



The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

September 2009

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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)

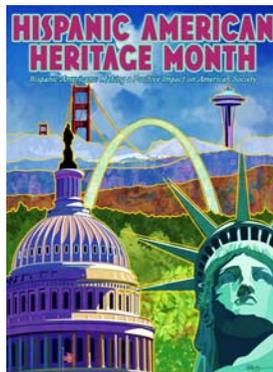
Every Thursday by the Department of Public Works

Riverdale Park Day
Saturday, October 3rd, 2009 12-5 p.m.
Riversdale Mansion



Live Music, open mic featuring Town Musicians, food vendors, games, contests, prizes for all ages! Moon bounce, pony rides, and a petting zoo! Join your neighbors and Town officials in the celebration of Riverdale Park Day. Bring a blanket and spend the day on the grounds of the Riversdale Mansion. If any vendors would like to sign up for a booth please contact 301-927-6381 for more information.

Hispanic American Heritage Month
September 15th thru October 15th



This is the period to recognize the contributions of Hispanic Americans to the United States and to celebrate Hispanic heritage and culture. September 15 was chosen as the starting point for the celebration because it is the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. They all declared independence in 1821. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively.

Mes de la Hispanidad
15 de Septiembre al 15 de Octubre

Este es el periodo en el que se reconocen las contribuciones de los Hispanos Americanos que están en los Estados Unidos y para celebrar la herencia y la cultura hispana. El 15 de Septiembre fue escogido como el punto de partida porque es cuando cinco diferentes países en Latino América celebran su Aniversario de Independencia: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras y Nicaragua. Todos ellos se declararon Independencia en 1821. En adición, México y Chile celebran su Independencia el 16 y 18 de Septiembre respectivamente

Council Actions
Special Legislative Meeting
June 22, 2009

1. **Approved-** The Capital & Operating Budget for F/Y 09-10.
2. **Approved-**To amend the Capital & Operating Budget for F/Y 08- 09 if needed.
3. **Approved with restrictions** - a 6ft. stockade fence on property line located at 6112 44th Ave., for Daisy Miller & Brian Needleman. (Ward 1)
4. **Approved** -“Restricted Parking” on Silk Tree Drive on Friday, July 3, 2009, to hold a Madison Hill Block Party, from 3:30 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.

Council Actions
Regular Legislative Meeting
For July 6, 2009

1. **Approved W/ corrections-** Minutes for June 1, 2009 regular legislative meeting.
2. **Not Approved** –A dance permit for the Alamo Mexican Restaurant LLC, located at 5508 Kenilworth Avenue, Riverdale Park, MD. 7/1/09 – 12/31/09 on Friday, Saturday & Sunday evenings from 9:00 p.m. until 3:00 a.m. (Ward 6)

Code Corner

By Colleen Ferguson

Any businesses operating within the Town of Riverdale Park is required to obtain a current Riverdale Park Business License. If you should have any questions or comments, please visit the Town Website www.riverdaleparkmd.info or call the Code Enforcement Division at 240-898-2500.

§ 42-1. License required. [Amended 11-3-75; 6-1-81; 6-15-84. Amended 2-6-95, effective 2-26-95.]

No person, firm, partnership, association, or corporation located in or operating from or in the Town of Riverdale Park shall barter, sell, or otherwise dispose of for any valuable consideration or offer for sale any goods, chattels, wares, or other merchandise or services, or operate or engage in the soliciting of a business, which is defined as any commercial, industrial, service, professional, or retail establishment or activity operated for profit, without first obtaining a license from the town in the manner and form prescribed for the purpose; provided, however, that this requirement shall not apply to activities conducted on behalf of the Riverdale Fire Department, Inc., or for exclusively religious, charitable, or educational purposes.

§ 42-2. Application for license; condition of issuance. [Added 6-15-84. Amended 3-1-99, effective 3-1-99] Application for licenses shall be made to the Town Administrator, and no license shall be granted until payment for the same has been made. No license or renewal of a license shall be granted unless the licensee owes no outstanding fines or bills to the Town, or in the event that fines or bills are owing, there has been no exhaustion of remedies provided for in the Ordinance Code or Town Charter for those fines or bills. Every license application shall specify by name the person, firm, or corporation to which it

Town of Riverdale Park

www.riverdaleparkmd.info

Town Hall

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

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

Council Members

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

Ward 2 – Alan Thompson
Chair, Finance Committee, 301-779-2169
twack@gmail.com

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

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

Ward 5 – 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. Prangle, **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 in-**
fo@riverdalevfd.com, www.riverdalevfd.com
om or, [Riverdalefire-
chief7@gmail.com](mailto:Riverdalefire-chief7@gmail.com)

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

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

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

Submission deadline: 15th of each month.

