



# The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

**December 2008  
January 2009**

Volume 37, Issue 10

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## Public Work's Changes and Holiday Schedule

See Page 6 for the Public Works Articles and Page 13 & 14 for the Calendar

**Saturday Drop-off** - Due to the reduction in drop-off traffic and the need to reduce spending the Department have adjusted the time schedule for **Saturday Drop-off to: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**



## Riverdale Park Holiday Festivities

**Town of Riverdale Park Children's Holiday Party – December 13--**The Town hosts a Children's Holiday Party at Town Hall from 3:30--5:30 p.m. The event includes refreshments, free pictures with Santa, and a Holiday Puppet Show at 3:30 pm by the Blue Sky Puppet Company. The Holiday Party is for children 12 and under accompanied by an adult. Call (301) 927-6381 for more information.

**Riverdale Park 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival of Lights – Saturday, December 13th—**from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Jolly elves and reindeer will lead a sing along on free trolley tours of the neighborhood's holiday decorations followed by a candlelight tour of Riversdale House Museum. Bring a canned good or non-perishable food item as a donation and be prepared to sing! Trolleys will depart from the Riverdale Park MARC station parking lot and stop at Riversdale House Museum.

**Riverdale Park 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Holiday Market – December 13th and 14th –**Saturday: 1:00-9:00 p.m., Sunday: 12:00-5:00 p.m. at Town Center. The Holiday Market features unique gifts; Christmas trees and wreaths; live music; free photos with Santa; fresh pressed apple cider; kids' games; temporary tattoos; and face painting. The Holiday Bakeoff, will be conducted Sunday at 3:00 pm. Submit your entries by 2:30 p.m. and win a prize! Visit [www.rpholidaymarket.com](http://www.rpholidaymarket.com) for more information.

**Town of Riverdale Park Senior Citizens' Holiday Party – December 18th –** The Town of Riverdale Park is hosting their Annual Senior Citizen's Holiday Party at Crescent Cities Center on December 18, 2008 at 12:00 noon until 2:00 p.m. Senior residents planning to attend are asked to **RSVP with the Town Hall by December 15, 2008 by calling (301) 927-6381.** Crescent Cities is located at 4409 East-West Highway, Riverdale Park, Maryland. For more information, call Colleen Ferguson at (301) 927-6381.

## Celebraciones de Pascua de Riverdale Park

**Fiesta Navideña Infantil—Sábado 13 de Diciembre** (Solamente niños de Riverdale Park, 12 años y menores) 3:30-5:30 pm. En la municipalidad (Town Hall 5008 Queensbury Rd); ¡Por favor venga y únase a Santa y sus ayudantes! ¡Regalos gratis, premios, manualidades, foto con Santa y mucho más!

**6to Festival del Luces Trolebús—Sábado 13 de Diciembre** 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. Vea el esplendor de Riverdale Park en la noche y camine por el histórico Casa Museo de Riversdale en el trolebús ¡No se le olvide decorar el exterior de su hogar! Traiga latas de comida para hacer una donación y venga listo para cantar. El trolebús saldrá de la estación de MARC de Riverdale Park.

**3er Mercado Navideño Sábado 13 y Domingo 14 de Diciembre--**(Abierto para todos – Invite a familiares y amigos); Sábado 13 de 1:00-9:00 p.m. y Domingo 14 de 12:00-5:00, Town Center, 4650 Queensbury Road. Compre regalos inolvidables, comida, árboles, coronas navideñas, escuche música navideña, y foto gratis con Santa, todo esto a unas cuantas cuerdas de su hogar.

**Fiesta de ancianos ciudadanos de la Ciudad de Riverdale Park – Miércoles de Diciembre** La ciudad de Riverdale Park será el anfitrión de esta fiesta de pascuas en Crescent City Center el 18 de Diciembre a las 12:00 p.m. Crescent City Center esta localizado en el 4409 East West Highway, Riverdale Park, MD 20737 para mas información llame a Colleen Ferguson a 240-898-2500.

# Council Actions-- November 3, 2008

By Waverly Pollitt

1. **Approved-** Minutes for regular Legislative meeting for October 6, 2008.
2. **Approved-** Minutes for special legislative meeting for September 29, 2008.
3. **Approved-** Funds to be taken out of special interest account for purchase of winter articles by Christian Life Center for distribution at Annual Thanksgiving Dinner held at the Alamo.
4. **Approved-** An Ordinance Resolution 2008-OR-05 concerning obstructions to public places.
5. **Approved-** An Ordinance Resolution 2008-OR-06 concerning cutting of weeds at the owners cost.
6. **Approved-** Letter of support with recommendations for Purple Line.
7. **Approved-** Letter for MNCPPC for CIP FY 2010 Items.
- 8.

## Code Corner

By Colleen Ferguson

### Chapter 64

**64-4, 64-16 Summary:** All vehicles in the Town of Riverdale Park must be properly registered and possess current/valid registration. Vehicles in the Town of Riverdale Park, including those parked on private property, not properly registered with current/valid registration will be ticketed, and posted. If compliance is not met 72 hours after being posted, the unregistered vehicle will be impounded at the owner's expense.

