



The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

June 2010

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Proposed Budget	Page 1
Council Actions	Page 2
Riverdale Fire Dept	Page 2
Budget Cont	Page 3
Riversdale Events	Page 4
Ward 5 Report	Page 5
Public Works Report	Page 5
Administration Report	Page 6
Community Circles	Page 7
Calendar	Page 8

TRASH COLLECTION

Regular Trash Collection Days

Monday and Thursday

Bulk Trash Collection

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Please call Bates Trucking and Trash Collections at (301) 773-2069 (residents have up to 2:00 p.m. Tuesday to call Bates for Wednesday pickup)

Recycling

Wednesday

Please call Prince George's County Recycling with questions.

(301) 952-7630

Yard Waste

Wednesday collected by Bates Trucking and

Trash Collections

Saturday drop-off

9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Metal Pickup (town wide)

Every Thursday by the Department of Public Works

Proposed Tax Rates for Fiscal Year 11

Town Of Riverdale Park, Operating & Capital Tax Rates, FY 11	
General Property Tax Rate	61.550 cents per \$100.00 assessed valuation.
A. Town wide street, sidewalk (ADA), curbs & gutters, apron improvements \$3,000,000, 20 year G.O. Bond 5.42% fixed rate	4.78 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation
B. Riverdale Park Municipal Center Addition & Community Center Improvements (\$500,000 estimated,(300,000 Town Hall, 200,000 Community Center) 20 year G.O. Bond 5.42% fixed rate.	0.77 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation
C. Reduce Capital Debt on Six new Police Cruisers in 2008 and 1 Police SUV, 1 PW SUV and 1 Tractor =+ Fuel Upgrade lease/purchase 3.85% fixed annual rate.	0.88 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation
D. Reduce capital debt on 3 new Police Cruisers in 2009 (lease/purchase 4.64% fixed annual rate.	0.48 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation
E. Reduce capital debt on 3 new Police Cruisers PW Security Camera, Remote Gates, 30 HP Diesel Tractor w/ Front Loader, Director Vehicle, 1-Ton Diesel w/Salt Hopper and Leaf Vac. lease/purchase 4.64% fixed annual rate.	1.22 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation
FY11 Total Town Special Tax Rate	8.12 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation
Total: Town Tax Rate FY11	\$69.67 cents (\$0.6967) per \$100.00 assessed valuation.

What this means to you: Let's say you own your property in Riverdale Park and its assessed valuation is \$100,000.00. According to the proposed tax rates, you would be assessed \$696.70 during the 2010-2011 taxing period.

Council Actions

By Waverly Politt

May 3, 2010

Regular Legislative Meeting

- 1. Approved** - Minutes for regular legislative meeting Held on, April 5, 2010.
- 2. Approved** - Minutes for special legislative meeting held on March 29, 2010.
- 3. Motion to postpone indefinitely-** Ordinance Resolution 2010-OR-03, an ordinance concerning changes to chapter 68 weeds.
- 4. Withdrawn-** Ordinance Resolution 2010- OR-04 concerning changes to chapter 25 Dance Hall.
- 5. Approved with conditions-** Building permit application for Litton building driveway.
- 6. Approved with conditions-** Carnival permit application for Saint Bernard's church on Memorial Day Weekend, May 29th - 31st from 10:00am until 9:30 p.m. to raise funds to meet financial needs for the church.

Approved under new business- To block off 48th avenue between Somerset and Tuckerman Street on May 29th from 2-8p.m.

Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department

By Nova Johns

Member News

Congratulations to Firefighters *Edward Ford, Vincent Farally, Marcus Perkins,* and *Galen Jones* for completing Firefighter II Course (60 instructional hours).

Barbecue Safety

Each year, an average of 6,500 grill fires result in nearly \$27 million in property loss. Most grill fires are associated with residences. Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department wants to remind everyone of some outdoor barbecue safety tips so that your outdoor experience remains a safe one!

