

The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

September 2007

Volume 36, Issue 8

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Riverdale Park Day
Saturday, October 6th,
12-5 p.m.
Riversdale Mansion

Live music, open mike featuring Town musicians, food-vendors, games, contests, and prizes for all ages.

Noon bounce, pony rides, and petting zoo. Join your neighbors and Town officials in the celebration of Riverdale Park Day. Bring a blanket and spend the day.

Our Town

Mary Jane O'Dell, 5/2/1936—8/18/2007



Sometimes we wonder why as I did this past week when Mary Jane O'Dell, wife of Crier printer Charles O'Dell, passed away after a respiratory illness. Mary Jane was a 35-year resident of Riverdale Park and she loved her family, friends, and the house she lived on Sheridan. She especially loved the birds that frequented her neighborhood and the house where she and Charlie lived and had raised their family. She loved to hear the whistle of the trains that passed through Riverdale and she was fond of the family's pets.

Over her career, she worked as a substitute teacher mainly at Riverdale Elementary where she taught Kindergarten—3rd grade. She had been an employee of Leland Memorial and has also worked at Laurel Hospital where she was a secretary in the Radiology Department. She had even worked in Town Offices as an Administrative Assistant to Patrick Prangley. She was a volunteer for meals on wheels. Mostly, she was a good wife, mother, and friend. And, she even helped Charlie with the Crier production.

Mary Jane and Charlie had been married for 52 years—a long time in today's world. They had two children, Chuck and Pam, 4 grandchildren—Stephanie, Kelly, Dan, and CJ, and one great grand daughter—Holly.

Mary Jane, you will be missed. Not only by Charlie and your family, but all of us who had the honor of knowing such a kind and gentle lady. I will miss her subtlety in worrying if the Crier was going to be on time this month. The family asks that in lieu of flowers you make contributions to the American Lung Association, 14435 Cherry Lane, Ste. 310, Laurel, MD 20707 in Mary Jane's name.

Council Actions

By Waverly Pollitt

Legislative Meetings

June 4, 2007

1. **Approved** Street closing for Sheridan Street between 45th Place and 46th Ave. between 1:00 – 6:00pm on August 5, 2007 for a block party.
2. **Approved** request for speed humps or similar traffic calming devices for 4700 of Oliver Street.
3. The resolution for the Wachovia was made and seconded on June 4 then it was postponed for discussion until June 7. **Approved:** Council approved on June 7.

July 2, 2007

1. **Approved**- Minutes for June 7, 2007 Special Legislative Meeting.
2. **Approved**- Approved Business License for Child Care Located at 4802 Queensbury Road for Miss Jahaira Chevalier.
3. **Approved** – Fence permit for 6ft. privacy vinyl fence located at 5717 Sora Lane for Freda Morgan.
4. **Tabled** – Fence Permit for 6ft. privacy fence for Mr. Eric Chhay located at 5405 Kenilworth Avenue--Riggs Grocery.

August 6, 2007

1. **Approved** – Minutes on March 5, 2007 regular Legislative meeting.
2. **Approved** – Minutes on April 2, 2007 regular Legislative meeting.
3. **Approved** – Minutes on July 30, 2007 regular Legislative meeting.
4. **Approved** – Appointment for Mary Donaldson on Traffic Study Committee.
5. **Approved** – 6ft. privacy fence at 5324 Taylor road for Carol Lanham.
6. **Approved** – 6ft. Privacy fence at 5316 Taylor road for Anne Marie Willis.
7. **Tabled**- Resolution for Jey's Auto.
8. **Approved** – Harbor Light proposal for web site in Town office.
9. **Approved** – Ordinance Resolution 2007-OR-07 Street Improvements Minimum Standards

Special Legislative Meeting, July 30, 2007

1. **Approved** – 6ft. privacy fence for Mr. Eric Chhay of 5405 Kenilworth Avenue----Riggs Grocery.
2. **Approved** – Curb Cut & Apron at 4902 Queensbury Road for Mr. Chris Anamelechi.
3. **Approved** – Curb Cut & Apron at 4910 Queensbury Road for Ms. Kim Grabill.
4. **Approved** – Curb Cut & Apron at 4912 Queensbury Road for Mr. Frank Crawford
5. **Approved** – Apron at 5901 48th Avenue, Nicholson Street for Melanie Craig.
6. **Approved** – A Do Not Enter Sign except Emergency Vehicles west-bound at 48th Avenue and Queensbury Rd.

