



# The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

*Official Newsletter, Town of Riverdale Park, Maryland*

**March 2006**

Volume 35, Issue 2

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### Editor Wanted

The Town of Riverdale Park is looking for an editor to manage the development of the Town Crier, published 10 times annually. If you are interested, send your resume and writing samples to Patrick Prangley, Town Administrator, Town of Riverdale Park, 5008 Queensbury Road, Riverdale Park, MD 20737. Position Open Until Filled

## Results of Ward 1 Special Runoff Election Oppenheim Wins

Saturday, February 18, 2006 was a wet and very cold day in our area. Yet, 151 civic minded citizens braved the cold and came out to cast their votes in the Ward 1 Run-off Election. Rob Oppenheim was declared the winner that evening and was sworn in by Mayor Archer following the election returns. The vote tally was:

Total votes cast—153  
Rob Oppenheim—99 regular and 22 absentee for 121 total votes  
Roland Walker—26 regular and 4 absentee for 30 total votes  
The judges voided 2 votes that were incorrectly marked

Ward 1 residents are to be commended for the civic mindedness and congratulations to Rob Oppenheim. We wish him the best in serving as the new Ward 1 Council Representative.

**Here's your chance to clean out your attic, basement, and garage and get rid of some stuff!**

**Spring Clean-up Day is scheduled for Tuesday, May 30, 2006.**  
**Questions?**  
**Call 301-864-1803.**

## Notice of Kenilworth Avenue Road Improvements by Maryland State Highway Administration

By: Patrick J. Prangley, Town Administrator

The Kenilworth Avenue Road Improvement Project extends from Good Luck Road/Paint Branch Parkway to Maryland Route 410- East-West Highway. This project covers approximately eight-tenths (8/10) of a mile and will consist of: roadway improvements, repairs, curbs, gutters, and replacement of damaged sidewalks. Also included in this project, is new curb ramps/aprons, milling, pavement overlays, traffic barrier repairs, additions to traffic barriers, storm drains, pipe cleaning, inlet replacement, ditch trimming, under drains, re-striping, and traffic-signal detection replacement and maintenance.

The overall improvement will amount to \$ 1,513,852- (one million five hundred thirteen thousand eight hundred fifty two dollars) and will be funded by Maryland Department of Transportation (SHA)

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

# Council Actions

1. Anthony and Anne Fotos validate existing conditions and construct a detached garage and carport on the premises known as Lot 23 and part of Lot Nos. 9,10& 24 Block 3 West Riverdale Subdivision, being 6207 43<sup>rd</sup> Street Ward 1. - Approved
2. Fence Variance for Tim & Mary Zastrow 5022 Oglethorpe St. – Approved
3. Nomination of Ethics Commission Members. - Approved
3. Amendment #1 to Town Operating Budget (General Government ) to provide line item for economic development services. - Approved
4. Resolution endorsing application of County Livable Wage Rate to all Full-time, permanent Positions of employment for the Town of Riverdale Park. - Approved
6. Nominations of Mixed- Use Town Center Board. - Approved
7. Discussion and Action on PG 412-06 Prince George’s- School Facilities Surcharge –Approved Exemption.- Letter of support - Approved
8. Introduction on resolution to amend ordinance revising building-inspector requirements 2006-OR-01
9. Introduction on resolution for compensation of Building Inspector 2006-OR-02
10. Discussion and action on Bond Bill endorsement for University of MD building at Tuckerman & 62<sup>nd</sup> Place. Letter of Support - Approved
11. Variance fence – 6216 44<sup>th</sup> Mr. Jim Lango - Approved

## Ordinance Resolution 2006-OR-01

Whereas, the technology of building construction has become more complex in recent years, and the various national building codes have been combined into one set of codes, and the State of Maryland has adopted separate code provisions for the rehabilitation of older buildings, therefore be it resolved that paragraph 15-1 of the Code be revised as follows.

The new language is in brackets.

