



# The Riverdale Park Town Crier

*A Welcoming Community, Come Grow with Us!*

**March 2023**

Volume 52, Issue 3

Celebrating Earth Day	Page 1
Town Directory	Page 2
Dates to Remember	Page 2
Council Actions	Page 3
Mayor's Report	Page 4
2023 Town Election Notice	Page 5
Registering to Vote	Page 5
Absentee Ballot-English	Page 6
Absentee Ballot-Spanish	Page 7
Rain Check Rebate Program	Page 8
Pollinator Garden	Page 9
FY2024 Budget Calendar	Page 10
Collection Reminders	Page 10
Flood Awareness Month	Page 11
Volunteer Opportunities	Page 12
Report A Concern Feature	Page 12
Riverdale Park Arts Meeting	Page 13
Riversdale Museum Events	Page 13
Spring Egg Hunt	Page 14
Calendar	Page 15
Important Numbers	Page 16

## **Town of Riverdale Park Contact Information**

### **Town Hall**

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

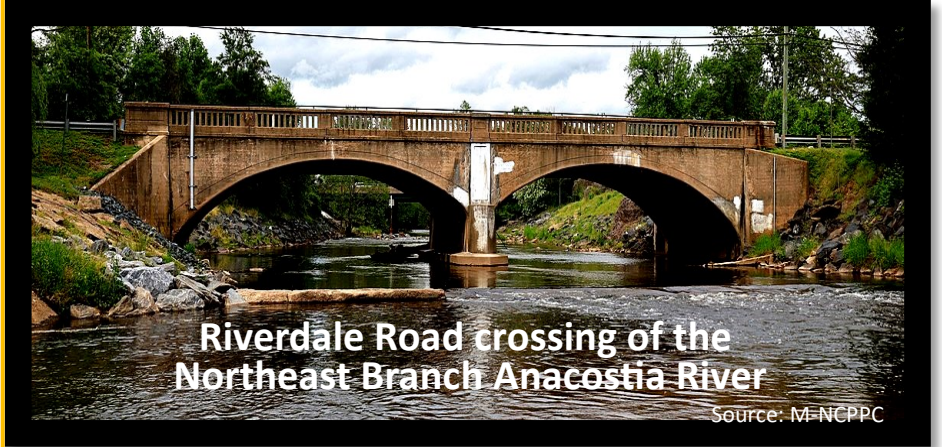
### **Department of Public Works**

5008 Queensbury Road  
301-927-6381  
7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

### **Police Department**

5004 Queensbury Road  
301-927-4343  
24-hours

## **Celebrating Earth Day 2023**



Every year on April 22<sup>nd</sup> Earth Day is celebrated and marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970. The 2023 theme is "Invest In Our Planet", which highlights the importance of dedicating our time, resources, and energy to solving climate change and other environmental issues. Investing in our planet is a necessary idea to help raise awareness about the multitude of ways we can contribute, in our own way, to protect and safeguard our planet. The 2023 campaign "Invest in Our Planet" focuses on the individual power that you can attain in playing a role to battle climate change. In realizing that as an individual, you can yield real power for change when your informed decisions as a consumer and a community member promote measures of sustainability to help reduce your carbon footprint. When your voice and actions are united with millions of others around the world, you can create an inclusive and impactful movement that will be impossible to ignore.

In collaboration with the Anacostia Watershed Society, plan to join us and sign up to volunteer on April 22, 2023, from 10 a.m. to noon to participate in Riverdale Park's Earth Day 2023 Community Clean up.



**Town Election May 1, 2023**  
**More information on page 5-7.**



**El Boletín disponible  
en Español! Escanee  
el código de QR.**

**Town of Riverdale Park**  
**www.riverdaleparkmd.gov**  
**Cable Channels: 10 and 71**

**Mayor**

Alan K. Thompson, 202-527-0309  
akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov

**Council Members**

**Ward 1** – Richard A. Smith, 202-527-2435  
rsmith@riverdaleparkmd.gov

**Ward 2** – Aaron Faulx, 202-527-3130  
afulx@riverdaleparkmd.gov

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

**Ward 4** – Thomas Sadiq, 202-845-6251  
tsadiq@riverdaleparkmd.gov

**Ward 5** – Karen Mejia, 202-329-7610  
kmejia@riverdaleparkmd.gov

**Ward 6** – Hala Mayers, 202-527-2637  
hmayers@riverdaleparkmd.gov

**Administration**

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

Jessica Barnes, **Administrative Services  
Director/Town Clerk**  
jbarnes@riverdaleparkmd.gov

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

Ryan Chelton, **Development Services Director**  
rchelton@riverdaleparkmd.gov

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

Rosa Guixens, **Chief of Police**  
rguixens@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](http://www.riverdaleparkmd.gov)

**Submission deadline: 15th of each month**

Send submissions to:  
towncrier@riverdaleparkmd.gov

**2023 Dates to Remember**

**Legislative Meeting**

April 3, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.

