



The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

**December 2007
January 2008**

Volume 36, Issue 10

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Holiday Changes to Public Work's Schedule

Due to the Christmas and New Year's Holidays, Public Work's schedules for: regular trash & yard waste, and regular, heavy & metal pickup will be slightly altered during the weeks of these holidays. Please check the December 07 and January 08 calendars, and the Public Works article (see page 4) for changes in pickup due to the holidays.

More Details On The Holiday Festivities On Page 4, 8, and 9.

Mas detalles de las Celebraciones de Pascuas en la paginas 4, 8, and 9.



Riverdale Park Holiday Festivities

Riverdale Park 5th Annual Festival of Lights – Saturday, December 8th—from 5:30-8:30 pm; jolly elves and reindeer will lead a sing along on free trolley tours of the neighborhood's holiday decorations and a candlelight tour of Riversdale House Museum. Bring a canned good or non-perishable food item as a donation and be prepared to sing! Trolleys will depart from the Riverdale Park MARC station parking lot and stop at Riversdale House Museum.

Riverdale Park 2nd Annual Holiday Market – December 8th and 9th—Saturday: 1:00-9:00 pm; Sunday: 12:00-5:00 pm at Town Center. The Holiday Market features unique gifts; Christmas trees and wreaths; live music; free photos with Santa; fresh pressed apple cider; kids' games; temporary tattoos; and face painting. Holiday Bakeoff, Sunday at 3:00 pm. Submit your entries and win a prize! Visit www.rpholidaymarket.com for vendor list and directions.

Town of Riverdale Park Senior Citizens' Holiday Party - December 12th--The Town hosts a Senior Citizens' Holiday Party at Crescent Cities Center at 12:30 pm with catering by S & J's Restaurant. Crescent Cities is located at 4409 East-West Highway, Riverdale Park, MD, 20737. For more information, call Colleen Ferguson at (301) 927-6381.

Town of Riverdale Park Children's Holiday Party - December 15th--The Town hosts a Children's Holiday Party at Town Hall from 3:30 pm-5:30 pm. The event includes refreshments, free pictures with Santa, and a Holiday Puppet Show at 4:00 pm by the Blue Sky Puppet Company. The Holiday Part is for children 12 and under accompanied by an adult. Call (301) 927-6381 for more information.

Celebraciones de Pascua de Riverdale Park

5to Festival del Luces Trolebús—Sábado 8 de Diciembre 5:30 – 8:30 pm. (Gratis con la donación de alimentos no deteriorables); Town Center, 4650 Queensbury Road. Vea el esplendor de Riverdale Park en la noche y camine por el histórico Casa Museo de Riversdale. ¡No se le olvide decorar el exterior de su hogar! Cinco casas serán reconocidas como "Logro en Decoración".

2do Mercado Navideño Sábado 8 y Domingo 9 de Diciembre--(Abierto para todos – Invite a familiares y amigos); Sábado 8 de 1:00-9:00 p.m. y Domingo 9 de 12:00-5:00, Town Center, 4650 Queensbury Road. Compre regalos inolvidables, comida, árboles, coronas navideñas, escuche música navideña, y foto gratis con Santa, todo esto a unas cuantas cuerdas de su hogar.

Fiesta de ancianos ciudadanos de la Ciudad de Riverdale Park – Miércoles 12 de Diciembre La ciudad de Riverdale Park será el anfitrión de esta fiesta de pascuas en Crescent City Center el 12 de Diciembre a las 12:30 p.m. Crescent City Center esta localizado en el 4409 East West Highway, Riverdale Park, MD 20737 para mas información llame a Colleen Ferguson a 301-927-6381

Fiesta Navideña Infantil—Sábado 15 de Diciembre (Solamente niños de Riverdale Park, 12 años y menores) 3:30-5:30 pm. En la municipalidad (Town Hall 5008 Queensbury Rd); ¡Por favor venga y únase a Santa y sus ayudantes! ¡Regalos gratis, premios, manualidades, foto con Santa y mucho más!

