

# The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

**November 2006**

Volume 35, Issue 9

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## **MAS ARTICULOS EN ESPAÑOL ADENTRO**

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**Election Day  
Remember to Vote  
Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>  
2006**

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
HYATTSVILLE, MD  
PERMIT No. 2090

To:

Postal Customer  
Riverdale Park, Maryland 20737

## **VETERANS DAY MEMORIAL SERVICE**

On Veterans Day, Saturday, November 11, 2006 at 11:00 a.m. a brief service honoring our veterans will be held at the Veterans Memorial across from the MARC Station in Town Center. Brigadier General Bladededge will be joining us for the service. There will be a reception afterwards at Town Hall with sandwiches, cookies, coffee, tea and soda. Please join us to honor all of Riverdale Park's veterans past and present.



## **An Invitation from Mayor Archer Community Space Discussion Scheduled**

You are invited to join me, key community leaders, and other residents of Riverdale Park in a discussion on the need for community space in Riverdale Park. We have an abundance of artists, children, and seniors, and while the wider community offers libraries and community centers, Riverdale Park does not have a designated community space. We are a diverse town with a growing immigrant population. Your input is critical. Please join us on **November 15, 2006 from 7-9pm at Town Hall, 5008 Queensbury Rd** for this most important discussion. A tentative agenda includes: a presentation; small group discussions to define needs in our community and potential locations and size/space consideration for a community space, and then small group report outs; and a summary and next steps to be taken.

If you have specific questions about the dialogue, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at [varcher@gmail.com](mailto:varcher@gmail.com).

**Translation by Claudia Umana**

Usted esta invitado/a a reunirse conmigo, lideres de la comunidad y otros residentes de Riverdale Park en una discusión sobre la necesidad de centro comunitario en Riverdale Park. Tenemos abundancia de artistas, niños y personas mayores de edad, mientras que una comunidad mas ancha ofrece bibliotecas y centros comunitarios, Riverdale Park no tiene designado un centro comunitario. Somos una ciudad diversa con una población de inmigrantes que crece a diario. Su opinión es fundamental. Por favor únase con nosotros **el día 15 de Noviembre del 2006 de 7-9 p.m. en la municipalidad (Town Hall), 5008 Queensbury Road** para esta muy importante discusión. Una agenda provisional incluye: presentaciones; discusiones en pequeños grupos para determinar las necesidades en nuestra comunidad y las posibilidades en ubicaciones y tamaño/espacio considerado para un centro comunitario, y luego un pequeño reporte de los grupos; un resumen y los pasos a seguir.

Si usted tiene preguntas específicas acerca de este dialogo, por favor no dude en contactarme directamente a la dirección electrónica: [varcher@gmail.com](mailto:varcher@gmail.com).

# Council Actions—October 2, 2006

By Waverly Pollitt

1. **Approved** – David Lingua nominated to fill Ward 3 Council seat and vacant Chair for Public Works and Committee for public safety.
2. **Approved** – Anissa Sunday nominated as chair for Recreation Board.
3. **Approved** – plan as proposed for NOAA Building.
4. **Approved** – Minutes for September 5, 2006 Legislative Meeting.
5. **Withdrawn**—Charter Resolution 2006-CR-02 Compensation/Attendance of Mayor.
6. **Not Approved, lack of a second motion**-Resolution 2006-OR-09 §2-7 Compensation of elected officials.
7. **Approved** – Resolution 2006-OR-08 Unenclosed Porches & Storage.
8. **Tabled** – Resolution 2006-OR-10 Chapter 66 Fence & Hedge Regulations.
9. **Postponed introduction**- Introduction of Adoption of Prince George’s County Housing Standards.
10. **Approved** –To discuss at Finance Committee Meeting on October 18, 2006, Classification Plan.
11. **Approved** – Bid Award for street improvements which includes resurfacing sidewalks, aprons, and curbs & gutters (where identified) on 4700, 4800, 4900, blocks of Sheridan Street & Somerset Road.
12. **Approved** – Tree Program Supplemental Appropriation. \$16,000.
13. **Approved** – Emergency sidewalk repairs at Rhode Island and Queensbury (near S&J).
14. **Approved** – 4ft fence (2ft brick and 2ft wrought iron) 4909 Tuckerman St.
15. **Approved** – Fleet Acquisition Koons - Ford, College Park - To waive competitive bidding requirements, move to buy PD cars.
16. **Approved** – Park Beautification contract for Complete Landscaping up to \$18,000.
17. **Approved** – public works to block off a corner of Town Center parking lot, Queensbury Road for doggie parade.
18. **Approved** – Thanksgiving week only Monday & Tuesday trash pick-up **no** Wednesday pick-up.

## Code Corner

By Colleen Ferguson

Newly placed under Town Code Chapter 50 “Peace and Good Order” of the Town code for the Town of Riverdale Park is: 50-15 “Outdoor Unenclosed Storage Prohibited.” This code was introduced and added in an effort to work towards ensuring the health and safety of the residents of the Town of Riverdale Park. Town code 50-15 “Outdoor unenclosed storage prohibited” prohibits the storage of such items as: paper products; building supplies and materials; flammable materials; motor vehicle parts; appliances; and household furnishings on any unenclosed porch, deck, patio, carport, including any space that is not sealed from the elements and does not have properly fitted closeable doors. For full text please visit the town website: [www.ci.riverdale-park.md.us](http://www.ci.riverdale-park.md.us)

Conduct your own inspection on your porch and/or under your carport, you might be amazed at what you find. If you have any questions/concerns call the code division we can help. The Code Enforcement Department will be strictly enforcing Town Code 50-15 commencing the month of November. Violations will be subject to a fine.

During the past month the Code Enforcement Division has been actively enforcing the Town Codes, Mobile Vendors Licensing, Apartment Inspections, Single Family Rental Inspections, and enforcing Town Parking during school dismissal on Queensbury, Riverdale, and Taylor Roads. If you should have any Code Concerns, please contact the Code Enforcement Division: [coderiverdalepk@comcast.net](mailto:coderiverdalepk@comcast.net) 301-927-6381 or 240-508-8460.

