

The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

April 2009

Volume 38, Issue 3

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DON'T MISS
Riverdale Park Annual Easter Egg Hunt
April 4, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
On the grounds of Riversdale Mansion



Children, bring your baskets!

TRASH COLLECTION:

Regular Trash Collection Days

Monday and Thursday

Bulk Trash Collection

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Please call Bates Trucking and
Trash Collections at (301)
773-2069 (residents have up to 2:00
p.m. Tuesday to call Bates for
Wednesday pickup)

Recycling

Wednesday

Please call Prince George's County
Recycling with questions.
(301)952-763

Yard Waste

Wednesday collected by Bates

Trucking and

Trash Collections

Saturday drop-off

9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Metal Pickup (town wide)

Every Thursday by the Department
of Public Works

Mark Your Calendars!
Riverdale Park's 2009 Farmer's
Market Opens Early

April 9, 2009

Town Center

3-7 p.m.



Council Actions

By Waverly Pollitt

Regular Legislative Meeting For March 9, 2009

1. **Approved** – Minutes for February 2, 2009 regular legislative meetings.
2. **Approved** – Minutes for March 5, 2009 special legislative meeting.
3. **Approved** – Motion to approve Denise Dewitt for Election Judge for ward 6

Special Legislative Meeting For March 5, 2009

1. **Approved**- Ordinance Resolution 2009-OR-01 regarding an amendment to section §29-11 setting fee for filing a petition for any elective office.

Code Corner

By Colleen Ferguson

Chapter 36--- Summary: Town wide Trash Collection: Monday and Thursdays. Toters must be kept in the rear of your property until placing out for pick-up. Do not place toters out to the curb 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 Bulk pick-up.

Chapter 68---- Summary: Grass must be maintained to a height of 10inches or less.

Chapter 64--- Summary: All vehicles in the Town of Riverdale Park must be properly registered and possess current/valid registration. Vehicles in the Town of Riverdale Park, including those parked on private property, not properly registered with current/valid registration will be ticketed, and posted. If compliance is not met 72 hours after being posted, the unregistered vehicle will be impounded at the owner's expense.

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

Above is a code summary and not verbatim from the Town of Riverdale Park Charter and Code Book. For exact verbiage of the above mentioned codes, please visit the town website at www.riverdaleparkmd.info

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

Public Works 301-864-1803

Leonard Addison, **Director**
Code Enforcement 301-927-6381

Colleen M. Ferguson, **Code Manager**
CodeRiverdalePk@comcast.net

Police Department 301-927-4343
Teresa Chambers **Chief of Police**

RivPD@comcast.net
Fire Department - Emergency 911
Information - 301-927-0356

Charles Ryan, **Chief**
info@riverdalevfd.com, www.riverdalevfd.com or,
Riverdalefirechief7@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 rptown-crier@comcast.net

Riversdale Events

Spring Lecture Series Kicks Off At Riversdale

Riverdale Park – Riversdale House Museum hosts its annual Spring Lecture Series.

The two lectures scheduled for April are:

- Tuesday, April 14: Susan Pearl, Retired historian, M-NCPPC, *The Stier-Peeters Art Collection*.
- **(Rescheduled from Tuesday, March 3)** Tuesday, April 28: Ann Wass, History/Museum Specialist at Riversdale, *“A Great Variety of Articles Both Elegant and Useful”*: Antebellum American Agriculture Fairs.

Lectures are \$5 each and begin at 7:30 pm.

Local Artist Exhibits at Riversdale House Museum

Riverdale Park – Riversdale House Museum is proud to display the artwork of Gerald King, a realist painter and resident of Riverdale Park. Both the Riversdale House Museum and the Town of Riverdale Park serve as inspiration for a number of Mr. King’s works. Gather some inspiration of your own as you view the paintings within the walls of the c. 1807 Federal mansion.

Until 1816, Rosalie Stier Calvert, the mistress of Riversdale, was the custodian for her father’s collection of European masterworks paintings and displayed some on the walls of her house. Mr. King’s exhibit continues this tradition. Certain displayed art will be for sale to the public. Prints will also be available in the museum shop.

