

The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

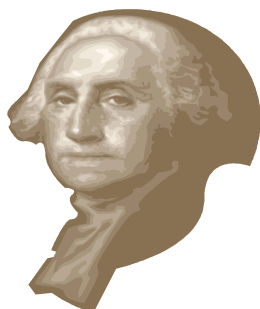
February 2008

Volume 37, Issue 1

**Happy Valentine's Day,
Thursday, February 14th**



**President's Day
Monday, February 18th
Town Hall and Public
Works Closed**



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New Ward Five Councilmember

Timothy Kimbrough was appointed by Mayor Vernon S. Archer and approved by the Council as the new Ward Five Councilmember on December 3, 2007. He takes the seat of the late, long-term Councilman, Gerry Kiernan. Mr. Kimbrough can be reached at timkim@rcn.com. Welcome Tim to the Riverdale Park Town Council and thank you for stepping up to serve the Town and people of Riverdale Park.

Town of Riverdale Park Appoints Police Chief

Mayor Vernon Archer announced the recent appointment of Teresa C. Chambers as Chief of the Riverdale Park Police Department. "I was very pleased to be able to nominate Teresa Chambers to be our new Police Chief," said Mayor Archer who administered the oath of office on Thursday, January 10, 2008. "I am excited about working with our new Chief. She brings a fantastic background that will help Riverdale Park see its police force move from the strong and respected force it already is to a municipal police force that will be second to none. She joins the rest of the Town government in commitment to making Riverdale Park a safe, clean, and beautiful place."

Town Administrator, Patrick J. Prangle, stated that "Chief Teresa C. Chambers is a nationally-recognized police executive who is well respected. Chief Chambers brings to our top-notch police department a vast experience in community-based law enforcement initiatives. We welcome her strong leadership and innovative solutions in law enforcement. We look forward to her contributions for the betterment of the Riverdale Park community."

Chief Chambers stated that "It is an honor to have been selected to work with the Town of Riverdale Park and its Police Department as the Chief of Police. This is a great community that places the highest of priorities on quality of life and safety for its residents, business community, and visitors; and I am excited about being a part of that commitment."

Chambers comes to the Town of Riverdale Park with nearly three decades of law enforcement experience. Following her retirement from an extensive career with the Prince George's County (Maryland) Police Department, Chief Chambers served as the Chief of Police for Durham, North Carolina, and then as Chief of the United States Park Police.

Chambers brings strong academic credentials to the job, having received a Bachelor's Degree in Law Enforcement / Criminology from the University of Maryland University College and a Master's Degree in Applied Behavioral Science with a Concentration in Community Development from The Johns Hopkins University. Chambers is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy and the FBI's prestigious National Executive Institute.

The Riverdale Park Town Council, Residents and Staff welcome Chief Teresa C. Chambers and look forward to working with her.

Council Actions

By Waverly Pollitt

December 3, 2007

1. Approved -- Minutes for regular legislative meeting on November 5, 2007.
2. Approved -- A temporary vendor's license to sell Christmas Trees and wreaths on the lot at the Southeast intersection of Routes 1 and 410 from November 26, 2007- December 28, 2007.
3. Approved -- Action to approve PY 34 funding application.
4. Approved -- Letter to support Prince George's County EDC for comprehensive revitalization on Kenilworth Avenue.

December 17, 2007

1. Approved -- Marquette Bank to fund approved FY 07/08 Capital Equipment (4 Police cruisers, 1 tractor, and Fuel Pump Upgrade).
2. Motion to oppose application of the Jim Lee Palace located at 5620 Kenilworth Avenue requesting a transfer for a Class b+, beer, wine, and Liquor License. Motion passed unanimously.

Code Corner

Garbage, Refuse, and Trash

By Colleen Ferguson

Chapter 36--Proper Vessel or Container

A container made of metal or plastic that has a tightly fitted lid that shall be no larger than 39 gallon capacity. **Residents must place garbage in a proper vessel or container with a tightly fitted lid for pick-up on scheduled pick-up days. Garbage placed to the curb in a plastic bag, or not in a correct container or vessel is a violation of Town Code and subject to the property owner receiving a municipal infraction violation with a penalty fine.

