



The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

July/August 2009

Volume 38, Issue 6

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FY 10 Budget Adopted – No Tax Increase!!

By Sandra Bonnefond

Town of Riverdale Park residents will be pleased to know that the Town Officials and staff considered the trying economic times we are all experiencing and were successful in adopting a Budget that **contains no tax increase** this year!

The Mayor, Council members and Town staff met numerous times in meetings that were open to the public. All the while, they worked diligently on each line item of the Proposed Budget to ensure there would be no increase in taxes. A copy of the FY 10 Budget may be obtained from the Town Office.

Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department

The Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department would like to congratulate FF/EMT Eddie Ford and EMT Janet Plunkett for completing the Emergency Medical Technician Basic Course (131 instructional hours), FF/ EMT Nova Johns for completing Firefighter I Course (108 instructional hours), Fire Fighter Mike Eppard for graduating from St. John's High School, and we also want to welcome Probationary Member Galen Jones to the Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department Family!

SUMMER SAFETY

Every year families look forward to summer vacations, camping, family reunions, picnics, and the Fourth of July. Summertime, however, also brings fires and injuries due to outdoor grills and fireworks.

It is illegal for any person to manufacture, possess, store, offer for sale, sell, discharge, use, burn, or explode any fireworks in Prince George's County, Maryland, except that an authorized display may be conducted by a licensed pyrotechnic professional. Penalties for violations of the law include a fine of up to \$1,000 and/or six months in jail.

Barbecue Safety Tips

- Before using a grill, check the connection between the propane tank and the fuel line. Make sure the venturi tubes - where the air and gas mix - are not blocked.
- Do not overfill the propane tank.
- Do not wear loose clothing while cooking at a barbecue.
- Be careful when using lighter fluid. Do not add fluid to an already lit fire because the flame can flashback up into the container and explode.
- Keep all matches and lighters away from children. Teach your children to report any loose matches or lighters to an adult immediately. Supervise children around outdoor grills.
- Dispose of hot coals properly - douse them with plenty of water, and stir them to ensure that the fire is out. Never place them in plastic, paper or wooden containers.
- Never grill/barbecue in enclosed areas - carbon monoxide could be produced.
- Make sure everyone knows to Stop, Drop and Roll in case a piece of clothing does catch fire. Call 911 or your local emergency number if any burns, injuries or fires.

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

Council Actions

By Waverly Pollitt

Regular Legislative Meeting June 1, 2009

1. **Approved**- Nominations for Committee Assignments.
2. **Approved**- Adoption of Robert's Rules of Order.
3. **Approved w/ corrections** – Minutes for April 6, 2009 regular legislative session.
4. **Approved w/corrections** – Minutes for May 4, 2009 regular legislative session.
5. **Approved** –Tax rates for F/Y 09-10 Operating & Capital Budget.
6. **Approved**- Permit Parking for residents of 5300 block & property at the corner of 54th & 5300 block (**only**).
7. **Approved**- Permit for Mara Lopez to install 6ft. fence at 4713 Tuckerman Street.
8. **Tabled**- Permit to install a 6ft. fence at 6112 44th Ave. for Daisy Miller.
9. **Approved**- 6ft. fence replaced at 6001 Taylor Road.

Special Legislative Meeting May 26, 2009

1. **Approved**- Street closure on Madison Street for a Block Party ,
 - a. May 30, 2009, from 2:00pm – 5:00p.m

Code Corner

By Colleen Ferguson

BUILDING PERMITS REQUIRED

Several residents have been issued "Stop Work" Orders by the Town Code Enforcement due to contractors not obtaining the necessary permits. Please, when hiring contractors to perform any structural change, install a fence, or add a driveway, inform them to obtain both the required County permits AND the required Town Permit. The Town Code and Permit requirements can be found on the Town website at www.riverdaleparkmd.info.

If you or your contractor have any questions or need permit assistance please call the Riverdale Park Code Enforcement at 240-898-2500.

USE AND OCCUPANCY PERMIT REQUIRED (U&O)

Use and Occupancy Permit required for all Businesses in Prince George's County. All business owners in the Town of Riverdale Park, Prince George's County, are required to have a valid Use and Occupancy Permit to operate a business in Riverdale Park, Prince George's County, Maryland. If you are operating a business without the required U&O and a Town Business License, your business can be subject to closure. Any business owner needing assistance with the procedure in obtaining a U&O can contact the Prince George's County Licensing Office at 301-883-3820 or the Town of Riverdale Park Code Office at 240-898-2500. A copy of your Use and Occupancy Permit is required to obtain/renew your Town of Riverdale Park Business License. Prince Georges County Inspectors are available to assist residents Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. at Town Hall - 5008 Queensbury Road.

