

The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

October 2009

Volume 38, Issue 7

RPAC	Page 1
Council Actions	Page 2
Code Corner	Page 2
Riversdale Events	Page 3
Mayor's Report	Page 4
Ward 2 Report	Page 5
Ward 5 Report	Page 5
Ward 6 Report	Page 6
Public Works Report	Page 6
Boy Scouts	Page 7
Riverdale Fire Dept	Page 7
Our Town	Page 7-8
Community Building	Page 8-9
Princess in Town	Page 9-10
Craft Sale	Page 10
From the Editor	Page 10
Community Circles	Page 11
Calendar	Page 12

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—October 3rd **A Community-Building Event**

By Marita A. Novicky

Riverdale Park Day will be held on the grounds of Riversdale on **Saturday, October 3, 2009 from noon to 5:00 p.m.** This annual event brings together a wide variety of activities, information, and vendors. Ray Rivas, Councilman Ward 5, has led members of the Recreation Board in plans for this annual event.

This year's event theme is "Building Community" and promises to be exciting and well worth your time to attend. Some of the featured event/venues include:

- Live entertainment all afternoon including: Dagmar and the Seductones; Andrea Brown; Kazadores; Alexander Vargas; Balata Group; Ericka Wilson; Miramba-Impala; and Jamie Pajaro Group.
- Moon Bounce and Pony Rides for the kids.
- Sound Stage and live musical groups—watch for more information on Town Talk in the PG. Gazette, and other PR on the event.
- Food venues—RP's own Fire Department will offer their outstanding \$3.00 meal—a hamburger or hotdog, chips, and a soda for \$3.00; you can't beat that! Also on hand will be Rubin's Crepes who participates at the weekly RP Farmer's Market, Mr. Magic (soft serve ice cream), and a bake sale to raise funds for the Riverdale Park Arts Council—Rumor has it that some of the annual Festival of Light Bake Off winners will be contributing their prize-winning wares!
- Educational venues including Crescent City Centers; Dell Fanning, Ph.D., and his soil-petting zoo to promote soil education; Reverend Ben Sly and the Christian Life Center; Lighthouse of the Blind and a seeing-eye dog demonstration; and, the RP Fire Department and Fire safety for you, your family, and home.
- Arts and crafts including Aunt Emily's Dolls and the Thai Elephant Art Display and a children's art center with hands on activities sponsored by the RP Arts Council.
- The RP Business Association with a variety of opportunities to partake in local businesses including the Dental Group.

The RP Fire Department is challenging the RP Police Department to an old-fashioned tug-of-war event; the winners will earn bragging events until next year's contest! In addition, the Fire Department will sponsor a pie-eating contest. There's rumors of a possible water-balloon toss as well; let's pray for dry and warm weather! Another interesting attraction will be the RP Arts Council's booth where they will be conducting a membership drive (members join free the first year). Here's your chance to get involved in the arts here in Riverdale Park (see other article in this edition). **Don't miss Riverdale Park Day—there will be something for everyone; see you there! Rain Date: Sunday, October 4, 2009.**

Council Actions

By Waverly Politt

Regular Legislative Meeting September 8, 2009

1. **Approved-** (with corrections) Minutes for the regular legislative meeting on July 6, 2009
2. **Approved** – A letter to support the variance request V-51-09 located at 5012 Nicholson Street for Sharon & Kemo Edwards.
3. **Introduction** – 2009-OR 02 Ordinance Resolution concerning a School Zone Speed Monitoring System.
4. **Introduction and Approval** – 2009-R-09 Resolution concerning Town Debt Policy for the Town of Riverdale Park.
5. **Introduction and Approval** – 2009-R-10 Resolution concerning the Community Center Advisory Committee.
6. **Approved** – To declare a vacancy for Ward 6.

Special Legislative Meeting August 31, 2009

1. **Approved-** Larry Glick with WMATA to address some incremental changes regarding interim routes.
2. **Approve** - Engineer services to develop plans and specifications for PY 34 infrastructure project Maryland Ave. (Rhode Island Avenue) from bridge to dead end.

Code Corner

By Colleen Ferguson

Chapter 64 VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC

§ 64-16. Junked motor vehicles. [Added 3-6-95, effective 3-26-95.]

