



# The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

**December 2009/  
January 2010**

Volume 39, Issue 9

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**HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS!**

## *Riverdale Park Holiday Festivities*

**Senior Holiday Party: December 10, 2009, 12:00 - 2:30 p.m.**

To be held at Crescent Cities Center. All senior residents are welcome! Please RSVP to (301) 927-6381

**Riverdale Park Holiday Market: Saturday, December 12, 2009.**

**12:00p.m. – 8:00p.m.** Held at the Town Center across from MARC train station. There will be face painting, model railroaders, games, a bonfire, singing with the elves on our way to Riversdale Mansion and our neighborhoods, great live music, dessert bake-off, great food and craft vendors. Santa will be there too! Volunteers needed please call Jim Coleman @ 301-332-6258

**Festival of Lights: Saturday, December 12, 2009, 5:30pm-8:30pm** Admission for the neighborhood trolley tour is free with a donation of canned food for needy families in our area.

**Children's Holiday Party: December 5, 2009, 3:30p.m. – 5:00p.m**

This event includes refreshments, free pictures with Santa, and a Holiday Puppet Show at 4:00p.m. until 4:45 p.m. By Blue Sky Puppet Company for children 12 years and under accompanied by an adult. Volunteers needed please call Raymond Rivas @ 301-625-9435

## *Celebraciones de Pascua de Riverdale Park*

**Fiesta Navideña Infantil—Sábado 5 de Diciembre 3:30-5:30 pm.** En la municipalidad (Town Hall 5008 Queensbury Rd); ¡Por favor venga y únase a Santa y sus ayudantes! ¡Regalos gratis, premios, manualidades, foto con Santa y mucho más! Se necesitan Voluntarios por favor llamar a Raymond Rivas al 301-625-9435

**Festival del Luces Trolebús—Sábado 12 de Diciembre 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.** Vea el esplendor de Riverdale Park en la noche y camine por el histórico Casa Museo de Riversdale en el trolebús ¡No se le olvide decorar el exterior de su hogar! Traiga latas de comida para hacer una donación y venga listo para cantar. El trolebús saldrá de la estación de MARC de Riverdale Park.

**Mercado Navideño Sábado 12 de Diciembre 12:00 pm – 8:30pm--** (Abierto para todos – Invite a familiares y amigos); En el Town Center, 4650 Queensbury Road. Compre regalos inolvidables, comida, árboles, coronas navideñas, escuche música navideña, y foto gratis con Santa, todo esto a unas cuantas cuerdas de su hogar.

**Fiesta de ancianos ciudadanos de la Ciudad de Riverdale Park – Miércoles 10 de Diciembre** La ciudad de Riverdale Park será el anfitrión de esta fiesta de pascuas en Crescent City Center el 10 de Diciembre a las 12:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. Crescent City Center está localizado en el 4409 East West Highway, Riverdale Park, MD 20737 para hacer reservaciones llame al 301-927-6381

# Council Actions

By Waverly Politt

## Regular Legislative Meeting November 2, 2009

1. **Approved-** Minutes for October 5, 2009 regular legislative meeting. (with corrections)
2. **Approved-** Date & time for Riverdale Park's Holiday Market at town center on Saturday, December 12, 2009 from 12:00p.m. until 8:00p.m. .and Festival of lights from 5:30p.m. until 8:30p.m.
3. **Approved-** Time for Children's Holiday Party to be held at Town Hall on December 5, 2009 at 3:30p.m. until 5:00p.m.
4. **Approved** – motion to suspend requirements for competitive bidding for speed camera services.
5. **Approved** – A resolution 2009-R-15 authorizing red light and speed enforcement camera program.
6. **Approved** – A resolution 2009-R-16- on authorization for the town to enter equipment lease purchase agreement.

**\* This motion was approved at the October 5, 2009 regular legislative meeting under new business.**

**Approved** – Street closure on Lafayette Ave. and Natoli Place to hold the annual Veterans Day Ceremony.

# Code Corner

By Colleen Ferguson

## § 64-19 Snow Emergencies

(b) During any period in which a snow emergency condition exists and a snow

Emergency is in effect, it shall be unlawful to park any vehicle on any part of any street

designated as a snow emergency street. Streets with parking restricted on one side are exempt from this section.

