



The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

**December 2020
January 2021**

Volume 50, Issue 10

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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

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

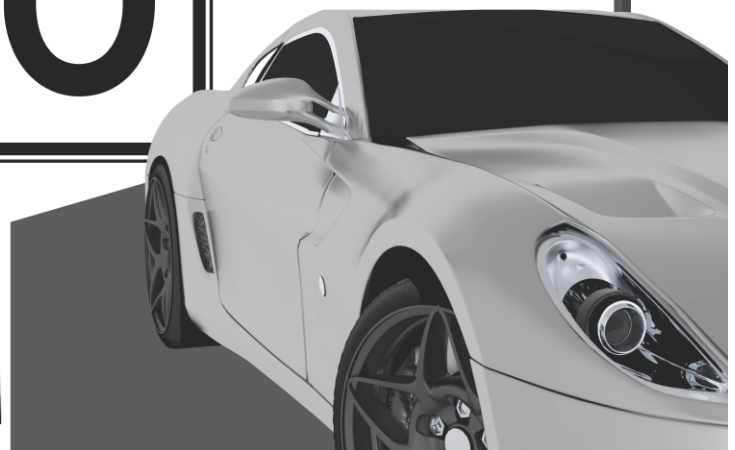
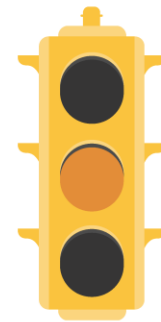
Bates Trucking and Trash Collection

301-773-2069

*Residents must contact Bates by 2 p.m.
on Tuesday for a Wednesday bulk trash
pickup.

RIVERDALE PARK

Attention drivers:
The speed limit in Town is
now **20 miles per hour** -
Slow down and drive safe!



Council Actions

**November 2, 2020
Legislative Meeting**

Consent Agenda

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

1. Minutes: September 14, 2020 Legislative Meeting; April 28, 2020 Work Session; April 25, 2020 Public Hearing

Legislative Action Items

1. Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-OR-14 establishing School Zones and Maximum Speed Limits Town-wide - **Adopted**
2. Motion to approve the Mayor's appointment of the Defined Benefit Plan Board of Trustees - **Approved**
3. Motion to approve the Mayor's appointment of April Engram as alternate member of the Ethics Commission - **Approved**
4. Motion to authorize the Town Manager to sign an agreement with RSC Electrical and Mechanical Contractors, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$144,808 to replace roof top units (RTUs) at the Police Department (PD) and Town Hall (TH) - **Approved**
5. Motion to allocate \$2,500 from the FY2021 Undesignated Social Concerns line item for turkeys for Thanksgiving Meal Baskets - **Approved**
6. Motion to allocate \$3,400 from the FY2021 Undesignated Social Concerns line item for coats for Riverdale Elementary School students - **Approved**
7. Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-20 regarding Watershed Management - **Adopted**
8. Motion to support M-UTC recommendation regarding SP-200001 Chase ATM located at Riverdale Park Station – **Approved**
9. Motion to support M-UTC recommendation regarding DSP-13009-18 to allow for two building mounted signage spaces at Riverdale Park Station – **Approved**

New Business Items

1. Motion to approve a Fence Permit Request for a 6-foot wooden fence in the backyard of 4708 Queensbury Road – **Approved**
2. Motion to approve a Curb cut request to install apron and driveway at 4908 Queensbury Road – **Approved**

**November 21, 2020
Special Legislative Meeting**

Legislative Action Item:

1. Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-21 to authorize the establishment of a Small Business Assistance Program funded through the CARES Act – **Approved**

Town of Riverdale Park

www.riverdaleparkmd.gov

Mayor

Alan K. Thompson, 301-237-0632
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**
jnlestitian@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Jessica Barnes, **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

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

It happens every year, but it always surprises me. The holiday season has arrived. I hope that you all had a safe and happy Thanksgiving, and that you celebrate whatever additional holidays you observe with careful planning to remain safe while celebrating.

CELEBRATING THE HOLIDAYS

Before discussing the upcoming holidays, I want to thank you for celebrating Halloween responsibly. In my neighborhood I did not see the usual large crowds of trick-or-treaters, and while that was sad for me (and even harder for the kids) your efforts reduced the transmission of COVID, for which our entire community is grateful.

