

The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

February 2009

Volume 38, Issue 1

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Happy Valentine's Day!

February 14, 2009



President's Day!

February 16, 2009

Town Offices and Public Works Closed



Planning Continues for the Extension of the Trolley Trail

By Fred Shaffer

Several segments of the Rhode Island Avenue Trolley Trail have been completed by the City of College Park. Local and area master plans have long called for the extension of this rail-trail project to both the north and the south of College Park. Recently, funding was placed in the M-NCPPC budget to complete a planning and design study for the Riverdale Park and Hyattsville segments of the trail corridor. M-NCPPC has used the money to hire a consultant team headed by Toole Design Group and Sabra, Wang & Associates, Inc. The consultant team has worked closely with M-NCPPC, Riverdale Park, Hyattsville, and Councilman Olsen's office to develop a Concept Trail Plan and 30% design drawings for the trail corridor.



The concept report and design plans evaluate alternative alignments and layouts for the trail, as well as incorporate trail related amenities and features such as trailheads, lighting, and community access. The Riverdale Park portion of the trail will be within the abandoned trolley right-of-way, while further to the south in Hyattsville the trail will be within the narrow linear open space on the east side of US 1, as indicated on the map below. The trail will serve as an important link in the area's trail network and provide Riverdale Park residents with access to the larger regional trail network. The southern terminus of the trolley trail will connect to the existing Northwest Branch Stream Valley Trail. To the north, the Riverdale Park segment of the trail will connect into the existing College Park segment of the trail and the Paint Branch Stream Valley Trail.

By adding connectivity to the local trail system, it is also anticipated that the trail will be a viable option for some transportation trips. The trail will provide access to the approved EYA development, the Riverdale Park Town Center, College Park Metro, and several local parks. Although the design is still being finalized, it is hoped that the completion of the 30% design drawings will make the project eligible for federal transportation enhancement funds that can be utilized for trails that serve a transportation function.

Riverdale Park will continue to work with M-NCPPC, the consultants, and other area stakeholders to develop a plan for a first class trail that will enhance the usability of the overall trails network, provide access to area destinations and mass transit, and improve the walkability of local neighborhoods and communities. In addition to providing recreational opportunities, it is anticipated that the trail will also serve as a multi-modal transportation connection for Riverdale Park and surrounding communities. The M-NCPPC Department of Parks and Recreation has funding in the FY 2009 Capital Improvement Program to complete the design work and construct initial phases of the trail. Fred Shaffer of the M-NCPPC Planning Department can be reached at 301-952-3661 for additional information on this important project.

Council Actions

By Waverly Pollitt

Regular Legislative Meeting December 1, 2008

1. **Approved-** Minutes for November 3, 2008 Regular Legislative meeting.
2. **Approved-** Request for Town Hall & Public Works to close on December 26, 2008. **(With friendly amendment to make it liberal leave, this year 2008, for all non-emergency personal only.)**
3. **Approved** – Charter Resolution 2008-CR-01 concerning Council Members shall meet at least once a month *during the months of January, February, March, April, May, June, July, September, October, November, December, [excluding the month of August; at which time the council shall be in recess.]*

Regular Legislative Meeting January 5, 2009

1. **Approved-** Minutes for December 1, 2008 Regular Legislative meeting.
2. **Approved** – Partnership for Earth Day w/AWS for NE Branch Cleanup.
3. **Not enough time for review** - Permit for a 6ft. fence at 6215 43rd street for Steve & Kay Whitesell.
4. **Approved-** A resolution of Invitation to Ipalan dance and marimba groups to perform at the next Riverdale Park Day.
5. **Approved-** Resolution to permit proposed five-day furlough for all staff.

Code Corner

By Colleen Ferguson

Chapter 36--- Toters must be kept in the rear of your property until placing out for pick-up. Town wide trash collection is held on Mondays and Thursdays. Do not place toters out before sundown the day prior to collection day. Yard waste will be collected by Bates on Wednesdays. Recycling will be collected on Wednesdays. You must call Bates and schedule any bulk pick-up.

