



The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

September 2013

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**Town of Riverdale Park Contact
Information**

**Town Hall 5008 Queensbury Rd
301-927-6381**

Services: park permits, personal property taxes, finances

**Department of Public Works 5012
Queensbury Rd 301-864-1803**

Services: litter pickup, tree maintenance, leaf collection, street maintenance, snow & ice removal, landscaping, parks & playgrounds used motor oil, street lights (on black metal poles only), metal collection, sign posting

**Police Department 5004
Queensbury Rd 301-927-4343**

Services: traffic violations, payment of tickets received, records management, fingerprinting, background checks, report criminal activity.



Riverdale Park Day 2013

Saturday, October 5, 2013

12 noon—5:00 pm

Riverside Neighborhood Park

5801 Riverside Drive

Riverdale Park, MD 20737

(Ample Parking @ Riverdale Park Elementary School.
Limited Parking on Taylor Road)

Celebrate the 93rd Anniversary of the Town of Riverdale Park and have some fun with your neighbors! For kids, we will have a moon bounce, pony rides, face painting, piñatas, games, crafts, and a clown; and for the adults, we will have good music and great food. Bring a blanket or a lawn chair and join us for the day!

Council Actions

By Waverly Pollitt

Regular Legislative Meeting June 3, 2013

Consent Agenda:

Approved- Motion to approve consent agenda items:

Fence Permit Application: 5008 Somerset Road; 6 foot side yard fence (Ward 2)

1. Fence Permit Application: 5510 Taylor Road; 5 foot split-rail wood fence (Ward 3)
2. Resolution 2013-R-15 regarding Retail/Commercial Tenant Improvement Grant Program
3. Minutes from regular legislative meeting on May 6, 2013
4. Minutes from special legislative meeting on May 7, 2013
5. Minutes from special legislative meeting on May 11, 2013
6. Minutes from special legislative meeting on May 16, 2013
7. Minutes from special legislative meeting on May 19, 2013

Legislative Action Items:

1. Fence Permit Application: 5904 Taylor Road; 6 foot chain link rear/side yard fence (Ward 3)- **Approved**
2. Motion to adopt Ordinance 2013-OR-04, regarding the FY 14 budget- **Adopted**
3. Motion to adopt Charter Amendment Resolution 2013-CR-01 concerning debt limitation- **Adopted**
4. Introduction of Ordinance 2013-OR-05 regarding personnel policy- **Introduced**

New Business:

1. Motion to approve the 2013 Committee nominations- **Approved**
2. Motion to approve the nomination of the Deputy Mayor and Vice Chair of the Council- **Approved**

Special Legislative Meeting June 17, 2013

1. Motion to award contract for Rain Garden project to VMP Construction Co., Inc. – **Approved**

Regular Legislative Meeting July 1, 2013

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 – Raymond Rivas
Chair, Community Affairs, 301-625-9435
rrivas@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

Charles Ryan, **Chief**

info@riverdalevfd.com, www.riverdalevfd.com
or, 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

Submission deadline: 15th of each month.

Submit all copies to

towncrier@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Consent Agenda:

Approved- Motion to approve consent agenda items:

1. Minutes from special legislative meeting on May 28, 2013
2. Minutes from legislative meeting on June 3, 2013
3. Minutes from special legislative meeting on June 17, 2013
4. Fence Permit Application: 4609 Oliver Street; 6 foot fence (Ward 1)
5. Fence Permit Application: 4909 Tuckerman Street; 6 foot wood fence (Ward 2)

Legislative Action Items:

1. Motion to waive bid requirements for refuse collection- **Approved**
2. Motion to award extension of refuse contract to Bates- **Approved**
3. Motion to adopt Resolution 2013-R-16 regarding the intent to reimburse for expenses related to the issuance of a bond- **Adopted**
4. Introduction of Ordinance 2013-OR-07 regarding bond issuance- **Introduced**
5. Motion to adopt Ordinance 2013-OR-05 regarding personnel policy- **Adopted**
6. Introduction of Ordinance 2013-OR-06 regarding business licenses- **Introduced**
7. Motion to adopt Resolution 2013-R-17 regarding I-Net- **Adopted**
8. Motion to waive bid requirements for Public Works Vacuum Unit: Tennant Litter Vacuum Model ATLV4300 (to ride a bid from Community College of Philadelphia)- **Approved**
9. Motion to waive bid requirements for Public Works Dump Truck: Ford F450 snow ready Dump Truck (to ride a bid from State of Maryland)- **Approved**
10. Motion to waive bid requirements for Public Works Vehicle: Ford Explorer SUV 4X4 (to ride a bid from State of Maryland)- **Approved**
11. Motion to waive bid requirements for Public Works Leaf Vac: Self-Contained Leaf Collector Model SCL800TM (to ride a bid from Borough of North Haledon, NJ)- **Approved**
12. Waiver of bid requirements for Police Department Vehicles: 3 Dodge Chargers, 2 Chevrolet Tahoes, and one Chevrolet Equinox (to ride a bid from State of Maryland)- **Approved**

