

The Riverdale Park Town Crier

June 2017

Volume 47, Issue 5

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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. on Tuesday for a Wednesday pickup. For toter replacements/requests, call the Department of Public Works.

Town of Riverdale Park ELECTION RESULTS

May 1, 2017

Mayor

ALAN THOMPSON

Votes Received: 287

Council, Ward 1

Council, Ward 2

AARON FAULX

MARSHA DIXON

Votes Received: 100

Votes Received: 82

Council, Ward 3

DAVID LINGUA

Votes Received: 45

Council, Ward 4

CHRISTOPHER HENRY

Votes Received: 44

Council, Ward 5

COLLEEN RICHARDSON

Votes Received: 5

Council, Ward 6

ALEJANDRO SILVA

Votes Received: 6

Geraldine Gee, Chief Judge

Joseph Mooney, Deputy Chief Judge

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 – Marsha Dixon. 301-531-4230 *mdixon@riverdaleparkmd.gov* Ward 2 – Alan Thompson, 301-927-7407 akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov Ward 3 – David Lingua, 301-779-3849 djlingua@riverdaleparkmd.gov Ward 4 – Christopher Henry, 301-910-9855 chenry3240@verizon.net Ward 5 - Colleen Richardson, 240-646-6457 crichardson@riverdaleparkmd.gov Ward 6 – Alejandro Silva, 301-801-3021 asilva@riverdaleparkmd.gov John N. Lestitian, Town Manager jnlesititian@riverdaleparkmd.gov Jessica Barnes, Town Clerk jbarnes@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Public Works, 301-864-1803

Leonard Addison, **Director** *laddison@riverdaleparkmd.gov*

Police Department, 301-927-4343 David Morris, Police Chief

dmorris@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Code Enforcement 240-898-2500

Colleen M. Ferguson, **Code Manager** code@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Fire Department - Emergency 911

Information - 301-927-0356 Brian Carpio, Fire Chief Eng7twr@yahoo.com; info@riverdalevfd.com; 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

Submission deadline: 15th of each month Submit all copies to towncrier@riverdaleparkmd.gov



Council Actions

Council Actions April 24, 2017 Special Legislative Meeting

Legislative Action Items:

- Motion to approve Fence Permit Application for a 6-foot wooden backyard fence at 6304 47th Avenue (Ward 1) -Approved
- 2. Motion to send a letter of support for The Baltimore Avenue Connected Communities Initiative - **Approved**

Council Actions May 1, 2017 Legislative Meeting

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve consent agenda items: - Approved

- 1. Street Closure Request: 48th Avenue between Riverdale Road and Oliver Street on May 20, 2017 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. for Block Party
- 2. Minutes from March 27, 2017 Work Session
- 3. Minutes from March 27, 2017 Special Legislative Meeting
- 4. Minutes from April 3, 2017 Legislative Meeting

Legislative Action Items:

- 1. Motion to approve Town election results for May 1, 2017-Approved
- Fence Permit Request: 4900 Somerset Road for a 6-foot wooden backyard fence (Ward 2) - Approved

Ward and Committee Reports

Ward One Report

By Council Member Marsha Dixon *mdixon@riverdaleparkmd.gov*

Election Results

I'd like to thank all of the residents who came out on a bleak day to vote in our recent election. I hope that our council will continue to engage our constituents and increase the number of voters who participate in future elections. Congratulations to my colleagues who were also elected. I look forward to working together with all of you in the future.

Thank You, Mayor Archer

This month ends Mayor Archer's 12-year tenure as our Town's Mayor. Being a council member is not always an easy job and Mayor Archer has left his position with our Town even better than it was when he began his tenure. I'd like to personally thank him for the leadership he has brought to our town over the past 12 years.

Trees Continued....

In last month's *Crier* I asked for feedback on possibly proposing legislation that would place limitations on residents cutting down trees on their property. Thank you for those who sent me feedback. Please continue to provide your feedback. Since I received a few questions about it, I would like to add that any restrictions would carve out certain exceptions.

Miscellaneous

Last month I attended the RP ArtsFest. The Artsfest is one of the many great aspects of our Town. There were wonderful vendors displaying an array of artwork. The Arts Council and its members work tirelessly to bring an array of events to our Town. I encourage all of you to support their efforts.