Town of Riverdale Park

www.riverdaleparkmd.info

Town Hall

5008 Queensbury Road
Riverdale Park, MD 20737
301-927-6381, Hablamos Español
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 – Alan Thompson
Chair, Finance Committee, 301-927-7407
twacks@gmail.com

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

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

Ward 5 – Raymond Rivas
Chair, Community Affairs, 301-625-9435
Rayray2448@comcast.net.

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

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

tchambers@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
rpstowncrier@comcast.net

Town Hall

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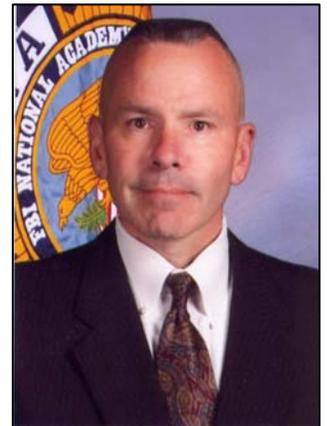


Riverdale Park Police Department Announces It's First Graduate from the Prestigious FBI National Academy



For the first time in the Riverdale Park Police Department's nearly 90-year history, one of its members was chosen to attend the internationally known FBI National Academy. Captain Patrick Timmons, a 19-year veteran of the Department, began ten weeks of intense academic and fitness training on April 5, 2009, as a member of the 237th Session of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. Only ½ of 1 percent of law enforcement officers in the United States are selected to attend this program. Captain Timmons graduated among 250 colleagues from around the world Friday, June 12, 2009, and returned to his position as Deputy Chief of the Riverdale Park Police Department.

National Academy participants engage in a wide range of investigative, management, leadership, and specialized training while sharing ideas, practices, and experiences with each other, creating lifelong professional networks. The final physical fitness challenge, referred to "affectionately" by participants and graduates as the "Yellow Brick Road," is a grueling obstacle course of more than six miles through hilly, wooded terrain. Graduates often covet the "yellow brick" they are awarded upon completion more than their graduation certificates themselves.



"We are proud of the accomplishments of Captain Timmons," said Mayor Vernon Archer. "To have our police department included in such a highly competitive, international program is a real honor for all of us; and we could not have had a better representative than Captain Timmons."

Chief of Police Teresa Chambers praised the FBI for offering Captain Timmons this opportunity. "It's gratifying to know that our federal partners recognize the important role municipal police departments play in safety and security throughout our nation," she said. Of Captain Timmons, she commented, "We couldn't have a more dedicated and hard working Deputy Chief of Police in Riverdale Park than we have in Captain Timmons. I know he is anxious to put to use the new information and experiences he gathered while attending the National Academy."

Captain Timmons will now join the FBI National Academy Associates to build upon the educational and professional foundation begun in the National Academy.

Riverdale Park Police Department Civilian Employee Named Civilian of the Year by County-Wide Organization

For the first time in Riverdale Park Police Department history, one of its civilian employees was awarded the prestigious Police Chiefs' Association of Prince George's County Maryland's Civilian of the Year Award. This distinguished honor was presented to Code Officer Brittany Hewison at the Police Chiefs' Association of Prince George's County's Awards Ceremony June 2, 2009. Code Officer Hewison had recently been named Riverdale Park Police Department Civilian of the year for 2008-09. Chief Chambers, Lieutenant Adams, Sergeant Vitchock, and Riverdale Park Police Officer of the Year 08-09 PFC Clay Alford, as well as representatives from municipalities across Prince George's County were present at the ceremony.



Code Officer Brittany Hewison was awarded the Riverdale Park Police Department's Civilian of the Year Award by Riverdale Park Police Chief Teresa Chambers after review of a letter of nomination submitted by Code Manager Colleen Ferguson. All municipalities' letters of nomination for both Police and Civilian of the Year recipients are submitted annually to the Police Chiefs' Association and reviewed by a committee panel. The panel then selects the overall recipients to be honored as the association's Police and Civilian of the Year.

