



The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

May 2015

Volume 45, Issue 4

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Town of Riverdale Park Contact Information

Town Hall
5008 Queensbury Road
301-927-6381

Department of Public Works
5012 Queensbury Road
301-864-1803

Police Department
5004 Queensbury Road
301-927-4343

**Bates Trucking and Trash
Collection**
Bulk Trash Collection
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
301-773-2069

*Residents must call Bates by 2 p.m.
Tuesday for Wednesday pickup*

Town of Riverdale Park ELECTION NOTICE

In compliance with the terms of the Charter of the
Town of Riverdale Park, Maryland, an election will be held

Monday, May 4, 2015
To elect Mayor & Council Members

**Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at
Riverdale Park Town Hall, 5008 Queensbury Road**

**All citizens who are registered to vote in the
Town of Riverdale Park will be entitled to vote.**

CANDIDATES

**Mayor
VERNON ARCHER**

**Council, Ward 1
JONATHAN EBBELER**

**Council, Ward 2
ALAN THOMPSON**

**Council, Ward 3
DAVID LINGUA**

**Council, Ward 4
CHRISTOPHER HENRY**

**Council, Ward 5
EBER ROSARIO**

**Council, Ward 6
ALEJANDRO SILVA**

**Joyce K. Marcos, Chief Judge
Geraldine Gee, Deputy Chief Judge**

**La Ciudad de Riverdale Park
AVISO ELECTORAL**

Conforme a las reglas de la Ciudad de Riverdale Park, Maryland
Una Elección se llevara acabo

**El día Lunes 4 de Mayo del 2015
Para elegir a funcionarios de la ciudad para
Alcalde y Concilio**

Las urnas abrirán de 7 a.m. a 8 p.m. en la
Municipalidad de Riverdale Park, 5008 Queensbury Road

Todos los ciudadanos que están registrados para votar en
Riverdale Park podrán votar en las elecciones.

CANDIDATOS

**Alcalde
VERNON ARCHER**

**Concilio, Distrito 1
JONATHAN EBBELER**

**Concilio, Distrito 2
ALAN THOMPSON**

**Concilio, Distrito 3
DAVID LINGUA**

**Concilio, Distrito 4
CHRISTOPHER HENRY**

**Concilio, Distrito 5
EBER ROSARIO**

**Concilio, Distrito 6
ALEJANDRO SILVA**

**Joyce K. Marcos, Chief Judge
Geraldine Gee, Deputy Chief Judge**

**TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK NOTICE
OF A PROPOSED
REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE**

The Mayor and Council of the Town of Riverdale Park proposes to increase real property taxes.

1. For the tax year beginning July 1, 2015, the estimated real property assessable base will increase by 1.1%, from \$615,663,426 to \$622,233,913.
2. If the Town of Riverdale Park maintains the current tax rate of \$.6540 per \$100 of assessment, real property tax revenues will increase by 1.1% resulting in \$42,971 of new real property tax revenues.
3. In order to fully offset the effect of increasing assessments, the real property tax rate should be reduced to \$.6471, the constant yield tax rate.
4. The Town is considering not reducing its real property tax rate enough to fully offset increasing assessments. The Town proposes to adopt a real property tax rate of \$.6540 per \$100 of assessment. This tax rate is 1.1% higher than the constant yield tax rate and will generate \$42,971 in additional property tax revenues.

A public hearing on the proposed real property tax rate increase will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 26, 2015 at Riverdale Park Town Hall (5008 Queensbury Road).

The hearing is open to the public, and public testimony is encouraged.

Persons with questions regarding this hearing may call 301-927-6381 for further information.