Town of Riverdale Park

www.ci.riverdale-park.md.us

Town Hall

5008 Queensbury Road
Riverdale Park, MD 20737
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RiverdaleParkMD@comcast.net

Mayor Vernon Archer
240-832-2257

varcher@gmail.com

Council Members

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Alice.ewen.walker@gmail.com

Ward 2 – Kate Sharpe 301-779-2169
katherinesharpe@yahoo.com

Ward 3 - David Lingua 301-779-3849
djlingua@gmail.com

Ward 4 - Christopher Henry 301-910-9855
chenry3240@comcast.net

Ward 5 **VACANT**

Ward 6 Keelah Allen-Smith 270-271-6428
Keelahd@yahoo.com.

Patrick J. Prangle, Town Administrator
riverdaleparkmd@comcast.net

Public Works 301-864-1803

VACANT Public Works Director

Code Enforcement 301-209-1505

CodeRiverdalePk@comcast.net

Colleen M. Ferguson

Police Department 301-927-4343

RivPD@comcast.net

Chief of Police **VACANT**

Acting Chief Captain Pat Timmons

Fire Department Emergency 911
Information 301-927-0356

info@riverdalevfd.com,

www.riverdalevfd.com

Vincent Harrison, Chief

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.

Submission deadline: 15th of each month.

Please submit all copy to editor
rptowncrier@comcast.net



Riverdale Park Police Department

June, July 2007

June Crime Report

Crime	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Stolen Vehicle
Ward 1	0	0	1	0	2	1
Ward 2	0	0	0	0	3	0
Ward 3	0	0	0	0	2	0
Ward 4	0	0	2	1	9	0
Ward 5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ward 6	0	0	1	5	0	0
Total	0	0	4**	6	16*	1

** Citizen, *8 Commercial, *8 Residential

July Crime Report

Crime	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Stolen Vehicle
Ward 1	0	0	1	2	0	1
Ward 2	0	0	0	1	0	2
Ward 3	0	0	0	0	0	1
Ward 4	1	0	4	4	2	0
Ward 5	0	0	0	0	0	1
Ward 6	0	0	1	1	0	1
Total	1	0	6*	8	2**	6

** Citizen, ** Residential

June Officer Activity

Activity	Total
Calls For Service	931
Routine Patrols	302
Traffic Stops	247
Reported Traffic Accidents	54
Parking Citations	54
Subjects Arrested	31

* 471 Traffic Citations, ** Written Accidents

July Officer Activity

Activity	Total
Calls For Service	870
Routine Patrols	295
Traffic Stops	244
Reported Traffic Accidents	67
Parking Citations	50
Subjects Arrested	18

* 246 Traffic Citations, ** Written Accidents

A Busy Summer for Boy Scout Troop 252

Boy Scout Troop 252, sponsored by St. Bernard of Clairvaux (Riverdale Park), hiked some 16+ miles on the C&O Canal Towpath in the area of Harper's Ferry, to include Jefferson's Rock last weekend. We also climbed the George Washington National Monument in Boonesboro (where we could see four states, PA, WV, VA and MD), and attended the Sandy Hook Methodist Church service, in Harper's Ferry, Sunday morning; We're bicycling this weekend at Jug Bay, in Croom, and tubing in two weeks, back up at Harper's Ferry. Join in the fun, if you're up to it!

Bob Killen Scoutmaster (202) 282-8302; Eneida Martinez-Brown Committee Chair (301) 864-0059

Riverdale Park Volunteer Activity

Between September 18 and October 18, the Water Environment Federation and the International Water Association are inviting people around the world to make a checkup of the health of their local rivers and lakes. By performing simple, yet scientifically valid testing, you can learn about the health of our local streams and lakes. In Riverdale Park, longtime resident and environmental engineer Michael Sevenser has offered to show a group of interested people how to test the health of the Northeast Branch of the Anacostia River.

To organize this event we would like to gather at least ten people. Depending on how many people sign up, we can share the equipment among a number of groups so that everyone gets a chance for "hands on" use of the simple test kit. The results will be shared with people from around the Earth. The testing will be done on the Northeast Branch of the Anacostia River at the Riverdale Road bridge over the river. This will make it easy for everyone to get there. The proposed date is Saturday, October 6 or Sunday, October 7.

This activity is open to all residents of Riverdale Park, of any age, from 7 to 97. Children should be accompanied by an adult. Michael has offered to donate the testing materials. He speaks Spanish fluently and can explain the whole procedure and results to Spanish speakers too.

If you are interested please contact your local councilperson or send an email message to Michael at michael.sevenser@gmail.com by no later than September 10 so that the testing materials can be ordered on time.