The holidays ahead should also be celebrated carefully, but I encourage you to still celebrate them if it will bring you joy. Even if you are celebrating with only those in your household (or by yourself), consider celebrating by doing some of the things you would normally do – set the table with nice dishes, light some candles, put on some music, and cook and eat the special foods that are part of your tradition. Many years ago, I was unable to travel to see my family in Texas at the holidays, but having a Christmas tree and eating a similar dinner to what my family usually had for Christmas cheered me up and made the holidays better. I've also been "having dinner" with family this fall over video conference – I set up the computer on one end of the table, everyone in my family sits at the other, and we have a nice family dinner (I celebrated a big birthday with my brother this way, and it was great to hang out with the rest of the family as we wished him well).

We've all had to postpone or even cancel important events and holiday celebrations this year, but with a little effort we can do something meaningful, and perhaps spend time reflecting on the importance of the holiday itself.

Before I leave discussion of the holidays, I'll mention that there are many people in town who are still suffering from the severe economic impacts of the pandemic. I personally will be making contributions to local charitable organizations (including the Greater Riverdale Cares GoFundMe administered by the Central Kenilworth Area Revitalization CDC, and the Town's annual Toy Drive) to help these residents be able to eat

and have a modest celebration. I encourage others to consider doing this if you are able.

SEPTEMBER 10 FLOOD UPDATE

There have been more virtual meetings to provide information and assistance to residents impacted by the flood event on September 10. As discussed in my report from last month, the County met with residents (including myself and Council Member Lingua) on October 29 and answered some of our questions about what happened on the day of the event (and a few days earlier). While I believe we are beginning to understand the only viable path forward – implementing regional programs to keep storm water on the property where it first lands – I still have multiple questions that the County has not yet answered. I expect to have those answers in hand well before the deadline for the February 2021 Town Crier, so look for more information then.

COVID-19

Every week I spend many, many hours staying up to date on the COVID-19 pandemic and response. I said last month that cases were increasing across the state, but stable in Riverdale Park's zip code; that is no longer true – as I am writing this, we have had *three times* as many weekly diagnoses as we did during the same week last month. Contact tracing of new cases indicates still that transmission is *still* occurring at bars and restaurants (and other social gatherings without masks), small gatherings at homes, during travel (even local travel), and in dorms and other "congregate settings." Large parties, which are still occurring, are also a source of new cases (this is not a surprise).

Because of the increase in cases, both Governor Hogan and County Executive Alsobrooks have instituted new restrictions, including reduced occupancy in restaurants (indoors and outside), and a requirement to wear a covering over your mouth and nose in *all* public places, unless you are vigorously exercising. These restrictions may have changed in the time since I wrote this article, so please check out the latest news at:

<https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/3397/Corona-virus>

I found a tool this week at <https://microcovid.org> for calculating the risk of contracting COVID from a given activity, such as grocery shopping. This tool lets you specify your location, how you are interacting with others (and how *they* interact with others), and what precautions you are taking (mask or not). It's quite

informative and reflects what I've been reading from disease transmission experts. I encourage you to use it so you can use the information it provides to lower your risk.

The advice on lowering risk hasn't changed, though: (1) avoid unnecessary gatherings, particularly indoors — poorly ventilated indoors areas are the most dangerous; (2) maintain physical distance from others, a minimum of six feet, when you must be in the same space as other people; (3) wear a multi-layer cloth mask that covers your mouth AND your nose when in public; and (4) wash your hands or use hand sanitizer often — aim for once an hour.

COVID-19: Vaccine News

Before I talk about the COVID-19 vaccines, I want to encourage you (and ask you to encourage everyone you know) to get the *flu* vaccine. The flu vaccine is safe, effective, and available now. Because the symptoms of flu and COVID-19 are similar, you will avoid scaring yourself and everyone around you if you can avoid it. (And the flu is a serious illness all by itself.) I got my vaccine in September and it was quick and easy (I made an appointment at an in-town pharmacy about 30 minutes before I got the vaccine, but could have just walked in). It was completely paid for by my health insurance.

We got some really good news from the vaccine trials in November — one of the vaccines, made by Pfizer (I discussed it in last month's report), seems to provide 90 % protection from COVID-19. This is fantastic news, as many researchers were expecting lower levels of protection. The study must be completed before the FDA will approve it, both of which should happen in December. As I said last month, rolling it out will take a few months, with priority workers in health care getting it first, followed by high-risk individuals, and the general public after that — the "general public" availability is now expected to be in April.

Expect to hear more results soon — we will hopefully soon have a variety of vaccines to choose from, some of which may work better for certain populations (for example, some might work better for older adults, or for children).

