

The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

November 2005

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Veterans’ Memorial Service

By Rob Oppenheim

On Veterans Day, Friday, Nov. 11, 2005, at 11:00 a.m., a brief service honoring our veterans will be held at the Veterans’ Memorial across from the MARC Station in the town center. There will be a reception afterward at Town Hall with sandwiches, cookies, coffee, tea, and soda. The town offices and Public Works Department will be closed for the holiday, other than for the ceremony and reception. The Police Department, as always, will remain open.

Riverdale Park Day A Huge Success

By Rob Oppenheim

We could not have asked for better weather on Riverdale Park Day, Oct. 1, 2005. A big thanks to the Recreation Board and to all who helped make it a wonderful event.



Copyright www.RiverdaleVFD.com

The Riverdale Fire Department had lots of fun with the kids. Here Fire Sergeant Chad Hasselberger assists a “Junior Firefighter.” For more pictures from Riverdale Park Day, visit the Web site www.riverdalevfd.com/home.html and scroll down.

[Picture reprinted with permission.]

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Council Actions

By Colleen Ferguson

Legislative Meeting, Monday, October 5, 2005

1. Approved 6-foot privacy fence, 4308 Queensbury Road.
2. Approved Resolution 2005-OR-4: Modification to Chapter 25, Code of Riverdale Park, Dance Halls. Fines will increase, as published in September 2005 *Town Crier*. Third public reading.
3. Tabled request for speed humps for Cleveland Avenue pending more information and cost estimate.

Wanted: *Town Crier* Editor-in-Chief

By Rob Oppenheim

I was hired by the previous administration to edit the *Town Crier*, and some people say I was hired inappropriately. The job was not advertised—as would normally be the case for a position the town administrator would fill—nor did the council approve me, as would generally happen for a mayoral appointment. The result, I am told, is that I have less credibility than I should and that I lack a strong backer.

In order to allow the position to be filled in a manner that will be acceptable to everyone, I am resigning as editor-in-chief, effective immediately. If you would like the position, then please apply—start by talking to Town Administrator Pat Prangley.

The position pays \$500 per issue. If one considers the job to be taking submissions, laying out the issue, and delivering it to the printer, that's reasonably good pay. If much more is involved, the paycheck really is an honorarium.

I did want to do more. I wanted to push the envelope some, to make the *Crier* more interesting and, I'd hoped, more useful as a community-building tool. Doing that requires managing writers and editors, dealing with budgets and controlling costs, developing meaningful story ideas and themes and seeking volunteers to write them—writing them myself if I can't find an author—overseeing all areas of production, and demanding the best from everyone.

I also planned to write a standards and procedures manual and to review and recommend changes to the Town Code regarding the *Crier*. It might still be reasonable that some or all of those tasks are what the town should expect from the editor.

Now, I am going to take some time off to think about how I want to serve our community. I might even reapply for the job. If I do, my application will be considered the same as any other, and if I'm not the next editor, I will help with the transition.

I want to thank everyone who has helped make the *Crier* a better paper: authors Corey Slavitt, Marita Novicky, Pat Prangley, Leslie Plant, Debbie Murphy, Colleen Ferguson, Lt. Timmons, Mayor Archer, former Mayor Tiberio, Regina Kreger, Audrey Bragg, Alice Walker, Jennie Reinhardt, David Hiles, Ray Badders, Sandra Bonnefond, Alan Thompson, Gerry Kiernan, Karen Rowe, John Ferguson, Maureen Farrington, photographer Drena Galarza and printer Charles O'Dell. A special thanks goes to advisors Pat Prangley, Sarah Wayland, Alan Thompson, all the Council Members (especially Toscano, Webb, and Taylor for their supporting votes), Judy Glaes, and most especially of all, Kate Kelly.

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

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

Council Members

Ward 1 Tracey Toscano 301-927-9022
TraceyRPark@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

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

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
editor@rptc.us

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.

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Some issues of the *Crier* are available online
www.rptc.us

Mayor's Report

By Vernon Archer

Meeting the Challenges of Development

Managing growth is always a challenge for town government, and the next few years will be no different. Several developments over the last months have highlighted areas that need attention in order to ensure that Riverdale Park not only grows but also prospers in the years ahead. Significant new development along Baltimore Avenue, River Road, and hopefully in town center will bring a host of opportunities as well as difficulties. Our town's rising prosperity and overall improvement in economic outlook have been coupled with a significant increase in auto traffic, and nearby development can only sharpen this trend.

