

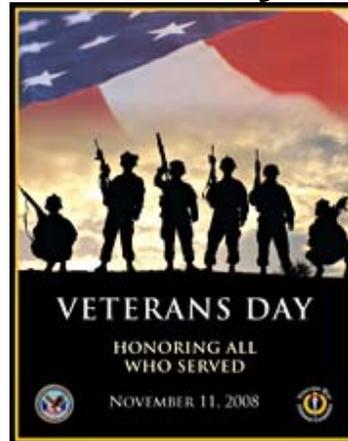
The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

November 2008

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Veterans Day 2008



Veterans Day Memorial Service

On Veterans Day, Tuesday November 11, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. a brief service honoring our veterans will be held at the Veterans Memorial across from the MARC train Station in the Town Center. There will be a reception afterwards at the Town Hall with light refreshments. Please join us to honor all of Riverdale Park's veterans past and present.

Riverdale Elementary Students Volunteer to Help Town



A group of sixth graders from Riverdale Elementary volunteered to help the Town plant trees in honor of Gorgeous Prince George's Day. The four boys, Benjamin Chicas, Salvador Cruz, Christopher Hare, and Nick Martinez also did a clean up in town as part of a school science project. They cleaned up the area near Town Center where the Hiker Biker Trail leads to the Park on Sheridan Street and helped Public Works employees plant and remove trees at Madison Hill. The town would like to thank these students for volunteering their time to give back to their community.

Don't Forget To Fall Back!

Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 2, 2008 at 2:00 a.m. Remember to move your clocks back an hour at 2 a.m. on Sunday, November 2, 2008.

¡No se Olvide de Re- troceder!

El ahorro de tiempo termina el Domingo 2 de Noviembre del 2008 a las 2:00 a.m. Acuérdesse de mover sus relojes una hora menos a las 2 a.m. el Domingo 2 de Noviembre, 2008.



Council Actions

By Waverly Pollitt

Regular Legislative Meeting October 6, 2008

1. **Approved**- New Chief of Riverdale Fire Department, Charles Ryan.
2. **Approved** – Minutes for September 2, 2008 regular Legislative meeting.
3. **Approved**- Action to award architect agreement for the design and oversight for Riverdale Municipal Center Building Addition.
4. **Approved** – Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Riverdale Park and the Maryland Transit Administration.
5. **Introduction**- Charter Resolution 2008-CR-01 to amend Article II, Section 204 requesting the Mayor & Council to recess for the Month of August.
6. **Introduction**- Ordinance Resolution 2008-OR-05 concerning loitering.
7. **Introduction** – Ordinance Resolution 2008-OR-06 concerning cutting weeds at the owner's expense.
8. **Approved** – A letter of support for a dog park in Riverdale Park.

Code Corner

By Colleen Ferguson

Foreclosures

Code Enforcement Department has ordered brochures and requested additional information to assist residents who are late on their mortgage or who are currently facing foreclosure possibilities.

Any Homeowner needing assistance: **CALL- 301-699-3835 Housing Initiative Partnership, Inc. Prince Georges County**

Homeowners who are in need of help will be given a Housing Counselor to guide you through options and programs available.

The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development information brochure suggests persons late on their mortgage to do the following:

1. Contact your Lender
2. Meet with a Nonprofit Housing Counselor
3. Try to refinance to a more affordable mortgage
4. Avoid foreclosure "rescue" scams
5. Prioritize your spending and SAVE money
6. If foreclosure is unavoidable...other supportive services such as emergency housing United Way's 211/First Call For Help 1-800-492-0618

Residents who are aware of vacant homes in foreclosure in Riverdale Park are encouraged to call the Code Enforcement Division 301-927-6381. Code Enforcement will ensure vacant properties are maintained and do not become nuisance properties.



Town of Riverdale Park
www.riverdaleparkmd.info

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. Prangley, **Town Administrator**
riverdaleparkmd@comcast.net
Penny Mendoza, **Dep Administrator**
301-209-1505

Public Works 301-864-1803
Leonard Addison, **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, Riverdalefire-chief7@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 rptown-crier@comcast.net

New Officer Joins the Riverdale Park Police Department

By Teresa C. Chambers, Chief of Police



On October 17, 2008, Officer Job Blanco was sworn in as a member of the Riverdale Park Police Department. Officer Blanco paid his own tuition to attend the Prince George's Municipal Police Academy. Thirty-two students began the academy in May of 2008, and only thirteen, including Officer Blanco, graduated on October 16. He deserves our congratulations on successfully completing a tough course and our best wishes as he begins his three-month field training program. Officer Blanco, who speaks fluent Spanish and is eager to serve our community, passed up opportunities to work for other Maryland police departments so that he could fulfill his dream of becoming a Riverdale Park Police Department. Welcome aboard, Officer Blanco!

