



The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

April 2016

Volume 46, Issue 3

ArtsFest 2016	Page 1
Council Actions	Page 2
Council Attendance	Page 3
Fair Summary	Page 3
Town Manager Q&A	Page 3
Mayor's Report	Page 6
Ward 1 Report	Page 7
Ward 2 Report	Page 9
Public Works Report	Page 9
Code's Corner	Page 11
PD Water Collection	Page 12
Boy Scouts Troop 252	Page 12
RPBA	Page 13
New Bookstore	Page 13
April 2016 Calendar	Page 14



ARTSFEST 2016

*Presented by
Riverdale Park Arts Council*

ArtsFest 2016 is scheduled from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sunday, May 1 and will be held at the Riverdale Marc train station location located at 5008 Queensbury Road, Riverdale Park, MD.

The deadline to secure vendor space is Monday, April 11 for local artists, artisans, authors, poets, crafts dealers and general vendors to display/sell their original work or merchandise at its 9th annual arts and music fair. For further details, see the ArtsFest 2016 Artist/Author/Vendor Application tab at www.rpartscouncil.org, or email RPAC at rpartscouncil@gmail.com.

For more ArtsFest 2016 information visit www.rpartscouncil.org or call RPAC Board of Director President Samuel Williams, Jr. at (909) 380-4231.

ArtsFest 2016 Schedule

- 11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. – Welcome
- 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. – Parkdale High School Jazz Band
- 12:15 p.m. – 12:30 p.m. – RPAC Youth Arts Contest winners announced
- 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. – Archie Edwards Heritage Blues Foundation: Tribute to Piedmont Blues
- 1:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. – RPAC GKFAA Award Winner Announced
- 1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. – Smokin' Polecats
- 2:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. – Interviews: Vendors, Artists, Authors
- 3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. – Nowhere Men
- 5 p.m. – Closing Comments

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. Tues., for Wed. pickup**

Council Actions

Special Legislative Meeting February 29, 2016

Legislative Action Items:

1. Motion to approve the election results for the Ward 5 Special Election held on February 16, 2016, and declare the Ward 5 representative as duly elected - **Approved**
2. Motion to approve utility easements with Verizon and Pepco at Lafayette Avenue - **Approved**

Legislative Meeting March 7, 2016

Consent Agenda

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

1. Removal of resident designation for 3 parking spaces near dog park (Ward 2)
2. Minutes from February 1, 2016 Legislative Meeting
3. Minutes from February 29, 2016 Special Legislative Meeting

Legislative Action Items:

1. Motion to retroactively excuse the absences of Ward 1 Council Member from regular meetings held in October 2015 and December 2015 for medical reasons - **Approved**
2. Motion to recommend approval without conditions for Hotel at Cafritz Property at Riverdale Park, SE-4775 and authorize Town Administrator to provide a letter of support (Ward 1) - **Approved**
3. Motion to approve and authorize the execution of a Termination and Release of Declaration of Covenant relating to ERCO property (Ward 2) - **Approved**
4. Motion to waive bid requirements and authorize purchases of \$45,000 with Hadco Lighting to retrofit streetlights as part of MSEC FY 15 grant program - **Approved**
5. Introduction of Charter Amendment Resolution 2016-CR-01 regarding Council-Manager Form of Government - **Introduced**

New Business:

1. Motion to suggest to editor of Town Crier to include attendance record as part of Council Action - **Approved**

Present: Mayor Vernon Archer, CM Ward 1 Jonathan Ebbeler, CM Ward 2 Alan Thompson, CM Ward 3 David Lingua, CM Ward 4 Christopher Henry, and CM Ward 6 Alejandro Silva.