TRAFFIC STUDY COMMITTEE

For more than a decade the traffic study committee has been in existence. For most of those years former Council Member Gerry Kiernan had chaired the committee. Through out those years several residents have been regular attendants. Their accomplishments have been many, for example:

Noting where trees and shrubs obscured stop signs, pedestrian crosswalks at Ravenswood Road at Taylor Road, and at S & J Restaurant, had signage on B. W. Parkway restored, moved bus stop at Queensbury Road and Baltimore Avenue further west, conducted numerous traffic surveys, reported large trucks parked illegal on our streets, and so much more. Presently we have many traffic concerns and they continue to escalate. The committee members invite anyone who has questions, concerns, or ideas about traffic on our streets to come to a traffic study committee meeting. Your input is needed and will be welcomed. The committee meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

September Fun Events at Riversdale

By Ann Wass

Riversdale House Museum, 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park. Information: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544.

Stop by our new Visitor Center to see an exhibit about the house and the Town. Admission is free; hours are Mon--Fri, 9 am-4 pm, and Sundays noon-4 pm.

Fridays & Sundays, 12 noon-3:30 pm, Riversdale House Museum Tours

Restored to reflect the history of Rosalie Stier Calvert's occupancy, Riversdale offers a glimpse into the early 19th century life of both the owners of the estate and the servants and slaves who worked there. This early Federal house is open on a walk-in basis with guided tours. Open hearth cooking Sundays from noon to 4 pm. Group tours are available by appointment. Fee:\$3/adults, \$2/seniors & groups of 10 or more, \$1/ages 5-18, ages 4 & under FREE.

Saturday, September 9, 12 noon-3:30 pm, 200 Years! A Celebration of Riversdale Architecture

Riversdale was completed 200 years ago. Join us to drink a toast and take a special tour, led by architect Mike Arnold, highlighting the architecture of the house; special children's activities. \$5; ages 12 and under \$1
Saturday, September 29, 1:30 pm, Jane Austen in Bath: An Afternoon in the Pump Room

Dr. Elizabeth Child will speak about Jane Austen's Bath, our confectioner and milliner will survey food and fashion of the period. \$10; advance registration required.



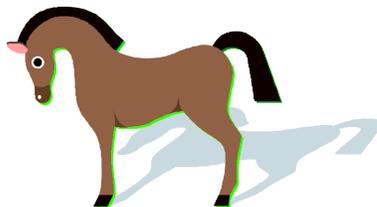
DON'T MISS

Riverdale Park Day

Saturday, October 6th, 12-5 p.m.
Grounds of Riversdale Mansion

Live music, open mike featuring Town musicians, food-vendors, games, contests, and prizes for all ages.

Moon bounce, pony rides, and petting zoo. Join your neighbors and Town officials in the celebration of Riverdale Park Day. Bring a blanket and spend the day on the grounds of Riversdale Mansion.

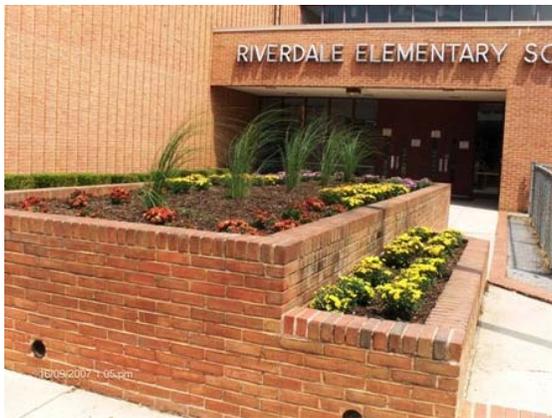


Support Your Community...Complete Landscaping Did

By: Colleen M. Ferguson

Our community is ever so thankful for businesses like Complete Landscaping, located in Bowie, Maryland. Complete landscaping donated: Employee Manpower, flowers, plants the installation and designs to Riverdale Elementary School- Way to go Complete!!!! Riverdale Elementary School is off to a beautiful start this year: Town sponsored parking lot paint enhancement and donated landscaping by Complete. This will be the best year ever for our wonderful community school. Our children will be so proud of their beautiful community and beautiful school!!!! Our Thanks to:

**Complete Landscaping
2410 North Crain Highway
Bowie, Maryland 20716
301-218-1800**



Mayor's Report

By Vernon Archer



Volunteers Needed

As summer ends and we all prepare for fall, many of us will receive requests to participate in volunteer work around our community. Volunteers do much of what happens to make our Town and surrounding area a good place to live. As you decide how to give of your time, please consider some of the Town committees that need your help.

Our Recreation Board is responsible for conducting such events as Riverdale Park Day and our Christmas and Easter events. If you would like to work on any of these events please contact Anissa Sunday. Particularly with Riverdale Park Day coming up in a month, we can use some help!

