



The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

April 2019

Volume 49, Issue 3

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Town of Riverdale Park Contact Information

Town Hall

5008 Queensbury Road
301-927-6381
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Department of Public Works

5012 Queensbury Road
301-927-6381
7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Police Department

5004 Queensbury Road
301-927-4343
24-hours

Bates Trucking and Trash Collection

Bulk Trash Collection
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
301-773-2069

*Residents must contact Bates by 2 p.m. on Tuesday for a Wednesday pickup. Residents may request a bulk trash pickup online at www.bates trucking.com. Click on Customer Center and complete the Request Service form.

We Need YOU for Riverdale Park's 2019 Earth Day Clean-Up!

Every spring, the Town of Riverdale Park joins the Anacostia Watershed Society in hosting an Earth Day Clean-Up event. We would like for everyone to plan to join us on Saturday, April 13th from 9:00 a.m. to 12 p.m. to make a difference in the health, safety, and environment of our community. This year's event will be held behind Rinaldi's Riverdale Bowl, 6322 Kenilworth Avenue, Riverdale Park, MD 20737.

Last year, we had more than fifty volunteers. We would love to exceed that number this year! Residents, businesses, youth groups, students, and all interested parties are asked to join us as we do our share to keep our community clean. Volunteers wishing to participate in the Earth Day event are asked to call TJ Sundberg at 301-927-6381. Student volunteers can earn community service hours for this activity.



PURPLE LINE

**TRANSIT PARTNERS
CONSTRUCTION INFORMATION**

Purple Line Construction Notices

Purple Line construction is well underway. The next phase of construction will focus on utility relocation work and will likely have a significant impact on travel. Residents are encouraged to subscribe for updates via e-mail or text message. For the most accurate and up-to-date information, visit purplelinemd.com, find "Construction" and click on "Subscribe for Updates". The construction hotline is 240-424-5325.

Council Actions

Legislative Meeting on March 4, 2019

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve consent agenda items: - **Approved**

1. Fence permit application: 6-foot wooden fence at 4711 Nicholson Street
2. Minutes: January 28, 2019 Work Session, January 28, 2019 Special Legislative Meeting and December 17, 2018 Work Session

Legislative Action Items:

1. Introduction of Ordinance 2019-OR-02 regarding Chapter 42 Business Licenses - **Introduced**
2. Introduction of Ordinance 2019-OR-03 authorizing wireless and wireline broadband deployment in the public rights of way - **Introduced**
3. Motion to authorize the Town Manager to enter into an agreement with Prince George's County regarding fuel and vehicle maintenance - **Approved**
4. Motion to authorize the Town Manager to enter into an agreement with Alacrity to provide collection services - **Approved**
5. Motion to authorize the Town Manager to send a letter to National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board in support of MARC VRE Connection - **Approved**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Mayor and Council of the Town of Riverdale Park will hold two public hearings to receive public comments on the proposed FY2020 Budget.

PLACE OF MEETING: Riverdale Park Town Hall, 5008 Queensbury Road, Riverdale Park, MD 20737

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

DATE: April 6, 2019 and April 13, 2019

WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO: The Town of Riverdale Park at 5008 Queensbury Road, Riverdale Park, MD 20737.

Stay up-to-date with all of the happenings in Town:

- ✓ Check out the new Town website at **www.riverdaleparkmd.gov**
- ✓ Like the Town's Facebook page
- ✓ Read the Town Manager's *Status and Information Report*

Town of Riverdale Park

www.riverdaleparkmd.gov

Mayor

Alan K. Thompson
akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Council Members

Ward 1 – Marsha Dixon, 301-531-4230
mdixon@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Ward 2 – Aaron Faulx, 860-970-7776
afaulx@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Ward 3 – David Lingua, 301-779-3849
djlingua@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Ward 4 – Christopher Henry, 301-910-9855
chenry@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Ward 5 – Colleen Richardson, 240-646-6457
crichardson@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Ward 6 – Hala Mayers, 301-927-6381
hmayers@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Administration

John N. Lestitian, **Town Manager**
jnlesitian@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Jessica Barnes, **Town Clerk**
jbarnes@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Ivy Lewis, **Public Projects and Services Director**
ilewis@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Kevin Simpson, **Development Services Director**
ksimpson@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Paul Smith, **Finance and Employee Services Director**
psmith@riverdaleparkmd.gov

David Morris, **Chief of Police**
dmorris@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Fire Department - Emergency 911

Information - 301-927-0356

Brian Carpio, **Fire Chief**
Eng7twr@yahoo.com;
info@riverdalevfd.com;
www.riverdalevfd.com

The Town Crier is also available on the Town's Website: www.riverdaleparkmd.gov

Submission deadline: 15th of each month

FAIR SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE 2019-OR-02

This is to give notice that the Riverdale Park Town Council has introduced and intends to take action on Ordinance 2019-OR-02.

