

The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

June 2014

Volume 44, Issue 5

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Town of Riverdale Park Contact Information

Town Hall 5008 Queensbury Rd 301-927-6381

Services: park permits, personal property taxes, finances

Department of Public Works 5012 Queensbury Rd 301-864-1803

Services: litter pickup, tree maintenance, leaf collection, street maintenance, snow & ice removal, landscaping, parks & playgrounds used motor oil, street lights (on black metal poles only), metal collection, sign posting

Police Department 5004 Queensbury Rd 301-927-4343

Services: traffic violations, payment of tickets received, records management, fingerprinting, background checks, report criminal activity.

Bulk Trash Collection 301-773- 2069

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
Bates Trucking and Trash
Collections

Residents must call by 2pm Tuesday
for Wednesday pickup

Attention: Artists of All Kinds

Annual Meeting of the Riverdale Park Arts Council (RPAC)

Join friends and neighbors and help RPAC conduct its' annual meeting on Tuesday, June 17, 2014 at Town Hall from 7:00—9:00 p.m. Come hear a special guest speaker and meet fellow artists, authors, and creative and artistic residents. Help elect new Board members, hear about the upcoming summer Patio Concert Series, and support this growing organization all the while enjoying tasty treats and beverages!

Riverdale Park Summer Internship Program

Who: Students between the ages of 16 and 19 who live in the Town of Riverdale Park

What: PAID summer internship! Indoor (administrative) and outdoor (laborer) positions are available.

Where: Town of Riverdale Park, 5008 Queensbury Road, Riverdale Park

When: Approximately 10 hours a week for 10 weeks (July – August)

How: Submit a letter of interest indicating the type of position that you are interested in, your latest report card, letter of support from a parent or guardian and a completed Town of Riverdale Park job application to Town Administrator, 5008 Queensbury Road, Riverdale Park, MD 20737. Town of Riverdale Park job applications are available on our website, www.riverdaleparkmd.info, or at Town Hall, 5008 Queensbury Road.

Council Actions

By Waverly Pollitt

Special Legislative Meeting April 28, 2014

Legislative Action Items:

1. Motion to close Lafayette Avenue at Mabelle Munch Park from 2:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on May 4, 2014 and to institute "no parking" on the 6200 block of Natoli Place from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on May 4, 2014, to support the Arts Fest- **Approved**

Regular Legislative Meeting May 5, 2014

Consent Agenda:

Motion to approve consent agenda items: -**Approved**

1. Variance Application V-18-14 for 4510 Riverdale Road: Request for a variance of 12.5 feet front yard depth, 13.4% net lot coverage, and 1 foot 6 inches side lot line and 1 foot 4 inches rear lot line setbacks for an accessory building (Ward 1)
2. Block Party Request: 46th Avenue between Riverdale Road and Oliver Street for June 7, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Ward 1)
3. Adopt Resolution 2014-R-06 regarding the establishment of Local Purchasing Preference Policy
4. Letter to Chief Marc Bashoor of the Prince George's County Fire Department regarding a request for additional career firefighters
5. Minutes from the April 7, 2014 Legislative Meeting
6. Minutes from the April 28, 2014 Special Legislative Meeting

Legislative Action Items:

1. Motion to adopt Resolution 2014-R-07 regarding the establishment of a Sustainable Purchasing Policy - **Adopted**
2. Introduction of Ordinance 2014-OR-04 regarding street improvements standards - **Introduced**
3. Introduction of Ordinance 2014-OR-05 regarding the FY 15 budget - **Introduced**

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—Jonathan W. Ebbeler,
Chair, Econ Development, 404-626-2082
jebbeler@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
Chenry3240@verizon.net

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

Ward 6 – Alejandro Silva
Chair, Legislative Committee, 301-801-3021
Sara Imhulse, **Town Administrator**
simhulse@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Jessica Barnes, **Town Clerk**
jbarnes@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

David Morris, **Police Chief**
dmorris@riverdaleparkmd.gov
Fire Department - Emergency 911
Information - 301-927-0356

Brian Carpio, **Fire Chief**
info@riverdalevfd.com, www.riverdalevfd.com
or, Eng7twr@yahoo.com@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

**TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK
FAIR SUMMARY OF
ORDINANCE 2014-OR-04**

This is to give notice that the Riverdale Park Town Council has introduced and intends to take action on Ordinance 2014-OR-04.

