



The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

March 2011

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Election Notice	Page 1
Council Actions	Page 2
Riversdale Events	Page 3
Mayor's Report	Page 3
Ward 2 Report	Page 4
Ward 5 Report	Page 5
Public Works Report	Page 5
RPBA	Page 6
Boy Scouts Troop 252	Page 6
Community Circles	Page 7
Calendar	Page 8

IMPORTANT!

**Bulk Trash Collection
WEDNESDAYS
BY APPOINTMENT
ONLY**

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



ELECTION NOTICE

In compliance with the terms of the Charter of the Town of Riverdale Park, Maryland, an election will be held

Monday, May 2, 2011

To elect Mayor & Council Members

**Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the
Riverdale Park Town Hall, 5008 Queensbury Road.**

Candidates for office must file Petition and Financial Disclosure Affidavits with the Election Judges at the Town Hall no later than 5 p.m., Thursday, April 7, 2011, in order to have their names on the official ballot. (Financial Disclosure affidavits and filing Petition forms are available at the Riverdale Park Town Hall.) There is a \$25.00 filing fee for all candidates.

All citizens, eighteen years of age or older, who have resided in the town of Riverdale Park for 45 days or more preceding Monday, May 2, 2011, and who are registered to vote in the Town of Riverdale Park, will be entitled to vote.

All residents who wish to qualify to vote in a town election must register with Prince George's County Board of Elections. To qualify to vote, your registration form must be received at the Board of Elections in Upper Marlboro by Monday, April 6, 2011 by 4:30 p.m. You may pick up a voter registration application at Town Hall, or go to www.elections.state.md.us

La Ciudad de Riverdale Park AVISO ELECTORAL

Conforme al mandato de las reglas de la Ciudad de Riverdale Park, Maryland la elección se sostendrá

El día lunes 2 de mayo de 2007

Para elegir a funcionarios de la ciudad para Alcalde y Concilio

**Las urnas abrirán de 7 a.m. a 8 p.m. en la
Municipalidad de Riverdale Park, 5008 Queensbury RD**

Candidatos electorales deberán llenar una petición y declaración financiera jurada ante los Jueces Electorales en la Municipalidad antes de las 5 p.m. el día jueves 7 de abril de 2011 para tener su nombre en la boleta electoral. (La petición y declaración financiera están disponibles en la municipalidad de Riverdale Park.) Hay un cuota de \$25.00 para todos los candidatos.

Todos los ciudadanos de dieciocho años de edad y mayores que han vivido en la Ciudad de Riverdale Park por 45 días o más precedente al día lunes 2 de mayo y que están registrados para votar en la ciudad de Riverdale Park tienen derecho a votar.

Todos los residentes que deseen calificar para votar en las elecciones de la ciudad deberán estar registrados en Prince George's County. Para votar, su formulario de registro deberá ser recibido en el Consejo Electoral (Board of Elections) en Upper Marlboro el día lunes 6 de abril del 2011 a las 4:30 p.m. Puede recoger la aplicación de registración en la municipalidad o ir al internet a la siguiente dirección www.elections.state.md.us

Joyce K. Marcos, Chief Judge
Geraldine Gee, Deputy Chief Judge

Council Actions

By Waverly Pollitt

February 7, 2010 Regular Legislative Meeting

1. **Approved** – Minutes for January 3, 2011 regular legislative meeting.
2. **Approved** – Resolution 2011-R-06, a resolution to determine the time and place for the Town elections on May 2, 2011.
3. **Approved** – Resolution 2011-R-07, a resolution to authorize paper ballots for the Town elections on May 2, 2011.
4. **Approved** – Resolution 2011-R-08, a resolution to appoint judges for Town elections on May 2, 2011
5. **Approved** – Resolution 2011-R-09, a resolution to establish the fee for any candidate filing a petition for any town elective office.
6. **Approved** – Resolution 2011-R-10, a resolution to establish the deadline for any candidate to file a petition for any town elective office as part of the elections on May 2, 2011.
7. **Motion-** To support a grant application to Maryland Clean Energy Center.

New Business

1. **Motion-** To donate \$100.00 to the Bladensburg High School Government Association.



