



The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

July/August 2013

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**Town of Riverdale Park Contact
Information**

**Town Hall 5008 Queensbury Rd
301-927-6381**

Services: park permits, personal property taxes, finances

**Department of Public Works 5012
Queensbury Rd 301-864-1803**

Services: litter pickup, tree maintenance, leaf collection, street maintenance, snow & ice removal, landscaping, parks & playgrounds used motor oil, street lights (on black metal poles only), metal collection, sign posting

**Police Department 5004
Queensbury Rd 301-927-4343**

Services: traffic violations, payment of tickets received, records management, fingerprinting, background checks, report criminal activity.



Riverdale Park National Night Out

Tuesday, August 6, 2013

6:00 pm---8:00 pm

Riverdale Park Town Center
6214 Rhode Island Avenue
Riverdale Park, MD 20737

Join the Riverdale Park Police Department, neighbors, and friends for a night of promoting crime prevention and neighborhood unity.

There will be food, games, music, and giveaways. We are looking forward to seeing you at this community event.

For further information regarding this event please contact: Colleen M. Ferguson at 301-209-1513.

Council Actions

By Waverly Pollitt

May 6, 2013

Regular Legislative Meeting

1. **Approved-** Town election results.

May 7, 2013

Special Legislative Meeting

Consent Agenda Items:

1. **Approved-** A request for a temporary business license for Teresa's Garden Center to sell flowers and gifts at 6111 Kenilworth Avenue (Ward 4).
2. **Approved-** Minutes from regular legislative meeting on April 1, 2013.
3. **Approved-** Minutes from Special Legislative meeting on April 24, 2013.

Legislative Action items:

1. **Introduced-** Ordinance 2013-OR-04, regarding the FY 14 budget.
3. **Approved-** To waive bid requirements for financial services and selection of Davenport & Company as the financial consultant for preparation of TIF bonds.
4. **Approved-** To send a letter recognizing CM David Lingua as the ATHA Governing Board representative for Riverdale Park.
5. **Approved-** Minutes from the Special Legislative meeting on April 29, 2013.

New Business:

1. **Approved-** To close Silk Tree Drive on May 31, 2013 from 8:00pm to 10:00pm.
2. **Approved-** To appoint Kate Kelly as the Ward 6 representative on the Board of Election Appeals.

May 11, 2013

Special Legislative Meeting

1. **Approved-** To send to the Planning Board a letter of approval with conditions for the Cafritz Project PPS 4-13002

May 16, 2013

Special Legislative Meeting

1. **Approved-** Conflict of interest waiver for attorney representation of the Towns of Riverdale Park and University Park and the City of College Park regarding Cafritz Project.

May 19, 2013

Special Legislative Meeting

1. **Approved-** To send to the Planning Board a letter of Approval with conditions for the Cafritz Project DSP-13009 (Ward 1)

May 28, 2013

Special Legislative Meeting

1. **Approved-** To send a letter to the Planning Board a letter regarding the Cafritz Project DSP -13009 and SP 13002 (Ward 1).

Town of Riverdale Park

www.riverdaleparkmd.gov

Town Hall

5008 Queensbury Road
Riverdale Park, MD 20737
301-927-6381, Hablamos Español
town@riverdaleparkmd.gov
Mayor Vernon Archer, 240-832-2257
varcher@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Council Members

Ward 1–Jonathan W. Ebbeler,
Chair, Econ Development, 404-626-2082
jebbeler@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Ward 2 – Alan Thompson
Chair, Finance Committee, 301-927-7407
akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Ward 3 - David Lingua
Chair, Public Safety, 301-779-3849
djlingua@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Ward 4 - Christopher Henry
Chair, Public Works, 301-910-9855
Chenry3240@verizon.net

Ward 5 – Raymond Rivas
Chair, Community Affairs, 301-625-9435
rrivas@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Ward 6 – Alejandro Silva
Chair, Legislative Committee, 301-801-3021
Sara Imhulse, Town Administrator
simhulse@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Jessica Barnes, **Town Clerk**
jbarnes@riverdaleparkmd.gov
Public Works, 301-864-1803

Leonard Addison, **Director**
Code Enforcement 240-898-2500
Colleen M. Ferguson, **Code Manager**

code@riverdaleparkmd.gov
Police Department, 301-927-4343
David Morris, **Police Chief**

dmorris@riverdaleparkmd.gov
Fire Department - Emergency 911
Information - 301-927-0356

Charles Ryan, **Chief**

info@riverdalevfd.com, www.riverdalevfd.com
or, Riverdalefirechief7@gmail.com

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

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

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

The Town Crier is also available at the Town's
Website: www.riverdaleparkmd.info

Submission deadline: 15th of each month.