Excused: CM Ward 5 Colleen Richardson

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
jebbler@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 – Colleen Richardson
crichardson@riverdaleparkmd.gov
240-646-6457

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

Annual Summary of Council Attendance at Regular Legislative Meetings

	6/1/15	7/6/15	9/8/15	10/5/15	11/2/15	12/7/15	1/4/16	2/1/16	3/7/16
Archer	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Ebbeler		P		E		E			P
Thompson	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Lingua	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Henry	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		P
Rosario	P	P		P			R		
Richardson									E
Silva	P		P	P		P	P	P	P

P= Present R= Resigned E=Excused Absence

Fair Summary of Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2016-CR-01

This is to give notice the Riverdale Park Town Council has introduced and intends to take action on Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2016-CR-01.

Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2016-CR-01 would add Section 213 and amend Sections 201, 205, 207, 211, 404, 602, 606, 609, 612, 614, 622(a), 623, 702, 703, 705(a), 707, 1001, 1002 and 1003 of the Charter of the Town of Riverdale Park (January 2008 Revision), to provide for a Council-Manager form of government; eliminate the position of town administrator; create the position of town manager and specify certain rights, duties and responsibilities appurtenant to such position; modify the rights, duties and responsibilities of the mayor and town council; reallocating certain rights, duties and responsibilities of the town administrator, mayor and town council; and generally relating to establishing a Council-Manager form of government for the Town of Riverdale Park.

Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2016-CR-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.

Full text of Charter Amendment Resolution 2016-CR-01 is available on the Town's website at www.riverdaleparkmd.info/Advertisement.cfm (under Proposed Legislation).

Town Manager Q&A with Council Member Alan Thompson

Q: Why is this position NEEDED? [Want and Need are two different things]

Short answer: This position is needed to allow the essential actions of government to be performed while preserving a part-time mayor's ability to provide leadership to the council and represent the entire town on the council.

Longer answer: The Mayor's job is currently quite demanding, and it is difficult for him to perform the two very different sides of his job: (1) ensuring the proper execution of town government (police services, trash pickup, infrastructure maintenance, debt service, budget preparation and spending

monitoring) and (2) representing the entire town (not just a single ward) on the council, and working with the council members to build consensus, negotiate disagreements, and bring important town-wide issues to the council (that may not be important enough in each ward, but as a town-wide issue does require prompt attention).

It is probably too much to demand of a part-time mayor to perform all of these duties (and the demands will only be larger when the Riverdale Park Station/Cafritz development, with more than 2,000 new residents, is completed). (2), above, cannot be handled by paid/professional staff, so a solution is to transfer the duties under (1) to professional staff, as is done in many nearby municipalities.

Q: Is it really needed right NOW?

Short Answer: It is needed relatively soon, in the next 2-5 years, and it is better to make the transition before it becomes an emergency.

Longer Answer: The demands on the mayor are very high, and are anticipated by those of us in town government to get higher as the Riverdale Park Station project comes to completion. While we could wait until closer to that event, we are likely to discover unanticipated issues in the transition to a new division of duties in government, and working those issues out is much easier if we are doing that before the number of residents and businesses dramatically increase.

Q: Have any other options been evaluated both qualitatively and quantitatively? If so, where is that analysis and how did this position result?

Short Answer: In addition to this proposal, we have qualitatively discussed the options of doing nothing to change the system, having a full-time paid mayor, and allowing the mayor to delegate duties and decisions to department heads. This seemed to us to be the best alternative.

Longer Answer: All of us on the council are constantly thinking about ways to improve town government, and having informal discussions about it (in addition to the focused discussions we have with other municipal officials at Maryland Municipal League meetings). The concern about the mayor's executive duties being excessive has come up on occasion, and until now we have opted for the easiest solution – doing nothing. With the businesses in the Riverdale Park Station project about to open, it seemed time to start taking action. (Not to mention the low-level discussions about development in M Square and at the planned Purple Line stations).

One option we discussed was making the mayor's job full-time. A full-time mayor would need to be paid for full-time work, so it would be expensive (and we didn't think we would be able to eliminate the town administrator's job, as the town administrator has knowledge and training that a popularly-elected mayor wouldn't necessarily have. At the very least, we thought the town would need a lot more legal and financial advice to make it work, so the budget would probably go up by (at best) almost a full-time salary.

