



The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

February 2021

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

301-773-2069

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

Riverdale Park
walk
bike
drive
Safety Initiative
#WBOTRP

**SPEED
LIMIT
20**

The speed limit in the Town of Riverdale Park is
20 miles per hour
For your safety and the safety of others

**SLOW
DOWN**

RIVERDALE PARK

Council Actions

December 7, 2020 Legislative Meeting

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

1. Minutes: November 2, 2020 Legislative Meeting, November 21, 2020 Special Legislative Meeting

Legislative Action Items

1. Motion authorize the Town Manager to sign Salt Utilization Agreement between the Town and Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration for the distribution of salt to the Town- **Approved**
2. Motion to authorize the Town Manager to sign Amendment to April 16, 2018, Municipal Participation Agreement between the Town and Prince George's County regarding the Longfellow Street Stormwater Project - **Approved**
3. Resolution 2020-R- 22 regarding sunset of the Farmers Market Dollars Program to June 30, 2021- **Approved**

December 21, 2020 Special Legislative Meeting

Legislative Action Items

1. Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-23 regarding requests for letters during General Assembly Session- **Approved**
2. Motion regarding donation to Greater Riverdale Cares & Route 1 Communities Care Food Assistance Program- **Approved**
3. Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-24 regarding acceptance of Rivertech Court - **Adopted**
4. Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-25 regarding Small Business Assistance Program - **Adopted**
5. Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-26 regarding Business Growth Grant Program - **Adopted**
6. Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-27 regarding Business Improvement Grant Program - **Adopted**
7. Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-28 regarding Resident-Restaurant-Town Partnership Program - **Adopted**
8. Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-29 regarding Emergency Repair Grant Program - **Adopted**
9. Motion to authorize residential permit fees to be waived until June 30, 2021- **Approved**

We  Town Life!

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 – 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

Council Actions *(continued)*

January 4, 2021 Legislative Meeting

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

1. Minutes: November 21, 2020 Special Legislative Meeting; July 6, 2020 Legislative Meeting

Legislative Action Items:

1. Introduction of Charter Amendment Resolution 2021-CR-01 regarding Absentee Voting - **Introduced**
2. Introduction of Ordinance 2021-OR-01 regarding the 2021 Town Election - **Introduced**
3. Motion to approve Mayor's nominations for Mixed-Use Town Center Local Design Review Committee - **Approved**
4. Motion to authorize Mayor to sign onto letter from the Greater Washington Coalition in support of a Veto Override of House Bill 1236 - **Approved**

Fair Summary of Legislation

CHARTER AMENDMENT RESOLUTION 2021-CR-01 ABSENTEE VOTING

This is to give notice the Riverdale Park Town Council has introduced and intends to take action on Charter Amendment Resolution 2021-CR-01.

Charter Amendment Resolution 2021-CR-01 would amend Section 509 of the Charter of the Town of Riverdale Park (January 2008 Revision), to remove from the Charter certain obsolete references to provisions of State law relating to absentee voting; to provide for the Town Council to establish procedures for absentee voting in municipal elections; and generally to relate to absentee voting in municipal elections in the Town of Riverdale Park.

Charter Amendment Resolution 2021-CR-01 is available for inspection by the public at Town Hall, on the Town's website www.riverdaleparkmd.gov, or by e-mail request to community_input@riverdaleparkmd.gov.

Text of Charter Amendment:

§ 509: Absentee Ballots

The council by ordinance shall arrange for voting by absentee ballot in accordance with ~~§ 27 of the Election Code, Article 33 of the Annotated Code of Maryland~~, and shall notify the voters of this intention.

ORDINANCE 2021-OR-01

This is to give notice that the Riverdale Park Town Council has introduced and intends to take action on Ordinance 2021-OR-01.

Ordinance 2021-OR-01 would designate the polling place and hours of operation for the 2021 Town Election to be held on May 3, 2021; designate the type of ballots to be used; and establish the candidate filing deadline and candidate filing fee for the 2021 Town Election to be held on May 3, 2021.

Ordinance 2021-OR-01 is available for inspection by the public on the Town's website www.riverdaleparkmd.gov or by e-mail request to community_input@riverdaleparkmd.gov.

Notice of Public Hearing

The Mayor and Council of the Town of Riverdale Park will hold a public hearing to receive public comments on a proposed amendment to Article V Nominations and Election, Section 509 Absentee Voting, of the Town Charter.

PLACE OF MEETING: Virtual Meeting via Zoom

To join:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84506867780?pwd=eG16eS9aYlNOR0tjazlmTETWMIldUUT09>

Or call: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 845 0686 7780

Passcode: 885123

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

DATE: February 1, 2021

WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO:
The Town of Riverdale Park at 5008 Queensbury Road,
Riverdale Park, MD 20737 or by e-mail to
community_input@riverdaleparkmd.gov.