### § 15-1. Building Inspector

The Mayor and Council shall appoint a responsible individual, experienced in building construction, as Town Building Inspector. [The person chosen as Building Inspector should be certified by the International Code Council in both Commercial and Residential Building Inspection. The person chosen should have experience in code enforcement, or a similar field. The inspector should have training in conflict resolution.] He shall, upon taking the oath of office, serve for one (1) year, unless sooner removed, or until his successor is appointed and qualified. It shall be his duty to enforce the provisions of this chapter

*continued on page 3*

## Town of Riverdale Park

[www.ci.riverdale-park.md.us](http://www.ci.riverdale-park.md.us)

### Town Hall

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

[RiverdaleParkMD@comcast.net](mailto:RiverdaleParkMD@comcast.net)

Mayor Vernon Archer  
240-832-2257  
[varcher@gmail.com](mailto:varcher@gmail.com)

### Council Members

Ward 1 Rob Oppenheim 301-779-1745  
[oppenheim@email.com](mailto:oppenheim@email.com)  
Ward 2 Mary Donaldson 301-927-2954  
[msmarydon@yahoo.com](mailto:msmarydon@yahoo.com)  
Ward 3 Novella Sargusingh 301-927-8422  
[msnovella19@aol.com](mailto:msnovella19@aol.com)  
Ward 4 Lawrence Taylor 301-474-6868  
[taylor.lawrence@gmail.com](mailto:taylor.lawrence@gmail.com)  
Ward 5 Gerard Kiernan 301-277-4554  
[gerardkiernan@earthlink.net](mailto:gerardkiernan@earthlink.net)  
Ward 6 Kenneth Webb 301-523-6202  
[webbward6@hotmail.com](mailto:webbward6@hotmail.com)

Patrick J. Prangley, Town Administrator  
[RiverdaleParkMD@comcast.net](mailto:RiverdaleParkMD@comcast.net)

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

Code Enforcement 301-209-1505  
[CodeRiverdalePk@comcast.net](mailto:CodeRiverdalePk@comcast.net)  
Colleen M. Ferguson

Police Department 301-927-4343  
[RivPD@comcast.net](mailto:RivPD@comcast.net)  
E. Thomas Parker, Chief

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

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

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

Some 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.

Submission deadline: 15th of each month.

Ordinance Resolution  
2006-OR-02

Whereas, the current Town Code allows the position of Building Inspector to be compensated with a percentage of the building permit fees collected, with no requirement for the amount of work to be done for that compensation, be it hereby resolved that paragraph 15-11 of the Code be revised as follows.

The language to be removed is struck through. The new language is in brackets.

**§ 15-11. Compensation of Building Inspector; reports**

~~The Town Building Inspector shall receive a percentage of all building permit fees collected by the town as compensation for his services according to the following schedule: 60% until such time that his total compensation during the fiscal year reaches \$1,200; thereafter, 40% until such time that his total compensation during the fiscal year reaches \$5,000; thereafter, 10% for the duration of the fiscal year.~~ [The Town Building Inspector shall be paid an hourly salary. The rate shall be set from time to time by the Council.] The Town Building Inspector shall submit at the regular monthly meetings of the Mayor and Council, or whenever required, reports covering all permits issued, fees paid, and inspections of work there under, including dates of final inspection, together with such recommendations as he may deem in the public interest.

**Riverdale Park Police Department, January 2006**

*Crime Report*

Crime	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Stln. Veh.
Ward 1	0	0	0	1	0	3
Ward 2	0	0	0	1	0	0
Ward 3	0	0	0	0	0	1
Ward 4	0	0	2	1	0	0
Ward 5	0	0	0	0	0	2
Ward 6	0	0	0	0	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2**</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1*</b>	<b>6</b>

\*\* 2 citizen , \* 1 residential,

Officer Activity

Activity	Total
Calls For Service	826
Routine Patrols	369
Traffic Stops	293*
Reported Traffic Accidents	74**
Parking Citations	97
Subjects Arrested	20

\* 306 Traffic Citations,

\*\* 28 Written Accidents

# Reporte del Alcalde

Ha sido otro mes bastante ocupado y estoy optimista que Marzo también lo será.

Por Vernon Archer

## Desarrollo Económico

La visión que tengo para Riverdale Park tiene como enfoque el revitalizar la economía. Estoy entusiasmado en anunciar que vamos a contratar con Kennedy Smith de la agencia “Community Land Use and Economics Group” (CLUE) para coordinar una estrategia de desarrollo económico. Estoy trabajando con el concilio para contratar a la Sra. Smith en este mes. Ella tiene una larga trayectoria con comunidades pequeñas como la nuestra y a logrado revitalizar a negocios en dichas comunidades. Antes de co-desarrollar la organización CLUE, ella dirigió el Centro Nacional de la Calle Main por un espacio de trece años.

