



The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

July – August 2008

Volume 37, Issue 6

Tuesday, August 5, 2008

Budget	Page 1
Leonard Addison	Page 1
Council Actions,	Page 2
Council Actions, Spec.	Page 2
Code Corner	Page 2
Code Corner	Page 2
National Night Out	Page 3
Noche Afuera	Page 3
Mayor's Report	Page 4
Reporte del Alcalde	Page 5
Ward Two Report	Page 6
Ward Six Report	Page 6
Public Works, Eng	Page 7
Public Works, Espanol	Page 7
Senator Pinsky	Page 7
Troop 252 News	Pgs 7-8
Mural Unveiled	Pgs 8-9
AWS Regatta	Page 9
Community Circles	Page 9
Conflict Resolution	Page 10
Calendar -- August	Page 11
Calendar – July	Page 12

July 4, 2008

**Town Offices and Public
Works closed.**



POLICE-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

How Do You Spell Relief? FY 09 Budget Adopted—No New Taxes!

By Sandy Bonnefond

Town residents who expressed concerns during trying economic times were rewarded when Town officials and staff worked extra hard to put together the Town's FY 09 Budget. Town officials began meeting in early May to craft a budget to operate the Town of Riverdale Park in the next fiscal year—July 1, 2008—June 30, 2009.

The Mayor, Council members and Town staff met numerous times in meetings open to the public. Residents were given an opportunity to ask questions and express their feelings at these meetings, and requested that no new taxes be added. The elected officials heard the resident's concerns and worked hard to make sure their best interests were served. They painstakingly worked over every line item on the proposed budget, all the time resolving not to increase the Town's overall taxes this year. After much discussion and work, it was a success! **The FY 09 budget contains no tax increase.** Congratulations to residents, Town officials, and Town staff for work well done.

Leonard Addison, Public Works Director

By Marita A. Novicky

Leonard Addison was appointed Public Works Director for the Town of Riverdale Park in early May, 2008. He brings extensive experience and a rich history in Public Works certain to benefit Riverdale Park and its residents. Mr. Addison began his career with Highway Maintenance and Public Works in Baltimore City where he piloted a partnership with Baltimore businesses to keep downtown Baltimore clean—a Program that continues today with red-uniformed workers maintaining clean streets in Baltimore and serving as information sources for residents and tourists. He served as Chief of Parking and began researching meter-less parking for Baltimore streets, research that has become the modern meter-less kiosk-payment method on downtown Baltimore City streets. He designed underground utility conduits that have cleared city streets from overhead wires. And, in between, he found time to go back to school earning a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from Johns Hopkins University.

Addison's next appointment was with the Bureau of Solid Waste where he was responsible for introducing street sweepers/vacuum devices cutting down man-hours dedicated to this task, and increasing the City's street cleaning capabilities. His last position was with the Bureau of Waste Water from which he retired to work as a consultant. This role took him to Atlanta and then to D.C. where he was a Project Engineer for automating meter reading, and the VDOT Coordinator. Luckily, Riverdale Park was able to attract him to serve as our Public Works Director!

His hopes for Riverdale Park are to continue the great tradition of Riverdale Park's Public Works, and to introduce change and innovation to his Department. Mr. Addison says Riverdale Park is "rich in open areas", and he wants to keep them "safe, clean, and beautiful" and continue great Public Works here in Riverdale Park. Welcome Leonard Addison!

Council Actions

By Waverly Pollitt

Regular Legislative Meeting, June 2, 2008

1. Approved-Minutes for April 7, 2008 regular legislative meeting.
2. Approved-Minutes for May 5, 2008 regular legislative meeting.
3. Approved-Minutes for May 27, 2008 special legislative Meeting.
4. Approved-Speed Hump for 4700, 4800 and 4900 blocks of Ravenswood Rd.
5. Approved-Curb cut for resident located at 5403 54th Ave, Ward 6.
6. Approved--Relocation of existing 6ft. privacy fence at 4504 Sheridan Street, Ward 1.
7. Approved--To accept Bates Trucking private refuse contract subject to final contract approval by the council.
8. Approved-Real property tax rate at 53 cents per \$100 FY 08-09.
9. Approved--Special tax rate at 11.1 per \$100 FY 08-09.
10. Approved-Tangible personal and Operating tax rate at \$2 per \$100 FY 08-09.
11. Approved--To accept the modern railroad club's plan to have a benefit for children's Hospital at Town Hall on June 14th thru June 21st, 2008.

