



The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

March 2009

Volume 38, Issue 2

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TRASH COLLECTION:

Regular Trash Collection Days

Monday and Thursday

Bulk Trash Collection

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Please call Bates Trucking and Trash Collections at (301) 773-2069

(residents have up to 2:00 p.m. Tuesday to call Bates for Wednesday

pickup)

Recycling

Wednesday

Please call Prince George's County Recycling with questions.

(301)952-763

Yard Waste

Wednesday collected by Bates Trucking and

Trash Collections

Saturday drop-off

9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Metal Pickup (town wide)

Every Thursday by the

Department of Public Works

Town of Riverdale Park Election Notice

In compliance with the terms of the Charter of the Town of Riverdale Park, Maryland an election will be held:

Monday, May 4, 2009

To elect Town Officials for Mayor & Council Seats

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Riverdale Park Municipal Center, 5008 Queensbury Road.

All citizens, eighteen years of age or older, who have resided in the Town of Riverdale Park for 45 days or more preceding Monday, May 4, 2009 and who are registered to vote in the Town of Riverdale Park will be entitled to vote.

All residents who wish to qualify to vote in a town election must register on a Prince George's County form. To qualify to vote your registration form must be received at the Board of Elections in Upper Marlboro by Monday, April 6, 2009, 4:30 p.m.

Candidates for office must file Petition and Financial Disclosure Affidavits with the Election Judges at the Town Hall no later than 5 p.m., Thursday, April 9, 2009, in order to have their name on the official ballot. (Financial Disclosure Affidavits and Petition forms are available at the Riverdale Park Town Office.)

§ 402: Qualifications for Mayor

The mayor must be at least 25 years of age, a citizen of the United States and a qualified voter in the town, and shall have resided within the corporate limits of the town for at least one (1) year immediately preceding election.

§ 202: Qualifications of Council Member

A council member shall be at least 25 years of age and a citizen of the United States. He shall have resided within the corporate limits of the town for at least six (6) months immediately preceding election and shall be a qualified voter of the ward from which elected. A council member shall retain throughout his term of office all the qualifications necessary for his election and failure to retain all such qualifications shall cause a forfeiture of his office.

Joyce Marcos, Chief Judge
Louis King, Deputy Chief Judge

Council Actions

By Waverly Pollitt

Regular Legislative Meeting February 2, 2009

1. **Approved with corrections** – minutes for January 5, 2009, regular legislative meeting.
2. **Approved** – 6ft. fence rear & side located at 6215 43rd Street for Steve & Kay Whitesell.
3. **Approved**- the time (7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.) Date, (May 4, 2009) and place (Town Hall) of Town Election.
4. **Approved**-request to increase filing petition fee from \$10.00 to \$25.00
5. **Approved** – request to increase compensation for Chief Judge from \$200.00 to \$300.00
6. **Approved**- request to increase compensation for election Judges from \$125.00 to \$200.00
7. **Approved** – request for increase on training and pre-election night from \$25.00 to \$50.00
8. **Approved**- request for voter notification cards.
9. **Approved**- Candidate filing deadline(April 9, 2009)
10. **Approved**- Voting registration deadline (April 6, 2009).
11. **Approved** – Chief Judge, Deputy Judge and Judges of Election

Code Corner

By Colleen Ferguson

Town Code 66-2 Height of hedges and shrubbery:

- (a) It shall be unlawful for the owner or occupant of any premises within the town to permit any hedge or shrubbery within three (3) feet of any public sidewalk or public path to grow to a height of more than three (3) feet, measured from the surface of the sidewalk grade or path.
- (b) On any corner lot in any residential zone there shall be no fence, hedge, wall terrace, structure, shrubbery, planting or other obstruction to vision having a height greater than three (3) feet above the curb level for a distance of twenty-five (25) feet from the intersection of the front and side street lines.

Violations of the above-mentioned code are declared to be municipal infractions, the penalty for which shall be one-hundred dollars (\$100) for each offense.