Submit all copy to
rptowncrier@comcast.net

shall be issued, the business, trade, profession, or calling for which it is granted and the location at which such business, trade, profession, or calling is to be carried on. Licenses granted under the terms of this ordinance may not be assigned or transferred to another. The resident, owner or, in the case of nonresident ownership, the manager, superintendent or person actually carrying on the business, shall be responsible for obtaining the license herein required.

§ 42-3. License forms and terms; determination of fees. [Added 6-15-84.] Licenses shall be in the form and tenor herein outlined and the term of the license year shall begin July 1 and extend to and include June 30 of the following year. The fee in each case for a town business license shall be such as in the determination of the Mayor and Council will be sufficient to cover all costs of regulation, issuance of licenses, inspections, health regulation, supervision, policing and other

Receive Instant Notifications from the Riverdale Park Police Dept., Public Works Dept., and Town Offices through “NIXLE”

Teresa C. Chambers, Chief of Police
For more information, please email tchambers@riverdaleparkpolice.org.

National Night Out events throughout Riverdale Park on August 4, 2009, served as the official start-up of a new endeavor by the Town of Riverdale Park, Maryland, and its police department.

Riverdale Park has become only the sixth jurisdiction in the State of Maryland to partner with Nixle, a new community information service designed to deliver important and timely information to residents using the latest technology. This service accurately and immediately delivers trustworthy and important neighborhood-level public safety and community event notifications by web, e-mail, and cell phone. It uses the same compelling model as social applications, such as Twitter and Facebook, while adding the identity certification that is critical to ensure information received by users is trusted and accurate.

Nixle is a community information service provider built exclusively to provide secure and reliable communications. Its authenticated service allows police departments, other government agencies, and community organizations to directly communicate trusted information to persons located in precise geographically targeted areas – over citizens’ cell phones (via text messages), through e-mails, and through web access. Nixle is offered at no cost to governments, their agencies and organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and consumers. Residents of Riverdale Park and those in neighboring

regulatory activities or expenditures and which are deemed necessary to protect the public health, safety, and morals.

§ 42-4. Separate license required for each business; payment of fee; formal financial statement. [Amended 6-1-81.]

If the business conducted on any premises includes activities within more than one (1) of the foregoing classifications, a separate license shall be required for each such business. All applications for licenses, along with the appropriate fee, shall be filed with the Town Administrator. No license shall be issued until the prescribed fee is paid. At the option of the Mayor and Council, a formal financial statement (i.e., an audited income statement for a corporation and income tax returns for proprietorships and partnerships) may be required of any business license applicant.

communities can begin to immediately receive pertinent information via text message, email, and web by registering at www.nixle.com. Specific directions for registering are provided in the following pages of this edition of the Town Crier.

Riverdale Park Mayor Vernon Archer stated, “I am excited about a tool that will help families make rational decisions if confronted with emergencies or calamity.” He noted that the town will also be able to utilize this tool to keep residents and nearby communities informed about upcoming events, legislative matters, and the like.

As you and neighboring police departments and communities join Nixle, the ability to communicate directly and almost immediately with citizens, businesses, churches, schools, and other law enforcement officials will greatly enhance the overall safety of our communities. When our residents receive a notification from us regarding an emergency – whether it pertains to a crime that just occurred, a lost child, a description of a vehicle wanted in a crime, or any other public safety related matter – other persons and organizations within the targeted radius of the message we send will instantaneously receive this information. Law enforcement entities across the country have struggled for years to find ways to communicate efficiently with each other and with the communities they serve, and Nixle has provided us a tool to do so.

“Nixle is a first-of-its-kind tool for communities that need to provide critical information to their residents,” said Nixle founder and CEO Craig Mitnick. “When it comes to public safety information, you have to trust the source. Residents of Riverdale Park can rest easy that the local messages they receive are authentic.”

Please take a moment, sign up at www.nixle.com, and become a hands-on partner in helping to keep the Town of Riverdale Park safe, clean, and beautiful.

About Nixle

Nixle is a community information service provider built exclusively to provide secure and reliable communications. It is the first authenticated and secure service that connects municipal agencies and community organizations to residents in real time, delivering information to geographically targeted consumers over their cell phones (via text messages), through e-mails and via Web access. Nixle has secured a partnership with Nlets (the International Justice and Public Safety Network), allowing local police departments nationwide to send immediate alerts and advisories. Privately funded Nixle, which has offices in New Jersey and California, is free to all governments, their agencies and organizations, nongovernmental organizations and consumers. For more information, visit www.nixle.com.

nixle

America's New Community Information Service



**Receive up-to-date information affecting
your neighborhood by e-mail & text message!**

To Register

Go to www.nixle.com

Click "Register Now"

Create an account by choosing a User Name and Password

Enter an e-mail address and cell phone number where you would like to receive messages

Enter your address (or a nearby intersection)

Click "Sign Me Up" – and you're done!

To Customize

Log in at www.nixle.com

Click "Locations"

Click "Add New" to add addresses in town or around the country. Is your child away at college?

