

The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

July/Aug 2005

Volume 34, Issue 6

We publish only 10 times a year,
this issue covers July and August.

Important Dates

Work Sessions

Town Hall, 8:00 PM
Monday, July 25
Monday, August 29

Offices Closed

Monday, July 4
Holiday Trash Schedule
Area A, Tuesday
Area B, Wednesday

Offices Closed

Monday, September 5
Holiday Trash Schedule
Area A, Tuesday
Area B, Wednesday

Legislative Meetings

Town Hall, 8:00 PM
Tuesday, July 5
Monday, August 1
Tuesday, September 6

Communications Committee

First meeting
Town Hall, 8:00 PM
Wednesday, July 6

Community

By Rob Oppenheim

The *Town Crier* mission statement first published in the early 1990s says the paper's job is "to keep citizens informed about local issues so that they might better participate in their government. To promote a sense of community that is positive, caring, and friendly." In the past two issues, we concentrated on town government. This issue focuses on the second part of our mission statement—community.

You will find a new Community Circles page that features stories about organizations and people in our town. We have a delightful set of local summer activities for your enjoyment, most of them free. We take a loving look back at the Riverdale Bookshop & Coffee Depot and what it has meant to our community, while delivering the sad news that it will soon be closing. We have some Letters to the Editor we hope you will find stimulating, and there is a timely article about how to control mosquitoes. But that's not all; we have town business too. Mayor Vernon Archer has submitted his first Mayor's Report, we announce several new communication initiatives he has undertaken, and we profile Debbie Murphy, a wonderful and dedicated town staff member.

The *Crier* is pleased to welcome several new reporters, who we hope will be regular contributors. Corey Slavitt and Regina Kreger have written feature articles; others have submitted shorter articles and photos. The wider the circle, the better!

Do you know of something that should be covered? Tell us. Or, better yet, cover it for us. How about a regular Ecology Corner, where river health, tree plantings, water runoff issues, and litter can be addressed? Let's hear about outstanding Riverdadians who receive awards or are doing great work. And how about reviews of area restaurants and local businesses or a regular column on economic development? We would love to bring back the Senior Scene, which featured interviews with longtime residents. It was one of my personal favorites. I enjoyed reading older residents' recollections of how the streets once were unpaved and about how the Army Core of Engineers built the flood control project that winds its way through town.

You can contribute to the *Crier* with articles and letters to the editor, and by doing so you'll help improve our town. The time is ripe for a local renaissance, with lots of new energy flowing. It is a great time to live and work in Riverdale Park, and we invite you to participate. Drop me an e-mail to let me know about your interest (rp.TownCrier@comcast.net). There is plenty of opportunity to participate in other organizations, too; you will read about some of them in this issue, and more in future issues. Look for a topic that interests you and get your feet wet by talking to the people working in that area. No experience is needed. Start as easy as you like—or as challenging as you dare. You will find it richly rewarding.

Riverdale Bookshop & Coffee Depot
Closing in July—Story on page 7.

To:	Bulk Rate U.S. Postage PAID Riverdale Park, MD
	Carrier Route Presort Every Resident and Business Riverdale Park, Md 20737

Council Actions

By Colleen Ferguson

June 4, 2005 Legislative Meeting

1. Approved annual block party, 6200 block 43rd Street, July 16, 2005
2. Tabled action on request by the Town of Landover Hills, Re: CB019-2005
3. Approved appointment of Vice-Mayor Mary Donaldson
4. Approved committee appointments; see below
5. Approved membership appointments, Board of Trustees, Defined Benefit Retirement Plan: Council Member Lawrence Taylor and Donald Soles
6. Approved date for setting the 2005–2006 property tax rate: June 8, 2005
7. Approved endorsement of red light cameras at railroad crossings
8. Approved No Parking sign for placement at 4700 Nicholson Street
9. Approved setback variance, 5311 Patterson Street, currently before Appeals Board

Council Appointments and Committees

Vice Chair of the Council and Mayor Pro Tem, Mary Donaldson

Community Affairs

Lawrence Taylor, Chair
Tracey Toscano
Kenneth Webb

Economic Development

Tracey Toscano, Chair
Gerard Kiernan
Lawrence Taylor

Finance

Mary Donaldson, Chair
Gerard Kiernan
Kenneth Webb

Legislative

Kenneth Webb, Chair
Novella Sargusingh
Lawrence Taylor

Public Safety

Gerard Kiernan, Chair
Mary Donaldson
Novella Sargusingh

Public Works

Novella Sargusingh, Chair
Mary Donaldson
Tracey Toscano

Editorial: A Way to Improve the Budget Process?

By Rob Oppenheim

Your town officials have been hard at work. The old and new council and mayor held marathon meetings day after day, weekends and weekday evenings, often past midnight, to hammer out the new budget and plan for the coming years. In his report this month, Mayor Archer credits the dedication of both groups—incoming and outgoing—for the successful completion of the process, which must conclude in June, because it takes effect July 1.

In the end, the town's budget was established and the property tax rate was set, but the process itself had fallen behind schedule, as it often does in an election year—as the demands of campaigning starve the budget process of time and attention. The campaign also can present a strong temptation for candidates to play politics with the numbers. The mayor is required by law to present a proposed budget by May 2; this year, that was Election Day! When a new mayor and council are elected and take office at the June meeting, a change in administration can cause still more headaches. It's a situation that borders on the impossible.

Many Maryland municipalities have moved their elections to the fall to avoid these conflicts. Changing to the fall also gives new mayors and council members time to learn the ropes so they can make a fair assessment of their towns' finances. Riverdale Park would do well to consider doing the same.

Town of Riverdale Park

www.ci.riverdale-park.md.us

Town Hall

5008 Queensbury Road
Riverdale Park, MD 20737
301-927-6381

RiverdaleParkMD@comcast.net
Patrick J. Prangley, Town Administrator

Mayor Vernon Archer
240-832-2257
varcher@gmail.com

Council Members

Ward 1 Tracey Toscano 301-927-9022
TraceyRPA@aol.com

Ward 2 Mary Donaldson 301-927-2954
msmarydon@yahoo.com

Ward 3 Novella Sargusingh 301-927-8422
msnovella19@aol.com

Ward 4 Lawrence Taylor 301-474-6868
taylor.lawrence@gmail.com

Ward 5 Gerard Kiernan 301-277-4554
gerardkiernan@earthlink.net

Ward 6 Kenneth Webb 301-523-6202
webbward6@hotmail.com

Public Works 301-864-1803
James Houser, Public Works Director
Debbie Murphy, Assistant

Code Enforcement 301-209-1505
CodeRiverdalePk@comcast.net
Colleen M. Ferguson

Police Department 301-927-4343
RivPD@comcast.net
E. Thomas Parker, Chief

Fire Department Emergency 911
Information 301-927-0356

info@riverdalevfd.com
www.riverdalevfd.com
Vincent Harrison, Chief

Town Crier

The Official Newsletter of the
Town of Riverdale Park, Maryland

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

Copy Editor: Kate Kelly

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 Vernon Archer

Spirit of Cooperation Marked Town Hall Transition

What came to mind as I sat down to write my first report as mayor of Riverdale Park was my gratitude to you, the residents, for placing your trust in me to guide the town over the next two years. The good turnout on Election Day once again demonstrates the health of our local democracy and the strong civic commitment for which our town is known. Whether your candidate lost or won, your participation makes you a winner.

