



The Riverdale Park Town Crier

Official Newsletter, Town of Riverdale Park, Maryland

Important Notices

Easter Egg Hunt

March 19th, 2005

11 am

Riversdale Mansion
4811 Riverdale Road



March 2005

Volume 34, Issue 2

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Legislative Meeting

Town Hall
Monday, Mar. 7, 8:00 p.m.

Work Session

Town Hall
Monday, Mar. 28, 8:00 p.m.

A Job Well Done!

The Mayor and Council wish to offer our Congratulations to the following employees for their long time service to the Town of Riverdale Park.

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

Town Admin. Patrick Prangley	26 years	Mar. 5, 2005
Chief E. Thomas Parker	24 years	Dec. 1, 2004
Public Works, Donald Soles	20 years	Mar. 12, 2005
Police Dispatcher, Susan Dunn	19 years	Dec. 19, 2004
Lt. Patrick Timmons	15 years	Apr. 9, 2005

Council Actions

Mayor & Council Special Legislative Session Monday, Jan. 31, 2005

1. Approved appointment of Tracey Toscano as new Councilmember for Ward 1/ 5-0
2. Giving Oath of Office to new Councilmember

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

1. Approved appointment Councilmember Badders as Vice Chairman 5-1. Kiernan opposed.
2. Tabled introduction of 2005-OR-1. Re: Campaign Finance Reporting 6-0

3. Tabled licensing procedure for use of Riverdale Community Building. 6-0
4. Approved minutes of Aug. 9, 2004 Special Legislative Meeting as amended 6-0
5. Approved minutes of Jan. 3, 2005 Legislative meeting 6-0
6. Approved minutes of Jan 10, 2005 Special Legislative meeting. 6-0
7. Approved appointment of certain Election Judges, Alternate Judges, Rates of Compensation, Dates for Candidate filing, Date of Election, Final Dates for Registration, Use of Paper Ballots. 6-0
8. Tabled adoption of Sister City. 6-0

Condolences

We wish to express our condolences to the family of Joan Menard of Tuckerman Street who passed away in January. Joan was a resident of Riverdale Park for over forty years and was one of the first members of the Riverdale Recreation Board, which promoted teen dances in the 1960's. She will be missed.

The Riverdale Park Town Crier

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

Guy Tiberio, Mayor
Home: 301-864-3545

Councilmembers

Ward 1 Tracey Toscano 301-927-9022
Ward 2 David Hiles 301-779-8620
Ward 3 Ray Badders 301-864-5722
Ward 4 Lawrence Taylor 301-474-6868
Ward 5 Gerard Kiernan 301-277-4554
Ward 6 Kenneth Webb 301-927-6381

Town Office 301-927-6381
e-mail: riverdaleparkmd@comcast.net.
Patrick J. Prangle, Town Administrator

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

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

Code Enforcement 301-209-1505
Colleen M. Ferguson

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mayor's Report

By Guy Tiberio

As I write this monthly report we are desperately waiting for March 15, when the asphalt plant reopens, so that our contractors can start on the almost \$500,000 in road work scheduled to be completed during the next 60 days. We ask for your patience and cooperation during the contract period as regards parking requirements.

The following is a complete list of streets to be improved.

1. Rhode Island Ave. from Queensbury Road to Cleveland Ave. and Cleveland Ave. to Route 1.
2. East Beale Circle from Queensbury Road to East West Highway
3. 45th Place – 6300 Block
4. 46th Avenue - 6300 Block
5. 43rd Street – 6100 & 6200 Blocks
6. CDBG Project – Spring Lane, 54th Ave, Jefferson Street
7. Drainage Project - 5000 Block Ravenswood Road
8. 54th Place – 6200 Block. Sinkhole Correction

We are also awaiting release of storm drainage funds by PG County for new storm sewers in the 4800 and 4900 blocks of Sheridan Street and Somerset Road. This project will also bring new street resurfacing to the 4700, 4800, and 4900 blocks of the above named streets.

These projects are all part of the \$4,000,000 of work established by our Town Council and Engineers in 1997. As of this year we will have completed over \$2,000,000 of the projects adopted.

I am pleased to report the legislation I requested to increase the share of our piggy back taxes which are returned to the Cities and Towns has been introduced by Senator Paul Pinsky. Senate Bill #724 would allow for Towns to receive a larger payment from the Counties share. This share has not been changed in over 20 years.

