

# The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

**October 2007**

Volume 36, Issue 8

Riverdale Day	Page 1 & 12
Kenilworth Revitalization	Page 1
Council Actions	Page 2
Code Corner	Page 2
Code Corner Spanish	Page 3
Police Report	Page 3
Mayor's Report	Page 4
Ward 1 Report	Page 5
Ward 2 & Finance Report	Page 6
Ward 4 Report	Page 6-7
Ward 6 Report	Page 7
Public Works	Page 7
Deputy Administrator	Page 7
A School of Pride	Page 8
Traffic Study to Meet	Page 8
M Square Update	Page 9
Dental Group Scholarship	Page 9
Cooperation with NDC	Page 10
Farmers Market Events	Page 10
Craft Show	Page 10
Clothing Sale	Page 10
Conflict Resolution	Page 11
<b>HALLOWEEN</b>	Page 13
Resolution-Gerry Kiernan	Page 14
Community Circles	Page 15
Calendar	Page 16
Farmer's Market	Insert

## **Notice of Charter Amendment**

### **Charter Resolution 2007- CR-03**

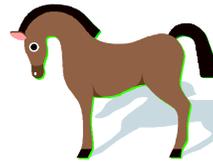
WHEREAS, the Town of Riverdale Park strives to operate as efficiently as possible, and

WHEREAS, the competitive bid limit has not been adjusted for inflation over the past two decades,

BE IT RESOLVED that Section 623 of the Town Charter should be amended to read:

"All expenditures for supplies, materials, equipment, construction of public improvements, or contractual service involving more than \$20,000 shall be made on written contract." Second reading and adoption will be held on Monday October 1, 2007 at the Legislative Meeting.

## **Riverdale Park Day**



**Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 12-5 p.m.  
Grounds of Riversdale Mansion**

Don't miss: Live music, open mike featuring Town musicians, food, vendors, games, contests, moon bounce, pony rides, petting zoo, and prizes for all ages.

## **YOU'RE INVITED**

**To the Central Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization  
Kick-off meeting/reception**

By Dineene O'Connor

The Prince George's County Planning Department has been directed to prepare a Central Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization Study under the Planning Assistance to Municipalities and Communities (PAMC) Program of the Planning Department by the Prince George's County Planning Board of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

The revitalization study will engage a broad spectrum of community participation to identify issues confronting the area, research best practices and solutions to identified issues, develop a prioritized action plan of solutions, and develop partnerships with local, municipal, county and state stakeholders that have an ability to implement solutions.

Please join us for a kick-off meeting/reception **7:00 p.m. October 23, 2007 at 6200 Sheridan Street – UM Multi-cultural Youth Partnership Center (next to the William Wirt Middle School)**. You will have an opportunity to meet with planners to identify: issues that are important to you, aspects of your community that you most like, and help us select a web logo based on a mural designed by Margo Humphrey and executed with students of William Wirt Middle School. Also, sign up for one-on-one interviews that will be conducted November through January when staff will meet with individual stakeholders or stakeholder groups to further define issues and solutions to issues.

# Council Actions

By Waverly Pollitt

## September 4, 2007

1. **Approved**—Minutes for regular Legislative Meeting on May 7, 2007.
2. **Approved**—Minutes for regular Legislative Meeting on June 4, 2007.
3. **Approved** -Minutes for regular Legislative Meeting on July 2, 2007.
4. **Approved** -Minutes for regular Legislative Meeting on August 6, 2007.
5. **Introduced**-Action to Amend Budget for PNC/ Riggs Settlement.
6. **Approved**-Request for Departure from Parking and Loading Standards Waiver of 7 of the required 22 parking spaces.
7. **Approved**—Resolution 2007- R -04 on policy for Electronic Mailing Access.
8. **Introduction**—Of Charter Resolution 2007-CR-03 §623 Competitive Bids of the Town Charter.
9. **Approved**—Resolution 2007-R-05 New MUTC Nominations.
10. **Approved**—Resolution 2007-R-06 Adoption of Robert's Rules.
11. **Approved**-Resolution 2007-R-07 on Jey's Auto.
12. **Approved** – Resolution 2007-R-08 to commend Gerard Kiernan for his service.
13. **Approved**—Resolution 2007-R-09 Retroactive Publication and Archiving of Electronic Documents.

## Special Legislative Meeting, September 11, 2007

1. **Approved** -Resolution of Support for Special Permit Application # SP-060001 on EYA Development of 4500 Block on Madison Street.
2. **Approved** – Extended Engineer agreement for Street improvement projects with GNC in the amount of 25,000.
3. Opening Bids for Financial & code software for Town Government. A report was provided at the September 24 Work Session

## Code Corner

By Colleen Ferguson

We want to thank the apartment managers and staff of *Riverdale Village, River Crossing, Riverwood, and Jefferson Hall* for their dedication and hard work during the *Apartment Clean Up and Extermination Week* which took place September 17 -21. Our apartment managers joined efforts in cleaning up their properties and exterminating in all their units for bugs and rodents.

We would like to remind our residents of the importance of having appropriate and visible numbers affixed to their properties. House numbers are vital for emergency vehicles to identify each property in case of an emergency. *Numbers have to be affixed to the front of the house or the side that faces the street to which the address is assigned. The numbers must be no less than 4 inches in height and of a bold and contrasting color so that they are easily discernable (Town Code 33-20).* This is also true for apartment buildings and each apartment unit. Not being in compliance is a fire code violation. Penalty for any single violation is \$100 and \$200 for a second or continuing violation. Residents, please remember that the trash needs to be placed in containers with tightly fitted lids (Town Code 36-7). Bags of trash are an attraction to and are easily torn by birds, rodents, and other animals and thus can become a nuisance and health problem. Our Code Division will be citing and issuing municipal infractions to the owners of properties that are not in compliance with this and other town codes. We urge residents to sort and recycle their trash in order to help save energy and our planet's natural resources.

Thanks for helping keep Riverdale Park Safe, Clean, and Beautiful.