Other Town Codes to remember

Town Code Chapter 68--Maintain grass & weeds to a height of 10 inches or less

Town Code Chapter 15-7--Obtain a Building Permit (Driveways-Fences too)

Town Code Chapter 64--Have all vehicles properly registered

Town Code Chapter 66--To trim all/any hedges that might be hanging over the sidewalks

Town Code Chapter 55--Obtain a License for Single Family Rental Property

Town Code Chapter 50-4--Commercial Activity- public garage, automobile repair shop, machine shop in a residence is unlawful

Compliance is the ultimate goal of the Code Enforcement Department. If you have any questions, comments or concerns please call: 301-927-6381, 240-508-8460 or email: coderiverdalepk@comcast.net



Town of Riverdale Park

www.ci.riverdale-park.md.us

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Mayor Vernon Archer, 240-832-2257
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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 - Timothy Kimbrough
301-864-1965
timkim@rcn.com

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

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Michael Scott, Acting Director
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Teresa Chambers Chief of Police
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

November 2008

Crime Report

Crime	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Stln. Veh.
Ward 1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Ward 2	0	0	1	0	0	0
Ward 3	0	0	0	0	0	2
Ward 4	0	0	2	3	2	1
Ward 5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ward 6	0	0	3	5	0	1
Total	0	0	6*	8	3**	5

* 1 citizen; ** 2 Residential

Officer Activity

Activity	Total
Calls For Service	845
Routine Patrols	245
Traffic Stops	274*
Reported Traffic Accidents	52**
Parking Citations	43
Subjects Arrested	23

* 314 Traffic Citations; ** 26 Written Accidents

December 2007

Crime Report

Crime	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Stln. Veh.
Ward 1	0	1	0	1	0	0
Ward 2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ward 3	0	0	0	0	0	1
Ward 4	0	0	2	3	0	1
Ward 5	0	0	0	1	0	1
Ward 6	0	0	1	0	0	2
Total	0	1	3*	4	0	5

* 2 citizen; ** 2 Residential

Officer Activity

Activity	Total
Calls For Service	809
Routine Patrols	210
Traffic Stops	295*
Reported Traffic Accidents	43**
Parking Citations	35
Subjects Arrested	22

* 727 Traffic Citations; ** 17 Written Accidents

The Mayor's Report

By Vernon Archer



Central Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization Project

Last fall I reported to you that the Town would be participating in the Central Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization Project in league with Maryland National Capital Area Park and Planning, and a wide variety of other stake holders in our region. It has become increasingly apparent that no group can solve the problems of the area by themselves, just as the problems are not the result of one single source.

There have been a number of meetings so far focusing on problems such as: traffic congestion; poor pedestrian safety; day-laborer congregation sites; loitering and public consumption of alcohol; deteriorating private buildings; litter; and crime. The State Highway Administration, Metropolitan Council of Governments, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (METRO), the County's Economic Development Corporation, County Police, and County Code Enforcement have all shown a real desire to cooperate with Riverdale Park and surrounding neighborhoods in addressing these problems in a comprehensive fashion.

Our objective for this project is to develop a group of agreements and commitments to do things like: 1) develop zoning guide lines that will bring social and commercial revitalization; 2) have safer and smoother traffic flow through the area; 3) provide for safer pedestrian traffic; 3) support reinvestment in both commercial and residential properties; 4) provide for increased cooperation between Town and county police and code enforcement; 5) better control loitering and disruptive/anti-social behavior along the corridor; and 6) a business association.

This project is slated to complete its review and present its findings and recommendations to Park and Planning—and ultimately are participating entities including Riverdale Park—by the end of this year. Organizers Jan Townsend of the Neighborhood Design Center and Dineen O'Conner of Park and Planning have done an outstanding job of keeping the effort moving forward and on schedule.

