



# The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

**May 2011**

Volume 41, Issue 4

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## **IMPORTANT!**

**Bulk Trash Collection  
WEDNESDAYS  
BY APPOINTMENT  
ONLY**

**Contact Bates Trucking  
and Trash Collections at  
(301) 773-2069 before 2pm  
on Tuesday.**



## **Riverdale Park Police: An Honored Tradition**

**By Acting Chief Patrick Timmons**

Each year the Prince George's Police Chief's Association holds its annual awards ceremony where law enforcement agencies from around Prince George's County honor their employees who have performed their duties in an exemplary manner during the previous year.

This year the ceremony was held on April 7, 2011, in the City of Glenarden, where I was honored to award PFC Joseph Sommerville and Mr. Rudy Castro as our officer and civilian employee of the year, respectively.

PFC Sommerville and Code Enforcement Officer Castro are extremely hard working and dedicated employees, and I am proud to have them working for the Riverdale Park Police Department.

Please join me in congratulating our award winning employees.



Pictured from L – R are Mr. Rudy Castro, PFC. Joseph Sommerville, and Acting Chief Patrick Timmons

**Congratulations to Officer Castro and PFC  
Sommerville!**

# Council Actions

By Waverly Pollitt

April 4, 2011

## Regular Legislative Meeting

1. **Approved-** Minutes for March 7, 2011, regular legislative meeting.
2. **Approved-** Resolution 2011-R-12, authorizing Town Administrator to sign a letter of agreement with Davenport & Company, LLC.
3. **Approved-** A building permit application to replace an existing fence with a 6ft fence at 4512 Oliver Street (Ward 1)
4. **Approved-** Carnival and Show permit application for Taylor & Sons Inc. for the Lions Club fundraiser on April 21- May 1, 2011
5. **Approved -** Resolution 2011-R-14 a resolution to recommend to the Zoning Appeals Board that the variance as proposed be approved with conditions for front yard setback requirements and lot coverage requirements at 6407 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- 6 **Approved-** DSP - 92006/02- American Center for Physics.
- 7 **Approved-** Ordinance Resolution 2011-OR-01, an ordinance establishing a capital expenditure reserve fund.
- 8 **Approved-** Ordinance Resolution 2011-OR-02, an ordinance establishing Town employee post – retirement health insurance benefits.
- 9 **Approved-** Motion to close Town Center on May 1, 2011 for Arts Fest 2011
- 10 **Approved-** Resolution 2011-R-13, a resolution to appoint Ward 1 Election Judge.

### Town of Riverdale Park

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

#### Town Hall

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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**–Alice C. Ewen,  
Chair, Econ Development, 301-379-5303  
[aewen@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:aewen@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** - Keelah Allen-Smith  
Chair, Legislative Committee, 240-751-6688  
[kallensmith@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:kallensmith@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

Sara Imhulse, **Town Administrator**  
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Public Works, 301-864-1803

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Code Enforcement 240-898-2500

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[code@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:code@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

Police Department, 301-927-4343

Patrick Timmons, **Interim Police Chief**  
[ptimmons@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:ptimmons@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

Fire Department - Emergency 911

Information - 301-927-0356

Charles Ryan, **Chief**

[info@riverdalevfd.com](mailto:info@riverdalevfd.com), [www.riverdalevfd.com](http://www.riverdalevfd.com) or,

[Riverdalefirechief7@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.riverdaleparkmd.info)

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

Submit all copies to

[towncrier@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:towncrier@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

# Riversdale House Museum Events

## Mother's Day Tours/Seasonal Selections

Rosalie Stier Calvert bore nine children during her life here at Riversdale. Five of these children lived to adulthood, including Charles Benedict Calvert, founder of the University of Maryland. Celebrate the special mothers, mothers-in-law, grandmothers, and other ladies in your life with a free guided tour of the historic house!

Visitors will also be able to enjoy a *Seasonal Selections* cooking demonstration in the dependency kitchen. Members of the Riversdale Kitchen Guild will be preparing various Mother's Day Delights from noon-3:30pm.

This offer is limited to one free tour per paid admission. Admission is \$3 adults/\$2 seniors/ \$1 students/ FREE children 4 & under.