Code Officer Hewison's community involvement, community support, team approach, and code knowledge were recognized and appreciated by all. We are pleased to have Code Officer Brittany Hewison as a member of the Riverdale Park Police Department team, and we congratulate her on receiving this well deserved recognition.

RIVERSDALE HOSTS HANDS-ON HISTORY: OUR PATRIOTIC PAST FOR SCOUTS

Riverdale Park – Enjoy a trip back in time this summer! Children, ages 5 and up, are invited to Riverdale to experience Hands-on History: Our Patriotic Past. Participants will learn about our country's history as they learn the proper way to fold the American flag, take an interactive tour of the house, make a craft, participate in an activity in the interpretive garden, and more!

This Hands-on History Day is specially designed for Girl Scouts, though all children are welcome. Participating Brownies will earn the Wave the Flag Try-It, Juniors will earn the Local Lore Badge, and Cadettes/Seniors will complete the American Patriotism Interest Project. Riverdale patches are also available.

The fee is \$10 for children and \$2 for accompanying adults. Advanced registration and payment are required by Thursday, July 16. Registration may be completed individually or by troop.

RIVERSDALE KITCHEN GUILD KEEPS THE HOME FIRES BURNING

Riverdale Park, MD - The *Seasonal Selections* program, instituted in the fall, will continue to offer special monthly cooking events with 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.

August's *Seasonal Selection* is *In a Pickle: Putting up Vegetables*. It is scheduled for Sunday, August 23, 2009, from 12 noon – 3:30 pm. Carrots, cucumbers, beets, peppers, and summer squash will be harvested; those that are not eaten fresh will be pickled in vinegar, salt, and spices. Kitchen Guild volunteers will tackle this summer chore the early 19th century way!

Please visit Riverdale 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. Purchase tickets at the Visitor Center.

For more information, call 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544 or email riversdale@pgparks.com. Website: www.pgparks.com.

The Department of Parks and Recreation encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities. Please contact the facility at least two weeks in advance of the program start date to request an accommodation (i.e. sign language interpreter, support staff, etc.).

Riverdale House Museum, a National Historic Landmark, is located at 4811 Riverdale Road, in Riverdale Park, Maryland.

Town Organizations

Northern County Soccer Alliance: For more information on Soccer Alliance, Inc., and on travel, recreation, home school, and training programs. NCSA@juno.com or (301) 927-0560. PG Soccer League@juno.com

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

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

Madison Hill Homeowners Association— For information, call (240) 401-2202 or visit <http://madisonhill.biz>

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.

Riverdale Park Arts Council— call Emily Fanning for meeting site at 301-864-5561 or email ourdollmom@aol.com

Mayor's Report

By Mayor Vernon Archer

A Fantastic First for Riverdale Park Police

I want to start my report with hearty congratulations to Captain Pat Timmons of our police force. He graduated from the FBI's National Academy in June. Only a tiny number of law enforcement officers from across the nation have the honor of attending the academy and Timmons is the first officer ever sent by Riverdale Park Police.

As the second in command of our force and acting chief for more than six months during 2007 Captain Timmons has shown me repeatedly what an outstanding officer and administrator he is. Any of you who know Pat know what an unassuming man he is, but don't be fooled. A great deal of credit for the strong police department we have belongs to him and we all can be assured that the best is yet to come.

Thanks to Riverdale Volunteer Fire Company (Company 7)

One of the many repercussions to residents in Prince George's County resulting from the current financial crisis has been cut backs in service and support from the County Fire Department. Cutbacks have meant everything from furloughs of whole fire house crews of paid fire fighters, to substantially reduced repair and maintenance funding. Our fire house has certainly not escaped these problems but do to the efforts of the volunteers of Company 7 we as a community hardly noticed.

Staffing at our fire house has been done by paid staff during the work week/day time hours of 7AM to 3PM. Of course these are the hours that are most difficult to staff by volunteers since many are working their "day" jobs or going to school. On five occasions over the last year volunteers have come in and covered for furloughed paid fire fighters. This was often accomplished by volunteers using their leave time from their paying jobs to come and cover us.

Thank you Company 7 for all of your efforts on behalf of our town!

