

# The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

**April 2010**

Volume 40, Issue 3

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## Invitation to Riverdale Park Arts Fest

By Emily Fanning

**SUNDAY, MAY 2, 2010 RAIN OR SHINE!  
TOWN CENTER 11 AM TILL 6 PM  
Historic Riverdale**

The Arts Festival will be held in the historic section of Riverdale Park at the crossroads of Rhode Island Avenue & Queensbury Road by the railroad train station in Town Center parking lot. Just around the corner is Riversdale House Museum mansion, a plantation built in 1801-1803 by Baron Henri Joseph Stier for his daughter Rosalie and her husband George Calvert. Rosalie was the custodian of her father's collection of European masterwork paintings of which some hung proudly in the mansion until they were returned to Belgium in 1816.

**Featuring:** Riversdale House Museum children's arts/crafts tables. Art Council's children's arts/crafts tables where parents/kids share in the art experience. Youth programs by Ray Rivas, Sportaculture 2010 - 10 minute play segments presented by Active Culture Theater Group, Live Music - Rick Franklin & Mike Baytop (Blues), Jaime Pajaro Band (authentic

Columbian Vallenato), Ruthie & Greg (Country/Americana/Rockabilly), Capitol Noir (Jazz/Swing), 2010 Wammy Award-nominated Janine Wilson (Acoustic Rock), Motu 5 with three-time Wammy Award winning traditional jazz vocalist Marianna Previti, and Washington's renown sound technician Jamie Platt will be at the mixing board.

Elephant Art Gallery will exhibit realism paintings of tree, birds, flowers and self-portraits of elephants by real Thai elephant artists from the Thai Elephant Conservation Center and Maesa Elephant Camp elephant Art Academies in North Thailand. A few paintings will be for sale in the Elephant Gift Shop.

Artists/craftsmen will be selling/demonstrating their wares. Plenty of good food and drink for all. **ADMISSION IS FREE! SEE YOU THERE!!!!**

### **TRASH COLLECTION**

#### Regular Trash Collection Days

Monday and Thursday

#### Bulk Trash Collection

#### **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**

Please call Bates Trucking and Trash Collections at (301) 773-2069 (residents have up to 2:00 p.m. Tuesday to call Bates for Wednesday pickup)

#### Recycling

Wednesday

Please call Prince George's County Recycling with questions. (301)952-7630

#### Yard Waste

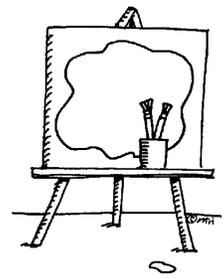
Wednesday collected by Bates Trucking and Trash Collections

#### Saturday drop-off

9:00 am to 2:00 pm

#### Metal Pickup (town wide)

Every Thursday by the Department of Public Work



# Council Actions

By Waverly Pollitt

## Regular Legislative Meeting

March 1, 2010

1. Approved- Minutes for February 1, 2010 Regular Legislative Meeting.
2. Approved- Resolution 2010- R-09 to authorize the Town Administrator to sign EECBG grant agreement.

## Code Corner

By Colleen Ferguson

All vehicles within the Town of Riverdale Park must display current valid registration:

### § 64-16. Junked motor vehicles.

a) Definitions. "Junked motor vehicle" means any motor vehicle that is in wrecked, dismantled or partially dismantled condition, or from which the wheels, engine, transmission, or any substantial parts thereof have been removed, or which for any reason is incapable of operation on its own power, or is unlicensed or bearing expired license tags.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to junk any motor vehicle at any place within the town, nor shall any owner or lessee permit any junked motor vehicle to remain on property within the town except in an enclosed garage.

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All Single Family Rentals within the Town of Riverdale Park must have a Rental License:

### § 55-4. License required prior to occupancy; exceptions.

(a) The legal owner of record of any rental unit or rental dwelling located within the town shall not, except as provided by the terms of a temporary certificate issued upon application for a rental license, permit or allow such unit or dwelling to be occupied without first having obtained a rental license from the town.