## Rome at Riversdale

Kids, ready your swords! Adults, prepare to step back in time! *Legio XX* has camped out once again for the second annual Rome at Riversdale!

Early 19<sup>th</sup> century America was greatly influenced by the classical world. Celebrate ancient Rome as you watch ancient battle reenactments with *Legio XX*, view a catapult demonstration, take part in children's activities, enjoy refreshments at the Roman *capona*, chat with reenactors, and more all on the grounds of Riversdale House Museum! Inside the historic house, celebrate the neoclassical trends of the 19<sup>th</sup> century with an architecture scavenger hunt, tours of the house, and more!

Rome at Riversdale runs Saturday, May 14 from 10am – 4pm and Sunday, May 15 from noon – 4pm. Admission is \$5/adults and \$3/students.

## Quarterly Lecture: Dave Fogle

Riversdale is trying something new this year and offering our scholarly lectures once every quarter. This year's spring lecture will be held Tuesday, May 3, 2011 at 7:30 pm. David Fogle, Professor Emeritus, University of Maryland School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation, will present his talk, *The Houses of the Lords Baltimore*. George Calvert, descendant of Charles Calvert, the Fifth Lord Baltimore, was the master of Riversdale. With the help of visual aids, this lecture will provide an architectural introduction to the estates of the Lords Baltimore, including Charles Calvert.

Lectures are \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for students with a valid ID. This is a walk-in program and reservations are not required.

## Garden Day at Riversdale

Gardening is a pastime steeped in the tradition of Riversdale. Rosalie Stier Calvert, the mistress of Riversdale, enjoyed a lifelong love of gardening and wrote frequently about her gardens and orchards. On Sunday, June 5, 2011 from 12:30-3pm, Riversdale invites you to enjoy and experience Garden Day! Adults and children alike will find some fun at this spring outing! Participate in a family-friendly scavenger hunt in the garden, enjoy kids' crafts at the children's booth, and take a peek at a cooking demonstration in the open hearth kitchen! Master Gardeners will be offering a talk and will be on hand to answer your gardening questions at the Plant Clinic. Feel free to bring examples and specimens with you! Take a tour of the Federal-era historic house and learn about the historic gardens and orchards with Sarah Urdaneta, head gardener at Riversdale. Round out your afternoon with light refreshments that highlight produce from the herb garden.

The cost is \$5 per person and FREE for children 12 & under accompanied by an adult. Reservations are requested by Tuesday, May 31.

Riversdale House Museum, a National Historic Landmark, is located at 4811 Riverdale Road in Riverdale Park, Maryland. For more information or reservations, call 301-864-0420 TTY 301-699-2544. Visit our website at [www.pgparcs.com](http://www.pgparcs.com) or email [Riversdale@pgparcs.com](mailto:Riversdale@pgparcs.com). This facility is owned and operated by The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County.

# Mayor's Report

By Mayor Vernon Archer

## Town Budget Proposal

On about May 1, I will submit to the Town Council a proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2012. I am happy to report that this budget is one I am genuinely pleased to submit. It has something positive in it for all of the major stakeholders in our town and municipal government.

First, I propose a reduction in the property tax rate from the current rate of \$.677 per hundred dollars of assessed property value, to \$.655 per hundred dollars. This rate reduction is possible because of a combination of good management, several years of fiscal restraint, good long term planning and some old-fashioned good luck. While I wish it could be larger, I am non-the-less pleased to be able to make such a proposal in this tight fiscal environment. You will also note below that this reduction is not in any way being paid for by any reduction in town services, nor am I proposing anything less than fully adequate cash reserves be maintained.

Maintaining adequate cash reserves for both standard operations and to get us through an emergency or natural disaster is critical to government planning. This proposal will keep the town's reserve equal to 3 months of operating expense, which is the benchmark I have always used for the maximum amount required.

Town staff will all be eligible for standard step increases on the pay scale and a 2% cost of living adjustment (COLA) to that scale is proposed. I have pointed out on more than one occasion that a government is basically the people who make it work, and in Riverdale Park we have a high quality work force that has patiently waited out 3 years of lean times with us. It is time to make sure they all get a thank you in their paychecks.

