



# The Riverdale Park Town Crier

Official Newsletter, Town of Riverdale Park, Maryland

**May 2005**

Volume 34, Issue 4

**Candidate Forum**

Town Hall

Wednesday, April 27, 8:00 p.m.

**Elections**

Town Hall

Monday, May 2, 7 a.m.- 8 p.m.

**Special Town Hall Meeting**

Hosted by State Senator Paul Pinsky

Thursday, May 12, 7:00 p.m.

**Offices will be closed**

for Memorial Day on May 30

**Work Session**

Town Hall

Tuesday, May 31, 8:00 p.m.

**Special Trash Days**

Tuesday, May 31 - **Spring Cleanup**  
(areas A&B) regular and bulk trash

but not yard waste.

This is a free Land Fill day.

Wednesday, June 1 - Yard Waste

Pickup (areas A&B)

**Legislative Meeting**

Town Hall

Monday, June 6, 8:00 p.m.

## Town of Riverdale Park ELECTION NOTICE

In compliance with the terms of the Charter of the Town of Riverdale Park, Maryland an election will be held

**Monday, May 2, 2005**

To elect Town Officials

### For Mayor and Council Seats

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Riverdale Park Municipal Center, 5008 Queensbury Road.

All citizens who are registered to vote in the Town of Riverdale Park will be entitled to vote.

#### CANDIDATES

**MAYOR**

Vernon S. Archer

Guy Tiberio

**Council, Ward 1**

Jack R. Jones

Tracey J. Toscano

**Council, Ward 2**

Mary L. Donaldson

David Hiles

**Council, Ward 3**

Doris L. Pullman

Novella Sargusingh

**Council, Ward 4**

Lawrence Taylor

**Council, Ward 5**

Gerard F. Kiernan

**Council, Ward 6**

Kenneth Webb

*Joyce K. Marcos, Chief Judge  
Louis King, Deputy Chief Judge*

To:

Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Riverdale Park, MD  
Permit No. 2090

Carrier Route Presort

Every Resident and Business  
Riverdale Park, Md 20737

#### Candidate Forum

Meet all the candidates in person on Wednesday, April 27 at 8 p.m. at Town Hall (or watch it on cable channel 71). Questions will be taken from the audience.

# Council Actions

BY GUY TIBERIO

## Mayor and Council Legislative Session, Monday April 4, 2005

1. Adoption of Resolution 2005-OR-2 Re: Markings on paper ballots. Approved 6-0
2. Adoption of Resolution 2005-CR-01- Re: Change in limit of tax levy. Approved 6-0. See Fair Summary below.
3. Approved amendment to reduce the increase in limit of borrowing authority from 4% to 2%. Approved 6-0
4. Adoption of Resolution 2005-CR-02 Re: Increase to borrowing authority as amended. Approved 6-0. See Fair Summary below.
5. Removal of licensing procedure for use of community building from table. – No action to remove.
6. Removal of tables motion RE: Jeter Property- Approved
7. Considered request to remove trees for Jeter Property. Failed 2-4, For: Badders, Webb. Against: Toscano, Hiles, Taylor, Kiernan.
8. Approval of CM Toscano as Government Representative on M-UTC Committee. Approved 6-0
9. Approval of Town position against use of Cafritz property for high school. Approved 6-0
10. Approval of request for Variance V-19-05 Re: Baker property- Nicholson St. Approved 6-0

## Notice of Charter Amendment Resolutions adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Riverdale Park at the Regular Legislative Session of April 4, 2005

### Fair Summary of Resolution 2005 CR-1

This charter change would amend §611: Budget Authorized Levy from \$ .50 to \$ .75 per \$100 of the assessed valuation of the property.

### Fair Summary of Resolution 2005 CR-2

This charter change would amend the amount of maximum allowed indebtedness outstanding at anytime from 0.4 percent to 2.0 percent of the assessed valuation of all real and personal property as it appears on the County Assessment Records.