(a) Definitions. "Junked motor vehicle" means any motor vehicle that is in wrecked, dismantled or partially dismantled condition, or from which the wheels, engine, transmission, or any substantial parts thereof have been removed, or which for any reason is incapable of operation on its own power, or is unlicensed or bearing expired license tags.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to junk any motor vehicle at any place within the town, nor shall any owner or lessee permit any junked motor vehicle to remain on property within the town except in an enclosed garage.

*The above code is not in its entirety... to view Chapter 64 please visit www.riverdaleparkmd.info

Did you know?

- (1) A pool capable of holding 2ft or more of water is required to be enclosed by a 6ft fence or barrier.
- (2) Commercial Vehicles may not be parked on the roadway, within the town, unless loading or unloading.
- (3) Residents must call Bates, 301-773-2069, to schedule a Bulk trash pick-up. To schedule a Bulk Pick-up, residents must notify Bates on Tuesdays before 3:00pm in order to receive pick-up on that Wednesday.

To view Town Codes in their entirety please visit the Town of Riverdale Park Website at www.riverdaleparkmd.info. Any questions or comments please contact the Town of Riverdale Park Code Enforcement at: 240-898-2500

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. 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 in-fo**
fo@riverdalevfd.com,
www.riverdalevfd.com or, Riverdalefi-rechief7@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

Riversdale Events

A TASTE OF AMONTILLADO

Riversdale Park, MD - "We came at length to the foot of the descent, and stood together upon the damp ground of the catacombs..." So writes Edgar Allan Poe in his 1846 Gothic short story, "The Cask of Amontillado". On Friday, October 23, at 7:30 pm, Riversdale House Museum invites guests, ages 21 and over, to *A Taste of Amontillado*. Enjoy readings from gothic literature, featuring "The Cask of Amontillado", accompanied by food and beverages suitable to the season. Reservations are \$25 for residents of Prince George's and Montgomery Counties and \$28 for non-residents. Space is limited and advance registration is required by October 19. Please note walk-ins cannot be accommodated.

RIVERSDALE HOUSE MUSEUM ACTIVITIES AT RIVERDALE PARK DAY

Riversdale Park, MD – Each month, the Riversdale Kitchen Guild hosts special cooking events with a different topic. These foodways programs are sponsored in part by Giant Food.

October's *Seasonal Selection* is *From Field to Forest: Native Game*. It is scheduled in conjunction with Riversdale Park Day and runs on Sunday, October 3, 2009, from 12 noon – 3:30 pm. Learn about the native game that was available locally in the early 19th century. Kitchen Guild members will present a variety of dishes using wild game and seasonal vegetables.

Elsewhere on the grounds, the Riversdale Historical Society celebrates the lifelong love of gardening had by Rosalie Stier Calvert, the mistress of Riversdale, with their annual Bulb Sale. The house will also be open for touring. Tickets are \$2. All proceeds benefit the Riversdale and the Historical Society.

HANDS-ON HISTORY: EDGAR ALLAN POE'S APPRENTICE

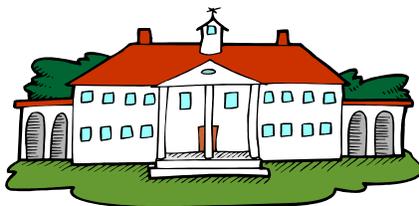
Riversdale Park – Prepare to step back in time! Spend the school holiday, Friday, October 30, at Riversdale House Museum. The program runs from 10 am – 3 pm and is open to children ages 10-14. Participants will spend the day in writing, crafts, and other activities inspired by author Edgar Allan Poe, who was born 200 years ago this year.

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, October 23.

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

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

Call 301-864-0420 or email riversdale@pgparcs.com to make a reservation.



Our Town

Saying Farewell, But Not Goodbye to a Living Legend

Marita A. Novicky

What can you say about a living legend that hasn't already been said? The accolades are plentiful and all point to a phenomenal man that has served Riverdale Park for 30 years. When Patrick Prangley began his work as Riverdale Park Administrator in March, 1979, he was a young man who had no grey hair. He is a little older and much wiser now, and his hair is mostly grey. But, he is still full of ideas and energy to make Riverdale Park the best little town within the Beltway, if not in the State of Maryland. And he has done so as numerous testimonials attest how he helped make Riverdale Park a great place to live. Coming from a political family (his mother was Mayor of Hyattsville, and his father had previously served as President of Hyattsville City Council), Patrick learned early the importance of public service and he rose to the occasion.

