



The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

April 2012

Volume 42, Issue 3

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DON'T MISS!
NO TE PIERDAS!

**Riverdale Park Annual
Easter Egg Hunt**

**Búsqueda de Huevos de Pascuas en Riverdale
Park**

**April 7, 2012 – 7 de Abril, 2012
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**On the grounds of Riversdale Mansion
En la Mansión de Riversdale**

4811 Riverdale Rd. Riverdale Park, MD 20737

Special Appearance by Easter Bunny

**Children, bring your baskets!
Niños, traigan sus canastas!**



IMPORTANT!

**Bulk Trash Collection
WEDNESDAYS
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**

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

Council Actions

March 5, 2012
Regular Legislative Meeting

By Waverly Pollitt

1. **Approved** – A permit for a 6ft. rear yard fence located at 6107 43rd Street (Ward 1)
 - 1B. **Approved**- two curb cuts to Little Workers of Sacred Hearts Nursery, located at 4805 Queensbury Road.
 - 1C. **Approved**- nominating Sarah Domin McClellan to the Ethics Board.
2. **Approved**- A Carnival Permit Request for Riverdale Park Volunteer Fire Department and waiver of application fee (Ward 6).
3. **Introduction** – Ordinance Resolution 2012-OR-02, an ordinance amending certain regulations relating to the issuance of parking permits.
4. **Approval** – Resolution 2012-R-01, a resolution concerning Madison Hill parking permit area.
5. **Introduction** – of an Emergency Ordinance 2012-OR-03, concerning dumpsters and storage receptacles on residential property.
6. **Introduction** – of Ordinance 2012-OR-04, concerning dumpsters and storage receptacles on public property.
7. **Approved**- Resolution 2012-R-02 to begin a joint negotiation, with Prince George’s County and other municipalities, of the Comcast cable renewal.
8. **Approved**- of Resolution 2012-R-03, extending time limits on a previous resolution ensuring the stable and efficient operation of Town Government while correcting a recently identified but long standing ambiguity of section §622 of the Town Charter.
9. **Motion to defer**- Charter Amendment 2012-CR-01, concerning purchasing and procurement until the July 2, 2012 legislative meeting.
10. **Approved**- Charter Amendment 2012-CR-02, concerning issuance of debt.
11. **Approved**- Minutes for the regular legislative meeting on February 6, 2012.

TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK FAIR SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE 2012-OR-02 PARKING PERMITS

This is to give notice that the Riverdale Park Town Council has introduced and intends to take action on Ordinance 2012-OR-02.

Ordinance 2012-OR-02 would amend certain regulations relating to the issuance of parking permits in the Town of Riverdale Park; establish a biannual registration and fee for such permits; authorize the Town Council to limit the number of permits issued for each residence in certain districts; provide for the administration of the Town’s parking permit program by the Town Administrator; provide for the expiration of existing parking permits and the transition to biannual registration and permit fees; and generally relate to managing on-street parking in certain areas of the Town.

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
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

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

Ordinance 2012-OR-02 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 2012-OR-03
DUMPSTERS AND STORAGE RECEPTACLES ON RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY**

This is to give notice that the Riverdale Park Town Council has introduced and intends to take action on Ordinance 2012-OR-03 as an emergency ordinance.

Ordinance 2012-OR-03 would prohibit the placing of certain dumpsters and storage receptacles on residential property except pursuant to a permit issued by the Town; provide for the issuance of and fees for such permits; provide penalties for violations; provide that this Ordinance is subject to approval by the Prince George’s District Council; and generally relate to the regulation of the placement of certain dumpsters and storage receptacles on residential property in the Town of Riverdale Park..

Ordinance 2012-OR-03 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 2012-OR-04
DUMPSTERS AND STORAGE RECEPTACLES ON STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND OTHER PUBLIC
PROPERTY**

This is to give notice that the Riverdale Park Town Council has introduced and intends to take action on Ordinance 2012-OR-04.

