



The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

April 2013

Volume 43, Issue 3

Dog Park	Page 1
Council Actions	Page 2
Fair Summary	Page 2
Police Report	Page 3
Riversdale Events	Page 3
Mayor's Report	Page 4
Ward 1 Report	Page 5
Ward 2 Report	Page 5
Public Works Report	Page 6
Boy Scouts Troop 252	Page 7
Community Outreach	Page 7
ArtsFest 2013	Page 8
Community Circles	Page 9
April 2013 Calendar	Page 10

IMPORTANT!

Bulk Trash Collection
WEDNESDAYS
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
Contact Bates Trucking and
Trash Collections at (301)
773-2069 *before 2pm on*
Tuesday.

SAVE THE DATE! **(SEE PAGE 8 FOR MORE INFO)**

ArtsFest 2013
Sunday, May 5 11a-5p
Town Center @ MARC
Station



Riverdale Dog Park Nears Reality

By Judy Glaes, *Riverdale Dog Park Advisory Committee Member*

Dog Park designer Chris Colvin presented a revised dog park design to interested citizens on March 6. The design includes nearly an acre of fenced-in space. Colvin will make a few requested revisions and present the final design later this month. If you love dogs and want what is best for dogs and for our community, this is your opportunity to help bring this asset to Riverdale Park.

What is a dog park? A Community Dog Park is an asset not only to dog owners, but to the Town of Riverdale Park. Here, it refers to a fenced enclosure where dog owners supervise as their dogs run and play off leash with other dogs.

Why a dog park? They promote responsible pet ownership and the enforcement of dog-control laws; give dogs a place to exercise safely, thus reducing barking and other problem behaviors; provide seniors and disabled owners with an accessible place to exercise their companions; and provide an area for community-building socializing.

Who is working on it? Ten interested residents met in 2008 to discuss creation of a local dog park. The group researched dog park options and met with representatives of the Town and Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC). The group became the Riverdale Dog Park Advisory Committee with approval by the town council. Then they prioritized amenities, spoke with County Councilman Eric Olsen to obtain funding and testified at a P&P budget hearing. As a result a Riverdale Park Dog Park budget was approved.

Where will it be? Advisory Committee members identified potential locations. We surveyed residents close to the preferred location, an open MNCPPC property along 51st Ave (near the tennis courts). Then we met with nearby residents as well as the Park and Planning designer to discuss specifics on site.

When will it be built? It could take as long as a year to get all the permits that are required. A very important task remains before the permit approval process can begin. **Interested citizens are needed** to help develop a Memorandum-Of-Understanding (MOU) between the Town and MNCPPC. The MOU will include accessibility decisions (open to the public or to members only, with or without a fee) and park rules. Additional MOU decisions include: who will be responsible for day-to-day operations and enforcement. Citizens will also help make decisions about signs, develop information for park users as well as choose and coordinate Eagle Scout projects.

How to join the Dog Park Task Force E-mail Town Hall at town@riverdaleparkmd.gov and mention your interest in the dog park, leave your name, phone number and e-mail address (if any). Or, call Riverdale Park Town Hall at 301-927-6381. Task Force meetings will be held as needed.

If you don't want to participate but just want to be kept informed, consider joining the dog park email list at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/riverdale-dogs>. It is a fairly quiet list that won't overwhelm. If you'd like to comment on the dog park, call your Councilman (see list on next page).

Council Actions

By Waverly Pollitt

Regular Legislative Meeting March 4, 2013

1. **Approved-** Motion to close Town Center from 2:00am on May 4, 2013, until 7:00pm on May 5, 2013, to support the Arts Fest.
2. **Approved-** Motion to authorize the Town Administrator to sign and send a letter of support for funding of the Purple Line.
3. **Adopted** – Resolution 2013-R-09, supporting a public art initiative in Riverdale Park.
4. **Adopted-** Resolution 2013-R-10 to implement a consent agenda for Town Council meetings.
5. **Introduction-** Ordinance 2013-OR-02, amending Chapter 23, Charges and Fees.
6. **Introduction-** Ordinance 2013-OR-03, to authorize the acquisition of 5731 Baltimore Avenue by eminent domain
7. **Approved-** Minutes for regular legislative meetings on February 4, 2013.
8. **Approved-** Minutes for special legislative meeting on February 25, 2013.
9. **Approved-** Motion to send a letter of support regarding County Bill CB-6-2013 and County Resolution CR-11- 2013

TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK FAIR SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE 2013-OR-02 TOWN CHARGES AND FEES

This is to give notice that the Riverdale Park Town Council has introduced and intends to take action on Ordinance 2013-OR-02.

