



# The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

**May 2008**

Volume 37, Issue 4

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## **FARMERS MARKET BEGINS 11<sup>TH</sup> YEAR!** **May 1, 2008--Town Center**

The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Riverdale Park Farmers Market, 2008 launches on May 1, 2008 in Town Center. Fun and Entertainment includes: Noelle Stone, the Stilt Walker, Lisa--the balloon animal maker, and the ever popular BanjerDan. Riverdale Park Farmers Market is a producers-only market. The Market's products include: veggies and fruits; jams; bread and other baked goods; honey; eggs; cut flowers; plants; and more. The Market features local vendors that produce items that complement farm products like fresh sausages, locally roasted coffee, handmade baskets, pottery, soap, and more. **New in 2008**, Groff's Content Farm will be providing organic eggs, chicken, turkey, pork, and lamb at our Market. Groff's uses no hormones, no antibiotics, and feed their cattle and sheep on green grass and hay only. We will also be welcoming farm-raised mercury-free fresh oysters from Circle C Oyster Ranch. (see page 8 for more details).

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS SLATED FOR MAY 2008 FOR FY 09 BUDGET**

The Mayor will be submitting the FY 09 budget to the Town Council in accordance with the Town's Charter by May 2, 2008. Town Council will conduct public hearings in May prior to adopting the FY 09 Operating and Capital budgets. We encourage your participation in the budget process. Public Hearing dates will be posted in Town Announce. **WATCH FOR MORE BUDGET NEWS IN THE JUNE AND JULY TOWN CRIER!**

**SPRING CLEANUP!  
TOWN-WIDE PICK UP!**  
**Tuesday, May 27, 2008**  
Time to spring clean and  
get rid of that stuff!

## **ArtsFest 2008 May 4, 2008 Town Center**

The Riverdale Park Arts Council (RPAC) will conduct the first annual ArtsFest on Sunday, May 4, 2008 from 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. at Town Center. ArtsFest is being conducted in collaboration with Riversdale which will hold its Children's Day the same date from 12:00 noon to 3:30 p.m. Councilman Eric Olson is providing "The Bus" that will transport the public and artists from the ERCO parking lot—the old NOAA lot (where the public is encouraged to park), to the ArtsFest, to Riversdale, and back to the ERCO parking lot. The Bus and entrance into ArtsFest is free. ArtsFest 2008 will be a non-juried festival that will feature art, sales, exhibits, demonstrations, food, live music, performances, free children's workshops, and more.

## **Festival de Las Artes en Riverdale Park, 4 De Mayo, 2008**

Gratis para toda la familia. El mismo dia que el museo de los ninos en la casa de Riverdale (12:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.). Arte; ventas, exhibiciones, demostraciones, clases par ninos gratis; comida, musica evvivo, actos y danzas; y mas. Transporte gratis para los dos eventos.



# Council Actions

April 7, 2008

By Waverly Pollitt

1. **Approved-** Minutes for March 3, 2008 regular legislative meeting.
2. **Approved-** Ordinance Resolution 2008-OR-01 Concerning Organizational and Supervisory Responsibility for Code Enforcement Activities.
3. **Approved-** Permit on a 6ft. privacy fence located at 4804 Sheridan Street –Ward 2
4. **Approved** – Action to award contract for PY33 Street Improvement Project – awarded to VMP
5. **Approved** – Action to authorize summit helicopter request application FAA to fly over Cafritz Parcel to make aerial application to treat gypsy moth infestation.
6. **Motion** – for the Town to convey its condolences to the family to the slain student from Parkdale High School, Town will purchase a card and solicit donations from individuals and private groups.
7. **Approved** – Permit to build a 4ft. fence at 6002 Rhode Island Avenue pending resident takes appropriate action and obtains required permits.
8. **Approved** – Code Enforcement Budget, (salaries, benefits, and Operating expenses.) to be moved to Police Department.

**April 28, 2008 (Special Legislative Meeting, 8:00 p.m.)**

1. **Introduction**—Resolution 2008 – OR – 02, subsection 56-5. Application: fees: information. (b) The annual rental license fee for each rental dwelling fee amended from the current \$75.00 to \$100.00 multiplied by the number of rental units in a rental dwelling.
2. **Action to appoint and confirm**, Leonard Addison as Public Works Director.

## Riverdale Park Business Association

By Carol Patsel

The Riverdale Park Business Association (RPBA) held their monthly meeting at Town Hall on Wednesday, April 9, 2008.

