



The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

May 2006

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Memorial Day Observation

By Cleveland A. Moffett

On Monday, May 29, 2006, at 8:00 a.m. there will be a brief service honoring our fallen comrades at the Veterans Memorial across from the MARC Station at Town Center. Memorial Day was originally called Decoration Day to honor our Nation's war dead by decorating their graves. Join our Veterans at the Veterans Memorial on May 29, 2006 and help honor all who served. Town Offices and Public Works will be closed and there will be no trash pickup on Memorial Day.



Town-Wide Yard Sale Coming

Spring clean your house and yard and sell your extras at the special Riverdale Park Town-Wide yard sale. The sale will be advertised in the *Washington Post* and in the *Gazette*. If you would like your address included in a yard sale flyer, please call Town Hall at 301-927-6381 by May 24, 2006 and your address will be included on a flyer that can be picked up at the Police Department on May 29, 2006. Be sure to post signs directing people to your yard sale, and remove the signs after the sale. Donate unsold items to a thrift store or put them out for trash pickup May 30, 2006.

Venta En Los Patios, En Toda La Ciudad

El Día de la Recordación, Lunes 29 de Mayo, 2006

8:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Limpie su casa y su patio esta primavera y venda sus articulos que no utilice, allí mismo en su patio; algunas.

It's Spring! And Time For A Town-Wide Cleanup

It's May. The perfect time to cleanup, throw away, and reorder your home and yard. There's a reason we all get the urge to dig in and spring clean this time of the year; the light is so much better as the sun climbs to higher parallels as we inch toward summer. And that light shows all the dirt and grime and accumulated stuff from the previous fall and winter. It's time to clean it up and get rid of it! Whatever you can't sell in the Town-Wide Yard Sale (see following article), put out on the curb for a Town-Wide pickup on Tuesday, May 30, 2006. On May 29, 2006, you can dispose of all your wanted trash and the Town will not encumber additional fees at the County Dump. So go through your basement, attic, garage, and other areas of your property and clean with a vengeance.

If you are over 65 or disabled, and need help with your clean up, the Youth Council of Riverdale Park is available on May 20, 2006 to help you clean up trash from your yard, basement, or attic. If you would like some free assistance from Youth Council volunteers to clean up, call Waverly at 301-864-7032 and she will register you for free help from the Youth Council volunteers.

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

Council Actions

By Waverly Pollitt

Legislative Meeting

1. Minutes for February 7, 2006 - Approved
2. 6' Privacy Fence to be erected at 4906 Somerset Road, for Mr. Robert Kraft- Approved
3. Introduction to Police Week Proclamation – Approved
4. Action to endorse resolution for “Get Fit Riverdale Park” Program- Approved
5. Action to waive advertising fee for “ Get fit Riverdale Park” Program article published in the April 2006 Crier- Approved

Crime Report March 2006

Ward	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Stln Veh
1	0	0	1	0	0	3
2	0	0	0	0	0	1
3	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	0	0	3	0	1	3
5	0	0	0	0	0	1
6	0	0	1	2	1	0
Total	0	0	5	2	2	8

Officer Activity

Activity	Total
Calls For Service	1,300
Routine Patrols	364
Traffic Stops	333*
Reported Traffic Accidents	60**
Parking Citations	136
Subjects Arrested	19

- * 246 Traffic Citations,
 ** 23 Written Accidents

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 Rob Oppenheim 301-779-1745
oppenheim@email.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

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

It is the policy of the Town of Riverdale Park, pursuant to the provision 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 materials contained in *The Town Crier* represent the opinion of the authors and does not necessarily represent the view of the Town of Riverdale Park.

Submission deadline: 15th of each month.

Mayor's Report

By Vernon Archer



It's Budget Time: How Does the Town Spend Your Money?

I will submit to the Town Council my proposed budget for the upcoming year by May 1, 2006, as required by our Town Charter and state law. While this process is routine, it is a good idea for interested residents to take a look at the proposed budget, as it reveals my priorities and gives a good snapshot of the financial health of the town. The Council will review my proposed budget making changes as it sees fit, and ultimately will pass an official budget. That budget will be the single most important policy document for the fiscal year that begins July 1, 2006.

