



The Riverdale Park Town Crier

Official Newsletter, Town of Riverdale Park, Maryland

February 2005

Volume 34, *Issue 1*

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Legislative Meeting

Town Hall
Monday, Feb. 7, 8:00 p.m.

Work Session

Town Hall
Monday, Feb. 28, 8:00 p.m.

Important Notices

Snow Emergencies

During a snow emergency, park on the even numbered side of the street to comply with Town of Riverdale Park ordinances. The penalty for non compliance – Police may tow vehicle and a \$200 fine.

Sidewalks

24 hours after the snowfall stops, residents who have sidewalks are responsible for shoveling them. Fine for non compliance - \$100.

Income Taxes

When completing your Federal and State income taxes for the year of 2004, please indicate “**Riverdale Park**” as your city of residence.

Vacancy

At a special meeting called on Jan. 31, 2005 Mayor Tiberio appointed, Tracey Toscano, as the Councilmember for Ward 1. Tracey Toscano was approved unanimously by the Town Council. New Councilmember Toscano has been a resident of the Town for 11 years.

Emergencias de Nieve

Las regulaciones de Riverdale Park indican que durante una emergencia de nieve, los vehiculos deben ser estacionados en el lado de la calle donde los numeros de las casas terminan con 0,2,4,6,8. Vehiculos estacionados en el lado opuesto seran levantados por la Policia de Riverdale Park y una fianza de \$200 sera impuesta.

Ceras

24 horas despues de que deje de nevar, todos los residentes son responsables por remover la nieve de las ceras en frente de sus casas. No cumplir con la regulacion puede terminar en una fianza de \$100.

To:

Bulk Rate
U. S.
Postage
PAID
Riverdale
Park, MD

Carrier Route
Presort

Every Residence and Business

Council Actions

**Mayor & Council
Legislative Session
Monday, Dec. 6, 2004**

1. Approved special fence permit 6401 Baltimore Ave 6-0
2. Approved speed hump subject to funding 6300 Block 46th Ave. 6-0
3. Approved Ann Larson Beautification Committee chair. 6-0
4. Approved MUTC recommendation for denial of church use – Town Center. 6-0
5. Approval of road contract for various streets VMP Construction Com. 6-0
6. Approval of Storm Sewer Contracts for Somerset Rd. & Sheridan St., 48th Ave to Taylor Rd. 6-0
7. Approved PY30 Engineering Contract to G+C Consultants for Jefferson, 54th Ave. and Spring Lane.
8. Approved table of 2004-OR-9 Re. Campaign Finance Davis, Hiles, Badders, Webb: for : Taylor, Kiernan: against.

**Mayor & Council
Legislative Session
Monday, Jan. 3, 2005**

1. Approved removal of 2004-OR-9 from table. 5-1
2. Action to approve 2004-OR-9 as amended denied against: Taylor, Davis, Badders, Hiles, Webb/ for: Kiernan
3. Approved special fence permit 5414 Powhatan Rd. 6-0

**Special Legislative Meeting
Monday, January 10, 2005
(Councilmember Davis & Webb excused)**

1. Waiver of bid requirements per section 623 of Charter 4-0
2. Approval of contract with Transol Inc. for red light surveillance services. 4-0.

Condolences

The Town wishes to express our deep sorrow to our Town Administrator Pat Prangley and his family on the loss of their mother Mary K. Prangley. Mary, who was very well known, served on the Hyattsville City Council and was elected as the first woman mayor of the city. She will be missed by all who knew her.

We also wish to express our condolences to Doris Pullman, a long time town resident and chairperson of our Riverdale Park Recreation Board on the loss of her husband Bob. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

The Riverdale Park Town Crier

The Official Newsletter of the
Town of Riverdale Park, Maryland
5008 Queensbury Road
Riverdale Park, MD 20737

Guy Tiberio, Mayor
Home: 301-864-3545

Councilmembers

Ward 1 Tracey Toscano 301-927-9022
Ward 2 David Hiles 301-779-8620
Ward 3 Ray Badders 301-864-5722
Ward 4 Lawrence Taylor 301-474-6868
Ward 5 Gerard Kiernan 301-277-4554
Ward 6 Kenneth Webb 301-927-6381

Town Office 301-927-6381
e-mail: riverdaleparkmd@comcast.net.
Patrick J. Prangley, Town Administrator

Police Department 301-927-4343
E. Thomas Parker, Police Chief

Public Works Department 301-864-1803
James Houser, Public Works Director

Code Enforcement 301-209-1505
Colleen M. Ferguson

Fire Department 301-927-0356
Vincent Harrison, Fire Chief

The *Town Crier* is published 10 times a year. Some material contained in the *Town Crier* represents the opinion of the authors and editors and does not necessarily represent the views of the Town of Riverdale Park.