Other Town Codes:

Control of weeds	Town Code Chapter 68-1
Rental Licensing and Inspection	Town Code Chapter 55
Commercial activity in a residence unlawful	Town Code Chapter 50-4

You can view the Town Charter and Code in its entirety on the Town's Website: www.riverdaleparkmd.info

Compliance is the ultimate goal of the Code Enforcement Department. If you have any questions, comments or concerns please call: 240-898-2500 or email: coderiverdalepk@comcast.net

Town of Riverdale Park

www.ci.riverdale-park.md.us

Town Hall

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

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

Council Members

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Public Works 301-864-1803

Leonard Addison, **Director**

Code Enforcement 240-898-2500

Colleen M. Ferguson, **Code Manager**

CodeRiverdalePk@comcast.net

Police Department 301-927-4343

Teresa Chambers **Chief of Police**

info@riverdaleparkpolice.org

Fire Department - Emergency 911

Information - 301-927-0356

Charles Ryan, **Chief**

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

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

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

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

Submission deadline: 15th of each month.

Submit all copy to rptown-crier@comcast.net

Riverdale Park Police Department Update

By Teresa C. Chambers, Chief of Police

New Police Cars

There's a new look to our police cars this year. Dodge Chargers were less expensive to purchase and more fuel efficient than other police vehicles we own. Further savings were realized by purchasing white vehicles, which are kept in stock at the fleet dealership. The vendor offered a "turn-key" package – all equipment was installed prior to our taking delivery, making the vehicles immediately available for use upon delivery without the additional expense of equipment installation.

Crime Statistics – 2008

Combined violent Part 1 crimes for all of 2008 in the Town of Riverdale Park (murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) were down 9 percent compared to calendar year 2007. Riverdale Park's Part 1 combined property crimes (burglary, theft, and auto theft) for all of 2008 were down 14 percent compared 2007.

Overall, Part 1 crime in Riverdale Park was down 14.4 percent in 2008 compared to 2007. In Prince George's County, overall crime declined 3.9 percent.



We Need Your Help – Call us at 301-927-4343

When you park your car, please take all items of value with you or lock them in your trunk. From time to time, suspects have broken windows out of cars and taken things that are in plain view (such as GPS units, laptop computers, and the like). Please pay attention to persons who might be wandering in your neighborhood late at night or who are parked in a vehicle that you don't recognize. Don't hesitate to call us to check out these activities. If the persons are legitimately there or are your neighbors, they will appreciate your concern. If they don't belong there, you might prevent a theft or other crime. Thanks for your help!

Últimas noticias del Departamento de la Policía de Riverdale

By Teresa C. Chambers, Jefa de la Policía

Nuevos Carros de la Policía

Este año nuestros carros de la policia tienen un nuevo diseño. Los carros de la compañía Dodge Chargers fueron menos costosos en la compra y mucho más económicos en la gasolina comparados con otros carros que anteriormente hemos tenido. Además encontramos que la compra de carros de color blanco el cual siempre se encuentran accesibles en la flota de distribución. El vendedor nos ofreció un paquete de "llave en mano" donde están listo -todos los equipos fueron instalados antes de la entrega, haciendo que estos carros fueran inmediatamente disponibles para su uso sin tener que invertir en la instalación adicional del equipo.

Estadísticas sobre los crímenes – 2008

Combinado la Parte 1 del crimen violento como total del año 2008 en la Ciudad de Riverdale Park (muerte, violación, robo y asalto agravado) bajó un 9 porcentaje comparado con el año del calendario del 2007. Riverdale Park Parte 1 del crimen de la propiedad (robo con allanamiento, robo y robo de carro) para todo el año 2008 bajó un 14 porcentaje comparado con el año 2007.

En totalidad, la Parte 1 de crimen en el Riverdale Park bajó un 14.4 porcentaje en el 2008 comparado con el año 2007. En el Condado de Prince George, en conjunto bajó el crimen a un 3.9 porcentaje.