**Legacy Mixed-Used Town Center Local Design**

**Review Committee (LM-UTC)**

April 5, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.

**FY2024 Budget Public Hearing**

April 15, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.

**Deadline to Request Absentee Ballot**

April 21, 2023

**FY2024 Budget Public Hearing**

April 22, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.

**Work Session**

April 24, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.

**Town Election**

May 1, 2023

**Legislative Meeting**

May 1, 2023

**Special Legislative Meeting**

May 2, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.

**Legacy Mixed-Used Town Center Local Design**

**Review Committee (LM-UTC)**

May 3, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.

**Work Session**

May 22, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.

**Memorial Day**

May 29, 2023 - Town Hall and DPW Operations Closed

**Town Office Extensions**

**General Inquiries** (301) 927-6381: ext. 500, 503

**Assistance in Spanish:** ext. 500, 503

**Town Provided Services (Public Works):** ext. 500, 503

**Permits and Licensing:** ext. 500, 503

**Neighborhood (Code-related) Concerns:** ext. 508, 514

**Business and Economic Development:** ext. 509

**Accounts Payable:** ext. 500

**Human Resources:** ext. 507

**Town Clerk:** ext. 505

**Police Department (Non-emergency):** ext. 560



## Council Actions

February 27, 2023  
Special Legislative Meeting

### Legislative Action Items

1. Motion to adopt Resolution 2023-R-04 regarding Election Judges—**Adopted**
2. Motion to adopt Resolution 2023-R-06 regarding Legacy Mixed-Use Town Center Local Design Review Committee Nominations—**Adopted**
3. Motion to adopt Resolution 2023-R-07 regarding Re-appointment of Alternate Member of Ethics Commission—**Adopted**
4. Motion to adopt Resolution 2023-R-08 regarding Board of Election Appeals—**Adopted**
5. Motion to adopt Resolution 2023-R-09 regarding suspension of competitive bid requirements for 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue Lighting project—**Adopted**

March 6, 2023  
Legislative Meeting

### Consent Agenda

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

1. Minutes: December 20, 2022, Special Legislative Meeting

### Legislative Action Items

1. Introduction of Emergency Ordinance 2023-OR-05 regarding Amendment to Property Maintenance Code—**Introduced**
2. Motion to authorize Town Manager to enter into an agreement with Santos Construction Co. Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$119,806 for 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue/ Spring Lane Road Sidewalk Project (CIP Project #22DS02) - **Approved**

### Fair Summary of Emergency Ordinance 2023-OR-05

This is to give notice that the Riverdale Park Town Council has introduced and intends to take action on Emergency Ordinance 2023-OR-05. Emergency Ordinance 2023-OR-05 amends the Town of Riverdale Park Property Maintenance Code 2022, to regulate, with certain exceptions, the type of surface on which a motor vehicle may be parked, kept, or stored. Emergency Ordinance 2023-OR-05 is available for inspection by the public on the Town's website [www.riverdaleparkmd.gov](http://www.riverdaleparkmd.gov), by calling 301-927-6381 or sending an e-mail request to [community\\_input@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:community_input@riverdaleparkmd.gov).

## Upcoming Virtual Meetings

### Legislative Meeting: April 3, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83631134264?pwd=T05BS21jUng4Y0tYbG1tNG5NT2N5dz09>

Or call: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 836-3113-4264

Passcode: 2282023

### Town Seal Design Comm.: April 13, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86264552920?pwd=VzdKMHNQM3NMQVptNzFRc3ZycnZ2Zz09>

Or call: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 862-6455-2920

Passcode: 221023

### FY2024 Budget Public Hearing: April 15, 2023, 9:30 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89457163937?pwd=VHhFMzM3Wk9RelU5NUxpak9DTTRFUT09>

Or call: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 894-5716-3937

Passcode: 02282023

### FY2024 Budget Public Hearing: April 22, 2023, 9:30 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87193549091?pwd=WGFhZ3ZlRGRtOGhLbXgwY29ET2hGUT09>

Or call: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 871-9354-9091

Passcode: 28022023

### Work Session: April 24, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86939368138?pwd=NVNoTkR2WnVMZUZ1OUU5b3c4YUIQU09>

Or call: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 869-3936-8138

Passcode: 2282023





## Mayor Thompson's Message

Daylight savings time has just started, and the weather is warm as I write this. The tree in front of my house is blooming, so spring is in the air. And so are.....elections!