Ordinance 2012-OR-04 would prohibit the placing of certain dumpsters and storage receptacles on streets, sidewalks and other public property except pursuant to a permit issued by the Town; provide for the issuance of and fees for such permits; provide penalties for violations; provide for the removal of certain dumpsters and receptacles under certain circumstances and for collecting the cost of removal; and generally relate to the regulation of the placement of certain dumpsters and storage receptacles on streets, sidewalks and other public property in the Town of Riverdale Park.

Ordinance 2012-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.

Mayor’s Report

By Mayor Vernon Archer

Next Steps for Cafritz/Whole Foods Development. Since the end of last summer the most demanding activity that the council and I, along with town staff have attended to was the Cafritz Development. To recap, the Council voted unanimously to support the rezoning of the property that the development needs in order to move forward, but support is subject to a number of demanding conditions. After a lengthy and rigorous review before the Planning Board and the professional staff of Maryland National Capital Park and Planning the zoning change was approved, subject to the conditions I and my colleagues negotiated with the developer.

In April the rezoning application moves to its final stage, which is review by the County Council assembled as the District Council for zoning matters. The public hearing will open at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, April 11. The decision by the District Council may or may not be reached that day, though I will be surprised if it goes through in that single day as I expect (and encourage) significant public testimony on this complex and significant project. The hearing will resume at 10 a.m. on Friday, April 13 if necessary.

I will be at the hearing representing the town's position. That is both in the sense that we endorse the project, but I will also make sure that our hard won conditions remain in place and not ignored or watered down. The zoning request and plan for the project as it went forward from our Town Hall to the County for review is a good plan; good for Riverdale Park now and into the future. So in order to make sure we are not "run over" in this process the conditions must remain strong and in place. I know that several members of the Town Council also plan on being at the hearing and adding their voice and weight to insure the approval of the whole rezoning package.

Youth and Community Wing Addition to Town Hall. One town initiative that was slowed down since last summer by the demands of getting the Cafritz proposal negotiated correctly was the project to add new space to our Town Hall for youth and community activities. While it was slowed down, we have continued to make progress on this exciting project and I want to let you know where it now stands.

First, we received substantial assistance from the State Legislature last session in the form of a \$275,000 bond to match part of our own investment. I went to Annapolis a few weeks ago and requested an additional funding match for this session, and our state delegates Anne Healey, Justin Ross and Tawanna Gaines along with our Senator Paul Pinsky all reported optimistically that we should get at least some additional assistance.

Also, the council recently voted to utilize Architect and Planner Paul Mortensen to work with the town government and Riverdale Park community to develop the design for the addition and see it through to approval by the Planning Board. This process will include some preliminary meetings with the council and town staff, followed by a series of public meetings and/or workshops to solicit public input, followed by the council selecting the best alternative for the project. Our goal is to be at the Planning Board by the end of 2012.

Small Town Energy Program Partnership. Your town government is always looking for ways to partner with surrounding jurisdictions to benefit us all, and one exciting new opportunity is coming to us from University Park. This program called STEP—Small Town Energy Program--brings greater energy efficiency to small towns like ours by providing individual residents the means to lower their utility bills through reducing energy consumption.

More information will be forthcoming but the program is designed to provide residents with knowledgeable advice to access rebates, credits, energy audits, reputable contractors and low cost financing to improve the energy efficiency of their homes. University Park is reporting residents are experiencing an investment cost vs. utility bill reduction and rebates ratio that will break even in about 4 years. I believe that many of us in Riverdale Park will be interested in making these kinds of investments in our properties.

Like all town programs we look to community involvement in order to make them work the way residents want them to work and this program will be no different. We will therefore be looking for a group of interested volunteers to help get out the word on our STEP program and oversee it for the next year. If you are interested please contact me directly through Town Hall.

Riversdale House Museum Events

The 1812 Woman—Spend the Weekend at Riversdale

From 2012 to 2015, the U. S. and Canada will be commemorating the War of 1812. *The 1812 Woman, to be held Saturday-Sunday, May 5-6, 2012*, offers you the unique opportunity to experience the life of a woman in 1812 during a weekend at Riversdale House Museum. This program is designed for those who want to develop living history impressions as a woman in the War of 1812, want to improve their existing impressions, or simply want to learn more about everyday life in the period.