- Audrey Bragg, President, welcomed our newly appointed Chief of Police, Teresa Chambers and on behalf of the RPBA presented her with a Vintage photo of a Studebaker that was used by the Riverdale Police Department, Circa 1960's.
- Chief Chambers welcomed an open forum to discuss recent acts of violence that have raised a concern among citizens and business owners in Riverdale Park. She informed attendees of her “zero tolerance” for crime and urged that everyone help her by always being watchful of their surroundings and maintaining a strong network of communication with their neighbors. Perpetrators of crime will be given less opportunity to target the community.
- Members agreed to donate \$500 to the Riverdale Park Arts Council. RPBA member and Arts Council President, Emily Fanning, reminded attendees that the Riverdale Park ArtsFest will take place in Town Center on Sunday, May 4, 2008 from 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- Members also voted to donate \$100 to either defray funeral expenses or contribute to a scholarship fund in memory of the fifteen year-old student who was fatally stabbed near Parkdale High School on April 2, 2008.

*Continued on page 3*

## Town of Riverdale Park

[www.ci.riverdale-park.md.us](http://www.ci.riverdale-park.md.us)

### Town Hall

5008 Queensbury Road  
Riverdale Park, MD 20737  
301-927-6381, Hablamos Espanol  
[RiverdaleParkMD@comcast.net](mailto:RiverdaleParkMD@comcast.net)

**Mayor** Vernon Archer, 240-832-2257  
[varcher@gmail.com](mailto:varcher@gmail.com)

### Council Members

**Ward 1**—Alice Ewen-Walker,  
Chair, Econ Development, 301-379-5303  
[alice@ewenwalker.com](mailto:alice@ewenwalker.com)

**Ward 2** – Kate Sharpe  
Chair, Finance Committee, 301-779-2169  
[katherinesharpe@yahoo.com](mailto:katherinesharpe@yahoo.com)

**Ward 3** - David Lingua  
Chair, Public Works, 301-779-3849  
[djlingua@gmail.com](mailto:djlingua@gmail.com)

**Ward 4** - Christopher Henry  
Chair, Public Safety, 301-910-9855  
[chenry3240@comcast.net](mailto:chenry3240@comcast.net)

**Ward 5** - Timothy Kimbrough  
Chair, Leg Committee, 301-864-1997  
[timkim7@verizon.net](mailto:timkim7@verizon.net)

**Ward 6** - Keelah Allen-Smith  
Chair, Community Affairs, 240-751-6688,  
[Keelahd@yahoo.com](mailto:Keelahd@yahoo.com).

Patrick J. Prangley, Town Administrator  
[riverdaleparkmd@comcast.net](mailto:riverdaleparkmd@comcast.net)

Penelope Mendoza, Deputy Town  
Administrator, 301-209-1505

Public Works 301-864-1803

**VACANT** Public Works Director

John Benjamin, Acting Director

Code Enforcement 301-927-6381

[CodeRiverdalePk@comcast.net](mailto:CodeRiverdalePk@comcast.net)

Colleen M. Ferguson

Police Department 301-927-4343  
[RivPD@comcast.net](mailto:RivPD@comcast.net)

Teresa Chambers Chief of Police  
Fire Department Emergency 911  
Information 301-927-0356

Vincent Harrison, Chief,

[info@riverdalevfd.com](mailto:info@riverdalevfd.com), [www.riverdalevfd.com](http://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.

**Submission deadline: 15th of each month.**

*Please submit all copy to editor*  
[rptowncrier@comcast.net](mailto:rptowncrier@comcast.net)

# COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK RESOLUTION 2008-OR-\_\_\_\_\_

**Introduced By:** Councilmember David Lingua

**Date Introduced:** Introduction and first reading \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ second reading and adoption \_\_\_\_\_

## **Amendments Adopted:**

**Date Adopted:**

**Date Effective:**

**An Ordinance** concerning  
MULTIFAMILY RENTAL LICENSING AND  
INSPECTION APPLICATION FEES  
**FOR**, the purpose of increasing the Annual Multifamily  
Rental Licensing and Inspection Application Fee for  
each rental dwelling.

**Whereas**, the annual rental license fee for each  
multifamily rental dwelling has not been adjusted since  
its adoption in 2002: and

**Whereas**, it is necessary from time to time to  
evaluate and assess the town fees and fines: and

**Whereas**, annual rental license fees for each  
multifamily rental dwelling should correspond with the  
increase of inflation:

**Therefore be it resolved** that paragraph 56-5  
section (b) of the code be revised as follows.

Change to this section are indicated by strike  
through. The new language is in bold italics

### **\$56-5. Application: Fees: Information.**

(b) The annual rental license fee for each rental  
dwelling is an amount equal to ~~seventy five dollars (\$75)~~  
**one hundred dollars (\$100)** multiplied by the number  
of rental units in rental dwelling.

**And Be it Further Enacted** that this Ordinance  
shall become effective twenty (20) days after its passage  
by the Council.