Inicialmente, la Sra. Smith producirá un análisis del mercado y un plan de reclutamiento y retención de negocios. Después nos ayudara a mantener nuestro plan en pie. La Organización CLUE se especializa en revitalizar centros de pueblos. Esto lo logran alentando a negocios independientes y trabajando con urbanizadores para el beneficio de todos. Si desean mas información sobre el grupo CLUE por favor visten a [www.cluegroup.com](http://www.cluegroup.com). Este verano la Sra. Smith organizara una reunión para atraer a voluntarios de nuestra comunidad con el fin de trabajar juntos en este esfuerzo.

## Relaciones con el Estado

El Gobernador Lugarteniente, Michael Steele visitara a Riverdale Park el 6 de Marzo con una delegacion. Esta visita es parte de un recorrido que el Sr. Steele esta haciendo por todas la municipalidades de Maryland. Estamos muy entusiasmados con esta visita ya que hay varias áreas, como la transportación, en las cuales nuestro pueblo necesita ayuda. En colaboración con empleados del pueblo yo me he preparado para presentar nuestras necesidades a esta delegacion. El administrador del pueblo, Pat Prangle, el concilio y yo les mostraremos a las áreas en las cuales necesitamos ayuda. Nuestro enfoque será las calles River Road y Kenilworth. También pensamos practicar sobre el desarrollo económico y la necesidad de más ayuda para nuestra fuerza policiaca.

Trabajando efectivamente con el estado es esencial para mantener la calidad de vida en nuestra comunidad.

La Autoridad de Transito de Maryland (MTA) va anunciar una propuesta sobre la posibilidad de rutas de ferrocarril que pasarían por nuestra área. Seria la “Línea Violeta” conectaría alas líneas anaranjadas y verde del metro. Una gran preocupación es que el MTA quiere adquirir la antigua propiedad de NOAA para hacerla una facilidad de mantenimiento. La Universidad de Maryland quienes son los dueños de dicha facilidad nos asegura que no dejaran que esto suceda. Debemos mantenernos vigilantes ya que las residentes de Riverdale necesitamos un ferrocarril que este localizado convenientemente pero no una facilidad de mantenimiento.

## Desarrollos en Negocios Locales

Me entristece el tener que decirles que el restaurante “Calvert House” ha cerrado sus puertas. Estamos tratando activamente de que sus puertas abran nuevamente ya que este restaurante es una institución muy valorada en nuestra comunidad. Los dueños del restaurante, los hermanos Salimi han operado este restaurante por muchos años pero ahora se han reorganizado y necesitan fondos adicionales para seguir con el negocio y están buscando un comprador para el edificio donde se localiza el Restaurante. Estamos optimistas que el restaurante reabrirá sus puertas muy pronto.

En una nota mas alegre, el negocio “Gepetto Catering” ha completado su expansión en la calle Queensbury. El 16 de Febrero me uní a varios otros en recorrer las nuevas facilidades y probar algunos de sus exquisitos platos!

## Para Concluir

Le doy la bienvenida a Rob Oppenheim quien se hace miembro de nuestro concilio como representante del distrito numero 1 de Riverdale Park. El concilio ha sido cooperado fabulosamente y marcado con unos buenos consensos y todos esperamos que Rob nos ayudara en nuestros esfuerzos.

Quiero expresar mis gracias y elogios a departamento de obras públicas quienes hicieron un trabajo fenomenal cuando tuvimos la tormenta de nieve el fin de semana del 11 y 12 de Febrero. El Director Jim Houser y su equipo trabajaron toda la noche y la mañana del Domingo para que tuviéramos calles limpias para transitar. Fue uno de esos momentos que me engullece en trabajar con unas personas tan sobresalientes.

# Mayor's Report

By Vernon Archer

It's been another busy month, and I look forward to more of the same in March.

## Economic Development

Reviving our town's economy lies at the core of my vision for Riverdale Park. I am excited that we can finally announce that we will contract with Kennedy Smith of Community Land Use and Economics Group (CLUE) to coordinate our economic development strategy. I am working with the council to bring Ms Smith on board within the month. She has a long and successful history working with small communities to revitalize retail sectors. Prior to co-founding the CLUE Group, she directed the *National Main Street Center* of the National Trust for Historic Preservation for 13 years.