The University of Maryland and its public and private partners are moving ahead rapidly with the M Square project. This development is centered on River Road and the majority of the new buildings will lie within our town boundaries. M Square will eventually bring thousands of jobs—up to 6500 jobs once completed—and a great deal of increased revenue for the town. The university plans to fill the center with technology startup companies and government agencies. As reported in last month's *Town Crier*, the NOAA Weather and Climate Prediction Center will be among them.

The employees of these new firms and agencies will be looking for restaurants, shopping opportunities, and places to live. These new workers will be closer to Riverdale Park's commercial zones than to anyplace else. Our task is to let investors and business owners know about these opportunities now so they can take advantage of this addition to our community. Town government is working with the university, local businesses, and nonprofits to make sure that we seize this chance.

Along our border with Hyattsville, the firm of Eakin Youngentob is redeveloping the Lustine properties and will break ground within a few months. This project will ultimately bring a mix of almost 500 new townhouses and condominiums as well as thousands of feet of retail space. While only a small part of this development will be within our border, all of it will be within a couple of blocks. It will have almost as much impact on Riverdale Park as it will on Hyattsville.

Again, this project will bring a significant increase in the number of people who drive, walk, and bike through

our town. Those who invest in our town center and Baltimore Avenue business districts will be rewarded with a significant increase in customer base—another advantage to us in our continued efforts to market Riverdale Park to investors.



Our town center area remains nearly one-third vacant, but there is reason for optimism here, too. While Douglas Development—which owns virtually all of the vacant properties—has not leased any property there are some signs of movement. My administration is in frequent contact with the principals at the firm. We made clear from the outset that we expect them to resume fulfilling their contract with Riverdale Park to complete the renovation process of the buildings they purchased from the town in 2002.

On the other side of the railroad tracks, Pete and Sons, Inc., is exploring ways to expand Dumm's Corner and transform the pizza parlor into a restaurant. One possibility under consideration will also include a number of new luxury apartments. This would certainly work well with the mixed-use zoning of this area and expand our local market. How traffic and parking would be affected is not as clear at this time.

All of this activity signals the continued need for town government and residents to work together to make sure that we maximize the benefits and minimize the pain. Change is hard. Most of us live in Riverdale Park because we like the small-town feel. Let's work together to keep that. Controlling and accommodating increased traffic in town will be a high priority and our town government is already considering options and collecting information about existing traffic patterns. We will need to think about improving existing streets and roads and perhaps creating new roads and trails. We must take stock of our parking resources and prepare to meet our future needs. We need to protect our remaining open spaces because they will become even more precious as the years pass. Now is the time to *plan* for Riverdale Park's bright future, while preserving what we love best about our town.

For more information on the Eakin Youngentob project visit www.eya.com/pdf/PGCountyWebSite.pdf.

Solar Home Follow-Up

By Rob Oppenheim

The University of Maryland's solar home won the People's Choice Award as the favorite of thousands of visitors to the 2005 Solar Decathlon on the National Mall (September *Town Crier*, page 1). The team finished eighth in the overall competition.

Page 4 has a photo, and you can see more pictures of the house at www.solarhouse.umd.edu.

To see all the winners visit www.eere.energy.gov/solar_decathlon.

Public Safety Report

By Gerard F. Kiernan, Ward 5

Who Should Decide How Streets Are Used?

Riverdale Park has three classes of streets. The first class consists of the through-streets: Baltimore Avenue (U.S. Route 1), Kenilworth Avenue, East-West Highway (Maryland Route 410), and River Road. The second class is entry-exit streets, which lead into and out of the town: Riverdale Road, Jefferson Street, Taylor Road, Lafayette Avenue, Queensbury Road, and Cleveland Avenue. Those streets come into the town center from one of the larger roads, usually from an intersection where traffic is controlled by a stop light. The third class is the interior streets, such as Oglethorpe Street and Oliver Street. Traffic on those streets is primarily local.

Recently, homeowners on Cleveland Avenue (the street that leads from Madison Street and Baltimore Avenue to the town center) have asked for speed humps to control "cut-through" traffic in front of their homes. Residents on other entry streets have asked for similar relief. I use this route to go to Catholic University in Northeast Washington for meetings or to get to Franklin's in Hyattsville for lunch. Other folks in town tell me they travel on Cleveland Avenue to and from Hyattsville or to work in D.C.

