

The Riverdale Citizen

Connection to your Community

Welcome to the Riverdale Citizen, a bi-monthly electronic publication distributed by the City of Riverdale Division of Community & Cultural Affairs and Leisure Services. The newsletter provides citizens with useful, in-depth information and announcements. It is our goal to advance and promote the image, reputation and recognition of our great City. Previous editions of [The Riverdale Citizen](#) are archived online.

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Local Veterans Honor City for its Support

The Riverdale Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and Ladies Auxiliary Post 3650 presented a special American flag to Mayor Evelyn Wynn-Dixon and the City during a symbolic flag folding ceremony recently. [\[Read More\]](#)



Photo Right- Members of local VFW Post 3650 and City Officials during Flag folding ceremony

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Riverdale Firefighters Install over 375 New Smoke Detectors

October was Riverdale Fire Services Smoke Detectors Campaign month. During the month of October, Riverdale Firefighters and volunteers visited over 400 homes to install, replace and test smoke detectors. [\[Read More\]](#)



Photo Right- Little eyes watched as Lieutenant Bruce Still checks smoke detectors

Upcoming Events

Groundbreaking Ceremony

When: TBD

City of Riverdale Tree Lighting Ceremony

When: December 4, 2008

Where: City Hall

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Info: (770) 997-8989

Cost: FREE

I PRAY FOR RIVERDALE Community Celebration

When: November 23, 2008

Where: Lakewin Christian Center

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Info: (770) 991-3551

Cost: FREE

Association of Christian Ministers of Clayton County Banquet

When: December 12, 2008

Where: Sheraton Gateway Hotel

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Info: (404) 207-3817

Donation: \$60.00

Riverdale AARP

The AARP Riverdale

Chapter conducts its meetings on the 3rd

Thursday of each month at

the Frank Bailey Senior

Center, 6213 Riverdale

Road. Meetings begin at 10

a.m. For more information,

call (770) 996-8880.

Photo Right-(L-R) Maritza Morales (*Mount Zion High*), Sonsarae Harley (*Forest Park High*), Meghan Jackson (*Morrow High School*), T-Boz (from *TLC*), Tanya Ski, Judge Penny Reynolds, Kelita Almond (*Riverdale High*), Jamesha Foote (*Riverdale High*), Tyler Jones (*Mount Zion High*)

Photos provided by Prime Phocus

Two Riverdale High School Seniors Recognized as Local Legends

The Frank Ski Kids Foundation recognized six outstanding high school students from Clayton County that were nominated by their high school guidance counselor to receive the first ever Frank Ski Kids Foundation Local Legend Scholarship Award for their outstanding student achievement, individual leadership and their overall commitment to excellence.

Those honored included *Kelita Almond*, Senior, Riverdale High; *Jamesha Foote*, Senior, Riverdale High; *Meghan Jackson*, Senior, Morrow High; *Songsarae Harley*, Senior, Forest Park High; *Tyler Jones*, Senior, Mount Zion High and *Maritza Morales*, Senior, Mount Zion High.

“It was decided during a board meeting that Clayton County students would be the first to receive scholarships,” said Tanya Ski, President of the Frank Ski Kids Foundation. “Clayton County schools are prevalent in the news,” referring to schools loss of accreditation. “I know there are outstanding students in the community.”

The students were invited to a special luncheon at the home of Frank (V-103 radio personality) and Tanya Ski. All six young ladies received dresses from Bloomingdale’s Department Store to wear for the special occasion along with a limousine ride to the event. During the event, TV personality Judge Penny Reynolds Brown of Family Court with Judge Penny shared her personal life experiences. Tionne Watkins (aka T-Boz from TLC) also discussed the high standards that are required in the entertainment industry.

Each student received certificates of recognition, letters of recommendation from T-Boz and Judge Penny Reynolds Brown to add to their college applications, along with a check for \$1000.00 for their future education plans.

Several sponsors donated perfumes, gift cards and a host of other goodies to the students.

The Frank Ski Kids Foundation embraces youth and their values by showing examples and providing hands-on opportunities to promote optimal growth, self-expression, ingenuity, achievement and learning vital to their ambitions.



Photo Above-
Jamesha Foote
Kelita Almond



Riverdale Firefighters Install Over 375 New Smoke Detectors

October was Riverdale Fire Services Smoke Detectors Campaign month. During the month of October, Riverdale Firefighters and volunteers visited over 400 homes to install, replace and test smoke detectors.