His portfolio is replete with newspaper articles, letters of congratulations, and commendations that he has received over his career managing Riverdale Park; there are far too many to cite here. But all are unanimous in citing his leadership, vision, and countless achievements. A recent interview with Patrick reviewed a storehouse of great accomplishments. Here are a few that give us a glimpse of this power-house of a man and one Town Administrator that profoundly impacted the growth, character, and success of Riverdale Park:

- His wife, Anne Marie, whom he supported as she earned her Juris Doctorate from Columbus School of Law, and his five children of whom four have already graduated from college: Katherine (Boston College); Dianna (University of Pittsburgh); Christopher (Loyola University of Chicago); Laura (Virginia Tech); Caroline (slated to graduate in 2012 from the University of South Carolina); and grandson Austin Tyler Maready who is ten-months old.
- C.D. Mote, Jr., President, of the University of Maryland cites Patrick's leadership, interest, understanding, and proactive coordination in Riverdale Park's role with the University in M-Square project—the University's and the State of Maryland's largest research park. M-Square will bring immense tax revenue and future professional employment opportunities to Riverdale Park.
- Serving the Town and its residents under 17 different administrations.
- Bringing over \$20 million dollars in federal, state, and county grant funding to our Town.
- Overseeing the building and expansion of the Riverdale Park Town Administration Offices, its addition, and the Police Department Headquarters.

Patrick sat down with me for a brief interview after a recent Town Meeting; here is what he shared:

Question: What do you consider you greatest, most positive experience in working with Riverdale Park?

Answer: Collaborating with Town officials, staff, and residents as a united team to achieve Riverdale Park's vision as a vibrant community that is "Safe, Clean, and Beautiful".

Question: What has been the most challenging experience?

Answer: Successfully managing municipal services in tough economic times, doing more with fewer resources, and keeping the balance of three forces at play--the residents, the Mayor and Council, and Town staff.

Question: To what do you attribute the great success you have had in working with the Town?

Answer: Surrounding myself with great leaders and staff in general government, the Police Department, Code Enforcement, Public Works Department, and carrying out the wishes of the community and following through professionally and successfully on the actions set by the Mayor and Council.

Question: What advice can you pass on to whoever follows in your footsteps as Town Administrator?

Answer: Listen to the needs of the citizens/stakeholders, the Mayor and Council, Town staff, and continue to pursue the mission and vision established by the Town of Riverdale Park.

It is hard to say goodbye to someone who has come to personify all that is good and great about our little Town, Riverdale Park. So, let us not say goodbye but rather fare thee well Patrick. We are all the better for your work and for having known you. We shall not forget you or your great achievements. We wish you the best in your future pursuits.

Ward and Committee Reports

Ward Two Report

By Council Member Alan Thompson
twacks@gmail.com

Finance Committee Report

This has been a busy month, and next month looks to be even busier!

A major part of what kept me busy was working with others in town government to select a new Town Administrator to replace Patrick Prangley. This was a two-stage process - an initial round, where I (along with Mayor Archer, Public Works Director Addison, and Police Chief Chambers) interviewed seven candidates over two nights, and a second round, where the two finalists selected by Mayor Archer met with the entire council. We had an excellent pool of candidates, and by the time you read this article we should have a new administrator. I salute outgoing Administrator Prangley for his more than 30 years of service, and hope all town residents will welcome our new administrator!

The work of the Finance Committee will be increasing over the next few weeks. This is the time of year when the Town's finances for the previous fiscal year (July 2008 through June 2009) are audited, and town staff is busy preparing documents for that audit right now. As part of my ongoing review of benefits expenses, I have asked staff to provide me information for all spending on benefits during the last six months of the 2008-2009 fiscal year. I will call a Finance Committee meeting to review that information as soon as it is available, so we can make sure to stay within this year's budget for employee benefits.

We had an unpleasant surprise last week. Money coming from the State of Maryland has been cut -- we will be receiving approximately \$250,000 less than we were expecting due to budget shortfalls at the state level. I have been reviewing the budget as it stands, but revisions are likely to be needed with a revenue shortfall this large. I will work with the rest of the council to minimize the impact of this on services.