Alan Thompson, Mayor

### Elections

The next town election will be held on Monday, May 1st! Applications to be on the ballot are due on April 6<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm. Applications must include a Petition (signed by 15 voters from the ward where the candidate lives for Council Representative, or 25 voters from the town for Mayor) and a financial disclosure form. The polls will operate at Town Hall (5008 Queensbury Road) on Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup> from 7 am to 8 pm. If you are considering running for office please feel free to reach out to me with any questions. The incumbent for at least one council seat has let me know they do not plan to run for reelection. And, as a reminder, there are new ward boundaries based on the 2020 census; the map is included in the candidate packet at [https://www.riverdaleparkmd.gov/government/elections/2023\\_election/candidate\\_information.php](https://www.riverdaleparkmd.gov/government/elections/2023_election/candidate_information.php)

### COVID-19

I'm quite nervous saying this, but as I write this in the middle of March I have some cautious optimism. This optimism is not that COVID-19 is over, but that it has at least stabilized for the moment – there are no new variants being seen that are more infectious than the currently-dominant XBB.1.5 variant. That being said, there are still more than 400 people dying every day nationwide (that statistic is an improvement – COVID-19 was the third leading cause of death last year, behind only heart disease and cancer, and it could drop to being fourth if these numbers stay stable or improve). Furthermore, researchers found that treatment with metformin, a drug often used in the treatment of Type 2 diabetes, reduced incidence of long COVID by a factor of two when given while the infection was active. Metformin is very safe and has few side effects, so if this study is correct there's a new treatment tool. (Antivirals such as Paxlovid also reduce long COVID, but have many more side-effects and cannot be taken at the same time as other common medications). Let's keep our fingers crossed that the COVID-19 situation continues to improve! And remember that it's always a good idea to avoid catching it....so keep that mask on, avoid crowds (particularly indoors), and stay up-to-date on vaccinations in case you do catch it.

### State Legislation

The Maryland legislature is in full session, and there are a lot of bills being considered. One of them that we are fighting would reduce the size of school zones from 0.5 mile radius (from a school) to 0.1 mile. Because of other state laws this bill would eliminate our town-wide 20 mph speed limit.

Two other bills that we are supporting would (1) allow automated enforcement of the law against deliberately -loud mufflers (which a lot of people in town have complained about since the start of the pandemic) and (2) double state funding for stormwater management projects. The second bill could really help our Town to complete the projects we have lined up. Another bill I'm watching would allow towns and cities to have police accountability boards (currently we are governed by the County's accountability board). There is also a bill that would share state tax income generated by cannabis sales with municipalities which could really help our Town's finances. I've testified once and expect to again, but it is nice to have the support of our legislative team as we work to influence state law!

### Development - Apartments

The team that wants to redevelop the Chambers site at the corner of Cleveland and Madison was not ready to present their new plans to the Legacy Mixed-Use Town Center (L-MUTC) design review committee on March 1st so they will present at a later time. For "the Lofts" (at Queensbury and Rhode Island) I am discussing rezoning options with the office of County Council Member Olson to ensure that the town (through the L-MUTC committee) can maximize input on the building design. Stay tuned as this moves forward!

### Contact Me

If you have any questions or comments about any aspect of Town government, please contact me by e-mail ([akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov)) or phone (202-527-0309 – my town mobile number). I also monitor accounts on Mastodon (@RPMdMayor@forall.social, my preferred social media site right now), Facebook, Twitter (@RPMdMayor), and Instagram. I will get back to you as quickly as I can, but please remember 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. I'll be back here in May as spring is in full force and elections are happening. Take care and stay safe until then!

TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK

Not sure which ward you live in?

Check out the Ward Boundary Map here:

Or visit, <https://tinyurl.com/2p8y5z5w>

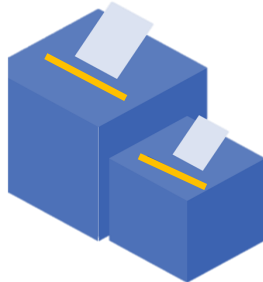
For more information about the May 1st Town Election, visit [www.RiverdaleParkMD.gov](http://www.RiverdaleParkMD.gov)

## 2023 Election Notice

In compliance with the Charter of the Town of Riverdale Park, Maryland, an election will be held on Monday, May 1, 2023, to elect the Mayor and Council.

Voting will take place on **Monday, May 1, 2023** at Riverdale Park Town Hall (5008 Queensbury Road)

Polls will be open from **7 a.m. to 8 p.m.**



Residents may also vote by mail (or ballot drop box) by requesting an Absentee Ballot. Absentee ballot applications are available at [www.riverdaleparkmd.gov](http://www.riverdaleparkmd.gov), by email request to [TownElection@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:TownElection@riverdaleparkmd.gov), or by calling 301-927-6381 (ext. 505). Absentee ballot applications must be received by **Friday, April 21, 2023**.