## 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, Hablamos Espanol  
[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  
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Colleen M. Ferguson

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[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

### Town Crier

The Official Newsletter of the  
Town of Riverdale Park, Maryland  
Editor-in-Chief: [editor@rptc.us](mailto:editor@rptc.us)

It is the policy of the Town of Riverdale Park, pursuant to the provision of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and The American 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 do not necessarily represent the view of the Town of Riverdale Park.

# The Mayor's Report

By Vernon Archer



## **Infrastructure program**

When running for office in the Spring of 2005, I set as one of my two priorities bringing all existing town streets, sidewalks, and other infrastructure up to County standards. I want to catch you up on where we are in the process of making the promise become a reality.

When I took office a year ago there were already several small street projects underway or planned. The projects in West Riverdale, along Spring Lane, Queensbury Avenue and on 48<sup>th</sup> Street have already been completed. The 4700-5000 blocks of Somerset and Sheridan project is underway, and will be completed prior to the end of this construction season.

While moving these projects forward, I used town staff and the town engineer to identify which streets need improvement so that we can both estimate the cost and know which areas to include when we ask construction firms to bid on the work. You may also recall that I've made several requests through the Town Crier, the Town Talk e-mail list, and at public meetings for residents to inform us of infrastructure problems to make sure we don't overlook them. I presented a preliminary report to the Council in the spring that estimated the cost of the needed work at \$3 million, and the Council provided funding for the work in the budget that took effect on July 1, 2006.

We are now in the process of seeking bids for the engineering and construction work. The bids should be in and the contracts awarded to the winning firms by the first of year. Because there is so much work to be done, the work will likely be done in two separate phases. We will publish the work schedule in an upcoming issue of the Town Crier. Phase one will likely begin with concrete work next March. Residents of effected streets will be notified immediately prior to the commencement of work. It is my hope that all of the work will be completed no later than the end of 2008.

## **Community Center**

You will note on the first page of the Crier that a public forum regarding a community center will take place on November 15, 2006 from 7-9 pm at Town Hall. If you are interested in making your voice heard about issues such as what services and facilities should be made available in Town, and where they should be located, please join us.

## **Immigrant Task Force**

Among the critical issues facing our town today are those revolving around new immigrants. I want to emphasize that there is great diversity of immigrant situations and issues which include housing and labor markets, concerns about language, communication, social integration, and economic development. What seems clear to me is that the Town residents and government must be more active in helping to smooth the transition of immigrants into American society. We have included Spanish translation for part of the Crier, and all of the recently published Residential and Business Code Handbook, and made it a priority to hire town staff (both civilian and police officers) that is fluent in Spanish. But, there is much more we need to do to guarantee that our town remains a thriving middle-class community. Working with our immigrant population will help make this a reality for all of us.

Town government, as it currently exists, is not very well structured to grapple with a rapidly-evolving immigrant population and the issues they confront; it is really only structured to react to problems long after they arise. One means of helping the town move forward on assisting immigrants is to carefully study what issues the community and immigrants are facing and to find answers to the problems we confront. In order to do this, I am going to ask stakeholders to participate in a task force that will address issues related to immigration in our community. This group will have meetings early in the New Year. If you are interested in these issues please watch for postings on the community calendar.

## **Traffic on Highway 1 and Route 410**

The Town recently learned that there are several new opportunities available to improve traffic flow through the intersection of Route 410 and Highway 1. The large redevelopment project of the former Lustine properties in Hyattsville, and stretching into Riverdale Park along Madison Street, will require traffic mitigation at the intersection in order to gain county approval. This will at best demand an incremental improvement of traffic flow, but some improvement will certainly be welcome.

Another upcoming improvement will come with the synchronization of lights along Route 1. The new lights that have been constructed from the boundaries of the District of Columbia through to College Park will soon be synchronized in a way that facilitates the traffic flow for the whole length of the highway. This should help the backups that happen around the intersection of Highway 1 and Queensbury Road and hopefully reduce the cut through traffic that occurs along Cleveland, Oliver, and Riverdale Road. After years of no real movement about this issue, it appears that things are finally happening. Stay tuned for updates on a rapidly evolving situation. My best wishes to you and your families for a Happy Thanksgiving.



**5<sup>TH</sup> Annual Thanksgiving Dinner  
November 23, 2006  
12:00 – 3:00PM**

**The Alamo restaurant and Christian Life Center will be serving a Thanksgiving Dinner with all the holiday trimmings. Come join us for a free thanksgiving dinner !**

**Free coats, hats, gloves and toys will be given away as part of the “*Passion & Compassion Outreach Ministry*”.**

**The Alamo Restaurant is located at 5508 Kenilworth Avenue, Riverdale Park, MD. Dinner will be served from 12:00 – 3:00. For more information contact Rev. Ben Slye at 301-277-5969.**

**If you would like to help support our dinner  
Food & Monetary Donation are welcomed.**



**La Quinta Cena Anual del Día de Acción de Gracias**

**El 23 de Noviembre de 2006  
12:00 – 3:00PM**

**El restaurante de Alamo y el Centro Cristiano de la Vida estarán sirviendo una Cena par el Dia De La Gracias con todos los adornos. ¡Venga, la cena es GRATIS para todos!**

**Tenemos abrigos, sombreros, guantes y juguetes GRATIS como partes del “*El Ministerio de Pasión & Compasión*”.**

**El Restaurante de Alamo se localiza en 5508 Avenida de Kenilworth, Riverdale, MD. La cena se servirá de 12:00 – 3:00PM. Para más información llamen al Pastor Ben Slye en 301-277-5969.**

**Su ayuda con la cena o dinero es bienvenida.**

# What a Difference a Day Makes—Sun day, and that it Was for Riverdale Park Day

After a postponement due to rain on Saturday, October 7, 2006, Riverdale Park Day was held during a picture-perfect, sunshiny day on Sunday, October 8, 2006. It was almost as if the postponement was meant to be; the attendees and organizers couldn't have asked for a better day. Hundreds (some have estimated well over 1,000 and possibly closer to 2,000) flocked to the Riversdale Mansion grounds to enjoy music, food, and fun. Advance marketing, including take home notes at Riverdale Elementary, helped get the word out to area residents.