Begin the weekend at 9:00 on Saturday with an overview of the events leading up to the war, including the latest news. Then, explore household tasks such as plain sewing and bookkeeping. Katie Cannon of Ageless Artifice will talk about personal appearance and will have her wares for sale. Participants will work the members of the Kitchen Guild to prepare their dinner over the open hearth. In the evening, listen to period literature, enjoy games and pastimes, and more.

Enjoy a rare opportunity to sleep in the historic house Saturday night. After a morning of programs on Sunday, the weekend concludes at noon. Participants are welcome, but not required, to come in period attire.

Advance payment required by April 30. Fee: \$75 residents of Prince George's & Montgomery Counties; \$90 non-residents.

Quarterly Lecture: The War of 1812 in Maryland

Riversdale House Museum continues the commemoration of the War of 1812 bicentennial with *The War of 1812 in Maryland*, a lecture by Dr. Ralph Eshelman. He will present research and findings from his book, *The War of 1812 in the Chesapeake: A Reference Guide to Historic Sites in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia*, during this illustrated talk. He will sign copies of his book after the program.

Dr. Eshelman is the former Director of the Calvert Marine Museum in Solomons, MD, and was a Research Associate in the Department of Paleobiology at the National Museum of Natural History. He is active with several professional organizations, including the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Council of American Maritime Museums, Society for Historical Archaeology, and the American Association for Quaternary Environment, among others.

Dr. Eshelman is currently the owner of Eshelman and Associates, a cultural resource consultancy firm, partner in a lighthouse preservation firm, and a consultant to the National Park Service.

Lectures are \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for students with a valid ID. This is a walk-in program and reservations are not required.

Seasonal Selections: From Garden to Table: April

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*.

The Riversdale Kitchen Guild will host *Green, Green* on Sunday, April 15, and *Celebration of Spring* on Sunday, April 29. 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.

Tavern Night at Riversdale

Transforming the servant's quarters into a candle-lit, subterranean tavern, Riversdale House Museum presents the 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, April 14 at 8:00 P.M. \$22 resident, \$27 non-resident; advance payment required by March 30; must be at least 21 years of age. Please note that this popular program will likely sell out before March 30. Register early!

Riversdale House Museum, a National Historic Landmark, is located at 4811 Riverdale Road, in Riverdale Park, Maryland. It is owned by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

For more information, call 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544; or email at riversdale@pgparks.com.

Ward and Committee Reports

Ward Two Report

By Council Member Alan K. Thompson
akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Finance Committee Report

While I've taken a few days off from my work for the Town and Ward 2 to enjoy the beautiful weather, it is spring, and things are starting to get busy.

As is true every spring, budget season is underway. Mayor Archer is preparing his proposed budget now, and will present it to the council in early May, at which time we will start a long series of hearings on the budget. Our Town Attorney suggested to the Finance Committee that we pass the budget this year as an ordinance, rather than a resolution, so the process will be a little bit different, though it won't feel much different unless you are involved with the budget negotiations and the writing of the ordinance.

As is also true every spring, it's tax season. Please check on your state income tax form that you live in Riverdale Park – it won't change how much you pay on your taxes, but will mean that the town gets a little bit to help pay for police, street repairs, trash pickup, and everything else the town does.

There are two pieces of legislation making their way through the council right now. The first, which you may have heard about before, is a charter amendment to clarify a long-standing ambiguity on how the town spends money. The Town Attorney has advised us that this language could be read to require the council to authorize every expenditure made by the Mayor or Town Administrator, even expenditures as small as a box of paper clips. There are some towns in Maryland that do this, and their governments have a difficult time delivering services efficiently – bills are sometimes months late getting paid because of politics, which costs a small fortune in late fees. In order to have the town continue to run efficiently, I envision two options for moving forward.

