



# The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

**December 2006**  
**January 2007**  
Volume 35, Issue 10



## Holiday Changes to Public Work's Schedule

Due to the Christmas, New Years, and Martin Luther King, Jr., Holidays, Public Work's schedules for: regular trash & yard waste, and regular, heavy & metal pickup will be slightly altered during the weeks of these holidays. Please check the December 06 and January 07 calendars, and the Public Works article (see page 9) for changes in pickup due to the holidays.

**More Details On The Holiday Festivities On Page 4.**

**Mas detalles de las Celebraciones de Pascuas en la pagina 4.**

**MAS ARTICULOS EN ESPAÑOL ADENTRO**  
**Paginas 3 y 9**

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## Riverdale Park Holiday Festivities

### Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>

**Children's Holiday Party**--(Riverdale Park children only, 12 and under) 4-5:15p.m. at Town Hall 5008 Queensbury Rd. Please come and join Santa and his helpers! Free gifts, treats, crafts, photos with Santa, and much more!

**Holiday Market**--(Open to everyone—Invite Friends and Family); 1-9:00 p.m., Town Center, 4650 Queensbury Rd. Buy unique gifts & food, trees & wreaths, listen to music, and free photos with Santa all just blocks from your home.

**Festival of Lights trolley tours**--5:30-8:30 p.m. (Free with a non-perishable food donation; Open to everyone), Town Center, 4650 Queensbury Rd. Check out the sparkle of Riverdale Park at night and walk through the historic Riversdale House Museum. Don't forget to decorate the exterior of your home! Five homes will be recognized for "Achievement in Decoration."

**Holiday Dessert Bake-Off**—8:00 p.m. Calvert House. Drop off your desserts at 7p.m. for the judging. First prize: Dinner for two at the Calvert House.

### Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>

**Holiday Market**-- (Open to everyone—Invite Friends and Family), 12-5p.m., Town Center, 4650 Queensbury Rd. Details at: [www.rpholidaymarket.com](http://www.rpholidaymarket.com)

## Celebraciones de Pascua de Riverdale Park

### 9 de Diciembre

**Fiesta Navideña Infantil**-- (Solamente niños de Riverdale Park, 12 años y menores) 4-5:15 p.m. en la municipalidad (Town Hall 5008 Queensbury Rd); ¡Por favor venga y únase a Santa y sus ayudantes! ¡Regalos gratis, premios, manualidades, foto con Santa y mucho más!

**Mercado Navideño**--(Abierto para todos – Invite a familiares y amigos); 1-9 p.m. Town Center, 4650 Queensbury Road. Compre regalos inolvidables, comida, árboles, coronas navideñas, escuche música navideña, y foto gratis con Santa, todo esto a unas cuantas cuadras de su hogar.

**Festival del Luces Trolebús**--5:30 – 8:30 p.m. (Gratis con la donación de alimentos no deteriorables); Town Center, 4650 Queensbury Road. Vea el esplendor de Riverdale Park en la noche y camine por el histórico Casa Museo Riversdale. ¡No se le olvide decorar el exterior de su hogar! Cinco casas serán reconocidas como "Logro en Decoración".

**Concurso de Poster Navideños**--8:00 p.m. Calvert House; Entregue sus postres a las 7:00 p.m. para los jueces: primer premio: Cena para dos en Calvert House.

### 10 de Diciembre

**Mercado Navideño**--(Abierto para todos – Invite a familiares y amigos); 12 – 5 p.m., Town Center, 4650 Queensbury Road. [www.rpholidaymarket.com](http://www.rpholidaymarket.com)

# Council Actions

## November 6, 2006

By Waverly Pollitt

1. **Approved** – Motion to release merit pay.
2. **Motion** to accept civilian pay scale. Will hold Finance Committee Meeting on November 8, 2006; 8:30p.m.
3. **Introduced** – Ordinance Resolution 2006-OR-11 fine for Unenclosed Storage Property.
4. **Introduced** – Ordinance Resolution 2006-OR-12 designate
5. §50-14 as §50-18
6. **Approved** – Escrow Account for mitigation for Route 410.
7. **Approved** – Fence for Barbara Cheong, 5003 Oglethorpe Street; Contingent upon property owner getting in writing permission to have fence on neighbor's property.
8. **Approved** – Holiday Market for Saturday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>, 1:00p.m. -9:00p.m., Sunday, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> 12p.m.-5p.m.
9. **Approved** – Motion to postpone fence code to next month.
10. **Approved** – Motion to waive fees for RBA advertising in crier; 1 page insert; RBA pays for printing.
11. **Approved** – Motion that 2006-OR-14, Filing fees for Television & Cable be approved as emergency legislation to be effective November 6, 2006.
12. **Introduced** – Ordinance Resolution 2006-OR-13. Adjust compensation of Mayor & Council.
13. **Approved** – Motion to close Streets Lafayette at Ravenswood, Lafayette at Queensbury, Natoli at Queensbury on 11-11-06, 9:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. For Veterans Day Service.

## Code Corner

By Colleen Ferguson

64-16 JUNKED MOTOR VEHICLES- includes unregistered vehicles, unlicensed or a vehicle displaying an expired tag- is unlawful for any person to permit any Junked Motor Vehicle to remain on property within the town except in an enclosed garage. Vehicles must display current valid tags.

Vehicles will be posted as Junked Motor Vehicles and then in 72 hours will be towed.