Nosotros necesitamos de su ayuda- comuníquese al 301-927-4343

Cuando usted estaciona su carro, por favor saque todo los artículos de valor con usted o colóquelos en el baúl del carro. De vez en cuando, los sospechosos han roto vidrios de los carros y han tomado los artículos que están visibles (como lo son los GPS, computadoras portátiles, etc.) Por favor preste atención a las personas que usted vea rodeando su vecindario tarde en la noche o aquellos carros que están estacionado en su calle y usted no reconozca. No dude en llamarnos para que podamos investigar estas sospechas. Si la persona está legítimamente ahí o son sus vecinos estamos seguros que ellos le agradecerán por su preocupación. Si entonces ellos no son de allí entonces usted ha podido prevenir un crimen. ¡Muchas gracias por su ayuda!

Town of Riverdale Park Ordinance Resolution 2009-OR-01

Whereas, it is desirous to amend section 29 of the Town Code for setting a fee for filing a petition for any town elective office

And Whereas, any qualified person seeking to be a candidate for any town elective office shall, on or before the 25th day preceding the election, file with the chief judge of election a petition in accordance with § 506 of the town Charter.

Therefore Be It Resolved, any candidate filing a petition for any town elective office shall pay to the town ~~a fee of ten dollars (\$10)~~ *set by Mayor & Council at the February legislative meeting prior to the next election.* Any qualified person elected to a town office by a write-in vote shall pay the same fee as if he had filed a petition.

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

Introduced by CM Kate Sharpe at the regular legislative meeting on February 2, 2009

Introduced: February 2, 2009

Adopted: March 2, 2009

Effective: March 22, 2009

Riversdale Events

TEEN HISTORY IMMERSION WEEKEND AT RIVERSDALE

Riverdale Park, MD - Teenage girls, ages 13-19, can spend a night at the c. 1807 Riversdale House Museum where they will experience life in early America. Participants will cook meals on the open hearth, learn about early 19th century fashion, play historic games, create painted art, and learn a period dance. This is a perfect opportunity for Girl Scouts and anyone else who is interested in American history, arts, and crafts. There is limited space, so register today!

The Teen Immersion Weekend runs from 5pm on Friday, March 13 – 5pm on Saturday, March 14. The cost is \$75 for residents of Prince George's and Montgomery Counties and \$90 for non-residents. This fee includes all food, beverages, and materials. Advance payment is required by March 6.

TAVERN NIGHT AT RIVERSDALE

Riverdale Park – Join us for an evening of rousing entertainment presented by the Ship's Company Chanteymen on Saturday, March 28 at 8:00 p.m. This jolly band of interpreters of early 19th century maritime history will sing rousing chanteys and tell sailor stories of the sea. The fee includes tavern-style food and beverages. Come as you are — or in period attire. Tickets are \$20 for residents of Prince George's and Montgomery Counties and \$24 for non-residents. Attendees must be at least 21 years of age. Reserve your spot early, as space is very limited.

RIVERSDALE KITCHEN GUILD KEEPS THE HOME FIRES BURNING

If you have ever visited Riversdale House Museum on a Sunday afternoon from April through November, you may remember visiting the early 19th century kitchen where volunteers from the Riversdale Kitchen Guild recreate historic foods on the open hearth. Usually, this group douses the fire and closes up shop for the winter. However, winter visitors to the mansion will no longer be denied the opportunity to see these cooks in action. A new program called *Seasonal Selections* is being instituted this fall. This program will offer monthly cooking special events all year long that will focus on a different topic each month. Holidays, the schedule of seasonal fresh produce, and/or the traditional cycles of an early 19th century farm will inspire each month's *Seasonal Selection*. These foodways programs are sponsored in part by Giant Food.

March's *Seasonal Selection* is *Soup du Jour*; it is scheduled for Sunday, March 22, 2009, from 12 noon – 4:00 pm. Join the Kitchen Guild at the hearth for an early spring cozy afternoon. With little fresh food available at this time of year, it would not be uncommon to eat lots of root-vegetable laden soups and stews. Drop by to see what the Riversdale cooks stir up!