Miles Spicer, Buck Forty-Nine, Asalto Norteño, and the Archie Edwards Blues Society took the stage throughout the day to entertain.

Among the many organizations represented were: Public Works, the Riverdale Park Fire Department, the Riverdale Park Police Department; El Bucanas Restaurant serving an array of great food; the Girl Scouts of the Greater National Capitol Region; the Riverdale Park Business Association; and Riversdale Mansion who hosted their annual bulb sale. Back better than ever this year, was the pie-eating contest with 108 participants (some back for seconds and more). It was a great day and fun was had by all. Congratulations to the Riverdale Park Rec Board and all the volunteers that helped to make it a great event.

Pat Prangley, the Town's staff, the Mansion, Anissa Sunday, Mayor Vernon Archer, and Miles Spicer all pitched in to help coordinate the last-minute change from Saturday to Sunday. It truly was a glorious Sun and Riverdale Park Day.



Kids enjoy making crafts.



Riverdale Park Business Association displays their raffle prizes.

## Riverdale Park Day, October 7, 2006



Face and arm painting by one of many volunteers.

## **S & J Restaurant**

Daily Lunch and Dinner Specials  
Eat In/Carry Out

Breakfast Special - Monday - Friday \$2.95  
Monday - Tacos, \$1.00 each  
Tuesday - All you can eat Pasta 5- 8:00 PM, \$8.95  
Saturday - All you can eat Shrimp 4-8:00 PM \$15.95

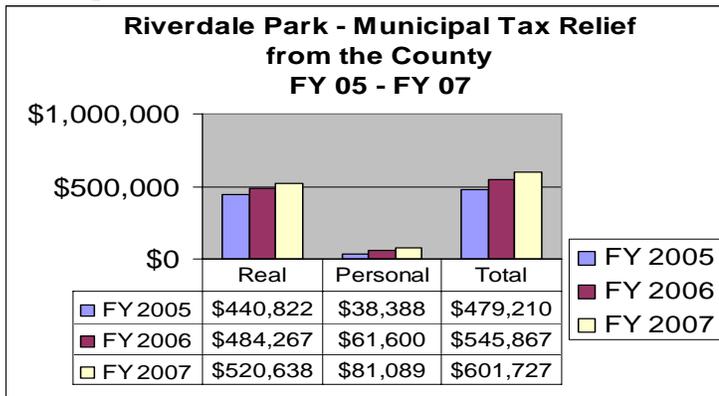
Steamed Shrimp Everyday  
Sandwich/Sub of the month - \$3.95

Corner of Queensbury and Rhodes Island Avenue

# **301-927-3977**

A paid advertisement

Graph #1



Source (Prince George’s County Office of Management and Budget)

# Riverdale Park Municipal Tax Relief from the County

By Patrick J Prangley

In 1983 a municipal tax differential program was established pursuant to Section 6-305 of the Tax property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

The purpose for the program is to eliminate double taxation and provide a property tax differential credit for municipal services that a town provides i.e. general government, police, public works, etc.

The Tax Differential is a process for determining the appropriate property tax rates for residents of municipalities within Prince George’s County.

Residents see a reduction in the county government portion of the property tax bill to account for services that are provided instead by the municipal government.

To qualify, the municipality must provide a service that replaces a service that is currently being provided by the County. Therefore, any service provided by a municipality that is not funded in the County’s budget or General Fund is not eligible for a tax differential credit. In addition to the criteria outline above, the municipality must utilize some property tax revenues to pay for this service.

Since 1983 to fiscal year 2007 the tax differential program has resulted in millions of dollars of municipal tax relief to real and personal property owners within the Town of Riverdale Park.

Graph #1 illustrates a 20% increase of total Municipal Tax Relief Funds to the Town of Riverdale Park real and personal property owners’ amounting from \$479,210 in fiscal year 2005 to \$601,727 in fiscal year 2007.

Table #1 illustrates our municipal tax differential ranking (credited rates) for similar services that municipalities provide. Our ranking for Riverdale Park Municipal Tax Relief and the level of services we provide is #3 in the county. This is our third consecutive year (fiscal year 2005-2007) at this ranking behind the City of Laurel # 1 and City of Greenbelt #2.

The Credited rates for the municipal tax differential as shown highlighted in Table #1 for Riverdale Park are calculated and applied on the annual FY 2007 County/Municipal Property Tax Bills.

Table #1

| Municipality     | Municipal Tax Differential (Real) | Municipal Tax Differential (Personal) | Ranking |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------|
| Berwyn Heights   | 15.1                              | 36.2                                  | 8       |
| Bladensburg      | 15.8                              | 37.8                                  | 5       |
| Bowie            | 1.5                               | 3.7                                   | 24      |
| Brentwood        | 2.3                               | 5.4                                   | 21      |
| Capitol Heights  | 13.6                              | 32.5                                  | 16      |
| Cheverly         | 14.4                              | 34.3                                  | 13      |
| College Park     | 1.7                               | 4.1                                   | 23      |
| Colmar Manor     | 1.8                               | 4.2                                   | 22      |
| Cottage City     | 13.8                              | 33                                    | 14      |
| District Heights | 14.6                              | 34.9                                  | 11      |
| Eagle Harbor     | 0.5                               | 1.2                                   | 27      |
| Edmonston        | 14.5                              | 34.6                                  | 12      |
| Fairmont Heights | 8                                 | 19.2                                  | 20      |
| Forest Heights   | 10.2                              | 24.5                                  | 18      |
| Glenarden        | 12.6                              | 30.2                                  | 17      |
| Greenbelt        | 16.4                              | 39.1                                  | 2       |
| Hyattsville      | 15.8                              | 37.7                                  | 4       |
| Landover Hills   | 15.2                              | 36.3                                  | 7       |
| Laurel           | 19.1                              | 45.7                                  | 1       |
| Morningside      | 13.7                              | 32.7                                  | 15      |
| Mount Rainer     | 15.7                              | 37.6                                  | 6       |
| New Carrollton   | 1.3                               | 3.1                                   | 25      |
| North Brentwood  | 1.1                               | 2.6                                   | 26      |
| Riverdale Park   | 16.2                              | 38.6                                  | 3       |
| Seat Pleasant    | 14.7                              | 35.1                                  | 9       |
| University Park  | 14.7                              | 35.2                                  | 10      |
| Upper Marlboro   | 8.9                               | 21.2                                  | 19      |