**64-19 Summary:** Snow Emergencies: (a) A "snow emergency condition" shall be considered in effect within the Town of Riverdale Park whenever a snow emergency is declared in effect by Prince George's County by the Prince George's County Executive, the Maryland State Highway Administration or the Maryland State Police. (b) During any period in which a snow emergency exists and a snow emergency is in effect, it shall be unlawful to park any vehicle on any part of the street designated as a snow emergency street, provided signs have been erected on that street giving notice that it is a designated snow emergency street (c) During a snow emergency and when a snow emergency is in effect, it shall be unlawful to park any vehicle on the odd-numbered side of any public street in the Town of Riverdale Park. Streets with parking restricted on one side are exempt from this section. (d) Any vehicle parked in violation of the snow emergency provisions of the section will be removed and impounded. The owner of the vehicle, in addition to any towing or impound fees, shall be liable for a fine of \$250.00.

### Chapter 57

**57-24 Summary:** With the winter weather fast approaching: all residents are reminded to remove/shovel any snow from the sidewalks around their property within 24 hours of the accumulation. It shall be unlawful to fail, neglect or refuse to comply with this section. Violation of this provision is declared to be a municipal infraction, the penalty for which shall be \$100.00.

The code summary above is not verbatim from the Town of Riverdale Park Charter and Code Book. For exact verbiage of the above mentioned codes, please visit the town website at [www.riverdaleparkmd.info](http://www.riverdaleparkmd.info). For any code concerns, please call the Code direct line at 240-898-2500. Your cooperation and compliance is appreciated.

## Town of Riverdale Park

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

**Town Hall**, 5008 Queensbury Road  
Riverdale Park, MD 20737

301-927-6381, Hablamos Espanol  
[RiverdaleParkMD@comcast.net](mailto:RiverdaleParkMD@comcast.net)

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

### Council Members

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

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

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

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

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

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

Patrick J. Prangle, Town Administrator  
[riverdaleparkmd@comcast.net](mailto:riverdaleparkmd@comcast.net)  
Penelope Guzman, Deputy Town  
Administrator, 301-209-1505

Public Works 301-927-6381

Leonard Addison, Director

Code Enforcement 240-898-2500  
[CodeRiverdalePk@comcast.net](mailto:CodeRiverdalePk@comcast.net)

Colleen M. Ferguson, Manager  
Police Department 301-927-4343  
[RivPD@comcast.net](mailto:RivPD@comcast.net)

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

Charles Ryan, Chief  
[info@riverdalevfd.com](mailto:info@riverdalevfd.com), [www.riverdalevfd.com](http://www.riverdalevfd.com)  
or,  
[Riverdalefirechief7@gmail.com](mailto: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: The 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publication**

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

# The Mayor's Report

By Vernon Archer

It has been a very busy fall for the council, Town staff, and me. We have had to work hard to develop positions on a number of long term development and infrastructure issues along with the usual immediate and short term issues.

## **Cafritz Proposed Project**

(Please see Council Member Alice Walker's Ward One report for additional information and thoughts on this issue.) I, along with Council Member's Walker and Sharpe, have worked the Cafritz development team since they concluded their initial round of public meetings in 2007. While we were able to make significant progress towards a plan that satisfies Riverdale Park's concerns, it became increasingly apparent last summer that the larger politics of this project required a discussion framework that put all of the major parties around the same table at the same time. That is to say that Riverdale Park, College Park, University Park and County Council District 3 all have to speak directly and simultaneously with the Cafritz developers in order for a suitable project to move forward.

This five-party discussion is necessary for a number of reasons, not the least of which is that in order to gain the critical support of District 3 Councilman Eric Olson (he holds a virtual veto on zoning changes in the district) he has made plain that all 3 municipalities have to be satisfied with the proposal. Such a consensus needs all parties to be at the table at the same time. With this framework in place, real progress is again being made.

## **Saturday, December 13 Public Meeting on Cafritz Project**

This public meeting will be held at our Town Hall from 9-12 a.m. Please come out, look at the project, and make your thoughts and concerns known. While there will be many opportunities to weigh in before any final project is approved, the earlier we act in the process, the easier it is to affect change.

## **Purple Line Light Rail Proposal**

(See Council Member Kate Sharpe's Ward 2 report for a more detailed overview of the position the Town is advocating regarding the Purple Line and how it will be configured in Riverdale Park). While the Purple Line received unanimous support from the Town Council (and me though I don't get to vote on such matters), there was one area of major concern. That is concern about how the line will approach the proposed station in the vicinity of Kenilworth Avenue and East-West Highway. In particular, both of the stated options coming from Maryland Department of Transportation will have a significant negative impact on the already heavily-burdened intersection.

One option has the line come from River Road out to Kenilworth Avenue, then south with the street, and then turns east at the intersection with East-West Highway. The second option uses a tunnel coming from River Road underneath Riverdale Community Park and emerging in the middle of East-West Highway as it heads east right into the intersection. Both options complicate and burden an already-taxed intersection.

The Town endorsed a third and new option. This option sees the line run south from River Road along Kenilworth, but instead of staying at grade is then elevated so that it will cross over the intersection and have no direct impact on it. This option will be more expensive and will require significant support from our state legislative delegation, but all of them have backed us and we feel confident that this option is not only possible, but also likely.

This aerial structure will produce a transit station near the intersection that will be one or two stories above grade. This will actually work with several of the recently suggested proposals for redevelopment of Kenilworth on and around that corner. In our testimony to the State on the Purple Line, we presented the argument that this station needs to be seen as a building block to a broader revitalization and improvement of this area.

The aerial structure would be similar to solutions used at a number of Metro stations. In effect, they bridge traffic leaving it unimpaired. When correctly designed and/or landscaped, they are quite attractive and a benefit to the surrounding community. We will demand just such a structure.

