



The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

March 2008

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In This Edition

M Square Update	Page 1
Council Actions	Page 2
Code Corner	Pgs 2-3
Police Report	Page 3
Resolution 2008-R-03, Mayors	
Climate Protection	Pgs 4-5
Boy Scouts	Page 5
Rain Barrel Project	Page 5
Riverdale Park Arts	Page 6
Scholarships	Page 6
Global Warming Bill	Page 6
Ward Reports	Pgs 7-8
Native Plants	Pgs 8-9
RPBA News	Page 9
Easter-Egg flyer	Page 10
Community Circles	Page 11
Calendar	Page 12

DON'T FORGET!

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS
TIME BEGINS
MARCH 9, 2008**



**SET YOUR
CLOCKS AHEAD
ONE HOUR!**

NEEDED

Someone to take minutes of Town Legislative Meetings one time each month. Contact: Patrick Prangley, 301-927-6381.

DON'T MISS

Riverdale Park Annual Easter Egg Hunt

March 15, 2008, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

on the grounds of Riversdale



Children, bring your baskets!

University of Maryland

M-Square Development Activity Update

By Patrick J. Prangley
Town Administrator

Doug Duncan, Vice President for Administrative Affairs, University of Maryland, and I met to discuss the following M-Square properties:

- 5825 University Research Court – the ground lease for the first new building has been recorded; the tax bill for 7/1/07 thru 6/30/08 reflects approximately \$89K to the Town of Riverdale Park for the 7.84 acre, 120,000 sq ft building (building as a 3/4 year improvement).
 - Ribbon-cutting planned for May, 2008
 - First tenant (40K sq ft) to occupy by April 2008
- 5850 University Research Court – a second 120,000 gsq ft building has been submitted for building permit, with an estimated summer 2009 completion.
- NOAA Center for Weather and Climate Predication (5830 University Research Court) – Completion of the 290,000 sq ft building and 700 space parking garage expected late 2009.
- Transportation – Kenilworth Avenue improvements are under review by SHA with construction planned this summer. *Golub Property/Lafayette Avenue - the University is again in discussions for a multi-family residential development at this location.

Council Actions

By Waverly Pollitt

February 4, 2008

1. **Approved**—Additional Committee Assignments: Mr. Timothy Kimbrough, Chairperson for Legislative, and Committee Member of Community Affairs and Public Works.
2. **Approved**—Minutes for regular Legislative Meeting on January 7, 2008.
3. **Approved**—Proposal for Art Show on May 4, 2008 to be held at Town Center; Town to contribute up to \$3,500.
4. **Approved**—Resolution to purchase a light for Ravenswood.
5. **Approved**—Resolution to write a letter of support for the Prince George's County Planning Department application for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Transportation/ Land-Use Connections (TLC) Technical Assistance Program to assist in preparing a street-car/tram/trolley feasibility and mobility study to support planning and economic efforts in communities along the US 1 corridor between College Park and Port Towns.
6. **Approved**—Resolution 2007-R-18 reference materials provided to incoming Council Members.
7. **Approved**—Resolution 2007-R-19 establishing a Library of reference documents.
8. **Approved**—Resolution 2008-R-01 to approve additional requirements for Marquette Leasing Bank for Capital Equipment both in Police and Public Works.
9. **Approved**—Resolution 2008 - R -02 Supporting Senate Bill 44, criminal Law – Dogfight and Cockfight Attendance –Penalties.
10. **Approved**—Support of endorsement on Mayors Climate Proposal.
11. **Approved**—To authorize T-Mobile to install Communications Antenna / Tower (Friendly amendment pay any tangibles and paint work to match).
12. **Approved**—To instruct Town staff to investigate coordinating with neighboring jurisdictions to combat gypsy moth infestation and tree loss.

Code Corner

By Colleen Ferguson

The Code Enforcement Department would like to welcome Mr. Edgar Portillo as the newest member of the Code team. Mr. Portillo brings to the Code Department a strong construction background and an eagerness to get started doing his part to keep Riverdale Park Safe, Clean, and Beautiful. Mr. Portillo, who is fluent in Spanish, will be in training for the first few months learning: Town boundaries; the Town Code and Charter; Prince Georges County housing standards; procedures of enforcement; court process; inspection process; building permits; business licenses; assisting residents with concerns; property owner's rights; issuing citations; police signals and codes; procedures in surveying the Town; and, being proactive. Mr. Portillo will be attending numerous Code Enforcement and Zoning Officials Association (CEZOA) training classes next month as well. Welcome Code Officer Edgar Portillo.