So, the question is: Should homeowners who live along a street have the right to set the conditions for everyone who uses that road? The 2000 Census shows the town's population as 6233 people in approximately 2100 households. All of those households pay taxes to maintain the town's streets. The town's elected officials need your input to decide whether to grant requests to spend taxpayers' money for speed humps or any other locally requested improvements.

Please feel free to contact me by phone or e-mail or come to the legislative session Nov. 7 to express your opinion.



The UMD Solar Home on the Mall at night. Story, page 3.

Ward 1 Report

By Tracey J. Toscano, Ward 1

It's Time for the Town to Fulfill Its Commitment to Safety

The dangerous speed of traffic through our neighborhoods has been a top issue expressed to me as I've talked with Ward 1 residents. The number of cars that disregard posted speed limits, stop signs, and other traffic controls seems to have increased dramatically.

Cleveland Avenue is among the town's most heavily used residential roads. Our police force does not have the capacity to neglect more urgent work to maintain a consistent presence on that street, so other means must be considered to promote public safety and quality of life for the neighborhood.

Last spring, every homeowner in the 5900 block of Cleveland Avenue signed a petition in favor of installing two traffic-calming speed humps. These are gentle humps that slow traffic without the jarring "bump" of old-style speed bumps. Recently, residents of the 5800 block of Cleveland have also requested two humps.

On April 25, 2005, the Town Council approved the installation of two speed humps on the 5900 block of Cleveland Avenue. To spend the town's money efficiently, it is best to bundle such requests. The town now has enough requests that it makes economic sense to proceed with construction. However, no action has been taken on the issue, and winter is quickly approaching.

Admittedly, speed humps are not a total solution to our traffic woes. But the town has an obligation to do what it can to improve safety and fulfill its commitment to residents. At the Nov. 7 Legislative Meeting I will make a motion to direct the Public Works Department to develop an installation plan with a timetable and recommendation for locating the humps, to be reviewed at the next meeting. Please attend the Monday, Nov. 7 legislative session, 8 p.m., so your voice can be heard.

Tracey Toscano Stepping Down

On another note: As I announced in August, I will be moving soon. Although our new house is very close by, it is across the town line and I will be unable to serve the remainder of my term. I will step down at the end of the Nov. 7 meeting, and I look forward to helping my successor make the transition into office. I deeply appreciate the support, help, and friendly discussions we've had about the exciting future of Riverdale Park and the rest of our area, and I look forward to strengthening those relationships and continuing to work cooperatively as your neighbor.

Flood Map Follow-Up

By Rob Oppenheim

Clarification: According to the Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources (PGDER), **flooding caused by stormwater backup in sewers is NOT covered by federal flood insurance.**

The PGDER flood map for Riverdale Park is dramatically different from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood insurance map (September *Town Crier*, page 7). The PGDER map shows a far more extensive potential flood area, partly because it is based on development projected from zoning plans.

The PGDER map normally is on display in the Town Hall conference room. You can see it during regular business hours or at a meeting of the mayor and council. According to that map, several areas of Riverdale Park could be subject to flooding, mainly along the banks of the Northeast Branch and adjacent to the flood

control projects that wend their way through town. There is some good news, though, if your house is in floodplain on the county map but not on FEMA's: Flood insurance will cost you less because rates are based on the FEMA maps.

The streets shown below are at least partly in the floodplain on the county map. The list might help get you started, but is incomplete and because so many of them start and stop and start again, it's best to check with the county for definitive information. You can call PGDER, 301-883-5777, for help in determining whether your home is in the floodplain and to get a map that shows your address. Call 301-883-5874 to ask about flood insurance, flood safety, and flood preparedness. Visit PGDER online: www.tinyurl.com/bd26m.

All or parts of these Riverdale Park streets are shown in the floodplain on the county map:

Greenway Drive	Quintana Street	
Jefferson Street	Ravenswood Road	45th Place
Longfellow Street	Riverdale Road	46th Avenue
Madison Street	Riverside Drive	47th Avenue
Nicholson Street	Rhode Island Avenue	48th Avenue
Oglethorpe Street	Sheridan Street	49th Avenue
Patterson Street	Spring Lane	50th Avenue
Powhatan Street	Tanglewood Drive	51st Avenue
Queensbury Road	Taylor Road	54th Avenue
Quesada Street	Tuckerman Street	

Public Works

By Debbie Murphy

The Department of Public Works will be closed for Veterans Day, Friday, Nov. 11. Bulk trash and metals pickup will be Wednesday, Nov. 9, for Area A and Thursday, Nov. 10, for Area B. **Public Works is closed for Thanksgiving Nov. 24 and 25.** Bulk trash and metal pickup for Areas A and B will be Wednesday, Nov. 23.