My thanks to everyone.

I also offer my gratitude to my predecessor, Mayor Guy Tiberio, and to outgoing Council Members David Hiles and Ray Badders for providing a smooth transition into my new administration. As I entered the month-long period between the election May 2 and the oath of office June 6, I was struck by the lack of established procedures for executing a change in administration. A smooth changeover ultimately depends on the professionalism of office holders—those entering and those leaving—and on their respect for democracy.

Incoming and exiting elected officials all showed a commitment to an efficient transition that was evidenced in the handling of the budget process. Our election and budget cycle coincide, making for a potentially awkward situation. In a year without an election, that factor is nonexistent. But this year, the distinct differences in approaches and priorities for managing the government could have made for a very messy transition.

Instead, everyone came together at a series of six meetings to complete a budget that reflects the will of the voters as expressed May 2. The meetings often lasted late into the night, and by June 8, when we reached an interim budget outline, I looked down the line at some very tired faces. But those same faces also showed the satisfaction of a job well done.

The section of the budget that most concerns residents also provided the deadline for the council's marathon meeting schedule. We had to set our property tax rates. Last year's rate was \$0.73 per \$100 of assessed value. As you probably know, property assessments have been going up rapidly, so the council was determined to reduce rates, at least somewhat, to help compensate. The new rate, \$0.677, passed unanimously. It will provide some relief to property owners and still ensure a stable financial base for the town government.

Let me remind everyone that the Town Council meets the first Monday of each month at 8:00 PM, unless that Monday is a holiday, as is the case in July. That meeting will be at 8 PM, Tuesday, July 5, in the Town Hall. Please plan to attend and participate or to watch the proceedings on cable Channel 71 so you can stay informed about *your* town and its government.



Mrs. Wilhelmina Minetree

BY Rob OPPENHEIM

The staff of the *Town Crier* and the Town of Riverdale Park note with sadness the passing of Mrs. Wilhelmina Minetree of Nicholson Street, who died June 12 of natural causes. She was 91. Her family was from Holland, and named Mrs. Minetree after the Netherlands Queen Wilhelmina. She was married to her beloved husband Alvin Minetree for almost 73 years. Mr. Minetree died in August 2003 at the age of 92.

The Minetrees had lived in Riverdale for half a century. Longtime readers will remember a May 1991 *Town Crier* profile of Mr. Minetree with a photo that showed him wearing his trademark bow tie and his always-winning smile. Mr and Mrs. Minetree are survived by two daughters, Shirlee Martin and Joan Fairley, and by 8

grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. Mr. and Mrs. Minetree loved animals, and she was a generous supporter of the Animal Rescue League. Her two faithful companions, Snuggles, a Dandie Dinmont terrier, and Pugsley, a pug, now live with daughter Shirlee in Culpeper, Va.

For 2 years, her grandson Tom cared for Mrs. Minetree here in Riverdale Park. She then moved in with her daughter Shirley. During a brief stay in a nursing home, her daughter kept a promise to return Mrs. Minetree to her home to be cared for until the end of her life. Mrs. Minetree was much loved. She lived a long and hearty life, and she will be missed.

Council and Committee Reports

Ward 5 Report

By Gerard F. Kiernan
Council Member, Ward 5

Update: Church Proposed for 54th Avenue at Riverdale Road

Representatives of the Redeemed Christian Church of God attended the mayor and council's May work session to update the town on the church's application to re-subdivide the corner lot at 54th Avenue at Riverdale Road. That change was approved by the Prince George's County Planning Board at its June 2 meeting. The Planning Board will receive the detailed site plan, including parking arrangements, at its meeting July 14, 9 AM, at the County Administration Building in Upper Marlboro. The Town Council will solicit citizen input and make its recommendation on the proposal at the July 5 meeting of the mayor and council.

Safety First

It gets hot inside a closed car in the summertime. In just a few minutes temperatures can climb to 120 °F (50 °C), or even more, so you should never leave children or pets in your car—even for “just a second” while you run errands. Remember never to leave your car running but unattended in a public area while you wait for the air conditioning to kick in.

The warmer months also can see a rise in petty criminal activity. If you see something suspicious happening, please call the police, 301-927-4343.

Ward 2 Report

By Mary Donaldson
Council Member, Ward 2

Don't Let Your Animal Be a Public Nuisance

Any owner of any dog or cat is responsible for picking up and disposing of any excretory matter dropped on any public or right-of-way within the town. Please be kind to your neighbors, and prevent your pets from entering their property. It is unlawful to fail to provide effective control of your animal.

Bike Safety

It's great for Riverdale Park cyclists that we have so many bike paths for recreation and commuting. Cyclists must follow all traffic laws: Stay to the right, observe stop signs and traffic signals, and remember that it's illegal to ride on a sidewalk. Please be mindful of those on foot (especially seniors). Recently a pedestrian was knocked to the ground and injured by a bicyclist who didn't even stop to offer assistance. That accident was no different than a hit-and-run with a motor vehicle. If a bike accident does happen, please be responsible and stop.

Riverdale Park Trees

By Alice Ewen Walker

Trees are part of the charm of Riverdale Park, but they don't live forever. That's why it's important to plant new trees each year as part of our long-term care for the community. The Riverdale Park Tree Committee identifies tree-planting opportunities, advises the Department of Public Works on tree care, and proposes legislation to protect and replace our mature tree cover. Volunteer interest drives committee activities. Among past projects were a tree census, volunteer tree planting, spring river cleanup, and a public-private tree program. Committee members also help mark sites and select species for planting.

The tree committee meets about six times each year and communicates via an e-mail list. Information about the committee and how to join is available from me at alice.ewen.walker@gmail.com, 301-379-5303, or from committee chair Rebecca Feldberg, 301-864-2779.

Recreation Board

By Doris Pullman

Riverdale Park Day is October 1, and planning for it continues at the Riverdale Park Recreation Board meeting on July 11, 7:30 PM, at Town Hall. The meeting is open to everyone, and we would love to hear your ideas about this wonderful town event. The town was founded in 1920 and is celebrating its 85th anniversary, so we are planning a 1920s theme. The Recreation Board plans other family events during the year, including a Winter Party and the Easter Egg Hunt. The group is always grateful for new ideas for events. If you think you might enjoy planning or helping with parties for our children, call Recreation Board Chair Doris Pullman, 301-927-6992, or send her an e-mail, rhsTeaLady@aol.com.

Town Awarded \$100,000

By Pat Prangley

Riverdale Park has been awarded \$100,000 in federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to make street improvements on 48th Avenue from Riverdale Road to Rittenhouse Street. This award marks the 26th consecutive year the town has been a CDBG recipient. Our total over the years has come to approximately \$3 million. Past grants have been used to pay for Town Center infrastructure improvements adjacent to the MARC station; for streetscape improvements along Baltimore Avenue, Queensbury Road, and Riverdale Road; and for numerous other redevelopment and reconstruction projects throughout the town. The 48th Avenue reconstruction will start when the CDBG funds are released to the town next fall. Construction will be completed by June 30, 2006.