Resist Licensing of Drive Through Liquor at Kenilworth and Riverdale Road

One unfortunate threat to the revitalization of Kenilworth is a proposal to license a liquor store at the corner of Riverdale Road. Increasing the number of liquor stores anywhere along Kenilworth would not be good, but to put a drive through liquor store at that corner is particularly unacceptable. Such action would cause increased traffic congestion, spread the problems associated with loitering and public alcohol consumption, and generally impede the revitalization of that area that is showing real potential. It flies in the face of everything that the Central Kenilworth Revitalization effort is about.

The Town Council unanimously adopted a resolution to resist this proposed liquor store during a special legislative session in December and we are forging a broad and growing coalition to stop this liquor store from becoming a reality. I hope to get it reversed even before seeing it go before the liquor board, which is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on February 22, 2008. However, if it should make it to a hearing, please come out and testify against this scheme. We will keep people informed via the Town Talk and Town Announce email lists as it progresses.

Noose Incident at Public Works

Most of you are aware that there was an incident at our Public Works Department last December that included the display of a hangman's noose that garnered attention in the local media. This incident is still under investigation and therefore I cannot discuss it in any detail. I can tell you that enforcing the law and maintaining a workplace that is free of harassment and discrimination is a top priority of my administration.

The Town Council also wanted to make sure that the matter was thoroughly and independently looked into. It therefore unanimously adopted a resolution asking that the Town's attorney investigate what actually happened and also review how Town management responded to the incident. While this action necessarily slowed the process, it will give us a result that we can have more confidence in. When the report is issued to the Town Council, it will probably have information that is not proper to reveal to the public. However, an overview will be made available that protects the privacy of our Town's employees.

Welcome to Police Chief Teresa Chambers

The Town has the good fortune of having been able to hire Teresa Chambers as its new Police Chief. Chambers retired from the Prince George's County Police Department after having worked her way up to command of District One, which Riverdale Park is part of. She then went on to be Chief of Police for the City of Durham, North Carolina, as well as having worked the National Capital Park Police. She is well known for her active and hands on leadership, and many of you will meet her over the coming weeks and months. Please welcome her and support her as residents always have our police officers.

Public Works

By Michael Scott
Acting Director Public Works

Schedule Changes for February:

Monday February 18th, 2008 Public Works is
CLOSED and there will be **No Refuse Collection**.

Area A Collection Tuesday February 19th, 2008
Area B Collection Wednesday February 20th, 2008

Please do not hesitate to contact the Department of
Public Works with any questions or concerns, 301-864-
1803.

Local Boy Scouts Weather the Cold

By Bob Killen

Troop 252 Backpacked last weekend; our Senior Patrol Leader wanted to try out his "Survivor" skills, and built himself a shelter out of branches and leaves. The temperature dropped to 15 degrees, according to the NCPP Officer Saturday morning, but Yorman spent the night in his makeshift shelter - warm, dry and comfortable?, according to him. We ate crispy bacon and eggs, milk and toast for breakfast, then backpacked throughout Watkins Regional Park. A major distraction was the playground, and we enjoyed the swings as much as any kid does, maybe more. We spent some quality time in the Visitors' Center, and hiked about 10 miles all told, enough for another check-off on the Merit Badge. We met a new friend, and invited him for supper (Sloppy Joes), and he showed up! He and his son declined the offer for Sloppy Joes, but honored the offer for toasted marshmallows.

It rained long and hard Saturday night, and I was the only one who slept in his tent. The rest of the Troop took refuge in the heated (and dry) Men's and Ladies' rooms. We packed up Sunday morning and attended the 11:00 Mass at St. Bernard's of Clairvaux, our chartered organization. Good news - Nobody got hurt, and we learned a lot. To avoid getting cold, remember the acronym **C.O.L.D.**