Please visit Riversdale on Fridays and Sundays, from 12 noon – 3:30 pm. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$2 for seniors, \$1 for students (ages 5 -18), and free for those under 5. The *Seasonal Selections* program is included in the Sunday admission price.

SPRING LECTURE SERIES KICKS OFF AT RIVERSDALE

Riverdale Park – Riversdale House Museum hosts its annual Spring Lecture Series beginning Tuesday, March 3, 2009.

The four lectures are:

- Tuesday, March 3: Ann Wass, History/Museum Specialist at Riversdale, “*A Great Variety of Articles Both Elegant and Useful*”: *Antebellum American Agriculture Fairs*.
- Tuesday, March 24: Dave Murray, Retired president of surveying firm Ben Dyer Associates, Inc., *The 1853 Sides Map of Charles Benedict Calvert’s Property and the Surrounding Area*.
- Tuesday, April 14: Susan Pearl, Retired historian, M-NCPPC, *The Stier-Peeters Art Collection*.
- Tuesday, May 5: Panel of faculty, staff, and students from the University of Maryland, College Park, *The Investigation of the Role of African-American Slavery in the Early History of the Campus*.

Lectures are \$5 each and begin at 7:30 pm.

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

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

Call 301-864-0420 or email riversdale@pgparcs.com to make a reservation. Sign up for classes and activities online at www.pgparcs.com, or by touch-tone phone at 301-583-BOOK.



The Mayor's Report

By Vernon Archer

Re-imagining, Redesigning and Restoring the Creeks That Drain Our Community

There have been several developments recently regarding our goal to upgrade our town's storm water drainage system. You may recall from previous reports that it is a long term priority of the town to see that our deteriorating system is rebuilt. This system is regional and is owned/managed largely by the county with some parts owned by the state. In addition Federal agencies have a great deal of authority over flood control and water quality management. Because of the many layers of stakeholders in the system we are working to get all of the players together and working toward a redesigned system that will become a reality sooner rather than later.

Critical to moving forward is having a stakeholders' meeting that gets all of the important interests together at the same time and place. On Wednesday, February 25 representatives from State Departments of Transportation and Environment, Prince Georges County Public Works and Environmental Resources, The Environmental Protection Agency, and the Anacostia Watershed Society, will join with myself, town senior staff, University Park Mayor Tabori, state delegate Tawana Gaines, and County Councilman Eric Olson to hammer out an action plan that will get this project moving. I look forward to reporting back to you next month on this meeting.

Another part of making this all happen is getting the federal financial assistance that is almost certainly going to be required. In order to help ensure that the plan we build at the local level will get federal help, I am working to make sure our Congressional Delegation is aware of our efforts and are supportive. On February 10, I, along with Town Administrator Pat Prangle and Public Works Director Leonard Addison, met with Senator Ben Cardin and his staff. We left the meeting with the Senator's commitment that his office will make sure that our efforts are supported and he will make sure that we are clearly informed about how best to insure federal assistance.

We have had numerous assurances both in word and action from our Representative Steny Hoyer's office that improving the restoring the Anacostia River and its tributaries are a high priority. We will clearly be working directly with Mr. Hoyer as we move forward too.



Left to right: Mayor Vernon Archer, Senator Benjamin Cardin, Town Administrator Pat Prangle, Director of Public Works Leonard Addison.

Anacostia--Earth Day Cleanup and Celebration

On April 18, the town is working with the Anacostia Watershed Society, Ipaltecos de Maryland (the local association of immigrants from our sister city Ipala, Guatemala) and other groups to cleanup the Northeast Branch and surrounding areas. Please join us at 9:00 a.m. at Riverside Park and help us cleanup OUR town and river.

Following the cleanup there will be food and entertainment at Bladensburg Waterfront Park at noon and a celebratory soccer match back at Riverside Park at 2:30 PM.