- Before using a grill, check the connection between the propane tank and the fuel line. Make sure the venturi tubes - where the air and gas mix - are not blocked.
- Do not overfill the propane tank.
- Do not wear loose clothing while cooking at a barbecue.
- Be careful when using lighter fluid. Do not add fluid to an already lit fire because the flame can flashback up into the container and explode.
- Keep all matches and lighters away from children. Teach your children to report any loose matches or lighters to an adult immediately. Supervise children around outdoor grills.
- Dispose of hot coals properly - douse them with plenty of water, and stir them to ensure that the fire is out. Never place them in plastic, paper or wooden containers.
- Never grill/barbecue in enclosed areas - carbon monoxide could be produced.
- Make sure everyone knows to Stop, Drop and Roll in case a piece of clothing does catch fire. Call 911 or your local emergency number if a burn warrants serious medical attention.
- When grilling (or using a patio heater etc.) you should allow ample distance from railings, houses or any other vertical or horizontal structures that might come in contact with the heating element some grills and patio heaters can reach temperatures in excess of 800 degrees and can cause severe damage to any structure.

Sources: *NFPA and NFIRS*

If you have any questions or need assistance please call 301-927-0356 (Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department). If it is an **EMERGENCY** call **911**.

Town of Riverdale Park

www.riverdaleparkmd.gov

Town Hall

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

Council Members

Ward 1—Alice C. Ewen,
Chair, Econ Development, 301-379-5303
aewen@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 - Keelah Allen-Smith
Chair, Legislative Committee, 240-751-6688
kallensmith@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Sara Imhulse, **Town Administrator**
simhulse@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
Teresa Chambers **Chief of Police**

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

Charles Ryan, **Chief in-**
fo@riverdalevfd.com, 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.

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

Mayor's Fiscal Year (FY) 11 Proposed Operational Budget

<i>Department</i>	<i>Present FY 10</i>	<i>Proposed FY 11</i>
<i>1. General Government</i>	<i>673,844.00</i>	<i>689,280.83</i>
<i>2. Police</i>	<i>2,548,361.00</i>	<i>2,648,076.53</i>
<i>3. Public Works</i>	<i>1,186,375.00</i>	<i>1,198,305.95</i>
<i>5. Recreation</i>	<i>18,950.00</i>	<i>17,075.00</i>
<i>6. Economic Development Promotion</i>	<i>63,636.00</i>	<i>51,752.32</i>
<i>7. Miscellaneous</i>	<i>12,000.00</i>	<i>12,000.00</i>
<i>8. Revenues to replenish Operating Re- serves</i>	<i>213,749.00</i>	<i>184,638.90</i>
<i>9. Transfer to Capital Improvement</i>		
<i>Fund</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>60,000.00</i>
<i>TOTAL:</i>	<i>4,716,915.00</i>	<i>4,861,129.53</i>