C=keep yourself **CLEAN**

O=avoid **OVERHEATING**

L=dress in **LAYERS**

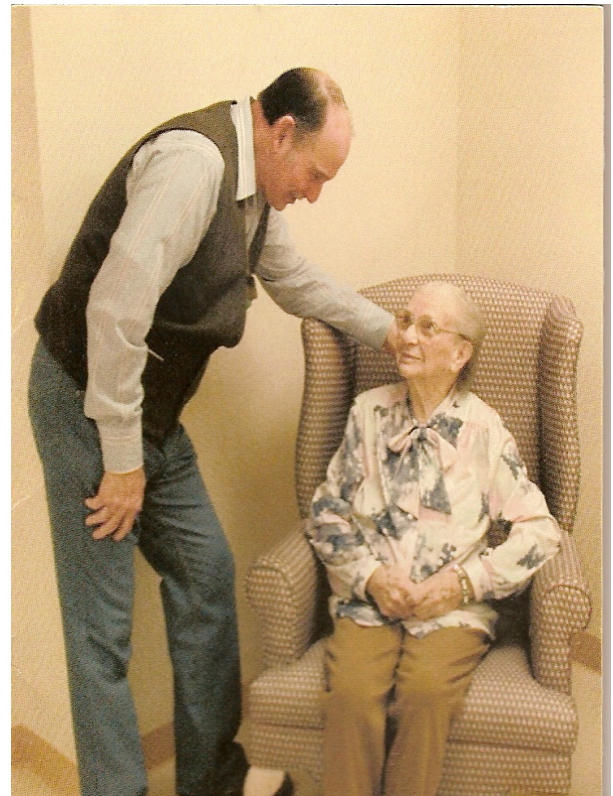
D=stay **DRY**

We'll be skiing again next month, and bicycling down the entire C&O Canal Towpath this Spring Break. Feel free to join in the fun.

Call either Committee Chair Eneida Martinez-Brown (301) 864-0059, or Scoutmaster Bob Killen (the Methodist) (202) 282-8302. P.s. We'll probably try to start up our Cub Scout Pack, if you have the interest.

Local Centenarian Dies

Clarice E. Reed, long time resident of Riverdale Park, passed away on November 17, 2007. Mrs. Reed was 100 years old. She was the first lady to be admitted to Crescent Cities Center when they opened in 1999. She was the widow of Eugene B. Reed who died in 1983. She leaves behind three daughters, one son. (Jim Reed of Riverdale Park) and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren. Mrs. Reed retired from the Hecht Co at P.G. Plaza where she worked for 20 years. She resided in Riverdale Park for twenty-six years prior to entering the nursing home. Mrs. Reed was a member of the Riverdale Park Senior club. We extend our sympathy to Jim Reed, his sisters, and the grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren of Mrs. Reed.



Mrs. Clarice Reed seen with her son Jim Reed.

Ward and Committee Reports

Ward One Report

By Council Member Alice Ewen Walker
Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee

Alice.ewen.walker@gmail.com

I am pleased to join our mayor and fellow council members in welcoming Timothy Kimbrough to the town council representing Ward 5. It is good to have the whole town represented in our elected government.

In November, a resident alerted me that flooding is occurring in yards along Cleveland. Working with our public works staff, we were able to bring out the county to clear storm drains in the area. Unfortunately, the flooding is ultimately due to a blocked storm drain on CSX property. Getting a response from CSX has been a challenge. After several weeks of unresponsiveness from CSX, I contacted Senator Paul Pinsky's office to request assistance. Senator Pinsky and I have been in touch several times in the last two months, working toward solving the flooding issue. My hope is that with the senator's support, CSX can be forced to take responsibility for the problem and clear out the storm line. We will continue to keep on top of this until the issue is resolved. At the town's repeated request, the gravel pile at the rail crossing has been removed.

According to our Town Administrator, CSX plans to install the four-quadrant gates to improve the safety of the rail crossing during the first quarter of this year. CSX stated that it will improve the grade of the crossing during the second quarter of this year. I'd like our town to be proactive about holding CSX to the schedule.

The title search needed to build the bike path from Town Center to College Park has been completed. The attorney hired to conduct the title search will be presenting his project report to the council, tentatively scheduled for the February legislative session. The Town's expenses for the title search will be reimbursed with support from M-NCPPC, thanks to the efforts of County Councilman Eric Olson. I will be monitoring the pace of progress closely in the coming months as the Town works with M-NCPPC to move this forward. The bike path is an economic development priority for our Town Center and is an amenity for residents that our Town should pursue with a sense of urgency.