## 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**—Alice Ewen-Walker,  
Chair, Economic Development, 301-379-5303  
[Alice.ewen.walker@gmail.com](mailto:Alice.ewen.walker@gmail.com)

**Ward 2** – Kate Sharpe  
Chair, Finance Committee, 301-779-2169  
[katherinesharpe@yahoo.com](mailto:katherinesharpe@yahoo.com)

**Ward 3** - David Lingua  
Chair, Public Works, 301-779-3849  
[djlingua@gmail.com](mailto:djlingua@gmail.com)

**Ward 4** - Christopher Henry  
Chair, Public Safety, 301-910-9855  
[chenry3240@comcast.net](mailto:chenry3240@comcast.net)

**Ward 5** - **VACANT**

**Ward 6** - Keelah Allen-Smith  
Acting Chair Legislative Committee, Chair, Community  
Affairs, 240-751-6688, [Keelahd@yahoo.com](mailto:Keelahd@yahoo.com).

Patrick J. Prangley, Town Administrator  
[riverdaleparkmd@comcast.net](mailto:riverdaleparkmd@comcast.net)  
Penelope Guzman, Deputy Town  
Administrator, 301-209-1505

Public Works 301-864-1803  
**VACANT** Public Works Director  
Michael Scott, Acting Director

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)  
**VACANT** Chief of Police  
Captain Pat Timmons, Acting Chief

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

It is the policy of the Town of Riverdale Park, pursuant to the provision of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and The Americans with Disabilities Act, to prohibit discrimination against qualified persons with disabilities in any aspect of employment within the government.

It is also the policy of the Town of Riverdale Park to disallow discrimination in fair housing based on race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, disabilities, and/or age.

Some materials contained in *The Town Crier* represent the opinion of the authors and does not necessarily represent the view of the Town of Riverdale Park.

**Submission deadline: 15th of each month.**

*Please submit all copy to editor*  
[rptowncrier@comcast.net](mailto:rptowncrier@comcast.net)

# Esquina de Codigo

Translated by Verenice Garay

Queremos agradecerle a los gerentes y al personal de *Riverdale Village, River Crossing, Riverwood, and Jefferson Hall* por su dedicacion y su duro trabajo durante la semana de Limpieza y Exterminacion que tomo lugar en Septiembre 17-21. Nuestros gerentes de apartamentos juntaron sus esfuerzos en limpiar sus propiedades y exterminar en todas sus unidades los bichos y roedores.

Quisiéramos recordarle a nuestros residentes de la importancia de tener números apropiados y visibles adjuntados a sus propiedades. Los Números de las casas son vitales para vehículos de emergencia para identificar cada propiedad en caso de emergencia. *Los números tienen que estar puestos enfrente de las casa o en el lado que afronta a la calle con su respectiva dirección. Los números no tienen que ser menos de 4 pulgadas en altura y en resaltante color y contraste para que sean fácil de discernir (Código de la ciudad 33-20).* Esto también es para los edificios de apartamentos y cada unidad de apartamento. El no estar en cumplimiento es una violación del código de fuego. La penalidad para una primera violación es de \$100 y \$200 por una segunda o continua violación.

Residentes por favor recuerden que la basura la deben poner en recipientes con tapaderas que les queden apretadas (Código de ciudad 36-7). Las bolsas de basura son una atracción y fáciles de romper para los pájaros, roedores y otros animales que pueden hacerse una amenaza y un problema de salud. Nuestra División de Código estará citando y publicando infracciones municipales a los dueños de las propiedades que no estén en cumplimiento con esto y con otros códigos de la ciudad. Nosotros induciremos a los residentes a que separen y reciclen su basura a fin de ayudar y ahorrar energía en los recursos naturales de nuestro planeta.

Gracias por ayudar a mantener Riverdale Park Seguro, Limpio y Bonito.



## Riverdale Park Police Department

August 2007

### Crime Report

Crime	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Stolen Vehicle
Ward 1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ward 2	0	0	0	0	2	1
Ward 3	0	0	0	0	0	1
Ward 4	0	0	1	3	2	2
Ward 5	0	0	0	0	0	1
Ward 6	0	0	1	4	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2*</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5**</b>	<b>5</b>

\* 1 citizen, \*\* 3 Residential

### Officer Activity

Activity	Total
Calls For Service	979
Routine Patrols	279
Traffic Stops	351*
Reported Traffic Accidents	51**
Parking Citations	69
Subjects Arrested	24

\* 320 Traffic Citations, \*\* 24 Written Accidents

# Mayor's Report

By Vernon Archer



**Town Revenue Picture Improving--**For those who watched the Town budget process in May and June of this year, you noted that we had taken several hits to our revenue sources. While we had enough cash reserve to avoid major cuts in Town services, we were very conscious of the need to expand our tax base in the coming years if we are going to avoid such cuts. There are several significant improvements to report.

A majority of the Riggs Building on Rivertech Road has been leased to defense contractor Raytheon Incorporated. This will mean a significant amount of property (equipment, furniture, supplies, etc.) will again be in this building and taxed by the Town. When Riggs/PNC Bank largely vacated the building, they took with them the single largest property tax account in Town. Getting this tax account replaced will be very helpful.

Riverdale Park recently settled a tax dispute with PNC Bank that both reduced the amount of money the Town will have to refund to PNC, while spreading the repayment out over a number of years. This takes a great deal of pressure off Town finances, and makes it possible to plan exactly what the impact will be.

Lastly, the University of Maryland's M-Square buildings are reaching the point that we will receive a partial assessment of the buildings. While the ground on which the buildings sit is not taxable, as it is owned by the state, the buildings are owned by private interests and are therefore taxable. The initial assessment will be relatively small, but it will continually expand over the next few years until we see M-Square properties be the largest tax source in Town.

**Riverdale Community Park Proposal--**As was reported in last month's Town Crier, the proposal to construct an artificial turf field at the site of the current soccer/lacrosse field in Riverdale Community Park has been abandoned by Maryland National Capital Area Park and Planning. The site proved to be too expensive. Park and Planning, however, is coming out with a new proposal to both improve our Community Park's facilities and improve the soccer facilities throughout our wider area.

