

# The Riverdale Park Town Crier

# December 2018/January 2019

Volume 48, Issue 11

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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.batestrucking.com. Click on Customer Center and complete the Request Service form.

# **Holiday Events**



- Children's Holiday Party will be held on Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon at Town Hall (5008 Queensbury Road). Please call 301-927-6381 for details.
- Seniors Holiday Luncheon at Crescent Cities Center (4409 East West Highway) will be held on Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. Please call Town Hall at 301-927-6381 for details.
- The Holiday Market and Festival of Lights will be held on Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup> from 12noon to 8:00 p.m. at Town Center. For more information, contact Jim Coleman at 301-586-5973. Vendors and volunteers are needed!

# **Dreams for the Field of Dreams**

In November the Town, in partnership with the Neighborhood Design Center (NDC), hosted a Visioning Workshop for residents to provide input on the future of the park located at Tuckerman Street and Lafayette Avenue, known as the Field of Dreams. Over 25 people attended the workshop. The NDC also conducted an online survey that received over 35 responses (at the time of this publication).

A preliminary concept to redesign the Field of Dreams is expected in January. For more information, please contact Development Services Director Kevin Simpson at 301-927-6381 ext. 509 or ksimpson@riverdaleparkmd.gov.

## **Council Actions**

#### Special Legislative Meeting on October 29, 2018

#### **Legislative Action Items:**

- Motion to approve Director of Public Projects and Services - Approved
- Motion to approve Mayor's appointment of Ward 6 representative - Approved

#### **Legislative Meeting on November 5, 2018**

#### **Consent Agenda**

Motion to approve consent agenda items: - Approved

- 1. Street closing of Natoli Place from Queensbury Road to Lafayette Avenue at Veterans Memorial Park from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon on November 11, 2018 for annual Veterans Day Ceremony (Ward 1)
- 2. Minutes from September 24, 2018 Work Session
- 3. Minutes from October 1, 2018 Legislative Meeting

#### **Legislative Action Items:**

- Motion to approve the Mayor's appointment of Lieutenant Robert Turner and Gentry Jones, Jr. to the Defined Benefit Plan Board of Trustees - Approved
- 2. Motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-OR-12 regarding revisions to Ethics Ordinance **Adopted**
- 3. Motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-OR-13 amendments to Chapter 23 Charges and Fees **Adopted**
- Motion to authorize the Town Manager to send a letter regarding the 2040 Maryland Transportation Plan (MTP) Draft Plan - Approved





On November 5<sup>th</sup>, Ward 6 Council Member Hala Mayers was sworn in (left) and Public Projects and Services Director Ivy Lewis accepted the Municipal Government Works Month Proclamation (right).

#### **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** *jnlesititian@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

Send submissions to: towncrier@riverdaleparkmd.gov

## Mayor's Report

Mayor Alan K. Thompson

In a flash, the weather has gotten cold (snow already!) and we are in the holiday season. I hope that everyone had a great Thanksgiving, that you are looking forward (as I am) to the season ahead. The Town will be sponsoring or helping out with a lot of events during the holiday season, including the Children's Holiday Party on December 1st from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Town Hall, the Seniors Holiday Luncheon on December 12th at 11:30 a.m. at Crescent Cities Center, and the Holiday Market and Festival of Lights on December 15th from noon to 8 p.m. at Town Center. I hope that you will join us for these events.

#### **Ward 6 Council Representative**

I am very pleased to welcome Council Member Hala Mayers to the Town Council, representing Ward 6. I reached out to a few dozen people about the position, talked to around a dozen, and was impressed by Ms. Mayers. The council approved her appointment and she has enthusiastically taken on her duties. I am glad that the residents of Ward 6 have her voice to represent them on the council.

#### **Veterans Day**

I was honored to speak again at the Town's Veterans Day observance on November 11. We had a good turnout this year, and I rang a bell in observance of the 100-year anniversary of the 1918 armistice that ended World War I. Bell-ringing was how the end of the war was announced, and was featured in Armistice Day celebrations (renamed Veterans Day in 1954). All of us owe a debt to our veterans, those who served in combat, and those who served in other roles, because they sacrificed their freedoms to protect ours.