Ordinance 2013-OR-02 would amend Section 23-1(b) of the Riverdale Park Town Code to modify certain existing and establish certain additional charges and fees imposed and collected by the Town of Riverdale Park. Ordinance 2013-OR-02 also would ratify, confirm and validate the collection of charges and fees imposed by the Town of Riverdale Park prior to the effective date of this Ordinance, provide that the provisions of this Ordinance are severable, and address matters generally related to charges and fees imposed and collected by the Town of Riverdale Park.

Ordinance 2013-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

www.riverdaleparkmd.gov

Town Hall

5008 Queensbury Road
Riverdale Park, MD 20737

301-927-6381, Hablamos Español

town@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Mayor Vernon Archer, 240-832-2257

varcher@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Council Members

Ward 1–Jonathan W. Ebbeler,

Chair, Econ Development, 404-626-2082
jebbeler@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Ward 2 – Alan Thompson

Chair, Finance Committee, 301-927-7407
akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Ward 3 - David Lingua

Chair, Public Safety, 301-779-3849
djlingua@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Ward 4 - Christopher Henry

Chair, Public Works, 301-910-9855
Chenry3240@verizon.net

Ward 5 – Raymond Rivas

Chair, Community Affairs, 301-625-9435
rrivas@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Ward 6 – Alejandro Silva

Chair, Legislative Committee, 301-801-3021
Sara Imhulse, **Town Administrator**

simhulse@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Jessica Barnes, **Town Clerk**

jbarnes@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Public Works, 301-864-1803

Leonard Addison, **Director**

Code Enforcement 240-898-2500

Colleen M. Ferguson, **Code Manager**

code@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Police Department, 301-927-4343

David Morris, **Police Chief**

dmorris@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Fire Department - Emergency 911

Information - 301-927-0356

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

**TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK
FAIR SUMMARY OF
ORDINANCE 2013-OR-03**

This is to give notice that the Riverdale Park Town Council has introduced and intends to take action on Ordinance 2013-OR-03.

Ordinance 2013-OR-03 would authorize the Town of Riverdale Park to acquire certain land and improvements commonly known as “Jey’s Auto” at 5731 Baltimore Avenue by eminent domain for a public purpose.

Ordinance 2013-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.

**Riverdale Park Police
Department Hosts MHSO
Multijurisdictional Sobriety
Checkpoint Task Force**

By Captain Patrick Timmons



On March 2, 2013, the Riverdale Park Police Department hosted a MHSO Multijurisdictional Sobriety Checkpoint. The operation was conducted in the 5500 block of Kenilworth Ave from 9pm to 1am. The purpose of this multijurisdictional effort was to deter people from driving impaired and to reduce the number of impaired driving collisions in Prince George’s County, MD.

During the Checkpoint, over 650 vehicles passed through the site, eight motorists were requested to perform sobriety testing, and three of those motorists were subsequently arrested and charged with Driving While Impaired.

The Riverdale Park Police Department will continue to host and participate in multijurisdictional public safety efforts.

**Riversdale House Museum
Events**



RIVERSDALE KITCHEN GUILD OPEN HOUSE

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 Celebration of Spring on Sunday, April 7 and Green, Green on Sunday, April 21. The demonstrations run from noon – 3:30pm and viewing is **FREE!** You are also invited to tour Riversdale House Museum. Admission is \$3 adults/\$2 seniors/\$1 students and **FREE** children 4 & under.