## Special Issue for the Election

BY ROB OPPENHEIM

This issue of the *Town Crier* is my first as Editor In Chief, and it is not without controversy—for the 1<sup>st</sup> time ever it has a Candidate Forum. And at least one person is hopping mad about it! To keep it fair, 1) all candidates were invited to participate and given the same amount of time to prepare. 2) All like candidates were given the same word limit. 3) No candidate will be allowed to see what other candidates have written until all submissions are finalized. 4) All submissions will appear exactly as submitted, unedited (except truncated if they exceed the max length).

## Town of Riverdale Park

5008 Queensbury Road  
Riverdale Park, MD 20737

Mayor Guy Tiberio  
Home: 301-864-3545

### Council members

Ward 1 Tracey Toscano 301-927-9022  
Ward 2 David Hiles 301-779-8620  
Ward 3 Ray Badders 301-864-5722  
Ward 4 Lawrence Taylor 301-474-6868  
Ward 5 Gerard Kiernan 301-277-4554  
Ward 6 Kenneth Webb 301-927-6381

Town Office 301-927-6381  
e-mail: riverdaleparkmd@comcast.net  
Patrick J. Prangle, Town Administrator

Police Department 301-927-4343  
E. Thomas Parker, Police Chief

Public Works Department 301-864-1803  
James Houser, Public Works Director

Code Enforcement 301-209-1505  
Colleen M. Ferguson

Fire Department 301-927-0356  
Vincent Harrison, Fire Chief

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

Riverdale Park Web Site  
<http://www.ci.riverdale-park.md.us>

### *The Town Crier*

The Official Newsletter for the Town of  
Riverdale Park, Maryland

Editor in Chief: Rob Oppenheim  
Rob.Oppenheim@comcast.net  
Home: 301-779-1745

The *Town Crier* is published 10 times per year. Advertising rates are available on request; call Town Hall at 301-927-6381.

Some material contained in the *Town Crier* represents the opinion of the authors and does not necessarily represent the views of the Town of Riverdale Park.

# Mayor's Report

BY GUY TIBERIO

I am sorry to report that Senate Bill SB-724 was defeated in committee. It would have returned a larger share of your piggyback income tax to the cities and towns of Maryland. We were attempting to increase our share from 17% to 20%. This formula has not been changed in over 20 years—we can try again next year.

## Budget for 2005-2006

As of April 15, I submitted my proposed budget to the Town Council as required by law. There will be public hearings, which are not yet scheduled, to receive resident input prior to adopting this budget. Final adoption must be completed by June 30.

I have proposed the following in this budget:

1. Provide office staff as follows:
  - A. Town Administrator
  - B. Assistant Administrator/Economic Development Coordinator
  - C. Finance/Personnel Office Administrator
  - D. Front Office Staff – Full and Part time
  - E. Two full time Code Enforcement Officer
2. Police Department:
  - A. 18 Full Time Officers
  - B. Two Office Staff
  - C. Four full time Police Dispatchers
  - D. One part time Dispatcher
3. Public Works:
  - A. 13 Full time personnel
  - B. One part time for Saturdays

## My proposed budget is as follows

	Current Budget 04-05	Proposed Budget 05-06	% change
General Government	528,419	594,000	12.4%
Police	1,467,828	1,609,000	9.6%
Public Works	798,500	803,000	0.6%
Recreation	6,000	6,000	0.0%
Econ.Dev. Promotion	114,000	12,500	-89.0%
Miscellaneous	8,000	10,500	31.3%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,932,521</b>	<b>3,035,000</b>	<b>3.8%</b>
Tax Rate per 100	.50	.50	0%
Special Tax per 100 Tangible & Operating per 100	.23 2.00	.13 2.00	-43% 0%

While the increase in dollars to some departments is modest this is because some employees in higher pay schedules have left and new hires are at a lower rate.

As a result of paying off debt on buildings and on lease purchases we are proposing **a reduction in the total tax rate for 2005-06 from \$0.73 per hundred to \$0.63.**

The Town Council may change these budgets and tax rates before they adopt the final budget.

We celebrated Arbor Day by planting a tree at Riverdale Elementary School and I had the honor of issuing the annual Tree City USA proclamation. The school choir sang and the Department of Forestry presented us with a Tree City USA flag and certificate. It was a lovely affair.