Several potential tenants for the Town Center have approached the town this month. I don't know if they will "bite" or not, but we are doing everything we can to encourage them. A few quality tenants could generate greater foot traffic and make the entire Town Center more attractive to businesses.

I am pleased that we have a new police chief and I look forward to working with Chief Chambers to iden-

tify some of the specific public safety concerns we have in Ward 1. For instance, I know many residents remain concerned about the series of car thefts and break-ins that occurred during the summer.

Ward Two Report

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

Festival of Lights

I'd like to wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year. Special thanks go out to Ward Two residents for putting on a wonderful show for our Festival of Lights last month! I enjoyed pointing out the great light displays to our trolley riders. I encourage everyone to keep this Town spirit strong as we begin 2008.

Police Department

I hope residents will join me in thanking Acting Chief Pat Timmons for his excellent work in 2007, and in welcoming our new Police Chief, Teresa Chambers. Chief Chambers brings an impressive resume to the job, and I anticipate positive change on the challenges facing our Town. I also look forward to using Chief Chambers' experience to increase our utilization of county and state crime fighting resources.

M-UTC Committee

Last month I was appointed to the Riverdale Park Mixed-Use Town Center Design Review Committee by the Prince George's County Planning Board. Councilwoman Alice Ewen Walker and I will be the Town Council representatives to the committee for the 2008-2009 term. And I am proud to report that three other Ward Two residents will serve on the committee. Alan Thompson will provide technical expertise and act as the committee chair. Architects Marc Stauffer and Brian Boettger will use their professional experience to represent residents' interests. I believe that the M-UTC guidelines are an important tool for helping Riverdale Park shape our desired future. Thanks to Alan, Marc and Brian for dedicating their time and energy to this excellent committee.

Finance Committee Report

Code Enforcement Software

The Town has budgeted to purchase software in FY 2007-08 to improve our efficiency on code enforcement issues. Software developer Jeff Hughes gave a presentation at the December Finance Committee meeting on software he has developed for code enforcement. Mr. Hughes is a past Vice President of the Code Enforcement and Zoning Officials Association. His software was selected by Town staff as the best value for the money during the competitive bid process earlier this year. Mr. Hughes will be preparing a revised cost esti-

mate based on feedback from the meeting, and the committee is looking to move forward on obtaining software.

Capital Equipment Purchase

The committee received a report from Town staff on our efforts to purchase four new police cruisers, one tractor, and an upgraded fuel pump system, as outlined in our FY 2007-08 budget. We are unable to use our planned lender, LaSalle Bank, due to a bank merger and change in loan terms. The staff has identified a new lender, Marquette Bank, with whom we have an established relationship. Marquette Bank has offered favorable loan terms that will save the Town nearly \$10,000 over the life of the loan. I brought the loan offer before the Council at the Special Legislative Meeting on December 17th, and the Council voted to approve the loan.

Ward 3 Report

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

Word from the Festival of Lights has it the trolley ride to be on was the #3 trolley. And of course we know which Ward it went through...nudge, nudge, wink, wink, say no more.

Let's have a little quiz to start off the New Year. Which of the following items is unacceptable for recycling with the new single stream container: Bubble wrap, margarine tub, plastic utensils, yogurt container, or detergent bottles? The answer will come at the end of the report.

As you may well be aware of by now of a noose displayed within the Public Works Department in December. As of this writing, two employees have been suspended. Our Town attorney has been instructed by the council to conduct an investigation of the events taking place on and after 7 December 2007 as well as the actions taken by management staff and to provide a report on each. I am extremely dismayed by the event and find such conduct reprehensible. Our ability to achieve as a whole is arrested when we are debilitated by the actions of a few.