Park and Planning's new proposal calls for an upgrade to the existing natural turf field at Riverdale Community Recreation Park with improved grass, irrigation, lighting, and fencing. The field will be much less expensive and the fencing will be much less imposing – 3.5 or 4 feet, instead of 6 or 7 feet, which was among the original proposals. Use of the field would be by permit only, which is one of the requests the Town made during previous discussions.

Park and Planning is seeking to purchase property at the corner of Haig Drive and River Road at the entrance to Riverdale Community Park and install one or two *futsal* courts for small-sided soccer. These small soccer fields would be used on a first-come, first-use basis so that informal soccer games can occur. This area is much farther from residents and therefore shouldn't require such close oversight. The site will also include parking, a picnic area, and landscape improvements.

Our extended region would get two facilities dedicated to providing high-quality soccer fields. Park and Planning proposes building an artificial turf field at Cherry Hill Road Community Park as part of a soccer complex that would include indoor soccer. Also, an additional artificial turf field is proposed for Heurich Community Park in Hyattsville.

This new proposal is in the early stages and is clearly open to modification. If this is an area of interest please get involved and help make sure that the conclusion of these improvements work to benefit area recreation and our community.

**Former Councilman Proclaimed Favorite Son--**Gerard Kiernan, known to most of us as Gerry, was proclaimed a Favorite Son of the Town of Riverdale Park by a resolution of the Council at last month's meeting. Gerry served the Town over several decades, not just as a council member, but on so many committees, boards, commissions, and as a volunteer that it would take my whole report just to name them all!

Gerry stepped down as Ward 5 councilman by not seeking reelection last May, under the increased pressure of his job. In August he discovered that his next battle would be against cancer. Gerry's many friends are asked to please join those of us here at Town Hall by including him in your thoughts and prayers. If you would like to send Gerry a card or greeting, please drop it off or mail it to Town Hall and we will make certain it is delivered to him.

# Ward and Committee Reports

## Ward One

By Council Member Alice Walker  
Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee

**The Cafritz Development--**Over the last few months, you have probably been hearing a lot about the proposed development of the Cafritz property, which is on Route 1 near the post office, and you will be hearing even more about it in upcoming months. I have attended each of the Cafritz presentations and community workshops, and am prepared to support the Cafritz family in seeking an exception from Prince George's County to build a mixed-use project on their property, which is currently zoned R-55 (residential single-family homes). A mixed-use development would include denser housing and retail space. My support for the development is not without contingencies and caveats. The developer will have to do a great deal to satisfy some specific community needs. The greater the variance, the taller the buildings, the more they will need to provide for the Town to get my support. There are strong and certain limits on the height and density that I can support. Supporters of mixed-use development on the Cafritz property must recognize that the development is facing very well-organized opposition from neighboring communities. I intend to communicate with our neighbors what I've been hearing from many residents of Riverdale Park -- we are eager to see an innovative development with quality retail that stimulates economic development.

**Rejection of the Jey's Auto Proposal--**At the September legislative session, I introduced a resolution for the Town to recommend against the installation of a gas station at Route 1 and Cleveland Avenue at the current site of the Jey's Auto building. This resolution was accepted unanimously by the Council. The proposed project would have renovated the existing structure to become a convenience store, and would have installed new gas tanks in the location of the long-dormant gas tanks presently on the site. The site has not been in use for more than a year since the Jey's Auto Repair business operation moved to a new location.

Why would the Town vote to recommend against the development of a new gas station on this unattractive site? In short, because the proposed project would greatly underutilize a site with strong potential for our Town. If we want the future of Route 1 to be more than convenience stores and fast-food restaurants it means we will have to sometimes reject proposals that do not fit the consensus vision laid down by this community. The Mixed-Use Town Center (MUTC) zoning for the Jey's Auto parcel is clear about the community's intent. The land is officially designated as a "gateway signature" location, with a suggested use that encourages a multi-

story commercial/residential "signature" building that architecturally signals a welcoming gateway to Riverdale Park. Why does design and utilization even matter? Think of the design statement that Franklin's restaurant brought to an otherwise bleak Route 1. Franklin's was a symbol of the eclecticism, vibrancy, and energy of Hyattsville -- community qualities that you never would have discerned from the landscape of car lots and laundromats lining the city's central corridor. And the success of Franklin's was an important part of what led EYA to make a major development investment in Hyattsville.

The Jey's Auto site is similar in its potential impact, provided that we -- the Town -- don't allow it to be underutilized. Now that EYA is building attractive row homes nearby, it is easier to re-imagine Route 1 as something better than what it has been for the last 30 years. In three years, you will see row homes, condos, and shops lining Route 1, all the way up to the Jey's Auto site, and lining Madison Road, up to that same corner. In fact, the Jey's Auto parcel could be the cornerstone in a new residential community. Note as well that it sits across from the front entrance of DeMatha High School, (which is soon to be renovated) and that it is also adjacent to the new community center and art space at the newly renovated Lustine Showroom.

The creation of the MUTC zoning has been a long road that we as a Town have walked together for over eight years. Our zoning is good. It has only been fully in effect for two and half years, and it is already encouraging greater developer interest. The MUTC zoning also allows the Town government greater flexibility and greater control. For the MUTC zoning to succeed in promoting economic development, we must stay the course. We should respect the community intent and professional planning which is reflected in the zoning rules, and we must require developers to conform to the zoning. Hyattsville rejected nine or ten proposals before they accepted the EYA proposal. Turning away a certain thing is always difficult, but I believe in this community, and in Riverdale Park's potential to attract quality development, and I believe that following the MUTC zoning is the way forward.

**Open Government and Electronic Documents--**Two of my proposed policies for electronic document publication passed at the last legislative session. If upcoming proposals are accepted by Council, expect to see meeting minutes and the full texts of Council actions on Town Announce soon. I believe in citizen participation in government. Electronic documents will facilitate transparency while letting us better harness the energy and expertise of our many wonderful citizen volunteers.

