



The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

December 2015/ January 2016

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Holiday Events	Page 1
RPAC Grant	Page 1
Council Actions	Page 2
Mayor's Report	Page 2
Ward 2 Report	Page 4
Public Works Report	Page 5
Boy Scouts	Page 7
Community Circles	Page 8
January 2016 Calendar	Page 9
December 2015 Calendar	Page 10

Town of Riverdale Park Contact Information

Town Hall
5008 Queensbury Road
301-927-6381

Department of Public Works
5012 Queensbury Road
301-864-1803

Police Department
5004 Queensbury Road
301-927-4343

**Bates Trucking and Trash
Collection**
Bulk Trash Collection
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
301-773-2069

*Residents must call Bates by 2 p.m.
Tuesday for Wednesday pickup*

Holiday Events

Mark your calendars and plan to join us!

- December 3, 2015 from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. - Senior's Luncheon at Crescent Cities Center
- December 12, 2015 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. - Children's Holiday Party with Santa at Town Hall
- December 12, 2015 from 12 noon to 8:00 p.m. - Holiday Market/Festival of Lights at Town Center



Town Hall Hat and Glove Tree

The Town of Riverdale Park will be collecting new hats and gloves to decorate the tree at Town Hall. The hats and gloves will be donated to organizations in our community.

Toys for Tots

The Town will also be participating in Toys for Tots again this year. If you would like to help families in our community, please deliver new and unwrapped toys to Town Hall by Friday, December 18.

RPAC Seeks 2016 Gerald King Fine Arts Award (GKFAA) Study Grant Applicants

The Riverdale Park Arts Council (RPAC) is seeking applicants to compete for the 2016 Gerald King Fine Arts Award (GKFAA) grant. The applications will be judged on the basis of overall artistic talent and originality of their work. Applications must be submitted by March 4, 2016. Applications and information can be found on the RPAC website: <http://www.rpartsCouncil.org>.

The winning finalist earns an art grant of \$500 to pay for purchase of oils, canvasses and essential art equipment to complete the training. The winning finalist will study with master artist, Bruce I. Campbell, for one year and will be required to complete one work of art for display at the 2017 Riverdale Park ArtsFest 2017.

The Review Panel will be comprised of three Riverdale Park Art Council members. It was King's dream that young artists be trained in art from his private studio in Riverdale Park, MD.

King was a unique and brilliant artist: "I'm not sure when I became a conceptualist, but it could have been while I was contemplating a figure on a billboard and made the realization that it was not a real person. I was very small, and I remember repeating to myself over and over, 'I am real. That is a picture.' I was so taken with this perceptual reasoning that a picture was an illusion of reality that my art became an excuse for experiments to create convincing illusions of reality. From that time on, the course was clear, that my art would be a quest for believability."

For more information call or email GKFAA Coordinator Phyllis Bell at (240) 593-3289 or cien2day@aol.com.

Council Actions

Legislative Meeting
November 2, 2015

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve consent agenda items: - **Approved**

1. Minutes from October 5, 2015 Legislative Meeting
2. Minutes from October 26, 2015 Special Legislative Meeting

Legislative Action Items:

1. Motion to authorize the Town Administrator to send a letter providing initial comments to Zunilda Rodriguez, Project Manager of East Riverdale and Beacon Heights Sector Plan – **Approved**
2. Motion to adopt the October 7, 2015, M-U-TC Local Design Review Committee recommendation to approve with conditions the minor amendments to the design of Building 5 of DSP-13009, and direct the Town Administrator to inform Susan Laruese by electronic mail of the decision of the Council – **Adopted**

Mayor's Report

By Mayor Vernon Archer

7-Eleven Project Judicial Review

Many residents join the town government in opposing some or all aspects of the proposed 7-Eleven convenience store that is proposed for 6315 Baltimore Avenue. The town council formally opposed the project due to its non-compliance with the local zoning that we commonly use the shorthand "MUTC" to identify.