Do your parents live out of the area? Keep track of what's happening near your loved ones and the places you work, live, or visit.

Click "Other" to subscribe to Nixle Weather & Nixle Traffic updates

Click "Settings"

Subscribe to agencies in your area and choose where you want to receive messages. Adjust which messages by priority level go to your e-mail or cell phone.

Our team of engineering, public safety, and communications professionals have worked very hard to develop a system that "connects communities." We truly believe that the best way to build stronger neighborhoods is to improve communication. Enjoy America's New Community Information Service!

Need assistance? Send e-mail to support@nixle.com and your question will be answered within 24 hours.



Nuevo Servicio de Información en América para la Comunidad



Recibe Información Actualizada que afecta A tu vecindario vía e-mail o mensaje de texto!

Para Registrarse

Vaya a www.nixle.com

Clic en “Regístrate Ahora”

Crea una cuenta al escoger una contraseña y un nombre de usuario

Entra tu dirección de correo electrónico y un número de celular donde tú recibirás los mensajes

Entra tu dirección (o una intersección cerca de donde tú vives) Clic “Suscribirme” - y ya está listo!

Para Personalizar

Vaya a www.nixle.com

Clic “Locaciones”

Clic “Agregar una Nueva” para agregar una dirección en la ciudad o alrededor del país.

Es tu hijo en la Universidad? Tus padres viven fuera del área? Sigue de vista lo que está pasando cerca de los que amas en los lugares donde trabajas, vives o visitas.

Clic “Otro” para suscribirte a Nixle Tiempo &

Nixle Trafico para mantenerte actualizado

Clic “Ajustes” Suscríbete a las agencias en tu área y escoge a donde quieres recibir tus mensajes. Ajusta tus mensajes con nivel de prioridad que vayan a tu correo o a tu celular.

Nuestro equipo de ingenieros, seguridad pública y comunicaciones públicas han trabajado fuertemente para desarrollar un sistema que “Conecte Comunidades.”

Nosotros verdaderamente confiamos que la mejor manera de construir comunidades más fuertes es mejorando la comunicación. Disfruta nuestro nuevo Servicio de Información en América para la Comunidad!

Necesitas asistencia? Mándanos un E-mail a support@nixle.com y tus preguntas serán contestadas en un lapso de 24 horas.

Town Administrator Prangley Awarded Lifetime Achievement by Prince George's County Municipal Association

By Verence G. Ciciliano

Town Administrator Prangley was honored by Prince George's County Municipal Association, the Lifetime Achievement Award after Administrator Prangley recently graduated at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government State and Local Government program. During the annual Maryland Municipal League Conference with Town officials, the Prince Georges County Municipal Assoc. Board, President Emeritus Micah Watson, Vice Mayor, Cheverly and Darrel Miller board member, Mayor of Capitol Heights presented on behalf of the Directors of the Prince Georges Municipal Association to Administrator Prangley the 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award "In Recognition of his three decades of exemplary professional service to the Town of Riverdale Park and Prince George's County. Town Administrator Prangley formally served as President of the Maryland City and County Management Association; President of the Maryland Municipal League City and Town Administrator/Managers Department; President of City and Town Administrator/Managers of the Prince George's Municipal Association. Administrator Prangley also served on various committees around the state, helping other communities chose their town administrator and offering to colleagues on every aspect of Municipal Operations. Administrator Prangley thanked everyone for this surprise recognition and stated further that it has been an honor to serve as Town Administrator for the Town of Riverdale Park for 30 years and Town Manager of Berwyn Heights for 2 years and also being a member of the Prince Georges Municipal Association.



Riversdale Events

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.

September's *Seasonal Selection* is *Health Nut*. It is scheduled for Sunday, September 20, 2009, from 12 noon – 3:30 pm. The Riversdale Kitchen Guild highlights recipes from the 19th century whole foods movement, including Graham crackers, the invention of dietary reformer Sylvester Graham.

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. Purchase tickets at the Visitor Center.

HANDS-ON HISTORY: THE TOYMAKER'S AP- PRENTICE

Riverdale Park – Prepare to step back in time! Spend the school holiday, Friday, September 25, at Riversdale House Museum. The program runs from 10 am – 3 pm and is open to children ages 8 – 12. In the early 19th century, young people learned crafts and trades through apprenticeship. Riversdale continues its series of hands-on apprenticeship programs with the craft of the toymaker. Participants will make toys similar to those used by the Calvert children, who lived here in the early 19th century.

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, September 21.

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

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.).

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



Riverdale Park Town Administrator to step down.

by Elahe Izadi / Staff Writer, The Gazette

When asked about his past 30 years in Riverdale Park, Town Administrator Pat Prangley speaks little about himself. Instead, he pulls out maps and explains how projects were funded, roads were built and mayor's goals were met.



