

The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

September 2006

Volume 35, Issue 7

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REMEMBER TO VOTE!

Important Dates

August 22 at 9:00 p.m. -- Last day to register to vote before the Primary Election

September 12, 2006 -- Primary Election

For more information on registering to vote, and on candidates for the primary election, go to:

<http://www.elections.state.md.us>

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Economic Development Consultant to Speak

Kennedy Smith, the Riverdale Park economic development consultant, will be speaking on Thursday, September 21, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall. Residents are encouraged to attend to hear more about her initial assessment, plans for the future, and for more details on what small towns across the country are doing to revive their older commercial areas. This is also an excellent opportunity for residents to chat with Kennedy Smith directly. Light refreshments will be available prior to the presentation. A copy of Ms. Smith's initial assessment is available by emailing dgriverdalepark@comcast.net.

A Letter from Our New Principal

Allow Me to Introduce Myself

An Open Letter to the Community Of Riverdale Elementary School

It is with deep humility and honor that I have accepted the position of Principal of Riverdale Elementary School. I know from the website and from discussions with others that the students, teachers, staff, assistant principal, parents, and community leaders have all worked diligently in the past to insure that Riverdale Elementary is a school that we can be proud of. You have accomplished difficult goals set by the state, and you are a model for other schools still struggling to reach the status that you have attained. Let me tell you a little about myself and what I will bring to our school.

I am bilingual and a native Philadelphian, who has been in the field of education for over twenty-five years. I have lived and worked in Costa Rica, Kenya, Canada, and the United States and have a deep passion and understanding of cultural diversity.

Continued on page 6

Permita que Yo Me Introduzca

Una Carta Abierta a la Comunidad De la Escuela Primaria Riverdale

Es con humildad profunda y honor que he aceptado la posición de directora de la Escuela Primaria Riverdale. Se del sitio (Web-site) y de platicas con otras personas que los estudiantes, profesores, personal, asistente principal, padres y lideres de la comunidad han trabajado diligentemente en el pasado para asegurar que Riverdale Elementary sea una escuela de la cual todos estén orgullosos. Ustedes han llevado a cabo metas difíciles puestos por el estado, y ustedes son un modelo para otras escuelas que todavía luchan para alcanzar el estado que ustedes han alcanzado.

Soy bilingüe y una nativa de Philadelphia. He estado en el campo de educación por más de veinticinco años. Viví y trabaje en Costa Rica, Kenia, Canadá y los Estados Unidos y tengo una pasión profunda y el entendimiento de la diversidad cultural.

Continued on page 6

Council Actions

By Waverly Pollitt

July 3, 2006

- **Approved** – Minutes for June 19, 2006 Special Legislative Meeting.
- **Approved** – Street closing for “Block Party” on July 16, 2006 noon until 5:00pm at 4510 Sheridan Street.
- **Approved** – 2006-OR-03 §64-12 amending section.
- **Approved** – 2006-OR-04 §15-9 amending fence permit fee.
- **Approved** – 2006-OR-05 §15-9., §15-12., §15-14. Chapter 15 changes.
- **Deferred** – 2006-OR-06 §2-4 Exempt employees.
- **Withdrawn** – 2006-OR-07 §66-1., §66-1.1 fence definitions.
- **Approved** – Nomination of David Lingua to fill the post of chair for the Recreation Board.

July 10, 2006- Special Legislative Meeting

- **Approved** – Federal Erisa internal Revenue Code and State Umversa compliance requirements for the Defined Benefit Plan.
- **Approved** – An additional change was added to the seventh Amendment of the defined benefit plan to modify the distribution rules within the plan and make them consistent with the distribution rules of other municipalities.

August 7, 2006

- **Approved** – Minutes for July 10, 2006 Special Legislative meeting.
- **Approved** – Livable Communities Grant, to accept, bid waiver and authorize spending for street cleaner.
- **Approved** – Authorize next phase of contract with CLUE group.
- **Approved** – 4 foot fence for Lorenzo Jimenez Paz 5418 Patterson Road.
- **Tabled** – To install a gate for Constance Randolph-Kelley at 4811 Somerset Road.
- **Approved** – 4 foot fence for Maria Ventura at 5802 Taylor Road.
- **Approved** – 44 foot fence for Mario Laros at 4804 Queensbury Road.
- **Approved** – Curb cut and apron for 5423 Powhatan Road for Mr. and Mrs. Perdomo.

Town Awarded \$100,000 Community Development Block Grant

By Patrick J. Prangle

County Executive Jack Johnson has announced that the Prince George’s County Council has approved Riverdale Park’s funding application for \$100,000 for 54th Avenue street improvements. This funding award was included in the 2006-2007 Housing and Community Development Annual Action Plan, which has been submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The improvements will be in Wards 4, 5, and 6.

This marks the 28th consecutive year the Town has been awarded a CDBG grant. To date, \$3 million has been received for a variety of infrastructure improvements throughout the Town for such items as streetscape improvements to the Town Center MARC train station, Queensbury Road, Baltimore Avenue, Riverdale Road from Kenilworth Avenue to Lafayette Avenue, as well as various streets, sidewalks, curb and gutter, and handicap ramps throughout our community. HUD usually releases the sub-recipient grants in early fall and the project must be completed by June 30, 2007.