## **Maryland Energy Assistance Program (MEAP)**

In this time of economic difficulty, I want to pass on contact information for any who are having trouble paying utility bills. MEAP provides assistance with home heating bills up to a maximum of \$550. For more information and to see if you qualify, contact the Department of Social Services, 425 Brightseat Road in Landover; call 301-909-6300.

## **Happy Holidays to Everyone**

As we go into the holidays please have a happy safe and joyous season. Best wishes to all of you from my girls Becky and Lucy, and me.



# Learning More About Crime in our Area

Chief Teresa Chambers, Riverdale Park Police Department

One of the best ways for you to stay informed about crimes that occur in our Town is through the data the Riverdale Park Police Department posts daily on [www.CrimeReports.com](http://www.CrimeReports.com). Recently, our Records and Communications Managers enhanced your view by adding a “shape” file, showing the boundaries of the Town of Riverdale Park.



To access the new view, go to [www.CrimeReports.com](http://www.CrimeReports.com) as you have done in the past. Either click on the State of Maryland and use the drop down list to select Riverdale Park, or use the “Enter Location” box to enter an address. If you prefer, as a shortcut, simply type in our Town’s zip code – 20737 in the “Enter Location” box.

Once the map of our community is on your screen, look for the “Area” button at the top of the map next to "Crime Types."



Click the "Area" button; then click "Riverdale Park Police Department City Limits" to checkmark it; and then scroll down and click “Done.” The Town’s geographic shape will be highlighted, and only those crimes that have occurred within our borders will appear.



This option makes it much easier to see what's happening in our Town without having icons from other jurisdictions in the same view. To see the other jurisdictions' crimes again, simply "turn off" the shape file for our Town. Remember that you can learn more about a crime by clicking on the icon. Explore some of the other features to see more of the options available to you.

More than 40 Maryland jurisdictions, including the Prince George’s County Police Department and many of our neighboring municipalities, have followed Riverdale Park’s lead by joining CrimeReports.com and uploading timely crime information. An informed, involved community is one of the most powerful tools to combat crime. Please stay aware of what’s happening in our neighborhoods, and call the Riverdale Park Police Department at 301-927-4343 whenever you see a crime in progress or suspicious activity or discover a crime that has already occurred.

As we approach the upcoming holidays, please be aware of your surroundings and help prevent crimes in our community. If you would like an officer to speak to your neighborhood or group about crime prevention techniques, call 301-927-4343 and ask to speak with Corporal Roland Alexander or our Office Manager, Anna Wendland. Thank you for staying involved in keeping our Town safe.

# Aprendiendo más acerca del crimen en nuestra área

Jefa de la Policia de Riverdale Park, Teresa Chambers

Una de las mejores maneras que usted se puede mantener informado acerca de los crímenes que ocurren en nuestro pueblo, es a través de los reportes de información que el Departamento de la Policia de Riverdale Park pone todos los días en la red del internet *www.CrimeReports.com*. Recientemente, nuestros Gerentes de Registro y Comunicación han mejorado la visión añadiendo el documento de “*shape*” en donde muestran los límites de la vecindad del Pueblo de Riverdale Park.



Para que usted vea esto, puede entrar a la página de la red del internet *www.CrimeReports.com* como lo ha podido hacer en el pasado. Haga clic en el Estado de Maryland y use la lista para seleccionar Riverdale Park o puede escribir donde dice “*Enter Location*” para que escriba su dirección. Si usted prefiere, como un acceso directo, simplemente escriba el número del código postal de su pueblo – 20737.

Una vez el mapa de nuestra comunidad esté presentado



en su pantalla, busque el botón que dice “Area” en la parte de arriba del mapa al lado donde dice “Crime Types.” Oprima el botón donde dice “Area”; luego oprima donde dice "Riverdale Park Police Department City Limits" para que lo marque; luego baje el cursor y oprima “Done.” La forma de la geografía de la ciudad aparecerá resaltada y solamente esos crímenes que han ocurrido en nuestras fronteras aparecerán.



Esta opción es mucho más fácil para ver lo que ha pasado en nuestro pueblo sin tener que ver lo que sucede alrededor de otras jurisdicción. Para que usted vea lo que sucedió en otra jurisdicción, simplemente oprima “turn off” en nuestro pueblo. Acuérdesese que usted puede enterarse del crimen sucedido oprimiendo el símbolo. Explore alguna de las otras opciones y características disponibles a usted.

Más de 40 juriciones, incluyendo el Departamento de la Policia del Condado de Prince George y muchos de nuestros municipios vecinos, han seguido nuestros pasos uniéndose al CrimeReports.com y reportando a tiempo crímenes sucedidos. Una comunidad informada y envuelta es una herramienta poderosa para combatir el crimen. Por favor manténgase

informado de lo que está pasando en nuestro vecindario llamando al Departamento de la Policia de Riverdale Park al 301-927-4343 en cualquier momento que usted vea un crimen en progreso o cualquier actividad sospechosa o descubra algún crimen ocurrido.

Ya que nos acercamos a las actividades navideñas, por favor esté consiente de sus alrededores y ayude a prevenir los crimines de nuestra comunidad. Si usted desea tener a un oficial que le hable a la comunidad o a un grupo acerca de la técnicas de la prevención, llame al 301-927-4343 y pregunte hablar al Corporal Roland Alexander o a nuestra Gerente de la Oficina la Sra. Anna Wendland. Gracias por estar envueltos y mantener a nuestro pueblo seguro.