A third option, which I think has been going on at some level for all of the last four mayors (and probably before) was that a lot of duties assigned to the mayor have been delegated to the town administrator and department heads. This could continue (and have even more duties delegated) but it seemed better to have the *actual* duties and responsibilities match the *documented* duties and responsibilities – if we are going to have a government that operates as a council-manager form of government, the charter should say that it's a council-manager form of government.

Q: What is the gain for the town in having a newly created town manager position? [As described in the position description it lightens the load of the Mayor and adds a certified professional manager]

Short Answer: A mayor who can focus on the leadership goals of his or her office, and let day-to-day management decisions be handled by professional staff.

Longer Answer: As discussed above, the mayor currently has two different jobs. The first is managing day-to-day operations, a duty that many other municipalities have with great success given to a town manager. The second is serving as leader of the council (in all meanings of that word) and representative of the entire town (not just a single ward) on the council and to the outside world, a duty that must be performed by an elected official. Having the new town manager will allow the mayor to focus his time and energy on the second job, which will result in town-wide issues such as economic development, business regulations, transportation, etc., to be addressed more quickly and thoroughly by the council (my phone will be ringing more often, I'm sure!).

In addition to the mayor focusing on that essential leadership job, town staff will be able to perform their jobs without having to work around the schedule of the mayor's day job. Currently if a decision has to be made by the chief executive, town staff has to wait until the mayor has time to review the issue and get back to them, which could take many hours. With a full-time manager in the office, this lag time will be eliminated, and town staff will be able to respond to issues more quickly.

Q: What does the town (or what do the people of the town and the council as elected reps) lose in having a town manager and recasting the role of Mayor?

Short Answer: The people will feel a modest loss of direct accountability and responsiveness from town government, the council will need to be more careful and thorough in the policies we create.

Longer Answer: From the perspective of the residents, there is likely to be at least a small loss of direct accountability. The mayor is currently the chief executive, and residents can talk to him directly if they think something is not going right. Under the council-manager form of government, residents would need to talk to the town manager, and the town manager answers to the council (including mayor) and not to the residents.

Practically speaking, though, this change will be modest. The mayor currently works mainly through his department heads, and I'm sure that they push back a bit on some resident requests, both directly (when asked) and indirectly (when prioritizing tasks for their staffs). Don't get me wrong – our department heads are VERY responsive to requests from the mayor (and, even under our current system, council members), but they do have to balance all of the tasks we would like them to do against the central mission of their departments, and they do that.

Because the town manager will be interpreting and implementing council policies in day-to-day operations, the council will need to be clear in those policies; we will no longer be certain that the mayor will interpret a somewhat vague policy correctly.

Finally, if the proposed change is adopted, I'm essentially certain that there will be unanticipated issues that crop up during the transition, which will be annoying to both residents and council members as we work through them.

Q: Is the implication of the wording in articles "increased staff," in addition to the new role?

Short Answer: The changes include the possibility of new staff, but this is not likely to happen soon.

Longer Answer: Our Town Attorney, who works for multiple municipalities, recommended that we include the possibility of some new positions (or delegation of some town manager authorities and duties to certain positions) in the charter as part of these changes. At this time, we have no plans to add those staff members, but if they are needed in the future as the town grows the possibility will be there.

Q: Is there a set of cost projections for the town manager and for additional staff?

Answer: We have no plans for additional staff; we are only changing the town administrator position into a town manager position.

Q: What are those fully loaded cost projections versus the current budget projections?

Short Answer: I would expect the town manager to be paid perhaps 10 % more than the town administrator, with similar benefits. We won't know for sure until we have candidates.

Longer Answer: Based mainly on knowledge of the current town administrator's salary and research into town manager salaries paid in nearby municipalities (Greenbelt in particular) but also on conversations with other elected officials, the pay for town managers is only modestly higher than our current town administrator is paid. All town employees are offered the same health care and retirement options, so those costs will be in line with the salary difference.

Q: Does this show a longer-range plan to move Riverdale Park to City status rather than a Town? [The population of the town is listed as 7,266 as of July 2014]

Short Answer: No.