Candidates running for office must file a Petition for Elective Office and a Financial Disclosure Statement with the Board of Elections no later than **5:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 6, 2023**, to have their names placed on the official ballot. Petitions for Elective Office and Financial Disclosure Statements are available on the Town's website, [www.riverdaleparkmd.gov](http://www.riverdaleparkmd.gov), by e-mail request to [TownElection@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:TownElection@riverdaleparkmd.gov) or by calling 301-927- 6381 (ext. 505). 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 1, 2023 (March 17, 2023, to April 30, 2023), will be entitled to vote. More information regarding how to register to vote is available on the Town's website [www.riverdaleparkmd.gov](http://www.riverdaleparkmd.gov).

**Same day voter registration will also be available on Election Day, Monday, May 1, 2023.**

## Register to Vote in 2023 Town Election

Residents may register to vote in one of the following ways:



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](http://www.riverdaleparkmd.gov); OR



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 1, 2023 (March 17, 2023 to April 30, 2023); 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 found on the Town's website [www.riverdaleparkmd.gov](http://www.riverdaleparkmd.gov).

### What forms of identification and proof of residence will be accepted for the supplemental voter registry?



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



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.

### Absentee (Mail-in) Ballot Applications

Applications for Absentee (Mail-in) Ballots for the May 1, 2023, Town election are available in this month's edition of the *Town Crier* on pages 6 and 7. They must be received by **April 21, 2023**.

## TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK

### Absentee (Mail-in) Ballot Application

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

To the Board of Elections of the Town of Riverdale Park, Maryland:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby apply for a Town of Riverdale Park  
(Print Name)

Absentee Ballot for the Election to be held on May 1, 2023.

My home address is:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Number and Street)

in the Town of Riverdale Park, in the County of Prince George's, Maryland, and my  
voting Ward to the best of my knowledge is: \_\_\_\_\_.

I desire that the absentee ballot be sent to me at the following address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby swear or affirm under penalties of perjury that I am legally qualified to vote in  
the 2023 election and that the information provided is true and correct.

Absentee (Mail-in) ballot applications must be placed in the ballot drop-box located at Town Hall,  
e-mailed to [TownElection@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:TownElection@riverdaleparkmd.gov) (must be signed and scanned), or mailed to the Town  
of Riverdale Park, Attn: Absentee Ballot Request, 5008 Queensbury Road, Riverdale Park, MD 20737.

Completed forms are due by **5:00 p.m. on April 21, 2023.**

Please direct all inquiries regarding Absentee (Mail-in) voting to [TownElection@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:TownElection@riverdaleparkmd.gov)  
or 301-927-6381 (ext. 505).

## TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK

### Solicitud de Boleta de Voto Ausente (Por Correo)

Fecha: \_\_\_\_\_

A la Junta Electoral de la Ciudad de Riverdale Park, Maryland:

Yo, \_\_\_\_\_, por lo presente solicito una boleta de voto en  
(Nombre en letra de imprenta)

ausencia de la Ciudad de Riverdale Park para la elección que se llevará a cabo el 1 de mayo de 2023.

Mi dirección es: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Número y calle)

en la Ciudad de Riverdale Park, en el Condado de Prince George's, Maryland, y mi distrito electoral, según mi leal saber y entender, es: \_\_\_\_\_.

Deseo que se me envíe la boleta de voto en ausencia a la siguiente dirección:

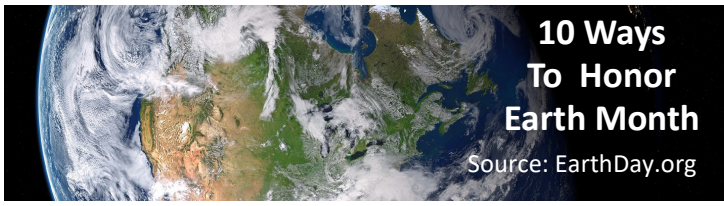
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Firma: \_\_\_\_\_

Por lo presente juro o afirmo bajo pena de perjurio que estoy legalmente calificado para votar en las elecciones de 2023 y que la información proporcionada es verdadera y correcta.

**Esta solicitud de boleta de voto en ausencia (por correo) debe entregarse o enviarse por correo a la Ciudad de Riverdale Park, a la atención de: Absentee Ballot Request, 5008 Queensbury Road, Riverdale Park, MD 20737. Los formularios completos deben entregarse antes de las 5:00 p.m. el 21 de abril de 2023.**










Por favor envíe cualquier pregunta sobre el voto en ausencia (por correo) a [TownElection@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:TownElection@riverdaleparkmd.gov) o 301-927-6381 (ext. 505).