The budget proposal also provides funding for capital improvements at a rate that will allow all 3 departments (public works, police and general government) to address their needs. These items include automobiles, trucks, specialized equipment for weather and storm recovery, utility improvements, building and grounds improvements, and other long term investments.

The financial health of the town would not be possible without the efforts of a large number of people. I wish to express special thanks to my department heads Town Administrator Sara Imhulse, Public Works Director Leonard Addison, and Acting Police Chief Patrick Timmons. I also wish to thank the Council's Finance Committee Chairman Alan Thompson for his major efforts at oversight of the town's budget execution and policies, and the entire council, Alice Ewen, David Lingua, Christopher Henry, Raymond Rivas, and Keelah Allen-Smith for their passage of carefully thought out budgets and policies over the past years.

## Support from Maryland General Assembly

The Town received a Capital Improvements Bond for \$275,000 to assist in expanding Town Hall to create a Youth and Community Wing. This money is available as a matching grant based on funding put aside several years ago to improve and/or expand the facilities available for our town's residents. Our gratitude goes out to Senator Paul Pinsky, and Delegates Tawana Gaines, Anne Healey and Justin Ross.

Now that we have a better idea of how much support we will get from outside of the town's own resources, we are prepared to resume work with the Neighborhood Design Center to create some proposals for stakeholders to consider. I hope that by next fall we will be able to have a round of community meetings to share hopes, concerns and ideas about what size and shape our new Youth and Community Wing should take.

## Levee Restoration Project

Last month I reported that the Anacostia Levee System was going to undergo some restoration work in order to insure that it protects the surrounding area from flooding up to and including what is termed a "100 year" flood. We have since learned from the Prince George's Public Works Department that about half of Riverdale Park's section along the Northeast Branch will be affected. From the southern edge of Riverside Park proceeding south the levee will gradually be elevated as it progresses to Edmonston. The levee north of Riverside Park will not be raised, though some minor repairs may be done.

County Public Works does not yet have a completed work plan, so we cannot share with you where the construction support areas will be located. As the information becomes available we will make sure affected residents are notified. As the project progresses we will make every effort to minimize the impact on you the residents and to insure the protection of our parks, river and town infrastructure.

## Prayers and Best Wishes to Fire Chief Chuck Ryan

As most of you are probably aware the Chief of our Volunteer Fire Company was seriously burned while fighting a fire at his "day" job with the Washington DC Fire Department on April 8th. While he has made significant progress, he has a long road to recovery ahead of him. I wish to express my thanks to the Chief for his many years of service to Riverdale and also my appreciation to all town residents and staff who have rallied to support Chuck and his family in so many different ways.

CHIEF RYAN, RIVERDALE PARK LOVES YOU!

# Ward and Committee Reports

## Ward Two Report

By Council Member Alan Thompson  
*akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov*

### Finance Committee Report

It is the spring time, when a Councilman's thoughts turn to....budgets and mosquitoes! I hope that everyone in Ward 2 is enjoying the flowering trees, warm breezes, and daffodils as much as I am, but those gentle spring rains are gathering in places around all of our properties, and mosquito eggs are hatching in them. Every year around this time I walk around my property and try to identify places where mosquitoes could be breeding, get rid of (or turn over) the ones I can, and at least dump out the ones I can't get rid of. Places where water gathers regularly (like the low point in a gutter on the edge of the roof) can be inoculated against mosquito infestation with "Mosquito Bits" or "Mosquito Dunks," which contain a microbe that kills mosquito larvae, but has no effect on humans, animals, or most other insects. Last year I tried out a "mosquito deleter," an inexpensive water-filled trap that you put in your yard to capture mosquitoes as the eggs are being laid, but I didn't start until mosquito season was already in full swing (though it did seem to help). Most mosquitoes live their life within about a mile of their larval habitat, so everyone in town will appreciate your efforts to reduce the mosquito population in your yard.

On a more pleasant subject, the Finance Committee (with most members of the Town Council in attendance) will meet to discuss the budget for the next fiscal year. These meetings are open to the public, and I invite all interested citizens to attend; keep your eye on the town web site, the TownAnnounce mailing list, or the schedule posting board outside of Town Hall (5008 Queensbury) for the schedule of these meetings. These hearings are not the most exciting meetings, but they are extremely important, as they set spending levels for all departments for the year ahead.