## **Mosquitoes—A Community Update**

By Debbie Murphy

The Mosquito Control program for 2008 will begin  
with spring larviciding in April. The regular season will  
begin May 21 and continue into September. Our com-  
munity's program consists of larviciding plus adult  
surveillance and possible spraying. Tuesday nights are  
our town's night for possible spraying. If residents have  
complaints about mosquitoes in their **front yards**, please  
contact Public Works (301-864-1803). When complaints  
are received they will be passed on to MDA who runs  
the Mosquito Control program. MDA will do a  
surveillance of mosquitoes in the problem areas and  
determine if spraying is needed. The insecticide used is a

contact insecticide and must contact the mosquito to kill  
it. This spraying does **not** reach into back yards. If  
weather conditions are not suitable for spraying on our  
scheduled night or the sprayer operator encounters too  
many people outside in the spray area, spraying will not  
be done and there will not be a make-up night. They will  
try again the following week.

Mosquitoes can breed in any water-holding  
container including bird baths, wading pools, pet  
watering dishes, tin cans, old tires, clogged gutters,  
corrugated down spout drain pipes, and flower pots. To  
prevent mosquito breeding in these areas, water should  
be changed weekly in bird baths, wading pools, and pet  
dishes, gutters should be cleaned at least twice a year  
and all other water-holding containers should be  
disposed of or stored upside down. If you know of any  
large areas of stagnant water on or near your property,  
please report these areas to Public Works so they can be  
checked out.

### ***RPBA continued from page 2***

- RPBA member, Bruce Wernek reminded us that  
Christmas in April is scheduled for Saturday,  
April 26<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are welcome. Anyone  
who wishes to participate and hasn't signed up  
can contact Bruce at  
[bruce.wernek@mindspring.com](mailto:bruce.wernek@mindspring.com)
- The Farmers' Market will be open for business  
for their 11<sup>th</sup> year at Town Center on Thursday,  
May 1 at 3:00 p.m. An oyster farmer will be  
joining the growing number of farmers and  
businesses who currently participate in this  
event. There will also be more activities for the  
children and music for entertainment.
- The Dental Group is offering a \$1,000  
scholarship to rising college freshmen. Please  
contact Carol Patsel at 301-864-5200 for details.
- In addition to the countless donations and  
volunteer projects that the RPBA supports, they  
have voted to adopt an American soldier in Iraq.  
The parents of this soldier are both deceased and  
he and his sister are the only surviving relatives  
left to care for their grandmother. They plan to  
assemble a "care package" consisting of  
donations from RPBA members and ship it to  
Iraq by the latter part of May. Anyone who  
wishes to make a contribution are very welcome  
to do so. Please contact Audrey Bragg at 301-  
277-7393 with donations.





# Mayor's Report

By Vernon Archer

Over the last months I have spoken to you both in the Crier and through Town meetings about stretching Town revenues through privatizing trash pickup. I moved from originally finding this idea very suspect, to deciding it was worth investigating, to now being convinced I must propose making the change to the Town Council.

In early May I will send a proposed budget to the council that will save money in Public Works, while not compromising the level of service. The funds that are saved will be moved to improve the Police Department, the Code Enforcement Office, and also foster economic development activities.

In order for me to support privatized collection of refuse there are four absolute requirements: 1) the Town must save a substantial amount of money; 2) residents must receive service that is just as good as currently received; 3) the Town's exposure to legal liability must be reduced; and 4) any fully-accredited employee of the Town whose position is eliminated, will receive a comparable job with the new contractor.

In the budget proposal I will send to the Council at the beginning of May, the total cost of Public Works will be more than \$150,000 less than if we continued refuse collection in-house. While I originally was quite skeptical that privatization would save us money, after getting estimates from a variety of firms, it is clear that we can and should save money through contracting. In addition, I directed Town staff to seek sealed bids to insure strong competition for our business. The Town will not only look for low price, but also low prices matched with a proven record of providing quality service. The initial estimates that we received during the last few months of research makes clear that such companies do exist and are interested in doing business for us. Research indicates that there will be some changes in days and procedures in trash pickup, but the same level of service can and therefore should be had.

A major management challenge in today's world is to limit the Town's liability. One of the reasons for privatizing trash collection is the substantial liability that goes with this dangerous activity. Privatization of the service also means privatizing most of the liability—the risk. While we do not have the ability to eliminate all risk from trash collection, it is clearly reduced.

Last, but far from least, I could not advocate privatization if it meant a loss of jobs for those staff members who have satisfactorily served our Town through the completion of the probationary period of employment. Based on the substantial research we have done, we know that many firms make it a practice to take on any workers displaced during a change of trash service. Furthermore, the wages and benefits package we offer is more or less typical of what such workers would get in the private sector.

