

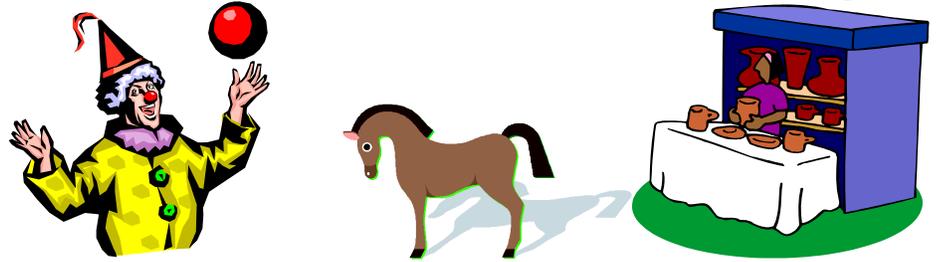
The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

October 2008

Volume 37, Issue 8

Riverdale Day	Page 1, 12
Riverdale Elementary	Page 1
Council Actions	Page 2
Code Corner	Page 2
Police Report	Page 3
Public Works Report	Page 4
Recycling Program	Page 4
State Budget Shortfall, Press Release from Senator Pinsky	Page 5
Troop 252	Page 6
Book Signing	Page 6
Howl-o-Ween	Page 6
Mayor's Report	Page 7
Ward 2 Report	Page 8
Ward 3 Report	Page 8-9
Ward 4 Report	Page 8
Ward 5 Report	Page 10
Ward 6 Report	Page 10
Gothic Evening at Rvsdl	Page 10
The GoatMan Cometh	Page 11
RPBA News	Page 11
Farmers Market News	Page 12
Community Circles	Page 13
Letter to the Editor	Page 13
Calendar	Page 14

Riverdale Park Day



**Saturday, October 4th, 12-5 p.m.
Grounds of Riversdale Mansion**

Don't miss this annual event that celebrates our Town and its uniqueness. There will be live music, open microphone featuring Town musicians; food; vendors; games; contests; moon bounce; pony rides; petting zoo; and prizes for all ages. Come out and show your support for our Town.

Riverdale Elementary "A Year of Celebration"

By Dannielle Glaros

This school year is a special one for Riverdale Elementary—students again met their AYP test expectations under No Child Left Behind and the school celebrates its 90th anniversary at its current location. Throughout the year, students and teachers will be celebrating their history and successes.

The school is also continuing to see a growth spurt with 631 children enrolled and for the first time the school will have five kindergarten and five first grade classes. With the school budget a little tighter due to the economy, there are several fundraisers that will be held throughout the year, so please keep your eyes peeled for announcements. So far, on specific days, McDonald's, Boston Market, IHOP, and Franklin's have offered to donate a percentage of sales from people identifying themselves with the school. Dates will be announced soon. Riverdale Elementary is also registered with Target. So, every time you check out, please remember to mention your affiliation with Riverdale Elementary for the school to receive credit.

Multicultural night at the school is scheduled for October 13, 2008 at 6:30p.m., the Book Fair will be on October 20, 2008, and the school will be holding a bake sale at Riverdale Park Day on October 4, 2008. Please provide individually wrapped items for the bake sale. Also, if you are interested in assisting with the Science Fair this fall, please let me know dmglaros@gmail.com or contact the school directly.

We're looking for your ongoing support for our children and our school. Thanks.

Happy Autumn!



**Halloween
Friday, October 31,
2008**

Council Actions

By Waverly Pollitt

September 2, 2008

1. **Approved**- Minutes for regular legislative meeting on August 4, 2008
2. **Approved** – Closing of 54th Place during Carnival hours Tuesday- Friday 6:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. and Saturday, 1:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m.
3. **Approved** – Ordinance Resolution 2008-OR- 03 concerning parking on unpaved and unprepared surfaces.
4. **Approved** – Ordinance Resolution 2008-OR-04 concerning violation and penalties for the unlawful disposal of dead animals.
5. **Introduced & Approved** – Resolution in recognition to Dog Park Advisory committee.
6. **Approved** – Permit for Raul and Elizabeth Osorio for Independence Day Celebration for Sunday September 14, 2008 from 2:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. held at 5550 Kenilworth Avenue.
7. **Approved** – Dance Hall permit for Mr. and Mrs. Shih, owners of the Alamo Restaurant.
8. **Approved**- Curb- Cut for Mr. George Cois located at 4308 Queensbury Road.
9. **Approved** – Street closure for block party between Oliver and Riverdale Road for October 11, 2008 – Ward 1
10. **Approved** – Temporary parking permit for 4910 & 4912 Queensbury Rd. 1 permit per residence good thru January 2009 legislative meeting.
11. **Approved** – Town to apply for CDBG for façade Improvements on Central Kenilworth Avenue South of 410 Spring Lane.

Code Corner

By Colleen Ferguson

Chapter 36---Town-wide trash Collection: Monday and Thursdays. Do not place toters out before sundown the day prior to collection day. Yard waste will be collected by Bates on Wednesdays. You must call Bates and schedule any bulk pick-up.

***** Please remember** trash cans **must** be placed in the rear or side rear of your property until the day of your scheduled pick-up.

Code Enforcement will be issuing municipal infractions to residents not complying with the above Codes.

Rental inspections will begin in September — all rental properties within the Town of Riverdale Park must have a rental license. For more information and/or a rental application, call 301-927-6381.

If you have any code complaints and/or concerns, please contact the Code Enforcement Division at 301-927-6381, or via email coderiverdalepk@comcast.net.

Town of Riverdale Park

www.ci.riverdale-park.md.us

Town Hall

5008 Queensbury Road
Riverdale Park, MD 20737
301-927-6381, Hablamos Espanol
RiverdaleParkMD@comcast.net

Mayor Vernon Archer, 240-832-2257
varcher@gmail.com

Council Members

Ward 1—Alice Ewen-Walker,
Chair, Econ Development, 301-379-5303
alice@ewenwalker.com

Ward 2 – Kate Sharpe
Chair, Finance Committee, 301-779-2169
katherinesharpe@yahoo.com

Ward 3 - David Lingua
Chair, Public Works, 301-779-3849
djlingua@gmail.com

Ward 4 - Christopher Henry
Chair, Public Safety, 301-910-9855
chenry3240@comcast.net

Ward 5 - Timothy Kimbrough
Chair, Leg Committee, 301-864-1997
timkim7@verizon.net

Ward 6 - Keelah Allen-Smith
Chair, Community Affairs, 240-751-6688
Keelahd@yahoo.com.

