

# The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

## February 2017

Volume 47, Issue 1

Holiday Recap	Page 1
Council Actions	Page 2
Code Corner	Page 3
Mayor's Report	Page 3
Ward 2 Report	Page 5
Public Works Report	Page 6
CCAC (English)	Page 7
CCAC (Spanish)	Page 8
RPBA	Page 8
Boy Scout Troop 252	Page 9
Waggertail Dog Park	Page 10
Local Organizations	Page 11
February 2017 Calendar	Page 12

## Photo Recap:

## 2016 Riverdale Park Holiday Events

### Santa Claus Visits Riverdale Elementary



### Children's Party at Town Hall



## Town of Riverdale Park Contact Information

### Town Hall

5008 Queensbury Road  
301-927-6381

### Department of Public Works

5012 Queensbury Road  
301-864-1803

### Police Department

5004 Queensbury Road  
301-927-4343

### Bates Trucking and Trash Collection

Bulk Trash Collection  
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY  
301-773-2069

**Residents must call Bates by 2  
p.m. Tues., for Wed. pickup**

### Food Basket Delivery by Riverdale Park Police Department, Riverdale Park Department of Public Works and Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department



# Council Actions

**December 5, 2016  
Legislative Meeting**

## **Consent Agenda**

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

1. Motion to direct the Acting Town Manager to send a letter of support to the Planning Board regarding Case # DPLS- 443-DDS-634 (Departure of Parking and Loading Standards and Departure of Design Standards) for 5410 Spring Lane (Ward 6)
2. Fence Permit Application for a 6-foot vinyl backyard fence at 5304 50th Avenue (Ward 3)
3. Minutes from November 7, 2016 Legislative Meeting

## **Legislative Action Items:**

1. Motion to approve Fence Permit Application for 6-foot wooden backyard fence at 4604 Riverdale Road (Ward 1) – **Approved**
2. Motion to direct the Acting Town Manager to send a letter to the Purple Line Corridor Coalition in support of the Community Development Agreement – **Approved**
3. Motion to approve 2017 Council Calendar – **Approved**

## **Unfinished Business:**

1. Motion to defease the unused proceeds of the Local Government Infrastructure Bond 2013 Series A - Version 1 Riverdale Park 30 Year Loan, less the following: \$575,000.00 towards town hall improvements, \$18,750.00 towards related transaction costs, \$260.00 towards a security transaction fee – **Approved**

**December 19, 2016  
Special Legislative Meeting**

## **Legislative Action Items:**

1. Motion to adopt Resolution 2016-R-15 confirming appointment of Town Manager – **Adopted**

**January 3, 2017  
Legislative Meeting**

## **Consent Agenda**

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

1. Minutes for December 5, 2016 Legislative Meeting
2. Minutes for December 19, 2016 Special Legislative Meeting

## **Legislative Action Items:**

1. Motion to adopt Resolution 2017-R-01 regarding reactivation of Riverdale Park Sustainability Committee/Green Team - **Adopted**

## **New Business:**

1. Motion to delegate authority to complete the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments survey regarding electric vehicle charging stations to CM Lingua in consultation with the Riverdale Park Sustainability Committee, Council and staff - **Approved**

## **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** – Marsha Dixon, 301-531-4230  
[mdixon@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:mdixon@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

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

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

**Ward 4** – Christopher Henry, 301-910-9855  
[chenry3240@verizon.net](mailto:chenry3240@verizon.net)

**Ward 5** – Colleen Richardson, 240-646-6457  
[crichardson@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:crichardson@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

**Ward 6** – Alejandro Silva, 301-801-3021  
[asilva@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:asilva@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

**Leonard Addison, Acting Town Manager**  
[laddison@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:laddison@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

**Jessica Barnes, Town Clerk**  
[jbarnes@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:jbarnes@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

### **Public Works, 301-864-1803**

**Leonard Addison, Director**  
[laddison@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:laddison@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

### **Police Department, 301-927-4343**

**David Morris, Police Chief**  
[dmorris@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:dmorris@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

### **Code Enforcement 240-898-2500**

**Colleen M. Ferguson, Code Manager**  
[code@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:code@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