I've enjoyed walking through the ward this spring as I campaigned, and thank all of you who opened your doors and shared your thoughts on town government with me. I've gotten some great ideas, large and small, about things to do in the future to make our town better.

## Ward Five Report

By Council Member Raymond Rivas  
*rrivas@riverdaleparkmd.gov*

### Community Affairs Report

It has been a very busy early spring for Riverdale Park Youth Group. The youth have participated in the April 9, 2011 Earth day clean up and the Easter egg hunt at the Mansion on April 16, 2011. They are starting to see what value it has to give back to the community. There is more that they want to give back plus we here at Riverdale Park do appreciate all the help we can get. I also wanted to say to all of the other volunteers on Earth Day, "Thank you".

There have been some fun sporting events that the youth (8-10 years) have just enjoyed. Bowling Night was on March 17, 2011 at The White Oak in Silver Spring and the kids had never experienced an outing such as this. The ability to throw the bowling ball and hitting the duck pins was a feat of impossibility but was doable. They really enjoy the competition as if, "mano a mano" (hand to hand combat). The national night Fan fest on March 30, 2011 was also an outstanding big hit. It was a bit tiring being that I had to walk around the stadium at least four times so they can meet the players and to be exposed to all of the baseball elements. The amazement in their eyes and the wow effect that the whole event had on them will always be remembered in their minds. The teenagers (14 to 16 years) went to a Washington Wizards game on April 5, 2011 against the Detroit Pistons. Just to let them go on their own to buy the refreshments was the ultimate high for them. The trust factor with the teenagers means a lot to them. This is what we are trying to do in building a caring and trusting environment for our youth.

There are more events coming soon and I will update you in the next May 2011 Ward Report. **We still are looking for volunteers to help with the youth group and hope that we can get some young mentors from the local colleges and high schools. If you want to be of some service please feel free to call me, Raymond L. Rivas Jr. @ 301-625-9435.**

Ha sido un comienzo de primavera muy ocupado con el grupo de jóvenes del pueblo de Riverdale Park. El 9 de Abril los jóvenes participaron en el Día de la Tierra y el 16 de Abril en la búsqueda de huevos en la Mansión. Ya están empezando a darse cuenta del valor que hay en devolverle a la comunidad. Aun hay más que pueden dar y mas que aquí en Riverdale Park apreciamos toda la ayuda que podemos conseguir también les quiero

decir a los otros voluntarios del Día de la Tierra “Gracias”.

Ha habido algunos eventos divertidos de deportes que los jóvenes de (8-10 años) han disfrutado. La Noche de Boliche fue el 17 de Marzo del 2011 en la White Oak en Silver Spring y los muchachos no habían tenido una experiencia o salida como esta antes. La capacidad de golpear los pines fue un hecho imposible pero era factible. Ellos deberán haber disfrutado la competencia “mano a mano”. La noche nacional Fan Fest del 30 de marzo 2011 fue también un gran éxito sobresaliente. Fue un poco cansado de ser que tenía que caminar alrededor del estadio por lo menos cuatro veces para que puedan conocer a los jugadores y de estar expuestos a todos los elementos de béisbol. El asombro en sus ojos del efecto de la sorpresa y de todo el evento tuvo en ellos siempre será recordado en sus mentes. Los adolescentes (14 a 16 años) fueron a un juego de los Washington Wizards el 5 de abril del 2011 contra los Pistons de Detroit. Sólo para dejarlos ir por su cuenta para comprar los refrescos fue la última alta para ellos. El factor de confianza con los adolescentes significa mucho para ellos. Esto es lo que estamos tratando de hacer en la construcción de un ambiente de cariño y confianza con nuestros jóvenes.

Hay más eventos que vienen pronto y voy a actualizarlos en el próximo informe de Mayo del 2011. **Todavía estamos buscando voluntarios para ayudar con el grupo de jóvenes y espero que podamos conseguir algunos mentores de jóvenes de los colegios locales y escuelas secundarias. Si quieres ser de algún servicio, por favor no dude en llamarme, Raymond L. Rivas Jr. @ 301-625-9435.**

## Public Works Report

By Leonard Addison

**Saturday Drop Off** – The next scheduled day for drop off of bulk trash will be on Saturday, May 21, 2011, from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

**Holiday Trash Collection** – Trash collection during the month of April will not be affected by scheduled holiday.

### **Cleanups - Community Cleanup**

We appreciate our residents for their cooperation in assuring that all of their yard waste and bulk items were on the curb the night before to facilitate pickup and

save money by eliminating the need to make multiple trips through the same neighborhoods.