Source (Prince George’s County Office of Management and Budget)

# Public Works Report

By Debbie Murphy

## Holiday Schedule

Public Works is closed on Veteran's Day, Friday, November 10, 2006. Bulk trash and metals pickup for Area A will be picked up on Wednesday, November 8, 2006 and for Area B on Thursday, November 9, 2006. Public Works is closed for Thanksgiving on November 23 and 24, 2006. Bulk trash and metal pickup for the whole Town will not be picked up Thanksgiving week per a Council action.

## Leaves

Leaf collection will begin on October 30, 2006. Please do not park vehicles on the street in front of anyone's leaf piles as they cannot be collected. Residents shall rake leaves as close to the curb as possible for collection, but shall not rake leaves or deposit yard waste or other debris in the street or gutter. We ask residents to be patient; if you see the leaf machine has been on your block on any given day, it will be 3-5 working days before the leaf machine will be back to that block. We are trying to provide all residents the same service. It is this department's goal is to be on everyone's block at least once a week. During leaf collection season, bagged leaves will also be collected as yard waste and should be put out on your first collection day of each week

## Bike Giveaway

Public Works gave away 12 bikes in a free raffle during Riverdale Park Day on Sunday, October 8. Each winner received a bike helmet with compliments of the Riverdale Park Police Department.

The winners of the bicycles were: Prince Emeagwali, Antony Herrera, Angelo Herrera-Sanchez, Taylor James, Alijah John, Jeanne Jones, Rashad Morris, Karla Sanchez, Kelsi Turner, Jasmine Vasquez, and Linda Wilson.

## Recycled Paper

Public Works is open on Saturdays. Residents may bring their trash, metals, yard waste, and mixed paper for recycling. The same restrictions/rules apply on Saturdays that are in place on the week days. The **recycled paper** consists of card board (such as cereal boxes, shoe boxes, and boxes), junk mail, magazines, books, telephone books, etc. The Town receives revenue from recycling these items and it helps to lower the landfill costs.

## Contacting Public Works during Emergencies

In extreme emergencies (e.g., 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, but the Police Department has radio communications with Public Works staff.

## Emerald Ash Borer Quarantine Alert

Prince George's entire County is under quarantine because the Emerald Ash Borer has been found in southern PG County. All residents and businesses are being told **not** to move any firewood out of Prince George's County. For more information contact Public Works or go on-line at: [www.mda.state.md.us/plants-pests/eab/](http://www.mda.state.md.us/plants-pests/eab/)

## Reporte de Trabajo Publico Recogimiento de Metales

Artículos que son de metal o parcialmente de metal son recogidos el mismo día que la basura pesada. Estos artículos deben ser puestos aparte de la basura pesada, un camión diferente los recogerá. Los artículos de metal no serán incluidos en las tres yardas cúbicas de basura pesada. Trabajo Público (Public Works) recicla estos metales los cuales generan ganancias para la ciudad. Desafortunadamente personas de otras ciudades han venido a nuestra ciudad a llevarse esto metales para su propio beneficio. Solamente empleados de Trabajo Publico (Public Works) deberán de recoger estos artículos. Ustedes reconocerán a nuestros empleados por sus camisas anaranjadas o las camisas amarillas o camisas grises con rayas anaranjadas. Necesitamos la ayuda de los residentes para parar a estas personas que no son empleados de Trabajo Publico (Public Works) de llevarse las ganancias de nuestra ciudad.

## Horario de día Feriado

Trabajo Público (Public Works) estará cerrado el día de los Veteranos, Viernes, 10 de noviembre de 2006. La basura pesada y metales será recogida el día Miércoles, 8 de Noviembre de 2006 para área A y el día Jueves, 9 de Noviembre de 2006 para el área B. Trabajo Publico estará cerrado el Día de Acción de Gracias (Thanksgiving), 23 y 24 de Noviembre de 2006. La basura pesada y los metales no serán recogidas la semana de el Día de Acción de Gracias (Thanksgiving) según las acciones de la conserjería.

## Hojas

La colección de hojas empezará el 30 de Octubre de 2006. Por favor no se parquee su vehiculo enfrente de las hojas colectadas por sus vecinos, porque no serán colectadas. Residentes deberán rastillar las hojas lo más cerca posible a la acera para la colección de hojas pero no deben depositar hojas o desechos de jardín o escombros en la calle o desagüe. Le pedimos a los residentes que sean pacientes, si usted ve la maquina recogedora de hojas en su cuadra cualquier día, tomara de 3-5 días para que la maquina vuelva a pasar en esa misma cuadra. Estamos tratando de proveer el mismo servicio para todos los residentes. La meta del Departamento

*Continued on the next page*

Trabajo Publico es proveer servicio para todas las *cua-dras por lo menos una vez por semana. Durante la tem-porada de la* colección hojas embolsadas también serán coleccionadas como desecho de jardín y usted debe ponerlo afuera los días en que recogen el resto de su basura.