### **Fire Department - Emergency 911**

Information - 301-927-0356

**Brian Carpio, Fire Chief**

[Eng7twr@yahoo.com](mailto:Eng7twr@yahoo.com);  
[info@riverdalevfd.com](mailto:info@riverdalevfd.com);  
[www.riverdalevfd.com](http://www.riverdalevfd.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.gov](http://www.riverdaleparkmd.gov)

**Submission deadline: 15th of each month**

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

## Code Corner

### **Happy New Year! Special Thank You:**

Thank you to Riverdale Park Police Department, Department of Public Works, and Volunteer Fire Department Company 7!! We had a successful and amazing Food Basket Delivery and Toys for Tots campaign this year! The partnership, cooperation and community involvement greatly contributes to the reason Riverdale Park is safe, clean and beautiful!! Thank you!!

### **Happy New Year! 2017 Riverdale Park Good Neighbor guideline:**

1. Keep the exterior of your house in good repair
2. Be sure your address number is readable so emergency personnel can find you if necessary.
3. Regularly mow your lawn, and do not allow grass to exceed 7". Keep your property free of trash and debris. Do not park vehicles on the grass.
4. Place trash by the curb after sundown on the evening before pickup. Store containers at the rear or side rear yard of your home.
5. Report and remove graffiti immediately.
6. Do not park or store commercial, unregistered, or inoperable vehicles on your property, and do not conduct vehicle repair work on your property or the roadways. Do not park vehicles on an unprepared (grass etc.) surface.
7. When parking, do not block the public sidewalk and do not park closer than 3ft from a Driveway.
8. Clean up after your dog. Do not allow pets to roam loose or bark excessively.
9. Keep tree branches and shrubbery trimmed including maintaining a free passage for persons using the sidewalk abutting the residence.
10. Clear your sidewalk of snow and ice 24 hours after precipitation has ended.
11. Check if building permits are required for remodeling or construction.
12. Be sure you have working smoke detectors. Replace batteries regularly.

To view the town code in its entirety please visit the town website at: [www.riverdaleparkmd.info](http://www.riverdaleparkmd.info)  
Code Enforcement 301-209-1576 or email at [code@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:code@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

## Mayor's Report

By Mayor Vernon Archer

Dear friends and neighbors,

I report to you today about a decision that has taken me a long time to reach. This session of the council is fast winding down, and elections will be held on May 1<sup>st</sup> for mayor and all 6 council seats. I have decided that I will not seek reelection as mayor, nor any other elected office at any level of government. Because of my long tenure in office and the closeness I feel with so many of you in town, its only right to share something of this decision with you.

First let me say thank you to all for granting me the privilege to serve as mayor for the past 12 years. It has been a pleasure and honor to do so. My life has been richly blessed in ways that originally I would never have imagined. I've got to know and work with so many different people both inside the town around the region that I can't begin to name and account for even a fraction of them.

Know that I appreciate everyone who has given their time, effort, input, critique, sweat, and other resource to the town in league with me to make it a better place to live, work and play. Six consecutive councils have worked hard and diligently with me to make sure our town progressed and improved through good times and in the face of difficulties. Town staff, both at the senior level and the workforce beneath them, has done incredible work making our town safe, clean and beautiful! The volunteers who make our many fabulous town events and boards operate are absolutely indispensable and no one knows that more than me! And I also know that many of you volunteer your time and effort in more regional organizations and ways, which I don't know about specifically, but I do know that we all live both inside and outside of Riverdale Park, so thanks to you as well!

Part of the reason behind this decision is that I honestly feel I've done most of what I can for the town in the role of mayor and if I were to continue on it would simply be as a caretaker. The town deserves better and I have every confidence that you the residents will elect quality leaders in May who will continue that progress we have made over the last decade.

I also am confident that I leave at a time when the town government is in good condition. We have strong and quality leaders in senior staff positions. The personnel continue to define a quality workforce that is always bent on improving. Our finances, while facing challenges, are sufficient to maintain the priorities set over the last years. The state of the town is sound and it is a good time to see transition in mayoral leadership.

Finally, I have goals I want to accomplish while I still have the vitality to do so. As a professional educator I have struggled these last 12-13 years to both do a quality job in the school system and to see to it that the town is well run. I want to focus more time and energy on being a good teacher! I've been increasingly convicted that the best way for me to influence the future is through my work with our community's middle school students. This is all the more important now as an increasing number of our students are either immigrants themselves or the children of immigrants who need some additional help in learning to live in and prosper in our country.