# Ward Two Report

By Council Member Kate Sharpe  
Chairperson Finance Committee

## Town Events

October brings some exciting Town events. Riverdale Park Day will take place on October 6<sup>th</sup> and Gorgeous Prince George's Day will take place on Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. I encourage Ward Two residents to participate in these two great events! Halloween, a favorite holiday in the Sharpe house, is also right around the corner. We'll be on our front porch on trick or treat night, so stop by to check out our pumpkin display.

A neighborhood block party will take place at the corner of 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Sheridan Street on October 21<sup>st</sup> from 3 – 7 p.m. Neighbors who attended last year's gathering had a blast, so mark your calendars and start thinking about a favorite dish to share. We'll be sending a flyer with more information soon.

## Website

In August, the Council approved the Town staff's recommendation for a new website developer. Work is underway on the new website, and the developer estimates that it will be up and running by January. Our new website will be an important introduction to our Town, and will provide residents with valuable information as well.

## Traffic

Recently the Council voted to post 24-hour Do Not Enter signs on Queensbury Road in front of the firehouse. I think it was a necessary step to ensure that our emergency services can function. However, I understand that traffic has now increased on Riverdale Road. The traffic study committee is looking into the issue, and providing some recommendations to help reduce the congestion. We have also placed money in this year's budget for a comprehensive traffic study, and the Town staff is investigating grant possibilities to help us fund the large-scale traffic study we need.

## Anacostia River

Some residents were concerned to see the "No Mow Zone, Tree Preservation Area" along the riparian zone of the Anacostia River being mowed this past month. I spoke with M-NCPPC, who explained that the county is required to mow these zones several times a year to prevent naturally seeding trees from growing. Confusing, right? M-NCPPC has been allowed to plant one linear row of trees along the river, but the Army Corps of Engineers does not want any other trees to grow, because a thick grove of trees could impede floodwater during a flood. So the "No Mow Zone" is really more of an "Infrequently Mowed Zone." Less frequent mowing does help reduce storm water runoff flowing directly into the river.

## Safety

The old NOAA building on the University of Maryland's property along Lafayette Avenue is not only an eyesore, but a safety concern. Residents who pass the building can easily observe the kicked-in doorway on the second floor, and lack of exterior lighting. The Town staff and I have been working to get the University to address these safety issues. I will continue to make every effort to resolve these concerns over the next few weeks.

## Finance Committee Report

At the September Legislative meeting, I proposed an ordinance resolution to raise the dollar limit for the Town to obtain competitive bids for service. The competitive bid cutoff currently stands at \$5,000 and has been set at this amount since approximately the mid-1970's. Because the amount is so low, the Town is rarely able to obtain competitive bids for such a small amount of money, and the Council must repeatedly waive the bid process for small items. Adjusting for inflation, the bid cutoff should be set at \$20,000. This inflation adjusted cutoff will allow the Town to function more efficiently, while ensuring that competitive bids are still obtained for larger items and services. I expect the Council to vote on the resolution in October.

As many of you may have read in the Gazette, the Town has reached a settlement with Riggs Bank/PNC. In 2006, Riggs submitted amended tax returns for the years 2003-2005, requesting more than \$270,000 back from the Town. After much negotiation, we have reached a satisfactory (and unfortunately, confidential) settlement to pay Riggs less than the original amount, over multiple years, without paying interest or legal fees. At the September Legislative meeting, the Council approved my proposed budget amendment to take \$100,000 from our cash reserves to make the first payment. Even after this payment, we maintain a comfortable level of cash reserves (more than \$800,000).

## Ward 4 Report

By Council Member Christopher Henry  
Chairperson, Public Safety Committee

### "I Have Heard You"

As a result of complaints that I've received from business in the area at Riverdale Plaza, I will be organizing a meeting at Town Hall as soon as possible. This meeting will give business owners an opportunity to express their concerns regarding criminal activity taking place within the business Plaza.

In order to schedule a Town Meeting regarding this issue, I will coordinate with the Town Official's calendars, as well your [local businesses] availability to identify the best day or night for all of us. Mrs. Bishop (an

active participant in Riverdale) and I, will be coming around to talk with businesses and identify a date/time that is best for you to participate in a Town Meeting.

I appreciate your input and hope we can identify a date/time that is best for all of to meet and discuss this most important issue. Thank you and I look forward to meeting/talking with all of you.

## Ward 6 Report

By Council Member Keelah Allen-Smith  
Chairperson, Community Affairs

### Extermination/Clean-up Week

The Extermination/Clean-Up Week was a great SUCCESS!! Our residents and Property Managers all rose to the occasion and did their part to make this event such a success.

Special thanks to the Property Managers of Riverdale Village West, Riverwood, River Crossing, Jefferson Hall Apartments, Calvert Park, Park Tanglewood, and River Towers for their hard work and dedication to this project. To our Code Enforcement Department, you guys did a terrific job in organizing this event. Great Job!

To all the residents who did their part-Thanks for working together to make our apartment buildings safe, clean, and beautiful!

### Riverdale Park Day-October 6, 2007

Do remember to come out and support our annual Riverdale Park Day on October 6, 2007, 12pm to 5 pm on the Riversdale Mansion Grounds. Bring the family out for a day of fun!

### Ride Along

I had the pleasure of riding along with Officer Garcia of the Riverdale Park Police Department. To say the least, the night was very interesting. It gave me an insight as to the duties and responsibilities of our Police Officers. I must say that now I do agree that we need to increase the number of Police Officers that we have on staff. Hopefully, we will be able to accomplish this in the near future.

## Public Works Report

By Michael Scott  
Deputy Director Public Works

Riverdale Park Public Works is asking residents to help reduce the amount of litter disposed of incorrectly. Please utilize the town trashcans that are located all over town. Also, all trash put out for pickup, that is not bulk trash, metals, or yard waste must be in trash bags and

placed in trashcans. These two simple rules of thumb will go a long way in helping Riverdale Park stay clean and beautiful.