The **town's expenditures** fit into five categories: (1) General government/administration; (2) Police; (3) Public works; (4) Infrastructure; and (5) Miscellaneous. The **town's receipts** come from: direct taxes on individuals and businesses; money allotted by the state and county; and fees and licenses. The estimates of spending and income are based on the current year's budget (2006) and may end up changing slightly for the 2007 budget.

Spending

General government, accounting for 17% of the town spending, is the administrative arm of the Town, overseen by the Town Administrator. This includes oversight of town finances, implementation of policy made by the council, communication with residents and other institutions, and enforcement of town code.

The police department, approximately 48% of town spending, is responsible for securing our safety. Our department is a highly professional force that has been built up over several decades. The department actively cooperates with five other municipal police forces as well as county and state law enforcement agencies.

The Public Works Department represents 25% of the budget and is primarily responsible for keeping the town clean and looking good. Maintenance of town property and streets, trash removal and storm cleanup are the primary activities of this department.

Spending on town infrastructure includes items such as street repair and maintenance, construction and major upgrades to town buildings, and purchase of significant capital items such as cars, trucks, or real estate. Town infrastructure represented about 6% of the budget this year but will likely increase slightly the next year.

The miscellaneous spending category is 4% of the budget and includes everything else the town does. Town spending on celebrations like Riverdale Day, Christmas, Easter, and memorials like Veteran's Day fall into this category. So does spending on the farmer's market, summer playground activities, and special economic development activities. Town support to our volunteer fire company also falls into this category because the county provides for most of our fire protection. The town provides the building and a relatively small operations grant only.

Income

The single largest source of income for the town is direct taxes on businesses and individuals. Real estate tax is the largest tax accounting for almost 60% of total revenue. A portion of the county "piggy back" tax that is paid along with state income tax comes to the town. There are also two taxes that fall exclusively on businesses: tangible property tax (items such as inventory and furniture, and operating property tax which falls on utilities. In total, direct taxes provide 79% of the town's income.

State and county governments both provide some funding for town government. A share of the gas tax and motor vehicle license fees is given to the town. Also, the state aids our police force by paying about 9% of the department's total cost. The county gives the town a small share of its business license fee and a disposal fee rebate. The county's direct contribution to the town's budget is relatively small, but there are also county grants to us such as the Livable Communities Grant which are not included in our budget. In total, the state and county contribute 11% of our budget.

The last category of town income arises from licenses, fees, charges for services, and other miscellaneous income. The town receives income from our own business license fee, apartment and rental house inspection fees, fines and forfeitures, property cleanup fees, and money from sale of surplus equipment. The town also receives a license fee for granting Comcast a cable monopoly within the town. This category supplies about 10% of town income.

Priorities for the New Budget

My proposed budget will emphasize economic development and reorganizing the way the town does its street work. There will be new funding to market the town's underutilized commercial space and to develop the means to market Riverdale Park and its advantages more effectively. There will be a request to fund the completion of the outstanding street and sidewalk work in a single contract to be completed over the course of 2007. Regarding the topic all property owners care the most about, we will be able to fund the town's needs without increasing our tax rates.

Town Happenings



Council Approves Police Week Proclamation

At the April 3, 2006 Legislative Meeting, the Council approved Councilman Rob Oppenheim's motion for Riverdale Park citizens and organizations to observe the week of May 14–20, 2006, as Police Week and to observe Monday, May 15, 2006, as Peace Officers' Memorial Day. The full text of Councilman Oppenheim's proclamation follows:

Motion: I, Rob Oppenheim, Ward 1 Council Representative, move that the Mayor and Council adopt the following proclamation.

