



The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

February 2020

Volume 50, Issue 1

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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

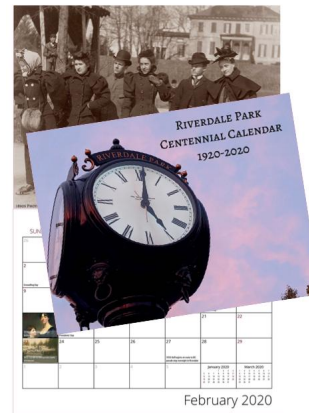
Bates Trucking and Trash Collection

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.

Centennial Calendars for Sale

Riverdale Park Centennial Calendars are available for purchase on the Town's online store for **\$10.00** at riverdaleparkmd.info. The calendars are also for sale at Town Hall. Proceeds will go to Riverdale Park's Centennial Event on June 13, 2020.



T- Shirts for Sale at Town Hall

The Riverdale Park T-Shirts are also for sale on the Town's online store for **\$15.00**. You can also stop by Town Hall to pick-up T-Shirts. We have all sizes from Youth Small to Adult XXXL. Proceeds will go to Riverdale Park's Centennial Event on June 13, 2020.



Call for Artists: Traffic Box Art Wrap

The Hyattsville CDC is looking for designs to transform select traffic signal cabinets in Riverdale Park into public artworks. The deadline to submit your designs is Friday, February 14, 2020! Selected artists will be awarded \$500 honorarium. Don't miss your opportunity to help beautify the Town of Riverdale Park! For more information... www.hycdc.org

CALL FOR ARTISTS



Council Actions

Legislative Meeting December 2, 2019

1. Motion to authorize the Town Manager to sign a contract with Frederick Ward Associates for the Municipal Center Project: Architectural Services - **Approved**
2. Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-OR-10 regarding Chapter 65- Weapons on Town property - **Adopted**
3. Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-OR-11 regarding Chapter 17- Camping - **Adopted**
4. Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-OR-12 regarding amendments to Chapter 64 Vehicles and Traffic - **Adopted**
5. Motion to authorize the Town Manager to send a Letter of Consent to the U.S. Department of State regarding Refugee Resettlement - **Approved**

Special Legislative Meeting December 16, 2019

1. Motion to authorize Town Manager to send a letter of support for Central Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization CDC's State of Maryland Board of Public Works Capital Project Application for Sarvis Empowerment Café - **Approved**
2. Motion to authorize Town Manager to send a letter of support for University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center's (EFC) Sustainable Maryland proposal to Environmental Protection Agency - **Approved**
3. Motion to approve November Finance Reports subject to audit - **Approved**

Legislative Meeting January 6, 2020

Consent Agenda

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

1. Fence Permit Request: 6-foot wooden fence in backyard of 4715 Rittenhouse Street
2. Minutes: November 18, 2019 Special Legislative Meeting

Legislative Action Items:

1. Motion to authorize Town Manager to sign a conditioned Agreement of Sale to acquire real property - **Approved**
2. Introduction of Ordinance 2020-OR-01 regarding purchase of 5002 Queensbury Road - **Introduced**
3. Motion to approve the Mayor's reappointment of James Davis to the Defined Benefit Plan Board of Trustees - **Approved**

COME GROW WITH US!

WE ♥ TOWN LIFE!

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

FAIR SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE 2020-OR-01

This is to give notice that the Riverdale Park Town Council has introduced and intends to take action on Ordinance 2020-OR-01.

Ordinance 2020-OR-01 would authorize and approve the Town's purchase of certain property owned by Judy L. Strahorn at 5002 Queensbury Road under certain terms and conditions, and appropriate certain funds for this purpose.

Ordinance 2020-OR-01 is available for inspection by the public at Town Hall during normal business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

RIVERDALE PARK TOWN COUNCIL

Mayor's Report

Mayor Alan K. Thompson

2019 has passed, and a new year has begun. While the days are slowly getting longer, the nights have gotten dark as the holiday decorations have been taken down and put into storage. With the beginning of the year, I'm looking forward to spring and making plans and resolutions for the year ahead.