(d) Any vehicle parked in violation of the snow emergency provisions of the section may be removed and impounded by or under the direction of any duly-authorized police officer. The owner of said vehicle, in addition to any towing or impound fee, shall be liable for a fine of \$250.

## § 57-24. Snow and ice removal required.

Every person in charge or control of any building or parcel of land located in the town that fronts or abuts on any public sidewalk shall be required to remove or clear snow or ice that accumulates on any such sidewalk surface within twenty-four (24) hours.

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

You can view the Town Charter and Code in its entirety on the Town's Website: [www.riverdaleparkmd.info](http://www.riverdaleparkmd.info)

## Town of Riverdale Park

[www.riverdaleparkmd.info](http://www.riverdaleparkmd.info)

### Town Hall

5008 Queensbury Road  
Riverdale Park, MD 20737  
301-927-6381, Hablamos Espanol  
[RiverdaleParkMD@comcast.net](mailto:RiverdaleParkMD@comcast.net)

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

### Council Members

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

**Ward 2** – Alan Thompson  
Chair, Finance Committee, 301-779-2169  
[twack@gmail.com](mailto:twack@gmail.com)

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

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

**Ward 5** – Raymond Rivas  
Chair, Community Affairs, 301-625-9435  
[Rayray2448@comcast.net](mailto:Rayray2448@comcast.net)

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

Sara Imhulse, **Town Administrator**  
[riverdaleparksara@comcast.net](mailto:riverdaleparksara@comcast.net)  
Public Works 301-864-1803

Leonard Addison, **Director**  
Code Enforcement 240-898-2500

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

Teresa Chambers **Chief of Police**  
[tchambers@riverdaleparkpolice.org](mailto:tchambers@riverdaleparkpolice.org)

Fire Department - Emergency 911  
Information - 301-927-0356

Charles Ryan, **Chief in-**  
[fo@riverdalevfd.com](mailto:fo@riverdalevfd.com), [www.riverdalevfd.com](http://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](mailto:rptowncrier@comcast.net)

# Riversdale Events

## ENJOY BREAKFAST WITH SINT NIKLAAS AT RIVERSDALE

Riverdale Park, MD - The forerunner of our modern Santa Claus, Sint Niklaas, brings excitement to Flemish children on his feast day in early December. The gift-giving, long-robed benevolent saint will arrive for breakfast at Riversdale on Saturday, December 5, at 10 am. Children, ages 3 to 10, along with their parents, are invited to enjoy a Belgian-inspired breakfast as Sint Niklaas makes his rounds. Participants will receive a gift bag. A "just for kids" shopping area will also be open in our gift shop. Tickets are \$8 per child and \$5 per attending adult for residents of Prince George's & Montgomery Counties and \$10 per child and \$7 per attending adult for non-residents. Advance reservations are required by November 30<sup>th</sup>. We are sorry, but walk-ins cannot be accommodated. Register early to ensure a spot!

Riversdale celebrates this holiday in honor of Rosalie Stier Calvert, mistress of Riversdale in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and a Flemish immigrant, who kept her homeland customs for her own nine children.

## THE CALVERTS BY CANDLELIGHT AT RIVERSDALE

Riverdale Park, MD - The doors of the stately 200-year-old mansion open. George Calvert and his wife, Rosalie Stier Calvert, welcome you into their home as the smells of gingerbread, spices and pine and the sounds of festive music waft through the air.

Riversdale House Museum invites you to relax during this busy season in the warm glow of our candlelit evening on Sunday, December 27. The house will be festooned with seasonal greens, and period music will play as costumed interpreters representing family, friends, and servants of the house interact with visitors on their self-guided tours of the illuminated mansion. Cooking over an open hearth fire in the kitchen, children's activities, and warming refreshments are all part of the spirit of the evening.

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

## TWELFTH NIGHT BALL AT RIVERSDALE

Riverdale Park, MD - Bring the holiday season to a close in style at the Riversdale House Museum's Regency-style Twelfth Night Ball on January 10, 2009. This National Historic Landmark mansion provides a sparkling setting for dancing to the live music of John Ward and Friends. Lessons begin at 7:30 pm. Dance master James Wass will call dances from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. Period inspired refreshments are included. Come dressed in your finest Regency attire or black tie. The cost is \$25 per person. Advance registration is required by January 4, and capacity is limited.