New Town Communications

By Rob Oppenheim

Mayor Vernon Archer established a citizen advisory Communications Committee (ComCom) to set long-term direction and goals for the best use and integration of all forms of communication, including our newsletter, cable channel, Internet presence, e-mail, and the Gazette newspaper. The committee will have its first meeting July 6, 8 PM, at Town Hall. Everyone is invited.

ComCom will ask questions like these: What is the best use of each medium? What are the problems? How can we bridge the gap between the electronically connected and those without Internet and e-mail? The committee will examine procedure, policy, and ordinance changes that could improve communications.

It has been frustrating not to be able to use the *Crier* to cover late-breaking news, but a monthly publication simply cannot be that timely. E-mail can be, however, and Alan Thompson has set up two e-mail lists—one for government news and one for discussions—that anyone is welcome to join. Town-Announce will keep you up on the latest developments in town news; ComTalk will provide a forum on ways to make the *Town Crier* and other communications media better.

A lively e-mail discussion began a few weeks ago when I asked several residents for their opinions about the *Town Crier* Calendar and whether they missed the Community Circles listings of meeting dates and times. I expressed my desire to see Community Circles change to include more stories about organizations and people and fewer listings of events. Boy, did I get an earful. But it's that kind of discussion that should be a regular part of the ComTalk e-mail server. Read more about this thread in the "Town Crier Changes" section of the Letters to the Editor on page 8.

Town-Announce

This list will deliver announcements of meetings and other events in the Town of Riverdale Park. There should be no more than a few e-mails per week, usually less. Here is a sample:

The Town Council will hold its work session June 20, 8 PM, at Town Hall, 5008 Queensbury Road. Work sessions are usually held the last Monday of the month. Because the council will be at the Maryland Municipal League conference June 27 (the usual date), the work session is one week earlier than normal.

The Town Council also plans to have a special legislative meeting June 23, 8 PM, at Town Hall, 5006 Queensbury Road, to reconcile the 2005 budget and finalize the 2006 budget.

ComTalk

ComTalk is a place where you can express your thoughts about improving any aspect of town communications. It is the public discussion forum for the Communications Committee (ComCom), and is open to postings from all Riverdale Park residents. It should be an active list, with several e-mails per week, and lively discussions.

Enrollment

Subscriptions to both lists are free, and subscribers can enroll or drop out at any time. You may choose to not receive e-mails and still have access to the archives. Enrollment information is online: <http://mail.riverdale-park.org/mailman/listinfo>. Or use this shortcut: www.tinyurl.com/cfhdr

Best Way to Call For Emergency Help

The Riverdale Park police force is on duty for you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If you have a police emergency, the fastest way to get help is to dial **301-927-4343**, the department's local number, to connect to our dispatcher, who has constant contact with officers.

In an emergency, however, that number might be hard to remember. You can reach the town police almost as fast by dialing **911** and asking to be transferred to the Riverdale Police. But be **sure** to ask to be transferred. Giving your report directly to a 911 operator can add a significant delay to your response.

And it's best to ask for the *Riverdale Police*, rather than the Riverdale Park Police. In the past, some 911 dispatchers have transferred calls to the Maryland-National Capital Park Police instead of the local force. It's less likely now that more people know the town's official name, but it could still be a problem.

In case of fire, **911** is the number to call. If it's not an emergency, call the Riverdale Park Fire Department directly, **301-927-0356**.

Clip and Save

<p style="text-align: center;">Town of Riverdale Park Emergency Phone Numbers Police Emergency: 301-927-4343 or: 911 & ask for Riverdale Fire & Ambulance Emergency: 911 Non-Emergency Police Department Information: 301-927-4343 Fire Department Information: 301-927-0356</p>

Meet Your Town Staff

Debbie Murphy

By Corey Slavitt

You might not find her actual signature on a mound of plowed snow in winter or on a stack of lumber from a tree felled in a spring storm. But Riverdale Park staffer Debbie Murphy completes every day's task with her hallmark—pride in workmanship, precision skill and talent, and a passion for a job well done.

Debbie Murphy, acting assistant to the public works director for the town of Riverdale Park, blends creativity with task-driven practicality every day, and she enjoys every minute of her job.

"I love it!" Murphy says about her job in Public Works. "It's fun. I'm not stuck in an office all day. I'm outside a lot of the time collecting leaves, trash, plowing snow, spreading salt, planting trees. I use power tools and work with a chain saw. I work with our staff to maintain the Town Hall, Police Department, and Public Works buildings."

These days, though, Murphy spends about half of each day inside one of those three buildings. When the town's payroll clerk began a period of extended leave in September 2004, Murphy agreed to help out and divide her time between administrative work and town maintenance.

And while Murphy's heart is definitely in the Public Works side of her current assignment, it was the town's administrative needs that first brought her to the Riverdale Park town staff.

Hired in 2000 to a part-time slot to "figure out the computer system" that managed the town vehicles' fuel, Murphy applied her information management skills and talent to the task and quickly achieved success. She became a full-time staffer within a month.

"I'm self-taught in many areas and I'm not afraid to dabble," Murphy says. She's equally at ease with leisure pursuits that are sometimes identified as exclusively male or female hobbies. She maintains her own computer software and hardware, enjoys playing with remote control cars, and holds a commercial driver's license. Murphy also sews, knits, crochets, embroiders and cares for a pet rat. Last fall, she and other Public Works staff saved a nest of baby squirrels after wind blew down their tree home.

"We put the little gray things on the hood of the truck, which was warm, while we took care of the downed tree." That was in September. Murphy cared for the babies at her home, where she fed them puppy formula every two

hours. The squirrels thrived. Murphy released them the following February.

Murphy also has cared for her own brood at home. She home-schooled her two sons, Daniel, now 26, and Peter, 23. She's also part of an extended family in her

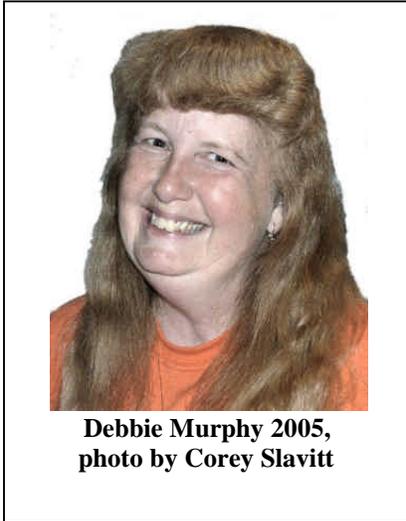
Riverdale Park neighborhood. Two godsons are across the street, and others on the block are part of the community she calls home and family.

Born in Washington, D.C., Murphy grew-up in Falls Church, Va., and then moved to Maryland with her parents when she was in the eighth grade. She has lived in Riverdale Park for 28 years. She and her husband made their home in Riverdale Park in 1977. She was widowed in 1995. Murphy was working for the Census Bureau's Kenilworth Avenue office when she answered Riverdale Park's call for help with its computer system in August 2000.

