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***IMPORTANT DATE***

**Little League Sign-ups for Boys and Girls. Beginning Saturday, January 6.**
*See inside for details.*

*Postal Patron Local*

The Latest Edition of

# Riverdale News & Events

*Published by the Riverdale Mayor and Council*

This issue of *Riverdale News & Events* was paid for by Richard Clemack. Thank you for supporting him!

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**If you would like to sponsor an issue of this Newsletter, please contact Carol Talerico 973-835-4060**

# Riverdale News & Events

*Vol. 2, No. 4* — *A Monthly published by the Riverdale Mayor and Council* — *January 2007*
www.riverdaleNJ.com

## Anthony LoPorto appointed newest Patrolman

A local resident since 1980, **Anthony LoPorto**, served in the Navy from 1999 through 2003 as a 3rd Class Petty Officer and Division Leader. Anthony was chosen president of the 68th Basic Police Training Class and graduated on December 7, 2006. He started with the Riverdale Police Department on December 11 as a Probationary Police Officer. He was sworn in by his parents at a meeting of the Mayor and Council.

♦

In other Police Department news, **Sergeant Kevin Smith** recently graduated from the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police West Point Command and Leadership Program.

This program offers a unique opportunity to study leadership as it is taught at the United States Military Academy where many of this nation's leaders have been educated since 1802.

Congratulations to Sergeant Smith for successfully completing this academically demanding and rigorous leadership program.

### Old Tree Gets New Life

The Riverdale Business Association and four RBA members recently joined forces to upgrade the lighting on the Christmas Tree at the school. The project was spearheaded by Anton Ruighaver of AHR TechPro Services. Contributions were also made by Paul Darmofalski, Ted Guis of Riverdale Self Storage and the Riverdale Police Pistol Team. The RBA extends a special thank you to Jeff Ringen Tree Service and Christmas Decor for their contributions to the tree's new look.

## Christmas Gathering a Joy to All!

Santa Claus (Steve Revis)

The Riverdale Christmas Gathering at the Boro Hall was enjoyed by all. The front lawn was crowded with excited families who listened to holiday music, toured a real ambulance and climbed aboard our new fire truck. Santa Claus arrived on a beautifully decorated Appel Family dump truck, escorted by the Riverdale Police. Santa greeted everyone with candy canes donated by the First Aid Squad. He listened to each child while Mrs. Claus sent everyone off with a gift! The dessert table was filled with tasty treats made by members of the Recreation Dept., Business Association, Women's Club and Fire Dept. Auxiliary. Hot chocolate was handed out by Boy Scout Troop 73 to keep everyone warm and toasty while listening to carols sung by the Lakeland Girl Scout Service Unit.

## 1st Riverdale Holiday Home Decorating Contest Winners

**DeMauex Family**
**26 Post Lane**

**Frank McCloskey**
**Malcolm Price**
24Windbeam
*Not available for photo.*

**Kathy & Bill Ruppel**
33 Post Lane

### New Principal at Riverdale School

The district is pleased to announce the appointment of **Mrs. Jennifer Gibbons** as Principal of Riverdale School, beginning January 22. She joins us from Byram Township, where she served as Assistant Principal of the Middle School and Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction for the district.

A graduate of Villanova University, Mrs. Gibbons holds a Bachelor's Degree in Math Education. She recently earned her Masters Degree in Educational Leadership from Monmouth University.

She will join us at the PTA meeting on January 11 as well as the School Planning Team on January 17. Welcome to Riverdale and best wishes!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Engagements, Weddings, Birthdays, Graduations, Births, Anniversaries, etc.*
*Tell us about your family!*

Happy 7th Birthday **David Neil** on December 24 & Happy 20th Birthday to **Ashley Neil** on November 28. Love Dad, Mom, Grandpa and David.

Happy 12th Birthday to **Owen Wolbach** on January 24. Love Mom, Dad and Sean.

Happy 11th Birthday to **Tommy Carelli** on January 17. Love Mom, Dad, Michael, Samantha, Grandma & Grandpa Carelli, Grandma Plescia and Nauni.

**Keith Neuschwanter** of Newbury Place was promoted to Lieutenant for the Weehawken Police Department on August 9, 2006. Congratulations from your proud wife, Diane, and your children Keith Andrew, Alexa and Kristian.