### Spanish Translation

Translation by Claudia Umano

64-16 Restos de Vehículo Motorizado – incluye vehículos sin registro, sin licencia o un vehículo que tenga placas expiradas- es ilegal que cualquier persona permita que restos de vehículo motorizados permanezcan en su propiedad al menos que este dentro de un garaje. El vehículo deberá tener placas validas y al día.

Vehículos serán marcados como resto de vehículo motorizado y luego de 72 horas será remolcados.

## Town of Riverdale Park

[www.ci.riverdale-park.md.us](http://www.ci.riverdale-park.md.us)

### Town Hall

5008 Queensbury Road  
Riverdale Park, MD 20737  
301-927-6381, Hablamos Espanol  
[RiverdaleParkMD@comcast.net](mailto:RiverdaleParkMD@comcast.net)

Mayor Vernon Archer  
240-832-2257  
[varcher@gmail.com](mailto:varcher@gmail.com)

### Council Members

Ward 1 Rob Oppenheim 301-779-1745  
[oppenheim@email.com](mailto:oppenheim@email.com)  
Ward 2 Mary Donaldson 301-927-2954  
[mmarydon@yahoo.com](mailto:mmarydon@yahoo.com)  
Ward 3 David Lingua 301-779-3849  
[djlingua@gmail.com](mailto:djlingua@gmail.com)  
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Ward 5 Gerard Kiernan 301-277-4554  
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Ward 6 Kenneth Webb 301-523-6202  
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Patrick J. Prangley, Town Administrator  
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Public Works 301-864-1803  
Public Works Director, Vacant

Code Enforcement 301-927-6381  
[CodeRiverdalePk@comcast.net](mailto:CodeRiverdalePk@comcast.net)  
Colleen M. Ferguson

Police Department 301-927-4343  
[RivPD@comcast.net](mailto:RivPD@comcast.net)  
E. Thomas Parker, Chief

Fire Department Emergency 911  
Information 301-927-0356  
[info@riverdalevfd.com](mailto:info@riverdalevfd.com),  
[www.riverdalevfd.com](http://www.riverdalevfd.com)  
Vincent Harrison, Chief

### Town Crier

The Official Newsletter of the  
Town of Riverdale Park, Maryland  
Editor-in-Chief:

[rptowncrier@comcast.net](mailto:rptowncrier@comcast.net)

It is the policy of the Town of Riverdale Park, pursuant to the provision of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and The American 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 do not necessarily represent the view of the Town of Riverdale Park.

**Submission deadline: 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.**

# The Mayor's Report

By Vernon Archer

# El Reporte del Alcalde

Translation by Claudia Umana

I hope all of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving with friends and family. This month, I'm pleased to share with you two exciting things happening in Riverdale Park.



## ***Holiday Market and Festival of Lights***

This year for the first time, the town will be hosting a holiday market in conjunction with the Festival of Lights. Pick up a tree or wreath, shop for gifts for family and friends, and listen to music all just blocks from your home! Hot Cocoa, homemade Christmas breads, crepes, and freshly cooked donuts are just a few of the savory foods that will also be available. And, there will even be heaters to keep you warm! The Holiday Market will be on December 9<sup>th</sup> from 1-9 p.m. and on December 10<sup>th</sup> from 12-5p.m... The Festival of Lights trolley tours and the Holiday Market will both be at Town Center, 4650 Queensbury Road. The trolley tours will be from 5:30-8:30p.m. on December 9<sup>th</sup>. All the details are at [www.rpholidaymarket.com](http://www.rpholidaymarket.com). There will be different vendors each day, so please come both days.

Please invite your friends and family to join us at these Riverdale Park events. Bringing people to our community for events like these is essential as we work to revitalize our commercial areas.

## ***Community Space Discussion***

Thank you to everyone who joined us on November 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss the need for a community space in Riverdale Park. The dialogue was a great beginning; I was pleased to see so many faces—at least 30 people or more. While no decisions were made, I think a few things became apparent: (1) Riverdale Park could use a place where residents of all ages can gather and interact; (2) Groups active in town need more space; and (3) Something can be created that does not duplicate nearby community centers and libraries. At the meeting, Obie Pickney from the County Executive's Office was also very supportive of the discussion and thought we were on the right track. We definitely have a lot more work ahead of us and a few more discussions like this one before we'll have a complete proposal, but we're off to a good start. If you're interested in finding out more, please contact me directly at [varcher@gmail.com](mailto:varcher@gmail.com).

I hope everyone in your family has a wonderful holiday season. Please remember to check our calendar for trash pickup changes around the holidays.

Espero que todos hayan tenido un maravilloso Día de Acción de Gracias con sus amistades y familia. Este mes estoy complacido en compartir con ustedes dos emocionantes eventos que sucederán en Riverdale Park.

## ***Mercado Navideño y el Festival de Luces***

Este año por primera vez la ciudad estará presentando el Mercado Navideño junto con el Festival de Luces. ¡Venga a Town Center y recoja su árbol o corona navideña, compre de sus regalos navideños para su familia y amistades, escuche música navideña a solo unas cuantas cuadras de su hogar! Chocolate caliente, panes navideños, crepes, y rosquillas frescas son uno de los sabores que estarán disponibles. ¡Hasta habrán calentadores para mantenerlos calentitos! El Mercado Navideño se llevara acabo el 9 de Diciembre de 1-9 p.m. y el 10 de Diciembre de 12-5 p.m. El trolebús de Festival de Luces y El Mercado Navideño estarán en Town Center de Riverdale Park, 4650 Queensbury Road. El trolebús estará dando sus tours de 5:30 -8:30 p.m. el 9 de Diciembre. Todos los detalles están en: [www.rpholidaymarket.com](http://www.rpholidaymarket.com). Habrá diferentes vendedores cada día, así que vengan los dos días.