Compliance is the ultimate goal of the Code Enforcement Department. If you have any questions, comments or concerns please call: 240-898-2500 or email:

*code@riverdaleparkmd.gov*

You can view the Town Charter and Code in its entirety on the Town's Website: *www.riverdaleparkmd.gov*

## Town of Riverdale Park

*www.riverdaleparkmd.gov*

### Town Hall

5008 Queensbury Road  
Riverdale Park, MD 20737  
301-927-6381, Hablamos Espanol  
*town@riverdaleparkmd.gov*  
Mayor Vernon Archer, 240-832-2257  
*varcher@riverdaleparkmd.gov*

### Council Members

**Ward 1**—Alice C. Ewen,  
Chair, Econ Development, 301-379-5303  
*aewen@riverdaleparkmd.gov*

**Ward 2** – Alan Thompson  
Chair, Finance Committee, 301-927-7407  
*akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov*

**Ward 3** - David Lingua  
Chair, Public Works, 301-779-3849  
*djlingua@riverdaleparkmd.gov*

**Ward 4** - Christopher Henry  
Chair, Public Safety, 301-910-9855  
*chenry@riverdaleparkmd.gov*

**Ward 5** – Raymond Rivas  
Chair, Community Affairs, 301-625-9435

*rrivas@riverdaleparkmd.gov*

**Ward 6** - Keelah Allen-Smith  
Chair, Legislative Committee, 240-751-6688  
*kallensmith@riverdaleparkmd.gov*

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  
Teresa Chambers **Chief of Police**  
*tchambers@riverdaleparkmd.gov*

Fire Department - Emergency 911  
Information - 301-927-0356

Charles Ryan, **Chief in-**  
*fo@riverdalevfd.com,*  
*www.riverdalevfd.com or, Riverdalefi-*  
*rechief7@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*

# Upcoming Events in the Riverdale Area

## **Monthly CKAR Meeting**

Thursday, April 1, 2010

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

6201 Riverdale Road, Suite 211

*(Location varies monthly)*

## **Eastpines Civic Association**

Regularly Scheduled Meeting

Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

4819 Eastpine Drive

## **Town of Riverdale Park Council Meeting**

First Monday of every month

5008 Queensbury Rd

[www.riverdaleparkmd.info](http://www.riverdaleparkmd.info)

## **Riversdale House Museum**

Regular tours on Friday and Sunday

4811 Riverdale Road

Call 301.864.0420

## **Festival of Praise**

**St. Bernard of Clairvaux and Our Lady of Fatima Church**

Sunday, March 21, 2010

5:30 pm. – 8:30 p.m.

(Immediately following the 4:00 p.m.

Mass)

Admission: Family \$10.00, Individuals \$5.00

5700 St Bernard's Drive

## **Easter Egg Hunt at Riverdale**

Saturday, March 27, 2010

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

4811 Riverdale Road

## **Riverdale Park Farmers Market**

Starts Thursday, April 1, 2010 and continues every Thursday until November

3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Riverdale Park Town Center

4650 Queensbury Road

[www.rpfarmersmarket.org](http://www.rpfarmersmarket.org)

## **Riversdale Tavern Night**

Saturday, April 10, 2010 at 8:00 p.m.

4811 Riverdale Road

Call 301.864.0420 for reservations, cost \$20

## **SEED-IRS Volunteer Income**

**Tax Assistance thru April 14, 2010**

Every Wednesday 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Every Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

6201 Riverdale Road, Suite 211

Call 301.458.9808 for information

## **Riverdale Park Business Association**

Wednesday, April 14, 2010 at 5:30 p.m.

5008 Queensbury Road

## **Riversdale Art of Cookery Spring Luncheon**

Saturday, April 24, 2010 at 1:00 p.m.

