Econ Development, 301-379-5303  
[aewen@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:aewen@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

**Ward 2** – Alan Thompson  
Chair, Finance Committee, 301-927-7407  
[akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

**Ward 3** - David Lingua  
Chair, Public Safety, 301-779-3849  
[djlingua@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:djlingua@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

**Ward 4** - Christopher Henry  
Chair, Public Works, 301-910-9855

**Ward 5** – Raymond Rivas  
Chair, Community Affairs, 301-625-9435  
[rivas@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:rivas@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

**Ward 6** - Keelah Allen-Smith  
Chair, Legislative Committee, 240-751-6688  
[kallensmith@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:kallensmith@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

Sara Imhulse, **Town Administrator**  
[simhulse@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:simhulse@riverdaleparkmd.gov)  
Public Works, 301-864-1803

Leonard Addison, **Director**  
Code Enforcement 240-898-2500  
Colleen M. Ferguson, **Code Manager**

[code@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:code@riverdaleparkmd.gov)  
Police Department, 301-927-4343  
Patrick Timmons, **Interim Police Chief**

[ptimmons@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:ptimmons@riverdaleparkmd.gov)  
Fire Department - Emergency 911  
Information - 301-927-0356

Charles Ryan, **Chief** *in-*  
[fo@riverdalevfd.com](mailto:fo@riverdalevfd.com), [www.riverdalevfd.com](http://www.riverdalevfd.com)  
or, *Riverdalefire-*  
[chief7@gmail.com](mailto:chief7@gmail.com)

It is the policy of the Town of Riverdale Park, pursuant to the provision of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and The Americans with Disabilities Act, to prohibit discrimination against qualified persons with disabilities in any aspect of employment within the government.

It is also the policy of the Town of Riverdale Park to disallow discrimination in fair housing based on race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, disabilities, and/or age.

Some materials contained in *The Town Crier* represent the opinion of the authors and does not necessarily represent the view of the Town of Riverdale Park.

The Town Crier is also available at the Town's Website: [www.riverdaleparkmd.info](http://www.riverdaleparkmd.info)  
**Submission deadline: 15th of each month.**

Submit all copies to  
[towncrier@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:towncrier@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

# **Riverdale Park Police Report:**

## **NEW LAW CHANGES TRAFFIC CITATION TRIAL DATE PROCEDURE**

By Lieutenant Andrew Powell

Riverdale Park Police Officers are reminding motorists that if they receive a traffic citation on or after January 1, 2011, a new law requires the driver to request a trial date if they want one, instead of one being automatically assigned.

The new law gives drivers who receive a traffic citation three options:

1. Pay the full amount of the preset fine;
2. Request a hearing regarding sentencing and disposition in lieu of a trial, (Meaning you do not dispute the truth of the facts as alleged in the citation, but you wish to be heard regarding sentencing); or
3. Request a trial date at the date, time and place established by the District Court.

The law requires that a person who received a citation make one of these three choices and notify the District Court within 30 days. If not, the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration will be notified and may take action to suspend the person's driver's license.

Previously, persons issued a citation were automatically given a trial date. The law required them to either pay the fine by the trial date, or appear in court that day to answer to the charge. Often, people waited until the day before, or even the day of trial to pay the fine. This meant the police officer who issued the citation was already scheduled to appear in court and it was too late to notify him or her that they were not needed to appear. This created scheduling difficulties for police officers and often incurred overtime expenditures for police departments required to have police officers present in court, even though they were not needed.

House Bill 829 and Senate Bill 560 were passed in the 2010 Maryland General Assembly Session and will become law on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Supporters of the new law believe this will increase efficiency in both the courts and police departments across Maryland.

Officers believe the new law will eliminate needless trips to court and supervisors will be better able to schedule the deployment of personnel. State Police commanders believe there will be an overall cost savings to the Department in overtime pay. They also believe the new procedure will keep officers on patrol that would otherwise be in court waiting for a case in which they ultimately were not needed.

The new law does not apply to citations issued for 'must appear' violations, such as drunk driving. Persons receiving citations for 'must appear' offenses will be automatically notified by either a circuit court or the District Court of a trial date and location where they must appear.

Information about the new procedure will be printed on citations given to motorists. Officers will be reminding motorists of the new procedure when citations are issued. Persons with questions can also visit the District Court of Maryland website at [www.mdcourts.gov/district](http://www.mdcourts.gov/district), or call 1-800-492-2656.