The differences between these two options are relatively small. The first option, which requires smaller changes to the charter than the second option, would require the council to vote twice each year – once to pass a budget, and a second time to authorize the Mayor and Town Administrator to make expenditures within that budget. The second option requires only one vote – that the council pass a budget; the Mayor and Town Administrator would still be required to keep expenditures within the budget, but would be authorized to make expenditures without council action. Both

options would allow the council to identify, either annually or on an as-needed basis, expenditures that need closer council oversight, up to and including requiring a vote by the council before expenditure can occur. I prefer the second option because consolidating the majority of spending decisions into a single vote is a more efficient use of the time and energy of the council and town staff.

This charter amendment isn't scheduled to be voted on until July so the council will have time to thoroughly discuss the options above, and others that may come up. Please feel free to contact me if you want more details on this legislation.

The second piece of legislation is a significant change in the way permit parking is run. This legislation, discussed elsewhere in this issue of the Town Crier, will require renewal of permits every two years, and a fee will be charged to cover the costs. I encourage everyone who currently has permit parking to review the legislation and provide me with feedback.

Finally, there are two items that have been hibernating for a little while that are coming back before the council soon: the Cafritz project, and the dog park. The Cafritz Project rezoning will be considered by the District Council on April 11 (and probably April 14). The vote of the District Council will most likely determine the fate of the project. Parks and Planning has been working on the dog park design, and will be presenting some new ideas in the next month or two. I will be sure that people who live near the park will be notified by mail or flier. Please contact me if you want to be certain you hear about the meetings.

I hope everyone is enjoying the warm spring weather as much as I am. Check here again next month for more news!

Ward Five Report

By Council Member Raymond Rivas
rrivas@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Community Affairs Committee Report

Please, residents of Town of Riverdale Park, take notice of your beautiful community and surroundings. You must not take for granted what you have here. As a valued resident of the Town of Riverdale Park you need to keep in mind of the hard work and efforts of the public works and the staff of Riverdale Park. I would love to put the stamp of the beautification award on our community. On the other hand, you as a resident must help keep your area nice and tidy. Make a collective effort to cherish the

authenticity in the humility which emulates within the neighborhood.

Spring is so rewarding when you can observe the flowers blossoming, grass growing and the tree sprouting out towards the sky. With the weather cooperating, it has put a certain type of glow over our Town. As a result, The Town of Riverdale Park outshines the other towns. This is what is so rewarding for as part of this growth and building of a diverse community.

I believe our youths are our future. We need to direct them towards the right path. It is up to them to continue and to try making some decisions on their own. And if there is a split in the path hopefully they have a GPS to help them find their way. If only life were so easy, we could have a GPS to guide us to the easy terrain and to avoid the downward sloped, slippery lanes. They will never have to climb out of the deep well and start all over again. Life is a learning experience and these kids hopefully will learn from their mistakes. That being said, The Town of Riverdale Park has a Youth Group program to try to bring the best out of the kids. We want to teach them the value of interacting with other youths and society. By taking these youths to certain events, functions, and exposing them to the arts, we help broaden their horizons and views of the surrounding cultures. These youths need your help and guidance. We ask for more volunteers or “big brothers” and “big sisters” to assist in the growth of the young kids. Maybe there are some teenagers who want to participate in a mentoring program. This would be great with high school kids who need to make up some community service hours.

The annual Easter Egg Hunt is coming upon us once again on April 7, 2012 at our Historical Riversdale Mansion. The time will be from 1pm to 3pm. Please bring your basket and little ones for fun and pictures. You will have a chance to take a picture with the Easter Bunny.

Residentes de la ciudad de Riverdale Park dense cuenta de la hermosa comunidad y alrededores que tienen. No seamos desentendidos de lo que tenemos. Como residentes de la ciudad de Riverdale Park valoremos el duro trabajo del Departamento de Trabajos Públicos y del personal. Me encantaría poner el sello del Premio del embellecimiento a nuestra comunidad. Por otro lado como un residente debes ayudar a mantener su área agradable y ordenada. Hagamos un esfuerzo acumulativo para dejar ver la autenticidad y la humildad que emula en la ciudad.

La primavera es tan gratificante cuando se pueden observar las flores floreciendo, el pasto creciendo y el crecimiento de los árboles hacia el cielo. Con el clima cooperando y la madre naturaleza, se ha puesto un cierto resplandor sobre nuestra ciudad. Como resultado, la ciudad de Riverdale Park deja afuera el resto de las ciudades. Esto es lo que es tan gratificante para mí el crecimiento y la creación de una comunidad diversificada.