Ward Two Report

By Council Member Alan Thompson akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov

I would like to start this report, my final Ward 2 report, with an enormous thank you for the almost 300 people who came out to vote on May 1, as well as the roughly 200 people I spoke with at their doors. As you can tell from looking at the election results on the first page of this Crier, there were no contested elections, but we still had a good turnout on an almost-perfectweather election day. I appreciate that everyone who voted took time from their busy schedules to cast a ballot, and let all of us on the council know that our service is appreciated. I look forward to continuing to serve everyone in town as your Mayor.

I have gotten to know Aaron Faulx over the months leading up to the election, and feel that he will represent Ward 2 with enthusiasm, thoughtfulness, and an amazing positive energy. If you haven't already met him I encourage you to reach out to him with your issues and concerns (full contact information will be available from the Town after he is sworn in on June 5). I look forward to learning more about his ideas and perspective moving forward.

Mosquitos

I'm not going to repeat my long discussion from April (check it out on the town's web site if you missed it) but please remember to make it harder for mosquitos to breed by dumping out water, and treating (preferably with natural anti-mosquito products) places that collect water in spite of all efforts. The cooler-thananticipated weather has protected us a bit so far, but we can't count on that continuing. I know I've killed several dozen mosquitos so far this year, with (sadly) many more that got away.

Whole Foods/Riverdale Park Station/M-U-TC

I'm happy to be regularly visiting Whole Foods and the associated Starbucks, and I am pleased that both are succeeding. The parking crunches of the first week seem to be easing. With those crunches in mind, though, the Mixed-Use Town Center Local Design Review Committee (the "M-U-TC" committee) met on May 3 to review a revision to the detailed site plan (DSP) that would delay (to a later phase of development) construction of two floors of structured parking in the development. The M-U-TC Committee was concerned that the reduction in available parking would frustrate customers coming to shop at the Riverdale Park Station development. County staff advised that parking requirements were still being met, so the M-U-TC committee approved (after revisions to meet design guidelines) the change to the DSP. The developer's legal and architectural representatives stated that they understand the important of providing sufficient parking, and anticipate that parking needs will be provided for as each building in the development is completed and occupied.

Town Budget

The finance committee (plus many other members of the council and members of the public) reviewed the Town Manager's draft budget at two meetings during May (the 13th and the 20th). I believe that we are heading into the June meeting with a consensus on the spending priorities of the Town, but there are still some details to hash out before we pass a final budget.

Bridge Construction

Construction of the bridge connecting the Cafritz development to Rivertech Court is now well underway, although the completion date has slipped into the "fourth quarter" of 2017. Some of the girders for the main span are in place already (maybe, by the time you are reading this, all of them); when all girders are in place the schedule for the rest of the bridge will be easier to predict. Readers of the TownAnnounce mailing list receive weekly updates on the status of the entire Cafritz project – you can subscribe at *riverdalepark.org/mailman/listinfo/townannounce* if you haven't already!

Enjoy June, as we officially enter summer, and look for my column, writing from a new perspective, in July!

Ward Three Report

By Council Member David Lingua djlingua@riverdaleparkmd.gov

First, a most sincere and heartfelt "Thank you!" for all who came out on May 1st, to cast a ballot. I, along with the other candidates, appreciate it a great deal. Among the ideas and issues shared with me by Ward Three residents is a desire to see more ward reports. Yes, I will admit to their infrequency in the past. From here on I will be sure to make them a regular occurrence.

On May 1st the Central Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization (CKAR) CDC opened the Greater Riverdale Career Empowerment Center at The Berkshire Building (6801 Kenilworth Avenue). Taking a holistic approach, the center offers an array of services from assessment to the acquisition of skills. Coming in late August will be the opening of the Culinary Arts Center at 5711 Sarvis Avenue. CKAR will be partnering with Prince George's Community College in offering a working/teaching food establishment with daytime operating hours. Both projects have received a great deal of support from the county and Council Vice Chair Dannielle Glaros as well as the state and the District 22 Delegates.

Recently the Prince George's County Municipal Association held two important meetings. At the April meeting, County Executive Rushern Baker III briefed the members on the past twelve months. Mr. Baker shared that the county is in good financial shape, with projections for the next five years being very good. He also discussed the coming challenge of increased property values and the availability of affordable housing as they relate to a long term vision on smart development and the transition/retention of a growing populace.