As I write this we in town government and the leadership of Company 7 are working to insure that the county continues to provide staffing in the upcoming fiscal year to cover Monday through Friday day shift. There clearly is going to be staff reductions around the county and the best we can do is to try to make sure that the nodes from which service is provided to the surrounding area is located right in the middle of our town.

The leadership of Company 7 has assured me that they will do all they can to insure continued full time coverage regardless of what ever changes the County might move forward with. In return those of us who are on the receiving end of the volunteers who risk flesh, limb and ultimately life on our behalf may need to make greater contributions to ensure our own safety.

National Night Out Against Crime

Tuesday August 4 is National Night Out Against Crime and I ask you to help use this event to make Riverdale Park a safer place to live and work. Last year we had a fantastic event concentrated on 54th Avenue that was in effect a town-wide block party. This event helped us to reinvigorate community-police interaction and concentrate attention on an area of town with a relatively high crime rate. This year we hope to build on this success but in a way that concentrates all of our attention close to our individual neighborhoods and homes.

The plan will be that each of the six sectors of town will have a small gathering place. Each sector roughly corresponds to the town's wards and has a group of police officers assigned special responsibility for it. One of the assigned officers will be at the sector gathering place along with other local officials. We invite everyone to come out and meet and greet them along with your neighbors.

We envision that each gathering will be a little different. Some might have neighbors decide to have a little cook out, or maybe ice cream, or something entirely different. But what we need is input from the community, yes from you! The coordinator for this is our Community Policing Officer Corporal Roland Alexander. Please contact him with your questions and ideas at ralexander@riverdaleparkpolice.org or 301-209-1572. We will be planning to put out information as it develops on Town Talk and on our website.

See you on August 4th if not before! Have a fun, safe and relaxing summer until then!

Ward and Committee Reports

Ward Two Report

By Council Member Alan Thompson
Chairperson Finance Committee
twacks@gmail.com

Because this is my first ward report, I have a long list of people I'd like to thank. First and foremost, I would like to thank everyone who opened their doors to talk to me while I was campaigning, and everyone who turned out on a cold, rainy election day to cast their vote. I appreciate the show of support, and the spirit of participation shown by our ward. Second, I would like to thank my wife and children for supporting me during the election, and in advance for their understanding and support during my tenure on the council. Third, I'd like to thank outgoing Ward 2 representative Kate Sharpe, for many things, including encouraging me to run, ensuring a smooth transition, and for her years of service to the ward and town. I wish her and her family the best of luck in Spain over the next year or two, and hope they will return to Riverdale Park in the future.

As I am writing this report, the town's budget for the upcoming fiscal year is near completion. The council has already set the tax rate for next year, and it is the same rate as last year. The two main priorities of the budget are to maintain town services at near current levels while expanding the town's reserve fund (which is used to cover unexpected expenses or revenue shortfalls). I feel that the draft budget we have now reflects those priorities. One area which concerns me is employee benefits. Because a large fraction of the town's budget is for staff, benefits are a large part of the budget, and employee benefits have significantly exceeded their budget during the last few years. I'll be focusing my attention over the next few months to understanding the previous overruns, and in determining how to better control the cost of benefits in the future.

On an entirely different topic, this spring's heavy rain has made for a lot of happy yards and gardens, but threatens to produce a bumper crop of mosquitoes. You can help lower both your neighbor's and your own mosquito population by eliminating standing water in your yard. Any container that holds water for three days or more, even something as small as a bottle cap, is a breeding ground for our unwelcome guest, the Asian Tiger mosquito. Please remove containers that can gather water from your yard, or dump out the water every few days. If you have an ornamental pond in your yard, or other undrainable standing water, please stock it with minnows, which will eat the larva, or drop in a few "mosquito dunks" (a dried, compressed packet of bacteria, BTI, that infect and kill mosquito larvae without threatening birds, animals, or other insects). Working together we can make the town a better place for us, and a worse place for mosquitoes!

Please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns about finance, mosquitoes, or anything else that concerns you.

Ward Three Report

By Council Member David Lingua
Chairperson Public Safety Committee
djlingua@gmail.com

Cory Slavitt called me on a California stop at Taylor and Oglethorpe. Fair enough.

Water, water everywhere, v3.0. I have heard from several neighbors due to the rains we have endured as of late. I have discussed this with Mr. Addison of Public Works as well as various county officials including District Councilmember Eric Olson's office. Our budget for FY 09-10 funds the acquisition of portable pumps to help alleviate such conditions in the future. To achieve something resembling a remedy will take working with our county officials, an effort I will make. It is a process that will take time from planning to implementation and will be well worth the effort.