Special Legislative Meeting, June 9, 2008

12. Tabled--Action to approve refuse removal contract.
13. Approved--Town Operating and Capital Budget for F/Y 08-09.
14. Approved--Permission to close block on 54th Avenue for night out event.

Code Corner

By Colleen Ferguson

During the next few months, the Code Enforcement Department will be strictly monitoring and enforcing Town Code 36, Town code 36-8, Garbage, Refuse, and Trash.

Particular attention will be placed on Town Code 36-8 (a) (4), "it shall be unlawful to place garbage or trash out for a collection earlier than sundown of the day prior to the regularly scheduled day for collection."

If you have any questions about your pick-up days (regular trash, bulk, or yard waste), please call 301-927-6381. Municipal infractions carry a fine of \$50.00 and will be issued for any violation of 36-8 (a) (4).

Spring cleaning plus nice weather equals yard sales! Please remember to take down your yard sale signs once the day is over.

Esquina de Código

Translation by Verence Garay

Durante los siguientes meses, el Departamento de Código Legal estará estrictamente monitoreando y enforcing el Código del Pueblo #36, Código 36-8, Basura y Desperdicios.

Se le dará atención particular al Código 36-8 (a) (b), "Deberá ser ilegal poner basura o desperdicios afuera antes del que el sol se oculte del día previo al horario regular de colección.

Si tiene alguna pregunta acerca del día que recogen la basura en su área (basura regular, en cantidades grandes y la basura de su yarda), por favor llame al 301-927-6381. Infracciones Municipales serán emitidas con una multa de \$50.00 por cualquier violación del Código 36-8 (a) (4).

Limpeza de primavera mas un clima bonito igual a yard sales! Por Favor recuerde de quitar los rótulos una vez su yard sale termine.

Town of Riverdale Park

www.ci.riverdale-park.md.us

Town Hall

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

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

Council Members

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

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

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

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

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

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

Patrick J. Prangle, Town Administrator
riverdaleparkmd@comcast.net
Penelope Mendoza, Deputy Town
Administrator, 301-209-1505

Public Works 301-864-1803

Leonard Addison Public Works Director

Code Enforcement 301-927-6381

CodeRiverdalePk@comcast.net

Colleen M. Ferguson

Police Department 301-927-4343
RivPD@comcast.net

Teresa Chambers Chief of Police

Fire Department Emergency 911
Information 301-927-0356

Vincent Harrison, Chief,

info@riverdalevfd.com, www.riverdalevfd.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.

Please submit all copy to editor
rptowncrier@comcast.net

National Night Out

Join Us and Your Neighbors in a “Night Out” Against Crime

Mark Your Calendars for Tuesday, August 5, 2008, 7 – 9 p.m.

By Teresa Chambers, Chief of Police
Town of Riverdale Park, 301-927-4343
tchambers@riverdaleparkpolice.org

National Night Out, “America’s Night Out Against Crime,” was introduced by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW) in 1984. National Night Out is a yearly event that encourages residents to turn on their porch lights or front-facing interior lights and come outside to meet their neighbors.

Overtime, communities expanded “front porch gatherings” to larger events that included entire communities, such as block parties, festivals, youth activities, and the like. As detailed on the NATW website, National Night Out is designed to: “(1) Heighten crime prevention awareness; (2) Generate support for and participation in local anticrime programs; (3) Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and (4) Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.”

National Night Out 2008 – Riverdale Park style – will feature a block party for residents and business owners on Tuesday, August 5, 2008, from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. Elected officials, town employees, and others will join community volunteers in the spirit of town-wide solidarity and fellowship on 54th Avenue between Riverdale Road and Jefferson Street. Food, music, games, crime prevention information, youth activities, giveaways, and other venues are being planned for this gathering. If you would like to volunteer your time and/or special talent or if you have an idea for this year's event, please immediately contact the Riverdale Park Police Department at *rivpd@comcast.net* so that you can be included in this exciting undertaking.

EVERYONE is welcome to come and invited to participate in this first-of-its-kind celebration of National Night Out in Riverdale Park. We are looking forward to seeing you on Tuesday, August 5 and to continuing to build the partnership that is essential for keeping our Town safe, clean, and beautiful.

Acompáñanos con tus vecinos en una “Noche Afuera” En contra del Crimen

Marca tu calendario para el Martes, 5 de Agosto del 2008 de 7-9 p.m.

Translation by Verenice Garay

Noche Nacional, “La Noche de América Contra el Crimen”, fue introducida por la Asociación Nacional de la Vigilancia del Pueblo (NATW) en 1984. La Noche de América contra el Crimen es un evento anual que recomienda a los residentes que enciendan las luces de su porche o las luces del interior de enfrente de su casa y salgan afuera a conocer a sus vecinos.