All rental properties within the Town of Riverdale Park must have a Rental License. For more information, to report a rental property, or to request a rental application, call 301-927-6381.

If you have any code complaints and/or concerns, please contact the Code Enforcement Division – 240-898-2500 – or email coderiverdalepk@comcast.net.

Town of Riverdale Park

www.ci.riverdale-park.md.us

Town Hall

5008 Queensbury Road
Riverdale Park, MD 20737
301-927-6381, Hablamos Espanol
RiverdaleParkMD@comcast.net

Mayor Vernon Archer, 240-832-2257
varcher@gmail.com

Council Members

Ward 1–Alice Ewen-Walker,
Chair, Econ Development, 301-379-5303
alice@ewenwalker.com

Ward 2 – Kate Sharpe
Chair, Finance Committee, 301-779-2169
katherinesharpe@yahoo.com

Ward 3 - David Lingua
Chair, Public Works, 301-779-3849
djlingua@gmail.com

Ward 4 - Christopher Henry
Chair, Public Safety, 301-910-9855
chenry3240@comcast.net

Ward 5 - Timothy Kimbrough
Chair, Leg Committee, 301-864-1997
timkim7@verizon.net

Ward 6 - Keelah Allen-Smith
Chair, Community Affairs, 240-751-6688
Keelahd@yahoo.com.

Patrick J. Prangle, **Town Administrator**
riverdaleparkmd@comcast.net
Penny Mendoza, **Dep Administrator**
301-209-1505

Public Works 301-864-1803

Leonard Addison, **Director**

Code Enforcement 240-898-2500

Colleen M. Ferguson, **Code Manager**

CodeRiverdalePk@comcast.net

Police Department 301-927-4343

Teresa Chambers **Chief of Police**
info@riverdaleparkpolice.org

Fire Department - Emergency 911

Information - 301-927-0356

Charles Ryan, **Chief** *in-*
fo@riverdalevfd.com, www.riverdalevfd.com
om or, Riverdalefire-
chief7@gmail.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.

Submission deadline: 15th of each month.

Submit all copy to
rptowncrier@comcast.net

Unprecedented Inclusion Helps with Crime Fighting Efforts

By Teresa C. Chambers, Chief of Police

Roberto Hylton assumed command as the Acting Chief of Police in Prince George's County in September 2008. He soon coined the phrase, "One Team One Mission," in describing the direction he was taking the Prince George's County Police Department. Before long, it became apparent that he intended to extend that philosophy to include all municipal police departments – "partners" as he often calls us.

Each week, all municipal police departments and other agencies providing police service in Prince George's County are invited to participate in a conference call with Chief Hylton to discuss recent crimes, suspects, trends, and the like. As the Presidential Inauguration grew near, Chief Hylton included us in regular briefings and involved us in his operational plans. Monthly, we meet with his entire command staff to closely review crime patterns across Prince George's County. Chief Hylton has also offered us the opportunity to participate – at no cost – in annual in-service training and specialized training that his department provides.

Never have municipal police departments experienced this level of constructive communication and involvement with the Prince George's County Police Department. It takes all of us – and especially our community members – to work collaboratively in order to keep the Town of Riverdale Park safe, clean, and beautiful. It is encouraging to know that the Prince George's County Police Department is a stronger partner than ever before.

Una inclusión sin precedente ayuda a los esfuerzos de lucha contra la delincuencia

By Teresa C. Chambers, Jefa de la Policía

Roberto Hilton asumió comando como el Jefe Activo de la Policía del Condado de Prince George en Septiembre 2008. El tomo la frase de "Un Equipo Una Misión", describiendo la dirección que se va a tomar en el Departamento de la Policía del Condado de Prince George. Antes de tiempo, se hizo evidente que tenía la intención de ampliar la filosofía de incluir a todos los departamentos de policía municipal - "socios" como él nos llama a menudo.