4811 Riverdale Road

Call 301.864.0420 for reservations, cost \$30

## **Maryland Day 2010**

University of Maryland, College Park

Saturday, April 24, 2010

10 p.m. – 4 p.m.

More details at

[www.marylandday.umd.edu](http://www.marylandday.umd.edu)

## **Riverdale Park Arts Festival**

Sunday, May 2, 2010

11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Riverdale Park Town Center

4650 Queensbury Road

Artists needed. More details at

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

# Eventos Planeados para el Área de Riverdale

## **Reunión mensual de CKAR**

Jueves, 1 de abril, 2010

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

6201 Riverdale Road, Suite 211

*(el lugar varía mes a mes)*

## **Asociación Cívica de Eastpines**

Reunión Mensual

3er jueves de cada mes a las 7:30 p.m.

4819 Eastpine Drive

## **Reunión del Concejo de Riverdale Park**

Primer lunes de cada mes

5008 Queensbury Rd

www.riverdaleparkmd.info

## **Riversdale House Museum**

Visitas del público los viernes y domingos

4811 Riverdale Road

Llame al 301.864.0420

## **Festival de Alabanzas**

### **Iglesia de San Bernardo de Clairvaux y de Nuestra Señora de Fátima**

Domingo, 21 de marzo, 2010

5:30 pm. – 8:30 p.m. (inmediatamente

después de la Misa de las 4:00 p.m)

Admisión: \$10.00/familia; \$5.00/individuo

5700 St Bernard's Drive

## **Easter egg Hunt at Riversdale**

Sábado, 27 de marzo, 2010

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

4811 Riverdale Road

## **Mercado Abierto en Riverdale Park**

Comienza el jueves 1 de abril, 2010 y continúa cada jueves hasta Noviembre.

3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Centro Municipal de Riverdale Park

4650 Queensbury Road

www.rpfarmersmarket.org

## **Evento Nocturno en Riversdale Tavern**

Sábado, 10 de abril, 2010 a las 8:00

4811 Riverdale Road

Llamar al 301.864.0420 para reservar. \$20

## **Voluntarios de SEED-IRS asistirán con los Impuestos hasta el 14 de abril, 2010**

Miércoles de 7:00 p.m. a 9:00 p.m.

Sábados de 10:00 a.m. a 3:00 p.m.

6201 Riverdale Road, Suite 211

Llame al 301.458.9808 para mayor información

## **Asociación Comercial de Riverdale Park**

Miércoles, 14 de abril, 2010 a las 5:30 p.m.

5008 Queensbury Road

## **El Arte de Cocinar/Almuerzo en Riversdale**

Sábado, 24 de abril, 2010 a la 1:00 p.m.

4811 Riverdale Road

Llamar al 301.864.0420 para reservar. \$30

## **Día de Maryland 2010**

Universidad de Maryland, en College Park

Sábado, 24 de abril, 2010

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Más información en

www.marylandday.umd.edu

## **Festival de las Artes en Riverdale Park**

Domingo, 2 de mayo, 2010

11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Centro Municipal de Riverdale Park

4650 Queensbury Road

Se necesitan artistas. Más información en

www.rparkscouncil.com

# Riversdale Events

## TAVERN NIGHT AT RIVERSDALE

Transforming the ground-floor servant's quarters into a candle-lit, subterranean tavern, Riversdale presents their 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 10th at 8:00 P.M. \$20 resident, \$24 non-resident; advance payment required by April 2; must be at least 21 years of age. Please note that this popular program will likely sell out before April 2. Register early!

## SEASONAL SELECTIONS—GREEN, GREEN!

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. These foodways programs are sponsored in part by Giant Food.

After a long winter filled with root vegetables, how joyful the appearance of the first greens of spring must have been for 19th century cooks. The Riversdale Kitchen Guild prepares dishes featuring early tender young green plants from the garden.