PEPCO street light outages can be reported directly to PEPCO at 1-877-737-2662 or online at [www.pepco.com](http://www.pepco.com). The PEPCO streetlights are located on wooden poles.

The Public Works facility is located at 5012 Queensbury Road and is open on Saturday from 9 AM to 5 PM for Riverdale Park residents. If you have any concerns or questions please do not hesitate to call Riverdale Park Public Works at 301-864-1803

## Town Welcomes New Deputy Town Administrator

By Patrick J. Prangle, Town Administrator

Penelope (Penny) Guzman has joined the Town of Riverdale Park as Deputy Town Administrator. She joined the staff at the Town Hall on September 14, 2007. Penny was last employed as the Latino Affairs Liaison for County Executive Jack Johnson. In her previous position, she worked to bridge the communication gap between government and the fast growing Latino population, and also worked to provide better services to the community.

As Deputy Town Administrator, Penny is responsible for economic development and for coordinating several administrative functions and support. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Social Work from University of Maryland Baltimore County, and an MBA from University of Baltimore. Penny has previously worked on various projects with the Town of Riverdale Park and the surrounding areas. Her position in County government enabled her to interact with many different agencies and organizations at different levels, including the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation.

Originally from El Salvador, Penny grew up in Washington DC and in Prince George's County. Other previous employment include Budget Analyst at U.S. Department of Transportation; Accounting Assistant at Host Marriott; and Medical Eligibility Specialist at Prince George's Hospital Center. She is a Commissioner with the Women's Commission of Prince George's County. She also regularly participates in clean-ups and volunteers to mentor young girls at Bladensburg High School.

Penny lives in the Town of Bladensburg with her fiancé Cris Mendoza and his 12 year-old son Tulio. They are planning to wed next month in the Dominican Republic.

# Riverdale Elementary: A School of Pride

By Dannielle Glaros

This year, Principal Carol Cantu and her team are working hard to ensure their students academic excellence, as well as creating a school that students, parents, and entire community can be proud of. As you may know, Riverdale Elementary was one of just a few schools in Prince George's County that came off the State's "watch list" for schools. The "watch list" listed Maryland schools that did not reach the academic standards set by the federal **No Child Left Behind Act**. To be removed from the watch list, schools need to have a minimum of 68% of its students labeled as "proficient."

The entire school is ecstatic about its accomplishment. Principal Cantu quoted James Brown in describing her feelings saying, "I feel good and I know that I should." Riverdale Elementary has good reason to be proud of their accomplishment, but must meet even higher standards this year achieving 74% proficiency—6% more than last year. And by 2014, Riverdale Elementary is required to be at 100% proficiency.

To reach this higher goal and create a "school of pride," Principal Cantu and her team are focusing on some key items including:

- **Creating a Positive School Environment.** The school is working to improve its grounds and interior. Students are creating a large mosaic mural highlighting the school's diversity. The mosaic will be hung outside the school.
- **Academic Achievement.** The school has a team of teachers focused on identifying the "best teaching practices". The team is training and mentoring other teachers to ensure that kids have a clear understanding of "the basics" and that kids are being stretched to move beyond them. Enhancing academic achievement depends not only on teachers, but parents. The school is working with parents to make sure kids do their homework and that kids read for fun.
- **Security.** In light of heightened security concerns across the country, the school is very focused on making sure kids are safe in the building. Classes can be visited anytime, but please check in at the office to arrange a pass.

## How can we help?

In addition to volunteering throughout the year at various events—Science Fair, Dr. Seuss Day, and Career Day—the school is also looking for volunteers to come in and read to the children and assist with other activi-

ties. I want to thank Colleen Ferguson (Riverdale Park Town Staff) and Complete Landscaping for helping with the School's landscaping, as well as Christian Life Center for their generous Back-to-School contributions (backpacks and school supplies). Riverdale Elementary is also looking for monetary donations to cover the mosaic project. The project costs \$3,000 and the regular school budget does not cover its costs.

Finally, I am working with Principal Cantu on a plan to expand the play area at Riverdale Elementary. Temporary schools take up some of the existing playground and the play area has not been enhanced in a while. If anyone is interested in helping out, I could use a few hands on this endeavor.

## Other School Highlights

- The new Vice Principal, Carol Buhr, comes from the Prince George's County Department of Staff Development and she is an expert in mentoring teachers.
- One-fifth of the teachers are working towards their National Certification—the highest certification that a teacher can receive.
- Computers are available throughout the school and "white boards" are being used in many classrooms.
- The school was chosen to pilot a new (English as a Second Language) ESOL program because it has one of the best programs in the County.

As you can see, a lot of great things are happening at the school, and I hope you will join us throughout the year as we help the principal, students, and teachers create a school of pride. Please feel free to contact me regarding this or any other matter at 301-779-5915 or [dmglaros@gmail.com](mailto:dmglaros@gmail.com)

## Traffic Study Committee to Meet

By Mary Donaldson

At the November 6, 2007 Traffic Study Committee meeting, we will be having a power point presentation on traffic calming. Mr. Wes Guckert, president of The Traffic Group and two associates, Bob Dipietor and Renata Haberkam will present a power point program on the trade offs and costs of different calming methods. After seeing the many posts on Town Talk, it is our hope that many of you will attend. The program is about 30 to 40 minutes long. There will be a question and answer period following. All are invited, and we hope that many will attend.