Mr. Baker also spoke on the impact of limited resources for county public schools when it comes to the demands on school programs and facility renovation/replacement. As school construction is controlled by the state, leaving the county no control on priority or the type, Mr. Baker is trying to achieve some flexibility through waivers from the state by working with State Senator Jim Rosapepe. Mr. Baker is ready to engage with the state on a 2:1 (county:state) funding match, but is encountering an unwilling partner. Mr. Baker stressed the importance of municipalities having a discussion and dialogue about education in Prince George's County.

At the May meeting, the Association selected its board officers for the next year, including yours truly as an At-Large Board Member. Chief David Morris was among many recognized by Maryland Municipal League President Tracy Farrish Gant for volunteer service on committees important to efforts made by MML on the behalf of municipalities. Also recognized for their efforts towards assisting municipalities during the recently concluded legislative session were District 22 State Delegates Anne Healey and Tawanna Gaines.

With this in mind, I would like to ask of you, the residents, for your consideration towards volunteering with one of the several groups in town that strive to bring something more to all of us. Groups like Sustainable Maryland: Riverdale Park (The Green Team), Town Events (Riverdale Park Day/ Holiday Coat Drive/ Children's Holiday Party/ Easter Egg Hunt), CKAR-CDC, Anacostia Trails Heritage Area (Maryland Milestones), Riverdale Park Arts Council, Art Sí, Friends of Waggertail Dog Park, the Ethics Commission for Riverdale Park, Mixed-Use Town Center Committee, Boy Scout Troop 252, Riversdale Historical Society, Lion's Club, Madison Hill Homeowners Association, Riverdale Park Business Association, the Chief's Community Advisory Committee; all play a role in augmenting everyone's quality of life in town. To do so, they need your help. Please, consider volunteering however much you are able.

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 is from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. on: The schedule is: **June 17**, July 15, August 19, September 16, October 21, November 18 and December 16.

Arbor Day 2017

A tree planting ceremony was held in the park east of Riverdale Elementary School in recognition of Arbor Day. The Department of Public Works planted six (6) new trees, near the existing rain garden, dedicated to grades K-5 at the school. We express our appreciation to Horace Henry with the Department of Natural Resources, CM Marsha Dixon, our Town Manager, John Lestitian, Lora Katz, Sustainability Committee, Town government staff, our DPW Director, Leonard Addison and our DPW staff for making this important event special in every way. Special thanks to James Davis, Supervisor and Jessica Barnes, Town Clerk, for their roles in the ceremony.

Community Cleanup

Annually, residents are given the opportunity clean out garages, basements, and attics of bulk items for collection by town staff. This activity is convenient for residents so that they don't have to seek alternative, perhaps less desirable, methods of disposal for bulk items. This year, DPW staff collected/disposed of 12,460 pounds or 6.23 tons of materials.

Earth Day 2017

Thanks to some hardworking volunteers, the town's participation in the Anacostia Watershed's Annual Earth Day activities, was a tremendous success. Even though the weather was rainy and misty, more than 55 volunteers came out to help clean up a portion of the Anacostia tributary that runs through Tanglewood Neighborhood Park. Token awards were given to participants for the most bags collected and the most unusual find (Foosball table). The group collected 110 bags of recycling/trash, which is quite amazing considering the weather.

Special thanks to our very thorough, energetic and dedicated Site Coordinator, Lora Katz! She did a fantastic job of coordinating people, plans, and pickups, which made the event run smoothly. We appreciate all her efforts and look forward to working with her again next year. Many thanks to others who made the event special: Jaime Bagley for making some great signs to give attendees direction; Jakari (eleven years old), Laila (ten years) and Isaiah Trowell (six years), youth volunteers who have participated in this event since they were five years old, six years old and four years old, respectively. We appreciate Wayne Sanders for helping us with setting up and clearing the site upon completion of the event. Lt. Col. Patrick Timmons and CM David Lingua also showed their support by attending. Thank you so much.

We could not have had a successful event without the donations from Sanijohn. We appreciate Mike Spriggs and Novel Thompson for that donation. Also thanks to the Department of Environmental Resources for providing a truck to dispose of the bags that were collected and for coming by to check on us.

Excellent job to our volunteers! Come back again next year.

Mosquito Control Program

The Town annually participates in the Larviciding/Adulticiding Mosquito Control Program sponsored by the State/County.

Adulticiding will begin May 31, 2017, and run through September 21, 2017. Spraying will be contingent upon the results of their standardized surveillance methods. If the area tested needs to be sprayed, spraying will take place on Tuesday nights. They 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.