Thanks and Best Wishes to Robert Boone

While on the subject of improving stewardship of water resources in our community I want to thank Robert Boone, long time president of the Anacostia Watershed Society, for his 20 years of service. He has recently retired, but all who know him realize we will still see plenty of action from this visionary of the clean and beautiful river that we work to achieve. Thank you Robert!

Christmas in April

The Christmas in April program to assist persons in need with keeping up their house has identified a home in Riverdale Park to assist this year. If you can spare a few hours on Saturday, April 25 to help please contact Bruce Werneck bruce.werneck@mindspring.com.

For those unfamiliar with Christmas in April you can check out its link at:
<http://www.christmasinaprilpg.org>

Bruce and the Riverdale Business Association have taken the lead for a number of years in this very worthy program and my thanks go out to all involved and hope to see many new volunteers out this year to help one of our own.

Ward and Committee Reports

Ward Four Report

By Council Member Christopher Henry
chenry3240@comcast.net

Public Safety Report

I encourage every Riverdale Park resident to get involved in your community, learn what's going on, and to participate in community events. Have you visited the town website at www.riverdaleparkmd.info? The website is very informative it includes: upcoming meetings and events, the town charter and code, minutes of legislative meetings, as well as past and current editions of the town crier. I found, while visiting the town website, it to be easy to navigate, very user friendly and that it hosted updated pertinent information. I applaud the town staff for their hard work and dedication to the website project. Another useful tool for community residents is the crimereports.com site www.crimereports.com. The crimereports.com website maps and details any crime activity in the requested area. With the crime reports website, residents can be informed as to crimes in town as well as in surrounding municipalities and county wide. This website has been very useful for me personally as the Chairperson of the Safety Committee as well as a resident. Once again, I commend the Chief of Police, Chief Chambers, for bringing this useful tool to the residents of Riverdale Park.

Residents get involved, sit in and participate in our town meetings: Town Work Sessions are the last Monday of the Month and are held at the Town Hall on Queensbury Road. The Town Legislative meetings are held on the first Monday of the month and are held at the Town Hall, these meetings are open to all residents to attend and/or can be viewed on the local cable channel.

Ward Six Report

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

Community Affairs Report

I attended the Apartment Managers meeting on February 11th. I find these bi-monthly meetings very instrumental in bringing tenant and management concerns to the forefront and on the table. The main topic on the agenda was security and lighting. Management was very responsive to concerns that lighting around the exterior of the apartment buildings should be increased and working at all times. I look forward to seeing the suggestions implemented by the managers/owners of the apartment buildings.

Winter is still here, yet spring is on its way... This is event by the visual increase of pedestrian traffic in Ward 6. Please obey all posted speed limits including in the school zone and remember that pedestrians have the right-of-way.

I am available to any Ward 6 resident with any concern please feel free to contact me at keelahd@yahoo.com.

Public Works Report

By Leonard Addison

In our continuing efforts to keep our Town beautiful and clean, the Department of Public Works contracted with Timberline Tree Service, Inc. to remove or trim 33 trees around the Town of Riverdale Park. During the spring, trees that were removed throughout the year will be replaced.

Congratulations are in order for the Town of Riverdale Park for being a recipient of the Maryland Community PLANT Green Award. The award will be presented in April or May 2009 to "publicly recognize the people and communities in Maryland that have enhanced their community forests during the past year." The event will be sponsored by the Maryland Urban and Community Forest Committee (MUCFC) of the Maryland Association of Forest Conservancy District Boards and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service Community.

The Maryland PLANT Coordinator added, "Your support of Maryland's long tradition of environmental stewardship in the community is to be commended. We appreciate your enthusiasm and hard work and look forward to your continued participation planting and caring for your local community forests in 2009."