Nuevo Oficial se Une al Departamento de la Policía de Riverdale Park

By Teresa C. Chambers, Jefa de la Policía

El 17 de Octubre, 2008, el Oficial Job Blanco juró su cargo como miembro del Departamento de la Policía de Riverdale Park. El Oficial Blanco pagó su propia matrícula para asistir a la Academia de la Policía Municipal de Prince George. Treinta y dos estudiantes comenzaron la academia en Mayo del 2008 y solo trece de ellos incluyendo al Oficial Blanco fueron graduados el 16 de Octubre. El se merece nuestras felicitaciones por su éxito en completar un duro curso y nuestros mejores deseos ya que comienza el programa de tres meses de entrenamiento trabajando con la ciudadanía. El Oficial Blanco habla Español fluidamente y está deseoso en servirles a la comunidad, él pasó la oportunidad de trabajar con otros departamentos de la policía de Maryland para entonces poder cumplir su sueño de convertirse en un Oficial del Departamento de la Policía de Riverdale Park. Bienvenido Oficial Blanco.

Council of the Town of Riverdale Park, Maryland Charter Resolution 2008 - CR - 01

Introduced By: CM David J. Lingua

Introduced And first reading: October 6, 2008

Amendment to Article II, Section 204

Where as: the council is required to meet on a regular basis as written in Article II, Section 204 of The Town of Riverdale Park, Maryland Charter and:

Where as: along with their responsibilities to the town, council members have responsibilities to their families, occupations and other commitments and:

Where as: it is the common practice of other sitting legislative bodies to afford their members similar reprieve,

Therefore be it resolved: Article II, Section 204 of The Town of Riverdale Park, Maryland Charter shall be amended, presented here in *italics*, as follows:

§ 204: Meetings of the Council

The council shall meet at least once a month, *excluding the month of August; at which time the council shall be in recess.* Special meetings may be called for a specific purpose upon request of the mayor or a majority of the council members. All meetings of the council shall be open to the public, and the rules of the council shall provide that residents of the town shall have a reasonable opportunity to be heard at any meeting in regard to any municipal question. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to prevent the council from holding an executive session or acting as a special hearing body from which the public is excluded, but no ordinance, rule, or regulation shall be finally adopted at such an executive session or hearing.

COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK MARYLAND RESOLUTION 2008-OR - 05

Introduced By: Council Member Timothy Kimbrough

Date Introduced: Introduction and first reading 10-6-08

Ordinance concerning obstructions of public places

For, the purpose of prohibiting the obstruction of public places by persons and objects.

Whereas, Article III, section 302-of the Town Charter for the Town of Riverdale Park Maryland Grants the Town of Riverdale Park Maryland **Specific Powers** to regulate the use of sidewalks and streets within the Town of Riverdale Park Maryland, and

Whereas, Article III, section 302-of the Town Charter for the Town of Riverdale Park Maryland Grants the Town of Riverdale Park Maryland **Specific Powers** to remove all nuisances and obstructions from the streets, lanes and Alleys, and from any lots adjoining thereto and any other places within the limits of the town, and

Whereas, Article III, section 302-of the Town Charter for the Town of Riverdale Park Maryland Grants the Town of Riverdale Park Maryland **Specific Powers** to prevent or abate by appropriate ordinance all nuisances that are so defined at common law, by this charter, or by the laws of the State of Maryland, whether they be herein specifically named or not,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Chapter 57 STREETS AND SIDEWALKS ARTICLE I General Provisions §57-8. Of the Code be renamed as follows.

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

~~§ 57-8. Blocking street with merchandise.~~

§ 57-8. Obstructions of public places.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT § 57-8. Of the Code be renamed and revised as follows. Changes to this section are indicated by strike through. The new language is in bold italics

~~**§ 57-8. Blocking street with merchandise.**~~

~~It shall be unlawful for any person to obstruct any sidewalk of the town with Merchandise, and each day such obstruction shall be permitted to exist shall constitute a separate Offense.~~

§ 57-8. Obstructions of public places.

- (a) As used in this section, “public place” means any place or space, including, but not limited to, a sidewalk, street, road, or other way, to which the general public has access and a right to use for any lawful purpose. “Public place” is not limited” to place devoted to the use by the general public.***
- (b) A person may not obstruct any public place so as to hinder or impede the free and uninterrupted passage of vehicular or pedestrian traffic on, in, along or across the public place,***
- (c) A person may not commit any act that prevents the free and uninterrupted ingress, egress, and regress in, on, to and from any public place and any lawful activity being conducted in or on the public place.***
- (d) A person may not obstruct any sidewalk of the town with merchandise, and each day such obstruction shall be permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offense.***
- (e) Whenever any person commits an act that is prohibited by subsections (b) or (c) of this section, a police officer or law enforcement officer shall order that person to cease from committing that act and, where appropriate, to move or remove any prohibited physical obstruction that was placed or created by such person before issuing any citation for municipal infraction.***

And be it further enacted that this Ordinance shall become effective twenty (20) days after its passage by the Council.

Resolution 2008- OR- 06

Introduced By: Council Member Timothy Kimbrough

Date Introduced: Introduction and first reading 10-6-08

Ordinance concerning cutting of weeds at owner's cost.