NOTICE OF SPEED MONITORING SYSTEM LOCATION

This is to give notice in accordance with Transportation Article § 21-809(b)(1)(viii) that beginning January 11, 2021, the Town of Riverdale Park may activate and operate stationary speed monitoring systems at the following location in the Town of Riverdale Park:

1. 5700 block of Rivertech Court Northbound and Southbound near College Park Academy.

By Authority of David C. Morris, Chief of Police

Mayor's Report

Mayor Alan K. Thompson

Happy new year to everyone! I am hoping that this year will be much, much better than last year.

COVID-19

While I am hopeful for a happy new year, we all must work together to make it happen. As I write this article, we have just entered Phase 1B of the vaccination program (Phase 1A was front-line medical workers, residents/staff of nursing homes, and first responders; Phase 1B adds assisted living residents, adults aged 75 and older, and teachers, education staff, and daycare providers). By the time you read this, we will probably be in Phase 1C, which adds on adults age 65-74, and essential workers in laboratory services, manufacturing, etc.

You can read my article from the November 2020 Town Crier about the variety of vaccines in the process of being approved, and two of the vaccines I discussed there – produced by Moderna and Pfizer – are approved with millions of doses administered. As of mid-January Maryland, was receiving approximately 75,000 doses a week, and there are hopes that this number will increase in early February.

These vaccines are extremely effective, preventing 95 % of infections, with incredibly low rates of significant adverse reactions (beyond a sore arm, headaches, nausea, aching muscles, etc., that are all too familiar to those of us who get our flu vaccine every year), These adverse reactions occurred in only 175 cases out of the

1.9 million administered doses during the clinical trials - roughly 1 out of every 10,000 doses. Those reactions were treated immediately, and none of those people died. If everyone in Riverdale Park received the vaccine, we would probably see only one such event, none if we were just a little bit lucky!

Compare that with *more than one* death per 1,000 population nationwide from COVID-19, and the benefit of the vaccine should be clear. If the almost two million who received the vaccine during the initial rollout reflected the general population, more than 2,000 of them would be dead from COVID-19 (with 25 more dying each day), versus *zero* from the vaccine.

I am not a medical doctor, so you definitely should consult with your doctor before taking the vaccine, but the sooner most of us get vaccinated (and I am waiting anxiously for my opportunity to take the vaccine) the sooner we can put this horrible pandemic behind us.

Just as a reminder, though, while 95% protection is very, very effective, there are still many chances to be infected, so it will be a good idea to continue to wear face coverings, wash hands, and maintain a six-foot distance from those outside your household until rates of infection start to come down. We must view the vaccine as primarily a solution for society as a whole, and not engage in risky behavior after receiving the vaccine (though honestly you *should* feel safer doing the essential activities you do now).

September 10 Flood Event

Representatives from the County Department of Public Works and Transportation had a virtual meeting in December (hosted by County Council Member and Riverdale Park resident Dannielle Glaros) to provide an update on possible changes to the Wells Run channel in Riverdale Park. They have completed initial modeling of the channel and determined that some enhancements could occur in the park to the northeast of the intersection of East-West Highway and Baltimore Avenue, as the flow through that exact section is critical. I believe that with the model they have in place, and feedback from the town and members of the community at the meeting, they will expand the model to see whether a surge stormwater facility in the park or on the site of the old national guard facility could reduce the impact of future floods on the neighborhood.

Elections

With the national elections and transfer of administrations behind us, town elections are now on the horizon. The Town Council is working on election-related legislation (some housekeeping work on the Town Charter to refer to the correct section of state election law, routine legislation setting the time and date of the elections, and, if needed, changes to the elections manual to allow voters to drop off ballots as happened in the general election to improve COVID-19 safety). Stay tuned for more!

Purple Line

I am happy to report that the State of Maryland and the Purple Line Transit Partners reached a deal in late November. There is not a lot of information about the schedule for the project at the moment, but it will be completed much faster than if no deal had been worked out. I will let you know more as I learn it!

Snow!

Before I sign off, I want to make my annual reminder that we should all help out the Public Works Department (and ourselves!) by parking correctly during snow and winter weather events. If there is going to be enough snow that plows will be out, you should park your car in your driveway, or if you have to park on the street, on the EVEN-NUMBERED side of the street (with the exception that if parking is only allowed on one side of a street, stick to that side of the street). If you don't have houses on some streets (as happens in much of my neighborhood for streets running north-south), the even side is the WEST side (for streets running north-south) or the NORTH side (for streets running east-west). If we all follow these rules, the snowplows can clear the roads more quickly, and we can all get moving faster.