Durante el tiempo, las comunidades han expandido “las reuniones en sus porches” a eventos mas grandes que incluyen a toda la comunidad, como fiestas de todo un bloque, festivales, actividades para jóvenes otros eventos como estos. Como esta detallado en la página del Internet de NATW, La Noche Nacional es diseñada para: (1) Aumentar la prevención del crimen; (2) Generar, apoyar y participar en programas locales de anti-crimen; (3) Fortalecer el espíritu del vecindario y sociedades en la comunidad-policía;

(4) Mandarles un mensaje a los criminales y dejarles saber que los vecindarios están organizados para pelear de regreso.”

La Noche Nacional del 2008- Estilo de Riverdale Park- estará realizando una fiesta de bloque para los residentes y dueños de negocios el Martes 5 de Agosto del 2008 a las 7 p.m. hasta las 9 p.m. Oficiales elegidos, empleados del pueblo y otro nos estarán acompañado para ser voluntarios en la comunidades el espíritu de solidaridad y fraternidad en la Avenida 54th en medio de la Riverdale Road y la calle Jefferson. Comida, música, juegos, información para prevención del crimen, actividades para jóvenes, regalos y otras lugares están planeando para esta reunión. Si tu quieres ser un voluntario y dar un poco de tu tiempo/o especial talento o si tienes una idea para el evento de este ano, por favor inmediatamente contacta al Departamento de Policía a *rivpd@comcast.net* para que pueda ser incluido en este emocionante evento.

TODOS son bienvenidos e invitados a participar en este primer tipo de celebración de la Noche Nacional en Riverdale Park. Estaremos esperando verte esa noche para continuar construyendo la fraternidad que es esencial para mantener la ciudad segura, limpia y bonita.

Mayor's Report

By Vernon Archer



Summer is here and there are so many things happening I'm not sure even where to begin!

National Night Out is one of the things that has me most excited about this summer. It will take place on August 5 from 7 to 9 PM. For those who don't remember or know what National Night Out is, it is designed to get people out and meet their neighbors as a way of reducing crime. The Police Department traditionally has taken the lead on this, and this year is no different.

This year we are going to model our Night Out on a block party and hold it on 54th Avenue. The street will be blocked off, and there will be grilled food, safety information, and fun activities. Our goal is to get the whole town together, so come on out and meet not just your immediate neighbors, but folks from around the rest of our town!

Recycling and refuse removal in Riverdale Park will take a big step forward this summer. The council is working on finishing a contract with Bates Trucking and Trash Removal that will maintain our current level of service, but at a significant cost savings. Those savings have been redirected in the upcoming year's budget to help make our town safer, cleaner and more beautiful.

At the time of this writing final details are being worked out with the contractor. You can expect the following if you live in a single family house, or town house: 1) we will deliver to you trash totter much like the recycling totter you recently received and a detailed explanation of how the new system will work; 2) the new service should begin on or around August 1.

Regarding recycling, I want to congratulate town residents for utilizing the new and expanded mixed-stream recycling system. The majority of households are participating and this will help to save us all money. For those who haven't made the switch to using the recycling system let me encourage you to do so—it's the right thing to do!

Town wide street improvement program is moving into the final stages. After making better than expected progress last year toward our goal of getting every street in town up to a high engineering standard last construction season, we are in a good position to finish the remaining work prior to the end of this construction season in November/December. Some of the more difficult streets, such as the north end of Taylor Road, and the concrete work along La Fayette were saved for this year, but our contractors are getting the jobs done in good time at or below original cost estimates.

Economic development in the town has made some significant steps forward recently. Our contract to develop a marketing strategy with the CLUE Group, as represented by Kennedy Smith, produced its report for the town. This will help us utilize our resources to fill the un-utilized and under-utilized commercial space in town. In particular we will be aiming to fill the niche in the Washington metro area for a green/environmentally friendly building and products area. This strategy will help to differentiate Riverdale Park from the rest of the area.

While it has been very frustrating at times trying to forge a plan to move forward, I want to take a moment to thank some of those who have helped us persevere. Economic Development Committee Chair Alice Walker and committee member Kate Sharpe helped to guide us through to the point that we have a workable plan. Jim Coleman, director of our farmer's market, has been a steadfast champion of developing and implementing a clear strategy for marketing the whole town. There are certainly others who have been very helpful, but these three have truly kept us on track.