Submit all copies to
towncrier@riverdaleparkmd.gov



Code Corner

The Town of Riverdale Park Code Enforcement will be paying particular attention to the following code, 33-20 during the next few months. Please make sure house numbers are visible for all emergency vehicles.

HOUSE NUMBERS

§ 33-20. House numbers. [Added 2-6-95.]

Revised 01- 08

The owner or occupant of any building or structure within the town shall have and keep affixed thereto the appropriate house number of a size and type and so placed as to be clearly legible from the street. The size shall not be less than four (4) inches in height and of a bold character, and the color shall be of a contrasting shade so that the number is easily discernible. The numbers shall be placed on the front of the house or the side that faces the street to which the address is assigned. The numbers shall conform to the plan of house numbering prepared by the Maryland-National Park and Planning Commission pursuant to its authority and applicable laws.

For further information regarding town codes please visit the town's website at www.riverdaleparkmd.info or contact the code enforcement office directly at 240-898-2500.

TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK FAIR SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE 2013-OR-05

This is to give notice that the Riverdale Park Town Council has introduced and intends to take action on Ordinance 2013-OR-05.

Ordinance 2013-OR-05 would repeal the current Personnel Policy and related Grievance Procedure for the Town of Riverdale Park and adopt a new personnel manual to govern personnel matters and policies for Town of Riverdale Park employees; establish policies and procedures relating, among other things, to matters involving position classifications and a classification plan, employee recruitment and promotion, employee compensation, employee performance evaluation, employee attendance and leave, employee benefits, employee discipline and grievances, separation from employment, prohibitions against unlawful discrimination and harassment, employee political activity, employee outside employment, workplace safety, telecommunications and privacy, employee travel, telework, media relations and retention of management rights by the Town; provide for certain matters relating to a transition from the Town's current personnel system to the new system established by this Ordinance; and address matters generally relating to a comprehensive revision of the Town's personnel system.

Ordinance 2013-OR-05 is available for inspection by the public at Town Hall during normal business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

It's almost impossible to miss all of the street and utility work that is going on in town now. WSSC, PEPCO and State Highway all have significant work projects underway already and there is even more coming soon! There are significant impacts on us all so let me catch you up on what is happening.

Mayor's Report

By Vernon Archer

Baltimore Avenue and East-West Highway Intersection Improvement

This project is designed to relieve traffic congestion at the intersection by adding a second left-hand turn lane northbound onto East-West Highway. By almost doubling the left-turn capacity we should see significantly less backup along Baltimore Avenue north bound after the work is completed. However, the up-front investment will mean enduring significant traffic delays this summer as the project moves forward.

We are closely coordinating with State Highway to insure that we are informed about their closures and rerouting so that we can minimize delays that will inevitably be a part of this project. The project is scheduled to be completed this construction season (by October).

Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) Projects

There are three significant WSSC projects underway now. These projects will represent the biggest challenge for us as they all include significant work being done in our town right-of-ways.

Before providing details about the individual projects I want to assure you that your town government is working to insure that this work is done with the least amount of disruption that is feasible and that our streets, sidewalks and other town infrastructure will be restored to a high quality state when the work is completed. It has been my administration's policy to first achieve and then keep our streets at an "A" excellent or "B" good engineering rating and we will make certain that will be the end result of each finished project. However, we will have to be patient through the process because the restoration work comes at the very end and for reasons of economy cannot happen until the whole water main and/or sewer line project is completed.

The three projects are:

1. The water main along 54th Avenue, from East-West Highway to Spring Street and along Jefferson is well along toward completion. This project should be completed this construction season with full restoration of our streets included.
2. The sewer/water mains and service connections along Queensbury west of Baltimore Avenue and streets immediately adjacent, is well underway. Because of the significant amount of work being done it will not be completed this construction season, and we will have to wait till 2014 to see full restoration of our streets. We are working with WSSC and its contractors to see to it that the temporary repairs to the streets, prior to their full restoration at the end of the project, are adequate—meaning they do not pose undue threat to the cars, trucks and buses that will continue to use the street as the process moves forward.
3. The next major project is the replacement of the water mains and service connections in a wide area between Lafayette on the west and Taylor/51st Street on the east. It is in the final planning stages and will begin near the end of this year. This major contract is slated to take 2 years to complete so we will not be able to see full restoration of our streets until 2015. Again, we will work with the contractors to make certain that the temporary road restoration is of adequate quality to not cause undue wear and tear on our vehicles.

