



The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

July – August 2006

Volume 35, Issue 6

FY Budget Approved	Page 1
On line Survey	Page 1
Council Actions	Page 2
Code Corner	Page 2
Econ Development	Page 3
Proposed Resolutions	Page 4
Resolutions Cont'd	Page 5
Top Cop	Page 6
Police Report	Page 6
All About Fences	Page 7
Public Work's	Page 8
Our Town	Page 9
Community Circles	Page 10
Espanol	Pages 1 and 3
Calendar	Page 11-12
Farmer's Market	Insert

FY 06—07 Budget Approved

The FY 06-07 Budget was approved by the Riverdale Park Town Council on Monday, June 19, 2006. Expenditures were increased by 0.56% or \$20,632.11 from the Mayor Vernon Archer's original proposed budget. The following items accounted for the increase: General Government increased by \$3,090.68 for salaries, benefits, newsletter, and legal counsel; the Police Department increased by \$5,270.29 for salaries and benefits; and, the Public Works Department increased by \$12,271.14 for parks maintenance, tree removal, building maintenance, and electricity for Street lights.

Tax rates changed slightly because the interest rates increased from the time the proposal was made until the time the council could act. The rate changed from 63.73 to 64.1 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation by the State of Maryland.

Editor's note: To illustrate an example of what your taxes will be; if your home is assessed at \$100,000, you will be assessed \$641.00 in taxes for Fiscal Year 07.

Your Input Is Needed on the Town Center!

The Town of Riverdale Park is interested in your thoughts about how to strengthen our town center, make it a livelier place, and ensure that it meets the community's shopping needs. The Riverdale Park Town Center includes Route 1 and the business space at the MARC train station and Queensbury Road.

We invite you to participate in a brief online survey to share your thoughts and ideas. The survey is available at this address:

<http://www.cluegroup.com/riverdalepark.htm>. The survey is completely anonymous and should take less than five minutes to complete. Please feel free to pass the survey website address along to others whom you think might be interested in participating, as well – friends, family, neighbors, and coworkers. The survey will be available online until July 21, 2006.

If you are not able to access the web, but would still like to participate, surveys are available at the Town Hall and can be obtained in either English or Spanish.

¡Necesitamos su opinión!

La ciudad de Riverdale Park esta interesado en su opinión en como mejorar el centro de la ciudad, hacerlo un lugar más vivo y asegurar que satisfaga las necesidades de la comunidad. El centro de la ciudad de Riverdale Park incluye la ruta 1 y los negocios en la estación MARC.

Le invitamos a participar en nuestra encuesta vía Internet para que comparta su opinión e ideas. La encuesta esta disponible en la siguiente dirección electrónica:

<http://www.cluegroup.com/riverdalepark.htm>. Esta encuesta es completamente anónima y le tomara cinco minutos en completarla. Por favor siéntase libre de pasar esta encuesta a otras personas que usted piense que estén interesadas en participar y también a sus familiares, amigos, vecinos, y compañeros de trabajo. La encuesta estará accesible hasta el 21 de julio del 2006 vía Internet.

Si no puede acceder la pagina del Internet, pero le gustaría participar, la encuesta esta disponible in la municipalidad y la puede obtener en ingles o español.

To:	PRSR STD U.S. Postage Paid Hyattsville, MD Permit No. 2090
	Postal Customer Riverdale Park, Md 20737

Council Actions

By Waverly Pollitt

June 5, 2006 Legislative Meeting

1. **Approved** minutes for Legislative meeting on May 5, 2006.
2. **Approved** minutes for Special Legislative meeting on May 30, 2006.
3. **Approved** Award for Auditing services-**Lindsey & Associates**.
4. **Approved** Award for Accounting & Bookkeeping services – **CBM**.
5. **Approved** Award for contracting street improvement for 48th Ave between Riverdale Road and Rittenhouse Street. –**VMP**.
6. **Approved** Waiver for joint street improvement program with Hyattsville for 6100 & 6200 Blks 43rd Street, 4300 and 4400 blocks Queensbury Road from Baltimore Ave.
7. **Denied** 6' ft vinyl fencing for Mr. Brian Sooklal of 5007 Riverdale Road.
8. **Approved** Action to set real Property tax rate FY 06- 07.
9. **Approved** Action to set special tax rate FY 06-07.
10. **Approved** Action to set Tangible personal tax rate FY 06-07.
11. **Approved** Action to set Operating tax rate FY 06-07.