At the present time I am working on the 2005-2006 Town Budget, which I hope to have completed and presented to the Town Council by April 15th. As I wrote in the February Town Crier, I will request the Town Council to amend the Tax Limitation Cap in our Charter. I will request either an increase in the tax cap or elimination. In order for our Town to continue to be competitive with other Towns and Cities regarding salaries for Police, Public Works and General Government Staff and to continue providing our residents with excellent services I believe a change in the cap is warranted. At the same time, with our Town Debt being reduced by the payoff of our Municipal Center and Police Department Buildings, as well as, some of our lease purchases, vehicles, etc being paid off. I believe a tax rate reduction in our special tax may be warranted. At this time our total debt is less than \$250,000 which is at the lowest point in over twenty years.

We are looking at all of the numbers at the present time, we will keep you informed.

In addition, the Mayor and Council will be acquiring bid proposal for accounting services commencing with the new fiscal year starting July 1, 2005.

Police Activity Report

January Crime Report							January Officer Activity	
Crime	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Stln. Veh.	Activity	Total
Ward 1	0	0	0	0	0	1	Calls for Service	822
Ward 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	Routine Patrols	286
Ward 3	0	0	0	0	0	1	Traffic Stops	59*
Ward 4	0	0	4	1	0	3	Reported Traffic Accidents	63**
Ward 5	0	0	0	0	1	4	Parking Citations	36
Ward 6	1	0	1	0	5	1	Subjects Arrested	13
Total	0	0	5**	1	6*	10		
** 2 citizen, 3 commercial, *3 residential, 2 commercial, 1 storehouse							* 45 Traffic Citations ** 32 Written Citations	

Public Works Report

Spring Clean-Up Day: Riverdale Park's Spring Clean-up day will be Tuesday, May 31, 2005. More details to follow.

Mulch Available: Untreated mulch is available to Riverdale Park residents. It has been relocated to Rhode Island Avenue at the end of the street next to Pitt Conn. Help yourself to as much as you can use.

Yard Waste: Yard waste is leaves, weeds, grass cuttings, tree limbs and anything biodegradable from your yard. Please do not mix trash and yard waste together. We will pick up tree limbs that

are up to 6 inches diameter and up to 5 feet long. These need to be bundled and/or put in a container. Bamboo cannot be collected with yard waste. The yard waste vendor does not accept bamboo. It will have to be treated as trash. Please put bamboo out on bulky trash days for pick up. In order to save the Town money please separate yard waste from your trash.

Recycled Oil Tank: The recycled oil tank is a service for residents to recycle their used motor oil. Please do not put anything other than used motor oil in this tank.

S & J Restaurant

*Serving American Cuisine
Catering for all Occasions*

6108 Rhode Island Ave
Riverdale Park, MD 20737

Carryout
phone: (301)927-3977
fax: (301)927-8460

Maryland Tax Return

Please remember to fill in the city box just under your address label on your Maryland Tax Return. By printing **Riverdale Park** you will enable the town to receive it's correct share of Maryland Income Taxes.

Public Safety / Ward 2 Report

A Public Safety Committee workshop was held on February 11 to share information on how our police force operates. Did you know that if an officer makes an arrest, he can expect to be off our streets for two hours getting paperwork completed, and easily twice that if the suspect is injured? For a workshop report and other items of interest, check out my Ward 2 "blog" (web newsletter) at <http://riverdalepark.blogspot.com/>.

January calls for police service increased from 643 in 2004 to 822 in 2005, for an increase of 28 percent. This contrasts with a December 2003-December 2004 increase of 57 percent and an increase of 24 percent between November 2003 and November 2004. This substantial increase in workload has been shouldered by a force that lost one detective and three police officers since 2001. I'll be asking for those positions to be restored in the FY05-FY06 budget. This fix will add about \$400,000 in salary and benefits to the police section of the budget. The department is overstretched at the current staffing levels due to a very tight budget.

Town Administrator Pat Prangle, Police Lt. Adams, and I met January 28 with a State Highway Administration employee at the Queensbury Road train crossing to discuss possible safety improvements. Improvements to the crossing gates will reduce the number of dangerous incidents at this crossing. If installed, they will be paid for with 90 percent Federal money and 10 percent state money, and no cost to the town. The State Highway Administration has started talking with CSX. Mr. Prangle and Lt. Adams are also working with CSX to improve safety by adding reflectors and paint stripes to better guide drivers through this busy crossing.

