

The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

April 2015

Volume 45, Issue 3

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Call for Riverdale Park ArtsFest 2015 Vendors

The Riverdale Park Arts Council (RPAC) is seeking artists to be vendors of their original art at *ArtsFest 2015*, to be held on Sunday, May 3 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 4650 Queensbury Road (at the MARC station).

The cost per vendor is \$40. However, if you are currently a RPAC member the cost is \$30 -- giving you free \$10 individual membership! See RPAC's website for the vendor application at: www.rpartscouncil.org where you can now apply and pay your vendor fee online.

The application deadline has been extended to April 21, 2015.

Town of Riverdale Park Contact Information

Town Hall

5008 Queensbury Road
301-927-6381

Department of Public Works

5012 Queensbury Road
301-864-1803

Police Department

5004 Queensbury Road
301-927-4343

**Bates Trucking and Trash
Collection**

Bulk Trash Collection
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
301-773-2069

*Residents must call Bates by 2 p.m.
Tuesday for Wednesday pickup*

Town of Riverdale Park ELECTION NOTICE

Monday, May 4, 2015

To elect Mayor & Council Members

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the
Riverdale Park Town Hall, 5008 Queensbury Road

Candidate Filing Deadline: Thursday, April 9, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.

La Ciudad de Riverdale Park AVISO ELECTORAL

El día Lunes 4 de Mayo del 2015

Para elegir a funcionarios de la ciudad para Alcalde y Concilio

Las urnas abrirán de 7 a.m. a 8 p.m. en la
Municipalidad de Riverdale Park, 5008 Queensbury Road

Fecha límite de presentación de candidatos: Jueves, 9 de Abril, 2015 a las
5:00 p.m.

Council Actions

By Waverly Pollitt

Legislative Meeting
March 2, 2015

Consent Agenda

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

1. Carnival Permit Request for Taylor and Sons Inc.- Fundraiser for Christian Life Center (Ward 4).
2. Street Cut Permit Request for Riverdale Park Station for Maryland Avenue to install 38x24 inch storm drain line from sediment basin to culvert at Wells Run (Ward 1).
3. Minutes from February 2, 2015 Legislative Meeting

Legislative Action Items:

1. Motion to adopt Resolution 2015-R-10 regarding the Mayor's nomination for Ward 5 representative- **Adopted**
2. Motion to adopt Resolution 2015-R-08 regarding MUTC design review committee nominations- **Adopted**
3. Motion to adopt Resolution 2015-R-09 to appoint election officials for Ward 1 and Ward 5- **Adopted**
4. Motion to authorize the Town Administrator to send a letter of support to M-NCPPC staff regarding DSP-13009/05, Cafritz Property- **Approved**
5. ~~Motion to waive bid requirements for the purchase of a rear loader for the price of \$112,259.64 from Mid-Atlantic Waste Systems in accordance with the pricing structure, terms, and conditions of National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA) Rider Contract 060612-ESG.~~
6. Introduction of Ordinance 2015-OR-01 regarding building permits- **Introduced**

Code's Corner

By Colleen C. Ferguson

Keeping in compliance with Town Code 33-20 House numbers: House numbers must be at least four inches in height, be affixed to the front of the property and must be clearly legible from the street.

§ 33-20. House numbers. [Added 2-6-95.]

The owner or occupant of any building or structure within the town shall have and keep affixed thereto the appropriate house number of a size and type and so placed as to be clearly legible from the street. The size shall not be less than four (4) inches in height and of a bold character, and the color shall be of a contrasting shade so that the number is easily discernable. The numbers shall be placed on

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 – Eber Rosario

Chair, Community Affairs, 301-927-6381

erosario@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

Brian Carpio, **Fire Chief**

Eng7twr@yahoo.com;

info@riverdalevfd.com;

www.riverdalevfd.com

It is the policy of the Town of Riverdale Park, pursuant to the provision of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and The Americans with Disabilities Act, to prohibit discrimination against qualified persons with disabilities in any aspect of employment within the government.

It is also the policy of the Town of Riverdale Park to disallow discrimination in fair housing based on race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, disabilities, and/or age.

Some materials contained in *The Town Crier* represent the opinion of the authors and does not necessarily represent the view of the Town of Riverdale Park.