Council Actions-- November 5, 2007

By Waverly Pollitt

1. **Approved** – Modification / Expansion of covenants on properties of Potomac Development.
2. **Approved** – Action on Phase 1 & 2 for Storm drain on Ingraham Street.
3. **Approved** – Action on MOU for county recycling.
4. **Approved** – Request for Application to stage a Demonstration on Kenilworth Ave. for Leon Larry.
5. **Approved-** 6'ft 16'ft long fence for Mr. Thomas Buckingham at 6103 44th place.
6. **Approved-** for 48'X8' Vinyl fence for Aquilino Jarquin at 4901 Queensbury Road.
7. **Introduced & Approved-** Resolution 2007-R-17 regarding publication of Archived Electronic Documents.
8. **Tabled** – Resolution 2007- R- 18 regarding creation of a reference package for incoming council members.
9. **Tabled** – Resolution 2007-R-19 regarding creation of a Library of reference Documents.
10. **Introduced & Approved-** Resolution 2007 - R- 20 establishing a process for the review recommendation regarding Mixed-Use Town Center Development plans and zoning Applications.

Code Corner/ Esquina de Codigo

By Colleen Ferguson

Trash

Municipal Infractions will be issued to residents/tenants/property owners who place trash to the curb not in a container with a lid. (Trash containers must be 39 gallons or less)

****Check the Holiday Pick-up schedule for your area****

Municipal Infractions will be issued to residents/tenants/property owners that place trash out for pick-up not on the scheduled pick-up day.

Unregistered Vehicles-

Unregistered Vehicles (vehicles without current tags) municipal infractions will be issued to all unregistered cars that are parked in the Town and/or parked on unprepared surfaces (above mentioned vehicles all subject to impoundment). If you have any questions or comments call Code Enforcement 301-927-6381

Translation by Verence Garay

Basura

Infracciones Municipales serán emitidas a los residentes/inquilinos/ dueños de propiedades que ponen la basura en la orilla de la acera sin un recipiente con tapadera (Los recipientes de basura deben ser de 39 galones o menos).

****Cheque el horario de recoger la basura para los días festivos****

Infracciones Municipales serán emitidas a los residentes/inquilinos/ dueños de propiedades que ponen la basura afuera en los días que no han sido asignados en el horario.

Vehículos No Registrados

Infracciones Municipales serán emitidas a los vehículos que no están registrados (vehículos sin placas actuales) y que están parqueados en la Ciudad de Riverdale Park o en superficies que no están preparadas o pavimentadas (los vehículos mencionados arriba sujetos a confiscar).

Si tiene alguna pregunta o comentarios llame a Codigo Legal a 301-927-6381.

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,
Economic Development, 301-379-5303
alice@ewenwalker.com

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

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

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

Ward 5 - VACANT

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

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

Penelope Guzman, Deputy Town
Administrator, 301-209-1505

Public Works 301-927-6381

VACANT Public Works Director
Michael Scott, Acting Director

Code Enforcement 301-927-6381
CodeRiverdalePk@comcast.net
Colleen M. Ferguson

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

VACANT Chief of Police
Captain Pat Timmons, Acting Chief

Fire Department Emergency 911
Information 301-927-0356

Vincent Harrison, Chief,
info@riverdalevfd.com, www.riverdalevfd.com

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

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

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

Submission deadline: 15th of each month.

Please submit all copy to editor
rptowncrier@comcast.net



Riverdale Park Police Department-October 2007

Crime Report

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

* 1 citizen & 1 carjacking ** 6 Residential

Officer Activity

Activity	Total
Calls For Service	952
Routine Patrols	264
Traffic Stops	287*
Reported Traffic Accidents	68**
Parking Citations	63
Subjects Arrested	23

* 292 Traffic Citations ** 31 Written Accidents

November 11, 2007 Veterans' Day Ceremony Photos

Photos by Patrick Prangley



Colonel Jeffrey H. Bothen gave the keynote address. The Honor Guard of the 354th Civil Affairs Brigade and Riverdale Park Police officers in front of the Veterans' Monument.



Former Mayor Ann Ferguson and family members, Colonel Bothen, Deputy Mayor Alice Walker and 354th Civil Affairs Brigade Honor Guard next to the wreath honoring all Veterans in preserving our country's freedom.