If you have any Code questions, comments or concerns, please contact the code department at: coderriverdalepk@comcast.net

301-927-6381 office
240-508-8460 cell

Code Corner continued on page 3

Town of Riverdale Park

www.ci.riverdale-park.md.us

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Riverdale Park, MD 20737

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

Council Members

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

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

Ward 3 - David Lingua
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Ward 4 - Christopher Henry
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Ward 5 - Timothy Kimbrough
301-864-1997
timkim@rcn.com

Ward 6 - Keelah Allen-Smith
Legislative Committee, Community Affairs,
240-751-6688, Keelahd@yahoo.com.
Patrick J. Prangley, Town Administrator
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Public Works 301-864-1803

VACANT Public Works Director

John Benjamin, Acting Director
Code Enforcement 301-927-6381

CodeRiverdalePk@comcast.net
Colleen M. Ferguson

Police Department 301-927-4343
RivPD@comcast.net

Teresa Chambers Chief of Police
Fire Department Emergency 911

Information 301-927-0356
Vincent Harrison, Chief,

info@riverdalevfd.com, www.riverdalevfd.com

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

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

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

Submission deadline: 15th of each month.

Please submit all copy to editor
rptowncrier@comcast.net

For Your Information

The Code Enforcement Department handles a wide variety of situations and concerns, including animal cruelty—such as the chickens that have been found on our railroad tracks in Riverdale Park. I have been working with the Prince Georges County Animal Control, Assistant Chief Little-John, for the past two years, learning all I can about animal sacrifice, cults, and especially Santeria. Along with the chickens which are found regularly, recently I received a call reference an animal cruelty complaint. A deceased animal was observed hanging from a tree in the 5600 block of Taylor Road. Along with Code Enforcement, Officer Walter Bustamante Riverdale Park Police Department, Riverdale Park Public Works, and PG Animal Control assisted with the handling of this situation. It is very probable that the chickens on Rhode Island Avenue/Queensbury, evidence at the Field of Dreams on Tuckerman, and the animal found on Taylor Road are connected with Santeria. We believe that the above locations are being used as a type of Dumping Area only! Please do not attempt to pick-up or touch these animals-Please Call the Code Enforcement Department 301-927-6381: 240-508-8460 or the Riverdale Park Police Department 301-927-4343. Your cooperation is appreciated. For more information about Santeria, Google Santeria.

Thank you. Colleen M. Ferguson, Code Enforcement Manager



Riverdale Park Police Department

January 2008

Crime Report

Crime	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Stln. Veh.
Ward 1	0	0	2	0	1	1
Ward 2	0	0	1	0	0	0
Ward 3	0	0	0	0	1	0
Ward 4	0	0	2	3	0	2
Ward 5	0	0	0	0	0	1
Ward 6	1	0	1	1	1	0
Total	1	0	6*	4	3**	4

* 6 Citizen ** 2 Residential, 1 Commercial

Officer Activity

Activity	Total
Calls For Service	754
Routine Patrols	280
Traffic Stops	292*
Reported Traffic Accidents	65**
Parking Citations	74
Subjects Arrested	34

* 487 Traffic Citations, ** 18 Written Accidents

Editor's note: Police Chief Chambers promises a new format for Police reporting/news in the coming months. Watch for news in upcoming Criers.

Town of Riverdale Park Resolution 2008-R-03

Endorsing the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has previously adopted strong policy resolutions calling for cities, communities and the federal government to take actions to reduce global warming pollution; and

WHEREAS, the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the international community's most respected assemblage of scientists, has found that climate disruption is a reality and that human activities are largely responsible for increasing concentrations of global warming pollution; and

WHEREAS, recent, well-documented impacts of climate disruption include average global sea level increases of four to eight inches during the 20th century; a 40 percent decline in Arctic sea-ice thickness; and nine of the ten hottest years on record occurring in the past decade; and

WHEREAS, climate disruption of the magnitude now predicted by the scientific community will cause extremely costly disruption of human and natural systems throughout the world including: increased risk of floods or droughts; sea-level rises that interact with coastal storms to erode beaches, inundate land, and damage structures; more frequent and extreme heat waves; more frequent and greater concentrations of smog; and