Advertising rates are available on request; call, 301-927-6381

It is the policy of the Town of Riverdale Park, pursuant to the provisions 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.

Riverdale Park Web Site:
<http://www.ci.riverdale-park.md.us>

Mayor's Report

By Guy Tiberio

As required by our charter the Mayor shall report to the Council regularly, but no less than yearly the condition of municipal affair and make recommendations as he deems proper for the public good and welfare of the town. Traditionally, mayors have chosen the month of January for this purpose.

Financial: As a result of our property tax cap and loss of taxable property due to the acquisition of a large amount of industrial property by the University of Maryland, the Town suffered a large loss of tax revenue during this fiscal year. At the present time our taxable assessable base is \$300,000,000. Our non-taxable base is an unbelievable \$65,000,000 which if taxable would increase our revenues by an additional \$325,000 per year, only in property taxes.

Fortunately our two year efforts to induce NOAA to locate their new climate and atmosphere building in Riverdale Park, when completed, will yield our town an additional \$200,000 + in tax years starting 2006-2007.

We are continuing our efforts to have the Cafritz Properties developed as soon as possible. We have had many discussions both with developers and Cafritz representatives for the use of property.

We are also cooperating with the Potomac Development Company as regards the Eckerd Project. Jey's Service Center for the Cleveland Ave/US 1 Redevelopment Project, the Puglisi Project on US 1 for the proposed office center, and the Corporation for the Town Home Project on the 4500 Block of Madison Street, and Chambers LLC for four new homes at Dupont Circle and Harrison Street.

We continue our efforts to obtain tenants for the Town Center, as well as, the Credit Union building and the former Bike Shop Site.

The economic future looks good for our Town and many thanks need to be given to the many State & County Officials and departments who continue to give us their support and assistance.

Services: In order to meet budgetary requirements each department was required to not fill certain positions when some employees left for any reason. While this has been difficult in many ways, on a whole no Town service to our residents has suffered and in fact our employees are performing in an outstanding fashion. Hopefully our new Fiscal year 2005-2006 would allow us to increase the amount of employees.

Infrastructure: I am pleased to report we have awarded close to \$500,000 in contracts for resurfacing a large number of streets commencing in March – weather permitting. These projects are over and above projects which will also begin in March for work to be completed as a result of grants applied for – storm sewer and road improvements on the 6200 block of Rhode Island, storm sewer in the 4800-4900 blocks of Somerset and Sheridan resurfacing and road reconstruction on Spring Lane, 54th Ave and Jefferson Street. These projects are over \$300,000. We have and are also applying for an approximate \$5,000,000 project under Priority Places for Kenilworth Avenue North of East West Highway to Goodluck Road. A \$100,000 project for reconstruction of 48th Ave between Riverdale Road & Rittenhouse, through CDBG Funding.

Article continued on pg. 8

Police Activity Report

December Crime Report							September Officer Activity	
Crime	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Stln. Veh.	Activity	Total
Ward 1	0	0	0	1	0	1	Calls for Service	1029
Ward 2	0	0	0	0	1	2	Routine Patrols	264
Ward 3	0	0	0	2	0	0	Traffic Stops	*108
Ward 4	0	0	1	1	2	5	Reported Traffic Accidents	**80
Ward 5	0	0	0	0	1	0	Parking Citations	84
Ward 6	1	0	0	0	1	1	Subjects Arrested	21
Total	0	0	2**	4	5*	9		
** Citizen, 1 Commercial, *4 residential, 1 commercial							* 147 Traffic Citations ** 31 Written Citations	

Public Works Report

Holiday Schedule

Public Works is closed for Presidents Day on February 21, 2005. Regular trash and yard waste pickup for Area A will be on Tuesday, February 22, 2005. Regular trash and yard waste pickup for Area B will be on Wednesday, February 23, 2005. Residents are reminded to not put out garbage on Sundays when Mondays are holidays.

Leaves

Loose leaf collection season is over. Residents

who still have leaves will need to bag them and put them out for yard waste on their first collection day of each week. The town office is selling heavy-gauge clear plastic bags for \$2.50 for a roll of 25 bags. Placing yard waste in clear bags will save time as our collectors can immediately identify yard waste from other trash.