Cada semana, todos los departamentos municipales de policía y otros organismos que prestan servicio a la policía del Condado de Prince George, están invitados a participar en una conferencia telefónica con el Jefe Hilton para discutir los últimos crímenes, los sospechosos, las tendencias, etc. Dado que la Inauguración Presidencial pasó cerca de nosotros, Jefe Hilton nosotros fuimos incluidos en reuniones periódicas de información y participamos en sus planes operativos. Mensualmente, nos reunimos con todo su personal de comando para ver de cerca los modelos de delincuencia en todo el Condado de Prince George. El Jefe Hilton también ha ofrecido la oportunidad de participar - sin costo alguno - en entrenamientos anuales de capacitación en el servicio y la formación especializada que ofrece su departamento.

Nunca los departamentos de policía municipal han experimentado este nivel de comunicación y la participación constructiva con el Departamento de Policía del Condado de Prince George. Se necesita de todos nosotros - y especialmente los miembros de nuestra comunidad - para trabajar en colaboración con el fin de mantener la ciudad de Riverdale Park seguro, limpio y hermoso. Es alentador saber que el Departamento de la Policía del Condado de Prince George es un socio más fuerte que nunca.

HANDS-ON HISTORY: THE CONFECTIONER'S APPRENTICE

By Samantha Ferris

Riverdale Park – Prepare to step back in time! Spend the school holiday, Monday, February 16, at Riversdale House Museum. The program runs from 10 am – 3 pm and is open to children ages 8 – 12. In the early 19th century, young people learned crafts and trades through apprenticeship. Riversdale presents the first in a series of hands-on apprenticeship programs with the craft of the confectioner. Participants will learn about baked goods and sweets popular during the time period and try their hands at making their own.

The fee is \$15 for residents of Prince George's and Montgomery Counties and \$18 for non-residents. Advanced registration and payment are required by Monday, February 9.

SEASONAL SELECTIONS – THE PLUMMERS' KITCHEN: Antebellum African-American Food Traditions in the Chesapeake

By Samantha Ferris

Riverdale Park - Join the Riversdale Kitchen Guild for their monthly Seasonal Selections program on Sunday, February 22, 2009, from noon to 4 pm in the dependency kitchen at Riversdale House Museum. Watch as they recreate early-to-mid 19th century traditional African-American foods. Participants will be able to view these dishes being made on the open hearth by costumed interpreters using period cookware. Seasonality of garden produce will also be discussed in reference to Plummer's profit-generating produce sales.

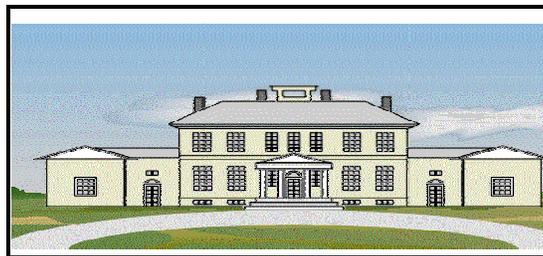
Riversdale, completed in 1807, was home to Rosalie and George Calvert, descendant of the fifth Lord Baltimore. The Calverts owned several slaves, including Adam Plummer. Plummer arrived at Riversdale as a child. Upon George's death, ownership of the estate and slaves passed to his son, Charles Benedict. His new master allowed Plummer to keep the profits from produce he grew on a part of the estate. Eventually, Plummer married an enslaved woman, Emily Saunders, from Three Sisters Plantation in Lanham, MD. Plummer continued to live at Riversdale apart from his wife. However, after Maryland abolished slavery, Adam Plummer, reunited with his wife and family, remained at Riversdale as a paid overseer.

Riversdale House Museum, a National Historic Landmark, is located at 4811 Riverdale Road in Riverdale Park, Maryland. For more information or reservations, call 301-864-0420 TTY 301-699-2544. Visit our website at www.pgparcs.com or email Riversdale@pgparcs.com.

This facility is owned and operated by The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County.

Call 301-864-0420 or email riversdale@pgparcs.com to make a reservation.

Sign up for classes and activities online at www.pgparcs.com, or by touch-tone phone at 301-583-BOOK.