As Chair of the Public Works Committee, I feel it is important actions taken by the Public Works Committee be methodical and deliberate. It is the responsibility of the Public Works Chair to oversee the formulation and review of policy with the Committee. One such review this Committee will conduct is how this scenario unfolded: from the time the noose was placed to the final action of the Mayor and Town Administration. When completed it will be the responsibility of the Committee to present to the Council its recommendations.

Water, water everywhere revisited. At the last Public Works Committee meeting I asked Mr. Prangle about the completion of the storm water project off of Taylor Road. Having been resurrected in October of 2006, and seeing the Pumping Station completed, I have

been assured and we are resolved to have this project completed this year. I thank all of you for your patience.

OK, now for the sales pitch; for those of you resolving to be more involved this year have I the venues for you. As always the Recreation Board is looking for volunteers who can lend a little time and effort to help make our Town events even more special. Now we're not asking for blood here just some help in throwing a few Town-wide parties. (You do like throwing parties, don't you?) Also the Community Affairs Committee is looking for resident input so as to help make Riverdale Park even better.

The Single Stream recycle containers are here and the word from most is enthusiastic approval. At the same time I've heard from some who are doing just fine without and prefer the yellow bins. For those wishing to forego the rolling container, please contact the Public Works Department directly or yours truly.

Now for the quiz answer: only the detergent bottle is acceptable. All the other choices are unacceptable. Better study up for Wednesday's recyclable pickup!

Going Green Save Energy, Save Money

By Michael Sevensen

Riverdale Park is a "Tree City" and has enjoyed this status for five years. Our trees should be a source of pride for the entire Town and they are a great resource that we should learn to use well. Many studies have shown that large shade trees can help keep our homes and gardens cooler in the summer. Of course, a scientific study shouldn't be necessary to understand this very simple effect. When Fall rolls around and the leaves start to pile up, we may see our trees as more of a nuisance. We may have trouble starting a cranky leaf blower that hasn't been used since last year or we may experience a ringing sensation in our ears after we use it for hours on end.

There is a better way! This is not magic, of course, but it is a very simple, low cost, energy efficient and money saving way to make the most of our tree resources. First of all, get rid of the leaf blower! These devices pollute the air with noxious exhaust and they generate noise levels that can lead to hearing loss. Get a simple lawn rake that does not produce unwanted noise, polluted gases or kick up clouds of dust.

Next, consider your entire lawn and garden area and look for a place where you can establish a compost pile for the leaves. By keeping the leaves that your trees shed, you can easily produce a rich, humus like mulch that is great for the trees, azaleas, rhododendron, hollies, yews and other acid loving plants. You will need to have an idea of how large the pile of leaves may be and mark

the boundaries of what will be your compost pile. If you wish to contain the pile better you can use a roll of fencing material to just make a cylinder 4 or 5 feet in diameter. Then just scrape off the topsoil in the area where you want to compost. Save this topsoil because you will use it to pile on top of the leaves to keep them from blowing away and to “inoculate” them with the natural microorganisms from the soil.

Just rake the leaves into your pile and make alternating layers of leaves, followed by grass clippings or manure (great way to get rid of your doggy droppings) and a bit of the topsoil. If you have none of these materials you may wish to lightly fertilize with a nitrogen rich fertilizer. Wet the layers a bit as you pile them up. If made right, the pile will begin to “cook” within a week or two. If you dig into it you will note that it is actually steamy and warm. This is because the microorganisms are eating the leaves and other organic material and generating their own heat. During this period the heat generated actually disinfects the pile (can even kill roundworms from the doggy droppings). As the pile ages and cools down you will undoubtedly see earthworms start to move in. This is truly the sign of a healthy product that will be good for your plants. In fact many studies have shown that compost acts like a natural plant antibiotic to strengthen seedlings and mature plants alike.

There are only three things a compost pile needs to “cook”. These are a good balance of carbon and nitrogen, the right moisture and good air flow. With a little practice you can find the right blend of materials, usually available right in your own garden, to make a great compost pile and produce your own healthy mulch material. Instead of spending money to have the Town take our leaves away and buying mulch to replace this resource, we can make our own! This will save energy by reducing the fuel spent by the trucks and our cars and save money for the Town and for our own pockets, all the while helping feed our great trees and gardens.