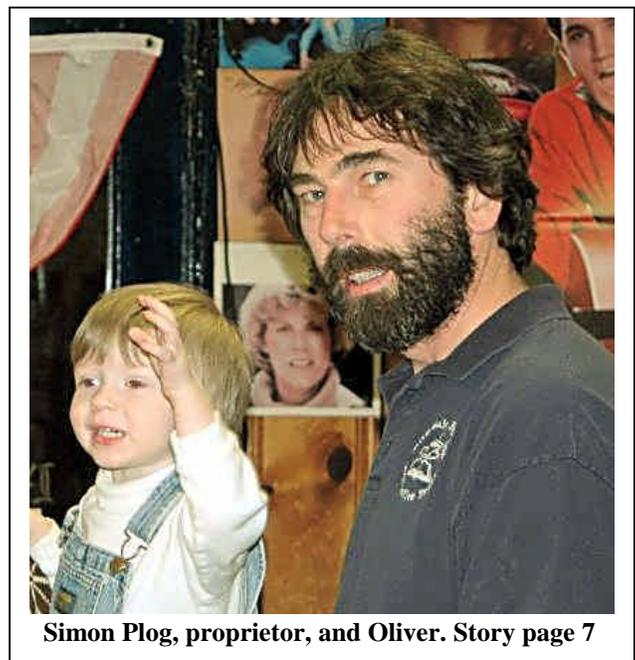
Nearly five years later, Murphy is happy

to report it's been a solid relationship ever since.

Murphy is looking forward to getting back to Public Works full-time when the town hires a staffer to take over the administrative duties she's covered for the past year. She's happy to serve the town wearing both hats each day, but she will be glad to return this year to her favorite—and most challenging—Public Works duties. "We're on call 24/7," Murphy says, "but I love it. ... It's really fun!"



Debbie Murphy 2005,
photo by Corey Slavitt



Simon Plog, proprietor, and Oliver. Story page 7

Say It Ain't So! Bookstore to Close in July

By Regina M. Kreger

The Riverdale Bookshop & Coffee Depot has lost its lease. By July 31, the books will be boxed, the pastry case cleared out, the Music Junction silenced, and Riverdale Park will have lost its living room. The landmark Town Center business is nearly a half-century old.



The mood one recent Saturday night was uncharacteristically somber. As usual, there were children playing in the back room, a friendly dog was licking every hand he could reach, people were reconnecting with old friends and meeting new ones, and customers were listening to top-quality live music performed by David Morreale, a local singer-songwriter. But there was an undercurrent of grief.

Morreale said the news had set off a swarm of dismayed e-mails among musicians, who have always been happy to play the Bookshop despite being paid only in tips. The shop's attentive audience and the friendly, smoke- and alcohol-free atmosphere made it a magnet for local talent.

The Riverdale Bookshop was never intended to be a moneymaker. On the contrary, it was envisioned as a "not-for-profit business dedicated to improving the community through reading, the arts, and discussion," where "there is something for everyone ... from PhDs to pre-schoolers, from politicians to recluses, from people to dogs, from extraverts to the quietest of souls—all can find interest, friendship, growth and community at the Riverdale Bookshop and Coffee Depot."

Who will host the Halloween Pet Costume Contest? What will happen to the Festival of Lights? Who else in town offers WiFi? Where else are you welcome to sit for hours without spending any money? Where else would you *want* to sit for hours? Where else would you spend the money anyway, just to support the house?

It would be hard to overstate the shop's value to the community. Longtime customer Kathy Smith says, recalling especially the days she spent there working with her children on school projects, "the bookstore is Riverdale." Resident Mike Hummel calls the eviction "really and truly a community tragedy." Martha Woods: "A great wail of

despair arose in our house as we opened the e-mail and read this message. Your big contribution to our special community will be sorely, sorely missed."

The Riverdale Bookshop has deep roots. Opened in 1956 by Arthur C. Sorrel and Ralph Grimes, the store burned down once, moved a couple of times, and came within a breath of dying in 1994 when Sorrel's son Michael decided to retire. That was when Audrey Bragg and Simon Plog beat out four other bidders to buy the business and bring it back to vibrant health. The new owners tidied up, installed a telephone and cash register, and added first the coffee shop and then Music Junction, revitalizing what was already a popular community-meeting place.

Mid-June this year brought a lot of angry, hurt speculation from neighbors about the landlord Douglas Jemal's motivation: Everything from the criminal to the insane. Blake Esherick, Jemal's leasing agent in charge of a substantial block of long-vacant Town Center properties, admits that no other tenant is lined up for the space. He says Jemal intends to restore the building but leave it vacant "until the right tenants come along." Esherick would not discuss the developer's strategy for attracting "the right tenants," but clearly the locally owned bookstore does not fit the model.

Mayor Vernon Archer expressed his frustration over the eviction. "For Jemal to push out a business that has been so central to our community for so long, when he has not delivered one single business, is troubling." But he cautions against knee-jerk reactions: "Right now I am building relationships with the key players and believe that constructive engagement provides the only realistic way to reach our goal of a vibrant commercial district." In the meantime, "I have assured Audrey that I will both personally and as mayor help them do what they want to do next. If they want to move, hibernate, look for a buyer, whatever, I will provide sweat, endorsement, and anything else I have to give."

Although the first indication from Audrey and Simon was that they planned to retreat to an online-only life for the business, recently they have said they are considering other options, including relocating. They are grateful for the outpouring of support from residents, and they welcome suggestions. Any strategy, of course, must put them on a firm enough footing to meet operating expenses in a ballooning real estate market. Resident Lissa Scott said, "This is yet another landmark in our rich history that is soon to be lost if we take no action." For customer Gloria Vaden, Audrey, Simon, and "the warm, cozy, out-of-the-norm, days-gone-by book terminal with fabulous ambiance will be sorely missed."

For more pictures visit the bookshop online at www.RiverdaleBookshop.com

Letters To The Editor

The *Town Crier* wants to hear from you. Send your letter via e-mail to RP.TownCrier@comcast.net or mail it to *Town Crier*, 5008 Queensbury Road, Riverdale Park, MD 20737. You must include your name, address, and phone number, but your address and phone number will not be printed. Unsigned letters will not be published

Town Crier Changes

I'm writing to request that the town newspaper be returned to a community information-based format rather than an issue-based format, particularly a one-issue format with political over-or-undertones.

I found the cartoon offensive and divisive, particularly when a lively election had just taken place and people need to pull together for the good of the town.

I particularly missed the information on committees and commissions, because that's what lets me know other citizens' interest and commitments to our communal life and lets me know where I might want to put my energy and support.

The calendar needs to have all the information on it. It's too confusing to have some dates on the calendar and some not. I hope you are willing to make some of these modifications for the good of our community.

Karen Rowe, Ward 2

June 19, 2005

[Thank you for sharing your views. We received several e-mails like this, and we had a lively discussion on these topics in the e-mails that led up to creating ComTalk (page 5). Some people, such as myself, prefer a sparse calendar for a quick scan to catch important items. Others use the calendar to see what is happening on a given day and want everything to be in one spot. Since these people probably use the calendar more, I am inclined to print it their way. For the rest of us, we have an "Important Dates" column on page 1, and the Town Announce e-mail list will help point out the important dates too.