Ordinance 2019-OR-02 would repeal existing provisions of the Town Code relating to Town business licenses and enact new provisions for licensing businesses in the Town of Riverdale Park; comprehensively revise regulations and procedures regarding applications for, and the approvals, suspension and revocation of licenses for, the operation of businesses within the Town of Riverdale Park; provide for the scope of this Ordinance; define certain terms; establish and revise certain application and license fees, penalties and enforcement procedures; provide for the duration of certain licenses; specify certain operational regulations, including special regulations for mobile vendors; provide for appeals from certain decisions; provide for the applicability of the terms of this Ordinance to existing Town business licenses; provide for the severability of the provisions of this Ordinance; and matters generally related to preserving the public health, safety and welfare by licensing the operation of businesses in the Town.

FAIR SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE 2019-OR-03

This is to give notice that the Riverdale Park Town Council has introduced and intends to take action on Ordinance 2019-OR-03.

Ordinance 2019-OR-03 would provide certain standards and regulations relating to the location of small wireless telecommunications towers, antennas, and other structures within the Town's public rights-of-way, consistent with federal and state law; provide for fees and annual charges; and generally relate to the wireless telecommunication facilities and wireless infrastructure providers in the Town of Riverdale Park.

Ordinances 2019-OR-02 and 2019-OR-03 are 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. They are also available on the Town website www.riverdaleparkmd.gov.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Alan K. Thompson

It is spring, really spring (there are purple crocuses and a cherry tree blooming in my yard!), and that means it is the season of two annoying things: mosquitos, and the town budget. At least the weather is improving every single week!

Mosquitos

I've gotten the earliest report of a potential mosquito bite that I can remember: March 13. Even though the report is early, the solution is not: eliminate as much standing water (and the places where standing water might form) as possible, and wage biological warfare against the most annoying of insects in the places you can't eliminate the standing water. The most evil of these mosquitos, the dreaded Asian tiger, can breed in a bottle cap, so be very aggressive in eliminating standing water. The places you can't practically eliminate the standing water (like the section of my house's gutter where it dips down an inch), throw in an anti-mosquito product containing "BTI," a bacterium that kills mosquitos and leaves pretty much everything else alone.

In all seriousness, with the mosquito-borne diseases that are in our area now, this is beyond annoyance. Please take a walk through your yard, dump out (regularly – once a week) anything that might collect water, and treat anything you can't keep water free. You and your neighbors health may depend on it.

Town Budget

Town staff have been working very diligently on the budget, and we have received a lot of surprises, and most of them have been unpleasant surprises.

The first is that the Town's assessed taxable base, the total value of taxable property in the town as reported to us by the state, is essentially unchanged from last year. I know that the value of my house has gone up, and I know from talking to other residents that their houses have gone up, but other properties have either disappeared from the tax rolls (some because of the Purple Line purchasing them) or have gone down in value.

The others are that various items in the budget, many of which are beyond our control, have gone up more than expected. We are working on a contract for trash pickup, and expected it to go up, and the bids that came

in were higher than we expected (check with me in case this changed while the Town Crier was being printed). Workmen's compensation is a lot higher than last year. Stay tuned, as the draft budget will be released early in April, and be assured that everyone in town government is working to deliver the services you want at the lowest cost we can.

We will be having budget hearings (check the calendar for schedule), and all members of the public are invited to attend and provide input.

WMATA Property in Ward 1

As I discussed in March, the WMATA property just north of Riverdale Park Station was put on the market, and the M-NCPPC Parks department going to bid on it and convert it into park land. The County has recently (mid-March) requested that the parcel be taken off the market, and that WMATA have direct discussions with M-NCPPC on the sale of the property. As with everything in this Mayor's report (well, except the mosquitos), stay tuned!

Town Elections

Town elections are scheduled for May, 6 from 7 am to 8 pm, with all Council positions (Ward representatives and the Mayor) on the ballot. Packets are available at Town Hall (5008 Queensbury) or on the Town's web site (riverdaleparkmd.gov) for anyone wanting to run for office. Petitions to be on the ballot and financial disclosure forms must be filed by April 11. As soon as possible after candidates are certified by the Board of Elections and the Ethics Board, a list of candidates for each office will be posted on utility poles around town, on the Town's web site, via Town e-mail lists, and on the Town's social media outlets. Town Code forbids electioneering in the Mayor's report (or Council Representative reports) in the Town Crier. I am certain that at least one person is running for Mayor.