The Town Crier is also available at the Town's

Website: www.riverdaleparkmd.info

Submission deadline: 15th of each month.

Submit all copies to

towncrier@riverdaleparkmd.gov

the front of the house or the side that faces the street to which the address is assigned. The numbers shall conform to the plan of house numbering prepared by the Maryland-National Park and Planning Commission pursuant to its authority and applicable laws.

To view all of the Town of Riverdale Park's codes please visit our website at: www.riverdaleparkmd.info

If you should have any questions regarding this or any town code, or if you want to report a code concern/violation, please call code enforcement 301-209-1576 or by email at: code@riverdaleparkmd.gov



Town of Riverdale Park Fair Summary of Ordinance 2015-OR-01

This is to give notice that the Riverdale Park Town Council has introduced and intends to take action on Ordinance 2015-OR-01.

Ordinance 2015-OR-01 would comprehensively revise Town laws relating to the application for and issuance of Town building permits for certain construction activities in the Town of Riverdale Park; provide for the applicability of the Prince George's County Building Code within the Town of Riverdale Park; provide for certain application and permit fees; provide for the inspection of certain work sites; provide for the issuance of stop work orders under certain circumstances; provide for certain rights of appeal of certain decisions; provide certain penalties for violations and provide the Town with rights of enforcement; and generally relating to building permits for certain construction activities in the Town.

Ordinance 2015-OR-01 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.

From the Town of Riverdale Park Ethics Commission

The Mayor and Council of the Town Riverdale Park adopted a new expanded Ethics Ordinance in 2011 to comply with State law. The Town of Riverdale Park Ethics Ordinance is found in Chapter 32 of the Town Code. The Ethics Ordinance addresses conflicts of interest of Town officials and employees; financial disclosure requirements for elected officials, candidates for elective office and certain Town appointed officials and employees; and registration and reporting requirements for certain individuals who lobby Town officials and employees.

The Town has a three-member Ethics Commission appointed to implement the Ethics Ordinance. The Ethics Commission has adopted Bylaws and established procedures to carry out its duties and responsibilities under the Ethics Ordinance. These include procedures for a person to file a complaint alleging a violation of the conflict of interest provisions of the Ethics Ordinance by a Town official or employee, and procedures for a person who is subject to the Ethics Ordinance to ask the Commission for an advisory opinion before engaging in an act that may involve a violation of the Ordinance. The Ethics Commission meets as needed and prepares minutes of its meetings.

Copies of the Ethics Commission Bylaws, Complaint Procedures, Advisory Opinion Procedures and approved Meeting Minutes are posted on the Town's website at www.riverdaleparkmd.gov under "Committees" in the list on the left side of the website's home page.

Mayor's Report

By Mayor Vernon Archer

Street Repaving After Water Main Replacements

As the weather improves and we get into spring many of you probably are starting to join me in wanting to see the street repaving get started to cleanup after all of the WSSC work from last year and the winter. We have been in contact with WSSC to get a schedule for this year, but they are unable to give exact start times until they the local asphalt plants announce their reopening dates. WSSC did however commit to completing all existing re-pavement work during this construction season. Rest assured that our Public Works Director, Leonard Addison, and I will both be pressing them to complete the work EARLIER rather than later in this season.

Storm Water Management

As I mentioned in my report last month, and you are likely hearing from other sources, there are significant happenings underway related to storm water management (SWM) in the Wells Run drainage. As of this time a presentation is scheduled for the Council's work session on March 30 related to one aspect of the Cafritz Project's SWM plan. As this and other related items are going to be regularly happening in the coming months and years I have asked town staff to create a page on the town web site for SWM related studies, maps, reports, and related materials.

