



# The Riverdale Park Town Crier

Official Newsletter, Town of Riverdale Park, Maryland

## Town of Riverdale Park Special Election Notice

**December 2005**

**January 2006**

Volume 34, *Issue 10*

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#### **Legislative Meeting**

Town Hall

Monday, Dec. 5, 8:00 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 3, 8:00 p.m.

#### **Work Session**

Town Hall

Tuesday, Dec. 27, 8:00 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 30, 8:00 p.m.

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

**Saturday, December 10, 2005**

To elect Town Official for Ward 1 Council Seat.

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

All citizens who are registered to vote in the Town of Riverdale Park and live in Ward 1 will be entitled to vote.

### **Candidates**

David Roland Walker

Robert Louis Oppenheim

Joyce Kay Marcos, Chief Judge  
Louis King, Deputy Chief Judge

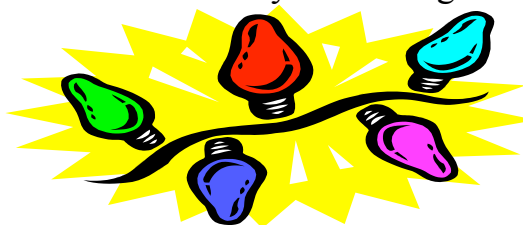
## **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Festival of Lights**

December 16, 2005

7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Trolley rides will begin at Town Hall.

Admission is only a canned good.



*See insert for details.*

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

# Council Actions

Mayor & Council  
Legislative Session  
Monday, Nov. 7, 2005

1. **Street closing at Veteran's Memorial on November 11, Veteran's Day – Approved**
2. **Street variance at Ravenswood Road –Approved**
3. **Proposal for installation of speed humps on Cleveland Avenue – Approved**
4. **Interim plan to patch Somerset and Sheridan Streets – Approved**
5. **Resolution endorsing the implementation of proposed standardized pay scale for police officer – Approved**

## Public Safety By: Gerard Kiernan, Ward 5

As we approach the holiday season, please work to keep yourself and your family safe. When preparing holiday meals, keep an eye on your younger helpers in the kitchen. One easy thing to do when you're cooking is to turn the handles of all pots and pans so that they're over the stovetop and not sticking out over the edge of the stove.

Don't leave your gift packages lying in plain view in your cars. Also, always lock your cars. Please don't drink and drive. If you are leaving town for the holidays, let the police know so they can keep an eye on your house.

Expect fireworks on December 12. The Church of St. Bernard of Clairvaux and Our Lady of Fatima will be celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the patron saint of Mexico. Last year, the festivities ended with fireworks at about 6 p.m. Fireworks are expected again this year. So, enjoy the display, and please don't call the police or fire department about it.

Ward 5 Report  
Gerard F. Kiernan, Ward 5

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, Happy New Year to everyone in Ward 5 (Park Tanglewood and Riverdale Towers). I hope that you will bring all of the children (under 12 years old) to the Town's children's party on Friday, December 16. It will be from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Town Hall. Later that evening, the Town and the Business Association will be cosponsoring the annual Festival of Lights from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Trolleys will be providing tours of the town to show off the Christmas decorations.

## The Riverdale Park Town Crier

The Official Newsletter of the  
Town of Riverdale Park, Maryland  
5008 Queensbury Road  
Riverdale Park, MD 20737

Vernon Archer, Mayor  
Home: 301-927-1281

### Council Members

Ward 1 Unknown	301-000-0000
Ward 2 Mary Donaldson	301-927-2954
Ward 3 Novella Sargusingh	301-927-8422
Ward 4 Lawrence Taylor	301-474-6868
Ward 5 Gerard Kiernan	301-277-4554
Ward 6 Kenneth Webb	301-927-6381

Town Office 301-927-6381  
E-mail: [town@ci.riverdale-park.md.us](mailto:town@ci.riverdale-park.md.us)  
Patrick J. Prangley, Town Administrator

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

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

Code Enforcement 301-209-1505  
Colleen M. Ferguson

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

The *Town Crier* is published 10 times a year. Some material contained in the *Town Crier* represents the opinion of the authors and editors and does not necessarily represent the views of the Town of Riverdale Park.