Related to this is my desire--I often use the old-fashioned term "calling"—to work to welcome vulnerable strangers and struggling newcomers of all ages to our area, and country. I believe that this was placed in my heart by God and therefore something I must do. While being mayor has allowed some opportunities to do things to help such immigrants and migrants, the demands of office have not allowed the type of focus that I need in order to help people who seek refuge among us. I know I am far from alone in my desire to welcome and help refugees and I look forward to working with any and all who wish to partner with me in the coming months and years.

Let me close this by again saying thank you for your support and confidence during the last 12 years. Know I will leave wishing every single resident prosperity, happiness and peace in the years to come.



## Ward and Committee Reports

### Ward Two Report

By Council Member Alan Thompson  
[akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

The holiday season has wrapped up, and we deep in winter....but spring is not all that far away!

#### Holiday Events

As we do every year, the town worked with volunteers, businesses and non-profit organizations to bring cheer to the holiday season. These events ranged from a Children's Holiday Party to the Senior's Holiday Luncheon to the Holiday Market/Festival of Lights to Santa's annual fire-truck ride through town. I would like to personally thank everyone who worked hard to make these events happen – it wouldn't be the holidays in Riverdale Park without your hard work!

#### Bridge Construction

Construction of the bridge connecting the Cafritz development to Rivertech Court is now well underway. As of February 1 the west abutment has been completed. The east abutment walls should be completed no later than mid-February. Readers of the TownAnnounce mailing list receive weekly updates on the status of the entire Cafritz project – you can subscribe at

<http://riverdale-park.org/mailman/listinfo/townannounce> if you haven't already!

#### Finance Committee

Based on feedback from the state that we needed to come to a decision quickly, the Finance Committee met on November 30 to discuss the what to do with the money borrowed for town hall improvements (and how to retire/return at least most of the money, in order to reduce debt payments and balance the town's budget after the federal government took a major piece of real estate off of the tax rolls). The Committee decided after a long discussion to recommend to the council to retain \$575,000 of the loan, which will be used to make major repairs to the roof, improve long-standing drainage issues, and implement *some* of the originally-planned upgrades to the building. This will reduce annual payments to around a third of the previous payments, and allows us to apply \$500,000 of matching funds from the state to the project. The annual impact of this decision to each household's tax bill will average out to roughly \$15 – please feel free to contact me if you want more information. The full Council adopted the recommendation at the December 5 meeting.

### Town Manager

I am delighted to report (as I'm sure others are elsewhere in this edition of the Town Crier) that after a long and intense search, we have hired our first Town Manager, John Lestitian. He is already on the job and I recommend that all interested residents come to a Town Council meeting (or just drop by Town Hall during the day) to meet him. He has amazing qualifications and came with stellar recommendations from his past employers; I am extremely pleased that he will be working to enhance town government.

### Election

Town elections (Mayor and Town Council) will happen on May 1, 2017. At the January 3 legislative session Mayor Archer announced that he will not run for reelection. Because of his decision, I have decided to run for Mayor.

Stay safe and warm, and look for my column again in March!!

## Public Works Report

By Leonard Addison

### Saturday Drop Off

The 2017 schedule for drop off of bulk trash on the third Saturday of each month, from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., is: **February 18**, March 18, April 15, May 20, June 17, July 15, August 19, September 16, October 21, November 18 and December 16.

### Holiday Trash Collection

#### HAPPY PRESIDENT'S DAY

Regular trash will be collected on Monday, February 20, 2017. However, Town offices will be closed in observance of President's Day.

### Leaf Collection

*LEAVES WILL NOT BE COLLECTED ON THE DAYS THAT THE TOWN IS CLOSED.*

Residents should continue to: rake leaves to the curb and pile leaves away from cars and storm drains. **The leaf vacuum cannot reach around cars.** Remove tree limbs, rocks and other debris from leaves to be collected because they can damage the equipment and cause delays. **Please put leaves in brown paper bags or in containers marked "YARD WASTE" out FOR PICK UP on Wednesdays with the yard waste. Do not put them out with regular trash.**

### Yard Waste Collection

As a reminder, effective January 1, 2014, the Waste Management Division of the Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources 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)**. For additional information please call 311 or 301-883-5810.