## ***Discusión Acerca del Centro Comunitario***

Gracias a todos los que atendieron el 15 de Noviembre a la discusión sobre la necesidad de un centro comunitario en Riverdale Park. El dialogo empezó estupendamente y estoy muy satisfecho al ver que casi 30 personas atendieron. A pesar de que no llegamos a un acuerdo, esta claro que: 1. Riverdale Park necesita un lugar donde los residentes de todas edades puedan reunirse y relacionarse. 2. Grupos que ya están activos en la comunidad, necesitan un espacio más grande. 3. Algo puede ser creado que no imite centros comunitarios o bibliotecas cercanas. En la reunión, Obie Pickney de la Oficina Ejecutiva del Condado también fue un gran apoyo para la discusión y él piensa que estamos a buen comienzo. Definitivamente tenemos bastante trabajo por hacer, unas cuantas reuniones como esta y estaremos listos para hacer una propuesta, pero estamos a buen comienzo. Si usted esta interesado en saber más o en compartir sus ideas por favor contácteme directamente a: [varcher@gmail.com](mailto:varcher@gmail.com).

Espero que todos en su familia disfruten las pascuas y por favor recuerde de revisar nuestro calendario para los cambios de horario en el recogimiento de basura.

# RIVERDALE PARK HOLIDAY CHECKLIST

- ✓ Decorate your house in time for the **Festival of Lights Trolley Tours on December 9th** and call Town Hall to register your house for our annual Festival of Lights awards for the **Best Decorated Homes**. Let's make our Town sparkle!
- ✓ Email or call all of your friends and colleagues and invite them to our holiday market. The more people who shop in Riverdale Park the easier it will be to revitalize our community!
- ✓ Shop at the holiday market for those special gifts for friends and families.
- ✓ Eat lunch and dinner at the market. Crepes, homemade donuts, baklava, Argentinean specialties, German Christmas breads, cocoa, coffee, and more.
- ✓ Make something special for the holiday dessert bake-off.
- ✓ Volunteer to assist with any of the events.
- ✓ Hang out with neighbors at the holiday market in our historic Town Center.
- ✓ Bring a non-perishable food item and take a trolley ride around our town to see all the lights as well as the Riversdale Mansion.
- ✓ Relax and think about how wonderful it is to have all of this happen within blocks of your home.
- ✓ Come back on Sunday for more!

1st Annual Riverdale Park

## HOLIDAY MARKET & FESTIVAL of LIGHTS --- MERCADO NAVIDIENO & FESTIVAL de LUCES

Saturday, Dec. 9th 1pm-9pm  
Sunday, Dec. 10th 12pm-5pm

Unique Holiday Gifts

Live Holiday Music

Toy and Food Drop-off

Trees & Wreaths

Free Pictures with Santa

Holiday Foods

Trolley Rides

Hot Cocoa & Cider

at Riverdale Park Town Center

4650 Queensbury Road, Riverdale Park, MD 20737

For More Information:

[www.rpholidaymarket.com](http://www.rpholidaymarket.com)

301.927.6381

I'd like to enter the

- Lighting Competition
- Bake Off

\*Houses need to be decorated by Dec. 9th

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Please drop off/mail to Town Hall  
5008 Queensbury Road

[riverdaleparkmd@comcast.net](mailto:riverdaleparkmd@comcast.net)

# 'Twas the Night Before Christmas in Riverdale Park

By Robert R. Kassabian 1989 (with apologies to Clement Moore)

Updated 2006 by Rob Oppenheim (with apologies to Robert K.)

'Twas the night before Christmas in Riverdale town,  
all the creatures—and people—were settling down.  
They'd been to the frenzied and nightmarish malls,  
returning in need of a few rubber walls.

The last minute shopping was finished today—  
the eggnog, the cat food, the chocolate soufflé.  
From Madison Hill to Madison Street  
from Kenilworth Ave to 43rd Street  
all were happy, all were upbeat,  
everyone enjoyed a good Christmas treat.

They'd prayed in the churches, and just for a lark,  
assembled to picnic in Riverdale Park.  
The banquet completed, they marched through the frost  
to play by the banks of the blue Anacost.  
They flocked to the stations to chat for a time  
with those who protect us from fire and crime.  
Then off, they accomplished a singular want—  
stringing wreaths on the cannon at Circle Dupont.



The spirited townfolk then happily strode  
to chant Christmas carols down Riverdale Road.

At last, when the sky turned a silvery-chrome,  
the townfolk disbanded and headed for home.

With cider and eggnog they offered a toast  
surrounded by people they cherished the most.  
The tale of Old Scrooge and the Cratchits was read,  
and after, the kiddies were tucked into bed.

The parents were happy, the day at a close,  
and soon like their children, were calmly a-doze.

And finally, now, not a creature was stirring,  
except one grey kitten a-romping and purring.

The town was asleep on the magical night  
bedecked with the pulsing of red and green light.



Along came our Santa in a fire truck sleigh!  
Consulting his atlas and heading this way.

"On Dasher, on Dancer—to Riverdale, men!  
Just follow the markings for highway four-ten.  
And while there, my good reindeer, I have a surprise.  
I know you get hungry while soaring the skies;  
So in Riverdale Park a small treat is in order:  
I'll buy you all sodas and subs at Dumm's Corner!"

They shortly arrived and he circled the Town,  
the red-suited fellow of Yuletide renown.

