



The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

March 2010

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Egg Hunt/Thank You	Page 1
Council Actions	Page 2
Code Corner	Page 2
Events Flyer	Page 3
Riversdale Events	Page 4
Mayor's Report	Page 5
Ward 1 Report	Page 6
Ward 2 Report	Page 6
Ward 5 Report	Page 7
Public Works Report	Page 8
Boy Scouts	Page 8
Administration Report	Page 8
Arts Council	Page 8
Tax Form Update	Page 10
Community Circles	Page 11
Calendar	Page 12

Riverdale Park Annual Easter Egg Hunt
March 27, 2010, 11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
On the grounds of Riversdale Mansion
Children, bring your baskets!



Blizzard of 2010: Thank You, Public Works!

By Janice Euell

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)952-763

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 Work

SHOUT OUT TO RIVERDALE PARK STAFF. As a Prince George's resident whose street was not plowed until one week after the blizzard, I applaud the efforts of the Town's staff for making 90% of their streets passable during the entire snow event. Under the able leadership of the Public Works Director, Leonard Addison, the seven staff members working continuously, in round-the-clock shifts, 15-20 hours a day since the storm began. Many of them did not see their families for days. As I commute through several Prince George's communities, I see pedestrians having to stand in snow-covered streets waiting for public transportation, while the Public Works staff is busy clearing bus stops for commuters in our community.

Talking about teamwork - where, in other communities, have you even heard of a Mayor that joins the Public Works staff in plowing the streets.? Not only did he weather the storm with the crews, he used his wonderful, culinary skills to prepare some delicious comfort food so that the staff could have a hot, home-cooked meal. Thank you, Mayor Archer, for caring. Sara Imhulse, our new Town Administrator, somehow managed to get in to answer our always busy telephones. And, mega-thanks to Sandra Bonnefond, our Finance Officer, for working to make sure that staff finance/human resource needs were not interrupted by those days we missed because of the weather.

Personally, I am glad to be a part of such a wonderful team- where all of the Town's staff works so well together.

Council Actions

By Waverly Politt

Regular Legislative Meeting

December 7, 2009

1. **Approved**- Minutes on regular legislative meeting held on November 2, 2009.
2. **Approved** – Minutes on special legislative meeting held on November 30, 2009.
3. **Approved** – Special event permit for Our Lady of Guadalupe feast Celebration to be held on Saturday, December 12, 2009, at 4700 Saint Bernard's Drive.

Special Legislative Meeting

November 30, 2009

1. **Approved**- Re- establishing W. Beal Circle for 2-way traffic.

Code Corner

By Colleen Ferguson

The Code Enforcement Section has been receiving numerous calls reference nuisance animals. Below please find the Town Code as it pertains to nuisance animals.

Chapter 10

ANIMALS AND FOWL

§ 10-1 "Public nuisance animal" -- Any animal which is repeatedly found at large; makes excessive, continual, or untimely barking, howling, whining, crowing, or any other disturbing noise; molests passersby; chases vehicles; causes fouling of air by odors; causes unsanitary condition of enclosures or surroundings by virtue of the number of animals maintained and is offensive or dangerous to the public health; excretes on property other than that of the owner; or is the cause of excretory matter being dropped on the ground or floor, feed left lying about, and/or housing materials which afford food, harborage, or a breeding place for rats.

§ 10-4. Penalties for public nuisance animals. [Revised 3-6-95, Amended 9-8-98.]

(a) It shall be unlawful for any owner or custodian to fail to provide effective care and control of his animals to prevent them from becoming a public nuisance.

(b) Upon receiving a written or oral complaint and after an investigation, the town code enforcement officer and/or the police department shall declare an animal to be a public nuisance and shall serve the owner with a notice of violation of this ordinance, and unless the nuisance is removed or abated within ten (10) days, the owner shall be deemed guilty of a municipal infraction.

You can view the Town Charter and Code in its entirety on the Town's Website: www.riverdaleparkmd.info.