Town of Riverdale Park

Town Hall

5008 Queensbury Road
Riverdale Park, MD 20737
301-927-6381, Hablamos Español
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
mmarydon@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. Prangle, Town Administrator
RiverdaleParkMD@comcast.net

Dannielle Glaros, Deputy Admin.
dgriverdalepark@comcast.net

Public Works 301-864-1803
Public Works Director, Vacant

Code Enforcement 301-927-6381
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

Town Crier

The official newsletter of the
Town of Riverdale Park, Maryland
To submit articles and calendar items, email:
RPTownCrier@comcast.net

Submission deadline: 15th of each month.

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.

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

200

Code Corner

The Tiger Mosquito and West Nile Virus

By Colleen Ferguson

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) recently trapped Asian Tiger Mosquitoes that tested positive for West Nile Virus in two areas of Riverdale Park. Test results on Asian Tiger Mosquitoes trapped in the 4600 block of Tuckerman, and the 5500 block of Taylor Road were positive for the West Nile Virus. Because of this, MDA is stepping up mosquito spraying from one evening a week (Tuesday) to three evenings a week (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday). Riverdale Park Code Enforcement is conducting yard inspections and asking residents to inspect their yards for mosquito larvae.

The Asian tiger mosquito is a very aggressive day-biting mosquito which has become a serious pest to humans and animals. It is a black mosquito with white stripes on the legs and a white stripe down the middle of its head and back. The mosquito lays its eggs in containers or holes in trees and is closely tied to human habitation.

Any container in your yard which will hold even a small amount of water for a week or more can breed the Tiger Mosquito. Possible water holding containers include: tires; kiddie pools not in use; buckets, barrels or cans; wheelbarrows, canoes, or boats; tarps where water can pool; flower pots or saucers under pots; or containers holding water that remains undisturbed for a week or longer.

You can control this pest by emptying and storing, or rinsing containers out weekly. Don't forget your gutters—standing water in gutters is an excellent breeding ground for this mosquito. If you have Asian tiger mosquitoes, you can spray with sprays that contain Resmethrin, Permethrin, or Pyrethrin. Remember, only the home owner can control these mosquitoes! Please call Riverdale Park Code Enforcement if you have questions or want assistance in inspecting your yard.

Tigre Asiático

Translation by Claudia Umana

El Departamento de Agricultura de Maryland recientemente atrapo varios zancudos tigre asiáticos que resultaron positivos con el Virus del Nilo Occidental en dos áreas de Riverdale Park. Los resultados de los zancudos que fueron atrapados en las cuerdas de 4600 Tuckerman Street y 5500 Taylor Road fueron positivos con el Virus

del Nilo Occidental. Por esto El Departamento de Agricultura de Maryland en vez de rociar pesticida solamente una vez a la semana (martes), ahora lo harán tres noches por semana (martes, miércoles, y jueves). El Código Legal de Riverdale Park esta conduciendo inspecciones en los patios y le piden a los residentes que inspeccionen sus un patios para encontrar larvas de zancudos.

El zancudo tigre asiático es muy agresivo y pica durante el día, lo cual se ha convertido una peste para los seres humano y los animales. Es zancudo negro con rayas blancas en las patas y cuerpo. El zancudo pone sus huevos en envases o agujeros en árboles y en lugares habitados por humanos.

Cualquier recipiente en su patio que estanque aunque sea una pequeña cantidad de agua por una semana o mas puede criar zancudos. Lugares donde posiblemente se estanque agua son: llantas, piscinas de niños que no se estén utilizando, cubetas, barriles o latas; carretillas, canoas o botes, impermeables en donde se pueda acumular agua, macetas, recipientes que mantengan agua por mas de una semana sin mover.

Usted puede ayudar a combatir esta peste vaciando y guardando, o desaguando recipientes semanalmente. Vacíe el agua estancada de tormentas y canales porque es un excelente criadero de zancudos. Si usted tiene zancudos tigre asiático usted puede rociar con líquidos que contengan Resmethrin, Permethrin, o Pyrethrin. Recuerdese que solo los propietarios y residentes pueden combatir estos zancudos. Por favor llame al Código Legal de Riverdale Park si tiene preguntas o quiere asistencia para inspeccionar su patio.

Farmers' Market to Celebrate 9th Anniversary with Harvest Festival

On September 21, 2006, the Farmers' Market will celebrate its 9th anniversary at Town Center. Kid's activities, music, and a cooking demonstration by a local chef are just a few of the special events planned for the Festival. Plan to participate in the Harvest Festival and support local growers.

If you have questions or would like more information, contact Jim Coleman at 301-209-8259. **SEE YOU THERE!**

Public Works Notices

By Debbie Murphy

Holiday Pick Up

Monday, September 4, 2006, Public Works will be closed. Regular trash and yard waste pick up for Area A will be on Tuesday, September 5, 2006. Regular trash and yard waste pick up for Area B will be on Wednesday, September 6, 2006.

