

The Riverdale Citizen
Connection to your Community

Volume 1 # 8
E-News
March / April 2009
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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.

Riverdale receives Revitalization Award for outstanding efforts

The annual conference of the South Metro Development Outlook honored the City of Riverdale with the 2009 Revitalization Award for the city's outstanding revitalization efforts. The conclave was established by the Collaborative Firm in 2003, for the purpose of convening professionals with an interest in fostering smart growth in South Fulton County.



Photo (L-R): Chairman Eldrin Bell, Councilman Kenny Ruffin, Commissioner Sonna Singleton, Gbenga Osagie (representing Commissioner Gail Hambrick), Larry Vincent, Michael Hightower

“Each year during the South Metro Conference, we identify quality projects that speak best for South Metro Development through the Livable Cities Initiative (LCI) program. Riverdale has the vision and the implementation of the LCI program to revitalize the central core of the city,” stated Michael Hightower, CEO of The Collaborative Firm, LLC.

Riverdale has seen unprecedented growth in businesses and new residents. The growth has sparked opportunities for job creation, upgrades to roads and beautification projects, and a new town center where you can live, work and play.

Mayor Dixon stated, “The Revitalization Award epitomizes what team work is because of the vision of all involved when it is facilitated properly. With faith and hope, you are bound not to fail. This is a sign of progress.”

South Metro Development Outlook serves as the annual regional exchange for most of the area's governmental, financial and industry leaders. The Urban Land Institute, Georgia Power, Atlanta Regional Commission, Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, AT&T, Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority and the Council for Quality Growth are examples of the wide range of companies and organizations that serve as supporters of the forum.

“They're a renowned group of professionals that did an assessment of what we are doing and I appreciate them for recognizing us,” stated Mayor Dixon.

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City of Riverdale awarded *The City CEO of the Year*

The 12th annual Georgia Minority Business Awards (GMBA) conference was held Thursday, February 19, 2009 awarding Mayor Evelyn Wynn-Dixon and the City of Riverdale as the *City CEO Of the Year*. The city was recognized for its superior qualities in performance, citizenship, leadership, diversity and teamwork.

The Awards ceremony concentrates on developing relationships that reach out to all cultures by hosting and rewarding Georgia's top business, civic and organization leaders that have promoted and demonstrated diversity in the workplace. It brings experienced CEO's and political leaders together to address Georgia's educational and business audience by exposing them to business changes in an ever changing global environment.



Photo (L-R): Creed Pannell Jr., Executive Director & CEO Evelyn Wynn-Dixon, Mayor of Riverdale, Terence Lewis, Regional Community Executive, Bank of North Georgia



Mayor Wynn-Dixon accepting the City CEO of the Year award

In addition, the ceremony provides networking

opportunities for all of Georgia's county leaders and economic development personnel with a corporate and international focus worldwide.

Joined by Mayor Pro-tem Wanda Wallace, several department heads, Riverdale business owners, citizens and family members, Mayor Wynn-Dixon accepted the award by stating, "Even though I was given the CEO of the Year Award, I didn't win the award alone; it was with the help of the City Council members and staff. It was all of us working together with the same vision." Dixon went on to say, "We work as a team in Riverdale and we welcome your business to our great city."

The City of Riverdale represents the best in success and exhibit these behaviors and values nationally and throughout the state of Georgia. As the city prepares for the development of the new town center complex, the city

is leading the county in attracting new business development and reshaping development to create a diverse, urban live-work-play community that offers a vital and eclectic lifestyle.