<i>Description</i>	<i>Present FY 10</i>	<i>Proposed Reve- nues FY 11</i>
<i>Appropriated Surplus</i>		
<i>Real Est. Taxes & Interest</i>	<i>3,097,415.00</i>	<i>3,305,972.53</i>
<i>Oper. Property Tax</i>	<i>125,000.00</i>	<i>125,000.00</i>
<i>Tangible Property Tax</i>	<i>300,000.00</i>	<i>294,000.00</i>
<i>Gas Tax & Motor Vehicle Licenses (Highway User)</i>	<i>220,000.00</i>	<i>23,066.00</i>
<i>Town Business Licenses</i>	<i>25,000.00</i>	<i>23,600.00</i>
<i>State Police Aid</i>	<i>150,000.00</i>	<i>55,281.00</i>
<i>Financial Corp.</i>	<i>11,000.00</i>	<i>11,000.00</i>
<i>County Business Licenses</i>	<i>5,000.00</i>	
<i>Disposal Fee Rebate</i>	<i>17,000.00</i>	<i>17,000.00</i>
<i>Town Share Income Tax</i>	<i>390,000.00</i>	<i>374,360.00</i>
<i>Special Clean Up</i>	<i>3,000.00</i>	<i>2,300.00</i>
<i>Fines & Forfeitures</i>	<i>100,000.00</i>	<i>100,000.00</i>
<i>Interest Income</i>	<i>45,000.00</i>	<i>2,400.00</i>
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	<i>50,000.00</i>	<i>50,000.00</i>
<i>Red Light Cameras</i>	<i>-</i>	
<i>Speed Cameras</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>234,240.00</i>
<i>Grant Funding</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>65,510.00</i>
<i>Rental Inspection</i>	<i>11,000.00</i>	<i>11,000.00</i>
<i>Apartment/Rooming House Inspections</i>	<i>95,000.00</i>	<i>93,900.00</i>
<i>CATV Comcast/Verizon</i>	<i>45,000.00</i>	<i>45,000.00</i>
<i>Alarm Registration</i>	<i>7,500.00</i>	<i>7,500.00</i>
<i>Sale of Vehicles</i>	<i>-</i>	
<i>Contribution from ACP</i>	<i>20,000.00</i>	<i>20,000.00</i>
<i>TOTAL:</i>	<i>4,716,915.00</i>	<i>4,861,129.53</i>

If you have any questions or comments regarding the FY 11 proposed budget, please call your Town Officials (Mayor, Council representatives, or the Town Administrator) at the numbers listed on page 2 of the Crier. They will gladly discuss the budget and the budgeting process with you.

Ward and Committee Report

Ward Five Report

By Council Member Raymond Rivas
rrivas@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Community Affairs Report

Rise and shine to all the residents of Town of Riverdale Park. The noticeable beauty oozing out of the Town of Riverdale Park signals the start of spring. Has it not been so beautiful in our Community since spring has arrived? Spring is so rewarding when you can observe the flowers blossoming, grass growing and the tree sprouting out towards the sky. With the weather cooperating with Mother Nature, it has put a certain hallow type of glow over our Town. As a result, The Town of Riverdale Park out shines the other Towns. This is what is so rewarding for me to be part of this growth and building of a diversity community.

It was a great day in the Town of Riverdale Park on May 2, 2010. The third annual Art Festival had kicked off in high gear. The Artists had come and were well received by the community. The youth group program had also lent out a helping hand and I wanted to thank them all (Allison, Ericka, Abu, Gabriel, Maicos, Elvis and Kelvin). I believe our youth is our future. We need to direct them towards the right path. It is up to them to continue and to try making some decisions on their own. And if there is a split in the path hopefully they have a GPS to help them find their way. Only if life was so easy, we can have a GPS Navigator to guide us to the easy terrain and to avoid the down slope slippery lanes. They will never have to climb out of the deep well and start all over again. Life is a learning experience and these kids hopefully will learn from their mistakes. This being said, The Town of Riverdale Park has a Youth Group program to try to bring the best out of the kids. We want to teach them the value of interacting with other youths and society. By taking these youths to certain events, functions and exposing them to the ARTS helps to broaden their horizon and views of the surrounding cultures. These youths need your help and guidance. We ask for more volunteers or big brothers and big sisters sort of speak to assist in the growth of the young kids. Maybe there are some teenagers who want to participate in a mentoring program. This would be great with high school kids who need to make up some community service hours.

Well, it is not too early to get prepared for the Riverdale Park Day at the Mansion in October 2010. Your Recreational Chair person is looking for volunteers

to fill some of the committee seats that are currently open. Last year's event was simply fabulous and fun. We are currently looking for food vendors, singers, bands, and event planners.

The Riverdale Park Boys & Girls Club has some great things happening. The location for registration is 6351 51 St. Avenue, Riverdale MD 20737 & phone # 301-277-5437.