One of the first steps forward on this strategy was initiated by our County Councilman, Eric Olson and his staff, working in league with us in Riverdale Park. On June 12, an open house was organized at Town Center to show the available spaces to potential business people. There were numerous attendees that represented everything from a green-building supplier, to an environmental employment agency, to several bakeries and a well known area restaurant, along with other interested parties. The event was a smashing success and thanks goes first to Eric, but also to his Legislative Aid, and our fellow Riverdale resident Dannielle Glaros.

Storm water management is going to become more of a concern in the upcoming years. A significant portion of the storm water management system running through our town is old and dilapidated. In order to rebuild and hopefully improve the system we will have to work with other levels of government. Town staff and I have begun laying the ground work with surrounding towns and the county to seek the major investments we will need for this undertaking. It is something that will not happen quickly, but we must begin the process now of seeking the funding for the improvements.

Best wishes and enjoy your summer!

Reporte del Alcalde



By Vernon Archer

¡El verano ya está aquí y hay muchas cosas que han estado sucediendo y no sé por donde comenzar!

Noche Nacional para la Salida Afuera “National Night Out” es una de las cosas que me tiene con mucha alegría este verano. Esto se llevará a cabo el 5 de agosto de 7 a 9 PM. Para aquellos que no se acuerden o los que no sepan lo que es la Noche Nacional para la Salida Afuera, esto ha sido diseñado para que las personas salgan afuera de sus casas y conozcan a sus vecinos, como también es una manera preventiva para reducir el crimen. El Departamento de la Policía tradicionalmente ha tomado el rol de dirigir esta actividad y este año no es nada diferente.

Estaremos haciendo una fiesta de vecindario de la Noche Nacional y se llevará a cabo en la 54th Avenida. La calle estará bloqueada y tendremos comida asada, información de seguridad y actividades de diversión. Nuestra meta es tener a toda nuestra comunidad unida, salgan con nosotros y conozcan no tan solo a sus vecinos cercanos como también al resto de nuestra comunidad.

El Removido de Reciclaje y objetos desechables en Riverdale Park tomaremos un gran paso hacia adelante este verano. El consejo está trabajando en terminar un contrato con la compañía *Bates Trucking and Trash Removal* el cual mantendrán nuestro actual nivel de servicio con un costo de ahorro significativo. Estos ahorros han sido redirigidos en el presupuesto del año entrante y esto continuará haciendo que nuestra ciudad sea más segura, limpia y más bella.

En este momento ya se han firmado los últimos detalles los cuales trabajaremos con el contratista. Usted esperará lo siguiente si vive en una casa simple de familia o en un “*town house*”: 1) nosotros estaremos llevando un bote de basura parecido al bote de reciclaje que recientemente recibió y una explicación detallada de cómo nuestro sistema estará funcionando; 2) el nuevo servicio comenzará en o alrededor del mes de agosto.

Con relación al reciclaje, yo les quiero felicitar a todos los residentes de nuestra ciudad por utilizar el nuevo y expandido sistema de reciclaje mixto. La mayoría de nuestros residentes están participando y esto nos ayudará ahorrar dinero. Para aquellos que no han hecho el cambio en usar el sistema de reciclaje, permítame alentarles a todos para que comiencen - ¡ esta es la mejor manera de hacerlo!

Mejoras de las calles en toda la ciudad el programa ya está llegando a la etapa final. Después de haber hecho un mejor progreso de lo esperado hacia la meta que teníamos el año pasado el cual era hacer que cada una de nuestras calles cumplieran con los estándares de alta calidad de ingeniería en la construcción, estamos en una buena posición para terminar el trabajo que nos queda antes de que se acabe la temporada de Noviembre/Diciembre. Algunas de las calles más difíciles, como los son el final de la calle Taylor y el trabajo de cemento de la La Fayette, han sido dejadas para este año, pero nuestros contratistas están terminando el trabajo a buen tiempo o por debajo del estimado del costo original.

Desarrollo Económico en nuestra ciudad han tomado recientemente unos pasos hacia adelante los cuales han sido muy significantes. Nuestro contrato para desarrollar una estrategia en el mercado con el Grupo *CLUE*, como lo es representado por Kennedy Smith, el cual produjo su reporte a la ciudad. Esto nos ayudará a utilizar nuestros recursos para llenar los espacios comerciales en nuestra ciudad, los cuales no han sido utilizados o como también han sido limitadamente utilizados. Particularmente, nosotros estaremos aspirando a llenar el nicho que el área metropolitana de Washington tiene para construir y producir áreas verdes/medio ambiente. Estas estrategias le ayudarán a diferenciar a *Riverdale Park* del resto de las demás en el área.

