



# The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

**July/August 2014**

Volume 44, Issue 6

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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.

**Bulk Trash Collection 301-773-2069**

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY  
Bates Trucking and Trash Collections  
Residents must call by 2pm Tuesday for Wednesday pickup

## Riverdale Park National Night Out



Tuesday, August 5, 2014  
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

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 Jhony Bustos at 301-927-6381.

### THE RIVERDALE PARK BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

**shine**  
MASSAGE AND WELLNESS STUDIO  
240-487-9427

**THE IVY LOUNGE**  
UNISEX SALON & SPA  
240-582-5816

**DIVINE**  
Beauty salon  
UNISEX  
301-699-0101

**bikram**  
HOT YOGA  
RIVERDALE PARK  
301-699-1300

*Welcomes* *New Businesses !*

# Council Actions

By Waverly Pollitt

Regular Legislative Meeting  
June 2, 2014

## Consent Agenda

Motion to approve consent agenda items: -**Approved**

1. Closure of Town Center parking lot for National Night Out on August 5, 2014 from 2:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. (Ward 1)
2. Minutes from the May 5, 2014 Legislative Meeting
3. Fence Permit Application: 4605 Riverdale Road, 4 foot wooden front yard fence (Ward 1)

## Legislative Action Items

1. Motion to adopt Ordinance 2014-OR-05 regarding the FY 15 budget- **Adopted**
2. Motion to adopt Ordinance 2014-OR-04 regarding street improvements standards- **Adopted**
3. Motion to adopt Resolution 2014-R-08 regarding Riverdale Park M-UTC Zone- **Adopted**
4. Motion to approve a letter to the Planning Board regarding the Preliminary College Park-Riverdale Park Transit District Development Plan (TDDP)- **Approved**
5. Introduction of Ordinance 2014-OR-06 amending the FY 14 Budget- **Introduced**

## New Business

1. Motion to adopt Resolution 2014-R-09 requesting Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) to conduct a Root Cause Analysis for water supply failure at Riverdale Towers (5600 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue) - **Adopted**



## Town of Riverdale Park

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

### Town Hall

5008 Queensbury Road  
Riverdale Park, MD 20737

301-927-6381, Hablamos Español  
[town@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:town@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

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

### Council Members

**Ward 1**–Jonathan W. Ebbeler,  
Chair, Econ Development, 404-626-2082  
[jebbeler@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:jebbeler@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

**Ward 2** – Alan Thompson  
Chair, Finance Committee, 301-927-7407  
[akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

**Ward 3** - David Lingua  
Chair, Public Safety, 301-779-3849  
[djlingua@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:djlingua@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

**Ward 4** - Christopher Henry  
Chair, Public Works, 301-910-9855  
[Chenry3240@verizon.net](mailto:Chenry3240@verizon.net)

**Ward 5** – Raymond Rivas  
Chair, Community Affairs, 301-625-9435  
[rrivas@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:rrivas@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

**Ward 6** – Alejandro Silva  
Chair, Legislative Committee, 301-801-3021  
**Sara Imhulse, Town Administrator**  
[simhulse@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:simhulse@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

Jessica Barnes, **Town Clerk**  
[jbarnes@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:jbarnes@riverdaleparkmd.gov)  
Public Works, 301-864-1803

Leonard Addison, **Director**  
Code Enforcement 240-898-2500  
Colleen M. Ferguson, **Code Manager**  
[code@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:code@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

Police Department, 301-927-4343  
David Morris, **Police Chief**

[dmorris@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:dmorris@riverdaleparkmd.gov)  
Fire Department - Emergency 911  
Information - 301-927-0356

Brian Carpio, **Fire Chief**  
[info@riverdalevfd.com](mailto:info@riverdalevfd.com), [www.riverdalevfd.com](http://www.riverdalevfd.com)  
or, [Eng7twr@yahoo.com@gmail.com](mailto:Eng7twr@yahoo.com@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](http://www.riverdaleparkmd.info)

**Submission deadline: 15th of each month.**

Submit all copies to  
[towncrier@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:towncrier@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

# Riversdale Events

## **WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE RIVERSDALE HOUSE MUSEUM**

The Jazz on the Lawn series is back, thanks to support from the Town of Riverdale Park and the Maryland State Arts Council.