Upcoming events in the area by Department of Parks and Recreation, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission on July 10th from 10-12 noon; there will be a bike rodeo at the Riverdale Town Building. There will be representatives from the Park Rangers and Park Police that will do a Bike Rodeo with the kids. This entails a video on bike safety and an obstacle course. There will be a ride to Lake Artemisia. For those that do not have bikes the Park Police have a bike trailer with bikes that could be used for the ride. The kids can participate in the Rodeo but the rides are open to all family members.

On July 24th from 10-12 noon there will be the same program at the Edmonston Recreation Building. At the conclusion of that Rodeo there will be a schedule ride to the Bladensburg Marina for a Pontoon Boat ride. The boat ride is about one hour.

On July 23rd is the combined community movie at Riversdale Park off Taylor Road. This will be an evening event where there will be some games or family events that could be played while waiting for the sun to set. Otherwise the movie would begin about 9pm and last until 10:30pm.

June 5, 2010 10:00am to 11:00am: Meeting with the Mayor and Youth of The Town of Riverdale Park. Questions and answer forum plus various other comments if needed. If any young teens are interested in participating in the youth group program, please feel free to contact me thru my above e-mail.

Public Works Report

By Leonard Addison

Banners for Town Center – the DPW is purchasing colorful banners to be installed on the Town's street light poles to enhance the appearance of our Town Center. Residents are asked to share their opinions by contacting the department by phone on 301-864-1803.

Saturday Drop Off- Due to budgetary constraints, the DPW is considering reducing the weekly Saturday drop off for bulk trash to one Saturday per month. Con-

firmation will be given in the July/August edition of the Town Crier and on our other communication networks.

Free Residential Electronics Recycling – On Saturday, June 19, 2010, from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM, the Town of Riverdale Park will host an Electronics Recycling event to give our residents the opportunity to donate/recycle their unwanted electronics. We will be using our existing drop off point located at DPW maintenance yard, 5012 Riverdale Road. This service is for **RESIDENTS ONLY**. Identification/proof of residency will be required. Tax-deductible receipts will be available.

- **Acceptable (non-computer) Items should be in working condition:** Radios, stereo systems, mp3 players, VCRs, DVD players, small household, kitchen and bathroom appliances, toys, lamps and fans that are CPSC approved lawn equipment (all fuel must be removed prior to donating), and television Sets. **Goodwill will only ACCEPT TVs that have a coaxial cable connection or RCA inputs.**
- **Goodwill will accept ALL computers & computer equipment in any condition for recycling:** Computers, monitors, laptops, cpu's, printers, scanners, hard drives, keyboards, accessories and peripherals.

This event is made possible by a grant from the Department of the Environment to the Town of Brentwood. For additional information, please contact Jamie Selvin, e-Cycling Coordinator, Town of Brentwood, 301-927-3344.

Yard Waste - Yard waste is collected on Wednesdays and should be at curbside by 7:00 a.m. on Wednesdays. Yard waste includes branches, shrubs and trees; bundle items and tie with rope or string (do not use wire). Items must be less than 4 feet long, not more than 4 inches in diameter and weigh less than 75 pounds. These items are collected by Bates Trash and Trucking Company.

These materials are NOT ACCEPTED for Collection - Roof shingles, dirt, rocks, concrete, bricks, tree trunks (over 3" diameter), stumps, pressurized containers, explosives, paint (unless paint is dry in cans), poisons, caustics, any hazardous materials, construction and demolition debris, asbestos, free liquids, sewage, sludge.

Residents must make private arrangements to dispose of these items.

Seniors Circle –Listed below are a few important resources, provided by Prince George's County Department of Family Services Administration on Aging that may be of use to some of you. A different list will be provided monthly. If you are in need of any of these services, or have questions, please contact Prince George's County's Administration on Aging at 301-265-2450.

- **ADMINISTRATION ON AGING** at 301-265-2450 – *The following programs are sponsored by the Administration on Aging.*

Senior Activity Centers - Provides social and recreational activities at nine locations scheduled one day per week for persons 55 years of age or older. This program is supported by the Prince George's M-NCPPC.