Leaf collection begins Oct. 31. Residents are asked to place leaves—but not trash or branches—in piles as close to the curb as possible. *Please do not place the leaves in the gutter or the street.* Residents also are reminded that collection equipment cannot remove leaves if parked vehicles block access. The collection schedule has a 3- to 5-day rotation to allow pickup everywhere in town at about the same rate. The goal is to visit every block at least once each week. Bagged leaves may be put out for collection with regular trash on Mondays (Area A) or Tuesdays (Area B).

Public Works gave away eight bikes in a free raffle at Riverdale Park Day, Oct. 1. Each winner also received a new bike helmet, compliments of the town's Police Department. The happy peddlers are Kevin Guzman, Jennifer Rose, Mary Reynoso, Collin Huber, Nikko, Alisa Isaacs, Amanda Pollitt, and Angel Grace. For more than 10 years, Public Works employees have collected donated or abandoned bikes. The staff members clean the bikes up and check them to make sure they are in good operating order before the annual raffle.

During emergencies (snow or ice storms, hurricanes, wind storms) resident calls for Public Works assistance—for downed tree limbs, for example—should be made to the Police Department, **301-927-4343**, which will forward the calls. Often, Public Works employees are already on the job, so there is no one to answer the phones.

Our Town

Novella Recovering Nicely from Accident

By Marita Novicky

Ward 3 Council Member Novella Sargusingh learned the hard way about hidden hazards that can lurk within a home, and she has newfound appreciation of her family and community. One Sunday morning in September, Novella was on her way to church when she twisted her ankle at the top of a flight of stairs in her house. She crashed head first into a wall at the bottom of the steps and was knocked unconscious. Her two teenage foster sons rushed to her aid, but Novella's injuries sent her to the shock-trauma unit at Prince George's Hospital, and there she stayed for a week.

She cautions that no one should take a home's safety for granted, "Lock your doors, check your electrical, and make sure you are safe!" She says this is the first time she has had a serious accident, and although she suffered a serious ankle break and head injury, she feels blessed to be alive and not paralyzed. She affirms her gratitude for the mountain of get-well cards and calls she received.

Not much has daunted Novella in her life, and she's not the type to let an injury keep her on the disabled list. She has remained active on the Town Council, participating in meetings via cable television and receiving and signing necessary documents at home. She's also a successful business owner who has been a licensed childcare provider for the past 20 years and has served as president of the Prince Georges and Maryland State Child Care Associations. She's a firm believer in staying involved.

The Sargusinghs moved to Riverdale Heights in 1974 and to Taylor Road in Riverdale Park in 1986. There they raised three children, all of whom attended Riverdale Elementary. Countless more kids number themselves the proud graduates of Novella's childcare.

When she moved into the Taylor Road house, Novella found many interesting records from the early days of Riverdale that had been left behind by John Power Waters, the former owner. Mr. Waters had served on the council in the early 1940s, as town clerk from 1946 to 1967, and as the historian for the Riverdale Historical Committee in 1970. His father, J. Burrows Waters, in 1920 became the town's first tax assessor, and he was elected the town's second mayor in 1922. Reading the old documents spurred Novella's interest in local history. The more she read, the more she wanted to know. Bob Fuerst,

a long-time resident and an expert in local lore, provided answers, and a politician was born.

Although Novella's first run for the council in 1995 was unsuccessful, she has never been inclined to give up: She kept running until she won in 2005.

Serving on the council is a lot of hard work, she says, and council members spend many hours behind the scenes, but Novella loves it. She believes the current council is among the best in the town's history, and she gives high praise to Mayor Vernon Archer and the other council members. In addition to representing Ward 3 residents, she chairs the Public Works Committee and thus has oversight for that department. She commends Jim Houser, Debbie Murphy, and all the staff for their excellent service to the town.

Challenges in Ward 3 also occupy her time: There's the need for additional lighting on the streets, and there's everyone's increased concern about public safety. She sees the M Square initiative, the disposition of the town center properties, and the lot at the intersection of East-West Highway and Baltimore Avenue as the greatest challenges facing the town. She says any resident should feel free to call her with concerns about or ideas for Ward 3 or for the town as a whole.