## 10 Ways To Honor Earth Month

Source: EarthDay.org

Earth Month raises awareness for learning to live in more sustainable ways by making changes to our everyday lives all month long. Here are 10 things you can do to make a difference that cost absolutely nothing:

-  Conserve energy at home: From turning off lights and electronics when not in use, to using a programmable thermostat, to changing your air filter regularly, there are many small things you can do to save energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions while saving money on your utility bills.
-  Reduce paper waste: Think twice before printing things at work and home. You can reduce your mail by using online payment options that avoid paper bills.
-  Recycle your electronics: Your old, unused, or broken computers, tablets, phones, and other electronics can often be recycled for free by stores, manufacturers, and local governments, which saves natural resources while also reducing pollution.
-  Give your car a break: Driving to work or running errands, occasionally leave your car at home. Maybe you can walk, ride a bike, carpool, or take public transportation. You'll save money, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and get more exercise.
-  Turn off the water: Whether you're brushing your teeth, washing dishes, or taking a shower, turn off the water when it's not needed.
-  Bring your own bags: Use a backpack or bag from home, or buy reusable bags that you can use again and again.
-  Buy local: Buying local produce and other items reduces shipping distances from food sourced overseas, and also supports local businesses and communities.
-  Go on a beach clean: If you want to help get rid of some of the plastic waste in your area, going on a beach clean is a great and fun way to do this.
-  Farmer's market: Farmer's markets are a great way to get fresh produce and are beneficial in many ways. Firstly, they support local businesses, encouraging positive growth in your area. They also tend to use a lot less, or even no plastic packaging compared to supermarkets, so it helps reduce waste. Finally, the products are grown or made locally so transport distances are very short and CO2 emissions are low.

## Prince George's County Rain Check Rebate

The Chesapeake Bay Trust is proud to partner with Prince George's County on its Rain Check Rebate Program. The Prince George's County Rain Check Rebate Program offers rebate incentives to homeowners, businesses, and others to install practices that will improve stormwater runoff quality, reduce pollution, and improve local stream and river health.

**What this funds:** Seven types of stormwater practices are eligible for rebates: rain barrels, cisterns, rain gardens, urban tree canopy, pavement removal, permeable pavement, and green roofs.

**Eligibility:** An applicant must be the property owner or a nonprofit organization with an agreement to complete a project on public property. Applicants are not eligible for a rebate under this program if the project is part of the permit approval requirements for new building construction or renovations.

For nonprofit organizations working with residential property owners to install Rain Check Rebate practices on residential property, see our [Rain Check Rebate Grant Program](#) to apply for grant funding.

**Maximum rebate amounts:** Each of the practices supported by the program has its own rebate allowance based on the type and size of the project (see the section below on the practices) that will determine the rebate amount allowed by the program. A project must meet the practice's criteria and minimum size requirements to qualify for a rebate. The total maximum rebate amount for the lifetime of the property is \$6,000 for residential properties and \$20,000 for commercial, industrial, and institutional properties. An applicant may complete multiple projects until the total maximum rebate amount is met.

Interested applicants should review the [Program Guidance and Application Instructions](#) document prior to submitting an application.

Funds are available on a first come, first served basis, and demand for the program this fiscal year has been high.

**Deadline:** Rolling. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis.









## How You Can Create A Pollinator Garden



Pollination is vital for a strong ecosystem. One in three bites of food that's eaten depends on pollinators! Successful pollination requires year-around efforts.

Construct pollinator gardens with a variety of colors, shapes, and heights of plants and include plants that flower throughout the growing season to provide nectar and pollen.

You don't need a large yard or budget. Even a few plants will help. Read on for more helpful tips:

-  Provide host plants in addition to nectar plants, and habitat for reproduction, life cycle completion, and winter shelter. Some pollinators and beneficial insects need the shelter provided by perennial plants growing in untilled areas, woody plant material such as unused firewood and dead branches, and undisturbed soil in areas that are not mowed or cultivated.
-  Avoid planting invasive species like butterfly bush. There are many alternatives like blazing star (*Liatris spicata*), New York ironweed (*Vernonia noveboracensis*), and butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) to plant instead.
-  Add a water source in or near the pollinator garden. Consider a dish or birdbath, or even a small pond, and change the water every other day to prevent mosquitoes from breeding.
-  Do not use pesticides in your yard or garden. Learn to tolerate some damage and control pests in natural ways.

Source: [extension.umd.edu/resource/pollinator-gardens](https://extension.umd.edu/resource/pollinator-gardens)

## Wildlife Habitat Advisors


It's a fact: You can really make a difference.

Are you concerned about the loss of habitat for birds, pollinators, and other wildlife? Want to make a difference by creating beneficial and beautiful habitat on your own property? Want to be part of a wildlife-friendly community network. Help is available.

Beginning again in April 2023, the Prince George's Audubon Wildlife Habitat Program will offer County residents the opportunity for a no-cost, on-site, in-person visit with trained advisors working to bring positive change to your property or neighborhood site. Visits go like this: volunteer Habitat Advisors typically spend an hour walking the property with you. They talk with you about native plants and landscape elements that provide food, water and shelter for birds, pollinators and other wildlife. Together you discuss topics like garden structure, lawn reduction, invasive plant removal, water conservation, and bird protection, setting priorities and making a plan for moving forward. When ready, you can certify online and order an attractive Audubon Bird-Friendly Habitat yard sign. To get more information, or request a visit, email [audubonwildlifehabitat@gmail.com](mailto:audubonwildlifehabitat@gmail.com).