Questions, concerns or complaints about mosquitos should be made to the Maryland Department of Agriculture at 301-422-5080.

Trash Toter Repair/Replacement

Residents should call the Department of Public Works at 301-864-1803 for the repair or replacement of damaged trash toters, i.e., broken lids, missing wheels, cracked toters, etc. When repairs or replacements are needed, a list will be provided to Bates Trucking each Friday, with the expectation for deliveries to occur during the following week.

Boy Scouts Troop 252

By Robert Killen

We missed last month's deadline, so we're including a Reader's Digest version of that report, too.

First order of business - one of the Town Crier's faithful subscribers, Mr. Strahorn, called Bob on the phone, told him that he enjoys reading in the Town Crier about our adventures, and dropped off at the Police Station a propane stove and cooking gear - all cleaner than new! We have made a good home for them. Thank you, sir!

On April 29th we were scheduled to assist the Riverdale Art Association set up their event, but, due to weather, they slid the date to Sunday, and we couldn't help them. Maybe the weather will cooperate next year.

On April 15, Michael, Jessica and Aquilino Jarquin and their friend Kevin bicycled 10+ miles at Jug Bay. On the evening of May 5, Seth and Amir Jarquin built small fires on the sidewalk of the Town Hall, under the supervision of AJ and MHB, and with police permission. They used many, many matches before they realized that fire burns up, out and then down. Then they succeeded. They also learned - to avoid being cold, use COLD as a mnemonic device. C = CLEAN; O = avoid OVERHEATING; L = dress in LAYERS, and D = keep DRY.

On May 14, Michael and Aquilino Jarquin bicycled 10+ miles again at Jug Bay; Seth and Amir Hardison bicycled out to Merkle Wildlife Preserve's Observation Tower and back, and Valencia Hardison bicycled 5+ miles with daughter Chloe on the back rack of Bob's bike. Bob and Olivia Hardison observed and officiated the event, while touring the Native American village. All riders completed the distances and nobody got hurt! We all slept well on Sunday night!

Contact Sandra Tolson <u>saanee@yahoo.com</u>, 301-927-2275; Eneida Martínez-Brown, <u>e.martinezbrown@gmail.com</u>, 301-864-0059; Bob Killen, <u>rfkille@yahoo.com</u>, 301-483- 8455, if you would like to comment. We meet at 7 PM Friday evenings in the Riverdale Park Town Hall when we're not camping. Our *Town Crier* will help keep you up-to-date.

Waggertail Dog Park Tips



1. Call your dog away or retrieve your dog from the gate, when a new dog enters the park.

According to trainer and author Robin Bennett, who consults for pet care facilities on the subjects of dog daycare, training, and off-leash dog play, dog park fights often happen as a new dog attempts to enter the park through a pack of excited dogs, barking at the gate.

2. Use the small dog area for your toy dog if the large dog area is being used.

Despite their usual bravery, small, running dogs can be mistaken for prey, and can be easily injured or worse, during the highly, aroused play of the larger dogs.

3. Keep an eye on your dog while at the park.

You are your dog's advocate at Waggertail. Especially when there are several or more dogs in the park, keep an eye on the play to make sure your dog is happy and safe and also behaving positively with other dogs. www.thedoggurus.com/pet-ownerslearn-keep-dog-safe/

4. The dog park is not the place to socialize an un-socialized dog.

Socialization happens when a dog has a positive experience when introduced to novel situations or other dogs. It takes planning, distance, and positive reinforcement to create this situation. Simply putting a fearful dog in a dog park full of strange dogs is a little like locking a person with a snake aversion in a basement full of snakes. It can reinforce and escalate negative responses. www.robinkbennett.com/2017/02/21/tw o-misunderstandings-about-dog-socialization/

5. When entering or leaving Waggertail, don't let your leashed dog greet other leashed dogs without permission from the other pet owner.

Many dogs, even the friendliest, will react by barking and lunging at another dog, while they are leashed. Don't set your dog up for a negative experience that may carry over to dog play. Avoid this situation by momentarily waiting and/or stepping aside with your leashed dog, when another park user is leaving or entering the park.

6. Scoop the poop.

It goes without saying that it is important to scoop your dog's poop but, once in a while, we all miss where Rover has just gone. If you notice a forgotten pile, please be a good dog park citizen and scoop it for the rest of us. Also, if you walk to the park and have an extra bag, it can't hurt to scoop up a stray pile that you might notice along the way. It will endear Waggertail users to our Riverdale Park neighbors, which is always a good thing.