# University of Maryland

## M Square Development Update

By: Patrick J. Prangley  
Town Administrator

Major activities which have recently taken place at M Square are summarized below:

- The \$50 million NOAA Center for Weather and Climate Prediction, located on a ten acre site at 5830 University Research Court, broke ground in May. Foundation work for the 290,000 sq ft building is nearly complete. Occupancy, estimated at approximately 800 employees, is planned for summer 2009. The property is under a ground lease between the University and the developer, Opus East.
- The first of two 120,000 sq ft, four-story buildings to be located on University Research Court will be substantially complete in October. Letters of intent have been signed for 60,000 sq ft of space in building #5825. This Single Purpose Entity will have a separate ground lease of this lot.
- Tenant improvement work for the first 40,000 sq ft of space in #5825 will be completed over the winter with occupancy planned for the end of March 2008.
- The University's partner, Enterprise Campus Developers, is this week applying for a building permit for the second 120,000 sq ft building, located at 5850 University Research Court.
- Off-site infrastructure improvements along MD 201, specifically required under county and state approvals prior to the issuance of use and occupancy permits for both the NOAA and M Square buildings, are expected to be constructed this winter.
- An extension of the University's telecommunications system, estimated to cost nearly \$1 million, is currently in design. Installation of the new duct bank will be underway this fall in order to provide fiber connectivity for phone and data transmission between the campus and the research park in time for the first new tenants.
- 99,000 sq ft of the PNC building within the park was leased last year to Raytheon Corporation by the new owner; tenant improvements are underway.

- A master plan for common area infrastructure improvements, including signs, banners, trails and a security system is underway.
- The Golub property is again in discussion for development.
- The planned redevelopment of the University's East Campus as a mixed-use town center is expected to provide additional hotel, restaurant, and retail amenities for tenants of the park.



### Sarah Mercy Smith Awarded Dental Group Scholarship

By Carol Patsel

The Dental Group is pleased to announce the winner of their 2007 Scholarship Competition. A \$1,000 scholarship was awarded to high school graduate, Sarah Mercy Smith of Riverdale Park. All applicants submitted high school transcripts, a list of all extra-curricular activities including their community service, and an essay on who has had the greatest influence on their life. Mayor Vernon Archer assisted in selecting Sarah from the high school seniors participating in this year's scholarship program. The professional and support staff at The Dental Group congratulated Sarah for her contributions, accomplishments, and an eloquently written essay.

Sarah was home-schooled by her mother who served as her primary teacher and counselor. She has served her community by giving tours at the Riversdale Mansion, singing in the choir at St. Bernard's, and preparing and serving meals to those in need at St. Jerome's Café. She has been active in local theater for the past nine years. In addition to acting, she taught and directed elementary school students in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Folger Children's Shakespeare Festival.

Sarah's essay recognized her parents as having the greatest influence on her life. The essay also brilliantly explains how Tevye, the main character in the musical, *Fiddler on the Roof*, opened her mind to the impact that tradition and religious conviction can have on a family. The musical inspired her to "read novels in which characters are Jewish". The essay continues, "This helped me to develop my belief that all religions lead to a single ultimate truth."

This coming fall, Sarah will enroll at St. John's College, Annapolis, Maryland. We wish her much success in all future endeavors. **Congratulations Sarah Mercy Smith!**

# Cooperation with the Neighborhood Design Center

By: Patrick J. Prangley

Over the last five years, the Neighborhood Design Center (NDC) has assisted the Town of Riverdale Park with a number of projects. NDC is a non-profit group that brings together professional architects, landscape architects and planners who volunteer and work *pro bono* for low and moderate-income communities in the County. Through these services, the Town has been given concept plans for the revitalization of the Kenilfair Plaza and environs and concept plans for improvements to the streetscape on Kenilworth Avenue

In addition NDC partnered with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments to organize a Real Intersection Design Workshop with 50 Engineers and Landscape Architects. The report that came out of that workshop provided the Town with plans for safety improvements to the intersection of Riverdale Road and Kenilworth Avenue. NDC staff also assisted the town government with material for the Town's application to the Priority Places Program.

We are very pleased to announce that NDC will again be providing help to the Town of Riverdale Park as they work alongside our community planners at M-NCPPC to conduct a comprehensive planning initiative in the Kenilworth Avenue Corridor. Town elected officials and staff will be participating in the process alongside staff from county and state agencies. Local civic groups and individual residents are encouraged to attend any advertised community meetings and workshops to give their input. The team of stakeholders will be examining all the issues affecting Kenilworth Avenue through Riverdale and will come up with an Action Plan to push for improvements that will impact us all. The kick-off meeting for the project is on October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm. (see the announcement on page 1 of this issue). Please take time to be part of this project if you want to see improvements to this major commercial corridor. If you would like to be interviewed personally or would like to speak with NDC staff about the project please email Jan Townshend (NDC Program Manager) at [jtownshend@ndc-md.org](mailto:jtownshend@ndc-md.org) or call 301-779-6010.

## Farmers Market Events

### **Kids Appreciation Day** – October 4, 2007

Bring your kids out for a fun and exciting time at our market. We will have a puppet show, kid's activities, balloons, and a moon bounce for your enjoyment.

**Mini Blues Fest@ the market** -- October 18, 2007. Please join us on this date for continuous blues with Rick Franklin and Michel Baytop. It's going to be a great jam.

## Craft Show--*Discover a World of Difference*

On November 2-3, 2007, the Hyattsville Mennonite Church (4217 East-West Highway) will host the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual International Craft Sale.

The event features handcrafted items from around the world – from India and Vietnam to Kenya and South Africa, Peru, and Nicaragua. This event is conducted in partnership with Ten Thousand Villages, a project of the Mennonite Central Committee. Ten Thousand Villages provides high quality, fairly traded items to the U.S. market, providing vital and fair income to artisans in developing countries who would otherwise be unemployed or underemployed.

The International Craft Sale is run entirely by volunteers and does not benefit Hyattsville Mennonite Church. Selected items at the sale include jewelry, weavings, pottery, carved wood, children's toys, and holiday decorations. ***Holiday shopping couldn't be easier!***

**Location, dates, and hours:** Hyattsville Mennonite Church, 4217 East-West Highway. 301-927-7327, [www.hyattsvillemennonite.org](http://www.hyattsvillemennonite.org). Friday, November 2 (4-9 pm); Saturday, November 3 (9-4 pm).