While the four concerns listed above are absolute for me, there are a number of other factors that point toward privatized service.

Currently our fleet of vehicles is very aged. If we are going to continue to handle our own refuse removal, we will need to replace our vehicles. By switching now to private service, we avoid having to buy new trucks of our own—each one of which approaches a purchase cost of \$150,000.

If we are ever going to try privatized service now is a good time.

We will also be better able to predict and manage Public Works Department expenses. Any contract we sign would be for 3 to 5 years, which in turn allows management time to know with a much higher degree of accuracy what trash service will cost several years out. Currently, trash removal represents more than 50% of our public works expenses. Being able to predict expenses accurately will be a very important advantage of privatization..

The smaller Public Works Department that will remain as a result of privatization will be able to concentrate more on the kinds of tasks that have a high visibility in the way our Town looks and feels to both residents and visitors. By contracting out the very big item of trash, along with smaller or more intermittent tasks like tree trimming, street painting, and plantings, our remaining Public Works Department will be better able to keep our streets and right-of-ways cleaned, derelict properties cleaned up (with bills sent to the owners), street signs and lights in good working order, and achieve a host of other specific tasks.

It is also vitally important that Public Works better integrate with other regional entities like State Highway, neighboring Towns, PG County Public Works and Park & Planning along with the utility companies and CSX Railroad. By not having to constantly direct trash pickup, our director and deputy director will be able to better coordinate with the other regional organizations that are so important to helping keep our Town a safe, clean and beautiful place.

In closing, there are risks to making changes in the way we handle trash collection, but the possibility for reward far out weighs the risks. I know that the Council will carefully weigh the options with a healthy dose of skepticism and ultimately decide that moving forward with privatized collection best serves the interests of our Town.

# Ward and Committee Reports

## Ward Two Report

By Council Member Kate Sharpe  
Chairperson Finance Committee  
*katherinesharpe@yahoo.com*

Kudos go out to many Town residents this month. Thanks to everyone who participated in the Christmas in April and Anacostia Watershed Society cleanup events in April. Also thanks to Dell Fanning and Pete Sharpe for staging a two-man cleanup of our concrete-lined storm water channel. And congratulations to Teri Shala, one of our Riverdale Elementary School teachers, who was a nominee for Prince George's County 2008 Teacher of the Year. I am very impressed with the work that Principal Cantu and the staff are doing to make Riverdale Elementary a great learning environment for our children.

I encourage everyone to check out our new website at *www.riverdaleparkmd.org*. The Town staff has worked hard to put together an excellent site that serves as an information clearinghouse for residents, and introduces our Town to new/prospective residents and businesses. The site also supports our goal of an open and transparent government by providing Council meeting agendas and minutes.

In April, I attended a focus group meeting on the MTA Purple Line transit project planning study. The planning study is investigating alternatives that range from simple upgrades to existing bus service, to bus rapid transit and light rail transit on new alignment. The project has the potential to help revitalize Riverdale Park commercial areas, including the Kenilworth Avenue corridor, and encourage transit oriented development. Right now planners are studying possible locations for a transit stop along Kenilworth Avenue. The project team has tentatively identified the southeastern corner (the Shell Station) of the intersection of Kenilworth Avenue and Route 410 as the proposed location for the transit stop. I agree that we need a stop in that near vicinity, but I am concerned about safe pedestrian access to the proposed location across busy Route 410 and Kenilworth Avenue.

I would encourage residents to give Riverdale Park a strong voice and express their opinions to MTA before the draft Environmental Impact Statement is completed in August. The next Purple Line open house will be held on May 8 2008 at the College Park City Hall. Information and project mapping is available at *www.purplelinemd.com*.

## Ward 3 Report

By Council Member David Lingua  
Chairperson Public Works  
*djlingua@gmail.com*

So I come home from work and on my gate is an orange sticker; Chapter 68, section 1. I had been cited. I'm glad because it tells me two things. First, that code is making the rounds, second, that the rules apply to everyone, no exceptions--More on Code later.

By the time you read this, our Town will have a new Director of Public Works. The Mayor asked me to assist with the first round interviews of some very solid candidates and it was a pleasure and an honor. While a step in the right direction, it is a first step in regenerating our Public Works into a proactive, progressive, and dynamic Department. To achieve this, it is important to provide the climate and resources that will enable a staff member to advance on merit as far as their talents and skills will take them without regard to age, handicap, marital status, national origin, race, religion, or sex. Also to make certain that ideas, concerns, and problems are identified and that two-way communication is effectively maintained while fostering an environment that identifies, encourages, and rewards excellence and innovation. Above all, for the Department to excel and have long-term success, a fundamental core value needs to be the respect for human dignity.