Senior Nutrition Program - Provides older persons with a nutritionally sound and satisfying meal in strategically located congregate sites and/or in the seniors home. The program provides the framework and support for not only an American meal, but also a kosher meal program. This program is supported by county general, state, Federal Title III C funds, USDA, and participant donations.

Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) - is a subsidized employment program and training which provides part-time employment and training for low-income older adults and improves and expands community services where needed. This program is supported by grant and county funds.

Administration Report

By Sara Imhulse
Town Administrator

I recently received a brochure from the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) and their EmPOWER Maryland program with helpful savings tips for residents. Copies of this brochure will soon be available at Town Hall. The State of Maryland has a goal to reduce power consumption statewide by 15% by the year 2015. Here are 15 things MEA wants you to know to save money and energy:

1. CFL light bulbs use 75% less electricity than incandescent bulbs, last up to 10 times longer, and can save you up to \$65 over the life of the light bulb.

2. In top-loading washing machines, use cold water to save energy and up to \$63 a year. Detergents formulated for cold water get clothes just as clean.
3. When not in use, unplug your TV. A plasma TV left plugged in costs as estimated \$159.76 annually.
4. Install a low-flow showerhead to achieve savings of 25%-60%. Showers use less hot water than baths.
5. When not in use, unplug your laptop. Left plugged in, it costs an estimated \$15.90 annually.
6. Turn down the temperature of your water heater to the warm setting (120 degrees F). You'll not only save energy, you'll reduce the risk of scalding.
7. When not in use, unplug your gaming system. A game console left plugged in costs an estimated \$25.73 annually.
8. Wash only full loads of dishes, air dry, and use cold water if possible. If washing dishes by hand, remember not to leave water running in between.
9. Windows account for 10%-25% of your energy bill. During the summer, your air conditioner must work harder to cool hot air from sunny windows. Use curtains or shades to give your air conditioner and energy bill a break.
10. Ceiling and other fans provide additional cooling and better circulation so you can raise the thermostat and cut down on air conditioning costs.

11. Pump up your tires; properly inflated tires improve gas mileage by 3%.
12. You can save up to \$115 per year on gasoline costs if you reduce your miles driven by 5% through biking, walking, public transportation, or combining trips.
13. Turning your thermostat back 10%-15% for 8 hours can save as much as 10% on your energy bill. Using a programmable thermostat makes this a user-friendly process.
14. The average household dedicates 11% of its energy budget to lighting. Turn off the lights when not in use. Wasted energy is wasted money.
15. Set refrigerator temperatures between 37 and 40 degrees (F) and clean coils. Keep the refrigerator full; when the refrigerator is stocked, less cold air is lost than when the door is opened.

Community Circles

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 develop skills, aviation,

search & missions. include camping,

training, and an international Aviation Cadet Exchange!

College Park Squadron meets the first four Wednesdays each month from 7:00-9:00 PM in the Hap Arnold Center (1985 Cpl. Frank Scott Drive) at the historic College Park Airport, College Park, MD. Learn more at www.MDcap.org or call 1-800-FLY-2338!



people learn about and participate in rescue missions. Activities flying, first aid



Town Organizations

Northern County Soccer Alliance: For more information on Soccer Alliance, Inc., and on travel, recreation, home school, and training programs.

NCSA@juno.com or (301) 927-0560. PG Soccer League@juno.com

Riverdale Park Girl Scouts: Contact: Charmaine Wilson at (301) 449-5690.

Riverdale Park Boys Scouts – Troop 252— Contact: Scoutmaster Bob Killen at (202) 282-8302.

Civic Committees

Madison Hill Homeowners Association-- Contact (240) 401-2202 or visit www.madisonhill.org.

Riverdale Park Farmer's Market--Contact Jim Coleman at 301-332-6258.

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

Riverdale Park Business Association—Contact
Audrey Bragg at 301-277-7393 for meeting site

Riverdale Park Arts Council—Contact Emily Fanning at ourdollmom@aol.com