Town Street Trees

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).

Residents Help Wanted

If a resident finds a problem in town such as a pot hole or town owned street light out, please call Public Works at 301-864-1803 to see if we are aware of the problem yet. It is difficult for Public Works to fix something that we are not aware of.

Contacting Public Works During Emergencies

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

Lights Out

It is important that residents call and report that their electricity is out. This helps Pepco to better understand a widespread outage, as well as where or what the problem may be. Pepco now has an automated system designed to speed the restoration by automatically feeding your outage information into the computer system so crews can be assigned. It takes and analyses the information more quickly than a person can immediately following a storm, and handles up to 100,000 calls an hour, which reduces busy signals and hold times. The system works by matching your phone number to your account. If you report your outage from another number you will be asked to provide additional information such as your address or account number. If power has been restored in your neighborhood but not to your home, you should call 1-877-PEPCO-62 and report the outage again.

There could be a separate problem in the neighborhood or even at your individual service connection.

Our Town

School Supplies for Riverdale Park Kids

To our residents and Members of the Christian Life Congregation, thank you for your generous contributions for Riverdale Elementary School! We have already collected: 77 Backpacks; 100 Glue sticks/glue bottles; 69 crayon/marker/colored pencil packs; 102 pocket folders, 17 binders; 32 pencil cases/supply boxes; 1000 pencils; 30 scissors; and, 150 composition books/notebooks/paper!

Schools supplies were delivered to Riverdale Park Elementary for kids in need just before school started. If you have additional supplies, please drop them off at Town Hall or directly to the school. The elementary school also accepts direct contributions for schools trips. A \$200 donation will pay for an entire grade to go on a trip. If a monetary donation is made, please specify your desired grade. Thanks, Kristin Liu and Dannielle Glaros.

Riverdale Park Day

October 7, 2006

12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Riversdale Mansion

Food, Fun, Games

Save the Date!

Riverdale Business Association to Meet

The Riverdale Park Business Association will resume monthly meetings on Wednesday, September 6, 2006 at 5:30 p.m. at the Calvert House Restaurant. All business owners are invited to attend. Guest speakers will be Deputy Town Administrator, Dannielle Glaros and Kennedy Smith from the Clue Group. The Clue Group has been retained by Riverdale Park to help us with commercial revitalization along Rt. 1 and at the Town Center. For more information contact Audrey Bragg at 301-351-4222.

Riverdale Park Police Department—July 2006

Crime Report

Ward	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Stolen Vehicle
1	0	0	1	1	0	0
2	0	0	0	1	0	0
3	0	0	0	1	0	1
4	0	0	1	3	0	0
5	0	0	0	0	0	1
6	0	0	3	1	0	1
Total	0	0	5**	7	0*	3

** 3 citizen, 1 commercial, 1 carjacking

Officer Activity

Activity	Total
Calls For Service	963
Routine Patrols	272
Traffic Stops	387*
Reported Traffic Accidents	52**
Parking Citations	65***
Subjects Arrested	22

* 353 Traffic Citations, ** 22 Written Accidents, *** Includes Code Enforcement Citations



TRICON
AN EMPLOYEE OWNED COMPANY

MECÁNICOS DE DRYWALL

Se necesitan mecánicos, finishers y capataces con experiencia comercial. Aplique en persona entre las horas de 5:00 AM y 8:30 AM

De lunes a viernes. Tricon Construction, 12401 Kiln Court, Suite F, Beltsville, MD 20705 (Compañía propiedad de los empleados).
www.TriconConstruction.com

DRYWALL MECHANICS

Experienced commercial drywall mechanics, finishers, and foreman needed. Apply in person between 5:00 AM and 8:30 AM weekdays.

Tricon Construction, 12401 Kiln Court, Suite F, Beltsville, MD 20705 (An Employee-Owned Company).

www.TriconConstruction.com

A paid advertisement

Advertising in the Town Crier

If you would like to advertise your business in the Riverdale Park Town Crier, please contact the Town of Riverdale Park at 301-927-6381 for rates, and email your advertisement to RPTownCrier@comcast.net.

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 Crab, 4:00-9:00pm

Saturday- All you can eat Shrimp, 4:00-8:00pm

Steamed Crabs and Steamed Shrimps Everyday!

Sandwiches/Subs of the Month \$3.95

Corner of Queensbury and Rhode Island Avenue

301-927-3977

A paid advertisement

For several years, I worked closely with Prince George's County's office of Equity Assurance and conducted workshops to equip educators with skills and sensitivity to work with diverse populations.

I have taught from pre-K through adult and have rich experiences in the elementary, middle, and high school classroom. I have also been an administrator in elementary and high school. Some of my other professional experiences include teacher mentoring, counseling, teacher supervision, and consulting. I am a graduate of Oakwood College, in Huntsville, Alabama; Bowie State University; and Greenleaf University - International Graduate School- in St. Louis, Missouri. I am also an author and a lecturer.