Thanks to the residents and the Public Works staff, the event was a success. We appreciate the efforts of Ms. Valerie Watson of the Department of Environmental Services – Waste Management Division for her prompt assistance in acquiring the permits needed for our trucks to use their facility for disposal free of charge.

As a result of everyone's efforts, we collected and disposed of 13,440 pounds or 6.70 tons of yard waste/bulk trash, 61 tires and 1,340 pounds of metal.

**Earth Day** – We express our gratitude to the staff of the Anacostia Watershed Society for partnering with the Town for another very successful event. Two busloads of students from the University of Maryland, volunteers with the Prince George's County Community Service Program, Council Member Rivas and his youth group, as well as other students and residents made this an event to remember. We also thank and appreciate Mayor Vernon Archer and Council Member David Lingua for the role they played in cleaning up the northeast branch of the Anacostia River. Approximately 100 volunteers collected more than 147 bags of trash and recyclables in a three hour period.

**Christmas in April** – Council Member Christopher Henry, volunteers with the Prince George's County Community Service Program and Public Works staff participated in a “Christmas in April” project for one of our residents. A truckload of debris and yard waste was collected from the site, leaving the exterior of the residence neat and clean. We wish to thank all of the volunteers for improving a neighbor's overall self-esteem by seeing the appearance of their yard improve, and to Council Member Henry for caring.

### **Riverdale Park Levee Reconstruction**

We met with Prince George's County Department of Public Works & Transportation (DPW&T) regarding a mandate by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to bring the Anacostia Levee to current flood control levels. This was initiated by two factors: the levee has not been upgraded since its installation in the 1950s; and the U.S. Core of Engineers (USACE) has been conducting a nationwide evaluation of all levee systems throughout the country after Hurricane Katrina.

After USACE's review, it was determined that the levee needed to be upgraded to:

- Improve levee safety,
- Bring levee into conformance with current standards, and

- Obtain certification within the timetable set by FEMA.

In order to comply with the mandate, the levee in Riverdale Park will have to be raised between one to two feet. The raised areas that will affect our area will start south of Riverside Park and end at the Edmonston Pumping Station. The bike/walking path on the levee will be replaced once the changes to the levee have been completed.

DPW&T's construction timeline is as follows:

- Advertise contract in May 2011,
- Material fabrication 4 - 6 months,
- Active construction lasting approximately 100 days.

We will keep you informed as information becomes available.

### **Pepco & Delmarva Home Energy Savings**

**Program** – Pepco & Delmarva have joined together to sponsor an Income Eligible Energy Efficiency Program (IEEEP) program that would provide qualified residents in the Pepco/Delmarva Power service territory in Maryland, with a comprehensive home energy audit to determine the most effective measures to install in their homes to reduce energy costs. After inspecting the property for potential heating, ventilation and air conditioning safety issues, the work would be completed by a Building Performance Institute certified professionals.

The program features weatherization measures (attic/wall insulation, air sealing, door/window weather stripping, duct sealing and insulation), electric saving measures (compact fluorescent light bulbs, tank and pipe wraps for electric water heaters, low flow showerheads, faucet aerators), appliance replacement components (refrigerators, room air conditioners, electric hot water heaters and tune up or replacement of inefficient electric heating and cooling equipment.

The duration of the program is through December 31, 2011. The worthwhile services are provided gratis to the residents who are chosen for the program.

**If you are interested in this program, please call the Department of Public Works for the referral application and guidelines at 301-864-1803.**

## **Boy Scouts Troop 252**

**By Bob Killen**

Troop 252 has five new Scouts and three new Scouters. We successfully re-chartered Troop 252, and are certified for another year. Each of our Scouts has

started his very own cooking fire during several of our Friday night meetings on the sidewalk in front of and to the side of the Scout Room at St. Bernard's Church. We enjoyed marshmallows, freshly lit up and blown out, right off the sticks (that we found in the woods and cleaned off the bark) into our wide open mouths, which closed into huge smiles.