Concerts are Wednesdays, 7-8 pm. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and a picnic and enjoy the music. In case of rain, the concert moves inside.

July 2--Bay Jazz Project

July 16--Gina DeSimone & the Moaners

July 30--The Archie Edwards Blues Heritage Foundation Jambassadors

August 13--The Susan Jones Jazz Quartet

## **ACCOMPLISHMENT BOOTCAMP**

July 21-25, 10 am - 1:30 pm

This week-long program for ages 5-8 will teach them the skills to be an accomplished young lady or gentleman in 1812. Includes games, crafts, music, and more.

\$18/day or \$78/week

## **MUSTERING THE MILITIA WEEKEND**

July 26-27, 12:15-3:15 pm

In conjunction with other area War of 1812 sites, Riversdale will be open for FREE tours Saturday and Sunday. Each afternoon includes family activities, open hearth cooking, and living history interpreters.

## **UNDAUNTED WEEK-200TH COMMEMORATION OF THE BATTLE OF BLADENSBURG**

This year, the Battle of Bladensburg event will NOT be at Riversdale-join us at the Bladensburg Waterfront Park on Saturday, August 23, for a FREE afternoon and evening. Meet the troops and see the battle re-enactment in the afternoon. In the evening, enjoy live performances and fireworks. Plan to buy lunch or dinner from the DC food trucks on site. NOTE THAT THERE IS NO PARKING AT THE PARK-GO TO LOT 1 AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND AND CATCH A FREE SHUTTLE.

Events at Riversdale include a lecture on August 19-details TBA, and a ticketed "John Bull" Roast on Friday evening, August 22.

For information on all our events, call 301-864-0420 or email [Riversdale@pgparks.com](mailto:Riversdale@pgparks.com)



# Mayor's Report

By Mayor Vernon Archer

## Flash Flood of June 10

As of my writing this, we are still working through and recovering from the impact of the very unusual storm we experienced on the morning of June 10. This storm was confined to a relatively small area ranging from Beltsville to our north, down to about Mt. Rainier in the south. It dumped between 4 and 5 inches of rain in less than 2 hours. To put this in perspective, the average rainfall for the month of June is approximately 3.78 inches for Washington DC. Thus, we received a month's worth of rain in less than two hours!

Many of our friends and neighbors experienced significant property damage. In particular, we had a number of flooded basements (often smashing in exterior doors and windows), damaged heating and air-conditioning systems, water heaters, washers and driers. In the aftermath we've seen many yards and driveways filled with soaked carpets, furniture and ruined TVs, stereos and similar equipment. My heart goes out to the many who have suffered very real and shocking losses from this storm.

I am relieved to report though that there were no serious injuries in or in the immediate vicinity of Riverdale Park from this storm. Considering this storm forced the overflow of the Wells Run drainage system, the threat of drowning pedestrians or trapped motorists was a very real possibility. Yes, many motorists were literally trapped in their vehicles along East-West Highway and the possibility of being swept away was very real.

By the time you are reading this report, I hope that some of what I'm reporting is old news and most of the cleanup is just a memory. However, there are many lessons and concerns that will take time for the Town and regional authorities to grapple with.

There was significant damage to the infrastructure of Wells Run. The most immediate danger was a threat of undermining of East West Highway at Taylor Road that state highway is responsible for fixing. As of June 13<sup>th</sup> repairs had begun and I am confident this will be addressed adequately to avoid major problems at this intersection.

Another significant problem was upstream next to the East-West Highway bridge. Here the concrete walls along the edge of Wells Run have collapsed in one place and the debris is forming a small obstruction in the bottom of the channel. This is the second significant failure of the system in the last four years, and it seems likely that more collapses are of this nature will happen; it is just a matter of time. As of June 17, repairs have not commenced under county Public Works, which is the agency responsible for maintaining this stretch of the system.