### Papel Reciclado

Trabajo Público (Public Works) esta abierto los sábados. Los residentes pueden traer su basura, metales, desecho de jardín, y papel reciclable. Las mismas restricciones/reglas aplican para los sábados que cualquier otro día. Papel reciclable consiste en cartón (caja de cereal, caja de zapatos, y cajas), propaganda postal, revistas, libros, directorio telefónico, etc. La ciudad recibe ganancias al reciclar estos artículos y reduce el costo del relleno sanitario.

### Code Corner/Espanol

Translation by Claudia Umana

Si usted tiene alguna pregunta acerca de Código, no dude en contactar a la División de Código Legal [coderiverdalepk@comcast.net](mailto:coderiverdalepk@comcast.net) o al 301-927-6381 o 240-508-8460.

Recién puesto en el Código de la Ciudad Capitulo 50 "Paz y Orden" (Peace and Good Order) del Código de la Ciudad de Riverdale Park es: 50-15 "Almacenar al Abierto Esta Prohibido" Este código fue introducido y agregado con el esfuerzo de asegurar la salud y seguridad de los residentes de la Ciudad de Riverdale Park. El Código de la Ciudad 50-15 "Almacenar al Abierto Esta Prohibido" prohíbe el almacenamiento de artículos como productos de papel, material de construcción, materiales inflamables, partes de vehículos, muebles de hogar en el patio, cobertizo o terraza, incluyendo cualquier espacio que no este protegido de los elementos y que no tengan puertas seguras. (Para leer el código por favor visítenos la página electrónica de la Ciudad: [www.ci.riverdale-park.md.us](http://www.ci.riverdale-park.md.us))

Conduja su propia inspección en su terraza o debajo de su cobertizo, se sorprenderá de las cosas que encontrara. Si tiene alguna pregunta o duda llame a la División de Código Legal, nosotros le podemos ayudar.

La División de Código Legal estará esforzando el Código de la Ciudad de Riverdale Park es: 50-15 comenzando el mes de Noviembre. Violadores de este código serán multados.

Durante los últimos meses la División de Código Legal ha estado constantemente aplicando los Códigos de la Ciudad, Vendedores Ambulantes con Permiso, Inspecciones de Apartamento, Inspecciones de Casa de Renta, y esforzando el Parqueo de la Ciudad durante el despedido de la escuela en Queensbury, Riverdale y Taylor Road.

Tengan un Feliz día de Acción de Gracias.

## Gorgeous Prince George's Day, October 14, 2006



Tree Planting behind Riverdale Elementary.  
Thank You to All Volunteers!

1st Annual Riverdale Park

## HOLIDAY MARKET MERCADO NAVIDENO

❁ Unique Holiday Gifts ❁

🎅 Free Pictures with Santa 🎅

🍷 Hot Cocoa & Cider & Food 🍷

❁ "Festival of Lights" Trolley Rides ❁

🎵 Live Holiday Music 🎵

🎅 Trees & Wreaths 🎅

at Town Center

Saturday, Dec. 9th 1pm - 9pm

Sunday, Dec 10th 12pm - 5pm

❁ call 301-927-6381 for details ❁



# Riverdale Park Police Department

September 2006

## Crime Report

| Crime        | Murder   | Rape     | Robbery    | Assault  | Burglary  | Stolen Vehicle |
|--------------|----------|----------|------------|----------|-----------|----------------|
| Ward 1       | 0        | 0        | 0          | 0        | 3         | 0              |
| Ward 2       | 0        | 0        | 0          | 0        | 0         | 0              |
| Ward 3       | 0        | 0        | 1          | 0        | 0         | 0              |
| Ward 4       | 0        | 0        | 3          | 0        | 2         | 0              |
| Ward 5       | 0        | 0        | 0          | 0        | 0         | 1              |
| Ward 6       | 0        | 0        | 2          | 1        | 4         | 1              |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>6**</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>9*</b> | <b>2</b>       |

\*\* 6 citizen

\*5 Commercial, 4 Residential

## Officer Activity

| Activity                   | Total |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Calls For Service          | 953   |
| Routine Patrols            | 286   |
| Traffic Stops              | 309*  |
| Reported Traffic Accidents | 62**  |
| Parking Citations          | 84*** |
| Subjects Arrested          | 32    |

\* 360 Traffic Citations,

\*\* 23 Written Accidents

\*\*\* 84 These include citations made by Code Enforcement

# Ward and Committee Reports

## Ward 5 Report

By Gerard Kiernan

### Election Day is Fast Approaching!

While certain elections were settled on Primary Day in September (for example, the race for County Executive), many others are still open. At the County level, we will be voting for our County Council Member, School Board members, and a number of charter issues. At the state level, we are voting for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller, State Senator, and State Delegates. At the federal level, we are voting for a Senator and our District Five Representative. For sake of completeness, I will mention that the part of town south of East-West Highway and east of Kenilworth Avenue is in the Fourth Congressional District.

The most important thing is: if you don't vote, don't complain about the results. For Ward 5, the polling place is at Riverdale Elementary School. Remember Tuesday, November 7th.

## Public Safety Report

By Gerard F. Kiernan

### Car Break-ins and Theft

As we approach the holiday season, some people will be looking for easy scores. A quick and easy way to cause grief for a resident is to break into their car. Why does someone do it? Something of value is visible in the car. Also, the car may be unlocked or a window may be open. If you want to leave packages in the car, please put them into the trunk. When you get home and park on the street, or even in your driveway, please lock your car. Do this even if you plan to come back out in a minute. Better safe than sorry.

As always, if you see something suspicious or out of the ordinary in your neighborhood, please call 301-927-4343.

## Ward 2 Report

By Mary Donaldson

There has been a rise in vandalism recently in Ward 2. Cars have been broken into with personal items and money change stolen. Personal property has also been damaged. I have talked with Chief Parker about this situation and asked if he could arrange some patrolling after dusk several times each week so the presence of cruisers would perhaps discourage those responsible for

these acts. I also talked with him about possibly having a Safety Meeting (not a neighborhood watch type, because in the past this really was never very productive). If enough people would be interested in such a meeting with the Safety Committee and the Police, it could be helpful. If you are interested, call me at 301-927-2954 or e-mail me at [msmarydon@yahoo.com](mailto:msmarydon@yahoo.com).