Initially, Ms Smith will produce a market analysis, business recruitment and retention plan, a marketing and promotional plan, and subsequently will assist us in keeping the plan on track. The CLUE Group specializes in revitalizing town centers, by encouraging independent businesses and working with developers for the benefit of all. For more information about Kennedy Smith and the CLUE Group visit [www.cluegroup.com](http://www.cluegroup.com). This summer, Ms Smith will organize an open meeting to bring volunteers from the town into our effort.

## State Relations

Lieutenant Governor Michael Steele will visit Riverdale Park along with a group of cabinet secretaries on Monday March 6. This visit is part of the Lieutenant Governor's ongoing tour of Maryland's municipalities and we have been looking forward to his visit. There are several areas, such as transportation, in which our town needs state assistance. In collaboration with town staff, I am preparing to present our needs to the delegation. Town Administrator Pat Prangley, the Council, and I will show the Lieutenant Governor and his group the areas in which we expect aid. We will focus on the River Road/Kenilworth Avenue area. We also plan to discuss economic development in Town Center and greater aid for law enforcement.

As the University of Maryland's M Square office park becomes operational over the next several years, the traffic, road building, maintenance, and mass transit issues we face will multiply. There are a host of other projects around our area that will strain our infrastructure. We must be proactive on these issues if we are to manage change to our overall benefit. Working effectively with the state is essential to maintaining our quality of life.

The Maryland Transit Authority (MTA) is releasing proposals regarding possible light rail routes through our area--the so-called "Purple Line" that would connect the

Red and Orange Metro lines. We are expecting the MTA to make a presentation to the town at our Council Work Session on February 27. A major concern to the town is MTA's desire to acquire the old Aerco-NOAA facility as a maintenance yard. The University of Maryland owns the property; the University's real estate office has assured me that they have no intention of releasing the property for such use. We must remain vigilant on this, as Riverdale's commuters need a conveniently located rail stop, not a maintenance yard.



## Local Business Developments

I have the sad duty of telling you that the Calvert House Inn has closed at least temporarily, but both your town government and several business leaders are actively working to help reopen this Riverdale Park institution. The Salimi brothers have operated the restaurant for many years, but now must reorganize their business. In order to obtain the capital they need for this effort, the brothers are seeking a buyer for the property, who will in turn lease the building back to the restaurant business. Pete Spiropoulos of Dumm's Corner Market and I have been working hard to find such an investor, and at the time of this writing we are optimistic that the Calvert House will reopen soon.

On a brighter note, Geppetto's Catering has completed the expansion of its facility along Queensbury Road and has begun using the old bicycle shop to handle dishes and equipment. On February 16<sup>th</sup>, I joined a number of other residents in touring the new facility and sampling the caterer's delicious food.

## In Closing

I want to welcome Rob Oppenheim who joins the council as the new representative for Ward One. The council has been fabulously cooperative and marked by consensus since taking office in June and we all expect that Rob will further our efforts.

I wish to express my thanks and praise to our Public Works employees who did such an outstanding job of dealing with the snowstorm over the weekend of February 11 and 12. Director Jim Houser and his crew worked throughout the night and by midmorning Sunday had all of our roads passable. Numerous tree limbs came down under the weight of the wet snow, but despite these additional obstacles, our Public Works dealt with the situation quickly and efficiently. It was one more instance that made me proud to be able to work along side such outstanding people.

# Public Works

## Leaves

Residents who still have leaves will need to bag them and put them out for yard waste on their first collection day of each week, or may schedule an appointment for special pickup of loose leaves **after** paying a \$20 fee at Town Hall.

## Contacting Public Works during Emergencies

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

## 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, as well as, where or what the problem may be. Please be patient when the number is constantly busy.

**Spring Clean-up Day is scheduled for Tuesday, May 30, 2006. More information will follow or for questions call 301-864-1803.**

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## Ward One Report

By Rob Oppenheim

Thank you all for the kind wishes and congratulations on my winning the Ward One council seat in the February 18, 2006 election. I owe special thanks to the people who worked hard on my campaign—I could not have done it without you.