### Green Team

To: Prince George's County Residents  
From: Prince George's Audubon Society



MAKE YOUR YARD MORE  
ATTRACTIVE TO BIRDS,  
BUTTERFLIES, AND  
BENEFICIAL INSECTS.  
HAVE A TRAINED  
HABITAT ADVISOR COME  
TO YOUR PROPERTY  
AT NO COST TO YOU.

Request a visit or more info at  
[audubonwildlifehabitat@gmail.com](mailto:audubonwildlifehabitat@gmail.com)



Riverdale Park's Sustainability Committee (RPSC or Green Team) meets on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:30 pm. The next meeting is April 11, 2023 via Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84004794706?pwd=ejkwSkpHQ3EzeWMrdFRqaHFhOGVxQT09>

Or call: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 840 0479 4706

Passcode: 202301



**FY2024 Budget Development  
and Adoption Calendar**

**April 2023**

**April 3:** Mayor and Council Work Session: Presentation of the FY2024 Proposed Operating and Capital Improvement Budget

**April 15:** Budget Public Hearing: Review of Proposed FY2024 Operating and CIP Budget

**April 22:** Budget Public Hearing: Review of Proposed FY2024 Operating and CIP Budget

**April 24:** Mayor and Council Special Legislative Meeting and Work Session: Review of edits to the Proposed Budget and Introduction of FY2024 Operating and CIP Budget and Tax Rates Ordinance

**May 2023**

**May 2:** Real Property Tax Rate Public Hearing

**May 22:** Mayor and Council Special Legislative Meeting: Adoption Final FY2024 Operating and CIP Budget and Tax Rates Ordinance

**Collection Reminders**

**Residential Trash:** Place residential trash in durable, leak-proof bags before placing it in containers. Close lid tightly to keep rainwater out to reduce spillage. Clean trash can regularly. Place trash can curbside by 6:00 a.m. on Mondays and Thursdays or the night before collection.

**Yard Waste:** Do NOT mix yard waste with household trash. Place yard waste in paper bags or in reusable bins marked as yard waste. Bundle branches and limbs with rope or string (do not use wire). Bundles must be less than 4 feet long and less than 3 inches in diameter and weigh less than 60 pounds. Place yard waste curbside by 6:00 a.m. on Mondays or the night before collection.

**Recycling:** As a reminder, NO PLASTIC BAGS ARE PERMITTED. Curbside recycling is provided by Prince George's County Department of the Environment. Please call 311 or 301-883-4748, if you have any questions or concerns about this service. Place recycling bins curbside by 6:00 a.m. on Wednesdays.

**Bulk Trash:** Collection is by appointment only on Thursdays. Schedule collection by 12:00 p.m. on Wednesdays by calling 240-604-6077 or online at [www.jedatruckinginc.com/book-online](http://www.jedatruckinginc.com/book-online). Please note that bulk trash collection is limited to three (3) items per week. Set out bulk trash scheduled for pickup by 6 a.m. on Thursday.

**Report a Concern:** To report a concern, call 301-927-6381 or submit a request online. The Trash Concerns app can be used to order a new trash container, report missed collections and report any other trash-related concerns. Visit [www.riverdaleparkmd.gov](http://www.riverdaleparkmd.gov) and click on the Trash Concerns icon.





**Disposing of Bamboo:** Bamboo should be placed in a trash container or tied together in bundles no longer than 4 feet long and 12 inches across. Bamboo may also be dropped off at the Public Works building on Bulk Trash Drop off Saturday but is limited to a maximum of 15 bundles (4 feet by 12 inches) on a given drop off day.

Bulk Trash Drop off Saturday the Public Works facility takes place on the 3rd Saturday of every month from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Public Works facility is located at 5012 Queensbury Road.





## April is Flood Awareness Month

Flooding is our state's top natural hazard: from the mountains in the west, across the Piedmont, and down to the coastal plain that extends to the Atlantic. You don't have to live near the water for your home or business to flood. With climate change becoming more unprecedented year after year flooding can come from regular rainfall, a tropical storm, winter ice melt that swells rivers, high tide overflow, or a broken pipe. Be prepared! Using Know, Plan, Act, can lessen flooding's impact on you, your family, and your community.







### Before an Emergency

-  Build an emergency kit and make a family communications plan.
-  Contact your local emergency manager to see if your home sits in a flood plain. If your home sits in a floodplain consider elevating and reinforcing your home.
-  Make sure your insurance policy covers flooding. Even renters are eligible for flood insurance.
-  Elevate the furnace, water heater, and electric panel in your home if you live in an area that has a high flood risk.