WHEREAS, on February 16, 2005, the Kyoto Protocol, an international agreement to address climate disruption, went into effect in the 141 countries that have ratified it to date; 38 of those countries are now legally required to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on average 5.2 percent below 1990 levels by 2012; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America, with less than five percent of the world's population, is responsible for producing approximately 25 percent of the world's global warming pollutants; and

WHEREAS, the Kyoto Protocol emissions reduction target for the U.S. would have been 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012; and

WHEREAS, many leading US companies that have adopted greenhouse gas reduction programs to demonstrate corporate social responsibility have also publicly expressed preference for the US to adopt precise and mandatory emissions targets and timetables as a means by which to remain competitive in the international marketplace, to mitigate financial risk and to promote sound investment decisions; and

WHEREAS, state and local governments throughout the United States are adopting emission reduction targets and programs and that this leadership is bipartisan, coming from Republican and Democratic governors and mayors alike; and

WHEREAS, many cities throughout the nation, both large and small, are reducing global warming pollutants

through programs that provide economic and quality of life benefits such as reduced energy bills, green space preservation, air quality improvements, reduced traffic congestion, improved transportation choices, and economic development and job creation through energy conservation and new energy technologies; and

WHEREAS, mayors from around the nation have signed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement which, as amended at the 73rd Annual U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting, reads:

The U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement

A. We urge the federal government and state governments to enact policies and programs to meet or beat the target of reducing global warming pollution levels to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012, including efforts to: reduce the United States' dependence on fossil fuels and accelerate the development of clean, economical energy resources and fuel-efficient technologies such as conservation, methane recovery for energy generation, waste to energy, wind and solar energy, fuel cells, efficient motor vehicles, and biofuels; B. We urge the U.S. Congress to pass bipartisan greenhouse gas reduction legislation that includes 1) clear timetables and emissions limits and 2) a flexible, market-based system of tradable allowances among emitting industries; and C. We will strive to meet or exceed Kyoto Protocol targets for reducing global warming pollution by taking actions in our own operations and communities such as: 1. Inventory global warming emissions in City operations and in the community, set reduction targets and create an action plan. 2. Adopt and enforce land-use policies that reduce sprawl, preserve open space, and create compact, walkable urban communities; 3. Promote transportation options such as bicycle trails, commute trip reduction programs, incentives for car pooling and public transit; 4. Increase the use of clean, alternative energy by, for example, investing in "green tags", advocating for the development of renewable energy resources, recovering landfill methane for energy production, and supporting the use of waste to energy technology; 5. Make energy efficiency a priority through building code improvements, retrofitting city facilities with energy efficient lighting and urging employees to conserve energy and save money; 6. Purchase only Energy Star equipment and appliances for City use; 7. Practice and promote sustainable building practices using the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED program or a similar system; 8. Increase the average fuel efficiency of municipal fleet vehicles; reduce the number of vehicles; launch an employee education program including anti-idling messages; convert diesel vehicles to bio-diesel; 9. Evaluate opportunities to increase pump efficiency in water and wastewater systems; recover

wastewater treatment methane for energy production; 10. Increase recycling rates in City operations and in the community; 11. Maintain healthy urban forests; promote tree planting to increase shading and to absorb CO₂; and 12. Help educate the public, schools, other jurisdictions, professional associations, business and industry about reducing global warming pollution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement as amended by the 73rd annual U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting and urges mayors from around the nation to join this effort.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The U.S. Conference of Mayors will work in conjunction with ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability and other appropriate organizations to track progress and implementation of the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement as amended by the 73rd annual U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting.

Local Boy Scouts Surprise Scout Master

By Bob Killen

Local Troop 252 surprised their leader, Bob Killen with a 70th Birthday Party for him at their regularly-scheduled February Troop meeting. The cat was out of the bag when parents showed up. Bob wishes to say a big thanks to the Troop and their parents!

The weekend of February 15-17, 2008, Troop 252 went backpacking at Jug Bay, Croom. Among other tasks, Saturday morning, the Scouts did a five-point Orienteering trail, with different patrols competing, doing the sequences in different orders, and ending at the same point nearly at the same time. The Troop also worked to wind up their Hiking Merit Badge requirements with another 10-mile hike. Sunday morning, they went to church. (what's missing from church? - ur =you are), and then they did some bicycling along the ridge above the river. Nobody fell in! Then they were back home so the Scouts had an opportunity to do homework, and to clean up and do what we should have been doing all weekend!