### Snow Emergency Conditions

Snow emergency conditions shall be considered in effect within the Town of Riverdale Park whenever a snow emergency is declared in effect in Prince George's County by the Prince George's County Executive, the Maryland State Highway Administration or the Maryland State Police.

Laws that apply:

- During any period in which a snow emergency condition exists and a snow emergency is in effect, it shall be unlawful to park any vehicle on any part of any street designated as a snow emergency street, provided that signs have been erected on that street giving notice that such street is a designated snow emergency street.



- During any period in which a snow emergency condition is in effect, it shall be unlawful to park any vehicle on the odd-numbered side of any public street in the Town of Riverdale Park regardless of whether such street has been designated a snow emergency street. Streets with parking restricted on one side are exempt from this section.
- Any vehicle parked in violation of the snow emergency provisions of the section may be removed and impounded by or under the direction of any duly-authorized police officer. The owner of said vehicle, in addition to any towing or impound fee, shall be liable for a fine of \$250.

### **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 Road, Beale, 49<sup>th</sup> and 48<sup>th</sup> Avenues., Silk Tree Drive, etc.

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

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).

## **A Better Community by Working with our Police Department**

By Liz Bolin, Corey Bettenhausen, John Wells

Numerous studies have shown that communities that work with their police departments have lower crime rates, experience a better quality of life, and simply feel safer in their neighborhood. In that spirit, Riverdale Park Police Chief David Morris created the Chief's Community Advisory Committee (CCAC) to help strengthen existing and build new relationships between the police and our community.

The CCAC is a proactive communication tool that meets every other month with the Chief and his Command Staff to discuss current and future issues that are affecting residents of Riverdale Park, whether they be a recent crime trend or more long term policy changes. Our meetings act as a safe forum for residents to bring up issues for consideration – whether

they be simple comments, suggestions, compliments, or complaints.

The CCAC is an important partner in strengthening these relationships with the public. Our police department, like in every city and town in America, is one of the most visible and engaged branches of our municipal government. The police risk their lives every day to protect and serve our community and as such, it is our duty to help them better serve us. Our meetings provide an environment for dialogue and questions that residents may have about any police-related topic. The CCAC, as its name implies, also acts in an advisory capacity for the Chief of Police providing feedback when creating or changing police policies or developing enforcement strategies that will affect our neighborhoods. The CCAC will also be facilitating positive interactions with the community to provide the department opportunities to further earn your trust. The hope here is that each party will have an opportunity to connect in a calm, neutral environment.

The Chief of Police of Riverdale Park, David Morris, has given the CCAC and its goals his full support. We've had a very good response from the community during our recruitment drive for CCAC members, and we're hoping to keep this momentum going. As a valued member of the Riverdale Park community, please consider attending our next meeting on March 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at Riverdale Park Town Hall, 5008 Queensbury Road, and help make Riverdale Park a safe, clean and beautiful place to live for everyone.

---

## **Una Comunidad Mejor Trabajando con nuestro Departamento de Policía**

By Liz Bolin, Corey Bettenhausen, John Wells

Numerosos estudios han demostrado que las comunidades que trabajan con sus departamentos de policía tienen tasas de criminalidad más bajas, experimentan una mejor calidad de vida y simplemente se sienten más seguras en su vecindario. En ese espíritu, el Jefe de Policía de Riverdale Park, David Morris, creó el Comité Asesor Comunitario del Jefe de Policía (CCAC) para ayudar a fortalecer las relaciones existentes y construir nuevas relaciones entre la policía y nuestra comunidad.

El CCAC es una herramienta de comunicación proactiva que se reúne cada dos meses con el Jefe de Policía y su Personal de Comando para discutir asuntos actuales y futuros que afectan a los residentes de Riverdale Park, ya sea una tendencia reciente del crimen o más cambios de política a largo plazo. Nuestras reuniones actúan como un foro seguro para que los residentes planteen temas para su consideración, ya sean simples comentarios, sugerencias, cumplidos o quejas.