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 (202-527-0309 – my new town mobile number!). 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 would 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 hopefully there will even more good news about vaccine availability and vaccinations. Take care and stay safe until then!

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

February 1, 2021 Public Hearing and Legislative Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

To join:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84506867780?pwd=eG16eS9aYlNOR0tjazlmTEtWMldUUT09>

Or call: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 845-0686-7780

Passcode: 885123

February 22, 2021 Work Session at 7:00 p.m.

To join:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86471657868?pwd=LzZkTXVEM2ZoOGtpa0ZMSVFIWk92Zz09>

Or call: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 864-7165-7868

Passcode: 191709

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

FY2022 Budget Calendar

February 1: Mayor and Council Legislative Meeting presentation:

- Fund Balances and Projections

February 14: Constant Yield Tax Rate received from State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT)

February 22: Mayor and Council Work Session presentation:

- Revenue
 - FY2021 Estimated Actuals
 - FY2022 Projections

March 1: Mayor and Council Legislative Meeting presentation:

- Expenditures
 - FY2021 Estimated Actuals
 - FY2022 Projections
- FY2022 Challenges and Opportunities revisited

March 15: State of the Town presentation:

- Budget Overview

March 29: Mayor and Council Work Session presentation:

- Budget updates and adjustments

April 5: Mayor and Council Work Session presentation:

- Presentation of the FY2022 Proposed Operating and Capital Improvement Budget

April 12: Mayor and Council Work Session:

- Review of Proposed FY2022 Operating and CIP Budget

April 17: Budget Public Hearing:

- Review of Proposed FY2022 Operating and CIP Budget

April 24: Budget Public Hearing:

- Review of Proposed FY2022 Operating and CIP Budget

April 26: Mayor and Council Special Legislative Meeting and Work Session:

- Review of edits to the Proposed Budget
- Introduction of FY2022 Operating and CIP Budget and Tax Rates Ordinance

May 4: Real Property Tax Rate Public Hearing

May 24: Mayor and Council Special Legislative Meeting:

- Adoption Final FY2022 Operating and CIP Budget and Tax Rates Ordinance

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 8, 2021: Candidate Filing Deadline
- April 17, 2021: Budget Public Hearing
- April 23, 2021: Deadline to request Absentee (Mail-in) Ballot
- 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).

Absentee (Mail-in) Ballot Applications

Applications for Absentee (Mail-in) Ballots for the May 3, 2021 Town election will be available on the Town's website, www.riverdaleparkmd.gov, and in next month's edition of the *Town Crier*. Applications must be received by **April 23, 2021**. To request that an application be mailed to you, please call 301-927-6381.

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).

Parking Permit Renewal

By Tracey Perrin, Parking Permit Manager

The biennial Parking Permit Renewal began Monday January 4, 2021. This year, as a service to our Town residents, we have adopted an automated no contact distribution in the parking permit areas. Payments will be made online using your email address as correspondence.

If you have not received the letter and application for renewal, please contact the Parking Permit Manager at parkingpermitprogram@riverdaleparkmd.gov. Although the current placard expires December 31, 2020, we are giving a 30-day extension. The new expiration date is January 31, 2021. Officers will begin citing violators February 1, 2021.

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

Emergency Repairs Grant Available

The Town is soliciting grant applications from homeowners and businessowners. This grant program is designed to assist with emergency repairs in homes and businesses that would otherwise not be addressed.

Successful applicants can be reimbursed for up to \$2,000 after work has been completed and paid for. An "emergency repair" is defined as a situation that is life-threatening or one that prohibits someone from living in decent, safe, and sanitary conditions or is needed for the safe and continual operation of a business. For more information, please visit http://www.riverdaleparkmd.info/residents/emergency_repair_grant.php or contact Development Services Director Ryan Chelton at dchelton@riverdaleparkmd.gov or 301-927-6381 ext. 509.

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 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/ho.../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

Reminder from the 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.

As Temperatures Drop, Water Main Breaks Increase

WSSC Water Crews Ready to Deliver Same Rapid Response to Repair Weather-Related Water Main Breaks

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed many aspects of our lives, but one constant for residents of the DMV remains: winter is water main break season. As colder temperatures settle into the region, WSSC Water crews are prepared for the increase in breaks and leaks with people, pipes, trucks and tools at the ready. Every year, WSSC Water responds to approximately 1,800 water main breaks; 1,200 of them between the months of November and February. Crews have repaired nearly 200 breaks and leaks in November and are seeing a steady increase over the past few days due to the dropping temperatures.

"Winter is our busiest season and our crews are fully prepared to tackle the expected increase in breaks and leaks with the same level of urgency as in previous years," said WSSC Water General Manager and CEO Carla A. Reid. "I assure our customers that we are fully staffed and stocked with materials, and we do not anticipate this global pandemic to slow our response and repair times."