Mientras ha sido de mucha frustración algunas veces el tratar de forjar un plan para seguir adelante, quiero tomar esta oportunidad para agradecerles a todos aquellos que han ayudado para que perseveremos. La Sra. Alice Walker, presidenta del Comité de Desarrollo Económico y la miembro del comité Kate Sharpe, ayudó a dirigirnos para que tengamos un plan que funcione. Jim Coleman, director de nuestro mercado de los agricultores “*farmer’s market*”, ha sido un campeón determinante en desarrollar e implementar una estrategia clara para el mercado de toda la ciudad. Ciertamente existen otros que también han sido de mucha ayuda, pero estas tres personas nos han mantenido en la dirección apropiada.

Unos de los primeros pasos que se han tomado adelante en esta estrategia fué iniciado por nuestro Consejal del Condado, Eric Olson y sus empleados los cuales han trabajado en conjunto con nosotros los de *Riverdale Park*. El 12 de junio, se organizó una actividad de casa abierta y fué organizada en el Centro de la Ciudad, esto fué para enseñarles todos los espacios disponibles para aquellas personas de negocios que estuvieran interesadas. Fueron a esta actividad numerosas personas representando a los suplidores de edificios ambiente verdes “*green-building*” como también una agencia de empleo del medio ambiente, algunas de las panaderías y restaurantes reconocidas de nuestra área, en conjunto a las personas interesadas. Este evento tuvo un gran éxito. Quiero darles las gracias a Eric, como también a sus Ayudantes Legislativos y a nuestra residente de Riverdale Park, Dannielle Claros.

El Manejo de las aguas cuando hay tormentas será de mucha más preocupación en los años entrantes. Una porción significativa del sistema de manejo de las aguas que pasan cuando hay tormentas por nuestra ciudad está obsoleto y arruinado. Para que se pueda reconstruir y mejorar el sistema nosotros esperamos que podamos trabajar con otros niveles del gobierno. Los empleados de la ciudad y yo hemos comenzado a trabajar con nuestra ciudades vecinas y con el condado para buscar una inversión mayor para resolver esta situación. Esto es algo que no pasará rápido, pero nosotros deberemos comenzar con el proceso ahora para encontrar los fondos para hacer estas mejoras. ¡Son los mejores deseos y disfruten el verano!

Ward and Committee Reports

Ward Two Report

By Council Member Kate Sharpe
Chairperson Finance Committee
katherinesharpe@yahoo.com

As many of you already know, I will be giving birth to my first child in June. As I write, I am still a few days away from the due date, but I'm sure by the time you read this, the baby will already be born (hopefully!). The Mayor and town staff have graciously agreed to fill in for me over the next month, as Pete and I get accustomed to our new role as parents. Any ward-related questions or concerns you may have can be directed to the Mayor or town hall until August, when I should be back in action. Please don't hesitate to keep me in the loop with a call or email, but I can't promise a prompt response!

We're very excited to introduce our son to all our great neighbors in Riverdale Park. Have a wonderful summer and I'll see you around town!

Finance Committee

On June 2nd, the Town Council voted unanimously to set the tax rate for fiscal year 2008-09 at 64.1 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation. This means the tax rate will remain the same as last year.

To achieve our goal of maintaining the tax rate, small reductions were made in many areas of the Mayor's proposed budget. In spite of these reductions, the overall town budget increased 2.8 percent from fiscal year 2007-08. The slight increase was largely due to increasing utility and fuel prices, and the cost of providing competitive salaries and benefits for our town employees. Although employees receive a 2 percent annual cost of living adjustment on our standard pay scale, the inflation rate in our area exceeded 4 percent this year.

By individual department, the general government budget increased by 3.2 percent, and the police department budget increased by 14.4 percent. The increase in the police budget was partially due to transferring code enforcement responsibilities to the police department. The public works budget decreased by 9.0 percent due to the privatization of our town trash pickup. Funding for recreation and economic development promotion increased slightly.

On the revenue side, real estate tax revenues are projected to increase 21.3 percent, and the portion of the highway user fund that we receive from the state is projected to increase by 8.7 percent. Most other revenue items remained flat. Detailed budget spreadsheets can be viewed on our Town website:

Thanks to the money we will save by privatizing our trash pickup, we were able to add some much needed resources within this year's budget. Highlights include:

- New emergency dispatcher, which will keep our police officers on patrol instead of substituting at the dispatch desk
- New code enforcement officer, who will assist with our efforts to revitalize the Kenilworth Avenue corridor, and increase code enforcement throughout Town.
- Three new police cruisers to replace outdated vehicles

Opportunity exists for our tax revenue to increase during the year as the University of Maryland continues to construct buildings at the M-Square research park. Should our revenue increase, we hope to direct more funding to economic development initiatives that will benefit the town.