The Prince George's County Planning Board approved the proposed plan, in opposition to the town's position last September, and as the Board has final administrative review authority, the town was left with the choice of either acquiescing to the project or seeking relief in court. The Council voted to go to court for two basic reasons. The first point is the obvious concern that the development plan does not meet what we

Town of Riverdale Park

www.riverdaleparkmd.gov

Town Hall

5008 Queensbury Road
Riverdale Park, MD 20737
301-927-6381, Hablamos Español
town@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Mayor Vernon Archer, 240-832-2257
varcher@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Council Members

Ward 1—Jonathan W. Ebbeler,
Chair, Econ Development, 404-626-2082
jebbeler@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Ward 2 – Alan Thompson
Chair, Finance Committee, 301-927-7407
akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Ward 3 - David Lingua
Chair, Public Safety, 301-779-3849
djlingua@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Ward 4 - Christopher Henry
Chair, Public Works, 301-910-9855
Chenry3240@verizon.net

Ward 5 – Eber Rosario
Chair, Community Affairs, 301-927-6381
erosario@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Ward 6 – Alejandro Silva
Chair, Legislative Committee, 301-801-3021
Sara Imhulse, **Town Administrator**
simhulse@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Jessica Barnes, **Town Clerk**
jbarnes@riverdaleparkmd.gov
Public Works, 301-864-1803

Leonard Addison, **Director**
Code Enforcement 240-898-2500
Colleen M. Ferguson, **Code Manager**
code@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Police Department, 301-927-4343
David Morris, **Police Chief**
dmorris@riverdaleparkmd.gov
Fire Department - Emergency 911

Information - 301-927-0356
Brian Carpio, **Fire Chief**

Eng7twr@yahoo.com;
info@riverdalevfd.com;
www.riverdalevfd.com

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

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

Some materials contained in *The Town Crier* represent the opinion of the authors and does not necessarily represent the view of the Town of Riverdale Park.

The Town Crier is also available at the Town's
Website: www.riverdaleparkmd.info

Submission deadline: 15th of each month.

Submit all copies to
towncrier@riverdaleparkmd.gov

consider to be the zoning standards, and it is reasonable to demand that the developer meet those standards.

The second point that arose during the actual proceedings before the Planning Board, is of perhaps greater long-term concern to the town as a whole. The Board seemingly took the position that the local review board--MUTC board--and thereby de facto the town has no right to review and take formal positions on projects like the 7-Eleven where the square footage does not change substantially. This is extremely alarming to us and would be a huge blow to our ability as a community to review, understand and influence the smaller projects along the western portion of our town.

We have filed appeal in circuit court seeking a reversal of the Planning Board ruling and to protect our community's right to play a major role in how our town redevelops. This process will of course take substantial time to get through to a conclusion. I will give you periodic updates as we move through court.

Pollinator Protection

There are seemingly endless arrays of environmental challenges that face us today and our town government consistently looks for ways that we can help to defend our home. In this spirit I have worked with several residents, Public Works Director Leonard Addison, and representatives from Friends of the Earth to implement a policy to protect pollinating insects in our town.

I have now instituted as town policy a ban on government use of the pesticides that are identified as particular threats to insects like bees and butterflies that pollinate much of the world's food crops. This ban is not just on new applications by the town, but also, we will not plant anything that was pretreated by such pesticides either. It is my expectation that our town's public spaces will be just as attractive as we have all come to expect under this new policy, and I expect no increase in our town budget either.

There are numerous sources of information about the threats to pollinators and what people both can do individually and collectively to protect this vital segment of our ecosystem. I encourage residents to research how they can assist on private property as well.

Bridge Construction

The upcoming construction of the bridge that will connect the Calvert Tract (Whole Foods) property across the CSX rail line to Rivertech Court, and intersecting with Lafayette will commence on or about December 14. Let me apologize in advance for the inconvenience that most of us will experience when our favorite "cut through" will temporarily close during construction. I trust that all of our patience will be rewarded in the long run with a town that is much better connected to the transportation routes and new amenities that will improve our

community. The anticipated date for the opening of the bridge and connected roadways is April of 2017.

Volunteer Board Members

The town government is in need of qualified volunteers to fill vacancies on two boards. If you are interested please contact me directly at varcher@riverdaleparkmd.gov.