**Riversdale House Museum 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park MD 20737
301-864-0420; fax 301-927-3498**

The Mayor's Report

By Vernon Archer

As we begin a new year, both challenges and opportunities lie ahead for our town. The ongoing economic downturn has and will continue to impact town services. However, the nationwide response to the recession will provide us opportunities to get major infrastructure work accomplished sooner than I would have thought possible just six months ago. We are hopeful that direct federal aid to local government for operations may too become a reality in the near future.



Addressing Financial Challenges

First, and for most the Town Council and I must keep the town in solid financial shape and the challenges of doing so during a recession are beginning to show. Over the past autumn it became obvious that the town's cash reserves were diminishing and that action was needed that could not wait for the next budget cycle to address. While the shortfalls are not at the level of an emergency, they are nonetheless serious.

I met in a series of meetings with Town Administrator Pat Prangley, Police Chief Teresa Chambers and Public Works Director Leonard Addison and formulated a plan that sets the town on a path where, by the end of this fiscal year, we will have substantially, though not completely, replenished our reserves. Our target is having the equivalent of two months worth of operating expenses held in reserve, or \$706,000. This amount is the minimum that we can comfortably retain to insure a smooth cash flow and be prepared for the inevitable little emergencies that nature and man will throw at us from time to time.

The plan we came up with was designed to have the least impact possible on delivery of services to the residents and also to minimize the impact on the morale and well being of our employees. In particular we were determined to ensure that our town remains well policed and cleaned up. We also reached the conclusion that there was no justification for permanently reducing staffing levels at this time and that any reduction in force would have a very negative impact on the morale of our staff.

The plan consists of three distinct parts. First, we are cutting back on a wide range of expenditures for goods and services that for the most part represented the postponement of certain purchases. Second, we are freezing such items as promotions, allowing overtime only in emergencies, and cutting back substantially on training and travel for staff. Finally we are also implementing a one week furlough of all staff that will be implemented over the remainder of the Fiscal Year that ends June 30, 2009.

This plan was reported on to the Council in December and then discussed in January, 2009. Only the final part implementing a furlough required Council permission, and it authorized the move by resolution. This was not a step that any of us wanted to take, but was necessary.

Taking Advantage of New Opportunities

As you are probably aware, the Federal Government is working to create a stimulus program that will provide substantial resources for state and local governments to execute infrastructure improvement projects. As I reported to you just last November there are two substantial projects that we need: a new bridge for Riverdale Road across the Northeast Branch, and a modernization of our storm water management system.

Staff and I are working to insure that our projects are on the agenda with our Federal representatives and in Annapolis. In particular our bridge should match up nicely with an emphasis on restoring the county's basic infrastructure. The fact that the bridge is both old and inadequate for the amount of pedestrian traffic that it daily handles makes it a very good prospect. While this type of project will not happen overnight, the prospect of a funding source means that completing it in a couple of years is possible.

It will be more difficult to get the storm water management system attached to this federal initiative for several reasons. First, it is a vastly larger and more complex system that will require coordination of many jurisdictions and agencies. Unlike the bridge, there is no simple stock of designs to draw from and implement; instead it will require major study and a specific design for this one location. For a whole host of reasons, ranging from environmental concerns to engineering, a simple replace/rebuild is not an acceptable alternative. We are however acting on the belief that the atmosphere to get this accomplished is now upon us and we are acting accordingly.

Lastly we are working with the Maryland Municipal League, and of course municipalities nationwide to encourage the Federal Government to reinstitute a direct revenue sharing program. This type of funding would provide direct assistance to cities and towns for normal operations. In particular direct assistance for public safety and infrastructure are directly in line with the stimulus package that is being formulated in Washington. It remains to be seen whether this will get through, but it would clearly help us to maintain our current level of service.