A significant lesson I take from this is that neither the state nor county did any form of inspection in the aftermath of the flood. The only reason that the immediate dangers to East-West Highway, Wells Run, and the surrounding properties are even identified is because Town officials took it upon themselves to investigate and inspect the infrastructure that both the state and county are responsible for. While we will always be vigilant in protecting our town, it is completely unacceptable that the state and county did not immediately respond and conduct a thorough inspection of these vital systems after a flash flood. It is still unclear what steps should be taken to insure that the higher levels of government are not clear at this time, but we will not rest until we are assured that an inspection regime is in place for any future events like this.

We are also working to assist those unfortunate homeowners who suffered property damage from the flood. We are actively collecting information about who suffered damage and what the extent of that damage is. Our hope is to identify government resources for homeowners, but to date that goal has not been achieved. We are not giving up easily though and hope that our efforts will pay off.

If you suffered damage from the flood, please keep careful records of all costs and photographs might also prove helpful. If we are able to lineup any form of relief such records will almost certainly be required.

Lastly, our public works department has been working throughout the town to insure that refuse collection above and beyond what is normally provided takes place as so many families work to recover from this disaster. While it is the responsibility of homeowners to take care of their own waste removal, we do understand that this is an unusual situation and we are determined to be good neighbors and help out any way we can. If you have a special situation and need assistance please feel free to contact public works directly, myself, or your council member.

# Ward and Committee Reports

Americans with Disabilities Act, and how the Town can ensure compliance with that federal law.

## Ward Two Report

By Council Member Alan Thompson  
[akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

### Finance Committee Report

**Flash Flood:** The Town is working, as I write, to understand what might have contributed to the overflow of Wells Run (and other failures of storm water management systems) during the flash flood on June 10. The Town has asked residents near Wells Run about what they observed – if you saw something and have not been contacted, please contact me or Mayor Archer to let us know. We are working with County and State agencies with responsibility for storm water management to prevent similar flooding in the future.

**Budget:** As I anticipated in my last report, the Town Council passed the FY 15 budget with no increase in the tax rate. I thank Mayor Archer, my colleagues on the Council, and Town Staff for working cooperatively to create and pass a fiscally responsible budget that addresses the needs of our town.

**Maryland Municipal League:** I attended the spring Maryland Municipal League meeting early this month along with several other members of the Town Council and Town Staff. I attended a fantastic session on Smart Growth, introduced by former Governor Parris Glendening, and featuring Mayors and senior staff from towns and cities around Maryland. The panelists discussed how they had worked with state agencies, non-profit organizations, and businesses to create high-quality pedestrian and transit-oriented infill development and redevelopment. I hope to apply what I learned there soon. Another highlight of the meeting, besides learning more about what was going on in nearby communities from their elected officials, was learning about recent changes in the

**Farmers' Market:** I haven't gotten my first local tomato yet, but the variety and quantity of produce at the Farmers' Market is getting better every week. The salad greens and berries have been delicious, and I look forward to the market not just for produce, but also for baked goods and prepared foods like tikka wraps, barbecue, and burritos. I hope to see you at the market in Town Center on Thursdays from 3 pm to 7 pm.

## Public Works Report

By Leonard Addison

**Saturday Drop Off:** The next scheduled dates for drop off of bulk trash on the third Saturday of each month, from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM, are as follows: July 19, August 16, September 20, October 18, November 15, December 20.

**Tree Trimming:** The arborist will be posting "No Parking" signs as they begin trimming trees in the community. Your cooperation is needed to adhere to the times posted by moving your vehicles so that the trees are accessible to the vendor for this service.

**Mosquito Control Program:** The Town of Riverdale Park has been scheduled for adult mosquito surveillance and possible spraying on Tuesday nights *between 8:30 p.m. and 2:00 a.m.* Adulticiding began June 2, 2014, and will run through *September 18, 2014*. Determinations to spray on Tuesdays will be made by the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) and will be based on the following:

1. Due to variable weather conditions – high winds, precipitation
2. Groups of people congregating in an area, and

3. The mosquito count on the night of the spraying

The MDA cannot guarantee that surveillance or spraying will be done in any given week.