At the Town Council meeting, representatives from the University of Maryland gave a presentation on the development planned for the M

Square Research Park, on the northern edge of Ward 2. They have proposed slightly more dense development than is currently allowed. While more buildings will improve the town's finances (in the future), they may have a negative impact on residents whose property is near the development (those of you near Gosling Pond are most likely to be affected, as a building roughly the size of the Raytheon building is proposed for "Parcel 9", the lot on the other side of Rivertech Court). I believe the proposed development will be acceptable, but welcome input from all Ward 2 residents, and especially those who live on Tuckerman Street, as to how to proceed.

Finally, I would like to thank Ward 2 resident Audrey Bragg for helping to beautify our town by planting flowers in the recently spruced up "Welcome to Riverdale Park" sign on Baltimore Avenue at the border with College Park. Ms. Bragg received the first-ever "Public Work's Resident of the Month" award for her contribution. Thanks and congratulations!

Ward Five Report

By Council Member Raymond Rivas
rayray2448@comcast.net

Is this the season to be jolly? Yes parents, your little rascals are back in school. This might be a good time to catch up on those tasks on which you have been procrastinating. With this being said, I know the economy has been a great burden on some of those that have had their work hours reduced. There are some parents that have cut their child care expenses. As a result, you have no other alternative but to have the unreliable TV day care program. Please take precautions and regularly call home for both comfort and reassurance that your loved ones are safe and secured.

There has been an awful amount of litter along the direct path from the Ward 5 area towards the Riverdale Elementary School. Please, parents monitor your children and inform them of the negative effect that this unfavorable habit has on the environment. One good suggestion, maybe you can direct them to the nearest trash receptacle along the

path to their school to dispose of their unwanted items.

Come one and come all to Riverdale Park Day on October 3, 2009. In the preservation of Riverdale 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 301-625-9435 for more information. **RAIN DATE: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2009.**

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

A Message From Former Ward 6 Councilmember

By Keelah Allen-Smith
Keelahd@yahoo.com

Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond my control, I had to relinquish my seat as Ward 6 Council Member. I am now a proud resident of Ward 5.

As I advised the Mayor and Council, if someone fails to come forward to fill the seat, I will be more than happy to finish out the term, if nominated.

Thanks to all my constituents for their help and support during my tenure. Serving as your council member has been a rewarding and exciting experience.

Special thanks to our Town Staff for their continued hard work. You guys do a terrific job!

Public Works Report

By Leonard Addison

Residents of the Month

The Department of Public Works (DPW) relocated the "Welcome to Riverdale Park" sign on Route 1. Once completed, two Town residents, con-



cerned with the appearance of their community stepped forward to assist DPW in beautifying the area around the sign by planting new flowers.

We, at DPW, recognize Ms. Audrey Bragg, President of the Riverdale Business Association and Ms. Patricia Gladding, member of the Board of the Farmer's Market, for their unselfish acts of volunteerism and community pride as they joined the DPW staff to beautify the Town of Riverdale Park.

Thank you for caring.

Leaf Collection – *Bagged leaves are picked up on Wednesdays with other yard waste.*

Leaf vacuuming service is provided by the Department of Public Works from September 15th – January 15th.

- *Leaf vacuum collection dates will be posted in the Town Crier. Signs are posted prior to collection the following week.*
- *Rake leaves to the curb. Pile leaves away from cars and storm drains. The leaf vacuum cannot reach around cars.*
- *Remove tree limbs, rocks and other debris from leaves to be collected. They can damage the equipment and cause delays.*
- *Noise and dust may be noticeable. Dry conditions generate more dust. We apologize for any inconvenience.*
- *If you bag leaves, please put them out on Wednesdays with the yard waste. Use paper yard waste bags or approved reusable containers. Do not put them out with regular trash.*
- *Leaf vacuum service is provided only in the fall.*

Fall Planting

DPW will be adorning the Town's flower pots in front of our welcome signs, in our park areas and in front of Town Hall with beautiful fall plants in

our continuing effort to keep our Town beautiful from season to season.

Gorgeous Prince George's Day Tree Planting

The Town of Riverdale will once again participate in the 7th Annual Gorgeous Prince George's Day event whose goals are to promote healthy and green neighborhoods. The Town of Riverdale Park shares their goals and has ordered more than 100 trees/shrubs for planting on October 17th for Gorgeous Prince George's Day. Last year, this was a very successful event. DPW received the assistance of students at Riverdale Elementary School to plant the trees. Almost all of the trees planted last fall, remain a part of our community due to the care and feeding provided during the year. Residents interested in volunteering to assist with this planting activity should call the DPW at 301-864-1803.