It is very important that as many people as possible be ready to get the vaccine when available. I am in a high-risk group and unless my doctor advises otherwise will take the first vaccine I can (and I'll let you know when I

do). I hope all of you discuss the vaccine with your doctors and take it soon — that's how we can get back to a more normal life.

Just a few more words on this: (1) just making vaccines available won't prevent infection, a large fraction of people will have to get vaccinated before we can control the spread of this terrible disease, and (2) until the pandemic is in much, much better control, you should continue to avoid close contact with others, wear a mask, and wash your hands often even if you have been vaccinated.

Purple Line

The Purple Line has been in the news a lot lately as the Public Private Partnership (PPP) between the state and a private consortium has hit cost overruns and seems to be on the verge of collapse. As the state tries to renegotiate the agreement, it has taken over running many of the contracts that were negotiated by the PPP. On November 10 I attended a meeting of state transportation officials as a member of the Community Advisory Team, and can report that the impact of the issues with the PPP on the project schedule is more-or-less *unknown*, though the state is prioritizing completion of projects that impact quality of life, such as the utility relocations that are blocking a lane or more of Kenilworth Avenue right now. I'll let you know more as I learn it.

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 also monitor accounts on Facebook, Twitter (most often), and Instagram. 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 (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!

I'll be back here in February, when with luck and good adherence to CDC guidelines, COVID-19 cases will be low and stable or at least declining, and hopefully there will also be more good news about vaccine availability. Take care and stay safe until then, and best wishes for a happy new year!

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

- ✓ Visit the Town's website for updates:
www.riverdaleparkmd.gov
- ✓ Check out what the Council is working on:
http://www.riverdaleparkmd.gov/government/meeting_agendas_and_minutes.php
- ✓ Read the Town Manager's Status and Information Report:
http://www.riverdaleparkmd.gov/government/town_administration/status_and_information_reports.php
- ✓ Follow the Town's Social Media accounts:
 - Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/RiverdaleParkMD/>
 - Instagram:
https://www.instagram.com/riverdaleparkmd_gov/?hl=en
 - Twitter: https://twitter.com/Riverdale_Park
 - Youtube:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeaNS8-6xwTyPJculj7vuCQ/videos?view_as=subscriber

Upcoming Virtual Meetings

December 7, 2020 Legislative Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

To join:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81880171559?pwd=VXF5Q2FDdUJFdjRjNmZ2UUhUUFtdz09>

Or call: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 818-8017-1559

Passcode: 291998

December 21, 2020 Work Session at 7:00 p.m.

To Join:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86370496901?pwd=cEozRUQxVnQwbTdJNmJ5cVFNV3RkQT09>

Or call: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 863-7049-6901

Passcode: 616359

January 4, 2021 Legislative Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

To join:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86858879739?pwd=UzM1VjJEWkpEN1BTQzN2RjJPWFJ3QT09>

Or call: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 868-5887-9739

Passcode: 589324

January 25, 2021 Work Session at 7:00 p.m.

To join:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84285776488?pwd=eXBOYnJLVdVBMVdzcXF5ejFoVHVIUT09>

Or call: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 842-8577-6488

Passcode: 749963

If you would like to provide written comments, please call 301-927-6381 or e-mail them to: community_input@riverdaleparkmd.gov.

We ❤️ Town Life!

Riverdale Park Gives

Please consider donating to the Town's annual Toy Drive and Hats, Gloves, Socks Tree this holiday season.

New and unwrapped toys will be collected starting on November 18th through December 16th at Town Hall and Riverdale Park Police Department. Toys are distributed to families in Riverdale Park in partnership with the Toys for Tots program.

Starting in December the Hats, Gloves, and Socks Tree will be in the lobby of the Police Department. All hats, gloves, and socks will be donated directly to Riverdale Elementary School.



Veterans Day Ceremony

By Keith Robinson

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, this year's Veterans Day observance was different from years prior in that we could not have an in-person event. We prepared a pre-recorded message available to watch on the town's YouTube Channel which includes remarks from Mayor Thompson as well as the National Anthem sang by Riverdale Park's Police Officer Orville Saunders:
<https://youtu.be/q7MJurPr1S4>



Mayor Thompson and Chief Morris were accompanied by a local veteran as well as two of the town's police officers in the Veterans Day wreath laying at Veterans Memorial Park.