Riverdale Elementary Open House

Moms, dads, and parents-to-be: Riverdale Elementary School will be hosting an open house for future Riverdale Elementary Parents on Tuesday, March 9 2009 from 7:30-9:00 A.M. The event will take place at the Riverdale Elementary School Library. Bagels and Juice will provided. Come ask your questions, take a tour of the school, and meet the principal and school board representative.

RSVP to *Dannielle Glaros* at 301-779-5915 or dmglaros@gmail.com.

Please let me know if your child will be joining you.

Note: This event is for parents who will have their kids at Riverdale Elementary in the future. It is not for current Riverdale Elementary parents.

Las mamas y los padres a ser: De la Escuela de enseñanza primaria de Riverdale estará acogiendo una casa abierta para futuros Padres de la Riverdale Elementaria el Martes, 9 de Marzo del 2009 de 7:30-9:00 de la mañana. El acontecimiento sucederá en la Biblioteca de Escuela de enseñanza primaria de Riverdale. Bagels y Jugo seran proporcionado. Venga haga sus preguntas, haga un tour en la escuela, y encuentre el director y a representante de tabla de escuela. RSVP a Dannielle Glaros en 301-779-5915 o dmglaros@gmail.com. Permítame por favor saber si su niño se estará uniendo. nota: Este acontecimiento es para padres que tendrán sus niños en Riverdale Elementaet en el futuro. No es para Riverdale actuales padres.

Boy Scouts Troop 252

By Bob Killen

Troop 252 hasn't been busy this month. We went skiing the weekend before Xmas at The Wisp, and Ismael proclaimed himself "The Beast of the Mountain." He skied on every slope that was open all day Saturday. He tried snowboarding Sunday, since he had mastered skiing. He didn't know how he could fall so many different ways, and got bruised in places he didn't know he owned. He went back to skiing.

Julio hated life the first morning we skied together. He persisted after the first 35 falls, and before noon, he was truly loving life! He controlled the mountain! The mountain didn't control him. He even went down a "Black Diamond" slope, very carefully, and didn't fall once. One of the others Scouts tubed all day long with no regrets. His mom, however, leveled a whole line of skiers on her first tubing trip down the mountain, and didn't go back for more.

I stayed with Julio during the morning while he was learning, then he and Ismael went together and I had some free time to "do my thing." Went down the back side of the mountain, thru the "Hole in the Wall," down "Easy Street," and finally, "Squirrel Cage."

We had planned to participate in Baltimore Area Council's Klondike Derby this month, but we registered too late, so we went swimming at Greenbelt Pool Saturday night, and attended our Scout Sunday Eight O'clock Mass at St. Bernard's Church.

Our three Life Scouts are busily discussing topics in preparing for their Eagle Projects, almost the final step on their Trail to Eagle.

We are planning to return to the Orienteering field of competition March 21, this time sponsored by NCAC, to be held at Little Bennett Regional Park, near Clarksburg, MD.

Our senior Scouts want to bicycle down the entire 184-mile-long C&O Canal Tow Path during Spring Break, and the younger Scouts cannot keep up the blistering pace the senior Scouts set; we need adults to ride with the younger Scouts. If that could be you, please contact either Bob Killen (202) 282-8302 rfskille@yahoo.com or Eneida Martinez-Brown (240)687-4621.

The Riverdale Park Business Association

By Audrey Bragg

The Riverdale Park Business Association held its February meeting at Town Hall on Feb. 11th.

Joe Caputo informed us that he is waiting for some highway work to be completed before he gets his permits to start construction at the corner of East West Highway and Baltimore Ave. (Wachovia/Wells Fargo Bank) Work should start within the next couple of weeks and should move very quickly.

Patrick Prangle, Town Administrator informed us that the Post Office Building on Baltimore Ave. is for sale. J. D. Williams said that they were asking 1.2 million dollars and that the post office had 2 years left on their lease, the mortgage company on the 2nd floor was on a month to month and the basement was occupied by a church with no lease. J. D. would be happy to show it to any interested buyer. 301-779-5050.