Boy Scouts Troop 252

By Bob Killen

The past month has sped by! The Scouts were winding up the summer vacation with their families; we couldn't get enough Scouts at the same place at the same time to go tubing or boating/fishing, so Scoutmaster Killen and Senior Patrol Leader Yorman Amador spent some time discussing at length and in detail Yorman's Eagle Project with Committee Chair MHB. SM Killen and Scribe Michael Delaney (and his dad, Electrician's Assistant {Big Mike}), went over the requirements for the Electricity Merit Badge, and started Mr. Delaney on his journey to joining the ranks of Merit Badge Counselors. Our Moslem Scouts have been celebrating the Holy month of Ramadan, so we haven't seen them.

We're looking forward to the "**Blessing the Fleet**" ceremony at St. Clement's Island, Colton's Point, MD., Saturday, 3 October, and the **Merit Badge Weekend** at the Naval Academy, 9-11 October. We'll set up the tipi for that one. **The Orienteering Competition** at Camp Oest, Broad Creek, MD on 6-8 November is also high on our list of priorities. You may remember, the first time we competed, our younger Scouts came in 37th place out of some 450, (SPL Yorman Amador was found by the Civil Air Patrol). The second time we com-

peted, we came in fourth place out to some 650, and this time we hope to do better...

We're doing **Cubs for Jesus** on 5 December at St. Mary's RC Church in Landover Hills, and 11-13 December, we're going skiing again.

Tired of just reading about us? Join the fun! Contact Bob Killen (rfkille@yahoo.com) and MHB (301) 864-0059.

Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department

By Nova Johns

The Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department would like to congratulate the following members:

FF/EMT **Carlos Agulair** for completing both the Emergency Medical Technician Basic Course (131 instructional hours) and Firefighter I Course (108 instructional hours)

Probationary Member **Galen Jones** completed Medical Technician Basic Course (131 instructional hours)

Fall Safety

- *Fire Safety Tips for Holiday Decorations
 - Do not use candles in Halloween jack-o-lanterns. Flashlights are much safer.
 - Make sure that children's costumes are made with fire retardant materials.
 - Use only fire retardant holiday decorations.

- *Outdoor/indoor Fall Fire Safety Tips
 - Clear your roof and gutters of unnecessary build up of debris, such as pine needles and leaves.
 - No outdoor burnings except in commercial fire pits.
 - Have your furnace checked and cleaned as well as fire places.
 - Check your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors to insure that they are in working order

Riverdale Park Day October 3, 2009—Rain Date: Sunday 4, 2009

Join us on the grounds of the Mansion for a family fun day filled with safety activities, life safe-

ty and fire prevention information, live demonstrations, and much more!

Goatman Hollow October 2009

Come to Goat Man Hollow and Find The Legend--*Before The Legend Finds You!*

October 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, 30, 31

(Saturday October 3rd: 7-10pm, Riverdale Residents Only!

Riverdale Residents Free Night Only - Must have proof of residency!)

A portion of each year's proceeds goes to benefit Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department.

For additional information and ticket sales please visit <http://www.goatmanhollow.com>

Riverdale Park Arts Council Plays Big Role in Riverdale Park Day Including a Membership Drive

Marita A. Novicky

The Riverdale Park Arts Council (RPAC) will play a prominent role in Riverdale Park Day to be held on **Saturday, October 3, 2009** on the grounds of Riversdale. **RAIN DATE: OCTOBER 4, 2009.** In addition to featuring the Elephant Art Gallery, RPAC will sponsor a children's art table where children will be engaged in fun and free art activities. These children art activities have proven immensely popular in ArtsFest 1 and 2 and at a 4th of July event. RPAC has also conducted children's art activities at ward block parties.

Besides the Elephant Art and the Children's Art Table, the RPAC will be conducting a membership drive at Riverdale Park Day and **membership will be \$5.00 for the coming year—January 1-December 31, 2010!** Artists joining before or during Riverdale Park Day will be eligible for discounts in participation in upcoming RPAC events, e.g., ArtsFest and other RPAC sponsored activities.