## Memorial Day

BY RAY BADDERS, CHAIRMAN  
VETERANS MONUMENT COMMITTEE

Memorial Day is set aside to honor our war dead. In May, small American Flags will be available at the Riverdale Park Veterans Monument. At any time during the month, you are invited to honor a deceased veteran by placing one of these flags in the monument grounds for each person that you want to remember. On Monday morning, 30 May at 0800, the Veterans Monument Committee will conduct a brief memorial service for all of our Town's honored veterans. Please plan to attend.

## Special Town Hall Meeting

BY SENATOR PAUL PINSKY

“Slots, Wal-Mart and Prescription Drugs.” Was the just ended session of the Maryland Legislature as controversial as it sounded? Will our state and county see any improvements? Get an insider's view from our 22<sup>nd</sup> District State Senator Paul Pinsky. He will share his views on the high points and low points and what the new laws mean for Riverdale Park residents. The meeting will be held on Thursday May 12, 2005 at 7 to 8:30 p.m. in Riverdale Park Town Hall. There will be a question and answer period. Attend in person or watch it on Channel 71. Questions? Call 301-858-3155 or email Paul\_Pinsky@senate.state.md.us.

# Emergency Management Training for Citizens

Following a major disaster, first responders who provide fire and medical services will not be able to meet the need. People will have to rely on each other for help in order to meet their immediate life saving and life sustaining needs. This was the case following the Mexico City earthquake where untrained volunteers saved 800 people. However, 100 people lost their lives while attempting to save others. This is a high price to pay and is preventable through CERT training.



## What is CERT?

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program educates citizens about:

- Disaster Preparedness
- Disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue
- Disaster medical operations – triage and treating life threatening injuries and hygiene
- Team Organization and Disaster Psychology
- Terrorism and CERT

CERT members are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community. There is a CERT Overview paper that gives you a complete description of CERT at <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/CERT/overview.asp>.

## How Does CERT benefit the community?

If a disaster happens that overwhelms local response capability, CERT members can apply the training learned in the classroom and during exercises to give critical support to their family, loved ones, neighbors and co-workers until help arrives. When help does arrive, CERTs provide information to responders and supports their efforts.

## Training Opportunity

The Town of Riverdale Park is in the process of planning CERT training, to take place in the near future. You will receive a total of 20 hours of training including hands on experience. Training days and hours will depend upon the needs and availability of the participants. Weekends and/or evening classes can be arranged. If enough people sign up, then the course will be given here in Riverdale Park. If you are interested in participating, please complete and return the Registration form below and you will be contacted with more information. There is no obligation. Classes are free. What you gain will be invaluable for your community, your family and for you.

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## CERT Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Eve.) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail (At which you want to receive CERT information): \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate which days of the week and time you would like to see the course offered:

\_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form to: Town of Riverdale Park, 5008 Queensbury Road, Riverdale Park, MD 20737, or fax it to 301-864-8090 or call 301-927-6381

# Candidate Forum

AS SUBMITTED BY THE CANDIDATES WITHOUT CHANGE BY THE EDITOR

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## Candidate for Mayor—Guy Tiberio

As a candidate for re-election as mayor, I have visited hundreds of homes in our town and have heard the concerns of many of our residents. Chief among them is the belief that *experience* is the most needed requirement in the office of mayor, as well as the time needed to deal with resident concerns. As your *full-time mayor*, I am the only candidate which possesses these qualifications.

During the past two years working with our council we have been able to turn a potential deficit into a surplus, reduce debt to the lowest amount in over twenty years, allowing me to present a proposed budget to the council with a *10 cent tax cut* for the coming year.

Meanwhile, on almost a daily basis we have been *meeting with developers* who wish to invest in our town, providing them with all of the pluses of our transportation, public safety, public works, etc. in hopes of inducing them to invest in our town. At the same time our Town Administrator has been meeting regularly in an attempt to obtain grants from the county, state and federal governments.

I have proposed the addition of *new police officers, code enforcement, public works, an economic adviser* in the new budget, as well as additional funding for infrastructure improvement.