This *Crier* has an especially difficult calendar, as it covers two months. It looks rather like an ugly Periodic Chart of the Elements. If you know of a good calendar creation program, *please* let me know. And as always, we want to hear your thoughts. Join ComTalk and tell us how you use the calendar and the format you like best. Do you use it to mark other activities on? Do you need a bigger calendar? A whole page? Landscape? Let us know.

I would like to see Community Circles return to its roots, published occasionally with real articles on people or groups. You can see an example of what I mean on page 10. Some people have expressed a desire to bring back the list of organizations that was Community Circles of the last several years. Personally, I have a strong dislike of boilerplate text repeated in the *Crier* each month. But the *Crier* is not about what I want. So join ComTalk and let us hear from you—Rob Oppenheim, Editor]

Correction: Architect of Veterans' Monument

To keep the history of the Veterans' Monument accurate I offer the following comments.

I served as a member of the Veterans' Committee from its beginning. The committee was fortunate to have the volunteer services of Christopher Williams, a professional architect and former resident of 47th Avenue, for the design phase. Chris Williams spent his time and talent and submitted a design to the committee that was used in constructing the monument site at Town Center.

I feel his contribution was important and that it should remain a part of the town's history.

John Ferguson

June 20, 2005

Madison, Virginia

[Thanks to Jack Ferguson for correcting that oversight in the *June Crier*. Ray Badders was credited as the monument's designer. Ray was the chair of the committee and deserves recognition, as do all the people who served on that committee such as you. The *Town Crier* sends its best to Jack and his wife, former Mayor Ann Ferguson.]

Bookshop Closing

I was saddened to hear about the closing of our Riverdale Bookshop & Coffee Depot because they have lost their lease. Since the Douglas Development Corporation has failed to lease any space in their other town center building, I don't understand why they are not actively working with the owners of the bookshop and our town representatives to find a way to keep the one business that truly animates our town alive. The Bookshop, besides being a haven for book-lovers, serves as a place to get a good cup of coffee and a decent piece of apple pie, a local music venue for acoustic music, a small gallery space for local artists, a welcoming meeting place, and the first fun stop for our annual Festival of Lights Trolley Tour. That's a whole lot of shoe to fill.

Leslie Plant

June 21, 2005

The Riverdale Bookshop was founded in 1956, so next year it would be 50 years old.

Simon and Audrey have received e-mails of support from all over the country from all sorts of people: former residents and customers who keep up with it via the Web, current patrons from all over, and even folks who don't know much of the place other than its online presence.

I would caution anyone who is tempted to talk to the current owners before contacting any media. We don't know what their plans are, and we don't know what kind of coverage they want.

In the meantime, I strongly urge everyone who cares to go and buy a cup of coffee and enjoy the place before it's gone.

Maureen E. Farrington

June 21, 2005

Get Rid of Mosquitoes By Rob Oppenheim

Eliminate Breeding Areas

Tip or Toss

The most effective method for controlling mosquitoes, including the Asian tiger mosquito, is to reduce or eliminate their breeding grounds. Use the “tip or toss” method to dispose of standing water or the containers themselves. **Draining or removal of water-holding containers, even on a localized basis, will produce remarkable long-term reductions in mosquito populations.**¹

The list of breeding sites is extensive, but it includes just about anything that will hold water. Think about clogged rain gutters, tires, tree holes, buckets, cans, bottles, boats, flower pots, bird baths, outdoor statuary, ornamental pools, plastic or canvas tarpaulins, children’s toys, rain barrels, and pet food and water dishes.

But you can help: Clean your roof gutters and downspouts and keep them free of leaves and debris. Flush birdbaths and containers under potted plants twice a week. Empty wading pools, wheelbarrows, pails—any and all objects that hold water. Don’t forget to check items under your porch or deck. Drain water from tarps and grill covers. Fill holes that trap and hold water. Repair dripping outdoor faucets. Get rid of old tires in your yard: One tire with just a few cups of water can breed hundreds of mosquitoes continuously throughout the summer.

Talk to Your Neighbors

Tiger mosquitoes fly up to 300 feet, so talk to your neighbors and ask them to tip or toss, too.

Get Rid of Those Tires

Dispose of your tires by calling Public Works, 301-864-1803. The fee is \$2.50 per tire (senior citizens pay \$2.00). It is against town code to have tires in your yard, and if you know of other properties that need to have tires removed, you can ask that the Code Enforcement officer notify the property owner that the tires in the yard must go. Code Enforcement will send a letter explaining how to arrange for disposal and giving the owner several days to comply before imposing fines. Call Code Enforcement Officer Colleen Ferguson, 301-209-1505, about this or any other matter for the department’s attention. You can send her an e-mail at CodeRiverdalePk@comcast.net.

¹ Information for this article came from the Maryland Department of Agriculture’s Mosquito Control Section. The office is open daily, 7:30 AM–4 PM, at 6701 Lafayette Avenue, 301-927-8357. The office has specific information about the Asian tiger mosquito and other species. You can learn more at www.mda.state.md.us. Follow this shortcut to go directly to the mosquito control page, www.tinyurl.com/btruj, and use the navigation box on the left.

Mosquito Control Spraying

The town can arrange to have Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) Mosquito Control Section treat your area. Call Public Works, 301-864-1803. You’ll need to supply your address, describe the problem areas and the time of day when mosquitoes are worst (very important), and list any areas of nearby stagnant water.

In Riverdale Park, MDA surveillance and possible spraying for adult mosquitoes takes place from 9:30 PM to 2:30 AM on **Tuesdays** all summer long. The MDA Mosquito Control Section will spray **only** if surveillance results exceed action thresholds. Spraying for adult mosquitoes is weather dependent and may not be done weekly.

MDA uses Anvil 10+10 insecticide, a synthetic pyrethroid said to be safe for animals, pets, and humans, but not for small insects. The mist hangs in the air for 30–45 minutes and drifts to distances of about 300 feet downwind of the street. It leaves no residue. Anvil is effective only against mosquitoes in the air at that time; so **it has little effect on Asian tiger mosquitoes**, which are mostly daytime feeders and are the breed most likely bothering you. The spray will not get under porches and, depending on the wind, it might not reach your back yard.

MDA conducts routine mosquito surveillance and may spray your area even if you have not requested it; of course, most attention goes to places with reported problems. Our Public Works Department tracks requests and lets MDA know about problem areas. If you do **not** want your area sprayed, call Public Works. The following blocks are currently marked as no-spray areas by MDA:

- 4900 block, Ravenswood St. and part of Taylor Rd.
- 4700 block, Sheridan St.
- 4800 block, Queensbury Rd.
- 5700 block, 47th Ave.
- 4500 block, Oliver St.

You also may call to ask that your area be removed from the no-spray list. If no one on your block is listed on the official Insecticide Sensitive List, the area will be reconsidered for spraying.