Patrick J. Prangle, **Town Administrator**
riverdaleparkmd@comcast.net

Penny Mendoza, **Deputy Administrator**
301-209-1505

Public Works 301-864-1803

Leonard Addison, **Public Works Director**

Code Enforcement 301-927-6381

Colleen M. Ferguson, **Code Manager**

CodeRiverdalePk@comcast.net

Police Department 301-927-4343

Teresa Chambers **Chief of Police**

RivPD@comcast.net

Fire Department - Emergency 911

Information - 301-927-0356

Charles Ryan, **Chief**

info@riverdalevfd.com, www.riverdalevfd.com or,
Riverdalefirechief7@gmail.com

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

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

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

Submission deadline: 15th of each month.

Submit all copy to rptowncrier@comcast.net

Problem-Oriented Policing Comes to the Riverdale Park Police Department

By: Teresa C. Chambers, Chief of Police

In September, Riverdale Park police officers below the rank of sergeant had an opportunity to compete for the department's newly formed fulltime position of community policing / problem-oriented policing officer. I am pleased to announce that Corporal Roland Alexander has been selected for this position.

In addition to being the “point person” for organizing our involvement in community events, initiating and coordinating neighborhood watch programs, and participating in other community meetings and gatherings, Corporal Alexander will take the lead in engaging in long-term problem solving regarding any number of issues that challenge our town. This sort of problem solving is a unique departure from traditional law enforcement approaches and takes a strong commitment from the entire police department and town government to be successful.

In order to get this new philosophy set in motion with enthusiasm and with the greatest opportunity for success, both Corporal Alexander and our Deputy Chief of Police, Captain Pat Timmons, will be attending the annual Problem-Oriented Policing Conference in the State of Washington in late September. The trip is being funded through a grant we received from the Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention.



Corporal Roland Alexander

According to a website describing the conference, www.popcenter.org/conference/:

The annual Problem-Oriented Policing Conference is often described by attendees as the most substantive policing conference they've ever attended. Each year, police officers and police leaders, and all the ranks in between, as well as crime consultants and crime researchers, come together to discuss what they've learned about trying to reduce different crime and safety problems.

We look forward to embodying this new approach in the Riverdale Park Police Department and to continuing to work with you and all town employees in ensuring that our town is safe, clean, and beautiful.

Llega al Departamento de la Policía de Riverdale el programa de la Policía para la Orientación y Resolución de Problemas en la Comunidad

Written by: Teresa C. Chambers, Jefa de la Policía; Translated by: Sandra Acevedo

En Septiembre, los Policías de Riverdale Park que tuvieran el rango más bajo que el de sargento tuvieron la oportunidad de aplicar para la única nueva posición a tiempo completo en el departamento de la policía dedicado a la orientación para resolver los problemas de la comunidad. Yo estoy muy complacida en anunciarles que el Corporal Roland Alexander fue seleccionado para esta posición.

Además de ser la “persona de contacto” para organizar nuestro involucramiento de los eventos de la comunidad, iniciar y coordinar los eventos de los programas de vigilancia en el vecindario y participando en otras reuniones y eventos en otras comunidades, el Corporal Alexander tomará la iniciativa de la participación de la resolución de problemas a largo plazo que tenga que ver con cosas que afecten a nuestra comunidad. Esta manera de resolución de problemas es una manera única y diferente que tenemos en el apoyo de la ley y tiene un gran compromiso de todo el departamento de la policía y el gobierno de la ciudad para que el mismo tenga éxito.

Para que podamos tener éxito en esta nueva filosofía y para ponerla en función y tengamos una gran oportunidad para el éxito, ambos el Corporal Alexander y el Deputado del Jefe de la Policía, Capitán Pat Timmons, estarán asistiendo en Septiembre a la Conferencia anual de Policía orientados para la resolución de los problemas en el estado de Washington. Este viaje será pagado por unos fondos recibidos de parte de la Oficina del Gobernador de la Prevención y Control del Crimen.

De acuerdo a la página del sitio web que describe la conferencia, www.popcenter.org/conference/: *La Conferencia Anual de la los Policías de Orientación/Problema es muchas veces descrito por los que han asistido a esta conferencia como una conferencia de las mejores que han participado. Cada año, los oficiales de la policía, sus lideres, otros policías con rango como también los consultores e investigadores del crimen se reúnen para discutir lo que han aprendido acerca de las diferentes medidas para reducir el crimen y los problemas de la seguridad.*

Nosotros estamos muy deseosos de ver como este nuevo programa se desarrolla en el Departamento de la Policía de Riverdale Park y trabajaremos continuamente con ustedes para asegurar que nuestra ciudad sea segura, limpia y hermosa.

Public Works Report

By Leonard Addison, Director

This is a reminder regarding Holidays that fall on Thursdays. In the coming four months, we have three holidays that fall on a Thursday, which is normally a Town-wide trash pick up day. These holidays are:

Thursday, November 27, 2008—Thanksgiving
Thursday, December 25, 2008—Christmas
Thursday, January 1, 2009—New Year's Day

There will be no trash pick up on these days. Trash will be picked up on the next scheduled pick up day which is the following Monday after each of these holidays.

To assist you, I am repeating the Frequently Asked Questions featured in the September Crier regarding trash pickup.

Frequently Asked Questions About Trash Collection

When are the collection days? Effective August 1, 2008, the collection days, **town wide**, are:

- Trash – **Monday and Thursday**
- Yard Waste – **Wednesday**
- Recycling – **Wednesday**
- Bulk Trash — **By Appointment**

Has recycling collection changed? No, the recycling collection program provided to our town by Prince George's County has not changed. Continue to use the blue recycling toter issued by the county and set recyclables to the curb for Wednesday pick up.