Former Mayor Ann Ferguson receiving American Flag from Mr. Moffett. The 2007 Veterans' Day Ceremony was dedicated to her late husband John J. Ferguson, former Councilmember and Veteran's Committee Member of the Town of Riverdale Park.

Public Works Report

By Michael Scott, Acting Director

5th Annual Festival of Lights and 2nd Annual Holiday Market

By Jim Coleman

Public Works Schedule Changes:

Monday December 24th, 2007--Normal Schedule, Area A Collection

Tuesday December 25th, 2007--Public Works Closed, No Area B Collection

Wednesday December 26th, 2007--Area B Trash and Yard Waste Collected

Monday December 31st, 2007--Normal Schedule, Area A Collection

Tuesday January 1st, 2008--Public Works Closed, No Area B Collection

Wednesday January 2nd, 2008--Area B Trash and Yard Waste Collected

Cambios de Horario para el Departamento de Trabajos Publicos

Lunes 24 de Diciembre, 2007 -- Horario normal para la coleccion del area A

Martes 25 de Diciembre, 2007 -- Departamento de Trabajos Publicos estara cerrado y no se recojera la basura en el area B

Miercoles 26 de Diciembre, 2007 -- Area B basura y coleccion de desperdicios de yarda

Lunes 31 de Diciembre, 2007 -- Horario normal para la coleccion del area A

Martes 1 de Diciembre, 2007 -- Departamento de Trabajos Publicos estara cerrado y no se recojera la basura en el area B

Please remember that residents can now recycle cardboard on Wednesdays for curbside pick up. Litter in Town is an ongoing concern. I have increased Public Works efforts to keep the Town free of litter. However, we need the residents help. Please do not litter. I have initiated a new plan to combat PEPCO owned light outages. Public Works will conduct a Town-wide light outage inventory report to be submitted to PEPCO for repair each month. Public Works is working continuously to remove leaves from the Town's right-of-way. As residents, all you have to do is rake your leaves to the curb for pick up.

If you have any questions or concerns please call the Public Works Building at 301-864-1803

Happy Holidays!

On December 8-9, 2007, Riverdale Park will be holding its annual Festival of Lights and Holiday Market. Throughout the day, (Saturday, December 8, 2007) from 1:00-9:00 pm, you can: listen to continuous local live music; have photo's taken with Santa; eat freshly prepared local food by Chef Lou of Greenbelt; shop 'til you drop for carefully chosen Holiday Gifts made by local and regionally famous artisans, artists, and photographers; and sip fresh pressed cider by local farmers. On Saturday evening, the Holiday Market will continue from 5:30-8:30 pm with the Festival of Lights featuring trolleys touring local holiday decorations, including Riversdale Mansion, and sing along with our jolly elves. On Sunday, the Holiday Market will re-open again at 12:00 pm with more great local music talents, photos with Santa, more great food, and another exciting mix of vendors. At 3:00 pm, all Town bakers should have their entries submitted for the 5th Annual Holiday Bakeoff. This year judging of Bakeoff entries will be held at the Holiday Market.

The Holiday Market is held at our Town Center, 4650 Queensbury Road, Riverdale Park, MD 20737. For more information, call Town Hall at 301-927-6381 or check out our website at:

<http://www.rpholidaymarket.com>

NOTICE

Senator Pinsky's Town Hall Meeting **THIS Saturday,**

**December 1, 2007
9:30 AM - 11 AM**

Lamont Elementary School

7101 Goodluck Road
New Carrollton, MD 20737

On the agenda:

Special Session Update
Slots & Gambling
Public Schools
Climate Change
Q & A

**Bring your friends and neighbors.
There will be time set aside for questions and discussion.**

For more information email
ppinsky@senatorpinsky.org or
call Pamela at 443-622-7718.

Ward and Committee Reports

Ward One Report

By Council Member Alice Ewen Walker
Chairperson, Economic Development
alice@ewenwalker.com

A Procedure for M-UTC Proposal Review

At the last legislative meeting, I introduced a resolution to establish a formal procedure for how the Town Council considers new developments in the Mixed-Use Town Center Zone (M-UTC). This may sound very technical, but I believe it is the most important thing we have done as a council this term. Previously, it was possible – and indeed did occur – that the council might undertake decisions on development without receiving or reviewing insightful and detailed technical reports produced by the M-UTC committee.