New Business:

1. Motion to reaffirm Riverdale Park's commitment to its Sister City Ipala, Guatemala- **Approved**

During a special legislative session on August 1, 2013, the Town Council adopted Ordinance 2013-OR-07, an ordinance authorizing a bond issuance. Our normal practice is to provide a fair summary of the ordinance in the Town Crier after the legislation is introduced, but since there is no August issue, we advertised the fair summary in a newspaper of general circulation.

Riverdale Park Police Department: National Night Out

By Lt. Col. Patrick Timmons

On August 6, 2013, National Night out was celebrated here in Riverdale Park and across the country. Our main event once again was held in the Town Center, and festivities also took place in the Madison Hill Community. Town residents gathered to enjoy an evening of food, games, and fun for everyone. Although weather was a concern throughout the event, nature cooperated



with us and the evening was quite pleasant.

I want to thank all of our volunteers from the town staff, and the members of the Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department for all of their assistance.

A special thanks to our event coordinator, Code Enforcement Manager Colleen Ferguson. Although illness kept her from attending this year, the event was a success, due to her planning and the dedication and hard work of her staff.

Riversdale Events

Riversdale House Museum Joins *Smithsonian Magazine's* National Museum Day Live! Free Admission for All Participants

On Saturday September 28, 2013 from 1-3 pm, Riversdale House Museum will open its doors free of charge along with over 1,400 other participating venues for the eighth annual Museum Day Live! This immensely successful program emulates the free admission policy of the Smithsonian Institution's Washington, D.C.-based facilities, encourages learning and the spread of knowledge nationwide.

For one day only, Riversdale will grant free access to visitors who download a Museum Day Live! ticket at Smithsonian.com. Last year's event drew over 350,000 museum-goers, and this year's Museum Day Live! is expected to attract close to 400,000 participants.

Riversdale House Museum is the c. 1801 Federal home of Rosalie Stier Calvert and her husband, George Calvert, descendant of the Fifth Lord Baltimore. The collection includes decorative arts, textiles, documents, glassware, ceramics, furniture, and art that reflect the 1801-1821 period when Mrs. Calvert lived at Riversdale. The seven-acre site is home to historic interpretive gardens and orchards, open hearth dependency kitchen, Visitor Center, and interpretive signage throughout the grounds.

Riversdale, a National Historic Landmark, is owned and operated by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and is located at 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park, MD, 20737.

The Museum Day Live! Ticket will be available to download beginning in August at Smithsonian.com/museumday. Visitors who present the Museum Day Live! Ticket will gain free entrance for two at participating venues for one day only. One ticket is permitted per household, per email address. For more information about Museum Day Live! 2012 and a list of participating museums and cultural institutions, please visit Smithsonian.com/museumday.

Summer Sips in the Garden

In June of 1993, Riversdale House Museum opened its doors as a 19th century historic house museum. Throughout the next six months, Riversdale will be celebrating with some very special 20th Anniversary events!

Put on your party clothes for **Summer Sips on Saturday, September 7 at 3 pm**. Guests will spend the afternoon in the beauty of the late summer garden while enjoying historically-inspired small plates paired with summer beverages crafted from our own local, very fresh produce.

The cost is \$25 for residents of Prince George's and Montgomery Counties and \$30 for non-residents. Advance registration is required by September 1. This program is open to guests ages 21 and up.

Out of the Attic Appraisal Fair

What's in your attic? Have you ever wondered how much your antiques are worth? Or, perhaps you want to learn more about a family heirloom. Now is your chance!