For, the purpose of Shortening the time period for property owners and occupants to cut menacing weeds, grass and thickets from their properties before the Town does the work at the property owner's expense

Whereas, the presence of tall grass, weeds and thickets are a blight and menace to the residential and commercial communities of the Town of Riverdale Park Maryland, and

Whereas, Article III, section 302-of the Town Charter for Riverdale Park Maryland grants the Town Specific Powers to regulate the height of weeds, grass, shrubberies and foliage, and

Whereas, Article III, section 302-of the Town Charter for Riverdale Park Maryland grants the Town Specific Powers to remove such menaces and assess the cost of removal against the owner of the property,

Therefore be it resolved that Chapter 68, section 2 of the Code be revised as follows. Change to this section is indicated by strike through. The new language is in bold italics

§ 68-2. Cutting weeds at owner's expense. [Amended 10-2-89.][Amended 9-18-03]

Upon complaint or observation that a condition exists prohibited by the ~~previous~~ section, The Town of Riverdale Park through its Code Enforcement or Police Department shall notify the Owner of the property in writing to remedy the condition within ten (10) *seven (7)* days after receipt of Such notice. Upon failure to comply with such notice, the Town may employ persons to have the Work done, who shall have the right to enter the premises for that purpose. The cost thereof shall be billed by the Town against the owner of the property. Failure to Remit payment within (30) thirty-days shall be a recorded as a lien against the property

And be it further enacted that this Ordinance shall become effective twenty (20) days after its passage by the Council.

HANDS ON HISTORY: POLITICAL ANIMALS AT RIVERSDALE

By Samantha Farris

Donkeys and elephants and moose, oh my! Spend the Election Day school holiday, Tuesday, November 4, at Riversdale House Museum. The program runs from 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. and is open to children ages 8 – 12. Participants will learn about political party mascots such as the donkey, elephant, and bull-moose. They will bake a traditional Election Day Cake, make campaign buttons, create puppets, and more! The fee is \$15 for residents of Prince George's and Montgomery Counties and \$18 for non-residents. Advanced registration and payment are preferred by Tuesday, October 28, 2008.

Riversdale House Museum, a National Historic Landmark, is located at 4811 Riverdale Road in Riverdale Park, Maryland. For more information or reservations, call 301-864-0420 TTY 301-699-2544. Visit our website at www.pgparcs.com or email 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.

A REGENCY LADIES' DAY IN THE COUNTRY AT RIVERSDALE

Step back in time and enjoy a leisurely day at Riversdale House Museum as you experience and take part in a variety of nineteenth century pastimes and entertainments. Ladies are invited, in period costume if you like, to the c. 1807 home of Rosalie Stier Calvert and her husband, George Calvert, on Saturday, November 15, 2008. Participants will take part in several interactive workshops, including cooking in the open hearth dependency kitchen, using natural dyes to create a wearable accessory, and making a fashion book. In addition, presentations on Regency design and literature will be given. The afternoon will end on a high note with a tea service accompanied by period music demonstrations by harpist Susan Wilzer.

This Regency Day in the Country runs from 10a.m. – 5 p.m. Admission is \$50 for residents of Prince George's and Montgomery Counties and \$60 for non-residents. Advance payment is required by November 7, 2008. A buffet lunch will be provided. Riversdale House Museum, a National Historic Landmark, is located at 4811 Riverdale Road, in Riverdale Park, Maryland. For more information, call 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544; or visit our website: www.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.

**Riversdale House Museum 6005 48th Ave. Riverdale Park MD 20737
301-864-0420; fax 301-927-3498**

The Mayor's Report

By Vernon Archer

As we approach the end of 2008, I've tried to take some time and reflect on the last several years and consider the challenges of the future. There are several key items that I need to share with you.



Financial Challenges

Hardly a day goes by without our receiving some worrisome economic news. Whether it is markets or governments, national or regional, there is plenty to be concerned about. That being the case, you deserve a report on our Town financial condition and what is being done to minimize the impact of the larger financial restructuring.

Because of the way we receive most of our tax dollars and funds from the state, we are so far not seeing any major shortfalls in expected income. We have noticed that many institutions and tax payers are paying much later than in the past few years, but almost all are paying. This causes a problem of cash flow being too slow for us to meet our normal obligations in a timely fashion. While so far this has not been severe, we have taken steps to insure that we can deal with such occurrences.

We are also concerned that later in the year we will see a noticeable fall off in the Town's expected share of the income tax, and that the state may reduce some of the income sharing programs that we depend on. There is unfortunately no way to tell for certain in advance.

Therefore, by the time you read this, each of the three departments that make up Town government will have provided me with a plan to reduce spending by 7%. While I remain hopeful that there will not have to be any cuts to services, we must be prepared to live within our means should our income not match our budget projections.

The Council, Town staff, and I remain committed to ensuring that Riverdale Park remains a safe, clean, and beautiful Town under a financially sound administration.

Long Term Infrastructure Needs

While it may not seem a great time to initiate a strong push to get funding from the state and county for infrastructure needs, now is actually a fine time. As it will take several years at best to even get new designs for our infrastructure needs, the economy of the moment is not of consequence.