Advertising rates are available on request; call 301-927-6381.

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

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

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

## Mayor's Report

In my first reports to you, I laid out my leadership plan for the town. Now I want to share with you some of our concrete achievements during the past few months. These efforts are steppingstones to our long-term goals.

I want to stress that virtually every achievement below is also the product of the Town Council, town staff, and volunteers from the community. We are working together as a team, and we are moving forward as a town.

### Cleaning Up

A visual blight on our town at the intersection of East-West Highway and Baltimore Avenue has been greatly improved. The property is owned by Potomac Development. After Eckerd Drug withdrew from the project, Potomac suspended work on the site for many months. Many of you answered my call to action, rallying at Town Hall to show Potomac Development the depth of our irritation over the "Field of Rubble." Within six short weeks, Potomac crushed the rubble, mixed in soil, seeded the lot, and removed the fence.

### Building Relationships

There are five key property owners or developers with important projects affecting our town. We needed better relationships with each of them. From the day I became mayor, I have worked tirelessly to improve our interactions with

- Potomac Development
- University of Maryland's "M-Square" Enterprise Campus
- Douglas Development
- The owners of the Cafritz property on Baltimore Avenue
- Eakin Youngtob Associates

Finally, the town has positive relations with the major players in our economic development.

### Beautification

Last year, the town received a Livability Grant to improve the appearance of our parks and public rights-of-way. Until I took office, the town staff had been kept out of the process of grant administration. After recognizing the problem, I worked with the staff and Anne Larson of the Beautification Committee to get the grant back on track. At this point, clear improvements have been made in most of our public spaces. More importantly, after the next growing season, the town will be a more beautiful place than it has been in years.

### Public Safety

In June, when I began working with the council on the budget, one of the biggest issues we faced was keeping our police department wages competitive with other municipalities and the county. The importance of attracting and keeping an experienced police force can't be stressed enough. The council and I agreed to set aside a fund to increase wages and asked Police Chief Tom Parker to

standardize the pay scale. Chief Parker forwarded a plan to me in September. We reworked several drafts until the schedule met our requirements:

- To stay within the budget for this year
- To be affordable for next year and out to five years
- To make our force competitive with other municipalities
- To keep our police force from falling far behind the County Police on pay

I'm pleased that the council passed a resolution endorsing the scale during the November Legislative Meeting.

We need increased police presence along Kenilworth Avenue. Town staff and I met with business and property owners and agreed to make establishing a police substation along Kenilworth south of Riverdale Road a goal. Since that time, we have secured a commitment from the County Police Chief and the Department of State Police to help create and staff the station. A property owner has offered office space; we are submitting a grant request for funding. So many will benefit from this effort that I am confident the substation will become a reality during the next calendar year.

### Economies of Scale

In a similar spirit of cooperation, Riverdale Park is working with Hyattsville on several projects. Our police force is looking into creating a common dispatching service, which would cut the cost of communications for both towns as well as facilitate the existing Mutual Aid Agreement, which provides for backup across town borders when needed.

In addition, we have jointly applied to the county for a grant to share a street sweeper—equipment that would significantly increase our ability to keep Riverdale Park clean.

### Professionalism

It may surprise you to know that our town government was not holding regular meetings of senior staff when I took office. The regular senior staff meeting I instituted in July has already improved the management of the town. Meeting weekly with Town Administrator Prangle, Police Chief Parker, and Public Works Director Houser reinforces the chain of command, clarifies responsibilities, opens dialogue within management, and builds team spirit. We are seeing clear improvement in coordination of code enforcement issues, in oversight of our annual budget, and in planning for future improvements.

### Holiday Celebrations

Let me wish everyone comfort and joy during the holiday season. I encourage you to make attending Riverdale Park's Festival of Lights a tradition in your family. This year the Riverdale Park Recreation Board is cosponsoring the festival with the Riverdale Business Association. Bring the kids to Town Hall for the Holiday Party and a picture with Santa on December 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. Stay for the festival—the first trolley leaves Town Hall at 7 p.m.!