Ward and Committee Reports

Ward Three Report

By Council Member David Lingua
djlingua@gmail.com

Much can happen in two months so let's get to it. First up, water, water everywhere: the winter edition. Time escapes no one or no thing and, with Mother Nature's help, water mains around the region demonstrate this. Riverdale Park is no exception. Municipalities like ours rely on regional authorities like WSSC for the maintenance and upkeep of the water and sewer systems. These commissions work with the resources they have by the way of rates, bonds and intermittent funding. Hardly a day goes by without mention of another break and WSSC is doing what they can to address them all. On a related note, there was a sewer back up over the holiday season along the line running under the flood plain next to the river. The cause was cooking grease. Please, collect grease in a tempered container, like a can, freeze it and disposed of it with the trash.

As to public works issues closer to home, in light of the current financial strain on town finances, the goal of the Public Works Department is to emerge from this winter financially intact. The good lord willing and if the snow does not fall too much, it may be reached. As for removing the snow, rubber edges are being fitted to town plows to save on street wear. On a related note, Director Addison briefed the Public Works Committee on work to prepare a roadway maintenance plan with the outlook for the next few years.

With regard to the school pick up and drop off zone, all things considered, it is working for the most part. Along with the new multi-exit dismissal plan, the logistics of coming and going are an improvement from a year ago. Yes there has been a learning curve to contend with as well as the construction at the MD 410 and US 1 intersection mandated by the EYA development in Hyattsville. Thank you to Mr. Prangle, Chief Chambers, Director Addison, and their respective staff for their efforts to date to make this an effective and safe means for parents and students alike.

Mark your calendars for May 16, 2009 for a rain barrel workshop with the Anacostia Watershed Society. Also for Earth Day, April 18, 2009 for a clean up along portions of the northeast branch in Riverdale Park.

Ward Four Report

By Council Member Christopher Henry
chenry3240@comcast.net

Public Safety Report

Over the past several months our community has been faced with evidence of the tough economical time: Foreclosures in our Town are rising, Mayor and council faced a tough Vote to furlough Town Employees and talking to residents who just got laid-off from their jobs-its everywhere and its effecting everyone Yet through all this was evidence of a strong community bond. During Thanksgiving the Alamo and Christian Life Center feed 950 in need persons also distributing coats and hats. Town Representatives and the Christian Life Center, thanks to PG Holiday Baskets, were able to distribute 20 plus food baskets during the holidays and Prince Georges' County Housing Department is working with families offering options and alternatives prior to home foreclosure. Riverdale Park is a strong community and the sun will shine again. We need to keep that strong community bond and help each other: If you become aware of a vacant home contact Code Enforcement 240-898-2500. If you see trash blowing, bend down and pick it up this small gesture helps us all, and if you know of a neighbor who has fallen on hard times offer phone numbers for assistance or direct them to Town Hall for helpful contacts. We will get through this.

I want to thank our Police Chief Teresa Chambers, her staff, our Public Works Director Leonard Addison and his staff for their dedication to serving our community. If you see suspicious activity or if something just doesn't look right...Call the Riverdale Park Police 301-927-4343

Ward Six Report

By Council Member Keelah Allen-Smith
Keelahd@yahoo.com

Community Affairs Report

Mr. Addison and the Public Works team—streets are looking good in Ward 6 your hard work is appreciated. Thank you for keeping Riverdale Park clean and beautiful.

The utility patch work on Spring Lane and Greenway Drive has been completed and the cones have been removed.

On February 11, 2009, I will be attending the Bi-monthly Apartment Managers meeting, if any Ward 6 resident has a concern or suggestion they would like to have brought up at the meeting, please feel free to email me directly at: *keelahd@yahoo.com*

Public Works Report

By Leonard Addison

Leaf Collection – The deadline for curbside leaf collection was January 15th. The Public Works Department collected more than 15 tons of leaves during its leaf collection period from October 2008- January 2009. We express our appreciation to and commend our residents for their cooperation in taking up leaves to keep our community clean.

Bulk Trash – Bulk trash household items are being picked up by Bates Trucking Company by appointment only. This service is provided for residents only. To avoid fines or code violations, please schedule a pickup with Bates for bulk trash and only put the items you have out for collection the night before the scheduled pickup day. Bates can be contacted by calling (301) 773-2069.