If you have any questions please contact Lt. Powell or Pfc. Alford at 301-927-4343.

# Riversdale House Museum Events

## QUARTERLY LECTURE AT RIVERSDALE

Riversdale is trying something new this year and offering our scholarly lectures once every quarter. This year's winter lecture will be held Tuesday, February, 8, 2011 at 7:30 pm. Dr. Ann Wass, costume historian, will present her talk, "Had On and Took With Her" African American Dress in the Federal Era. She uses written sources, including autobiographies and published travelers' accounts, as well as newspaper advertisements seeking the return of slaves who ran away to seek freedom. The lecture is illustrated with period paintings and prints and is part of Riversdale's Black History Month programming. Lectures are \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for students with a valid ID. This is a walk-in program and reservations are not required.

## SEASONAL SELECTIONS - THE PLUMMERS' KITCHEN

Join the Riversdale Kitchen Guild for their Black History Month Seasonal Selection program on Sunday, February 27, 2011, from noon to 3:30pm in the dependency kitchen at Riversdale House Museum. Watch as they recreate early-to-mid 19th century traditional African-American foods. Participants will be able to view these dishes being made on the open hearth by costumed interpreters using period cookware. Seasonality of garden produce will also be discussed in reference to Plummer's profit-generating produce sales.

Riversdale, completed in 1807, was home to Rosalie and George Calvert, descendant of the fifth Lord Baltimore. The Calverts owned several slaves, including Adam Plummer. Plummer arrived at Riversdale as a child. Upon George's death, ownership of the estate and slaves passed to his son, Charles Benedict. His new master allowed Plummer to keep the profits from produce he grew on a part of the estate. Eventually, Plummer married an enslaved woman, Emily Saunders, from Three Sisters Plantation in Lanham, MD. Plummer continued to live at Riversdale apart from his wife. However, after Maryland abolished slavery, Adam Plummer, reunited with his wife and family, remained at Riversdale as a paid overseer.

Regular admission fees apply and include a tour of the house. \$3/adults, \$2/seniors, \$1/students 5-18, FREE ages 4 & under. Call 301-864-0420 or email [riversdale@pgparks.com](mailto:riversdale@pgparks.com) for more information. Riversdale, a historic house museum of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, is located at 4811 Riverdale Road in the town of Riverdale Park, Maryland.

## Town Administrator's Report

By Sara Imhulse

I was profoundly saddened to learn about the violence that occurred in Arizona. I think the reason that I've felt such an impact from this event is because the victims were residents of a community who were involved and participating – no different than the residents I work with every day. Their commitment reminds me of the importance of civic engagement and the need for all of us to participate.

So how can you participate? The Boys and Girls Club needs coaches for soccer and basketball. Can you imagine what an impact you could have on the life of a 10-year-old? Do you prefer to work with middle or high-school kids? The Arts Council is looking to begin several programs. You could teach them how to take great photographs, how to knit a blanket, or how to perform in an interview. Do you like to work outside? We will have a spring community clean-up on Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 to noon. Did you have a great relationship with your grandparents? Crescent Cities Senior Center would be a great place to volunteer. Do you have a green thumb? Public Works will have a spring planting event soon. Do you like to plan events? Join the Recreation Board and help plan Riverdale Park Day or the Easter Egg Hunt.

I can't help but think of the song, Imagine. "You may say that I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one." There are so many ways to participate in our community. Please do not hesitate to contact me so that we can talk about how your talents and time can benefit the residents of Riverdale Park.

# Public Works Report

By Leonard Addison

**Holidays-Trash Collection** - President's Day is celebrated on Monday, February 21<sup>st</sup>. Regular trash collection will not be affected by the holiday.

**Leaf Collection** - During the leaf collection season which was November 15<sup>th</sup> through January 15<sup>th</sup>, the DPW collected/recycled 173 cubic yards of leaves at the College Park facility and 63.16 tons at the Western Branch facility. We appreciate the cooperation of our residents in helping to make this process run smoothly.

**Saturday Drop Off** – The next scheduled day for drop off of bulk trash will be on Saturday, February 19th, from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

## **Snow and Ice Removal**

As we enter into the snow season please note that Public Works crews will be plowing and salting Town streets and parking lots to clear snow and ice. As in the past, we will treat our streets in the following method:

**Primary Streets** - i.e. Riverdale Road, Taylor Road, Lafayette Avenue, Queensbury Road, etc.

**Secondary Streets** – i.e. DuPont Circle, Cleveland Avenue, Rhode Island Avenue, Quesada Rd., Beale, 49<sup>th</sup> and 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Silk Tree Drive.