Longer Answer: There's no legal distinction in Maryland between towns and cities – it's just what the municipality chooses to call itself. In terms of services that we provide, we are already providing similar services to the City of Hyattsville and the City of College Park. We know we are growing, and need to be ready for the changes that come with growth, but I don't see the character of the town changing for existing neighborhoods.

Q: Is this position already a done deal?

Answer: No. I hope that if this proposal doesn't meet the expectations of the citizens of Riverdale Park, we can amend it to meet those expectations, but if people don't want the changes, we won't pass them. All of us on the council take representative government seriously, and we will vote as our constituents want us to.

Mayor's Report

By Mayor Vernon Archer

University of Maryland and Economic Development

It's impossible to drive along Baltimore Avenue in College Park and not notice the tremendous redevelopment going on from our own Cafritz/Whole Foods development on straight through College Park to the Beltway. It is becoming increasingly clear that the engine for our whole area is the University of Maryland. Riverdale Park has already experienced significant financial and developmental assistance from the University's actions and it seems likely that we are in a position to harness even more of that momentum going forward.

In February and March Councilman Thompson and I met several times with the University's Vice-President for Administration and Finance Carlo Colello. He directly oversees all UM development and takes the lead in working with municipal, state and private development partners in the area. In our meetings we were introduced to two proposals: 1) to build a home for the charter school "College Park Academy" along Rivertech Court; and 2) to place two commercial buildings on the old ERCO/NOAA property at the end of Lafayette.

The two buildings at ERCO are most interesting from an economic development point of view. These buildings are designed to be flexible spaces to house high-tech startup operations generated by the science, engineering and technology students and faculty of the University. Currently the M Square area can only house office and design space. The new buildings would have the flexibility to house the whole startup, including critical storage, manufacturing and loading facility so that tech startups can actually bring their product to market from this building.

We all toured an identical facility at Maple Lawn in Howard County and examples of exactly the type of startups the University and I believe Riverdale Park want to keep in our town. The first 3-D

printer for the consumer market was designed and is being built by M3D Corporation and grew out of the University of Maryland. Unfortunately there was no place to house this innovative startup, so Howard County now has the company.

These types of businesses need to start, grow and stay in Riverdale Park! And what better place to have the R & D and high-tech production than on the ERCO site where we already have a long and rich tradition of making cutting edge products?

One last tantalizing possibility is to explore teaming with the University to plan and redevelop our stretch of Baltimore Avenue. VP Colello said he's open to the idea and in particular he likes working with Riverdale explaining that we "get things done!"

The University Team will be joining our council and presenting on April 4th.

Purple Line Coming

The recent award of the Purple Line contract to the "Purple Line Transit Partners" is exciting news for our area and will certainly bring significant changes to our town. The route follows River Road from College Park Metro Station around to Kenilworth Avenue, then south to MD 410 and east to New Carrollton. There will be a station on River Road near Haig Drive which will of course help to serve M Square, and a second, more dynamic station will be built on the southeast corner of East-West Highway and Kenilworth to be called "Riverdale Park Station".

This station is elevated on the end of a bridge that will be suspended over the intersection of the two highways. The station is expected to be a significant magnet for redevelopment in the surrounding neighborhoods with an increase in emphases on pedestrian and bike access. The several block area immediately to the south will become prime real estate and we expect it to go for a much higher and better use than it is currently experiencing.

However, we have some concerns to our town and the surrounding unincorporated areas in the fact that the bridge and station were subjected to cost cutting by order of Governor Hogan through the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA). The bridge will apparently allow for lower aesthetic standards than the original plan called for. The station may now be built on a retaining wall instead of support columns as were originally proffered. The fully enclosed platform as originally planned is to be eliminated and the station will only have the standard station canopy that all other stations are to be equipped with. Lastly the budget for art is reduced by 50%.

These cost cutting measures are not all mandatory and we have at least some chance of winning back the showcase station that was originally planned. I have reached out the MTA and insisted that they come and explain in detail to our council and interested public what changes are actually necessary. I believe that we have a reasonable chance of regaining the station we were originally promised and will keep you informed when MTA will be presenting to us and before our council. You can also see more about the Purple Line at www.purplelinemd.com/en/.