The town's Ethics Commission is in need of both a regular board member and an alternate member who would fill in if any of the regular members were unavailable to fulfill their duties. This board is in charge of insuring that town officials fulfill state mandated ethics requirements. This generally means reviewing submissions from elected officials and senior staff members. I am particularly looking for persons who have legal training or experience working in compliance and oversight. This board typically meets 2 to 3 times per year.

The second area we need a volunteer for is to fill a vacancy on our Mixed Use Town Center (MUTC) review board. Here the ideal volunteer needs to have training and/or experience in architecture, landscaping, urban planning, or allied fields. This board can meet as often as monthly, but rarely does meet that often.

Ward and Committee Reports

Ward Two Report

By Council Member Alan Thompson
akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov

I hope that everyone is having (and continues to have) a fabulous holiday season. I will be devoting a lot of attention to family this season, as their support and encouragement is essential to my success as an elected official.

Dog Park (including parking)

Staying on top of the dog park project is becoming a full-time job! The contract has been awarded, and construction is started. I expect, at this exact moment, that it will open in the winter. Since that seems to be a possibility, I'm going to be moving forward on establishing some dedicated parking spaces for dog park patrons on the

east side of 51st Avenue. I've seldom seen a car parked in these "Riverdale-Park-resident-only" spaces, so I don't think it will be a big deal to convert them...and they will be limited-time parking (one to two hours) to reflect the expected usage of the park. Please let me know as quickly as possible if you have ideas about how this should be handled.

Bridge to Whole Foods/Riverdale Park Station

The CSX bridge project, as we call it, continues to move forward. As with many projects (like the Dog Park) this one seems to slumber for long periods of time and then suddenly move forward. I'm anticipating a sudden move forward early in 2016, with a final hurdle (the transfer of land from the University to the County)

being cleared in January or February. It is possible that construction will start shortly after that hurdle is cleared. One thing that will happen fairly early in construction is that the Rivertech Court / Lafayette cut-through, or “everyone’s favorite cut-through” as the Mayor refers to it, will be closed on or around December 14th, perhaps for most of a year. Be ready for it!

M-U-TC/7-Eleven

I believe this is discussed in great detail in the Mayor’s Report, but the Town is appealing the Planning Board’s decision to allow the 7-Eleven project to proceed in two ways: an appeal to the District Council (the County Council meeting to review development issues) and a request for judicial review of the decision by the Circuit Court. The reasons for this were complicated and the subject of a lot of discussion, but be assured that both of these actions were recommended by the Town Attorney and carefully considered by the Town Council. The appeal/review process will take several months at least to complete.

Holiday Market

Among the holiday events in December will be the annual Holiday Market. This year the market will happen from noon to 8:00 pm on Saturday, December 12, in Town Center (near the MARC train station). I look forward to seeing you all there!

Farmers’ Market

The Farmers' Market has wrapped up the summer season, but is still open (with a different mix of vendors) all winter! It is open every Thursday from 3pm to 7pm. Produce at the market this time of year includes potatoes, cabbage, turnips, apples, pumpkins, greens, peppers, gourds, cider,

mums, baked goods, honey, pastured meats, eggs from free range hens, and fresh small batch roasted coffees. I hope to see you at the market!

Public Works Report

By Leonard Addison



CURBSIDE LEAF COLLECTION SCHEDULE
November 2, 2015 to January 15, 2016

DAY OF THE WEEK	AREA	WARD (S)
MONDAY	A	1, 3, 5, 6
TUESDAY	B	2, 4
WEDNESDAY*	ALL	ALL
THURSDAY	A	
FRIDAY	B	

* *Regular yard collection day. Bates Trucking Company will collect **BAGGED LEAVES**. Please do not include tree branches, wood, or other debris in the bags.*

Trash Toter Repair/Replacement

Residents should call the Department of Public Works, for the repair or replacement of damaged trash toters, i.e., broken lids, missing wheels, cracked toters, etc. When repairs or replacements are needed, they will occur on Thursday of each week.

Yard Waste Collection

As a reminder, effective January 2014, the Waste Management Division of the Prince George’s County Office of the Environment requires **ALL yard waste** to be placed in brown paper bags or loose in a **clearly marked “YARD WASTE” collection can/container (i.e., trash cans)**. Yard waste will no longer be collected in plastic bags. For additional information please call 311 or 301-883-5810.