Call 301-864-0420 or email [riversdale@pgparks.com](mailto:riversdale@pgparks.com) to make a reservation.

Riversdale, a historic house museum of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, is located at 4811 Riverdale Road in the town of Riverdale Park, Maryland.

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

Sign up for classes and activities online at [www.pgparks.com](http://www.pgparks.com), or by touch-tone phone at 301-583-BOOK.





# Police Report

## “Traffic Announcement and Crime Prevention Tips”

**Teresa C. Chambers, Chief of Police**

### Traffic Tie-Ups in Edmonston Expected

According to the Edmonston Police Department, sometime within the next ten to fifteen days the Town of Edmonston will begin major road construction on Decatur Street between Kenilworth Avenue and U.S. Route 1. This will occur during the daylight hours. This major road construction is expected to continue until approximately May 31, 2010.

During this construction, there will be periodic road closures and a reduction from two lanes to one. It is anticipated there will be extended traffic delays.

### Crime Prevention Tips

Now that cold weather is upon us, please be sure to stay with your vehicle while you are warming it up. Never leave your vehicle unattended while it is running.

Likewise, when you are gassing up your vehicle or have exited it for any other reason, always take the ignition keys with you. Victims are often selected because of opportunities they inadvertently present to criminals. Please be mindful of what steps you can take to prevent being targeted.

**Please remember to sign up for Nixle and stay up-to-date with what’s going on in your community.**

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

### ***To Register***

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Go to [www.nixle.com](http://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](http://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.

# Mayor's Report

By Vernon Archer

## Some Upcoming Changes on the Rails

There are a number of different ways to describe Riverdale Park, but one of the most common is to reference the railroad that runs through the heart of our community. We have rail commuters and train watchers. We debate the virtue and nuisance of train horns. We love to cross the tracks to quickly move from one side of the community to the other. We have been trained (pun intended) to halt our conversations for a few moments as the thundering locomotive rumbles past. Yes, we are a rail town and therefore it is of great importance that town government stay abreast of the actions and plans of the two main rail entities that operate in our town.

The CSX Corporation owns the tracks and right-of-way that they lay on. It also is the freight hauler that moves goods and materials up and down the line. This corporation operates in almost every state this side of the Mississippi River and frankly it has been difficult to get this giant to take much notice of our concerns in Riverdale Park on the several occasions that we have needed to. However, there are signs the company is making efforts to work better with the localities they operate in.

The other entity is the Maryland Area Regional Commuter rail service, we all know as MARC, and it operates under state Maryland Transit Administration. Many residents of Riverdale and nearby areas use the train to get to work in either Baltimore or Washington. One of the selling points for houses in our area is this service and despite some occasional frustration with delays, this service is a welcome part of daily life in our town.

On November 4, I was invited by College Park's City Council to join it in hearing from the CSX and MARC rail entities about plans they have that will impact our area over the coming years. This friendly gesture from our neighboring community provided me with a preview of what is in the works prior to our hosting the railroads' representatives hear in Riverdale Park. No date for this visit has been set yet, but I will make sure the word gets out so interested residents will be able to attend.

A substantial CSX project is underway in our region that is designed to make the tracks, bridges and overpasses capable of handling standard sized shipping containers stacked two high, or "piggy back". The main thrust of the project is to increase the clearance of several bridges/overpasses on our line, though none are in or even near Riverdale Park. This practice of piggy backing is utilized in much of the country and provides the clear advantage of reducing long-haul truck traffic on highways and ultimately reducing the amount of energy used and pollution produced to move a given ton of goods.

While this practice seems beneficial and there are no infrastructure changes for us to be concerned about there are a couple of items we will be looking at closely. In particular we will want to know how this will impact the number of trains and rail cars that will pass through our town. The CSX representative suggested that piggy backing will reduce the number of trains and freight cars traveling down a given stretch of track since each car will effectively double its capacity. However, there was no real evidence presented to this effect.

Also, there is concern about added noise and vibration of stacked cars. The CSX representative had no clear comment to make on this matter, but we will expect that there is some form of research or study to either confirm or alleviate this concern.

Regarding MARC service there are several station improvements expected to come over the next couple of years. Riders will be happy to know that both public address and LED signs giving real time information about the expected arrival of trains will be installed. Also, there are ongoing purchasing plans to increase the number of passenger cars and reduce the crowding of high usage trains.