The Traffic Safety Committee meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7 at Town Hall to help make our Town's streets safer. If you have some ideas or concerns to share please attend and consider joining the committee on a regular basis.

CSX Crossing

One of the more frustrating institutions I've had to deal with since becoming mayor is the CSX Railroad. The recent construction at the railroad crossing is just one example. It is obvious to all of us that the changes made the crossing much worse for motor vehicles and I cannot see how it did anything to improve matters for the train. I have made multiple attempts to get in writing a clear explanation of what the company's intentions are, but so far have nothing but verbal assurances to correct the road within a vague time frame.

I have begun the process of seeking allies at the county and state level and have even begun letting our Federal representatives know about this situation. With increased political backing for our position, it is my hope that the company will soon inform us in clear terms of plans to make a safer, smoother crossing in the near term.

Policing in Riverdale Park

On a recent Friday night, I took the opportunity to do a ride along with Riverdale Park Police to see first hand what our police do. What I saw and experienced that night emphasized to me that we have a great force, but we must redouble our efforts to move our force from 18 officers up to 21 and increase Spanish language skills on the force.

First, our officers are well trained, equipped, lead and motivated. They are proud of the jobs they do, and like working to keep Riverdale Park safe, clean and beautiful. It was a pleasure to see first hand what a great force our taxes fund. I rode most of the evening with squad commander Sergeant Patrick Vitchock, who lead the efforts of Private First Class (PFC) Bart Brady and Private Walter Bustamante.

This squad was backed up by PFC Jeffrey Prawdzyk and PFC Nicholas Betcher who were working secondary employment contracts for companies along Kenilworth Avenue. Under these contracts officers are fully in uniform and expected to respond to calls from our dispatch or on-duty officers if needed for backup, but stay at the contracting business as security during other contracted time. This is a good deal for the Town as we have access to these officers, but at minimal cost. From what I saw it would be very difficult for our force to adequately respond to weekend night calls without this auxiliary being available.

I also got to see first hand the work of Sergeant Andrew Powell's day squad because there was a particularly gruesome attempted murder in the afternoon and a separate stabbing incident that kept his squad working late. Powell responded to a domestic disturbance complaint and through quick thinking and effective action stopped a murder in progress and apprehended two suspects in this crime. Powell remained late to work on this case as our Investigator, Corporal Roland Alexander, pieced together what lead up to the attempt at murder. Alexander discovered the motive was to steal a large quantity of drugs, so the victim is also now going to be charged with crimes also.

All together it was an exciting and educational experience that I will not soon forget.

Trash, Recycling and Saving Tax Dollars

Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources recently announced a 20% increase in the fee it charges for us to dump waste in their facilities. The timing of the announcement is particularly unwelcome as we are in the middle of a budget period and such a major increase will make it difficult for any Town to stay within its original budget projections. The only real way to minimize the hit is to reduce the amount of trash we send to the dump. I asked Acting Public Works Director Michael Scott to tell me what three things residents could do, or do more thoroughly to help. His recommendations are as follows:

- Remember to include newspapers for recycling on Wednesdays—the weight of paper adds up very quickly.
- Junk mail, cardboard, and cereal boxes can be recycled on Saturday from 9am-5pm at Riverdale Park Public works facility (5008 Queensbury Rd)
- Make donations of old furniture, appliances and clothing to Purple Heart, schedule a pickup by calling 301-277-0063

I would like to challenge each household in Riverdale Park to reduce the amount of trash you put out by 20% for the remainder of the year. It helps the environment and will save us all tax dollars.

July 21, 2007, Arlington, VA

Captain Bruce E. Fein, 354th Civil Affairs Bde, places a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier as part of the 354th CA Bde Family Organization Day. Soldier and families joined in the ceremony at the Tomb after watching the changing of the guard. Afterwards, the Family Readiness Group hosted a picnic at Fort Meyer, VA. The 354th CA Bde is an US Army Reserve Unit from Riverdale Park, MD

Civil Air Patrol, Eyes of the Home Skies since 1941
www.CAP.gov

INTERESTED IN AVIATION AND EMERGENCY SERVICES?

Join the U.S. Civil Air Patrol Cadet program!!! Youth from 12 to 18 years of age are eligible to join this outstanding leadership training program.

Meetings are held the first four Wednesdays of the month from 7:15-9:15 PM in the Hap Arnold Center (1985 Cpl. Frank Scott Drive) at College Park Airport, College Park, MD.

Through Civil Air Patrol's Cadet Program, young people develop leadership skills, investigate the fundamentals of aviation, and participate in emergency services missions. Activities include flying, camping, color guard, model rocketry, and an international Aviation Cadet Exchange!

Learn more at <http://cpsqdn.mdwg.cap.gov> or call 1-800-FLY-2338!