You can visit our town web site to see maps illustrating each of these projects.

PEPCO

Our electric company has been working throughout the region to improve its service reliability. This has largely focused on trimming trees and removing trees that pose a threat to power lines as well as replacing substandard utility poles. While we are certainly happy to have more reliable service, Town government is also working to protect our tree canopy to the greatest extent possible as well as actively planting replacement trees for those that are removed.

Because tree canopy restoration falls on us, the Council increased the planting budget for this coming fiscal year and Public Works is striving to "right size" the replacements. We are using best practices so that the next generation of trees will have smaller ones near the power lines and the stately large trees away from the poles and in places with adequate natural surface to sustain them. We are also trying to use native trees that will require less long-term maintenance.

Additionally, we are particularly interested in working with residents to plan trees where they are most wanted. Please contact Public Works to request a tree planting in the right-of-way in front of your house and we will make every effort to see that a good fit for your location is planted.

Ward and Committee Reports

Ward Two Report

By Council Member Alan Thompson
akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Finance Committee Report

As spring warms up into the full summer, many projects have finished, but others are moving in to take their place.

May was filled with news of the Cafritz development. After the surprising changes in the location of the bridge that I talked about last month, the project as a whole went before the County's Planning Board and was approved (both the preliminary plan of subdivision – which lays out property lines and streets – and the detailed site plan, which provides detailed designs for buildings and streetscapes). While there are still appeals and lawsuits before construction will begin, the project did get past some major hurdles.

One of the projects that are ramping up at this time is the landing site of the bridge from the Cafritz project. While the exact landing site still has not been determined, it is all but given that the soccer field will no longer be usable as such. With the proposed schedule for construction, and the impact on residents, we need to get moving quickly to decide how the recreational space will be developed (at least enough that we can plant some trees very soon). Please keep your eyes open for announcements of meetings to make these design decisions on the Town's mailing lists (TownAnnounce and TownTalk -) or riverdalepark.patch.com. If you are interested but don't have access to those resources, please contact me and I'll make sure to let you know when meetings are happening; I'll also be reporting here as we make progress.

In early June, the Town Council passed the annual budget for the Town. As anticipated, we kept the tax rate constant which means (given the lower assessments on residential real estate) that

most residents will see a smaller tax bill from the Town this year.

At the June legislative meeting I introduced a new version of the Town's personnel policy, which establishes the policies under which the Town's employees must operate. This policy has been worked on at all levels of Town government for over a year, and is a major improvement over the previous version. It will come up for a vote at the legislative session on July 1.

The Town Crier will be taking a break in August, so I'll write again as summer ends. I hope you all enjoy the warm weather, delicious fresh produce, and relaxed schedule of summer!

Public Works Report

By Leonard Addison

Saturday Drop-off – The Saturday drop-off schedule is as follows: **July 20, August 17,** September 21, October 19, November 16, and December 21.

Holiday Trash Collection – There will be no trash collection on Thursday, July 4, 2013, in recognition of Independence Day. The next trash collection day will be Monday, July 8, 2013.

Field of Dreams – To the users of the Field of Dreams, please remember to LOWER the nets before you leave the field. Failure to do so may result in injury to the local wildlife.

Trash Toter Repair/Replacement – Residents should call Bates Trash and Trucking Company at 301-773-2069, for the repair or replacement of damaged trash toters, i.e. broken lids or missing wheels. Bates will replace any toter beyond repair. Contact the Department of Public Works at 301-864-1803, with questions.

Bulk Trash Pickups & Special Trash Pickups
Bulk Trash pickups are scheduled by **APPOINTMENT ONLY**. In order to have bulk items picked up on Wednesdays, you must call

Bates Trash and Trucking Company at 301-773-2069, before 2:00 PM on Tuesdays.

Items must be at curbside by 7:00 AM on Wednesdays. Bates is not required to pick up more than **THREE (3) bulk items from any one-family dwelling per week**. If you have more than three (3) items, you can make another appointment for the items to be picked up on the following Wednesday.

Town Codes/Regulations – In response to residents' inquiries about the maintenance of trees, grass and control of weeds, the following codes apply:

- **Chapter 57-9 Overhanging trees, shrubbery or hedges:**

No person shall allow any wall, hedge or shrub located on his property, or property of which he has possession, to project therefrom so as to obstruct or cover and part of the sidewalk, or permit any tree or shrub to overhang the sidewalk or street in any manner so as to impede the full and free use thereof by the public.