On another issue, the Council has been having meetings on the fences/hedges ordinance. This has proved to be a **HUGE** issue and is on-going. Another meeting will take place either October 26 at 8 p.m., or October 24 at the same time. If you have any comments, please call me or e-mail me with your ideas or concerns. The complete ordinance was published in the September Crier. I would appreciate any input. Please feel free to call me at any time. If I am not available, I have caller ID where you can leave a message and I will call you back. My preference is to talk to people in person.

Finally the infrastructure improvements have begun on Somerset Road and soon on Sheridan Street within the public right-of-way. Improvements include removing damaged sections of curbs and gutters, replacing driveway aprons, damaged sidewalks, lead walks, and paving the street. I am pleased that after years of waiting, the work is finally getting done. I hope the residents of Somerset and Sheridan will be patient for the inconvenience this will cause as it will only be for a short while. Thank you in advance for your cooperation. If you have any private construction work to be done, I hope you take advantage of this opportunity to have it done by the contractor. Call the contractor at 301-699-5949.

## Ward 3 Report

By David Lingua

Allow me to extend a warm greeting to the residents of Ward Three. My name is David Lingua and I am our Ward's newly-appointed representative to the Town Council. I would like to thank Mayor Archer for the appointment and the Council members for their welcome as Novella Sargusingh's replacement. I would also like to thank Novella for her service and I aim to serve out the remainder of the term well.

My overall goal is to be a fair and capable voice on the Council for our Ward. Conversely, I would strive to be a fair and capable voice to our Ward with regards to the Council's conduct of the Town's affairs.

While I will be proactive to engage you regarding issues before the Council, I welcome hearing from you as

well. You can call me at home 301-779-3849, reach me by email [djlingua@gmail.com](mailto:djlingua@gmail.com), or stop by my house at 5902 Riverside Drive.

I consider it and honor as well as a pleasure to represent such a great Ward. I have met a number of you over the years and have enjoyed the opportunity. For those I have yet to meet, I hope it will be soon. And for those new to Ward Three, welcome. I am looking forward to seeing and hearing from all in the coming months.

### Ward 3 Notes

You may have noticed Riverdale Park's Police at Taylor and Longfellow Roads shortly after Riverdale Park Day. They were issuing citations to motorists running the Stop sign at Longfellow and 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue. One of our neighbors told me of this problem at Riverdale Park Day and I conveyed their concerns to Chief Parker. I would like to thank Chief Parker, his Lieutenants, and Officers for their prompt action.

## Economic Development Update

By Dannielle Glaros

A few notes from around town:

- EYA is working with Prince George's County and SHA to mitigate the effects of traffic associated with the first phase of their Hyattsville project. Based on traffic counts, the County and SHA are proposing that the right-only lanes east bound and west bound on 410 at Rt. 1 be changed to allow traffic to drive straight through the intersection. As part of the plan, 410 between Rt. 1 and East Beale Circle will be widened slightly. A drawing of the proposal is available at Town Hall. (Please also see the Mayor's Report where this is discussed more.)
- Mr. and Mrs. Shi, who own the Alamo Plaza, are looking to redevelop the vacant parcel with the abandoned house on Riverdale Rd. At the moment, they are considering commercial and office space with a stucco exterior similar to the Alamo Plaza.
- A small medical office building is being proposed for the southwest corner of the Kenilworth/410 intersection. The entrance to the building will be off of Powhaton St. Dr. Darden, a pediatrician, is interested in opening a pediatric practice in the area. The project is currently being reviewed by MNCPPC, but Council will have the opportunity to comment in the future.
- The Riversdale Mansion will have a new visitor's center in a few months. At the October Legislative Meeting, Ed Day presented details about the new center. The Center has been reviewed by the Prince George's Historic Commission as well as the Maryland Historic Trust.

- Kennedy Smith, our economic development consultant, is continuing her market analysis and interviews with residents and businesses. If you have any questions for her or suggestions, please email her at [kennedy@cluegroup.com](mailto:kennedy@cluegroup.com).
- The Wells Building, which houses the doll shop, is for sale in Town Center. The building once housed the Riverdale Park Post Office and still has its original tin ceiling.

## Holiday Market Coming to Town Center

Help us create a fabulous holiday market at Town Center on December 9<sup>th</sup> (1-9pm) and 10<sup>th</sup> (12-5pm). Sparked by an idea at the economic development meeting, volunteers are rapidly pulling together arts and food vendors for a two-day market. The market will feature free photos with Santa, trees, wreaths, hot cocoa/cider, food, and arts and crafts vendors. Heat lamps will provide extra warmth and the area will be decorated with lights. Festival of Light trolley tours will also be departing from the market starting at 5:30 pm. Help us make the vision a reality! Volunteers and some more vendors are needed! If you are interested in helping, please contact Dannielle Glaros [dgriverdalepark@comcast.net](mailto:dgriverdalepark@comcast.net), 301-209-1505. If you are interested in being a vendor, please contact Jim Coleman [rpkfarmmkt@gmail.com](mailto:rpkfarmmkt@gmail.com).

**Are you an artist in town? Would you like to sell jewelry, art, pottery, etc at our holiday market? If so, please contact Jim Coleman at [rpkfarmmkt@gmail.com](mailto:rpkfarmmkt@gmail.com) 301-209-8529 ASAP.**

## Riverdale Elementary School

I've been invited to sit in on a monthly meeting at our Elementary School that includes key department heads. In October, I attended my first meeting. Below is an update on various items from the meeting. If you have any questions or suggestions that you would like me to carry back to the school, please let me know. Also, if anyone is interested in being a co-community liaison with me, please let me know. The meetings are the third Wednesday of each month from 2:30-4pm. Contact Information: Dannielle Glaros, [dmglaros@gmail.com](mailto:dmglaros@gmail.com), 301-779-5915 (h).