Christmas Trees

Discarded Christmas trees are to be put out on yard waste collection day.

Public Safety / Ward 2 Report

Chief Parker gave me a tour of the Police Department on 1/7/05. I will be working with his staff to assemble information on current Police Department workload and the trend over the last year or so. As that information is assembled, I'll share it with you via my website. I have posted the reports for the fourth quarter of 2003 and 2004 on the new Public Safety directory of my site to start.

<http://homepage.mac.com/hilesd/RiverdalePark/FileSharing17.html>

December calls for police service increased from 654 in 2003 to 1029 in 2004, for an increase of 57 percent. This contrasts with a November 2003-November 2004 increase of 24 percent and a decline of 14 percent between October 2003 and October 2004. This substantial increase in workload has been shouldered by a force that has

lost staff over the last several months, partially due to our town's budget crunch.

I support the purchase of a new ambulance for our Fire Department. I hope you will use the flyer in this month's Crier to make a generous contribution towards that end.

If you want help getting your walk shoveled this winter or need a babysitter/petsitter, call the Town Office to get the name of a teenager interested in odd jobs. If you are a teenager looking for work shoveling snow, babysitting, petsitting, etc., email: hilesd@mac.com to get your name on the list.

David Hiles
Ward 2 Councilman
Chair, Public Safety Committee

Ward 5 Report

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone has a great 2005.

Providing a good example to the children of the Ward.

Recently, I have noticed that mothers coming home from their morning trip to the Elementary School cross Riverdale Road in the 5300 block wherever they feel like. They don't use the crosswalks. Many of these ladies have their preschoolers with them. Young children, being the information sponges that they are, will learn that jaywalking is acceptable behavior. Similarly, on a recent evening, I had a gentleman cross in front of me while he was going from Riverdale Plaza to McDonald's. He was holding his young son's hand while they crossed between the cars. Why couldn't he have walked the extra 100 feet to the crosswalk at the intersection? Unfortunately, the children will not learn to look both ways. They will just step out into traffic and leave it to the driver not to hit them.

Why I live in Riverdale Park and Ward 5

Within the last six months, two members of the

Resignation

At our Jan. 3, 2005 meeting Councilmember Christina Davis announced her resignation from the Town Council, effective Jan 31, 2005. Chris, who was first elected to the council in 1995, has served our Town with distinction. As chairperson at one time or another of every major committee of the Council, Public Works, Public Safety, Economic Development as well as serving as Vice Mayor for the past 4 years. Councilmember Davis's work in the historic district area gave her such recognition, causing her to be appointed to the Prince Georges County Historic Preservation Commission. Her innovative ideas have been outstanding, creations of the Riverdale Park Town Archives, House Tours, Preservation

Town Council have chosen to leave the Town. Matt Hart was only here for a short time. I don't know why he left. Christina Davis grew up here, and spent almost her whole life here. She says that she is moving to take care of her aging grandparents, and that is a noble cause. They also were long time residents of the Town and have chosen to live out their lives in Hagerstown. I wish she and Ed the best in their new life. In June, I will start my 36th year in Riverdale Park, and yes, in the same apartment. Remember that I grew up as a cave dweller in Brooklyn, New York. Why have I stayed? I enjoy my under 20 minute commute to work. I enjoy access to public transit at my front door. I enjoy the diversity of the people in my building, in my neighborhood, and in the Town. I enjoy quick access to all of the activities in D.C., when I choose to participate in them. All in all, Riverdale Park is a good and convenient place to live.

Gerard F Kiernan
Council Member

Committee, Member of the Riverside Historic Society and many others. Councilmember Davis will be missed as she has been a true asset to our Town. We wish her well in any new endeavors she may attempt.

Also coming in February...

The Southern Maryland Hospital Health Express Van will be offering free blood pressure checks and Triple A Sonograms here, at Crescent Cities Center, on February 15th from 10am -1pm. Also available for a minimal fee will be total cholesterol testing.

Kenilfair Shopping Center Planning Study

The final step before our "Application to Maryland Priority Places Program"

By Patrick J. Prangley

Last year the Town of Riverdale Park completed a streetscape revitalization project for Kenilworth Avenue, using the services of the Neighborhood Design Center and their volunteers from the firm of Louvierre Stratton and Yokel. During that project it was recommended that Kenilfair Shopping Center be given a facelift. The team also recommended that an old bridge connection to the trail and park network be reinstated.