Pastor Harry & Kay Riley, Lakewin Christian Center



Mayor Pro-tem Wanda Wallace & Mayor Wynn-Dixon



Mr. & Mrs. Roland Downing, 2 Chair of the DDA Board and Planning & Zoning Board

Riverdale **MEGA** Service Day

~A day to beautify our great city~

Saturday, April 18th

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Church Park on Wilson Road

(behind Riverdale 1st Baptist Church on Church St)

Click here to sign-up [[Volunteer](#)] NOW

**Volunteer
TODAY!**

(770) 997-8989

*Riverdale
Community
Cook Out
to follow...*

Activities will include:

- Removal of trash, debris and litter from public rights-of-way
- Minor park improvements such as playground upgrades
 - Small beautification projects for the elderly

In partnership with: Clayton County Adolescent Coalition, Global Youth Service Day, Georgia Cities Week, Keep Georgia Beautiful and Keep Clayton County Beautiful.

Doing Good In The Neighborhood

For the past several years Riverdale's own Richard Wingo, Sr. has taken a 24/7 proactive approach in mentoring young men and teenagers because he strongly feels young men need a positive male role model in their lives.

Owner of Rapid Pass Emissions, Richard is "doing good" in the neighborhood his way. He started mentoring his grandsons every Saturday at Chick-Fil-A. In this day of single parent homes, many young men have no father figure in their lives. He believes by mentoring these young men and teenagers he can fill that void.

"It's important for them to have an outlet, a person they trust to speak with on all subject matters ranging from school, grades, girls and more importantly, how and what it takes to be a responsible young man," stated Wingo. "A certain satisfaction is derived and it's phenomenal seeing these young men grow up to be responsible and turn around and become mentors themselves."

Richard Wingo, Sr. is definitely doing good in the neighborhood!



Photo (L-R): Xavier, DeAnthony, Richard, III and Richard Wingo, Jr. (Member of the R&B Group Jagged Edge). Richard Wingo, Sr. not in photo.



Riverdale Middle School Principal
Dr. McCoy

Dr. McCoy was recently appointed by Dr. John Thompson, School Board Superintendent and approved by the Clayton County Board of Education to the position of principal – on – special assignment. In this position, Dr. McCoy will serve a dual role of Lead District Representative (LDR) for the Georgia Leadership Institute for School Improvement (GLISI) Power of 100 as well as lead the grant writing activities for the school district.

"Although I deeply miss the students, teachers, and my job as principal of Riverdale Middle School, I am looking forward to working with other principals and district administrators throughout the county in the Power of 100

pilot program. This is a two-year program requested by a joint committee of the Georgia legislature to develop, test, and refine performance-based approach to certificate renewal for principals and their supervisors," stated Dr. McCoy. "As the LDR for the Power of 100, I shall serve as the contact person for all Power of 100 activities in Clayton County. My role is to work with the GLISI Cohort Leader to plan, monitor and support each principal or other administrator's learning and practice as they complete the requirements for Georgia performance-based certification."

Congratulations Dr. McCoy!



Councilman Kenny Ruffin appointed to serve on the National League of Cities Council



Councilman Kenny Ruffin was recently appointed to serve as a member of the National League of Cities Council on Youth, Education, and Families (YEF) for 2009. The YEF is an extended component of the National League of Cities (NLC), the nation's

oldest and largest organization devoted to strengthening and promoting cities as centers of opportunity, leadership and governance.

“Serving in this capacity will allow for additional exposure and great opportunities for the City of Riverdale, Georgia. The benefits of serving an organization are many and I am excited to get to work to advance the city’s agenda and goals as it relates to our young people,” stated Councilman Kenny Ruffin after his appointment as the first Clayton County elected official to serve as a member of the Council.

Mr. Ruffin’s first ambitious initiative to impact and empower Riverdale’s youth is the formation of a Youth Council. This will give the youth the

opportunity to experience the American political system through active participation in a democratic process. These leaders of tomorrow selected by school administrators will have a direct interaction with concerns from their peers thus making decisions in consultation with city officials on all aspects of governance as it pertains to the youth of the community.

The Council oversees and supports the work of National League of Cities Institute for Youth, Education, and Families (YEF Institute). The Institute for Youth, Education, and Families, a special entity within the National League of Cities, helps municipal leaders take action on behalf of the children, youth, and families in their communities. NLC launched the YEF Institute in January 2000 in recognition of the unique and influential roles that mayors, city council members, and other local leaders can play in strengthening families and improving outcomes for children and youth.