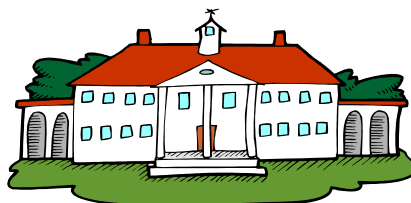
The exhibit runs from Friday, April 3, to Sunday, May 31, 2009. It is open for viewing during regularly scheduled tour hours on Fridays and Sundays from noon-3:30 pm and by appointment for groups of 10 or more. Tickets include a tour of the house and cost \$3 for adults, \$2 for seniors and groups of 10 or more, \$1 for students 5-18, and free for children 4 and under.

Not Your Mother’s Packaged Gelatin – The How and Why of Calves’ Feet Jelly

Riverdale Park, MD – While enjoying a low-calorie, guilt-free cup of Jello, we rarely ponder over the fact that gelatin does not come from a convenient package found in the grocery store. The origins of gelatin begin with calves’ feet. The Riversdale Kitchen Guild, in conjunction with the Historic Foodways Guild of Maryland, invites you to un wrinkle your noses and open your minds as you learn about calves’ feet jelly. Sophie Frederickson, a food historian and holistic food counselor, will explain the process of preparing the jelly from scratch and demonstrate various ways to use it.

This demonstration takes place on Saturday, April 25, 2009 at 10am. The cost is \$5 and pre-registration is required.

Riversdale House Museum, a National Historic Landmark, is located at 4811 Riverdale Road, in Riverdale Park, Maryland. For more information, call 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544; or email at riversdale@pgparks.com. Sign up for classes and activities online at www.pgparks.com, or by touch-tone phone at 301-583-BOOK.



Ward and Committee Reports

Ward Three Report

By Council Member David Lingua
djlingua@gmail.com

Taylor Road in full bloom: now that is gorgeous in Prince George's. With this report I'm taking Lord Polonius's advice.

This school year at Riverdale Elementary has seen the introduction of a pick up and drop-off zone, which has been effective in general but with mixed results. At its February meeting, the Traffic Study Committee and officials from our police department met with officials and representatives from the county and school to discuss ways to solve the issues at hand. One main idea suggested was a relocation of the zone to an area south of Riverdale Road along Taylor Road. Suggested was to allow parents to park along the northbound, 6000 block of Taylor Road. To allow traffic to keep moving, parking along the southbound side would be prohibited on weekdays.

Currently no parking is allowed Monday thru Friday along the northbound section and it is my desire to see that maintained and allow brief periods during at the beginning and end of the school day to allow parents to drop off and pick up their children. I'd like to thank everyone for his or her input and efforts with the school zone.

Since having been appointed to sit on the Central Kenilworth Avenue Steering Committee two meetings have been held which have entailed formulating the direction and strategy. Of the items considered has been to create a CDC similar to that created by Port Towns. I would encourage any who are interested in the development of the area to consider being involved with this group.

And with that, let me jump up on my volunteer soapbox, briefly. Earth Day is fast approaching and coming to Riverside Neighborhood Park. The Anacostia Watershed Society has designated the portion of the northeast branch and the tributaries in and around the park as one of several areas for clean up this year. As you may have read elsewhere in this edition that joining us will be several visiting officials and expatriates living in the area from our sister city Ipala. It is going to be a great day and I would ask of any and all in town to come out and lend a hand this year.

Coming a fortnight before is the annual egg hunt at the Mansion. As always, a big thanks to the Recreation Board for this and, as always, if you'd like to help out, please, don't be bashful. See you then and at Earth Day.

Ward Four Report

By Council Member Christopher Henry
chenry3240@comcast.net

Public Safety Report

For months now I have been writing in the Crier useful tools available to each resident to get to know their community, the crime as well as the community activities. I have encouraged each resident to get involved either by picking up trash or by picking-up the phone. I strongly believe that each one of us has to do our part and get involved in our community. I encourage neighbors to organize a neighborhood crime watch and participate together in group walks. This should be coordinated with the Riverdale Park Police and safety tips should be implemented. Stay in touch with your community: Town Website:

www.riverdaleparkmd.info Crime Reports:
www.crimereports.com Vacant Homes/ Foreclosures need our help... If you are aware of a vacant home or a deteriorating property, please notify code enforcement. We need to keep these properties maintained and looking good to keep crime out. Remember the broken window theory: "Fixing minor maintenance issues quickly, shows that a neighborhood "cares" and helps push out crime." Code Enforcement contact information: 240-898-2500 or 301-356-8189 or email:
coderiverdalepk@comcast.net