Whereas, in the United States of America May 15 is designated as Peace Officers' Memorial Day and the week in which May 15 falls as National Police week; and

Whereas, it is important that all citizens know and understand the duties, responsibilities, hazards, and sacrifices of our law enforcement agency; and

Whereas, it is important that members of our law enforcement agency recognize their duty to serve the people by safeguarding life and property, by protecting the people against violence and disorder, and by protecting the innocent against deception and the weak against oppression; and

Whereas, the men and women of the Riverdale Park Police Department unceasingly provide a vital public service;

Now, therefore, the Mayor and Council of Riverdale Park call upon all citizens and organizations to observe the week of May 14–20, 2006, as Police Week.

We further call upon all our citizens to observe Monday, May 15, 2006, as Peace Officers' Memorial Day in honor of those law enforcement officers who, in the performance of duty, have become disabled or have paid the ultimate sacrifice. Let us also recognize and pay respect to the survivors of our fallen heroes.

Be sure to acknowledge our men and women working in law enforcement in Riverdale Park for their

fine service to our town and citizens, not only during the week of May 14, 2006 but always. Our thanks to Councilman Oppenheim for his solicitude on behalf of our Peace and Police officers.

Public Works Report

By James Houser

Spring Clean-Up Day and Holiday Pick Up

Due to the holiday on Monday, May 29, 2006, Public Work will be closed. Riverdale Park's Spring Clean-up day will be **Tuesday, May 30, 2006** for the whole town. Regular and bulk trash will be picked up on this day for the whole town. **Do not put out metals, tires, or items with freon that day.** Yard waste collection will be suspended for the A and B sides until Wednesday, May 31, 2006. See tire reminder below.

Tires Reminder

Tires **will not** be picked up free. There is a \$2.50 each (\$2.00 for seniors 60+) charge for tire pickup. Tires are a notorious breeding ground for all types of mosquitoes particularly the Asian Tiger Mosquito. In our efforts to remove and reduce these breeding grounds, we encourage you to remove your tires as soon as possible.

Keep our Town Beautiful

Please sweep and remove grass clippings and weeds from the sidewalk and curb/gutter when mowing lawns or trimming weeds near the sidewalk or streets. It is against the Town Code to cause any material of any kind to be scattered, dropped, etc. upon any street, alley, sidewalk, gutter, roadway or public place within the town. Do not sweep grass clippings into the gutters. Clean gutters allows for the easy flow of water and keeps our town beautiful.

Trees Along Town Streets

Trees that grow between the street and sidewalk are street trees which belong to the state of Maryland. It is the town's responsibility to keep these trees pruned. It is against the law for residents to cut, prune, or remove these trees. If a tree needs pruning please call Public Works to let us know (301-864-1803). If there are branches rubbing against or pushing on electric lines, please call Pepco to have those branches pruned (202-833-7500).

Ward One Report

By Rob Oppenheim



M-UTC Update

At the April 5 zoning review (M-UTC) meeting, the Wachovia Bank proposal was ruled as not meeting the M-UTC zoning requirements. Potomac Development might still apply to build the Wachovia building via the exceptions procedure, which would bring the project before the Town Council for a decision. The Patriot Group's condo proposal for Town Center also was discussed, but no action was taken. Concerns were expressed over the height of the building and the quality of the building materials used on the exterior. The next M-UTC meeting is Wednesday, May 3, 7:30 p.m., at Town Hall. The tentative agenda has changes proposed for the old trolley building (bookstore) at Rhode Island Avenue and Queensbury Road.

Speeding Cars?

Many people have told me they would like to see speed humps on their streets. The Cleveland Avenue humps have worked well, although they are higher and thus more uncomfortable than I would like. I plan to introduce legislation in a few months concerning speed humps, their placement, and how citizens may petition for speed humps on their block. And, of course, we will look at other ways to solve traffic problems. As always, contact me with your suggestions and thoughts.