## CHILDREN'S CLOTHING/TOY SALE

Saturday, October 13 from 10am to 12pm -- Riverdale Presbyterian Church 6513 Queens Chapel Rd, University Park, MD, 20782. Quality "pre-washed and gently worn" clothing for children from tots to teens will be available. Seasonal items, winter clothing, rain wear, books, toys, play equipment, baby/layette equipment, and maternity items are featured. Cash only. Info: contact Sherry Waldrep, Publicity Co-Chair, University Park Children's Clothing Co-Op, 301-927-7966

## 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

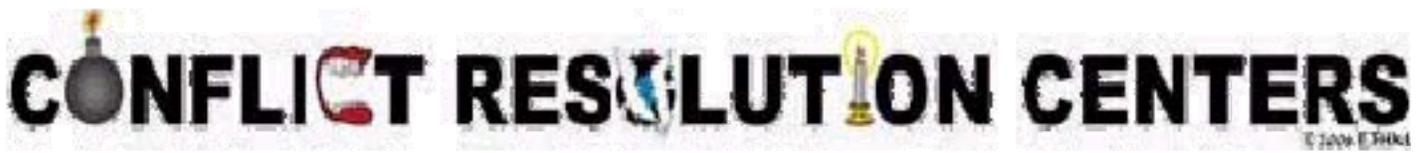
Ladies Night-Every Monday

Karaoke Tuesday & Saturday

Corner of Queensbury and Rhode Island Avenue

**301-927-3977**

A paid Advertisement



**YOU AND YOUR CHILD ARE WELCOMED TO PARTICIPATE  
IN THE  
RIVERDALE COMMUNITY'S**

**COMMUNITY-BASED SMALL GROUP FORUMS FOR YOUTH & THEIR PARENTS!**

**Conflict Resolution Centers (CRCs)** are designed to provide youth (8-18) **and their parents** with violence prevention and conflict management life skills in safe and caring environments within Prince George's County communities in which they **live, attend school or worship. Youth and their parent/guardian will acquire:**

- ∴ Practical conflict resolution skills
- ∴ Good communication skills
- ∴ The ability to handle peer pressure, gangs and dangerous situations
- ∴ The ability to recognize triggers to violence: drugs, alcohol and guns
- ∴ Knowledge of the criminal justice system
- ∴ Skills to bridge racial divisions

**Beginning Date:** Tuesday, September 25, 2007  
**Time:** 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m., 2 hours per session for Eight (8) consecutive weeks.  
**Location:** **Riverdale Park Town Hall**  
5008 Queensbury Road  
Riverdale Park, MD 20737  
(301) 927-6381

The sessions will focus on relevant issues that plague youth and families today, and hinder communities from being safe and healthy places in which to live. CRCs are small groups that are highly interactive and are led and managed at the community level.

**Participant Certification:** Youth and parents will each receive a *Certificate of Achievement* for the successful completion of an 8-week CRC program. *Youth can only participate in a CRC if a parent or legal guardian attends each session with them.*

**Parents to enroll your child and yourself, sign up by calling:**  
Riverdale Park Town Hall, (301) 927-6381 Pastor - Ben Slye (301) 277-5969  
William Wirt Middle School, (301) 985-1720 (Mr. Coleman)



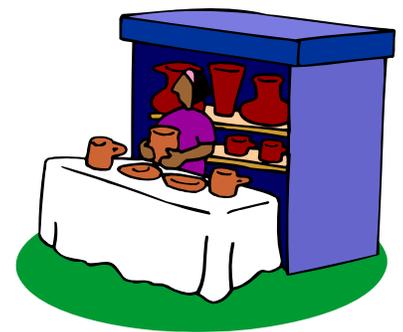
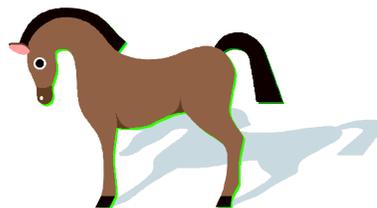
**DON'T MISS**

# **Riverdale Park Day**

**Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 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.



# HALLOWEEN!

By Rob Oppenheim

## Pet Costume Party



The 7<sup>th</sup> annual Riverdale Park Pet Costume Party takes place Sunday, Oct 28, 2:00 p.m. in the Town Center parking lot on Queensbury Rd at the railroad crossing.

Come one, come all and celebrate your pets and people in costume and also celebrate the official grand opening of our Old Town Pets store. Prizes for pets and children in costume. Live music too. Its great fun and its free. Sponsored by the Riverdale Park Business Association, Audrey Bragg, Judy Glaes, and Old Town Pets.



## More Halloween Fun

**Trick-or-Treating** in Riverdale Park is 6–8 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 31. If you prefer to not have little goblins at your door, please turn off your porch and outside lights. And **kids, please do not approach dark houses!** Ever.

**Gothick Evening**, Friday, Oct. 26, 7 p.m.

Enjoy an evening of eerie tales and macabre happenings from early 19th century literature throughout the Riversdale Mansion house. Lantern guided tours depart every 15 minutes; last tour 8:15 p.m. \$10/person. Riversdale House Museum. Information: 301-864-0420.



**Flight Night** is Saturday, Oct. 27, 7–9 p.m.

Wear your costume! This is the area's largest Halloween party for kids and families. Enjoy arts & crafts, haunted hayrides, and spooky fun. All ages welcome. Fee: \$4. College Park Aviation Museum, 1985 Cpl. Frank Scott Drive. Information: 301-864-6029.

**Costumes On Ice**, Wednesday, Oct. 31, 7-9 p.m.

Participate in a fun, safe alternative to door-to-door trick or treating this Halloween. Activities include a costume parade on ice, goody bags, and giveaways. All ages welcome. FREE for those in costume, otherwise, \$5/adult, \$4/child. Skate rental: \$2. Wells Ice Rink, 5211 Paint Branch Parkway. Information: 301-277-3717.

**Halloween events** are listed by the bushel for all ages at [www.pgparcs.com/things/calendar.html](http://www.pgparcs.com/things/calendar.html).

## The Goatman Cometh

Something strange is brewing again in Riverdale Park, as the Goatman and Dr. Fletcher return to terrorize our good people! Whatever you've heard before about this legend, only scratches the surface of what is in store for anyone and everyone that goes in search of The Goatman and Dr. Fletcher. **Will you dare to discover the truth?** What really happened to Dr. Fletcher and his lovely young bride? Live performers and special effects will beg you to give up your foolish quest to discover the truth! This year, Goatman Hollow is full of new interactive fun and surprises.