Another of our Scouts' antics include construction of bamboo ladders, the rounds of which at first needing tightening of the rounds so the Scouts could climb up the home-made ladders to the roof, where they discovered that the view from the top is splendid, and the surprises are many. Next time, we will work faster, affixing more rounds, so they will be close enough together for Joseph Elliot to climb up to the roof.

Next weekend, 29 April - 01 May, we will camp out (tipi and tents) at the Protestant-Catholic Religious retreat in Croom (Upper Marlboro) at Mattaponi, the ArchDiocese of Washington's Retreat Center. Samir Salih is our designated cook, fulfilling the last requirement for his First Class rank award. We have plenty of firewood to be split in the roped-off axyard.

On 13-15 May, we're setting up the tipi and tents at the Fire Department's huge field in Mt. Airy for the Healing Horse Powwow; there's plenty of room to run, and the knee-high green grass prevents anyone from running too fast (precipitating a fall).

On 22 May, we'll set up the tipi and tell Indian tales in Montgomery County for a Cub Scout pack.

On 28 May, we'll attend an International Scouting hike, originating at the Swedish Embassy, hiking to Roosevelt Island and back to the embassy for demonstrations of knot-tying skills.

We all have our NEW Health Forms filled out, and we plan to bicycle from Annapolis to BWI Airport and back, tubing down the Potomac and Shanandoah Rivers, as lazing about in the Chesapeake Bay this summer.

The family of one of our more promising Scouts moved to California, and we miss his cheerful Scouting spirit and helpful attitude. Brendan will be replaced by our three new assistant Scoutmasters, EagleScout(er) Joel Sandoval, Ismael Villalta, and Arnel Williams.

Join in the fun - call Scoutmaster Bob Killen, 301-483-8455 (rfkille@yahoo.com or Committee Chair MHB at 240-687-4621; we'll keep the campfire lit for you.

# Administration Report

By Sara Imhulse

Thank you to all the parents, children, and volunteers who came out in the rain to participate in the annual Easter Egg Hunt on the grounds of the Riversdale House Museum. Look how much fun we had!



Fun at the Annual Easter Egg Hunt

vehicular traffic, increasing concern over public safety issues, and the proposed Purple Line alignment.

- We have several committees working independently of the Business Outreach Committee, including the Façade Improvement Committee (which is addressing façade improvements to businesses along the corridor) and our Landscape Committee (addressing plantings and other landscaping projects to enhance the community setting).
- The creation of a quarterly community newsletter that will serve as a communication mechanism that will help keep readers stay informed of revitalization efforts and initiatives along the corridor.

## CKAR CDC's Ongoing Efforts:

- Collaborating with the Maryland Transportation Administration to solicit continued community input on the Purple Line, a proposed 16-mile light rail extending from Bethesda in Montgomery County to New Carrollton in Prince George's County.
- In partnership with ECO City Farms, Poetic Images, Muralist Michael Gifford and neighboring communities of Riverdale Park, the CKAR CDC is collaborating on a mural to be implemented on Kenilworth Avenue this spring. The proposed site for the mural is a commercial building centrally located on Kenilworth Avenue.

E-mail us at [CKARCDC@live.com](mailto:CKARCDC@live.com) with your questions, comments or concerns.

## Archie Edwards Blues Heritage Foundation

By Michael Severner

The Archie Edwards Blues Heritage Foundation is keeping East coast acoustic folk blues alive right here in Riverdale Park. Through weekly Saturday jams, performances, workshops, exhibits, and lectures, AEBHF carries on the educational tradition of



## CKAR Update

By Lenny Wertz

The Central Kenilworth Avenue CDC (CKAR CDC) is a non-profit organization committed to strategically leading the transformation of the Central Kenilworth Avenue corridor and surrounding neighborhoods. We will do this by seeking the productive participation of the residents, businesses, elected leaders, state agencies, and others to collaborate and decide how these actions and changes will enhance Central Kenilworth Avenue.