"A Taste of Riverdale", a potential project inspired by Carol Patsel of the Dental Group was presented at the meeting. Members were very enthusiastic about planning such a project. Discussion included questions about space, fees to charge, date, inside or outside event etc. It was a thought that we would entertain this project in lieu of our Annual Dinner. Members voted to continue to have our annual dinner and add this project to our agenda.

Our Christmas in April project is in need of volunteers. All residents are invited to join us. The house we will be working on is on Ravenswood Rd. in Riverdale Park. Please call Bruce Wernek 301-779-6272 or bruce.wernek@mindspring.com

Earth Day will be held on April 18, 2009. Volunteers are needed. Contact Anacostia Watershed Society 301-699-6204.

Noisy New Neighbors Near the Tracks

By Jim Lande

You may have noticed activity in the building that used to house the Riverdale Bookstore. That is our new neighbor, the Archie Edwards Blues Heritage Foundation (AEBHF). They are renting the building to use for Saturday jam sessions as well as for workshops and small concerts.

The foundation is a tax exempt organization dedicated to fostering acoustic blues and preserving the blues heritage of the Washington area. Their website is at www.acousticblues.com. The organization is named after Archie Edwards, a blues man who moved to the Washington area after World War II. Archie lived and worked here until his death in 1998.

For many decades, Archie owned a barbershop in Northeast D.C. Blues musicians would gather there to play music on Saturday afternoons. The foundation was formed shortly after Archie died, in part, to continue holding the Saturday afternoon jam sessions. Unfortunately, the barbershop location was sold about a year ago. After holding jams in a number of locations, the organization moved to Riverdale in February.

On a normal Saturday, expect the door to open between one and two. Sometimes two or three people will be swapping songs and stories. Sometimes a large group will be gathered with a dozen people wanting to take solos. People come and go all afternoon and the jams can run past the dinner hour. Some of the musicians are fairly accomplished and perform around town. Others are beginners and try to stay in the background. Everybody is welcome to come in and listen and folks are delighted when kids take an interest.

One jammer is guitar player Miles Spicer, a long time Riverdale Park resident. Miles now walks to the jam with his son, Nicholas. Miles remembers playing concerts in the Riverdale Bookstore with his band, MSG. Nicholas plays the bones and is learning to play the harmonica.

Our Town: ArtsFest 2 Help Wanted!

by Marita A. Novicky

The Riverdale Park Arts Council (RPAC) has begun planning for the 2nd RPAC ArtsFest—Sunday, May 3, 2009 from 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. at Town Center. RPAC is looking for volunteers for all sorts of fun. The following committees have been established and are

looking for your help: Gallery Display; Reception for Participating Artists; PR and Fund Raising; Set Up; Entertainment; Children's Pavilion; and Elephant Art. These committees have begun their work and would love to have you volunteer/participate in what promises to be a fun activity. You may recall that the first ArtsFest (May 4, 2008) was an overwhelming success and nearly one-thousand people attended. One of the most successful venues was the Children's Pavilion and we are especially interested in finding someone to lead this initiative.

Please be a part of ArtsFest 2 by volunteering today; we promise you'll have fun. Call Emily Fanning, RPAC President, at 301-864-5561 or email her at ourdollmom@aol.com.

Community Circles

What to Watch For:

- Monday, March 2**—Legislative Meeting, 8pm
- Tuesday, March 3**—Traffic Study, 7 pm
- Wednesday, March 4**—MUTC, 7 pm
- Monday, March 9**—Economic Development, 7pm
- Wednesday, March 11**—RBA, 5:30 pm
- Saturday, March 14**—Madison Hill HOA Mtg., 10am
- Tuesday, March 17**—St. Patrick's Day
- Monday, March 23**—Worksession, 8:00 pm

Town Organizations

Northern County Soccer Alliance: Contact: NCSA@juno.com or (301) 927-0560. PG Soccer League@juno.com

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

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

Civic Committees

Recreation Board – Contact Anissa Sunday at 301-277-2458 for more information and to volunteer.

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

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

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

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