Simply stated, my vision is of students who love to learn, teachers who love to teach, and administrators who love to orchestrate and facilitate an open environment of continuous growth for all. I see students who would choose coming to school above all other activities because it is a place of inspiration, safety, and excitement. It is a place where they know they belong and where they are embraced for who they are and for who they will be some day. I see teachers who are paid to do what they would gladly do for free because it is their obsession. They love to teach like an athlete loves to play or as a singer loves to sing. I see teachers who cannot be content until each student's potential is reached.

I see administrators who are skilled in the art and science of pedagogical leadership and human relations. I see a well oiled machine of educational operations that is the model and envy of business, and government organizations because of its effectiveness in reaching its goals and creating an environment where all stakeholders desire to be. In my vision, each contributor is invigorated by the process and is motivated by still seeing another way to be creative and to reach a new definition of excellence.

I look forward to meeting and working with all of you.
Sincerely,
Carol Cantu, Principal Riverdale Elementary

Déjeme decirles un poco sobre mí y lo que tratare en nuestra escuela.

He enseñado clases a estudiantes desde pre-kinder hasta adultos y tengo mucha experiencia en primaria, secundaria y preparatoria. También he sido administradora tanto en la escuela primaria como en la preparatoria. Otras experiencias profesionales incluyen guía de maestros, consejera, supervisión de profesores y consultora. Yo me gradué de Oakwood College, en Huntsville, Alabama; Universidad de Bowie State, y la Universidad de Greenleaf-Escuela de Graduado Internacional-en San Louis, Missouri.; soy también una autora y conferencista.

En conjunto mi visión es que los estudiantes amen aprender, los maestros amen las clases, y los administradores amen orquestar y facilitar un ambiente abierto para el crecimiento continuo para todos. Veo a los estudiantes preferir ir a la escuela que cualquier otra actividad, porque es un lugar de inspiración, seguridad y entusiasmo. Este es un lugar donde ellos saben que ellos pertenecen y donde ellos son aceptados por quienes ellos son y por lo que ellos serán un día. Veo a profesores ser pagados por algo que ellos harían gratuitamente y con gusto porque esa es su obsesión. A ellos les gusta enseñar como a un atleta le gusta competir o como a un cantante le gusta cantar. Veo a los profesores que no estarán satisfechos hasta que todos sus estudiantes no lleguen a su potencial.

Veo a administradores que son expertos en el arte y la ciencia de mando educativo y las relaciones humanas. Veo una maquina bien engrasada de operaciones educativas que es el modelo y la envidia de los negocios, y organizaciones del gobierno debido a su eficacia en alcanzar sus metas y en crear un ambiente donde todos los grupos deseen estar. En mi visión cada contribuidor será motivado en solo ver otro modo de crear y alcanzar una nueva definición de excelencia.

Espero llegar a conocer y trabajar con todos ustedes.

Sinceramente,

Carol Cantu, Principal Riverdale Elementary

The Local Business Corner

By Dannielle Glaros

Calvert House Inn

You may have already tasted the Calvert House's new Kobe Burger or farm-raised chicken with organic pasta, or drunk one of the many microbrews available. If not, it is worth a visit to the Calvert House. Mr. and Mrs. Salimi are trying out a few new things at their restaurant, including a new casual restaurant/bar called the Tavern Room at the Calvert House and new menu items at the Calvert House Inn, which will feature new organic food dishes. The Salimi's are slowly introducing various changes, but don't worry you will still find crab-cakes and seafood on the menu. So, if you are looking for a casual meal and a good beer, try the Tavern Room. If you are interested in a classier meal, then try the Calvert House Inn.

For now the Tavern Room is only open 4-7pm daily for Happy Hour, but the hours will be expanding shortly. Calvert House Inn is open for lunch and dinner daily. A coupon for 15% off dinner (Sun-Thurs) are available online at www.moneymailer.com. The coupon expires on September 8, 2006.

Economic Development Update

Revitalizing the Town Center and Rt. 1

The surveys are in! Thanks again to everyone who filled out a survey and a special thanks to the Farmers' Market for emailing out details to their email list. While similar surveys have been done in the past, this one is unique in its focus on surveying residents of the Town and the surrounding community. The fact that more than half of the survey respondents were from outside the Town shows the potential market that exists for new businesses. Convincing business and financiers that empty storefronts could yield success is a hurdle that can only be overcome by having good data.

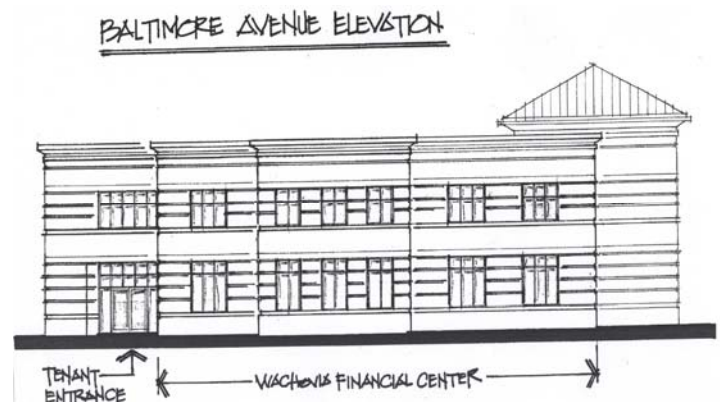
The next phase for our consultant, Kennedy Smith, is to conduct a market analysis for our community. This market analysis will give us the evidence we need to recruit specific businesses. We may want a specialty grocery store, a dry cleaner, a bakery, and a café, but will the market sustain these businesses especially as other nearby communities recruit their own restaurants/businesses? In addition to collecting and analyzing a lot of data, Kennedy will also be interviewing a handful of residents and business owners, and will be conducting focus groups. The market analysis will be completed by

December 2006 and will be one of the key tools to help recruit new businesses and to assist existing businesses.