The current staff, while handed the extra demanding conditions of the past five months, have done a remarkably solid job. Granted some projects were not undertaken due to the loss of almost a third of the department because of what happened last December. What did continue is the reorganization and clearing out of the physical plant area both indoors and outside. On behalf of the Town I'd like to thank our Public Works staff for coalescing into a stronger unit and continuing to move forward.

On behalf of the Town, I would like to thank Mr. John Benjamin for taking on the temporary role of acting Director of Public Works. Mr. Benjamin came to Riverdale Park late in February of this year, and initially agreed to help out for two weeks. He has been kind enough to see us through up to now (the end of April 2008) until the new director comes in. While Mr. Benjamin's tenure has been brief, we owe a debt of gratitude to this gentleman.

Into the future, one of the areas I hope to see addressed is the Town's landscaping. Our smaller parks and right of ways, while looking presentable, could look even better with the little extra effort. Currently under

planning is an effort to reintroduce, under a trial basis, native plants into some of these public areas. Our goal is to be breaking ground with this initiative in the spring of next year. Thank you Judy Glaes and Michael Severner for getting this effort under way.

With the coming of spring, the birds and flowers returning, comes phase three of the Town's streetscape projects. Scheduled for late spring or early summer will be Nicholson, Oglethorpe, and Riverside Drive east of Taylor Road. Previously, I spoke of holding a second meeting to allow the Town to present its plan for this area. This is still my desire and I will schedule one soon. In the mean time, I have pointed out to our Town Administrator some missing sidewalk cuts to allow for safe crossing along Taylor Road at Longfellow and Nicholson Streets. As it is now, these crossings fall short of American for Disability Act (ADA) regulations.

Now back to that orange sticker on my gate. Recently, the Council voted to realign code enforcement under the Police Department. It was done as an organizational approach that could expand the impact with the team we have in place. It gives us the opportunity to leverage police resources and help our code team achieve more goals. It allows the Police Department to take a greater strategic role in creating and implementing a proactive game plan for improving quality of life in our Town which code is a considerable part of such a plan. At the same time Council needs to make sure that the resources are in place to tackle the daily and long-term challenges. This can include making investments in police/code software and identifying ways, be it CDBG grant or other sources, to help bolster our code enforcement capacity. Support deserved.

Allow me now to shed light on the rhythm emanating from Town Hall on past Saturdays. It is Batala, a women's Afro-Caribbean percussion group of which our neighbor Erika Wilson is a very active member. The group was having trouble lining up indoor space for the winter and she asked for help. Recently they played at the home opener for DC United. Keep an ear out for the rhythm, as they'll be back.

It is neighbors like Erika and Michael and Judy along with honorary neighbor and rail-fan Chris Benjamin who help make the Town something more. Be it the newly formed Arts Council or the long standing the Recreation Board, the Lions Club (yes, the Lions Club), this very Town Crier, Christmas in April, the RBA, the Madison Hill HOA, or the Farmers' Market Committee, Riverdale Park has a volunteer spirit which helps make us a better community. Granted I may have only pointed out a few. I know there are many more and my hat's off to them as well. If you haven't already I would encourage you to volunteer in some capacity. This Town has a heart. You just got to poke around.

## Ward Five Report

By Council Member Timothy Kimbrough  
Chairperson Legislative Committee  
*timkim7@verizon.net*

Good news! As a result of new Anti-Gang measures unveiled to Mayor and Council by our Chief of Police Teresa Chambers (during our March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008 Work Session),

Ward five residents-and the residents of Riverdale Park as a whole-will be seeing less and less "Criminal Gang Graffiti". The new measures were the result of concerns raised by me in a letter that I wrote to Chief Chambers regarding various types of "Graffiti" that I noticed while inspecting my Ward, and small parts of Ward 4 and 6 (because criminal activities in parts of ward 4 and 6 effect the quality of life in Ward 5). Chief Chamber's measures involve the formation of a new Riverdale Park Maryland Police Gang Unit. The new Gang Unit consists of two in-house Gang Intelligence Coordinators: Officer (PFC) Prawdzik and Officer Bustamante; and a special Graffiti Abatement wing-headed by Lieutenant Adams. The two Riverdale Park Police Gang Intelligence Coordinators will receive special training on "Criminal Gang" activities, and stay in constant contact with a Prince Georges County six-person Gang Unit. As Chief Chambers said in her report to Mayor and Council, "The Gang Intel Coordinator(s) will thwart illegal gang activities". The six-police officer-Prince Georges County Gang Unit is headed by Major Kevin Davis and Sergeant Norris. Chief Chambers has also met with State Attorney Glean Ivy to "clear the deck" for the prosecution of crimes involving gangs.