Season's



Greetings

## Public Works Holiday Trash Collection

Please observe the following changes for trash collection during the holiday season:

- Trash will not be collected on Christmas or New Year's day (see below for the next collection day).
- Thursday, December 25, 2008 (no trash collection).
- Monday, December 29, 2008 (next collection day).
- Thursday, January 1, 2009 (no trash collection).
- Monday, January 5, 2009 (next collection day).
- Leaf Collection (reminder) – Leaf collection services will continue through January 15, 2009, as follows:

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

With the snow season upon us, please be assured that the Department of Public Works is ready. As in the past, we will plow/salt in the following method:

- Primary Streets - i.e. Riverdale Rd, Taylor Rd, Queensbury Rd, River Rd, etc.
- Secondary Streets – i.e. DuPont Cir., Cleveland Ave., Rhode Island Ave., Quesada Rd., Beale, 49<sup>th</sup> and 48<sup>th</sup> Ave., Silk Tree Dr., etc.
- Residential Streets – i.e. Oliver St., Madison St., Rittenhouse St., 47<sup>th</sup> Ave., Somerset Rd., Sora Lane, etc.

Please note that our major roadways (Rt. 201, Rt. 1, Rt. 410, and Good Luck Rd.) will be treated by the State and County. As a resident of the Town, you will be responsible to do your part by keeping the walkway in front of your property cleaned of snow and ice after each event.

**Saturday Drop-off** - Due to the reduction in drop-off traffic and the need to reduce spending, the Department of Public Works has adjusted the time schedule for **Saturday Drop-off to: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

# Ward and Committee Reports

## Ward 1 Report

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

### Community Meeting Scheduled for December 13th

The development team for the Cafritz property is ready to present its new plans and progress to the community. There will be a community input session this month, presently scheduled to take place 9 a.m. to noon at our Town Hall. I hope you will be able to participate.

Since the summer community meetings held by the developer, there have been some positive changes to the Cafritz plans. For example, the number of units of proposed housing has been reduced to less than 1,000 units, and the topography of the site will camouflage building heights. The tallest buildings on the site are now proposed to be seven stories, located to the rear of the property in a low area backing the train tracks. Buildings around the edges of the site will be two to four stories, minimizing visual impact on adjacent neighborhoods.

This project could - if executed correctly - help our community address several key priorities, including traffic mitigation, investing in our schools and revitalizing our existing historic Town center. The Town is working in partnership with College Park, University Park and County Councilman Eric Olson to dialogue with the development team with a goal of achieving a high quality project compatible with our communities. As the largest undeveloped parcel inside the beltway, the property offers excellent opportunities for demonstrating sustainable, transit-oriented strategies that protect our watershed, take advantage of our excellent proximity to Metro and MARC, and promote a walk able and healthy environment for all residents, while positively contributing to our tax base in Riverdale Park.

### Duncan Speaks at Urban Edge Conference

In other economic development news, I was pleased to be able to participate in the recent Urban Edge conference sponsored by Port Towns CDC, Hyattsville CDC, and the Gateway Arts District CDC. Doug Duncan shared some candid thoughts about the challenges to economic development in our county. He encouraged municipalities in the Route 1 corridor to work together more collaboratively, to think bigger than their Town boundaries, and to approach developers with an eye for what the developer needs to get out of the deal, as well as for what the community needs. He said the outlook for East Campus should remain strong, despite his recent departure from University of Maryland. I have been very impressed with Doug Duncan's ability to recruit business investment and hope we can learn from his work in our area.

### Route 1 "One Bus"

I recently participated in a meeting with County Councilman Eric Olson and local and state transportation experts about how to improve transit connections along Route 1. Existing bus routes in our area are extensive, but there is not one single bus that travels uninterrupted up and down Route 1. A direct, clearly branded circulator bus that travels up and down Route 1 on a regular basis - for instance from Franklin's in Hyattsville to IKEA in College Park - would be a great start to solving traffic congestion along Route 1. In the long term, there is the potential to partner with University of Maryland to create a better community bus system, as is done in other university Towns.

### Holiday Market & Festival of Lights

Don't forget to plan your holiday shopping in support of local artists and craftspeople. Our annual Holiday Market and Festival of Lights takes place the weekend of December 13 and 14, 2008 in Town Center. We expect over 20 vendors, lots of live music, and enjoyable family activities for all. In addition, the Festival of Lights will provide trolley tours of Riverdale Park's residential decorations, with a stop at Riversdale House Museum for a candlelight tour. Bring a canned good or make a donation to support our local food shelters as your trolley fare. Please deck your halls and hang your lights at your house in time for the festival!

### Vacant Properties

As an older and established neighborhood, Riverdale Park is not as hard hit by the foreclosure crisis as some parts of the D.C. area. However, we are not immune. If a house on your street appears to be vacant, please contact our Code Enforcement team with the address. Our police and code officers are creating a list of vacant properties for observation and enforcement attention.

### Enjoying Our Area During the Holidays

Many of us will take time off with family and friends this month. Riversdale House Museum, the College Park Aviation Museum, the Ida B. Wells Ice Rink and other M-NCPPC recreation centers will offer many programs and events for families to enjoy. Riversdale is an especially wonderful treasure that I hope to share with my out of Town visitors.

Hope you have a great holiday and ring in the New Year in good spirits.