**SPICE UP YOUR EVENING WITH FEDERAL
FLAVORS AT RIVERSDALE**

Ever wonder what was the cook kept in the pantry 200 years ago? Spice up your evening with foodways historian and Riversdale Kitchen Guild member Kari Barrett as she takes your taste buds on a culinary tour of the Federal era. Enjoy a guided lecture and small tasting on Tuesday, April 23 at 7:30 pm.

The cost is \$5 for residents of Prince George’s and Montgomery Counties and \$6 for non-residents. Registration required by April 15.

Riversdale House Museum, a National Historic Landmark, is located at 4811 Riverdale Road, in Riverdale Park, Maryland. This facility is owned and operated by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George’s County.

Mayor's Report

By Mayor Vernon Archer

Town Budget and Investing in a Bright Future

The annual town budget proposal I send to the Council is probably the most significant single action I take in a year as Mayor. This will be delivered to Council and publicly available no later than May 1. It must be balanced with revenues equaling expenditures. Looking at the big picture of town services that we all depend on daily and what they cost in total, my proposal will hold no significant change. However this budget will include some important initiatives that should positively impact the town for years to come.

As I meet and talk with members of the community and Council about our budget priorities for the coming year I find that our discussions usually include mention of goals for the town that reach far beyond the coming fiscal year. Discussions of policing, trash pickup, the Farmers Market, community activities and the many other day to day items tend to almost inevitably move on to discussion of what we expect will happen to bring revitalization to Town Center, Route 1, Kenilworth Avenue, or what we expect to be the long term outcome of the EYA and Cafritz development. Community development issues such as arts and recreation, and our new Youth and Community Wing to Town Hall frequently come up too.

Budgets must lay the foundation for these long term goals if they will become reality and my proposal this year will include funding for several long term initiatives. Those who have been following town affairs have watched all of these items progress for several years.

First, as the Cafritz, EYA and Town Center/Douglas Development projects are all moving forward we are now in a great position to start moving for renovation along the rest of our stretch of Route 1. The plan both for zoning, building design, and business use and occupancy in this area was laid out a decade ago in our Mixed-Use Town Center zoning (MUTC). The Town will now be working with property owners and developers to bring this vision to reality, and to remove obstacles to our progress.

Among the first new steps we will take, is gaining ownership of the first property on Riverdale Park's southern boarder 5731 Baltimore Avenue. This property has sat empty and derelict for almost a decade and is an unacceptable "welcome" to our community. The Council and I are working on plans to make this property into a pocket park with a significant public art component. The goal is clearly to say, "You are somewhere special!" and to show others we are serious about renovating our community.

This park will be the southern of two "book ends" of our town with the northern one being at the new Cafritz Development. Cafritz will have a wide green buffer between the Route 1 and the Whole Food and we have discussed with Jane Cafritz having sculpture as a significant part of that buffer park. The Cafritz family has long been renowned for arts patronage, and one of the numerous advantages we expect to gain from having them become connected to our community is seeing Riverdale Park become more of an arts destination.

Another significant item that will be in the proposed budget is funding to complete the Youth and Community expansion to Town Hall. We have already received significant assistance from the State, and expect some more this legislative session. We also have some seed money that was set aside in 2007 and will gain proceeds from a sale of property to Maryland National Capital Park and Planning to help finance our new expansion at Town Hall. The remaining money needed will be raised through a 20 year bond.

These two investments in our Town's future will, of course, not be free. The two items together will require the Town to borrow approximately \$3 million. That will mean our total debt would be approximately \$6 million, which is well under our Charter mandated debt ceiling of \$12.2 million. And, by the way, our debt ceiling is also one of the lowest in the state when calculated as a percentage of the assessable real estate base of the town.

I know all of us property owners are also concerned about our tax rates and, more importantly, our actual tax bill! I'm happy to follow up on my report from last February and tell you that I see no need to change our existing tax rate for this ambitious budget. Since most of us have seen the assessments on our houses go down substantially this year, we will also see a reduction in the taxes we will pay to the Town. There is a great deal of variation from one house's assessment to the next, but for the Town as a whole the average residential property assessment went down 21%.

I want our town to invest in a bright future with a revitalizing Route 1, an expanded Town Hall for us all, and a little extra cash in our pant pockets too.