The **Goatman Hollow** event happens every Friday and Saturday night in October as well as Halloween night. Event Times: Fridays 8 p.m.–11 p.m.; Saturdays 7–11 p.m.; Oct. 31 8–10 p.m. Prices: Oct. 5–13 \$10 per person; Oct. 19–27 \$15; Oct. 31 \$20 per person available only online. And like last year, opening night (Friday, Oct. 5th) is absolutely FREE to all residents of the Town of Riverdale Park. For more details check out [www.goatmanhollow.com](http://www.goatmanhollow.com).

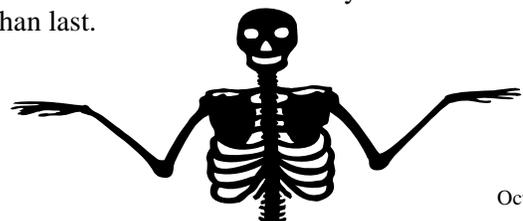
This year, Goatman Hollow materializes in the old Dorsey Plumbing building in Town Center at 6100 Rhode Island Ave—very near Queensbury Rd and the railroad crossing. As always, the event benefits the Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department and special thanks goes to Douglas Development who generously donated the use of the building to the fire department.



Please note: Goatman Hollow is an intense attraction intended for adults and children over the age of 9. Children under 9 are strongly discouraged from attending. Children age 13 and under will not be admitted without an adult chaperone (over age 18).

Rather scare than be scared? If you'd like to volunteer, from acting to security, join the spooky fun by calling 202-528-1062.

Goatman Hollow is a great Halloween treat that is gaining a national reputation as one of the country's most unique haunted attractions, and has the privilege of calling Riverdale Park its home. This year will be even more fun than last.



**Town of Riverdale Park  
Resolution 2007-R-08**

**Resolution to Commend Gerard Kiernan for His Service**

WHEREAS, Gerard Kiernan has lived in the Town of Riverdale Park for thirty-seven years; and

WHEREAS, Gerard Kiernan was elected to the Riverdale Park Town Council for Ward Five in 1991, and gave devoted service to the residents of Ward Five and to the townspeople at large for

WHEREAS, Gerard fourteen years; and

WHEREAS, During his tenure on the Riverdale Park Town Council, Gerard Kiernan proved to be an energetic and capable legislator, authoring scores of Ordinance Resolutions and Charter Amendments; and

WHEREAS, Gerard Kiernan has been an active member of the Town Vision Committee, the Preservation Association, the Recreation Board, the Traffic Study Committee, the Mixed-Use Town Center Design Review Committee, the Riverdale Business Association, the Riverdale Historical Society, the Riverdale/College Park Transit District Overlay Zone Committee, and the Maryland Municipal League Convention Planning Committee; and

WHEREAS, Gerard Kiernan volunteered at the Riverdale Park Farmer's Market from its opening day through the next two years, appearing every week to prepare the market for opening and to assist during its open hours; and

WHEREAS, Since the establishment of the Veterans' Monument at Riverdale Park Town Center in 1998, Gerard Kiernan has attended every ceremony held there to honor our nation's veterans; and

WHEREAS, Gerard Kiernan has donated to the Riverdale Park History Archives hundreds of photographs of events held in Riverdale Park; and

WHEREAS Gerard Kiernan researched the history of Riverdale Park for the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary Book published in 1995, authoring Chapter Four and compiling the Index of Election Results; and

WHEREAS, Gerard Kiernan served as an usher at the Church of Saint Bernard of Clairvaux in Riverdale Park for more than twelve years, and has become well-known for his dedication to charitable causes; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we, the Town Council of Riverdale Park, do hereby commend Gerard Kiernan for his outstanding service to our community, and honor him as and exemplary citizen, and claim him as a favorite son of the Town of Riverdale Park.

# Community Circles

## What to Watch For:

**Monday, October 1, 2007**—Legislative Meeting, TH, 8 p.m.

**Tuesday, October 2, 2007**—Traffic Study Meeting, TH, 7:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, October 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30, 2007**—Conflict Resolution Center, 6:30—8:30 pm

**Wednesday, October 3, 2007**—RPBA, 5:30 p.m., call 301-277-9323 for meeting site; M-UTC, 7:30 pm, TH.

**Thursday, October 4, 11, 18, and 25, 2007**--Farmer's Market, 3-7 pm, Town Center.

**Saturday, October 6, 2007**—**Riverdale Day, Riversdale, 12:00 noon – 5:00 p.m. Don't miss the fun!**

**Monday, October 8, 2007**—Economic Development meeting, 8:00 p.m., TH.

**Tuesday, October 9, 2007**—Madison Hill HOA, 7 pm, TH.

**Wednesday, October 24,, 2007**—Lion's Club, 7 pm, TH.

**Monday, October 29, 2007**—Work Session, 8 pm TH.

## Upcoming Events

**Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup>-- 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. 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. Volunteers needed.

## 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 6<sup>th</sup>**, 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](http://www.madisonhill.org).

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

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

**Riverdale Park Business Association**—call Audrey Bragg at 301-277-9323 for meeting site.

## Riversdale Events

**Mr. Stier's Bulb Sale** -- Saturday, October 6, 12 noon Visit the Riversdale Historical Society's booth at Riverdale Park Day to buy bulbs for fall planting. Riversdale House Museum, 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park. Information: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544

**Gothick Evening**-- Friday, October 26, 7 pm We present an evening of eerie tales and macabre happenings from early 19<sup>th</sup> century literature throughout the house. Lantern guided tours depart every 15 minutes; last tour at 8:15 pm. Fee: \$10 Riversdale House Museum, 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park. Information: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544

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 15<sup>th</sup> of the month, or email:** [RiverdaleParkMD@comcast.net](mailto:RiverdaleParkMD@comcast.net).