This demonstration takes place on Sunday, April 18, 2010 from noon to 3:30 pm. Admission to the dependency is free and regular fees apply for house tours. \$3 adults, \$2 seniors, \$1 students 5 18, FREE children 4 and under.

## THE ART OF COOKERY MADE SEASONAL AND HISTORIC-SPRING LUNCHEON

Eating local produce was the only option in early America. Riversdale gardener Sarah Urdaneta, foodways historian Joyce White, and the Riversdale Kitchen Guild prepare and present foods from the organic Riversdale garden, setting a bountiful table for guests to enjoy. The luncheon includes a tour of the house and gardens, a food demonstration, and handouts of the historic recipes served.

The luncheon will take place on Saturday, April 24 and begins at 1:00 pm. Advance reservations and payment are required by April 16, and capacity is limited; \$30 resident, \$36 non-resident.

Call 301-864-0420 or email [riversdale@pgparks.com](mailto:riversdale@pgparks.com) to make a reservation. Riversdale, a historic house museum of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, is located at 4811 Riverdale Road in the town of Riverdale Park, Maryland.



# Ward and Committee Reports

## Ward One Report

By Council Member Alice C. Ewen  
*aeuwen@riverdaleparkmd.gov*

### Economic Development Committee Report

On April 1, the Riverdale Park Farmers Market kicks off for another great season. After a cold and snowy winter, I'm looking forward to its return. Expect to see early greenhouse greens and an array of Easter offerings from our bread, meat and dairy vendors as well as fresh cut flowers and bedding plants. Hours are 3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. every Thursday.

Riverdale Park Business Association is doing great work and always recruiting new members. Association president Audrey Bragg deserves recognition for helping attract the new hair salon to Town Center. To join the association, call Audrey at 301-277-9323 or attend the next RBA meeting, scheduled for April 14 at 5:30 pm, at Town Hall.

Residents are invited to help pitch in for a river cleanup in our neighborhood on April 17. As Earth Day approaches, this is a great opportunity to think globally and act locally. Come for just an hour or the whole morning – meet up details are in this newsletter.

Working with our town staff and area officials, the Town plans to stage several open houses this spring and summer to encourage interest in Town Center. These will take place when Farmers Market traffic is high to show off the area to its best.

## Ward Two Report

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

### Finance Committee Report

The finance committee met in late February to review the budget and determine whether amendments were necessary before the end of the fiscal year. We determined that the revenue cuts from the state would almost but not quite cancel out the anticipated additions to the reserve fund, but the rest of the budget was sound (except for the small

corrections that happen every fiscal year, and are typically changed in the late June). All departments of the town are keeping a watchful eye on spending, so we will probably end up with a significant addition to reserves, though less than we had hoped. We continued our discussion of employee benefits, and the changes in the value of taxable property caused by the recent re-assessment.

If you, like me, haven't filed your state taxes yet, be sure to put "Riverdale Park" in the "City, Town, or Taxing Area" box below your ZIP code on the 502 or 503 form. This will make sure that our town receives a fraction of your income taxes, which otherwise would be kept by the state or county. This won't affect how much you pay, just who it goes to, and it helps pay for the services the town provides (this year's income tax revenue, for instance, is almost the same amount of money as the salaries of all public works employees).

### Ward Report

Early in March, I met with Mayor Archer, Town Attorney Fred Sussman, and representatives of the University of Maryland and M Square about the proposed developments north of Tuckerman in Ward 2. Mayor Archer and I presented the town's concerns (buffering the neighborhood from the development, ensuring that the connection between Rivertech Court and Lafayette Avenue is permanent, maximizing town resident's access to public transportation, and creating a pedestrian-friendly development). Everyone present seemed to think our concerns were reasonable, and wanted to move forward with drafting an agreement to address those concerns and modify the covenants on the properties. Lawyers for both sides will work on the agreement, and present it to the council for approval soon, probably at the May 3rd legislative meeting.