2021 Dates to Remember

- February 1, 2021: Legislative Meeting
- February 15, 2021: President's Day- Town Hall and Public Works Operations Closed
- February 22, 2021: Council Work Session
- March 1, 2021: Legislative Meeting
- March 15, 2021: State of the Town
- March 29, 2021: Work Session
- April 5, 2021: Legislative Meeting
- April 17, 2021: Budget Public Hearing
- April 24, 2021: Budget Public Hearing
- May 3, 2021: Town Election

Town Office Extensions

- General Inquiries (301) 927-6381: ext. 500, 503
- Assistance in Spanish: ext. 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

Register to Vote in 2021 Town Election

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**
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 3, 2021 (March 19, 2021 to May 2, 2021); 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.

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 or visit <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/1980/Voter-Registration>.

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

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to serve as Election Judges, Alternate Election Judges, and members of the Board of Election Appeals. Chapter 29-3(b) of the Town Code requires that Election Judges and Alternate Election Judges must be qualified voters and able to read and write the English language. If you are interested in assisting with the 2021 Town election, please contact the Town Clerk at jbarnes@riverdaleparkmd.gov or 301-927-6381 (ext. 505).

Town Cable Channel

The Town is working to improve the quality of the cable channel transmissions. The acquisition and installation of new equipment is necessary to make this happen. In the coming weeks, a Request for Proposal (RFP) will be created in order to acquire and install new equipment. This process will likely take several months. Thank you in advance for your patience as we work towards this goal.

Parking Permit Renewal

By Tracey Perrin, Parking Permit Manager

While the COVID 19 pandemic has certainly caused much suffering worldwide, it has also provided opportunity for us to improve services to our community with increased efficiency. The biannual renewal for the Parking Permit Program will begin soon with current parking permit placards expiring December 31, 2020. In the past, those in need of parking permits were required to make the request in-person during normal business hours at the Police Department. As a service to our Town residents, we have implemented an automated, no contact, distribution of parking permits. Payments and placard distribution will be accomplished online. Look for detailed information in the coming weeks. Any questions may be directed to Parking Permit Manager, Ms. Tracey Perrin at tperrin@riverdaleparkmd.gov or 301-209-1566.

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, 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 the Neighborhood Services team:

Brad Goshen- bgoshen@riverdaleparkmd.gov or 301-927-6381 ext. 514

CJ Reading- creading@riverdaleparkmd.gov or 301-927-6381 ext. 508

Leaf Season Continues



The Town is offering **FREE** leaf collection bags to residents until mid-January. Single and two-family homes are eligible for the **FREE** leaf bags. Residents need to show ID to receive their **FREE** leaf bags and there is a

maximum of 10 bags per request. **FREE** leaf collection bags are available at Town Hall (Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.).

Please be sure to place bagged leaves at the curb for pick-up on Monday, Yard Waste collection day. Bagged leaves should be placed at the curb on Sunday evening or by 6:00 a.m. on Monday morning.

Help us to reduce costs of the annual leaf vacuuming program by utilizing the service provided by the Town's residential trash collection company!

Leaf Vacuuming Schedule

The 2020 Leaf Vacuuming Schedule will be:

- Mondays and Thursdays: Residences north of 410/East West Highway
- Tuesdays and Fridays: Residences south of 410/East West Highway

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

- 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. These items can damage equipment and cause delays.

Collection Reminders

Residential Trash

Residential trash should be placed in durable, leak proof bags before it is placed in cans. Be sure that the can's lid is tightly closed to keep rainwater out- this

will help to reduce spillage. Excess trash should be placed beside your container.

Trash cans should be 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. Yard waste must be placed in paper bags or in reusable bins marked as yard waste.



Branches and limbs need to be bundled with rope or string (do not use wire), additionally all branches, limbs, and bundles must be:

- less than 4 feet long,
- less than 3 inches in diameter
- weigh less than 60 pounds

Yard Waste should be curbside by **6:00 a.m.** on **Mondays** or the night before collection.

Bulk Trash

Bulk trash collection is **by appointment only** on **Wednesdays**. Residents must schedule their collection by 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday by calling 301-773-2069 or by completing a Request Service form online at www.batestrucking.com. The Request Service form can be found on Customer Center tab at the top right corner of the Bates website.

Please note that bulk trash collection is limited to three (3) items per week.

Recycling

Recycling bins should be curbside by **6:00 a.m.** on **Wednesdays**. 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.