### CKAR CDC's Recent Accomplishments:

- In collaboration with the Maryland Transportation Administration (MTA), the CKAR CDC hosted a community forum in February with MTA's Purple Line project team to discuss how the proposed Purple Line could potentially affect residents and business owners of Riverdale Park and surrounding communities.
- The formation of several CKAR CDC committees, including a Business Outreach Committee- responsible for working with the business community to ensure its needs are understood and to identify the best solutions to address those needs.

**FYI** - Our Business Outreach Committee coordinated its first business outreach event in February, where business owners had the opportunity to share their concerns about the area and to address issues such as high

celebrated Piedmont blues artist Archie Edwards. AEBHF worked closely with the Riverdale Park Arts Council for the 2011 Arts Fest and we all hope the relationship continues to grow.

Bluesman, teacher, barber, and storyteller Archie Edwards (1918-1998) opened the Alpha Tonsorial Palace in Northeast Washington in 1959. Over the years it became a Saturday afternoon gathering place for aspiring musicians, young and old, African American and white. The barbershop became renowned as a place where musicians of every level of expertise were welcome to perform for each other. Until his death at the age of 79, Archie continued spreading the message of the Piedmont blues in his barbershop, on recordings, and on tours all over the world.

To keep the barbershop and Archie's spirit alive, friends and fellow musicians joined together to form the Archie Edwards Blues Heritage Foundation. **In March 2009, the Saturday jams and occasional workshops and concerts moved to the Barbershop's new home at 4701 Queensbury Rd. in Riverdale, MD 20737.**

The **Saturday afternoon jams** are the highlight of the week for the many musicians and friends who come to play, learn, and just listen. Other regular activities include the open mic on the first Thursday of the month and a songwriter's workshop on the first Sunday of the month.

In 2005, AEBHF received the prestigious **Keeping the Blues Alive Award** from the Blues Foundation for its ongoing educational efforts. The U.S. Senate recognized AEBHF's community services by passing **Senate .Resolution. 367**, designating November 29, 2002, as Blues Friday and the beginning of Blues Heritage Appreciation Fortnight. An important site to Washington's rich cultural history, Archie's Barbershop is on the African-American Heritage Trail of **Cultural Tourism DC**.

AEBHF is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization in the District of Columbia. Mike Baytop, long-time musical friend of Archie and the barbershop, is President of the foundation's **Board of Directors**. For additional information on events, workshops, video and audio links see the AEBHF webpage at <http://www.acousticblues.com/>

## Community Circles

### Interested in Girl Scouts?

Do you have a daughter who will be kindergarten (5 yrs) or 1st grade next year? Would she like to do fun

activities with other girls? Then, please consider signing her up for our local Daisy Scout Troop. The troop meets at the Riverdale Park Town Hall and has done a host of activities over the past year, including a hike and visit to the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge, pontoon boat ride, trip to the National Gallery of Art, arts and crafts, and learned more about our world and nature. Soon, we will be going on our first camping trip. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Dannielle Glaros at [dmglaros@gmail.com](mailto:dmglaros@gmail.com). Also, a new Brownie Girl Scout troop will be starting in the fall for girls in 2nd-4th grade and will also be meeting at Riverdale Park Town Hall. If you are interested, please contact Andie Huberty at [afhuberty@gmail.com](mailto:afhuberty@gmail.com).

### 4H Lego Robots Event

Interested in computers or legos or robots? Come build a small lego robot at Riverdale Park Town Hall on May 21, 2011 from 1-3pm. Kids ages 6-14 are encouraged to participate. More details will be posted on TownAnnounce and Towntalk listserv as the date approaches. For more information and to RSVP for the program, please email [dmglaros@gmail.com](mailto:dmglaros@gmail.com).

## Local Organizations

**Lion's Club Meeting:** Every Fourth Wednesday. Contact President Guy Tiberio at (240) 375-8902.

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

**Riverdale Park Daisy Troop #2546:** Contact Danielle Glaros at (301) 779-5915.

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

**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 301-332-6258.

**Riverdale Boys & Girls Club—**Email [riverdaleboysgirlsclub@yahoo.com](mailto:riverdaleboysgirlsclub@yahoo.com) (301) 277-KIDS

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

**Riverdale Park Arts Council—**Contact Emily Fanning at [ourdollmom@aol.com](mailto:ourdollmom@aol.com)