#### **Visitors from Ipala**

This month, I had the pleasure of meeting a group of teachers visiting us from our sister city, Ipala, Guatemala. The teachers educated students at both Riverdale Elementary and William Wirt Middle School about the culture, language (Ch'orti'), and history of the Mayan people who live near Ipala. It was a particular pleasure to host Roberaldo Arriaga as a guest in my house. He teaches high school English and was a great conversationalist. He got to practice his English, and I got to practice my Spanish! He said he enjoyed his first visit to the United States immensely. I also enjoyed catching up with a Ulda Lisbeth Arrivillaga Javier, who returned to Riverdale Park this year; she was my guest during a previous teacher exchange. The Town sponsored a great dinner and reception for our visitors the evening of November 19th.



#### The Loop

Every now and then in this job, something really astonishing happens. Such is the case with "The Loop," a proposed transportation system that may link us to both DC and Baltimore in the not-too-distant future. The system would have electric vehicles (that can be summoned with a smart phone app) running in underground tunnels at speeds of near 200 miles per hour – 15 minutes to Baltimore! I recently spoke with a representative from "The Boring Company" (a company funded and owned by Elon Musk, founder of PayPal, CEO of Tesla Motors, and SpaceX), and they are willing

to build stations in Riverdale Park that would connect us to the main backbone that, according to plans, will run underneath the B-W Parkway. The system will be completely privately funded, the stations are small (the size of two standard parking spaces), and costs are expected to be similar to existing public transit costs. Talk to your council members, as we may be working with The Boring Company soon to discuss possible locations in town for stations. According to the representative I spoke with, the system is expected to be carrying passengers in three to five years and it will eventually be extended to New York City!

#### **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/. That being said, construction is continuing to ramp up where East-West Highway crosses underneath the Baltimore Washington Parkway (the current bridge will be replaced as part of the project). As I'm writing this article, River Road is quickly becoming a major construction zone; I expect a lot of trees on the south side of River Road will be gone by the time you are reading this article. At some point soon, the underpass on Campus Drive west of River Road (near the College Park Metro Station) will be closed for construction, temporarily cutting off the connection between Kenilworth Avenue and Route 1. Last but not least, the small section of Quesada Road that is one-way is likely to become two-way fairly soon, so that all residents in that neighborhood will be able to make that left turn onto Kenilworth. 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 February, and I hope you have a wonderful holiday season.

# Ward 2 Report

Council Member Aaron Faulx

#### Field of Dreams Park

By the time that you have read this we will have hosted our Visioning Workshop on the park at the corner of Lafayette and Tuckerman Streets. Hopefully, all of you that were interested in providing input were able to do so. We are expecting our first look at the Neighborhood Design Center's plans sometime in January. I am tremendously excited to see how they implement our ideas into a park that we can celebrate together as a town.

#### **Riverdale Park Mural Project**

A few weeks ago, my wife and I were walking across the bridge on Lafavette Avenue over to Riverdale Park Station. We couldn't help but notice that graffiti artists had already tagged this brand new bridge with their art. We have many spaces within our community that are targeted frequently by graffiti because they are viewed as a blank canvass. I think the time to act has long since passed. Early in my term I called for a mural project underneath the bridge on East-West Highway on Lafayette Avenue. I am renewing my call for this to be one of our first target areas where we actually control the art that are going up in our public spaces instead of just responding to vandalism. I am calling for the creation of the Riverdale Park Mural Project Committee with a few goals in mind. I would like the committee to focus on possible locations for mural art, mural ideas, fundraising, and community outreach and engagement. We have an opportunity to stop being responsive to vandalism while

simultaneously creating a beautiful natural aesthetic for our community. We have amazing examples all around us in Hyattsville and Washington DC. Let's have a conversation about turning some of the concrete of our town into something a little more enticing to look out. Please contact me if you are interested in participating in this community wide project.

#### **Holiday Season**

Finally, Mara and I just wanted to reach to our Riverdale Park community and wish you all the happiest of holidays. In this time of giving, please look for opportunities to give of yourself to those in need within our community. Happy holidays to all!

## **Public Works**

#### **Holiday Trash Collection**

Regular trash **will be** collected on Monday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day observance.

#### Saturday Bulk Trash Drop-Off

The winter schedule for drop-off of bulk trash is: December 15 and January 19. Town residents may deliver residential bulk trash items to the Department of Public Works from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Please contact the Department of Public Works at 301-927-6381.