Our new policy was inspired by the way that the Prince George's County Planning Board makes decisions: the Council must receive the report of the technical review board (M-UTC) and discuss it in public session. This does not tie the Council's hands when it makes decisions, but it does ensure that the Council makes decisions will be discussed in the context of the M-UTC committee reports.

There are many processes in our town government that are traditional, but not actually formalized by any policy. I believe that it is critical, especially in an era where staff and elected officials may change frequently, to formalize the intent of government in written policies to guide our institutions. In short, I think we need to formalize policy on many things, and am working to do that in partnership with my fellow council members.

A Deadline for Wachovia Development

The Council also accepted my proposal to add a one-year deadline for ground to be broken on the Wachovia project at the corner of East-West Highway and Route 1. If a year passes with no development activity, then the covenants the developer needs to move forward will automatically lapse. Should there be another year of delay in this project, I believe the town deserves the right to review this project and that we should be willing to say no.

Other Economic Development News

Over the last month, I met with three property owners along Route 1 to discuss their ideas and proposals for future development. These plans are not very far along – and some of them may never happen – but it is good to know that although the housing market has cooled, the local stimulus of the EYA and M-Square projects are continuing to drive interest in further commercial development. To take advantage of developer interest, it is paramount that we stick to our

guns on our zoning. That is the message I consistently give to developers and property owners.

Traffic

Thanks to Mary Donaldson and the Traffic Committee for an informative meeting this month with the traffic engineering firm The Traffic Group. I hope that this meeting will prompt the town to move forward with a full traffic study soon. The funds are already in the budget, and we are currently awaiting a proposed scope of work from a traffic consultant.

Electronic Documents Update

At the last legislative meeting, the Council voted to create an Internet-accessible archive of all public documents created by the town. Implementation of this and other electronic documents policies is taking longer than expected. At the December legislative meeting, I will introduce a resolution creating a reference library of government documents in Town Hall for the enjoyment of all interested citizens. I also hope to create a separate reference packet for incoming council members.

Spanish Language Outreach

One of my campaign promises was to improve Spanish-language outreach by the town. The Town has since hired an expert in this subject (Deputy Town Administrator Penelope Guzman), but I remain committed to creating policy guidance in this area. I plan to introduce legislation on the subject at the January legislative meeting. Those who are interested are welcome to call or email me with suggestions.

Holiday Market and Festival of Lights

On Saturday, December 8 and Sunday, December 9, the Riverdale Park Holiday Market takes place in Town Center. This is a great holiday event created by great local volunteers. Excellent vendors will be present selling handmade jewelry, specialty gifts, Christmas trees, and more!

Remember to decorate your house with lights in time for the trolley tours on December 8th! We still need elves and reindeer to help host our trolleys and to assist with the children's holiday party on the 15th of December. If you wish to volunteer, please contact Anissa Sunday at (301)277-2458. I was a reindeer last year and it was tons of fun.

Finally, I send you all my best wishes for a warm and festive holiday season. As the holidays approach, I have been reflecting on how much I value the friendship of the neighbors who make Riverdale Park a special place to live. So many residents have helped me and entertained me over the years! I have come to know and respect many of you, and I can truly say that I consider it an honor to serve such wonderful families as I have met in Riverdale Park. I look forward to continuing that service in the New Year.

Ward Two Report

By Council Member Kate Sharpe
Chairperson Finance Committee
katherinesharpe@yahoo.com

Ward Three Report

By Council Member David Lingua
Chairperson Public Works
djlingua@gmail.com

Environmental Initiatives

Recently I had the opportunity to attend the Maryland Municipal League conference in Greenbelt, MD. The conference was a great forum to discover how other Maryland towns and cities deal with a variety of common issues. I found one session, "Going Green: How to make your City more Environmentally Friendly" to be especially helpful. The session presented a number of great ideas for small towns with limited budgets. I presented some of these ideas at the October meeting of our new Environmental Committee that Jonah Blaustein has founded. Jonah and the committee have arranged a presentation on the "Cool Cities" program that aims to spur local action to reduce global warming. I encourage everyone to attend or tune into the Legislative Meeting on Monday, December 3rd to watch this presentation. And if you are interested in making Riverdale Park more environmentally friendly, come on out to an Environmental Committee meeting!