Prangley is set to retire from Riverdale Park this October after a 30-year stint as the town administrator. He's enrolling in a graduate program at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, and this week he begins the prestigious university's three week-long Senior Executives in State and Local Government Program, which is a case study for current elected and appointed state and local government officials. "Right before 30 years [on the job] I said, 'You know what? I have a passion to go back to school, keep my body active and my mind active until the day I die,'" Prangley, a Hyattsville native and Olney resident, said.

Prangley came to Riverdale Park after working two years as Berwyn Heights' town administrator, thinking he wouldn't stay in Riverdale Park for more than four years. But he was inspired by the town's history and being a public servant. His mother, Mary K. Prangley, was a former Hyattsville mayor and his father, Robert V. Prangley, served on the City Council. "They were my driving force to go into public service," Prangley said. Prangley's footprints are now all over Riverdale Park, from the police headquarters to his first project — Town Hall. "You get tremendous satisfaction when you come up East West Highway and you see all these buildings there," he said.

"You had your hand in this." Former Riverdale Park councilman and Mayor Guy Tiberio worked with Prangley on a number of projects since the 1970s. "Annexation was probably one of our greatest achievements over the years and he worked very hard over the years to make sure we did everything legally and got it done right," Tiberio said.

Prangley said during his 30 years, the town's tax based increased from less than \$50 million to \$500 million, thanks in part to annexations of commercial land and developments like University of Maryland's M Square Research Park. He said "it's secured our financial future."

Prangley has worked under 17 different administrations. He described a large portion of his job as "serving at the pleasure of the mayor and council." Current Mayor Vernon Archer met Prangley 13 years ago when he first became involved with the town. "He was kind of the rock, the stability in so many instances and it was kind of me growing," Archer said. One of Prangley's strengths was encouraging the town to interact with other towns, the county and state governments, Archer said. "He just seemingly knows everybody. And if he doesn't know precisely who to go to, he knows the first step," Archer said. Jim Peck, research director at the Maryland Municipal League, said it's "highly unusual" for a town administrator to work 30 years in one town and only knows of one other current town administrator in Maryland, Pocomoke City's City Manager Russell W. Blake, who has put in more than 30 years in the same town. Peck said high turnover can be because town managers move to larger towns with higher pay scales and regular elections change town dynamics.

"I believe the average tenure for a municipal manager is perhaps as little as 2.5 years," Peck said, adding that Prangley's long tenure "says that the person has a fairly extraordinary ability to adapt to various elected officials over a long period of time and relate with them in a positive fashion." Tiberio said he encouraged Prangley to apply for more prominent jobs "although I would have hated to lose him."

"Many times I said, 'Pat, get out of here and go somewhere bigger.' But he stayed and I'm just proud of the guy," Tiberio said.

Archer said although he knew Prangley was thinking retiring once he hit his 30-th anniversary in the town in March, it will still be strange not to have such a common figure around anymore. "It's clearly the end of an era," Archer said. "It does seem really odd to think that in a short period of time that he's not going to be here." Prangley "really gets into projects that are assigned to him," Tiberio said, like his next assignment, helping the town recruit the next administrator.

It may be his final official project for Riverdale Park—he said he'll always lend a helping hand to the town—but it's one that he's just as excited about as the other projects he's worked on over the past 30 years. "My mother told once me what's great about this job is you're behind the scenes constantly, and there's going to be a day when we give back and we want to be there for the next generation," Prangley said. "I'll have a vested interest in this community for the rest of my life."

HISPANIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Hispanic Americans: Making a Positive Impact on American Society



Mayor's Report

By Mayor Vernon Archer

Community Center Public Hearing

I have exciting news and an invitation I want to extend to you! Riverdale Park will hold a public hearing on Saturday September 19th from 10 AM to Noon at our Town Hall (5008 Queensbury Road, Riverdale Park) to get input regarding the creation of a community center.

As you may know, the council put aside some seed money to leverage funds from regional entities—such as Park and Planning—as well as the state to create such a center. We also have several pieces of land that could either be used for the center or sold and the proceeds used to buy a more suitable sight.

The meeting will focus on gathering information about what stakeholders, both individuals and organizations, want from a community center. As the Town moves to solidify its plans we need input about what types of activities, organizations, and functions the facility will need to accommodate. We also need to discuss what physical location will best serve our entire community.

The Town is not just looking for partners in the building the center but also to operate it. We both want and need other entities to partner with us in making our dream of a community center become a reality.

So please join us on Saturday the 19th and help Riverdale Park create a center from which our community can grow for decades to come.

Landscaping the New Addition to Town Hall—Volunteers Needed

After completing the addition of 800+ square feet of office space on our Town Hall earlier in the summer we need some landscape improvements on the north side of the building. In these difficult economic times I am happy to report that we have lined up the means to do a high quality job using volunteer labor. Only the plants will cost us, the tax payers, anything.

First, the initial design work was contributed by Jan Townsend of the Neighborhood Design Center. Jan and the NDC have contributed substantial work to our town over the years and we in turn have worked to back her efforts to stay funded through a variety of grant resources. Thanks, once again, to Jan for coming through for Riverdale Park.