Ordinance 2014-OR-04 would alter the circumstances under which the Town Council may approve a waiver of certain minimum standards for street improvements in the Town of Riverdale Park; and generally relate to standards for street improvements in the Town.

Ordinance 2014-OR-04 is available for inspection by the public at Town Hall during normal business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

**TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK
FAIR SUMMARY OF
ORDINANCE 2014-OR-05
TOWN FY 2015 BUDGET AND TAX RATES**

This is to give notice that the Riverdale Park Town Council has introduced and intends to take action on Ordinance 2014-OR-05.

Ordinance 2014-OR-05 would adopt operating and capital budgets for the Town of Riverdale Park for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014, and ending June 30, 2015; set rates of real, personal and operating property taxation for such fiscal year and levy such taxes; and address matters generally relating to the adoption of Town budgets and levying of taxes and setting of tax rates for the Town of Riverdale Park for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014, and ending June 30, 2015.

Ordinance 2014-OR-05 is available for inspection by the public at Town Hall during normal business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.



Riversdale Events

FATHER'S DAY TOURS

George Calvert was the father to nine children who lived at Riversdale. Five of these children lived to adulthood, including Charles Benedict Calvert, founder of the University of Maryland. Celebrate the special fathers, fathers-in-law, grandfathers, and other gentlemen in your life with a **free guided tour of the historic house on Sunday, June 15 from 12:15-3:15pm!**

Visitors will also be able to enjoy a *Seasonal Selections* cooking demonstration in the dependency kitchen. Members of the Riversdale Kitchen Guild will be preparing various preserves from noon-3:30pm.

This offer is limited to one free tour per paid admission. Admission is \$3 adults/\$2 seniors/ \$1 students/ FREE children 4 & under.

JAZZ ON THE LAWN RETURNS TO RIVERSDALE

As the sun sets, bring a blanket or lawn chair to Riversdale's beautiful grounds and enjoy the grass under your toes and the jazz wafting through the air. Pack up the family and a picnic for these FREE concerts! In the event of rain, concerts move inside. **Concerts will be held from 7-8 pm on the following Wednesdays:**

June 18 – Cheek to Cheek July 2 – Bay Jazz Project July 16 – Gina DeSimone & the Moaners July 30 – The Archie Edwards Blues Heritage Foundation Jambassadors August 13 – The Susan Jones Jazz Quartet
Jazz on the lawn is supported by the Town of Riverdale Park and a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council, an agency funded by the State of Maryland and the National Endowment for the Arts.

MEET CAROLINE ABBOTT AT RIVERSDALE

Caroline Abbott is the newest addition to American Girl's historic doll and book series. On **Sunday, June 15, at 1:30 pm**, Riversdale House Museum will host Kathleen Ernst, author of the *Caroline* series. Guests ages 6 & up are invited to bring their dolls as they step back into 1812 and participate in a program with Ms. Ernst, enjoy refreshments, and introduce their dolls to new friends at Riversdale. Period attire encouraged! The cost is \$18 for residents of Prince George's & Montgomery Counties and \$22 for non-residents. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Capacity is limited and registration is required by June 2.

Riversdale, an 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. Call or email Riversdale@pgparks.com for more information.



Ward and Committee Reports

Public Works Report

By Leonard Addison

Ward Two Report

By Council Member Alan Thompson
akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Finance Committee Report

Budget: The Finance Committee had a marathon six-hour meeting on Saturday May 10th to review the Mayor's budget, and made only minor suggested changes. While there are still some small items to be finalized at the Legislative meeting on June 2, I feel confident that the tax rates will be the same as last year. I want to thank Mayor Archer, the Town staff, the other members of the Finance Committee, and Town Council for working to create a budget that provides needed services without increasing taxes.

Primary Elections: Primary elections for County and State offices will happen on June 24, and I encourage all voters to participate. The registration deadline is June 3; early voting (the closest early voting location is the College Park Community Center at 5051 Pierce Avenue) will be from 10 am to 8 pm, June 12 to June 19. Election Day is June 24 from 7 am to 8 pm (at your designated polling place). The support of County and State officials is critically important to our Town's ability to get things done, so I encourage you all to carefully consider who to vote for, and make sure to cast your vote!

Farmers' Market: As the summer gets into full swing, the variety of produce at the Farmers' Market is increasing. The greens and the strawberries have been delicious, and other berries and vegetables will be coming in shortly. I hope to see you there on Thursdays from 3 pm to 7 pm.