Our Town

Riverdale Park Art’s Council Launched and Going Green in Riverdale Park

By Marita Novicky

The Riverdale Park Art’s Council

A group of artists and supporters met recently to rejuvenate a Riverdale Art’s Council. Emily Manning-Fanning Riverdale Park’s own Aunt Emily’s Dolls owner, led the discussion in this first of many to come meetings to jump start the Art’s Council. Emily and the group, hosted by Dwight Holmes and Michelle Burns, discussed the goals of the newly-formed group:

- Bring together artists to show their work, have fun, and sell their work

- Engage Town residents and visitors (adults and children) in learning, seeing, and experiencing art in all types of formats
- Engage children in creating and displaying their art, poetry, creative writing, and music—essentially to involve young children and to grow their love and appreciation of all art

The group made great headway in making initial plans to host its’ first Riverdale Park Art Festival scheduled for Sunday, May 4, 2008. This seven-hour (11:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.), non-juried, community festival will be held in the Town Center and will include a wide-variety of art including: works by local artists including oils, watercolors, and sculpture; landscaping artists; origami for adults and children; local, regional, and state art schools/councils/and associations; music; food; and dancing. A number of committee’s were formed to plan, develop, and implement the Festival including: advertising, finance, artist committee, food concessions, music and stage, children’s art activities, and public engagement. All of these committees are open and looking for volunteers.

In all, Emily’s dream is a wide and wonderful kaleidoscope of great and real possibilities of sharing the art and talent we are surrounded by, and encouraging our residents, and especially our children, to become involved and excited about art of all types. Especially encouraging is Emily’s and the group’s enthusiasm and positive outlook for the potential for success in growing art here in Riverdale Park. If you’d like to get involved in any capacity, please contact Emily at ourdollmom@aol.com. There are numerous opportunities for involvement and fun; and this includes our children. Don’t hesitate to be involved in this fantastic opportunity—the first of many Riverdale Park Art’s Festival—its time has come.

Going Green in Riverdale Park

It was my delight to host a New Year’s Day get-together where we discussed environmentally-friendly and green technologies that could save us money, and at the same time save our earth! A group of 14 people met on this first day of the year to share ideas and information about “green” technologies and what we might do to make our homes and properties more environmentally-friendly without spending a fortune. Local home owners, builders, and neighbors shared their ideas and were able to gather information for further research. These included: solar panels on our roofs to gather and store energy; water cisterns to gather rain water; solar heated water-heaters, tankless water heaters, and electric water heaters; windmills and turbines; composting; and a host of other innovative ideas to save money and the earth (see Michael Sevener’s article on Saving energy/Saving money in this edition). The group will meet again in the future to continue the Going Green discussion.

College Scholarships for Prince George's County Students

Students who reside in the 22nd Legislative District and are planning to attend an in-state Maryland University or trade school are encouraged to apply for a Senatorial Scholarship from the office of state Senator Paul G. Pinsky.

The scholarships are awarded annually to deserving undergraduate and graduate students. A volunteer committee of community members makes selections after reviewing academic achievement, financial need, and commitment to higher education. Most scholarships are awarded for four years or until the recipient completes his or her degree, whichever comes first.

The 22nd Legislative District includes Berwyn Heights, Edmonston, Greenbelt, Hyattsville, Lanham, New Carrollton, Woodlawn, Riverdale Park, Riverdale Heights, Beacon Heights, and University Park.

Applications are available online at:

<http://www.senatorpinsky.org/> or from Senator Pinsky's office at (301) 858-3155. All applicants must submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as part of their application.

Completed applications must be submitted to Senator Pinsky's office no later than **April 10, 2008**. Please contact Pam Shurkin or David Kahn at 301-858-3155 if you need more information.