I work to ensure that this space is updated regularly so that you can stay abreast on this issue of great importance to us all. See: <http://www.riverdaleparkmd.info/StormwaterManagement.cfm>

New Budget

Town staff and I are currently working to complete my Mayor's proposed budget for submission to the Town Council by May 1. I am happy to report that we find ourselves in a strong financial position and expect to make significant progress in the coming year on town priorities. While I am still fleshing out the details of what will be proposed the broad outline is clear and here it is:

- 1) The tax structure will remain the same and as almost no property owner in town has had their property reappraised this year the town portion of your taxes should remain the same for the vast majority of taxpayers.
- 2) As we expect to see 30% growth in both commerce and population by 2022 we will commence laying the groundwork for the expanded services that our police, public works, and general government will have to provide and manage. Our goal is to ensure that the Town Government is prepared and in a position to welcome new businesses and residents as they arrive and NOT

have to react in a frenzy, after new neighbors move in. In a nut shell, that means: growing our police force by approximately one officer each year; ensuring that Public Works' fleet and equipment is modernized and staff is trained ready to address issues that new neighborhoods/development bring; and Town Hall has a professional staff person to do every general government function under the direction of the Town Administrator.

- 3) A continued emphasis will be placed on infrastructure maintenance, improvements, and beautification of public spaces. This is particularly critical during this time of major utility replacement by WSSC and "reliability" improvements by PEPCO.

Important budget-related dates to remember are: May 1 – Mayor's proposal is submitted to council and released to the public—will be posted on the town website; May 16 (Saturday), 10 AM – Council Finance Committee meets to review and analyze the proposed budget; May 26, 7:30 PM – the Constant Yield Tax hearing will be held for public testimony related to the proposed property tax rate; and the Council will likely pass a budget ordinance at the council meeting on June 1 (though it does not have to act until June 30).

Tree Planting

As we are moving into the spring planting season, if you have a place you would like a tree planted in the right-of-way please contact Public Works. We are diligently working to maintain our tree canopy not just for us but for future generations too! Contact Public Works at (301) 864-1803 or email jeuell@riverdaleparkmd.gov.

Earth Day/Spring Cleaning

This year we will have town-wide Spring Cleaning and celebrate Earth Day on Saturday April 25. You can check the public works section of this Town Crier as well as the town website for additional information. For Spring Cleaning please have any items you want taken away on the street by 7 AM.

Our local Earth Day cleanup spot is Riverside Neighborhood Park at 5801 Riverside Drive. It starts at 9 AM and runs until 12 Noon. For additional information you can contact Ashley Ebbeler at e.a.ebbeler@gmail.com or Janice Euell at jeuell@riverdaleparkmd.gov I look forward to seeing many residents there. If your neighborhood happens to be doing it's own cleanup please let me know so I can stop by to help out for a while!

Ward and Committee Reports

Ward One Report

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

The Douglas Development team continues to make progress with their Town Center real estate holdings. The Honey Bun Cake Factory executed their lease late this fall and has started out the first stages of their build-out. They make delicious cakes and their

website is at www.thehoneybuncakefactory.com.

The legislation the Town Council passed in the fall of 2012 has been put into full effect; Riverdale Park was honored this fall as a Sustainable Maryland Certified municipality. The town applied for a grant with the Maryland Energy Administration as one of the first benefits of our inclusion and certification. I am very grateful for the dedication of those of you that helped with the inception of the program

as well as those team members currently involved in the programmatic aspects.

The RP Sustainability Committee is participating in helping drive forward some visioning sessions for the town on a project designed to beautify Beale Circle. They are also helping out the Anacostia Watershed Society during Earth Day activities. The long awaited Town Center square visioning sessions will be forthcoming as well. It is time the Town takes a hard look at the space between the MARC station and the commercial buildings to find ways to activate it as more than just a parking lot.

We are in preliminary discussions with the Hyattsville Community Development Corporation to initiate and put out a Request for Proposal to bring in a niche sit-down restaurant at the corner space currently being used by the Farmer's Market during the winter. I think we have all seen Jim Coleman's fantastic efforts this winter in activating the space and bringing life to our historic district. That paired with Town Center Market's tastings and food trucks on Thursdays have shown how commercially viable our town is for vendors.

The Town is building off our grant program that the Economic Development Committee started over the last two years (that resulted in improved signage for Bikram Yoga, Divine Beauty, and Town Center Market) to provide incentives and real movement towards what many of us have longed for – another casual dining restaurant option.