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

Signs.. Signs... Signs... Over the past few months I have been working on legislation that will address size and location of advertising signs in our town. I have also been working on legislation to address clean-up time for vacant property. Any resident with any suggestions or comments pertaining to the advertising sign situation or vacant home clean-up, please feel free to email me at *keelahd@yahoo.com*

I attended the Apartment Managers meeting in February and will be attending the Apartment Owners/Managers meeting April 29, 2009. This meeting should be very productive as the owners have been

asked to attend. If any resident has any situation that they would like me to bring up at this meeting on April 29, 2009, please feel free to drop me an email.

Spring is here... Please check your Crier Calendar, the Town Website and/or Cable Channel for upcoming events... Arts Festival, May 3rd at the Town Center and Our Farmers Market Every Thursday.

Warmer weather means more pedestrians, especially in Ward 6. Pedestrians... Use Crosswalks, Stay on Side Walks and please, look both ways before crossing the street. Drivers... Please stay alert to pedestrians.

Enjoy the warmer weather and be safe.

Public Works Report

By Leonard Addison

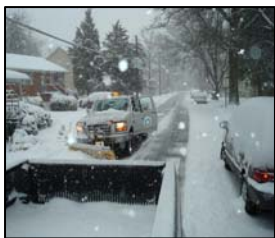
EARTH DAY is on April 22, 2009. The Department of Public Works will participate in this event by cleaning up the banks and hillsides of the northeast branch of the Anacostia River on April 18, 2009. This year our sister city from Guatemala will be sending representatives to assist in this event. All residents are welcomed and encouraged to participate. Please call Janice Euell in the Department of Public Works if you are interested in being a part of this worthwhile community event.

SPRING CLEANING –

This year, our spring-cleaning will occur Town wide on April 18th (same as Earth Day). Please have your yard waste and bulk trash items out on the curb by the evening of April 17th.



TRASH COLLECTION – will not be affected by the Easter Holiday. Regular trash will be collected on Monday after Easter as usual.



SNOW REMOVAL - On March 1st, the Town experienced its first major snow storm. The total accumulation was 5.5 inches with temperatures ranging from 38-19 degrees. The Department used 98 man-hours to assure that all

roadway surfaces were cleared for safe travel by the end of the storm.

ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS - The Town's contractor, VMP Construction has begun making roadway and pedestrian improvements within the public right-of-way on Taylor Road from Sheridan Street to Tuckerman Street. Please drive with caution while traveling in this area.

NOTARY PUBLIC - The Town has a Notary Public who is available, for your convenience, Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Please call Janice Euell at (301)864-1803 to schedule an appointment.

Rainbarrel Workshop

By Steve McKindley-Ward

Saturday morning May 16, 10-12:30pm, the Town of Riverdale Park will be sponsoring an environmental workshop in partnership with the M-NCPPC and the Anacostia Watershed Society: How to Install a Rainbarrel at your Home.

Most people don't realize that uncontrolled stormwater---from roads, parking lots, and roofs---is the force that leads to the ruin of suburban streams and urban rivers. One of the things we can do to help is capturing and using the water that rolls off our roofs and using it for lawn and garden. This workshop will teach you how to help the Anacostia and save money on your water bill.

Barry Chenkin of Aquabarrels will be our resource person. Michael Sevener, Riverdale citizen and forward-thinking engineer, will offer a perspective on the increasing importance of harvesting rainwater.

The first ten households to sign up to confirm attendance will get a free rainbarrel---otherwise an approximately \$100 value. So don't waste time contacting Steve McKindley-Ward at AWS: steve@anacostiaws.org; 301-699-6204.

Boy Scouts Troop 252

By Bob Killen

Since we last wrote, two of us (Scoutmaster Bob Killen and Committee Chair Eneida Martinez-Brown [MHB]) traveled to the Esau Huppeday Carolina Indian Seminar, a Boy Scout Order of the Arrow pow wow in Statesville, NC. We danced to the Drum Friday and Saturday nights, attended Native American craft classes Saturday, ate breakfast Sunday morning, and returned to Maryland in daylight.