On another note, the first Legislative Committee (for which I am the Chairperson) meeting took place took place on April, 17, 2008. The main focus of our efforts in the Legislative Committee will entail revising Town Codes to meet our present demands for a Cleaner and Safer Town, i.e., the Quality of Life concerns expressed by our residents. The meeting was quite productive. We were able to review and recommend the strengthening of a number of Codes-which will enable our Code Officers to take action where previously their hands were tied. But, more is on the way. There is much work to be done!



# District 3 Upcoming Events and Announcements

Eric Olson, District 3 County Council Representative

## Prince George's County Public Schools Open House

The Prince George's County Public School system is hosting an open house on Tuesday, April 22, 2008 between 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. for the community to visit any public school. To locate a school near you, visit <http://www1.pgcps.org/interior.aspx?id=43580>.

## Fourth Annual Victims Rights Event

The Community Advocates for Family & Youth (CAFY) invites you to the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Victim Rights Event "Empowering Victims to be Effective Witnesses" Award of Distinction Banquet in honor of the nation's 2008 Victims Rights Week on April 24, 2008 from 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. The event will be held at the Prince George's Ballroom located at 2411 Pinebrook Drive in Landover, MD. Tickets are \$30 dollars. Please contact CAFY for details at (301) 390-4092.

## Maryland Day 2008 at the University Of Maryland

This free event on April 26th from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. provides a day of learning, exploration and fun for kids of all ages. Over 400 hands-on exhibits workshops and live performances will be available. For more information, go to [www.marylandday.umd.edu/](http://www.marylandday.umd.edu/).

## Riverdale Park Farmers' Market Opens-May 1st

The market features European-style baked goods, pasture fed meat, bedding plants, artisan breads, hand made soaps, pottery, jams and jellies, fruit syrups, fresh cut flowers, and talented local artisans and musicians of all sorts. The market is a "producers only" market, so everything is locally grown or made. A specific list of vendors as well as events and music at the market can be found at [www.rpfarmersmarket.org](http://www.rpfarmersmarket.org). The market is located at the historic Riverdale Park Town Center (intersection of Queensbury and Rhode Island Avenue) and open from 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. every Thursday starting May 1, 2008.

## Parent Conference

The Maryland State Parental Information and Resource Center (MD PIRC) is hosting a one-day conference *Parenting Matters Transforming Our Schools and Communities* on May 3, 2008. The event will provide tools to parents to assist with your child's success in school and beyond. The event will be held at Northwestern High School; 7000 Adelphi Road Hyattsville, Maryland from 9:00a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and it will be hosted in English and Spanish to register online and for further information please visit [www.mdpirc.org](http://www.mdpirc.org).

## Harlem Renaissance Festival 2008

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Prince George's County Harlem Renaissance Festival will be held on Saturday May 3,

2008 from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. The event will be held at the Kentland/Columbia Park Community Center located at 2411 Pinebrook Ave Landover, MD 20785.

## Berwyn Heights Day

Join the Town of Berwyn Heights for its annual community day on May 3, 2008. The following events are planned: Fun Run/Walk around Lake Artemesia at 7:30 a.m.; Seniors' Bake Sale at 8:30 a.m.; Pancake Breakfast from 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.; Craft Vendors from 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.; and Parade & Food at Noon. For more details go to [www.berwyn-heights.com](http://www.berwyn-heights.com)

## University Park Civic Association Town Wide Yard Sale

Looking for some hidden treasures, then check out this Town-wide yard sale on May 3rd from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. in University Park.

## Riverdale Park Children's and Arts Festival--Sunday, May 4th

Hang out in Riverdale Park at two great events--both within walking distance. A free shuttle "The Bus" is also provided between events.

## Riversdale House Museum Children's Day, May 4, 2008, 12:00 p.m.-- 4:00 p.m.

Come out and play! Children of all ages can enjoy old-fashioned, unplugged fun and games, a Maypole dance, a puppet show, and make and take crafts. Fee: \$2 children and adults; children must be accompanied by an adult. The Museum is located at 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park, Maryland.

## Riverdale Park 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Art Fest 2008, May 4, 2008, 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Free admission for the whole family. There will be artist exhibits and sales as well as free children's workshops and great food, and live music! The ArtsFest takes place in Riverdale Park's Town Center on Queensbury Road. Free parking will be available at the NOAA parking lot with free transportation on The Bus from NOAA, to Town Center, to Riversdale, and returns. More details can be found at: [rpwiki.wetpaint.com/page/Arts+Festival](http://rpwiki.wetpaint.com/page/Arts+Festival).

## University Park May Fair

Celebrate spring at the annual University Park Elementary School May Fair on May 10, 2008 from 11:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m. Great activities for kids!