Council Actions

Legislative Meeting April 6, 2015

Consent Agenda

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

1. Minutes from March 2, 2015 Legislative Meeting

Legislative Action Items:

1. Motion to approve street cut permit request from AB Consultants for test pits related to CSX bridge project (Ward 2) – **Approved**
2. Motion regarding curb cut and street cut permit request for new residential dwellings at 5804, 5805, 5812 Harrison Avenue and 4522 Madison Street (Ward 1) – **Tabled (to Date Uncertain)**
3. ~~Motion to adopt Ordinance 2015-OR-01 regarding building permits~~
4. Motion to adopt Resolution 2015-R-11 to reappoint Ethics Commission members – **Approved**
5. ~~Motion to approve the purchase of a rear loader for the price of \$138,101.88 from Mid-Atlantic Waste Systems in accordance with the pricing structure, terms, and conditions of National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA) Rider Contract 060612-ESG.~~

Town of Riverdale Park

www.riverdaleparkmd.gov

Town Hall

5008 Queensbury Road
Riverdale Park, MD 20737
301-927-6381, Hablamos Español
town@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Mayor Vernon Archer, 240-832-2257
varcher@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Council Members

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

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

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

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

Ward 5 – Eber Rosario
Chair, Community Affairs, 301-927-6381
erosario@riverdaleparkmd.gov

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

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

Leonard Addison, Director
Code Enforcement 240-898-2500
Colleen M. Ferguson, Code Manager
code@riverdaleparkmd.gov
Police Department, 301-927-4343

David Morris, Police Chief
dmorris@riverdaleparkmd.gov
Fire Department - Emergency 911
Information - 301-927-0356

Brian Carpio, Fire Chief
Eng7twr@yahoo.com;
info@riverdalevfd.com;
www.riverdalevfd.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 Report

By Mayor Vernon Archer

I am going to do something unusual in this report in that I'm going to share my thoughts on the County Executive Rushern Baker's proposed budget for the Fiscal Year that begins July 1. I find myself in a unique position as both an executive officer and, for anyone who doesn't know, my "day job" is teaching social studies/history at our local middle school William Wirt. Be informed immediately that municipalities such as Riverdale Park play no formal role in the budget approval project and I claim no authority beyond what I mentioned above.

You can view the proposal in brief or in depth at the following website: www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/sites/omb/Resources/budget-2016/Pages/default.aspx.

The item from the proposed budget that is clearly getting the most attention is the proposal to increase the property tax rate by \$.15 per \$100 of assessed value. Certainly on the surface this is a large increase and should require a significant scrutiny from the County Council prior to approval. Baker informs us that this is to improve our schools and improve their overall rating from 23rd out of 24 districts in our state to 10th by 2020.

As I consider this proposal two popular truisms come to mind: 1) you get what you pay for; and 2) you can't buy your way out of every problem. As a long-time observer from both inside and outside of the school system I realize that both have relevance today.

The school system clearly has issues that will not respond to a bigger budget alone. We have suffered from chronic turnover of leadership and overly political school governance. As a teacher it is impossible not to notice the school bureaucracy seems to adopt every new trend and idea in education and thereby rarely fully adopts or exploits any of them.

I am hopeful that Dr. Kevin Maxwell will be the first head of the school system to finish his contract in the last two decades, and this hope has a good foundation. His connections to this county are deep, broad, and well-publicized. Ultimately, consistent leadership is needed and only Dr. Maxwell truly knows his own intentions.

Similarly, school governance—"The Board"—has had two institutional shakeups in as many decades and it is a rarity to have quality representatives remain for more than a single term. On the positive side, here it seems that both state and local forces view the new board system as acceptable and can likely work adequately for years to come.

Regarding the systems tendency to jump at every trend, I'm less optimistic. Bureaucracies tend to develop lives of their own, and are very slow to change. The one thing that is likely to improve this tendency would be stable leadership at both the executive and board level.

Assuming Dr. Maxwell is with us for the long haul we should be able to count on his initiatives and priorities continuing and that stability will ultimately filter down to the classrooms and ultimately lead to higher student achievement.

We must also face the hard truth in life that we very often do get what we pay for. We, and it is "**WE**", have a school system that rates all but last in criteria after criteria because we also rank very low in how much we invest in our school system—measured per student. Many of the problems our system faces clearly are tied to the financial investment made.

The large number of students in each classroom is a product of investment, or lack thereof. Pay for more teachers, then class size goes down and ultimately students do better; that is just the way it is.