On Saturday, February 23, 2008, the NCAC University of Scouting is being held. This year it is at Eleanor Roosevelt High School. Troop Master Killen is teaching First Aid Kits and Lanterns and Stovemanship, ably assisted by Committee Chair, Eneida Martinez' Brown, and also by Assistant Scoutmaster, Mike Delaney. Sunday afternoon, February 24, 2008, the Troop recognized the achievements of Protestant Scouts and Scouters at the Metro United Methodist Church on Nebraska Ave, NW DC.

We have other trips ("sorta" planned by the Scouts for the week of Spring Break) in March, and the next big event is the Protestant/Catholic Religious Retreat at Mat-

taponi Retreat Center, Upper Marlboro, April 18-20, 2008.

If you'd like to get involved in some GREAT outdoor adventures, feel free to contact either Eneida Martinez-Brown (301-864-0059) or me, Bob Killen (301) 483-8455). Be Prepared!

Troop 252 is looking for young men 11-16 years old who wish to be prepared to face life after 18 years of age. Joining at 16 still gives a young man the opportunity to earn the Eagle rank, which will mark him for the rest of his life. Ask any Scout or Scouter.

Rain Barrel Workshop FREE for the first 10 Participants

By Pat Gladding

The Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS), in partnership with MNPPC, invites you to join other watershed residents on March 29, 2008 from 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. for a Rain Barrel Workshop at the Bladensburg Waterfront Park, 4601 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg.

The event will include AWS staff and other experts including Maryland Master Gardeners, and MD Extension Service providing advice about the benefits of installing rain barrels. The benefits of these rain capturing devices will target homeowner/gardener and include a broader understanding about how reducing runoff will ultimately benefits to the Anacostia River.

We will have Barry Chenkin, Founder of Aquabarrel Rain Barrel, on site to demonstrate installation and operation. AWS will have 10 FREE rain barrels available for the first 10 folks that sign up (others will be available for purchase at \$55 per barrel). AWS will also have the required additional materials FREE to the first 10 folks that register, others will need to purchase these materials, the estimated cost is \$15.00.

With the rising price of municipal water and drought restrictions now facing much of the United States during the summer months, more and more homeowners are turning to the harvesting of rainwater to save money and protect this precious natural resource. Harvesting rainwater with rain barrels to use for watering your landscaping, the rainwater can help to improve the health of your gardens, lawns, and trees. Rain is a naturally soft water and devoid of minerals, chlorine, fluoride, and other chemicals. For this reason, plants respond very well to rainwater. After all, it's what plants in the wild thrive on! Mark your calendars now, plan to attend this important workshop, and plan to be the first in your neighborhood to install a rain barrel.

To take advantage of this great offer call AWS at 301-699-6204 reserve your space NOW!

Riverdale Park Arts Council Moves Forward

The Riverdale Park Arts Council (RPAC) continues planning for its first major event—the RPAC 1st Annual Arts Festival and Riversdale Mansions Children’s Day scheduled for May 4, 2008, 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. The planning committee is busy organizing what promises to be a spectacular event. Riversdale Mansion will host a series of children’s activities, while RPAC is planning numerous artistic events in Town Center (adjacent to the MARC Train station).

RPAC is in the process of fund raising for this major event. If you would like to help RPAC and/or participate in this 1st Arts Festival, contact Emily Fanning at ourdollmom@aol.com

College Scholarships for Prince George's County Students

Students who reside in the 22nd Legislative District and are planning to attend an in-state Maryland University or trade school are encouraged to apply for a Senatorial Scholarship from the office of state Senator Paul G. Pinsky.

The scholarships are awarded annually to deserving undergraduate and graduate students. A volunteer committee of community members makes selections after reviewing academic achievement, financial need, and commitment to higher education. Most scholarships are awarded for four years or until the recipient completes his or her degree, whichever comes first.

The 22nd Legislative District includes Berwyn Heights, Edmonston, Greenbelt, Hyattsville, Lanham, New Carrollton, Woodlawn, Riverdale Park, Riverdale Heights, Beacon Heights, and University Park.

Applications are available online at: <http://www.senatorpinsky.org/> or from Senator Pinsky’s office at (301) 858-3155. All applicants must submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as part of their application.

Completed applications must be submitted to Senator Pinsky's office no later than **April 10, 2008**. Please contact Pam Shurkin or David Kahn at 301-858-3155 if you need more information.