“The campaign is to increase fire safety and awareness in the Riverdale area,” said Stephanie Burton, Riverdale Fire Services Fire Educator.

The funding for the smoke detectors was received from the Brant Chesney Memorial Fire and Burn Prevention Grant sponsored by the Georgia Firefighter Burn Foundation. The Grant gave the Riverdale Fire Services over \$2800 to purchase 400 smoke detectors and 25 Carbon monoxide monitors for the Riverdale community.

Burton said “People should change the batteries in their alarms when they change their clocks” which was turned back Nov. 2 for daylight savings. “We also recommend that they test their batteries every month,” she said.

Detectors should be changed about every 10 years. “The best practice for fire safety is to have a smoke detector on every floor and also in or near each sleeping area,” said Burton. “Also, this is a good time for people to review and practice their fire escape plans with their families.”

Fire officials say while 96 percent of American households report they have at least one smoke alarm, almost two-thirds (65 percent) of reported home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

“The program not only offered security, but it also gave firefighters the opportunity to visit the citizens they protect,” said Burton.

Please contact (770) 909-5463 for further information.



Sergeant Ronald Williamson and Firefighter David Ferguson install new smoke detector in the home of local resident

American Business Women’s Association “2008 Woman of the Year”

Ms. Bonita Brooks, Riverdale Finance Department staffer was recently selected as the “2008 Woman of the Year” by the American Business Women’s Association (ABWA).

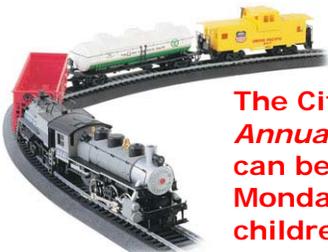
Brooks was celebrated for her various accomplishments including: being a top producing representative for Avon, earning her cosmetology license, working with special needs children and caring for her ailing mother and aunt.

The ABWA organization promotes the social and cultural advancement of young women and men. The organization has given over \$19,000 in local and national scholarships.

Congratulations Ms. Brooks!



Photo (L-R)-Linda Watson, Bonita Brooks, Anita Laval



The City of Riverdale is collecting new, unwrapped Toys at the Annual Holiday Celebration on Thursday, December 4, 2008. Toys can be dropped off in advance at City Hall (6690 Church Street) Monday-Friday 8am-5pm. We’re accepting Toys for all school-age children.



Local Veterans Honor City for their Support

The Riverdale Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and Ladies Auxiliary Post 3650 presented a special American flag to Mayor Evelyn Wynn-Dixon and the City during a symbolic flag folding ceremony recently.

The proper folding of the American flag was demonstrated in front of City Hall where veterans, city officials and residents gathered. Sergeant 1st Class Ronald Stubbs, commander of Riverdale VFW Post 3650, educated the audience on the importance of the flag and the history of the special flag being presented. "The flag was presented to the city because of its continued support of veterans," said Stubbs.



A Little Flag History Did You Know?

- At Military Funerals, the 21 gun salute stands for the sum of the numbers in the year of 1776
- The colors used in our United States Flag denotes that white signifies purity and innocence; Red represents hardiness & valor and blue signifies vigilance, perseverance and justice
- The stars are a symbol of the heavens and the divine goal to which mankind has aspired from time immemorial; the stripes are symbolic of the rays of the light emanating from the sun.

The flag was carefully folded 13 times into the shape of a tri-colored hat. Linda Armstrong, President of the Ladies Auxiliary VFW, Post 3650 explained each special fold and the meaning attributed to it.

On September 11, 2008, this flag was flown over the State Capital in honor of the lives lost during one our country's greatest terrorism attacks on 9/11 at the Pentagon, the World Trade Center, Flight 93, and the firefighters and police officers who gave their lives.

Photo Left - Sgt Ronald Stubbs, Commander, VFW Post 3650, Mayor Evelyn Wynn-Dixon

The City of Riverdale Welcomes New Division

With an eye on the future, the City anticipate the need for a division that focuses on a wide range of programs and services that respond to issues of public concern and enhances the quality of life for all.

The new Division of Community & Cultural Affairs and Leisure Services led by Assistant City Manager, Lonnie Ballard, Jr. plays an important role in building and promoting a healthy community that provides opportunities for citizens to access physical recreation, leisure activities and programs that supports the City's cultural endeavors.

Anticipating the new Town Center, the Division will manage the operation of community facilities, recreational facilities and playing fields, all of which are community resources that support the many programs available.