# Police Activity Report

September Crime Report							September Officer Activity	
Crime	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Stln. Veh.	Activity	Total
Ward 1	0	0	1	0	1	0	Calls for Service	701
Ward 2	0	0	0	1	1	0	Routine Patrols	416
Ward 3	0	0	0	0	0	1	Traffic Stops	*185
Ward 4	0	0	2	0	0	2	Reported Traffic Accidents	**81
Ward 5	0	0	0	1	0	2	Parking Citations	93
Ward 6	0	0	0	3	1	0	Subjects Arrested	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3**</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3*</b>	<b>5</b>	* 183 Traffic Citations ** 30 Written Citations	
** Citizen, * 2 Commercial, 5 residential, 1 storehouse								

## Public Works Report

Public Works is closed on Mon., Dec. 26, 2005. Regular trash and yard-waste pickup for Area A will be on Tues., Dec. 27, 2005, and for Area B on Wed., Dec. 28, 2005. Public Works is closed on Mon., Jan. 2, 2006. Regular trash and yard-waste pickup for Area A will be on Tues., Jan. 3, 2006, and for Area B on Wed., Jan. 4, 2006. Public Works is closed on Mon., Jan. 16, 2006. Regular trash and yard-waste pickup for Area A will be on Tues., Jan. 17, 2006, and for Area B on Wed., Jan. 18, 2006.

### Leaves

Please do not park vehicles on the street in front of leaf piles as they then cannot be collected. Do **not** rake leaves or deposit yard waste or other debris in the street or gutter as this is a municipal infraction that carries a fine of \$100. We ask residents to be patient: If you see the leafer has been on your block on any given day, it will be about 5 working days before the leafer will be back to that block. Loose-leaf collection ends Fri., Dec. 30, 2005. After that, leaves must be bagged and put out for yard waste.

### Contacting Public Works During Emergencies

In extreme emergencies (i.e., snowstorms, hurricanes, etc.), resident calls for Public Works need to be routed to the Police Department (301-927-4343), which will contact us. Often Public Works staff is not available to answer the phones, but the Police Department has radio communication.

### Parking During Snow Emergencies

New rule: Park only on even sides of streets unless otherwise posted.

### Lights Out

It is important to Pepco that residents call and report that their electricity is out. This helps Pepco to better understand a widespread outage and to see where or what the problem may be. Please be patient when the number is constantly busy.

### Los Di'as Festivos Estaran Cerrado

Lunes, 26 Diciembre 2005 **CERRADO** - La basura de la casa (dome'stico) y la basura del patio se recogerá para Area A en Martes, 27 Diciembre 2005.

Miercoles, 28 Diciembre 2005 - La basura de la casa (dome'stico) y la basura del patio se recogerá para Area B.

Lunes, 2 Enero 2006 **CERRADO** - La basura de la casa (dome'stico) y la basura del patio se recogerá para Area A en Martes, 3 Enero 2006.

Miercoles, 4 Enero 2006 - La basura de la casa (dome'stico) y la basura del patio se recogerá para Area B.

Lunes, 16 Enero 2006 **CERRADO** - La basura de la casa (dome'stico) y la basura del patio se recogerá para Area A en Martes, 17 Enero 2006.

Miercoles, 18 Enero 2006 - La basura de la casa (dome'stico) y la basura del patio se recogerá para Area B.

# Community Circles

## Events

### **Children's Holiday Party**

Dec.16, 2005 from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Town Hall, 5008 Queensbury Road

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Festival of Lights**

Dec.16, 2005 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Trolley rides will begin at Town Hall  
5008 Queensbury Road

### **Senior's Holiday Party**

Dec. 15, 2005

## Organizations

### **Northern County Soccer Alliance**

For information on Soccer Alliance, Inc., and on travel, recreation, homeschool, and training programs, contact NCSA@juno.com or 301-927-0560. PGSoccer League @juno.com.

### **Riverdale Boys & Girls Club**

Riverdale Community Center,  
6401 51st Avenue. For more information,  
call 301-927-7763.

### **Riverdale Business Association**

For information, call Audrey Bragg at  
301-277-7393.

### **Riverdale Park Girl Scouts**

For information, call Charmaine Wilson at  
301-449-5690.