**Dust Anyone See It?**

The Mayor and Council, working with the Riverdale Quarry in an attempt to reduce the amount of dust leaving the quarry site, are looking for observers. If anyone sees dust blowing off the site, please call the police so that they may record the incident. Thank you. Police Desk: **973-835-0034.**

## Health Clinics

**January 4th THURSDAY - Children's Flu Clinic**
9-11 am - Health Dept. - Pre-registration required

**January 8th MONDAY - Blood Pressure Screening**
9-11 am - Senior Center

**January 18th THURSDAY - Blood Pressure Screening**
9-11 am - Health Dept.

## The Nurse's Station

Stacey Dakake, MSN, RN

### *Winter Tips*

The new year is here and hopefully we won't have too many bad snow storms. Here are some weather driving tips. **On Ice or Snow:**

- Bridges and overpasses freeze first. Always slow down and avoid sudden changes in speed or direction.
- Keep windows clear.
- Keep your speed steady and slow.
- Use your brakes cautiously. Abrupt braking can cause brake lock-up and cause you to lose steering control.
- For Anti-Lock brakes to work correctly, apply constant, firm pressure to the pedal. During an emergency, stop, push the brake pedal all the way to the floor.
- If you get stuck in snow, straighten the wheels and accelerate slowly. Avoid spinning the tires. Use sand or cinders under the drive wheels.

BE SAFE ON THE ROAD THIS WINTER - PLEASE!

# Recreation

June Carelli, Director 973-616-0288

**Children's Karate Program**
Starts: Saturday, February 24th (6 week Program)
10:15 am - One Hour Class • $40 per child
Porta's Karate, Pompton Lakes
Call to sign-up: June Carelli 973-616-0288

**New Jersey Nets Basketball Game Trip**
Meadowlands-Tuesday, February 13-7:30 PM Game Time
**New Jersey Nets vs. San Antonio Spurs**
$45 per ticket (includes game ticket and team jersey)
Center Court, 2nd Level - Provide your own transportation.
Sign-up: June Carelli 973-616-0288

**Adult Night-Out - Crazy Bowling**
**Saturday, March 31 - Oakland Bowl - 7:00 pm**
$20/person (incl. 2 games, Hot/Cold Buffet and soda)
Call Kristin Appel 831-8187 or Mary Wolbach 831-1383

**Spring NYC Theater Trip - Hair Spray**
Thursday, March 22 - 7:00 pm showtime
$75/person - includes ticket and bus. Have a few more seats available. Call A.S.A.P. - June Carelli 616-0288

**Pompton Lakes / Riverdale Little League - Sign-Ups**
BPO Elks Lodge #1895 on Perrin Avenue, Pompton Lakes

Saturday, January 6, 13 & 27 @ 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Thursday, January 18 @ 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
*Note:* A late fee of $15 per player will be charged and no guarantee a spot on a team. All T-Ball sign-ups are guaranteed a spot on a team. Late sign-ups: Home Field Advantage, 219 Wanaque Ave.

Open to all resident boys and girls ages 5 - 16.
Must have turned 5 years old by May 1, 2007 to be eligible.
Birth Certificates required of all first time sign-ups.
Registration Forms and additional information:
http://eteamz.active.com/plrll/handouts/
*Questions:*
Baseball - Mike Coss 248-8540 or Marc Pardalis 835-4051
Softball - Sue Kassab 831-7685 or Ray Keating 616-2148

**Men's Winter Basketball - Mondays - 7:00 pm**
Riverdale School Gym. Runs throughout winter season. Show up and play! Call: Gary Pasquariello 973-616-0733

*Friends of the Library*

The Friends will be accepting book donations for the upcoming book sale in March. Books should be in good condition, no torn, musty or water-damaged books will be accepted. Watch for the sign in front of the Library for the drop-off dates. Anyone interested in joining the Friends please leave your name and number at the Library.

**No Overnight Parking on Boro Streets from Dec. 1 through March 31. Nor is parking permitted when streets are snow covered any time of the day, for efficient snow plowing.**

Copy deadline is the 4th Monday of each month. The publishing date will be the 1st Wednesday of the following month. Pictures, stories, weddings, births, scholastic, armed services, etc. are all welcome. We reserve the right to edit articles for space. Photos should be e-mailed or on disc in a JPEG format. Please send all information any time during the month to **mayor@riverdaleNJ.com**

# Fire DePartment

## Glancing Back - Looking Forward

The Riverdale Fire Department had a very challenging and productive **99th** year of service. As our community has grown, so has the demand for fire department services. At this time, we have responded to 143 calls for assistance. That is more than 7% in 2005 and double the calls received only ten years earlier in 1995. The members spent a great deal of time reviewing the plans for the Wal-Mart complex and the condos at The Grande. As each building is completed the members do a walk through to familiarize themselves with the layout of the building, and the location of utilities and other key building components. Each member of the department contributed an average of **150 hours** to our community during 2006.