Holiday Events

Before giving a final farewell to 2019, I'd like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of the many holiday events that went on in town. I enjoyed the food, drinks, music, and shopping at the Holiday Market (and Festival of Lights), and heard reports that the Children's Holiday Party and Senior Luncheon went well too! As always, I enjoyed seeing Santa on Christmas Eve as he rode around town on one of the Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department's trucks. I was extremely happy that the Town was able to provide holiday baskets and similar programs for dozens of families in need during the holiday season.

Trash Pickup

Town staff has been collecting data about the issues residents have experienced with trash, yard waste, and recycling pickup, and provided the information

from the last few months to the Town Council. To facilitate further collection of this data, you can now file complaints on the Town's web site at http://www.riverdaleparkmd.info/how_do_i/trash_concerns/index.php, or you can call Town Hall and they will enter it into the same system for you.

We are using this information for a couple of reasons. (1) To inform us about how (and whether) to negotiate future contracts with the current contractor, and (2) To determine whether, by the terms of the current contract, the town will withhold payment to the contractor for poor performance. The contractor is provided opportunities to correct issues once informed, and staff must verify that there is not a legitimate reason for reported issues (such as placing items at the curb later than required). We have seen improving performance in many areas since starting in late summer, but other areas still need attention. I encourage all residents to report issues so that we can continue working with the contractor to ensure that the level of service meets your expectations.

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/>. There is nothing new (continued construction including temporary lane closures all along the path of the project through town), but I wanted to remind everyone that bridge ramp construction will make enough progress in the next 1-2 months that turns across Kenilworth into/out of Quesada and Quintana will no longer be allowed. The Town Council will need to remove the one-way restriction on 54th between Quintana and Quesada to allow drivers to enter and exit the neighborhood via the shopping center parking lot. 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@pltlc.com.

Kaiser-Permanente Foundation Place-Based Initiative

As I mentioned in December, Kaiser Permanente (KP) is working on a Community Health initiative to

benefit residents in County Council District 3 (Dannielle Glaros' district). KP is working with the Central Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization Community Development Corporation (CKAR) to promote a broader vision for the health of our community, which includes making schools a hub for community health initiatives, strengthening non-profit institutions in our community, providing economic opportunity through support for small businesses, fostering entrepreneurs, providing tactical workforce development, effectively addressing affordable housing, and increasing financial literacy. January had two more focused visioning meetings, and February will start the next phase of the project, during which KP Foundation will determine which organizations will help implement the vision with financial and logistical support from KP. CKAR will coordinate with KP Foundation to host a Town Hall meeting to wrap up this phase of the project. Keep an eye on the CKAR-CDC web site, the Town's web site, and the Town's social media outlets for dates, places, and times for these events.

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, 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 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!

I'll be back here in March, when the days will be getting longer and we will see the first signs of spring! Stay warm and safe during February!

Ward 1 Report

Council Member Marsha Dixon

Happy New Year! I can't believe we're a month into the new decade. What are your goals for 2020? I have made quite a few personal goals, since this year is also the year of my 40th trip around the sun, but I

also wanted to set up goals of things that I wanted to accomplish as a councilwoman. One of those things is getting more input and participation from Town residents. I would love to hear how my colleagues and I could be more effective in getting feedback and more presence at council meetings.

On Saturday, February 22nd I will host a "Coffee with the Councilwoman" at Denizens at 3pm. Please feel free to stop by with any questions or concerns you may have, or if you just want to say hi.

I raised this in a previous Crier entry and wanted to circle back to find out whether there would be any interest in having a Town fun run. I love our town and there are so many amazing areas to explore. I think a fun run would be a great way to bring the community together and for others to run through our town and witness how much we've grown and how welcoming we are. If you're interested in joining the planning committee for a Spring fun run, please send me an e-mail or give me a call.