“It is my goal to work with the youth and support families through education which will help to improve our community,” said Ruffin.

Bridging the Cultural Gap

Mayor Evelyn Winn-Dixon is helping to foster a greater effort as it pertains to reaching out to the various cultures that comprises Riverdale.

The Mayor believes the growth of the city depends on its residents being fully aware of the city goals, regulations and information.

Dissemination of pertinent information is the key to having effective communication.

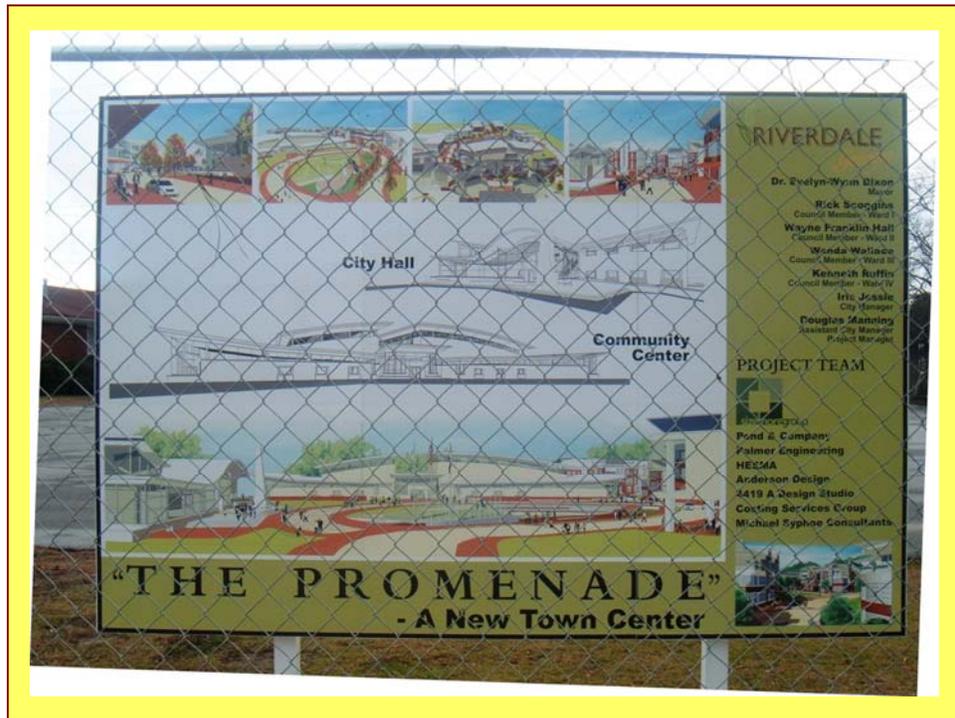
“The vision is to bridge the gap and reach out to our multicultural community by making sure everyone is recognized and appreciated. The best way to do that is to create cultural learning opportunities through activities and events,” stated Mayor Dixon.



PHASE ONE OF RIVERDALE COMMUNITY CENTER UNDERWAY

Work to prepare the site of the new Riverdale Town Center began in January and should be completed by the end of March. The City of Riverdale entered into a Certificate Purchase Agreement with Wachovia Bank, National Association and the Georgia Municipal Association, Inc. for \$19,425,000 to fund its Public Purpose Project – Community Center, Amphitheater and City Hall.

The contracts for construction have been awarded and work on the community center, city hall and public plaza/amphitheater will begin in April.



Super Saturday Get Free Tax Help March 21

In these difficult economic times, the Internal Revenue Service and hundreds of its community partners want to go the extra mile to assist taxpayers. On Saturday, March 21, 2009, approximately 250 IRS Taxpayer Assistance Centers and 1,000 community free tax help sites nationwide will open their doors to assist people. People who earn \$42,000 or less are eligible for free tax return preparation at either the IRS Tax Office or the community partner sites listed below.