Ward and Committee Reports

Ward One Report

By Council Member Jonathan W. Ebbeler
jebbeler@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Economic Development Committee Report

Douglas Development is one step closer to finishing their utility build-out as they ready the main building for tenants. In March, they came before the M-UTC committee and presented and were approved for a request for an exterior gas meter. This was a requirement for the high-pressure gas line that Washington Gas is bringing into the building in anticipation of a potential restaurant use. I realize that many are taking an “I’ll believe it when I see it” point of view on this property and that is fair; suffice it to say that the project is happening. By the time this article is published, there is an expectation that the first lease of 4,700 square feet will have been signed.

There has been a significant team behind this project to make sure it does in fact go forward. County Councilman Olson’s office has been critically important. His Chief of Staff Dannielle Glaros has helped lead County efforts along with the County Redevelopment Authority and County Executive’s office. All parties involved knew how important getting these buildings full of tenants was to the town and to me personally. It helped tremendously that we made a strong argument for ourselves in how we handled the Cafritz negotiations and the town’s prudence in maintaining fiscal governance.

The Town Center build-out is one of many projects going on around town that will impact our lives for decades to come. The most important thing to keep in mind once new vendors are in the spaces is that the town needs to patronize the businesses. We have a prime opportunity to change the nature of the types of services that come to town. Town Center Market has set a high standard for other development to meet. Once Douglas Development meets their obligation to provide the opportunity to others for commercial success, it is our responsibility to ensure that those businesses are commercially viable.

Although the Town has new and exciting development opportunities, this does not mean that we should forget our history and existing business owners and cultural landmarks that have been the cornerstones to our community decades. Of particular note are the Riversdale Museum, the Calvert House Inn, and Rinaldi Lanes. Riversdale celebrates its 20th year of being open

and with the Jazz nights doubled in June/July/August the museum continues to shine as a monument to Riverdale Park’s place in the history of this area. The Calvert House Inn celebrates its 50th year in business this year – have one of their delicious crab cakes and you will know why they have outlasted most of their competition. Finally, after an exhaustive insurance battle, Rinaldi Lanes will once again be open this summer.

We have begun conversations to ask Park and Planning undertake a new Master Plan for the area. This is a process where land use, zoning, and future visioning for areas is contemplated and spelled out. It is the basis for most development decisions for 10-20 years with the last one being completed in 1994. As Chair of Economic Development, I have tried to usher in a simple message to potential development partners that an outdated Master Plan has had trouble communicating: Riverdale Park welcomes development assuming that it is smart, sustainable, and congruent with our existing residential wants and needs. We have also taken the last two years to more vigorously enforce zoning and land use since it is the basis for ensuring the entire community (residential and commercial) have rules applied fairly and without prejudice.

The significant land-use decisions and initiatives the Town has undertaken over the last two years like Cafritz, Town Center, and the Purple Line support have built the foundation to ask a simple but fundamental question: what is the vision for Riverdale Park for the next few decades. Who are we and where do we want to go. It is a debate that is long overdue and I hope every resident participates.

Ward Two Report

By Council Member Alan Thompson
akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Finance Committee Report

Spring is in the air, and that means that a Councilman’s thoughts turn to the budget, mosquitos, and, this year, Town elections (I will be running to represent Ward 2 again).

As is true every year, Mayor Archer is now hard at work on his proposed budget, which he will present to the Council in early May. The Finance Committee will have at least three hearings during May to review and suggest amendments to the Mayor’s budget, and it will come to a vote in June. I welcome all input on the budget (and have received suggestions already from some residents).

Public Works Report

By Leonard Addison

For those of you who (like me) haven't filed your income taxes yet, I'd ask that you verify on the Maryland Form 502 that you've put "Riverdale Park" in the box under your address that says "City, Town, or Taxing Area." This will not change how much you pay in taxes, but will make sure that the Town gets that fraction of your taxes that we're supposed to. This revenue is used to pay for police, street repairs, trash pickup, and everything else the town does.