Prince George’s County Information

To expedite requests for services provided by Prince George’s County’s, residents should utilize their information number, **which is 311**. Using that number will enable residents to address county related concerns such as questions, complaints, animal control requests, or other service needs for which the county is responsible.

Snow Emergency Conditions

Snow emergency conditions shall be considered in effect within the Town of Riverdale Park whenever the Prince George’s County Executive, the Maryland State Highway Administration or the Maryland State Police declares a snow emergency in effect in Prince George’s County.

Laws That Apply:

- During any period in which a snow emergency condition exists and a snow emergency is in effect, it shall be unlawful to park any vehicle on any part of any street designated as a snow emergency street, provided that signs have been erected on that street giving notice that such street is a designated snow emergency street.

- During any period in which a snow emergency condition is in effect, it shall be unlawful to park any vehicle on the odd-numbered side of any public street in the Town of Riverdale Park regardless of whether such street has been designated a snow emergency street. Streets with parking restricted on one side are exempt from this section.
- Any vehicle parked in violation of the snow emergency provisions of the section may be removed and impounded by or under the direction of any duly authorized police officer. The owner of said vehicle, in addition to any towing or impound fee, shall be liable for a fine of \$250.

Snow and Ice Removal

As we enter into the snow season, please note that Public Works crews will be plowing and salting Town streets and parking lots to clear snow and ice. As in the past, we will treat our streets in the following method:



Primary Streets - i.e. Riverdale Road Taylor Road Lafayette Avenue, Queensbury Road, etc.

Secondary Streets – i.e., DuPont Circle, Cleveland Avenue, Rhode Island Avenue, Quesada Road, Beale, 49th and 48th Avenues., Silk Tree Drive, etc.

Residential Streets – i.e., Oliver Street., Madison Street., Rittenhouse Street., 47th Avenue, Somerset Road, Sora Lane., etc.

Please note: our major roadways, (Rt. 201, Rt. 1, Rt. 410, Good Luck Road); will be treated by the State and County.

Residents of our Town should note that they would be responsible for doing their part by keeping the walkway in front of their property cleaned of snow and ice after each event.

What Residents Can Do?

- Whenever possible, move parked cars off the street so that snowplows can remove the snow from the street from curb to curb.
- If off-street parking is not available, **park on the even side of the street (violators will be subject to having their vehicles impounded and fined \$250 – 64-10(b)(c)).**
- Be patient during any snow emergency as crews work around the clock to clear the streets.
- Clear sidewalks in front of residence and refrain from depositing snow back on to the roadway (this can potentially cause an accident).

Boy's Scout Troop 252

By Robert Killen

Troop 252 held our Court of Honor on Friday the 13th of November, and to recap our meeting, I quote the program notes from Michael Jarquin, our scribe. Michael wrote,

"Hello everyone, thank you all that came to our humble court of honor. For today's meeting notes we had a successful court of

Honor, each parent is proud of their scouts (including me). Unfortunately, Mayor Vernon Archer was not able to attend the meeting but everyone else had a great time, seeing parents proud of their scouts. Guillian earned his cooking, music, first aid, and citizenship in the community merit badges and ranked up into a star. Joseph only earned his first aid, personal fitness, and citizenship in the community. Bryan ranked up to a scout, and I have earned my personal fitness, first aid, citizen in the community and archeology merit badges, with my rank to tenderfoot and my recruiter badge. That's all for now, Michael, signing out.

P.S. Let's add the adult awards: Ms. Tolson the James E. West Award, Mr. AJ Scouting University, and completed his Woodbadge training. Now "Working his Ticket", Mr. Killen another Master's Degree at the University of Scouting, Mr. and Mrs. Cañete Bachelor's Degree at the University of Scouting, MHB University of Scouting Masters and Ham Radio Operator's strip. Guests attending included some of the Scout's 4th Grade Teachers: Mr. Arneaud (sic), Frank and Mrs. Mary Lorena."

Michael is truly a leader in the making!