Prince George's County schools have a chronic problem of quality mid-career teachers leaving to work for much better pay in surrounding districts. Take a few minutes and pull up the pay scale for P.G. County schools and compare them to Montgomery County, District of Columbia, or Fairfax County. Yes, we do get what we pay for here, and this is particularly damaging because teachers are usually just getting good at their craft after four to six years.

Another area of significant concern is the age of the school infrastructure. Because of the growth patterns over time our county experienced we now find a large number of buildings are 40 years or more old and need significant maintenance, system updates and/or additional space. How can any of that happen without money?

What do I think the County Council should do? I think that the schools' leadership has the best chance of stability and success that it has had in recent memory and that supporting the push to see significant improvement will be successful if supported. I believe we have the potential to be much better than be the "bargain basement" school system and we have to pay to move upstairs, out of the basement.

However, it does not have to happen all in one year. We can pass a budget with significant investment in the school system without doing the full \$.15 per \$100. See what can be done with \$.07 and revisit this next year after we see what progress is made.

Ward and Committee Reports

Ward Two Report

By Council Member Alan Thompson
akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov

It's May, and that means that bees are buzzing, flowers are blooming, birds are twittering, and the Town Council is working to pass a budget, just after an election.

Budget

Each May the Finance Committee, which I chair, meets at least one (very long) day to carefully consider the budget developed and proposed by Mayor Archer with a lot of input from Department Heads and careful calculations and checking of details by Town staff. The meeting this year is scheduled for May 16 from 10 am to 4 pm, though we've been known to extend the meeting at the end a little bit (to avoid

having an evening meeting later in the month). This meeting is of course open to the public, and everyone in Town is encouraged to attend and learn the details of the budget. We will cover both the operating budget (mostly salaries, utilities, and supplies) and the capital improvements budget (a long-term plan for street maintenance, building updates and repairs, durable equipment like police cars and public works trucks, etc.). I am available to discuss anything about the budget with you individually at any time during the month if you have questions.

Town Election on May 4

Although no offices are contested this year, we are having an election on May 4 (as you should be able to tell from the front page of the Town Crier). While it may not seem very exciting to come out and vote

when there's no competition, I appreciate your turning out to vote and view it as encouragement to keep working hard for you. One thing to think about is that it is a perfect day to talk to us, your elected officials, about anything you want to discuss. I know I've enjoyed knocking on doors this spring to talk to many of you about how Town Government is doing. I hope to see you at the polls on Election Day, May 4th!

Code Enforcement

One topic that many people have brought up while I was knocking on doors this spring was Code Enforcement. In the past I've felt that the number of people who thought Code Enforcement was TOO strict was about the same as the number of people who thought Code Enforcement needs to be MORE strict, which makes me think Code is doing well at meeting the expectations of residents. This year, I feel like more people want a renewed emphasis on compliance with Town Code. I will be discussing this with Code Enforcement staff over the next several weeks, but it would of course be better if everyone reading this took a good look at their own property and corrected any outstanding issues (I myself need to check a few hedges that tend to grow a little close to the sidewalk). You can also help out Code Enforcement by promptly reporting any issues you see by phone to 240-898-2500 or by e-mail to code@riverdaleparkmd.gov.

Ward 2 Public Safety Community Walk

The weather was almost perfect for the Ward 2 Public Safety walk on April 18. I enjoyed talking with many of you during the walk, and working with the Police and Code Enforcement to identify issues in Ward 2 that need attention. I also appreciate Mayor Archer and Council Representative Lingua for joining me and contributing their

time, energy, and attention to helping improve public safety in Ward 2.

Farmers' Market

Now that spring is really going, so is the Farmers' Market! It is open every Thursday from 3pm to 7pm in the main parking lot in Town Center. Produce at the market this time of year includes radishes, cilantro, beans, butternut squash, spaghetti squash, white potatoes, sweet potatoes, rabe, turnips, chard, jams and jellies, apples, pastured meats, Riverdale special roaster chickens, fresh small batch roasted coffees, (and hopefully some goat gelato, fried goat cheese curds, artisan aged and raw milk goat cheeses). There are some new farmers and vendors at the market this year, including a vendor with fantastic wild Alaskan salmon. I hope to see you at the market!