Global Warming Solutions Act" Heard by Committee Panel Hears Testimony on Climate Change, Greenhouse Gas Emissions

A bill to reduce Maryland's Greenhouse Gas emissions by 25% by the year 2020 and by 90% by 2050 was heard before the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee on Tuesday February 19, 2008. SB 309, introduced by State Senator Paul G. Pinsky (District 22, Prince George's County), will also create an office of Climate Change. Two states, California and New Jersey, have both adopted similar policies. Sea level rise, drought, intensified hurricanes, rising temperatures and threats to coastal regions are just some of the effects resulting from the emission of greenhouse gases. Maryland, because of its extensive shoreline, is considered the third most vulnerable state in the nation.

“Given the inaction by the White House, state action seems to be the best way to force federal action,” said Senator Pinsky. “Additionally, Maryland’s economy – from agriculture, to tourism, to commercial development along the inner harbor - is at great risk as a result of sea level rise and greater storm severity.” Governor O’Malley’s own Commission on Climate Change has recommended support for legislation.

Representatives from the nearly 100 organizations comprising the broad-based coalition supporting the legislation were slated to testify, and included the former Secretary of California's Environmental Protection Agency and architect of that state’s ground-breaking action to address climate change and several noted public policy experts.

S & J Restaurant

Daily Lunch and Dinner Specials, Eat In/Carry Out
Breakfast Special - Monday - Friday \$3.95
Monday - Tacos, \$1.00 each
Friday & Saturday - All you can eat Shrimp 4:00 to
8:00 PM \$15.95

Steamed Shrimp Everyday

Sandwich/ Sub of the Month - \$3.95
Ladies Night-Every Monday
Karaoke Tuesday& Saturday

Corner of Queensbury and Rhode Island Avenue

301-927-3977

A paid advertisement

Ward and Committee Reports

Ward Two Report

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

I'm happy to report that the Council passed my resolution to endorse the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement at our February Legislative meeting. By endorsing the agreement, Riverdale Park has agreed to take action to reduce global warming pollution within our town. The website <http://coolcities.us/> provides information and resources on this new program. I am excited for the town to take the next steps in becoming a "Cool City." To become a Cool City, the town will need to inventory our global warming emissions and look for ways to increase energy efficiency and incorporate renewable energy technologies. One great place to start is the planned addition to Town Hall. Residents can also begin right away by taking full advantage of the County's new single stream recycling program. Hopefully your recycling trash can is full, while your regular trash can has room to spare!

As for other ideas, the Environmental Committee has begun brainstorming, and the more residents who get involved, the better success we will have. The Riverdale Park Business Association will provide valuable input as well. At their February meeting, they hosted a Cool Cities presentation with Alex Hirtle of the Sierra Club. We'll also be looking for assistance to inventory our emissions, which sounds like a great project for a University of Maryland student.

In other ward news, I have been encouraging an increased focus on code enforcement issues of concern to residents. Residents should not hesitate to call code enforcement when they observe graffiti, dumping, derelict vehicles or other code violations. Code Enforcement has hired a replacement officer and is now fully staffed again. I also recently met with our new police chief, Chief Chambers, and we discussed the importance of the police department in supporting effective code enforcement.

Ward Five Report

By Council Member Tim Kimbrough
Chairperson Legislative Committee
timkim@rcn.com

Happy belated New Year! I'd like to express my sincere thanks to Mayor Vernon Archer, City Council, and the residents of Riverdale Park Maryland for selecting me to be the new Ward 5 Council Representative. I vow to do an exemplary job on behalf of my Ward, and all of the residents of Riverdale Park, Maryland. Riverdale Park is a great place to live. The Town's unique blend of beauti-