Ward Six and Community Affairs Report

By Council Member Keelah Allen-Smith
Chair, Community Affairs
Keelahd@yahoo.com

Good News: The 2008-09 Budget has been approved!

On behalf of Ward 6 residents, I would like to thank Corporal Larry Hayes for his outstanding support and visibility in Ward 6. Officer Hayes can often be seen patrolling on foot in Ward 6. Officer Hayes' presence is making a difference in Ward 6. His community policing is much appreciated.

National Night Out is being held in Ward 6—on 54th Avenue, August 5th, 7:00pm – 9:00pm. Watch for details. All are encouraged to participate. Volunteers always needed and welcomed. National Night Out will be a great time for everyone to meet neighbors and have a great time together. If you have any questions, please call 301-927-6381.

*Remember National Night Out will be held on 54th Avenue, so 54th Avenue will be **CLOSED 3:00 pm – 11:00 pm Tuesday, August 5th.**

Once again, I want remind everyone that Ward 6 has a high level of pedestrian traffic and as the summer approaches, be alert of your surroundings, watch-out for children at play and to please utilize the trash receptacles along the way.

Remember: National Night Out- August 5, 2008.
Enjoy your summer.

Public Works Report

By L. Addison, Director

The Town is currently in negotiations to privatize trash/garbage collection. Once approval has been granted, the public works department will be delivering a flyer to each household stating the particulars of the privatization. A few of the focal points will be items such as: Twice weekly pick-up with additional bulk/yard waste pick-up; designated pick-up days for the entire town; and, company issued trash receptacles issued to each household. Look for the flyers to be delivered soon.

Please remember to put trash/garbage out on your scheduled days. Special pick-up can be arranged by contacting 301-864-1803 or 301-927-6381 Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Reporte del departamento de servicio publico

Translation by Verence Garay

El Pueblo esta actualmente en negociaciones para privatizar la colección de basura. Una vez que la aprobación haya sido otorgada el departamento de servicio publico estara entregando un boletín a cada casa indicando los detalles de la privatización. Algunos de los centros de atención serán artículos como: Recogiendo dos veces semanal con el desecho adicional de bulto/yarda, designar días de recojo para el pueblo entero, y la entrega de basureros de la compañía a cada casa. Busque el boletín para ser entregado pronto.

Por favor recuerde poner su basura afuera en sus días planificados. Recogimiento especial puede ser arreglado contactándose al 301-864-1803 o al 301-927-6381 Lunes-Viernes 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Senator Pinsky Awards \$60K in Scholarships

Contact: David Kahn or Pamela Shurkin

Senator Paul G. Pinsky awarded over \$60,000 in four-year senatorial scholarships to 78 Prince George's County students living in the 22nd legislative district.

A committee, of twenty-two community leaders from across the 22nd district, chose 78 students for the awards from a large pool of applicants. Among the scholarship committee making the awards were three former recipients. Applicants submitted transcripts, a short statement about why they want to pursue a college education, as well as a resume detailing their relevant volunteer experiences.

This year's recipients exhibited a high degree of academic achievement. All students receiving a senatorial scholarship must attend an in-state school or have been approved by the Maryland Higher Education Commission as having a unique major status. Recipients enrolled as full-time students will automatically receive the senatorial scholarship for up to four years.

"These students have proven their commitment to higher education and I'm sure they will make the district and state proud," said Senator Pinsky. "The scholarship committee should also be congratulated for a job well done."