Compliance is the ultimate goal of the Code Enforcement Department. If you have any questions, comments or concerns please call: 240-898-2500 or email: code@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Town of Riverdale Park

www.riverdaleparkmd.info

Town Hall

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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 Works, 301-779-3849
djlingua@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Ward 4 - Christopher Henry
Chair, Public Safety, 301-910-9855
chenry@riverdaleparkmd.gov

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
or, *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



RIVERDALE PARK 3rd ANNUAL ARTS FESTIVAL!

Sunday, May 2, 2010

**Historic Town Center
Volunteers Needed (Kids and Adults!)**

Contact CM Raymond Rivas for more on our new Youth Group

Riverdale Park Annual Easter Egg Hunt

March 27, 2010, 11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

On the grounds of Riversdale Mansion

Children, bring your baskets!



Riversdale Events

QUARTERLY LECTURE

This year, we are trying something new and featuring our scholarly lectures once a quarter. The year's first offering is: Michelle Kretsch and Dr. Leigh Ryan, Eleanor Calvert Custis Stuart.

Tuesday, March 2, 7:30 pm
Fee: \$5; Students \$2.50

FEDERAL FANCIES WORKSHOP AT RIVERSDALE

Riverdale Park, MD - Step back in time and enjoy a leisurely day at Riversdale House Museum as you take part a workshop focusing on Federal-era trades. Ladies are invited to the c. 1807 home of Rosalie Stier Calvert and her husband, George Calvert, on Saturday, March 13, 2010. Participants will create fashionable accessories in the millinery workshop or sweets to eat in the confectionery workshop. A light lunch is provided.

This Federal Fancies Workshop runs from 10am - 3pm. Admission is \$38 for residents of Prince-George's and Montgomery Counties and \$45 for non-residents. Advance payment is required by March 5.

RIVERSDALE KITCHEN GUILD KEEPS THE HOME FIRES BURNING

Riverdale Park, MD - The Seasonal Selections program, instituted in the fall of 2009, will continue to offer special monthly cooking events with a different topic each month. Holidays, the schedule of seasonal fresh produce, and/or the traditional cycles of an early 19th century farm will inspire each month's Seasonal Selection. These foodways programs are sponsored in part by Giant Food.

March's Seasonal Selection is Soup du Jour. It is scheduled for Sunday, March 21, 2010, from 12 noon - 3:30 pm. The Riversdale Kitchen Guild prepares soups using root vegetables from the winter garden.

Viewing the dependency kitchen and demonstration is free. Regular admission fees apply to house tours; \$3 for adults, \$2 for seniors, \$1 for students (ages 5 -18), and free for those under 5. Purchase tickets at the Visitor Center.

Call 301-864-0420 or email riversdale@pgparks.com for more information. Riversdale, a historic house museum of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, is located at 4811 Riverdale Road in the town of Riverdale Park, Maryland.



Mayor's Report

By Vernon Archer

After a year and half of challenging economic news I am happy to report that several development projects in and around Riverdale Park are beginning to move forward. These projects will help to underpin our property values and expand our tax base. The University of Maryland's M Square development that is primarily in Riverdale Park on our northern boundary, as well as the EYA's Arts District development, which is for the most part in Hyattsville are both moving forward and expect to make significant progress this year.

EYA Arts District

Despite the fact that almost all of this development is proposed to be in Hyattsville, the EYA Arts District has a tremendous impact on Riverdale Park. This development straddles Baltimore Avenue and was scheduled to be implemented in two phases. The west side phase has largely been completed and was overwhelmingly based on town house units, with only a few street level commercial units being included in the mix. Because of the collapse of the housing market EYA has seen sales decline but expects to fully complete this phase in 2010.

The east side phase is planned to be more diverse with a mixture of significant commercial properties, condominiums/apartments and town houses. A small number of town houses are planned along Riverdale Park's Madison Avenue. This phase had been put on hold for a variety of reasons that can all be traced back to the economic recession that has affected almost all of us.

This situation has obvious negative implications for Riverdale Park, ranging from placing additional downward pressure on housing values, to undermining our goals of revitalizing and redeveloping our stretch of Baltimore Avenue. It seems highly unlikely that there will be any significant improvements to Riverdale Park's commercial properties west of the rail line until there is a successful conclusion to EYA's development.

