

The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

September 2014

Volume 44, Issue 7

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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.

Bulk Trash Collection 301-773-2069

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Bates Trucking and Trash Collections Residents must call by 2pm Tuesday for Wednesday pickup

Riverdale Park Day 2014

Celebrate the 94th 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!

WHERE: Riverside Neighborhood Park, 5801 Riverside Drive

WHEN: Saturday, October 4th from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

PARKING: Ample parking available at Riverdale Elementary School, which is a short walk from the park. Limited parking may also be available on Taylor Road.

Día de Riverdale Park 2014

Celebra el 94 Aniversario de la Ciudad de Riverdale Park disfrutando con tu comunidad y amigos! Para los niños tendremos un juego de rebotar (moon bounce), paseos en un poni, pinturas decorativas en la cara, piñatas, juegos, artes, y un payaso, y para los adultos tendremos buena música y buena comida. Trae una cobija y una silla de jardín y únete con nosotros para el día!

DONDE: Riverside Neighborhood Park, 5801 Riverside Drive

CUANDO: Sábado 4 de Octubre de las 12:00 p.m. a las 5:00 p.m.

PARQUEO: Amplio Parqueo en la Escuela Elementarí de Riverdale, que está a una corta caminata hacia el parque. Parqueo limitado también estará disponible en la calle Taylor.

Council Actions

By Waverly Pollitt

Council Actions Special Legislative Meeting June 16, 2014

Legislative Action Item:

1. Motion to adopt Ordinance 2014-OR-06 amending the FY 14 Budget-
Adopted

Special Legislative Meeting June 30, 2014

Legislative Action Item:

1. Motion to approve a Cooperation Agreement between Prince George's County and Town of Riverdale Park regarding participation in the County's CDBG and HOME programs and to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the necessary documents. – **Approved**

Legislative Meeting July 7, 2014

Consent Agenda

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

1. Send a letter of support with conditions to the Planning Board regarding Case # DPLS-406 (Departure of Parking and Loading Standards) waiver of 4 parking spaces from the 14 parking spaces required for Edge Medical, 5305 Kenilworth Avenue (Ward 6)
2. Approval of Building Permit for 4702 Nicholson Street, 6 foot retaining wall (Ward 3)
3. Approval of Building Permit Application for 6008 Rhode Island Avenue, 4 foot wooden front yard fence (Ward 1)
4. Send a letter to ATHA (Anacostia Trails Heritage Area) recognizing CM David Lingua as the ATHA Governing Board representative for Riverdale Park
5. Minutes from the June 2, 2014 Legislative Meeting
6. Minutes from the June 16, 2014 Special Legislative Meeting
7. Minutes from the June 30, 2014 Special Legislative Meeting

Legislative Action Items:

1. Resolution 2014-R-10 regarding Prince George's County's maintenance and improvements to the stormwater management system in Riverdale Park- **Adopted**
- ~~2. Discuss and take action on the purchase of real property for a public use~~

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

Brian Carpio, **Fire Chief**

info@riverdalevfd.com, www.riverdalevfd.com
or, Eng7twr@yahoo.com @ 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

**Special Legislative Meeting
July 21, 2014**

Legislative Action Items:

1. Motion to approve a building permit application for a 6-foot wooden fence at 6321 51st Avenue (Ward 2) - **Approved**
2. Motion to approve building permit application for AI Data to excavate a test hole on Rhode Island Avenue for the purpose of finding and surveying an existing water line (Ward 1) - **Approved**
3. Motion to waive bid requirements and authorize the Mayor and/or the Town Administrator to negotiate and enter into a contract with McInturff Architects for design and engineering of Riverdale Park Town Hall in an amount not to exceed \$650,000, subject to the terms of contract to be approved by the Town Attorney- **Approved**
4. Motion to send a letter to Planning, Zoning and Economic Development (PZED) Committee regarding CB-42-2014, Single Family Neighborhood Stabilization Overlay Zone- **Postponed until August 25, 2014 Worksession**
5. Motion to direct staff to schedule a water-main shutoff in the following order of preference 1) on a Saturday during the day or 2) during weekday evening hours with WSSC to replace a valve and waive the noise code requirements as it relates to this project (Ward 2) - **Approved**
6. Motion to waive bid requirements for engineering with G&C Consultants for street paving project: Riverdale Road from Taylor Avenue to 54th Avenue (Ward 2) - **Approved**
7. Motion to waive the bid requirements and authorize the Town Administrator to enter into a contract for the purchase of 4 police vehicles with Hertrich and outfitted by Breckford to ride the following bids:
 - State of Maryland BPO No. 001B4400297
 - State of Maryland DMB-0106-RADEQ (Two Way Radio Equipment) ID#060B3490002
 - State of Maryland DMB-0106-RADEQ (Two Way Radio Equipment) ID#060B3490003
 - State of Maryland BPO No. 060B2490022
 - St. Mary's County Government #SMC-08-SO-41050
 - Baltimore County Government #ITB 206581
 - Howard County Government #ITB TC00841
 - Anne Arundel Government #ITB 7756
 - Montgomery County #6960060782
 - Prince George's County Government #PO60289M6027(123108)0 – **Approved**

**TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK
FAIR SUMMARY OF
ORDINANCE 2014-OR-07**

This is to give notice that the Riverdale Park Town Council has introduced and intends to take action on Ordinance 2014-OR-07.

Ordinance 2014-OR-07 would amend the Town's general business licensing ordinance to exempt from its applicability certain activities that are subject to certain other Town licenses; to alter certain license application requirements; to alter certain conditions that may be imposed upon the granting of a license; to alter requirements for payment of certain license fees; to provide for the severability of the provisions of this Ordinance; and generally related to amendments to the Town's general business licensing ordinance.

Ordinance 2014-OR-07 is available for inspection by the public at Town Hall during normal business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Riverdale Park Police Department

By Lt.Col. Patrick Timmons

On May 26, 2014, Mayor Vernon Archer presided over the annual Memorial Day ceremony, held at the Riverdale Park Veterans Memorial. The ceremony honors our veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country. Some photographs of the ceremony are below.

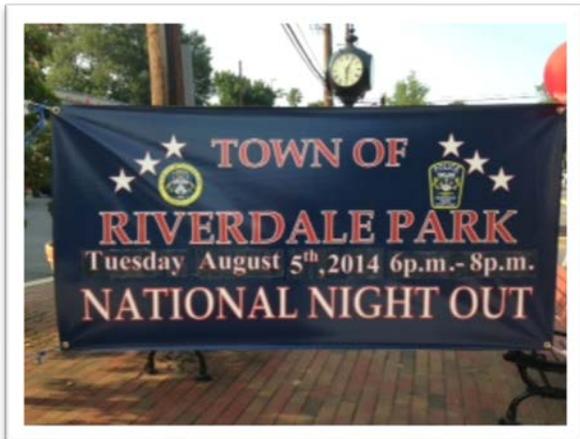


On June 13, 2014, Chief David Morris graduated from the 255th Session of the FBI National Academy. Chief Morris was chosen to be the class spokesman from among all attendees. Below is Chief Morris addressing his fellow graduates and honored guests at the FBI Academy in Quantico, VA.

On August 5, 2014, the Town of Riverdale Park celebrated National Night Out in the Town Center. Residents and guests took this opportunity to interact with the RPPD and their neighbors, while enjoying numerous activities, great music and free food.

The weather was great, and so was the involvement of the community. We look forward to next year's event being even bigger and better.

On September 16, 2014, at 7:30 pm, the RPPD will begin the public safety community education program. These monthly events will take place at the Town Center Market and will feature various public safety informational topics we are sure everyone will enjoy.



Riversdale Events

Kids in the Kitchen

Leafy greens, crisp veggies, and flavorful herbs are staples in Riversdale's interpretive garden. On **Saturday, September 6, at 1:30 pm**, parents and children are invited to **Kids in the Kitchen!** Learn about foods families like Riversdale's Calvert family would have eaten 200 years ago as you harvest your own crops. Then, spend some time in the kitchen cooking and prepping and end the afternoon enjoying your meal!

Kids in the Kitchen is open to ages 6 and up and advance payment is required by Friday, August 29. The cost is \$10 per person for residents of Prince George's & Montgomery Counties and \$12 for non-residents. No more than 2 children per adult.

Grandparents' Day Tours

Only two of Rosalie Stier Calvert's nine children were born before her parents returned to Europe. Mrs. Calvert reassured her father her children would remember him, noting her daughter Caroline's "memories of you are too strong for her to forget you." Make your own memories at Riversdale with your grandparents during National Grandparents' Day on **Sunday, September 7, from noon-3:30 pm**. All grandparents enjoy a FREE tour with the purchase of a paid admission.