Ward Three Report

By Council Member David Lingua
djlingua@riverdaleparkmd.gov

The county we aspire to be is before us. The question is will we embrace this approach to do so? First, some local information.

In the coming weeks the M-NCPPC will begin clearing the 4800 Oglethorpe property. The commission, which owns the property, is looking to create an open space, inspired by the work of the late

Gerald King, painter of several works depicting Riversdale.

Before all of us is County Executive Rushern Baker's proposed FY 2016 budget. While there are signs of better days ahead, the effects of the Great Recession still beset us at the county level. Having to manage with reduced real property assessments and other reductions in revenue, Mr. Baker is having to proffer the hard decision to reduce staff by over one hundred and enact a furlough of 40 hours for all remaining employees for the coming FY 2016. As well, Mr. Baker looks to address the enduring imbalances which beset our county. Our county's ratio of real property taxes to commercial taxes is over 2:1; greater than neighboring counties. As well our county relies a great deal on money from the state to support our school system; again more so than neighboring counties. Compounding this is the state's indication to the county for us to take on more of the obligation of funding our schools. What has become apparent to Mr. Baker is, to address the tax imbalance, the need to address our school system. Taken together and to both ends, Mr. Baker believes strongly in making a much greater commitment towards our school system with the expressed goal of moving our system into the top ten statewide by 2020. He believes this improvement will enable our county to attract businesses and commercial development; something many would like to see. In turn this will help address the revenue imbalance and reduce the demand on our real property rates. Time and again Mr. Baker has his business recruitment pitch rejected because of our school system's low ranking. Generally, the response he receives is, "We aren't interested, your schools suck." While we

may think otherwise, this is what the perception a ranking of 23rd besets upon us.

Mr. Baker's proposal is a concerted effort with PGCPs CEO, Dr. Kevin Maxwell and the School Board. A Prince George's native, Dr. Maxwell looks to address teacher retention, augmenting teaching staff, and developing curriculum. Underlying his vision is a core empathy with and a fundamental belief in the students; their academic success as individuals as well as their ability to become contributing adult members in the community. While we as a whole are understandably more than twice shy when it comes to a school CEO offering a long-term vision only to leave before fulfilling their contract, Dr. Maxwell is committed to improving our schools for years to come.

The County Council is considering Mr. Baker's proposed budget with a vote to be held in June. If you have not already, as citizens of this county, I strongly recommend giving the proposal deep and serious consideration. I would also urge you to share your thoughts with County Councilmember Dannielle M. Glaros, dmglaros@co.pg.md.us.

Code's Corner

By Colleen C. Ferguson

Trash containers are to be placed in the rear yard or side rear yard until sundown of the day before regular collection.

§ 36-7. Garbage containers required; disposal regulated. [Amended 5-6-02, effective 6-5-02.]

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to keep exposed or to deposit, throw or place



or cause to be deposited, thrown or placed, any garbage or similar refuse in any avenue, street, alley or public place, or upon any private property, whether owned by such person or not, within the corporate limits of the town, unless the same shall be enclosed in proper vessels or containers as herein defined. All such vessels or containers shall be placed at the rear or rear side of the premises at all times until readied for collection as pursuant to §§ 36-8 and 36-9, except that such vessels or containers shall not be adjacent to a public street, if at the side shall not be immediately adjacent to residential housing, and if at the rear shall not create a nuisance and a public health hazard to the immediate residential neighborhood.

§ 36-8. Municipal collection of garbage, trash, and waste.

(a) General.

(4) It shall be unlawful to place garbage or trash out for a collection earlier than sundown of the day prior to the regularly scheduled day for collection.

**§ 36-15. Violations and penalties.
(Repealed and replaced 5/23/97. Effective 6/12/97)**

**[Amended 10-2-08, effective 10-22-08;
Amended 6-7-10, Effective 6-27-10]**

(a) Generally

Violations of §§ 36-2 through 36-14 of this chapter are declared to be a municipal infractions, the penalty for which shall be fifty dollars (\$50) for each initial offense and one hundred dollars (\$100) for each repeat offense, which is defined as an identical or substantially similar separate violation committed within thirty (30) days after the initial offense, except in the case when the violation of § 36-2 is the disposal of a dead animal, the penalty for which shall

be two hundred dollars (\$200) for the first offense, and four hundred dollars (\$400) for each repeat offense. Each day that a violation of any provision of §§ 36-2 through 36-14 of this chapter continues shall constitute a separate violation.