Spray-It-Yourself

Spraying has little effect if the breeding areas are not eliminated, but if you’ve tipped and tossed and still have a problem, you can purchase your own insecticides. It is crucial that you **read the label and follow the instructions exactly**. For the Asian tiger mosquito, look for active ingredients such as resmethrin, permethrin, or pyrethrin (there are others that work also). For the tiger mosquito, it is best to spray around dusk when they are most active and to aim the bulk of your treatment at their preferred resting areas: bushes, ivy, tall grass, under decks, and in other shady sheltered areas.

Community Circles

Won't You Be My Neighbor?

By Audrey Bragg

"Hey, Mom! We found three kittens. Can we keep them?"
"Mrs. Smith needs help hauling heavy trash from the basement to the curb. Can you help?"

A hallmark of small-town life is a sense of community. But that community doesn't happen by itself. It takes a little effort. In 2001, a group of Riverdale Park residents founded Neighbors Helping Neighbors to provide volunteers for the small jobs that can make a big difference. NHN has no rules or regulations for requests or for membership. If we can help, we do. If the help is beyond our means, we refer the request to another organization.

Working with our e-mail list of about 30 people, we often have a response within an hour of issuing a call for help. Here are just a few of the ways NHN has helped in the past year:

- Yard cleanup for an elderly neighbor
 - Adoption of abandoned kittens and cats
 - Letter writing for a Spanish-speaking resident who cannot write in English
 - Tree planting in memory of a small child and collection of money for the child's family
 - Collection of money for someone whose spouse died suddenly
 - Shed replacement for an elderly neighbor
 - Building of a dog run for a resident whose illness prevented her from walking her pets
 - Temporary meal delivery for sick neighbors
 - Snow shoveling
 - Donations of furniture for a needy young couple
- Would you like to join us? Perhaps you know a neighbor who needs help. To subscribe to the list or request help, call Audrey Bragg, 301-277-7393, or send an e-mail to Abragg7393@aol.com.

Hire a Teen for Odd Jobs

By David Hiles

Need help with yard work or other chores? The town maintains a list of young people who are willing to hire out for cutting grass, raking leaves, shoveling snow, or whatever else you need. Call the Town Office, 301-927-6381, to get the next name on the list.

Riverdale Park young people looking for work can call the same number to have their names listed. Parents must send a note to Town Hall releasing the town from liability. A worker's name stays on the list until the town gets a request to remove it; no professionals, please. The town cannot guarantee the quality of the worker or the customer. www.tinyurl.com/AHLG4 for more information.

Phoenix

By Rob Oppenheim

Rachel Frey and Simon McNabb live in Riverdale Park—at least they did until a fire gutted their home last December. Simon was away on business when a toaster oven sparked the fire. Thankfully, a smoke detector alerted Rachel and she got everyone out of the house safely. (Put down the *Crier* now and go check your smoke alarm batteries.) Damage to the house was extensive.

Until the repairs are completed, Rachel, Simon, and their children are staying at 5902 Westchester Park Drive, College Park, MD 20740; 301-277-0057. They had good news recently—the restoration work has finally begun.

But the really good news for the family was the arrival June 6 of Beatrice Wynn. Beatrice joins her older siblings, Eva and Finn. Everyone is fine and looking forward to returning home to Riverdale Park.

Rachel Frey is an assistant minister at University Christian Church (see Mind, Body, Spirit on page 12).

Baby Girl

Congratulations also to Steven and Dannielle Glaros of Sheridan Street, who have a new daughter, Lillian Ruth, born June 18 at 2:43 PM at Georgetown University Hospital. Mom and baby are doing great. Steven says: "She came early and gave her dad the best Father's Day present ever." You may have noticed Dannielle madly typing on her laptop at the Town Council Meetings. She volunteers to keep the minutes. Our very best wishes to the family!

Father John McKay to Take New Assignment

Rev. John McKay, pastor of St. Bernard of Clairvaux Catholic Church in Riverdale Park, is being transferred to St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church in Hyattsville in July. During his 5 years at St. Bernard, the parish community has celebrated and expanded its multicultural diversity in many ways inside the parish and in the larger community. Fr. McKay thanks all those who have helped the parish in its many ministries these past years. The staff of the *Town Crier* and the Town of Riverdale Park extends thanks to Fr. McKay for his service to our community, and we wish him the very best in his new assignment.

Call for Submissions

If you or your organization has an article for the *Town Crier*, send it by e-mail with the story attached to RP.TownCrier@comcast.net. Be sure to include a contact name and phone number. Tell us about your group and what it does. Be sure to give examples of your activities and provide information about where interested readers can learn more. Those stories will run as space allows.

Local Summer Fun

Compiled by Rob Oppenheim

Riversdale Wine Tasting

Sunday, July 17, 1 & 2:30 PM, Admission
Wine expert Heidi McLain explores European wines reflecting Rosalie Stier Calvert's heritage. 4811 Riverdale Road. Admission includes souvenir wine glass, refreshments, house tour: \$24/residents; \$29/nonresidents. Adults age 21 and up. Limited capacity; registration required. Call 301-864-0420.

Music on the Portico

Wednesdays, 7–8 PM, Free

Bring a blanket or lawn chair to Riversdale to enjoy music outdoors. Bring a picnic or come early to purchase grilled food before the show. In case of rain, the concert moves inside.

July 27 Guitarist Bruce Katsu and singer-songwriter Carol Gaylor play jazz, pop, alternative

Aug 24 Harmonica maestro and vocalist Bruce Ewan with his band, the Solid Senders

Bladensburg Battle Encampment

Saturday, August 13, Noon–4 pm, Free

Join War of 1812 re-enactors as they camp on the Riversdale lawn to prepare for battle. Meet Rosalie Stier Calvert, mistress of Riversdale. See demonstrations, drills, and representations of military camp life. Try your hand at early 19th-Century children's games on the lawn. Refreshments available for purchase.

Riversdale Tours & More

Fridays & Sundays, Noon–3:30 PM, Admission
\$3/adults, \$2/seniors, \$1/ages 5–18, Free/ages 4 & under.
Visit www.tinyurl.com/86ZFL for Riversdale history and upcoming events.

Anacostia River Tours

Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, Noon–12:45 PM
Sundays, 6–6:45 PM
Free

Join a park naturalist aboard a pontoon boat to search for birds and other wildlife. No reservations needed; great for all ages. Bladensburg Waterfront Park, 4601 Annapolis Road. Call 301-779-0371.

College Park Aviation Museum

Daily, 10 AM–5 PM, Admission

Take off in the state-of-the-art flight simulator of a 1911 Wright Brothers' Model B. \$1 for 3 minutes plus normal admission: \$4/adults, \$3/seniors, \$2/ages 18 & under. 1985 Cpl. Frank Scott Drive. Call 301-864-6029 or visit www.CollegeParkAviationMuseum.com.

Second Annual Chili Cook-Off

Saturday, July 16, 6–8 PM, Free

Think you make good chili? Prove it at University Park Elementary School, 4315 Underwood Street. Bring a pot-full (8–10 servings) to enter in one of three categories: Veggie, Mild, and Three-Alarm. Enjoy dinner and listen to Pork Chop and the Top Dogs, a local blues band.