In order to reduce the presence of mosquitos, residents must keep their property free of mosquito breeding containers, stagnant water, bird baths, wading pools, pet watering dishes, tin cans, old tires, clogged gutters or flower pots. Other water holding containers should be stored upside down.

Complaints about mosquitos can be faxed to the Maryland Department of Agriculture at 301-422-0502 or call 301-422-5080 with questions or concerns.

**Yard Waste Collection: As a reminder,** effective January 1, 2014, the Waste Management Division of the Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources (DER), issued a notice (included in resident's August 2013 tax bill) that requires **ALL yard waste** to be placed in brown paper bags or loose in a **clearly marked "YARD WASTE" collection can/container (i.e., trash cans).** Yard waste will no longer be collected in plastic bags. For additional information please call 311 or 301-883-5810.

#### **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.

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.**

## **Boy Scouts Troop 252**

By Robert Killen

In the last issue of the Crier, we wrote that we were planning to go to Jefferson-Patterson Park and Museum for the Archaeology Merit Badge dig, and we did - twice. Two groups of Scouts and Scouters went on two different weekends. We camped out the night of 23 May by the tobacco barn, waited for the meteor showers; we saw one Fireball at 10:30 PM, and nothing else remarkable. Scoutmaster Killen stayed awake from 2:00-4:00 AM to make certain that nothing happened. Nothing happened.

Mr. Price got up early Saturday morning, found a take-out breakfast place 11 miles away, and we ate after we had packed up our tents. The dig, which will continue every Saturday through July, was really exciting. We found pottery from the 1600's, bullets, bones, bricks and Native American and European smoking pipes, in a 4' X 4' hole, 1' deep. Mr. Price left early and brought back lunch, which is REALLY good when we're hungry! And we were. We toured the Maryland Archives which has over 4 million artifacts. We're gaining a greater appreciation of how important archaeology is.

On 30-31 May, Scouts and Scouters from Troop 252 and 602 spent the night camping out in Scoutmaster Killen's back yard; Assistant Scoutmaster Hamilton brought his Ham radio rig (with a nifty new antenna!) and we stayed up way after dark, scanning the HF and VHF bands for Ham radio operators worldwide; we heard from Venezuela, Qatar, Mexico (for sure), and many other places; ASM Hamilton's laptop translates Morse code into plaintext English, so we had a treat, because the Automatic Morse was almost too fast for us "Old Hands" who hadn't copied "dits" and "dahs" for many years.

On 7 June, we re-visited Jefferson-Patterson Park, did the dig, and Michael Jarquin took notes

and MANY photos of the dig and Archives. If you email [rfkille@yahoo.com](mailto:rfkille@yahoo.com), I'll email the photos to you.

A couple of our Boy Scouts who hadn't gone either weekend decided at the last minute on Friday night that they were going to go Saturday morning. We told them that we had had to plan at least a week in advance, but "Good luck!" The dig was filled up, so this time their "Last minute" attempt didn't work. They're planning going later this summer.

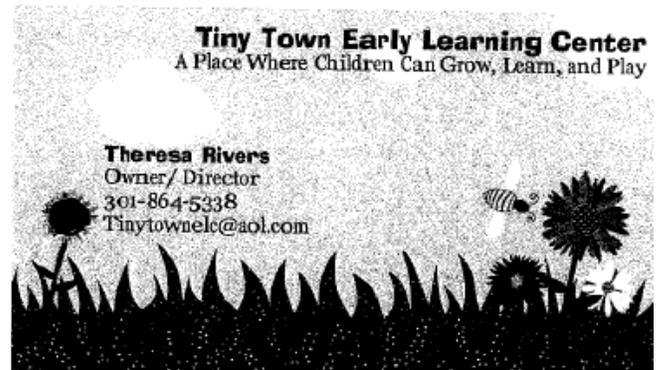
Chincoteague Pony Penning is 30 July, and August will see us bicycle riding, hiking, swimming, tubing and camping. To get in on the fun, contact Sandra Tolson ([saanee@yahoo.com](mailto:saanee@yahoo.com) 301-927-2275), Eneida Martínéz-Brown (301-864-0059) or Bob Killen ([rfkille@yahoo.com](mailto:rfkille@yahoo.com) 301-483-8455). You won't regret it!