The actual “dirt” work will be coordinated by Mario Hernandez, who is very active in our Sister Cities program with Ipala through the Ipalan immigrants’ community living in our area. While there are sufficient volunteers already coming out through Mario’s call to the Ipalans, I ask residents of Riverdale Park to join us in a Saturday of beautifying our town and building bridges with the immigrant community.

The landscaping will begin at 8:30 AM on Saturday the 26th of September at Town Hall and hopefully finish up around Noon. If you like to work in the garden, come out and give the town a few hours and maybe make a new friend!

Farewell to Pat Prangle

September 30 will mark the end of an era in Riverdale Park with the retirement of Town Administrator Pat Prangle after more than 30 years of service to our community. A great deal of what is right about our town happened because of Mr. Prangle, though often his contribution was overshadowed by the administrations that he worked for.

I don’t feel it correct to comment about his contributions prior to my becoming mayor a little more than four years ago, but just since I took the helm Pat’s contributions have been impressive. He: 1) administered every aspect of the town wide infrastructure project of FY 2007—the biggest streets project in town history; 2) oversaw the bidding and initial design of the Town Hall expansion; and 3) proposed and administered 4 CDBG Block Grants to further improve our streetscape to name just a few of the bigger ticket items.

We will be celebrating with Pat as he moves on to new ventures and adventures. At press time we don’t have a date for his retirement celebration, but we will make sure that the community is made aware of it when a time and place is settled on through our internet site, email list serves and the local press.

Pat will be fondly remembered and sorely missed.

Search for a New Town Administrator

One of the heaviest tasks I’ve had to take on as mayor is that of finding a new town administrator. At the time of writing this (August 25th) I have managed to whittle down a large group of quality candidates to just a few. I hope to bring a formal nominee to the council and town at large by mid to late September, thereby having little if any break after Pat Prangle’s departure. Stay tuned!

School Started—watch for the kids!

Ward and Committee Reports

Ward Two Report

By Council Member Alan Thompson
twacks@gmail.com

Finance Committee Report

I am pleased to report that the Town's budget for 2008-2009 was closed out, and the budget for 2009-2010 was enacted. In the upcoming budget, the council played it safe in both revenue estimates and anticipated expenditures. We were able to keep the tax rate at the same level as last year without significantly impacting services. Additionally, the town should close out the current fiscal year with a replenished "rainy day" fund.

As chair of the finance committee, one of my responsibilities at this time is to work with the Mayor and department heads to screen candidates to replace retiring Town Administrator Pat Prangley. I spent several hours this morning reviewing resumes of seven well-qualified applicants, and will participate in an initial round of interviews with them later this week. While Mr. Prangley will be leaving a big pair of shoes to fill, I am confident having read the resumes that we can hire an excellent administrator to fill his position.

I encourage Ward 2 residents to attend a meeting to be held on Saturday, September 19 at 10:00 am to prepare to build a new Community Center. I attended an initial meeting in late July, and the Center could possibly be located in Ward 2. This is just the beginning of a process that will likely take a few years, but many decisions (including the location of the center, size of the center, and what activities will happen there) are likely to be made before next summer.

Ward Four Report

By Council Member Christopher Henry
chenry3240@comcast.net

Public Safety Report

The National Night Out celebration in Ward 4 was a fantastic example of our community at its best... neighbors grilling for neighbors to enjoy, Police Officers on hand interacting with the residents and the Publics Works Department making sure all items were put together and taken down. Everyone had a great time. As fantastic as NNO was, community involvement and saying NO to crime should not only occur one night a year, it should be a daily way of life. If you see something suspicious-something just not right call the Riverdale Park Police Department 301-927-4343. Neighbors watching out for Neighbors + Community Involvement=

A Safe, Clean and Beautiful Riverdale Park. Remember to receive first alerts and look out for our community-register with NIXLE at www.nixle.com

School will soon be in session, this is a good-time for residents to make sure their sidewalks are clear for pedestrian passage. Drivers are reminded to obey all speed limits and to be aware of School Zone areas.

Reminder for all residents:

Visit the Riverdale Park Farmer's Market, Thursdays 3 pm – 7 pm, until November at the Riverdale Park Town Center.

Riverdale Park Day is Saturday, October 3, 2009 at the Riversdale Mansion on Riverdale Road.

Ward Five Report

By Council Member Raymond Rivas
rayray2448@comcast.net

Community Affairs Report

Town of Riverdale Park is becoming a very versatile and exquisite neighborhood that I am proud to say, "I reside here". We have so many impressive things going on within the various departments. With the Economics, Marketing, Police, Parks, and recreational planning departments combining together, they have upgraded the quality of life in the Town of Riverdale Park. You can physically see the improvements as well as smelling the aura when outing about town. We must embrace and cherish the noticeable changes in our community.