Creo que nuestra juventud es nuestro futuro. Necesitamos dirigirlos hacia el camino correcto. Corresponde a ellos seguir e intentar algunas decisiones por cuenta propia. Y si hay una división en la ruta con suerte tienen un GPS para ayudarles a encontrar su camino. Sólo si la vida era tan fácil, podemos tener un navegador GPS para guiarnos al terreno fácil y evitar los carriles que van hacia abajo. Nunca tendrán que escalar por el pozo profundo y empezar de nuevo. La vida es una experiencia de aprendizaje y esperemos que estos niños aprendan de sus errores. Después de este se dice, la ciudad de Riverdale Park tiene un programa de grupo de jóvenes para intentar sacar lo mejor de los niños. Queremos enseñarles el valor de interactuar con otros jóvenes y la sociedad. Tomando estos jóvenes a determinados eventos, funciones y exponiendo a las Artes contribuye a ampliar su horizonte y vistas de las culturas. Estos jóvenes necesitan su ayuda y orientación. Pedimos más voluntarios o grandes hermanos y hermanas de gran clase de hablar para ayudar en el crecimiento de los niños. Quizás hay algunos adolescentes que quieren participar en un programa de mentores. Esto sería genial con chicos de secundaria que necesitan para hacer algunas horas de servicio comunitario.

La caza anual de huevo de Pascua viene a nosotros una vez más el 07 de abril del 2012 en nuestra histórica Riversdale Mansión. La hora es de la 1 pm hasta las 3 pm. Por favor traiga la cesta y pequeños para la diversión y fotografías. Usted tendrá una oportunidad para tomar una fotografía con el Conejito de Pascua.

Public Works Report

By Leonard Addison

Saturday Drop Off – Because of our annual spring cleanup on April 21st, there will be no Saturday drop off this month at the Public Works yard. The next scheduled day for drop off of bulk trash will be on Saturday, May 19th and June 16th.

Holiday Trash Collection – Trash collection during the month of April will not be affected by the Easter Holiday.

Community Clean Up and Earth Day - Riverdale Park is having its annual community spring clean up on April 21, 2012. Residents are offered the opportunity to put their yard waste/bulk trash items on the curb the evening of Friday, April 20th for pick up on Saturday, April 21, 2012.

• **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 Riverside Park at Riverside Drive. 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.

Spraying for Mosquito - A schedule for mosquito spraying has not been released. Residents needing this service are asked to call Jeannine Dorothy, 301-422-5080, at the Maryland Department of Agriculture with questions or comments.

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

We successfully re-chartered Troop 252 on time for the next year, and our meeting place is at the Delaney house. Call Bob or MHB for directions (below).

Troop 252 is still planning to hold our next Court of Honor at NASA's Visitor Center whenever we can get all the awardees together. As Scouts get older, they get busier. Sports, homework, jobs, girls, college preparations all pull at our young

men, which is why we push them to get as many Merit Badges and advance as far as they can, as quickly as they can.

Our boats and bicycles are ready for our next outings, which will probably be at one of our favorite camping grounds - Jug Bay, in Croom. We need some adults who can ride a bicycle about six miles to escort the Scouts to the Observation Tower at Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary. Our Scouts will cook for us and set up your tent if necessary.

Scoutmaster Killen received his Doctorate in Boy Scouting Science in the mail from National Council Area Council.

Short one this month - School is keeping the Scouts busy. Please Call Bob Killen, Scoutmaster, at 301-483-8455, or Eneida Martinez-Brown, Committee Chair, at 301-864-0059 for information how you can join in our fun.

Riverdale Fire Department

By Cherri Mattison

As many of you saw on television, quite a few members from the Riverdale, Bladensburg, and College Park fire departments were injured while operating on a house fire in Riverdale Heights. All members are recuperating nicely with one member from Bladensburg VFD remaining in the hospital. We hope he continues to make progress and wish him well on his road to recovery.