On Saturday, September 21, from 10 am – noon, experts from Weschler's & Son, Inc., appraisers and auctioneers of Washington, DC, will be at Riversdale House Museum to tell guests about the history of items

and provide an estimated value. Bring up to four items of furniture, decorative arts, silver, Asian works, fine art, rugs, jewelry, watches, and US coins to the museum for this fun and informational event.

Registration and payment are required by September 18. There is a \$10 fee per item. All proceeds benefit the Riversdale Historical Society, a 501(c)3 volunteer organization, whose mission is to preserve the cultural heritage of Riversdale and maintain the house as an historic museum.

Photos may be substituted for larger items. Please note Weschler's does not appraise antiquities, books, foreign coins, stamps, or toys.

Grandparents' Day Tours

The Calvert children kept in touch with their Belgian grandparents by writing letters. Keep in touch with your grandparents, or other special senior guest, in celebration of **Grandparents' Day on Sunday, September 8!** Come for a **FREE** tour between 12:15-3:15 pm. Note: Limited to one free tour per paid admission.

The cost for regular admission is \$3/adults, \$2/seniors, \$1/students, FREE children 4 & under.

Riversdale House Museum, a National Historic Landmark, is located at 4811 Riverdale Road, in Riverdale Park, Maryland. For more information, call 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544; or email at riversdale@pgparks.com

Mayor's Report

By Vernon Archer

Back to School Time

I'm excited and looking forward to a great new year of learning and teaching in our community schools. Our area schools have made significant strides forward in providing quality education in safe environments and I'm confident even more progress is on the way. This last year we witnessed some major changes in the overall governance of the public school system and I for one am looking forward to seeing strong outcomes at every level.

Parents: our schools often find themselves shorthanded so please reach out and help when you are able to. They need assistance in everything from breakfast/lunch room management to translation at parent teacher conferences. If you can help please contact your school directly and don't forget to join up with PTA! Organizations like the PTA are often the most effective single means of insuring the success of a school and that it is looked after in our very large school system.

Also, remember to be particularly cautious for students and their families as they walk to and from our schools. Riverdale Park and its immediate surrounding area has a very high percentage of students who walk to school so please remember the kids are there and they are not always mindful of their own safety so we, the adults, have to be!

Utility Work

In the July Crier I devoted my entire report to several major projects underway to replace antiquated water and sewer systems as well as improve the reliability of our electric supply. I want to follow up now with a brief message about the numerous smaller and/or emergency projects that are currently at some stage of work in town.

These types of jobs are frequently difficult for town government to track, so I want to encourage you to call in the work to our Public Works if emergency repairs are done to your service. This will help us to make sure that required restoration to streets and sidewalks are accomplished. While the utilities are usually good about reporting small/emergency projects to the town, we have discovered more than one recently that had not been reported.

Volunteers Needed

There is nothing more critical for the support for a healthy community than volunteers! In particular we need help in getting ready for our upcoming Riverdale Park Day, and the Holiday Festival. If you like to have a good time and are able to spare a few hours of your time please contact Councilman Raymond Rivas at 202-236-1950 for Riverdale Park Day or Jim Coleman for 301-332-6258 for the Holiday Market.

Hispanic Heritage Month September 15-October 15

Please join with me and the town government in commemorating Hispanic Heritage in the coming month. The list of the ways our community has been effected and enriched by the significant numbers of persons from Latin cultures is way too many to list here, but let me just mention a few that stand out to me. I so appreciate the increased sound of Latin music heard on the radio and in our neighborhoods and businesses. The way soccer has fast become one of the major sports in our region is a testament to the expansion and influence of Hispanic culture. The wonderful tastes of pupusa, laroca and licuados add distinctive flavor to all of our lives.

So for this month, if you are from Hispanic background take a little time and celebrate yourself, your family and your culture. If, like myself, you are not, then take a little time out and explore something new from some of our many wonderful Latin neighbors! *Tienen una gran celebracion del mes del patrimonio hispano!*

Ward and Committee Reports

Ward Two Report

By Council Member Alan Thompson
akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Finance Committee Report

Somehow, as seems to happen every year, the end of summer sneaked up on me. After the frenzy of last spring, the slower schedule was nice, and I'm energized and ready for fall.

CAFTRITZ DEVELOPMENT: Progress on the Cafritz crossing bridge (and landing) has been slower than I had hoped. The University of Maryland has not been as flexible as I had hoped about aspects of the landing site and design, but by the time you read this I should have their latest proposal in hand. Whatever the details are, be assured that traffic from the bridge into Ward 2 residential neighborhoods will be minimized, and direct access to the development from Ward 2 residential neighborhoods to the bridge will be available. Please contact me if you want to be kept up to date on the latest designs. I am hoping that we will have a public meeting on the designs in early September.