"Victorian houses and tree-shaded lanes.

The calm of the river, the roar of the trains.

The friends in the market, the dogs in costumes,  
makes all our hearts into blossoms and blooms.

The quaintness and beauty keeps pace with expansion.

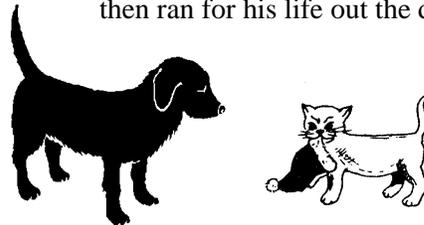
I haven't got time or I'd tour Calvert Mansion!

But now to reward the good residents here,  
whose kindness and caring extends through the year."

He visited houses, apartments, and more,  
distributing presents and goodies galore.

In one certain house was a little grey cat,  
who took fiendish interest in Santa's red hat.

He gave up his cap to the mollified feline,  
then ran for his life out the door in a beeline.



His last stop completed, returned to his sleigh.  
He pulled on the reins and went soaring away.  
"A quaint little town with good people inside.  
My favorite stop on the whole midnight ride.

For now I must go, but I possibly may  
be there in attendance next Riverdale Day."  
And I heard him exclaim as he rode out of sight,  
"Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!"  
Then he chuckled and added, "I'm pleased to relate,  
the Christmas wreath on that cannon looks great!"

From under my auto, repairing a light,  
I saw the whole pageant of Santa in flight.  
I ran in the house and my pencil just sped,  
I dashed off this poem, then collapsed into  
bed.

When later I read it to folks at the *Crier*,  
they liked it and wanted to run it entire!

I wish you the best at this time of the year,  
an extra abundance of holiday cheer.

May loving and kindness and  
warmth come your way—  
a seasonal message from one Robert K.



# Riverdale Park Police Department

October 2006

## Crime Report

Crime	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Stolen Vehicle
Ward 1	0	0	1	1	0	1
Ward 2	0	0	0	0	1	1
Ward 3	0	0	0	1	0	0
Ward 4	0	0	2	3	3	4
Ward 5	0	0	0	1	0	4
Ward 6	0	0	2	5	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5**</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4*</b>	<b>11</b>

\*\* 5 citizen

\*2 Commercial, 2 Residential

## Officer Activity

Activity	Total
Calls For Service	906
Routine Patrols	265
Traffic Stops	302*
Reported Traffic Accidents	53**
Parking Citations	109***
Subjects Arrested	28

\* 244 Traffic Citations

\*\* 24 Written Accidents

\*\*\* Includes code enforcement

## Economic Development Update

### Development Projects

At the October Work Session, KSI presented a concept plan for the old NOAA building at River Tech Court and Lafayette Street. The developer is still negotiating with the University of Maryland so there is still a possibility that they may decide not to build the project. Currently, they are proposing condominiums and town homes for the site.

At the December 6<sup>th</sup> MUTC meeting (7:30 p.m. Town Hall), the Spiropolous' will be presenting their plans for redeveloping their two parcels. The proposal includes a larger Dumm's market and restaurant, 120 condominiums, 16,900 sq ft of retail space, 1 floor of underground parking as well as surface parking. The Spiropolous' will be phasing the project to keep their businesses open. If you'd like to see the plans before the M-UTC meeting, please stop by Town Hall.

### Code Enforcement

Businesses and new residents want to come to places that are "Safe, Clean, and Beautiful." If you haven't yet read your new Code Enforcement book (mailed in September), please do. If you don't have a copy, please call Town Hall 301-927-6381 and we'll mail one to you. Working together we can create a great place to live.

### Upcoming Events

Supporting local businesses as well as Riverdale Park events is one simple way we can all help our community. Please join us and invite your friends for the 1<sup>st</sup> annual Holiday Market—December 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, combined with the Festival of Lights. More details are in this Crier and at [www.rpholidaymarket.com](http://www.rpholidaymarket.com). Also, please mark your calendars for the Historic Home and Garden Tour on June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 1-5 p.m. where the town will be showcasing its historic treasures and beautiful gardens.

Finally, it is with sadness that I announce that my last day with the Town will be December 8<sup>th</sup>. I have accepted a new position with the Councilman-elect Eric Olson. I have thoroughly enjoyed working on behalf of this community and look forward to working with all of you in my new position.

# Town to Vote on Three Ordinances

The Mayor and Town Council will vote on three proposed ordinances at their next legislative meeting, Monday, December 4, 2006, 8:00 p.m., at Town Hall. The first two Ordinances (11 and 12) concern the fines and penalties associated with violations of outdoor unenclosed storage. The third ordinance would raise the compensation for the Mayor and Council, which was last adjusted in 1995. On November 6, 2006, the Mayor and Town Council adopted Emergency Ordinance Resolution 2006-OR-14 effective November 6, 2006 which amends Chapter 61, Television, Cable. The text of these ordinances follows.

## Town of Riverdale Park Ordinance Resolution 2006-OR-11

A Resolution to amend §50-14 to specify the fine for §50-15

Outdoor unenclosed storage prohibited.

Whereas, the Mayor and Council have added §50-15 to the Town's Ordinance Code, it is desirable to establish the fine as a municipal infraction.

§ 50-14 Penalties

(c) Violations of the provisions of §§ 50-4 through 50-10, and 50-12 and 50-15 are municipal infractions, the penalty for which shall be ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100.00) for each offense, except for violations of § 50-12, the penalty for which shall be FIFTY DOLLARS (\$50.00) for each offense.