Riverdale Park Day presents a great opportunity to gather Town residents, recruit them as RPAC members, and learn more about how to become involved and help RPAC grow and prosper here in Riverdale Park. In addition to conducting membership recruitment at Riverdale Park Day, membership recruitment will be conducted online via Town Talk and email to those addresses RPAC has gathered from interested residents and artists.

If you are interested in any of these RPAC activities, please participate in Riverdale Park Day or contact RPAC's Secretary, Marita Novicky via email: maritanovicky@gmail.com.



A Princess Finds A King In Riverdale Park

By Jeffrey Yorke

Each Friday, Gerald King sets up his easel at the National Gallery of Art and begins copying the masters, the

Americans, the Dutch, French, German and other great artists whose paintings used truthful and accurate portrayals of nature and contemporary life

to capture the imaginations of millions since the beginning of the 19th century. The renowned Riverdale Park artist is one of perhaps 40 artists permitted by the gallery to reproduce the paintings.



For nearly two decades, King, 72, has spent his time in the museum studying and perfectly capturing each detail of paintings by the realists including Edouard Monet and Edgar Degas, of France, and Americans Thomas Eakins and Winslow Homer. It takes the self-described “image maker” six-to-18-months to complete the copy and, in doing so, says King, “I’ve gained an appreciation for every aspect of that art.” Hardly a fan of modern art, King believes the realists had “a mystical skill” that allowed them to produce incredible works before modern photography set a tone with images. That is quite an acknowledgement from a life-long artist who spent 30 years as a professor at Prince George’s Community College.

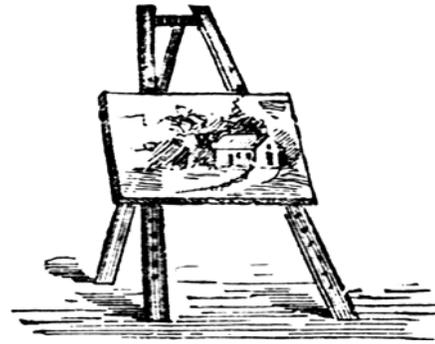
His proficiency recently caught the eye of a gallery-goer who appreciates talent. King recalls looking up from his work to see a casually-dressed woman in her early 30’s, with three young children in tow. “She said he’d been all around the world and had not seen anyone with that kind of skill,” King, a second-generation artist, recalled. “That was interesting to me. Most people don’t recognize an artist’s skill but they recall them by their reputation.”

When the woman in the gallery asked if he taught painting to children, King quickly said he offers weekly lessons to adults but does not usually instruct children. She was insistent. She pressed her card into his hand. It read: “Her Royal Highness Princess Areej Ghazi of Jordan.” Although intrigued, King didn’t give in. Not immediately. He told the princess that they would have to talk about it. He invited her to his barn-like studio off Sheridan Street for a consult. The princess, who earned a pair of undergraduate degrees in education at Georgetown University before getting a doctorate at the University of Arkansas, accepted King’s offer.

During the meeting, King was impressed by the princesses’ down-to-earth style. “She told me, ‘I am a princess only by marriage!’” he recalled with a grin. But he was won-over by the 9-year-old daughter who immediately engaged him in a discussion about artists and their work. She then held out her iPod to show him a copy of a painting she had created. “The kid is brilliant,” gushed King. “I could tell that right away.”

While the princess has a home in Potomac, MD, she has built a school in Amman, Jordan that

currently enrolls gifted children kindergarten through 4th grade. King says she wants to “introduce Western renaissance and culture into the curriculum” and has invited him to spend three weeks in October giving art seminars to the faculty and students. While he is excited about making the journey – “it’s like a fairy tale” – he also sees the trip as a way to promote realism art to a new audience.



Discover a World of Difference...

By Su Flickinger

On November 6 and 7, Hyattsville Mennonite Church (4217 East-West Highway) will host the 24th annual International Craft Sale.

The event features handcrafted items from around the world – from India and Vietnam to Kenya and South Africa, Peru and Nicaragua, and is conducted in partnership with Ten Thousand Villages, a project of the Mennonite Central Committee. Ten Thousand Villages provides high quality, fairly traded items to the U.S. market, providing vital and fair income to artisans in developing countries who would otherwise be unemployed or underemployed.

The International Craft Sale is run entirely by volunteers and does not benefit Hyattsville Mennonite Church. Selected items at the sale include jewelry, weavings, pottery, carved wood, children’s toys, and holiday decorations.