YOUTH & COMMUNITY WING: The Town Council had a special legislative meeting in early August and voted at that time to authorize bonds for the construction of the youth and community wing

of Town Hall. We met at that time for two reasons: first, so we could be part of a bond package issued by the State of Maryland (which should get us the best rate possible) and second because the interest rate on bonds has been rising over the past several months, and we wanted to borrow the money before the rates got any higher. We did specify an interest rate cap of 5 % – if the rate offered to us is higher than that, additional Town Council approval will be required before the bonds are issued.

TRACKING FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS: I'm always excited when we improve the internal operations of Town government, because that means that both staff and elected officials can focus more on big issues, and spend less effort and time on day-to-day operations. An improvement that has been in the works for a long time should be up and running within the next few months: electronic vouchers. Right now, the Town Council exercises oversight on all spending using a paper voucher system, which requires up to four signatures documenting approval for every item of spending (from a few dollars for electricity for a section of street light lights to tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars for more expensive items such as payroll or equipment purchases). As Finance Committee chair I've spent many hours at Town Hall reviewing and signing the hundreds of vouchers that are generated every year. Under the new system, I (and

the other people who sign them – the Department Head, Committee Chair, and Mayor) will be able to review these vouchers from wherever there is an internet connection, which will allow more efficient processing. Town Administrator Imhulse and her staff deserves our appreciation for researching how to implement electronic voucher signing and finding a service provider to run it for the Town, as we will all benefit from the increased processing speed.

As always, please contact me with questions or concerns...it is through input from citizens that we on the Town Council know which issues are important.

Boy Scouts Troop 252

By Robert Killen

We've done the stuff we were going to - that didn't get into the Crier - and at the Greenbelt Pool on July 21, Samir Salih and I conducted his Scoutmaster's Conference, and he is now a Star Scout - in 6 months he will be a Life Scout, and this time next year he will be our next Eagle Scout! Joseph Elliot held his Scoutmaster's Conference the same evening, and he is our newest Second Class Scout, hot to become our next First Class Scout. When the rest of Troop 252's Scouts come back from summer vacation, we'll report on their progress, too.

Oh, by the way, this Saturday, 17 August, we're going tubing at Harper's Ferry. We're prepared! Health and Safety forms are current (I hope!) and we'll report about our lumps and bumps next edition of the Crier. Stay tuned. And if you want to join in our fun, want to get in shape physically, mentally and morally, give one of us a call on email. Bob Killen (301) 483-8455 rfkille@yahoo.com, MHB (301) 864-0059 or Sandra Tolson (301) 927-2275. We're looking forward to sharing the fun with you.

Public Works Report

By Leonard Addison

Saturday Drop-off – The Saturday drop-off schedule is as follows: **September 21**, October 19,

November 16, and December 21.

Holiday Trash Collection – There will be no regular trash collection on Monday, September 2, 2013, due to the Labor Day holiday. Town offices will be closed. Trash will be picked up the next collection day, Thursday, September 5, 2013.

Trash Toter Repair/Replacement – Residents should call Bates Trash and Trucking Company at 301-773-2069, for the repair or replacement of damaged trash toters, i.e., broken lids, missing wheels, cracked toters, etc. Bates will replace toters that are beyond repair. Contact the Department of Public Works at 301-864-1803 with questions.

Recycling Collection - The County has assigned Bates Trash and Trucking Company to provide recycling services in our area until they find a permanent contractor. This should minimize misses, due to the fact that Bates is already familiar with our community.

Safety Alert – *Motorists should be more alert to pedestrian traffic now that school has resumed. Please watch out for children as they cross busy streets going to and from school.*

Bulk Trash Pickups & Special Trash Pickups - Bulk Trash pickups are scheduled by **APPOINTMENT ONLY**. In order to have bulk items picked up on Wednesdays, you must call Bates Trash and Trucking Company at 301-773-2069, before 2:00 PM on Tuesdays. Items should be at curbside by 7:00 AM on Wednesdays. Bates is not required to pick up more than **THREE (3) bulk items from any one-family dwelling per week**. If you have more than three (3) items, you can make another appointment for the items to be picked up on the following Wednesday.