The biggest potential impact for Riverdale would be in a capital improvement plan scheduled for 2015 that calls for the installation of a third track that would begin just south of Riverdale Park and extend to Greenbelt. The purpose for the 3<sup>rd</sup> track is to increase the carrying capacity for commuter traffic, and of course that will be good. However, there are several significant concerns.

In particular we will want to know how this will affect the crossing at Queensbury. Also, the MARC representative was not clear about whether the existing right-of-way was sufficient to accommodate a 3<sup>rd</sup> track or if there would be issues that would impact surrounding property, which might include town streets running parallel to the tracks.

On this track issue it will be very important that our town make sure our voice is heard early and forcefully so that this change, which can clearly be a benefit to the whole region, does not also become a major burden to our town.

# Ward and Committee Reports

## Ward One Report

By Council Member Alice Ewen Walker  
**Economic Development Committee Report**

*alice.ewen.walker@gmail.com*

On December 12, Riverdale Park will stage our annual Festival of Lights. Details are in this newsletter - please try to decorate your house with holiday lights in time for the evening trolley tours on the 12th!

I'm pleased to announce the renovation of the Riverdale Park Neighborhood Playground, located between Tuckerman and Sheridan Streets west of the train tracks. Our community will benefit from new playground equipment selected by neighborhood children in a design session staged by Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission early this fall. The renovation is expected to be completed by early December. Many thanks to Councilman Eric Olson for his strong support of this project, to Eileen Nivera of M-NCPPC for her continued assistance, and for the citizen leadership of Mary Ann Brownlow and other residents. This project was a top priority for our ward for several years and it is exciting to see it come to fruition. We hope to do a groundbreaking party with Councilman Olson at some point in December; details will be posted on Town Talk.

I provided input on behalf of residents in support of the proposed school boundary changes which would alleviate overcrowding at Riverdale Elementary School. The proposed change would redistrict much of Ward One to be included in the University Park Elementary School District. My thanks to residents who are weighing in on the changes. It is important that the school system hear from parents who are in support of this change.

The Riverdale Park Farmer's Market will be offering a new opportunity to residents to arrange for winter deliveries of produce and other market items. Customers will submit and pay for orders by Tuesday of each week and vendors will deliver orders on Saturday to Town Center for pickup. We hope this new service will be popular with residents. It is a great way to support the market and not miss out on your favorite market treats during winter months. Email Jim Coleman at *rpkfarmmkt@gmail.com* for details.

For those that have not attended in the past, the holidays at Riversdale House Museum are beautiful. Try to stop by with your out of town guests this season, or attend the free open house on December 12 during the Festival of Lights.

## Ward Two Report

By Council Member Alan Thompson  
*twacks@gmail.com*

### Finance Committee Report

As part of my Finance Committee Report, I would like to welcome our new Town Administrator, Sara Imhulse. Though I've only been working with her a few weeks (deadline for articles is early this month), she is, as I expected, diving into the job with energy and enthusiasm. I look forward to working with her on all matters concerning finance and general government, and hope everyone in town will welcome her.

Another piece of good news is that the Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department was able to secure financing for their new pumper without the assistance of the town. This will simplify the town's financial planning, and reflects well on the Fire Department as a stable and independent organization.

Continuing with good news, the town submitted the annual Uniform Financial Report (UFR) to the state on schedule in late October. This document is used by the state to review the financial health of the town, and is usually referred to as "the auditor's report". I'd like to congratulate the town's staff on the great job they did collecting and organizing the information for the report. By the time you read this, the Finance Committee will have met to discuss (among other items) the UFR, and how to adjust the budget to deal with the cuts in state aid to the town.

In Ward 2, October 25 was a beautiful day for a get-together, and I spent much of the afternoon flipping burgers, gently searing hot dogs, and meeting with neighbors at the Ward 2 social. I know we missed a few people because of the rain delay from the previous week, but everyone there was having a good time making new friends or visiting with old ones. Many thanks to organizer Dannielle Glaros and everyone else who contributed to the event!

Halloween in Ward 2 was also fun. My boys and I went trick-or-treating, and the scariest thing to me was exactly how much candy two kids could pick up in half an hour. We had great turn-out at our house, with dozens of princesses, zombies, and animals (cuddly and wild). The police department had a good presence on the streets, and because of that the evening concluded safely.