We (the whole Troop!) swam in Greenbelt pool Saturday night, 7 February, camped in at St. Bernard's Scout Hut, and got up Sunday morning in time to attend Scout Sunday, the annual service honoring the birth month of Lord Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell, founder of Scouting.

Monday, February 16, was a day off School, and we took advantage of the luxury. We hiked in Little Bennett Regional Park, in Montgomery County (MD), in two groups. The senior Scouts (SPL Yornnan Amador,

ASPL Joel Sandoval, and Tenderfoot Scout Charleston Starling) trudged 9.5 miles around the periphery; others (Scribe Michael Delaney, MHB and Bob Killen) hiked (by compass and dead reckoning) thru the woods, located several trails, and wound up in the Camping Area. After exploring the Camping Area, we found our way back to the vehicles, where Committee Members Mike and Stephie Delaney were resting. We had a quiet ride home.

On 21 February, four of our Scouters (Bob Killen, MHB, Mike and Stephie Delaney) attended the NCAC University of Scouting, each winning a Master of Boy Scouting degree (we attend training to be better mentors for the Scouts).

Another two of us visited the Center for Advanced Transportation Technology Laboratory (CATT LAB) at the U. of M. on 04 March, and SPL Yorman Amador got his first taste of playing interactive computer games with "the Big Boys." He might have conceived his Eagle Project, assisting the CATT LAB by writing an interactive computer scenario to benefit them, using his special talents and background.

Finally, MHB and Bob Killen attended the Baltimore Area Council University of Scouting on 14 March, each winning a Bachelor of Cub Scouting degree. Bob's grandsons are Cubs.

Troop 252 is competing in the Prince George's District Orienteering competition 20-22 March, with our Court of Honor scheduled for 27 March. We are honoring three new Life Scouts and at one new Tenderfoot.

As the weather warms, we will get busier, boating, flying, tubing bicycling, hiking, and trekking. Come and join us - see if we can keep up. Contact Bob Killen (rfkille@yahoo.com or robert.killen@dhs.gov) or MHB (240 687-4621).

Michael Eppard Receives Boy Scouts Highest Rank—Eagle Scout

Michael Eppard of Riverdale, Maryland received the Boy Scouts highest Rank, Eagle Scout, on December 10, 2008. Michael is a Boy Scout of Holy Redeemer Church Troop 740 in College Park, MD.

Michael first started scouting when he was 6 years old in the 1st grade as a Cub Scout. After completion of the Cub Scouts, he then bridged into the Boy Scouts when he turned 11 years old and in the 5th grade.



Michael has worked hard since becoming a Boy Scout to complete the requirements of the Eagle Rank, some to include learning scout skills such as camping, hiking, outdoor cooking, safety and first aid, as well as scout spirit. Other requirements to become an Eagle Scout are holding leadership positions within the troop, some of which Michael held include Jr. Assistant Scoutmaster, Senior Patrol Leader, and Patrol Leader; and completing 21 Merit Badges, 12 of which are required Merit Badges and 9 other selective Merit Badges.

Michael also had to complete his Eagle Project, which was to build two information bulletin boards for *Greenbelt Park (U.S. National Park Service)*. The two bulletin boards will be placed within the park grounds and will be used by the Park Rangers to post information for all visitors of the park to reference and use. Michael obtained enough building material to make four bulletin boards for the Park Services.

The Riverdale Park Business Association

By Carol Pastel

The RPBA would like to extend an open invitation to residents, local business owners and associates to join them as they celebrate their sixth annual dinner at the Calvert House Inn on Wednesday, April 22nd at 5:30 P.M. they are pleased to announce that both Justin Ross, Chief Deputy Majority Whip for the Maryland House of Delegates and Eric Olson, Prince George's County Councilman have agreed to share the podium and address their audience about the economy. Attendees will have an excellent opportunity to hear what our local government has to report on both a state and county level. Tickets for the dinner and evening activities are currently on sale for \$45 per person. Please contact Audrey Bragg at 301-277-7393 or email her at abragg7393@aol.com at your earliest convenience for the purchase of tickets.