Holiday shopping couldn’t be easier!

Location, dates, and hours: Hyattsville Mennonite Church, 4217 East-West Highway. 301-927-7327 / www.hyattsvillemennonite.org. Friday, November 6 (4-9 pm); Saturday, November 7 (9-4 pm).

From the Editor: Thank You, Mr. Prangley!

By Kandese Allen

Town Administrator Patrick Prangley has been a valuable asset to the Town of Riverdale Park. My professional experience with him over the past two years has definitely made me comfortable working for the Town.

Mr. Prangley, like me, was a Maryland Terp and took pride in his Alma Mater. His stories about the memorable football games and the changes the University of Maryland campus has gone through since he graduated have given me good insights and made me excited about my transfer to the University. His work with the community, specifically in regards to planning and economic development, is most definitely an inspiration for me as I finish up my studies.

Even more importantly, his warmth and graciousness when I first moved to Riverdale Park made me excited to experience what this Town had to offer. I wish Mr. Prangley all the best in his future endeavors and for him to know how much the Town of Riverdale Park has benefited from his time here. Thank you, Mr. Prangley.

Community Circles

Upcoming Events

Farmer's Market Celebrity Chef!

Riverdale Park Farmers Market will be celebrating its first ever celebrity chef @ the Market, Carla Hall of Top Chef, on October 8, 2009 between 3pm and 7pm. Please join us for an exciting and enticing evening. For more info, contact Jim Coleman through email, rpkfarmmkt@gmail.com.

The Goat Man Cometh

The Goat Man Hollow event will kick off with a special Rehearsal Night on Saturday, October 3rd at 7 p.m. This event is **free**, and will only be open to residents of Riverdale Park! Proof of residency will be required. *Additionally, the official opening weekend, Friday October 9 and Saturday October 10, will be free to all Riverdale Park residents with proof of residency.*

Event Times: Fridays 8 p.m.–10 p.m.; Saturdays 7 p.m.–11 p.m.; Oct. 30 8 p.m. – 11 p.m., Oct. 31 7 p.m.–11 p.m. Prices: Oct. 9-17 \$10 per person; Oct. 23-31 \$15

per person. Online sales stop at 5pm the day of the show, but paper ticket may be purchased on-site. "Entry times" for online sales cease at 9:00 p.m. to ensure that all advance ticket holders get in.

Location: Town Center at 6100 Rhode Island Ave—very near Queensbury Rd and the railroad crossing. Parking is available in the Town Center lot. The event benefits the Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department and special thanks go to Douglas Development who generously donated the use of the building to the fire department.

Please note: Goat Man Hollow is an intense attraction intended for adults and children over the age of 9. Children under 9 are strongly discouraged from attending. Children age 13 and under will not be admitted without an adult chaperone (over age 18).

If you'd like to volunteer, from acting to security, join the spooky fun by calling 443-864-1197.

University Park CO-OP Annual Fall/Winter Children's Clothing/Toy Sale

Saturday, October 11, from 10am to 12pm, Riverdale Presbyterian Church

6513 Queens Chapel Rd, University Park, MD, 20782
Quality

"Pre-washed and gently worn" clothing for children from tots to teens will be available. Featured will be seasonal items, winter clothing, books, toys, sports equipment, baby/layette equipment and maternity items. Cash only. Call 301-346-3327. Thanks for supporting families by promoting our event.

College Park Aviation Cadets Seek Members

Interested in aviation?

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 the historic College

Park Airport, College Park, MD. Learn more at www.MDcap.org or call 1-800-FLY-2338!

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.

Civic Committees

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 301-277-7393 for meeting site.



Pictures of Happy Faces From 2008's Riverdale Park Day



North side of Town Hall Gets a Facelift

The backside of Town Hall (facing East/West Highway) received a plant garden on Saturday, September, 26, 2009. A number of volunteers were involved whom included the Ipalan Community (our sister city) and Town representatives including Mayor Vernon Archer, Patrick Prangley, Leonard Addison, and Council Member Alan Thompson.

Drive by and see the beautiful Florida Leucothoe, Crepe Myrtle, Maiden Grass, and Cherry Laurel. Our thanks go out to the Ipalan Community and our Town representatives for their hard work in beautifying our Town.