# Ward Two Report

By Council Member Kate Sharpe  
*katherinesharpe@yahoo.com*

I'd like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday season and a prosperous New Year. I have my fingers crossed for a white Christmas, and if we get at least two inches, you'll likely see Pete and I trying to cross-country ski in the park. I hope to see you all at our fabulous Holiday Market and Festival of Lights on December 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to Jim Coleman and the Recreation Committee for all their efforts to make these events so successful.

In November, I had the opportunity to review the Maryland Transit Administration's Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Purple Line project. MTA is soliciting comments on the draft from public stakeholders, including municipalities affected by the project. I brought a motion before the Council to draft a letter summarizing our Town's position on the Purple Line. After review and discussion with the Mayor and Council, the Council approved my motion. The Town's position on the project can be summarized as follows:

The Town of Riverdale Park is strongly in favor of building the Purple Line, an environmentally responsible transportation mode that will improve east-west connectivity in the Washington, DC metro region. The Town supports the selection of the High Investment Light Rail Transit (LRT) alternative as the Locally Preferred alternative, with the following caveats:

- The River Road station should be moved to the intersection of River Road and Rivertech Court so that it is more accessible to Riverdale Park pedestrians
- The Kenilworth Avenue/East-West Highway intersection should be bridged with an aerial structure to separate transit and vehicle traffic
- The Kenilworth Avenue/East-West Highway station design should re-imagine the area to create a "superstation" transit plaza that will improve pedestrian safety and access, provide for ample bus transfers and foster economic redevelopment

The High Investment LRT alternative best meets the purpose and needs for the project by most effectively supporting our local plans for economic development, community revitalization, and intermodal connectivity. We also believe that only the High Investment LRT will reduce transit travel times sufficiently to attract automobile trips to transit and improve traffic congestion in our region

In our letter, we also asked the MTA to coordinate with the Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization Study

when designing the Kenilworth Avenue transit station. I had the opportunity to attend the public hearing on the Purple Line project held in College Park, where Mayor Archer testified on Riverdale Park's behalf. I was pleased to hear an overwhelmingly positive response from the public at the hearing. This project has the potential to provide wonderful transit and economic development opportunities for our Town, and I am committed to working with MTA to move the project forward.

# Ward 3 Report

By Council Member David Lingua  
*djlingua@gmail.com*

While the look may not be there, it sure is feeling like the Holidays, but first these items.

This past October I had the opportunity to attend the Maryland Municipal League's Fall Conference. One seminar of note was on resource sharing between municipalities and in particular Hyattsville Chief of Police Douglas K. Holland's presentation on interagency cooperation. It was heartening to hear his proactive comments on the relationship between our two municipalities as well as those of Mount Rainier, Greenbelt, and Brentwood.

Another pleasant reminder to please check the new schedule for trash pick up. Remember to contact Bates to schedule your bulk trash pick up on Wednesdays. Also the holidays are falling on Thursday this year so plan accordingly. Remember to contact Bates to schedule your bulk trash *prior to* pick up on Wednesdays.

And speaking of the holidays, the Festival of Lights and the Holiday Market are less than a fortnight away. December 13 and 14 is looking to be another great weekend. Hopefully the weather and schedule will allow for many in Town to hang their lights so as to provide for yet another colorful ride. Make sure to check this Crier for more details on these events as well as St. Nicklas Day at Riversdale and the children's holiday party. Also a chorus of thanks to Melissa Avery, Susan Sargent, and Tina Van Pelt for lending a hand to Market Master Jim Coleman with the organization of this year's market.

Looking back on this year there, have been a number of positives; from the arrivals of Chief Chambers and Director Addison to Kayalah, Caleb, and the many other new Riverdadians by birth. As we enter the New Year, the challenge of negotiating a soft economy will come with demanding choices and requiring the extra effort from us all. If hardship should fall in the form of making payment on a bill or the home loan, the office of county councilman Eric Olson can help to direct you toward those who may be of assistance. Together, we will get by.

And finally we'll conclude with a word about a true contributor to the fabric of Riverdale Park, Marita No-

vicky. This is Marita's last issue as Editor of our Town Crier, a position she has filled with great ability, energy, and integrity. We have been very fortunate to be the benefactors of her efforts. Thank you, Marita, for all of your hard work, contributions, and dedication to the Crier, as well as being a great editor. It has been a great run, one to be proud of. Best wishes to you.

And on that, note, a Merry, Happy, and Joyous Holidays and New Year to all and to all a good night! See you next year.

## Ward Four Report

By Council Member Christopher Henry  
*chenry3240@comcast.net*

### Public Safety

I want to start my report by thanking our outstanding Chief of Police Teresa Chambers. *CrimeReports.com* is phenomenal; the crime narratives and prompt accurate data have are very informative. Thank you, Chief, for keeping the residents of Riverdale Park informed and aware of any crime activity in our Town. Thank you to all the men and women of the Riverdale Park Police Department, sworn and civilian; you're an outstanding group. Your hard-work and dedication is second to none. Be safe. All residents should visit *CrimeReports.com*.

Vacant Homes/ Foreclosures need our help. If you are aware of a vacant home or a deteriorating property, please notify Code Enforcement. We need to keep these properties maintained and looking good to keep crime out of our neighborhoods. Remember the broken window theory: "Fixing minor maintenance issues quickly shows that a neighborhood **cares** and helps push out crime." Contact Code Enforcement by calling 301-927-6381 or 301-356-8189, or email: *coderiverdalepk@comcast.net*.