Queensbury Buses

On April 17, I attended the community transit workshop, which gathered citizens' comments for the new Transit Service and Operations Plan (the county public bus plan). Several participants expressed a need for later and more frequent service. One Hyattsville resident mentioned her frustration at how buses running on Queensbury Road add noise and pollution and tear up the street. She wanted fewer buses and asked about the possibility of routing them along East-West Highway instead of Queensbury Road. What are your thoughts? Post them on TownTalk www.tinyurl.com/dn6tj, or drop me a line.

Did you know that you can use the Internet to get *real-time* information on the location of Prince Georges County buses? Check out www.nextbus.com, it uses Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking satellites to provide vehicle arrival information and real-time maps to a bus stop near you.

Senior citizens: Did you know that there are several free and very low cost transportation options for you? The county will pick you up and take you to medical appointments, community activities, and meal programs for \$0.50 or less, and it offers half-price taxi service. Call 301-499-8603 for information.

Dark as Night

Last month, my inventory found 30 burned out street lamps in Ward 1. I submitted the repair list to Pepco, but most have not been fixed. I will keep trying.

Police Week

Here are two suggestions for ways to celebrate Police Week, May 14–20: Send our police department a thank you note or visit the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, which honors police officers killed in the line of duty. You can learn more about the memorial, at Judiciary Square in Northwest Washington, D.C., at www.tinyurl.com/fqq9m.

Tree Stumps

This spring, Public Works will be removing tree stumps in the public right of way by the street. If there is a stump near you, call Debbie Murphy at 301-864-1803 to be sure it is on the list.

Rite Aid

We welcome new Rite Aid store manager Ms. Schwaeble. Code Enforcement and I are working with her on improving the appearance and function of the store's trash bin enclosures. The gate is broken and a strike against Waste Management has resulted in fewer pickups, so the trash is piled much higher than usual. I am confident that Ms. Schwaeble will cooperate on this important issue.

Everyone Is Invited

Ward One Party!

Enjoy a *free* draft beer or soda
and a free burger or hot dog.



Sunday, May 7, 3–6 p.m., S&J Restaurant
6108 Rhode Island Ave. at Queensbury Rd.

The Ward One Party has two goals: build a friendlier community and promote Town Center. So let's have some fun and get to know each other better. Folks from all wards are welcome. Register at the door for your free beer, burger, and door prize coupons. If you like, bring along board games and cards. Steve and Ziggy are offering up free hot dogs, hamburgers, and a draft beer. See you there!

Let me know if you can help with the party:
301-779-1745, oppenheim@email.com

Ward Two Report

By Mary Donaldson

Why are there TV cameras on Sheridan Street?

From time to time, you are going to see TV cameras in the 4900 block of Sheridan Street. They will be following the progress of landscaping at 4902 Sheridan Street, the home of Michael Paul and Katherine Baer. Their home will be featured on the Home and Garden TV Show in the near future on Channel 229. Congratulations Michael and Katherine.

Household Trash and Code Enforcement

Did you get a notice from the Code Enforcement regarding household trash put out in plastic bags? Code Enforcement is aggressively giving out notices about household trash being put out in plastic bags. Warm weather brings out the birds and they love to tear into plastic bags for garbage leaving trash strewn out on the ground. If you have received a notice, next you will receive a ticket with a fine. Please make sure **you put your household trash in receptacle with LIDS.**

Senior Citizens and Available Day Trips

For Seniors: Would you like to go on day bus trips or shopping trips? Parks and Recreation of the Maryland National Park and Planning have trips for a nominal fee and you can call 301-445-4500 to have a Guide sent to you, or you can pick up a guide at the library on Adelphi Road. These trips are listed on page 16. I will try to get some sent to Town Hall also. If you have a computer you can go to www.pgpark.com link on the trips on the left.

M-UTC Report

Committee Meets on Wachovia Bank and Patriot Group Proposals

On April Monday, April 3, 2006 the Mixed-Use Town Center (M-UTC) voted not to approve the final development plans submitted by Potomac Development to build a Wachovia bank at the corner of Route 1 and E-W Highway. The vote stemmed from three main areas of non-compliance with the zoning guidelines which included lot coverage, mix of uses, and pedestrian orientation. Next, Potomac Develop-

ment will pursue the special permit process, which allows the developer to apply for a zoning variance to build this project granted by the county. The town council will ultimately provide the yes/no on this project because the county consults the town regarding community desires.