I'm looking for a few Ward 2 residents interested in working as election judges on May 2. Pay is \$200 for the day, and it is a great way to meet your neighbors. See my blog for more info.

David Hiles
Ward 2 Councilperson
Chair, Public Safety Committee

Box Tops for Education Due March 21!

Please turn in all your collected Box Tops labels to Riverdale Elementary School or to Eddie Hiles's house (4804 Sheridan St.) by evening, Monday, March 21. We must turn in the labels to the General Mills program office to receive funds for school materials this year. If you have questions about the program call 301-779-8620 or log on to www.boxtops4education.com.

Riverdale's school children say "thank you" to all who have participated. Keep on saving Box Tops and Campbell's Soup labels; we'll collect your

spring and summer labels in the fall!

Forros de Cereales Box Tops

Por favor vuelva los forros de cereales Box Tops a la escuela primaria de Riverdale o a la casa de Eddie Hiles (4804 Sheridan Street) antes de lunes, Marzo 21.

Ward 1 Report

I am very pleased to have been asked by the Mayor and the people of Ward 1 to fill an unexpected vacancy on the Council. I look forward to the opportunity to build on a decade of active involvement in Town affairs, and to help get more people engaged in Town activities.

My number one priority is to make sure that more voices are heard as decisions are made that affect our Town. As a community, we need to discuss issues together and reach consensus decisions. We have some big challenges ahead, and some huge opportunities.

Economic development, done right, can increase our property values, add to the tax base, and improve the quality of life in Riverdale Park. One of my first orders of business has been to look into jumpstarting development at Town Center and the Eckerd Drug property. I'm also looking into ways our town and businesses can benefit from the M Square project on River Road.

A major smart growth mixed use development of homes and small businesses is proposed for the old Lustine property on Route 1, along our southwest border. There will be a town meeting on **Monday, March 7th**, 8 pm, Town Hall, to review a presentation of the plan. All citizens are encouraged to attend.

The annual Easter Egg hunt is March 19, 2005 at 11am, at Riversdale Mansion grounds. Free pictures with the Easter Bunny, egg hunts, treats for all.

I will be conducting a Ward 1 neighborhood walking tour to visit with citizens and hear your priorities. Please feel free to contact me with your thoughts and ideas -- at 301-927-9022 or by email at TraceyRPark@aol.com.

Tracey Toscano
Ward 1 Councilperson
Chair, Recreation Board

Eakin/ Youngentob Associates (EYA)

Eakin/ Youngentob Associates will conduct a presentation at the Town Meeting on March 7, 2005 at 8:00pm 5008 Queensbury Road in Council Chambers.

Eakin/ Youngentob Associates (EYA), a leading urban infill residential developer, is the contract purchaser of property located on the south side 4500 block of Madison Street in Riverdale Park and the Lustine property located on Route 1 in Hyattsville.

EYA has successfully completed large-scale projects in the District of Columbia, Montgomery County, and Northern Virginia and have earned an outstanding reputation based on their design, quality and commitment to working with communities.

The redevelopment of the Lustine property which is contiguous to their Madison Street property is EYA's first project in Prince George's County.

The project has widespread community support and was recently awarded the Smart Growth Recognition award by the Smart Growth Alliance in recognition of its innovative design, use of infrastructure, proximity to public transportation, and its mix of uses and housing types.

EYA's Madison Street property is within the recently adopted Riverdale Park Mixed Use Town Center (MUTC) zone. The proposed redevelopment will be of the highest architectural quality and will create a vibrant, pedestrian oriented community to serve as a catalyst for the area and a model for inside the beltway redevelopment. EYA plans to file a Riverdale Park MUTC application in approximately four months.

We encourage community participation and input!

Patrick J. Prangley
Town Administrator

Community Circles

Events

Scholarship Funds for Local Students

Delegate Anne Healey, State Delegate from District 22A, Prince Georges Co. will award Maryland House of Delegates scholarships to students from her District. Interested students should call Mary T. Lerch for more information call: (301)858-3961

Organizations

Riverdale Park Chess Club

Now forming

For further information, please call 301-699-1427

Riverdale Boys & Girls Club

Tuesday, March 14th

6:30 p.m., Riverdale Community Center, 6401 51st Avenue. Call Cindy or Tom Carpenter, 301-927-7763.

Riverdale Business Association

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

Riverdale Elementary School PTA

For more information, call Ray Badders, 301-864-5722.