Lets All Be Safe this Holiday Season. If you see suspicious activity, or if something just doesn't look right, call the Riverdale Park Police 301-927-4343.

## Ward Six Report

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

### Community Affairs

Thank you: Lt. Adams, the Graffiti Abatement team, Code Enforcement, and Public Works for removing graffiti in our Town in such a quick manner. Residents—if you see graffiti, **report it** by calling 301-927-4343.

Mr. Addison and the Public Works team—streets are looking good in Ward 6--your hard work is appreciated. Thank you for keeping Riverdale Park clean and beautiful.

\*\* 54<sup>th</sup> at Spring Lane has a utility patch causing some Ward 6 residents concern. Update: This matter was brought to the Town Administrator's attention. He immediately notified me and stated that the situation will be addressed within the next few weeks. I will monitor this situation and work with both the Town Administrator and the Director of Public works to get this situation rectified in a timely manner.

On November 11<sup>th</sup>, I attended the Town's Veteran's Day ceremony; it was a wonderful tribute to our Veterans. I would like to thank: **FSC CA. Moffett, Retired, the 450<sup>th</sup> Civil Air Force (Airborne) Battalion, and the Riverdale Park Police Department for their dedication and service.**

On December 4, 2008, I will be attending the bi-monthly Apartment Managers meeting, if any resident has a concern or suggestion they would like to have brought up at the meeting, please feel free to email me directly at: *keelahd@yahoo.com*

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival of Lights and the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Holiday Market are scheduled for December 13-14, 2008 and will be held at Town Center. Start your holidays off right; come join a great time with lots of music, vendors, and fun at the Holiday Market and Festival of Lights. Trolley rides throughout Town to see holiday lights and decorations will be free with a canned donation.

All senior residents are invited to the Town's Senior Holiday Party December 18, 2008, 12:00-2:00 at Crescent Cities at 4409 East West Highway.. The event is being catered by S&J Restaurant.

I wish all a happy and safe holiday season.

## Community Workshop to Continue Discussion -- Cafritz Property in Riverdale Park

**WHO:** Jane Lipton Cafritz, Property Director, Cafritz Property & the Cafritz Team invite Local Community Members

**WHAT:** The Cafritz family invites local community members to join them for the next community workshop to discuss the Cafritz property in Riverdale Park. The Cafritz team has made changes to the initial plan for the property in response to the public's feedback. The next workshop will show how the team has directly responded to concerns of the community based on feedback gathered at workshops held in June, July, and September 2007.

**WHEN:** Saturday, December 13, 9-11:00 a.m. Riverdale Elementary School, 5006 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park

**CONTACT:** Please visit *www.CafritzPOP.com*. Community members can provide additional comments, feedback, or submit questions by emailing *info@cafritzpop.com*.

# Riversdale December 2008–January 2009 Events

By Samantha Ferris

## **Sint Niklaas Day: A Winter Afternoon for Children**

**Saturday, December 6, 2008, 2:30 pm**--Children will receive a gift bag from Sint Niklaas, the forerunner of our modern Santa Claus, make a craft to take home, and enjoy refreshments with their parents. They can also visit the special kids-only shopping area to buy holiday gifts that fit their budget. \$6 Child/ \$2 Adult; advance registration required.

**The Calverts by Candlelight--Saturday, December 27, 2008, 7:00 pm**--Pay an evening call on the Calverts and enjoy refreshments and children's activities. \$5 Adults/ Free Children 12 and under.

**Twelfth Night Ball--Saturday, January 10, 2009, 7:30 – 9:45 pm**--Come in period attire or black tie to celebrate the traditional end of the holiday season with dancing to live music and a ball supper. \$25 per person; capacity is limited, advance registration required.

**Hands on History: Teddy Bear Tea At Riversdale, Friday, January 30, 2009**--Tea for two and two for tea, bring your bear and play with me! Before the holiday break ends, children ages 3-8 are invited to Riversdale for a teddy bear tea. The program runs from 2 pm – 4 pm. Participants will learn about the history of the teddy bear and enjoy bear-related crafts and games before ending the afternoon with tea. The fee is \$15 for residents of Prince George's and Montgomery Counties and \$18 for non-residents. Advanced registration and payment are required by Monday, January 19, 2009.

## **The Riverdale Park Business Association**

By Audrey Bragg

Crescent Cities Charities hosted our November meeting with a fabulous dinner for all our members. The dining room was turned into a cozy down town restaurant atmosphere and the food was gourmet quality! Thank you Crescent Cities! By the way, Crescent Cities needs a piano. If anyone would like to donate a piano they no longer need, it would go to a good home and also be a tax deduction for the donor.

Joe Caputo announced that The Wells Fargo Bank will have a new home on the corner of Baltimore Ave. and East West Highway. He is looking for tenants for the upstairs portion of the building. Permits are in the process for the demolition of the church property which should be happening in December.

There was good member turnout for the Veteran's Day Celebration at the Riverdale Park Veteran's Memorial on November 11, 2008. The RPBA has sent out two packages for their adopted soldiers in Iraq. Thanks to the Town of Riverdale Park and The Riverdale Police De-

partment for partnering on this with us.

We will continue to participate in the Annual Festival of Lights and so far have three Santa volunteers. We will again offer free photos to the public. Anyone willing to help with this project is welcome.