The town's automatic speed enforcement camera program, which has been sending "warning" tickets, will start sending real tickets at the end of November. Cameras will be in multiple locations around town, including

on East-West highway in Ward 2. A test run of the system in June showed that thousands of cars per day on East-West Highway at Taylor Road were exceeding the speed limit by more than 10 miles per hour. Be sure to stay within the speed limit!

Looking to the future, I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season, and encourage you all to take advantage of the many holiday events in town, including the Holiday Market and Festival of Lights, the Children's Holiday Party, and the Senior's Luncheon (see the calendar on the back of the Crier for the dates and times). I'll be writing to you again in the New Year!

## **Ward Three Report**

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

### **Public Safety Committee Report**

The hometown kid made good. We will come back to this later. First, welcome to our new Town Administrator, Sara Imhulse. Along with the rest of the Council, I look forward to working with her.

Councilman Alan Thompson and I attended the opening of the new Wachovia/Wells Fargo branch at Route One and East-West Highway November 14th. CM Thompson proved an adept hand in assisting with the ribbon cutting. An already bustling branch with little advertisement, we welcomed the new business to Riverdale Park.

Recently the Council passed 2009-OR-2 allowing our town to install speed cameras within one-half mile of a school zone. The goal is to create safe routes to school as well as a safe environment around school through enforcement of traffic law. While some may suspect this as being just another way to raise revenue they are mistaken. My sponsorship and the council's passage of this amendment intend to address an ongoing dilemma of excessive speeding near schools.

Currently I am reviewing with the intent of updating Riverdale Park's Code Chapter 25 pertaining to Dance Halls. The intention is to amend the code to allow for more efficient enforcement.

Through a scholarship grant from the Governor's office, six of Riverdale Park's finest attended a conference on problem oriented policing. The goal of the training is to integrate the concepts of community policing and problem oriented policing through out the department, code enforcement included.

A reminder to all that you can sign up to receive alerts using NIXLE. The notification application is another facet in the town's efforts in community oriented policing to communicate with residents in the event of

something occurring. To sign up online go to [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com).

During National Night Out I discussed with County Councilman Eric Olson the issues concerning Riverside Neighborhood Park on weekends. We are working with the Councilman's office as well as the Park Police to address the issues of commercial vending and alcohol consumption.

The Central Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization (CKAR) Steering Committee is requesting of the M-NCPPC in it Planning Assistance to Municipalities and Communities (PMAC) program the allocation of staff time in the upcoming budget. CKAR is also requesting help with analysis and recommendations as to zoning in conjunction with the proposed Purple Line station as well as implementing a Business Improvement District. The Committee is also planning to host an open house in early February. On a related note, Dineene O'Connor of the Community Planning Division at M-NCPPC is retiring at the end of this year. She has been a great help to Riverdale Park over the years through MUTC and now CKAR. On behalf of everyone in Riverdale Park, thank you Dineene for all your assistance.

As you have read in previous editions of this publication, Patrick J. Prangley has retired from the position of Town Administrator after thirty years of service to our town. Mr. Prangley's commitment to public service follows in the footsteps of his parents, his father Robert as city councilman and his mother Mary, the first woman elected mayor in the city of Hyattsville. The Prangley family has given all of us much to be proud of with their service and commitment to the area. Thank you, Mr. Prangley, thank you very much and best wishes to you.

And to you, the residents of Riverdale Park, I will conclude by wishing the very best this holiday season and in the coming year to you and yours.

## **Ward Five Report**

By Council Member Raymond Rivas  
*rayray2448@comcast.net*

### **Community Affairs Report**

Well we have a very exciting month ahead of us for the month of December 2009. Our first celebration will be on December 5, 2009 for Children's Day. The big, old, jolly, red-faced guy will be taking pictures with the little rascals. You might know him as Santa and others by the name of Saint Christopher. Please bring your precious darlings for a one stop shop photo shoot at the Town of Riverdale Park Town Hall between the hours of 3:30pm to 5:00pm. Included with their secret whispering to Santa, he will be handing out little grab

bags. There also will be a feature holiday puppet show provided by Blue Sky between the hours of 4:00pm to 4:45pm.