Residents may continue to bring bulk items on Saturdays, 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Bulk trash does NOT include construction materials (bricks, concrete, plywood, etc.) or chemicals. Be prepared to show identification as proof of residency.

The Riverdale Park Business Association

By Audrey Bragg

“It takes a strong business association to build a community.”

The Riverdale Park Business Association is proud of their contributions to the community and the businesses that thrive in our town. Some may think we only hold monthly meetings. Behind the scenes, we work hard for people who support our businesses and the community at large.

Our contributions and accomplishments included:

- Participation in the refurbishment of a resident whose home was in need of help for Christmas in April.
- Partnering with the Riverdale Arts Council and sponsoring their First Annual Arts Festival
- Participating in Career Day at Riverdale Elementary School.
- Making a monetary donation to the family of the Parkdale High School student who was fatally stabbed on April 3, 2008.

- Participating in Riverdale Park Town Day. The Dental Group examined the mouths of 200+ children for free.
- Sponsoring the Annual Pet Costume Contest in Town Center.
- Collecting coats for the Christian Life Center for distribution to the less fortunate during their Annual Thanksgiving Dinner.
- Adopting two local American troops who are stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan. Members assembled and mailed care packages that the troops received in time for the Holiday Season.
- Volunteering their services and free photos with Santa for the Festival of Lights celebration.

All business owners in Riverdale, large and small, are welcome to attend our monthly meetings and join us as we make a difference in our town of Riverdale Park in 2009. Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 11, 2009, 5:30 P.M. at Town Hall. We look forward to seeing you.

Boy Scouts Troop 252: Bicycling in the Cold

By Bob Killen

Troop 252 did the “bicycling in the cold” trek on November 21-22. We slept warm and dry Friday night, and Saturday morning at Watkins Park, we gathered wood - tinder, kindling and fuel – lots of it - and lit a two-match fire to keep us warm and cook our food. We rode bicycles most of the morning while Khalil was learning to ride. At 16, he didn’t have much trouble – he fell only a couple dozen times. The younger Scouts stayed clear of him while he was learning because they didn’t want him to land on them. He didn’t give up. Scouting is full of failures – and overcoming them. The other Scouts held one-mile bicycle races, and Julio, Donald and Samir each won at least two races, and there were a couple of ties, requiring even more races, and there were NO ARGUMENTS! They switched bicycles to level the playing field. Our Scribe, Michael, kept score in addition to racing. Khalil was riding quite well by lunchtime. Trees didn’t jump out in front of him as much, and while his hobo dinner was cooking, he bicycled around the entire campground path without stopping or falling off even once.

These were the first Hobo Dinners for the “New” Scouts. Nobody left the table the least bit hungry, and no

mess to clean up. After we extinguished the fire “cold out,” we visited the Culture Center before it closed for the evening. We documented some advancement, enjoyed the fireplace and nature exhibits, and, as darkness fell, we were the first guests to view the Holiday Lights as they still were being strung along the trails.

New Life Scout (and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader) Ismael Villalta, MHB and I helped staff the “Cubs for Jesus” day at St. Mary’s Church in Landover Hills on December 6. We taught the Cubs about a “Jesus sighting” by some fishermen three years, three months and three days after his death, and how to “Wrap and Frap” lashing to make sections of fishing poles long enough to fish for mouse traps. Cubs, parents and staff all had lots of fun, and everyone caught at least three mouse traps.

This weekend we’re going skiing and tubing at the Wisp if there’s any snow. If there’s not enough snow, we’ll go again in January or February. We have another bicycle trip scheduled for one of the winter Holiday Break days – the WOD (Washington-Old Dominion) rails to trails, from Ashburn, VA, to Reagan National Airport, then Metro our bicycles home to Cheverly. The senior Scouts still want to bicycle the entire C&O Canal, and we’re planning to accomplish that task during Spring Break.