Farmer's Market News

On August 16, our guest vendor will be Ole Pioneer Kitchen, maker of premium quality buckboard bacon and superb lean European style sausages. Susan Jones, our bead jewelry maker, will also be in attendance.

On August 23 & 30, Tina Van Pelt of Profusions of Glass Jewelry will be here. Her fused glass jewelry is very popular with the market and she doesn't come out every week, so come and see what she has to offer.

Don't forget to come out on September 20 for Whole Foods Market's first appearance for Chefs @ the Market between 3pm and 4pm. You're sure to enjoy their recipes that day, so take off early if you can and show them what our area is really like.

A Kid's Appreciation Day will take place in the Fall. If you'd like to help out with the planning of this event, please contact Jim Coleman at rpkfarmmkt@gmail.com or 301-332-6258.

<http://www.rpfarmersmarket.org> or
<http://www.rpfm.org>



All photos by Captain J. Sager, CAP

Ward and Committee Reports

Ward One

By Council Member Alice Walker
Alice.ewen.walker@gmail.com

Economic Development

I am happy to report that as a result of the first meeting of the Economic Development Committee, a delegation was sent from the Town to meet with Douglas Jemal, owner of Town Center and several other local commercial properties. At the meeting, the Town emphasized to Mr. Jemal our need to see his Town Center properties cleaned up and brought into compliance with code. So far there has been a good response on that issue, though there is still more to do.

At the second meeting of the Economic Development Committee in August, consultant Kennedy Smith presented her plan for how Riverdale Park can attract successful tenants to Town Center. Ms. Smith will present her plan at a community meeting at 8 p.m. on September 17th, which I encourage all residents to attend.

Open Government and Electronic Documents

Over the next several months, I will be making a series of proposals to promote transparency and openness in our Town government. This initiative began with my resolution passed in August for the Town to comply with the Maryland Open Meetings Act by making minutes available for council meetings by the date of the next scheduled meeting. Among my next steps will be ensuring that documents produced by the Town be made available in electronic form, and distributed on our website and email lists. My goal is to make it easier for citizens to follow/participate in our government processes.

Volunteerism

Our community thrives through volunteerism and civic participation. If you've been meaning to get more involved in the community, now is a great time. In September and October, we have a number of fun and meaningful events on tap that need volunteers: from water quality monitoring; planting trees; helping with Riverdale Park Day or our weekly Farmer's Market; Riverdale Historical Society; the Traffic Committee; Riverdale Elementary School; and our Home and Garden Tour. There are even ways to contribute "virtually" for those who can't make meetings, but enjoy executing assignments on their own time. Volunteering is a great way to lend your talent or develop a new skill, while meeting neighbors. Look at the opportunities in the Crier, or give me a call for ideas for how to get involved.

Quality of Life

In partnership with our citizens, police, public works, and code enforcement, as well as local property owners, I have been working on a number of quality of life issues over the past two months. The owner of the apartment building at the corner of Ravenswood and Lafayette has committed to addressing a number of issues

of public safety, and the Town is investigating the cost of adding a new light fixture at that location. We are also working on shutting down unlicensed businesses operating out of residential properties on Oglethorpe St and Rhode Island Ave. Public Works has launched a new initiative against litter which includes better cleanup in Ward One's commercial areas. There is still much to be done, including follow-through on the issues above. Citizen participation is key! If you see something that you think is not allowed – it probably isn't. Call code enforcement at (301)209-1505, call public works at (301) 864-1803, or call me at (301)379-5303.

Traffic

The long-stalled effort to add speed humps on the north side of 43rd St is again underway. The humps will be added by Hyattsville, with Riverdale Park splitting the cost. I have asked police to step up enforcement of traffic rules on Queensbury, and there is positive progress. The council also approved my resolution to make the do-not-enter at Queensbury Rd near the firehouse an all-hours rule, to prevent emergency vehicles from being blocked by standing traffic.

I am considering proposing to change existing one-way streets in Ward One to do-not-enter, to provide more flexibility to residents, while still limiting cut-through traffic. If you live on a one-way street please contact me with your opinion. In the long term, my hope is that the traffic study the council budgeted for will address many of our current issues, while helping us prepare for future increases in traffic.

Tree follow-up

Over the last several weeks, dead trees, including those on 46th and Oliver streets were removed by Public Works. Stump grinding will be done in batches when Public Works rents the grinder – some stumps have been removed; others are scheduled. Tree trimming is also underway. If you have concerns about a tree in the R-O-W, contact PW now while this work is underway.