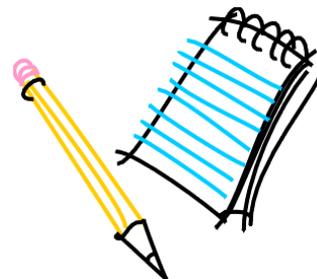
Additionally, we are in very productive talks with Dumm's Pizza regarding their forthcoming expansion into the Dumm's Corner space now vacant. While it is not final, please stop by and talk with Georgia and Mike and let them know how much the community would support that. It would mean a tweaked/expanded menu as well as letting them take full advantage of the liquor license they have but do not use with room for tables both inside and out of a space that will receive a facelift. That project will complete the Lafayette/Queensbury/Riverdale corner of our historic district. We are working proactively

with all stakeholders to ensure the project happens in 2015.

As many of you know, for the last three years we have been engaged in protracted discussions with the owner of Jey's Auto in regards to what needs to happen on that land parcel. We have passed numerous pieces of eminent domain legislation to demonstrate our resolve that blight and unwillingness to develop allowable mixed-use will not be the town's status quo. We finally have some movement on that end, which we hope will be successful. Stay tuned!

Long story short, Riverdale Park is leading the area in bringing retail opportunities to the local community. Where we were four years ago is very different than where we are today; the future trajectory of the Town looks as bright as it has ever been. We have started a new chapter in the history of our Victorian town. As I have stated before, we are trying to make Riverdale Park a destination, not a pass-through or simply a bedroom community. We all live here because we recognize what we have in our small community is special. The rest of D.C. is finally starting to realize why we are the best-kept secret in the DMV.

Lastly, please keep an eye out for the 2015 Lion's Club Scholarship. We are currently in discussions on this year's funding level as well as projected awards. This year we hope to also use the scholarships in memory of the passing of former Mayor Guy Tiberio in recognition of the importance of service before self.



Ward Two Report

By Council Member Alan Thompson
akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Finally, spring has sprung! Flowers are blooming, birds are twittering, and we are about to have an abundance of...

Mosquitos

As I do every year, I'm going to spend part of my report reminding everyone that the mosquito population is something we can control. The most despicable and annoying of mosquitos (in my opinion, anyway), the Asian Tiger Mosquito, has a flight range of about 300 feet. This means that when you are sitting on your deck scratching that fresh mosquito bite, you could probably throw a baseball to the place that mosquito grew up.

Mosquitos breed in stagnant standing water, so the best way to prevent yourself from getting eaten alive is to eliminate standing water on your property, or make that water uninhabitable by mosquito larvae. This includes getting rid of anything that collects water (or turning it over so it can't collect water), including old tires, tin cans, ceramic pots, wheelbarrows, wading pools, etc. Ornamental ponds should be stocked with fish or treated with *bacillus thuringiensis* (BT), a bacterium that attacks mosquito larvae (sold in hardware stores as "Mosquito Dunks"). Roof gutters with standing water in them can produce millions of mosquitos a year – clean them out if they are clogged, and toss some pieces of Mosquito Dunk in them if they hold water no matter what you do (as is the case for my gutters).

I wish all of us luck controlling these guys – we're going to need it!

Election

As you can tell by looking at the front page of this Town Crier, Town elections will occur on May 4. I encourage all registered voters in Town to come out and vote. I have filed for re-election as Town Council Representative for Ward 2.

Public Safety Walk

On April 18, from 10am to around noon, I will join with Mayor Archer, other Council members, representatives of the police department, code enforcement, and any of you who want to join in for a public safety walk through Ward 2. This will be the third public safety walk in the last few years, and is a great way to learn about issues in our Ward and interact directly with public safety staff. We will start from the Town Center market and work our way through Ward 2's neighborhoods. If you can't make it for the whole walk, keep an eye out for us near your house or apartment and join in for at least a few blocks!

Farmers' Market

With the arrival of spring, the Farmers' Market has moved back outdoors! It is open every Thursday from 3pm to 7pm in the main parking lot in Town Center. While the produce at the first few markets will likely be mostly greenhouse-raised, there are likely to be radishes, cilantro, beans, butternut squash, spaghetti squash, white potatoes, sweet potatoes, rabe, turnips, chard, and definitely jams and jellies, apples, pastured meats, Riverdale special roaster chickens, fresh small batch roasted coffees, (and hopefully some goat gelato, fried goat cheese curds, artisan aged and raw milk goat cheeses). I hope to see you there!