I was therefore very happy to learn late last year that EYA had worked out most of the details of plans to move forward with the east side/phase 2 of their project. Barriers to moving forward include getting sufficient commercial space pre-leased and being able to simultaneously move forward with the housing units so that the commercial property will not be sitting surrounded by vacant lots.

A new revised plan has several key components. It will put the project's anchors Busboys and Poets (a combination bistro and bookstore) and the restaurant Tara Thai in operation by the end of this year with other tenants following close behind. The mix of housing will change to match what the market seems to be supporting: smaller foot print town houses with an additional story. Also, they must be more affordable, so the developer seeks to downgrade some of the architectural features.

Both Hyattsville and Riverdale Park have concerns about certain aspects of the revised plan particularly the changes to the town houses; however both towns and the EYA have a strong interest in seeing this project get moving and finished. I am confident that the three parties will work out what I believe are ultimately fairly minor differences in comparison to the alternative of years more of a huge vacant site and a Baltimore Avenue that remains in deplorable condition.

M Square

The other development that is cause for increased economic optimism is M Square. Here the town's main interest is rebuilding its tax base and having the university move forward with the construction of its new facilities.

The current situation grew out of the University taking ownership of most of our undeveloped northern boarder more than a decade ago, and the town therefore cannot receive property tax from that land. However, all new buildings in M Square are privately owned and therefore subject to property tax. By bringing in 10s of millions of dollars in new buildings the M Square project will take financial pressure off those of us residential and commercial property owners who currently carry the tax burden for our town. Also, much of the space in the new buildings will be for-profit enterprises and thus the businesses will be subject to personal property tax (a misleading named tax that is actually a levy on inventory and equipment).

The University recently submitted site plans for a significant part of the new campus which focuses on creating secured facilities. This plan segues nicely with the existing controlled access sites for the World Climate Center and the Center for the Advanced Study of Language. The new campus will house numerous government, research and private organizations with security requirements that cannot be easily met in stand-alone facilities.

To move forward the University needs the town's permission to change covenants on the affected properties in order to provide the layout that they need. We are working diligently with them to meet their needs and at the same time protect the town and its residents from too much encroachment from M Square activities. In particular Councilman Thompson and I are working to make certain the traffic and new buildings do not adversely affect the residents of Ward Two which immediately adjoins the project.

Assuming the university is sensitive to our reasonable and modest concerns, their project should both gain approval and start of construction this year.

Ward and Committee Reports

Ward One Report

By Council Member Alice C. Ewen
aewen@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Economic Development Committee Report

Ward 1 Update

I received disappointing news that the proposed boundary change for Riverdale Elementary was not approved by the Prince George's County School Board. I encourage parents affected by this decision to communicate your concerns directly to the chair of the school board, Verjeana Jacobs, and copy our school board representative Heather Iliff and County Councilman Eric Olson on your letter. For contact information, see the website:

<http://www1.pgcps.org/board/>.

The county school system had proposed that roughly 40 students from Ward 1 be redistricted into University Park Elementary school district to help address overcrowding at Riverdale Elementary. Parents within Ward 1 were generally supportive of the proposal, and there was little controversy or opposition surrounding the potential change. I hope the school system will receive many letters and phone calls about this issue. The redistricting could move forward in the future, but it will take active voices from residents for this to happen.

This spring, a new Junior Park Rangers Program will take place in Riverdale Neighborhood Park, located between Tuckerman and Sheridan Streets. The free program is geared to pre-school and elementary school age kids. If there is enough interest and participation, we hope to bring more activities to the park. Thanks to Mary Ann Brownlow for organizing this activity, which is provided by M-NCPPC at no cost to the Town. Save the Date: 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., April 17, May 8, and June 12.

Public Works has worked very hard to keep up with our record-breaking snow season. Purchase of a new pickup truck is imminent, and greatly needed. Thank you to all of the staff in Public Works for the professional and responsive job during the storm.

Thank you to residents who contacted me regarding your snow removal concerns. While the weather is clear, please alert Code Enforcement about unlicensed or inoperable cars. During the storm, I talked to several residents from blocked up streets, where the presence of junk vehicles in driveways added to street congestion, making snow removal that much harder.