## Town of Riverdale Park Ordinance Resolution 2006-OR-12

Whereas, §50-14 Penalties is no longer the last section of the chapter,

Mayor and Council wish to designate § 50-14 as § 50-18.

§ 50-14 Penalties

(a) Violations of the provisions of §§ 50-1 through 50-3 are misdemeanors and, upon conviction thereof, violators shall

be subject to a fine of not more than ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (1,000) or imprisonment of not more than six months (6), or both.

- (b) Violators of the provisions of § 50-11 can be misdemeanors or municipal infractions. Penalties for violations thereof are contained in §50-11.5.
- (c) Violations of the provisions of §§ 50-4 through 50-10, and 50-12 and 50-15 are municipal infractions, the penalty for which shall be ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100.00) for each offense, except for violations of § 50-12, the penalty for which shall be FIFTY DOLLARS (\$50.00) for each offense.

## Town of Riverdale Park Ordinance Resolution 2006-OR-13

An Act to Adjust the Compensation of the Mayor and Council Beginning June 2007

Whereas, the compensation for the Mayor and Council has not been updated since 1995, and,

Whereas, it is sound policy to insure that public officials are adequately compensated for their services,

Therefore, be it resolved to amend section 2-7 of the Ordinance Code as follows:

**§ 2-7. Compensation of elected officials. [Revised 3-6-95.]**

(a) On and after ~~June 5, 1995~~ **June 4, 2007**, the Mayor shall be compensated at the rate of ~~four hundred dollars (\$400)~~ **six hundred dollars (\$600)** per month.

(b) On and after ~~June 5, 1995~~ **June 4, 2007**, the members of the Council shall be compensated at the rate of ~~two hundred dollars (\$200)~~ **three hundred dollars (\$300)** per month.



**Town of Riverdale Park  
Adoption of Emergency  
Ordinance Resolution  
2006-OR-14**

**Our Town**

By Marita A. Novicky

**On November 6, 2006 Mayor & Town Council took Action to adopt Emergency Ordinance Resolution 2006-OR-14 Effective November 6, 2006 which amends Chapter 61, Television, Cable as Follows:**

**§ 61-19. Filing fees.**

- A. To be acceptable for filing, any application of the type listed below submitted after the effective date of this chapter shall be accompanied by a non-refundable filing fee of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.), payable to the Town of Riverdale Park to cover costs incidental to the awarded or enforcement of the franchise, as appropriate:
- (1) Application for an initial franchise or for issuance of an RFP.
  - (2) Application for renewal of a franchise.
  - (3) Application for modification of franchise agreement.
  - (4) Application for approval of a transfer.
- B. To the extent consistent with applicable law:
- (1) The city may require the franchisee or, where applicable, a transferor or transferee to reimburse the town for its reasonable out-of-pocket expenses in considering the application, including consultants' fees.
  - (2) No payments made hereunder shall be considered a franchise fee, but fall within one or more of the exceptions in 47U.S.C.§542(g)(2)

**BEST WISHES TO STAFF IN YOUR  
NEW POSITIONS**

By Patrick J. Prangley

The Mayor, Council and Staff extend best wishes to Dannielle Glaros, Deputy Town Administrator in her new position serving as Legislative Assistant to our County Council Representative Eric Olson and to Keelah Smith Code Enforcement Officer in her new position as Code Enforcement Officer with the City of College Park.

We wish them both much success with their future endeavors.

It's a cold day here in Riverdale Park, but I am warmed by the thought of these coming two months that will be filled with fun and celebration. Riverdale Park will be alive with a host of festive activities to celebrate the season--the Holiday Market, Festival of Lights, and the Children's Party are some of the great Town events planned for our community

Most poignant is the spirit of giving that is alive and well in our little Town during this season. Recently, a local family lost their home and contents to a house fire; luckily, they were spared any physical damage. Yet, there is the emotional loss as one sees their home with a history of family and its memories destroyed. Many individuals have stepped forward to help out: the RPBA made a generous donation of \$400; the A&S Warehouse on Kenilworth donated five new mattresses; and the Reverend Slye and the Christian Life Center helped the family secure local lodging. This is genuine kindness that makes us proud to part of the community.

If you would like to get involved in giving to our community, your donations of food and clothing for the needy can be given to the Christian Life Center and St. Bernard's Church. As always, Riverdale Elementary will appreciate treats for the children and teachers.

With the winter solstice and the shortest day of the year coming (December 22<sup>nd</sup>), many of our homes will be alight with holiday lights and Christmas trees. Be sure to keep the true spirit of the season in your hearts in this most giving of seasons. I wish you and yours the happiest of holidays.

**S & J Restaurant**

Daily Lunch and Dinner Specials  
Eat In/Carry Out

Breakfast Special - Monday - Friday \$2.95

Monday - Tacos, \$1.00 each

Tuesday - All you can eat Pasta 5:00 to 8:00 P.M. \$8.95

Saturday - All you can eat Shrimp 4:00 to 8:00 P.M.  
\$15.95

Steamed Shrimp Everyday

Sandwich/ Sub of the Month - \$3.95

Karaoke Saturday and Monday Night

Corner of Queensbury and Rhode Island Avenue

**301-927-3977**

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# Public Works Report

By Debbie Murphy

Public Works is closed on Monday, Dec. 25, 2006. Regular Trash and Yard waste pickup for the Area A will be on Tues., Dec. 26, 2006 and for Area B on Wed., Dec. 27, 2006. Public Works is closed on Monday, Jan. 1, 2007. Regular Trash and Yard waste pickup for Area A will be on Tues., Jan. 2, 2007 and for Area B on Wed., Jan. 3, 2007. Public Works is closed on Monday, Jan. 15, 2007. Regular trash and Yard waste pickup for Area A will be on Tues., Jan. 16, 2007 and for Area B on Wed., Jan. 17, 2007.