Police Department

This past month I participated in a police ride-along with our excellent Riverdale Park Police Department. I'd like to thank Officer Vitchock for hosting me on the Saturday evening shift. I was very impressed with the work that our officers perform. They have many different roles to play in a single evening, and keep their cool in many challenging situations. I was also happy to see the new laptop computers in the vehicles being put to great use. I continue to share the mayor's goal of adding more officers to our Police Department in the future.

Route 1 Corridor

On November 15th 2007, I attended the forum on Route 1 Corridor growth sponsored by County Councilman Eric Olson. M-NCPPC, Prince George's County, and the Maryland State Highway Administration discussed the major plans guiding growth in our area. Many residents expressed concerns to the government officials present about school overcrowding and traffic congestion. I share these concerns with respect to proposed development within Riverdale Park's borders. I support economic development, but as plans progress, I will be asking developers to be more proactive on these important issues.

I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season. Be sure to visit our Holiday Market and join in the Festival of Lights!

Even amidst all the streetscape work the trees along Taylor Road look beautiful. And speaking of pleasant drives...

Early in November The Traffic Group gave The Traffic Study Committee a presentation entitled Traffic Calming 101. The presentation covered various ways to reach equilibrium between motorists, bicyclists, pedestrians, and something we are seeing more and more of, playing children. The group offered to work with the Town on some of our most challenging areas. And speaking of mobility and access...

With the completion of the curb, gutter and sidewalk work along Taylor Road similar work will be coming to three streets east of Taylor: Nicholson, Oglethorpe and Riverside Drive. The Mayor and the Council have received comments in favor and opposition to this portion of the project from our neighbors. In 2000, the Council passed R-2000-5 creating the policy of installing sidewalks on at least one side of a street when repaving occurs. Mayor Archer stated in 2005 when running for Mayor that if elected he would bring our streets up to county standards.

A hearing was held to discuss this more in depth. I'd like to thank all of our neighbors who came out to the first hearing and making their opinion known. Those from the Town staff found the hearing constructive as did the Mayor and I. Especially I'd like to thank our neighbor Timothy Zastrow for taking some time to walk the three streets and give his assessment and recommendations. If not already announced, a second hearing will be scheduled to present the initial plans. And speaking of the extra effort...

A special thanks and recognition to The Shih family and Pastor Ben Slye and the Christian Life Center for coordinating another clothing drive and Thanksgiving dinner at The Alamo for those less fortunate. A great event each year, their compassion and decency towards their fellow men, women, and children is exemplary. Speaking of goodwill toward others....

Best wishes to all this holiday season. No matter the distance, may you, your family, and friends find each other close in your heart. Have a safe and Happy New Year too.

OK off to go work on the holiday lights. See you at the Holiday Market, Festival of Lights and the Children's Holiday Party.

Ward Six Report

By Council Member Keelah Allen-Smith
Chairperson Legislative Committee, Community Affairs
Keelahd@yahoo.com.

Season Greetings to all!

I had the pleasure of being a judge at the Halloween Pet Costume Contest, on October 28, 2007. Congratulations to Rob Oppenheim, Judy Glas, Judy Steinfuhrer, and all the volunteers on a successful event! The turnout was great and the pets were adorable. I look forward to next year's event.

This year marks Riverdale Park's 2nd Annual Holiday Market and the 5th Annual Festival of Lights. They will be held on Saturday and Sunday, December 8 and 9, 2007. Check Community Circles or with Town Staff for more information on these special annual holiday events. Hope to see you there.

At our last legislative meeting, I requested that Town Staff again contact Pepco regarding the streetlights on 54th Avenue that are in disrepair. I also requested that Public Works address the issue of removing the tall weeds and grass surrounding the trash can on 54th Avenue.

I look forward to the busy upcoming months and into 2008 including attending meetings with numerous county officials regarding the Kenilworth Revitalization Project. This project will have a definite positive impact on Ward 6. I will strongly convey Ward 6 residents' comments and opinions.