In December 2003, the Sargusinghs took first place in Riverdale Park's annual Festival of Lights. The family is well known for its creative holiday displays, not just during the winter season, but also for Easter, Independence Day, Halloween, Thanksgiving—you name it. The Sargusingh house is a point of interest throughout the year. This season, however, the family will scale back on decorating while Novella recuperates. Taylor Road won't be quite as festive, but it's good to know that inside the house Novella forges ahead.

Our Town is a collection of notes and stories about Riverdale Park residents written by Marita Novicky, who lives on the 4800 block of Sheridan Street in the house that once was known as Three Oaks and now is affectionately called Riverdale Retreat. If you have a story you would like to share about one of our neighbors, please send it to novickym@hotmail.com.





Get Ready for the 3rd Annual Riverdale Park Festival of Lights December 16, 2005, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

For more information, check next month's *Town Crier*, or contact Recreation Board volunteer Jody Kleponis, 301-779-2644, JKleponis@triconconstruction.com.

Community Circles

By Rob Oppenheim

Hyattsville Mennonite Church holds its 20th Annual **International Craft Sale**, Friday, Nov. 4 (4–9 p.m.), and Saturday, Nov. 5 (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.), 4217 East–West Highway. The sale of handicrafts by artisans in India, Vietnam, Kenya, South Africa, Peru, and Nicaragua benefits Ten Thousand Villages www.tenthousandvillages.com, a project of the Mennonite Central Committee. The fair-trade proceeds offer vital income to artisans in developing nations who otherwise might have no work at all. Volunteers run the sale, which is not a church fundraiser. In 2003, Ten Thousand Villages' sales supported the equivalent of more than 11,500 full-time jobs for artisans whose work includes jewelry, weavings, pottery, carved wood, children's toys, and holiday decorations.

St. Bernard's School, 5811 Riverdale Road, is holding its First Annual **Holiday Bazaar**, Saturday, Nov. 5, 2005, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Come hang out for the day and enjoy one-stop shopping for holiday gifts. Information: NeKola, 301-864-3801, nekolap@aol.com.

Nature Club for Kids, Saturday, Nov. 5, 2:30–3:30 p.m. Children will learn about nature and ecology through games, crafts, stories, and activities. Class meets the first Saturday of each month. Ages 6–12. Fee: \$2/resident; \$3/nonresident. Bladensburg Waterfront Park, 4601 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg. Information: 301-779-0371.

Seniors Thanksgiving Luncheon, Thursday, Nov. 17, Noon–2 p.m. Join members of our Seniors Social Club for a Thanksgiving luncheon. Reservations required by November 10. Ages 60 & up. Free. Prince George's Plaza Community Center, 6600 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville. Information: 301-864-1611.

Langley Park Community Center's **Annual Pottery Sale & Show**, Saturday, November 19, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. This popular event features wares made by students at the center: holiday ornaments, casseroles, candleholders, platters, berry bowls, and mugs. 1500 Merrimac Drive, Hyattsville. Information: 301-445-4508.

Senior Citizens' Discuss Holiday Issues, including how to deal with "holiday blues." Monday, Nov. 21, 10:30 a.m. Meet others to talk about finding ways to enjoy the holidays. Sponsored by Holy Cross Hospital. Ages 60 & up. Free. Langley Park Senior Center, 1500 Merrimac Drive, Hyattsville. Information: 301-408-4343.

The 19th Annual **Watkins Winter Festival of Lights**, Friday, Nov. 25 through Sunday, Jan. 1, 2006, 5–9:30 p.m. Light up the holidays at this shining family event. Drive through the park to enjoy animated displays of more than one million twinkling lights. Fee: \$5/car or van; \$15/mini-bus or limo; \$25/bus; \$10/multi-visit pass (good for 3 visits and transferable). Donations of canned goods for local food banks are greatly appreciated. Watkins Regional Park, 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro. Information: 301-699-2456.
www.pgparcs.com/places/parks/watkins.html.

Riversdale House Activities

Une Fête Fédérale, Saturday, Nov. 19, 2 p.m. How would a Federal-period Belgian chef orchestrate a *fête* for guests of the Calverts of Riversdale? Observe the work of chefs from the Belgian embassy and then sample wine, appetizers, and historically inspired dishes; take home recipes; and view tables exquisitely set with period china and seasonal centerpieces. Reservations are required—expect to come away full. Fee: \$65.

Riversdale House Museum Tours—Fridays & Sundays, Noon to 4 p.m. Guided tours. Open-hearth cooking demonstrations Sundays. Fee: \$3/adults, \$2/seniors & groups, \$1/ages 5–18, free for children under 5.