During the first half of 2006 our membership grew by 3 as new Junior Firefighters joined, but unfortunately during the year 3 existing members had other commitments causing their participation to be drastically reduced.

In 2007 the Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department will celebrate its **100th Anniversary**, with events planned throughout the year to acknowledge such a feat. If anyone is interested in joining us in the beginning of our second century of service to the community, stop by the fire house any Monday night, or call 973-831-1584.

**Dogs and Cats** must be licensed for 2007. After Feb. 28, there will be a $5.00 late fee added on. Your pet must have rabies vaccination that is good through Nov.1, 2007 in order to be licensed. If you have any questions please call Linda Roetman at 973-835-4060 Ext 6.

Recently the **Pequannock River Coalition** has taken on 2 projects of interest to Riverdale residents, the first being a Natural Resource Inventory. This is a no-nonsense report on the natural resources of a community, useful in guiding land use and preservation decisions. Riverdale, though small in size, is surprisingly complex, hosting sensitive wildlife from wild trout to otters, and we are dependent on groundwater for potable water supply, making water quality a critical concern. The report is due in 2007.

The second project is the creation of a water trail on the Pequannock, Ramapo and Pompton Rivers. This boating route will not only offer recreation, but will also link protected open space in Riverdale, Pompton Lakes and Pequannock. Currently the group is laying the groundwork for access sites and determining routes. A map and guide will be released in mid-2007.

# Library News

*For more information, call (973) 835-5044 www. riverdalelibrary.org*

**Infant and Pre-School Story Times**

**Baby Time** - Infants 2 years
Mondays, January 15, 22 and 29 - 11:15 to 11:45 a.m.
*It's baby time at the library. Designed especially for infants and active toddlers, it is a half hour of rhyme, song, movement, and shared reading.*

**Snowflake Stories** - Ages 2 - 5
Mondays, January 15, 22 and 29 - 10:15-11:00 am **or** 1:30-2:15 pm
*Snowmen, sledding and skating are in our tales, plus funny animals and funny children. Let's cozy up with some good stories this winter and rhyme and crafts.*

**Chinese New Year** - Children K-5 - Wednesday, February 1, 4:00 pm
*It's the Year of the Pig in the Chinese zodiac. Join us for Chinese folk tales, and a dog story or two. Fortune cookies and green tea (non-caffeinated) to be served.*

**Charles Flynn Exhibit and Open House.** Who designed the packages for Crayola, Life Savers and M&M's? The original artwork for these and many other products are on display through January. Also on display are a number of his pen and ink drawings of rustic New England. You are invited to an Open House - Saturday, Jan. 13 from 10am to 12 noon.

**Book Discussion Group** - Monday, January 29, 6:30 PM
*My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult. Copies of the book are available at the library. All are welcome to join this lively group.

# Riverdale School Threatened

Editor's Note: *It has been the policy of this newsletter to stay away from political issues, since its purpose is to share the pleasant news and events of your neighbors. However, this issue is of such importance to the life of our community, and because of its urgency, we believe that it is worthy of an exception from our policy.* Mayor William Budesheim

**From the Superintendent, Dr. Betty Ann Wyks.**

On January 8, 2007 the State Senate is set to reconvene to vote on several bills (S7, S10 and S4) which, in our opinion, will negatively impact the quality of education of the students of Riverdale. We want to make you aware of the potential impact these bills may have on our town.

**Forced Consolidation and Loss of Control.** If enacted into law, these bills will potentially eliminate the Riverdale School District as we know it, forcing us to merge with one or more other districts, resulting in a loss of local control of educational decisions affecting our students. Decisions affecting course offerings, extracurricular activities, class size, hiring, and budget priorities will be made at the county level by a political appointee, someone who has little or no knowledge of Riverdale as a community.

**Potential for Increased Taxes.** Additionally, these bills may result in increased taxes for our community as we lose the ability to make decisions regarding our own budget. More importantly, we would no longer be the neighborhood school district that we so appreciate and for which so many of the residents of Riverdale moved to town.

The Riverdale Board of Education believes that this legislation is not in the best interests of either our children or taxpayers. We encourage you to exercise your rights by sharing your concerns with our government representatives. Sen. Bob Martin 973-984-0922 or SenMartin@njleg.org; Senate Majority Leader Richard Codey 973-731-6770 or SenCodey@njleg.org

**Did You Know?**

- There are 525,600 minutes in a year-527,040 in leap year.
- A snail can sleep for three years.
- It is impossible to lick your elbow.
- Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.