I thank all that came to the National Night Out on August 4, 2009. We were very successful in distributing literature regarding safety, 911 emergency and other awareness programs. Most of all, the community was able to mingle with our mighty police force. The Nixle demonstration from Chief Chambers was very enlightening; the demonstration reassured us all that the Police Department has access to the latest technology in distributing emergency alerts.

Come one and come all to the Riverdale Park Day on October 3, 2009. In the preservation of Riversdale Mansion and keeping with tradition, we honor the Calvert family by observing them on this historical day. Please join us in celebrating and participating in all the fun activities scheduled for the day between 12:00pm to 5:00pm @ 4811 Riverdale Road. If any vendors would like to sign up for a booth please contact 301-927-6381 for more information.

I thank you and look forward to meeting and having fun with you all.

Ward Six Report

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

Legislative Committee Report

Thank you Ward 6 residents for showing a strong community presence on Tuesday, August 6, 2009 at the National Night-Out, it was a great time and a huge success. Over fifty Ward 6 residents registered to receive the NIXLE instant notifications of alerts in and around our town! Anyone who didn't register but would like to do so can visit www.nixle.com for further instructions.



A big THANK YOU to the following persons/businesses whose community involvement, donations and contributions made the Ward 6 National Night Out a huge success:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Mega Mart Supermarket- | Riverdale Rd |
| La Grande Grocery..... | Riverdale Rd, |
| Riverdale Plaza | |
| A and S Furniture..... | Kenilworth Ave |
| LaFlor DePuebla Bakery..... | Kenilworth Ave |
| Giant Grocery..... | Greenbelt Road |
| Costco..... | Beltsville, MD |
| Riverdale Park Fire Dept. Co7..... | Queensbury Rd |
| Christian Life Center | Taylor Rd |

Hot dogs, rolls, sodas, water, bakery items, gift certificates, book-bags, school supplies and other items were donated by the above businesses for the Ward 6 National Night Out. Thanks Co. 7 for use of your kitchen!!!!

THANK YOU ALL—YOUR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND DONATIONS WERE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED.

THANK YOU JEFFERSON HALL and FINE-SA GROUP for allowing the National Night Out celebration to take place on the property of the Jefferson Hall Apartments. The music you also provided was festive and enjoyable. Thank you.

Thank you to the Public Works Department Director Addison, James and Sam who put up our tents and assisted with our clean-up. Thank you Ramonia and Anna, your assistance with the food-line and your creativity with give-away ideas were invaluable! Thank you to

Corporal German Garcia who was available to discuss issues with the residents during the NNO.

On behalf of Ward 6 I would like to extend a thank you to the Riverdale Park Code Enforcement Team- Code Officers Brittany Hewison and Rudy Castro: Your efforts in organizing the donated items and your dedication to our community were the reasons behind the success of the Ward 6 NNO.

Riverdale Park Day is Saturday, October 3, 2009: Food, Fun and a lot of Activities...see you there!

Public Works Report

By Leonard Addison

LABOR DAY - There will be **NO TRASH COLLECTED on MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH, (Labor Day)**. The next trash collection day will be on **Thursday, September 10th**.

STREET SWEEPER

– Our street sweeper has undergone major repairs for the first half of the summer. Fortunately, the machine is now up and operational.



Bulk Trash – Reminder to all residents that Bulk Trash is picked up on Wednesdays by appointment only. Please contact Bates Trucking at (301) 773-2069 before 2:00 PM on Tuesdays. Failure to put out bulk trash items on the designated day will result in the issuance of code violations and fines.

Thank You - The US Postal Service has completed cleaning their parking lot and inlet to eliminate the possibility of flood water run-off at the end of the 4600 block of Tuckerman Street. The Town of Riverdale Park expresses its appreciation to Ms. Melody Gaskins, Postmaster, for her willingness to be a good neighbor by working with the Town to help solve this problem.

Boy Scouts Troop 252

By Bob Killen

June 20, Troop 252's 15-year-old Senior Patrol Leader, Yorman Amador, MHB, our 62-year-old Committee Chair, and our 71-year-old Scoutmater, Bob Killen, attended the Bath, VA. Triathlon, which consisted of swimming 750 meters, bicycling 20 km, and running 5

km. Yorman competed and FINISHED his first triathlon. Bob monitored. MHB photographed the event.

We were scheduled on 26 July to bicycle the Baltimore & Annapolis (B&A) Rails-to-Trails route from Annapolis to Glen Burnie and back (26.6 miles), but all the Scouts had other things to do, so Bob took his 11-year-old grandson, Billy Sellers (WD-40), a Scout in Troop 602 (Baltimore Area Council) and finished the trip in less than 5 hours.

On August 7, we re-visited the opportunity, seized the day, and (Life Scouts) Senior Patrol Leader Yorman Amador and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader Joel Sandoval bicycled more than 50 (fifty) miles on the B&A trail in less than 5 hours. Scribe (Tenderfoot) Michael Delaney and Bob Killen rode 30+ miles, including several miles on the BWI trail. Mr. and Mrs. Delaney rode almost 16 miles, too. Mr. Delaney said that he hadn't been that far on a bicycle since he got his driver's license, 25 years ago.