# Ward Three Report

By Council Member David Lingua  
*djlingua@riverdaleparkmd.gov*

## Public Works Committee Report

By now you have received the 2010 United States Census from the Department of Commerce and Census Bureau. To echo the pleas of others, please take the time to complete the census. Data of this nature is vitally important to our community. It is a major determinant as to the amount of federal, state, and county funding we are eligible to receive over a number of categories. Beyond the fact it is required by law, completing the census is a way you can help yourself, your family, your neighbors, and your town. So lend your support and complete the census.

While not a witness to the latest sacrifices strewn on the rails, it is disappointing to learn of the latest fowl casualties in the name religion and/or sport. Religious or otherwise, it is cruelty and a public health issue. Unfortunately there is no silver bullet to curtail this activity. That does not mean we throw up our hands and say, "Whatever." While your police department will do what it can, usually what leads to curtailing such activity is a lucky break. At some point someone will (or may have already) see something. This is where your police department needs your help. Should you see something report it by calling 301-927-4343.

The Central Kenilworth Avenue Steering Committee is on the verge of establishing a Community Development Corporation, 501(c) 3 designated. Just before the snows came an Open House was held at Pollo Fiesta to announce the coming achievement as well as generating interest in the revitalization project. A special thanks to all the Steering Committee members getting us to this point as well as for helping make the Open House such a success. Thank you to all who attended and thank you to everyone at Pollo Fiesta for hosting.

Currently the Steering Committee is looking for committed citizens from Riverdale Park and the surrounding area willing to become involved at some level with the revitalization of central Kenilworth Avenue. CKAR has requested of the M-NCPPC to be included in their budget for staffing through the Planning Assistance to Municipalities

and Communities program and requested help with analysis of zoning and the tools available for development. CKAR is working for inclusion in the County's Housing and Community Development Consolidated Plan and the 2011 Annual Action Plan. As well CKAR is drafting a letter of interest to receive funding from the EPA's Smart Growth Implementation Assistance. With the development of M Square to the north and the eventual construction of the Purple Line, involvement in this revitalization will have a substantial impact lasting decades. Yes it will be a great challenge at times but well worth the effort in the long run. Consider getting involved.

# Ward Five Report

By Council Member Raymond Rivas  
*rrivas@riverdaleparkmd.gov*

## Community Affairs Report

Riverdale is so good to me and I really enjoy serving in the community. Though this is not easy for me, I am managing. Please, let me take a moment to give thanks to the Census Bureau representative Sherry McCoy who courageously worked in Ward 5 by informing residents the purpose of filling out the census survey forms. With all the different demographics, I am sure this was an overwhelming task. There is no doubt that we will see some good results attributed to her hard work

Well, it is not too early to get prepared for the Riverdale Park Day at the Mansion in October 2010. Your Recreational Chair person is looking for volunteers to fill some of the committee seats that are currently open. Last year's event was simply fabulous and fun. We are currently looking for food vendors, singers, bands, and event planners.

After being accepted into the Art Council Committee, the children have a project to accomplish before the Arts festival on May, 2, 2010. They really appreciate the patience and confidence of the Arts Committee board in putting their trust in them. In looking at this situation, I believe it is a happy merger between the two groups. The next Arts Council meeting is March 23, 2010 @ 7:30pm. We are always looking for more donations in any

form. Volunteers are greatly appreciated in mentoring these future artistes of the world.

To my surprise the Boys & Girls Club of Riverdale directors Elizabeth Greene and Flavia Brown have some great things happening. The location for registration is 6351 51 St. Avenue, Riverdale MD 20737 & phone # 301-277-5437. This upcoming spring season there will be activities in both basketball and soccer. Riverdale Boys & Girls Club is a non-profit sports organization operated solely by dedicated volunteers. RBGC provides youth (ages 5-18) in Riverdale the opportunity to participate in structured sports programs such as basketball, spring/fall soccer, baseball, softball (girls), t-ball, track, flag football, tackle football, cheerleading and dance. Youth will learn basic fundamentals, sportsmanship, teamwork & team spirit. There are minimal fees for each program which covers county, registration & sport fees. We encourage our parents to register early and set up a payment plan. We also offer fundraiser opportunities in an attempt to keep out of pocket fees at a minimum.