Do I have to use the new green toters? Yes, you must use your toter, however you may continue to use your own trashcan for trash over flow. *Residents who are physically unable to maneuver the new toters may use their own trash receptacles to dispose of trash. To request a waiver for physical disability, please contact Riverdale Park Town Hall and provide the town with your name, address, and the nature of disability. If you require physical assistance to get your trash to the curb, the town will make arrangements for assistance.*

Do I have to fill the toter before I place it out for pick up? No, the quantity of trash in the toter does not matter.

When do I set out my yard waste? Yard waste is picked up on Wednesday ONLY. The green toter may be used as a receptacle for yard waste, or you may bundle or bag it separately.

How can I dispose of my old trash receptacle?

The contractor will remove it if you put it out with the trash and mark it with a large "X".

When should I put my trash out for pick up?

Your trash must be placed at the curb by 7:00 a.m. the day of collections (Monday & Thursday). If you miss trash pick-up, please remove your toter from the front of your house and place it out on the next pick-up day.

What about bulk trash pick up? Items that are very large or which weigh more than 60 pounds are considered bulk trash. To dispose of bulk trash, you must make an appointment so that your item may be scheduled for pick-up. Contact the town's trash contractor, Bates Trucking & Trash Collections, at 301-773-2069 to schedule bulk trash pick-up.

Reminder - Bulk Trash is defined as an item that requires more than one person to pick up or weighs more than 60 pounds.

Prince George's County Announces Enhancements to Recycling Program Press Release--September 05, 2008

LARGO, MD - The Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources (DER) announced today that the County will now accept additional materials as a part of its single-stream collection. This expanded list of acceptable materials will provide citizens and residents a greater opportunity to recycle more household items utilizing the same convenient and efficient method of co-mingling.

The list of new recyclable items include: Aerosol cans, frozen food packaging, plastic and metal coat hangers, aseptic/gable-top milk and juice cartons (commonly known as the "drink box"), peanut butter and mayonnaise jars, margarine/butter tubs, yogurt/cottage cheese/sour cream/whipped topping containers, prescription bottles, plastic flower pots and plastic drinking cups/glasses. Bags-in-a-bag will also be accepted (plastic film and bags stuffed into a plastic bag). For example; multiple grocery bags contained within 1-bag or stretch-film and/or shrink wrap contained within 1-bag. While Prince George's County is not the first jurisdiction to add additional plastics to their curbside recycling program, the County took the time to ensure that all of its materials could be marketed. The County worked in collaboration with Waste Management-Recycle America to find reliable end users for the recyclables.

"The addition of these materials will make it easier for citizens and residents to take an active role in the

preservation of our environment by recycling even more," stated DER Director Charles W. Wilson. "We are excited about the enhancements to the program and are confident that now is a good time to expand. These changes will have a positive impact on the community."

Currently over 162,000 households participate in the County's curbside recycling program and preliminary figures indicate that since migrating to single-stream in September 2007, there has been a twenty five percent increase in the amount of recyclables delivered to our Materials Recycling Facility in Capitol Heights.

Residents may begin placing these new items in their recycling container immediately. They may also place their materials in any other container clearly marked with an "X" or the word RECYCLING for collection. Corrugated boxes will be collected along with their contents.

For more information on the changes to the County recycling program, please call DER's Recycling Team at (301) 883-5045.

The list of new recyclable items include:

- Aerosol cans
- Frozen food packaging
- Plastic and metal coat hangers
- Aseptic/gable-top milk and juice cartons (commonly known as the "drink box")
- Peanut butter and mayonnaise jars
- Margarine/butter tubs
- Yogurt/cottage cheese/sour cream/whipped topping containers
- Prescription bottles
- Plastic flower pots and plastic drinking cups/glasses
- Bags-in-a-bag will also be accepted (plastic film and bags stuffed into a plastic bag)

Maryland's Largest Corporations Still Avoiding Taxes: Corporate Loopholes Increase State Budget Shortfall

Press Release: September 25, 2008

In response to a request from State Senator Paul G. Pinsky (Democrat - Prince George's County), Maryland's tax collection agency reported that over 40% of the largest for-profit corporations doing business in the state paid no corporate income tax for 2006, the most recent tax year available. The report, released to Pinsky, showed that corporate tax avoidance in Maryland continues to rise at a rapid pace.

Findings include:

- Of 129 largest for-profit companies operating in Maryland in 2006, only 57% are paying corporate income taxes to the state.

- The 2006 figure of 57% of these companies paying corporate income tax was down from the 2005 number of 62% paying these same taxes - showing an increasing trend of tax avoidance.

- Most of the companies included in the top 75 for-profit firms are national and international companies.

Because of the proprietary nature of tax reporting, a listing of specific companies not paying any taxes is unavailable. The list of large companies reporting business in Maryland, however, includes Wal-Mart, Bank of America, Verizon, Home Depot and IBM. (A full listing is attached.)

Senator Pinsky introduced legislation during past legislative sessions to close corporate tax loopholes through a 'combined reporting' system. During last year's special session to deal with the budget deficit, Governor O'Malley introduced similar legislation as part of his package. The 'combined reporting' proposal was subsequently removed by the senate committee before reaching the senate floor. Senator Pinsky anticipates reintroducing similar legislation during the 2009 session.

According to the Department of Legislative Services, if this loophole were closed, Maryland would have collected between \$29 to \$58.3 million dollars during FY2008 from the large, multi-state companies who have historically avoided paying corporate taxes. Some economic experts estimate that the revenue could actually reach \$100 million annually. One study by the Multistate Tax Commission reported for the 2001 tax year, in the aggregate, states had lost \$7.1 billion through incorporating subsidiaries in tax friendly states. Presently, twenty-one other states have adopted combined reporting and closed this loophole allowing this tax avoidance. In 2007, New York, Michigan and West Virginia adopted combined reporting.

"Many of Maryland's largest corporations are not paying their fair tax share by sheltering profits in other states. At the same time," Pinsky continued, "every small and medium-sized homegrown Maryland business continue to paying more than their fair share of the corporate tax burden."