I think everybody who reads my articles knows how much I hate mosquitos. As in past years, I encourage all Town residents to do an inventory of places around their yards where water can gather, because that's where mosquitos like to breed. If you have a birdbath, please either empty it frequently or put mosquito pucks into it. The mosquito pucks also work in ornamental fishponds, but if the pond actually has fish in it they'll usually eat the larvae. One place that people don't think about is their gutters – if you have standing water in your gutters, mosquitos will be more than happy to lay their eggs and breed in that water. One final thing to remember: my least favorite mosquito, the Asian Tiger, has a flight range of only around 300 feet, so if your yard is providing breeding places for them, they're probably biting you and your family more than anybody else!

The Finance Committee met this month and discussed how to move forward on implementing an electronic voucher system (which will allow the town to process payments more efficiently), the Town's proposed new personnel policy, and some concerns I have about whether we are getting tax revenue from areas of Town that were "recently" annexed.

One final tidbit before I sign off – the dog park planned near 51st Avenue in Ward 2 is coming to the end of its design phase. We will be having a meeting this month (that meeting is not scheduled yet) to discuss rules of operation, and the Town's role in managing the park, and another meeting on April 25 (7pm, Town Hall) to discuss the (hopefully) final design of the park. Construction is not expected to get going for at least a year after final design approval. Please contact me if you want more information, or want to be informed of any meetings regarding the park.



Saturday Drop Off – The next scheduled dates for drop off of bulk trash on the third Saturday of each month, from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM, are as follows: May 18 and June 15.

Community Events

- **Community Clean Up** - Riverdale Park is having its annual community spring cleanup on **April 20, 2013**. Residents are offered the opportunity to put their yard waste/bulk trash items on the curb the evening of Friday, April 19th for pick up on Saturday, April 20, 2013. This event replaces the April Saturday Drop Off and the Public Works facility will not be open for drop off of any bulk trash items.

The following items WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR PICKUP:

- Remodeling lumber, flooring material, plaster, plasterboard and interior tile
- Fencing material or poles
- Air conditioners, refrigerators and freezers
- Lawnmowers or other gas powered tools
- Automobile major components
- Tires
- Dirt, stone, gravel and sod
- Concrete blocks and bricks, cement
- Antifreeze and/or oil
- Glass, windows, door panels, fish tanks
- Paint
- Hazardous materials and/or chemicals

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**, on Saturday, April 20, 2013, residents are asked to join us as we do our share to clean a portion of the river. The site designated for our area is the site behind the bowling alley off of Kenilworth at 6322 Kenilworth Avenue, Riverdale Park, Maryland.

Volunteers wishing to participate in the Earth Day event are asked to call the Department of Public Works at 301-864-1803. **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.** Student volunteers earn community service hours for this activity.

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.**

Town of Riverdale Park Contact Information

Town Hall 5008 Queensbury Rd **301-927-6381**

Services: park permits, personal property taxes, finances

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

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

Police Department 5004 Queensbury Rd **301-927-4343**

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

Boy Scouts Troop 252

By Robert Killen

How the winter has passed! March is half-over, and I forgot to submit for last month's issue the Skiing trips our Scouts and Scouters took in January, or in February, either. We had warm snow both times, which slowed the slopes down enough for the first-time skiers to build up their confidence rapidly. They were on the lifts and skiing down the more advanced slopes late in the morning both Saturdays, which usually takes beginners to the second day, or at least late in the afternoon to get up enough nerve (it's great to be young and agile). Nobody got hurt either day, and we noticed

several young men (not with us) skiing and snowboarding down the Black Diamond slopes in shorts - no shirts - (lederhosen, too). Not one fell, either (close)!

Troop 252 met at the Greenbelt Swimming Pool Friday, March 1, and found out that our younger Scouts still have to build up their stamina to pass the Boy Scout swimming test. They're just now learning how to relax in the water. While they were catching their breaths and drying off after vigorously swimming through the water, our resourceful Scouts seized the opportunity to complete several Advancement Requirements, which we signed off in their Scout Handbooks. More swimming time will build their endurance and familiarity with the sport; and they won't drink so much pool water (Yuck)!

