

The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

June 2011

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IMPORTANT!

**Bulk Trash Collection
WEDNESDAYS
BY APPOINTMENT
ONLY**

**Contact Bates Trucking
and Trash Collections at
(301) 773-2069 before 2pm
on Tuesday.**

Join Council Vice-Chair Eric Olson
for his
District 3 Community Meeting
Featuring Special Guest
County Executive Rushern Baker





June 20, 2011

*Meet the new
County Executive
and many of the new
Agency Directors.*

6:30 P.M. -9:00 P.M.
Parkdale High School
6001 Good Luck Road
Riverdale, MD

*Hear more on the
County Budget
and the initiatives
in District 3.*



Council Vice-Chair Eric Olson • (301) 952-3060 • eolson@co.pg.md.us • www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/district3

Together Strengthening Our Community

Riverdale Park Business Association

The RPBA Annual Spring Dinner and Silent Auction

Member Artists Present
"Art on the Boulevard"

Who's Invited?
Business Owners/Associates, Government Officials and Residents

The Calvert House Inn
6211 Baltimore Avenue
Riverdale Park, Maryland
June 16, 2011
5:30pm
Tickets on Sale: \$50 per person
Contact: Audrey Bragg, President
Phone Number: 301-351-4222

Council Actions

By Waverly Pollitt

April 25, 2011 Special Legislative Meeting

1. **Approved** – Awarded contract for Kenilworth Avenue Façade Improvement Program (PY 35) to Molina Construction Inc.
2. **Approved-** To authorize the Town Administrator to enter into agreements with property and business owners to implement façade improvements associated with CDBG PY 35.
3. **Approved** – Resolution 2011-R-15 to appoint appeals board for town election.
4. **Introduction** – Charter Amendment Resolution 2011-CR-01 Issuance of Debt.
5. **Introduction** – Ordinance Resolution 2011-OR-03 Town Charges & Fees.
6. **Approved --** To waive bid requirement to sole source signage for PY 35 project to Art Display Company for an amount not to exceed \$27,000.00

May 2, 2011 Regular Legislative Meeting

1. **Approved-** Minutes for April 4, 2011 regular legislative meeting.
2. **Approved** – Election results for May 2, 2011 Town Election

Code Corner

By Colleen Ferguson

REMINDER:

Mayor and Council do not meet during the month of August. Therefore, all permit requests, received after June 17, 2011, will be scheduled for the August 29, 2011 Work-Session.

Town of Riverdale Park

www.riverdaleparkmd.gov

Town Hall

5008 Queensbury Road
Riverdale Park, MD 20737
301-927-6381, Hablamos Español
town@riverdaleparkmd.gov
Mayor Vernon Archer, 240-832-2257
varcher@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Council Members

Ward 1–Alice C. Ewen,
Chair, Econ Development, 301-379-5303
aewen@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Ward 2 – Alan Thompson
Chair, Finance Committee, 301-927-7407
akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Ward 3 - David Lingua
Chair, Public Safety, 301-779-3849
djlingua@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Ward 4 - Christopher Henry
Chair, Public Works, 301-910-9855
Chenry3240@verizon.net

Ward 5 – Raymond Rivas
Chair, Community Affairs, 301-625-9435
rrivas@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Ward 6 - Keelah Allen-Smith
Chair, Legislative Committee, 240-751-6688
kallensmith@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Sara Imhulse, **Town Administrator**
simhulse@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Public Works, 301-864-1803

Leonard Addison, **Director**
Code Enforcement 240-898-2500
Colleen M. Ferguson, **Code Manager**
code@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Police Department, 301-927-4343
Patrick Timmons, **Interim Police Chief**
ptimmons@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Fire Department - Emergency 911
Information - 301-927-0356

Charles Ryan, **Chief**
info@riverdalevfd.com, www.riverdalevfd.com or,
Riverdalefirechief7@gmail.com

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

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

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

The Town Crier is also available at the Town's Website: www.riverdaleparkmd.info
Submission deadline: 15th of each month.

Submit all copies to
towncrier@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Riversdale House Museum Events

JAZZ ON THE LAWN KICKS OFF AT RIVERSDALE

As the sun sets, bring a blanket or lawn chair to Riversdale's beautiful grounds and enjoy the grass under your toes and the jazz wafting through the air. This year, the concerts have been moved to Thursdays so you can stop by the Riverdale Park Farmers Market and grab some dinner before heading over to Riversdale! Guests also have the option of bringing a picnic basket or purchasing dinner on the grounds courtesy of the Calvert House Inn. Concerts are FREE and run from 7 - 8pm. The first concert of the season kicks off with the Susan Jones Jazz Quartet on Thursday, June 16, 2011. Get your feet tapping with the fun sounds of the jazz violin!

Arts programs of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission are supported by a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council, an agency funded by the State of Maryland and the National Endowment for the Arts.