The report's release comes amid discussion of the need to make up a \$1 billion dollar budget shortfall. Despite a special session of the legislature in November of 2007 to address the state's structural budget deficit, the economic downturn has resulted in a major revenue loss for the state. "If we are able to close this corporate loophole, we may be able to reduce potential budget cuts and actually make progress in lowering the corporate income tax for our Maryland businesses." said Senator Paul G. Pinsky.

Senator Paul G. Pinsky
220 Miller Senate Office Building • Annapolis, Maryland
21401 • Paul.Pinsky@senate.state.md.us • Fax: (301) 858-3144

Troop 252 News

By Robert Killien, Scout Master

You've heard of Murphy (of Murphy's Law)? He visited Troop 252 last weekend, and things worked out far better than we had originally planned. Our Senior Patrol Leader, Yorman, was conscripted by his family to be the choreographer for his cousin's "Quince," so he couldn't spend the weekend with us; however, he DID spend Friday evening with us, valuable to our troop's morale. We swam Friday evening at Greenbelt pool, practicing for our Tubing Trek on the Potomac River at Harper's Ferry weekend after next. We drove Yorman home late Friday night.

We rose early Saturday morning, ate a hearty breakfast (secret recipe) and, after a short side trip to load our trailer with firewood, drove to Jug Bay for our Orienteering Merit Badge exercise. Our newest Scout, Julio, picked up Scouting knowledge and lore from Joel and Ismael as if he were a sponge. The Scouts selected a 1+ mile trail to mark and follow, and we gave them a challenge - if they completed the trail before 1 p.m., we would go on a boat tour up the Patuxent River. They did, and we did. A great boat ride - we saw terns, Muscovy ducks, Ospreys, and a Bald Eagle (our National bird), to mention a few of the sights. We were guided to the Mount Calvert Historic site, where we observed archeologists and U of M grad students doing a dig. They showed us (smoker's) pipes, bones, and evidence of a foundation for a building. Our Scouts said that they really enjoyed it. The boat ride ended about 3 p.m., and we scrambled up the hill to Site C (our favorite), built a fire, and cooked and ate hot dogs and beans. After we finished cleaning up our dishes and insuring that the fire was cold out, we discovered that another group had locked us in. We took the scenic route home, through the Merkle Wild Life Sanctuary (the Scouts hiked to the 3-story Observation Tower). Joel has completed all the requirements for his Orienteering Merit Badge. Ismael and Yorman have a couple of requirements yet each.

We dropped the Scouts off at home, and got home ourselves just after dark. We had to wake each Scout up as we arrived at his home. A full belly is really conducive to sleep.

At our meeting this Friday evening, we're planning our September tubing trek, our October bicycling tour, a November service project WAY down in Virginia, our annual December Ski Trip, and a Court of Honor. It appears now that Joel will be our first Life Scout, with Ismael and Yorman hot on his trail.

To join in on the fun, contact either our Scoutmaster, Bob Killien, rfkille@yahoo.com (202) 282-8302, or Eneida Martinez-Brown ((301) 864-0059. You won't regret it, not even a little!

Local Playwright and Author Writes about Adoption from the Adoptee Perspective

Nicole J. Burton is a local playwright who has authored a new book on adoption. Join Nicole on **Friday, October 17, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.** when she signs her new book, **Swimming Up the Sun: A Memoir of Adoption**, at Borders Books in Downtown Silver Spring, 8518 Fenton Street, Silver Spring, Maryland. She'll also be reading at Greenbelt Community Center in Old Greenbelt on Sunday, November 2, 3-4 pm. Read the first three chapters at NicoleJBurton.com

"Swimming up the Sun" is a powerhouse of a book - at once graceful and strong. People touched by adoption will find it affirming and insightful; everyone else will learn a lot about the world around them, even as they simply enjoy Nicole Burton's wonderful writing." *Adam Pertman, Executive Director, Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute*

Howl-o-ween Pet Costume Party

By Rob Oppenheim



Our annual Pet Costume Party is always great fun with certificates awarded to all pets and children in costume. New this year—*show off your dog's special tricks* in the "Trick or Treat" contest. See dogs skateboarding and who knows what else.

Live music and other events too—including the possibility of a Fly ball demo and a close up visit with the world's tallest dog breed (Irish Wolfhound).



The 11th annual Pet Costume Party takes place **Sunday, October 26, 2008, 3:00 p.m.** in the Town Center parking lot on Queensbury Road and Rhode Island Avenue (near the railroad crossing). Rain or Shine—if it is raining, we'll have all the fun and stay dry under the E-W highway overpass. And as always, the event is free.

For more information, go to the RPwiki at www.tinyurl.com/RP-PetCostumeParty If you would enjoy helping with the event, send an email to glaes@email.com or call 301-779-1745. You can help with registering costumed kids and pets, handing out prizes, setup and break down. Hey, if you know how to make balloon animals that would be great. Sponsored by the Dog Park Advisory Committee, Riverdale Park Business Association, Town of Riverdale Park, Old Town Pets, C-PUP Pet Walks, Audrey Bragg, and Judy Glaes.

Mayor's Report

By Vernon Archer



Hurrah Riverdale Elementary School!

After a wonderful summer we are now well into a busy and productive fall. It is fitting to start my report by offering hearty congratulations to Riverdale Elementary School after it achieved Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for the last school year. This marks a huge step forward for our school which has faced many difficult challenges in recent years. Good job teachers, administrators, but most of all students!

Improvements at Baltimore Avenue and East West Highway

I want to catch everyone up on the improvements being made at Route 1 and Highway 410. This work is being done with funds provided by developers EYA for their project along Baltimore Avenue, and Potomac Development for the Wachovia Bank project slated for the corner.

The design is to improve the flow of traffic through the intersection and to accommodate expected new traffic that will come from the new development. The most substantive changes are all on 410, with nothing substantial happening to Route 1. Westbound changes consist of cutting back the north curb line from Route 1 to 46th Avenue and shifting the existing median approximately five feet north. These changes will allow longer turn lanes (both left and right), while also increasing the flow of traffic through the intersections westbound. Points to turn both left and right will not change.