This offer is limited to one free tour per paid admission. Admission is \$3 adults/\$2 seniors/ \$1 students/ FREE children 4 & under. Tours begin at the Visitor Center and depart every half hour. The last tour departs at 3:15 pm.

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 13, 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 8**. The cost is \$10 per item for Riversdale Historical Society members and \$15 for non-members. 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.

Tasting the Past: Herbal Infusions

Oil and vinegar bars are all the rage with foodies, but did you know that flavoring vinegars has a long history? Spend the afternoon with the Riversdale Kitchen Guild while sampling popular blends from the 19th century and learn how to make your own at home.

Tasting the Past takes place on **Saturday, September 20, at 2pm**. The cost is \$10 for residents of Prince George's & Montgomery Counties and \$12 for non-residents and registration is required by **September 12**.

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

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

On **Saturday, September 27, from 1-3pm**, 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.

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.

About Smithsonian Media

Smithsonian Media comprises of its flagship publication, Smithsonian magazine, as well as Air & Space, goSmithsonian, Smithsonian Media Digital Network, and the Smithsonian Channel. Smithsonian Media is a division of Smithsonian Enterprises, the revenue-generating business unit of the Smithsonian Institution. The Smithsonian Institution is the world's largest museum and research complex consisting of 19 museums and galleries, the National Zoological Park and nine research facilities. Approximately 30 million people from around the world visit the museums annually.

Historic Homeschool Days at Riversdale

Riversdale House Museum was home to nine Calvert children in the early 1800s and many of them were homeschooled by tutors, governesses, and their mother, Rosalie Stier Calvert. On **Tuesday, September 30**, we invite homeschoolers for our very first **Historic Homeschoolers Day!** Participants will blast into the past and learn what life was like for children 200 years ago with crafts, games, lessons, and more! This drop-off program is appropriate for children ages 8-12 and runs from 10am – 3pm. The cost is \$18 for residents of Prince George's & Montgomery Counties and \$22 for non-residents and registration is required by September 22. A few weeks later, Riversdale opens its doors for **Homeschool Family Day** on **Tuesday, October 14 at 10am**. Homeschoolers of all ages and their families can experience a day of learning with hands-on activities and interactive tours. The cost is \$8 per student and chaperones are FREE. Capacity is limited and registration is required by **October 6**.

Riversdale, a National Historic Landmark, is located at 4811 Riverdale Road in the town of Riverdale Park, Maryland 20737. 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

Follow-up: June 10 Flash Flood

When I last penned a report to you back in June there were still some open questions about the flooding that occurred on June 10, and its implications for our community. While this event has faded a bit from our list of concerns, I want to follow-up with you on these matters as some have serious long term implications for us all.

First, there was suspicion that some of the water damage was caused by failures of some part of the storm water management system in our area to perform as designed. I can now say with a very high degree of confidence that was not the case; all area infrastructure worked up to the engineering specifications it was designed for. The system out in our community, ranging from inlets, to stream channels under roads, is designed to handle a 10 year storm. We simply experienced a storm that was akin to a 100 year storm within the localized area hit. The rain came down too fast for the storm system to drain it away and water backed up onto streets, yards and ultimately forced its way into low-lying areas like our basements.

This is not to say that there were not failures in our drainage infrastructure, only that the failures were insignificant in comparison to the flooding event. Had there been any significant infrastructure failure, the flooding could have been much, much worse.

After such a shocking event we all want to know what can be done to prevent such flooding in the future. As you may recall from reports in the Crier over the past years, we have been pressing the county public works (the agency primarily responsible) and state agencies to redesign and rebuild our storm water management system. The county has moved forward with the plan and funding to rebuild the system basically as is. This can certainly be taken as good news, because there are significant parts of the concrete-lined channel of Well's run and other tributaries to the North East Branch that are clearly crumbling and in danger of failure. Under this plan, construction will commence in approximately 3 years and take several more years to complete.

Rebuilding the storm management system based on the existing design will mean a much quicker solution, but it will have two significant drawbacks. It will do nothing to expand the carrying capacity of the system, which is to say it will do nothing to protect us from the kind of torrential downpour we experienced in June. The "new" system will only mean that there will be much less chance of a catastrophic failure that would in turn make such an event significantly worse. Also, rebuilding on the old engineering model will do absolutely nothing to start to address the environmental damage caused by the current design. The rapid flow, and no holding capacity of the existing system has played a significant part in making the Anacostia River system one of the most ecologically-damaged urban rivers in the United States.