**Residential Streets** – i.e. Oliver Street, Madison Street, Rittenhouse Street, 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Somerset Road, Sora Lane.

Please note: our major roadways, (Rt. 201, Rt. 1, Rt. 410, Good Luck Road.), will be treated by the State and County.

Residents of our Town should note that they will be responsible for doing their part by keeping the walkway in front of their property cleaned of snow and ice after each event.

## **What Residents Can Do?**

- Whenever possible, move parked cars off the street so that snowplows can remove the snow from the street from curb to curb.
- **If off-street parking is not available, park on the even side of the street** (violators will be subject to having their vehicles impounded and fined \$250 – 64-10(b)(c)).
- Be patient during any snow emergency as crews work around the clock to clear the streets.

- Clear sidewalks in front of residence and refrain from depositing snow back on to the roadway. This can potentially cause an accident.

**Snow Emergency Signs** – Snow emergency signs have been installed on Silk Tree Drive. Other signs are being installed on 44<sup>th</sup> Place. This process is being used on narrow streets and narrow dead end streets to better serve our resident's needs during snow emergencies.

**Nixle** – Nixle is a secure public and private messaging service used by the Town of Riverdale Park to provide alerts and other important information that may be useful to our residents. To use this service, residents must sign up online to receive messages either by email or via cell phone. There is no charge for the service, but is a convenient communication tool that is especially helpful during weather or other emergencies. To sign up for this service, please go to [www.nixle.com/signup](http://www.nixle.com/signup), or call 1-877-649-5362.

## Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department

By Nova Johns

The Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department would like to welcome Probationary Members **Christopher Wakefield, John Campbell, Steven Lyles, Matt Eckert, Roberto Ramirez, Thomas Sonni, Sean Young, and Timothy Garman** to the family.

The Officers and Members would like to congratulate Past Deputy Chief **Brian Carpio** and Past Assistant Chief **Chris Adams** for earning their life membership. Life membership is only awarded after 10 years of active service to the Riverdale Fire Department. Chief Carpio and Chief Adams have each served the citizens of Riverdale Park for 20 years each. Thank you both for your commitment to Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department and the Town of Riverdale Park.



The Membership of the Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department would like to wish the Mayor, Council, Town Staff, and Residence a very safe Holiday, and a prosperous New Year.

## Monthly Safety Tip: Candle Safety

Candles are very popular. Most homes in America have them. Candles are very pretty and often smell good, but they can cause serious home fires. Here are some tips on how to enjoy your candles and keep your family safe.

- The most important rule is this: If you light a candle, a grownup must stay in the room with it.
- Blow out all candles before going to sleep or leaving the room.
- Keep candles at least three feet away from anything that can burn.
- Always use stable candle holders. If possible, use a hurricane glass to protect the open flame.
- Place candles where they will not be knocked down or blown over and out of reach of pets and young children.
- In the hands of a child, matches and lighters can be deadly. If you have children in your home, store candles, matches and lighters out of their sight and reach in a locked cabinet.
- Do not allow children to keep or use candles or incense in their rooms.

To eliminate the risk of an open candle flame, use battery-powered candles whenever possible, especially when you combine candles with greenery or other decorations.

If you have any questions or need assistance please call 301-927-0356 (Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department). If it is an **EMERGENCY** call **911**.

## Boy Scouts Troop 252

By Bob Killen

Troop 252 is growing (in size, as well as older). Two young men (prospective Scouts) visited us at our troop meeting last night, so we built two fires on the sidewalk, cooked and ate marshmallows outside, and were visited by Officer Acosta, of Prince George's finest. He had just completed a traffic stop on East-West Highway and recognized that we were Boy Scouts (who else would be eating marshmallows outdoors Friday night when the tem-

perature was in the high 20s and snow was still on the ground?

I guess it's no surprise to you that we went skiing (plenty of snow, thank you) again, this time at the Wisp, on 10-12 December. Saturday morning was a challenge to our two new skiers, but Saturday afternoon and all day Sunday was a joy! Samir and Brandon skied all the way down the mountain without falling (twice). Joel and Mr. Killen skied all the open trails, even the Black Diamonds. Saturday evening we went to St. Peter's RC Church in Oakland, arriving just as the Mass was starting. The Priest surprised our Scouts in his Homily by relating to current events; we chatted with him afterwards - he's an Eagle Scout, and the couple who sat behind us are the parents of two Eagle Scouts, and they heartily encouraged our Scouts to complete the Trail to Eagle before it's too late. Joel and I exchanged smiles (we completed his Scoutmaster's Conference 2 minutes before his 18th birthday).