Going eastbound, the south curb line has been cut back and realigned to create a more acceptable entrance and exit into and out of West Beale Circle. This is particularly important as the only exit from the new bank will be onto West Beale. This change will provide a merge lane onto East West Highway for motorists coming from West Beale Circle and provide a safe turn lane for those exiting from Route 410 in order to access the bank or other nearby businesses.

The construction, which started in August, is supposed to finish by the end of October. At this point the contractor is on schedule. Unfortunately, the most disruptive phase of the construction is still ahead of us. Since the median is being shifted the contractors will have to create a shift in the east and west bound traffic so that construction work on the new partition can begin. During this phase the contractor will have to occupy the inside lanes in both directions, which will result in traffic back ups both morning and evening until the phase is completed. That will require between one and two weeks. We thank you in advance for your patience while this work is being completed.

A Lease for Douglas Development Properties in Town Center

I'm excited to announce that after years of waiting, promoting, and struggle we have finally gotten the first signed lease for an occupant in the main corner of Town Center. The Gourmet Sandwich Shop signed a seven year lease with Douglas Development and will begin the process of getting their space ready shortly. While it will clearly take some time to get the space operating, this step is a very big one. The shop will face directly onto Queensbury and will be a great promotion for Town Center in that the ice has been broken. This restaurant will focus on serving sandwiches on bakery quality bread, soups, and salads. We anticipate it will help to draw customers from the multitude of employees that are, or soon will be, working along River Road in the north of our Town. We are continuing to promote all of the town's empty or underutilized properties and expect that more positive announcements will be coming soon!

Cherishing Riversdale Mansion

To close, I want to share several recent events at Riversdale Mansion.

On September 7, there was a gathering there to unveil a plack that will mark the site of the homestead of Adam Francis Plummer just over our boarder in Edmonston. While Plummer's story is too long to go into here, it is an inspiring story that traces his family's move up from slavery, to freedom, to reunion of scattered members, to finally reaching that dream so many of us hold dear--owning our home.

Just a few days later, we at Town Hall were honored to host Carlos Guerre, Director of Culture from our Sister City of Ipala, Guatemala. Among the things we showed our guest was the mansion. As the staff of Riversdale explained the history of the house to Carlos it struck me how every phase of the history of Town, even after the house stopped being the grand private residence of the 19th and early 20th centuries, was marked in many ways in the story of the house. In particular, I looked out the windows at the houses along Oglethorpe Street and remembered how the residents of Riverdale came together and saved the mansion from decay and demolition.

On Saturday, October 4, 2008, we will celebrate yet another Riverdale Park Day on the grounds of the mansion. Please join us, and take a little time to stroll about the grounds, and see the house, and cherish this treasure of ours.

Ward and Committee Reports

Ward Two Report

By Council Member Kate Sharpe
katherinesharpe@yahoo.com

I have to begin with a big thank you to all the wonderful neighbors who have been so helpful to Pete and I as we get used to having a new baby in the house. It's been a great summer. Our baby Caleb is thriving and I'm happy to be settling into more of a routine. Congratulations also go out to even newer parents Todd and Kirstie Whitehead who welcomed Jeremy Todd in August!

One of our Ward Two residents, Tina Van Pelt, is opening a new business at 5614 Baltimore Avenue. Many of you know Tina from her Profusions of Glass jewelry booth at the Farmer's Market. Her artist cooperative shop will feature work of all kinds from local artists. Be sure to stop by her new business and support our local artists! If you are an artist and would like to showcase your work at Tina's shop, contact her at 301-642-8320 or *tina@artistsonthavenue.com*.

A number of Ward Two residents have expressed their concern over vehicles speeding and ignoring stop signs in our neighborhood. This summer, the residents of 4700-4900 Ravenswood Road put together a petition to have speed humps installed. I brought the petition to the Council, and speed humps have been installed along this stretch of road. From my observations, I can say they have made a significant difference in calming traffic. Recently, residents of Tuckerman Street and 51st Avenue came to me with traffic calming concerns, especially in light of a serious traffic accident that occurred in August. I encouraged them to circulate a speed hump petition. So if you live on either of these streets in Ward Two, your neighbors may be around with a petition in the near future.

Many residents of Queensbury Road attended the August work session to express their concerns over new parking rules on Queensbury related to the new school drop-off and pick-up zone for Riverdale Elementary School. At our September Legislative meeting, the Council granted temporary parking passes to the affected residents on Queensbury. We will continue to monitor the traffic situation and revisit the issue in January. The Council will seek to create a permanent solution that is acceptable to residents and provides for the safety of school students.

I'm looking forward to the fall activities around Town – Riverdale Park Day, the Ward Two block party, tree planting on Gorgeous Prince George's Day, Pet Halloween, trick-or-treat night, and our weekly Farmer's Market. Volunteers are always needed for these fun events.

- Please contact Anissa Sunday or me if you are interested in joining the Recreation Board to help with Riverdale Park Day.
- The Ward Two block party will be held on Sunday, October 5th, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. and we really appreciate help with set-up and clean-up! Look for the upcoming flyer in your mailbox.
- One of our Ward Two residents, Todd Whitehead, is coordinating volunteers for Gorgeous Prince George's Day on October 11th. Consider spending an afternoon helping to beautify our Town! If you'd like to volunteer, Todd can be reached at 202-441-3813 or *twhitehead76@yahoo.com*.
- Pet Halloween will be held on October 26, 2008 at Town Center. This is a great activity for kids, pets, or just spectators who enjoy seeing creative costumes. If you'd like to help out, contact Judy Glaes at *glaes@email.com* or 301-779-1745.

Ward Three Report

By Council Member David Lingua
djlingua@gmail.com

I'll refer to this report as The Addison Edition. Two months into the new trash service, there are some things to review. Bulk trash pick up is scheduled with Bates. Their number can be found in this publication, the flyer you recycled, on the website, or you can call Town hall for the number. There have been instances of items not picked up. Those who experience as much by all means call the Public Works Department. Director Addison is working with Bates to make sure items called for pick up are picked up.

Speaking of items picked up on Wednesday...