We camped at Jug Bay the night of 16 October to be on time for the Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission Native American Heritage Day on 17 October, when we taught Native American games to the young people. The line for participants was constant from 10 AM to 4 PM. The next Friday evening, 23 October, saw us, our tipi set up, fire in two half-drums, ready for the 200+ students and parents of Phyllis E. Williams Elementary School to cook their SMORES. We took our tents down about 3 AM to prepare us for

the Orienteering Competition at Camp Oest, Broad Creek; however, none of us went. We are planning on our first ski trip at Massanutten in December and will finalize the arrangements when we know who will be going.

December 5 is our "Cubs For Jesus" day, and we will help staff the program.

We're taking our Arrowmen (members of the Order of the Arrow) to the Eswau Huppeday Lodge Carolina Indian Seminar at Mitchell Community College in Statesville, North Carolina, 22-24 January.

We can't forget our local winter camping weekends, either, nor the bicycle and hiking trips, which we have to plan with consideration to the weather and availability of transportation to and from the events... There's the opportunity for you or your boys, age 11-17, to join in the fun. While we're having fun, we learn how to survive and thrive in bad situations, learning, too, not to be afraid.

Contact Bob Killen 301-483-8455, Eneida Martínez-Brown (MHB) 301-864-0059 or Sandra Tolson 301-927-2275 for information.

Community Circles

Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast at Saint Bernard's Catholic Church

Saint Bernard Catholic Church invites the community to a celebration to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe on Saturday December 12th. The celebration will include a Solemn Mass at 5:30 p.m. and will be followed by a fireworks display on the parking lot at 7:30 p.m.

Happy
Holidays!

Local Organizations

Lion's Club Meeting: Every Fourth Wednesday. Contact President Patrick J. Prangley at (240) 882-4993.

Northern County Soccer Alliance: Contact *NCSA@soccer.net* or (301) 577-3559.

Riverdale Park Boys Scouts Troop 252: Contact: Scoutmaster Bob Killen at (301) 483-8455.

Madison Hill Homeowners Association: For information, call (301) 583-8857.

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

Riverdale Park Farmer's Market: Contact Jim Coleman at (301) 586-5973.

Riverdale Boys & Girls Club: E-mail *riverdaleboysgirlsclub@yahoo.com* (301) 277-KIDS.

Riverdale Park Business Association: Contact Bruce Wernek at 240-684-0795 for meeting site.

Riverdale Park Arts Council: Contact Samuel Williams, Jr., RPAC President at (909) 380-4231

The Historical Association of Riverdale Park (HARP):
Website: *www.riverdaleparkhistory.org*;
harp@riverdaleparkhistory.org

Town of Riverdale Park | January 2016

5008 Queensbury Road
Riverdale Park, Maryland
20737

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1  NEW YEAR'S DAY TH/PW CLOSED	2
3 Riversdale Mansion Tours, 12p-3p	4 Regular Legislative Session, 8p, TH <i>Trash Collection</i>	5	6 MUTC, 7:30p, TH <i>Yard Waste Collection</i>	7 Girl Scouts, 6:30p-8p, TH <i>Trash Collection</i>	8 Riversdale Mansion Tours, 12p-3p Boy Scouts, 7p-9p, TH	9 Madison Hill HOA, 10:30a, TH
10 Riversdale Mansion Tours, 12p-3p	11 <i>Trash Collection</i>	12	13 RPBA, 5:30p, TH <i>Yard Waste Collection</i>	14 <i>Trash Collection</i>	15 Riversdale Mansion Tours, 12p-3p Boy Scouts, 7p-9p, TH	16
17 Riversdale Mansion Tours, 12p-3p	18 MLK JR. DAY TH/PW CLOSED	19	20 <i>Yard Waste Collection</i>	21 Girl Scouts, 6:30p-8p, TH <i>Trash Collection</i>	22 Riversdale Mansion Tours, 12p-3p Boy Scouts, 7p-9p, TH	23
24 Mansion Tours, 12p-3p	25 Work Session, 8p, TH <i>Trash Collection</i>	26	27 Lion's Club, 7p, TH <i>Yard Waste Collection</i>	28 <i>Trash Collection</i>	29 Riversdale Mansion Tours, 12p-3p Boy Scouts, 7p-9p, TH	30
31 Mansion Tours 12p-3p						