Development Projects

After hearing comments from Town Council, the Patriot Group decided to withdraw its proposal for a 144 condominium building. The proposed project would have been located on Lafayette Street and would have spanned the areas currently housing the credit union, Dumm's corner market and sub shop, and the adjacent boarding house and parking lot. The Spiropolous' are still interested in redeveloping their property and expanding the size of their stores.

Potomac Development Corporation presented a revised proposal at the August Legislative Session for the intersection of Rt. 1 and 410, and asked for comments from Council. The new proposal includes a 2-story building with 8,050 square feet, a 5-lane drive thru, and 43 parking spaces. The entrance to the bank would be located on the side, while the entrance to the second floor would face Baltimore Avenue. If you have comments regarding this proposal, please direct them to your Ward representative. This project is just starting its formal review process with planning. This project received an unfavorable recommendation from M-UTC because it did not meet the intent of the M-UTC guidelines. The proposal has been revised since then to include a second floor. The following site plan depicts the new proposal.



EYA presented preliminary information to the M-UTC committee on their proposal for the eastside of Rt.1. A portion of the project—approximately 32 townhomes—will be in the Town of Riverdale Park.

The final site plan review for the NOAA Center for Weather and Climate Prediction will occur in October at the County Planning Board. Information on all of these projects is available at Town Hall.

The Mayor's Report

By Vernon Archer



I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and a smooth transition into the first few weeks of school. This summer has been a busy one for the Town—paving of Queensbury Road, responding to several major storms, collecting business licenses, and responding to numerous code complaints. The Town is also recruiting new staff to fill two vacant positions: Director of Public Works Department and Horticulturalist.

I'd also like to welcome Carol Cantu, Riverdale Elementary School's new principal and thank the community for so generously contributing school supplies to Riverdale Park kids. Too often children come unprepared for school and teachers have to dig into their pockets to provide those school supplies. Your support not only provides kids with the tools they need for success, but also shows teachers that the community is behind them.

A big thanks goes to the many Riverdale Park residents who have contributed their time to improving our community. People like Lou King, who is helping the Town improve our cable broadcasts of town meetings; Marita Novicky and David Lingua who pulled together a thank you celebration for Doris Pullman's decades of service to the town; David Lingua, for taking over the leadership of the Recreation Board; Kristin Liu, for organizing Riverdale Park's upcoming Gorgeous Prince George's event; and the entire Farmers' Market Committee for their work in creating a success story in our Town Center deserve all of our thanks. Volunteers are an essential part of a strong community and if you are interested in becoming more involved in Town, please check out the Community Circle page in the *Town Crier*.

Safe, Clean and Beautiful

Over the past few months, I have been working with Town staff to increase coordination among departments to ensure a Safe, Clean, and Beautiful Riverdale Park. For instance, code enforcement officers are meeting more often with the Police Department and helping the Department train officers to respond to code concerns. While we still have a ways to go, we're heading in the right direction. In addition, the Town is completing a new Code Enforcement Handbook to give residents more information on the regulations that govern our small community and thanks to a joint Livable Communities Grant with Hyattsville the Town will soon have a street sweeper to more regularly clean our streets. There is also an opportunity for all of us to volunteer for Gorgeous Prince George's Day on October 14th. This year volunteers will be removing invasive species at the park on Queensbury between the river and school and planting native trees and shrubs.

Economic Development

Kennedy Smith, our economic development consultant, has completed her initial assessment of our town and is starting to conduct our market analysis. The market analysis will: measure the retail "buying power" of Riverdale Park residents and visitors and identify opportunities for new businesses and new retail product lines with market viability. This analysis will be essential for the recruitment of new businesses and will be helpful for our existing businesses. Some of the things that the consultant noted in her initial assessment are the following:

- **Opportunities:** The Town has a variety of assets including the MARC train station and Rt.1; proximity to Riverdale, UMD, and the new M-square project; a thriving farmers' market; and enthusiastic citizens who care for the Town Center and are concerned about its future.
- **Challenges:** The design of two key parcels—intersection of Rt.1/410 and development of Dumm's Corner—will play a key role in influencing future development; increasing competition from nearby communities; and long-vacant storefronts.

Have an enjoyable September and don't forget to mark your calendars, Riverdale Park Day is coming up on October 7, 2006 from 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. The Town of Riverdale Park will be providing free music as well as free activities for kids.