Quiet Zone follow-up

According to our Town Administrator, the recent work at the Queensbury rail crossing was not related to the scheduled installation of the four-way gate. Town staff is coordinating with the MD State Highway Administration to confirm a firm date for when we can expect the four-way gate crossing upgrade. The Town has requested that CSX rectify problems with the recent work.

Block Parties

Congratulations to our neighbors on Sheridan on their successful block party and to our neighbors on 43rd St. for their upcoming annual party. Block parties are a great way to get to know neighbors and grow our community. There is a small amount of money in the budget this year to be used to seed block parties -- please contact me if you are interested.

Ward Two Report

By Council Member Kate Sharpe
katherinesharpe@yahoo.com

One of our Ward Two residents, Todd Whitehead, is coordinating volunteers for Gorgeous Prince George's Day on October 13th. I encourage everyone to come out on the 13th and spend an afternoon helping to beautify our Town. If you'd like to volunteer, Todd can be reached at 202-441-3813 or *twhitehead76@yahoo.com*.

Our road and sidewalk construction project will be moving to Rittenhouse Street within the next month. If any Rittenhouse residents are interested in curb cuts or driveway work, please contact Town Hall or give me a call.

The Home and Garden television network (HGTV) is returning to Riverdale Park! This year, a home on the 4800 block of Ravenswood Road will be featured on the show *Curb Appeal*. Keep your eyes out for the television cameras.

At our August Legislative meeting, the Town Council unanimously passed a resolution that set a long list of conditions for the Town's support of a proposed artificial turf field at the Riverdale Community Park. M-NCPPC's engineering study subsequently determined that the project would require seven feet of elevation to raise the field above the 100-yr floodplain! Therefore, M-NCPPC will not be installing a turf field. M-NCPPC will attend our September Work Session to discuss a new tentative plan for smaller-scale improvements to the field. I will encourage them to consider storm water runoff, maintaining the community character of the park, and how to reduce litter and noise problems as they develop their new plan. In the meantime, the field has been reseeded and is back in use, so go on out and enjoy.

Ward 3 Report

By Council Member David Lingua
djlingua@gmail.com

Summer time has done come and gone. My, oh my. Hurry, hurry, hurry and step right up to volunteer for your Town. Yes your Town of Riverdale Park. If you've lived here fifty years or hours it's never too late or too soon. Contributing your time and effort is a vital *je ne sais quoi* that makes our Town special. And yes, yes, while we all have full schedules, there are ways one can volunteer without lighting that candle in the middle. Please take time to read about the various groups in Town and see for yourself a great way to become involved. At the request of the County Telecommunications Committee before giving their final approval, the Town Council was asked for their position regarding the application from Mr. Shoemaker to install a communica-

tion tower for his business. To meet that request I met with a number of our neighbors residing in the ward's west end. Mr. Shoemaker's son, Patrick, was helpful in answering questions and offering to follow-up. Set back near the center of the property, the tower will be 120 feet tall with a base of five feet and tapers to less than one foot at the top. One 13 square inch antenna with an output of 0.4 watts, less than that of a cell phone, will sit atop, facing south. The purpose is in facilitating the everyday operations of their information systems.

The process of upgrading all our streets to meet standards set by Prince Georges County has come to our ward as seen in Longfellow and Nicholson Streets. Currently work is being completed elsewhere in Town as part of the second phase. Phase three is to begin shortly and will return to our ward. Already it has been expressed to me by some of our neighbors their desire to see their street excluded as to sidewalk installation. CM Walker introduced legislation in July and saw passage in August to address this. It is my opinion sidewalks promote a safer and better community for all the Town's residents. The combination of complaints about the automotive behavior of others and the increasing abundance of little Riverdadians serve as reinforcement.

Water, water everywhere, v. 2.3. As is evident, the county's new and improved water pumping station in Edmonston is moving right along with three new turbines that could probably move Lake Erie. Lord willing and the creek doesn't rise disaster will be averted. As for the county's efforts to improve storm water management in our ward, efforts should be resuming in the fall.

Let's all extend a warm Riverdale Park welcome to our new neighbors Serge and Candy Batista on 47th Avenue, Geoffrey and Patricia Grob on Madison Street, and Irwin and Rose Medina on Longfellow. Also making their grand entrance to the world via our ward is a son born to Elizabeth and James Concha on Taylor, their second child.

See you at Riverdale Park Day, if not sooner, and forget not the Festival of Lights approaches.

Ward 4 Report

By Council Member Christopher Henry
chenry3240@comcast.net
301-910-9855

I guess things are fine with everyone, no issues with crime in our neighborhood, EMS vehicles have the right-of-passage, and there are no concerns. Town representatives have addressed all of the Town discrepancies and corrected them while the rest of us sleep comfortably in our beds.