As a reminder, residents may also schedule a bulk trash pick-up through the Town's contracted trash collection provider, Bates Trucking and Trash, by calling 301-773-2069 or visiting their website, https://www.batestrucking.com/customer-center/request-service/.

#### **Trash Tote Repair/Replacement**

To coordinate the replacement of damaged trash totes, residents should call the Department of Public Works at 301-927-6381. The Town's contracted trash service provider will replace the damaged totes. A replacement tote will not be delivered if the damaged one is not there for pickup. Replacements will take place on Thursdays. Please note that the Town's contracted trash service provider has reported that their stock of

trash totes has been depleted and they expect that it will be another 3 weeks or more before they will have more in stock.

#### **Leaf Collection**

Leaf collection officially began on November 5<sup>th</sup> and runs through January 15, 2019.

To make the leaf collection process work as efficiently as possible, residents should adhere to the following:

- Do not put bagged leaves out with regular trash or mix them household trash.
- Put leaves in paper bags or containers clearly marked as "Yard Waste" and place them at the curb on Wednesdays as part of regular yard waste collection.
- Rake leaves to the curb and pile leaves away from cars and storm drains as the leaf vacuum cannot reach around cars.
- Be sure to remove tree limbs, rocks, and other debris from leaves to be vacuumed or collected as yard waste. These items can damage equipment and cause delays.

Day of the Week	Regularly Scheduled Services	Leaf Collection Services	
Monday	Trash Collection	Leaf vacuuming	
Tuesday		Leaf vacuuming	
Wednesday	Recycling, Metal, and Yard Waste Collection	ALL WARDS as part of regular Yard Waste Collection	
Thursday Trash Collection		Leaf vacuuming	
Friday		Leaf vacuuming	

#### **Snow Emergency Conditions**

Snow emergency conditions shall be considered in effect within the Town of Riverdale Park whenever a snow emergency is declared in effect in Prince George's County by the Prince George's County Executive, the Maryland State Highway Administration, or the Maryland State Police.

#### Laws that apply:

- During any period in which a snow emergency condition exists and a snow emergency is in effect, it shall be unlawful to park any vehicle on any part of any street designated as a snow emergency street, provided that signs have been erected on that street giving notice that such street is a designated snow emergency street.
- During any period in which a snow emergency condition is in effect, it shall be unlawful to park any vehicle on the <u>odd-numbered side of</u> <u>any public street</u> in the Town of Riverdale Park regardless of whether such street has been designated a snow emergency street. Streets with parking restricted on one side are exempt from this section.
- Any vehicle parked in violation of the snow emergency provisions of the section may be removed and impounded by or under the direction of any duly-authorized police officer. The owner of said vehicle, in addition to any towing or impound fee, shall be liable for a fine of \$250.

#### **Snow and Ice Removal**

As we enter the snow season, please note that Public Works crews will be plowing and salting Town streets and parking lots to clear snow and ice. As in the past, we will treat our streets in the following method:

**Primary Streets** - i.e., Riverdale Road, Taylor Road, Lafayette Avenue, Queensbury Road, etc.

**Residential Streets** – i.e., Oliver Street, Madison Street, Rittenhouse Street, 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Somerset Road, Sora Lane, etc.

**Please note:** our major roadways, (Rt. 201, Rt. 1, Rt. 410, Good Luck Road), will be treated by the State and County.

Residents should note that they will be responsible for doing their part by keeping the walkway in front of their property cleaned of snow and ice after each event.



#### What Can Residents Do?

- Whenever possible, move parked cars off the street so that snowplows can remove the snow from the street from curb to curb.
- If off-street parking is not available, park on the even side of the street (violators will be subject to having their vehicles impounded and fined \$250 - 64-10(b)(c)).
- Be patient during any snow emergency as crews work around the clock to clear the streets.
- Clear sidewalks in front of your residence and refrain from depositing snow back on to the roadway (this can potentially cause an accident).

## Purple Line Construction Notices

Purple Line construction is underway. The next twelve (12) months of construction will focus on utility relocation work. 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.