### During an Emergency

-  Listen to the radio or local news for information.
-  If you have time, bring in outdoor furniture. Move essential items to an upper floor.
-  Do not walk through moving water. Six inches of moving water can make you fall. If you have to walk in water, walk where the water is not moving. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you.
-  Do not drive into flooded areas. If floodwaters rise around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground if you can do so safely. You and the vehicle can be swept away quickly.

### After an Emergency





-  Avoid floodwaters; water may be contaminated by oil, gasoline or raw sewage.
-  Service damaged septic tanks, cesspools, pits, and leaching systems, can pose serious health hazards if not fixed properly.
-  Follow your local news and emergency personnel's instructions regarding safe water consumption.
-  Clean and disinfect everything that got wet. Mud left from floodwaters can contain sewage and chemicals.
-  Use extreme caution when entering buildings; there may be hidden damage, particularly in foundations.
-  Remember, floodwaters sometimes take days to rise, even when the sun is shining. It can take days for floodwaters to make their way downstream. Don't underestimate the power and speed in which flood waters can rise and destroy everything in its path.



Source: <https://mdem.maryland.gov/Pages/resources->

## Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers make our events possible and make Riverdale Park stronger! Please consider donating your time and expertise. We are currently seeking volunteers to assist with the following:

-  Member of the Ethics Commission
-  Alternate Election Judges for the Town election on May 1, 2023
-  Members of the Board of Election Appeals for the Town election on May 1, 2023
-  Earth Day Clean Up 2023—April 22, 2023

You may also add your information to our volunteer registry by filling out this [FORM](#).



Scan Me: Volunteer Registration

## Report A Concern Feature

iPhone users who have been experiencing issues with the Report A Concern feature not showing up or taking too long to load can do so now by go to their Settings and scrolling to the Safari configurations. Mobile devices have to allow third parties cookies and also enable the prevent cross-site tracking setting so that the form will be visible.



## Neighborhood Services

If you have concerns regarding a property in your neighborhood, please contact Neighborhood Services. One of the primary duties of the Neighborhood Services team is to educate residents about the Town's community standards. In most cases residents simply do not know that they are not meeting the Town's community standards as defined in the Town Code. In some cases, another community partner such as Prince George's County, may be needed to address your concerns. Information about the Town's community standards can be found on the Town's website, [www.riverdaleparkmd.gov](http://www.riverdaleparkmd.gov), under Town Code and TRP's Vision and Commitment Statements.

If you have any questions regarding property maintenance or the application of Town codes, please contact:

Stephen Smith- [ssmith@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:ssmith@riverdaleparkmd.gov) or 301-927-6381 ext. 508

Jermaine Dixon- [jdixon@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:jdixon@riverdaleparkmd.gov) or 301-927-6381 ext. 514

## Purple Line Construction Notices

Purple Line construction is well underway. 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](http://purplelinemd.com), find "Construction" and click on "Subscribe for Updates". The construction hotline is 240-424-5325.



## Permit Parking Renewals

It's time to renew your parking permits. Please contact Tracey Perrin for more for details. Please direct your inquiries to [tperrin@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:tperrin@riverdaleparkmd.gov) or by calling 301-927-4343.





## Riverdale Park Arts Members Meeting

Riverdale Park Arts will be hosting an Open House on April 19<sup>th</sup> at the Riversdale House Museum. Please join us and learn about what we do and how to become a member. Riverdale Park Arts (RPA) is made up of a cross-section of volunteers who share a common passion for the arts. Together, we contribute time and energy to promote local arts with the goal of making our town a more vibrant and livable community. Programs and events such as the popular "Town Center Market Summer Concert Series", as well as local youth cultural activities are supported entirely by generous donations from Riverdale Park businesses and the surrounding area, the town of Riverdale Park, and its residents. <https://www.riverdaleparkarts.org/>



## Events at Riversdale House Museum



**Location:** Riversdale House Museum

4811 Riverdale Rd, Riverdale Park, MD 20737

## Eating Greens to Stay Healthy

Riversdale House museum has created programming to look at early spring greens. This event is being welcomed on the table as a respite from the winter diet as well as increasing awareness to help keep people healthy. This event is FREE to the public.

**Date:** Sunday, April 16, 2023 **Time:** 12:00-3:30 p.m.

## Maryland Archeology Month

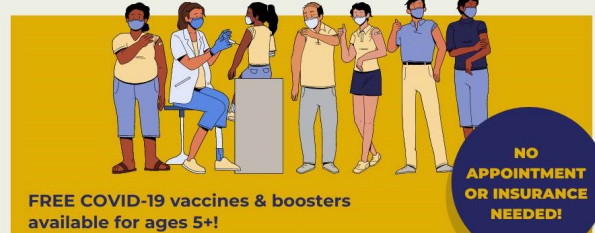
Celebrate Maryland Archaeology Month & hold history in your hands! Join archaeologists as they teach participants how to handle and wash objects that were uncovered on site at Riversdale. Don't miss this opportunity to be the bridge from past to present. Ages 8 and up; children must be accompanied by an adult. Advance registration required by calling 301-864-0420; \$3 Resident; \$4 Non-Resident.