If you are searching for a roofer or tree service as a result of storm damage, Washington Consumer's Checkbook is reminding people to vet contractors before hiring. In particular, these are services where injury and insurance rates are high - make sure you are covered.

Economic Development Update

A Town Center committee has met several times to develop a marketing plan for attracting tenants to Town Center and visualizing use options for the space. The Neighborhood Design Center is providing pro-bono planning services for the project.

The Town is delighted to welcome a new hair salon to Town Center. Apollo XII salon does hair, coloring, waxing, massage, manicures and other services. We hope residents will value this new service to our community. To make an appointment, call 249-582-0022.

Ward Two Report

By Council Member Alan Thompson
akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Finance Committee Report

The finance committee met in late January. We spent most of the meeting reviewing the mid-year status of the town's budget, which, except for the large cuts in state aid, was in excellent shape. Even with those revenue cuts, it appears that we will end the year better than we started, and in particular we will not need to furlough staff. Town Administrator Sara Imhulse reported that the conversion of the town's accounting to QuickBooks was almost complete, which will allow both town staff and the council to have much more information about our financial status, and faster as well. She told us that the town had changed payroll pro-

cessors, which would save several days of staff time per month. In an especially bright note, she also reported to the committee that she had discovered opportunities for major cost savings in long distance and, especially, electricity, which the town council authorized her to pursue at the February legislative meeting. I think that all of us on the committee are pleased and excited by the changes and improved efficiencies that Ms. Imhulse is finding and implementing for the town.

The big news for Ward 2, and for the town, was the record-breaking snowfall. I spent several days digging out my house, and was happy to see on a tour of the ward that most residents had cleared their sidewalks, as is required by Town Code. Despite the advanced age of most of their plows, the Public Works department kept them on the street and clearing snow, and most roads in town were passable (if not clear) within a day of the end of each storm. I thought that Public Works did a better job of balancing major and secondary roads this time around, and I know that they put in (and are still, as I write this, putting in) long hours and hard work making the roads clear and safe. I've gotten a few suggestions of ways that snow removal could be improved -- if you have any, please let me know (preferably BETWEEN snow storms), and I'll pass them on to Public Works Director Addison. I hope everyone keeps warm and safe as we finish out the snow season, and remember that snow removal is a marathon, not a sprint, for both the town and individuals.

Ward Five Report

By Council Member Raymond Rivas
rrivas@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Community Affairs Report

Wow, what a busy month for the **Parks Department!** I must thank them for the fast and excellent response time to the blizzard like storms that just smacked us right on the kisser. From the looks of everything Riverdale Park residents survived the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd storms with slight difficulty. Unfortunately, Ward 5 had some trying times within its apartment community areas with the snow removal. The concerns were that management was either not

capable or had no ability to combat the snow removal. Yes there were some frustrating times but management's objectives were to clear the drive thru area for passageway. With this being accomplished the next areas were to tackle and dig out cars from their parking spaces. Management had recommended some young entrepreneurs who were ready to work for a minimum fee and help free residents from their icy cold igloos. Some individuals had questioned the ethics and integrity of the manager who has an association with snow removal crew. On this note, only after management had experience lost of materials and equipment then resulted in informing stranded residents of these ever so hard working individuals.

I wanted to give special thanks to Emily Fanning and Mayor Archer for inviting me to tour the **Greenbelt Arts/Community Center** this past week. I was deeply touched and impressed with the current hard work efforts of Nicole DeWald as the Art director in operating and keeping not only an interesting plus a fun-filled atmosphere. The Greenbelt Community Center is, noticeably, a success story only because of the behind the scene caring people with the cooperation and input of the community at large.

The Arts Council welcomed some new teenagers into its "circular round table." We are establishing a newly founded **Youth Group Program** that will be catered to the teenagers in the Town of Riverdale Park. Jeffrey Yorke, Joe Green and I will be assisting and also in trying to help these youngsters to find their way in the Arts areas. This is unfamiliar territory for me. My feeling is as if I am a little frog thrown into the Pacific Ocean. This is where all of my readers who might have experience in these areas may lend a helping hand and provide some much needed volunteer time to the worthwhile cause. I would like to invite any new recruits who would love to help the children to develop their skills in various areas of Art. I welcome all your input in helping to mold this newly created program. In addition, if you have any youngsters that you may feel that can benefit from this new Youth Group Program, please feel free to contact me so we can add them to our youth list.