Town of Riverdale Park

www.riverdaleparkmd.gov

Town Hall

5008 Queensbury Road
Riverdale Park, MD 20737
301-927-6381, Hablamos Español
town@riverdaleparkmd.gov
Mayor Vernon Archer, 240-832-2257
varcher@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Council Members

Ward 1–Alice C. Ewen,
Chair, Econ Development, 301-379-5303
aewen@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Ward 2 – Alan Thompson
Chair, Finance Committee, 301-927-7407
akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Ward 3 - David Lingua
Chair, Public Safety, 301-779-3849
djlingua@riverdaleparkmd.gov

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

Ward 5 – Raymond Rivas
Chair, Community Affairs, 301-625-9435
rrivas@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Ward 6 - Keelah Allen-Smith
Chair, Legislative Committee, 240-751-6688
kallensmith@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Sara Imhulse, **Town Administrator**
simhulse@riverdaleparkmd.gov
Public Works, 301-864-1803

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

code@riverdaleparkmd.gov
Police Department, 301-927-4343
Patrick Timmons, **Interim Police Chief**

ptimmons@riverdaleparkmd.gov
Fire Department - Emergency 911
Information - 301-927-0356

Charles Ryan, **Chief**
info@riverdalevfd.com, www.riverdalevfd.com or,

Riverdalefirechief7@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
Submission deadline: 15th of each month.

Submit all copies to
towncrier@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Riversdale House Museum Events

HANDS-ON HISTORY: THE ARCHITECT'S APPRENTICE

Prepare to step back in time! Spend the school holiday, Friday, March 4, 2011 at Riversdale House Museum. The program runs from 10 am - 3 pm and is open to children ages 8 - 12. In the early 19th century, young people learned crafts and trades through apprenticeship. Riversdale continues its series of hands-on apprenticeship programs with the trade of the architect. Participants will take an architectural tour of Riversdale, learn about architectural elements as they sculpt, act out, sketch, draw, and more!

The fee is \$15 for residents of Prince George's and Montgomery Counties and \$18 for non-residents. Capacity is limited. Advanced registration and payment are required by February 18. Please note the program may sell out before this date.

TAVERN NIGHT AT RIVERSDALE

Transforming the servant's quarters into a candle-lit, subterranean tavern, Riversdale presents their always popular Tavern Night. Ship's Company Chanteymen provide the best of the early 19th century's sailor's entertainment, and costumed hands serve up tavern-style food and beverages.

Saturday, March 12th at 8:00 P.M. \$20 resident, \$24 non-resident; advance payment required by March 4; must be at least 21 years of age. Please note that this popular program will likely sell out before March 4. Register early!

SEASONAL SELECTIONS – SEPTEMBER SELECTIONS

The Seasonal Selections program, instituted in the fall of 2009, will continue to offer special monthly cooking events with a different topic each month. Holidays, the schedule of seasonal fresh produce, and/or the traditional cycles of an early 19th century farm will inspire each month's Seasonal Selection. These foodways programs are sponsored in part by Giant Food. The Riversdale Kitchen Guild will host Soup du Jour on Sunday, March 6, 2011. The demonstration runs from noon - 3:30pm. Viewing the demonstration is FREE! You are also invited to tour Riversdale House Museum. Admission is \$3 adults/\$2 seniors/\$1 students and FREE children 4 & under.

Riversdale House Museum, a National Historic Landmark, is located at 4811 Riverdale Road, in Riverdale Park, Maryland. For more information, call 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544; or email at riversdale@pgparks.com.

Mayor's Report

By Mayor Vernon Archer

2010 Audit and Good Financial News

Considering the difficult economic times we are all living through, it gives me great pleasure to have good news to share about the financial condition of our town. Our audit of the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2010 confirms what my administration had shown on its books: we have successfully rebuilt our cash reserves to an acceptable level.

When I took office I set as a guideline that the town needs a cash reserve that totals at a minimum 2 months of operating expenses, and at the end of 2010 we had proven able to re-establish that level after several years of struggle. You may recall that we have frozen promotions, had a furlough, and were unable to provide a COLA (cost of living adjustment) 2 years in a row to our staff. These and other belt tightening measures, along with sound budget management and some fortunate additions to our revenues, have combined to put us back in sound financial health.

So far this year (FY 2011) it looks as though we will add substantially to our reserves and be in a very healthy position to begin drafting a budget for next year. As there will be more flexibility in the upcoming budget I want to give you an early overview in what I see as the priorities for the upcoming year. The basic process is that I will provide the council with a budget proposal by May 1, and then the council will hold a series of hearings in May and June to discuss and pass a budget for FY 2012.

A substantial need is to upgrade vehicles that have been kept beyond our normal guidelines in order to help stretch our dollars in the past several years. We will now need to purchase vehicles for both public works and the police departments in order to insure that they are operating at a high degree of efficiency.