Carol Patsel of the Dental Group will be collecting coats, hats, scarves, gloves, etc., at the Dental Group Building for Christian Life Center of Riverdale Park. Please drop off any coats etc., at the Dental Group Office on the corner of Baltimore Ave. and Queensbury Road. Our next meeting will be held on December 10, 2008. Please call Audrey Bragg for location at 301-277-7393 or 301-351-4222 cell for location.

## **Troop 252—Boy Scouts News**

By Bob Killen, Scoutmaster

We have three new Scouts in Troop 252, so Michael is no longer our newest Scout. In addition to being our Scribe, he has taken on the responsibility of training the new Scouts. This will ingrain his scouting skills even deeper by teaching others. He is also the target of the teachings by the older Scouts, all at least three years older than he is. We have Protestants, Muslims, and Catholics in our Troop. We're grooming all of them, stage by stage, for leadership.

We're camping again two weekends in a row at Jug Bay in Croom, practicing for competing (and winning) in the 32nd Baltimore Area Council Orienteering Trials. It will be the first outing for our new Scouts, and a place where they absolutely cannot break anything. They will be initiated into the art of Map Reading and the science of Orienteering. Our senior Scouts believe that by camping many times in the area, they will be familiar enough with the lay of the land that they will have the winning edge. Practicing with the compass and maps doesn't hurt, either. We'll travel both on foot and by bicycle. Each Scout, senior and new, will make his own "leave-no-trace" fire, we adults will monitor the making and extinguishing, and the other Scouts will try to locate the sites.

We are planning another ten-mile bicycling ride for the new Scouts to find out what they're made of. We will stop every two miles until each Scout (and Scouter) has caught up and caught his (or her) breath. We will note along the way at least ten kinds of plants and animals, so the new Scouts can get up to speed on the outdoor requirements before winter sets in. Then we'll camp in the snow.

Our first ski/snowboarding trip of the season is scheduled for December 12-14 at either Blue Knob, Timberline, or the Wisp depending on the best deal we can get. Several Scouts are doing the research.

Report cards haven't hurt us at all! The Scouts are proving to be quite scholarly, and report back to us that Scouting helps their study skills, and the "stuff" we give

them dovetails perfectly with schoolwork, but is more interesting and fun. Surprise!

Our three new Scouts proved that they **DO** pay attention to detail. Committee Member Mike Delaney and Scoutmaster Bob Killen camped with them the weekend of October 17-19 (with Michael Delaney, Scribe, and NOT our newest Scout any more, in charge, of course) and we hiked more than ten miles around Jug Bay and Merkle. Mr. Delaney said "I haven't walked this far since I got my driver's license!" and gave up after eight miles. The Scouts measured their paces repeatedly, got their compass bearings, hiked, hiked, hiked, and were glad to see the cars at the end of the trail. The Scouts were about out of gas. We were side-tracked by watching some 200 or so "Society for Creative Anachronism" heavy warriors complete their raiding of a castle. Well-padded for safety, these men really beat on each other! We ate well, then went home, and the Scouts felt well-prepared for the Baltimore Area Council 32nd Orienteering the next weekend.

The weekend of October 24-26, we competed against some 450 Scouts (down from 600 due to the forecasted--the weatherman got it right this time, rain--in the BAC 32nd Orienteering Competition; Michael, Julio, and Samir came in 3rd in the Novice Class for the morning, and Yorman Amador, our Senior Patrol Leader, got lost and was found by the Civil Air Patrol's four-wheel-drive vehicles, and came in 9th in the Super-advanced Class. The other Scout who got lost, decided to go through the swamp, encountered four snakes, and was soaked, and muddy from his toes to his neck. Yorman chose not to try the swamp route and was muddy only from his knees down and his arms up to his elbows. Yorman admitted that it was a worthy challenge to him, and his fault he didn't win, by merely scanning the Orienteering Merit Badge book in a hurry and also for not waiting for the compass to show him the way. He says, "Next year, we're going to win it!"

Next weekend, we're bicycling calmly - no rush - over the same ten miles we hiked three and two weekends ago. We now have the Skiing/ tubing trip December 21-23, 2008 at the Wisp.

Here's an opportunity for your boys, 11-16 years of age to become an Eagle Scout. He'll be busy, but when he becomes an Eagle Scout, he will **Be Prepared** "for any old thing." Contact Bob Killen, Scoutmaster, (202) 282-8302 [rfkille@yahoo.com](mailto:rfkille@yahoo.com), or Eneida Martinez-Brown (301) 864-0059, for the nitty-gritty details.



## Senator Pinsky to Hold 'Town Hall Meeting'

Maryland State Senator Paul G. Pinsky (22nd Legislative District) will hold a Town Hall Meeting on Saturday, December 13, 2008 from 9:30 AM - 11 AM at Lamont Elementary School (7101 Good luck Road, New Carrollton, MD 20737) in the Multipurpose Room. Senator Pinsky will share information about the Purple Line and how it will affect our community, provide information on the foreclosure crisis, and address the upcoming legislative session and state budget. Time will also be set aside to hear from constituents. Mark your calendar and bring your family and neighbors. For more information or to RSVP call 410-841-3155 or email [ppinsky@senatorpinsky.org](mailto:ppinsky@senatorpinsky.org).