The decision that our town and neighboring communities will have to make is whether to agree to the county moving forward with the existing plan in the relative short term, or instead demand a genuinely-improved system that can carry a great amount of water in a severe weather event and help mitigate the environmental degradation of our watershed. Both options carry inherent risks and the Town Council and I will have to weigh each option carefully and act in what we believe will be the town's best interest.

In the meantime we all live with a risk of flooding. The event of June 10 must be a call to us all to consider the possibilities of our individual properties being affected by flood. Classically the mortgage rules make most living within the so-called 100 year flood plain carry flood insurance, and most property owners above that line on the map do not pay for such protection. If you are among the people who do not have flood insurance on your property, I would suggest you join me in re-evaluating that decision. You can get information about the National Flood Insurance Program at: <https://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart>

The decision on whether or not to purchase flood insurance should also be made in the understanding that there is virtually no homeowner relief available unless a state of emergency is declared by either the state or national government. Even when this happens most assistance is in the form of loans, and must be repaid, which is an option that is available to most homeowners anyway.

Ward and Committee Reports

Ward Two Report

By Council Member Alan Thompson
akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Finance Committee Report

Burglaries in Ward 2: In the last part of June, as I think most residents of Ward 2 know, there were several burglaries and cases of vandalism (failed burglaries) in Ward 2, mostly in the area north of East-West Highway. The police responded quickly with increased vehicle, foot, and bicycle patrols, and also devoted a lot of investigative resources to tracking down the perpetrator. The crimes seemed, for the most part, to be connected and the activity of a single person who the police have identified as a possible suspect. They are waiting for forensic evidence to be analyzed before moving ahead.

In addition to the police response, there has been a tremendous community response to these crimes. I would like to thank William and Lori Holzberger and their family for jumping in to distribute a flyer through the neighborhood about the burglaries, and for working to set up a neighborhood watch program. I encourage residents to get involved in the neighborhood watch program – the program is being organized by email at Ward2cw@yahoo.com. If you are unable to participate in regular patrols, it will help the community if you can keep an eye on your neighbors' houses and nearby streets, and call the police non-emergency number (301-927-4343) if you see *anything* suspicious. When you call, have as much detailed information as possible (gender/height/clothing color of people, makes/models/colors of cars, directions of sounds, etc.) so the police officers that respond can quickly assess and address the situation. Don't hesitate; if something seems odd, let the police figure out if it's worth further investigation. Without information, they can't make a determination about what is problematic and what is not.

There are several thousand residents of town, and only a few dozen police officers. We can help our police department prevent crimes like this by making sure they know about *all* suspicious activity in town.

Transit District Development Plan: As I've discussed before, the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission is in the middle of a major update to the Transit District Development Plan that governs the

northernmost part of Ward 2 (along River Road and Rivertech Court, and extending into College Park). You can download the current version of the plan at http://thompsonward2.org/CPRP_TDDP_Plan_Final.pdf (be forewarned - it is a 20-megabyte file). The Town submitted comments on the plan in early June, and we will learn more at a public hearing on September 16 at 7:00 pm in Upper Marlboro. Please contact me or Mayor Archer if you have questions or concerns about this plan. I think the plan is a big improvement over the current limitations on building in the M Square area, but there are still issues, even with the current version.

Flash Flood: I am extremely disappointed to report that we have not seen much progress on at least one of the underlying causes of the flash flood in June – a large amount of vegetation growing in the part of Wells Run in the middle of East-West Highway. Despite the fact that Mayor Archer and Public Works Director Addison have been working with the responsible state agencies, requesting that they remove the vegetation and providing documentation about the importance of this maintenance, it hasn't happened yet. We will be escalating our requests over the weeks ahead to make sure that the problem is fixed.

I am happy to report that the Town Council did pass a resolution requesting that the County Department of Public Works and Transportation (which has jurisdiction over much of Wells Run – the parts that *are not* in the middle of East-West Highway) to investigate ways to improve the capacity of Wells Run, and to reinstate regular maintenance of the waterway.

Farmers' Market: Summer is wrapping up, and that means that the selection of produce and other items at the Farmers' Market is fabulous. I have been really happy lately with the wide selection of tomatoes, corn, peppers, and fruit. The freshly-picked crab that I got there one week was heavenly, and the baked goods and prepared foods are always delicious. I hope to see you at the market in Town Center on Thursdays from 3 pm to 7 pm.