Ward 2 Report

Council Member Aaron Faulx

New Legislation

Recently, the Prince Georges County Council unanimously passed legislation concerning how our county police will interact with residents who have committed the civil offense of coming into the United States (U.S.) or remaining in the U.S. in violation of federal immigration policy. Prior to the legislation, the county police were operating under policy guidelines that were substantially similar to the new legislation. Codifying policies that limit officers from assisting the U.S. Department of Immigration and Customs Enforcement with the enforcement of civil immigration laws sends an important message to our immigrant communities and assists local law enforcement in establishing positive relationships with these communities. Similar legislation has passed in Brentwood, Cheverly, Colmar Manor, Edmonston, Forest Heights, Greenbelt, Mt. Rainier, and Hyattsville. I plan to propose similar legislation for Riverdale Park. Like, the county police, the Town's Police Department currently operates under a similar policy. Codifying such a policy reinforces not only our commitment to the immigrant communities

but also makes clear that the Town values diversity and inclusion. My goal is to have legislation introduced within the next two months. I look forward to input from the community.

Centennial Trees

I feel that a great gift we could provide to our community during its centennial celebration is the planting of appropriate native trees in available spaces all throughout Riverdale Park. I would love to see our tree planting program grow by leaps and bounds over the next couple of years. I have suggested that the town bring in an arborist to find 100 areas throughout town to plant trees for Arbor Day as we prepare to celebrate our Centennial birthday.

Centennial Celebration

Make sure to mark your calendars for June 13th, 2020 for our centennial celebration. It also happens to coincide with the 2nd annual Trolley Trail Day. We envision a festive event that will feature local performers, arts vendors, local food vendors, and music. We are extremely excited to announce that Denizens Brewing Company has agreed to brew a small batch commemorative beer to help celebrate the big event. We have also booked two incredible music acts to help start our 100th birthday. Both Chopteeth, Afrofunk, Big Band, and the Wild Anacostias are slated to perform so you best put on your dancing shoes.

Contact:

Don't hesitate to call, text, email, or tweet to me any comments, questions, or concerns. I can be reached at the following locations:

Call/Text: 860-970-7776

Email: afaulx@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Twitter: @RPMdWard2

Ward 3 Report

Council Member David Lingua

The Central Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization CDC received good news to close out the year 2019 and begin 2020. CKAR is the recipient of several grants, totaling over \$330,00.00. They are as follows:

- A grant of \$40 thousand from Prince George's County will support programs and operations;

- A grant of \$25 thousand from the Wells Fargo Bank's Neighborhood Lift Grant Program will support the Guest Chef Program at the Sarvis Empowerment Cafe;
- A grant of \$ 90 thousand towards planning from the Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the Mid-Atlantic States Community Health Program. The grant will fund the three awarded Host Site CCMA AmeriCorps VISTA positions for Health & Wellness, Workforce Training & Development, and Affordable Housing;
- A grant of \$75 thousand from the Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County towards capital improvements for the Sarvis Empowerment Cafe;
- A grant of \$100 thousand from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (MD DHCD) FY2019 National Capital Strategic Economic Development Fund towards infrastructure utility and HVAC upgrades as well as interior and exterior rehabilitation;
- A grant of \$2016.00 from the Town of Riverdale Park for the reimbursement of permit fees.

While the preceding is welcomed news, CKAR was not awarded grant funding totaling over \$337 thousand going towards operational support (\$200k), capital funding (\$50k), technical support for the Capital Campaign for and the operations of the Sarvis Empowerment Cafe (\$37+k), and tax credits to leverage donations to the cafe's programming (\$50k). To add to this, CKAR has learned recently of its need to install a new double-walled kitchen flu, eight stories upwards, with an estimated cost of \$42 thousand.