RBGC is in desperate need of volunteers to coach or fill commissioner vacancies for Basketball, Soccer, Baseball/Softball, Cheerleading, Track and Football. There are also management positions available for administration, concessions, fundraising, uniforms, equipment, or fields and banquet. If you can commit a few hours per month to volunteer please let us know. Volunteers are required to submit a copy of their driver's license and sign a background check authorization form.

Future activities include, but are not limited to, fun exercise programs in the fight to overcome childhood obesity, game nights, ice cream socials and arts & crafts.

Suggestions, donations & volunteers are always welcome!!!

I give an all hands down for the Greenbelt Artful afternoon on March 7, 2010. The kids had so much fun with the book reading of Bugs and Bug-sicles by Amy Hansen, puppet making and the theatrical play of the Lion witch and wardrobe. It is just a homey atmosphere that you can not but feel more safe and enthusiastic at the same time. These children will always cherish these delicate moments. I have already seen them mimicking the play in their own play grounds the other day. This shows me that these children have been influence with the good

quality of ART.

### **Youth Group Talk**

This is what it is all about. Letting the children go at their own pace and absorbing whatever in these activities and benefiting from it. The importance of being a child is to enjoy your childhood and inevitably preserve these golden moments. This is what I want to instill in my Youth Group Program kids, try not to grow up so fast because you might miss out on your childhood.

This month, I would like to try something different. On this special occasion, I am inspiring the children to speak out. This would give them the forum to feel that their voices are being heard in the government. The question was asked of them is, "If you had to ask the Mayor to make difference in any area what would that be"? The kids were overjoyed with this newly acquired benefit. They rambled and fuss a little because they did not want to be the first to ask a "stupid" question. After assuring them that no question was stupid, they then proceeded. These are following questions that they wanted to ask the Mayor;

- 1) Are there going to be more police presence or patrolling in the Ward 5 area?
- 2) Could there be a fence installed around the new playground on Tanglewood Drive?
- 3) Could you get more safety in the public parks?
- 4) Is there an indoor gym to play basketball and other sports?
- 5) Could you get more activities for the girls and boys?
- 6) Could you get a small soccer league in Riverdale?
- 7) Could you get a neighborhood watch?
- 8) Is there a study program in Riverdale besides after school tutoring program?

- 9) Is there transportation (Mini -Van) for Kids to get to places?
- 10) Could you make a skate ramp park?
- 11) Could you give us a place to chill like a recreational center?
- 12) Can you put a recreational center in front of Riverdale Village? (Where the house burned down)
- 13) Could there be Community Pool made?
- 14) Is there a bike shop program?
- 15) Can you put undercover cops in the schools?
- 16) Could there be a weekend cinema showing in Town Hall?

This is like a Question and Answer forum to have an open dialect between the youth and the Mayor. Hopefully, we can keep the communication flowing back and forth by receiving the answers on the next month edition of the Crier.

## Public Works Report

By Leonard Addison

### Easter Holiday -

Trash will be collected on the Monday following Easter, April 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Yard Waste -** Yard waste is collected on Wednesdays *and should be at curbside by 7:00 a.m. on Wednesdays.*

Yard waste includes branches, shrubs and trees; bundle items and tie with rope or string (do not use wire). Items must be less than 4 feet long, not more than 4 inches in diameter and weigh less than 75 pounds. These items are collected by Bates Trash and Trucking Company



**These materials are *NOT ACCEPTED for Collection* -** Roof shingles, dirt, rocks, concrete, bricks, tree trunks (over 3” diameter), stumps, bamboo, pressurized containers,

explosives, paint (unless paint is dry in cans), poisons, caustics, any hazardous materials, construction and demolition debris, asbestos, free liquids, sewage, sludge. Residents must make private arrangements to dispose of these items.