Please join me in extending a deep appreciation to my opponents: Roland Walker and Bruce Wernek. I have great respect for them. They are bright, outstanding Riverdalians who care deeply about our town and are willing to work hard for our community.

And of course a great thank you goes to the 151 residents who came out in the bitter cold to vote.

I was sworn into office that Saturday evening to represent all the people of Ward One, not just those who voted for me. So let's put the election behind us and work together for the common good of Ward One and Riverdale Park.

Please let me know of any concerns and issues that you may have.

Thank you all, Rob Oppenheim

*Rob Oppenheim is the Ward I Council Representative*



## Code Corner

By Colleen M. Ferguson

Remember trash placed out for pickup, must be placed in a garbage vessel/can with a proper lid. The penalty for placing trash out for pick-up not in a vessel/can is \$50.00. Town Code 36-7

All vehicles in the Town of Riverdale Park must display current/valid registration/tags. Vehicles in violation of this code will be ticketed and towed. Town Code 64-16

Please call Public Works Department to schedule Special Pick-ups 301-864-1803.

All Rental Property in the Town of Riverdale Park must be Licensed, please call 301-927-6381 for application. Town Code 55-4

Questions, Concerns, Complaints- Please call  
301-927-6381

# Community Circles

## ORGANIZATIONS

### **Northern County Soccer Alliance**

For more information on Soccer Alliance, Inc., and on travel, recreation, home school, and training programs. [NCSA@juno.com](mailto:NCSA@juno.com) or (301)927-0560. PG Soccer [League@juno.com](mailto:League@juno.com)

### **Riverdale Park Business Association (RPBA)**

Contact Audrey Bragg at (301)277-7393 for date and place of next meeting or go to

### **Riverdale Park Girl Scouts**

Contact: Charmaine Wilson at (301)449-5690.

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

Contact: Scoutmaster Bob Killen at (202)282-8302.

## CIVIC COMMITTEES

### **History Center Committee**

For information, contact Doug McElrath at (301)277-2085.

### **Madison Hill Homeowners Association**

For information, call (301)513-9188 or email [MadisonHillHOA@aol.com](mailto:MadisonHillHOA@aol.com)

### **Recreation Board**

Monday, March 13, 2006, 7:30 p.m. Town Hall. Volunteers needed. For information, call Doris Pullman, (301)927-6992.

### **Riverdale Park Farmer's Market Task Force**

Contact Pat Gladdings at (301)927-1362.

### **Riverdale Park Tree Committee**

Email Laura Hilden at [laurachildren@yahoo.com](mailto:laurachildren@yahoo.com) or call Rebecca Feldberg at (301)864-2779.

### **Riversdale Historical Society**

Riversdale Mansion. Contact (301)864-0420.

### **Traffic Study Committee**

March 7, 2006, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall – 5008 Queensbury Road

### **Web Site Committee**

For information, contact Alan Thompson at (301)927-7407 or email him at [webmaster@ci.riverdale-park.md.us](mailto:webmaster@ci.riverdale-park.md.us)

If you have information to share with the community, please submit it to the Editor, Town Crier, 5008 Queensbury Road, Riverdale Park, Maryland 20737 by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month, or email:

[RiverdaleParkMD@comcast.net](mailto:RiverdaleParkMD@comcast.net).

## Compliments and Complaints

This edition launches a new column in the Crier, Compliments and Complaints.

*I would like to compliment our Public Works Department for the great job they do and remind residents to sweep up debris along their curbside. This will prevent runoff to the Chesapeake Bay storm drains and help save our Bay. Anne F.*

*Can't our police do something about the number of cars running stop signs and red lights in Riverdale Park and everywhere in our area? I know there are more important things they have to attend to but this is really dangerous to the citizens. East West Highway is like the Daytona 500 speedway. Why can't we slow down the traffic there? Robert N.*

If you would like to compliment someone or something, likewise, complain about someone or something, limit your comments to 80 words or less and send it to "Compliments and Complaints", c/o the Crier Editor. Your submission must be signed and include a day-time phone number for verification. We reserve the right to edit letters. Space and good taste prevent the Crier from publishing every item we receive. People who want more comprehensive comments should sign their letter and send them to "Letter to the Crier Editor". With exception of public officials and public issues, we will not publish the names of businesses or people in "complaints". This is to protect the complainer and the Crier as both could be held liable