Ward and Committee Reports

Ward One Report

By Council Member Jonathan Ebbeler
jebbeler@riverdaleparkmd.gov

I read last month's Mayor's report with great concern. I couch my opinion as our

town's only elected official that has graduated UMD's School of Public Policy Academy of Excellence in Local Governance (an education option offered to all elected officials and part of the reason we justify taxpayer-paid conferences); I have a difference of opinion on many of the things stated as 'facts.'

As the City of Salisbury stated when contemplating this question, “No question could be more critical or more important in a democracy than the issue of how the citizens choose to govern themselves.” There are some points in that statement that I feel are critical.

First, there was no transparency or openness to the general public on this change. The Town took longer to contemplate its name change than what is being done here. The residents were never asked for their input or for their opinion prior to triggering the clock for this bill’s passage. If this feels like a fait accompli that is because it is; being asked to amend or nibble around the edges of a question, that I believe fatally flawed, is not democracy; it is the very definition of a backroom deal.

Second, this bill, if it passes, goes into effect 50 days later – MIDTERM on a sitting Council. This is like a Council voting for a pay raise for itself. In the case of the Mayor’s salary that was just raised in 2013, this is an effective pay raise; the previous executive responsibilities are now off-loaded to someone not accountable to the voters and effectively become just another Councilmember, whilst keeping a \$10,000 salary (and I would assume taxpayer paid annual vacations to our sister city in Guatemala).

A great solution to both of these issues is to delay this Ordinance as a ballot question during the 2017 Elections. Let the people voting weigh in first before contemplating a change. No one, in good conscience, can claim transparent and open government when slamming a structural change down the throats of residents in two months. In reading the history of our town, we have NEVER acted this way before on major questions. I have to ask – why are we doing it like this now – what is the rush?

Many people have asked about the pros and cons. Quite frankly, no matter what side of the argument you are on, the fact is that it comes down to one issue – COST in the form of future higher taxes. This form of government will cost more. The professionalism argument is

specious at best. It matters who sits in the seats of Town Administrator/Mayor/Council. Take a look around our immediate area and you can find good and bad examples of each. People, not the structure, define professionalism.

For the sake of professionalism, the cost of running the government since I have been in office has risen **58%**: FY12 **\$693, 847**; FY13 **\$800,957**; FY14 **\$811,551**; FY15 **\$936,810**; FY16 **\$1,092,741**. The argument for the town hall expansion, which is now budgeted at over **\$5,000,000** (and likely to end higher), is that we need it for all the staff we need to hire. Tacking on the monthly mortgage on that debt would mean over a 100% increase over the five years. During my first budget hearing in 2011, the Mayor said we were ‘embarrassingly rich.’ There was of course no talk of reducing tax rates or paying debts down.

Professionalism dictates that all options are considered when making informed policy choices. Does it make economic sense to spend \$25,000/month on building a new town hall when we can rent the same square footage for \$5,000/month? If we are serious about professionalism, let’s have a public policy discussion of spending an extra \$240,000 a year taxpayer money to achieve the same goals.

I would respectfully disagree with assertions that Council can provide the same level of service to residents we represent. Section 213, as written, legally disallows any Councilmember from contacting Public Works or the Police on behalf of constituent requests. In the future, we have to make all requests through the Town Administrator with no guarantees of level of service or the resolution of issues in a timely fashion. Constituent service will be subordinate to the whims of our new executive. On this point alone, I consider this Ordinance unsupportable; being able to call the Chief of Police and get immediate attention to a constituent concern is important and why we are elected in the first place.

I would also like to direct attention to the end of Section 211. It removed the ability for residents to take special tax revenue to a

referendum vote. You ask who is going to pay for the cost of professionalism? We all are through whatever higher tax rate is decided by the new 7-member voting Council and the only referendum vote you as a resident will have is to vote anyone out who runs again.