In 2005, The Neighborhood Design Center has mobilized two volunteer Landscape Architects from Rodgers Consulting to complete a planning study for the Kenilfair Shopping Center on Kenilworth Avenue. This team will look at the possibility for façade improvements to the existing businesses and the potential for adding new businesses to the center, since currently the parking lot is underutilized. Ideally these businesses should be at the street edge and should attract potential customers from the burgeoning University of Maryland, research park on River Road, known as "M Square". Destined to be the largest research park in the state of Maryland If there were lunch options in the Kenilfair Center, more people would be attracted there.

In order to attract potential pedestrian traffic, a strong trail connection needs to be made to the existing trail network to the rear of the center. This will necessitate building a new bridge.

Finally the parking lot will be redesigned to add parking lot islands with trees and other plantings. Ideally these should be bio-retention areas, that trap pollutants during heavy rains and stop those going into the storm drains and then to the Chesapeake Bay.

We have been advised by the Neighborhood Design Center that mid to late March 2005, the study team will be prepared to make a presentation to the Mayor & Council and community on the Kenilfair Shopping Center Planning Study.

The Kenilworth Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project along with the aforementioned study will be the major focus of the application to the State of Maryland Priority Places Program. As previously reported we are currently working the Maryland Department of Transportation, State Highway Administration (SHA), Maryland Department of Planning, University of Maryland and Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED) to explore funding opportunities for the implementation of streetscape and redevelopment improvements along the Kenilworth Avenue Corridor.

As always we encourage community input on these proposed plans.

Patrick J. Prangley
Town Administrator

Home Decorating Contest

The following is a list of winners in the annual Home Decorating Contest. Judging was done by House of Delegates Representative Twanna Raines and Councilmember Patti Dennison from the Town of Berwyn Heights. We are pleased to have seen so many beautifully decorated homes this year which added to the holiday spirit.

Winners:

Harold & Frances Hoffman	200 Dupont Circle
Billy & Sheila Drumheller	4908 Sheridan Street
Claudette Nurse	5800 Supra Lane
Joseph & Lucille Curtis	6305 51 st Avenue
Rodolfo & Marvin Rubio	5905 Cleveland Ave

Community Circles

Events

Scholarship Funds for Local Students

Delegate Anne Healey, State Delegate from District 22A, Prince Georges Co. will award Maryland House of Delegates scholarships to students from her District. Interested students should call Mary T. Lerch for more information call: (301)858-3961

Organizations

Riverdale Park Chess Club

Now forming

For further information, please call 301-699-1427

Riverdale Boys & Girls Club

Tuesday, February 14th

6:30 p.m., Riverdale Community Center, 6401 51st Avenue. Call Cindy or Tom Carpenter, 301-927-7763.

Riverdale Business Association

For information, call Audrey Bragg 301-277- 7393.

Riverdale Elementary School PTA

For more information, call Ray Badders, 301-864-5722.

Riverdale Lions Club

Wednesday, February 23rd

7:00 p.m., Town Hall. For information, call Dave Sutton, 301-674-6586.

Civic Committees

Economic Development Committee

For information, call Chris Davis, Committee Chairperson, at 301-277-6615 or email chrisdavis@earthlink.net.

History Center Committee

For information, call Susan McElrath at 301-277-2085.

Madison Hill Homeowners Association

Tuesday, February 8th

7:30 p.m., Town Hall. For information, 301-513-9188 or e-mail MadisonHillHOA@aol.com.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Connects residents who need assistance with neighbors who can lend a hand. For more information, call Audrey Bragg, 301-277-

7393.

Preservation Association of Riverdale Park

For information, call Chris Davis, 301-277-6615 or e-mail cdavis@apa.org.

Recreation Board

Monday, February 14th

7:30 p.m., Town Hall. Volunteers are needed. For information, call Doris Pullman, 301-927-6992.

Residents Association for Progress in the Town of Riverdale (RAPTOR)

For information, call Sarah Wayland 301-927-7407.

Riverdale Park Farmers' Market Task Force

For information, call Pat Gladding at 301-927-1362.

Riverdale Park Tree Committee

E-mail Laura Hilden at laurachilden@yahoo.com to be put on contact list or call Rebecca Feldberg at 301-864-2779.

Riversdale Historical Society

Riversdale Mansion. For information, call 301-864-0420.