Executive Director Patricia Hayes-Parker has reached out to the state delegation about sponsoring a bond bill to help with the build-out and other funding needs. What helps a request like this is the demonstrated support to date; both from the county as well as the municipality. Thanks to the substantive efforts of County Councilmember Glaros and the long-term nominal and recently added creative efforts by this municipality, the state delegation would see such support. What helps greatly towards an award of such funding, selected over other submitted bills from around the state, is the demonstration of individual support by area residents in the form of donations. Of consideration here is the number of people

donating, more so than the total amount donated. This is the strength in numbers which helps with funding requests being awarded; where George, Abe, even Alexander, can mean a great deal.

Previous reports have highlighted the efforts CKAR has made to date; be that the Edmonston Road Rain Garden, the Greater Riverdale Empowerment Center, or the Sarvis Empowerment Cafe. The empowerment cafe is the most ambitious physical project to date. As stated previously, the learning cafe can bring opportunity as well as amenity to area residents. To do so requires the support of many, including ourselves individually. As well, the time to do so is upon us. Please, donate, at sarviscafe.org.

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

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.

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

Reminders from the Police Department

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.

Pedestrian Safety Tips

1. Watch Your Walkways

Walk on sidewalks and in crosswalks whenever possible. Pay attention to walk signals. Never stand in the street while waiting to cross. Keep a safe distance back on corners as turning trucks and buses occasionally run up onto sidewalk corners.



2. Be Extra Alert in Parking Lots, Filling Stations and Rest Stops

Locations where trucks must back up and navigate tight spaces can be particularly dangerous. Stay out of the way (and out of blind spots).

3. Take Extra Care at Bus Stops

Before crossing in front of a stopped bus, make sure the bus is not about to proceed, and that the driver sees you.

Black History Month Events

Hidden Heroes African Americans, NASA, & The Quest for the Final Frontier

Tuesday, February 4, 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Greenbelt – Auditorium

11 Crescent Rd. Greenbelt, MD 20770

Please join us for our Spring 2020 African History and Culture Lecture Series. Historian C. R. Gibbs will present Hidden Heroes: African Americans, NASA, & The Quest for the Final Frontier.

Ready 2 Ready Storytime Ages 2-3: Black History Month

Saturday, February 8, 10:30am - 11:00am

Bladensburg Community Center

13601 Baden Westwood Rd. Brandywine, MD 20613

Bring your toddler and join us for stories, songs, fingerplays and more as we celebrate African American heritage.

We Are Rising: The Story of African American Women & the Vote - Spring 2020 African History and Culture Lecture Series

Tuesday, February 11, 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Greenbelt – Auditorium

11 Crescent Rd. Greenbelt, MD 20770

Please join us for our Spring 2020 African History and Culture Lecture Series. Historian C. R. Gibbs will present We Are Rising: The Story of African American Women & the Vote.

Volunteers are Needed

As the Town's Centennial Celebration nears, volunteers are needed more than ever! Please consider volunteering your time and expertise.

Volunteer opportunities are listed on the Town's website, www.riverdaleparkmd.gov. Student service hours are also available.

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

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

February 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Youth Entrepreneurs in Fine Art 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.	3 Legislative Meeting 8 p.m. Trash and Yard Waste Collection	4	5 MUTC Meeting 7:30 p.m. Recycling Collection	6 Farmer's Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Town Center) Trash Collection	7 Boy Scouts 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.	8 Madison Hill HOA Meeting 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (Town Hall)
9 Youth Entrepreneurs in Fine Art 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.	10 Trash and Yard Waste Collection	11	12 Recycling Collection	13 Farmer's Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Town Center) Trash Collection	14 Valentine's Day Boy Scouts 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.	15 Bulk Trash Drop-Off DPW 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
16 Youth Entrepreneurs in Fine Art 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.	17 President's Day Town Hall and DPW Closed	18	19 Recycling Collection	20 Farmer's Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Town Center) Trash Collection	21 Boy Scouts 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.	22 Bulk
23 Youth Entrepreneurs in Fine Art 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.	24 Council Work Session 8 p.m. Trash and Yard Waste Collection	25	26 Recycling Collection	27 Farmer's Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Town Center) Trash Collection	28 Boy Scouts 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.	29