## Rabies Vaccination Clinic

Bring your pets to the 2008 Rabies Vaccination Clinics. The clinic will be held on three days at three different locations. Vaccinations are \$5.00 per animal. All clinics are on Saturdays from 10:00a.m. to 1:00p.m., rain or shine. Please call (301) 583-3782 for more details.

- May 10, 2008 Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD
- May 17, 2008 Bowie High School, 15200 Annapolis Road, Bowie, MD

- May 31, 2008 Crossland High School, 6901 Temple Hills Road, Temple Hills, MD

### Scholarship Opportunity

The Prince Georges County Federation of Park and Recreation Councils represent approximately 80 Recreation Councils, Civic Associations, and individuals interested in promoting parks and recreation within Prince Georges County. The Federation will award its 17<sup>th</sup> scholarship in parks and recreation next spring. The \$500.00 scholarship will be awarded to a Prince Georges County resident student who is currently or intends to major in recreation at a recognized college or university. The deadline for applications is May 15, 2008. For additional information including an application call Harlan W. Tucker 301-262-1010.

### City of New Carrollton Annual Showcase of Arts

The City of New Carrollton's Annual Showcase of Art will be held on Saturday, May 17, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The Showcase, which is open to both residents and non-residents, awards ribbons to the best elementary, middle, and high school participants, as well as adults. Categories include: drawings (pen, pencil, or combination); oil or acrylic paintings; watercolors; cartoons; and photography. Participants must register with City Hall no later than May 9, 2008. The event is held at New Carrollton Municipal Center, 5016 Princess Garden Parkway.

### Summer Internships Available

The Greater Washington Urban League has two paid summer internships available, which are sponsored by the Everett Public Service Internship Program. The internship experience will be a ten-week non-profit experience with exposure to the work of the Greater Washington Urban League, a social service and civil rights organization. The League is looking for students who are interested in public service, public relations, and/or special events. The students will receive \$280 per week. To apply, a student must be at least a sophomore in college with a minimum of 24 credits hours completed at an accredited college or university. For additional requirements and eligibility please contact the Greater Washington Urban League at (202) 265-8200.

### Pepco Offers Discount on Energy-Saving Bulbs

Pepco is offering discounts to customers who buy energy-saving compact fluorescent light bulbs at Home Depot and Costco stores in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. Single bulbs will be discounted at the register by \$1.50, and packs will be discounted by \$3.00. The discount will be available for three years. Pepco will pay the retailers the difference between the discount and regular prices of the bulbs. A list of participating stores and other energy-saving tips can be found at [www.pepco.com](http://www.pepco.com).

*These periodic email updates are sent to public officials, town managers, civic association leaders, and residents upon*

*request. If you are interested in receiving this update, please email Thomas Mayah at [tsmayah@co.pg.md.us](mailto:tsmayah@co.pg.md.us).*

## Farmers Market Begins its 11<sup>th</sup> Year, May 1, 2008

By Jim Coleman

**Opening Day Event - May 1, 2008, includes Noelle Stone, the Stilt Walker, and Lisa, the balloon animal make, and the ever popular BanjerDan.**

We look forward to seeing you on Thursdays from May 1 - October 30, 2008 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The Farmers Market is held at our Town Center, 4650 Queensbury Road, Riverdale Park, Maryland, 20737. As one customer recently told us, "Riverdale Park is the fun market!" Each week we offer live music by award-winning local artists, kids-entertainment, and a wide selection of fresh produce and specialty items sold directly by Maryland farmers. Riverdale Park Farmers Market is a producers-only market located close to N.E. Washington D.C. Products include: veggies and fruits; jams; bread and other baked goods; honey; eggs; cut flowers; plants; and more. Plus, the Market features local vendors that produce items that complement farm products like fresh sausages, locally roasted coffee, handmade baskets, pottery, soap, and more. You can eat dinner at the market while you shop!

New in 2008, Groff's Content Farm will be providing organic eggs, chicken, turkey, pork, and lamb at our Market. Groff's uses no hormones, no antibiotics, and feed their cattle and sheep on green grass and hay only. We will also be welcoming farm-raised mercury-free fresh oysters from Circle C Oyster Ranch.

*We will also have biodiesel in Riverdale Park courtesy of Green Guild Biodiesel, a non-profit biodiesel buyer's club.*

We are also looking for a newsletter editor who will compile the weekly recipes, crops, and other announcements every Tuesday evening, and of course any suggestions you might have to make the newsletter better. Interested??? Contact: [rpkfarmmkt@gmail.com](mailto:rpkfarmmkt@gmail.com)

**WIC Coupons are accepted at the Farmers Market.**

During May and June, the Market will feature early crops, bedding plants, strawberries, flowers, baked goods, eggs, jams, and honey.