The following RPBA members would also like to provide everyone an update of events, opportunities and special offers:

- Geppetto catering is completely GREEN. They are practicing full recycling. For a modest charge, you can purchase utensils are edible! They are also offering a Value Meal Line along with their current fare. They welcome your inquiries and are more than delighted to help you plan your next dinner or party. Their telephone number is 301-927-8800.

- Gerald King, our very own local artist, is displaying his art work at the Riversdale Mansion during the months, April and May. If you haven't visited mansion, this will be the opportunity you don't want to miss.
- Christmas in April is scheduled for Saturday, April 25th. Residents of a home in Riverdale Park have been chosen as the recipients of this project. However, volunteers are needed to secure its success. If you can find time in your busy schedules to help plant a shrub or paint a fence, your availability for this worthy cause will be most appreciated. If you have any questions or would like to join their team of volunteers, please contact Bruce Wernek at bruce.wernek@mindspring.com.
- Apartments to Rent: 2 One Bedrooms and 2 Two Bedrooms (One is fully furnished) Addresses: 6201 and 6205 Natoli Place (across the street from Town Center and a short walk to the Marc Train Station) Anyone who may be interested, please contact Gregory Yorke at 410-991-1489 or Jeffrey Yorke at 301-502-1243. They also invite you visit their website at www.yorkerents.com.
- Crescent Cities in Riverdale Park has rental space available for health related entities. There are 2 offices currently available at a reasonable rate. Contact Betsy Godbey at 301-567-7076 for further information.

The next RPBA meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 8, 5:30 P.M. at Town Hall. There will be a presentation on the Cafritz Property by the law firm, Meyers, Rodbell and Rosenbaum. Please join them.

Christmas In April Volunteers Needed

By Bruce Wernek

Christmas in April provides a way to help eligible homeowners stay in homes that they cannot afford to repair. This is the second year Christmas in April will be helping a family in Riverdale. I am looking for volunteers to assist with painting and light gardening. If

you want to participate, meet me at 5004 Ravenswood Rd in Riverdale on April 25th at 8:30 am. Lunch will be provided. Give back to your community. Stop by and pick up a paint brush. Please contact me at



bruce.wernek@mindspring.com or (301) 779-6273 and let me know you are coming.

Volunteers must be at least age 14 to participate. Students age 14-17 must request a Parental Permission Form from Christmas in April, and cannot work at house site without a completed form. Student Groups must have a 4:1 ratio of students to adults. Groups should be no larger than 20 people. Additional volunteers from an organization can sign up as an additional group.

Coming Soon: Arts Fest 2!

By Marita A. Novicky

The Riverdale Park Arts Council (RPAC) is moving full steam ahead planning for ArtsFest 2 scheduled for Sunday, May 3, 2009 at Town Center next to the MARC station. As you may recall, the first ArtsFest held on May 4, 2008 was a major success with nearly one-thousand adults and children attending. This year promises to be even better. Here are some of the plans that are underway.



Melissa Avery and Don Lynch are planning the live entertainment and have scheduled some spectacular groups to perform at ArtsFest 2. These include: Rick Franklin (acoustic blues); Mariana Previti (three-time WAMA Jazz Vocalist, singing R&B); Honky Tonk Heart (Classic Country & Western Swing); Ira Gonzalez and award winning Saxophonist and Lyle Link (Brazilian bossa nova); Janine Wilson (current WAMA roots rock vocalist) and Max Evans (Contemporary Blues); and Eric Brooks (jazz standards). Sound will be provided by Jamie Platt who provides sound at Glen Echo. In addition, Melissa and Don are researching a theater group, Active Culture, and their performance called Sportaculture. Active Cultures Theatre presents Sportaculture-a festival of short plays about sports. These five slightly goofy plays by local sports fans Jennifer Nelson, Mary Watters, James Hesla, and others will show you athletes and fans as you never seen them before. This is an hour-long performance as that cele-

brates three things we love-sports, theatre, and the great area in which we live. Warning: this performance is only recommended for die-hard sports fans, people with silly bones, adults with children, adults who don't have children, serious athletes and anyone who has ever had a P.E. class.