Summer is flying by, and we still have time for a tubing trip or a fishing trip, so if you wish to have your son join us in the fun, feel free to contact Bob Killen, (*rfkille@yahoo*) or MHB, (301) 864-0059. We meet Friday evenings- 7-9 PM.

The Riverdale Park Business Association

By Carol Patsel

The RPBA's first meeting of the year after summer break will be held on Wednesday, September 9, 2009, 5:30 pm at the Riverdale Park Town offices on Queensbury Road. Who's invited? If you own or work for a business in Riverdale Park, please make plans to attend this meeting.

Plans are in the works for businesses to participate in the Annual Riverdale Park Day at the Riversdale Mansion on Saturday, October 3, 2009. Anyone who may be interested in promoting their businesses during the festivities will have the opportunity to do so at the RPBA meeting on September 9th.

Vector Data Systems installed their microwave Internet access and telephone network at The Dental Group this past summer. They are pleased to announce that their monthly telephone and internet expenses have been reduced by half of what they have been paying. Business owners who may be interested in enjoying similar savings should contact Patrick Shoemaker at 301-358-1690 X36.

Pete Spiropoulos has commercial property for rent. Those who may be interested, please call him at 301-277-9271.

The Old Town Pet Shop has closed. The space is currently available for rent. Please call Bruce Wernek for more details 301-779-6273.

Yorke Properties has residential and vacation rental available. Please call 301-502-1243.

The Dental Group is having a Back to School Special on their Invisalign treatment. (Clear orthodontic aligners) They are offering Free consultation and records (\$250 value) for anyone who starts treatment in September.

Crescent Cities is celebrating their 10 Year Anniversary on October 22, 2009.

The Homestead Credit Program

"You may be eligible to receive a Homestead Credit"

What is the Homestead Credit?

To help homeowners deal with large assessment increases state law has established the Homestead Property Tax Credit. The Homestead Credit limits the increase in taxable assessments each year to a fixed percentage. Every county and municipality in Maryland is required to limit taxable assessment increases to 10% or less each year. Listing of homestead caps for each local government.

The Homestead Credit applies only to the principal residence of the property owner and is based on the total market value for the dwelling and land associated with the dwelling.

Technically, the Homestead Credit does not limit the market value of the property as determined by the Department of Assessments and Taxation. It is actually a credit calculated on any assessment increase exceeding 10% (or the lower cap enacted by the local governments) from one year to the next. The credit is calculated based on the 10% limit for purposes of the State property tax, and 10% or less (as determined by local governments) for purposes of local taxation. In other words, the homeowner pays no property tax on the market value increase which is above the limit.

Where is it Shown?

A quick look at your reassessment notice will tell you if you may be eligible to receive a Homestead Credit. Does the box at the top of the assessment notice page show that the property is the principal residence? Do boxes 8, 9 and 10 show annual increases

of more than 10% (or the lower cap enacted by the local governments) over the prior year? Are boxes 1, 2 or 3 lower than box 8? If you answered yes to these questions, you may be eligible to receive the homestead credit.

Your local government will actually grant the credit when calculating your property tax bill. The net amount, with the credit deducted, will be shown as the tax due. The credit will automatically be granted if you are eligible. No application is required.

Example

Assume that your old assessment was \$100,000 and that your new phased-in assessment for the 1st year is \$120,000. An increase of 10% would result in an assessment of \$110,000. The difference between \$120,000 and \$110,000 is \$10,000. The tax credit would apply to the taxes due on the \$10,000. If the tax rate was \$1.20 per \$100 of assessed value the tax credit would be \$120 ($\$10,000 \div 100 \times \1.20).

Conditions

The tax credit will be granted if the following conditions are met during the previous tax year:

- The property was not transferred to new ownership.
- There was no change in the zoning classification requested by the homeowner resulting in an increase value of the property.
- A substantial change did not occur in the use of the property.
- The previous assessment was not clearly erroneous.

A further condition is that the dwelling must be the owner's principal residence and the owner must have lived in it for at least six months of the year, including July 1 of the year for which the credit is applicable, unless the owner was temporarily unable to do so by reason of illness or need of special care. An owner can receive a credit only on one property - the principal residence.

Appeal Rights

If you have been denied a Homestead Tax Credit and you believe that you are eligible, contact your local assessment office. A final denial of a Homestead Tax Credit by the assessment office may be

appealed within 30 days to the Property Tax Assessment Appeal Board in the jurisdiction where the property is located.