The Town clearly needs the larger governments to begin the planning to replace two critical systems in our Town: (1) the Riverdale Road bridge over the Northeast Branch; and (2) the main storm water management system that flows down from University Park and enters the Northeast Branch just above the bridge. All bridges belong to the state and the storm water management is done primarily by the County.

The bridge was built in 1932 and is clearly nearing the end of its useful life span. There is substantial decay and there is a limit to how much patching can be done. And, the original design of the bridge was for minimal vehicular and pedestrian traffic. At the time it was built, it was on the edge of a sleepy Town, heading out into the country side. Today the design is most clearly inadequate for carrying the large number of pedestrians that daily use it to get from the large apartment complexes to Riverdale Elementary School. We need a new bridge to handle the pedestrian traffic and not just a repair to the existing one.

The main drainage of our storm water system is clearly approaching the end of its useful life too. The concrete banks are increasingly undermined and accelerated subsidence is going to occur in the coming years when the heavy pressure of storm water tears away at the numerous points that have already failed. The threat to surrounding homes, public property, and infrastructure is not great today, but it will continue to grow over the coming years. It is therefore important that we continue to push for repair of the most immediate problems and plan for the whole system's redesign and reconstruction in the years ahead.

We have been working a long time already to lay the groundwork for getting these improvements, but it will clearly take a lot longer to see them through. What will be required is consistent advocacy and determination to work effectively with county and state government. We have taken strong, sustained action to improve the infrastructure owned by the Town, and this fact has been noticed by those above us at county and state levels. We will get the assistance we both need and deserve.

Ward and Committee Reports

Ward One

By Council Member Alice Walker
Alice.ewen.walker@gmail.com

Park Improvements

At the end of September, Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission hosted budget hearings on the Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Budget for FY 2010. Among the planned improvements is the replacement of playground equipment at Riverdale Neighborhood Park N-26, located between Tuckerman and Sheridan Streets on the west side of the train tracks. In addition, the budget supports continued upgrades at Riversdale Mansion and new irrigation and field upgrades for the football field at Riverdale Community Park, where DeMatha practices.

In consultation with CM Lingua and CM Sharpe, I drafted written comments provided to M-NCPPC and CM Eric Olson's office in support of these improvements. We confirmed that renovation of the playground equipment at park N-26 is a top priority. We also noted our interest in increased park maintenance, security, and the potential for a future dog park in the community. I want to thank residents who attended the hearing, as well as CM Lingua for delivering these joint comments to M-NCPPC.

It is important that the Town of Riverdale Park and residents provide vocal and sustained support for these improvements. The CIP draft budget is a starting point in a process that will end with county council approval in April. During the next six months, the Planning Commission and county officials will set priorities for implementation. Some projects will be removed from the budget in favor of others. If you would like to help secure support for these projects, please write County Councilman Eric Olson in the next months to let him know that you care. Advocacy by residents is one of the best ways to ensure that our community receives full attention in M-NCPPC's final budget next spring. Feel free to contact me for sample letter language or with any questions you may have.

Ward 1 Block Party November 1

On November 1st, residents are hosting a Ward 1 block party on 46th Street between Oliver Street and Riverdale Road. All are invited, whether you live in our ward or not. We plan on live music, kids activities, and a potluck. Donations will be collected for a future recreational event or improvement to benefit our community. Special thanks to Heather Blanchard, Nancy Augustine, and Jade Jagers for coordinating the party as well as to the Arts Council and all volunteers – see you there!

Queensbury Traffic Flow Restored

The Town has restored the old traffic pattern on Queensbury Road east of the train tracks. Now, restricted access is only during morning rush hour, with two-way access the rest of the day. Thanks to residents for your feedback. The town should be willing to try new solutions, but in this case, the solution provoked more problems than it was meant to solve. The street in front of the firehouse is now painted to denote that vehicles may not block fire trucks. I thank the Fire Department for identifying a compromise that meets everyone's needs.

Traffic Calming

Speed humps have been installed on 43rd Street. The street straddles the boundary between Hyattsville and Riverdale Park. I thank residents for their extended patience regarding this long-standing request and appreciate our Public Works Director, Mr. Addison, for his enthusiasm in getting the project untangled and implemented. Residents on the west end of Tuckerman and Sheridan are self-organizing to identify traffic calming enforcement strategies, signage, and calming devices that will make their neighborhood safer. If you want to learn more, email liu.jared@gmail.com.

Farmers' Market & Town Center Events

Riverdale Park Farmers' Market is wrapping up another banner season. Our market has enjoyed continued growth in vendors, variety, music, and customer traffic. This is consistent with increased interest nationwide in eating healthy, buying local and supporting family farming. Thanks to Jim Coleman for the great energy, creativity, and passion he brings to the market as our coordinator. Our Farmers' Market advisory board, vendors, and volunteers do hard work behind the scenes to make the market a success every week. Thanks to everyone for their support. Mark your calendars now for the Holiday Market on December 13-14.

These and other events are a critical part of our ongoing strategy to bring life and community to our historic town center. Last month, GoatMan Hollow hosted a blood curdling haunted house in the Dorsey building and attracted hundreds of people from across our region. Soon, we hope to welcome a gourmet sandwich shop across from the S&J and an Indian restaurant next to Calvert House. As a community, we can help by supporting success and patronizing the services we want in our own backyard.