With the increasing diversity of our town residents we have on board *two Spanish speaking police officers, three Spanish speaking public works employees and will be seeking a Spanish speaking employee for our office staff*. We must continue to reach out to the community in an educational content, which we will do in our new code informational booklet.

In closing, I believe I am the candidate for mayor who can provide the necessary *leadership, experience* and *vision* to keep our town moving forward. **I thank you and seek your support. Remember, it's a question of performance not politics as usual.**

## Candidate For Mayor—Vernon Archer

*For more, visit Vern's Corner at [www.archerformayor.com](http://www.archerformayor.com).*

### Is This Election About the Field of Dreams?

As I visit homes around town, people often ask about last summer's referendum on the Field of Dreams. It's not really surprising, considering that the current mayor attempted to sell the field, and that I worked to stop the sale.

Is my candidacy inspired by the Field of Dreams? **No.** My candidacy is inspired by a vision for Riverdale Park's future. Is the story of the field instructive for voters? **Heck, yes!** It highlights the differences between the short-term, haphazard approach of the current administration and the thoughtful, competent leadership I will bring to Riverdale Park.

**Controlling the Budget.** My administration will control the budget. There will be no more surprises. A quarter-million dollar "mistake" prompted my opponent to sell the field for fast cash. After the referendum, my opponent announced that \$100,000 had been "found", abruptly returning the town to a positive balance. What's going on with our money? Does anyone even know?

**Accountability.** The mayor still hasn't explained the budget error that prompted the sale. Who was responsible for misplacing nearly 10% of the town's money? What were the consequences for that person? At the very least, I would dismiss our accounting firm.

**Following the Law.** The sale of the field violated state law, and our own Town Charter. I will never, ever, violate the law.

**Sound Stewardship.** Selling valuable real estate for quick cash is a classic example of reactive, short-term thinking. That same attitude of poor stewardship—the irresponsible search for temporary fixes—has led to stalled economic development and left us coasting, rudderless, on the infrastructure and public safety plans of earlier mayors.

Riverdale Park needs direction. We need a plan. We need dependable leadership that thinks long-term. I have the vision, the energy, and the team to make it happen.

## **Ward 1 Candidate—Jack Jones**

During my working life supervisors put me in trouble shooting positions because of my ability to rapidly absorb the situation and develop better solutions to problems quickly.

Because the new council will have three new members, the working relations are in flux. The council would benefit from my skills and experience at working well in a complex changing environment.

My thirty years experience in research and management in private companies, county governments, and federal government fits well into a council member's work.

My political economics understanding will benefit the town's revenue collection and economic development, its more efficient use of revenue and resources, and the greater engagement of citizens in the executive, legislative, and judiciary process.

I have no political debts to special interests and can represent each ward member as we find our consensus for Riverdale Park.

More information:

<http://theriverdaleobserver.blogspot.com/>

## **Ward 1 Candidate—Tracey Toscano**

I am please to have recently been asked to fill the Ward 1 council vacancy. Thank you to all the residents who signed the statement of support. On May 2, I hope to earn everyone's vote for a full term.

My goals are to implement an economic development plan to support local businesses, attract new ones and relieve the tax burden on homeowners; improve community services by reversing staff cuts in our police department and making sure they have the support they need to fight crime; establish sound fiscal management, such as budget planning so we don't have to rely on short-term fixes and tax increases; and find new ways to share information and get more citizens engaged in town decision-making.

I wish to continue my role as a bridge between the citizens and the council, because working together, we can keep Riverdale Park moving forward!

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## **Ward 2 Candidate—Mary Donaldson**

If elected I will focus on economic development and a long term plan for keeping streets in good repair. I see neighboring communities flourishing with economic development while Riverdale Park is at a stand still. In the very near future, our town will be the location of University of Maryland's "M Square". This will be the largest research center in the state. Bringing with it potential customers for local businesses. Will Riverdale Park be prepared to offer shops and services? Currently Riverdale Park is not on track with our neighboring communities economic development. To achieve similar successes we must come up with a more aggressive marketing plan. Also, the government should be more prudent in spending grants. A large grant awarded in 2000 seemed to fritter away with no visible results.