The 2008 selection committee chose the following applicants from the 22nd legislative district to receive a scholarship: Kaneisha Abbey, Chieun Ahn, Olakanmi Akinkoye, Felisceanna Alexandera, Jumana Ihamameh, Qadira Ali, Sadie Ashby, Adeshola Ashiru, Javier Ayala, Daniel Beaty, Holly Beaty, Tiana Bias, Ashley Bullock, Joshua Burge, Kenneth Burge, Daniel Burge, Kristen Byers, Suzana Callahan, Jamiel Callaway-Pinckney, Kevin Carter, Stanley Chloma, Sasha DaCosta, Shaquana Davis, Stephan Deabreu, Nelson Delgado, Mouhamad Diabate, Ruth Emiola, Cecelia Evans, Robin Fish, David Flores, Ann Fraistat, Robin Goldman, Grace Gyemfi, Saba Gyemfi, Jahi Harris, Stephanie Holland, Cory Holland, Nickola Jackson, Kristiana Jarquin-Moreland, Nicole Jenkins, Sama Jenkins, Ruth Jones, Edwige Kamdom, Galen Kane, Adam LaRusso, Richard Leathers, Nicole Mahdi, Alemngeh Mbetazi, Andrew McLaughlin, Amanda McMath, Brian Mochizuki, Michael Mowery, Marsha Mutchler, Sheba Newman-Blount, Fredrica Newman-Blount, Philomina Ngosong, Kierrah Norman, Ihuoma Nwachukwu, Chigozie Nwachukwu, Chibuzo Nwachukwu, Pius Nwaobasi, Olumuyiwa Odeniyide, Nkiruka Ohaka, Kosisochukwu Okeke, Esther Pianim, Claire Pooley, Erin Rada, Jacob Sama, Watta Sawi, Syeda Sikandar, Isaiah Thomas, Carrie Thomas, Shaina Tucker, Lisa Veenstra, Shanell Whitehead, Jeremiah Wildoner, Trevor Worthy, and Rebecca Zeroth.

Troop 252 News

By Robert Killen

The cancellation of one trip last month because several of the Boy Scouts had not turned in their Class III Health & Safety forms did the trick. All were present and accounted for with current Class III Health & Safety forms on our latest trek - a 25-mile bike hike on the C&O Canal Tow Path.

Before we started off, we checked our bicycles. We adjusted Charleston Starling's brakes on his Mongoose. Joel Sandoval topped off his rear tire with air. Everyone else was ok.

We started off from Harper's Ferry at 9 A.M. just fine; but about three miles up the trail, Joel had a very

loud blowout on his rear tire. I gave him my spare tube. Joel installed it, inflated it, and we rode on. Fifty yards later, his rear tire blew out again-loudly. We looked, and discovered that the culprit was the tire, not the tube. Joel had ridden at home with low pressure long enough for the sidewall weaken, and now, to fail. We decided to return to Harper's Ferry, pushing the bicycle to the General Store (bicycle shop) and buy a new tire and tube.

En route Harper's Ferry, Yorman Amador, our Senior Patrol Leader, volunteered to walk Joel's bicycle the rest of the way back to town to speed up our return to the Towpath. We got everything we needed, and we were on our way - again. The temperature on the trail was now about 95 degrees Fahrenheit, and it was about 10:00 a.m.

We noted that there are water pumps on the Towpath every five miles or so, and our scouts took great delight in soaking their entire upper torsos at each pump. We were dry by the time we arrived at the next pump. We emphasized "hydration, hydration, hydration" at each mile marker. We also noticed that the farther from D.C. we got, the better the water tasted - less iron.

As we crossed one bridge, we spotted a 5-foot snake. He spotted us, too, and was gone before the others arrived. We startled several Great Blue Herons, who also startled us when they noisily flapped their huge wings within ten feet of us while taking evasive action.

There were several large boughs and limbs of downed trees from last week's storm across the Towpath nine miles up. We put our heads together, planned our work, then worked our plan. We moved them off the path, and nobody got hurt. Another Good Turn Daily. A gentleman bicyclist who works for Health and Human Services also joined in the removal task and rode with us for about three miles.

We had agreed to stop at every mile marker so the slowpokes could catch up. We were well-hydrated at the turn-around point, got photos for proof that we were there, and started back.

Until the 18th mile marker, the trip was uneventful. We rode steadily, hydrating, in the shade, through mud puddles, when Charleston started having cramps. We stopped to let him get some rest, and the others continued.

We had been stopped about five minutes, when a couple in their 20s or 30s came to us going the other way. His (Mongoose) bicycle had a flat back tire, and the tire was skidding as he pushed it up the trail. Charleston and I suggested that the gent turn his bike upside down, and we'd fix it. The lady appeared to be relieved. Charleston did the job. Another Good Turn Daily. Charleston had replaced his cramps with smiles the rest of the way back.

The root beer float was DEEELICIOUS! We loaded the bicycles on the bike rack, piled into the van, and headed home.

Maryland. Fire Chiefs' Association pager warned us of severe thunderstorms in Montgomery County. We looked ahead and saw the dark clouds looming. Joel asked, "How far are we from the rain?" "Look for cars coming the other way with their windshield wipers working." Just about then, we saw the rainbow. We headed for the pot of gold. The scouts saw windshield wipers, and in about 30 seconds, we were in a down-pour, and everyone slowed to about ten mph. Police cars and ambulances were traveling about the same speed. By the time we hit Prince George's County, the sun was shining, and Howard County was getting drenched.