El CCAC es un socio importante en el fortalecimiento de estas relaciones con el público. Nuestro departamento de policía, como en todas las ciudades y pueblos de América, es una de las ramas más visibles y comprometidas de nuestro gobierno municipal. La policía arriesga sus vidas todos los días para proteger y servir a nuestra comunidad y como tal, es nuestro deber ayudarlos a servirnos mejor. Nuestras reuniones proporcionan un ambiente para el diálogo y las preguntas que los residentes pueden tener sobre cualquier tema relacionado con la policía. El CCAC, como su nombre lo indica, también actúa en calidad de asesor para que el Jefe de Policía proporcione retroalimentación al crear o cambiar las políticas policiales o desarrollar estrategias de aplicación que afecten a nuestros vecindarios. El CCAC también estará facilitando interacciones positivas con la comunidad para proporcionar oportunidades al



departamento para ganar más su confianza. La esperanza aquí es que cada partido tendrá la oportunidad de conectarse en un ambiente tranquilo y neutral.

El Jefe de Policía de Riverdale Park, David Morris, ha dado al CCAC y sus objetivos su pleno apoyo. Hemos tenido una muy buena respuesta de la comunidad durante nuestra campaña de reclutamiento para miembros del CCAC, y esperamos mantener el mismo impulso. Como miembro valioso de la comunidad de Riverdale Park, por favor considere asistir a nuestra próxima reunión el 14 de marzo a las 7:00 pm en el Ayuntamiento de Riverdale Park, 5008 Queensbury Road, y ayudar a que Riverdale Park sea un lugar seguro, limpio y hermoso para vivir para todos.

## Riverdale Park Business Association

By Audrey Bragg

The Riverdale Park Business Association is pleased to announce its new web site. Many thanks to Sally Mendoza for putting this together and for all her hard work. Visit our site at [www.ShopLocalRiverdalePark.com](http://www.ShopLocalRiverdalePark.com)

We are saddened to report that JD Williams passed away on January 9<sup>th</sup>. He was an original member of the Association. He served on many committees and was captain of our Christmas in April program for many years. A leader and a visionary. Beyond his contributions to our organization and the community, he was an extraordinary gentleman, whom those of us who had the privilege of knowing him will find irreplaceable in our lives. Our sincerest expressions of sorrow for his loss of life to his friends and family. May God Bless all that he has touched and left in his memory. We will discuss plans for a memorial at our next meeting on February 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Shine Massage Studio** has specials for you. Check their website.

[www.shinemassagestudio.com](http://www.shinemassagestudio.com)

**Robert Harper Books** has special events and concerts as well as good books! Check his web site at [www.robertharperbooks.com](http://www.robertharperbooks.com) or call 301-927-1963

**Ernie's Lock** is now open on Saturdays. Check their website for hours. [www.ernieslock.com](http://www.ernieslock.com)

**Town Center Market** has now started selling spirits as well as beer and wine and they sell on Sunday [www.towncentermarket.net](http://www.towncentermarket.net)

**Guiding Exceptional Parents** has classes for parents. Email Sarah at [info@guidingexceptionalparents.com](mailto:info@guidingexceptionalparents.com)

**Riverdale Park Animal Hospital** offers special discounts to first time patients of Riverdale Park. [riverdaleparkAH@gmail.com](mailto:riverdaleparkAH@gmail.com)

Our next meeting will be February 8, 2017 at Riverdale Park Town Hall 5:30 p.m.

## Boy Scout Troop 252

By Robert Killen

We held Senior Patrol Leader Guillian Cañete's Eagle Scout Scoutmaster conference at my house on January 3. I approved his Eagle Project workbook with the stipulation that he correct mistakes on it that his Eagle Advisers and I had previously recommended and he had not corrected. We had a lengthy discussion about his continued failure, for the past 5 years, to follow Scouting instructions by not documenting events in which he had participated, resulting in the delay in his advancement. I admitted that it was partly my fault, because I had let it slide. We all agreed that this was the reason his earning of the Eagle Scout rank took so long. He will continue with Troop 252 as a Junior Assistant Scoutmaster, and he assures me that the younger Scouts will completely document events, thus guaranteeing their more rapid advancement.

Scribe (now Senior Patrol Leader) Michael

Jarquín has only one more requirement left before he earns Star Scout Rank.