I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday season and a prosperous New Year!

Global Warming to be Discussed at Legislative Meeting

By Jonah Blaustein

Are you wondering what can be done about global warming? Are you fed up with inaction at the federal level? Towns, cities, and states across the country are taking the initiative in finding energy saving and clean energy solutions. Our town can become part of this.

Come to the next Town Legislative meeting to hear a presentation about what Riverdale Park can do to become a 'cool city' in terms of greenhouse gases, renewable energy, energy efficiency and conservation and even economic development.

This will be part of the next council meeting on December 3, 2007 at the town hall. The meeting starts at 8 PM. Please attend if you can. For more information, call Jonah Blaustein at 301-887-1983, or email him at *jonah@mindspring.com*

The Riverdale Park Business Association—Minutes, November 2007 Meeting

By Carol Patsel

Administrator, Bret Stein and his staff at Crescent Cities Assisted Living Center hosted the Riverdale Park Business Association's (RPBA) November 2007 monthly meeting. Attendees were provided dinner and a very informative presentation on the history of Crescent Cities and its provision of healthcare and other services to the Riverdale Park community. The staff at Crescent Cities wishes to extend their hospitality to local senior citizens with complimentary coffee during the week at 10:00 a.m. in the dining room. They look forward to this opportunity to provide a place for local seniors to gather and socialize with each other. Other notes from the meeting include:

- Patrick Prangley, Riverdale Park Town Administrator, added that the senior citizens are invited to join the staff at Crescent Cities for a holiday luncheon at 12:30 pm on December 12, 2007.
- Audrey Bragg, RPBA President, shared that the Christian Life Center is in need of hats, gloves, and coats. Please drop off donations at the Town of Riverdale Park Municipal Center or the Christian Life Center.
- J.D. Williams, Vice President, reminded everyone that Christmas in April is scheduled for Saturday, April 26, 2008, from 8:00a.m. – 4:00p.m. Volunteers are needed. Anyone willing to offer their labor, funds, building materials or lunch for the volunteers will be most appreciated and should contact J.D. Williams at *jdwc21@aol.com* or Bruce Wernek at *bruce.wernek@mindspring.com*.
- Jim Coleman announced the Festival of Lights and Holiday Market will be celebrated on December 8-9, 2007. Activities will include photos with Santa (funded and provided by the RPBA), musicians, and a wide range of vendors at the Holiday Market.

The next RPBA meeting will be held at the Calvert House Inn on Wednesday, December 12, 2007, at 6:00p.m. A buffet dinner will be provided.

Riversdale December 2007–February 2008 Events

By Samantha Ferris

Sint Niklaas Day: A Winter Afternoon for Children Saturday, December 1, 2007, 2:30 pm

Children will receive a gift bag from Sint Niklaas, the forerunner of our modern Santa Claus, make a craft to take home, and enjoy refreshments with their parents. They can also visit the special kids-only shopping area to buy holiday gifts that fit their budget.

\$6 Child/\$2 Adult; advance registration required.

The Calverts by Candlelight--Thursday & Friday, December 27 & 28, 2007, 7:00 pm

Pay an evening call on the Calverts and enjoy refreshments and children's activities.

\$5 Adults/ Free Children 12 & under

Twelfth Night Ball--Saturday, January 5, 2008, 7:30 – 9:45 pm

Come in period attire or black tie to celebrate the traditional end of the holiday season with dancing to live music and a ball supper.

\$25 Resident/\$30 Non-Resident; capacity is limited, advance registration required.

Hands-on History: Teen Immersion Weekend-- Friday - Saturday, January 25-26, 2008; 5:30 pm Friday; 5:30 pm Saturday

Teenaged girls, ages 13-18, will experience life in early Federal America, including cooking, crafts, and other activities, during 24 hours in the historic house.

\$75 Resident/\$85 Non-Resident; capacity is limited, advance registration required.

Fine Fare and Wine with My Valentine--Saturday, February 9, 2008, 2:30 – 4:30 pm

Come with your Valentine and enjoy a sampling of European wines and nineteenth-century fare.

\$30 Resident/\$35 Non-Resident; advance registration required.