Warm wishes to Brian and Sylvia Kane on the birth of their son, Maximilian! As Thanksgiving approaches, I am thankful for the friends I have made in Riverdale Park. Hope you have a great holiday.

Ward Two Report

By Council Member Kate Sharpe
katherinesharpe@yahoo.com

Ward Two celebrated in October with a fantastic block party. Thanks to Dannielle Glaros and Marita Novicky for their hard work, and to everyone who brought pot luck dishes and shared in the fun. Every year, I get the chance to meet new neighbors at this great event, and this year was no exception.

The entire town also celebrated with a very successful Riverdale Park Day, thanks to our dedicated Recreation Committee. I enjoyed seeing many familiar and new young faces while I stamped passports. It seems as though the event becomes more popular each year.

I had the opportunity to attend a municipal official's dinner hosted by our County Councilman Eric Olson this past month. The focus of the evening was transportation planning projects that are occurring in our region. Of special note was the recent release of the Purple Line Alternatives Analysis/Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The document is available for review online at: *www.purplelinemd.com* and at the Hyattsville, Greenbelt and Bladensburg libraries. Public hearings on the purple line will be held in November and I strongly encourage residents to attend and even provide testimony. Opponents of the plan (mainly Chevy Chase residents) are well organized and well funded. We need Riverdale Park's voice to be heard – the Purple Line would create economic development opportunities, better our environment and reduce traffic congestion. More information about the hearings can be found at the project website, or you can submit comments by email to: *purpleline@mtamaryland.com*.

Other items mentioned at the dinner included: partnering with the University of Maryland to operate a Route One connector bus that could run a loop from the Arts District in Hyattsville to IKEA, and exploring bike and pedestrian trail enhancements. Of course the Trolley trail is first on Riverdale Park's priority list, but extending the Anacostia Trail Network toward Washington, D.C. is exciting as well. Thanks to Councilman Olson for bringing the municipalities together to discuss these possibilities. I know our Town Council is enthusiastic about helping these ideas and projects come to fruition.

I wanted to close by reminding residents about the HOPE program (*www.hopeinonline.com* or 301-567-3330), which assists homeowners having difficulty paying their mortgages. Our national economic melt-down is creating hardship for many citizens, and HOPE can help. If you are a town resident experiencing financial hardship, please remember our new community re-

source police officer, Roland Alexander, and our code enforcement officer, Colleen Ferguson. Both can help you identify many types of community resources to assist you in your time of need. Or give me a call. Our town has a tradition of helping each other, and now is an especially important time to be good neighbors. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday!

Ward Three Report

By Council Member David Lingua
djlingua@gmail.com

With so much to be thankful for this November, it is just a matter of where to begin. A couple items first.

As you have read in the Mayor's report, the belts are tightening and we were already on the last notch. One way you can help is by recycling as much as possible. With the County expanding the list of what is acceptable, the less trash we send to the dump the less we will pay in tipping fees. It may be a little each week, but it adds up. Please do what you can.

Introduced last month was a charter amendment to waive the requirement for the council to meet during the month of August. Based on the vacation schedules of the many government agencies we work with, as well as the work and family schedules of our Town Council members during the summer months, I believe it is a sensible move. Waiving this requirement does not prohibit the Mayor or a majority of the Council to call a special legislative meeting at any time to handle time sensitive business that may arise. This has been done in the past. The amendment will simply mean that the Council is not mandated to meet during August. Now let's move onto the recognition.

To start, I would like to thank all those who participated in Riverdale Park Day. It was another totally kickin' event for all who call this home. To Batala, you ladies are totally right on. To Miles and all the musicians, a real treat to hear you play. Thanks also go to the Fire Department and Mr. Magic — awesome as always. And to Councilman Eric Olson, his staff, the various county services, Anne and David with Trips for Kids, the model Railroaders, the RBA, Riverdale Elementary, and our Town's Police and Public Works Departments, many thanks for coming out and making this a fun and informative day.

If I have forgotten you, my apologies, but there are two people I could not ever forget: Anissa Sunday and Andie Huberty have been the heart and soul of all the Town events over the past two years. Riverdale Park Day, Festival of Lights, the Children's Holiday Party, the Easter Egg Hunt, Summer Playground are all possible through their leadership efforts. Without these two

dedicated women, these events would not have happened. On behalf of many I'd like to thank both of these exceptional women for all they do to make living in Riverdale Park so special.

Now before I step off the soapbox I will once again ask of all with in eyeshot of this to really really consider volunteering for the Recreation Board. Yes we're all busy, and yes we have families to tend to, but it is for these families that the Board exists. And without volunteers, the events named do not happen. It does not get more for the little people by the big people than this. So please, pretty please, lend a hand and join The Recreation Board.

Most of all I'm thankful for all the great people of Riverdale Park. We have many citizens who put forth an effort to make our town what it is and press on to make it better. From this Crier to the Wiki to the Farmers Market to MUTC and more, many contributions make for meaningful creation. What a heart.