Riversdale House Museum, 4811 Riverdale Road. Information: 301-864-0420. Information about the museum is available from www.riversdale.org and about tours and events from www.pgparcs.com/places/eleganthistoric/riversdale_intro.html.

Code Corner

By Colleen M. Ferguson, Code Enforcement Supervisor

This November, the Code Enforcement staff will be focusing on two issues involving motor vehicles:

Chapter 64 of the Town Code, *Vehicles and Traffic*, prohibits wrecked, dismantled, inoperable, or unlicensed vehicles in the Town of Riverdale Park. All vehicles must display current tags, regardless of where they are parked. In places where it is required, vehicles must display town parking permits. Violations are subject to ticketing, and vehicles may be towed with 3 days' notice.

Chapter 50, *Peace and Good Order*, prohibits automotive commercial activities in residential neighborhoods. No garage or repair shop may operate on a property that has not been zoned for commercial use by Prince Georges County. Violations are subject to municipal infraction citations and fines.

Please address questions, comments, or concerns to the town's Code Enforcement staff: 301-927-6381, 240-508-8460, or email: coderiverdalepk@comcast.net

Give Me Mulch

By Rob Oppenheim

Free untreated mulch is available to residents at the end of Queensbury Road, just past the Public Works building. It is available any time, and it's self-serve (bring a shovel). The mulch is composted, but it's not monitored, so it could contain live bugs or seeds.

The City of College Park sells untreated Smartleaf Compost—leaves and grass composted for at least a year—for \$10.50 per cubic yard, screened or unscreened. The mulch pile is monitored, and it reaches a temperature of at least 160 °F, so pests and seeds are killed, although it doesn't come with a guarantee. You can pick it up weekdays from 7:30 a.m. until noon or between 1:00 and 3:30 p.m. If you have a pickup truck, the staff will load it for you; otherwise, bring your own shovel. For an additional \$20, College Park will deliver mulch to Riverdale Park residents Thursdays or Fridays except during leaf pickup season. Call 301-474-4194 for more information.

Woodchips are available from Joe Fugere, Conspicuous Cleaning Co., 3913 Kennedy St., Hyattsville, Md. 20781, joeeclean@starpower.net, 301-699-1707. He says there is always a possibility of pests associated with this type of product, but a good freeze should eradicate any pests in surface mulch. His chips are free and available sporadically on a first-come, first-served basis with free delivery. He says his "goal is to make sure that no natural tree product is wasted or thrown away and is restored to the earth for our well-being." Thanks to Sarah Wayland, who recently recommended Joe Fugere and his wood chips on Town Talk.

Easy with That Rake!

By Jennie Reinhardt

Getting ready to rake up all your leaves? Wait! Over-cleaning can *decrease* next year's garden bloom and bounty. Kris Wetherbee offers fall garden cleanup tips in the October issue of the American Horticulture Society's *American Gardener* magazine:

- A heavy layer of leaves should be raked up to avoid smothering grass, but leaves that fall in garden beds should be left in place.
- Leaves add essential organic matter to garden soil. They provide food for worms and other creatures that improve soil and deliver valuable nutrients to plants.
- A moderate layer of leaves will insulate trees and shrubs, conserve moisture, encourage beneficial soil organisms, and improve soil structure.
- Add 2 to 4 inches of mulch to shrubs, perennials, and trees, but leave a bit of space around trunks.
- Prune, rake up, and discard diseased plant stems or leaves.
- Let seedpods form on your favorite annuals—nasturtiums, poppies, cosmos. They will provide a welcome source for next year's blooms and add visual interest to the winter garden.

The author's last word of advice: Spend a little less time working in your garden and more time enjoying it!

"Turning a New Leaf on Fall Cleanup," Kris Wetherbee, adapted with permission from the September/October 2005 issue of *The American Gardener* magazine, published by the American Horticultural Society. For more information on the society, visit <http://www.ahs.org/index.html>.

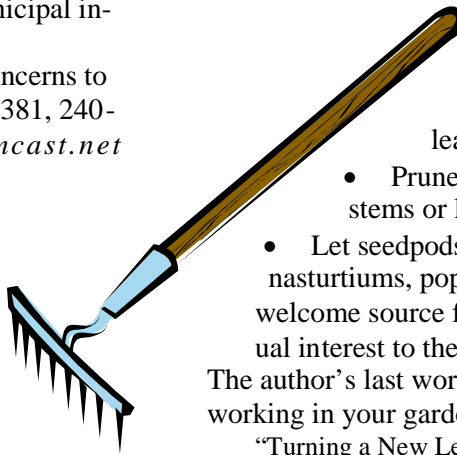
Garden Club Anyone?