By the time of publication the council will have passed a resolution asking Chief Eugene A. Jones of the Prince Georges Fire Department to maintain the career staffing at Company Number 7 located on Queensbury Road. Currently being considered are cuts that would eliminate the career staff at both Company 7 in town and Company 13 to the east in unincorporated Riverdale Heights. We are working to avoid such cuts or to find a solution that will provide adequate staffing 24 hours.

With the new term I am honored to be Chair of the Public Safety Committee. I am looking forward to working with returning Councilmember Keelah Allen-Smith and newly elected Councilmember Alan Thompson as well as Chief Chambers, and the Police Department staff. As a committee we will be looking at ways to assist the department with their efforts in community policing. These efforts will involve our Code Enforcement team, Public Works, the Riverdale Fire Department, Company 7, as well as Community Affairs. I encourage any who wish to be a part of this effort to come to the committee meetings.

On June 12 I had the honor and privilege to attend the graduation ceremony for Captain Patrick J. Timmons and his peers of the 237th class from the FBI's National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. With the graduation of Captain Timmons, our Police Department now has two graduates from the National Academy, Chief Chambers being of the 181st class. Captain Timmons was among 240 officers from all over the United States and twenty-three nations. Congratulations Captain Timmons on your achievement and your yellow brick.

As you have read elsewhere in this issue, the National Night Out events are returning to our wards with evening block parties. Please join in helping make this National Night out a great event. To find out more contact Corporal Roland Alexander, 301-927-4343.

Speaking of block parties, on behalf of our neighbors I'd like to thank Jody and Alex for coordinating the block

party last May 30. It was a great event with weather made to order. Special thanks as well to Public Works for the tents, tables and chairs.

As for that California rolling stop. We are all busy. We all needed to be somewhere five minutes ago. We all need to drive safely. Please.

Enjoy and see you in September.

Ward Four Report

By Council Member Christopher Henry
Chairperson Public Works Committee
chenry3240@comcast.net

The time is now for the Riverdale Park community to move forward. We need to come together as a community in a coordinated effort to obtain a high quality of life for all Riverdale Park residents. Town Code standards must be adhered to and enforced, Police patrol should be evident, our Town streets should be clean and residents should commit to play an active part in our community.

On behalf of Ward 4, I would like to extend a "Job Well Done" to Riverdale Park Police Officer of the Year-Officer Clay Alford and Riverdale Park Police Department Civilian of the Year-Code Enforcement Officer Brittany Hewison. Congratulations to both.

As the newly appointed Public Works Committee Chairperson, I look forward to working with Public Works Director Leonard Addison and the Public Works Employees obtaining town goals and visions.

This edition of the Town Crier encompasses both the months of July and August. Please check the schedule regularly for activities in the community.

Ward 4 Madison Hill Block Party, July 3, 2009 festivities start at 5:00pm. Food, Fun, Entertainment and Neighbors! National Night Out August 4, 2009, plans include a community cook-out in each Ward. Visit the Riverdale Park Farmer's Market every Thursday at the Town Center 3:00pm-7:00pm.

Have a safe Summer.



Ward Five Report

By Council Member Raymond Rivas
Chairperson Community Affairs Committee
rayray2448@comcast.net

I would like to thank the voters of Ward 5 for coming out to vote on my behalf as their new council member. As a newly elected member, I will do my best to represent your ward.

I appreciate the Mayor and other council members for appointing me Chairman of the Community Affairs Committee. It will be my responsibility to inform or to coordinate and inform the Community of various activities and functions. My goal will be to try to bridge the relationship for all Wards to come together and have fun. This is very exciting to me and I reach out to my fellow neighbors and local surrounding communities in feeling free to participate in anyway possible. If anyone has any suggestions, please contact me at 301-625-9435, or my e-mail address *rayray2448@comcast.net*.

As for my first piece of information to the community, the Herbert Wells Ice Rink on 5211 Paint Branch Parkway, College Park, MD 20740 will be having roller-skating nights on both Friday & Saturday evening from 7pm to 9pm. For more information please call 301-277-3717.