This would be a better conversation if we were actually a city, but even with population growth, we do not reflect the characteristics of whom we are being compared to. We have 7k people, not 25-40k. We are roughly 1.5 square miles, not the 6+ of other cities where police are stretched. We have the highest walk score in the County. We aren't Greenbelt, we aren't Hyattsville, we aren't College Park, we are Riverdale Park and the appearance of professionalism comes at too high of a cost when real professionalism is already paid for via public service of those who stand up to serve.

Ward Two Report

By Council Member Alan Thompson
akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov

I always find April to be a fabulous month – spring is in full swing with flowers and birds, the Farmers' Market moves back outside, and the mosquitos (usually) haven't gotten established.

Because of the proposed changes to the Town Charter (and the big article about it elsewhere in this newsletter), my ward report will be a little short. I hope everyone will take some time to read the long article, and contact me if you have questions about the legislation.

Field of Dreams / Bridge to Whole Foods / Riverdale Park Station

There are STILL some people who think they can drive through the Lafayette/Rivertech Court cut-through. I am working with town staff (and through them with the developer) to close off this traffic. Even a few cars can make a big mess when they cut across muddy fields (both to the field, their cars, and their bank accounts when they have to be towed out). If you see anyone trying to get through the road-closed

signs please call the police department and let them know.

Budget

The budget is being prepared and will be introduced at the May legislative meeting. We have a full-day meeting of the finance committee to discuss it in detail on May 21st.

M Square

The University of Maryland has been discussing some ideas about development in the M Square area on the north side of Ward 2 with Mayor Archer and me during late February and March. I hope to have more details to share at a council meeting soon (perhaps very soon).

Farmers' Market

The Farmers' Market is open all winter! It is open every Thursday from 3pm to 7pm in Town Center (near the corner of Rhode Island Avenue and Riverdale Road). Produce at the market this time of year includes greens, garlic chives, radishes and turnips, white & yellow potatoes, winter squash, onions, apples, fresh cider, pastured meats, raw milk cheeses, fresh goat cheese, free range hen eggs (limited supply), fresh small batch roasted coffees, cut flowers, and (if my wish comes true) sugar snap peas! I hope to see you at the market!

Public Works Report

By Leonard Addison

Saturday Drop Off – Scheduled dates in 2016 for drop off of bulk trash on the third Saturday of each month, from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., are: NOTE: **The Public Works facility will NOT be open for drop off of any bulk trash items on Saturday, April 16th, because of the community clean up on April 23rd (see below).** May 21, June 18, July 16, August 20, September 17, October 15, November 19, December 17.

Community Clean Up - Riverdale Park is having its annual community spring cleanup on Saturday, **April 23, 2016; 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

22nd for pick up on Saturday, April 23, 2016. **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 16th because of the community clean up on April 23rd**

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 23, 2016**, 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 Neighborhood 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.**

Tree Planting – The Department of Public Works will plant new trees in the community in the spring. Residents who would like to have a tree planted near their homes



should contact the department at 301-864-1803 to be placed on our list, **not later than** May 31, 2016.

Mosquito Control Program – The Town will once again participate in the State/County Mosquito Larviciding/Adulticiding Mosquito Control Program.

Adulticiding will begin May 31, 2016, and run through September 21, 2016. Spraying will be contingent upon the results of their standardized surveillance methods. If the area tested needs to be sprayed, spraying will take place on Tuesday nights. They will not spray if the sprayer encounters too many people on the night of spraying.

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

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

Mosquito Control Disposal REMINDER- The Waste Management Division of the Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources issued a notice to resident's last year that requires **ALL recycling** to be placed in the **blue toters** that they issue to residents or in **collection cans/containers (i.e., trash cans), clearly marked "RECYCLING" or with an "X."** **NO PLASTIC BAGS OF ANY KIND ARE TO BE INCLUDED IN THE RECYCLING CONTAINER** (i.e., plastic grocery bags, plastic wrappers on soda or water containers). Plastic can be included in and picked up on regular trash collection days.