It is with utmost gratitude that I introduce the **Annual Riverdale Park Easter** egg hunt on March 27, 2010 on at Riversdale Mansion between

the hours of 11:00am to 1:00pm. Please have the youngster bring their own baskets. Light refreshments and drinks will be provided.

Public Works Report

By Leonard Addison

THANK YOU RESIDENTS OF RIVERDALE PARK - On February 5, 2010, a record-breaking back-to-back snow storms (blizzards) dumped over 30 inches of snow in our area, over 110 tons of salt were applied to the roadway and more than 468 man-hours were used to battle the storms.

The Department wishes to express its appreciation to all of our residents that facilitated the removal of snow during the blizzards by parking their vehicles on the even sides of the streets. These were trying times for our residents and our staff. We will continue working to get our streets back to normal.

Your cooperation in this regard enabled our staff to maneuver safely throughout the Town without safety risks or personal property liabilities.

For your information, it is illegal to disobey parking rules during a snow emergency. Please avoid unnecessary fines or penalties by continuing to abide by the rules as you do your part to help us serve you better.

As a result of this storm, we learned that there are residents requiring dialysis treatments. *To assure that we are aware of these conditions, the Department of Public Works is requesting that dialysis patients call our office to provide your name and address for placement on a special alert list to be used during snow emergencies.* The condition requires verification by a physician to qualify for placement on the list. Please call 301-864-1803 for additional information.

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE CONTACTS - The following contact information is being provided as a resource in the event you need these services.

Prince George's County Department of Public Works - 301-883-5600.

Prince George's County Recycling (recycling is picked up on Wednesdays, using blue totes) - 301-

952-7630. The Department of Public Works does not pick up recycling.

Prince George's County Landfill located at 11611 White House Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland. - 301-627-0177.

Boy Scouts Troop 252

By Bob Killen

Troop 252 has been pressing onward, meeting Friday nights, and plotting, planning and scheming for ways to get out and have fun. We shoveled and plowed snow (didn't everyone?) and were out of school for most of the week, and it appears that most of us were too busy having fun to get much Scouting paperwork done. Yorman Amador still needs to do the paperwork for his Eagle Project, finish up three Merit Badges, and he will be able to look back on the rest of our Scouts from the Eagle's Nest. Joel Sandoval and Ismael Vallealta are still working ?diligently? on their Eagle Projects, and Samir Saleh is catching up to them by leaps and bounds. He has progress in Scouting every week. Michael Delaney is becoming more and more expert with his knots. He hadn't practiced for a while and got rusty. Last week we started with the lashing exercise, square, diagonal and Filipino lashings. This week we'll have a full house, so our Scouts will build ladders by lashing long and short bamboo poles together, and possibly climb up on the roof, or maybe the tree whose lowest branches are too high to reach from the ground. We have the tubing run packed so well that the smaller children of our neighborhood run out of breath in their screams before the tube stops after each 50-yard dash.

This Saturday, 20 February, our Scouters will attend the University of Scouting, acquiring more knowledge personal and professional contacts, and tips on how to serve the Scouts better. This Sunday, we are helping celebrate "Scout Sunday" by attending mass at St. Bernard of Clairvaux Roman Catholic church in the morning, then traveling to the Protestant Recognition Awards at the Oxon Hill Lutheran church.

Weekend after next, we're bicycling again, the senior Scouts going probably half again as far as

the younger Scouts, because they can, and the younger Scouts pushing themselves to go as far as fast as they can, while trying to remember what they saw as the scenery whizzed by.

Come and join in the adventure of Scouting. Let our Scouts help you set up your campsite and cook really delicious food outdoors for you to eat after you've experienced the beauty and grandeur the Creator has provided for us. Contact Bob Killen, Scoutmaster, rfkille@yahoo.com or Eneida Martinez-Brown (MHB) 301-864-0059 to get in the loop.