We invite you to browse the City's website and participate in programs and services available through The Division of Community & Cultural Affairs and Leisure Services [[click here](#)].

Photo-
Church
Street
Park



Photo- Riverdale Neighborhood University

Riverdale's Annual Fall Festival Celebration a Success

Riverdale's annual Fall Festival marks the end of summer and the beginning of fall. It's the perfect time for the community to celebrate and enjoy the season.

Horses, clowns and thousands of spectators filled Travon Wilson Park football field for a day of family fun and entertainment hosted by Riverdale City Councilman Kenny Ruffin and the Division of Community & Cultural Affairs and Leisure Services.

This year's event featured live music performances by local performers and soulful singer Tabitha King. King has opened several times for Frankie Beverly and Maze, and has shared the stage with artists, such as Regina Belle, Keith Washington and Usher.

The weather turned out to be sunny and breezy after rain threatened the day.

Every year the fall tradition draws hundreds of people who can't wait to get a taste of their fall favorites. For some, the fun begins with funnel cakes while others enjoy the variety of vendor displays, antique cars, moonwalks and entertainers.

This year, festivalgoer's were entertained by North Clayton Middle School dance team which performed several dance routines along with Lakewin Christian Center Praise Choir, Word of Faith Praise Team and Total Victory church.

The Fall Festival which began five years ago has evolved into a major communitywide festival that's closely linked with the schools, churches, non-profit agencies and local organizations which help to make the event a great success.

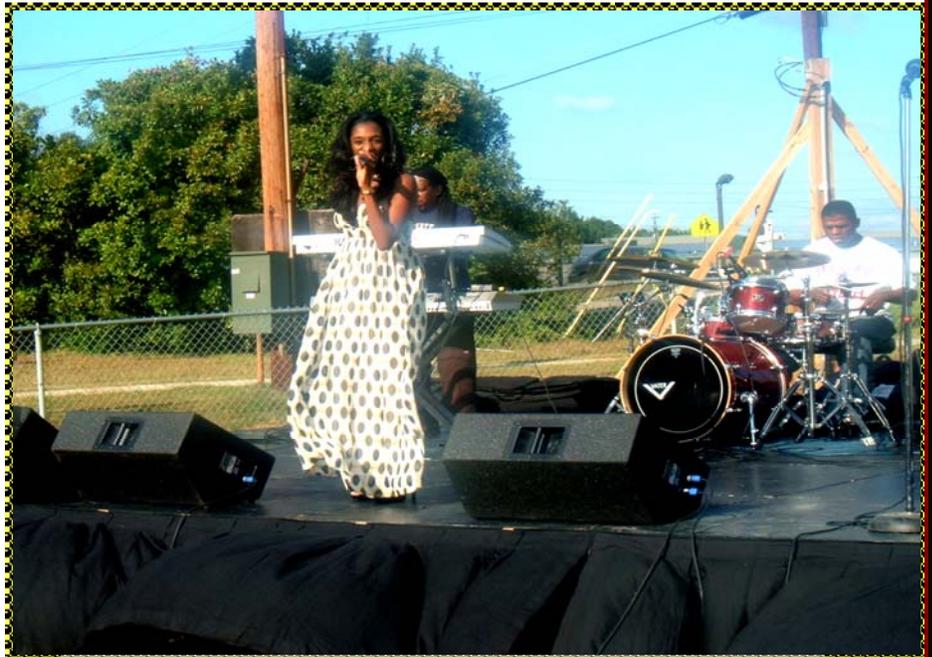


Photo Above- Soulful Singer Tabitha King performs for hundreds



Photo Above- Local resident hits a split during the old school dance contest as the crowd cheered him on



Photo Above- Excitement filled the air as children enjoyed a hay ride

New Prescription Drug Discount

The Mayor and Council moved to adopt Resolution No. 62-10-08 NLC's Prescription Drug Discount Program at its October 22, 2008 meeting. The resolution allows for the city to introduce a new program to help residents cope with the high price of prescription drugs.

Through the NLC Prescription Discount Card Program in collaboration with CVS Caremark, cities will be able to offer savings on prescription drugs to residents who are without health insurance, a traditional benefit plan or have prescriptions that are not covered by insurance.

The NLC discount card offers average savings of 20 percent off the regular retail price of prescription medications and can be used at more than 59,000 participating retail pharmacies across the country. So not only can resident's use this card at CVS, but it can be used at any local pharmacy. Click here for

locations closest to you website www.caremark.com/nlc.