ful parks, easy access to public transportation, excellent police service, schools, restaurants, and grocery-and variety stores make Riverdale Park an ideal place to raise a family. Worthy of mention-is the presence of Riverdale Park's new Police Chief-Teresa Chambers. Ms. Chambers was "unanimously" voted into office as the new Chief of Police of Riverdale Park by the Mayor and Town Council. Ms. Chambers brings to the Town of Riverdale Park Maryland a wealth of experience spanning over twenty years. Throughout those years, Ms. Chambers has set "standards" for Police Department leadership. Ms. Chambers is also somewhat of a celebrity. She made a mark on American History by becoming the very "first female" to serve as Chief of the U.S. Park Police in Washington D.C. (George W. Bush Interior Department). Ms. Chambers also served as a top Commander in the Prince Georges County Maryland Police Department, and as the Chief of Police in the Durham, North Carolina Police Department. We are "Blessed" to have you as our new Police Chief Ms. Chambers! I look forward to learning from and working with you to make Ward 5, and the Town of Riverdale Park an even better place to live. Also, I would like to thank Captain Patrick Timmons for his exemplary service as Acting Chief of the Riverdale Park Police Department in the interim leading up to the appointment of Chief Chambers. Safety-is critical to the quality of life in our Town. Ward 5 benefits greatly from the rapid response and effective law enforcement provided by our Police Department. We can not thank the dedicated Patrol Officers (who daily put their life on the line for us) enough. But, with our ups we have some downs. There is currently an attempt being made to place a store intending to sell liquor at the corner of Riverdale Road and Kenilworth Avenue. Such an establishment would only have a negative effect on the quality of life for Ward 5 residents located about four blocks from that corner. The Mayor and Council voted unanimously against this proposal. A number of Riverdale Park Civic Associations and Community Organizations also oppose the liquor sales. I will be present, on behalf of Ward 5, at the Liquor Board Hearing scheduled for: February 26th, 10am at 6200 Baltimore Avenue "to oppose any permit to allow liquor sales at these locations". Ward 5 (essentially an apartment dwelling community), including some areas close to Ward 5, have a number of concerns that I am directly addressing. These include: concerns such as-the general "slum like" appearance of the area (broken down and tilting wooden fences; litter that blows, missing window screens, etc.); dilapidation of aged apartment buildings (a number of which were constructed in the 1960's and as far back as the 1940's) in

need of repair; numerous building code violations; nuisance properties (though located a few blocks from Ward 5, apartments attract vagrants and criminal elements who make their way to Ward 5); loud music (disturbing to others); public urination; loitering; gang graffiti (inside apartment buildings-on side walks, fences, and buildings); public alcohol consumption; gang violence;, etc. Mayor Archer and the Town Council have been very supportive as I've (in Town meetings) openly suggested action to be taken to address some of these concerns. I plan to bring about visible and positive change in Ward 5 and immediate areas that directly affect Ward 5. I would like to thank Colleen Ferguson for her dedication and hard work as Town Code Officer. Despite budget constraints and understaffing, Colleen does an excellent job on behalf of the residents of Riverdale Park. Thank you, Colleen. As many of you have heard there was an unfortunate act of "Racial Terrorism" involving a "Noose" hanging incident in our Department of Public Works building in December, 2007. I applaud the swift action taken by the Mayor and Department of Public Works Committee Chairperson Councilman David Lingua, and our Town Administrator Mr. Patrick Prangley-by immediately suspending the two employees responsible for the incident. The Town Council joins the Mayor, Mr. Lingua, and Mr. Prangley in sending the message that there will be absolutely zero tolerance for racism, harassment, and discrimination towards anyone in the Riverdale Park Maryland government. The Mayor and Town Council will be taking further action on this matter pending the outcome of an investigation. I'm committed to participating in the Central Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization Project Study, and am actively involved in research to find solutions to the problems facing Ward 5. Please contact me if I can be of help.

GOING GREEN--GARDENING WITH NATIVE PLANTS

By Sarah Wayland

As the weather warms, our thoughts naturally turn to gardening, and creating an attractive outdoor space. In this article, you can read about using native plants in your garden.

What are Native Plants?

Native plants are plants that grew here before other plants were imported from around the world. There are native grasses, flowers, trees, hedges, shrubs, vines, water plants, and ground covers.

Why are they important?

Native plants have been growing in our region for thousands of years and, as a result, have adapted to the local soils and climate. As a result they are more likely to survive with minimal care. That means they need less water, fertilizer and pesticides.

Native plants have adapted to our ecosystem (the local community of plants and animals). Other plants, animals and/or insects rely on them for shelter and food. When natural areas are lost to development, what's left becomes all the more critical. By using native plants in our gardens we can help offset these losses.

By using a variety of native plant species, your garden will have flowers in the spring and summer, lush foliage spring through fall, with colorful leaves in the fall, and berries in the fall and winter. Native plants attract beneficial insects that will help keep the harmful ones in check. You'll also attract more birds and butterflies to your yard. If you make sure that you have plants that produce flowers, nuts, berries and/or seeds, you will attract wildlife to your yard, including hummingbirds, butterflies, and birds.

How do I start?