- **Chapter 57-10. Grass bordering sidewalks and paths:**

It shall be the duty of every person in charge or control of any building or parcel of land located in the town, fronting or abutting on a public sidewalk, whether as owner, tenant, occupant or otherwise, to cut and keep trim grass from the edge of the property line to the paved road, whether the land is public or private, and not to allow any trash, waste material, garbage, offensive dirty material, weeds, briars, brush and grass to grow more than ten (10) inches tall. It shall be unlawful to fail, neglect or refuse to comply with this section.

- **Chapter 68-1 Control of Weeds:**

No owner or occupant of property within the town shall permit weeds, grass or thickets to grow upon his property more than seven (7) inches tall so as to constitute a menace to health or an obstruction to the free passage of persons using the sidewalk contiguous thereto.

The following items will not be picked up: building materials, concrete, bricks, roof shingles, stumps, bamboo, pressurized containers, explosives, paint (unless paint is dry in cans), poisons, caustics, construction and demolition debris, asbestos, toilets, free liquids, sewage, sludge. These items can be taken to **Brandywine Sand & Gravel, 5800 Sheriff Road, Capitol Heights, MD. 301-925-8100.**

Community Circles

Employment Skills Training

The Training Source, Inc. is an award-winning, HUD Best Practice, non-profit organization that develops people, not just skills. We are one of only six nonprofit organizations in Prince George's County to earn the coveted Standards for Excellence certification, which represents the highest level of ethics and accountability in the nonprofit sector.

The Training Source's comprehensive Office Automation Training program provides employment skills that are currently in demand by area employers to eligible unemployed and underemployed citizens. This program utilizes instructor-led and self-paced instruction, which allows each student to develop skills according to his or her learning capabilities. Key components of this 15-week program include:

Computer Literacy Skills - Computer Concepts, Keyboarding/Typing, Microsoft Windows, and Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Access);

Life Skills - Business Math, Business English, Time/Money Management, Consumerism, Self-Esteem and Motivation;

Professional Skills - Resume Preparation, Business Correspondence, Successful Job Search Strategies, Job Survival Tips, How to Dress for Success, and Interview Techniques; and Job Placement Assistance and Follow-up Services

Information sessions are held on Wednesdays at

10:00 a.m.

CALL TODAY- CLASSES FORMING NOW!

The Training Source, Inc.
 59 Yost Place ~ Seat Pleasant, MD 20743
 (Near the Addison Road Metro Station)
 (301) 499-8872
contact@thetrainingsource.org

See Us On The Web! www.thetrainingsource.org

Local Organizations

Lion's Club Meeting: Every Fourth Wednesday.
 Contact President Patrick J. Prangley at (240) 882-4993.

Northern County Soccer Alliance: Contact
NCSA@soccer.net or (301) 927-0560.

Riverdale Park Boys Scouts Troop 252:
 Contact: Scoutmaster Bob Killen at (301) 483-8455.

Madison Hill Homeowners Association: For information, call (301) 583-8857 or www.madisonhill.biz.

Riversdale Historical Society: Riversdale Mansion. Contact (301) 864-0420.

Riverdale Park Farmer's Market: Contact Jim Coleman at (301) 586-5973.

Riverdale Boys & Girls Club: E-mail riverdaleboysgirlsclub@yahoo.com (301) 277-KIDS.

Riverdale Park Business Association: Contact Bruce Wernek at 240-684-0795 for meeting site.

Riverdale Park Arts Council: Contact Jeffrey Yorke at (301) 502-1243 or yorkedial@gmail.com

The Historical Association of Riverdale Park (HARP): Website: www.riverdaleparkhistory.org
 E-mail: harp@riverdaleparkhistory.org.

August 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Town-Wide Trash Collection	2	3
4	5 Town-Wide Trash Collection	6 National Night Out, 6-8p, Town Center	7 MUTC, 7:30p, TH Yard Waste Collection	8 Farmer's Market, 3-7p, Town Center Town-Wide Trash Collection	9	10
11	12 Town-Wide Trash Collection	13	14 Yard Waste Collection	15 Farmer's Market, 3-7p, Town Center Town-Wide Trash Collection	16	17
18	19 Town-Wide Trash Collection	20	21 Yard Waste Collection	22 Farmer's Market, 3-7p, Town Center Town-Wide Trash Collection	23	24
25	26 Worksession, 8p, TH Town-Wide Trash Collection	27	28 Yard Waste Collection	29 Farmer's Market, 3-7p, Town Center Town-Wide Trash Collection	30	31