June 19, 2006 Special Legislative Meeting

1. **Approved** action to adopt FY 06/07 Operating & Capital budget.
2. **Approved** reconciliation FY 05/06 budget.
3. **Approved** authorization for LaSalle Bank to finance street improvement program, fleet Acquisition for the Police Department, Public works, General government, and building improvements.
4. **Approved** action to recertify new tax rate for Prince. George's County and the State of Maryland. Special Levy rate rounded to **0.081** for a total tax rate of **0.641**.
5. **Approved Hyattsville / Town of Riverdale Park Street Rehabilitation Agreement**.

Code Corner

By Colleen Ferguson

Did you know: Trash, Garbage, Yard Waste, Metals and other items placed out for collection can not be placed at the curb before sundown of the day prior to the regularly scheduled day of collection. There is No Scheduled trash collection on Weekends- Therefore there should not be any Trash, Garbage, Yard Waste, Metals or other items placed out on Friday Evening and /or Saturday Evening.* This violation carries a \$50.00 fine. If you are unsure of your regularly scheduled collection day, please call 301-864-1803. Should you have any questions, comments, or complaints, please call the Code Enforcement Department: 301-927-6381, 240-508-8460.

Let's work together for a beautiful and clean Riverdale Park!

*Town Code 36-8

Town of Riverdale Park

www.ci.riverdale-park.md.us

Town Hall

5008 Queensbury Road
Riverdale Park, MD 20737
301-927-6381

RiverdaleParkMD@comcast.net

Mayor Vernon Archer
240-832-2257

varcher@gmail.com

Council Members

Ward 1 Rob Oppenheim 301-779-1745
oppenheim@email.com

Ward 2 Mary Donaldson 301-927-2954
msmarydon@yahoo.com

Ward 3 Novella Sargusingh 301-927-8422
msnovella19@aol.com

Ward 4 Lawrence Taylor 301-474-6868
taylor.lawrence@gmail.com

Ward 5 Gerard Kiernan 301-277-4554
gerardkiernan@earthlink.net

Ward 6 Kenneth Webb 301-523-6202
webbward6@hotmail.com

Patrick J. Prangle, Town Administrator
riverdaleparkmd@comcast.net

Dannielle Glaros, Deputy Administrator
dgriverdalepark@comcast.net

Public Works 301-864-1803

Position Open

Code Enforcement 301-209-1505
CodeRiverdalePk@comcast.net

Colleen M. Ferguson

Police Department 301-927-4343
RivPD@comcast.net

E. Thomas Parker, Chief

Fire Department Emergency 911
Information 301-927-0356

info@riverdalevfd.com

www.riverdalevfd.com

Vincent Harrison, Chief

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.

Rincón de Código

Por Colleen Ferguson

Sabía usted que: Basura, desecho de yarda, metales y otros artículos puesto para la colección de basura no pueden ser puestos en la acera el día anterior de la colecta antes de la puesta del sol. No se recoge basura los fines de semana por lo tanto no debe haber basura, desecho de yarda, metales y otros artículos puestos afuera el día viernes o sábado. Esta es una violación de código y la fianza es de \$50. Si no esta seguro/a de los días de colección de basura por favor llamar al: 301-864-1803. Cualquier otra pregunta, comentarios, o quejas por favor llame Departamento de código legal al: 301-927-6381 o 240-508-8460.

Trabajemos juntos para mantener a la ciudad de Riverdale Park limpia y bella.

*Town Code 36-8

Economic Development Update

Here is a quick update on some items happening in Riverdale Park:

The Patriot Group will make a presentation to Riverdale Park's Town Council Legislative meeting on July 3, 2006 at 8:00 p.m. The Patriot Group will be asking for general comments from the Town Council about their proposed project plans for 144 unit condominiums at Dumm's Corner. Plans for the 144 unit condominium project are available for review at the municipal building. The proposed project location is on Lafayette Street and would span the areas currently housing the credit union, Dumm's corner market and sub shop, and the adjacent boarding house and parking lot.

A Public Hearing will be held on July 10, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall regarding the Potomac Development Corporation/Wachovia Bank proposal concerning parking at Beale Circle Parking. The Town Council is looking at how to assist businesses along Route 1 by enhancing parking behind their buildings.