Convert your yard a little bit at a time. Start with a small and little-used area of your yard. Remove any non-native plants currently in the area. Mulch the area with leaf mold or wood chips; the more mulch the fewer weeds you'll have. You can then plant the seeds of native plants, but be aware that it can take roughly 3 years for plants grown from seed to become established. For that reason, most gardeners prefer to buy seedlings. The smaller the seedling, the more easily it will adapt to its new environment.

You can find a wonderful list of native plants, including pictures, planting information, and growth patterns, at the website for the National Wildflower Research Center (<http://www.wildflower.org>) You can search their database of recommended species for the plants native to the Mid-Atlantic region.

The Maryland Native Plant Society also has a good list of native species on their website where they describe invasive exotic plants as well as providing a terrific list of alternative native plants (<http://www.mdflora.org/publications/invasivesframe.html>)

Oak trees, sourgum, serviceberry, fringtree, slippery elm, spicebush, viburnums, trumpet vine, Virginia Creeper, trumpet honeysuckle, stonecrop, moss phlox, Allegheny spurge, wild ginger, Indian grass, little blue-stem grass, and wild oats are all native plants that grow well in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Where can I buy these plants?

The Maryland Native Plant Society has a complete list of nurseries that will sell you native plants (<http://www.mdflora.org/publications/nurseries.html>), some of those nearest to us include: Behnke Nursery Company, Larry Hurley, 11300 Baltimore Ave., Beltsville, MD, Phone: 301-937-1100 Lower Marlboro Nursery, Mary Stuart Sierra, P.O. Box 1013, Dunkirk, MD 20754, Phone: 301-812-0808

Website: www.lowermarlboronursery.com Eastern US native perennials, plus a limited selection of native trees & shrubs. Many choices for wildlife habitat gardens, rain gardens, and shade. Nursery open by appointment; mail order available. Online catalog with photos; print version with descriptions only available upon request.

Nature by Design, 300 Calvert Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301, Phone: 703-683-4769, Website: www.nature-by-design.com Hours: Wednesday - Saturday, 10am - 6pm; Sunday, 12 noon - 5pm

St. John's Botanicals, Inc., Sydney Vallentyne, 7711 Hillmeade Road, Bowie, MD 20720 Phone: 301-262-5302, Website: www.st-johns.com A small herbal arboretum set out as a teaching garden. Listed on the North American tour for the State of Maryland by the American Horticultural Society. Please call before visiting.

You can learn more about gardening with native plants by going to the EPA's website. The section on gardening in the mid-Atlantic region talks about all aspects of "green-gardening"

(<http://www.epa.gov/reg3esd1/garden/index.htm>).

So this spring, consider using native plants in your garden. You'll save money, and if you plan properly, you can attract birds, bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds to your yard.

Sarah Wayland has lived in Riverdale Park since before it was called Riverdale Park! She is very slowly converting to native plants in her yard. She enjoys gardens that are low maintenance, but attractive to look at. Her children seem to think that gardens are the best places to stomp around, so the conversion to native plants may take a few decades.

Riverdale Park Business Association

By Carol Patsel

The Riverdale Park Business Association (RPBA) held their monthly meeting at Town Hall on Wednesday, February 13, 2008.

- Guest Speaker, Alex Hirtle, presented an overview of the Cool Cities/Counties Initiative and explained how communities can "take matters into their own hands" and devise smarter energy-solutions to fight against global warming and pollution.
- Plans for their Fifth Annual Dinner are moving forward. A Casino Night is being planned at the Calvert House Inn for Wednesday, April 16. Roxanna Ortiz, Assistant Branch Manager at SunTrust Bank is chairing the dinner committee.
- The Dental Group continues to hold monthly Health and Wellness seminars, free of charge to the public. The next seminar is scheduled for Tuesday, March 11th from 1:00pm – 2:00 pm.

- Local artist and RPBA member, Gerald King, is showing his artwork in an Art Exhibit at Pope John Paul II Cultural Center at Catholic University from February 9 through March 30, 2008.
 - The Calvert House Inn is hosting a wide range of entertainment, including a wine tasting event. Check out their calendar on the web.
 - The Anacostia Watershed Society sent a letter to the RPBA and expressed their appreciation for their ongoing financial support.
 - The Town urged the RPBA to support them in their protest against a liquor store that plans to move into a shopping center on Kenilworth Avenue.
 - The Christmas in April program has selected a house at 4604 Tuckerman Street to receive their services. RPBA member and Coordinator for the Riverdale Park program, Bruce Wernek, is looking for volunteers to join him in this project that is scheduled for Saturday, April 26, 2008. If you are interested in being part of this event, please contact Bruce at bruce.wernek@mindspring.com
 - RPBA Member, Emily Fanning, presented attendees with the Riverdale Park Arts Council's plans, including an Arts Festival that is scheduled to take place on May 4, 2008. Emily has invited the RPBA to partner with them as they seek the support that will be vital to their success.
- The next RPBA meeting is Wednesday, 3/11/2008.