Administration Report

By Sara Imhulse
Town Administrator

Why the Census Matters to Us

In March 2010, census forms will be delivered to every residence in the United States and Puerto Rico. The form includes 10 short questions. It is vitally important that you answer the questions and mail the form back in the postage-paid envelope provided. If you don't mail the form back, you may receive a visit from a census-taker hired by the Census Bureau. Any personal data you provide is protected under federal law.

The information collected from the census helps our community in many ways, and specifically determines:

- Funding formulas that allocate money to the state and counties for schools and roads
- The number of seats that our state occupies in the U.S. House of Representatives
- Funding formulas for state and federal grants to counties and municipalities
- Formulas to distribute more than \$400 billion dollars of federal funds to hospitals, job training centers, schools, senior centers, public works projects, and emergency services

What does that mean for the Town of Riverdale Park? With grant funding that we have received as a result of census data we are resurfacing roads, improving stormwater drainage, and designing façade improvements to local businesses. An accurate count is the basis for these funding opportunities. Please do your part to complete and submit the 2010 Census form.

For more information, visit
<http://2010.census.gov>

Riverdale Park Arts Council

By Emily Fanning

Riverdale Park Arts Council, Inc. (RPAC) is in the planning stages for our 3rd Annual Arts Festival to be held on Sunday, May 2, 2010, in Historic Town Center. We are working together with Riverdale House Museum, who will be holding their Children's Day at Town Center also along with the Arts Fest.

RPAC now has a brand new committee Youth Art Group with Councilman Raymond Rivas and Jeffrey Yorke as Co-Chairs. Joe Green will be assisting from the sidelines planning field trips. Currently our youth are 6th grade up to young adults. They will be learning about their individual artistic talents and how to develop them. Also, they will be helping to develop this new Youth Arts program. They will be working side by side with the adults with ideas for the Arts Fest, helping with set up and take down, working with the younger children at the Kid's Art Tables and demonstrating, showing or performing their art interests. If your child has artistic interests and would like to be a part of this fun and educational group, contact Councilman Raymond Rivas at rriivas@riverdaleparkmd.gov or Jeffrey Yorke at yorkedial@gmail.com.

Our next membership meeting will be Tuesday, March 2, 2010 at Town Hall 7:30 pm.

Artists/crafters who would like to demonstrate and/or sell their own handmade artwork, paintings, designs at the Arts Fest on May 2nd, con-

tact Karen Rowe at ksrowe@mindspring.com or Robert Kraft at rakraft@verizon.net

Riverdale Park Arts Council, Inc. (RPAC) está en la etapa de planificación para nuestro 3er Festival Anual de Arte que se celebrará el Domingo, 2 de mayo 2010, en el Centro Histórico de la ciudad. Estamos trabajando junto con Riversdale Casa-Museo, que estará celebrando el Día de los niños en el Town Center también junto con el Festival de las Artes.

RPAC ahora tiene un nuevo Comité de la Juventud Grupo de Arte con el concejal Raimundo Rivas y Jeffrey Yorke como copresidentes. Joe Green será ayudar desde la barrera la planificación de viajes de campo. En la actualidad nuestros jóvenes son 6º grado hasta adultos jóvenes. Van a aprender acerca de sus talentos individuales artística y cómo desarrollarlas. Además, se les ayuda a desarrollar este nuevo programa de Artes de la Juventud. También van a trabajar con ideas para el Festival de las Artes, lo que ayuda con el desarrollo y el aprendizaje de los niños más pequeños en el Kid's Arte para demostrar, el desempeño de sus intereses de arte. Si su niño tiene algún interés artístico y le gustaría ser parte de este grupo de diversión y de educación, póngase en contacto con el concejal Raimundo Rivas en rrivas@riverdaleparkmd.gov o Jeffrey Yorke en yorkedial@gmail.com.

Nuestra próxima reunión de los miembros será Martes, 2 de marzo 2010 en el Town Hall 7:30 pm.