For the Ward 5 residents of 5309 Riverdale Road, your management company is issuing authorization letters for your free family pool passes to all P.G. County pools. Please contact your management office 301-779-6663 for more information.

So far it has been a soggy summer with all the rains throughout the county. Be careful with the flooding areas close by located on Kenilworth and Riverdale Road. There have also been other areas, I applaud all the crews (P.G. County and The Town Riverdale Park) for handling all situations in a quick and orderly fashion.

Ward Six Report

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

Loitering and littering have been the latest issues in Ward 6. If you see loiterers, please call the Riverdale Park Police Department 301-927-4343. We want our area safe and clean. Many thanks to Director of Public Works Leonard Addison and his team for the outstanding job they do keeping our streets and trash receptacles in Ward 6 clean.

I have been appointed by the Mayor as the Chairperson of the Legislative Committee. I will be coordinating with the Legislative committee members and am planning on scheduling a Legislative Committee meeting within the next few months. If any resident has any concerns or would like to recommend changes please contact me at: *keelahd@yahoo.com*

Please check the Town Crier Calendar for dates and times of upcoming town events.

Public Works Report

By Leonard Addison

GOVERNOR APPLAUDS TOWN ON RECEIVING 2009 PLANT AWARD – Governor Martin O’Malley sent a letter congratulating the Town of Riverdale Park for its recent honor as a 2009 PLANTAWARD Recipient. “This award represents your admirable dedication to our environment and communities.” The award was presented by the 2008 Gorgeous Prince George’s Day Planning Committee of the M-NCPPC Department of Parks and Recreation’s and the Maryland Urban and Community Forest Committee’s ceremony at the Billingsley Manor in Upper Marlboro. The Town will be honored to display such a token of appreciation for its dedication to improving beautifying the Town and ultimately the County and State of Maryland.

MOSQUITO SPRAYING SCHEDULE – Mosquito spraying will start the week of June 15th for the Riverdale Park area and will continue every 3 weeks until the middle of September. Mosquito spraying in Riverdale Park will be on Tuesday evenings. **Note:** Please remember to empty any containers with standing water, pools not in use, old tires or any kind of container that may hold water.

Mosquito spraying will start the week of June 15th for the Riverdale Park area and will continue every 3 weeks until the middle of September. Mosquito spraying in Riverdale Park will be on Tuesday evenings.

To prevent mosquito breeding, please note that mosquitoes can breed in any water-holding container including bird baths, wading pools, pet watering dishes, tin cans, old tires, clogged gutters or flower pots. To prevent mosquito breeding in these areas, water should be changed weekly in bird baths, wading pools and pet dishes, gutters should be cleaned at least twice a year, and other water-holding containers should be disposed of or stored upside down. It is the citizens’ responsibility to make sure their property is free of water-holding containers.

Tips to rid your community of mosquito breeding sites

- Clean rain gutters to allow water to flow freely
- Remove old tires or drill drainage holes in tires used for playground equipment
- Store plastic wading pools inside or turn them upside down when not in use
- Turn over or remove clay pots and plastic containers
- Dispose of all empty beverage containers, plastic wrappers, discarded toys, etc.
- Check for trapped water in plastic or canvas tarps used to cover boats, pools, etc. Arrange the tarp to rain the water
- Pump out bilges in boats, turn canoes and small boats upside down for storage
- Replace pet food and water dishes that are not being used

- Don’t leave garbage can lids lying upside-down, be sure water does not collect in the bottom of garbage cans
- Flush water in the bottom of plant holders twice a week
- Fix dripping outside water faucets
- Turn wheelbarrows upside down when stores outside
- Check ornamental ponds, tree holes and water holding low areas for mosquito larvae. Call the nearest Mosquito control Office if you suspect, mosquito larvae are present (301)373-4263.
- If ditches do not flow and contain stagnant water for one week or longer, they can produce large numbers of mosquitoes, Report such conditions to Mosquito Control Office. Do not attempt to clear these ditches because they may be protected by wetland regulations.
- Avoid areas of high mosquito infestation
- Avoid unnecessary outdoor activities at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active
- Wear long pants, long sleeve shirts and hat when outdoors
- Use mosquito repellants containing DEET. Consult a physician before applying DEET young children
- Restrict the outdoor lay of your children if mosquitoes are present
- Inspect basements and crawl spaces. If they are flooded, drain as quickly as possible.