On Friday the 6th of January, we had an Epiphany lasagna (three kings) dinner at our Troop meeting, planned a ski trip to Massanutten for February 4th (\$100 each person) and the Cañetes paid their 2017 recharter fee. Arnel Cañete has to complete his Youth Protection course, and then we will be able to recharter everyone in the troop.

On Friday, the 13th of January, brothers Anthony and Lisandro Juarez completed their 1/4 mile jog, with Lisandro completing in 11 minutes, 22 seconds and Anthony completing in 11 minutes, 30 seconds.

Assistant Scoutmaster Cañete is anxious to plan long distance bicycle trips with tune-ups as soon as the weather improves. Snow, sleet and freezing rain were predicted for Saturday, January 14- it never happened!

We ended the meeting at 9 PM on the dot.

The weekend of January 20-22, Scoutmaster Bob Killen, Committee Chair/COR Eneida Martínez-Brown (MHB) and Life Scout Andy Sellers will attend the Eswau Huppeday Order of the Arrow Carolina Indian Seminar in Statesville, NC.

On March 11th, the Cañetes (Arnel, Dixie and Guillian), AJ Jarquín, MHB, Sandra Tolson and Bob Killen will attend the Baltimore Area Council University of Scouting to continue to improve their Scouting skills.

Contact Sandra Tolson [saanee@yahoo.com](mailto:saanee@yahoo.com), 301-927-2275; Eneida Martínez-Brown, [e.martinezbrown@gmail.com](mailto:e.martinezbrown@gmail.com), 301-864-0059; Bob Killen, [rfkille@yahoo.com](mailto:rfkille@yahoo.com), 301-483- 8455, if you would like to join. We meet Friday evenings at the Riverdale Park Town Hall when we're not camping. Our **Town Crier** will keep you up-to-date.

## Waggertail Dog Park

February! Dark and frigid, snow and ice. Many of us don't want to go out the door, let alone to the dog park but Spot is bored so what's a pet parent to do? Dog trainers and behaviorists say that mental activity can be as tiring as physical activity. Besides relieving boredom, games that stimulate mental activity can be played indoors. They strengthen the bond with your dog, and they keep him mentally healthy as he ages. The cold days of winter are the perfect time to explore these brain games.



A simple way to start is to invest in treat dispensing toys which keep your dog busy and engage his problem solving abilities to retrieve the treats. For example, the Puzzle Ball, made by Starmark at <http://starmarkacademy.com/>, has four food chambers, with varying degrees of difficulty, and faceted sides to keep it from, too quickly, rolling under the furniture. Nina Ottosson Interactive Puzzles, available on Amazon, are another good choice. These well-made toys are challenging and built to increase in difficulty as the dog gets better at getting the food.

If you are a Do-It-Yourselfer, you can build your own interactive toys. Place treats in the cups of a muffin tin and place tennis balls over the cups. This is a good starter toy to teach your dog to play interactive games. Another DIY toy is made by placing a smelly treat in a box, then nest that box within another, and then another. Turn your dog loose to get that treat out. It may be necessary to start slow, letting your dog find a treat in one box first. Then nest the boxes as your dog begins to show drive for the game.

Here's another find-the-treat game that uses different sized cardboard boxes. Start by hiding a smelly treat in just one of them. Place

the box in front of your dog, and ask him to “find it”. Make it easy the first few times. As soon as he finds the treat, give him a happy “yes”, while at the same time, dropping another treat into the same box. This extra reward will make your dog eager to continue playing. Once you think your dog gets the game, add in one or two more empty boxes. Spread the boxes around the room (closely at first). Your dog has to select the correct box to win the treat-prize. When your dog is so excited to play, make the game more difficult, by scattering lots of boxes, big and small, throughout your search area. Put treats in two or three of the boxes. This game is fun to watch and your dog will love it.

If smelling for treats is fun for you and your dog, you might enjoy the dog sport of Canine Nose Work, [www.k9nosework.com](http://www.k9nosework.com). In Nose Work, the dog is taught to distinguish and reliably alert on three different scents - birch, anise, and clove. It is loads of fun and can be practiced in the house. The Humane Rescue Alliance [www.humanerescuealliance.org/training](http://www.humanerescuealliance.org/training) offers a 4-week long beginning Nose Work class at their fantastic indoor, training facility in nearby Takoma, Washington D.C.