## **Boy Scout Troop 252**

Scoutmaster Bob Killen

Our Senior Patrol Leader, Michael Jarquin, dad (Assistant Scoutmaster) AJ, and their family, all went to the muddy Pony Penning in Chincoteague last July. All but their mom enjoyed the mud immensely. Michael is still working on earning his Eagle Scout rank before his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday this January.

Scoutmaster Bob Killen and Committee Member Sandra Tolson were kept occupied throughout August, September, October, and early November by assisting Scouts completing their Merit Badges in which they had earned "partials" during Summer Camps. Bob signed almost 100 Blue Cards, and Sandra also signed LOTS! Among those, Sandra attended the Railroad-O-Ree in Baltimore, signing almost 20 Blue Cards, and Bob attended the Aviation Merit Badge Day at the College Park Airport, signing six.

Committee Chair/Charter Organization Rep Eneida Martínez-Brown and Bob attended the Veteran Standdown at the Sports and Learning Complex, and she attended the Catholic Committee luncheon/Mass in November. They both attended the Protestant Committee on Scouting brunch/meeting that same weekend.

We're preparing to re-charter for 2019 soon, and we need more boys for the new Charter. We meet at 7 p.m. on Friday evenings in the Riverdale Park Town Hall when we're not camping. Our Town Crier will help keep you up-to-date.

Contact Sandra Tolson saanee@yahoo.com, 301-927-2275; Eneida Martínez Brown, e.martinezbrown@gmail.com, 301-864-0059, Bob Killen, rfkille@yahoo.com, 301-483-8455, if you would like information.





# Riverdale Park Holiday Toy Drive

Town staff will be collecting new and unwrapped toys at Town Hall and the Police Department through December 14<sup>th</sup>. All toy donations go directly to families in our community.

# 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





# December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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!						Children's Holiday Party 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Youth Entrepreneurs in Fine Art 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.	Regular Legislative Meeting 8:00 p.m.		M-UTC Meeting 7:30 p.m.	Farmer's Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Town Center)	Boy Scouts 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.	Madison Hill HOA Meeting 10:30 a.m.
Youth Entrepreneurs in Fine Art 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.	10	11	Seniors Luncheon at Crescent Cities Center 12noon to 1:30 p.m.	Farmer's Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Town Center)	Boy Scouts 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.	Holiday Market and Festival of Lights 12 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Town Center)
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Youth Entrepreneurs in Fine Art 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.	Council Work Session 8:00 p.m			Farmer's Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Town Center)	Boy Scouts 7 p.m. to 9 p.m	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Youth Entrepreneurs in Fine Art 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.		Town Hall and DPW Closed		Farmer's Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Town Center)	Boy Scouts 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.	
30	31	Trash collection occurs on Mondays and Thursdays. Recycling and yard waste is collected on Wednesdays.  Bulk Trash Drop-Off will be held on Saturday, December 15 <sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Department of Public Works.  Please contact the Department of Public Works at 301-927-6381 for more information.				



# January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
All meetings and held at Town Hal another location Also, all meeting	events are I unless is indicated. s are open to	Town Hall and DPW	M-UTC Meeting 7:30 p.m.	3	4	5
the public so plea us!	ase plan to join		·			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Youth Entrepreneurs in Fine Art 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.	Regular Legislative Meeting 8:00 p.m.		Riverdale Park Business Association 5:30 p.m.	Farmer's Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Town Center)	Boy Scouts 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.	Madison Hill HOA Meeting 10:30 a.m.
Youth Entrepreneurs in Fine Art 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.	14	15	16	Farmer's Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Town Center)	Boy Scouts 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.	Bulk Trash Drop-Off 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Dept. of Public Works)
Youth Entrepreneurs in Fine Art 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.	Town Hall and DPW Closed	22	Lions Club 7:00 p.m.	Farmer's Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Town Center)	Boy Scouts 7 p.m. to 9 p.m	26
Youth Entrepreneurs in Fine Art 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.	Council Work Session 8:00 p.m	29	30	Farmer's Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Town Center)	Trash collection occurs on Mondays and Thursdays. Recycling and yard waste is collected on Wednesdays.  Please contact the Department of Public Works at 301-927-6381 for more information.	

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

### POSTAL PATRON RIVERDALE PARK, MARYLAND 20737

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 Prangley 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

<u>Riverdale Park Business Association</u> 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