Public Works Report

By Leonard Addison

Saturday Drop Off – The next scheduled dates in 2015 for drop off of bulk trash on the third Saturday of each month, from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., are: **May 16**, June 20, July 18, August 15, September 19, October 17, November 21 and December 19.

Holiday Trash Collection – Regular trash **will NOT** be collected on Monday, May 25, 2015, in observance of Memorial Day. The next trash collection will be on Thursday, May 28, 2015.

Town Offices Closed – Town offices will be closed on Monday, May 25, 2015, in observance of Memorial Day.

WSSC – Water Main Contract – The contract (#BR767A08), 10-inch water main will be installed on East/West Highway from Adelphi Road to 44th Avenue. The contract started in April 2015 and will continue through the fall season. There will be two tie-ins made within town limits– 44th Avenue and 43rd Street - that will be affected by this contract. However, the impact to westbound traffic on East/West Highway is going to be problematic.

Tree Trimming – A contractor will be in the community trimming Town trees. If the tree designated for trimming is located in front/near your property, you should have received a notice from the Department of Public Works. In addition, the contractor will post signs for when they will be in the area.

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

Mosquito Control Program – The Town will once again participate in the State/County Mosquito Larviciding/Adulticiding Mosquito Control Program. The program began spring larviciding in March. The regular season began April 6th and will continue into early September.

Adulticiding will begin June 1, 2015, and run through September 17, 2015. They will visit every three weeks, but will not spray if the sprayer encounters too many people on the night of spraying.

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

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

Prince George's County Information – To expedite requests for services provided by Prince George's County's, residents should utilize their information number, **which is 311**. Using that number will enable residents to address county related

concerns such as questions, complaints, animal control requests, or other service needs for which the county is responsible.

Animal Control – The Department of Environmental Resources – Animal Management Division handles **all calls** related to animal control in your community. Please contact them if there are animals in a trap, sick, any cruelty to animals, animal spaying or neutering, dangerous animals, animal carcasses, or other animal related issues in your neighborhood, please call the Animal Management Division at **301-780-7200**. **Office hours are Monday, Tuesday and Friday, 11:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m., and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Closed Sundays and Thursdays.**

The public can view animals on Monday, Tuesday and Friday 12:00 noon – 6:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Closed Sundays and Thursdays. The office is located at 3750 Brown Station Road, Upper Marlboro 20772.

Boy Scouts Troop 252

By Robert Killen

We have been meeting regularly at the Riverdale Park Town Hall Friday nights, with several Boy Scouts showing up at each meeting; our Committee Chair, Eneida Martínez-Brown (MHB), and Scoutmaster Bob Killen have not missed a meeting all year.

On 2 March, we attended the Riverdale Park Town Meeting, for our Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge. We observed some strong disagreement about placing a new 7-11 store in one of the neighborhoods, as our Scouts found out after the meeting while interviewing several

residents of the area. Also, Michael Jarquin introduced himself to his Ward 2 Councilman, Alan Thompson.

At the University of Scouting in Carroll County Community College on 14 March, AJ Jarquin won his Bachelor's Degree; MHB and Bob opted for another Master's Degree each, counting more credits for their post-Doctorate Fellows awards.

We attended the Archaeology Workshop on 28 March at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Edgewater; Senior Patrol Leader Guillian Canéte, Scribe Michael Jarquin and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader Joseph Elliott, Mr. Landa, MHB and Bob participated; our Boy Scouts found the most exciting presentation to be "Ordnance 101," about finding explosives while digging for artifacts.

April 11 saw MHB attending Campfire Training at St. Andrews Lutheran Church.