## RIVERDALE PARK HOLIDAY CHECKLIST

- ★ Decorate your house in time for the **Festival of Lights Trolley Tours on December 11th**. Make our Town sparkle!
- ★ Email or call all of your friends and colleagues and invite them to our Holiday Market; help revitalize our community!
- ★ Join your neighbors and friends in riding the trolley to see the lights and sing carols together.
- ★ Shop at the holiday market for special gifts.
- ★ Eat lunch and dinner at the market--Crepes, homemade donuts, German Christmas breads, cocoa, coffee, and more.
- ★ Volunteer to assist with any of the events.
- ★ Visit friends at the Holiday Market in historic Town Center.
- ★ Bring a non-perishable food item and take a trolley ride around our Town to see all the lights and Riversdale Mansion.
- ★ Relax and think about how wonderful it is to have all of this happen within blocks of your home.
- ★ Share your joy and the season with those less fortunate.
- ★ Come back on Sunday for more!



Riversdale's Mansion Holiday Gift Shop Open Each Friday and Sunday Now until December 21, Noon - 3:30pm. *And during special events*, Holiday Gifts priced from \$.50 to \$4.00. The Museum Shop also offers Unique Stocking Stuffers, Toys, Hand Crafted Jewelry, Glassware, Crystal, China, Note cards New and Used Books, subjects include: History, African American Interest, Children's Books, Gardening For more information, call 301-864-0420  
Come Celebrate the Holidays with Us!

4811 Riversdale Road, Riversdale Park, MD 20737  
[www.Riversdale.org](http://www.Riversdale.org)

## Community Circles

### Annual Festival of Lights, Holiday Market, and Children's Holiday Party, Saturday and Sunday, December 13 and 14, 2008.

Don't miss these exciting events. Volunteers needed for numerous details of these three excellent events. This is your chance to get involved and have fun. The Children's Holiday Party is always a hit among the young folks in Town. The annual Holiday Market was a resounding success last year; this year promises to be better. And, as always, the Festival of Lights shows off the Town and its Holiday spirit. Call Anissa Sunday at 301-277-2458 for the Children's Holiday Party and the Festival of Lights and your opportunity to get involved. This year marks the 3rd Annual Holiday Market and the 6th Annual Festival of Lights. The Holiday Market will be held in Town Center on Saturday, December 13th at Town Center from 1:00p.m. – 9:00 p.m., and on Sunday, December 14th, 12:00 – 5:00 p.m. Contact Jim Coleman at [rpkfarmmkt@gmail.com](mailto:rpkfarmmkt@gmail.com) if you are a producer of handmade products and are interested in joining the Holiday Market.

### Riversdale Events--The Calverts by

**Candlelight at Riversdale**--The doors of the stately 200-year-old mansion open. George Calvert and his wife, Rosalie Stier Calvert, welcome you into their home as the smells of gingerbread, spices and pine and the sounds of festive music waft through the air. Riversdale House Museum invites you to relax during this busy season in the warm glow of our candlelit evening on December 27, 2008. The house will be festooned with seasonal greens, and a period music will play as costumed interpreters representing family, friends, and servants of the house interact with visitors on their self-guided tours of the illuminated mansion. Cooking over an open hearth fire in the kitchen, children's activities and warming refreshments are all part of the spirit of the evenings.

Admission for the event is \$5.00 for adults, and free for accompanying children 12 and under. No reservations are necessary. The house is open 6:00-9:00 p.m. and refreshments are provided with admission.

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](http://www.pgparcs.com).



## Our Town

### Practicing Random Acts of Kindness!

By Marita A. Novicky

This will be my last edition as editor of the Riverdale Park Town Crier. It's been a great run and I have learned more than I have given by working with all the contributing writers and officials of our fine Town. Most often, I have witnessed our Town people practicing random acts of kindness that help to make Riverdale Park the special and unique place it is, a place we call home.

- ★ The Lions Club funds countless charitable and worthy activities—Chris' trains run at the Market and other events with Lion's Club good will. The Arts-Fest was a benefactor not only of Lion's Club money, but the Town, and numerous public and private organizations and individuals who all want Riverdale to be as good as it can be.
- ★ The Riverdale Park Business Association also funds numerous worthy activities. Our businesses—Pete and Sons and Dumm's Corner; the Calvert Inn; the Dental Group; David D. Martin; J.D. Williams; Tom Chambers; Ernie's Lock Company; Forester Management Company; Joshua Carin and Jeppeto's Catering; Lori and Subway; Attorney Archie Palmore; and so many more routinely contribute money, time, and efforts to improve our way of living. Douglas Jemal and the Cafritz family are major contributors to numerous Town efforts.
- ★ Reverend Ben Slye and his church are at the ready to help our needy citizens and families. He and the Shi's (The Alamo) feed hundreds of people on Thanksgiving Day with the help of volunteers.
- ★ Lou King brings music and sound for our programs that create happiness and fun for all of us. Jim Coleman makes the Farmers Market a success and he has engineered a masterful Holiday Market.
- ★ Volunteers of all ages help to make efforts in Riverdale Park outstanding. Anissa Sunday and a small group of volunteers plan numerous worthy and successful events including Riverdale Park Day, the Festival of Lights, and the Children's Holiday Party.
- ★ Neighbors and friends plan and host Ward block parties, volunteer efforts to Riverdale Elementary, and make a difference in our daily lives.
- ★ Councilman Erik Olson, Senator Pinsky, and Delegates Healy, Gaines, and Ross advocate for better communities, schools, and programs for us.

I leave you with a favorite family prayer; "great is the power of might and mind, but only love can make us kind, and all we are and hope to be, is empty pride and vanity; if love is not a part of all, the greatest one is very small." Practice random acts of kindness and keep Riverdale Park the great place it is to live and grow in.