TRASH COLLECTION SERVICE

Regular trash collection will not be affected by the holiday (4th of July) since it will be on Saturday. However, Saturday drop-off service at the yard will not be available since the 4th is a holiday.

Labor Day - There will be **no trash collection on Monday, September 7th, (Labor Day)**. The next regular trash collection will be on Thursday, September 10th.

FALL AND WINTER PREPARATIONS

With the temperature soaring it is difficult to imagine the falling leaves of Fall or the icy bite of Winter, however, that is exactly what DPW is doing. To prepare for the upcoming fall and winter seasons, Public Works is in the process of reviewing its inventory and equipment for the upcoming months. As the season grows nearer the department will be providing scheduling information to the public.



Boy Scouts Troop 252

By Bob Killen

On a sunny Saturday, 14 June, Troop 252 went to Guppy Gulch, PA, a part of the Broad Creek Boy Scout Camp (huge and spread out) complex. While en route, we discussed Eagle Projects with our Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders, Joel Sandoval and Ismael Vallelta, two of our soon-to-be Eagle Scouts. Two of our younger Scouts, Tenderfeet Michael Delaney and Samir Saleh, participated actively in the discussion, bringing forth several good ideas, which Joel and Ismael accepted readily, adding the ideas to their notes. We arrived at Camp Spencer, Broad Creek, Baltimore Area Council, BSA's camp, in plenty of time to enjoy all of the activities. The Camp Director gave us directions (nebulous) to Guppy Gulch, an extension of Broad Creek Camp. Off we went.

We had a great time once we found Guppy Gulch. It is in a smallish sparsely-populated rural area, at the end of a slate quarry, relatively near Delta-Cardiff, PA. There were swimming activities exclusively. The place has several rafts in deep (Disney-blue) water, and our Scouts were invited to swim out to one of the rafts. Non-swimmers wore PFDs and joined in the fun. Mike, the leader, also swam out to the raft, and instructed everyone to get to one side, submerging it, causing some of the Scouts to fall overboard. Then to the other side - same deal! He had several Life Guards in canoes in the vicinity in case of a problem. Our Scouts loved it, and there were no problems!

Our younger Scouts earned rank credit for using a ring buoy for water rescue, first tossing it to a "victim," and pulling the "victim" to the dock, then swimming out with it and towing another "victim" to "safety."

After several raft dunkings, we went to another area, where we slid down a water slide, dropping into the 20 ft. deep quarry water, airborne for about 5 feet. Everyone except Michael made repeat trips up the ladder for the slide/splash ride.

Next we went to a third area, where we jousted (Maryland's State Sport), first on a beam over the water (with spotters for safety), then in canoes. Many of our Scouts not only were knocked out of their canoe into the water, but when they reached the surface, they discovered that their canoe had been overturned, too, and they learned how to re-float a canoe, even in deep water, using another canoe. Great fun, and instructional (tiring, too).

Mrs. Sandoval and her girls slipped away, driving to the Delta (PA) Pizza shoppe, returning with many pizzas and soda, which magically (almost immediately) disappeared down the gullets of the starving Scouts, who hadn't eaten since breakfast. The ride home was quiet.

June 20, our 15-year-old Senior Patrol Leader, Yorman Amador, and our 71-year-old Scoutmater, Bob Killen, plan to compete in the Bath, VA. Triathlon, swimming 750 meters, bicycling 20 km, and running 5 km. We'll report back the results next issue of the Crier.

We're planning our summer activities, now, to include, but not limited to, swimming, tubing, bicycling, hiking, boat-

ing, fishing and long-term camping. We may bicycle the entire (184 miles) length of the C&O Canal Towpath again, camping along the way, so if you wish to have your son join us in the fun, feel free to contact Bob Killen, (rfkille@yahoo) or MHB, Charter Organization Representative/Committee Chair (301) 864-0059. We meet Friday evenings- 7-9 PM.



Inaugural Ward Three Block Party a Success!

By Alex Hirtle

Saturday, May 30th seemed just like another warm sunny spring day in the Town of Riverdale Park. But by mid-morning, some residents on Madison Street noticed several neighbors preparing for what would be the first Ward Three Block Party in the Town's recent history. In an attempt to get to know their neighbors better and bring the citizens of Ward Three together for a neighborhood-wide event, Jodi Hammer and Alex Hirtle who reside at the 4800 block of Madison Street organized a block party.