Fourth of July

Caution: All fireworks are illegal for home use.

Check the *Washington Post* and the *Gazette* for public fireworks displays or www.tinyurl.com/ak8wu

Get Ready, Get Set, Go!

Run to Help Needy Children

The College Park Cares 10K race, 3K fun walk, and 200-meter kids' run for children 12 and under will be held Monday, July 4, 2005. Registration starts at 6:30 AM; activities begin at 8 AM at the College Park City Hall on Knox Road. The course winds through the streets of College Park, down Paint Branch Parkway, onto the Anacostia trail, and around Lake Artemesia. Registration for the 10K run and 3K walk is \$30 until July 3; \$35 on race day. Registration for the 200-meter kids' run is \$5. The event benefits the Medical Care for Children Partnership, which provides medical services to children in low-income families in our County. For more information and to register early: www.tinyurl.com/8LWWN

Shakespeare in the Parks

Free

Olney Theatre Center's National Players, America's longest running touring company, presents *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Call 301-454-1450 or visit www.nationalplayers.org (click on Summer Tour).

Wednesday, July 13, 7:30 PM, Magruder Park, 40th Avenue at Hamilton Street, Hyattsville

Sunday, July 17, 3 PM, Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, University of Maryland

Hyattsville Summer Jams

Fridays, 6:30–8:30 PM, Free

Live music, food, and children's games. Hyattsville Municipal Building, 4310 Gallatin Street. Call 301-985-5027.

July 8 Folk artists Cletus Kennelly, Lori Kelley.

Aug 5 Rock with the Rhodes Tavern Troubadours

Sept 9 Hula Monsters Hawaiian swing band

Ellen Linson Pool

Cool off or sign up for swimming lessons, 5211 Paint Branch Parkway (formerly Calvert Road), \$5/adults, \$4/children and seniors. Recorded information: 301-277-0654; general inquiries: 301-277-3719.

Riverdale Park Day

Saturday, October 1, Noon–5 PM, Free

Mark your calendars for Riverdale Park Day. It will take place on the Riversdale Mansion grounds this fall. We will celebrate the 85th anniversary of our town.

Summer Playground

Monday through Friday until July 29, 9 AM–3 PM

Arts and crafts, sports, performance artists, field trips to swimming pools, amusement parks, and playhouse performances, for ages 6 to 12, at Riverdale Elementary School. \$15 for membership plus field trip fees. For more information, call Berwyn Heights Community Center, at 301-345-2808. SMARTlink account required (see below).

Xtreme Teen Thing

Friday and Saturday evenings, 6–10 PM

Spend this summer having fun and hanging with other teens. Go carts, volleyball, laser tag, scavenger hunts, nature walks, bowling, gym, dance, cookouts, Play Station 2 tournaments and more for teens 17 and younger at Berwyn Heights Community Center (see below). \$15 for membership plus field trip fees. SMARTlink account required (see below). You can learn about other teen activities by visiting or calling the Community Center.

Berwyn Heights Community Center

The Berwyn Heights Community Center is located at 6200 Pontiac St., go north on Kenilworth; left at a traffic light onto Pontiac St. to the Community Center on your right, next to the school, 301-345-2808. Open 9 AM–4 PM, plus weekends and evenings to 8 PM or later (10 PM Friday and Saturday) for teen activities and registrations.

SMARTlink

Many Park and Planning activities require that you open a SMARTlink account for your family. To open your account go in person to a facility such as the Berwyn Heights Community Center and bring proof of age for your children and an adult ID to prove residency. Be sure to call first and make sure you have everything you need 301-345-2808, or 301-445-4509, Spanish 301-445-4509.

Mind, Body, Spirit.

Church Offers a Variety of Programs

BY JACKIE WINTLE

University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, College Park, offers Body Recall, an exercise program especially for seniors, Tuesdays, 2:30 PM. Very low impact exercises help seniors extend their range of motion, become stronger, with more vigor. Participants should wear loose clothing and athletic shoes and bring water and a towel. Free. Call Gloria Grant: 301-864-1520.

A yoga class that formed last April meets Tuesdays, 7–8:20 PM, at the church. Yoga is an ancient practice that integrates body, mind, and spirit, and it can be modified to suit everybody—young and supple or old and stiff. Practi-

tioners strive for awareness of posture, alignment, and movement. The controlled breathing and meditative exercises promote relaxation even in stressful situations. Call Bonnie Zager, 301-474-8813, to leave your name and number. She will call you with information and costs.

The church is starting a Weight Watchers program. Call Gloria Grant, 301-864-1520, or send an e-mail to cucoffice@verizon.net for information and costs.

The Library: It's Wild

By Gerard F. Kiernan

Research shows that children who read for pleasure do better in school and foster lifelong self-improvement. Now that school is out, lots of students are looking for things to do. The Hyattsville branch of the county's public library system, 6532 Adelphi Road, is one cool place to spend part of a hot summer day. This year's summer reading program, Wild About Reading, offers suggestions and incentives for tots to teens who want to explore new authors or renew old acquaintances with favorite books. Patrons can check out games, movies, magazines, and recorded books in a variety of languages. The library offers story time and other activities, including many for Spanish speakers. The Web site opens the door to a world of services. Library cards are free, as are most library programs and services. Information: www.prge.lib.md.us. 301-985-4690, The library is closed Sundays during the summer.

Register Now for Fall Sports Soccer, Football, Cheerleading

By David Hiles

Sign up now for the fall season with the Boys & Girls Club of Hyattsville–Mount Rainier–Brentwood (HMB) for fall sports—football, soccer, and cheerleading. Fees are \$65 for soccer and cheerleading and \$105 for football. Registration is at the Magruder Park recreation building on Hamilton Street in Hyattsville on the following dates:

Monday, July 11 and Friday, July 15, 6–7:30 PM

Saturday, July 16, 10 AM–1 PM

I am a soccer coach with HMB, and I think it's a good program. The programs are open to children ages 5 to 15. Proof of residence, a wallet-sized photo, and a copy of the player's birth certificate are required. For more information, call Tracy Dobbins, 301-931-2727, or Boys and Girls club website at www.tinyurl.com/dxgrs or visit my Web site: www.riverdalepark.blogspot.com.

Prince George's Community Pool

By David Hiles

Prince George's Community Pool, 34th & Buchanan Streets, Mt. Rainier, is a great place to swim this summer. It is open until 8:30 PM for most of the season, it has beautiful grounds and a friendly atmosphere, and the membership fees are modest. Check it out at www.pgpool.org or call 301-277-8896.

Farmers' Market Celebration

By Alice Ewen Walker

Join the party Thursday, July 14, 3–7 PM, at the Town Center. No, it's not a Bastille Day party, but a celebration of the little revolution in Riverdale Park. It's the 8th anniversary of the opening of our farmers' market. The event will feature live music and guest-chef cooking demonstrations using ingredients available that day. For kids, there will be face painting and a clown. Each hour, there will be a free raffle to win a \$25 purchase voucher.

The Riverdale Park farmers' market is a producer-only market—yet another amenity available to our town.