The committee also received updated draft renderings of the Patriot Group's proposal for condominiums at the Dumm's Corner properties. Committee members expressed concern over four key points: building height, quality of building materials, building design, and parking demand. Patriot will be revising its plans in the coming months and will present its progress at a later meeting. Next month, an application is expected for renovation of the old bookshop building at Queensbury and Rhode Island Avenue across from S&J.

Alice Ewen Walker
M-UTC Committee Chair

Get Fit Riverdale Park Takes Off!

Get Fit Riverdale Park started on April 8, 2006. Thirty Riverdale Park residents signed up to participate in this walking challenge sponsored by the University of Maryland School of Medicine, University of Maryland Medical Systems, and Merritt Athletic Clubs. Participants registered on two different evenings at Town Hall, and at the Mansion on Saturday, April 8, 2006.

Participants were given a backpack filled with walking information incentives including a pedometer and log book to keep track of their progress. The objective is to walk at least 2,000 more steps a day, and hopefully get to 10,000 steps each day. In addition, participants are encouraged to eat 100 calories less each day during the 12-week program. Among the many giveaways are nutritional and exercise information; coupons for healthy items such as power bars; discounts to Merritt Athletic Clubs and to several Orioles games in June; and many other items to help participants with their walking program. In addition, there are program incentives throughout the twelve weeks.

If you signed up for Get Fit Riverdale Park, contact, Marita Novicky at 301.864.5608 for your incentives for weeks 1, 4, 8, and 12. And, lace up those tennis shoes and keep walking!

Community Circles

What to Watch For:

Monday, May 1, 2006, 8:00 p.m., Legislative Session, Town Hall

Tuesday, May 2, 2006, 5:30 p.m. Riverdale Park Business Association, call Audrey Bragg, 301-277-7393 for meeting site.

Wednesday, May 3, 2006, 7:20 p.m., Mixed-Use Town Center (M-UTC) meeting, Town Hall

Sunday, May 7, 2006, 3-6 p.m., Ward One Party, S&J Restaurant; see Ward One report.

Sunday through Saturday, May 14-20, 2006, Police Week observation

Sunday, May 14, 2006, Mother's Day

Monday, May 29, 2006, Memorial Day, Town Offices closed, Town-Wide Yard Sale

Tuesday, May 30, 2006, Spring Clean Up – No fees at County Dump; Council Work Session, 8:00 p.m., Town Hall.

Town Organizations

Northern County Soccer Alliance

For more information on Soccer Alliance, Inc., and on travel, recreation, home school, and training programs.

NCSA@juno.com or (301)927-0560. PG Soccer League@juno.com

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

Recreation Board -- Monday, April 10, 2006, 7:30 p.m. Town Hall. Volunteers needed. For information, call Doris Pullman, (301)927-6992.

Madison Hill Homeowners Association--For information, call (301)513-9188 or email

MadisonHillHOA@aol.com

Riverdale Park Farmer's Market

Contact Pat Gladdings at (301)927-1362. **Begins in MAY—THE FARMER'S MARKET RETURNS TO RIVERDALE PARK ON MAY 25, 2006** and continues every Thursday afternoon through November 16, 2006. This is a producer's Market which means that the farmers produce and sell their very own homegrown vegetables at the Market. **Some farmers will be selling products as early as May 4th, 11th, and 18th.** Come on over to the Market and greet your neighbors, friends, and the farmers returning to our very own Farmer's Market.

Riverdale Park Tree Committee--Email Laura Hilden at laurachildren@yahoo.com or call Rebecca Feldberg at (301)864-2779.

Riversdale Historical Society--Riversdale Mansion. Contact (301)864-0420.

Traffic Study Committee-- 2006, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall – 5008 Queensbury Road

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 15th of the month, or email: RiverdaleParkMD@comcast.net.