This weekend, April 17-19, we are participating in the re-enactment of the New Market Battle in the War Between the States, the last battle that the South won. We have acquired (replicas of) guns and hats for our Scouts to wear as they romp over the historic land, where 840 Union and 540 Confederate casualties were noted. Eighty per cent chance of rain is predicted for Saturday; we'll get muddy (hopefully not bloody).

No rest for the weary! We're scheduled to help staff the Protestant-Catholic Religious Retreat in College Park on 24-26 April, camping out with the tipi, and other tents.

May 23-25, we're signed up for the James E. West HOST (History Of Scouting Trail) 5.5 mile 4-6 hour hike in D.C., with the option to purchase an Order of the Arrow 100th Anniversary Inaugural Medal at the end of the trail.

Bob will drive a busload of Arrowmen around the Northeast U.S. countryside 17 June-18 July as part of the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Order of the Arrow.

We'll bicycle the entire length of the C&O Canal Towpath (184 miles) again this summer if we can arrange the scheduling between family international trips. We'll also bicycle Annapolis-BWI Airport and back again (23.2 miles). Lots of fun!

Then school will start again and we'll be back to the old grind, grinding our way to Eagle Scout!

ArtsFest 2015 Scheduled for May 3, Award Winner Announced



By Samuel Williams

From stained glass and original oil paintings to hand-made jewelry and author signings, ArtsFest 2015 has it all! The 8th annual ArtsFest is the premier gathering sponsored by the Riverdale Park Arts Council (RPAC) every first Sunday in May. It will be held this year (rain or shine) from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, May 3, 2015, at the MARC Train station located at 4650 Queensbury Road, MD, in Riverdale Park's Town Center on Queensbury Road.

The RPAC Board of Directors is proud to announce that Rebecca Alvarado has been named as the winner of the fourth annual Gerald King Fine Arts Award. Alvarado's work will be displayed and she introduced at the event. The award is given

by RPAC to an art student who shows great promise in realism and is named in honor of the late Gerald King, a longtime resident of Riverdale Park.

Once again, ArtsFest is expected to draw more than 1,000 to enjoy several dozen local artists selling their own original artworks, along with food vendors and a free, day-long concert featuring blues, rock, classical and folk musicians. The event's music lineup includes The Smokin Polecats, Michael Sevens, Miles Spicer and the Brendan Schnabel Trio.

ArtsFest has grown to reflect the boom in local talent throughout the Route 1 Arts corridor and beyond. Paintings both abstract and realistic, pottery fired by gifted hands, home-made soaps and jewelry, and the living art of bonsai -- all combine to show the diversity of art forms that will delight ArtsFest 2015 attendees. The Children's Pavilion will be bustling with craft-making and face painting for the young...and young at heart.

Add to that a Writer's Row, featuring local authors such as Hyattsville, Md. resident Richard Morris who has written the much-acclaimed novels as "Well Considered" and "Cologne No. 10 for Men";

Mount Rainer-based author Juliana Barnett who co-authored her "social justice mystery" entitled Rainwood House Sings with Sophie Barnett-Higgins and Riverdale Park, Md. resident Samuel Williams, Jr.

(President of RPAC board of Directors) whose 2012 historical fiction novel, Anomalous: The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes featuring Jack Johnson and Alphonse Capone holds the distinction of being the first major Holmes adventure ever written by a black author.

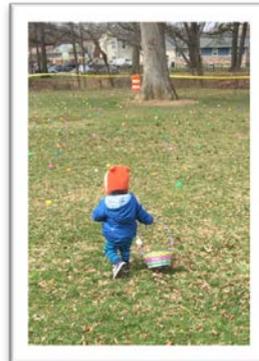
There are still a few select slots available to artists, authors and food vendors. More information can be found

at www.RPartscouncil.org. For more information call Samuel Williams, Jr. at (909) 380-4231 or Ken Laureys (301) 661-6682.

Easter Egg Hunt

The annual Easter Egg Hunt was held on March 28, 2015, at Riverside Neighborhood Park. As cold as it was that Saturday, the children and parents had a great time searching for Easter eggs, listening to the fun music, and taking pictures with the Easter bunny.