FATHER'S DAY TOURS

George Calvert was the father to nine children who lived at Riversdale. Five of these children lived to adulthood, including Charles Benedict Calvert, founder of the University of Maryland. Celebrate the special fathers, fathers-in-law, grandfathers, and other gentlemen in your life with a free guided tour of the historic house on Sunday, June 19 from 12:15-3:15pm!

Visitors will also be able to enjoy a Seasonal Selections cooking demonstration in the dependency kitchen. Members of the Riversdale Kitchen Guild will be preparing various preserves from noon-3:30pm.

This offer is limited to one free tour per paid admission. Admission is \$3 adults/\$2 seniors/ \$1 students/ FREE children 4 & under.

Riversdale, a historic house museum of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, is located at 4811 Riverdale Road in the town of Riverdale Park, Maryland. Call or email Riversdale@pgparks.com for more information.

Mayor's Report

By Mayor Vernon Archer

Thank you

Let me open my report by thanking you, the voters for re-electing me for another two year term as mayor. The confidence that you have expressed in me to direct our town government is not taken lightly and is an honor that I will continue to strive to deserve. In the coming years my aim will be to continue those practices and policies that have advanced the town's interests thus far. Likewise I will work to improve my performance and that of the government as a whole where it is needed.

Over the next several years there are numerous opportunities and the challenges that come with them facing us. While the following is not an exhaustive list, these items seem top priorities.

Cafritz Property and Whole Foods Center

As has been reported in local news sources, Jane Cafritz has put together a new development team to try again to develop her family's property in the northwest corner of town between Baltimore Avenue and the railroad tracks. They are proposing that the half nearest the road be developed first as a commercial center with Whole Foods grocery as the anchor for 180,000 square feet of space.

Whole Foods and the Cafritz team put on a presentation for me and a group of political leaders from neighboring communities, the county and our state delegation. This upscale grocer is clearly interested in Riverdale Park as the location for its first Prince George's store, and for that we should all be dully flattered. We are a fabulous town and we deserve amenities like this, and the types of smaller stores that will want to locate in conjunction with Whole Foods.

There are however significant challenges that face going forward with this development. They include significant traffic, storm water, and town services management issues. Also, the Cafritz team continues to want to develop the other half of their property with residential buildings at a density that is markedly higher than it is currently zoned for.

The amenity is very alluring and we expect the Cafritz team to work hard to make this a reality. Thus I'm optimistic that we will work out the problems and see the development both protect our existing quality of life and see improvements.

M Square

The University's M Square development, or more correctly multiple developments, also offer the town significant opportunities and pose challenges. As new privately owned buildings continue to be constructed on the university's land the town is finally reaping the tax reward for this area. This trend started several years ago and will probably take at least a decade more to complete. When finished, a noticeable shift in the tax burden should take place that will leave other property owners—like me and you—paying lower property taxes to the town.

The many thousands of jobs that are coming with the new development should serve as energy to encourage the continued growth of existing and yet to be created service businesses. Restaurants, quick stop markets and consumer service businesses should be particularly buoyed. There is also a clearer need for upscale apartments in the area that will provide housing for the many professional and scientific jobs that are growing at M Square.

There will of course be the problem of managing this growth, particularly traffic. The thousands of more people commuting in and out of town each day will pose a burden on the existing road system and cry out for new infrastructure to mitigate the impact on our residential areas in particular. Luckily some relief is already in the works in the form of the proposed Purple Line.

The Purple Line

This lite rail system has gone through the initial design phase and now awaits the word on Federal funding. This system, which is more like a trolley than our Metro rail, will provide service along River Road from the College Park Metro, to Kenilworth Avenue, South to East-West Highway and then east to New Carrollton. Our two stations will be at M Square and the corner of East-West and Kenilworth.

This line will help to relieve auto traffic on the northern tier of town where most of the new development will be centered. Not only will the line itself take cars off the road, but traffic flow itself tends to follow transit lines and will therefore encourage traffic to stay on the edge of town and not be as likely to cut through our residential core.

Additionally, as we continue efforts to revitalize Kenilworth Avenue we should see the station at East-West and Kenilworth as a golden opportunity to use it as a hub for redevelopment. With much of the surrounding area in need of revitalization we need to work with regional planners to see that this is not just a transportation opportunity, but also a root for improving the entire area.

Community Notes

Congratulations to the Spiropoulos family as they expand their business Dumm's Corner Market to provide greater service and convenience to our town! Pete, Jim and Ted have been great community members for two decades and it is wonderful to see them move forward to improve their business and our town!

Lastly, thanks and a job well done to the Arts Council as Arts Fest 2011 was a clear success despite uncooperative weather. Thanks to all of the volunteers and organizers for your efforts!