Here's an excerpt from a recent TownTalk discussion (see "In the Loop," page 9, reprinted with permission):

Let's start a Home and Garden Club. We can pool our resources for paint and plants, knowledge and experience. I don't have a great garden yet, but most of the plants I have, I've gotten from other people around here. What do you think, Riverdaliens? And whatever else we accomplish, let's have some fun! Call or e-mail Susan Hines, 301-927-1281, susanhines39@hotmail.com.

Count me in. I'd love to have a plant exchange in spring to share things that need dividing and thinning. And I'd love to have a pool of neighbors to contact for advice, share bulk orders, and borrow and lend garden tools—Nancy

Great idea, Susan. I volunteer my house for an organizational meeting. While my garden isn't at its prime either, the house has lots of interesting architectural features. I'll even provide some treats—Lori Lynch, llynch@arec.umd.edu.



Girl Scouts and Brownies

By Rob Oppenheim

Family Fun Festival

Hosted by the Girl Scout Council
of the Nation's Capital

Bring the whole family to the Girl Scouts' Family Fun Festival, Saturday, Nov. 5, 2005, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Candlelight Room (in the church basement) and on the parking lot at St. Bernard's Catholic Church, 5700 St. Bernard Drive. There will be activities, games, and crafts for all, but especially for girls between the ages of 5 and 17 and their families. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information about this event or about starting a Girl Scout troop in Riverdale Park contact Charmaine Wilson of the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital: 301-449-5690, ext. 27, cwilson@gscnc.org. General information about Girl Scouting is available from www.gscnc.org.

Local Girl Scout Troop 959, for girls in grades 7-12, meets twice a month on a Monday at 6:30 p.m. in the Scout Room at St. Bernard's Church. For meeting dates, call Virginia Cooper, 301-864-8588 or e-mail vaginny-coop3tag@earthlink.net. There are openings for more girls and for leaders too. The Girl Scouts are now organizing more troops for girls in our area.



Girl Scouts®
Where Girls Grow Strong™

In the Loop

By Rob Oppenheim

Check out www.rptc.us an experimental web site for the *Riverdale Park Town Crier*—with past issues available online.



A new e-mail list will begin soon that will let you receive the *Town Crier* via e-mail each month (in addition to the normal paper delivery).

The TownTalk e-mail list is where the action is and Town-Announce lets you know about upcoming meetings and agendas. That's right, you can know what is going to be discussed BEFORE the meeting takes place. Amazing.

TownTalk lets citizens sound off about local issues and clue each other in about what's happening and what should be happening. The ComTalk list recounts discussions from the town's Communications Committee.

To sign up go here: www.tinyurl.com/dn6tj.

Boy Scouts

By Rob Oppenheim

Local Boy Scout Troop 252, for boys ages 11-17, meets every Tuesday at 7:15 p.m. in the Scout Room at St. Bernard's Church. New members are always welcome.

Upcoming events include a weekend ski trip to the Wisp Resort near Deep Creek Lake in McHenry, Md. Another weekend in January the scouts will explore Indian history and tradition at the Carolina Indian Seminar in Statesville, N.C.

Over spring break the troop will hold a public health merit badge day and sponsor a trip to Cumberland, Md., for a bike ride down the C&O Canal Towpath—all 184 miles of it! They expect to cover about 40 miles a day, eating on the trail and camping out at night. (68-year-old Scoutmaster Bob Killen will be on the outing. He hopes the boys can keep up with him.) The weeklong event ends Saturday, April 1, in Georgetown.

The Order of the Arrow is the honor society of the Boy Scouts of America, recognizing older teen scouts who best exemplify the scout virtues of cheerful service, camping, and leadership. The group meets at Town Hall on the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m.

More information on Boy Scout Troop 252 is available from Scoutmaster Bob Killen, 202-282-8302 (office), 301-483-8455 (home), rfkille@yahoo.com. Visit the Boy Scouts online at www.boyscouts-ncac.org.



Cub Scouts

Cub Scouting is for boys in grades 1-5. Local Pack 252 will attend "Cubs for Jesus," a one-day retreat for Cub Scouts, Saturday, Nov. 19, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at St. Mary's School, 7207 Annapolis Road, Landover Hills. The Protestant and Catholic Committees of the Boy Scouts' National Capital Area Council and the Archdiocese of Washington sponsor the event, with lots of activities, classes, and a choice of different religious services. Advance registration through the local pack is required. Admission is \$5.