Super Saturday also is an opportunity for people, regardless of income, who may have a tax issue or who may be unable to pay their tax bill to visit an IRS Tax Office. The IRS can work with people to set up payment option plans that will prevent even greater penalties and interest. The IRS is committed to doing what it can to help financially distressed taxpayers who have played by the rules.

Greenbriar Mall
2841 Greenbriar Parkway
Atlanta, GA 30331
8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

IRS
401 W. Peachtree Street
Atlanta, GA 30308
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Free Tax Preparation Seniors Ages 55 and Older

Now – thru April 15, 2009

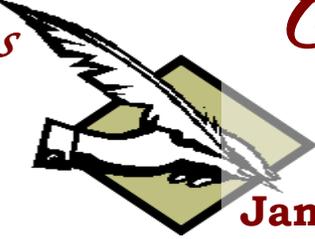
AARP will assist seniors with free
income tax services

Frank Bailey Senior Center
6213 Riverdale Road
Riverdale, GA 30296
(678) 479-5505

William W. Shelnut Senior Center
849 Battle Creek Road
Jonesboro, GA 30236
(770) 473-5788

Services provided by appointment only

*From the
Desk of
Stephanie
Thomas*



Clerk Notes

Council Action January – February 2009



This is the first of what will be a regular update for the purpose of keeping citizens abreast of the official action of the Mayor and Council. The city's goal is to enable citizens to become more informed and more involved in shaping the quality of life in our city. Clerk Notes will keep you updated about resolutions, ordinances, and other legislative actions that affect our local community.

Whether you know it, local community is the fundamental building block of strong regions, states and nations. "Local" is where citizens live, work, worship, raise and educate their children. Its definition and scope may be subject to debate and even confusing, but make no mistake – "local" is our safety net in that we believe that cities are closest to the citizens and would have the most immediate impact on everyday lives. To that end, the voting record of your elected officials will be included in these updates.

January 12, 2009 Mayor and Council Action

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01 A RESOLUTION OF THE RIVERDALE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVING THE SUBMISSION OF THE FY '09 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ("CDBG") APPLICATION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT ("HUD") AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The purpose of the resolution was to secure permission to submit an application to the Clayton County Board of Commissioners to receive a pre-award grant through the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development's (HUD) Community Development Block Grant program. The pre-award allows the city to receive funding for five years.

Motion: Councilwoman Wanda Wallace moved to adopt **Resolution No. 01-01-09**. Councilman Ruffin moved to second the motion. Council members Scoggins and Hall gave the dissenting votes. Motion was tied 2/2. Pursuant to the charter, in the event a vote is tied, the mayor has the authority to exercise voting rights; as such, the mayor voted in favor of the measure. Motion passed 3/2.

EMERGENCY VEHICLE PURCHASE

The purpose of this request was to secure approval to move forward with the emergency purchase of three (3) vehicles to replace police vehicles that were at least 10 years old or older.

Motion: Councilman Kenny Ruffin moved to approve the emergency expenditure of \$56,370 for the emergency purchase of vehicles. Councilwoman Wanda Wallace moved to second the motion. Motion passed unanimously (4/0).

January 26, 2009 Mayor and Council Action

RESOLUTION NO. 02-01-09 DDA- A RESOLUTION OF THE RIVERDALE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL APPROVING AN ADDENDUM TO THE 2007 INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF RIVERDALE AND THE CITY OF RIVERDALE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY ("DDA"); TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE ADDENDUM ON BEHALF OF THE CITY; TO AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURE OF \$150,000 IN FUNDS TO THE DDA THROUGH TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND; AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The purpose of this resolution was to make funds available to the DDA on a drawdown basis. The city previously entered into an intergovernmental agreement with the Riverdale Downtown Development Authority in 2007 for services the Riverdale Downtown Development Authority would render as the city's agent in administering and managing real estate development and redevelopment activities. The City made a \$50,000 loan to the DDA to fund operating expenses for fiscal year 2008. The Riverdale DDA has accomplished the following:

- Serves as redevelopment agent for City of Riverdale
- Re-activated the Riverdale Business Coalition
- Conducted a survey of Riverdale businesses
- Purchased property for a new park on behalf of the city.
- On-going recruitment of businesses and business expansion

Motion: Councilman Kenny Ruffin moved to adopt **Resolution No. 02-01-09**. Councilwoman Wallace moved to second the motion. Council members Scoggins and Hall gave the dissenting votes. Vote was tied 2/2. Pursuant to the charter, in the event a vote is tied, the mayor has the authority to exercise voting rights; as such, the mayor voted in favor of the measure. Motion passed 3/2.

RESOLUTION NO. 03-01-09 A RESOLUTION OF THE RIVERDALE MAYOR AND COUNCIL, ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT WITH ALLIED WASTE FOR COMMERCIAL SANITATION SERVICES; TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY ONCE IT IS NEGOTIATED BY THE CITY ATTORNEY; AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The purpose of this resolution was to advance the city's efforts to expand its "Beautification Program" as well as fortify its current waste management program. Due to the problems associated with overflowing exterior dumpsters, waste spillage on City streets and roads and the increase in instances of insect and rodent infestation, municipalities across the nation are initiating new and stricter steps and procedures to correct these and other associated problems. The city of Riverdale circulated a Request for Proposal's and requested permission to award the Commercial Sanitation Contract to Allied Waste.

Motion: Councilwoman Wanda Wallace moved to adopt **Resolution No. 03-01-09**. Councilman Ruffin moved to second the motion. Council members Scoggins and Hall gave the dissenting votes. Vote was tied 2/2. Pursuant to the charter, in the event a vote is tied, the mayor has the authority to exercise voting rights; as such, the mayor voted in favor of the measure. Motion passed 3/2.

RESOLUTION NO. 04-01-09 A RESOLUTION OF THE RIVERDALE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL TO CREATE AND FUND A NEW ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK POSITION IN THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT; AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The purpose of this resolution was to request permission to hire an Administrative Clerk who would be charged with administrating and managing the waste management program day the day activities (Billing, Ordering, Customer Service, etc). No funds were added to the department's budget as a result of this request.

Motion: Councilwoman Kenny Ruffin moved to adopt **Resolution No. 04-01-09**. Councilwoman Wanda Wallace moved to second the motion. Council members Scoggins and Hall gave the dissenting votes. Vote was tied 2/2. Pursuant to the charter, in the event a vote is tied, the mayor has the authority to exercise voting rights; as such, the mayor voted in favor of the measure. Motion passed 3/2.

February 9, 2009 Mayor and Council Action

RESOLUTION NO. 05-02-09 A RESOLUTION OF THE RIVERDALE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL ADOPTING UPDATED FINANCIAL POLICIES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The purpose of this resolution was to secure permission to revise the city's Fiscal Policies to address reserve funds management. The new provision provides for the city to maintain operating reserves in the General Funds equal to at least three (3) month's cash flow requirements of the operations of the General Fund.

Motion: Councilwoman Wanda Wallace moved to adopt **Resolution No. 05-02-09**. Councilman Kenny Ruffin moved to second the motion. Councilman Hall gave the dissenting vote. Councilman Scoggins abstained from voting based on a legal issue. Vote passed 2/1.

RESOLUTION NO. 06-02-09 A RESOLUTION OF THE RIVERDALE CITY COUNCIL RATIFYING THE PROBATION SERVICES AGREEMENT DATED JANUARY 1, 2007; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A REVISED PROBATION SERVICES AGREEMENT DATED JANUARY 1, 2009; DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF RIVERDALE; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

In 2007, Riverdale entered into a Probation Services Agreement with its Court Services department. This Agreement allows the City to retain its probation services in-house. The purpose of this resolution was to secure permission to amend the Probation Services Contract to reflect the following:

- Place the scope of services in the body of the contract instead of in an exhibit.
- Update the fees charged to probationers.
- Specify that copies of criminal background checks and fingerprint cards for staff be submitted to CMPAC.
- Increasing the ratio of probationers to probation staff.