7. Pick up trash in the dog park and the surrounding area.

Waggertail users have been great about keeping the park clean. Thank you! As the weather warms and the park sees more use, let's keep it up. If you notice that trash has blown into the park, against the outside fences, or along the sidewalk that leads to Waggertail, take a moment and pick it up.

8. Report maintenance issues.

If you notice there are no poop bags, or the trash cans are full, or the grass is uncut, or other such maintenance issues, don't forget to let the town know, so we can keep Waggertail clean and user friendly. Contact the Town of Riverdale Park at 301-864-1803.

9. Register your dog.

If you plan to use the dog park, register your dog. To register, come to the Riverdale Park Municipal Office during business hours (8:30 am – 5:30 pm) or download and complete the application from

www.riverdaleparkmd.info/DogPark.cfm. Mail it in with a copy of your dog's Prince George's County License and a self-addressed stamped envelope. You'll receive a tag to put on your dog's collar.

10. Join Friends of Waggertail Dog Park.

Every day Waggertail attracts more users and builds stronger community. If you and your dog enjoy the dog park, consider joining FoWDP to give your valuable input to keep it a positive place. To join FoWDP, email waggertaildogpark@gmail.com. You can find FoWDP on Facebook at www.facebook.com/waggertail/

Keeping Mosquitos Out of Your Yard

The following tips can help you keep your yard free of mosquitos without the use of pesticides:

Mosquito Eggs

Most mosquitoes lay their eggs in water, and they don't need much. A Frisbee or a plastic bottle cap can hold enough water to support mosquito breeding.

- Find and remove any puddles of water or standing water around your home to reduce breeding sites.
- Wipe out your bird-bath every few days. The eggs can get stuck to the bottom and survive dry periods.
- Maintain your swimming pool to prevent mosquito breeding, and report abandoned pools to your local health department.

Mosquito Larvae

Consider adding mosquito fish to your water garden or small pond if it's not connected to natural waters.

Adult Mosquitos

Short-trimmed grass and shrubs will reduce places for flying, adult insects to rest. Mosquito

netting, pesticide-treated clothing, and insect repellent are all acceptable methods of defense.

Source: National Pesticide Information Center

Community Circles

Town-wide Community Yard Sale

There will be a community yard sale held June 10th from 8 am—1pm. If you would like to have your address listed on the "Go to yard sale" sheet, please email it to <u>kimberlylovius@gmail.com</u>.

All members of the community are welcome and encouraged to participate. You are not required to provide an email to participate. Good luck with your sale!!

Local Organizations

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

Northern County Soccer Alliance: Contact 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 *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

 ¹ Regular trash, heavy trash, and metal recycling
² 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

Town of Riverdale Park | June 2017

5008 Queensbury Road Riverdale Park, Maryland 20737

SUN	MON	TUE	W E D	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 Trash Collection	2 Riversdale Mansion Tours, 12p-3p Boy Scouts, 7p-9p, TH	3 YARD
4 Riversdale Mansion Tours, 12p-3p Doll Club, TH, 3p-6p	5 Regular Legislative Session, 8p, TH Trash Collection	6	7 MUTC, 7:30p, TH Yard Waste Collection	8 Trash Collection	9 Riversdale Mansion Tours, 12p-3p Boy Scouts, 7p-9p, TH	10 TOWN-WIDE COMMUNITY YARD SALE, 8a-1p Madison Hill HOA, 10:30a, TH
11 Riversdale Mansion Tours, 12p-3p Doll Club, TH, 3p-6p	12 Trash Collection	13	14 RBA, 5:30p, TH Yard Waste Collection	15 Trash Collection	16 Riversdale Mansion Tours, 12p-3p Boy Scouts, 7p-9p, TH	17
18 FATHER'S DAY Riversdale Tours, 12p-3p Doll Club, TH, 3p-6p	े Worksession, 8p, TH	20	21 Yard Waste Collection	22 Trash Collection	23 Riversdale Mansion Tours, 12p-3p Boy Scouts, 7p-9p, TH	24
25 Riversdale Mansion Tours, 12p-3p Doll Club, TH, 3p-6p	26 Trash Collection	27	28 Lion's Club, 7p, TH Yard Waste	29 Trash Collection	30	

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