**Spring Cleanup** – On April 17, 2010, the Town of Riverdale Park will hold its Earth Day cleanup of the Anacostia River and our annual spring-cleaning on the same day.

Residents will be offered the opportunity to put all of their trash/bulk trash items on the curb the evening of April 16th for pick up on April 17<sup>th</sup>.

Because of this activity, there will be no Saturday drop off service on April 17<sup>th</sup>.



Earth Day cleanup will begin at 8:30 a.m. Please call the Department of Public Works at 301-864-1803 to sign up, and for additional information on start location for the cleanup activities. Volunteers are needed to assist with the Anacostia River cleanup.

Reminders will be posted on the Town’s communication networks that include Comcast, the Town’s website, Nixle, and our Town Announce system.



### **Earth Day River Cleanup and Celebration** –

Residents are invited to join the Anacostia Watershed Society as they celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Earth Day. The event will take place on Saturday, April 24, 2010, from 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at a designated location in town at the water's edge. The celebration will be held from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., at the Seafarers Yacht Club, 1950 M Street, SE, Washington, D.C., with a free picnic lunch, music and exhibits by community organizations. Residents are encouraged to volunteer their services to assist in this important environmental project by calling 301-669-6204 or by visiting [www.anacostiaws.org](http://www.anacostiaws.org) to view the map and list of cleanup sites.

**Spring Beautification Plan** - The Department of Public Works will initiate its spring beautification plans around town that will include planting flowers in our park areas and Town Hall, painting/touching-up sign posts as well as re-painting street markings, in an effort to continue our annual beautification plans for the upcoming spring/summer seasons!

## **Boy Scouts Troop 252**

By Bob Killen

The snow is finally just about gone, and now the rain is almost gone, too. Troop 252 has shoveled and plowed many tons of snow this winter, and Scoutmaster Bob Killen and his grandsons (not part of Troop 252) built and used a quinzee (Igloo). Apparently Killen's house was the red spot in the dead center of the Snowmageddon's bull's-eye. He finally picked up the last of the inner tubes the neighborhood kids used (adults are just big kids) to slide down the snowy back yards after school and weekends. We'll remember this Snowmageddon for a long time.

Yorman Amador finally submitted a draft of his (completed, except for the paperwork) Eagle Project, and the other Eagle aspirants, Ismael Valletta and Joel Sandoval, are doing other things than their projects. Time is running out for Joel (the big 18 is sneaking up on him), and Ismael has another year, but time goes inexorably on.

Samir Saleh, Yorman, and Michael Delaney are planning on camping out with other Scouts (including Charleston), Mr. Killen,

MHB (arriving late- teachers have school) and Mrs. Delaney at Watkins Park next weekend- the students have no school Friday, so we're setting up camp and bicycling Friday during the day, swimming Friday evening, and camping Friday night. Bicycling, lashing (wrapping and frapping), and orienteering will take up the Scouts' time when they're not sleeping, cooking, cleaning up, or doing paperwork for advancement on Saturday. No job is complete until the paperwork is done. The Scouts are now painfully aware that we get busier as we get older, and Time Management is more and more important to them. They're learning.

Mr. Killen attended Baltimore Area Council's University of Scouting on 13 March. Our troop's next big trip will be the Catholic-Protestant Religious Retreat at Mattaponi 16-18 April; we'll take our tents, the tipi, and if it doesn't snow, it will surely rain. Spring Break, we're trying to bicycle the entire C&O Canal Tow Path, which will certainly guarantee rain.

Our Troop attempts to camp at least one weekend per month and the Scouts are learning that proper prior planning prevents pretty poor performance. We're trying to get away from the last-minute knee-jerk mode of operation, and some of us are seeing the necessity of planning "even weeks in advance." My preference is "months."