Riverdale Lions Club

Wednesday, March 23rd

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

Civic Committees

Economic Development Committee

For information, call Chris Davis, Committee Chairperson, at 301-277-6615 or email chrisdavis@earthlink.net.

History Center Committee

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

Madison Hill Homeowners Association

Tuesday, March 8th

7:30 p.m., Town Hall. For information, 301-513-9188 or e-mail MadisonHillHOA@aol.com.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

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

7393.

Preservation Association of Riverdale Park

For information, call Chris Davis, 301-277-6615 or e-mail cdavis@apa.org.

Recreation Board

Monday, March 14th

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

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

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

Riverdale Park Farmers' Market Task Force

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

Riverdale Park Tree Committee

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

Riversdale Historical Society

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

Town Center Redevelopment Committee

For more information, call Chris Davis, 301-277-6615 or e-mail chrisdavis@earthlink.net

Traffic Study Committee

Tuesday, March 1st

7:00 p.m., Town Hall. For information, call Guy Tiberio, 301-927-6381.

Web Site Committee

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

Deadline for submitting articles for the April issue is March 15, 2005.

MARCH 2005

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Traffic Study Town Hall 7 p m Regular Trash Pickup & Yard Waste - B	2 MUTC Meeting 7:30 pm (tentative) County Recycling	3 Conflict Resolution Ctr. Town Hall, 6:30 pm Regular, Heavy & Metal pick up – Area A	4 Riversdale Tours Noon - 4 pm Girl Scouts Town Hall, 2:45 pm Regular, Heavy & Metal Pick up – Area B	5 Heavy trash, used oil, mixed paper and recycling drop off. Public Works Bldg. 9 am - 5 pm
6 Riversdale Tours Noon - 4 pm 4811 Riverdale Rd. Sunday Soccer, Field of Dreams, 4-6 pm	7 Legislative Session Town Hall 8 p.m. Regular Trash & Yard Waste pick up – Area A	8 Madison Hill Town Hall, 7:30 pm Regular Trash & Yard Waste pick up – Area B	9 County Recycling	10 Conflict Resolution Ctr. Town Hall, 6:30 pm Regular, Heavy & Metal pick up – Area A	11 Riversdale Tours Noon - 4 pm Girl Scouts Town Hall, 2:45 pm Regular, Heavy & Metal pick up – Area B	12 Heavy trash, used oil, mixed paper and recycling drop off. Public Works Bldg. 9 am - 5 pm
13 Riversdale Tours Noon - 4 pm 4811 Riverdale Rd. Sunday Soccer, Field of Dreams, 4-6 pm	14 Boy Scouts Town Hall, 7 pm Rec. Board Mtg. Town Hall, 7:30 pm Regular Trash & Yard Waste pick up – Area A	15 PGHLN Town Hall, 7:30 pm Regular Trash & Yard Waste pick up - Area B	16 County Recycling	17 Conflict Resolution Ctr. Town Hall, 6:30 pm Regular, Heavy & Metal pick up – Area A	18 Riversdale Tours Noon - 4 pm Girl Scouts Town Hall, 2:45 pm Regular, Heavy & Metal pick up – Area B	19 Heavy trash, used oil, mixed paper and recycling drop off. Public Works Bldg. 9 am - 5 pm
20 Riversdale Tours Noon - 4 pm 4811 Riverdale Rd. Sunday Soccer, Field of Dreams, 4-6 pm	21 Regular Trash & Yard Waste pick up – Area A	22 Regular Trash & Yard Waste pick up – Area B	23 Lions Club Town Hall, 7 pm County Recycling	24 Conflict Resolution Ctr. Town Hall, 6:30 pm Regular, Heavy & Metal pick up – Area A	25 Riversdale Tours Noon - 4 pm Girl Scouts Town Hall, 2:45 pm Regular, Heavy & Metal pick up – Area B	26 Heavy trash, used oil, mixed paper and recycling drop off. Public Works Bldg. 9 am - 5 pm
27 Riversdale Tours Noon - 4 pm 4811 Riverdale Rd. Sunday Soccer, Field of Dreams, 4-6 pm	28 Work Session Town Hall, 8 pm Regular Trash & Yard Waste pick up – Area A	29 Regular Trash & Yard Waste pick up – Area B	30 County Recycling	31 Conflict Resolution Ctr. Town Hall, 6:30 pm Regular, Heavy & Metal pick up – Area A		