I will focus on developing a plan to keep streets in good repair. I can be contacted at 301-927-2954.

## **Ward 2 Candidate—David Hiles**

In November 2004, Mayor Tiberio appointed me to the Ward 2 seat. Since then I've learned a lot and accomplished a few things. See my website <http://riverdalepark.blogspot.com> for details.

If elected, I will work on creating a town that will be better 10 years from now than it is today. We need to restore town staffing levels, especially police, to reasonable levels. I will develop a road rehabilitation plan and funding program for the long term, expand youth sports opportunities by working with other towns, make our town government more open to every resident, improve railroad crossing safety, and be clear about the high cost of spending "not quite enough." I am in nobody's pocket, as should be clear to anyone who has been at recent council meetings. I will work for our future with whoever is elected mayor on May 2nd.

### **Ward 3 Candidate—Doris Pullman**

A Riverdale Park resident since 1959, I am aware of the many changes that have occurred over the years. I feel it is time to get involved in decisions being made that affect the community.

I am vice president of the Riversdale Historical Society, chair of Riverdale Park Recreation Board, member of Riversdale House Museum and Riverdale Park Business Association. I have been a member of the Riverdale Woman's Club, Den mother, PTA and tutor for speech-impaired students at Riverdale Elementary School that led to a full time position in the Prince George's County Public School System.

If I am elected, I would like to give the police department additional support to create a safe town for our children, encourage community involvement through the Neighborhood Watch Program, and educate new residents regarding code enforcement regulations.

The decisions made by the Council affect everyone in Riverdale Park. I would like to represent you in Ward 3.

### **Ward 3 Candidate—Novella Sargusingh**

I am running for my vision of a better quality of life for us all. I have lived in Ward 3 since 1986 and have always been a concerned citizen involved in the issues of our community. I now desire to continue my civic duty, by representing Ward 3. Good governance is needed and residents concerned with town issues need a strong voice.

As a community activist, I take pride in my accomplishments in Riverdale including reestablishing the Riverdale Elementary Schools PTA. I wish to continue to serve Riverdale Park by boosting economic development through redeveloping Kenilworth Avenue, building the Eckerd Drug store, and providing new incentives to attract tenants to our vacant town center. My vision also includes improved public works and police service as well as networking with federal and state legislators to obtain better grants.

I am asking for your support with your vote on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Contact: (301)927-8422 [novella19@aol.com](mailto:novella19@aol.com)

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### **Ward 4 Candidate—Lawrence Taylor**

To the fine people of Ward Four,

Two years ago, I was honored and humbled when asked to serve on the Town Council for you and not to mention more than a little intimidated but your patience has served me as I hope I have served you.

I carried all of your concerns to the Council, and as a Council, we have met some of your requests while still struggling with others, In hope of resolution and outright frustration with a few, however those unmet concerns are still alive and I am hopeful that we will find a way to meet those concerns as well.

I am still honored and humbled and deeply appreciative of your patience at the end of this term and I ask for your continued support and you votes for this next election.

At your service,

Lawrence Taylor

[Councilman Taylor is running unopposed – *Editor.*]

### **Ward 5 Candidate—Gerard Kiernan**

Thank you to the residents of Ward 5 for giving me the chance to serve you for another two years. During the coming term, I hope to achieve some of the goals that I was unable to complete during my current term.

My goals for the coming term are: to return the Town to fiscal solvency; to provide adequate police, fire and ems services to the whole town; to improve Town services through the appropriate use of technology; to review all services provided by the Town to assure that the Town is the best provider for each service; to bring existing economic development projects to completion; to protect the tree cover that the town currently enjoys; to continue the cultural diversity that makes us a unique and vibrant community.

You may contact me at 301-277-4554 or at [gerardkiernan@earthlink.net](mailto:gerardkiernan@earthlink.net).

Please come out and vote on May 2.