## Community Circles

### Lost Chairs at Town Center

Eight metal folding chairs were left behind at Town Center after ArtsFest2014—May 4, 2014. Ben Guiffre had brought the chairs for the story-telling circle where he was one of the story tellers. A friend was to pick them up at the end of the day but came too late and the chairs were gone.

Please, if you picked these chairs up, or know where they may be, call Ben Guiffre at 301-873-1114.



### 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](mailto:NCSA@soccer.net) or (301) 577-3559.

**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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:yorkedial@gmail.com)

**The Historical Association of Riverdale Park (HARP):** Website: [www.riverdaleparkhistory.org](http://www.riverdaleparkhistory.org) E-mail: [harp@riverdaleparkhistory.org](mailto:harp@riverdaleparkhistory.org)



¡Feliz Día de la Independencia!



# Camp Candy Land

## For Girls in Grades K-5



**Camp** Candy Land will be a world of SUGAR, SCIENCE, MATH and FUN.

Girls ages 13-17 can be Camp Aides & earn Service Hours.

**Camp Registration Deadline: June 27, 2014**

CAMP Candy Land is a community outreach camp designed as a Girl Scout introductory program for girls who are not currently Girl Scouts.



**Dates: Monday July 14 thru Friday, July 18, 2014**

**Hours: 9:00am-4:00pm**

**Location: Girl Scout Property in Brandywine, MD (PG County)**

**Cost: \$40, Financial Assistance Available**

Fees include: T-Shirt, Transportation and snack  
Camp fees are non-refundable  
Campers should bring healthy lunch & drink (no glass please) to camp each day.

Campers should bring a healthy lunch and water bottle to camp each day. Snack provided daily.

### Free Transportation Provided!

Please see the registration form on the back to select your bus stop. Times will be confirmed after registration is complete.

### To Register for Camp Candy Land visit:

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/camp\\_candyland\\_2014](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/camp_candyland_2014)

Or complete the registration form, attach a check or money order for the camp fees and return to:

Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital,

Attn: Camp Candy Land

2670 Crain Highway, Suite 101

Waldorf, MD 20601

For questions or more information, contact: Charmaine Wilson

At [cwilson@gscnc.org](mailto:cwilson@gscnc.org) or call 301-861-5865



# August 2014-Town of Riverdale Park

5008 Queensbury Road  
Riverdale Park, Maryland  
20737

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1  MUTC, 7:p-9p,	2
3	4  <i>Town-Wide Trash Collection</i>	5  <b>NATIONAL NIGHT OUT, 6p- 8p, Town Center</b>	6  MUTC, 7:30p, TH  <i>Yard Waste Collection</i>	7  <b>Farmer's Market, 3p-7p</b>  <i>Town-Wide Trash Collection</i>	8  <b>Boy Scouts, 7-9p, TH</b>	9
10  <b>Doll Club, 3-6pm, TH</b>	11  <i>Town-Wide Trash Collection</i>	12	13  <i>Yard Waste Collection</i>	14  <b>Farmer's Market, 3p-7p</b>  <i>Town-Wide Trash Collection</i>	15	16
17  <b>Doll Club, 3-6pm, TH</b>	18  <i>Town-Wide Trash Collection</i>	19	20  <i>Yard Waste Collection</i>	21  <b>Farmer's Market, 3p-7p</b>  <i>Town-Wide Trash Collection</i>	22	23
24  <b>Doll Club 31 3-6p, TH</b>  <b>Doll Club 3p-6p, TH</b>	25  <b>Worksession, 8p, TH</b>  <i>Town-Wide Trash Collection</i>	26	27  <i>Yard Waste Collection</i>	28  <b>Farmer's Market, 3p-7p</b>  <i>Town-Wide Trash Collection</i>	29	30