Happy New Year from the Riverdale Park Business Association

By Carol Patsel

The Riverdale Park Business Association fondly recalls 2007 as the busiest and most successful year on record. It wasn't just a stroke of good luck, though. It was the direct result of its members' hard work and the exemplary leadership of its president, Audrey Bragg. Membership and meeting attendance steadily grew to twice the previous years' numbers. The Association's presence in the community became very well known for its commitment to aid local businesses and residents wherever needed.

As part of its ongoing effort to support and promote awareness of its presence in Riverdale Park, a directory was created and distributed in the Town Crier.

Businesses and residents, alike, have enjoyed the convenience of having this information at their fingertips.

"If you want something done, ask a member of the RPBA (a busy person!) Local, nonprofit organizations and Town events not only received monetary sponsorship, but members volunteered their time and energy by participating in a myriad of causes and activities such as Christmas in April, Earth Day, the Anacostia Watershed Society Regatta, the Annual pet Costume Contest and Parade, and the Festival of Lights.

The RPBA will continue to partner with local residents to grow and maintain a community where families can raise their children in a healthy, fun and safe environment, where businesses can deliver quality services and products within walking distance of its residents.

S & J Restaurant

Daily Lunch and Dinner Specials, Eat In/Carry Out

Breakfast Special - Monday - Friday \$3.95

Monday - Tacos, \$1.00 each

Friday & Saturday - All you can eat Shrimp 4:00 to 8:00 PM \$15.95

Steamed Shrimp Everyday

Sandwich/ Sub of the Month - \$3.95

Ladies Night-Every Monday

Karaoke Tuesday & Saturday

Corner of Queensbury and Rhode Island Avenue

301-927-3977

A paid advertisement

Everyone Welcome

February 7th, 2008, 7:30p.m.

Town Hall Municipal Center
5008 Queensbury Rd.

Join Us for a Presentation on the Request for Funding Proposal on the Design of Proposed Additions to the Riverdale Park Municipal Center.

Community Circles

What to Watch For:

Monday, February 4, 2008—Legislative meeting, Town Hall.

Wednesday, February 6, 2008—Ash Wednesday.

Thursday, February 7, 2008—Chinese New Year;
Year of the Rat.

Tuesday, February 12, 2008—Madison Hill HOA,
Town Hall, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 13, 2008—RPBA meeting. Call Audrey Bragg, 301-277-7393 for location.

Thursday, February 14, 2008—Valentine's Day

[illegible]

Monday, February 18, 2008—President's Day, Town Offices and Public Works Closed; no trash pickup.

Tuesday, February 19, 2008—Regular trash & yard pickup, Area A

Wednesday, February 20, 2008—Regular trash & yard pickup, Area A. County recycling areas A & B.

Monday, February 25, 2008—Work Session, Town Hall, 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 26, 2008—Lion's Club, Town Hall,
7:00 p.m.

Town Organizations:

Northern County Soccer Alliance, Inc. (NCSA):

For more information on NCSA and on travel, recreation, home school, and training programs, contact www.ncsa-soccer.org or call (301-927-0560). NCSA is the only all year-round soccer club in the North/west Prince Georges County area. Tax deductible donations accepted at www.justgive.org. Volunteers needed—this is an excellent opportunity to get involved with your child in fun and great physical activity.

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:

Madison Hill Homeowner's Association—For information call (301) 513-9188 or email *MadisonHillHOA@aol.com*.

Recreation Board – Volunteers needed. Call Anissa Sunday at (301) 277-2458 for more information.

Lion's Club—Contact Guy Tiberio at (301) 864-3545 for more information.

Riversdale Historical Society—Contact Riversdale Mansion (301) 864-0420 for more information. Here are some coming events:

Saturday, February 9, 2:30 pm

Fine Fare & Wine With My Valentine

Bring your valentine to taste pairings of European wines and period-inspired dishes.

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

Tuesday, February 12, 10 am

Hands-On History: Folk Arts

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

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

Sunday, February 24, 12 noon

The Plummers' Kitchen

See the Riversdale Kitchen Guild prepare foods common among Maryland's 19th century African-Americans, including Riversdale's Plummer family.

Fee: Regular admission fees apply; includes tour of the house.

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

DID YOU KNOW?

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