[Councilman Kiernan is running unopposed – *Editor.*]

### **Ward 6 Candidate—Kenneth Webb**

[Councilman Webb is running unopposed and did not submit an election article – *Editor.*]

May 2005						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Apr 24	25 Work Session Town Hall 8 pm	26	27 Candidate Forum Town Hall 8 pm	28	29 Girl Scouts Town Hall 2:45 pm	30
May 1	2 Elections 7 am-8 pm Legislative Session Town Hall 8 pm	3 Traffic Study Town Hall 7 pm	4 MUTC Mtg, 7:30 pm	5	6 Girl Scouts Town Hall 2:45 pm	7
May 8	9 Boy Scouts Town Hall 7 pm Rec Board Mtg. Town Hall 7:30 pm	10 Madison Hill Town Hall 7:30 pm	11	12 Sen. Pinsky open meeting Town Hall 7 pm Farmer's Market resumes...3-7 pm	13 Girl Scouts Town Hall 2:45 pm	14
May 15	16	17 PGHLN Town Hall 7:30 pm	18	19 Farmer's Market...	20 Girl Scouts Town Hall 2:45 pm	21
May 22	23	24	25 Lions Club Town Hall 7 pm	26	27 Girl Scouts Town Hall 2:45 pm	28
May 29	30 Memorial Day Offices closed No trash pickup Memorial service 8am at Veterans Monument	31 Spring Clean up Regular & bulk trash. Areas A&B Work Session Town Hall 8 pm	Jun 1 Yard waste Areas A & B	2 Normal trash schedule resumes...	3 Girl Scouts Town Hall 2:45 pm	4

Spring Clean Up Day is Tuesday, May 31

The following recurring events are not shown in the calendar...

**Riversdale Tours**—every Sunday and Friday—Noon to 4 p.m. at the Riversdale Mansion.

**Soccer** every Sunday 4 to 6 p.m. at the Field of Dreams.

**Farmer's Market** every Thursday 3 to 7 p.m. in the Town Center, starting May 12 thru November 17, 2005.

**Normal Trash Schedule**

Area A—Monday: Regular trash and yard waste, Thursday: Regular & heavy trash & metal recycling.

Area B—Tuesday: Regular trash and yard waste, Friday: Regular & heavy trash & metal recycling.

County Recycling of bottles, cans and newspaper every Wednesday.

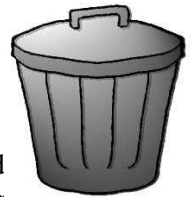
Drop off heavy trash, oil, all kinds of paper & recyclables at Public Works Bldg., every Saturday 9am-5pm.

**Special Trash Days—May 30 thru June 1**

No trash pickup on Monday, May 30.

**Spring Clean Up Day—Tuesday, May 31** (Both Areas A & B)—Regular, Heavy and free Bulk Trash.

If you are planning to clean out your basement, garage or attic, please do so on or before Memorial Day and put out tons of trash curbside Monday evening, May 30 for pickup Tuesday, May 31. The Town gets to dump it for free that day—saving \$2,000 to \$3,000. Your fee (for large amounts of bulk trash) is waved too. Do *not* put out metals, tires, or items with Freon or yard waste on that day.



**Yard Waste**—Wednesday, June 1 (both Areas A & B) and Country Recyclables—put yard waste out on Wednesday instead of Monday/Tuesday this week. Separating out yard waste from normal trash can save the Town \$10,000 a year.

**Tire Reminder:** Tires will not be picked up free. There is a \$2.50 fee for each tire (\$2.00 for seniors 60+). Tires are a notorious breeding ground for all types of **mosquitoes** especially the Asian Tiger. In our efforts to reduce their breeding grounds, *your tires need to be removed as soon as possible*. Call Town Hall at 301-927-6381 to arrange tire pickup.

**For more information** call Public Works 301-864-1803 or visit our web site—here are shortcuts to it: Fees & Area maps <http://tinyurl.com/b28wb>, Trash Restrictions: <http://tinyurl.com/c7zp2>, Rebecca Feldberg's article on trash, the how and why: <http://tinyurl.com/8fzh6>, and Michael Herman's article on saving money with trash: <http://tinyurl.com/8omdt>