Ward Four Report

By Council Member Christopher Henry
chenry3240@comcast.net

Public Safety Report

We would like to welcome Officer J. Blanco to the Town of Riverdale Park. Officer Blanco is the newest member of the Riverdale Park Police Department and we are pleased that he has joined our outstanding, dedicated staff.

A thank you to our Deputy Town Administrator, Penny Guzman-Mendoza, and the team of sixth grade students from Riverdale Elementary, who on Friday October 17, 2008 spent the morning picking up trash along the Riverdale Park Trolley Trail. This clean-up effort was part of the Gorgeous Prince Georges program and a Recycling Awareness program from Riverdale Elementary. Thank you to all who participated.

The holidays are just around the corner, enjoy and be safe. Are you planning on doing some traveling during the holidays? Before you travel, stop by the Riverdale Park Police Department and complete a short Routine Patrol Request Form. Completing the request for routine patrol will place your home on a daily/nightly police patrol list while you are away.

The Riverdale Park Seniors Holiday Party will be held at Crescent Cities on December 18, 2008 at 12:00 noon, all senior town residents are invited to attend. Please call Town Hall for more information and to RSVP- 301-927-6381.

Ward Five Report

By Council Member Timothy Kimbrough
timkim7@verizon.net

No Loitering! That's the "imperative" echoed by communities all over America. People are demanding a better "Quality of Life" in their neighborhoods. They want their streets, side walks, shopping centers and recreational facilities, to be free of Crime, Criminal Gangs and people Loitering. The saying-"One Thing Leads to Another"-is often true regarding Loitering. People, who are constantly Loitering in Public, often become "Nuisances"-by Littering, Illegally Consuming Alcohol and Urinating in Public. Hopefully, by the time this Ward 5 report is published, Council will have passed the No Loitering Legislation (Resolution 2008-OR-05) introduced by me in last month's October 2008 Legislative Session. Also, last month I introduced an Amendment to the Current Weed Law (Resolution 2008-OR-06) shortening the turn around time for property owners to remove nuisance weeds from their properties from 10 to 7 days. Hopefully, it too will be voted into Law by Council. As I mentioned in my September 2008 Ward 5 Report, two other pieces of Legislation introduced by me, namely: 1) 2008-OR-03 (Prohibiting of Parking Vehicles on Unpaved, Unprepared Surfaces upon Residential Properties); and 2) 2008-OR-04 (Increasing the Penalties for the Initial and Repeat Offense of Unlawful Disposal of Dead Animals: behavior often associated with "Animal Cruelty") were unanimously passed (6-0) by Town Council. I've made proactive efforts to keep "Young People" off the streets in the areas directly affecting Ward 5. Since August, 2008 Chief Chambers has stepped up enforcement of the Prince George's County Juvenile Curfew Ordinance-Subtitle 14-Morals and Conduct Sections 14-101 to 14-106 and 14-106.01. The County Juvenile Code, in short-says that "Youth below the Age of 17, unless accompanied by an adult (please refer to the Code for exceptions) are prohibited from being in public places starting at 10PM on weekdays, and starting at 1159PM on weekends. I'm committed to making the Town of Riverdale Park Maryland a Safe, Clean and Quiet place to live for all Good Citizens to enjoy.

Ward Six Report

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

Community Affairs Report

I will be attending numerous meetings in the upcoming months. On October 29, 2008, I will be attending the Apartment Managers meeting. We will be discussing security issues for all apartment residents. Anyone with suggestions or comments, please contact me.

Riverdale Park Day was a lot of fun. The Recreation Board Members did a great job organizing this event. Thank you to all who participated in the coordination of this event.

Wow the holidays are coming... this year certainly has flown by.

Halloween with trick-or-treaters will be on October 31st and I encourage all residents to be more aware of children while driving through town. Trick-or-treaters please: use sidewalks, wear reflective clothing, carry flashlights, and look before crossing the street. Let's make this a fun and safe night for all.

Veterans Day celebration will be held on November 11, 2008 at 11:00a.m, at the Veterans Memorial, Lafayette Avenue. Immediately following will be a gathering for light refreshments at the Town Hall on Queensbury Road. Thank you to Mr. Moffett for coordinating this event.

The Alamo will once again be working in partnership with Pastor Ben Slye and the Christian Life Center on the annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner held on Thanksgiving Day. The Thanksgiving Dinner is free to all in need. There will be coats, hats and gloves available, at no cost, to in need residents. Volunteers and Donations are always welcome. Please contact Pastor Ben Slye at the Christian Life Center 5600 Taylor Road. **If you are aware of a family in need, or if your family is in need during this holiday season, please contact Pastor Ben Slye

Riverdale Park Elementary Fundraiser You Can Help!

Apoye a la Escuela Elemental de Riverdale, y a la vez a un fabuloso restaurante. Estamos invitándolo a unirse a la Escuela Elemental de Riverdale el 3 de Noviembre en el Restaurante Franklin, ubicado en el 5121 Baltimore Avenue. Almuerce, cene o compre en la tienda y un parte de su cuenta será donada a la escuela. Al pagar su cuenta digan al restaurante que usted viene de parte de la escuela.