Public Works Report

By Leonard Addison

Saturday Drop Off – The next scheduled dates for drop off of bulk trash on the third Saturday of each month, from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM, are as follows:

September 20, October 18, November 15, December 20.

Safety Alert – Now that school has resumed, please take precautionary measures to ensure the safety of our children as they go to and from school.

Holiday Trash Collection – There will be no regular trash collection on Monday, September 1, 2014, due to the Labor Day holiday. Town offices will be closed. Trash will be picked up the next collection day, Thursday, September 4, 2014.

Trees:

- **Trimming** – When trees in the community are to be removed or trimmed, the arborist will be posting “No Parking” signs before they begin trimming trees. Your cooperation is needed to adhere to the times posted by moving your vehicles so that the trees are accessible to the vendor for this service.
- **Planting** – The department will plant new trees in the community by the end of September – mid-October 2014. Residents who would like to have a tree planted near their homes should contact the department at 301-864-1803, to be placed on our list.

Mosquito Control Program - The Mosquito Control Program for Town of Riverdale Park ends **September 18, 2014**.

Yard Waste Collection - As a reminder, effective January 1, 2014, the Waste Management Division of the Prince George’s County Department of Environmental Resources (DER), 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.

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 must 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 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.

Boy Scouts Troop 252

By Robert Killen

Our summer really rushed by - The Cañete family (including Guillian) journeyed back to the Philippines; Joseph Elliott traveled to California; Scoutmaster (SM) Killen and his grandson Billy Sellers motorcycled to Philmont, NM, for a 73-mile Boy Scout hiking trek; then, with Eneida Martinez-Brown (MHB) and Liz Laureys (mom of a former Troop 252 Boy Scout) rode to the Pony-penning at Chincoteague, then back to NASA's Wallops Island Rocket Museum and watched some young folks launching N-model rockets.

Then SM Killen went fishing with his family off the Barrier Islands near Capeville, VA.

Ben Mooney won a Chess Tournament, and he and his dad, Joe, camped in PA. Michael Jarquin and his dad, AJ, went to Mexico.

MHB participated in two archaeological digs, one in Fort Briggs, and the other, with SM Killen, AJ and Michael Jarquin, at Jefferson-Patterson Park and Museum in Calvert County.

Samir Salih traveled to Pennsylvania and Baltimore in pursuit of his leadership training.

MHB and SM Killen attended the Battle of Cottage City/Colmar Manor/Bladensburg walking/riding tour, narrated by author Ralph Eshelman.

Troop 252 will be recruiting new Boy Scouts in September and October in preparation for re-chartering our troop in November (new national BSA policy-no grace period). Stand by for more action as we report it, and to get in on the fun, contact Sandra Tolson, 301-927-2275, MHB at 301-864-0059, or Bob Killen at 301-483-8455. Don't miss out!

Riverdale Park Youth Doll Study Club

By Emily Fanning

The Doll Club is in its 4th year of teaching girls 8 to 14 about the 1810 era of making, by hand completely, Bed Post dolls, learning some history and fashion of the time plus putting together and refinishing accessories for the doll. Other programs are Doll House building from unfinished kits plus furniture. This program is geared for the Advanced Class. The first floor of the doll house the girls must design out a business- the second floor is their studio apartment. Other programs for this past year were Communication Skills, Public Speaking at the Bostwick Festival showing and speaking about their dolls, Guests at the Xmas Doll & Toy Show displaying their dolls and talking to the public about how they are made, acting as docents at Riverdale House Museum for the Children's Room pretending they were one of the Calvert children raised in the house & telling their story. For advanced students there is a Student Teacher's Program whereby the student after learning how to make a doll and clothing must teach a new student by themselves how to do it or they can design out and teach their own class to new students. There is an Orgami Class which is the art of making designs and items out of folding paper, a Reading Class and

Drawing Class. All classes are geared around learning through play and friendship Life Skills.

We attended a Xmas Party & Bead Class at a fellow doll collector's home along with other teens from around the beltway and attended a pool party/cook out later in the year with the same group. This year - the same as last year - we held a 2 week summer minicamp at Town Hall.