Purple Line Construction

I typically only get a few weeks (at best) of advance notice on Purple Line activities, so it is best to sign up for announcements directly from <https://www.purplelinemd.com/construction/>. This has been more true than usual over the last month, as some of the planned closures have been pushed out – the March 18 closure that I reported last month was pushed out indefinitely, and the schedule for the closing of the Campus Drive underpass (under the Metro/railroad tracks near the College Park metro station) is anyone's guess at this point. The one part of the project that

seems to still be on schedule is the widening of the underpass where East-West Highway goes under the Baltimore-Washington Parkway.

If you have immediate questions or concerns about construction, you can call the project help line 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at 240-424-5325 or send e-mail to outreach@pltcllc.com.

Contact Me

If you have any questions or comments about any aspect of Town government, please contact me by e-mail (akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov) or phone (301-237-0632). I will get back to you as quickly as I can, but please remember that while I love being Mayor, I have a full-time job during the day with an associated commute (as do the other members of the Town Council), and it may take me a little while to get back to you. If you leave me a voice mail (and please do if I don't answer!) I'd be grateful if you could let me know what times are good for me to call you back. Thanks!

Look for me here again in May, and I hope you have a wonderful month!

Ward 2 Report

Council Member Aaron Faulx

The past two years have been an exhilarating and challenging experience. I am introduced to new people and concepts on a daily basis. As a first time elected official, I've tried to spend my time listening to the vast amount of knowledge and experience that I am surrounded by in Town Hall. It has been an incredible experience getting to work with our amazing town staff and learning from some of our remarkable town council members. I am so appreciative of all of the work that they do on our town's behalf. I'm also very proud of the work that we have accomplished as a town. The council has become an incredibly collaborative group and genuinely works towards accomplishing goals that will benefit our town in the long run. With that being said, I truly want to thank each and every one of you that I have interacted with for the opportunity that you have given me. It is a remarkable experience to get to work together with all of you. I believe that local government is truly the best form of government that exists and my experience has been incredible. I love getting to meet people and share ideas about the future of Riverdale Park. We truly do have a remarkable community full of

amazing people looking to improve our shared space together.

Please reach out to me if you want to schedule some time where we can talk about your ideas for the town. I want to continue to listen and learn from everyone in our town.

Introducing: Report A Concern

Staff have been hard at work enhancing the Town's website with new features for our residents. The new "Report A Concern" feature will allow residents to report concerns (trash/recycling requests, billing questions, neighborhood concerns, etc.) directly to the appropriate department and in some cases, service provider. Look for the above icon on our Homepage and on each page of the website.



http://www.riverdaleparkmd.gov/citizen_request_center/index.php

Spring is here!

Now is the time to do some spring cleaning on your property. Neighborhood Services staff will be visiting every street in Town over the next several weeks to help residents identify areas that may need additional attention.

One item that Neighborhood Services staff will be focusing on is junk vehicles. Prince George's County Housing Code Section 13-118 (f), as adopted by the Town, prohibits the storage of one or more motor vehicles which are, wrecked, dismantled, inoperable, or not currently licensed. One way to dispose of a junk car is to donate it. There are many organizations that accept car donations (in any condition) and some will even pick them up free of charge. Please see below for a list of organizations that may accept car donations:

American Cancer Society 1-888-227-5500
<https://www.cardonationwizard.com/american-cancer-society/donate/donate-a-car-to-fight-cancer>

Cars Helping Veterans 1-888-480-8387
<https://carshelpingveterans.org/>

Habitat for Humanity 1-877-277-4344
<https://www.habitatmm.org/car-donation-recycling-program>

Vehicles for Change 1-855-820-7990
<https://www.vehiclesforchange.org/donate-a-car/donate-in-3-easy-steps/donate-online-form/>

*Please note that the list above is not a complete list of organizations that accept car donations and the Town is not recommending or endorsing any of the above organizations.

Also, the Town offers a bulk trash pick-up on Wednesdays through the Town's residential trash collection provider. To request a pick-up, please call 301-773-2069 or visit www.batestrucking.com. (Click on Customer Center and complete the Request Service form.) On the third Saturday of most months the Town also accepts bulk trash items at the Department of Public Works building, 5012 Queensbury Road. Please note that this service is only offered to Town residents so identification may be required.