On December 10, 2009, Crescent City Nursing Home in Riverdale is having a holiday luncheon for their residents. The hours for this event are between 12:00pm to 2:30pm. For this special occasion, we would kindly ask only for the utmost exceptional volunteers to step forward and help with the festivities. We want this to be most gratifying for all the residents.

On December 12, 2009, Riverdale Park Holiday Farmers Market will be opening in downtown Riverdale between the hours of 12:00 pm to 8:00 pm. There will be many vendors, music bands, and karaoke singing. We also need the assistance of all of the great bakers in the Town of Riverdale Park. We want to host a bake off of the most tasty and satisfying cakes, pies or pastries. So we invite you to use your favorite special cake or pie recipe and apply it to your baking skills. We will try to get celebrity judges to rate and comment on your hard working efforts.

Another event on December 12, 2009 is the Festival of Lights between the hours 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm. This event needs everyone's participation. If you have a house, co-op, condo, or apartment with a balcony, please put out your decorative ornaments and Christmas lights for everyone to see. There will be prizes given out to those who may have the most outstanding displays. We are offering trolley rides to view some of these displays as well as a direct route to the Riversdale mansion. To gain access to the trolley you must pay a donation fee of some type of canned goods. We appreciate your help in any donation that you may supply.

Citizens of Ward 5 please lookout for those unsuspected criminals roaming in your drive ways or parking lots. Please do not leave any unattended bags inside your vehicle in full view. This may trigger a reaction for those who live on the wrong side of the road and are in need of extra easy money. Therefore, take your GPS Locator, I-pod, cell phones and any other electronic devices that may be sold out in the black market with you. We do not want to fill the pockets of these criminals from illegally gotten goods. Once again, if you see some suspicious characters lurking around your home or vehicles quickly call your friendly neighborhood police department 301-927-4343.

## Ward Six Report

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

### Legislative Committee Report

Greetings Ward 6 Residents!

I am pleased to inform you that I have been nominated by the Mayor and Council to represent Ward 6 for the remainder of the term.

I would like to give a warm welcome our new Town Administrator, Sarah Imhulse.

*Just a reminder to the Ward 6 apartment dwellers:*

Place all trash **IN** the dumpster (not around the dumpster or in the parking lot). You have no room to complain if you are not playing your part by properly disposing your trash.

Be aware of your surroundings while in the parking lots, especially at night. Definitely call the police if you see any suspicious activities.

Contact your Property Management Company for any maintenance issues in your apartment. If you feel that the issue has not been resolved in a timely manner, **THEN** call our Code Enforcement Department

Lets all do our part to keep our surroundings clean and safe!

## Public Works Report

By Leonard Addison

**LEAF COLLECTION**— Please note that fall leaf collection services will conclude on **January 15<sup>th</sup>**. DPW will vacuum leaves from Town streets following our old trash collection schedule as indicated below through January 15<sup>th</sup> but not after.

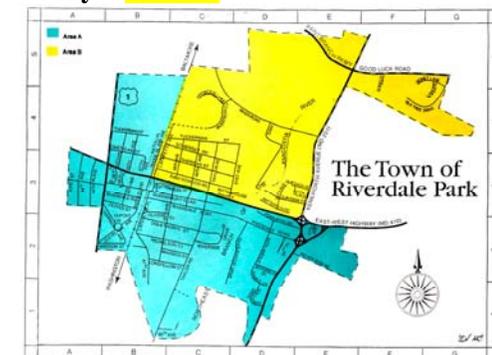
**Monday** – **AREA A** residents – leaf vacuum service

**Tuesday** - **AREA B** residents – leaf vacuum service

**Wednesday** (yard collection day) – Bates Trucking Company will collect **BAGGED LEAVES**. Please do not include tree branches, wood or other debris in the bags.

**Thursday** – **AREA A** residents – leaf vacuum service

**Friday** – **AREA B** residents – leaf vacuum service



Area A (blue):

Area B (yellow):

# Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department

By Nova Johns

The Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department would like welcome Probationary Members James Campbell, Cristian Aguilar, Kevin Cole, Micheal McClary, Erin Baffa, Jaulmar Stegall, and Joanna Andrus. Welcome to the family!

We want to wish everyone a happy and safe time during this joyous holiday season.

## FIRE SAFETY TIPS FOR THE WINTER:

It's important that you have your furnace inspected to ensure that it is in good working condition.