I would like to welcome three new teachers; Elizabeth Laureys of Riverdale, Cynthia Gervais of Hyattsville Arts District and Marilyn Wassman of Lewisdale. I would also like to thank our carpoolers Trudy & Tyronne Fillyaw, Mary Resing & Tim Mckeown. I would like to thank my dear husband Del, his son Michael and my son Richard for their help. And thank the Town of Riverdale for their help and support.

We have openings for new students in September. For more information, email Emily Fanning at ourdollmom@aol.com or call 301 864 5561 or cell 240 687 2603. And new volunteers to help teach are also welcomed - there are training classes and we have teachers' meetings regularly.

Our Town: Fast Eddie

By Marita Novicky

Eddie Spears passed away on Wednesday, July 16, 2014 after a short illness. Fast Eddie, as I called him because of his fast and furious tree climbing and trimming ability, was born in Honolulu on July 5, 1952. His father, Denver Spears, was a Navy man and Fast Eddie and his six siblings got to see some far- away places. But, from his youth and beyond, Fast Eddie was a Riverdale Park guy and could most often be seen riding around Town on his bike. You couldn't miss him with his gray and black hair pulled back in a ponytail, and his long gray beard. He was a Riverdale Park icon. He could most often be seen on the porch at S&J's and was known by many throughout Town; he was a friendly guy and most importantly knew his trees.

I came to know him shortly after I moved to Riverdale Park and bought our half-acre on Sheridan Street—the Riverdale Retreat. Eddie passed by as I was trimming a hedge in the garden and told me our Birch tree was in distress and offered to climb up and trim some of the dying branches. He rapidly climbed up that tree and within minutes had trimmed and shaped it; after that, I called him Fast Eddie and for years, he maintained the trees and the garden on my property. He knew every one of those trees: the Birch; the Beech;

the Australian Pine; the seven Crepe Myrtles; the Norfolk and other Pines; the Smoke Tree; the Japanese Red Maple; the American Maple; and an assortment of other trees and bushes that we inherited with the property or have planted ourselves.

Fast Eddie was a private guy; he didn't talk much about himself but over the years I had gleaned that he had a daughter who lived in Gaithersburg; he was the oldest of seven children, had grown up on Somerset Street here in Riverdale Park, and, he loved dogs and they loved him. My Molly, an English Bulldog, was wowed by him and each time he would come by he would call out to her Molly, Molly, Molly. She loved him.

It was hard to figure Fast Eddie out at times; he wasn't shy, but he was a proud person. From what I had discerned, he had been basically homeless for most of his adult life sometimes sleeping at friends' houses, sometimes in my neighbor's shed or on my swing in the carport, and until it was knocked down, the ARCO Building.

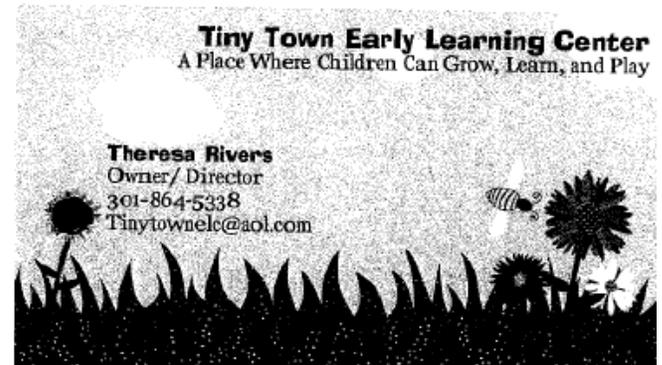
Fast Eddie would stop by occasionally to lounge on my swing out in our carport. The last two weeks before he went back to the hospital for the last time, he spent his nights sitting on that swing, or on one of my garden chairs. The fluid had built up so much in his chest and his breathing had become so labored that he could no longer lie down. So what little sleep he got was done sitting up. It was difficult to watch this proud and once very strong man fight for his breath. He had spent a lifetime living on the fringe; who knew what demons he fought and what choices he made to fight them. It was evident that smoking was a lifelong habit and in the end it got him.

Fast Eddie goes the way of other Riverdale Park good-old boys we all knew and departed too soon: Brian the master furniture crafter; Tommy who as soon as the temperature would get to 60 degrees would start his slow jog around the neighborhood shirtless; and Earl the electrician who ran the wires throughout our homes. Each of them faced their own demons and died too young.

Each time a bicyclist rides by, I look up and for a brief second I check to see if it's Fast Eddie. I guess I will

do that for a while. I will miss him for many days to come.

Community Circles



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 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
Werneke 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