Spring is approaching which means, not only are you supposed to change your clocks forward, but please remember to change your smoke detector batteries.

The Riverdale Fire Department is hosting a carnival the end of March beginning of April in the parking lot of the Alamo Mexican Restaurant located at 5508 Kenilworth Avenue. Bring the kids out for a night of fun and support your local volunteers.

Senator Pinsky Scholarships

By Lisa Lincoln

Students who reside in the 22nd Legislative District and are planning to attend a Maryland University or trade school are encouraged to apply for a Maryland taxpayer Senatorial Scholarship through the office of state Senator Paul G. Pinsky.

The scholarships are awarded annually to deserving undergraduate and graduate students. A volunteer committee of community members makes selections after reviewing academic achievement, financial need, and commitment to higher education. Most scholarships are awarded for four years or until the recipient completes his or her degree, whichever comes first.

The 22nd Legislative District includes Berwyn Heights, Edmonston, Greenbelt, Hyattsville, Lanham, New Carrollton, Woodlawn, Riverdale Park, Riverdale Heights, Beacon Heights, and University Park.

Last year, Senator Pinsky's scholarship committee awarded a total of 80 scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$2500. Senatorial scholarships automatically renew each year once awarded.

Applications are available online at: <http://www.senatorpinsky.org/> or from Senator Pinsky's office at (301) 858-3155. All applicants must submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as part of their application.

Completed applications must be submitted to Senator Pinsky's office no later than April 5, 2012.

Artists, Artisans, Vendors Sought for ArtsFest 2012

By Christina Burton

This notice is a Full Employment Act for Artists! The Riverdale Arts Council sees light at the end of the recession tunnel and orders all area and regional artists back to work immediately.

"It's time to check your supplies, your stock and begin producing your unique wares for ArtsFest2012," exclaims RPAC President Emily Fanning. "We have hundreds, maybe a thousand, guests coming to the fifth annual arts and music festival and all of us need to be ready."

ArtsFest2012 happens Sunday, May 6, 11 am to 6 pm in Town Center. There will be more than three dozen local and regional artists, artisans and vendors along with a handful of musical groups. Among the artists already signed up are *Carol Tisdle* of Glamour & Grace - Handcrafted jewelry of glass, crystal, pearl, wood, shell; *Janet Regier*, who specializes in recycled repurposed gift bags & greetings; *Australia Worsley*, *who uses pen, ink, watercolor and computer graphics in creating her work; photographer *Sandy Thunker*, and *MadelinePastel*, a painter and jewelry maker. Riverdale Park's acclaimed realism painter, *Gerald King*, will also be returning to Town Center.

Artists are invited to complete the *Call For Artists* form at <http://www.rpartsCouncil.org> (or call Town Offices, *301-927-6381) and mail \$15 checks payable to the Riverdale Park Arts Council in care of Town Hall, 5008 Queensbury Road, Riverdale Park, MD 20737 before *April 16, 2012*(when the fee increases to \$25).

Riverdale Park's very own *Active Cultures* theater group, directed by Mary Resing, will debut *Sportaculture IV*, five brand new short plays about local sports. Performances are all free in the adjacent Douglas Development Little Theater.

Returning to the RPAC soundstage will be Oldies band *Wayne Brown & 2nd Conspiracy*, the jazz-infused, Americana-marinated Alternative-Pop *Brulee*, and *Grupo Impacto De Ases* playing authentic, upbeat regional Mexican rhythm. *One String Willie* will again tickle the crowd with his truly unusual one string instrument-making workshop while the Archie Edwards Blues Heritage Foundation performs all day. All News WTOP-FM personality *David Burd* will again emcee the day's events.

If you are an artist, lock into May 6 today. Questions? Don't hesitate to contact RPAC President Emily Fanning at 301-864-5561 or ourdollmom@aol.com. You can also email the Arts Council at RPArtsCouncil@gmail.com

Community Circles

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 Dannielle Glaros at (301) 779-5915.

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 301-332-6258.

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 **The Historical Association of Riverdale Park (HARP)—**Website: www.harp1920.com Email: harp1920@yahoo.com