Ward Reports

Ward 1

By Rob Oppenheim

Roads Resurfaced

Resurfacing of the west end of Queensbury Road (from Route 1 toward Hyattsville) and 43rd Street is completed. It's a big improvement, despite the fact that a paving crew dripped asphalt on the new sidewalks and streets in the 4300 and 4400 blocks of Queensbury. Hopefully, the mess will be gone by the time you read this. Roadwork on 48th Avenue near the fire station also was completed recently. For decades, that street has taken a beating from the heavy bus and fire engine traffic leaving it with big potholes. This time, the repair went deeper to rebuild an inadequate roadbed, and the fix should last a long time. Lots of resurfacing is planned for the next year; the FY 2007 budget includes a \$3 million bond to pay for street and sidewalk repairs.

Town Clock

The Town Center's Anniversary Clock continues to run adrift of the time and to chime past 10 p.m. We are looking at ways to fix this beautiful old clock—some basic maintenance, fix the battery backup and a possible upgrade to automatically set the time to the GPS standard. Andrew Farrington has volunteered to help keep the clock set correctly. Thanks Drew! Check out his blog: <http://castironskillet.blogspot.com>.

Patriot Group Walks

At the July Council meeting (7/3/06), the Patriot Group asked council members for opinions on the 5-story condominium project at Dumm's Corner.

The exchange was polite but firm. Several council members said the buildings were unacceptable because of their height and other areas of M-UTC nonconformance and because of the possibility that the project could set a worrisome precedent.

At the session's end, a Patriot spokesman said, "I don't think this project is going to go forward. We did enjoy working with you. We would certainly look forward to working with you on another project."

Wachovia Bank Moves Ahead

At the August Council meeting (8/7/06), Joe Caputo presented the latest proposal for the Wachovia Bank at the corner of Route 1 and East-West Highway. The company is offering to allow municipal parking outside of banking hours, to donate the corner lot to the town, and to add a second story that would have an entrance on Route 1. The developer also promised to investigate still more features requested by the council—a walkup ATM and a canopy over the front entrance. Council members' reactions generally were positive. Although no official

vote or approval was given, it looks like the Wachovia Bank project is going forward.

Ward 5

By Gerard F. Kiernan

Back To School

Reading is Fun and Fundamental

With school having just started, our children may think that they don't have to open a book unless it is assigned reading. Reading helped me get through many lonely times of my youth. Of course that was in the stone ages of the 1950's and 60's, when there were no personal computers, no internet, no instant messaging, and even no video tape recorders.

If a child develops a love of reading, it will stay with him/her for the rest of his/her life.

We are blessed to have two wonderful sources of "FREE" reading material at the Hyattsville and New Carrollton public libraries. If you don't have a car, both branches can be reached by public transit. To get to the Hyattsville library, take "The Bus" which stops right in our block of Riverdale Road on the north side of the street (across the street from us). This "The Bus" route stops right outside the Hyattsville library at the corner of Adelphi Road and Toledo Road.

To get to the New Carrollton library, take the F4 Metrobus from the stop at Tanglewood Drive on the south side (our side of the street) of Riverdale Road to Riverdale Road and Lamont Drive.

Volunteers Needed!!!

The Town's Recreation Board is looking for volunteers from all wards, and I would love some help from Ward 5 (Park Tanglewood and Riverdale Towers). Rob Oppenheim, the Chair of the Community Affairs committee, has more information in his article elsewhere in this issue.

Walking Safely In Riverdale Park

As new residents of the Ward begin walking to and from school and various bus stops and the shops on Kenilworth Avenue, I want to remind you to please walk safely. Use the sidewalks, cross at the marked crosswalks or at intersections, and please obey the traffic signals. Every year, especially in bad weather or when it is dark or gloomy, we suffer pedestrians getting hit by cars. Please don't be a victim.



Committee Reports

Community Affairs

By Rob Oppenheim, Committee Chair

Fun Board

Welcome to David Lingua, the new chair of the town's Recreation Board. He is off to a great start, as the group organizes Riverdale Park Day, Saturday, October 7, 2006. If you'd enjoy spreading joy about Riverdale Park, consider volunteering for the Rec. Board; new members are always welcome. You can reach David at 301-779-3849 or djlingua@gmail.com, or drop by the next meeting, Monday, Sept. 11, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall.



Return of the Goatman

If you've never been to Goatman Hollow, you've missed a great treat. The annual Halloween event is chock full of interactive fun and surprises, and the event benefits the Riverdale Park Fire Department. This year Goatman Hollow will be right here in the Town Center. Kids of all ages can attend, but for even more fun, you can join the cast and crew. Goatman Hollow is in the market for some fresh volunteers to join the family of haunters. Interested *victims*—ah, sorry, we meant *volunteers*—can check it out at www.goatmanhollow.com. The October *Crier* will have more details about the event.

Can You Hear Me Now?

Lou King is working on the Town Hall sound system, and we hear some improvement now and there's more to come. People watching the meetings at home on Comcast Cable (channel 71) should hear a big improvement.