The Riverdale Railroad Model Railroaders (RMR) Club and its first Club show will be held on opening day of the Farmers Market. The RMRs H-O and O Scale Train Club brings delight to many – don't miss it!

We're looking forward to seeing you at Riverdale Park's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Farmers Market season.

# Community Circles

## What to Watch For

**Thursday, May 1, 2008—May Day! 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Riverdale Park Farmers Market Opens!**—Town Center, 3—7:00 p.m.

**Friday, May 2, Public Safety Mtg**—Town Hall, 11 a

**Sunday, May 4, 2008, TWO GREAT EVENTS—ArtsFest 2008**, Town Center 11:00 a.m. -6:00 p.m., and **Children's Day**, Riversdale, 12:00 – 4:00 p.m.

**Monday, May 5, 2008**—Legislative Meeting, TH, 8 p

**Tuesday, May 6, 2008**—Traffic Study meeting, TH, 7 p

**Wednesday, May 7, 2008**—M-UTC, TH, 7:30 p

**Wednesday, May 14, 2008**—RPBA, 5:30 p; call 301-277-7393 for site/information.

**Tuesday, May 20, 2008**—Riverdale Elementary Mural Unveiling, 9:00 a.m. outside school.

**Monday, May 26, 2008, Memorial Day**—Town Offices and Public Works closed.

**Tuesday, May 27, 2008**—Work Session, TH, 8 p

**Wednesday, May 28, 2008**—Lions Club, TH, 7 p

## Community Organizations

**Northern County Soccer Alliance, Inc. (NCSA):** For more information on NCSA and on travel, recreation, home school, and training programs, contact [www.ncsa-soccer.org](http://www.ncsa-soccer.org) or call 310-927-0560. NCSA is the only year-round soccer club in the North/west Prince Georges County area. Tax deductible donations accepted at [www.justgive.org](http://www.justgive.org). Volunteers needed-this is an excellent opportunity to get involved with your child in fun and great physical activity.

**Riverdale Park Business Association (RPBA)** Contact A. Bragg at 301-277-7393 for date/place of next meeting.

**Recreation Board –Save the Date-- Riverdale Park Day is coming up! October 4, 2008, 12:00 noon—5:00 p.m.** Volunteers Needed! This is a great opportunity to become involved with your children and the community. Contact Anissa Sunday at 301-277-2458 for more information and for great volunteer opportunities/assignments. We need you!

**Riverdale Park Farmer's Market**—Opening Day for the Market's 11<sup>th</sup> Year—May 1, 2007 from 3:00 – 7:00 p.m. Contact Jim Coleman at 301-209-8529 for more information.

**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.

**Riversdale House Museum**--Public tours, Museum Gift Shop. Open - Friday and Sunday – 12- - 4:00 PM

**Riversdale Historical Society**—Contact Riversdale Mansion at 301-864-0420 for more information.

## Civic Committees:

**Lion's Club**—Contact Guy Tiberio at 301-864-3545 for more information.

**Madison Hill Homeowners Association**  
For information, call 301-513-9188 or email [MadisonHillHOA@aol.com](mailto:MadisonHillHOA@aol.com)

## Other Nearby Events

## Don't Miss These Opportunities!

### Mural Unveiling

Students, parents, staff, and community members of Riverdale Park Elementary have worked together to create a monumental permanent work of art. Come see it unveiled on Tuesday, May 20, 2008, 9:00 a.m., rain or shine. Riverdale Elementary, 5006 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park, Maryland 20737. Contact [liza.linder@pgcps.org](mailto:liza.linder@pgcps.org) or [carol.cantu@pgcps.org](mailto:carol.cantu@pgcps.org) for more information.



*Central Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization*

Artwork by Professor Margo Humphrey and executed by Margo Humphrey and students of the William Steir Middle School as part of the University of Maryland Partners in Education Initiative

**KR**

You are invited to a Community Presentation to review design that address issues affecting the Central Kenilworth Avenue Corridor  
Thursday, May 1, 2008  
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
St. Bernard's School – Crystal Room  
5700 St. Bernard's Drive  
Riverdale, Maryland

Los invitamos a una presentación para repasar diseños, propuestas para resolver los problemas que afectan a el corredor central de Kenilworth.  
Jueves 1ro de Mayo, 2008  
de 7:00 p.m. a 9:00 p.m.  
En la escuela "St. Bernard"  
salón de cristal "Crystal Room".  
5700 St. Bernard's Drive  
Riverdale, Maryland

If you have information to share with the community, please submit it to the Editor, Town Crier, 5008 Queensbury Road, Riverdale Park, Maryland 20737 by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month, or email: [RiverdaleParkMD@comcast.net](mailto:RiverdaleParkMD@comcast.net).