Ward Two Report

By Council Member Alan Thompson
akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Finance Committee Report

I would like to thank everyone who came out to vote on election day, and everyone who talked with me during the campaign. I am honored to be serving as your representative for another term, and will be working on the suggestions and requests I collected during the campaign over the weeks and months ahead.

As with professional sports, Town Council seasons also come on top of the other, with little or no gap between. A few hours after campaign season ended, budget season started as Mayor Archer presented his budget to the council and public (the council version has 128 pages to it, while the public budget, available at

Town Hall or on the Town's website, weighs in at a more reasonable 9 pages). As I write this in mid-May, the Finance Committee has met once to discuss General Government, and we will be meeting later this week to discuss Public Works and Police budgets, followed by Miscellaneous Spending (recreation, economic development, fire department, etc) and, finally, revenue.

Even though we've had these meetings in May (that you may have missed) we will still be discussing the budget at least in early June, and maybe up through late June, so check the calendar and join us to find out how your tax dollars are spent.

**TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK
FAIR SUMMARY OF
RESOLUTION 2011-OR-03
TOWN CHARGES AND FEES**

This is to give notice that the Riverdale Park Town Council has introduced and intends to take action on Resolution 2011-OR-03.

Resolution 2011-OR-03 would add Chapter 23 – Charges and Fees, to the Riverdale Park Town Code, to codify certain charges and fees imposed and collected by the Town of Riverdale Park that have not previously been established by ordinance. Resolution 2011-OR-03 also would ratify, confirm and validate the collection of charges and fees imposed by the Town of Riverdale Park prior to the effective date of this Ordinance, provide that the provisions of this Ordinance are severable, and address matters generally related to charges and fees imposed and collected by the Town of Riverdale Park.

Resolution 2011-OR-03 is available for inspection by the public at Town Hall during normal business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

**TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK
FAIR SUMMARY OF
CHARTER AMENDMENT RESOLUTION
2011-CR-01
ISSUANCE OF DEBT**

This is to give notice that the Riverdale Park Town Council has introduced and intends to take action on Charter Amendment Resolution 2011-CR-01.

Charter Amendment Resolution 2011-CR-01 is for the purpose of amending the Charter of the Town of Riverdale Park to alter the authority and process for the borrowing of money and the issuance of certain bonds, notes and other evidences of indebtedness by and on behalf of the Town of Riverdale Park (“Town”); for the purpose of authorizing the Town to borrow money for any proper public purpose and to evidence such borrowing by the issuance and sale of its general obligation bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness (the “Obligations”); specifying that the Town Council shall authorize by ordinance (1) the maximum aggregate principal amount of any such Obligations to be issued; (2) the purpose(s) for which such Obligations shall be expended; (3) a pledge of the security for such Obligations and, if applicable, a statement that such Obligations shall be payable in the first instance from a specified source of revenue or

provisions for the making of such statement by resolution; and (4) a requirement that prior to issuing any such Obligations the Council shall adopt a resolution regarding certain matters; providing that any such resolution shall contain, determine, approve or provide for the approval of various details regarding such Obligations, including (1) their designation, issue date, denomination(s), form(s) and tenor, (2) their rate(s) of interest (which may be fixed or variable or may be determined by a method approved or provided for); (3) their date(s) and amount(s) of maturity, denomination(s) and serial and/or term maturities; (4) whether they will be sold by the solicitation of competitive bids at public sale or by private (negotiated) sale; (5) their price(s), which may be at, above or below par value; (6) any desired redemption or put provisions, including how notice of redemption or put shall be given; (7) the manner of executing and sealing such Obligations; (8) any documents pursuant to which such Obligations are to be issued, offered or secured, including for the purpose of enhancing the marketability of or as security for such Obligations and for securing any tender option; and (9) such other provisions as the Council may determine necessary or desirable, including whether such Obligations shall be sold for cash or other valuable consideration or further providing for application of their proceeds; providing that any such resolution may be introduced and adopted at a single session and shall become effective immediately upon adoption; providing that the Council may instead by ordinance determine, approve or provide for the approval of any of the matters specified as being determinable by resolution; providing for or authorizing the methods by which any such Obligations may be bid for in connection with the sale of the same by solicitation of competitive bids at public sale and the methods by which any notice of sale or summary thereof may be published or disseminated; providing that the powers granted by this Charter Amendment are additional and supplemental to any other applicable general obligation borrowing authority; generally relating to the issuance and terms of such Obligations; and providing the procedures to be followed for the effectiveness of the Charter Amendment adopted by this Resolution.

Charter Amendment Resolution 2011-CR-01 is available for inspection by the public at Town Hall during normal business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

**BY: SARA IMHULSE,
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR**

Public Works Report

By Leonard Addison

Bulk Trash Pickups & Special Trash Pickups

Bulk Trash pickups are scheduled by APPOINTMENT ONLY. In order to have bulk items picked up on Wednesdays, you must call Bates Trash and Trucking Company at 301-773-2069, before 2:00 PM on Tuesdays.