Working with Councilman David Lingua, several neighbors, and other residents in the community, Jodi and Alex planned the spring activity by knocking on doors and talking up the event, leaving flyers at houses, and posting signs within the ward. They also coordinated with Public Works to have their section of Madison Street blocked off to through-traffic for pedestrian safety, and had the Department deliver tables, chairs, and tents so guests had plenty of seating and areas to place food.

Speaking of food, the party was a potluck, so neighbors brought bean and fresh fruit salads, casserole dishes, scrumptious desserts, and plenty of burgers, dogs, and drinks. The selection of food was varied, and no one went hungry! Plenty of children's activities were available also, including body stickers, catch-cones, paddle and balls, coloring books, and markers & paper. But the most popular activity appeared to be sidewalk chalk, where the talent of our youth was displayed throughout the street and on several driveways, with pictures of dragons, flowers, portraits, and some very unique designs. Maybe this is the budding of a local artist guild?

The closed-off street also proved very popular with the local bicyclists, as nearly a dozen riders cruised the street back and forth, proudly displaying their wheels. Guests came and went during the three-hour event, and about 60 persons total participated, including former Councilwoman Sargusingh and Councilman Lingua, and former Mayor Mike Herman and Mayor Archer.



Many thanks to numerous neighbors and residents who pitched in, as well as the Mayor, Council, town staff, and Department of Public Works, all who were a great help in making this event a success. Hopefully this is the first of many future block parties. Want to get to know your neighbors better and have some great fun? Throw a block party in your ward, and don't forget to bring the street chalk!

Community Circles

Upcoming Events

Farmer's Market Music for July/August

- 7/2 Rick Franklin
- 7/9 Liz Lohr
- 7/16 Snakehead Run
- 7/23 the Archie Edwards Jambassadors
- 7/27 Dave Laflur
- 8/6 Snake head Run
- 8/13 Liz Lohr
- 8/20 Archie Edwards Jambassadors
- 8/27 Eric Brooks

July 4th in Riverdale Park

Riverdale Park Arts Council presents the first annual old fashion Home Town 4th of July Celebration in town center from **1:00 to 6:00 4th of July Afternoon**. Event will include a speech by Our Police Chief Chambers Riverdale Park Volunteer Fire Department will offer free freeze pops to all the children. Fire engine and ambulance will be there for tours. There will be fire prevention tips and activities for children and adults including a Blood Pressure Station. The Fire department will also provide Hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, soda, and water for sale. We will have a bicycle raffle that includes a bike, a helmet and a lock. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. You can buy them at the farm market music table or on the day of the event. There will be bicycle Rodeo, a kids' Kraft Table Music provided throughout the event by The Scrub Pines, the Paint Branch Ramblers, Members of the University of Maryland Band and others. Come out and enjoy this fun and more. We look forward to seeing you

Interested In Aviation and Emergency Services?

Join the Civil Air Patrol Cadet program!!! Youth from 12 to

18 years of age are eligible to join this outstanding aviation based leadership training program.

Through Civil Air Patrol's Cadet Program, young people develop leadership skills, learn about aviation, and participate in search & rescue missions. Activities include flying, camping, color guard, and an international Aviation Cadet Exchange!

College Park Squadron meets the first four Wednesdays each month from 7:15-9:15 PM in the Hap Arnold Center (1985 Cpl. Frank Scott Drive) at College Park Airport, College Park, MD. Learn more at www.MDcap.org or call 1-800-FLY-233

Soldiers Depart for Iraq

J. Sager, Captain, Civil Air Patrol
Public Affairs Officer

Soldiers from the 354th Civil Affairs Brigade (Special Functions Team) depart Riverdale, MD for Iraq over Memorial Day weekend.



Pictured left to right:

Lt Colonel FEDERICO, GINA ; Lt Colonel KLOTZ, FRANK; CPT RODRIGUEZ, EVIA; Lt Colonel HAGAN, JAMES; Master Sgt NIEVES, ISLYN Lt Colonel CHAPMAN, MARK; Colonel MORALES, SYLVIA (Commander of the Special Functions Team); Captain KODAK, JAMES; Lt Colonel VESSELS, PATRICK; Lt Colonel SALATA, JOHN; Lt Colonel JOHNSON, RICH; Lt Colonel TOTH, CHRISTOPHER