Two Scouters from Troop 252 attended Baltimore Area Council's University of Scouting on 16 March at Carroll Community College, in Westminster, and each one won a Degree in Scouting. We'll be biking and boating in early April at Jug Bay, then the Catholic-Protestant Religious Retreat at Mattaponi April 19-21. Call one of us and join in the fun! Contact Bob Killen, Scoutmaster, at rfkille@yahoo.com - (301) 483-8455, Eneida Martinez-Brown (301) 864-0059, or Sandra Tolson at (301) 927-2275 for a free demonstration. You'll like it or we'll give you all your money back, plus interest.

Hopefully by the time you read this, we will have already transferred our Charter from St. Bernard's of Clairvaux to the Riverdale Park City Hall. Stay posted and BE PREPARED.

Local LDS Congregation Sponsors Community Outreach

Partners for 53 years, Milton and Linda McGehee share a passion, bolstering the morale of our troops in the trenches and in recuperation. Their enthusiasm is infectious. They have recruited several sponsors to aid in the assembling of the 100 to 150 "care packages" they create and distribute every other month. Over the years Three Brothers Pizza has donated tens of thousands of the boxes that house the packages. Regular sponsors include a Christ Life Center, two Baptist and a Methodist church, as well as two aerospace unions. Notwithstanding, all the help, the McGehees expend substantial personal resources to insure the packages reach their destinations.

Saturday, April 13, the College Park ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has organized a community service open house to assist the McGehees in pulling an extra order of the care packages together. "It is our fervent desire to work together with community and religious groups to lift the morale of our injured service personnel," said Bishop Ryan Curtis. "We have an excellent working relationship with the city of Hyattsville and are anxious to share our resources with the community at large. This service project will hopefully help open that door," he continued.

Among services offered to the general public are addiction recovery counseling, employment networking, counseling and referrals, family history research assistance, self-reliance and provident living information. In addition to displays on its youth programs, the open house will highlight the church's humanitarian activities that include emergency services, macro-economic planning and support and the perpetual education fund for third world nations.

"We look forward to welcoming all who might wish to support our troops and learn more of our church's community support," concluded Bishop Curtis.

The open house will be held Saturday, April 13, 10 a.m. to 12:30. All are welcome.

Most items needed for the McGhee Care Packages are available at Dollar Stores. They include:

- Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Thick boot socks
- Tee-shirts
- Hair cream
- Magazines
- Books
- Bibles
- Spiral notebooks

ArtsFest 2013: 60 Artists, Crafters, Live Music at May 5 Bash

Smokin' Polecats, Rodney Kelley Jazz, Parkdale Jazz AEBHF to Perform

By Jeffrey Yorke

The Riverdale Park Arts Council's sixth annual arts and music festival will feature more than five dozen local artists, crafters, authors, poets, musicians, and food and beverage vendors at Town Center on May 5. The

rain or shine event runs 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the historic intersection of Rhode Island Avenue and Queensbury Road—Riverdale Park's Town Center at the historic rail road station.

Former Riverdale Park resident and lead glass artist Mary Vechery joins this year's burgeoning artists' colony. Vechery, who learned the rare art of working with lead and glass from her grandfather, will be making her ArtsFest debut. Other artists set to display include Riverdale Park's glass jewelry artist Tina Val Pelt and Hyattsville jewelry maker Carol Tisdale. Rounding out the program will be a packed Writers' Row and the second annual Youth Poetry Slam! where local high school students ponder "What would Lincoln say about me in 2013?" The winner of the second annual Gerald King Scholarship for Realism Painting will also be introduced by Malika Bryant. Ms. Bryant won the first prestigious award last year and has already begun selling her work. The award is given each year to an art student who shows great promise in realism. The award is named after Riverdale Park's renowned artist and local university instructor, the late Gerald King.

The annual event has become a favorite of local artists. After a recent festival, artist Australia Worsley said, "As usual I loved it. The location is excellent. The volunteers are always friendly and helpful. As a vendor, I look forward to always coming back, so do my family and friends, they love it. And I get a chance to meet a lot of great people."