Town Center Redevelopment Committee

For more information, call Chris Davis, 301-277-6615 or e-mail chrisdavis@earthlink.net

Traffic Study Committee

Tuesday, February 1st

7:00 p.m., Town Hall. For information, call Guy Tiberio, 301-927-6381.

Web Site Committee

For information, call Alan Thompson at 301-927-7407 or e-mail at webmaster@ci.riverdale-park.md.us.

Deadline for submitting articles for the March issue is February 15, 2005.

FEBRUARY 2005

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 ELECTION DAY Traffic Study Town Hall 7 pm Regular Trash Pickup & Yard Waste - B	2 County Recycling	3 Conflict Resolution Ctr. Town Hall, 6:30 pm Regular, Heavy & Metal pick up – Area A	4 Riversdale Tours Noon - 4 pm Girl Scouts Town Hall, 2:45 pm Regular, Heavy & Metal Pick up – Area B	5 Heavy trash, used oil, mixed paper and recycling drop off. Public Works Bldg. 9 am - 5 pm
6 Riversdale Tours Noon - 4 pm 4811 Riverdale Rd. Sunday Soccer, Field of Dreams, 4-6 pm	7 Legislative Session Town Hall 8 p.m. Regular Trash & Yard Waste pick up – Area A	8 Madison Hill Town Hall, 7:30 pm Regular Trash & Yard Waste pick up – Area B	9 County Recycling	10 Conflict Resolution Ctr. Town Hall, 6:30 pm Regular, Heavy & Metal pick up – Area A	11 Riversdale Tours Noon - 4 pm Girl Scouts Town Hall, 2:45 pm Regular, Heavy & Metal pick up – Area B	12 Heavy trash, used oil, mixed paper and recycling drop off. Public Works Bldg. 9 am - 5 pm
13 Riversdale Tours Noon - 4 pm 4811 Riverdale Rd. Sunday Soccer, Field of Dreams, 4-6 pm	14 Boy Scouts Town Hall, 7 pm Rec. Board Mtg. Town Hall, 7:30 pm Regular Trash & Yard Waste pick up – Area A Valentine's Day	15 PGHLN Town Hall, 7:30 pm Regular Trash & Yard Waste pick up - Area B	16 County Recycling	17 Conflict Resolution Ctr. Town Hall, 6:30 pm Regular, Heavy & Metal pick up – Area A	18 Riversdale Tours Noon - 4 pm Girl Scouts Town Hall, 2:45 pm Regular, Heavy & Metal pick up – Area B	19 Heavy trash, used oil, mixed paper and recycling drop off. Public Works Bldg. 9 am - 5 pm
20 Riversdale Tours Noon - 4 pm 4811 Riverdale Rd. Sunday Soccer, Field of Dreams, 4-6 pm	Town Hall and Public Works CLOSED Presidents' Day	22 Regular Trash & Yard Waste pick up – Area A	23 Lions Club Town Hall, 7 pm County Recycling Regular Trash & Yard Waste pick up – Area B	24 Conflict Resolution Ctr. Town Hall, 6:30 pm Regular, Heavy & Metal pick up – Area A	25 Riversdale Tours Noon - 4 pm Girl Scouts Town Hall, 2:45 pm Regular, Heavy & Metal pick up – Area B	26 Heavy trash, used oil, mixed paper and recycling drop off. Public Works Bldg. 9 am - 5 pm
27 Riversdale Tours Noon - 4 pm 4811 Riverdale Rd. Sunday Soccer, Field of Dreams, 4-6 pm	28 Work Session Town Hall, 8 pm Regular Trash & Yard Waste pick up – Area A					

...Mayor's Report continued from pg. 3

Our long range planning for over \$7,000,000 worth of infrastructure improvements is well on schedule with projects planned annually well into the future.

Taxes: As a result of the final payments having been made for the Town Municipal Center and Police Department buildings and some of our long term leases purchases, our Town's debt is at the lowest point in over thirty years. For the proposed budget for 2005-2006, I will propose a significant tax reduction in our special tax which is used to pay debt, but I will also ask for an adjustment in our general tax cap, to either raise the limit or remove it in its entirety. This is necessary to assure the continuation of our town services at a high level, to assure our staffing remains adequate and competitive with our surrounding municipalities.

In general: Our Town is on an upswing. We are blessed to have employees such great in our Public Works, Police Department, Code Enforcement and General Government. Plus our volunteer organizations that has and is continuing to provide our residents with quality services. For this we can be thankful.