Public Works Report

By Leonard Addison

Saturday Drop Off

The next scheduled dates in 2015 for drop off of bulk trash on the third Saturday of each month, from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM, are: **May 16**, June 20, July 18, August 15, September 19, October 17, November 21 and December 19.

Community Clean Up

Riverdale Park is having its annual community spring cleanup on **April 25, 2015**; **collections end at 2:00 PM**. Residents are

offered the opportunity to put their yard waste/bulk trash items on the curb the evening of Friday, April 24th for pick up on Saturday, April 25, 2015. **This event replaces the April Saturday Drop Off, normally on the third Saturday of each month. The Public Works facility will NOT be open for drop off of any bulk trash items on Saturday, April 18th.**

The following items ARE INELIGIBLE FOR PICKUP:

- Remodeling lumber, flooring material, plaster, plasterboard and interior tile
- No 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

The Town supports and participates in the Anacostia Watershed Society's annual Earth Day Celebration in its efforts to clean up the Anacostia River. The event will be held on Saturday, **April 25, 2015**, from 9:00 a.m. – noon.

Residents, youth groups, students and all interested parties are asked to join us as we do our share to clean a portion of the river. The site designated for our area is at Riverside Park, located on Nicholson Street in Riverdale Park.

Volunteers wishing to participate in the Earth Day event are asked to call the Department of Public Works at 301-864-1803.

Student volunteers earn community service hours for this activity. Refreshments will be available.

Mosquito Control Program

The Town will once again participate in the State/County Mosquito Larviciding/Adulticiding Mosquito Control Program. The program will begin spring larviciding in March. The regular

season will begin April 6th and continue into early September.

Adulticiding will begin June 1, 2015, and run through September 17, 2015. They will visit every three weeks, but will not spray if the sprayer encounters too many people on the night of spraying.

In order to reduce the presence of mosquitos, residents must keep their property free of mosquito breeding containers, stagnant water, bird baths, wading pools, pet watering dishes, tin cans, old tires, clogged gutters or flower pots. Other water holding containers should be stored upside down.

Complaints about mosquitos can be faxed to the Maryland Department of Agriculture at 301-422-0502 or call 301-422-5080 with questions or concerns.

Prince George's County Information

To expedite requests for services provided by Prince George's County's, residents should utilize their information number, **which is 311**. Using that number will enable residents to address county related concerns such as questions, complaints, animal control requests, or other service needs for which the county is responsible.

Animal Control

The Department of Environmental Resources – Animal Management Division handles **all calls** related to animal control in your community. Please contact them if there are animals in a trap, sick, any cruelty to animals, animal spaying or neutering, dangerous animals, animal carcasses, or other animal related issues in your neighborhood, please call the Animal Management Division at **301-780-7200. Office hours are Monday, Tuesday and Friday, 11:30 am – 7:30 pm, and Saturday, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. Closed Sundays and Thursdays.**

The public can view animals on Monday, Tuesday and Friday 12:00 noon – 6:00 pm and on Saturday from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. Closed Sundays and Thursdays. The office is located

at 3750 Brown Station Road, Upper Marlboro
20772.

Community Circles

Career Opportunity

Established Distribution Company seeking self-motivated employees. Several positions are available, part-time or full-time. All openings require intelligent and dynamic individuals with willingness to learn. Located close by Riverdale, MD. Openings in:

Warehouse Operations
Pick & Pack Orders
Shipping/Receiving
Inventory Control

Starting pay \$11+ per hour, depending on experience. Call 301-779-5229 Email: hr@ifcweb.com.

MMP DoublePlay in Prince George's County

Available through the Maryland Mortgage Program, MMP DoublePlay gives eligible homebuyers in Prince George's County incredible financial incentives that put homeownership within reach. MMP DoublePlay gives you more buying power and makes it easier for your family to make the move. For more details visit:
mmp.maryland.gov/DoublePlay

Free Mediation Services in Prince George's County

Community Mediation Prince George's (CMPG) is a division of the Office of Community Relations for Prince George's County. CMPG offers mediation and conflict resolution services to residents and businesses located in Prince George's County. These services are provided upon request and are free of charge. Please visit www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/sites/Community/Services/CommunityMediation for more information.



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) 577-3559.

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

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

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