If you have any questions regarding property maintenance or the application of Town codes, please contact the Neighborhood Services staff: Brad Goshen at bgoshen@riverdaleparkmd.gov or 301-927-6381 ext. 514 and CJ Reading at creading@riverdaleparkmd.gov or 301-927-6381 ext. 508.

We look forward to working with you!

Riversdale House Museum Upcoming Events

Riversdale Chamber Music Society
Sunday, April 7, 2:30 p.m.
FREE!

Enjoy a performance by talented area musicians in cooperation with the University of Maryland School of Music and mingle with the performers during a post-concert reception. Seating is first come, first served.

Tavern Night
Saturday, April 27, 8 pm
\$28 Resident | \$35 Non-Resident
Make merry with the lively sounds of the Ship's Company Chanteymen while enjoying tavern food and

beverages in a festive atmosphere. Includes souvenir glass. Ages 21 & up. Registration required by April 22.

2019 Town Election

Town of Riverdale Park ELECTION NOTICE

In compliance with the terms of the Charter of the Town of Riverdale Park, Maryland, an election will be held on

**Monday, May 6, 2019
to elect Mayor & Council Members
Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at
Riverdale Park Town Hall, 5008 Queensbury Road**

Candidates for office must file a Petition and Financial Disclosure Affidavits with the Election Judges at the Town Hall no later than 5 p.m., Thursday, April 11, 2019, in order to have their names on the official ballot. Financial Disclosure affidavits and filing Petition forms are available at Town Hall or on the Town's website www.riverdaleparkmd.gov. There is a \$25.00 filing fee for all candidates.

All residents, sixteen years of age or older, who have resided in the Town of Riverdale Park for 45 days or more preceding Monday, May 6, 2019 (March 22, 2019 to May 5, 2019), will be entitled to vote.

All residents who wish to qualify to vote in a Town election must register with Prince George's County Board of Elections or the Town of Riverdale Park. You may pick up a voter registration application at Town Hall or visit the Town's website www.riverdaleparkmd.gov.

La Ciudad de Riverdale Park AVISO ELECTORAL

Conforme a las reglas de la Ciudad Una Elección Para elegir al Alcalde y Consejeros de la Ciudad

**El día Lunes 6 de Mayo del 2019
Las urnas abrirán de 7 a.m. a 8 p.m. en
Municipalidad de Riverdale Park,
5008 Queensbury Road**

Los candidatos electorales que deseen inscribirse para la elección deberán llenar una petición y declaración

financiera jurada ante los Jueces Electorales en la Municipalidad antes de las 5 p.m. el día jueves 11 de abril del 2019 para tener su nombre en la boleta electoral. (Las formas de petición y declaración financiera están disponibles en la municipalidad de Riverdale Park o www.riverdaleparkmd.gov) Tienen una cuota de \$25.00 para todos los candidatos.

Todos los residentes de dieciséis años de edad o mayores, que han vivido en la Ciudad de Riverdale Park por 45 días o más precedente al día lunes 6 de mayo del 2019 tienen derecho a votar.

Todos los residentes que deseen calificar para votar en una elección de Ciudad deben registrarse en la Junta de Elecciones del Condado de Prince George o en la Ciudad de Riverdale Park. Puede recoger una solicitud de registro de votantes en el Ayuntamiento o visitar el sitio web de Town en www.riverdaleparkmd.gov.

Geraldine Gee, Chief Judge | Joseph Mooney, Deputy Chief Judge

Register to Vote!

HOW DO I REGISTER TO VOTE?

Town residents may register to vote in one of the following ways:

1. If you are a U.S. citizen, a Maryland resident, and at least 16 years old; you may register to vote by using the State of Maryland Voter Registration Application found on the Town's website www.riverdaleparkmd.gov or at Town Hall; **OR**
2. If you have, or will have, the Town of Riverdale Park as your primary residence, for at least forty-five (45) days immediately prior to May 6, 2019 (March 22, 2019 to May 5, 2019); are at least 16 years old; do not claim the right to vote elsewhere in the United States; and have not been found by a court to be unable to communicate a desire to vote; register to vote by using the Town of Riverdale Park Supplemental Voter Registry Voter Registration Form also found on the Town's website www.riverdaleparkmd.gov or at Town Hall.

WHAT FORMS OF IDENTIFICATION AND PROOF OF RESIDENCE WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR THE SUPPLEMENTAL VOTER REGISTRY?

1. An identification card issued by a federal, state, or local government entity of the United States or any foreign country or school provided that the

identification document contains the applicant's name and date of birth; **AND**

2. A document that establishes your current residence in the Town of Riverdale Park if not already established by (1.) above. Examples include a copy of house or apartment lease, utility bill, paycheck, bank statement, school record, or other document that shows your legal name and current address in the Town of Riverdale Park.