## Los Di'as Festivos Estaran Cerrado

Lunes, 25 Diciembre 2006 **CERRADO** - La basura de la casa (dome'stico) y la basura del patio se recogerá para Area A en Martes, 26 Diciembre 2006.

Miercoles, 27 Diciembre 2006 - La basura de la casa (dome'stico) y la basura del patio se recogerá para Area B.

Lunes, 1 Enero 2007 **CERRADO** - La basura de la casa (dome'stico) y la basura del patio se recogerá para Area A en Martes, 2 Enero 2007.

Miercoles, 3 Enero 2007 - La basura de la casa (dome'stico) y la basura del patio se recogerá para Area B.

Lunes, 15 Enero 2007 **CERRADO** - La basura de la casa (dome'stico) y la basura del patio se recogerá para Area A en Martes, 16 Enero 2007.

Miercoles, 17 Enero 2007 - La basura de la casa (dome'stico) y la basura del patio se recogerá para Area B.

## Leaves

Please do not park vehicles on the street in front of or too close to anyone's leaf piles as they cannot be collected. Do **not** rake leaves or deposit yard waste or other debris in the street or gutter as this is a municipal infraction which carries a fine of \$100. We ask residents to be patient, if you see the leaf machine has been on your block on any given day, it will be about 5 working days before the leaf machine will be back to that block. Loose leaf collection ends Fri. Dec. 29, 2006. After that leaves must be bagged and put out for yard waste.

## Lights Out?

It is important to Pepco that residents call and report that their electricity is out. This helps Pepco to better understand a widespread outage, as well as, where or what the problem may be. Please be patient when the number is constantly busy.

## Parking During Snow Emergencies

Park only on even sides of streets unless otherwise posted.

# Ward One Report

By Rob Oppenheim

I attended the Maryland Municipal League (MML) **fall convention** held in Annapolis, Oct. 19-2, 2006. This was a good deal for the taxpayers, since there were no hotel costs. I learned a good bit about several important topics.



One thing surprised me, because I had heard just the opposite before. We do not have to be "more strict" or "less strict" than county law. We can be anything we like even the exact opposite of the county law. Of course, that does not mean we should be different than county law just that we can be.

I also learned that MML has a buying co-op for municipalities in which pre-approved vendors go thru a competitive bid process for the whole group. This is a national co-op and MML, and thus Riverdale Park, are members. I am told that we can save big bucks here.

## Route One and E-W Highway

EYA, the Arts District Hyattsville developer, has to pony up a half- million dollars or more as mitigation to improve the Route One and East-West Highway intersection. We met with EYA, with University Park and with the state highway-planning department about this problem intersection. The current EYA proposal is to add a lane to E-W highway from Route One east to the railroad overpass bridge and to change the right-turn-only lanes to be through lanes. We are investigating other possibilities for this intersection too.

## Finally Street Lamps Fixed—Well Almost

Back in May, I reported that 30 street lamps were out in Ward One. So far, 25 have been fixed and it only took 6 months of phone calls and emails to get it done. I will continue to work on getting these last 5 repaired along with another 3 lamps that recently burned out, and the ones on East-West highway at the Route 410 railroad overpass fixed.

## NOAA Fence Update

I am pleased to report that, thanks to College Park and Eric Olson taking a firm stance, the security fence that will surround the new NOAA building in the M-Square project (see page 1 of October 2005 issue) will be a much more **attractive wrought iron fence** at least along the Riverdale Park side of the building and there will be a **gate for foot traffic** located near the metro. There is still hope that the part of the security fence that runs along the north side of the building will not be located in the tree buffer area. Locating this industrial fence on the building side of the tree buffer would make the view from the trail more attractive and would allow deer and other wild life to use the tree buffer area.

# Community Affairs

By Rob Oppenheim

## New Year's Eve

The Calvert House is offering selections from their normal menu until 10 p.m. After 10 p.m. they will offer a four-course meal, champagne toast, and music for \$45. Looking for an inexpensive party? The S&J is throwing a New Year's Eve party with no cover charge. Just drop in.

## Calvert House Inn

The Calvert House is back and is introducing many new events for your enjoyment. Check out their Lunch Buffet for \$7.95, weekdays, noon-2:30 p.m., or their Happy Hour 4-7 p.m. everyday (including weekends) with half price domestic beers and rail drinks (\$2). Wednesdays feature a Parents/Kids Happy Hour—bring the little ones.

Live entertainment is featured many evenings starting at 8 p.m. (Cover charge varies). Jazz is offered on most Wednesdays, Folk on Thursdays, a D.J. hits the groove on Fridays, while Funk & Rock bands pump up many Saturday nights. Here are some upcoming events:

Wednesday Dec. 6, John Ware Trio (Jazz)

Friday Dec. 8, The Heard (Funky Funky Soul)

Thursday Dec. 7, Folk By Association

Saturday Dec. 9, Chemistry (Smooth Jazz)

Thursday Dec. 14, Junior Victories (Blues)

Saturday Dec. 16, Mina Wood (Jazz)

Wednesday Dec. 20, Live Jazz.

## Halloween Events Were Great

The **Halloween Pets on Parade** was a wonderful success with people and pets having a great time. It ended early at about 2 p.m.—our apologies to those who came later. A big thank you goes to Audrey Bragg, to the RPBA and to pet sitter Judy Glaes for their hard work.