The University of Maryland will be officially selling the vacant Aircoup building (also known as the old NOAA building) to KSI for redevelopment at the end of July. KSI is proposing 490 condominium units at this location and is planning on making the road between River Tech Court and Lafayette "official." Fifty of the proposed condominium units would be retained by the University of Maryland to recruit the best and brightest Ph.D. and graduate students from around the world. More details on this project will be known once the sale is complete and KSI presents its site plans.

Are you an artist living in Riverdale Park? Are you interested in networking with other town artists? If so, please contact Dannielle Glaros, Deputy Town Administrator by email or phone. For more details on these projects or any other economic development questions, contact Dannielle Glaros by email: dgriverdalepark@comcast.net or call her at 301-927-6381. Your input is welcome.

Local Business Corner

By Dannielle Glaros

Pollo Fiesta, 301-277-0298,
6408 Kenilworth Avenue (north of Route 410)
Open Monday-Sunday; 11:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Yummm! Pollo Fiesta opened several months ago, but I must admit this was my first visit and I'm planning on going back tonight for dinner. The restaurant is known for their rotisserie chicken Peruvian style, but they also serve quesadillas, tacos, burritos, fajitas, and many other specialties. Their side order of fried plantains is also worth ordering. It was delicious ☺ Eat-in and carry out available. **Specials:** Kids under 10 eat free M-F after 5pm, if you dine-in.

There are tons of great local businesses in our community. If you had a great experience at a business in Riverdale Park, please submit a short write-up for the Local Business Corner to the Crier Editor.

Town Hires Deputy Administrator

Town Administrator, Patrick Prangley, announced that Dannielle M. Glaros has been hired as Riverdale Park's Deputy Town Administrator. Dannielle began working June 19, 2006 at the Town Offices. She is a graduate of Bucknell University with a double degree in Economics and Geography. She received her Masters in Public Policy from the University of Maryland's School of Public Affairs at College Park.. Dannielle previously worked for Smart Growth America, a national non-profit organization that works with communities across the country to manage their growth and encourage revitalization. She also worked with the State of Maryland Governor's Office of Smart Growth as Deputy Chief of Staff.

As Riverdale Park's Deputy Town Administrator, Dannielle is working on economic development, communications, and coordinating several administrative functions. Dannielle, her husband Steve, and daughter Lilly live in Riverdale Park.

Proposed Ordinance Resolutions

The Town Council is considering the following five proposed ordinance resolutions.

Resolution 2006-OR-03

Whereas, the Annotated Code of Maryland Section 21-1010 which defines the parking of commercial vehicles in residential areas of Prince George's county outside of the boundaries of municipal corporations uses a different definition of a non-commercial vehicle,

Therefore, be it resolved to amend Section 64-12 of the Code of Riverdale Park as follows: (Text to be deleted is struck-through, new text is in italics)

§ 64-12. Limitations on parking or standing of certain vehicles on streets or highways.

It shall be unlawful to park or leave standing on the streets, highways, and public spaces of the town any truck, truck-tractor, trailer or semi tractor-trailer, including but not limited to travel trailers, camping trailers, tractor trailers, or any combination of motor vehicles with one (1) or more vehicles propelled or pushed as a unit, mobile homes, special mobile equipment including but not limited to tractors, construction or maintenance machinery, ditch-digging apparatus and concrete mixers, buses and school buses, and boat trailers except that exception may be made for trucks parked or left standing temporarily in the transaction of some business enterprise by permission of the Mayor and Council for good cause shown. ~~This law shall not apply to those lightweight pickup or panel body trucks commonly described as having one-half ton to one-ton capacities and which are not used in the furtherance of commercial enterprise. This section shall not apply to any vehicle that is of a type capable of being registered under Maryland law as a Class A (passenger) vehicle or as a Class E (truck) and the manufacturer's rated capacity is 3/4 ton or less and the maximum gross vehicle weight is 7,000 pounds or less.~~

Resolution 2006-OR-04

Whereas, fences are regularly constructed in the Town without first obtaining a building permit from the Town,

Therefore, the fee for an "ex post facto" (i.e., after the fact) fence building permit should be increased to \$100 from the regular fee by amending Section 15-9, Permit Fees, of the Code of Riverdale Park by adding the following sentence at the end of the section.

When a fence has been constructed before the issuance of the appropriate Town building permit, the fee shall be \$100.