The prescription discount card may be used by all city residents and has no restrictions based on the resident's age, income level, or existing health coverage, and there are no enrollment fees.

Additional information for city residents, including frequently asked questions, participating pharmacies in their area, and useful tools for city residents, such as online enrollment with the ability to print an ID card and use it immediately are available on a special NLC/CVS Caremark website: www.caremark.com/nlc.

The program will be administered by the Riverdale Fire Department. Questions should be directed to them at 770-996-1912.

Holiday Safety Tips

Far too often, celebrations turn to tragedy. Each year, thousands of people are treated in emergency rooms due to holiday-related mishaps. To avoid any trips to the hospital this season, families should learn the dangers to avoid in order to help keep their loved ones and their homes protected from seasonal accident. Here are a few tips:

Keep Christmas trees fresh. Choose a fresh Christmas tree and secure it in a sturdy stand. Place the tree away from heat sources and exits, and water it daily.

Check your lighting. Carefully inspect new and previously used light strings and replace damaged items before plugging lights in. Do not overload extension cords.

Have a plan. Create or review your fire escape plan. Identify two escape routes from every room of your home and choose a convenient meeting place a safe distance from your home. Practice your escape plan at least twice a year with all family members.

Lit candles are fire. Always extinguish candles before leaving the room or going to bed.

Buckle up. Wearing a seat belt is the easiest and best way to prevent injury in a motor vehicle collision.

Dress appropriately before going outdoors. The air temperature does not have to be below freezing for someone to experience cold emergencies such as hypothermia and frostbite. Wind speed can create dangerously cold conditions even when the temperature is not that low.



RIVERDALE TOWN CENTER PROJECT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q1. How much will it cost to construct the Riverdale Town Center?

A1. The Riverdale Town Center will be constructed in two parts: the civic buildings and the private development. The City of Riverdale will pay for the construction of the public buildings which consist of a community center, amphitheater, public plaza and new city hall. The cost of these buildings is estimated between \$17 - \$22 million dollars. The exact price will not be known until the construction bids are received in November.

Private developers will pay for the construction of the retail and residential components with capital they secure.

Q2. Where will the City of Riverdale get the money to pay for the civic buildings?

A2. The City of Riverdale will use a combination of funds obtained from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) administered by Clayton County; Economic Development Incentive grant from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development; and Certificates of Participation bonds financed through the Georgia Municipal Association.

Q3. I've heard that the City of Riverdale will borrow money to pay for the civic buildings. Is that true?

A3. The Certificates of Participation involves the issuance of bond debt that will generate money for the construction of the public component of the Town Center. The City of Riverdale will borrow no more than \$22 million dollars for the project. The annual debt service (principal and interest) for approximately \$17 million of the bonds will be paid from the Special Purpose Local Option Taxes (SPLOST) proceeds. The annual debt service (principal and interest) for the remaining approximately \$5 million of bonds will be paid from the City's General Fund. Please be aware that these figures are based upon estimates until the final construction costs are developed.

In essence, only about 25% of the total project cost will be paid directly from the City of Riverdale's general revenues.

Q4. Can the City of Riverdale afford to take on more debt?

A4. The City of Riverdale is fortunate that the current indebtedness is very low. The City currently pays debt on the following:

- Community Development/General Services Building
- Police cars
- Fire Rescue truck

During fiscal year 2009 the City budgeted \$164,659. The majority of this (\$120,324) is paid on the Community Development/General Services Building. This building will be paid in full the fall of 2009.

Q5. Is it true that it will take 30 years to pay for the public buildings in the Town Center?

A5. The indebtedness the City incurs will be very similar to that incurred by the average homeowner who obtains a mortgage for 30 years. Because the City of Riverdale has a very favorable credit rating, the interest rates should be low. Over 75% of the debt will be paid off within the first 10 years.

City of Riverdale Annual Holiday Celebration

Thursday, December 4, 2008

6:30 PM

City Hall

LIVE
BAND

FUN FOR
FAMILY

CANDY

FACE
PAINTING

PICTURES
WITH
SANTA

TOY
DRIVE

*Performing
Live
Tabitha King*



Local Schools

*Riverdale Elementary
Church Street Elementary
MLK Elementary
Riverdale Middle
Riverdale High*

WIN
GREAT
PRIZES

CANDY

FUN FOR
FAMILY

*Please Bring A Unwrapped New Toy
To Help Needy Families*