If you haven't visited yet, you've been missing the freshest produce—usually picked the day it's sold. The quality is astounding, and you'll feel good because you are supporting Maryland family farmers and independent craftspeople—several from Prince George's County.

You'll find fruits and vegetables, eggs, bread, Amish cheese, cut flowers, bedding plants for the garden, jewelry, pottery, and other craft items. Prepared dinners from the Curry Shack and gourmet sundries are also offered.

The volunteer committee that organizes and operates the market is always seeking new members to expand outreach, recruit specialty vendors, and garner publicity. The farmers' market is just another way we can work together to prime our Town Center for economic development. Each week nearly 300 shoppers prove that Riverdale Park is a great place to live and work. Bringing activity, consumer spending, and lively community life to the Town Center is something we can all support.

The market operates Thursdays, 3–7 PM, through November 17 in the Town Center, Queensbury Road at Rhode Island Avenue. To receive a weekly e-mail listing of vendors and specials, send a note to alice.ewen.walker@gmail.com. To volunteer or for more information call Rebecca Feldberg: 301-864-2779.

Local Markets

By Rob Oppenheim

Farmers' markets are scattered all over the metropolitan area. Of course, ours is the best, but you might enjoy visiting a few others too:

Hyattsville has a producer-only market (formerly at PG Plaza), now behind Queens Chapel Town Center at the intersection of Queens Chapel Road, Hamilton Street, and Ager Road, Tuesdays, 2–6 PM, June–October.

College Park, Linson Pool, 5211 Paint Branch Parkway, Saturdays, 7 AM until noon, May–November. Flea market 1st and 3rd Saturdays: 301-277-3717.

USDA Beltsville, 5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Thursdays, 10 AM to 2 PM, June–October.

Riverdale Park, Town Center, Thursdays, 3–7 PM.

To learn more about producer-only markets, visit www.tinyurl.com/9L7EY. For a list of more markets, visit www.tinyurl.com/9JL3W



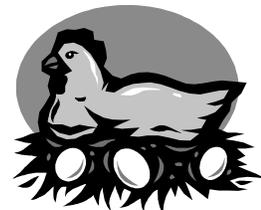
Riverdale Park Farmers' Market, June 2005. Picture by Drena Galarza

Farm Fresh Produce

July, August and September produce

- Tomatoes
- Corn
- Potatoes
- Watermelon
- Cantaloupe
- Peas
- Cabbage
- Turnips
- Berries
- Baked goods
- Eggs
- Baskets
- Honey
- Peaches

Riverdale Park Farmers' Market



Every Thursday 3-7 pm through November 17, 2005
At Town Center —Queensbury Road and the MARC Station

WIC coupons accepted 301-864-2779 or 301-927-6381

July–August 2005

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July	3	4 Independence Day Offices closed No trash pickup	5 Area A Trash A_y Legislative Session 8pm Traffic Study 7pm	6 Area B Trash B_y C_r ComCom 8pm M-UTC 7:30pm	7 A_{hm} Farm. Market 3-7 TC	8 B_{hm}	9 Drop Off, 9-5
	10	11 Rec. Board 7:30pm A_y	12 Madison Hill 7:30pm B_y	13 C_r	14 A_{hm} Farm. Market 3-7 TC	15 B_{hm}	16 Drop Off, 9-5
	17	18 A_y	19 PGHLN 7:30pm B_y	20 C_r	21 A_{hm} Farm. Market 3-7 TC	22 B_{hm}	23 Drop Off, 9-5
	24	25 Work Session 8pm A_y	26 B_y	27 Lions Club 7pm C_r	28 A_{hm} Farm. Market 3-7 TC	29 B_{hm}	30 Drop Off, 9-5
	31	August 1 A_y Legislative Session 8pm	2 B_y Traffic Study 7pm	3 C_r M-UTC 7:30pm	4 A_{hm} Farm. Market 3-7 TC	5 B_{hm}	6 Drop Off, 9-5
August	7	8 Rec. Board 7:30pm A_y	9 Madison Hill 7:30pm B_y	10 C_r	11 A_{hm} Farm. Market 3-7 TC	12 B_{hm}	13 Drop Off, 9-5
	14	15 A_y	16 PGHLN 7:30pm B_y	17 C_r	18 A_{hm} Farm. Market 3-7 TC	19 B_{hm}	20 Drop Off, 9-5
	21	22 A_y	23 B_y	24 Lions Club 7pm C_r	25 A_{hm} Farm. Market 3-7 TC	26 B_{hm}	27 Drop Off, 9-5
	28	29 Work Session 8pm A_y	30 B_y	31 C_r	September 1 A_{hm} Farm. Market 3-7 TC	2 B_{hm}	3 Drop Off, 9-5
	4	5 Labor Day Offices closed No trash pickup	6 Area A Trash A_y Legislative Session 8pm Traffic Study 7pm	7 Area B Trash B_y C_r M-UTC 7:30pm	8 A_{hm} Farm. Market 3-7 TC	9 B_{hm}	10 Drop Off, 9-5

Calendar abbreviations

All activities at Town Hall, unless otherwise noted

Legislative and Work Sessions, regular council meetings; **M-UTC**, Mixed-Use Town Center Review Committee

PGHLN, Prince Georges' Home Learning Network; **ComCom**, Communications Committee

Farm. Market, Farmers' Market, Thursdays, 3–7 PM, at Town Center (**TC**): Queensbury at Rhode Island Ave.

Drop Off, Saturday, 9 AM to 5 PM, drop off heavy trash, motor oil, and mixed paper at Public Works

Trash Schedule (exceptions noted in calendar).

A_y Area A, regular trash and yard waste—Monday; A_{hm} Area A, regular and heavy trash, metal recycling—Thursday

B_y Area B, regular trash and yard waste—Tuesday; B_{hm} Area B, regular and heavy trash, metal recycling—Friday

C_r County recycling: bottles, cans, newspapers, and mixed paper—Wednesday

Public Works Report

By Debbie Murphy

Holiday Schedule. Public Works is closed July 4 and Sept. 5. Regular trash and yard waste will be picked up Tuesdays in Area A, Wednesdays in Area B.

Free Mulch. Untreated mulch is available to Riverdale Park residents. The mulch pile is at the end of Queensbury Road, next to the Public Works building. Help yourself to as much as you can use.

Recycling Oil. An oil-recycling tank adjacent to the Public Works building gives residents a place to dispose of motor oil. Please do not put anything other than **used motor oil** in the tank. Solamente aceite de carro usado.

Spring Cleanup Was Terrific. Public Works removed 16 truckloads of trash—66.35 tons—to save the town \$3400 in landfill fees. That does not include the 6.43 tons of metal collected that day or the 12.64 tons of yard waste, 0.98 tons of paper, and 11.72 tons of trash collected the rest of that week. Hats off to the Public Works Department: In the four-day workweek, May 31–June 3, department employees collected and disposed of a total of 98.12 tons of refuse.

Public Works Information. Call 301-864-1803 or check these Web pages, www.tinyurl.com/b28wb and www.tinyurl.com/c7zp2, for maps, fees, schedules, and restrictions.