Items must be at curbside by 7:00 AM on Wednesdays. Bates is not required to pick up more than THREE (3) bulk items from any one-family dwelling per week. If you have more than three (3) items, you can make another appointment for the items to be picked up on the following Wednesday.

The following items will not be picked up: building materials, concrete, bricks, roof shingles, stumps, bamboo, pressurized containers, explosives, paint (unless paint is dry in cans), poisons, caustics, , construction and demolition debris, asbestos, toilets, free liquids, sewage, sludge. These items can be taken to Brandywine Sand & Gravel, 5800 Sheriff Road, Capitol Heights, Maryland, 301-925-8100.

Saturday Drop Off – The next scheduled day for drop off of bulk trash will be on Saturday, May 21, 2011, from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

Holiday Trash Collection – Trash will not be collected on Monday, May 30, 2011, in observance of Memorial Day. The next collection day will be Thursday, June 2, 2011.

Seasonal Planting – We are doing our seasonal planting throughout the Town in the parks, new plants in the flower pots under welcome signs and in Town Center, as well as repainting the train station and waiting area across the tracks.



Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department

By Nova Johns

The Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department would like to welcome Probationary Members **Robert Weaver** and **Deneal Jenkins**.

Congratulations to Firefighters **Timothy Garman, Steven Lyles, and Chris Wakefield** for completing the Firefighter I Course (108 instructional hours). Also, congratulations to **Kaila Nichols** who completed the Emergency Medical Technician Basic Course (131 instructional hours), well done!

Fire Safety Tips

- Teach your kids how to respond in the event of a fire.
- Make sure young children know how to dial 911.
- Establish and practice a fire escape plan with your family that includes a designated meeting area outside the home.
- Practice stop, drop and roll with your children so they learn how to escape beneath a fire.
- Teach everyone in your family multiple ways to escape from every room in the event of a fire.
- Make sure that there is a sufficient quantity of smoke detectors in your home.
- Verify each month that smoke detectors are in working order.
- Make sure everyone in your family knows how to use a fire extinguisher.
- Do not place lit candles where they can be reached by children.
- Never leave burning candles unattended.
- Do not leave candles burning when you go to sleep.
- Don't leave cooking food unattended on the stove.
- Keep everything that might be flammable away from your stove.

Balloon Framing

One of the most common framing methods of a single family home in Riverdale Park is balloon framing. Balloon framing is a method of wood construction that was used primarily in the United States up until the mid-

1950s. The balloon wall studs extend from the sill of the first story all the way to the top plate or end rafter of the stories above the first story of a home.

This common type of framing was identical to the home that caught fire on the morning of March 27, 2011, at 4711 Oliver Street. During that incident, the fire department had to do extensive overhaul which included opening up the walls from inside and outside to make certain that the fire had not traveled within the studs. While that looked like a lot of damage, opening up the walls allows the fire department to make their best effort to check for fire extension, thus allowing for less extensive damage.

As a homeowner you might be wondering how to tell if your house is balloon frame construction? The most common characteristics of balloon frame constructed houses are that the windows are stacked. Meaning that the windows on the second floor are directly above those on the first floor. You may actually be able to go up into the attic of your home, and drop a stone or coin and it would end up on the basement floor seconds later.

You may add a “firestop” of various components that are used to seal openings and joints and block combustible gases from moving upward through your home like a chimney. But without going into extensive remodeling of the home, the best thing a resident can do is to always practice fire safety! **SMOKE DETECTORS SAVE LIVES.** Smoke detectors should be on every livable level of the house. Create and practice an escape plan with every member of your household. Check the batteries in your smoke detector twice a year.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your local fire department!

Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department @ 301-883-7707 or 301-927-0356

As always, thank you for your continued support. And especially for the thoughts and prayers for Chief Charles Ryan, III.

Community Circles

Local Organizations

Lion’s Club Meeting: Every Fourth Wednesday. Contact President Guy Tiberio at (240) 375-8902.

Northern County Soccer Alliance: Contact NCSA@soccer.net or (301) 927-0560.

Riverdale Park Daisy Troop #2546: Contact Danielle Glaros at (301) 779-5915.

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

Madison Hill Homeowners Association-- For information, call (301) 583-8857 or www.madisonhill.biz

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

Riverdale Park Farmer’s Market -- Contact Jim Coleman at 301-332-6258.

Riverdale Boys & Girls Club—Email riverdaleboysgirlsclub@yahoo.com (301) 277-KIDS

Riverdale Park Business Association—call Audrey Bragg at 301-277-7393 for meeting site

Riverdale Park Arts Council—Contact Emily Fanning at ourdollmom@aol.com