CAN I REGISTER TO VOTE ON THE DAY OF ELECTION?

Yes, anyone may register to vote on the day of the election. If you do not have sufficient proof of age and residency, you will need to complete an affidavit in order to vote.

REMINDER TO NEW RESIDENTS:

Be sure to update your address with the Prince George's County Board of Elections (BOE). For more information, call the BOE at 301-341-7300.

If you have any questions, please contact the Town Clerk at 301-927-6381 (ext. 505).

Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Initiative

Pedestrian safety is an issue that affects everyone in Maryland; young and old, drivers and walkers, during the day and at night. Everyone is a pedestrian in some capacity at one point or another. Many unnecessary injuries and fatalities occur because of intoxication, ignorance, or inattentiveness by either or both motorists and/or pedestrians. Maryland's roadways should be safe places for all transportation modes. Laws related to pedestrian safety need to be enforced and pedestrians need to be educated on the laws and how to do their part to improve their safety. Here are a few tips for pedestrians and motorists to help keep pedestrians as safe as possible on our roads:

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY TIPS

For Pedestrians

- Walk smart. Be predictable when walking. Use sidewalks where provided and cross only at crosswalks. Stay off highways and restricted zones.
- Pay attention and always look left, right, and left again before crossing the street.
- Avoid distractions and the use of electronic devices while walking. Focus on getting to your destination safely.

- Crosswalks and traffic lights don't stop cars! The WALK signal does not mean it is safe to cross. It only means it is your turn to cross. Check that traffic has come to a stop before crossing.
- Always look both ways before stepping between stopped vehicles as they may block your view of moving traffic.
- Wear brightly colored clothing to be easily seen day or night. At night, also wear reflective materials.
- Walk only on the sidewalk. If there isn't a sidewalk nearby, walk on the side of the road facing traffic.
- Stand a safe distance away from the roadway and traffic while waiting for a bus.
- Remember to look left, right and left again before crossing the street.

For Drivers

- Always come to a complete stop at stop signs and stop lights.
- Always yield to pedestrians and stop for pedestrians in a crosswalk, even if it is not marked.
- Pay attention. Slow down. Be especially attentive around school zones and in neighborhoods where children are active.
- Avoid distractions while driving. Keep your eyes on the road and focus on getting where you need to go safely.
- Keep your windshield and headlights clean for maximum visibility.

http://www.mva.maryland.gov/safety/mhso/FY19_Ped_ProgramAreaBriefFINAL.pdf

INTRODUCING VOICES OF RIVERDALE PARK!



Introducing Voices of Riverdale Park! Voices of Riverdale Park will be comprised of short articles written by freelance journalists, who will interview various characters in Riverdale Park. These articles aim to share perceptions and narratives of the community, from the community. The list includes - but is not limited to - business owners, long term residents, new

residents, and so on. Interested in sharing your story or writing an article? Message us on Facebook or call Town Hall at 301-927-6381! You can also email Program Specialist T.J. Sundberg at tsundberg@riverdaleparkmd.gov.

For more information about Voices of Riverdale Park please visit http://www.riverdaleparkmd.gov/news_detail_T6_R39.php.

Food and hospitality are the cornerstones of Banana Blossom Bistro

By: Camila Velloso

"There's no typical day," Annie Esguerra said laughing as she glanced over at her daughter, Emma, 8, coloring at a table nearby, and her husband, Philip Esguerra, sitting beside her.

"It's what makes things interesting," Philip said.

"Some people would call it chaotic, but it's normal for us," Annie said.

Annie and Philip are raising four young children and opening a new restaurant, Banana Blossom Bistro. And they wouldn't have it any other way.

Annie hails from a family of restaurateurs. The family business started back in Vietnam with her grandparents, who passed the craft on to her parents, uncles and aunts now running restaurants in Sacramento and San Jose. "It's just part of our family," she said.

Before moving to Maryland four and a half years ago, Annie and Philip lived in California where they first considered opening a Vietnamese restaurant of their own. But when Philip's work in government brought the family to the Washington D.C.-area, they decided on Riverdale Park as the perfect place to set up shop.

"We just fell in love with this area," Annie said. "We're kind of at the nexus of Riverdale Park, Hyattsville and College Park, so it's sort of a hidden gem," she added.

Banana Blossom Bistro is in a quaint, red brick building on the corner of 6202 Rhode Island Avenue in the heart

of Riverdale Park: its Town Center. The restaurant - which opened its doors in early February - strengthens the heartbeat and character of Riverdale Park. Banana Blossom Bistro offers a fast-casual set-up that prioritizes hospitality.