Thousands attended **GoatMan Hollow (GMH)** and had a scary good time. Thanks goes to Pete Spiropoulos and sons who donated the use of the building and to the 70 volunteers who contributed much time and energy. Special thanks goes to Jay Wright for organizing the extravaganza. Jay adds: "We'd like to thank the residents of the Town of Riverdale Park, for welcoming GMH this year and for many years to come."

**Flight night** is a huge Halloween party for 3-11 year olds held every year at the nearby College Park Aviation Museum, and it was another fine event this year. It featured crafts, face painting, story telling, hayrides, airplanes, trick and treat bags, spiders, tattoos, and interactive exhibits in the museum.

# Ward Three Report

By David Lingua

One person's pot-pourri is another's laundry list. How about a compromise on eclectic mix?

A number of things have come before me in the way of requests on which I'd like to garner Ward 3 opinions. The first would be Mr. Robert Shoemaker's requests on improvements so as to address parking at his businesses, Ev-Air Tight and Shoemaker, Inc. Code enforcement Manager Colleen Ferguson, Code Officer Kyla Smith, and I met with Mr. Shoemaker on November 15 to discuss his requests. I have asked him to draw up complete plans for presentation to the Council as well for residents in the immediate area to be able to view. While I will make the effort to contact those surrounding residences, be sure to take note of the agenda for December's legislative session.

The other is a request from Mr. Martin Brentsfield to subdivide this mother-in-law's backyard at Taylor and Nicholson so as to build a single level house for her. She is 92 and is unable to negotiate her stairs. The lot is smaller than what the county requires which means prior consideration would be needed from the town along with some variances. Again, while I will work to engage you, I would like to hear from those residents in this area.

I'd like to thank the folks over at Public Works for repainting the yellow curbs around the elementary school. Also I would like to ask of all parents and guardians to please follow the traffic guards' directions. They want to help you get in and out as quickly as possible while making the streets safe for all parties involved.

Speaking of parties, don't forget the Children's Holiday Party will be held Saturday December 9<sup>th</sup> at Town Hall from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m... Come by for crafts, games and gifts as well as everybody's favorite, pictures with Santa Claus. Also on Saturday from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. is the Festival of Lights with Trolley tours around town (we may be Ward 3, but let's show them who's #1 in Lights), light refreshments at Riversdale, and the bake off at the Calvert House.

Congratulations to Barb Dominguez and Greg Jenkins on the birth of their first child, a boy, on November 1. May he be the saint he has started out as. Also a warm welcome to John and Katherine Blattner who have recently moved in on Riverside Drive and a fond farewell to Eda Garcia who is relocating close to family in Georgia.

And to all in Ward 3, warm wishes for the holidays and all the best in the New Year.



# Ward 5 Report

By Gerard F. Kiernan

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

For those of you who celebrate holidays different from mine, I hope that yours are as joyful. Bring your children to the Town's Holiday Party at Town Hall on Saturday, December 9th. See the details elsewhere in this edition. Also, visit our first holiday market at Town Center and tour the displays of Christmas lights on Saturday night.

Are you an early tax filer? If you are, please remember to list Riverdale Park on your Maryland tax return. We receive 17.5% of the County's piggy-back tax.

On December 12th, don't be surprised by the fire works display around dinner time. The Mexican community of St. Bernard's and Our Lady of Fatima Church will be celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

## Public Safety Report

By Gerard F. Kiernan

Have a safe and happy holiday season! If you are traveling, be prepared for bad weather and heavy traffic. Let the police know to keep an eye on your house while you are away.

When you are out shopping for all of those gifts and other goodies, be aware of your surroundings. Lock the packages out of sight in the trunk. Keep a tight hold on your purse or keep your wallet in a side pocket or inside your buttoned/zipped jacket to discourage pick pockets.

If you are the victim of a crime, let the criminal have the money or the package, or even the car. Your life is more valuable. Try to remember details about the criminal's face and what he/she was wearing. If you know that your neighbor is not home, report any suspicious activity to the police.

## Historic House Tour Planned

By Laurie Lynch

Riverdale Park will host a Historic Home and Garden Tour on Sunday, June 3rd, 2007 from 1 to 5 p.m. The tour will feature homes over 100 years old as well as the spectacular gardens in the town. Tours of Riverdale will also be incorporated. Tickets for the tour will be \$10.00 in advance; \$12.00 on the tour day.

On Thursday November 2nd, a group of Riverdale Park citizens met to plan a revival of the Riverdale Park House Tour. We decided that we'd like to highlight his-

toric homes that are 100 years or more old, and include some of the gorgeous gardens in the town. The tour will begin with an orientation to the town's history possibly including a slide show- after which people can tour the selected homes and the Riversdale House. Discussion of transportation included selecting homes within walking distance, renting a shuttle bus, and/or finding enough antique cars to drive people between homes.

At this point, we have not selected any houses so those of you who have a house that is 100 years old, or a nice garden and would be interested in participating and opening it for the tour, please call 301-864-3953 or email at [llynch@arec.umd.edu](mailto:llynch@arec.umd.edu) or 301-209-1505. In addition, volunteers are most welcome either for the planning phase or on the actual weekend of the tour (June 2nd- 3rd) to help get things set up and other logistics. We need people for house selection, advertising, book preparation, as docents in the houses, etc. The next meeting is planned for January 11th at 7:00 p.m.