With the bicycle, in parts, it is a pleasure and sometimes adventure walking our fair Town. Adventure for the time shrubbery creep and/or dangling branches (some worse than participles) encroached along the way. Growing up in the Garden State, I loved the shrubs and stone walls which served as property boundaries. I enjoy the ones here and wish there were more. However, the sidewalks need to be clear. Mid to late autumn is a great time for pruning and Public Works will be out addressing those trees and shrubs in the public right of way. While it would be appreciated if one tends to their own shrubbery, those still encroaching onto the sidewalks after a second friendly reminder will be tended to by Public Works. And yes, the bill will be in the mail.

Speaking of beautification....

The native plant initiative brought to the Public Works committee is evolving into a rain garden proposal. We are looking at Dupont Circle, the island at

Lafayette and Sheridan, as well as the island at Lafayette and Oliver. While broader than originally envisioned, there is a potential for some really wonderful landscaping. Thanks goes to Judy Glaes, Michael Sevenser, and Director Addison for their efforts to date. Now let's hit the road....

The Pick up and Drop-off Zone for Riverdale Elementary has been in effect since September 15th and early reports are positive. Again, please be on the lookout for young ones now that school is back in and to plan your travels in Town accordingly.

Our neighbors are concerned about the southern portion of Taylor Road doubling more and more as the backstretch at Talledega with unsettling regularity. It has been brought to the attention of the Mayor as well as Chief Chambers and Director Addison for their input. One option is speed humps and push come to shove it will be brought to a vote of the Council. Input is appreciated.

Time was when the 5800 block of Riverside Drive was the de facto driveway for the Catucci's house. Times have changed and consideration necessary for improvement; to what extent is the \$64.00 question. Part bluestone and paper road, I will be asking the Council for a consensus on the extent of improvement. Those with thoughts on this please feel free to contact me.

This year we are in need of volunteers to help coordinate the Holiday Market. I've been told with five ambitious types the effort will hardly warrant a sweat. Those so willing will be working with the market master extraordinaire, Jim Coleman. Please give some time to this young promising event. Enough already. See you at Riverdale Park Day (be there early, we've a new twist) and Happy Halloween and Dia de los Muertos.

Ward 4 Report

By Council Member Christopher Henry
chenry3240@comcast.net

Public Safety Report

As some of you are aware, I am working in a coordinated effort with the Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization Committee and the Police Department to support and assist with the rehabilitation of our businesses along the Kenilworth Avenue corridor. One way we can all encourage and maintain high quality business in our Town is by supporting the existing established businesses in the Town of Riverdale Park. One such business that I stopped by last Friday was- Total Auto.



I had an opportunity to speak with the owner Bill Papadopoulos, what a story. Bill, the son of a Greek immigrant, owned his first business at the age of 21. Bill started Total Auto, a family operated business, 20+ years ago having the slogan "Home of the Honest Mechanic", which still stands true today. Awards and certificates are displayed proudly on the office wall. Total Auto is conveniently located at 5416 Quesada Road, go see Bill!



Public Safety Update

Kudos to the Riverdale Park Police Department for the Community Policing they are providing in our Town. Community Policing focuses on problem solving and will definitely assist residents in ensuring that our Town remain safe, clean, and beautiful.



Riverdale Park Police Cruiser

Ward 5 Report

By Council Member Timothy Kimbrough
timkim7@verizon.net

Greetings to the residents of Ward 5, and the Good People of Riverdale Park, Maryland. I hope you all had a pleasant summer. I have much good news to report. As Chair of the Legislative Committee, and in keeping with my commitment to introduce Legislation aimed at improving the "Quality of Life" within our Town borders, I'm happy to announce that Council (during Tuesday, September 2nd, 2008's Legislative Session) unanimously passed two pieces of Legislation that were a product of April 17th's Legislative Committee meeting. The items voted into Law involve: 1) Increasing the Penalties for the Initial and Repeat Offense of Unlawful Disposal of

Dead Animals (illegal behavior often associated with “Animal Cruelty”); and 2) the Prohibiting of Parking Vehicles on Unpaved and Unprepared Surfaces upon Residential Properties (in the past-our Code Enforcement Officers’ hands were tied because of “front of building line” restrictions). The third and last piece of Legislation from April 17th’s meeting-Shortens the Time Period that Property Owners have to remove menacing Weeds Grass and Thickets from their Properties from- “10” to “7” days, before the work is done by the Town of Riverdale Park and billed to the Owner. I’m hopeful that this third piece of Legislation will pass as well. The phrase-“Quality of Life” as well as-“Safer”, “Cleaner Neighborhoods”-are words that are ringing on the lips of people all over the entire Country. The last piece of proposed Legislation (which did not originate from the Legislative Committee meeting) that I intend to present to Mayor and Council is-a “**No Loitering” Ordinance (Resolution 2008-OR-05)**. If passed by Council and added to our “Ordinance Code Book”, this Ordinance would “Empower” our Riverdale Park Maryland Police to be within their rights as the Enforcers of Riverdale Park and Maryland local laws and command persons blocking our public space to cease from doing so. This law is not an attack against the homeless, or a resistance to the Right of Assembly guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. This proposed Ordinance, for me, and I hope all of the Good People of Riverdale Park, is an-“inside thing”. This is our Town. I live here 24hrs a day, 7 days a week. So, I personally, would like to enjoy, quiet, clean, and safe surroundings all of time where I live. Maryland State Law (with the exception of prohibiting loitering or “loafing” on or about establishments licensed for alcoholic beverage sales) does not explicitly prohibit “Loitering” in public places. Municipalities, such as Riverdale Park, are empowered, through their Charters to create Ordinances that guarantee the “Peace” and “Good Order” of their communities. Our Municipal Charter also grants Council the Power to Abate “Nuisances” through Legislation.

Ward 6 Report

By Council Member Keelah Allen-Smith
Keelahd@yahoo.com.

Special thanks to Public Works--The streets and grounds in Ward 6 are looking good, your hard work shows and is very much appreciated!!

Over the past few weeks I have attended several meetings with the code enforcement, new community police officers, and the new management at Jefferson Hall where numerous concerns were addressed. The meetings were very productive and I look forward to the positive direction Jefferson Hall Apartments is heading.