"The owners are some of the nicest people I've met in my entire life," said Riverdale Park Mayor Alan K. Thompson. "Just having them as neighbors is great and having them run a restaurant in town is even better."

Berwyn Heights resident Jo Maralit spotted the restaurant from the Trolley Trail near Riverdale Park Station on her commute from work.

"I was coming through one night and I saw the lights on, so I was excited that something new was coming to the neighborhood," she said. "It's an added benefit to the county."

Annie and Phil both identified Riverdale Park as a diverse and community-based town, something that was important to them when looking for a place to host their business.

"We really want to have a relationship with our customers because we're nestled in the neighborhood," Philip said. "We want to be a place for the community where people feel welcome."

"Especially families with young kids," Annie added.

Besides high chairs, changing tables and crafts, parents can look forward to a kids' menu at Banana Blossom Bistro, a rarity in most Vietnamese restaurants according to Annie.

Replete with traditional Vietnamese dishes, including pho, rice vermicelli and Bánh mì sandwiches, the restaurant also provides vegan and allergy-friendly food options, something that Annie and Philip both take pride in. They even created a special side dish - an egg-free and vegan version of the egg roll - called "The Emma Roll", which is dedicated to their daughter.

"Our daughter has an egg allergy and that was one of the reasons that we want to be so conscious and sensitive," Annie said. Going out to eat proved especially difficult for the family, since they were constantly concerned about proper food preparation.

For this reason, the couple invested a lot in their open kitchen and equipment.

“We have dedicated equipment for certain items,” Annie said. As customers line up in a queue to order, they can see three large pots in the back of the kitchen, one for each type of broth: beef, chicken or vegan. The kitchen also has different fryers allocated for meat and non-meat products.

The couple gave much thought not only to the menu options, but to the name of the restaurant itself. “We wanted something very meaningful,” Annie said.

The banana blossom is the heart of the banana tree, which is abundant across the Vietnamese countryside and widely used in the Vietnamese cuisine, Annie explained. The banana blossom can be used to garnish in soups and the petal as a serving platter.

“For us, the heart of our mission is hospitality and food ... in the same way that the banana flower is the heart of the banana tree,” Annie said.

“And not to mention our signature salad has the banana blossom in it,” Philip joked.

The couple designed the restaurant around both the banana blossom, reflected in the bold red and purple color scheme, and their deep roots in Vietnamese culture.

As a former colony of France, Vietnamese food and decor are heavily influenced by French culture, Annie explained.

“You see the French bistro chairs like you would see in a cafe in Paris,” Philip pointed out.

“We wanted to have French decor and French influence but then also have Asian elements throughout,” Annie said. One such detail can be observed by looking to the ceiling’s Asian-inspired lanterns.

Other fixtures in the restaurant are the work of local artisans.

“We are very community-based, so we tried to collaborate with local businesses where we could,” Annie said.

The tables are all from carpenter and woodworker Blake Sloane of Forty Third Place, who used reclaimed wood from a house in Washington D.C., that was knocked down in the ‘50s, Philip recounted.

As customers walk into the restaurant, they will find a micro-shop to their right, stocked with cookbooks, tote bags and other merchandise. The shelves are also lined with pottery and plants by local artists Leah Schaperow and Kate Geyer, respectively.

Banana Blossom Bistro is open for dinner from Wednesday through Sunday, with soft opening hours of 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Sundays*.

The couple plans to slowly introduce more menu items to allow their staff of 12 to familiarize themselves with the process and to ensure the quality of food and service.

“We just want to get it right,” Annie said.

For now, Annie and Phil will keep busy by catering events and preparing for the restaurant’s grand opening in the upcoming weeks.

**Editor’s Note: Banana Blossom Bistro recently added lunch hours. They are now open from 11 AM to 9 PM Wednesdays through Saturdays and 11 AM to 7 PM on Sundays. Closed on Mondays and Tuesdays.*

EYEFA: How art helps STEM

Teen board: Tamryn Thornton - Fillyaw, Tanise Thornton - Fillyaw and Terrica Thornton - Fillyaw

You might wonder how playing with dolls and paint could help you land a job. However, encouraging art & playtime, can have a positive effect on student’s performance in technological careers later on. After all, effective communication and the ability to synthesize information are important, working together with others to build doll houses, skills in every job or career.

Although the current trends in education devalue time spent in non-academic pursuits, membership and participation in a club that teaches skills like painting, construction aids a student in developing executive functioning.