The event would not have been a success without our committed volunteers and their devotion in making the Easter Egg Hunt as pleasant as possible for citizens of



Riverdale Park. Special thanks to Yudice Albrego, Laura Barragan, James Sagastume, Jasmine Landaverde, Nova Johns and the Riverdale Park Fire Department for braving the cold weather! Thankfully,

the extensive planning was a success, and the weather did not discourage the children and volunteers from enjoying the exciting event!

Obituary for Former Councilmember Ray Badders

Raymond Walter Badders, age 63, of Manchester, Maryland, died suddenly as a result of an automobile accident on Saturday, March 21, 2015 near Annapolis, Maryland, which also took the life of his youngest daughter, Susannah Marion Badders. Ray was born on December 3, 1951 in Baltimore, Maryland, the son of the late Walter Coleman and Beatrice B. (Heard) Badders.

Ray was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a graduate of the University of Maryland, with a degree in political science. He worked as an advertising sales representative for Newton Industries. He was a member of the Reisterstown Baptist Church and the Hampstead American Legion. He served on the town council of Riverdale Park, MD, and was a volunteer and ministered to many needy individuals.

Most important to Ray was his family and his love of the Lord. Surviving are daughters, Anne-Marie Badders Hama and husband David of Bowie, Carolyn Owens and husband Tyler of Annapolis, Victoria Virginia Badders of Manchester, and Julianne Elizabeth Badders of Manchester; grandchildren, Luke, Elise, Laila, Alena, Aliyah, and Jake; sister and brother-in-law, Virginia "Ginny" Potter and Billy Potter of Upatoi, Ga.; and former spouse, Katherine (Robinson) Badders of Manchester. He was predeceased by a brother, Robert C. Badders.

A Memorial Service to celebrate his and his daughter's life will be held at 2 p.m., on Saturday, March 28, 2015 at the Grace Baptist Church, 7210 Racetrack Rd., Bowie,

MD., with the Rev. Mark Tanious officiating. Private interment with military honors will be held at Garrison Forest Maryland Veterans Cemetery in Owings Mills on Tuesday, March 31, 2015. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions to Samaritan's Purse, P.O. Box 3000, Boone, N.C., 28607. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Myers-Durboraw Funeral Home in Westminster.

Community Circles

Career Opportunity

Established Distribution Company seeking self-motivated employees. Several positions are available, part-time or full-time. All openings require intelligent and dynamic individuals with willingness to learn. Located close by Riverdale, MD. Openings in Warehouse Operations, Pick & Pack Orders, Shipping/Receiving, and Inventory Control.

Starting pay \$11+ per hour, depending on experience. Call 301-779-5229 Email: hr@ifcweb.com.

ECO City Farms

Beginning in May, ECO City Farms will be offering weekly farm shares of locally grown produce to Prince George's County residents. The season runs 21 weeks from May 7 to September 24. For more information on how to apply, visit www.ecocityfarms.org or e-mail Amanda@ecocityfarms.org. For volunteer opportunities, visit www.ecocityfarms.org/get-involved/volunteering or contact Kayla@ecocityfarms.org.

Riverdale Park Summer Internship Program

Who: Students between the ages of 16 and 19 who live in the Town of Riverdale Park

What: **PAID** summer internship! Indoor (administrative) and outdoor (laborer) positions are available.

Where: Town of Riverdale Park, 5008 Queensbury Road, Riverdale Park

When: Approximately 10 hours a week for 10 weeks (July – August)

How: Submit a letter of interest indicating the type of position that you are interested in, your latest report card, letter of support from a parent or guardian and a completed Town of Riverdale Park job application to Town Administrator, 5008 Queensbury Road, Riverdale Park, MD 20737. Town of Riverdale Park job applications are available on our website, www.riverdaleparkmd.info, or at Town Hall, 5008 Queensbury Road. Application deadline is **Friday, June 5, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.**

Local Organizations

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

Northern County Soccer Alliance: Contact NCSA@soccer.net or (301) 577-3559.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Riverdale Park Arts Council: Contact Samuel Williams, Jr., RPAC President at (909) 380-4231

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