Hands-on History: Folk Arts--Tuesday, February 13, 2008, 10 am – 2:30 pm

Children ages 8-12 can spend this day off from school sampling a variety of traditional early American crafts.

\$15 Resident/\$18 Non-Resident; advance registration required.

The Plummer's Kitchen--Sunday, February 24, 2008, 12:00 noon – 4 pm

Join the Riversdale Kitchen Guild as they recreate early to mid-19th century traditional African American foods reflecting the Plummer family's tenancy at Riversdale. Included with regular tour fee.

Troop 252—Boy Scouts News

By Bob Killen

Troop 252, Boy Scouts of America, will hold our Court of Honor on December 12, 2007. EVERY Scout has advanced at least one rank.

Last Saturday, we bicycled at the Patuxent River Park (Jug Bay) in two groups - one did 35 miles, starting out on horse trails, and the other did 6 miles, all on macadam. We went swimming Saturday evening, and Sunday morning, two of our Scouts assisted in the 8 O'Clock Mass. We took orders for citrus (oranges and grapefruit) which will have been delivered by the time you read this. After church, we drove to Greenbelt Park and rode another 10 miles, just to stay in shape.

We're going skiing (if there's snow) December 7-9, 2007, and January 4 -6, 2008.

Several members of our Order of the Arrow are going to Statesville, NC, for the Eswau Huppeday Lodge Carolina Indian Seminar January 25-27, 2008.

Why should we have all the fun while you're missing out? Call either MHB (301) 864-0059 or Scoutmaster Killen (301) 483-8455. for information.

Veterans of Modern Warfare

By Julie Mock, VMW President

Veterans of Modern Warfare (VMW) is a new Veterans service organization dedicated to serving our nations' most recent Veterans. Our purpose is to support Veterans and their families by providing education and information about the benefits you have earned, assistance in obtaining benefits, and advocacy in issues important to our generation.

Membership to VMW is open to current active duty Service Members, National Guard, Reserve and Coast Guard service members and any Veteran of the United States Armed Forces who has served since August 2, 1990. Service members need not have been mobilized or deployed to be eligible for membership.

VMW is offering FREE membership until Jan. 1, 2008. Visit www.ModernVeterans.com or call 1 888-445-9891 for more details.

Veterans of Modern Warfare, Inc. # 33107 PO Box 96503, Washington, DC, 20090-6503.

RIVERDALE PARK HOLIDAY CHECKLIST

Our Town--Creating Diversity

*Riverdale Elementary students, their families,
and the community create a mural*

By Marita A. Novicky

- ✓ Decorate your house in time for the **Festival of Lights Trolley Tours on December 8th**. Make our Town sparkle!
- ✓ Email or call all of your friends and colleagues and invite them to our holiday market. Help revitalize our community!
- ✓ Join your neighbors and friends in riding the trolley to see the lights and sing carols together.
- ✓ Shop at the holiday market for those special gifts for friends and families.
- ✓ Eat lunch and dinner at the market. Crepes, homemade donuts, baklava, German Christmas breads, cocoa, coffee, and more.
- ✓ Volunteer to assist with any of the events.
- ✓ Hang out with neighbors at the holiday market in our historic Town Center.
- ✓ Bring a non-perishable food item and take a trolley ride around our town to see all the lights as well as the Riverdale Mansion.
- ✓ Relax and think about how wonderful it is to have all of this happen within blocks of your home.
- ✓ Share your joy and the season with those less fortunate.
- ✓ Come back on Sunday for more!

For Riverdale Elementary student Yiehl Bonilla, it's all about art. Yiehl, age 10 is a 5th grade student at Riverdale Elementary who has been participating in creating a 24 foot by 10 foot mural that focuses on diversity. Yiehl and her family immigrated from El Salvador and she has created a portrait of herself and her family's home that will be part of the giant mural that when finished will be placed on the outside west wall of the school for all the community to see and enjoy.

The project began when school principal, Carol Cantu, saw a mural that was done at Berwyn Heights Elementary School last year and asked the art teacher, Liza Linder if she could do the same here in Riverdale. The Berwyn Heights mural theme was a garden. Linder met with teachers and parents and they chose diversity as the theme for Riverdale Elementary.