In fact, according to Charles M. Vest President of National Academy of Engineering, “Systems cannot be

wisely envisioned, designed, or deployed without an understanding of society, culture, politics, economics, and communication - in other words, the very stuff of the liberal arts and also of the social sciences”.

EYEFA is one of the amazing programs that teach more than just art. Art and STEM has a huge impact on young minds of today, I can say personally that art and STEM has helped me so much, from thinking on my feet to running a business. When I first started taking classes it was hard for me to sit still, but I learned that fine arts take a lot of patience and concentration if you want a good result. After seven Years of EYEFA my not only art skill but also my life skills have been tremendously improved, so to say the least EYEFA and STEM have had a direct correlation in the development in my life skills.

So what did we learn? Playing/making dolls is not just for little girls, but in fact you can learn a lot from it. We have to engineer our dresses so they look a certain way. We have to use certain paints so the wood does not get ruined (science). We have to use different shapes and sizes like geometry, and we are even working on an all recycled doll, made with ink pens made from vegetable roots. With that being said, you can learn so much more than just Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

Rain Check Rebate Program

Through the Rain Check Rebate Program, Prince George's County residents, businesses, and nonprofits can apply for cash rebates by adopting stormwater management practices that improve quality of the County's waterways while beautifying our communities. Apply for a rebate today by visiting www.cbtrust.org. Not sure which practices will work in your yard? Visit the Rain Check Rebate Program where you can download guidelines for each of the practices. **For more information, contact the Chesapeake Bay Trust at (410) 974 – 2941 or rebate@cbtrust.org**



PEPCO Free Tree Giveaway

Pepco is giving away 1,000 free trees to residential customers through the Arbor Day Foundation's Energy-Saving Trees program. This initiative helps customers conserve energy and reduce household energy use through strategic tree planting. For the ninth year, Pepco is stepping up to support this important environmental and energy saving program. Starting today, customers can reserve one free tree per household by visiting arborday.org/pepco.

Customers will have the ability to choose from a selection of trees, including Redbud, Crepe Myrtle, River Birch, Red Oak, Red Maple, most available in varying sizes.

One-gallon trees will be delivered to customers' homes between April and May. All three- and five-gallon trees will be available for pickup only during company planned events in April. More information on these events can be found online during the reservation process. Through the Arbor Day Foundation's website, customers also have the power to explore interactive tools, including a tool to help customers determine the best location on their property to plant their tree for energy savings benefits. Properly planted trees can provide a homeowner many benefits, such as reducing energy use through summer shading and by slowing winter winds. Throughout a tree's growth period, trees have the potential to lower energy bills by 15 to 30 percent. Additionally, trees provide benefits to a community by improving air and water quality, reducing stormwater runoff, and adding to the visual appeal of a neighborhood. In fact, since 2012, Pepco customers have planted more than 17,650 trees, saving nearly 29 million kWh, and removing close to 363,584 lbs. of air pollutants from the atmosphere.

Prior to receiving a tree, Pepco reminds customers to call 811 to have utility-owned underground lines marked before they start to dig. One free call to 811 connects you to Miss Utility, which notifies the appropriate utility companies of your intent to dig. Every digging project, no matter how large or small, warrants a call to 811.

Customers unable to reserve a free tree through the internet are encouraged to call 855-670-2772 to secure a tree.



ESOL for Work

**5-WEEK TRAINING COURSE AT
CENTRAL KENILWORTH AVENUE REVITALIZATION
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

What?

**Learn Basic English for beginners
& Basic Computer Training**

We welcome all languages and are here to help you.
Certificate awarded at course completion.

Where?

Location: 6801 Kenilworth Avenue, Suite 203
Riverdale Park, Maryland 20737

Visit our office, call - 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
or email at info@ckarcdc.org

When?

Classes Start: April 8, 2019

Monday - Friday / 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Registration Fees: FREE for class & \$45 for textbooks
Registration ends: April 1st, 2019



COMING SOON

- Breakfast and Lunch Café
- 14 week certified culinary arts/customer service training program
- Health Eating / Healthy Living Menu
- Wellness Programming
- Job Placement Services

HOW TO REGISTER?



Call Us: 240-608-2527

Email Us info@ckarcdc.org

Visit Us: 6801 Kenilworth Avenue, Suite 203
Riverdale Park, Maryland 20737

Follow Us: @Ckarcdc





ESOL PARA OBTENER UN TRABAJO

Curso de Formacion de cinco semanas

La Corporación Comunitaria para la Revitalización del Corridor Central de la Avenida de Kenilworth (CKAR)

¿Qué?