Resolution 2006-OR-05

Whereas, Chapter 15 of the Code of Riverdale Park restricts certain activities to the Building Inspector,

Therefore, the following changes are proposed to expand the Town's ability to enforce the Code (new text is in Italics; deleted text is struck-through)

§ 15-9. Permit fees.

The fees for building permits to be issued by the Town ~~Building Inspector~~ *Administrator* shall be three-quarters (3/4) of those prescribed for a similar permit under the Building Code of Prince George's County, as amended. The fee for any permit shall not be less than twenty five (\$25) dollars.

§ 15-12. Violations; procedures.

The Town Building Inspector, *or Code Enforcement Officer*, shall serve a notice of violation or order on the person responsible for the erection, construction, alternation, extension, repair, use, or occupancy of a building or structure in violation of the provisions of this chapter, or in violation of a detailed statement or plan approved thereunder, or in violation of a permit issued under this chapter, and such order shall direct the discontinuance of the illegal action or condition and the abatement of the violation. The Town Building Inspector, *or Code Enforcement Officer*, shall forward a copy of such notice to the Mayor and Council.

§ 15-14. Prosecutions

Whenever directed by the Mayor and Council, the Town Building Inspector, *or Code Enforcement Officer*, shall cause the institution of appropriate proceedings at law or in equity to restrain, correct, or abate any violation of this chapter, or to require the removal or termination of the unlawful use of the building or structure in violation of the provisions of this chapter or of the order or direction made pursuant thereto.

Resolution 2006-OR-06

Whereas, several employees positions in the Classified service are recommended to be Exempt or

Professional under the definitions of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA),

Therefore, the following changes are proposed to the Code of Riverdale Park (new text is in italics)

§ 2-4. Establishment of civil service departments and classified service positions.

Pursuant to the authority vested in the town under Articles III and VII of the Charter, the following departments in the civil service of the town are established.

- (a) Town Office;
- (b) Public Works Department; and
- (c) Police Department.

Subject to the provisions of § 705 of the Charter and § 2-6 of this chapter, the employees of these departments and any other departments or employee positions which may be hereafter created are members of the classified civil service of the town and subject to the merit systems that are a part of the classified civil service of the town.

The following positions are considered to be professional/exempt under the definitions of federal law: in the Town Office, the Code Enforcement Supervisor/ Manager and the Deputy/ Assistant Town Administrator; in the Police Department, the ranks of Captain and above; in Public Works, the Deputy/Assistant Public Works Director.

Resolution 2006-OR-07

Whereas, several questions have been raised about the clarity of the Chapter 66, Walls, Fences, and Hedges,

Therefore the following changes are proposed (added language is in italics, deleted language is struck-through)

§ 66-1. Height of walls and fences.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to erect any wall or fence, or combination thereof, in excess of three and one-half (3 •) feet in height, measured from the surface of the finished grade, around or on any property within the town without first obtaining a permit from the Mayor and Council.

(b) A permit may be granted for any deviation from such height as a special exception by the Mayor and Council if the fence is located to the rear of the *front building line or the front wall of the structure whichever is farther from the front lot line,*

or if it is an ornamental iron fence or such that would enhance the beauty of the property. *The rear yard is defined as the area between the rear lot line and the rear building line or the rear wall of the structure whichever is farther from the rear lot line.* The Mayor and Council may require as a condition of granting a special exception that any such proposed fence having a more finished face on one side be so erected that the more finished face is outward when viewed from the surrounding properties.

§ 66-1.1 Prohibited Fences.

(c) Front Yard Fences. Except as otherwise provided, all metal fences are prohibited between the front building line of *the property or the front wall of the structure whichever is farther from the front lot line* and other adjacent property, dwelling, publicly dedicated street, private street or parking area.

(e) Permitted ~~From~~ Front Yard Fences. Fences that otherwise meet all design and construction specifications of the building codes of the Town of Riverdale Park and Prince George's County, Maryland, as well as the Ordinance Code of the Town of Riverdale Park shall be permitted as front yard fences so long as they are not constructed of chain-link.

(f) Corner Lots- Special Rule of Construction. For any property deemed to be corner lot under this section, in addition to other proscriptions of the section, no chain-link fence may be erected along the side yard that abuts a public right of way. *No side fence abutting the public right of way may extend forward of the front building line or the front wall of the structure, whichever is farther from the front lot line.*

Police Department To Conduct Security Surveys

In an effort to better protect residents and business owners, the Riverdale Park Police Department will send an officer to your home or business to conduct a security survey. The officer will then provide you a written recommendation for any necessary improvements.