For most of the last 40 years, Dave Sherman has been belting out the Blues and loving it. These days he's the lead singer for *The Smokin' Polecats*, a foursome known throughout the Washington area for their post-WWII sound of Chicago masters such as Jimmy Rogers, Little Walter, and Hubert Sumlin. The group also can capture the West Coast Jump/Swing sound of Tiny Grimes, Pee Wee Crayton, and T-Bone Walker along with the soulful Rock'a'Billy sound of Carl Perkins and Johnny Burnette. Sherman and his 'Cats will bring it all.

Silkcity Records' Andy Allu described *The Smokin' Polecats* as "Jumping shuffles, wailing harp, and stinging guitar set against a backdrop of Blues that ranges from West Coast Swing, Louisiana Swamp, and everything in between." Says one longtime fan, "trust me, you won't be disappointed."

Also added to the festival's bill is *Brulee* featuring Riverdale Park's own Andrew Brown on upright bass. The jazz-infused, Americana-marinated Alt-Pop group combines inventive songwriting and exceptional musicianship. The foursome has performed at ArtsFest for the past two years and this year will be performing cuts from its newly released album, "To A Crisp." *The Rodney Kelley Jazz Experience* with

saxophonist Russell Lyles, who has performed with *Earth, Wind & Fire*, will also be among the featured acts. The daylong program will showcase the *Parkdale Jazz Ensemble* and members of the Archie Edwards Blues Heritage Foundation.

All-News WTOP-FM anchor-reporter David Burd will also return for his third consecutive year as the ArtsFest emcee.

The popular Children's Pavilion, where youngsters are guided through a fun and educational art lesson that produces a charming gift for Mother's Day (the following Sunday), is expected to expand this year due to a generous grant from the Tiny Town Early Learning Center.

ArtsFest2013 has also added a spectacular Riverdale Park World of Wheels/Vintage Vehicles section featuring a dozen or more vintage vehicles including Brian Boettger's exquisite 1930 Desoto Sedan.

A *Call for Artists, Crafters, Authors and Vendors* can be found at www.rpartscouncil.org. Select artist and vending booth opportunities are available. Contact the Riverdale Park Arts Council at [301-502-1243](tel:301-502-1243) or Yorkedial@gmail.com. And, as always, local business and residents are encouraged to become sponsors of this exciting event.

RPAC is a 501(c)3 organization under the Hyattsville Community Development Corporation. ArtsFest 2013 is made possible by the generous support of the Town of Riverdale Park, the Riverdale Lions Club, Yorke Partners, Christina Fanning, Ev-Air-Tight, Showmaker, Inc., Tiny Town Early Learning Center, Michael Herman, Esq., Bethesda Blues & Jazz Club, and The Shingle King.

Community Circles

ArtsFest 2013 Volunteer Positions

The Riverdale Park Arts Council will produce its sixth annual arts and music festival on Sunday, May 5, 2013 in Town Center at the MARC Station.

ArtsFest 2013 will feature dozens of artists and artisans, an author's corner, a poetry contest, showing of vintage vehicles, along with a wide variety of live, local musical entertainment. There are several openings for food vendors and slots available for those licensed to sell beer and wine on the day of the event. But what we really need now is your help – we need volunteers who can assist us with planning, production and day-of-event chores.

Volunteers are needed to help advertise and promote the RPAC and ArtsFest 2013 and to solicit sponsorships from area businesses for such programs as the poetry contest, the performance stage, band performances, and to the Children's Pavilion and all avenues of marketing.

For a complete list of volunteer positions, please join us for a planning meeting on Tuesday, April 9 at 7:30 pm at Town Center Market, 4705 Queensbury Road, Riverdale Park, MD. Also, you can contact Marita Novicky at maritanovicky@gmail.com or 301-864-5608.

Save the date: ArtsFest 2013, Sunday, May 5, 2013, 11 am to 5 pm, Town Center @ MARC Station, 4650 Queensbury Road, Riverdale Park, MD 20737.

12th Annual UPES Azalea Classic

It's that time again! The 12th annual UPES Azalea Classic 5k, 1 mile kids challenge, and 1k family fun run will be on April 20, 2013. For more information and to register go to www.azaleaclassic.com.

Local Organizations

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

Northern County Soccer Alliance: Contact NCSA@soccer.net or (301) 927-0560.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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