Aprenda Inglés Básico para Principiantes y Entrenamiento Básico de la Computación.

Damos la bienvenida a todos los hablantes de idiomas y estamos aquí para ayudarles. Un certificado será otorgado al finalizar el curso.

¿Dónde?

Ubicación: 6801 Kenilworth Avenue, Suite 203
Riverdale Park, Maryland 20737

Visite a nuestra oficina y llámenos de las 9:00 a.m. a las 5:30 p.m.
o envíe un correo electrónico a info@ckarcdc.org

¿Cuándo?

Inicio de Clases: el 8 de abril del 2019

Lunes a Viernes: 10:00 a.m. a las 12:00 p.m.

Las inscripciones para las clases son gratuitas y el costo de los libros de texto es \$45

Finaliza el registro el 1 de abril del 2019



PRÓXIMAMENTE

- Café del Desayuno y el Almuerzo
- Programa certificado de 14 semanas de capacitación de arte culinario y servicio al cliente
- Alimentación Saludable/Menu de Vida Saludable
- Programa de Bienestar
- Servicios de Colocación Laboral

¿COMO REGISTRARSE?

Llámenos: 240-608-2527

Envíenos un correo electrónico: info@ckarcdc.org

Visítenos: 6801 Kenilworth Avenue, Suite 203
Riverdale Park, Maryland 20737

Síguenos:

@Ckarcdc





April 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Regular Legislative Meeting 8 p.m.	2	3 MUTC Meeting 7:30 p.m.	4 Farmer's Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Town Center)	5 Boy Scouts 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.	6 Budget Public Hearing 9:30 a.m.
7 Youth Entrepreneurs in Fine Art 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.	8	9	10	11 Farmer's Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Town Center)	12 Boy Scouts 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.	13 Earth Day Clean-up 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Budget Public Hearing 9:30 a.m.
14 Youth Entrepreneurs in Fine Art 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.	15	16	17	18 Farmer's Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Town Center)	19 Boy Scouts 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.	20 Bulk Trash Drop-Off 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (DPW)
21 Youth Entrepreneurs in Fine Art 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.	22	23	24	25 Farmer's Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Town Center)	26 Boy Scouts 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.	27
28 Youth Entrepreneurs in Fine Art 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.	29 Council Work Session 8 p.m.	30	<p>All Meetings and events are held at Town Hall unless another location is indicated. Also, all meetings are open to the public so please plan to join us!</p> <p>Trash collection occurs on Mondays and Thursdays. Yard waste is collected on Wednesdays. Please contact the Department of Public Works at 301-864-1803 for more information.</p>			

CARRIER ROUTE
PRESORT

POSTAL PATRON
RIVERDALE PARK, MARYLAND
20737

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
HYATTSVILLE, MD
PERMIT No.
2090

Town of Riverdale Park
5008 Queensbury Road
Riverdale Park, Maryland 20737



Important Phone Numbers

Comcast

www.comcast.com
Customer service: 1-800-934-6489

Pepco

www.pepco.com
To report an outage: 1-877-737-2662
Customer service: 202-833-7500

Prince George's County: www.princegeorgescountymd.gov

Animal Control: 301-780-7200
Assessments: 301-952-2500
Parks and Recreation (maintenance): 301-918-4700
Permitting, Licenses and Enforcement: 301-636-2000
Public Works and Transportation: 301-883-5650

Prince George's County Public Schools: www.pgcps.org

Riverdale Elementary: 301-985-1850
William Wirt Middle School: 301-985-1720
Bladensburg High School: 301-887-6700
Parkdale High School: 301-513-5700

Washington Gas

www.washingtongas.com
To report a gas leak: 703-750-1400 or 800-752-7520
Customer Service: 703-750-1000

Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC):

www.wsscwater.com
To report a water main break or sewage backup: 301-206-4002
Customer service: 301-206-4001 or 1-800-634-8400

Local Organizations

Lion's Club

Pat Pranglely at 240-882-4993

Northern County Soccer Alliance

NCSA@soccer.net or 301-577-3559

Riverdale Park Boy Scout Troop 252

Scoutmaster Bob Killen at 301-483-8455

Madison Hill Homeowners Association

301-583-8857

Riversdale Historical Society

301-864-0420

Riverdale Park Farmer's Market

Jim Coleman at 301-586-5973

Riverdale Park Business Association

www.shoplocalriverdalepark.com

Riverdale Park Arts Council

Samuel Williams, Jr. at 909-380-4231

Riversdale Chamber Music Society

Robert DiLutis at rdilutis@umd.edu or
www.riversdalechambermusic.com