Events

- The 29th annual Takoma Park Folk Festival is Sunday, Sept. 10, 11 a.m.–6:30 p.m. www.tpff.org.
- Several Block Parties are scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 16. See the calendar for more information.
- Tuesday, Sept. 12, is the county's primary election. Vote at Riverdale Elementary School, 7 a.m.–8 p.m., or, new this year, "vote early" Tuesday, Sept. 5, through Saturday, Sept. 9, 7 a.m.–8 p.m., Hyattsville Public Library, 6530 Adelphi Road.
- Riverdale Park Day, Saturday, Oct. 7, Noon–5 p.m.

Town Center Signs

Did you know there are several businesses on Rhode Island Avenue north of Town Center past Greg's Towing? Some would like to place signs on Queensbury Road. Of course, we want them attractive and M-UTC-compliant. Got opinions? Let me know.

Public Safety Report

Gerard F. Kiernan, Committee Chair

School is back, please drive safely

School started the new academic year on August 21. As usual, we have a new group of students and parents walking to and from Riverdale Elementary and playing outside after school.

Please watch out for the children.

Similarly, if you drive your child to Riverdale Elementary, please park safely. This means that you do not stop on the south side of Riverdale Road to drop your child off or pick them up. Every year, our police officers watch in horror as a parent pulls up on the south side of Riverdale Road and lets his/her child out and tells them to jay-walk across the street to the school. Or, in the afternoon, the parent pulls up and waves for the child to run across the street to the car.

You can safely drop off your child on Queensbury Road behind the school.

Please teach your children to obey traffic laws and follow the directions of the crossing guards.

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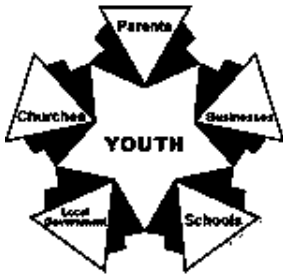
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WORRIED ABOUT HOW TO OVERCOME CONFLICTS WITH YOUR PARENTS, YOUR CHILD, YOUR FRIENDS, YOUR TEACHERS AND PEOPLE IN AUTHORITY?

**YOU AND YOUR CHILD ARE WELCOMED TO PARTICIPATE
IN THE RIVERDALE COMMUNITY'S**

CONFLICT RESOLUTION CENTERS

COMMUNITY-BASED SMALL GROUP FORUMS FOR YOUTH & THEIR PARENTS!

Conflict Resolution Centers (CRCs) are designed to provide youth (8-18) and their parents with violence prevention and conflict management life skills in safe and caring environments within Prince George's County communities in which they live, attend school or worship. Youth and their parent/guardian will acquire:

- Practical conflict resolution skills
- Good communication skills
- The ability to handle peer pressure, gangs and dangerous situations
- The ability to recognize triggers to violence: drugs, alcohol and guns
- Knowledge of the criminal justice system
- Skills to bridge racial divisions

Beginning Date: Thursday, September 7, 2006
Time: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., 2 hours per session for Nine (9) consecutive weeks.
Location: **Riverdale Park Town Hall, 5008 Queensbury Road, Riverdale Park, MD, 20737, (301) 927-6381**

The sessions will focus on relevant issues that plague youth and families today, and hinder communities from being safe and healthy places in which to live. CRCs are small groups that are highly interactive and are led and managed at the community level.

Participant Certification: Youth and parents will each receive a Certificate of Achievement for the successful completion of a 9-week CRC program. Youth can only participate in a CRC if a parent or legal guardian attends each session with them.

Parents to enroll your child and yourself, sign up by calling:
 Riverdale Park Town Hall, (301) 927-6381, Pastor - Ben Slye (301) 277-5969
 Parkdale High School, (301) 513-5700 Ext. 228 (Ms. Golf)

Community Circles

WHAT TO WATCH FOR:

Monday, September 4, Labor Day—Town Offices closed, no trash pickup

Tuesday, September 5—Traffic Study Committee, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall; Legislative Meeting, 8:00 p.m., Town Hall

Wednesday, September 6—Riverdale Park Business Association meeting, 5:30 p.m., Calvert House Inn; M-UTC meeting, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall

Thursday, September 7, 14, 21, and 28—Farmer's Market, 3—7:00 p.m., Town Center

Friday, September 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29—Riversdale Mansion Tours—12:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 3, 10, 17, and 24—Riversdale Mansion Tours—12:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m.

Monday, September 11—Boy Scouts Order of the Arrow, 7:30 p.m.; Recreation Board, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall

Tuesday, September 12—Primary Election Day; Madison Hill Association meeting, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall

Friday, September 15—Crier deadline

Saturday, September 16—43rd Street Block Party, 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.; Ward 2 Block Party (4900—4800 blocks of Sheridan Street), 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 21—Farmer's Market Harvest Festival, 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., Kennedy Smith presentation on initial town assessment, 7:30 p.m., Town Center

Sunday, September 24—Wine Tasting (fee), Riversdale, 1:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. with seatings; Call for reservations

Monday, September 25—Work Session, 8:00 p.m., Town Hall

COMING IN OCTOBER:

Saturday, October 7, 2006, Riverdale Park Day, grounds of Riversdale, 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Fun, food, music, and contests for young and old alike. Join us!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Saturday, October 14, 2006, Gorgeous Prince George's Day! A great volunteer opportunity--A clean-up and planting event has been organized for the small park behind Riverdale Elementary. Volunteers will be ripping out some of the invasive species and planting some native shade and flowering trees to serve as a buffer zone for the small tributary that runs into the nearby Anacostia. The plan and plants will be on hand; all is needed is for you to volunteer. If you are interested in helping with this great project, please send your name and address to Kristin Awsumb Liu at kawsumb@yahoo.com by September 15, 2006.

The Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS) is seeking a long-term volunteer partnership with as many as four retired persons to manage, care for, and water trees which AWS volunteers have planted along the Northeast Branch (Riverdale, Edmonston, and Bladensburg areas) and Northwest Branch (Hyattsville, Brentwood, North Brentwood, Colmar Manor, and Bladensburg areas) of the Anacostia River. For more information, please contact Steve McKindley-Ward at 301-699-6204 or steve@anacostiaws.org.

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 for more information.

Riverdale Park Boys Scouts – Troop 252—Meeting, Monday, September 11, 2006, 7:30 p.m., Contact: Scoutmaster Bob Killen at (202)282-8302.

Youth Council for Riverdale Park—Contact Waverly Pollitt (301-864-7032) Ages 8-18

Civic Committees:

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

Madison Hill Homeowner's Association—Next meeting, September 12, 2006. For information call (301-513-9188) or email MadisonHillHOA@aol.com.

Recreation Board – Volunteers needed! Next meeting—September 11, 2006, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall. Contact David Lingua at 301-779-3849, djlingua@gmail.com.

Riverdale Park Tree Committee—For information contact rebecca.feldberg@gmail.com.

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

Riversdale Historical Society—Riversdale Mansion, call 301-864-0420 for information.

September 2006

To be listed in the Calendar
send an e-mail to
towncrier@comcast.net

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<i>1</i> Regular, heavy & metal ² pickup - B	<i>2</i> 9 am - 5 pm Trash, oil, paper drop off, PW ¹
<i>3</i>	<i>4</i> No Trash Pickup Labor Day Office Closed PW ¹ Closed	<i>5</i> Regular trash & yard waste - A 7:00 pm Traffic 8:00 pm Legislative Meeting	<i>6</i> Regular trash & yard waste - B County Recycling 5:30 pm RBA ¹ Calvert House Inn 7:30 pm M-UTC ¹	<i>7</i> Regular, heavy & metal ² pickup - A 3 pm - 7 pm Farmers Market Town Center	<i>8</i> Regular, heavy & metal ² pickup - B	<i>9</i> 9 am - 5 pm Trash, oil, paper drop off, PW ¹ MML registration deadline
<i>10</i> 11am-6:30 Takoma Park Folk Festival www.tpff.org	<i>11</i> Regular trash & yard waste - A 7:30 pm Boy Scouts Order of the Arrow 7:30 Rec Board	<i>12</i> Regular trash & yard waste - B Primary Election Day 7:30 pm Madison Hill Assoc	<i>13</i> County Recycling	<i>14</i> Regular, heavy & metal ² pickup - A 3 pm - 7 pm Farmers Market Town Center	<i>15</i> Regular, heavy & metal ² pickup - B Town Crier Deadline	<i>16</i> 9 am - 5 pm Trash, oil, paper drop off, PW ¹ Noon - 5 pm 43rd St Block Party 4 pm - 8 pm Ward 2 Block Party
<i>17</i>	<i>18</i> Regular trash & yard waste - A	<i>19</i> Regular trash & yard waste - B 7:30 pm HLN ¹	<i>20</i> County Recycling	<i>21</i> Regular, heavy & metal ² pickup - A 3 pm - 7 pm Farmers Market Harvest Fest Town Center 7:30 pm Kennedy Smith	<i>22</i> Regular, heavy & metal ² pickup - B	<i>23</i> 9 am - 5 pm Trash, oil, paper drop off, PW ¹ Autumn begins
<i>24</i> Riversdale Wine Tasting reservations required \$24 2 seatings 1 pm & 2:30 pm	<i>25</i> Regular trash & yard waste - A 8:00 pm Work Session	<i>26</i> Regular trash & yard waste - B	<i>27</i> County Recycling 7 pm Lions Club	<i>28</i> Regular, heavy & metal ² pickup - A 3 pm - 7 pm Farmers Market Town Center	<i>29</i> Regular, heavy & metal ² pickup - B	<i>30</i> 9 am - 5 pm Trash, oil, paper drop off, PW ¹

¹ Abbreviations: HLN, PG Home Learning Network; PW, Public Works; RBA, Riverdale Business Assoc (location varies call Audrey Bragg 301-277-7393); TH, Town Hall; M-UTC, Mixed-Use Town Center Zoning Review

² Regular trash, heavy trash, and metal recycling.
³ See article for more information.
Most activities at Town Hall (TH), unless otherwise noted.