Riverdale Park Day is Saturday, October 4, 2008 at the Riversdale Mansion. There will be Lots of Food and Fun. Everyone is welcome.

Once again, I feel compelled to remind everyone that school is in session. Please-- **Motorists--** Pay attention to pedestrians. The Speed Limit is clearly marked and is 20mph in the school zone....**20mph**.

Parents/Guardians/Care-givers/Adult Pedestrians: Be a positive role model. Use and teach your children to use the crosswalks, look both ways prior to crossing the street and always listen to the crossing guards.

Bus Riders- -Be courteous while waiting for the bus, do not throw your trash on the ground, and do not lean on fences or vehicles.

If any Ward 6 resident has any questions or concerns- please email me at keelahd@yahoo.com
 Be Safe.

A GOTHICK EVENING AT RIVERSDALE

“A grizzly fleshless skeleton stood by his side, and at that moment entered his corpse, which sprung up re-animated!” So writes J.R. Planché in his 1820 Gothic play, *The Vampire* or *The Bride of the Isles*. On Friday, October 24, at 7:30 pm, Riversdale House Museum will host a staged reading of Planché’s tale, the very first vampire play ever written. Long predating Bram Stoker’s *Dracula*, this play was adapted from a story by John Polidori and is set in the castles and caves of Scotland. Performed by local acting troupe New Old Theater, *The Vampire* will chill the audience to the core. The program, appropriate for teenagers and adults, will include the text and songs from the original English version of the play. Guests will be invited to meet the actors and enjoy funereal refreshments after the performance. Tickets are \$20; advance registration and payment are required by October 23, 2008.

Riversdale, a National Historic Landmark, is located at 4811 Riverdale Road in the town of Riverdale Park, Maryland. For more information, call 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544; visit our website at www.pgparcs.com, or e-mail Riversdale@pgparcs.com.

This facility is owned and operated by The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George’s County



The GoatMan Cometh

Something strange is brewing again in Riverdale Park, as the Goatman and Dr. Fletcher return to terrorize our good people! Whatever you've heard before about this legend only scratches the surface of what is in store for anyone and everyone that goes in search of The Goatman and Dr. Fletcher. *Will you dare to discover the truth?* What really happened to Dr. Fletcher and his lovely young bride? Live performers and special effects will beg you to give up your foolish quest to discover the truth! This year, GoatMan Hollow is full of new interactive fun and surprises.

The **GoatMan Hollow** event happens every Friday and Saturday night in October as well as Saturday November 1, 2008. Event Times: Fridays 8 p.m.–10 p.m.; Saturdays 7–11 p.m.; October 31, 2008, 8 p.m.–12 a.m. Prices: October 4-5, 2008, \$10 per person; October 10-25, 2008, \$15 per person; October 31-November 1, 2008, \$20 per person. Online sales stop at 5 p.m. the day of the show, but paper ticket may be purchased on-site. "Entry times" for online sales cease at 9:00 p.m. to ensure that all advance ticket holders get in.

In honor of Riverdale Park Day, all Riverdale Park residents will receive FREE admission to the show on Friday, October 3rd and Saturday, October 4th! Proof of residency is required.

There is also entertainment while waiting in line—the big screen shows old spooky cartoons, 50s monster movie trailers, and more! Hot cider, cocoa, coffee, and snacks are available for a fee. For more details check out www.goatmanhollow.com.

GoatMan Hollow materializes in the old Dorsey Plumbing building in Town Center at 6100 Rhode Island Ave—very near Queensbury Rd and the railroad crossing. Parking is available in the Town Center lot. As always, the event benefits the Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department and special thanks goes to Douglas Development who generously donated the use of the building to the Fire Department.

Please note: GoatMan Hollow is an intense attraction intended for adults and children over the age of 9. Children under 9 are strongly discouraged from attending. Children age 13 and under will not be admitted without an adult chaperone (over age 18).

Rather scare than be scared? If you'd like to volunteer, from acting to security, join the spooky fun by calling 571-241-5728.

GoatMan Hollow is a great Halloween treat that is gaining a national reputation as one of the country's most unique haunted attractions, and has the privilege of calling Riverdale Park its home. Last year, GoatMan Hollow was a featured haunt on the Travel Channel program, "America's Spookiest Halloween Attractions". This year will be even more fun than last.

The Riverdale Park Business Association

By Carol Patsel

The Riverdale Park Business Association held their first meeting of the year on Wednesday, September 10, 2008, at the Calvert House Inn. Audrey Bragg, President, welcomed back members and guests from summer vacation and reflected on the numerous contributions that the RPBA has made in support of this community ...to name a few...

Monetary donations were made to the following recipients:

- The Medino family who were forced to face the tragic loss of their son this past spring.
- The Anacostia Watershed Society
- The Riverdale Park Arts Council
- The Festival of Lights

RPBA members participated in the following events:

- Town Day
- The Riverdale Arts Festival
- Career Day at Riverdale Elementary School
- Christmas in April
- Earth Day

During this meeting, members elected Officers and Board Directors for 2008-2010. They are as follows:

- Audrey Bragg, President
- JD Williams, Vice President
- Carol L. Patsel, Secretary
- Roxanna Ortiz, Treasurer
- Pete Spiropoulos, Director
- David H. Martin, Director
- Archie Palmore, Director

The RPBA has adopted two soldiers who have been deployed to Iraq. They will be collecting contributions at their next meeting for care packages that they plan to mail on October 9th. This worthy cause is open to anyone who wishes to participate. Please call Carol L. Patsel at 301-864-5200.

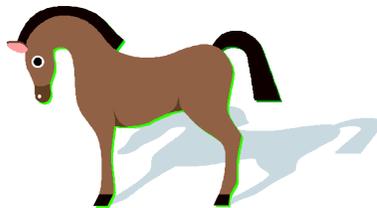
The RPBA continues to flourish and grow ever stronger with the presence of new businesses in the community. Subsequently, they welcome the responsibility and challenge to show their support and encourage membership to their organization. For those who are interested, please contact Carol Patsel, Secretary at 301-864-5200.