The following items will not be picked up: building materials, concrete, bricks, roof shingles, stumps, bamboo, pressurized containers, explosives, paint (unless paint is dry in cans), poisons, caustics, construction and demolition debris, asbestos, toilets, free liquids, sewage, sludge. These items can be taken to **Brandywine Sand & Gravel, 5800**

Sheriff Road, Capitol Heights, MD. 301-925-8100.

Town Codes/Regulations – In response to residents' inquiries about the maintenance of trees, grass and control of weeds, the following codes apply:

- **Chapter 57-9 Overhanging trees, shrubbery or hedges:**

No person shall allow any wall, hedge or shrub located on his property, or property of which he has possession, to project there from so as to obstruct or cover and part of the sidewalk, or permit any tree or shrub to overhang the sidewalk or street in any manner so as to impede the full and free use thereof by the public.

- **Chapter 57-10. Grass bordering sidewalks and paths:**

It shall be the duty of every person in charge or control of any building or parcel of land located in the town, fronting or abutting on a public sidewalk, whether as owner, tenant, occupant or otherwise, to cut and keep trim grass from the edge of the property line to the paved road, whether the land is public or private, and not to allow any trash, waste material, garbage, offensive dirty material, weeds, briars, brush and grass to grow more than ten (10) inches tall. It shall be unlawful to fail, neglect or refuse to comply with this section.

- **Chapter 68-1 Control of Weeds:**

No owner or occupant of property within the town shall permit weeds, grass or thickets to grow upon his property more than seven (7) inches tall so as to constitute a menace to health or an obstruction to the free passage of persons using the sidewalk contiguous thereto.

Town of Riverdale Park Contact Information

Town Hall, 5008 Queensbury Road, 301-927-6381

Services: park permits, personal property taxes, finances

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

Services: litter pickup, tree maintenance, leaf collection, street maintenance, snow & ice removal, landscaping, parks & playgrounds, used motor oil, street lights (on black metal poles only), metal collection, sign posting

Police Department, 5004 Queensbury Road, 301-927-4343 (non-emergency number)

Services: traffic violations, payment of tickets received, records management, fingerprinting, background checks, report criminal activity

School Events

Each month the *Crier* will feature a listing of upcoming events in area schools.

Back-to- School Nights:

DeMatha High School- September 3, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Excel Academy- September 10, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Hyattsville Elementary School- September 10, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.

Bladensburg High School- September 12, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

Northwestern High School- September 12, 2013; 6:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. (freshmen); 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (grades 10-12)

Doll Club

By Emily Fanning

The United Federation of Doll Clubs (UFDC) held their convention in Washington DC at the Sheraton this year. The Sugarland Searchers (a local doll club in Maryland) sponsored the Jr. Collector's Tea Party. Local doll club members volunteered to sponsor each of our girls financially. About 45 girls attended. Thanks to Billie Mahaney for helping me organize for our RP Youth Doll Study Club so they could attend.

One of the mothers, Trudy Thornton-Fillyaw, took care of all the arrangements to pick up the girls and take them to the Tea Party & return them home. Thank you, Trudy.

Here is a picture of the girls in their t-shirts with pictures of the doll that each girl made, plus other dolls that have been made by students in the past.



Students left to right: Tanise Thornton-Fillyaw, Dalena Measho, Brianna Mathews, Tania Zetino, Tamryn Thornton-Fillyaw

Community Circles

Farmer's Market Update

Riverdale Park Farmers Market now accepts the following forms of payment: WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program coupons, WIC FVC checks, Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program coupons, EBT (Independence Card), debit and credit transactions. Please contact Market Coordinator Jim Coleman (rpkfarmmkt@gmail.com) & ph:3015865973) for more details.

Employment Skills Training

The Office Automation Training starts - Monday, October 28, 2013. Call 301-499-8872 for Orientation Registration.

The Hospitality Express 4 Success starts soon! Applications are still being accepted. - Visit our website at www.thetrainingsource.org for an application.

The Training Source, Inc. 59 Yost Place ~ Seat Pleasant, MD 20743 (Near the Addison Road Metro Station) (301) 499-8872

contact@thetrainingsource.org

See Us On The Web! www.thetrainingsource.org

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) 927-0560.

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

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

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 Jeffrey Yorke at (301) 502-1243 or yorkedial@gmail.com

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