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DON'T MISS

Riverdale Park's

Annual Easter-Egg Hunt



March 15, 2008, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
On the grounds of Riversdale



CHILDREN, BRING YOUR BASKETS!

Community Circles

What to Watch For:

Saturday, March 1, 2008—Farmers Market Meeting, TH, 10:00 a.m.

Monday, March 3, 2008—Legislative Meeting, TH, 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 4, 2008—Traffic Study Meeting, TH, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 5, 2008—M-UTC Meeting, TH, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 9, 2008—Daylight Savings Time Begins; Set your clocks forward one hour.

Sunday, March 23, 2008—Easter Sunday.

Monday, March 31, 2008—Work Session, TH, 8:00 p.m.

Town Organizations:

Northern County Soccer Alliance, Inc. (NCSA): For more information on NCSA and on travel, recreation, home school, and training programs, contact www.ncsa-soccer.org or call (301-927-0560). NCSA is the only all year-round soccer club in the North/west Prince Georges County area. Tax deductible donations accepted at www.justgive.org. Volunteers needed—this is an excellent opportunity to get involved with your child in fun and great physical activity.

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

Riverdale Park Business Association—Call Audrey Bragg, (301) 277-7393 for meeting date and site.

Civic Committees:

Madison Hill Homeowner's Association—For information call (301) 513-9188 or email MadisonHillHOA@aol.com.

Recreation Board – Volunteers needed. Call Anissa Sunday at (301) 277-2458 for more information.

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

Riversdale Historical Society—Contact Riversdale Mansion (301) 864-0420 for more information.

The Riversdale House Museum, 4811 Riverdale Road, is seeking volunteers. Trained docents give guided tours to visitors, and the next docent class begins Saturday, March 29, 9:30 to 11:30 am, and runs for four consecutive Saturdays. Volunteers are also needed to work in the museum shop, the open-hearth kitchen, and the garden.

For more information, please call 301-864-0420 or email Riversdale@pgparks.com. Here are some coming events:

- Saturday, March 1, 2008, 10:00 a.m.
Mistresses & Murderers--Begin the day at Darnall's Chance House Museum, home of Lettice Lee. Then travel to Riversdale and end the day at Surratt House, whose owner, Mary Surratt, became the focus of the Lincoln assassination conspiracy. Bus departs and returns to Darnall's Chance. A box lunch is provided.
Fee: \$27; advance registration required; call 301-952-8010 to register
Riversdale House Museum hosts its annual Spring Lecture Series beginning March 11, 2008. The four lectures are:
- March 11, 7:30 p.m.--*Fighting Old Nep: The Food Culture of Enslaved Afro-Marylanders* by Michael Twitty, Director of Interpretation for the Menare Foundation. Fee: Free, made possible by a grant from the Maryland Humanities Council.
- March 18, 2008, 1:30 p.m.--*Julia Child: America's Favorite French Chef*. In this costumed living history presentation, Mary Ann Jung portrays Julia Child. Come learn the story of this groundbreaking and charismatic American woman who founded her own school of French cooking and co-authored the comprehensive cookbook classic, *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*. Fee: Free, made possible by a grant from the Maryland Humanities Council
- April 8, 2008, 7:30 p.m.--*Transforming the Ordinary: Taverns & Tavernkeepers in Baltimore County, MD 1750-1820* by Dr. Nancy Struna, Professor and Chair, Department of American Studies, University of Maryland, College Park. Fee: \$5.00.
- April 22, 2008, 7:30 p.m.--*Seeking Freedom: The Underground Railroad* by Dr. Jenny Masur, Underground Railroad Regional Coordinator, National Capital Region, National Park Service. Fee: \$5.00.

University Park Children's Clothing Co-op

Spring/Summer Sale--Saturday April 12, 2008 from 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. at Riverdale Presbyterian Church, 6513 Queens Chapel Road, University Park, 20782. Quality "pre-washed and gently worn" clothing for children from tots to preteens will be available. Featured will be seasonal items, summer clothing, rain wear, books, toys, play equipment, baby/layette equipment and maternity items. Cash only.