Reporting Concerns

In partnership with Bates Trucking and Trash Services, the Town has launched a dedicated Trash Concerns app. The Trash Concerns app can be used to order a new trash can, report missed collections, and any other trash related concerns. Visit



http://www.riverdaleparkmd.info/home/trash_concerns/index.php.

You can also call 301-927-6381 (extension 500 or 503) to speak with a Town staff member.

Let's Plan for Snow Season - Rules to Remember

The Department of Public Works is gearing up for snow season with a goal to work around the clock as necessary to remove snow and ice quickly and safely. Here are important snow removal facts the Department wants you to remember.

Snow emergency conditions are in effect in the Town of Riverdale Park when Prince George's County, the Maryland State Highway Administration **or** the Maryland State Police declare a **snow emergency**.

When a snow emergency is in effect, please follow these rules:

- ✓ Do not park any vehicle on any part of any street with a posted sign that says **Snow Emergency Street**;
- ✓ Only park on the even-numbered side of non-Snow Emergency Streets (parking on the odd-numbered side of any public street is prohibited during a snow emergency, except if parking is already restricted on one side of the street).
- ✓ Move your car(s) off the street so that snowplows can remove the snow from the street from curb to curb.
- ✓ Clear sidewalks in front of your house and, please, **do not** shovel snow into the roadway.

Be patient during a snow emergency as crews work around the clock to clear your street and nearby public spaces.

Remember your vehicle may be removed and impounded by or under the direction of any duly authorized police officer if you violate these rules and you will be charged a towing or impound fee and be liable for a fine of \$250.

Public Works will only plow Town-owned streets. The State or County is responsible for snow and ice removal on the following roadways:

- Kenilworth Avenue (Route 201)
- Baltimore Avenue (Route 1)
- East-West Highway (Route 410)
- Good Luck Road

Reminder from the Police Department

As winter and the holidays approach, Riverdale Park Police Department reminds residents that it is important to take precautions when securing your vehicles and belongings.

During the cold winter months, area drivers may be tempted to warm up their cars while they stay warm inside their home or business. However, cars left running, unlocked, and unattended are quick and easy targets for thieves. RPPD offers the following tips so you won't be left out in the cold:

- Never leave your car running or the keys in the ignition when are away from it, even for just a minute.
- When at the gas station pumping gas, never step to the rear of your car, or turn your back on the car doors while leaving your engine running. Thieves have been known to drive off with the pump handle still inserted in the fuel port.
- When visiting your local convenience store for that morning coffee, make sure your car engine is turned off and doors are locked. It takes only seconds to break a window, and thieves know how to do it without making a sound, and without effort

- Be alert when approaching your car, have a plan of action, and have your keys in your hand. Check around, under and in your vehicle for suspicious individuals. Immediately leave the scene to get help if you have any concerns for your safety.

During the holidays RPPD usually sees an increase in package thefts. People should require a signature for delivery, get a lock box for packages or tell a neighbor they have a package coming.

Coronavirus Testing Hotline

COVID-19 tests are available in Prince George's County. The Health Department is administering tests **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**. Call **301-883-6627**. Our nurses evaluate you over the phone, and if you get an appointment, you will be assessed once again when you arrive. It may take a few days to get results. If you get tested and your symptoms get worse, **DO NOT** wait for your test results, **SEEK MEDICAL CARE RIGHT AWAY**.

This hotline is also for residents who have general COVID-19 questions or concerns. The hotline is open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily to receive updated information about the coronavirus disease. ***Please contact 911 for medical emergencies only.**

Fire Safety Tips

Did you know that if a fire starts in your home **you may have as little as two minutes to escape?** During a fire, early warning from a working smoke alarm plus a fire escape plan that has been practiced regularly can save lives. Learn what else to do to keep your loved ones safe!

Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, inside bedrooms and outside sleeping areas.

Test smoke alarms every month. If they're not working, change the batteries. Talk with all family members about a fire escape plan and practice the plan twice a year. If a fire occurs in your home, **GET OUT, STAY OUT and CALL FOR HELP**. Never go back inside for anything or anyone.



Festival of Lights Virtual Contest

Due to Covid-19 and social distancing guidelines we have decided to make the annual Festival of Lights a virtual contest. We are looking for photos or videos of the outside of your homes decorated for the holiday season. We will be sharing the submissions across our social media accounts. We will provide a virtual tour/map of all participating homes.