We off-loaded scouts, bicycles, and departed for homes - another scouting day was over.

This could have been you! Summer fun has just begun. We're going tubing, primitive camping, as well as surfing, boating, hiking, and biking. Get in touch with Bob Killen, Scoutmaster, T-252 (202) 282-8301, or Eneida Martinez-Brown (MHB), Committee Chair (301) 864-0059.

Riverdale Elementary Unveils Mural

By Dannielle Glaros



Riverdale Elementary students celebrate the unveiling of the student created and designed mural, May 20, 2008

New Changes at Riverdale Elementary

As always there is a lot happening at Riverdale Elementary. One of the highlights of this year was the student-created and designed mural. If you haven't seen it yet, please stop by and admire the creativity of our students and their art teacher. The mural is hanging outside the school.

Starting in August, students at Riverdale Elementary will be wearing uniforms--black polo shirts and khaki

pants/shorts. If you are interested in providing money or extra clothes for students who may not have the funds for uniforms, please drop off the donation at the school this summer.

The school is anticipating 5 Kindergarten classes next year. As you may have noticed, there is a little baby boom happening in our area! We'll see if the school projections hold out over the summer and fall.

This could become a trend and if so, I hope you will become active in helping to ensure that the School Board and System provide sufficient resources and make changes if enrollment becomes too much for the school to handle. A successful school=a great community.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: Lastly, fourth and five grade classes are looking for mentors to work with 2-3 kids in a group on their science fair project this fall. You do not need to be a scientist to assist. Materials will be provided to assist you with the kids. I'm not sure how much time this activity would take, but I expect roughly 3-5 hours. I really hope you will consider this opportunity to work with our kids. They all need positive role models in their lives.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Dannielle at dmglaros@gmail.com or 301-779-5915

Anacostia Watershed Society Annual Regatta

By Steve Reynolds

Join the Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS) on Saturday, July 19, 2008 for the 14th Annual Anacostia Port Towns Paddle sport Regatta at Bladensburg Waterfront Park in Bladensburg, Maryland. Since 1995, the Port Towns Regatta has brought Washington Metro Area residents together to discover nearby recreational opportunities on the Anacostia River. Participants compete in a series of friendly canoe, kayak, and Chinese dragon boat races. Races run from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and are suitable for all ages and skill levels. Boats and safety equipment are provided free of charge. Onshore entertainment includes an eco-fair featuring eco-friendly exhibitors, a dunk tank featuring several special guests, a silent auction, and a live birds of prey exhibit. A free gift is given to all registered racers. Race winners receive trophies and/or medals. Park entrance is free. Racing fee is \$15.00 per event with pre-registration or \$20:00 per event with same-day registration. Visit AWS on the web at www.anacostiaws.org for registration and event information, or call 301-699-6204.

Community Circles

What to Watch For

Monday June 30, 2008— Work Session, TH, 8:00 p.m.

Monday July 7, 2008—Legislative Meeting, TH, 8 p.m.

Tuesday, July 8, 2008— Traffic Study Meeting, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, July 9, 2008— M-UTC Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Thursdays, July-August— Farmers Market, Town Center, 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

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.

Riversdale House Museum--Public tours, Museum Gift Shop. Open - Friday and Sunday – 12- - 4:00 PM

Riversdale Historical Society—Contact Riversdale Mansion at 301-864-0420 for more information.

Civic Committees

Lion's Club—Contact Guy Tiberio at 301-864-3545 for more information.

Madison Hill Homeowners Association—meetings every second Tuesday each month. For information, call (301) 309-9725 or email nancy@cpwi.com. *Did you know, Homeowners who rent their property must have a license from the Town as well as HOA Board approval?*

“JAZZ ON THE PORTICO” AT RIVERSDALE HOUSE MUSEUM

As the sun sets, bring a blanket or lawn chair to Riversdale's beautiful grounds and enjoy the grass under your toes and the jazz wafting through the air. Bring a picnic basket or, if you like, purchase dinner on the grounds courtesy of the Calvert House Inn. The concerts are FREE. The following performers will appear from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm on these dates:

Sandy Asirvatham, Wednesday July 30, 2008--Voted Best Jazz Debut for her album "Memoir" by the Village Voice.



Tuesday, August 5, 2008

CONFLICT RESOLUTION CENTERS

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

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 2, 2008
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 an 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
William Wirt Middle School, (301) 985-1720 (Mr. Coleman)