### **Riverdale Park Boys Scouts - Troop 252**

For information, call Scoutmaster Bob  
Killen at 202-282-8302

### **Riverdale Lions Club**

**Friday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>** - Lions Holiday Christmas  
Party

**Wednesday, January 26<sup>th</sup>** [MONTHLY  
MEETING?],

7:00 p.m., Town Hall. For information, call  
Dave Sutton, 301-674-6586.

## Civic Committees

### **History Center Committee**

For information, call Susan McElrath at 301-  
277-2085.

### **Madison Hill Homeowners Association**

**Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> & January 10<sup>th</sup>**

7:30 p.m., Town Hall. For information, call  
301-513-9188 or e-mail

MadisonHillHOA@aol.com.

### **Neighbors Helping Neighbors**

Connects residents who need assistance with  
neighbors who can lend a hand. For more  
information, call Audrey Bragg, 301-277-  
7393.

### **Preservation Association of Riverdale Park**

For information, call 301-000-  
0000. [NUMBER?]

### **Recreation Board**

**Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup> & January 9<sup>th</sup>**

7:30 p.m., Town Hall. Volunteers are  
needed. For information, call Doris  
Pullman, 301-927-6992.

### **Residents Association for Progress in the Town of Riverdale (RAPTOR)**

For information, call Sarah Wayland 301-  
927-7407.

### **Riverdale Park Farmers' Market Task Force**

For information, call Pat Gladding at 301-  
927-1362.

### **Riverdale Park Tree Committee**

E-mail Laura Hilden at laurachilden@  
yahoo.com to be put on contact list or call  
Rebecca Feldberg at 301-864-2779.

### **Riversdale Historical Society**

Riversdale Mansion. For information, call  
301-864-0420.

### **Town Center Redevelopment Committee**

For more information, call \_\_\_\_\_, 301-  
000-0000. [NUMBER?]

### **Traffic Study Committee**

**Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> & January 3<sup>rd</sup>**

7:00 p.m., Town Hall- 5008 Queensbury  
Road

### **Web Site Committee**

For information, call Alan Thompson at  
301-927-7407 or e-mail him at  
webmaster@ci.riverdale-park.md.us.

*Deadline for submitting articles for the February  
issue is January 15, 2006.*

**DECEMBER 2005**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Children's Holiday Party</b> <b>Friday, December 16, 2005</b> <b>Town Hall, 4:30-6:00 p.m.</b>				1 Regular, Heavy & Metal Pickup - A	2 Regular, Heavy & Metal Pickup - B  Riversdale Tours Noon-4 p.m.	3 Heavy trash, used oil, mixed paper, and recycling drop-off. Public Works Bldg. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
4 Riversdale Tours Noon-4 p.m. 4811 Riverdale Rd.  Sunday Soccer, Field of Dreams, 4-6 p.m.	5 Legislative Session, Town Hall, 8 p.m. Regular Trash & Yard-Waste Pickup - A	6 Traffic Study Town Hall, 7 p.m. Regular Trash & Yard-Waste Pickup - B	7 M-U TC Meeting 7:30 p.m.  County Recycling	8  Regular, Heavy & Metal Pickup - A	9 Regular, Heavy & Metal Pickup - B  Riversdale Tours Noon-4 p.m.	10 Heavy trash, used oil, mixed paper, and recycling drop-off. Public Works Bldg. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
11 Riversdale Tours Noon-4 p.m. 4811 Riverdale Rd.  Sunday Soccer, Field of Dreams, 4-6 p.m.	12 Regular Trash & Yard-Waste Pickup - A  Recreation Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.	13 Madison Hill Town Hall, 7:30 p.m. Regular Trash & Yard-Waste Pickup - B	14 County Recycling	15  Regular, Heavy & Metal Pickup - A	16 Children's Holiday Party, Town Hall 4:30-6:00 p.m. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Festival of Lights 7 p.m.-10 p.m. Regular, Heavy & Metal Pickup - B	17 Heavy trash, used oil, mixed paper, and recycling drop-off. Public Works Bldg. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
18 Riversdale Tours Noon-4 p.m. 4811 Riverdale Rd.  Sunday Soccer, Field of Dreams, 4-6 p.m.	19 Regular Trash & Yard-Waste Pickup - A	20 Regular Trash & Yard-Waste Pickup - B	21 Beautification Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m.  County Recycling	22 Regular, Heavy & Metal Pickup - A	23  Regular, Heavy & Metal Pickup - B  Riversdale Tours Noon-4 p.m.	24 <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>
25 <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	26 <b>Town Offices and Public Works Closed</b>	27 Work Session Town Hall, 8 p.m.  Regular Trash & Yard-Waste Pickup - A	28 County Recycling  Regular Trash & Yard-Waste Pickup - B	29 Regular, Heavy & Metal Pickup - A	30 Regular, Heavy & Metal Pickup - B  Riversdale Tours Noon-4 p.m.	31 <b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b>