### Updates/Activities

- The school is implementing "Peace Days" school wide and in classes to encourage respect.

Classes that have the most number of peace days will have extra recess.

- For Reading Celebration Day on October 31st, children will be dressing up in their favorite character from a book and will be parading around the school. Fifth graders will also be giving book reports.
- The Science Fair is scheduled for December 6 2006. In preparation for the Fair, there will be early dismissal on November 29, 2006 so kids and parents can work with teachers and the school computers to prepare their boards and reports for the Fair.
- There are several after school programs operating at the elementary school so that kids can receive extra tutoring.
- The PTA is becoming active again, so if you are interested in becoming involved please contact the school.
- If you are a parent with a child at Riverdale Park, please contact your child's teacher about any of the above activities.

#### **Needs/Volunteers:**

- Science Fair Judges are needed the morning of December 6, 2006.
- Donations of coats, hats, and gloves for children would be greatly appreciated. Items do not need to be new. Lightly-worn, washed items are fine.
- Do you have extra stuffed animals? If so, please consider donating them to the school. The school awards outstanding readers with stuffed animals.
- Do you have an aquarium/stand, pump and filter? If so, the fifth grade could use one for their Science Inquiry project.
- Future Spring opportunities: Career Day and Dr. Seuss Day. The school is looking for speakers for career day and for people to read Dr. Seuss books for Dr. Seuss Day.
- Are you able to make a longer commitment? If so, please consider volunteering for a few hours a week or applying to be a substitute teacher. Thanks to Andie Huberty and Iris McLaurin for already making this level of commitment.

Please either contact the school directly 301-985-1850 about these opportunities or contact me.

### **Historic House and Garden Tour Planning Beginning**

Join us at the historic Smith House to plan the Riverdale Park Home and Garden tour for next spring. The meeting is November 2, 2006 at 7 pm at 4707 Oliver St, 301-864-3953. Please call Lori Lynch, the host, with any questions. At the meeting, we'll be set-

ting the date and thinking about prospective homes as well as other logistics for the tour. Please join us.

### **New Signs and Banners Coming to Riverdale Park**

Over the next few months new signage will be arriving in Riverdale Park. As one of the towns in the Anacostia Heritage Trails Area (ATHA), Riverdale Park is receiving free way-finding signs and banners. The way-finding signs have been in production for over a year. The signs will be placed on Rt. 1 and in the Town Center. The signs will inform visitors of various historic assets and give directional information to the biking trail and Town Hall.

The banner design is still being finalized, but will feature a photo of the Riversdale Mansion and the words "Welcome to Historic Riverdale Park." Twelve banners are provided for free from ATHA and will be placed along Rt. 1. The Town is also looking into the additional costs of placing banners on Kenilworth Ave, Rt. 410, and River Road. Placing banners on key roadways will increase the Town's visibility.

### **Riverdale Park Business Association News**

By Audrey Bragg

The Riverdale Park Business Association participated in Riverdale Park Town Day on October 7, 2006. Residents were given discount coupons, flyers, calendars, pens, and business information. We held a raffle and the winners were:

- \* \$50 Gift Certificate donated by the Calvert House Inn- -Christina Harden
- \* Beautiful Doll donated by Aunt Emily's Dolls -- Yolanda Sanchez
- \* Artist Print donated by Gerald King --Chief Tom Parker
- \* Play Castle donated by Gerrety & Bragg Real Estate--Dannielle Glaros
- \* Gift Basket donated by The Dental Group --T. Bussey.

Thank you to all the businesses who donated to this event. At the last meeting we voted to make a donation to the Gorgeous Prince Georges Day. We will sponsor a Halloween Pet Parade at Town Center on October 29, 2006. We will vote on a donation to the Festival of Lights at our November meeting. Next meeting will be November 1, 2006 at the old bank building at 5:30 p.m.

# Our Town

## A Tree Grows in Riverdale

By Marita Novicky

*My thanks to Ben Guiffré and Dave Wolfe for contributing to this story.*

It was the best of times, the 50's and the Queensbury Dukes reigned supreme in Riverdale. Their black leather, chrome studded jackets, and slicked-backed, pomaded hair let people know who they were; they were the Dukes and let no one doubt that they ruled the turf—the streets of Riverdale Park then just simply known as Riverdale.

Slaus, Roach, Hacker, and Mutt aka Stan, Billy, Martin, Leonard, and Roy Bremmerman, Dave Wolfe, and Ben Guiffré were members of the Dukes, but better than that, they were friends till the end. Through thick and thin, they weathered the trials of adolescence and found a way to rise through it all. That's not to say that their beginnings were easy. They were scrappers and no one tread lightly on their turf—the streets west of Route 1 and south of East West Highway, Queensbury and Riverdale Roads and the streets lying in between. They were an awesome bunch who most often intimidated those who they perceived to be intruders and bad guys while protecting their neighbors, classmates, and teachers. Through all the bravado, there was an profound core of caring among them. They came to love life and its trappings, became aficionados of Beowulf, Ivanhoe, and Lord Byron, and grew to be kind, compassionate, and loving men. Ultimately, they became lovers of all things natural including trees—all trees and especially ones they began planting in remembrance of family, friends, and times gone by.

Roy was just one of the guys. He grew up to be a hero with a wife and child. And even though Roy, Dave, and Ben moved away, their hearts and minds were always one with Riverdale. Roy died this past year. He was 72 and had lived a good life. Two of the Dukes, Ben and Dave, met recently with Roy's widow and daughter to plant a tree—a Pin Oak that was planted in Beale Circle on October 13, 2006. They dedicated the Oak to Roy with a prayer... "Thank you Lord for lending us the soul of Roy Bremmerman. He brought us joy and we loved him well. It is for him we plant this tree in a place he loved, a place where elders come to sit in the sun, lovers stroll, and children play".