- Be sure all furnace controls and emergency shutoffs are in proper working condition.
- Leave furnace repairs to qualified specialists. Do not attempt repairs yourself unless you are qualified.
- Inspect the walls and ceiling near the furnace and along the chimney line. If the wall is hot or discolored, additional pipe insulation or clearance may be required.
- Check the flue pipe and pipe seams. Are they well supported; free of holes, and cracks? Soot along or around seams may be an indicator of a leak.
- Is the chimney solid, with cracks or loose bricks? All unused flue openings should be sealed with solid masonry.
- Keep trash and other combustibles away from the heating system.
- Never discard hot ashes inside or near the home. Place them in a metal container outside and well away from the house.
- Never use a range or an oven as a supplemental heating device. Not only is it a safety hazard, it can be a source of potentially toxic fumes.
- If you use an electric heater, be sure not to overload the circuit. Only use extension cords which have the necessary rating to carry the amp load. **TIP:** Choose an extension cord the same size or larger than the appliance electrical cord.
- Avoid using electrical space heaters in bathrooms, or other areas where they may come in contact with water.
- Frozen water pipes? Never try to thaw them with a blow torch or other open flame, (otherwise the pipe could conduct the heat and ignite the wall structure inside the wall space). Use hot water or a UL labeled device such as a hand held dryer for thawing.

**TRASH COLLECTION REMINDER:** Trash WILL be collected on Thursday, December 24 and on Thursday, December 31. Please make sure that trash is placed at the curb before 7:00 AM.

**HOLIDAY CLOSINGS** – The Department of Public Works will be closed on Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup> in observance of the Christmas holiday. Our offices will be closed on Saturday, December 26<sup>th</sup> with no Saturday drop off for bulk items.

**STREET LIGHT TIMING** – Lights on Riverdale Road have been converted from a manual timed light system to photocells to eliminate the need to manually set the timing.

**SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL** – As we enter into the snow season please note that Public Works crews will be plowing and salting Town streets and parking lots to clear snow and ice. As in the past, we will treat our streets in the following method:

**Primary Streets** - i.e. Riverdale Rd, Taylor Rd, Lafayette Ave., Queensbury Rd, etc.

**Secondary Streets** – i.e. DuPont Cir., Cleveland Ave., Rhode Island Ave., Quesada Rd., Beale, 49<sup>th</sup> and 48<sup>th</sup> Ave., Silk Tree Dr., etc.

**Residential Streets** – i.e. Oliver St., Madison St., Rittenhouse St., 47<sup>th</sup> Ave., Somerset Rd., Sora Ln., etc.

Please note: our major roadways, (Rt. 201, Rt. 1, Rt. 410, Good Luck Rd.), will be treated by the State and County.

Residents of our Town should note that they will be responsible for doing their part by keeping the walkway in front of their property cleaned of snow and ice after each event.

## What Residents Can Do?

- Whenever possible, move parked cars off the street so that snowplows can remove the snow from the street from curb to curb.
- If off-street parking is not available, park on the even side of the street.
- Be patient during any snow emergency as crews work around the clock to clear the streets.
- Clear sidewalks in front of residence and refrain from depositing snow back on to the roadway (this can potentially cause an accident).

- If windows are used as emergency exits in your home, practice using them in the event fire should strike. Be sure that all the windows open easily. Home escape ladders are recommended.
- If there is a fire hydrant near your home you can assist the fire department by keeping the hydrant clear of snow so in the event it is needed, it can be located.
- Be sure every level of your home has a working smoke alarm, and be sure to check and clean it on a monthly basis.
- Plan and practice a home escape plan with your family.

Contact Riverdale Fire Department for advice if you have a question on Home Fire Safety.

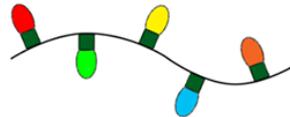
For additional Fire Safety information, please visit the FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY UNITED STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATION at [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov)

## Festival of Lights

By Jim Coleman

Our event this year will be better than ever with your help. Please decorate your home (apartment or house) before December 12, 2009.

There will be a town wide contest this year for the best Holiday decoration with a cash prize (contact Raymond Rivas @ 301-625-9435). This is our opportunity to show the folks in our area and those who come to visit how great our town is.