For additional information, please call 311 or 301-883-5810.

WSSC Schedule of Service Connections

– From February through April 2016, the WSSC will perform numerous service connection projects in our community. The list is available on the Town’s website (www.riverdaleparkmd.gov) or you can visit our Town Hall to pick up a copy.

Guide to Public Works – An updated Guide to Public Works is now available for distribution. It is included as part of a packet of public works services and Town resources that all residents will find helpful as they seek information on how to acquire services in/outside of our community. New residents will find the packets useful for services such as trash/toters, recycling, bulk trash pickup and drop off, yard waste, names of their council members and mayor, and more. In addition, residents can sign up to get the same information sent to them via email by calling the Department of Public Works at 301-864-1803.

Yard Waste Collection - As a reminder, effective January 1, 2014, the Waste Management Division of the Prince George’s County Department of Environmental Resources issued a notice (included in resident’s August 2013 tax bill) that requires **ALL yard waste** to be placed in brown paper bags or loose in a **clearly marked “YARD WASTE” collection can/container (i.e., trash cans)**. Yard waste will no longer be collected in plastic bags. For additional information, please call 311 or 301-883-5810.

Trash Toter Repair/Replacement –

Residents should call the Department of Public Works for the repair or replacement of damaged trash toters, i.e., broken lids, missing wheels, cracked toters, etc. When repairs or replacements are needed, they will occur on Thursday of each week.

Prince George’s County Information –

To expedite requests for services provided by Prince George’s County, 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.

Code’s Corner

By Colleen C Ferguson

The Town of Riverdale Park Town Code Chapter 50, requires that all storage PODS and construction dumpsters display a valid town permit while on residential property and/ or town street. Violation of this code carries a fine of one hundred dollars.

§50-16 Dumpsters and Storage Receptacles on Residential Property. [Added 6-4-12, effective 11-5-12] No dumpster or other receptacle for the temporary storage or transport of construction or other debris, or for the temporary storage of household or other items, greater in size than three cubic yards, shall be placed on residential property without a permit issued by the Town. Permits shall expire not later than 90 days after issuance, and shall be subject to such further conditions as the Town Administrator may require. The cost of a permit is twenty-five dollars (\$25). A permit may be extended for up to an additional 90 days in any twelve-month period by the Town Administrator upon payment of a twenty-five dollar \$25 extension fee, and thereafter by the Town Administrator for up to an additional 90 days in the same period upon good cause shown and payment of an additional twenty-five dollar \$25 extension fee. Any further extension within the same period may be authorized only by the Town Council for a period of up to an additional 90 days upon a showing of exceptional circumstance and payment of an additional twenty-five dollar \$25 extension fee

POD/dumpster permits can be obtained at Riverdale Park Town Hall, 5008 Queensbury Road, Riverdale Park, MD.

Police Department Collects Donations for Flint Water Crisis

The Riverdale Park Police Department put out a request for donations of water for the residents of Flint Michigan and Riverdale Park answered!!

A special thank you to **MEGA MART**, Riverdale Road, **CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER**, Taylor Road, **TARGET** of Hyattsville, and numerous residents, together we collected over 6 pallets of water which is equivalent to over 300 cases of bottled water!! Outstanding job!!



Boy Scouts Troop 252

By Robert Killen

At our meeting a couple of Friday nights ago right after the wind storm, we asked the police if we could pick up the twigs that had blown off the trees in the courtyard. Of course, they said, "Yes!" We also asked if we could make small cooking fires on the concrete sidewalks in front of the Town Hall. No problem.

We made small personal fires, cut oranges in half, ate the meat out the halves of each of the oranges, broke an egg into each of the orange halves, cooked an egg in the orange half, and ate the egg. Delicious! It didn't taste like oranges, either. Then, after all the eggs were eaten, we cleaned up the sidewalks. We'll try éclairs after the next windstorm. Stay tuned.