Our buildings and facilities are in need of numerous repairs and upgrades. This ranges from fences, to utility services, to a whole range of building maintenance. While these were not immediate problems, they are the types of things we will want to address now that we are in a better financial position.

Payroll has been held in check for several years and it seems only appropriate that this year we allow at least the standard pay adjustments of a COLA and the junior level promotions that were frozen in order help the town conserve its resources.

Finally, it has been my position that anytime our reserves exceed 3 months worth of operating expenses, the town government should reduce its revenues. It remains to be seen whether we will end up with this high level of reserves for 2011, but if that should happen, I will propose to the council that it reduce property taxes to the point we will not hold reserves in excess of 3 months for next year (FY 2012). I remain hopeful that I will be able to propose such a tax reduction during these difficult economic times.

Spring Cleanup

Please put on your calendars April 9 for our annual spring cleanup along the North East Branch in league with the Anacostia Watershed Society. This year we will focus the cleanup between River Road on the north, down to Riverdale Road on the south. Those of you with teenagers remember this is a great way for them to earn some of the Community Service Learning hours that they need for graduation. We will begin at 9 AM and work through until Noon.

Best Wish to Teresa Chambers and Our Police Department

As most of you are probably aware, our Police Chief Teresa Chambers was successful in her law suit to regain her former position as Chief of the National Park Police. She left her position with Riverdale Park on January 30 and resumed her work with the federal government. It was great to work with her for the 3 years she was with us, and I am happy to see her vindication after the wrong she suffered years ago while in service to the federal government.

It is both a testament to her leadership and to the high quality of our police command staff that we fully expect to continue to provide the same high level of police protection in the coming months that we have grown accustomed to over the last years. Captain Patrick Timmons will command the department as I and the council carefully move through the process to fill the position of police chief.

Ward and Committee Reports

Ward Two Report

By Council Member Alan Thompson
akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Finance Committee Report

Greetings to everyone after a long break! I hope everyone is surviving the winter, and that the weather continues to be more and more like spring.

December, January, and the first part of February have been extremely busy. Ward 2 put on a great light show during December, and did a good job with keeping sidewalks clear during the snow storms.

I spent a lot of time in December working with Ward 2 residents who live near the proposed dog park (proposed to be built in "Riverdale Community Park" near the corner of Tuckerman and 51st). While many people were not concerned about the proposed park, there were some who want assurances that it will not negatively impact them. I have temporarily put the brakes on plans for the park, and will be working soon (perhaps before you read this) to bring together proponents of the park and concerned residents. I think that the dog park can be an amenity for dog owners

without impacting the neighborhood, but it will require careful planning. Please contact me if you have concerns or want to be part of the process.

January had some bittersweet moments as the years-long lawsuit that Police Chief Chambers had against her former employer came to a conclusion. Chief Chambers won her suit, and was ordered reinstated to her position as chief of the US Park Police. While we are all happy that justice has been served, and her long journey has reached a happy end, we will miss her. I personally learned many lessons about being a public servant from her, which I hope to apply both as your Town Council representative and in my professional life. I hope all residents of Riverdale Park will join me in wishing Chief Chambers the best of luck in her future.

The Finance Committee has been active during the last few months as well, despite meetings being canceled because of foul weather. The audit for the previous fiscal year was completed, and the associated report praised the Town for careful fiscal management in a troubled economy. With the careful oversight of Town Administrator Imhulse, we are staying within spending limits, and revenues are either in line with the budget or

(in a few cases) exceeding expectations. I am confident that we will finish this fiscal year in good shape.

Finally, I recently attended a meeting on the planned Purple Line light rail system on February 12. The plans had seen only minor adjustments since the last meeting, and none of the adjustments will be in Ward 2 (the line will pass through Ward 2 on the south side of River Road, with a stop somewhere between Rivertech Court and Haig Drive). I spoke privately with project staff after the meeting to ask them about whether noise from the light rail would bother residents of Ward 2; they assured me that the system was much, much quieter than the Metro cars we sometimes hear in my neighborhood, and promised to follow up with a written statement on noise.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about Town affairs, feel free to contact me using the contact information on the second page of the Town Crier.