La próxima Reunión del PTA se celebrara el 13 de noviembre a las 6:30 p.m.

Help support you local elementary school and a great local restaurant! Join Riverdale Elementary School on November 3, 2008 at Franklin's Restaurant at 5121 Baltimore Avenue. Eat dinner or lunch or purchase something in the General Store and a portion of the bill

will be donated to the school. Just let Franklin's know that that you are with the school.

Riverdale Elementary PTA meeting is scheduled on November 13th at 6:30 p.m.

The Riverdale Park Business Association

By Carol Patsel

The Riverdale Park Business Association held their meeting on Wednesday, October 8, 2008, at Town Hall. Audrey Bragg, President, was pleased to announce that Riverdale Park Day was a great success.

The following businesses contributed items for the raffle: The Dental Group, Gerald King, Aunt Emily's Dolls, Pete and Sons, Dumm's Corner, and Garrety and Bragg Real Estate.

At no cost to parents, Dr. Regil from the Dental Group examined the mouths of over 200 children and gave her professional advice. She was later joined by Dr. Lanza who provided similar services for the adults.

Gerald King rendered a penciled portrait of Rosalie Calvert, wife of George Calvert and Mistress of Riversdale Mansion. Yes, she was there to join in the celebration!

Deborah Holmes of Complete Physical Therapy displayed informative literature on the services that she is offering and spent time talking to interested clients.

Audrey Bragg held a raffle for Garrety and Bragg, Real Estate. She gave away free T shirts, pens and notepads to the lucky winners.

Audrey extended a special "thank you" to everyone who contributed their time and energy.

Patrick Prangle, Town Administrator informed attendees that:

- The Town is expecting a gourmet sandwich shop to open for business in Town Center in the near future. The prospective tenants are looking to draw the interest of employees at businesses along Tech Road and River Road for lunch.
- A grant of \$100,000 has been approved to upgrade the facades of businesses along the Kenilworth Corridor.
- Roadwork on East-West Highway should be completed within the next 5 – 6 weeks.
- The development of the Cafritz property along Route 1 has been delayed due to technicalities with zoning laws.

Carol Patsel, Secretary for the RPBA announced: As promised, the Riverdale Park Business Association has adopted a soldier who is currently serving his tour of

duty in Iraq. RPBA attendees are assembling a "Care Package" of various items to mail to him. Anyone who may be interested in making a contribution, please drop it off at Town Hall by November 7, 2008.

The RPBA voted in favor of contributing \$200 to help fund the Annual Howl-o-ween Pet Costume Festival and Parade. It is scheduled to take place on Sunday, October 26, 3:00 p.m. at Town Center. The next meeting will be held at Crescent Cities, East West Highway on Wednesday, November 12, 2008, at 5:30P.M. Audrey invites local businesses to attend this meeting and enjoy a dinner that will be generously provided by their hosts.

Composting

By Michael Severner

This is a reminder that composting leaves is a great way to save both the homeowner and the Town money. The homeowner saves by making his/her own mulch and soil amendment, while the Town can reduce its collection costs if more of us keep our leaves "on site" and process them ourselves.

Here are some photos of last year's leaves, now converted to a beautiful mulch and soil amendment. I also made a simple screen as you can see.



Community Circles

Upcoming Events

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 for 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. 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. Call Jim at 301-332-6258.

Senior Holiday Party

The Town of Riverdale Park will once again host the annual Riverdale Park Seniors Holiday Party on December 18, 2008 from 12:00 noon – 2:00 p.m. at Crescent Cities. All senior Town residents are invited to attend. Please call Town Hall for more information and to RSVP- 301-927-6381 **by December 15, 2008.**

Madison Hill HOA to Meet

Madison Hill Home Owner's Association (HOA), Inc. will hold its annual meeting on Wednesday, November 19, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. The HOA will be electing four Board Directors, each serving for two-year terms. Following the election, the Board of Directors will hold their November 2008 board meeting.

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: Charmaine Wilson at (301) 449-5690.

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

Civic Committees

Recreation Board – Anissa Sunday at 301-277-2458.

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

Riverdale Park Farmer's Market--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.

Leaf Collection

As part of our fall leaf collection services, leaves will be collected from November 15th through January 15th. DPW will vacuum leaves from Town streets following our old trash collection schedule, please see below.