In the interim, we have two dozen huge truck inner tubes, so if we have good local snow (or ice), look out below! Its tubing we’ll go!

There’s no reason why we should have all the fun! Call or email us, and we’ll tell you where and when we’re meeting so you can join us. Contact Bob Killen (rfskille@yahoo.com) 301-483-8455 or MHB (240) 687-4621, and before long you’ll be reading about yourself in the Crier!



Holiday Bundles of Joy for Town Staff!

By Kandese Allen

This winter season has brought exciting additions for our Town Staff! Last year, as we remember, Council Members Keelah Allen-Smith and Kate Sharpe introduced us to Kalayah Porter and Caleb Sharpe. The tots are doing well and loving life as Riverdale Park residents. However, it seems as though Kalayah and Caleb have started a trend...that’s right, more birth announcements!



We are pleased to extend an extremely warm welcome to newborns Austin Tyler Maraeady and Ethan Pierce Mendoza. Town Administrator Patrick Prangle welcomed his grandson, Austin, on December 13, 2008. This holiday treat weighed in at a healthy 8lbs 12 oz, 22 inches long. Just about one month later, Deputy Town Administrator Penny Mendoza welcomed her son, Ethan Pierce Mendoza, on January 14, 2009. Ethan made his grand entrance weighing in at 5lbs 12 oz, 18 ¾ inches long.

We are happy to hear that both baby boys are healthy and strong! Congratulations to the parents and grandparents, and welcome to the world Austin and Ethan!

Wells Rink “Ice and Easy Days” Camp

By Leyda Matias

Wells Rink offers school holiday “Ice and Easy Days” for children ages 6-12 years. The **February 16th** camp includes a beginner ice skating lesson, organized games, and time to have fun playing and practicing ice skating skills. Campers should bring a bag lunch and dress warmly in layers.

Registration is taken on a first-come-first-served basis through SMARTlink: Camp (9 AM-4:30 PM) #130304; Before Care (7-9 AM) #130372; and After Care 4:30-6 PM #130373. For more information, please call 301-277-3717.

DID YOU KNOW?

Saint Valentine's Day is a saint's day commemorating Saint Valentine on February 14. It is the traditional day on which lovers express their love for each other; sending Valentine's cards, donating to charity or gifting candy. It is very common to present flowers on Valentine's Day. The holiday is named after two men, both Christian martyrs among the numerous early Christian martyrs named Valentine. The day became associated with romantic love in the circle of Geoffrey Chaucer in High Middle Ages, when the tradition of courtly love flourished. The day is most closely associated with the mutual exchange of love notes in the form of "valentines (www.wikipedia.com)."



Community Circles

What to Watch For:

Monday, February 2 – Legislative Meeting, Town Hall, 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 3 – Traffic Study, Town Hall, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 4 – MUTC, Town Hall, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 11 – RBA, Town Hall, 5:30 p.m.

****Saturday, February 14** – Madison Hill HOA, Town Hall, 10-10:30 a.m. (**NOW EVERY 2ND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH**)

Monday, February 16 – President's Day, **TOWN OFFICES AND PUBLIC WORKS CLOSED**

Wednesday, February 18 – Legislative Committee Meeting, Town Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, February 23 – Worksession, Town Hall, 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 25 – Lion's Club, Town Hall, 7:00 p.m.

Town Organizations

Northern County Soccer Alliance: For more information on Soccer Alliance, Inc., and on travel, recreation, home school, and training programs. NCSA@juno.com or (301) 927-0560. PG Soccer League@juno.com

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

Riverdale Park Boys Scouts – Troop 252—

Contact: Scoutmaster Bob Killen at (202) 282-8302.

Civic Committees

Recreation Board – Contact Anissa Sunday at 301-277-2458 for more information and to volunteer.

Madison Hill Homeowners Association-- For information, call (240) 401-2202 or visit www.madisonhill.org.

Riverdale Park Farmer's Market--Contact Jim Coleman at 301-332-6258.

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

Riverdale Park Business Association—call Audrey Bragg at 301-277-7393 for meeting site.