Last Saturday, after the Friday evening Troop 252 meeting, Assistant Scoutmaster AJ

Jarquín, Committee Chair/Charter Organization Representative Eneida Martínez-Brown, and Scoutmaster Bob Killen attended Baltimore Area Council's University of Scouting at Carroll County Community College— each earning (another) Master's Degree, and sharing Scouting experiences with other attendees. This weekend, March 18-19, we're tent camping at Greenbelt Park; advancement requirements we expect our new Scouts to fulfill include cooking breakfast, lunch and dinner on the campfire. We'll ride bicycles to keep warm, which will help prepare us for our next several bicycle trips from Annapolis to BWI Marshall Airport and back to Annapolis, with pizza in Annapolis after the ride. We're training for the ride down the C&O Canal, from Cumberland to Washington, D.C. this summer, if we can arrange it.

Later in April, we'll attempt to conduct the Aviation Merit Badge, with each of our Scouts getting "stick time," flying an airplane. They will be busy flying and we will be busy drinking coffee and eating doughnuts on the ground, filling in the paperwork. We'll have more on this later.

We'll also revisit the new Native American village at Jug Bay, by bicycle, in Patuxent River Park in Crofton, Upper Marlboro. We now have a purpose - another Merit Badge!

I know that there are lots of fun things I've forgotten that we've done lately in Scouting, and I know that if it's not documented it didn't happen, but we're doing more "doing" than writing. Stay tuned for the next issue of the Crier for an update, with reports from our Scouts.

By now you know our email addresses and phone numbers, but here they are, anyway: Sandra Tolson saanee@yahoo.com 301-927-2275; Eneida Martínez-Brown e.martinezbrown@gmail.com 301-864-0059; Bob Killen rfkille@yahoo.com 301-483-8455. See you on the trail, and remember, "Scouting without outing is Sc."

Riverdale Park Business Association

By Audrey Bragg

The Riverdale Park Business Association welcomed Rev. Gail Addison from End Time Harvest Ministries as our speaker for the March meeting. Rev. Addison and ETHM are celebrating 20 years of service to the community. They have educated, encouraged, and empowered approximately 6000 youth and their families in the greater Prince George's County community. The RP Business Association is committed to helping our youth and many of our businesses have employed these students during the summer. There will be a 20-year celebration at the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center on May 25, 2016. The Association voted to make a donation to this worthwhile cause.

We are working on a marketing brochure that will have listings of all business members. We are also working on getting our website up and running.

A petition letter banning fracking in Prince George County has been signed and sent to our local politicians by the Association.

A letter and check has been sent to Anacostia Watershed Society to plant trees for two of our members who passed away last year.

We are working with the town on the Grant Program for business improvements. Members may apply for a grant to improve exterior/façade of their buildings.

We welcome a new business to our Town Center. Robert Harper Books. 6216 Rhode Island Ave. 301-927-1963. robertharperbooks@gmail.com. Robert is planning some exciting activities for his store. Please visit to find out about children's story time, book clubs, art events, music and more. We are very pleased Robert has chosen Riverdale Park Town Center for his business.

Visit Shine Massage at www.ShineMassageStudio.com for Spring

specials! Great time to get rid of the winter blues and Spring forward feeling great.

ROBERT HARPER BOOKS

RIVERDALE TOWN CENTER
6216 RHODE ISLAND AVE.
RIVERDALE PARK, MD 20737

Books, CDs, and DVDs | Consigned and Sold
Donations welcomed

HOURS

TUES & WED 11 am – 5 pm

THURS – SAT 11 am – 7 pm

CONTACT

robertharperbooks@gmail.com

301-927-1963

Visit our Facebook page for events
www.facebook.com/robertharperbooks

Local Organizations

Lion's Club:

Contact Patrick J. Prangle 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:

Contact Riversdale Mansion at (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 President Ted Spiropulos at 301-758-3822 or e-mail: ted@towncentermarket.net.

Riverdale Park Arts Council:

Contact Samuel Williams, Jr., RPAC President at (909) 380-4231.

The Historical Association of Riverdale Park (HARP):

Website: www.riverdaleparkhistory.org;
harp@riverdaleparkhistory.org