Trick-training is another rewarding way to entertain your dog on wintery days. Kyra Sundance, author and dog stunt performer, has a **free** trick-training program on YouTube. Go to [www.domorewithyourdog.com](http://www.domorewithyourdog.com), then click **OnLine Classes**, and choose **Join A Spark Team**. Scroll through a list of trainers and pick the one you like. Then you will be forwarded to their YouTube channel where you will have access to videos demonstrating the steps to learn various

tricks. The training is self-paced and, if you find you really enjoy it, you can pursue titles from Novice to Expert and even Certified Trick Trainer.

Wintertime is also the perfect time to join Friends of Waggertail Dog Park (FoWDP). We act on behalf of all dog park users, as a voice to the town government, by making recommendations on improvements, informing the Town of maintenance issues, and by planning dog-centric events. We need your input! To join, **email** [waggertaildogpark@gmail.com](mailto:waggertaildogpark@gmail.com) and meet fellow dog lovers to make a difference in your community. And remember, if you plan to use the dog park, register your dog at the Riverdale Park Municipal Offices during business hours (8:30 am – 5:00 pm) or at meetings of the FoWDP.

## Local Organizations

**Lion’s Club:** Contact Pat Prangley at (240) 882-4993.

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

**Riverdale Park Boy Scout Troop 252:** Contact Scoutmaster Bob Killen at (301) 483-8455.

**Madison Hill Homeowners Association:** For information, call (301) 583-8857.

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

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

**Riverdale Park Business Association:** For more information, visit [www.shoplocalriverdalepark.com](http://www.shoplocalriverdalepark.com).

**Riverdale Park Arts Council:** Contact Samuel Williams, Jr. at (909) 380-4231.



**CODE FOR CALENDAR**  
**Abbreviations**

M-UTC — Mixed Use Town Center  
PW — Public Works, 5012 Queensbury  
RPBA — Riverdale Park Business  
Association

CARRIER ROUTE  
PRESORT

**POSTAL PATRON**  
**RIVERDALE PARK, MARYLAND**  
**20737**

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
HYATTSVILLE, MD  
PERMIT No.  
2090

<sup>1</sup> Regular trash, heavy trash, and metal  
recycling

<sup>2</sup> Please no paints, metals, tires, or  
items with Freon; applies to Town-Wide  
Trash Pick Up also!



Most activities at Town Hall unless  
otherwise noted.

To be listed in the Crier and/or its  
Calendar, send a message to:

[towncrier@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:towncrier@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

# Town of Riverdale Park | February 2017

5008 Queensbury Road  
Riverdale Park, Maryland  
20737

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 MUTC, 7:30p, TH <i>Yard Waste Collection</i>	2 <i>Trash Collection</i>	3 Riversdale Mansion Tours, 12p-3p Boy Scouts, 7p-9p, TH	4
5 Riversdale Mansion Tours, 12p-3p Doll Club, TH, 3p-6p	6 Regular Legislative Session, 8p, TH <i>Trash Collection</i>	7	8 RBA, 5:30p, TH <i>Yard Waste Collection</i>	9 <i>Trash Collection</i>	10 Riversdale Mansion Tours, 12p-3p Boy Scouts, 7p-9p, TH	11 Madison Hill HOA, 10:30a, TH
12 Riversdale Mansion Tours, 12p-3p Doll Club, TH, 3p-6p	13 <i>Trash Collection</i>	14 RPAC, 7p, TH  Happy  Valentine's Day	15 RBA, 5:30p, TH <i>Yard Waste Collection</i>	16 <i>Trash Collection</i>	17 Riversdale Mansion Tours, 12p-3p Boy Scouts, 7p-9p, TH	18
19 Riversdale Mansion Tours, 12p-3p Doll Club, TH, 3p-6p	20  President's Day TH /PWCLOSED <i>Trash Collection</i>	21	22 Lion's Club, 7p, TH <i>Yard Waste Collection</i>	23 <i>Trash Collection</i>	24 Riversdale Mansion Tours, 12p-3p Boy Scouts, 7p-9p, TH	25
26 Riversdale Mansion Tours, 12p-3p Doll Club, TH, 3p-6p	27 Work Session, 8p, TH <i>Trash Collection</i>	28				