Members of the Town's Centennial Committee will be choosing 3 winners from the entries. First place winner will receive a \$50 gift card to a restaurant in Town of their choice (so long as the restaurants have gift cards available). Second place winner gets a \$25 gift card. Third place winner gets a \$10 gift card. **BONUS:** 20 randomly selected entries will receive a We Love Town Life t-shirt!

The end date for submissions is December 17, 2020. Only Town resident entries will be eligible for the prize drawings; all others can submit photos/videos for sharing on our accounts. Please send us a DM via our Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, or email your photos/videos to

TRPsocialmedia@riverdaleparkmd.gov

CENTENNIAL PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

The Town of Riverdale Park turned 100 years old this year & we asked you to help us celebrate by submitting photos of your favorite place in town, favorite memory, your old neighborhood, or a fun time with others.

Winners received a gift card to a local restaurant of their choice.

Take a look at the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place contest winning photos!



The 1st Place winning photo was submitted by Nova Johns. Here is what they had to say about their picture: "This picture is of a current firefighter, and what we hope will be a future one as well. Though they look like they are admiring my favorite color combination on the fire engine, they are watching live training to the left...there is hope for the future of volunteerism in Riverdale Park."



The 2nd place winning photo in our Centennial Photo contest was submitted by Chris Benjamin from the Riverdale Model Railroader's Club. What a classic Riverdale Park photo!



The 3rd place winning photo was submitted by Valerie Thompson. Here's what she had to say about her photo: "We're new to Riverdale Park and have been using the recent time at home to explore the area. The Riversdale House—shown here during the peak bloom of the museum's poppies on May 18—has become a go-to stop on our "quarantine walks."

RENTAL LICENSES

**TOWN RENTAL
LICENSE
APPLICATIONS
→ DUE
JULY 1, 2020**

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE AT:

WWW.RIVERDALEPARKMD.GOV

**QUESTIONS: PLEASE CALL
NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES AT**

301-927-6381 OR EMAIL

LICENSES@RIVERDALEPARKMD.GOV

Rental Properties in Town

Guidelines for Property Owners

- All properties not occupied by the legal owners of record must be inspected and must obtain a Riverdale Park rental license.
- All bedrooms in rental dwellings must have a clear ceiling height of not less than 7 feet.
- Basements CANNOT be separated from the upstairs portion of a house by way of a key locked door or a separate entrance.
- All rental properties built prior to 1978 MUST have a lead paint certificate issued from the Maryland Department of the Environment (www.MDE.state.md.us).
- All bedrooms must have a secondary means of escape (window or door).
- Window must be openable from the inside "without the use of tools, keys, or special effort".
- A clear opening of 5 square feet for windows at or below grade (5.7 square feet if above grade)
- Bottom of the window sill must not exceed 44 inches above the floor.



December 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Recycling Collection	3 Trash and Yard Waste Collection Farmer's Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Town Center)	4	5
6	7 Legislative Meeting 7 p.m. Trash and Yard Waste Collection	8	9 Recycling Collection	10 Trash and Yard Waste Collection Farmer's Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Town Center)	11	12
13	14 Council Work Session 8:00 p.m. Trash and Yard Waste Collection	15	16 Recycling Collection	17 Trash and Yard Waste Collection Farmer's Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Town Center)	18	19 Bulk Trash Drop Off 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
20	21 Work Session 7 p.m. Trash and Yard Waste Collection	22 Farmer's Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Town Center)	23 Recycling Collection	24 Trash and Yard Waste Collection	25 Christmas Town Hall and DPW Closed 	26
27	28 Trash and Yard Waste Collection	29	30 Recycling Collection	31 Trash and Yard Waste Collection		

January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there may be additional changes to upcoming meetings and events. Please be sure to visit the Town's website www.riverdaleparkmd.gov or call 301-927-6381 for more information.</p>					1 Happy New Year Town Hall & Public Works Closed	2
3	4 Legislative Meeting 7 p.m. Trash & Yard Waste Collection	5	6 Recycling Collection	7 Trash & Yard Waste Collection Farmer's Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Town Center)	8	9
10	11 Trash & Yard Waste Collection	12	13 Recycling Collection	14 Trash & Yard Waste Collection Farmer's Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Town Center)	15	16 Bulk Trash Drop Off 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
17	18 MLK Jr. Day Town Hall & Public Works Closed	19	20 Recycling Collection	21 Trash & Yard Waste Collection Farmer's Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Town Center)	22	23
24	25 Work Session 7 p.m. Trash and Yard Waste Collection	26	27 Recycling Collection	28 Trash & Yard Waste Collection Farmer's Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.	29	30/31