To schedule an appointment please contact Anna Wendland at the Riverdale Park Police Department at (301) 209-1561.

Officer Garcia Named Top Cop

By Gerard F. Kiernan

Riverdale Park Officer to be Municipal Police Officer of the Year



PFC Garcia will receive his recognition from the Governor and Lieutenant Governor during the MML-PEA Breakfast meeting on June 27 in Ocean City. The MML-PEA breakfast and annual award ceremony are one of the activities at the MML Annual Conference.



Congratulations to PFC German Garcia for being chosen as the Maryland Municipal League- Police Executives Association (MML-PEA) "Top Cop" for 2006. He was chosen from a pool of candidates nominated by law enforcement agencies throughout Maryland.

When you see PFC Garcia out on patrol, congratulate him and thank him for his continued service to the Town.

PFC Garcia is noted for ingenuity in capturing the person who had been breaking into cars, especially in Ward 2, and he was responsible for the arrest of a person who was suspected of multiple bank robberies in the metropolitan area.

Riverdale Park Crime Report--May 2006

Ward	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Stln Veh
1	0	0	0	0	2	1
2	0	0	0	1	1	2
3	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	0	0	3	1	1	2
5	0	0	0	0	0	2
6	0	0	1	3	1	3
Total	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>4**</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>4*</i>	<i>10</i>

** citizen
* 2 residential, 2 commercial

Officer Activity

Activity	Total
Calls For Service	918
Routine Patrols	266
Traffic Stops	311*
Reported Traffic Accidents	55**
Parking Citations	63
Subjects Arrested	21

* 266 Traffic Citations,
** 39 Written Accidents

All About Fences

By Rob Oppenheim

Council Considers New Fence Rules

Ward 5 Councilmember Gerard Kiernan has submitted several excellent clarifications to our town code on fences. The council also is discussing the following changes to reduce red tape, make the code more consistent with county rules, and bring our code closer to actual practice:

1. Proposed: front yard fences (still no chain link) may be as high as 4 feet. A look around town shows most existing picket fences are 48 inches high.
2. Proposed: a town permit will not be needed for any fully conforming fence up to 48 inches tall. This matches the county regulations and will reduce time spent processing permits.
3. Proposed: six-foot privacy fences may be placed in the rear yard without special council permission (a building permit would still be required).
4. Proposed: if a fence is erected before a required permit is obtained, the fee will increase from \$25 to \$100.

NOTE: the above proposals are only under discussion and are *not* current code. Except for #4, they have not been officially introduced. You can contribute your thoughts by e-mail to Town Talk www.tinyurl.com/dn6tj, by contacting your council representative, or by attending a council meeting.

Thinking About a New Fence?

Remember to review the town's limitations on fence height and materials and to get all the needed permits.

If you are replacing an existing fence **exactly**, then no permit is needed, but under current town code **any** change to the fence requires a town permit. You will need a permit to change the material, height, or placement of the fence. Two permits may be required, one from the county and one from Riverdale Park. If the fence is 48 inches or shorter, no county permit is needed, but under current town code, you will need a town permit. In addition, any variation from the code will require council approval.

The Riverdale Park Code is 184 pages long; the section on fences is just 2 pages. It can be read online at <http://www.ci.riverdale-park.md.us/AboutRiverdalePark/LawsOfTown/Code.pdf> Chapter 66 deals with fences; search for 6601. Here is a summary:

- The maximum height is 42 inches (this could change to 48 inches). The council can approve taller fences.
- Chain link is prohibited in front yards, as are most metal fences such as chicken wire and barbed wire. Certain metal fences, such as ornamental iron, are permitted.

- The fence may not obstruct visibility at intersections.

Simple Steps To Follow

1. Start with a basic drawing of what you want. You can draw it yourself, as long as it shows the size of your lot and the location of the proposed fence. An accurate survey plat is **not** required.

2. If you aren't doing it yourself, discuss the project with a fence company. Ask if the contractor will get the permits for you. Ask for a sales brochure with an illustration of the fence you plan to erect.

3. If you are not sure the fence will conform to the town's code, you can discuss it with Code Enforcement. You must ask for council approval for a nonconforming fence. You can do this either before or after you apply for permits, but it is best to seek council approval in advance.