Saturday Drop Off – The next scheduled dates for drop off of bulk trash on the third Saturday of each month, from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM, are as follows: May 17, June 21, July 19, August 16, September 20, October 18, November 15, December 20.

Yard Waste Collection - As a reminder, effective January 1, 2014, the Waste Management Division of the Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources (DER), issued a notice (included in resident's August 2013 tax bill) that requires **ALL yard waste** to be placed in brown paper bags or loose in a **clearly marked "YARD WASTE" collection can/container (i.e., trash cans)**. Yard waste will no longer be collected in plastic bags. For additional information please call 311 or 301-883-5810.

Mosquito Control Program – The Town will once again participate in the State/County Mosquito Larviciding/Adulticiding Mosquito Control Program. The program has begun spring larviciding and will continue into early September.

Adulticiding will begin June 2, 2014, and run through September 24, 2014. They will visit every three weeks, but will not spray if the sprayer encounters too many people on the night of spraying.

In order to reduce the presence of mosquitos, residents must keep their property free of mosquito breeding containers, stagnant water, bird baths, wading pools, pet watering dishes, tin cans, old tires, clogged gutters or flower pots. Other water holding containers should be stored upside down.

Complaints about mosquitos can be faxed to the Maryland Department of Agriculture at 301-422-0502 or call 301-422-5080 with questions or concerns.

Bulk Trash Pickups & Special Trash Pickups

Bulk Trash pickups are scheduled by **APPOINTMENT ONLY**. In order to have bulk items picked up on Wednesdays, you must call Bates Trash and Trucking Company at 301-773-2069, before 2:00 PM on Tuesdays.

Items must be at curbside by 7:00 AM on Wednesdays. Bates is not required to pick up more than **THREE (3) bulk items from any one-family dwelling per week**. If you have more than three (3) items, you can make another appointment for the items to be picked up on the following Wednesday.

The following items will not be picked up: building materials, concrete, bricks, roof shingles, stumps, bamboo, pressurized containers, explosives, paint (unless paint is dry in cans), poisons, caustics, construction and demolition debris, asbestos, toilets, free liquids, sewage, sludge. These items can be taken to **Brandywine Sand & Gravel, 5800 Sheriff Road, Capitol Heights, MD. 301-925-8100**.

Boy Scouts Troop 252

By Robert Killen

Scouts and Scouters from Troop 252 didn't attend the Archaeology Workshop in Crownsville in March, but on May 30-31, we'll be doing the Archaeology Dig at Jefferson-Patterson Park in Southern Maryland, camping out Friday night, and going home dirty Saturday night.

On March 28-30 we bicycled eight miles in the mud on horse trails at Jug Bay (some of the less-experienced and less-insane ones {Joe and Ben Mooney} did the macadam trail to Merkle Wildlife Preserve and climbed the observation tower, discovering why Jug Bay is called "Jug Bay)."

April 25-27 saw our troop split up into three sections - Eneida Martínez-Brown and Sandra Tolson helped staff the Protestant-Catholic Religious Retreat in College Park; Guillian, Dixie and Arnel Canéte, AJ and Michael Jarquin, Joe and Ben Mooney and Joseph Elliott bicycled at Jug Bay and Bob Killen (and 15 Scouts from Troop 602) canoed at Jug Bay. Good news - all of us ate well, slept

well, had lots of fun, earned advancement points, returned home safely and nobody got hurt or sick.

May 30-June 01 will see us doing the Archaeology Dig at Jefferson-Patterson Park, and bidding farewell to most of our Scouting families, some returning to their home countries, others visiting families for the summer.

Of those of us who are left - Bob Killen and his grandson Billy Sellers are riding to Philmont, NM, for a trek, taking the scenic route by motorcycle, visiting friends in OK, TX, CO, CA, KS, MS, IL, IN, KY, WV and VA, during almost the entire month of July, back in time for the Pony-Penning on 30 July in Chincoteague. Our troop will continue to meet Fridays and have adventures throughout the summer.

Please contact Sandra Tolson (301) 927-2275 saanee@yahoo.com, Eneida Martínez-Brown (301) 864-0059, or Bob Killen (301) 483-8455 rfkille@yahoo.com for information on the fun that we are having and you are missing.