## Riverdale Park Business Association News

By Audrey Bragg

The Riverdale Park Business Association held their monthly meeting on November 1, 2006 at the old Sun Trust Bank Building. A donation of \$600 was approved for the Festival of Lights Trolley to the Town of Riverdale Park. A donation of \$400 was approved to help the local family whose home was destroyed by fire recently. J. D. Williams will supervise purchase of items needed by the family. The Association will participate in the Holiday Market in conjunction with the Festival of Lights. Patricia Gladding will chair the committee for Photos with Santa at the Train Station.

The Pets on Parade Halloween event was a success. Many residents expressed their appreciation on Town Talk. Pictures will be posted on our web site at [www.riverdaleparkbiz.com](http://www.riverdaleparkbiz.com) for you to download and print. Our thanks goes to pet sitter Judy Glaes and Council Representative Rob Oppenheim for all their hard work and dedication.

The Association will hold a Holiday Party on December 6, 2006 at the Calvert House. Members and guests will receive invitations shortly. A light buffet and a sing a long for our members and guests is planned. Call Audrey Bragg at 301-277-7393 or Carol Patsel 301-864-5200 for more information.



# Community Circles

## What to Watch For:

### December 2006

**Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>**—Sint Niklaas Day: A Winter Afternoon for Children; Riversdale, 2:30 p.m.; children visit with Sint Niklaas the forerunner of our modern Santa Claus. Cost: \$6.00 includes craft, gift bag, and refreshments. One adult admitted free with up to 3 children. Call 301-864-0420 for information.

**Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**—Legislative Meeting, 8:00 p.m., Town Hall.

**Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**—RPBA Holiday Party, 5:30 p.m., Calvert House; M-UTC, 7:30 p.m. Town Hall.

**Fridays and Saturdays thru December 22<sup>nd</sup>**—Visit the Riversdale Museum Shop for unusual holiday gifts from 12 noon—4:00 p.m.; children can visit their special shop stocked with inexpensive gift items for the whole family.

**Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>**—Holiday Market, 1-9:00 p.m., Town Center; Children's Holiday Party, 4-5:15 p.m., Town Hall; Festival of Lights, 5:30-8:30 p.m., Town Center; Bake Off, 8:00 p.m., Calvert House Inn.

**Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**—Holiday Market, 12 noon – 5:00 p.m.; Town Center.

**Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**—Boy Scouts Order of the Arrow, 7:30 p.m. Town Hall.

**Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>**—Madison Hill Association, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall. Rec Board, 7:30 p.m. Town Hall.

**Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>**—Work Session, 8:00 p.m., Town Hall.

**Wednesday December 27<sup>th</sup>**—Lions Club, Town Hall.

**Thursday—Friday, December 28<sup>th</sup>—29<sup>th</sup>**—Winter Evenings, Riversdale. Tour the decorated house by candlelight, visit with costumed interpreters, and enjoy refreshments and children's activities; 7—9:00 p.m. Cost: \$5.00 adults; children 12 and under free; no reservations necessary. Be sure to see Riversdale—our Town's jewel.

### January 2007

**Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>**—Legislative Meeting, 8:00 p.m. Town Hall.

**Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>**—RPBA meeting, 5:30 p.m.; call 301-277-7393 for location. M-UTC, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall.

**Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup>**—Twelfth Night Ball, Riversdale, 7:30 p.m. Celebrate the traditional end of the holiday season at this Regency-style ball. Come in period costume or black tie and dance to live music in the English-country tradition. Cost: \$25.00; advance payment required; capacity is limited. Call 301-864-0420 for more information.

**Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup>**—Boy Scouts Order of the Arrow, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall.

**Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>**—Madison Hill Association, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall. Rec Board, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall.

**Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup>**—Historic Home Tour planning meeting, 7:00 p.m.; call Lori Lynch at 301-864-3953 or email her at [llynch@arec.umd.edu](mailto:llynch@arec.umd.edu) or 301-209-1505 for more information.

**Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup>**—Chocolate Lecture, Riversdale, 4:00 p.m. Historic foodways expert Susan McLellan Plaisted explains the travel transformation of the cacao bean from medicine to modern candy. Cost: \$5.00.

## Town Organizations:

**Northern County Soccer Alliance, Inc. (NCSA):** For more information on NCSA and on travel, recreation, home school, and training programs, contact [www.ncsa-soccer.org](http://www.ncsa-soccer.org) or call (301-927-0560). NCSA is the only all year-round soccer club in the North/west Prince Georges County area. Tax deductible donations accepted at [www.justgive.org](http://www.justgive.org). Volunteers needed—this is an excellent opportunity to get involved with your child in fun and great physical activity. ‘

**Riverdale Park Girl Scouts:** Contact: Charmaine Wilson at (301-449-5690).

## Civic Committees:

**Madison Hill Homeowner's Association**—For information call (301-513-9188) or email [MadisonHillHOA@aol.com](mailto:MadisonHillHOA@aol.com).

**Recreation Board** – Volunteers needed. Call Anissa Sunday at 301-277-2458 for more information.

**Riverdale Park Tree Committee**—For information contact [rebecca.feldberg@gmail.com](mailto:rebecca.feldberg@gmail.com).

**Traffic Study Committee**—Contact Gerry Kiernan (301-277-4554), [gerardkiernan@earthlink.net](mailto:gerardkiernan@earthlink.net).

If you have information to share with the community, please submit it by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month to the Editor, Town Crier, 5008 Queensbury Road, Riverdale Park, Maryland 20737, or email [riverdaleparkmd@comcast.net](mailto:riverdaleparkmd@comcast.net).

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