A los artista que les gustaria hacer demostracion o vender sus trabajos manuales en el festival de artes el 2 de mayo, comuníquese con Karen Rowe, ksrowe@mindspring.com o Robert Kraft en rakraft@verizon.net

2009 Federal Tax Information

There have been several changes for the 2009 Federal tax year. Below are some of the information and forms that most individuals are not aware of:

Schedule L - Standard Deduction For Certain Filers
: Use this form if you are claiming a standard de-

duction. If you own a home and paid property taxes, paid new motor vehicle taxes or had a net disaster loss. Example: If you are a single taxpayer and are able to claim the \$5,700 standard deduction, you may be able to claim an additional \$500 deduction for a total of \$6,200 (if you paid property taxes in 2009). : Use this form if you are claiming a standard deduction. If you own a home and paid property taxes, paid new motor vehicle taxes or had a net disaster loss. Example: If you are a single taxpayer and are able to claim the \$5,700 standard deduction, you may be able to claim an additional \$500 deduction for a total of \$6,200 (if you paid property taxes in 2009).

Schedule M - Making Work Pay and Government Retiree Credits : If you had wages less than \$75,000 or \$150,000 filing jointly, you may be able to receive up to an extra \$400 back for an individual and up to \$800 filing jointly. The form is also used for Government employee retirees who did not pay into the Social Security system and, therefore, did not receive the \$250 given to Social Security retirees in 2009 and now may be eligible. : If you had wages less than \$75,000 or \$150,000 filing jointly, you may be able to receive up to an extra \$400 back for an individual and up to \$800 filing jointly. The form is also used for Government employee retirees who did not pay into the Social Security system and, therefore, did not receive the \$250 given to Social Security retirees in 2009 and now may be eligible.

The American Opportunity Tax Credit : This credit can be claimed for expenses for the first four years of post-secondary education. The credit is different from the previous Hope Credit in that it has been expanded to include expenditures for tuition and course materials - books, supplies and equipment. The credit is for a maximum of \$2,500. This credit can be claimed for expenses for the first four years of post-secondary education. The credit is different from the previous Hope Credit in that it has been expanded to include expenditures for tuition and course materials - books, supplies and equipment. The credit is for a maximum of \$2,500.

For a free book that explains in detail how to fill out your forms and gives information on sche-

dules and credits, go to IRS.gov and request Publication 17.

Community Circles

Award-Winning Independent Film, *Teza*, Comes to Hyattsville for Black History Month!

WHO: Anacostia Trails Heritage Area (ATHA), Inc., and the Hyattsville CDC, with support from the City of Hyattsville and the Utopia Film Festival

WHAT: In celebration of Black History Month, ATHA, Inc., and partners, presents the premiere Maryland showing of *TEZA*, an internationally award-winning film by world-renowned, independent filmmaker Haile Gerima. A one-week limited engagement of *TEZA* will begin on February 26th. Movie Tickets will be on sale at the Regal Royale's box office or online at www.fandango.com or www.regalentertainmentgroup.com.

Teza (“morning dew” in Amharic) depicts the ways in which the fall of Emperor Haile Selassie affected Ethiopia's history and society. The film, set in Germany and Ethiopia, examines the displacement of African intellectuals, both home and abroad, through the story of a young, idealistic Ethiopian doctor - Anberber. The movie chronicles Anberber's internal struggle to stay true, both to himself and to his homeland. According to actor, Danny Glover, *TEZA*, is a “film that people of all cultures and background should see.

WHEN: February 26-March 4, 2010;
Monday – Thursday: 1:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm; Friday – Sunday: 11:30 am, 2:30 pm, 5:30 pm, and 8:30 pm

WHERE: Regal Entertainment's Royale Stadium 14, University Town Center, 6505 America Blvd, Hyattsville, MD

College Park Aviation Cadets Seek Members

Interested in aviation?
Join the Civil Air Patrol Cadet program!!! Youth from 12 to 18 years of age are eligible to join this

outstanding aviation based leadership training program.

Through Civil Air Patrol's Cadet Program, young people develop leadership skills, learn about aviation, and participate in search & rescue missions. Activities include flying, camping, first aid training, and an international Aviation Cadet Exchange!

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

RPAC Meeting

Mark your calendars! The next Riverdale Park Arts Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 2, 2010. It will be at 7:30 and Town Hall.

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-- For information, call (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—call Audrey Bragg at 301-277-9323 for meeting site

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