Depending on the weather, we'll be skiing (Wisp or Timberline) or bicycling (Cedarville State Forest, Watkins Park or Croom) the weekend of 18-20 February.

You know who we are, when, where and what we're doing, so come join us. We're having all the fun. Feel free to contact MHB (301-864-0059) or Bob Killen [rfkille@yahoo.com](mailto:rfkille@yahoo.com) (301-483-8455) for a free trial. If you don't like us, we'll give you your money back.

Oh, yes, we'll be meeting every Friday night in the Scout Room at St. Bernard's Church in Riverdale Park (the Scouts have gotten pretty good at lashing - they have wrapped and frapped bamboo poles, making them into ladders, and climbed up to the roof, and have cooked marshmallows over the small individual fires they made (and extinguished) on the sidewalks.

You know who we are, when, where and what we're doing, so come join us. We're having all the fun. Feel free to contact MHB (301-864-0059) or Bob Killen [rfkille@yahoo.com](mailto:rfkille@yahoo.com) (301-483-8455) for a free trial. If you don't like us, we'll give you your money back.

# Community Circles

## From Daisy Girl Scout Troop #2546

Thanks again for all of your donations. The Daisies were so excited tonight to see items in their food boxes. If you haven't had a chance yet to drop off canned food items (to be donated to RP families), please take the time to drop off items. The need in our community is great! Boxes are located at Town Hall and in the Police Station. Thanks again, on behalf of Daisy Girl Scout Troop #2546.

## Riverdale Boys and Girls Club Seeks Help

Riverdale Boys & Girls Club is currently holding open registration, every Wednesday for the months of October & November, for all sports & activities. The next activities are basketball, soccer & dance. We are also in desperate need of volunteer coaches. Please let us know if you can volunteer for a good cause, our youth. Contact *riverdaleboys-girlsclub@yahoo.com* or call 301-277-KIDS (5437).

# Calling All Teens!

## Building Block Training Program

Parks & Recreation, M-NCPPC

Valuable, FREE training sessions designed to assist teens as they venture into the world of volunteering and future employment. The program features four different "block" sessions; teens may register for any/all blocks. Register for one, two, three, or all four trainings. Those who attend all four blocks will receive an awesome gift at the end of the final training session and will qualify to participate in the Step Up program, a one-day service project that lets you put your Building Block skills into actions. Participants earn student service learning hours for each training session completed. To learn more contact *www.pgparcs.com* or call 301-446-3321.

# Local Organizations

**Lion's Club Meeting:** Every Fourth Wednesday.

Contact President Guy Tiberio at (240) 375-8902.

**Northern County Soccer Alliance:** Contact

*NCSA@soccer.net* or (301) 927-0560.

**Riverdale Park Daisy Troop #2546:** Contact Danielle Glaros at (301) 779-5915.

**Riverdale Park Boys Scouts Troop 252—**

Contact: Scoutmaster Bob Killen at (202) 282-8302.

**Madison Hill Homeowners Association--** For information, call (301) 583-8857 or visit *www.madisonhill.org*.

**Riversdale Historical Society –** Riversdale Mansion.

Contact (301) 864-0420.

**Riverdale Park Farmer's Market --** Contact Jim

Coleman at 301-332-6258.

**Riverdale Boys & Girls Club—**Email *riverdaleboys-girlsclub@yahoo.com* (301) 277-KIDS

**Riverdale Park Business Association—**call Audrey

Bragg at 301-277-7393 for meeting site

**Riverdale Park Arts Council—**Contact Emily Fanning

at *ourdollmom@aol.com*.

## Purple Line Community Meeting

The Central Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization committee (CKAR) has invited representatives from the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) to come and meet with residents of the Riverdale community. MTA will be providing an update on the proposed Purple Line and will answer questions from community members. Join us on Saturday, February 12, 2011, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Bernard's Parish Emerald Room, 5700 St. Bernard Drive, Riverdale, Maryland 20737. To learn more about the Purple Line, go to *www.purplelinemd.com*.