What: 2009 Riverdale Park Festival of Lights & Holiday Market

Where: Riverdale Park Town Center, 6200 Rhode Island Ave, Riverdale Park, MD 20737

When: 12:00pm - 8:30pm (currently), w/ trolley tours from 5:30pm - 8:30pm

Sponsors: Town of Riverdale Park, local businesses

Why: Food for the hungry in our area (Donate canned food @ the trolley rides and @ the Holiday Market)

Possible events for this year include model railroaders, face painting, tattoos, games, bonfire, singing with the elves on our way to Riversdale and our neighborhoods, great live music, dessert bake-off, great food and craft vendors, Santa visits, etc.

Volunteers are needed to decorate our indoor venue, singing elves for the trolley tours, residents to compete in the dessert bake-off (contact Raymond Rivas @ 301-625-9435), graphic design for signage and posters, raise donations, and work @ the crafts tables. Help us to guarantee that this year's Festival of Lights & Holiday Market on December 12, 2009 will be our best effort yet.

We also need vendors who make their own crafts for the event, as well. Please contact Jim Coleman at 301-332-6258 or email: [jcolema3@aol.com](mailto:jcolema3@aol.com) for more information.

## Riverdale Park Children's Day

By Council Member Raymond Rivas

We are pleased to present the upcoming Riverdale Park Children's Day. Bring the kids and enjoy free grab bag gifts and pictures with Santa Claus and his elves.

When: Saturday, December 5, 2009

Where: Town Hall, 5008 Queensbury Road  
Riverdale Park, Maryland 20737

There will be a puppet show provided by Blue Sky! The Puppet Show begins at 4:00 pm and ends at 4:45 pm.

Be there or be square!



## Senator Pinsky's Town Hall Meeting

- Maryland State Senator Paul G. Pinsky will share a legislative update.
- Prince George's County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. William R. Hite, Jr. will share an update on our schools.
- Prince George's County Police District Commander Dusseau will share on update on public safety in our area.
- Time will also be set aside to hear from you!

Mark your calendar and bring your family and neighbors. For more information call 240-391-8154 or email [ppinsky@senatorpinsky.org](mailto:ppinsky@senatorpinsky.org).

**Saturday  
12/12/09**

**9:30 – 11:00 A.M**

By Authority: Citizens for Paul Pinsky, Anna Frankle, Treasurer

### **From New Carrollton:**

Drive West on Route 410 (East-West Hwy); cross Kenilworth Ave; turn left on Taylor Rd. (first light after Kenilworth); continue on Taylor Rd. approximately 1 block to school on the left.

### **From Lewisdale:**

Drive East on Route 410 (East-West Hwy); cross Route 1; turn right on Taylor; continue on Taylor Rd. approximately 1 block to school on the left.

# Community Circles

# Community Circles

## Upcoming Events

### Festival of Lights

Volunteers are needed to help organize this year's Festival of Lights & Holiday Market on December 12, 2009. Areas needed for support include decorating the indoor venue, helping to organize musical performances, and Santa appearances.

We also need vendors who make their own crafts for the event, as well. Please contact Jim Coleman at 301-332-6258 or email: [jcolema3@aol.com](mailto:jcolema3@aol.com) for more information.

### 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](http://www.MDcap.org) or call 1-800-FLY-2338!

### MUTC Members Needed!

Volunteers are needed to serve on the Mixed Use Town Center (MUTC) committee. MUTC is a local design review committee established to review all permit/plans related to the town center. If you are interested in being nominated, please contact Mayor Archer.



### Donation Request for In-Need Town Residents

Canned goods and non-perishable items are being collected beginning November 20, 2009 until December 22, 2009,

When: Monday through Friday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Where: Riverdale Park Town Hall  
Code Enforcement Office  
5008 Queensbury Road, Riverdale, MD

Contact: (240) 898-2500

Donations collected will be shared with in-need Riverdale Park residents over this holiday season.

All donations are appreciated.

“THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMUNITY SPIRIT”

If you have any questions, comments or know a Riverdale Park family in-need, please contact:

Colleen M. Ferguson, Code Enforcement Manager- 240-898-2500

### 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](mailto:NCSA@juno.com) or (301) 927-0560. [PG Soccer League@juno.com](mailto: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 (301) 583-7775 or visit [www.madisonhill.biz](http://www.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