- 3.1. The council likes to know that your immediate neighbors don't object to the proposed variation, so it is good to ask them to sign a statement to that effect.
 - 3.2. It is helpful to have a picture or drawing of the fence (a sales brochure will do). It's easier to get approval for an attractive fence.
 - 3.3. The council might want to look at the property, so call your council member to make a request at least a week ahead of the legislative meeting. You can also contact Code Enforcement.
 - 3.4. It is not required, but it helps if you attend the council meeting so you can answer questions.
4. If the fence is over 48 inches tall, you'll need a county permit. The process takes about an hour and typically costs \$35, although the fees vary by the job. You will need a rough drawing of your lot that shows its dimensions and the fence location (a survey plat is **not** required). You will need a list of the materials used (wood, vinyl, wrought iron). You can apply for the county permit at the county's Permits Office, 9400 Peppercorn Place, Largo; call 301-883-5784 for more information.

5. After you get a county permit, bring the same paperwork to the town office; the typical fee is \$25. Town staff will review the application, and if the fence conforms to code, they usually will issue the permit within a business day. You or your fence company can apply at the town office at 5008 Queensbury Road; call 301-927-6381 for more information.

6. If the fence is nonconforming and has not already been approved by the council, the town staff will give the paperwork to the council, and the application will be reviewed at the next legislative session (the first Monday of each month, 8 p.m., at Town Hall). If the council

approves your request, the permit will be issued and you may start the project.

Steve Durovic

By Rob Oppenheim

Stevan W. Durovic, a former Riverdale Park resident and Ward 1 council representative, died at his home in College Park on May 26, 2006. He was 59. Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Steve came to this country when he was three. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, Steve served four consecutive council terms. Perhaps his most notable accomplishment—and there were many—was the complete revision of the town's charter and code. He worked tirelessly for the betterment of Riverdale Park.

Steve had a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center, and he worked as a trial attorney for the U.S. Department of Labor from 1975 until 2005. He wrote most of the regulations for the ERISA retirement law and tried numerous cases for the Department's Planned Benefits and Security Division. He was also a well-known audiophile and sports nut. When the Wizards were the Bullets and they played at the Capital Centre, Steve had season tickets behind the bench.

I was lucky enough to get to know Steve when I worked on the *Town Crier* in the early 1990s. He was as well-known for his incisive reasoning as he was for his wry sense of humor. At his wake, as I stood quietly by his casket, I noticed something unusual—a tag and chain about his neck. Steve's sister noticed me staring at it. She sighed softly and with a faint smile explained, "Oh that Steve—he requested that he be buried with his government ID tag." I had to smile too. It was pure Durovic. So I nodded to him, turned, and left the funeral home to attend a council meeting. Steve would have approved. Rest in peace Steve, you will be missed.

Area Residents Volunteer For Clean Up Effort

By Duane Cooper

On Saturday morning, June 3, 2006 more than 15 volunteers from Riverdale Park's Madison Hill community joined residents throughout Prince George's County in the Area-wide Community Clean-up Day. Volunteers cleared trash from the community's common areas. The residents picked up trash along both sides of Good Luck Road, in and near the community. They also cleared the sidewalk leading up to Madison Hill of excessive growth, removing weeds one to two feet high out of the walkways along Good Luck Road. Volunteers used their own shovels, rakes, brooms, blowers, and weed whackers for the volunteer effort.

The County's Clean-Up Day was an activity of the Livable Communities Initiative, which provided "Gorgeous Prince George's" caps and t-shirts, as well as

safety vests and supplies to facilitate trash pick-up and collection.

Public Works Report

By Debbie Murphy

Holiday Schedule: Public Works is closed for Independence Day on July 4, 2006. Regular trash and yard waste pickup for Area A will be on Monday, July 3, 2006. Regular trash and yard waste pickup for Area B will be on Wednesday, July 5, 2006.

Free Mulch. There is free untreated mulch available to residents of Riverdale Park. The mulch pile is located at the end of Queensbury Rd next to Public Works. Help yourself to as much as you can use.

Spring Clean-up was a great success. On Spring Clean-up Day, Public Works removed 16 truck loads of trash totaling 60.98 tons for a savings to the Town of \$3,294.20. This did not include the 2.74 tons of metal put out on this day also. Public Works also removed 2.86 tons of yard waste, 0.68 tons of paper, and another 10.57 tons of trash that week. In this four-day work week Public Works picked up and removed 77.83 tons.