New Madison Hill Homeowners Association President

By Kevin Caulfield

As President of Madison Hill Homeowners Association I would like to congratulate all the homeowners for surviving this past winter. I also want to introduce myself to the community. I am Kevin Caulfield and have lived here in Madison Hill for nineteen years and I now enjoy being a retired police officer of thirty three years of service. At this time I need to thank Chris Henry our past president who did an outstanding job and did a thankless task getting this community to where it is today. My task is to continue this leadership and to inform homeowners of all information they need to be aware of and to give back to this community for all it has done for me. The HOA meets every second Saturday of the month at 10:30 AM at Town Hall located at 5008

Queensbury Road. It is at these meetings that I am seeking more participation from the homeowners to get involved in shaping the future of this community. Over the last seven years we have seen the value of our homes drop as much as fifty percent and it's this reason we as homeowners we must do everything we can to increase the value of our homes by being responsible for keeping the appearance of your home as best you can, including keeping your lawn manicured and for pet owners to curb your dogs. Also we do have stray cats in the community; let's not feed them or we will never get rid of them. It would be beneficial for homeowners to know your neighbors and to look out for each other's property with the warm weather here there will be more people out and about and we need to know who belongs here and who doesn't. With that in mind, I want you to put Riverdale Park Police phone number in your speed dial: their number is 301-927-4343. As a retired police officer I want to give homeowners tips as to not be a victim of crime. Here are things you can do to facilitate this growing problem.

Be Safe at Home

- Try to make sure that your locks, doors, and windows are strong and cannot be broken easily. A good alarm system can help.
- Keep your doors and windows locked — when you are in the house and when you're away.
- Look through the peephole or a window before opening your door. Ask strangers for identification before you open the door. You don't have to open the door if you feel uneasy.
- Avoid keeping large amounts of money in the house.
- Get to know your neighbors. Join a Neighborhood Watch Program if your community has one.

Be Street Smart

- Stay alert when you are out. Walk with a friend. Try to avoid unsafe places like dark streets or parking lots. Keep your car doors locked at all times.
- Don't open your car door or roll down your window for strangers.
- Park in well-lit areas.
- Carry your purse close to your body with the strap over your shoulder and across your chest.
- Don't resist a robber. Hand over your cash or anything else that the robber demands right away if confronted.

Be Careful With Your Money

- Have your monthly pension or Social Security checks sent right to the bank for direct deposit. Try not to go to the bank at the same time each week.
- Put your wallet, money, or credit cards in an inside pocket. Try not to carry a lot of cash.
- Keep your checkbook and credit cards in different places. That makes it harder for a thief to forge your signature on checks.

Fight Fraud

Older people may be victims of frauds like con games and insurance, home repair, telephone or Internet scams. Even "trusted" friends or family members have been known to steal an older person's money or property. The following tips may help:

- You can say no to any telephone sales pitch. You can hang up on telephone salespeople. That's not being rude—that's taking care of you!
- Don't give your credit card or bank account numbers to people who call you, even if they say they are from the bank.
- If a stranger tells you to take money out of your bank account, don't do it. In one common swindle, a thief pretends to be a bank employee and asks you to take out money to "test" a bank teller. Banks do not check their employees this way.

- Deals that seem too good to be true are often rip-offs. Beware if you are asked to give someone a lot of money with the promise you will get more money later. Check with your local Better Business Bureau for more information about the record of any company before you do business with them.
- Be on guard about hiring people who come door-to-door looking for home repair work. They may not be trained to do the work. They may overcharge you. Try to get referrals for home repairs from friends and family. Always be very clear about the details of the work you want done. Never pay for the whole job in advance.

Avoid Identity Theft

If someone uses your name, Social Security number, or credit card without your permission, it's a crime. It's called identity theft.

- Keep information about your checking account private. Put all new and cancelled checks in a safe place, report any stolen checks right away, and carefully look at your monthly bank account statement.
- Shred or tear up everything that has personal information about you on it.

The Internet can give online scammers, hackers, and identity thieves access to your computer, personal information and finances. You can reduce the chance of a crime by following these tips:

- Don't respond to emails asking for personal information like the numbers of your credit card or bank account.
- Be very careful when buying things online. Look for an address and phone number and call the number to see if it works. Only use websites of companies you trust.
- Use anti-virus and anti-spyware software. Keep your computer protection up-to-date.
- A firewall on your computer can help protect you from getting unwanted

requests. If you need help, ask someone who knows about computers to guide you.