Dream on! As I previously mentioned before, this is a community effort, we are all affected, maybe it's a time issue, affecting most of us and some of us like my-

self have lots and lots of time to do all the work for others, I guess I don't have a life, no family, no bills, just sit around waiting on your phone calls and emails to jump up and respond.

Well think again, my life is a balancing act and I don't need to hear critics say 'well that's what you've signed up for' my heart and mind is in the right place, so critics get on board.

My message is clear, we all, are in this situation together and must work together in resolving issues impacting our communities, weather it's immigration, rat control, bed bugs, traffic congestion, overcrowding, drugs, gangs, robbery, domestic abuse, illegal selling of vehicles. These things affect us all and we must work together.

Therefore, if I offended you by not writing about the flowery stuff, excuse me for being so straightforward, as the children say *my bad*. Have a safe and beautiful remaining summer.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I did not express special thanks to Rev. Addison and Rev. Slye for organizing the Back to School Community event on Sunday August 19, 2007 at the Christian Life Center on 5600 Taylor Street. Rev. Addison and Slye, you are icons with a positive influence in our community; thank you again. See attached pictures of the event.

All Aboard!



Ward 6 Report

By Council Member Keelah Allen-Smith
Keelahd@yahoo.com.

I am happy to report that the damaged bus shelter on Kenilworth Avenue was repaired. In addition, the graffiti on the Red Top gas station was promptly removed and we are working with the owner of the property on addressing the other issues on the property.

Special thanks to Town of Riverdale Park, Christian Life Center, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Riverdale Park Business Association, Williams Wirt Middle School, Riverdale Elementary School and the End Time Harvest Ministry who on August 19th, held a "Back to School Community Event". These organiza-

tions provided the children of the Town of Riverdale Park with free books, bags, school supplies, and information on school safety.

Ward 5 Vacancy

The Mayor and Council are seeking a candidate to fill the vacant position of Ward 5 Council Member. Due to the lack of response, we are now forced to seek a candidate outside of Ward 5. I urge anyone from Ward 6 who would be interested to please contact Town Hall at 301-927-6381. I feel that it is imperative that the Ward be represented by an individual who is aware of and can relate to OUR issues.

The candidate has to be at least 18 years of age; a Riverdale Park registered voter and a resident for at least six months. Remember there will be no change without action. What better way to serve and represent your community than to be their "voice".

Property Managers & Code Enforcement Meeting

On Thursday, August 8, I attended a meeting coordinated by Mrs. Ferguson, our code enforcement manager, to meet with the property managers of the apartment complexes in Wards 4, 5, and 6. We discussed solutions to our increasing rodents and bed-mite problems. The meeting was a great success. The property managers shared what steps they are taking to contain and eliminate the rodent and bed-mite issues. I'm glad to say that all the Property Managers agreed to participate in an Extermination/Clean-up week. This will be held the week of September 17-21st. The managers of all the apartments will be completing a mass extermination and exterior clean up of all apartments. A dumpster will be made available to residents to discard unwanted or old items, bed-mite or roach-infested furniture or mattresses, bedding, and linens. Residents please do your part. Dedicate that week or a day of that week to clean up your apartments and cooperate with the managers by preparing your units for extermination. By working together, we can get a handle on this situation.

I applaud the property managers that were very eager and willing to work with the Town to come to a workable solution. Kudos to our Code Enforcement Department. I must say this was a terrific idea!

So during our Extermination/Clean-up week I hope to see all residents of Jefferson Hall Apartments, River Crossing, River Towers, Park Tanglewood, Calvert Hall, Riverdale Village, and Riverwood doing their part and working with the property managers to make this effort a success. By everyone working together we can and will contain these problems. Any questions please contact your property managers.

Community Affair Committee

The Community Affair Committee meeting was held on July 26th. We discussed the upcoming Riverdale Park Day, which will be held on Saturday, October 6, 2007 on the grounds of the Riversdale Mansion. This

event will feature live music, open microphone featuring Town musicians, food-vendors, pony rides, petting zoos, games, contests, and prizes. Please bring the family and come out for a fun-filled day.

Another item discussed was ways to increase community involvement in our Town activities and committees. All our committees are in need of members and or volunteers. We spoke of having a "Volunteer Day" where we could provide information regarding the various committees in Town and their importance.

National Night Out

On Tuesday, August 7, the Town of Riverdale Park held its National Night Out. Thanks to our Police Department for their participation and organization of this event. Great Work!

Please do remember to contact our Town Staff regarding any issues or concern you may have regarding Town matters. They are very responsive.