Keep our Town Beautiful. Please sweep or remove grass clippings and weeds from the sidewalk and curb/gutter when mowing lawns or trimming weeds near the sidewalk or streets. It is against the Town Code to cause any material of any kind to be scattered, dropped, etc. upon any street, alley, sidewalk, gutter, roadway or public place within the town. This allows easy flow of water along the gutters and keeps our town beautiful.

Recycle-Recycle-Recycle

The county charges a fee for your recycling whether you recycle or not. So please join the program. The more the residents get out of the waste stream and into recycling, the more money residents save.

Recycling buckets

Recycling bucket replacements can be obtained **free** from Prince George's County Office of Recycling at 301-952-7630.

Of Note – Gardens at Riversdale

If you haven't been by Riversdale lately, stop by and see the colonial vegetable gardens. A broad variety of vegetables are growing to the left of the front of the mansion on the front lawns. Cabbages, zucchinis, squash, and many other luscious looking vegetables are growing beautifully. Planted in colonial style, the vegetables are well maintained and appealing giving Riversdale a lived-in look.

The corn is nearly knee high, and certainly will be by the 4th of July! Stop by and see them.

OUR TOWN--RIVERDALE PARK SALUTES DORIS PULLMAN

By Marita Novicky

How do you thank someone who has done so much for so many people? On June 23, 2006, neighbors, current and past Town Officials, Town Employees, and friends gathered to pay tribute and thank Doris Pullman for her many long years of volunteer services to Riverdale Park. Doris recently built a home on the Eastern Shore and is moving to enjoy her retirement.

Doris is one of those unique individuals that come along once in a lifetime. She loves to volunteer! And, throughout her lifetime she has spent countless hours doing just that--volunteering thousands of hours to numerous events and people that have had the honor of crossing paths with her. Doris lived in Riverdale Park for 47 years raising her children here. Her husband Robert Pullman died not too long ago, and with her children grown, married, and on their own, Doris decided it was time to find a new place to ply her special gifts. So, she began looking toward the Eastern Shore and a quieter setting. She recently told me that her new community is like Riverdale Park was 30 years ago--a small town, quiet, and friendly where everyone knows everyone.

We didn't want Doris to leave without knowing how much we appreciate her years of service and commitment to Riverdale Park and all that she has done for us. So, we threw a surprise Tea and Dessert with Doris—An Evening To Celebrate Doris Pullman's Many Contributions to Riverdale Park. Over the years, Doris has volunteered for numerous Town activities—most notably for the Riversdale Historical Society, Hyattsville Middle School, and the Riverdale Park Recreation Board. There are numerous other volunteer activities with her church and within the community. Her contributions are too many to elaborate here. Be sure though, if there was an organization or an individual in need, Doris was there to help.

What is unique about Doris is that she always volunteers out of her love of people, never for self glory or promotion. She steadfastly remained the silent partner behind the scenes making it all happen. Whether it is Riverdale Park's Christmas parties, the Eastern Egg rolls, of Riverdale Day, Doris was there helping to make it happen.

Several dozen people met at Town Hall to pay tribute to her. They included: Mayor Vernon Archer; past Mayors Guy Tiberio and Mike Herman; Council Member Mary Donaldson; former Council Member Tracey Toscano; and David Lingua who hosted the program and served with Doris on the Recreation Board for several years.

Long time friend and Council Member Mary Donaldson remembered Doris and the many years of volunteer work she did at Riverdale Elementary School, and when she agreed to be Chair of the Town's Recreation Board. "She was responsible for the Town's Christmas and Halloween Children's Programs, and Riverdale Day. As member of Riversdale Historical Society, she worked at the gift shop and demonstrated hearth-cooking on Sundays in the colonial kitchen at Riversdale. Doris stuffed a million goody bags for children over the years. She chaired the Recreation Board planning meetings, planned, and prepared for events. The Town owes her a great deal of gratitude for all's she's done." Mary summed it all up by adding, "if she [Doris] had a dime for each goody bag she stuffed, she'd be a millionaire. She brought many hours of joy to the children—the happiness and joy she brought to the children of Riverdale Park was more than money could buy."