The RPAC will be fund raising for the Thai Elephant Conservation Center (TECC) and RPAC by selling the paintings done by real elephant artists from the Thai Elephant Academic Art Academy in Lampang, Thailand, and other products created by their caretakers. TECC is funded by donations and is subsidized by the Thai government with strict rules on the handling of the animals. The elephant's caretakers (mahouts) and their families give up all worldly possessions and dedicate their lives to caring for these elephants on the preserves. The mahouts and families hand make greetings cards and stationery from recycled elephant dung. When you purchase these paper products from RPAC, you are helping these families with money for clothing, school supplies, repairs to their grass roofs, and other everyday items. Come see the Elephant Art Gallery and see the elephant art for sale. The gallery shows elephant art, the elephant's artistic development in the Art Academy. A CD demos the actual elephants painting on TECC grounds, the elephant's care by manhouts, and a real Elephant Orchestra playing music in the background. Emily and Del Fanning, who visited Lampang and the elephants and participated in mahouts training, will be showing the elephant art.



Marc Molino is working to enlist various artists who will participate in ArtsFest 2, and Jim Coleman and Pat Gladdings are working on the Gallery Display. In addition, once again their will be a Children's Pavilion which was wildly popular last year. This year we will promote art projects that can be undertaken by children ages 2-12. We need help in implementing the various art projects we will undertake with the children. So consider getting involved with your children.

Various committees are working on all the details to implement a successful ArtsFest 2. We would love to have you volunteer in any manner. Please contact Emily Manning at 301-864-5561 or by email at ourdollmom@aol.com to volunteer. We promise you an excellent time.

Earth Day 2009 on the Anacostia: Volunteers Needed!

By Steven Reynolds

The Anacostia Watershed Society, Seafarers Yacht Club, their partners and sponsors invite you to volunteer for the 15th Annual Anacostia River Cleanup and Celebration on Saturday, April 18, 2009. Litter cleanups start at 8:30AM at Kenilworth Park (D.C.), Bladensburg Waterfront Park (Prince George's County), Sligo Creek (Montgomery County), and more than 25 other sites throughout Maryland and the District of Columbia. Volunteers are needed! This year's volunteers are invited to attend our Earth Day Celebration and eco-fair at Bladensburg Waterfront Park in Maryland from 12:00PM to 2PM. Free lunch (with vegetarian option), entertainment and free event tee shirts available. Call **301-699-6204** or visit www.anacostiaws.org for more information

Town Staff Anniversaries!

[INSERT BLURB ABOUT MR. PRANGLEY] This



month also marks a great milestone for Colleen Ferguson, our Code Enforcement Manager. Colleen has been a dedicated member of the Town of Riverdale Park since March 17th,

1999. Colleen has proven herself as a valued member of the community. She has gone above and beyond many times over to assist those in our community that are in need. We would like to take a moment and thank Colleen for her dedication and service to our community over the past ten years.



CONFLICT RESOLUTION CENTERS

© 2009 ETHiK

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



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: Tuesday, April 14, 2009

Time: 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m., 2 hours per session for Eight (8) 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 8-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, Mr. Cory Beauford (202) 904-0029
William Wirt Middle School, Mr. Christian, Principal (301) 985-1720

Community Circles

Upcoming Events

Farmer's Market Opening

Riverdale Park Farmers Market will be open starting on April 9, 2009 between 3pm and 7pm. It will be ending on November 19, 2009. Be prepared for exciting new vendors, a new kid zone, model trains, and great live entertainment by members of the Archie Edwards Blues Heritage Society. Don't miss it.

Farmer's Market Musical Selection

- 4/9 Liz Lohr piano
Opening the Market this year, One of the Washington areas most sought after piano players and a Riverdale Park resident
- 4/16 Archie Edwards Blues Jambassadors
Riverdale Park's own. A chance to hear meet some of the fine performers from Archie Edward Blues Heritage Foundation.
- 4/23 Eleanor Ellis
Eleanor is the preeminent female acoustic blues guitarist of the Mid-Atlantic Region. Eleanor is a writer, archivist, film maker and the co founder of the DC Blues society.
- 4/30 Eric Brooks Jazz
Eric is an award winning Jazz Saxophonist and a resident puppeteer at Glen Echo Performing Arts Park

Spring/Summer Children's Clothing and Toy Sale

UNIVERSITY PARK CO-OP Spring/Summer CHILDREN'S CLOTHING/TOY SALE
Saturday, April 4, 10am to noon
Riverdale Presbyterian Church
6513 Queens Chapel Rd, University Park, MD, 20782

Quality "pre-washed and gently worn" clothing for children from tots to teens will be available. Featured will be seasonal items, spring/summer clothing, swimwear, books, toys, sports equipment, baby/layette equipment and maternity items. We will be accepting cash only.