S & J Restaurant

Daily Lunch and Dinner Specials
Eat In/Carry Out

Breakfast Special - Monday - Friday \$3.95
Monday - Tacos, \$1.00 each
Friday & Saturday - All you can eat Shrimp
4:00 to 8:00 PM \$15.95

Steamed Shrimp Everyday
Sandwich/ Sub of the Month - \$3.95
Ladies Night-Every Monday
Karaoke Tuesday & Saturday
Corner of Queensbury and Rhode Island Avenue

301-927-3977

A paid Advertisement

Riverdale Park Business Association News

By Carol Patsel

The Riverdale Park Business Association (RPBA) will resume meetings on Wednesday, September 12, 2007, 5:30 p.m. at the **Calvert House Restaurant**. Riverdale Park business owners are welcome to join them. Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Even though monthly meetings adjourned for the summer, the RPBA has been busy:

- As a gesture of goodwill, the RPBA paid for the cost of a Town license for the **Old Town Pet Shop** and welcomed them to the Riverdale Park business community. RPBA members are excited to see signs of revival in Town Center and

encourage everyone in Riverdale Park to support their new pet shop.

- The RPBA responded to a complaint lodged by a resident who lives within close proximity to a dumpster that is owned by one of its members. **President, Audrey Bragg**, requested that the dumpster be relocated and the resident's fence repaired. The RPBA member has since moved the dumpster to a new location and is currently in touch with the resident to repair the damage caused to her fence.
- The RPBA made a \$400 donation to the Riverdale Youth Community, "**Back to School**" event, sponsored by the Christian Life Center. They have agreed to partner with them and sup-

port this community's most precious commodity, our youth.

- The RPBA showed their continued support at the **AWS Regatta** on Saturday, July 28th. RPBA member, **Simon Plog**, won the **Canoe Raffle!**
Local Business Special Offers
- **Suntrust Bank** is offering a \$100 *donation to your favorite charity* if you open a new account with them
- **The Dental Group** is offering \$100 off *Tooth Whitening Treatment*. This offer is valid through the month of September.

Community Circles

What to Watch For:

Monday, September 3, 2007—Labor Day, Town Offices and Public Works Closed.

Tuesday, September 4, 2007—Traffic Study Committee, 7 pm and Legislative Meeting, 8:00 pm, Town Hall.

Wednesday, September 5, 2007—M-UTC, 7:30 pm, Town Hall.

Thursday, September 6, 13, 20, and 27, 2007—Farmer's Market, 3-7 pm, Town Center.

Saturday, September 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29, 2007—Trash, oil, paper drop off behind Public Works from 9 am – 5 pm.

Saturday, September 9, 12 noon-3:30 pm, 200 Years! A Celebration of Riversdale Architecture

Tuesday, September 11, 2007—Madison Hill HOA, 7 pm, Town Hall.

Tuesday, September 18, 2007—Recreation Board Meeting, 7:30 pm, Town Hall.

Monday, September 24, 2007—Work Session, 8 pm Town Hall.

Wednesday, September 26, 2007—Lion's Club, 7 pm, Town Hall.

Saturday, September 29, 2007—Riversdale, Jane Austen in Bath: An Afternoon in the Pump Room, 1:30 pm

Upcoming Events

Saturday, October 6th-- Riverdale Park Day; 12-5pm, grounds of Riversdale Mansion. Live music, open mike featuring Town musicians, food-vendors, games, contests, and prizes for all ages. Noon bounce, pony rides, and petting zoo. Join your neighbors and Town officials in the celebration of Riverdale Park Day. Bring a blanket and spend the day. Volunteers needed.

Come to the Recreation Board meeting on September 18, 2007, 7:30 pm at Town Hall.

Town Organizations

Northern County Soccer Alliance: For more information on Soccer Alliance, Inc., and on travel, recreation, home school, and training programs. NCSA@juno.com or (301) 927-0560. PG Soccer League@juno.com

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

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

CIVIC COMMITTEES

Recreation Board – The Riverdale Park Recreation Board Presents: **Riverdale Park Day, Saturday, October 6th**, 12-5pm on the ground of Riversdale Mansion. This event will feature: Live music; open microphone featuring Town musicians; food-vendors; games; contests and prizes for all ages; moon bounce; pony rides; and petting zoo. Join your neighbors and Town officials in celebration of Riverdale Park Day!

Madison Hill Homeowners Association-- For information, call (240) 401-2202 or visit www.madisonhill.org.

Riverdale Park Farmer's Market--Contact Pat Gladdings at (301)927-1362.

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

If you have information to share with the community, please submit it to the Editor, Town Crier, 5008 Queensbury Road, Riverdale Park, Maryland 20737 **by the 15th of the month, or email: RiverdaleParkMD@comcast.net.**