Motion: Councilwoman Kenny Ruffin moved to adopt **Resolution No. 06.02.09**. Councilman Kenny Ruffin moved to second the motion. Vote passed 4/0.

February 23, 2009 Mayor and Council Action

ORDINANCE NO. 01-2009 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 10, ART. IV, "COIN OPERATED AMUSEMENT MACHINES" OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF RIVERDALE, GEORGIA, AS AMENDED, TO DELETE CHAPTER 10, ART. IV IN ITS ENTIRETY, INCLUDING ANY AMENDMENTS THERETO, AND REPLACE IT WITH A NEW CHAPTER 10, ART. IV, "COIN OPERATED AMUSEMENT MACHINES;" TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The purpose of this ordinance was to assure that the City Code conforms to existing State law with regard to definitions, license requirements, noncash redemption amounts and operating regulations. The Coin Operated Amusement ordinance had not been updated since 1976.

Motion: Councilman Kenny Ruffin moved to adopt **Ordinance No. 01-2009**. Councilwoman Wallace moved to second the motion. Council members Scoggins and Hall gave the dissenting votes. Pursuant to the charter, in the event a vote is tied, the mayor has the authority to exercise voting rights; as such, the mayor voted in favor of the measure. Motion passed 3/2.

PUBLIC HEARING(S):

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY OF RIVERDALE'S ZONING ORDINANCE, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO AMENDMENTS TO THE DEFINITIONS SECTION, THE SCHEDULE OF DISTRICT REGULATIONS, AND PROVISIONS REGARDING THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS.

The purpose of this revision was to clearly define the definition of school; meaning anywhere you pay for your child to attend for less than 8 hours a day. The amendment also clarifies the definition of a church and changes the permitted use of a school. This ordinance allows churches/schools throughout the city. The ordinance also provides that the Board of Appeals only be required to meet when there is business to be considered before them.

Motion: Councilman Kenny Ruffin moved to adopt **Ordinance No. 02-2009**. Councilwoman Wallace moved to second the motion. Motion passed 4/0.

For detailed information pertaining to the official action of the Mayor and Council, please contact the Office of the City Clerk at 770-997-8989.

Stayed tuned as we continue to provide more updates
in future editions of the Riverdale Citizen Newsletter

What's Happening In and Around Riverdale

March 2009							April 2009						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30		

March 21, 2009

Super Saturday Free Tax Help

Greenbriar Mall
2841 Greenbriar Parkway
Atlanta, GA 30331
8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

IRS
401 W. Peachtree Street
Atlanta, GA 30308
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

March 22, 2009

State Representative Mike Glanton and Clayton County Public Schools have partnered to present the Clayton County 2009 Cultural Celebration Day Program! 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. at the Clayton County Performing Arts Center. Tickets may be purchased at the Performing Arts Center (www.co.clayton.k12.ga.us/pac) 770-473-2875 the day of the show.

March 23, 2009

Riverdale City Council Meeting
7:00 p.m.
City Hall

March 28, 2009

FREE HIV Counseling and Testing Services
NO BLOOD, NO NEEDLES
11:00 am - 1:00 pm at the Higher Living Christian Church Community Impact Center, Inc.
2450 Mt. Zion Parkway, Suite 400 Jonesboro, GA 30236
678-422-4787

April 13, 2009

Riverdale City Council Meeting
7:00 p.m.
City Hall

April 18, 2009

Riverdale MEGA Service Day ~A day to beautify our great city~
Church Park on Wilson Road in Riverdale (behind First Baptist Church on Church St)
8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Click here to volunteer [volunteer]

April 27, 2009

Riverdale City Council Meeting
7:00 p.m.
City Hall