**JANUARY 2006**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Snow/Ice Emergency: During a snow/ice emergency, parking is only allowed on the EVEN side of the road.</b> <b>(Exception: If parking is restricted to one side of the street, you may park on the side allowed.)</b>						1 <b>NEW YEAR'S DAY</b> Heavy trash, used oil, mixed paper, and recycling drop-off. Public Works Bldg. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
2 Riversdale Tours Noon-4 p.m. 4811 Riverdale Rd.  Sunday Soccer, Field of Dreams, 4-6 p.m.	3 Legislative Session, Town Hall 8 p.m. Town Hall, 7:30 p.m. Regular Trash & Yard-Waste Pickup - A	4 Traffic Study Town Hall 7 p.m. Regular Trash & Yard-Waste Pickup - B	5 County Recycling	6 Conflict Resolution Ctr.  Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.  Regular, Heavy & Metal Pickup - A	7 Riversdale Tours Noon-4 p.m. Girl Scouts, Town Hall, 2:45 p.m. Regular, Heavy & Metal Pickup - B	8 Heavy trash, used oil, mixed paper, and recycling drop-off. Public Works Bldg. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
9 Riversdale Tours Noon-4 p.m. 4811 Riverdale Rd.  Sunday Soccer, Field of Dreams, 4-6 p.m.	10 Boy Scouts Town Hall, 7 p.m. Rec. Board Mtg. Regular Trash & Yard-Waste Pickup - A	11 Madison Hill Town Hall, 7:30 p.m. Regular Trash & Yard-Waste Pickup - B	12 County Recycling	13 Conflict Resolution Ctr. Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.  Regular, Heavy & Metal Pickup - A	14 Riversdale Tours Noon-4 p.m. Girl Scouts Town Hall, 2:45 p.m. Regular, Heavy & Metal Pickup - B	15 Heavy trash, used oil, mixed paper, and recycling drop-off. Public Works Bldg. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
16 Riversdale Tours Noon-4 p.m. 4811 Riverdale Rd.  Sunday Soccer, Field of Dreams, 4-6 p.m.	17 <b>Martin L. King Day</b> Town offices & Public Works <b>CLOSED</b>	18 PGHLN Town Hall, 7:30 p.m. Regular Trash & Yard-Waste Pickup - A	19 County Recycling Regular Trash & Yard-Waste Pickup - B	20 Conflict Resolution Ctr. Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.  Regular, Heavy & Metal Pickup - A	21 Riversdale Tours Noon-4 p.m. Girl Scouts, Town Hall, 2:45 p.m. Regular, Heavy & Metal Pickup - B	22 Heavy trash, used oil, mixed paper, and recycling drop-off. Public Works Bldg. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
23 Riversdale Tours Sunday Soccer	24 Work Session Town Hall, 8 p.m. Regular Trash & Yard-Waste - A	25 Regular Trash & Yard-Waste Pickup - B	26 Lions Club Town Hall, 7 p.m. County Recycling	27 Conflict Resolution Ctr. Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.  Regular, Heavy & Metal Pickup - A	28 Riversdale Tours Noon-4 p.m. Girl Scouts, Town Hall, 2:45 p.m. Regular, Heavy & Metal Pickup - B	29 Heavy trash, used oil, mixed paper, and recycling drop-off. Public Works Bldg. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
30 Riversdale Tours Sunday Soccer	31 Regular Trash & Yard-Waste - A					