Maybe you, reader, would like to join in our fun. Remember, "Scouting is Outing," and if you contact Bob Killen ([rfkille@yahoo.com](mailto:rfkille@yahoo.com) or 301-483-8455) or MHB (301-864-0059), we'll try to make it happen.



# Community Circles

## Riverdale Elementary Open House

Riverdale Elementary School Open House

Wednesday, April 7, 2010

8:30 am - 10:30 am

School Library

Light Breakfast Provided

Visit classrooms. Meet the Principal and current parents. Please RSVP to Dannielle Glaros, 301-779-5915, [dmglaros@gmail.com](mailto:dmglaros@gmail.com). All prospective parents are welcome even if your child will not enter elementary school for a few more years.

## Casa Abierta para la Escuela Primaria de Riverdale (Riverdale Elementary School)

Miércoles 7 de Abril del 2010

De 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.

En la Librería de la Escuela

Desayuno Ligero será proveído

Visite los salones de clases. Conoce a la directora y los actuales padres de familia. Por favor haga su reservación con Danielle Glaros al 301-779-5915, o [dmglaros@gmail.com](mailto:dmglaros@gmail.com). Todos los futuros padres son bienvenidos, incluso si su niño no entrara a la escuela primaria durante unos cuantos años más.

## Cherry Blossom Festival

The National Cherry Blossom Festival® annually commemorates the 1912 gift of 3,000 cherry trees from Mayor Yukio Ozaki of Tokyo to the city of Washington, honoring the lasting friendship between the United States and Japan and celebrating the continued close relationship between our two cultures.

In a simple ceremony on March 27, 1912, First Lady Helen Herron Taft and Viscountess Chinda, wife of the Japanese ambassador, planted the first two trees from Japan on the north bank of the Tidal Basin in West Potomac Park. In 1915, the United States Government reciprocated with a gift of flowering dogwood trees to the people of Japan. A group of American school children reenacted the initial planting in 1927 and the first

"festival" was held in 1935, sponsored by civic groups in the Nation's Capital.

First Lady, Lady Bird Johnson accepted 3,800 more trees in 1965. In 1981, the cycle of giving came full circle. Japanese horticulturists were given cuttings from our trees to replace some cherry trees in Japan which had been destroyed in a flood.

The Festival was expanded to two weeks in 1994 to accommodate a diverse activity schedule during the trees' blooming. Today, more than a million people visit Washington, DC each year to admire the blossoming cherry trees and attend events that herald the beginning of spring in the Nation's Capital.

The Festival looks forward to celebrating the centennial anniversary of the gift of trees in 2012 and is planning spectacular events to mark this historic and special occasion (<http://nationalcherryblossomfestival.org>).

The Cherry Blossom Festival is happening right now between March 27 and April 11 in D.C. on the Tidal Basin. If you're looking for something to do as we ease into spring, head on down and take part in the free events!

## Town Organizations

**Northern County Soccer Alliance:** For more information on Soccer Alliance, Inc., and on travel, recreation, home school, and training programs. [NCSA@juno.com](mailto:NCSA@juno.com) or (301) 927-0560. [PG Soccer League@juno.com](mailto:PG Soccer League@juno.com)

**Riverdale Park Girl Scouts:** Contact: Charmaine Wilson at (301) 449-5690.

**Riverdale Park Boys Scouts – Troop 252—**  
Contact: Scoutmaster Bob Killen at (202) 282-8302.

## Civic Committees

**Madison Hill Homeowners Association--** For information, call (240) 401-2202 or visit [www.madisonhill.org](http://www.madisonhill.org).

**Riverdale Park Farmer's Market--**Contact Jim Coleman at 301-332-6258

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

**Riverdale Park Business Association—**call Audrey Bragg at 301-277-9323 for meeting site

**Riverdale Park Arts Council—**Contact Emily Fanning at [ourdollmom@aol.com](mailto:ourdollmom@aol.com).