Audrey Bragg wishes to extend an invitation to all local business owners and associates to attend their next meeting. It will be held on at Town Hall on Wednesday, October 8, 2008 at 5:30 p.m.

DON'T MISS Riverdale Park Day

Saturday, October 4th, 12-5 p.m.
Grounds of Riversdale Mansion

Live music, open microphone featuring Town musicians, food-vendors, games, contests, and prizes for all ages. Moon bounce, pony rides, and petting zoo. Join your neighbors and Town officials in the celebration of Riverdale Park Day. Bring a blanket and spend the day on the grounds of Riversdale Mansion.



Riverdale Park Farmers Market—A Cavalcade of Fall Fun!

Don't miss the Farmers Market cavalcade of fun all through out October and the fall. Here's a taste of what will be happening:

- Riverdale Park Farmers Market's Annual Harvest Fest, October 2, 2008, 3:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.--This year, the Harvest Fest: will feature: a Moon bounce; a juggling stilt walker; Balloon animals; Chris' Model railroading display; and two great musicians. This all in addition to our wonderful farmers with their bountiful fall harvest items
- The Riverdale Park Farmers Market Plant-a-thon, October 9, 2008—the Plant-a-thon will have four great plant vendors including Green and Sticky—a native plant vendor from Baltimore; Jack Creek Plants; Fairy Landing Farm; and a young entrepreneur, the Green Worm Girl who will be showing people how to compost. This is your chance to get the help and advice you need on making your Riverdale Park garden great!
- Riverdale Park Farmers Market Music Fest on October 16, 2008—this will feature two great musicians.
- The Third Annual Festival of Lights and Holiday Market, December 13 and 14, 2008. We're looking for leaders to help do the following jobs: a Vendor Coordinator who will arrange and coordinate the vendors who will participate in the Holiday Market; a Music Coordinator to program the music and hire musicians (based on our budget) to play at the Festival; a Logistics Coordinator to work on the vendor and music position layouts for the event, and design the scenery; and, local vendors for food, crafts, and artwork. We need you!

Please contact Jim Coleman, Holiday Market Chairman for more information and to volunteer to help with any of these tasks. Many of you know the amazing success these activities have been in the past. Take time to be a part of our future success and join the fun. Call Jim at 301-332-6258.

Community Circles

What to Watch For:

Wednesday, October 1, 2008—M-UTC meeting, 7 p.m., TH

Thursdays, October 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30, 2008—Farmers Market at Town Center

Thursday, October 2, 2008, RP Farmers Market Annual Harvest Fest—Town Center, 3—7 p.m.

Saturday, October 4, 2008—Riverdale Day, Riverdale, 12—5:00 p.m.; Mr. Stier's Bulb Sale, Riverdale—see booth at Riverdale Day

Monday, October 6, 2008—Legislative Session, TH, 8p

Wednesday, October 8, 2008—RPBA meeting, TH, 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 9, 2008, Riverdale Park Farmers Market Plant-a-thon—Town Center, 3—7 p.m.

Thursday, October 16, 2008, Farmers Market Music Fest—Town Center, 3—7 p.m.

Saturday, October 18, 2008—University Park CO-OP 31st Fall/Winter Children's Clothing Sale (see below)

Monday, October 27, 2008—Work Session, TH, 8 p.m.

Upcoming Event

Annual Festival of Lights and Holiday Market, December 13-14, 2008. Volunteers needed. Contact Jim Coleman, 301-332-6258.

Town Organizations

Northern County Soccer Alliance: For more information on Soccer Alliance, Inc., and on travel, recreation, home school, and training programs.

NCSA@juno.com or (301) 927-0560. PG Soccer *League@juno.com*

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

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

Civic Committees

Recreation Board – The Riverdale Park Recreation Board Presents: **Riverdale Park Day, Saturday, October 4th**, 12-5pm on the ground of Riversdale Mansion. This event will feature: Live music; open microphone featuring Town musicians; food-vendors; games; contests and prizes for all ages; moon bounce; pony rides; and petting zoo. Join your neighbors and Town officials in celebration of Riverdale Park Day!

Madison Hill Homeowners Association-- For information, call (240) 401-2202 or visit www.madisonhill.org.

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

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

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

UNIVERSITY PARK CO-OP 31st FALL/WINTER CHILDREN'S CLOTHING/TOY SALE

Saturday, October 18, 2008 from 10am to 12pm, Riverdale Presbyterian Church, 6513 Queens Chapel Rd, University Park, MD, 20782. Quality "pre-washed and gently worn" clothing for children from tots to teens will be available. Featured will be seasonal items, winter clothing, books, toys, sports equipment, baby/layette equipment and maternity items. Cash only. 301-356-1666

Riversdale Events

Mr. Stier's Bulb Sale -- Saturday, October 4, 12 noon Visit the Riversdale Historical Society's booth at Riverdale Park Day to buy bulbs for fall planting; Riversdale House Museum, 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park. Information: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544

Gothick Evening-- Friday, October 24, 7:30 p.m. We present an evening of eerie tales and macabre happenings from early 19th century literature throughout the house. Lantern guided tours depart every 15 minutes; last tour at 8:15 pm. Fee: \$10.00. Riversdale House Museum, 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park. Information: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544

A Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

On the front page of the Town Crier September 2008 issue I see a list of Home Town Heroes. I am very disappointed that you neglected to mention the Riverdale Park Business Association. The RPBA has been a major player in town functions and events for many, many years. Whenever a need arises the RPBA is there with time, energy and or money. Our membership of local businesses believes in community and does something about it. We have been active and supportive of the Festival of Lights, the Farmer's Market, Riverdale Park Day, The Arts Council, Christmas in April, Earth Day and also in helping local families deal with tragedy. We are an active business community who takes an active part in our home town. I am disappointed the Town Crier neglected to mention our contributions to the town.

Audrey Bragg, President
Riverdale Park Business Association

If you have information, ideas, or concerns to share with the community, please submit it to the Editor, Town Crier, 5008 Queensbury Road, Riverdale Park, Maryland 20737 **by the 15th of the month, or email: rptowncrier@comcast.net.**