Ward Five Report

By Council Member Raymond Rivas
rrivas@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Community Affairs Committee Report

The times are really changing and the children of The Town of Riverdale Park must not miss the opportunities that come along in this new era. These kids think that everything lasts forever and there is no reason to change their ways. You as a parent should not be enabling your child. I have seen some awkward parenting in Ward 5. Most families that I have observed in Ward 5 are lacking mostly in good examples. Most children emulate what they see in their own household. If they see drinking, partying and smoking then they feel it is acceptable. Sure you want to complain about the bad habits that your kids have but you do not do anything about your own behavior.

As a councilman, I believe that I should not be a role model to your children. It is up to the parents to become role models and to show encouragement. These kids are not preparing for the world outside of Ward 5. There are many adjustments that must be made to enable the children to make that transition from teenager to adulthood.

This brings me to my next point, the recreational and arts council need dedicated volunteers and student mentors. There are programs that we want to establish for the grooming of these young children. The 4h club at the University of Maryland is prize program and as well as the College Park Composite Squadron program. Both programs are to help establish and build on core values

such as: integrity, volunteer service, excellence, and respect! If you want to be part of the recreational group, please contact me at 301-625-9435.

Los tiempos están cambiando y los niños de la ciudad de Riverdale Park no deben desaprovechar las oportunidades que vienen con esta nueva era. Estos chicos piensan que todo lo dura para siempre y no hay razón para cambiar sus formas. Usted como padre no debe ser habilitante para con su hijo. He visto maneras raras de educar en la Sala 5. La mayoría de las familias que he observado en Ward 5 carecen en su mayoría de buenos ejemplos. La mayoría de los niños imitan lo que ven en su propio hogar. Si ven beber, de fiesta y fumar sienten que es aceptable. Seguro quieres quejarte de los malos hábitos que tienen sus hijos pero no hace nada acerca de su propio comportamiento.

Como concejal, creo que no debo de ser el modelo para sus hijos. Corresponde a los padres a convertirse en modelos para mostrarles aliento. Estos niños no se están preparando para el mundo fuera y que existe en la Sala 5. Hay muchos ajustes que deben realizarse para habilitar a los niños hacer esa transición de la adolescencia a la edad adulta.

Esto me lleva a mi siguiente punto, el Consejo de Artes y recreativo necesita dedicados voluntarios y mentores de estudiante. Hay programas que queremos establecer para el mantenimiento de estos menores. El club 4h en la Universidad de Maryland es el programa de premio y así como el programa de la Escuadra Compuesta de College Park. Ambos programas ayudaran a establecer y construir valores básicos, tales como: integridad, servicio de voluntariado, excelencia y respeto! Si desea formar parte del grupo recreativo, comuníquese conmigo al 301-625-9435.

Public Works Report

By Leonard Addison

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

Annual Community Clean Up and Earth Day - Riverdale Park is having its annual community spring clean up on April 9, 2011. Residents are offered the opportunity to put their yard waste/bulk trash items on the curb the evening of Friday, April 8th for pick up on Saturday, April 9th.

Unacceptable Materials. Please visit the Town's website at www.riverdaleparkmd.gov for

additional information or call the Department of Public Works if you are unsure of whether or not your item(s) is acceptable.

- Construction and demolition debris, fencing/sheds/gazebos, asbestos, shingles, roofing materials
- Drums, tanks, kegs and barrels (plastic and metal) greater than 55 gallons in size unless the sides are removed and the vessel flattened prior to collection
- Hazardous and bio-hazardous medical waste
- Compressed cylinders of any size, shape or condition
- Liquids, including paint, sewage and septic waste
- Automobiles or auto parts
- Chemical and/or petroleum cleanup waste
- Plastic packing materials and plastic sheeting
- Soil, rocks, grubbing material and spoil
- Riding lawnmowers
- Mirrors, windows, glass, wood

Yard Waste – Yard waste includes branches, shrubs and trees, must be bundled and tied with rope or string (do not use wire). Items must be less than 5 feet long and weigh less than 60 pounds. Yard waste will not be collected unless the procedures are followed. Please call the Department of Public Works at 301-864-1803 for additional information.

Earth Day - As part of its contribution to the Anacostia Watershed Society's efforts to clean up the Anacostia River in celebration of **Earth Day**, residents are asked to join us as we do our share to clean a portion of the river. The site designated for our area is the northeast branch of the river from River Road to Riverdale Road. Volunteers wishing to participate in either the community clean up or the Earth Day events are asked to call the Department of Public Works at 301-864-1803. **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.** Student volunteers earn community service hours for this activity.

Riverdale Park Business Association

By Audrey Bragg

The Riverdale Park Business Association had its first meeting for 2011 on February 9, 2011.