Monday – **AREA A** residents – leaf vacuum service

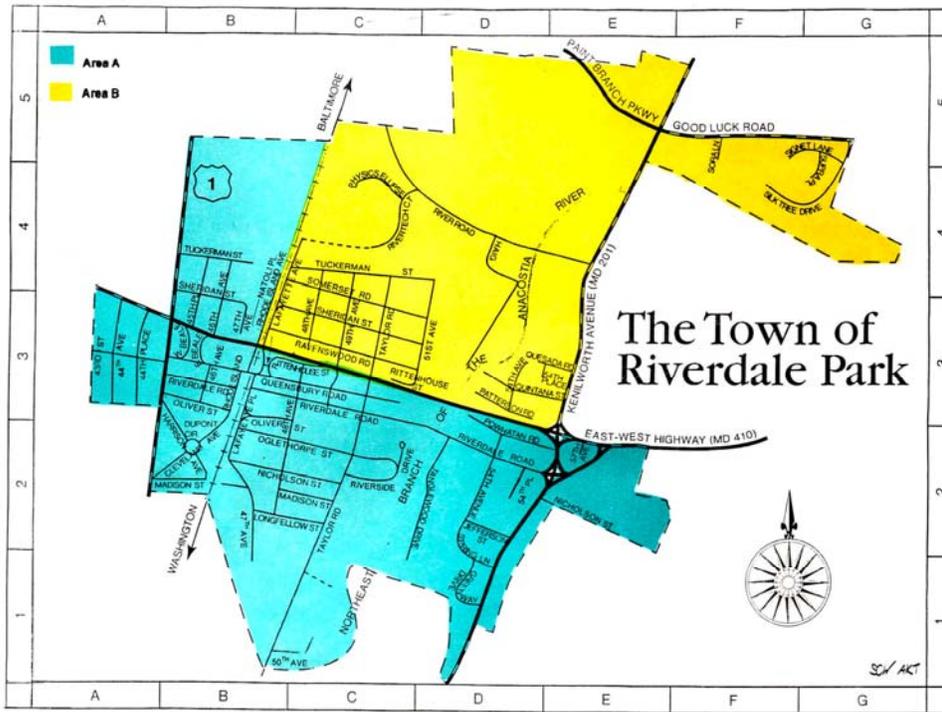
Tuesday - **AREA B** residents – leaf vacuum service

Wednesday (yard collection day) – Bates Trucking Company will collect **BAGGED LEAVES**.

Please do not include tree branches, wood or other debris in the bags.

Thursday - **AREA A** residents – leaf vacuum service

Friday – **AREA B** residents – leaf vacuum service



Area A (blue):

Area B (yellow):

TRASH COLLECTION REMINDER:

There will be no trash collected on Thanksgiving, November 27, 2008. Therefore, the next trash collection day will be on Monday, December 1st.

Make a Difference

**Become a Partner in feeding the less fortunate at the 7th
Annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner at the Alamo Restaurant on
November 27, 2008 at 12:00 p.m.**



The Alamo Restaurant would like to encourage you to join them in providing Thanksgiving Dinner to many of those less fortunate in our community by supporting this Dinner with Food, Clothing or Cash Donations.

Food Donations Needed

Turkeys, Potatoes, Rolls, Brownies, Cakes, Pies, Cans, Green Beans, Corn, Cans of fruit, Gravy, Cranberry Sauce, Bags or boxes of stuffing, Sodas, etc.

Clothing Donations Needed

Hats, Gloves, Scarves, Men's Coats, etc.

Cash and Food Donations can be dropped off at:

**Christian Life Center
5600 Taylor Road, Riverdale, MD
(301) 277-5969
and
Riverdale Park Town Hall
5008 Queensbury Road, Riverdale, MD
(301) 927-6381**

**Turkeys may be dropped off the day before Thanksgiving
Any donations, small or big will be greatly appreciated;
We want you to be part of the family who provides
Thanksgiving Day Dinner**

**Checks may be made payable to: Christian Life Center
Visa and Master card are accepted**

“THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMUNITY SPIRIT”



**7th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner
November 27, 2008
12:00 - 3:00PM:**

The Alamo restaurant and Christian Life Center will be serving a Thanksgiving Dinner with all the holiday trimmings. Come join us for a free thanksgiving dinner!

Free coats, hats, gloves and toys will be given away as part of the "*Passion & Compassion Outreach Ministry*".

The Alamo Restaurant is located at 5508 Kenilworth Avenue, Riverdale Park, MD. Dinner will be served from 12:00 - 3:00. For more information contact Rev. Ben Slye at 301-277-5969

**If you would like to help support our dinner,
Food & Monetary Donations are welcomed.**



**La Séptima Cena Anual Para El Día De Acción De Gracias
EI 27 de noviembre de 2008
12:00 - 3:00PM**

**El Restaurante Álamo y el Centro Cristiano de la Vida estarán sirviendo una Cena para el Día de Acción de Gracias con todos los adornos.
Venga y acompañenos, la cena es GRATIS para todos.**

Tendremos abrigos, sombreros, guantes y juguetes GRATIS como parte de "*El Ministerio de Pasión y Compasión*".

**EI Restaurante Álamo se localiza en 5508 Avenida Kenilworth, Riverdale, MD.
La cena se servirá de 12:00 - 3:00pm. Para más información llame al
Pastor Ben Slye al 301-277-5969.**

Si nos quisiera ayudar y apoyar con esta cena, comida o ayuda monetaria son bien



HELP WANTED

for

**The Third Annual
Festival of Lights**

AND

Holiday Market

December 13th and 14th

We're looking for a Vendor Coordinator; a Music Coordinator, and a Logistics Coordinator. We also need local vendors for food, crafts, and artwork. Come and be a part of this wonderful event! Contact Jim Coleman, Holiday Market Chairman, for more information and to volunteer to help with any of these tasks at 301-332-6258.