- Make sure your computer is protected with a password. Keep your passwords in a safe place. Don't share them on the Internet, over email, or on the phone.

In future newsletters of the Town Crier I will be giving more information on how not to be a victim of crime, also I will be doing this at the meetings held each month so come out and let your voice be heard. Steve the mailman has asked me to let homeowners know not to put their trash can in front of their mailbox.

Origin of Father's Day

On July 19, 1910, the governor of the U.S. state of Washington proclaimed the nation's first "Father's Day." However, it was not until 1972, 58 years after President Woodrow Wilson made Mother's Day official, that the day became a nationwide holiday in the United States.

On July 5, 1908, a West Virginia church sponsored the nation's first event explicitly in honor of fathers, a Sunday sermon in memory of the 362 men who had died in the previous December's explosions at the Fairmont Coal Company mines in Monongah, but it was a one-time commemoration and not an annual holiday. The next year, a Spokane, Washington woman named Sonora Smart Dodd, one of six children raised by a widower, tried to establish an official equivalent to Mother's Day for male parents. She went to local churches, the YMCA, shopkeepers and government officials to drum up support for her idea, and she was successful: Washington State celebrated the nation's first statewide Father's Day on July 19, 1910. Slowly, the holiday spread. In 1916, President Wilson honored the day by using telegraph signals to unfurl a flag in Spokane when he pressed a button in Washington, D.C. In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge urged state governments

to observe Father's Day. However, many men continued to disdain the day. As one historian writes, they "scoffed at the holiday's sentimental attempts to domesticate manliness with flowers and gift-giving, or they derided the proliferation of such holidays as a commercial gimmick to sell more products—often paid for by the father himself."

Source: <http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/fathers-day>

Happy Father's Day

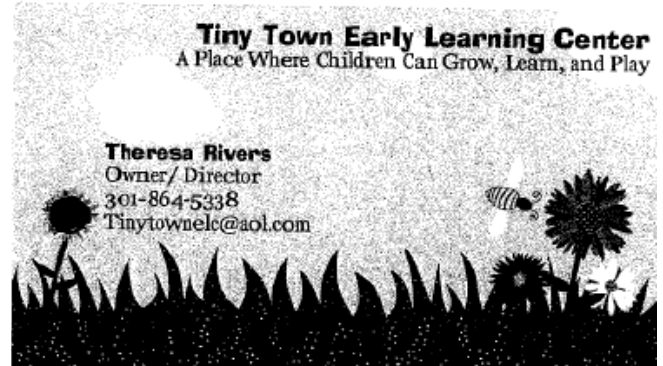
Community Circles

Lost Chairs at Town Center

Eight metal folding chairs were left behind at Town Center after ArtsFest2014—May 4, 2014. Ben Guiffre had brought the chairs for the story-telling circle where he was one of the story tellers. A friend was to pick them up at the end of the day but came too late and the chairs were gone.

Please, if you picked these chairs up, or know where they may be, call Ben Guiffre at 301-873-1114.

Note: Ben Guiffre grew up in Riverdale Park during the 40's—60's and was a member of the *Queensbury Dukes*, a local group of young men. He is a story-teller and volunteered his time at ArtsFest2014 telling his *Little Jimmie Gimme* story.



Local Organizations

Lion's Club Meeting: Every Fourth Wednesday. Contact President Patrick J. Prangley at (240) 882-4993.

Northern County Soccer Alliance: Contact NCSA@soccer.net or (301) 577-3559.

Riverdale Park Boys Scouts Troop 252: Contact: Scoutmaster Bob Killen at (301) 483-8455.

Madison Hill Homeowners Association: For information, call (301) 583-8857 or www.madisonhill.biz.

Riversdale Historical Society: Riversdale Mansion. Contact (301) 864-0420.

Riverdale Park Farmer's Market: Contact Jim Coleman at (301) 586-5973.

Riverdale Boys & Girls Club: E-mail riverdaleboysgirlsclub@yahoo.com (301) 277-KIDS.

Riverdale Park Business Association: Contact Bruce Wernek at 240-684-0795 for meeting site.

Riverdale Park Arts Council: Contact Jeffrey Yorke at (301) 502-1243 or yorkedial@gmail.com

The Historical Association of Riverdale Park (HARP): Website: www.riverdaleparkhistory.org E-mail: harp@riverdaleparkhistory.org