## Thank You— Community Conversations

Thank you to everyone who attended and participated in the Community Conversations series. In making a safe space to address neighborhood concerns, Riverdale Park makes great strides to make this community the ideal place to live. We look forward to the Walk & Talks that will resume in May.



## GET YOUR VACCINE!



FREE COVID-19 vaccines & boosters available for ages 5+!

First United Methodist Church, 6201 Belcrest Rd.

### Tuesdays, 11 AM - 7 PM

11 AM - 7 PM: Vaccines & boosters for ages 12+  
3 - 7 PM: Vaccines & boosters for ages 5+

### Saturdays, 9 AM - 1 PM

Vaccines & boosters for ages 3+

*Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult*



**HYATTSVILLE.ORG/COVIDVACCINE**  
**(240) 832 6952**

*Follow us!*



@RiverdaleParkMD



@Riverdale\_Park\_



@RiverdaleParkMD\_gov



@Town of Riverdale Park

Join us for a  
*Spring Egg Hunt*



1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Riversdale House Museum

4811 Riverdale Rd, Riverdale Park MD 20737

**FREE  
ENTRY**

**NO RAIN  
DATE**



JOIN US ON JUNE 10, 2023 FOR THE SECOND ANNUAL

TROLLEY TRAIL DAY



**SAVE THE  
DATE**



Fun Run, Bike Ride, Local Music, Kid Activities, Food and Drink, and more!

COLLEGE PARK • RIVERDALE PARK • HYATTSVILLE



# APRIL 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Municipal Center Renovation project, public meetings are being held via Zoom. If you have any questions about how to participate in a public meeting or need assistance, please contact the Town Clerk at 301-927-6381 (extension 505).						1 Spring Egg Hunt
2	3 Legislative Meeting 7:30 PM  Trash & Yard Waste Collection	4	5 LM-UTC 7:30 PM  Recycling Collection	6 Farmer's Market Town Center 3pm-7pm  <b>Candidate Filing Deadline</b>  Trash Collection	7 Train Stop Tunes Town Center 5pm-7pm	8
9	10 Trash & Yard Waste Collection	11 RPSC (Green Team) 7:30 PM	12 Recycling Collection	13 Farmer's Market Town Center 3pm-7pm Town Seal Design Committee 7:30 pm Trash Collection	14 Train Stop Tunes Town Center 5pm-7pm	15 FY2024 Budget Public Hearing 9:30 AM  Bulk Trash Drop-Off
16	17 Trash & Yard Waste Collection	18	19 Recycling Collection	20 Farmer's Market Town Center 3pm-7pm  Trash Collection	21 Train Stop Tunes Town Center 5pm-7pm <b>Deadline to Request Absentee (Mail-in) Ballot</b>	22 FY2024 Budget Public Hearing 9:30 AM  Earth Day Clean Up
23	24 Work Session Meeting 7:30 PM  Trash & Yard Waste Collection	25	26 Recycling Collection	27 Farmer's Market Town Center 3pm-7pm  Trash Collection	28 Train Stop Tunes Town Center 5pm-7pm	29
30	<b>Town Hall will be open for in-person services on Mondays – Wednesdays – Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.</b> Please note that Town Hall will be closed on Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. for lunch. Services are also available Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. via phone at 301-927-6381, via email at community_input@riverdaleparkmd.gov, and online at www.riverdaleparkmd.gov. If you need immediate assistance at any time, please call 301-927-6381.					



CARRIER ROUTE  
PRESORT

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
HYATTSVILLE, MD

## POSTAL PATRON

### RIVERDALE PARK, MARYLAND 20737

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



## Important Phone Numbers

**Comcast:** [www.comcast.com](http://www.comcast.com)  
Customer service: 1-800-934-6489

**Pepco:** [www.pepco.com](http://www.pepco.com)  
To report an outage: 1-877-737-2662  
Customer service: 202-833-7500

**Prince George's County:** [www.princegeorgescountymd.gov](http://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](http://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

**Verizon:** [www.verizon.com](http://www.verizon.com)

**Washington Gas:** [www.washingtongas.com](http://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](http://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

Northern County Soccer Alliance  
[NCSA@soccer.net](mailto: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](http://www.shoplocalriverdalepark.com)

Riverdale Park Arts  
Samuel Williams, Jr. at 909-380-4231

Riversdale Chamber Music Society  
Robert DiLutis at [rdilutis@umd.edu](mailto:rdilutis@umd.edu) or  
[www.riversdalechambermusic.com](http://www.riversdalechambermusic.com)