Mayor Vernon Archer thanked Doris for her exemplary service and said that Doris served as a model of "a good citizen". Guy Tiberio, former Riverdale Park Mayor and now Town Administrator in Edmonston, remembered the early years when he worked with Robert Pullman. He reminisced about all the years Doris had served the Town.

Former Council Member Tracey Toscano shared the profound friendship Doris and she developed and how Doris became a model of selflessness and integrity. Town Administrator Patrick Prangley spoke of Doris's many contributions to Riverdale Park and noted that he had served for many years with several different mayors, and Doris was always there in the background doing good for the people of Riverdale Park. He presented Doris with a remembrance from well wishers—a framed print of Riversdale by artist Gerry King. Prangley also presented Doris with a plaque from Town officials and the administrator.

Honored guests at the event included Doris's mother, Mildred "Riz" Graves, her daughter Susan Brock, Susan's son Gary, and friend Joan Beaven. Neighbors and friends brought homemade desserts to share, and the favorite beverage was Ice Tea—Doris is affectionately known as the Tea Lady. I guess the best way we can thank you Doris is to emulate your spirit in volunteering for Town events. Thank you Doris for giving us an exemplary model to follow.

Our Town is a collection of notes and stories about our Town—Riverdale Park and its residents. If you have a story you would like featured, contact Marita at novickym@hotmail.com

Community Circles

What to Watch For

Sunday, **July 9, 2006, 1:00 p.m., Riversdale.** An Afternoon of Mystery. Local mystery book writers read from their works; books will be available for purchase and signing. \$5.00 fee also includes house tour and refreshments.

Monday, **July 3 and August 7, 2006, 8:00 p.m.,** Legislative Session, Town Hall.

Monday, **July 10, 2006, 7:30 p.m.,** Public Hearing on Potomac Development Corporation/Wachovia Bank proposal concerning Beale Circle, Town Hall.

Monday, **July 10 and August 14, 2006, 7:30 p.m.** Recreation Board meets, Town Hall.

Monday, **July 31 and August 28, 2006, 8:00 p.m.,** Work Session, Town Hall.

Tuesday, **July 4, 2006,** Independence Day, Town Offices and Public Works closed.

Tuesday, **July 11 and August 8, 2006, 7:30 p.m.,** Madison Hill Association.

Tuesday, **August 1, 2006, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.,** National Night Out Against Crime

Wednesday, **July 5 and August 2, 2006, 7:30 p.m.,** Mixed-Use Town Center (M-UTC) meeting, Town Hall.

Wednesday, **July 19 and August 23, 2006, 7:00 p.m.,** free Concert on the Portico at Riversdale

Thursday, **July 6, 13, 20, and 27, and August 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31, 2006, 3:00 – 7:00 p.m.,** Farmer's Market, Town Center

Saturday, **August 12, 2006, 12:00 noon – 4:00 p.m.,** Battle of Bladensburg Reenactment, grounds at Riversdale.

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.

Riverdale Park Business Association, call Audrey Bragg, 301-277-7393 for meeting date and site.

CIVIC COMMITTEES

Recreation Board -- Volunteers needed. For information, call David Lingua, (301) 779-3849.

Madison Hill Homeowners Association-- For information, call (301) 513-9188 or email MadisonHillHOA@aol.com

Lion's Club – Contact Guy Tiberio, 301-864-3545.

Riverdale Park Farmer's Market--Contact Rebecca Feldberg at (301) 864-2779, or the Riverdale Park Town Offices, (301) 927-6381. The Farmer's Market meets every Thursday afternoon at Town Center through November 16, 2006.

Riverdale Park Tree Committee--Contact Rebecca Feldberg at Rebecca.feldberg@gmail.com

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

Riverdale Park Traffic Study Committee – Contact Gerry Kiernan (301) 277-4554.

Upcoming Events

Riverdale Park Day, Saturday, October 6, 2006, 12:00 noon – 5:00 p.m. Riversdale.

Ward 2 Block Party, Saturday, September 9, 2006, 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. Contact Dannielle Glaros, 301-779-5915.

S & J's Restaurant

Daily lunch and dinner specials - Eat in/Carry Out

Breakfast special - Monday – Friday \$2.95

Monday - Tacos, \$1.00 each

Tuesday - All you can eat Crab, 4:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Saturday - All you can eat Shrimp, 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Steamed Crabs and Steamed Shrimp Everyday!

Corner of Queensbury and Rhode Island Avenue

301-927-3977