*Dues invoices have been sent out along with our year end report.

*Wachovia Bank has been approved for an ATM drive through lane.

*Gerald King has created a new web site for us.
www.riverdaleparkbusiness.com

(<http://www.riverdaleparkbusiness.com>)

*Riverdale Park is looking for volunteers for Community Cleanup Day April 9, 2011 which is also Earth Day and they will be partnering with Anacostia Watershed Society to clean up the river.

*Christmas in April is planned for April 30, 2011.

*J. D. Williams is working on a plan for adopting the River which runs through our town. He will report back on that next meeting.

*Bruce Wernek is working on following up with Jey's Auto to see if we can help him get his property at the corner of Route 1 town entrance to look better. Bruce is also going to see if Wachovia can help get the park at Bealle Circle improved.

*Jeff Yorke will be working on an advertising program for the businesses.

* 4 members attended the Purple Line Meeting at St. Bernard's on Sat. Feb. 12, 2011. We are concerned that so many of our business will be displaced and also that the train will not run at street level but would be built up to an aerial level in our town. We will be having further discussions on this topic.

*We will be going to visit the Veterans at Walter Reed in April.

*Please check out the lectures at Anacostia Water Shed Society. www.anacostiaws.com
(<http://www.anacostiaws.com>)

*Member Reb. Fay Koroma has just written a book. "The Children of God: There is Life After the Cult" She is welcoming sponsors. Please go to www.churchonthehill0.com
(<http://www.churchonthehill0.com>) for more information.

Our next Meeting will take place on March 9, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. Riverdale Park Town Offices.

Audrey Bragg, President

Boy Scouts Troop 252

By Bob Killen

This weekend, we're taking our newest Scouts bicycling, fire-building, camping and orienteering at Jug Bay. By the time this hits the streets, our Scouts will be a little stronger, wiser, and more aware of their limitations and what they need to do to overcome them - or not.

Their choices. We will ride on blacktop roads at first, across the wooden bridge, up, down and around the gravel trail to climb Merkle Preserve's open 3-story observation tower, where the Scouts can see the Jug, as well as the canals where we will paddle this spring and summer. AND, they'll hear (again) the 1812 war stories that make history interesting.

We'll eat our own cooking (some for the first time), have a campfire, sleep in tents (some for the first time), and get up Sunday morning (buns and boogie), break camp (hopefully no tents), and off to church. Writing up these experiences comes easier after the first try.

Saturday, 26 February, is the University of Scouting at Hayfield High, in Alexandria, for our Scouters. Four of our Scouters have Masters Degrees in Boy Scouting, and two have multiple PhDs, in Commissioner Science, in Venture Scouting and in Cub Scouting. One of the few benefits of getting old in Scouting is that these sessions afford the ordinary Scouter contacts with the extraordinary Scouter.

Our Order of the Arrow elections can't come too soon. One of our Eagle Scouts has aged out, and a second ages out on 01 March (he probably already did by the time you read this). The third Scout, also an Eagle, doesn't age out until June - we still have time.

We're (maybe) going on one more skiing trip, for sure some long-distance bicycling trips (when we find out how much stamina the young Scouts and old Scouter have). Annapolis-BWI Airport and back on bicycles is on our short list of things to do - probably in March or April.

Watkins Park, Cedarville, Greenbelt, Broad Creek, Wallops Island are also there. Come visit us. Scoutmaster Bob Killen, rfkille@yahoo (202-282-8302) or Committee chair/Charter Organization rep MHB (301-864-0059) are two good points of contact.



We're losing a good Scout and his family to California. They left today, 15 February, and our loss is California's Scouting gain.

Community Circles

Anacostia Watershed Society

On April 9, 2011 the Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS) is hosting our annual Earth Day Cleanup and Celebration! We are partnering with the Town of Riverdale Park to remove trash and debris along the banks of the NE Branch of the Anacostia River from River Road to Riverdale Road from 9 to 11:30 am, please plan to join us. AWS will provide bags, gloves, and T-shirts. The event is rain or shine. The celebration will be at the Bladensburg Waterfront Park, 4601 Annapolis Road, from noon to 2 PM--featuring a free picnic lunch for volunteers, speakers and entertainment. Mark your calendars and plan to join your neighbors and friends to create a cleaner, healthier river environment for all to enjoy. Check our website www.anacostiaws.org for specific site details.

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 riverdaleboysgirlsclub@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