For information about Cub Scout Pack 252, contact Enida Martinez-Brown, 301-864-0059.



Farmer's Market

At Riverdale Park Town Center



May and June: Early crops, bedding plants, strawberries, flowers, baked goods, eggs, jams, baskets, and honey.

July, August, and September: Tomatoes, corn potatoes, watermelon, cantaloupe, peas, cabbage, turnips, assorted berries, baked goods, eggs, baskets, honey, and peaches.

September and October: Late summer crops plus apples, pumpkins, peppers, gourds, cider, mums, baked goods, and eggs.

May 12 - November 17, 2005

Every Thursday 3-7 pm



**Town Center is located
at Queensbury Road
and the MARC Station**

WIC coupons are accepted

**For more information, call
Pat Gladding at (301) 927-
1362 or the Riverdale Park
Town Office (301) 927-6381**



El Mercado Del Granjero en Riverdale Park Town Center



Mayo y Junio: Las cosechas tempranas, bedding plants, las fresas, los flores, los huevos, las marmaladas, las canastas y la miel

Julio, Agosto y Septiembre: Los tomates, el maiz, las papas, la sandia, la melon, los guisantes, el col, los nabos, las bayas variadas, los pasteles, los huevos, las canastas, la miel y los duraznos

Septiembre y Octubre: Las cosechas del verano tardio mas las manzanas, las calabaza, los chiles, mums, los pasteles y los huevos

El 12 de Mayo - 17 de Noviembre,

Cada Jueves 3-7 pm



**Riverdale Park Town Center
esta ubicada por la Calle:
Queensbury Road a la Es-
tacion del Tren de MARC**

Le aceptan los cupones del WIC

**Para mas informacion, le
llama a Pat Gladding (301)
927-1362 o la oficina de
Riverdale Park (301) 927-
6381**

November 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>To be listed in the Calendar or in Community Circles send an e-mail to calendar@rptc.us. For repeating events please specify a repetition rule and a stop date.</p>		1 Regular trash & yard waste - B 7:00 pm Traffic	2 County Recycling 7:30 pm M-UTC ¹	3 Regular, heavy & metal ² pickup - A 3 pm - 7 pm Farmers Market Town Center 6:30 pm - 8:30 Conflict Resol. ³	4 Regular, heavy & metal ² pickup - B	5 9 am - 5 pm Trash, oil, paper drop off, PW ¹ 10 am - 2 pm Girl Scouts Family Fun Festival ³
	6	7 Regular trash & yard waste - A 8:00 pm Legislative Meeting	8 Regular trash & yard waste - B 7:30 pm Madison Hill Assoc	9 Regular, heavy & metal² pickup for Area A County Recycling	10 Regular, heavy & metal² pickup for Area B 3 pm - 7 pm Farmers Market Town Center 6:30 pm - 8:30 Conflict Resol. ³	11 Veterans Day Offices & PW Closed 11 am Service at the Veterans Memorial followed by a reception at TH ¹
13	14 Regular trash & yard waste - A 7:30 pm Order of the Arrow ³ 7:30 Rec Board	15 Regular trash & yard waste - B 7:30 pm HLN ¹ Town Crier Deadline	16 County Recycling 7:30 pm Beautification	17 Regular, heavy & metal ² pickup - A 3 pm - 7 pm Farmers Market Town Center 6:30 pm - 8:30 Conflict Resol. ³	18 Regular, heavy & metal ² pickup - B	19 Cubs for Jesus ³ 9 am - 5 pm Trash, oil, paper drop off, PW ¹
20	21 Regular trash & yard waste - A	22 Regular trash & yard waste - B	23 Regular, heavy & metal² pickup for Areas A & B County Recycling 7 pm Lions Club	24 Thanksgiving Offices & PW Closed	25 Offices & PW Closed	26 9 am - 5 pm Trash, oil, paper drop off, PW ¹
27	28 Regular trash & yard waste - A 8:00 pm Work Session	29 Regular trash & yard waste - B	30 County Recycling			

^a See September Crier

¹ Abbreviations: TH, Town Hall; PW, Public Works; HLN, PG Home Learning Network; M-UTC, Mixed-Use Town Center Zoning Review

² Regular trash, heavy trash, and metal recycling.

³ See article for more information.

Most activities at Town Hall (TH), unless otherwise noted.