Source: Maryland Dept. of Assessments and Taxation

Robert G. Fuerst, Sr. Former Town Treasurer

Former Town Treasurer Robert George Fuerst Sr., 93, died August 9, 2009 of congestive heart failure at his home in Riverdale Park. He was a chemist who retired from what became the Maryland Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Fuerst was born in Silver Spring, moved to Riverdale Park at the age of 6 and graduated from St. John's Military Academy in the District in 1934. Although he was accepted to the U.S. Naval Academy, he decided to attend the University of Maryland. During World War II, he served as a sergeant in the Army and worked in several hospitals in the Middle East and India.

In 1946, he joined the Board of Agriculture, then under the auspices of the University of Maryland and predecessor to the Maryland Department of Agriculture. He worked as a chemist until retiring in 1974.

In 1949 Mr. Fuerst was elected to Town Council to Represent Ward 3 until 1956. In 1956 Mr. Robert Fuerst was elected Treasurer of the Town of Riverdale Park and served in the capacity until 1974. When the position of Treasurer became an appointed office and Mr. Fuerst came into the Town Office as full-time Clerk Treasurer until He retired.

In retirement, he was a consultant for companies seeking to do business in Riverdale Park. He was a member of St. Jerome Catholic Church in Hyattsville and the Riverdale Lions Club.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION CENTERS

YOU AND YOUR CHILD ARE WELCOMED TO PARTICIPATE
IN THE
RIVERDALE COMMUNITY



COMMUNITY-BASED SMALL GROUP FORUMS FOR YOUTH & THEIR PARENTS!

Conflict Resolution Centers (CRCs) are designed to provide youth (8-18) and their parents with violence prevention and conflict management life skills in safe and caring environments within Prince George's County communities in which they **live, attend school or worship**. **Youth and their parent/guardian will acquire:**

- ∴ Practical conflict resolution skills
- ∴ Good communication skills
- ∴ The ability to handle peer pressure, gangs and dangerous situations
- ∴ The ability to recognize triggers to violence: drugs, alcohol and guns
- ∴ Knowledge of the criminal justice system
- ∴ Skills to bridge racial divisions

Beginning Date: Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Time: 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m., 2 hours per session for Eight (8) consecutive weeks.

Location: **Riverdale Park Town Hall**

5008 Queensbury Road
Riverdale Park, MD 20737
(301) 927-6381

The sessions will focus on relevant issues that plague youth and families today, and hinder communities from being safe and healthy places in which to live. CRCs are small groups that are highly interactive and are led and managed at the community level.

Participant

Certification: Youth and parents will each receive a *Certificate of Achievement* for the successful completion of a 8-week CRC program. *Youth can only participate in a CRC if a parent or legal guardian attends each session with them.*

Parents to enroll your child and yourself, sign up by calling:

Riverdale Park Town Hall, (301) 927-6381 Pastor - Ben Slye (301) 277-5969/301 257-0548
William Wirt Middle School, Mr. Christian, Principal (301) 985-1720

Community Circles

Upcoming Events

Weekly Flea Market

Every Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Eleanor Roosevelt High School. Stop by and find some great buys!

Part-time Position at College Park Aviation Museum

Do you enjoy working with children and are you looking for something to do while your children are in school? We have a part-time position that involves taking children through the museum, talking to them about aviation & aircraft and doing educational crafts or projects. The information is interesting and easy to get across to the public.

No experience needed, just an interest in working with kids in a fun & interactive museum. Museum is walking distance from the College Park (Green Line) metro station and on the grounds of historic College Park Airport in College Park, Md. Average 20-25 hrs/wk, 8/hr. Call the Museum at 301-864-6029, or email us at jane.welsh@pgparks.com

Air Fair 100!

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission will be holding **AirFair 100! at College Park Airport and Aviation Museum on Saturday, August 29** from **10 am-5 pm**. This year's events, including an exciting air show featuring aerobatic performances, celebrate 100 years of flight at College Park Airport. Airplane rides will be featured, along with aircraft displays, children's activities, vendors, entertainment and refreshments. (Government-issued photo ID required for all flight rides.) A 1909 Wright Military Flyer will be unveiled! Bring an envelope or post card and get a special airmail cancellation commemorating 100 years of exciting aviation history. **Admission** is \$4 for adults and \$2 for those ages 2-17. College Park Airport, located at 1909 Corporal Frank Scott Drive in College Park, is easily accessible by Metrorail; it's just a short walk from the Green Line's College Park/University of Maryland station. For more information, call 301-209-1390 or log on to www.pgparks.com.

Civil Air Patrol Cadet Program

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, first aid training, and an international Aviation Cadet Exchange!

College Park Squadron meets the first four Wednesdays each month from 7:00-9:00 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-2338.

St. Bernard's Yard Sale

When: September 19, 2009; 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Where: St. Bernard's School Parking Lot; 5811 Riverdale Road Riverdale, MD 20737
Over 200 spaces available! Space fees are \$10.00. For more information call Frannie Day at 301-779-2917; Tina Trice at 301-277-0191; or St. Bernard's Rectory at 301-277-1000.

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 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.

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