For more information, please call 301-346-3327.

Thanks for supporting families by promoting our event.

RPBA

The next RPBA meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 8, 5:30 P.M. at Town Hall. There will be a presentation on the Cafritz Property by the law firm, Meyers, Rodbell and Rosenbaum. Please join them.

Cherry Blossom Festival

The National Cherry Blossom Festival® annually commemorates the 1912 gift of 3,000 cherry trees from Mayor Yukio Ozaki of Tokyo to the city of Washington, honoring the lasting friendship between the United States and Japan and celebrating the continued close relationship between our two cultures.

In a simple ceremony on March 27, 1912, First Lady Helen Herron Taft and Viscountess Chinda, wife of the Japanese ambassador, planted the first two trees from Japan on the north bank of the Tidal Basin in West Potomac Park. In 1915, the United States Government reciprocated with a gift of flowering dogwood trees to the people of Japan. A group of American school children reenacted the initial planting in 1927 and the first "festival" was held in 1935, sponsored by civic groups in the Nation's Capital.



First Lady Lady Bird Johnson accepted 3,800 more trees in 1965. In 1981, the cycle of giving came full circle. Japanese horticulturists were given cuttings from our trees to replace some cherry trees in Japan which had been destroyed in a flood.

The Festival was expanded to two weeks in 1994 to accommodate a diverse activity schedule during the trees' blooming. Today, more than a million people visit Washington, DC each year to admire the blossoming cherry trees and attend events that herald the beginning of spring in the Nation's Capital.

The Festival looks forward to celebrating the centennial anniversary of the gift of trees in 2012 and is planning spectacular events to mark this historic and special occasion (<http://nationalcherryblossomfestival.org>).

The Cherry Blossom Festival is happening right now between March 28 and April 12 in D.C. on the Tidal Basin. If you're looking for something to do as we ease into spring, head on down and take part in the free events!

Earth Day

Responding to widespread environmental degradation, Gaylord Nelson, a United States Senator from Wisconsin, called for an environmental teach-in, or Earth Day, to be held on April 22, 1970. Over 20 million people participated that year, and Earth Day is now observed each year on April 22 by more than 500 million people and national governments in 175 countries.

Senator Nelson, an environmental activist, took a leading role in organizing the celebration, hoping to demonstrate popular political support for an environmental agenda.

Earth Day proved popular in the United States and around the world. The first Earth Day had participants and celebrants in two thousand colleges and universities, roughly ten thousand primary and



secondary schools, and hundreds of communities across the United States. More importantly, it "brought 20 million Americans out into the spring sunshine for peaceful demonstrations in favor of environmental reform."

Senator Nelson stated that Earth Day "worked" because of the spontaneous response at the grassroots level. Twenty-million demonstrators and thousands of schools and local communities participated. He directly credited the first Earth Day with persuading U.S. politicians that environmental legislation had a substantial, lasting constituency. Many important laws were passed by the Congress in the wake of the 1970 Earth Day, including the Clean Air Act and the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

It is now observed in 175 countries, and coordinated by the nonprofit Earth Day Network, according to whom Earth Day is now "the largest secular holiday in the world, celebrated by more than a half billion people every year." Environmental groups have sought to make Earth Day into a day of action which changes human behavior and provokes policy changes.

Many cities extend the Earth Day celebration to be an entire week, usually starting on April 16, and ending on Earth Day, April 22.

People can do their part in making a difference by:

1. Encouraging your family to recycle on a regular basis is a good way to help the Earth!
2. Switching to energy-efficient lightbulbs in your house helps to reduce the effects of global warming.
3. Every glass bottle you recycle saves enough energy to run a TV for an hour and a half, while recycling an aluminum can saves enough energy to run your TV for three hours!
4. Turn out the lights when you leave a room - unless someone's still in there!
5. Use re-useable containers for you school lunches and snacks

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earth_Day)

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 301-277-9323 for meeting site.