Unlike many trees, the native pin oak (*Quercus palustris*) likes clay soil and doesn't mind wet feet, two conditions not enjoyed by many other trees and a temperament admirably suited to Riverdale Park. Much like Roy, Ben, Dave and the rest of the Dukes, Roy's Pin Oak will thrive in Beale Circle in Riverdale Park and

someday grow to 75 feet—a testament to all rough-hewn young men that became the best of men among us.

It is fitting that they choose Beale Circle to plant Roy's tree officially title "The Bremmerman Oak. Beale Circle was the Duke's headquarters where they met, played games, settled beefs, and shared dreams in the 50's. The Dukes returned in a new century to plant a tree in memory of a friend now gone. The Dukes leave us believing still in the caring, sharing, all American spirit. In short, that Riverdale Park is "TREEmendous"!

*Our Town is a collection of notes and stories about Riverdale Park residents written by Marita Novicky who lives on Sheridan Street in the house formerly known as Three Oaks, now affectionately called the Riverdale Retreat. If you have a story you would like told about someone or something in Riverdale Park, email Marita, novickym@hotmail.com*

## Town Arts Mailing List

By Jim Coleman

Would like to connect in new ways on how to enliven our arts community right here in Riverdale Park? People can talk about their events interests both as spectators, participants, and volunteer for event production. If anyone is interested in supporting local artists, actors, dancers, and poets, this is their gathering place. To subscribe, please go to:

<http://riverdale-park.org/mailman/listinfo/townarts>

If you need more information, please contact Jim Coleman at [jcolema3@aol.com](mailto:jcolema3@aol.com).

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# Community Circles

## What to Watch For:

**Wednesday, November 1, M-UTC (Mixed Use Town Center)**—Town Center, 7:30 pm.

**Thursday, November 2, 9, and 16, 2006—Farmers Market**—Town Center, 3—6 pm.

**Thursday, November 2—Historic Home & Garden Tour Planning Meeting**—4704 Oliver Street, 7:00 pm, please call Lori Lynch, 301-864-3953, with any questions.

**Monday, November 6—Legislative Meeting**—Town Hall, 8:00 pm.

**Tuesday, November 7—Election Day**—Vote at your polling place; **Traffic Committee**—Town Hall, 7 pm

**Friday, November 10, Veterans Day Holiday**—Town Offices closed, no trash pick up.

**Saturday, November 11, Veterans Day Observed, Ceremony**—Veterans Memorial across from MARC Station, 11 am, reception afterwards at Town Hall.

**Monday, November 13, Rec Board Meeting**—Town Hall, 7:30 p.m. Come help plan the Festival of Lights and the Children's Holiday Party.

**Wednesday, November 15—Community Space Meeting**, Town Hall, 7-9 pm. Join us and share your opinions.

**Thursday, November 16—Last Farmers Market of the year.** Join us in Town Center.

**Thursday and Friday, November 23-24—Thanksgiving Holiday.** Town Offices and Public Works closed.

**Monday, November 27—Work Session, 8 pm,** Town Hall.

**Upcoming Events—December 9, 2006, Riverdale Park's Annual Children's Holiday Party and Festival of Lights, Holiday Market December 9 -10, 2006.**

## 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](mailto:NCSA@juno.com) or (301-927-0560). PG Soccer [League@juno.com](mailto:League@juno.com)

**Riverdale Park Girl Scouts:** Contact: Charmaine Wilson at (301-449-5690).

**Riverdale Boy Scouts—Troop 252**—Meets Monday, November 13, 7:30 pm. For information, contact Bill Killen at 202-282-8302.

## Civic Committees:

**Lion's Club**—Contact Guy Tiberio for information, 301-864-3545.

**Madison Hill Homeowner's Association—Next Meeting, Tuesday, November 14, Town Hall, 7:30 pm.** For information call (301-513-9188) or email [MadisonHillHOA@aol.com](mailto:MadisonHillHOA@aol.com).

**Recreation Board** – Volunteers needed. Call Anissa Sunday (301-277-2458) or email [rprecbrd@yahoo.com](mailto:rprecbrd@yahoo.com) for information on the next meeting—**Monday, November 13, 7:30 pm, Town Hall.** Join us to plan upcoming events including:

**Saturday, December 9, 2006--Festival of Lights and Children's Holiday Party.** The Children's Holiday Party, for our younger Riverdale Park residents (12 and under) will be held at Town Hall, Saturday December 9th from 4 pm- 5:15 pm. Please come and join Santa and his helpers! Gifts, treats, crafts, photos with Santa, and much more! And...Start unpacking those holiday decorations!!!! **The Festival of Lights** comes early this year - **December 9, 2006** beginning at 5:30 p.m. Trolley tours of our beautiful and well-decorated Town will leave Town Center beginning at 5:30 pm. Interested in volunteering for either event? Please contact the Riverdale Recreation Board at [rprecbrd@yahoo.com](mailto:rprecbrd@yahoo.com).

**Riverdale Park Tree Committee**—For information contact [rebecca.feldberg@gmail.com](mailto:rebecca.feldberg@gmail.com).

**Riverdale Park Traffic Study Committee**—Contact Gerry Kiernan (301-277-4554), [gerardkiernan@earthlink.net](mailto:gerardkiernan@earthlink.net).

**Riversdale—Upcoming Events: November 18, Une Fete Federale**—1 pm Riversdale Mansion, a grand holiday feast as would have been prepared by a Belgian chef. Reservations and advance payment required. **December 2, Sint Niklaas Day: A Winter Afternoon for Children**, 2:30 pm; kids can visit with Sint Niklaas (the forerunner of our modern Santa) and shop in the special kids-only shopping area. \$6.00/child includes gift and refreshments.

If you have information to share with the community, please submit it by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month to the Editor, Town Crier, 5008 Queensbury Road, Riverdale Park, Maryland 20737, or email [riverdaleparkmd@comcast.net](mailto:riverdaleparkmd@comcast.net).

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