Work began with children creating self portraits and other drawings that were then selected to be part of the mural. Parents and members of the community, along with the students have been busy helping to glue the small colored, glass tiles onto the drawings created by the students. Linder's idea of showing diversity is well portrayed in the energetic depictions created by the students; some of themselves, their homes, their apartment buildings, and even one with a student kicking a soccer ball. Yiehl's portrait shows her hair in pigtails and her red pants and pink and red sweat-shirt. All in all, the mural will depict a diverse and lively community.

For art teacher, Liza Linder, the project has been a rewarding one. Not only has the Lion's Club and Councilman Eric Olson given \$1,000.00 each to the project, but many community members have become involved. On a recent holiday [Veterans Day], many students, their families, and volunteers came in to help glue tiles to the mural. One of Linder's colleagues is having her grandmother, who graduated from Riverdale Elementary 70 years ago, help with the gluing!

Linder summed it up by citing the school's motto "read and create to succeed". Riverdale Elementary students, their families, and our community are succeeding with the creation and involvement in this project.



Community Circles

What to Watch For:

Monday, December 3, 2007—Legislative Meeting, TH, 8 p.m.

Tuesday, December 4, 2007—Traffic Study Meeting, TH, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 5, 2007—M-UTC, 7:30 p.m., TH.

Saturday, December 8, 2007—Festival of Lights and Holiday Market, 1—9:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 9, 2007—Holiday Market, Town Center, 12:00—5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 11, 2007—Madison Hill HOA, 7 p.m., Finance Meeting, 7:30 p.m., TH.

Wednesday, December 12, 2007—Senior Citizens Party, 12:30 p.m., Crescent Cities; RPBA meeting, 5:30 p.m., Calvert House Inn.

Tuesday December 25, 2007—Christmas Day, Town Offices and Public Works closed.

Tuesday, January 1, 2008—New Years Day, Town Offices and Public Works closed.

Monday, January 7, 2008—Legislative Meeting, TH, 8 p.m.

Tuesday, January 8, 2008—Madison Hill Home Owners Association, 7:00 p.m., TH.

Wednesday, January 9, 2008—RPBA, 5:30 p.m., call 301-277-7393 for location.

Monday, January 21, 2008—Martin Luther King observed Holiday; Town Offices and Public Works closed.

Upcoming Events

Annual Festival of Lights, Holiday Market, and Children's Holiday Party, Saturday and Sunday, December 8 and 9, 2007. Don't miss these exciting events. Planning begins early in December. Volunteers needed for numerous details of these three excellent events. This is your chance to get involved and have fun. The Children's Holiday Party is always a hit among the young folks in Town. The second annual Holiday Market was a resounding success last year; this year promises to be better. And, as always, the Festival of Lights shows off the Town and its Holiday spirit. Call Anissa Sunday at 301-277-2458 for the Children's Holiday Party and the Festival of Lights and your opportunity to get involved.

This year marks the 2nd Annual Holiday Market and the 5th Annual Festival of Lights.-The Holiday Market will be held in Town Center on Saturday, December 8, 2007 at Town Center from 1:00p.m. – 9:00 p.m., and on Sun-

day, December 9, 2007 from 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Contact Jim Coleman at rpkfarmmkt@gmail.com if you are a producer of handmade products and are interested in joining the Holiday Market.

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. The Girl Scouts will meet twice during December—Thursday December 15, and Thursday, December 29, 2007. Both meetings will be held at Town Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Riverdale Park Boys Scouts – Troop 252— Contact: Scoutmaster Bob Killen at (202) 282-8302.

Civic Committees

Recreation Board – The Riverdale Park Recreation Board. Contact Anissa Sunday, 301-277-2458 to get involved. Help by volunteering!

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

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

Riverdale Park Business Association—call Audrey Bragg at 301-277-7323 for more information.

Riversdale Events

Riversdale House Museum, 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park. Information: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544

If you have information to share with the community, please submit it to the Editor, Town Crier, 5008 Queensbury Road, Riverdale Park, Maryland 20737 **by the 15th of the month, or email: RiverdaleParkMD@comcast.net**