WSSC Water experiences an increase in water main breaks and leaks a few days after the temperature of the Potomac River hits a new low. The river is the primary source of drinking water for 1.8 million WSSC Water customers in Montgomery and Prince George's counties. When a new low temperature is reached, the colder water can shock pipes, increasing the number of breaks and leaks. This [chart](#), which shows the connection between river temperatures and water main breaks, is monitored by crews to help anticipate a spike in breaks.

WSSC Water maintains more than 5,800 miles of water mains throughout both counties. Pipe age is a primary factor in a majority of breaks. Nearly 40 percent of the water mains in WSSC Water's distribution system are 50 years or older. With such a large distribution system, customers are encouraged to report water main breaks and leaks as quickly as possible.

There are three simple ways to report a break or leak to WSSC Water's 24-hour Emergency Services Center:

- By phone: 301-206-4002
- By email: emergencycallcenter@wsscwater.com
- Via **WSSC Water's Mobile App**

The "Report a Problem" feature on the mobile app allows customers to easily snap a picture of a possible water main break or leak and send it directly to the Emergency Services Center. The app uses GPS to pinpoint the location of the image, which allows dispatchers to send an inspector to the site.

WSSC Water maintains the pipes in the streets and the connections up to the property line. If a pipe in a home freezes, it is the homeowner's responsibility to repair. For more information, including tips on what customers can do to help winterize their homes, visit www.wsscwater.com/winterready.

Find more information *here*. A video of crews repairing a winter water main break is available for download *here*.

Senator Paul G. Pinsky's Scholarship

Who may Apply: Current high school seniors, full-time and part-time degree-seeking undergraduate and graduate students who live in the 22nd Legislative District.

How to Apply: The application is available online at senatorpinsky.org. Complete and file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASA) in addition to Senator Paul G. Pinsky's scholarship application.

Award Criteria: Selection is based on academic achievement, financial need, and commitment to higher education. Awards range from \$5000 - \$2000.

Renewing an Award: If you received an award from Senator Pinsky during a previous academic year, your award will be renewed automatically as long as you maintain satisfactory academic progress.

Questions: 301.858.3155 or
paul.pinsky@senate.state.md.us

Deadline: April 1, 2021

Riverdale Park Arts Announces First Online Artist Showcase

This year Riverdale Park Arts has gone virtual! As I am sure you know, gathering together in large numbers will again be limited this year, so RPA has decided that an online event will be a great way for our town to gather safely and celebrate the talents of our wonderful and diverse community. Our first event of 2021 will be an online Riverdale Park Artist Showcase and will take place on **February 6th at 2pm**. This event will feature members sharing 3–5 minute music performances, film screenings, art presentations and many other fun and interesting talents!

If you would like to participate, become a member, or just watch the free event, please visit our website at

riverdaleparkarts.org. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at: riverdaleparkarts@gmail.com

Thanks for your continued support and I look forward to hearing from you.

Robert DiLutis
Co-President



*Making art & music accessible
to our community*

Call for Artists Submissions for Riverdale Park Public Art Initiative

Deadline to Apply is Friday, March 19, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

On behalf of the Town of Riverdale Park, the Hyattsville CDC is announcing a Call for Artists for the Riverdale Park Public Art Initiative. The Initiative seeks five (5) sculptures of various styles and sizes to display for a one year-long placement, at pre-determined, publicly accessible sites within the Town of Riverdale Park. As part of the Town's plan to create an engaging, publicly accessible outdoor sculpture gallery across its many neighborhoods, we seek site-appropriate sculptural work fitting of each chosen location. All sites have an existing installed concrete footer/pad, specifically designed to accommodate a range of sizes of work and a variety of bases.

Submittals may be of any durable, easily maintained, exposure-ready media, and, due to the planned temporary nature of the initiative's installations should be of existing or nearly completed work. Following a jurying process, the works will be installed by the selected artist for year-long exhibition. At the end of the exhibition term, the works will also be made available for purchase through the Riverdale Park Public Art Initiative website at <https://hycdc.org/rppai>.

Artists across the greater metropolitan region are welcome to apply, especially those who live or have studios within Prince George's County. Local established and emerging sculptors, woodworkers, metalworkers, and artists of any durable media are welcomed.

ARTIST HONORARIUM

At this issuance, the stipend for selection in this Call is \$2,000 per selected work, to include all artist fees, costs for installation, documentation of the installed work, transportation, and insurance.

Riversdale House Mansion Virtual Classes

HISTORY AT HOME: VIRTUAL LESSONS FOR HOMESCHOOLERS

The Riversdale House Museum is offering opportunities to bring history to life from the comfort of your very own living room! History at Home is a new series for homeschoolers that offers children ages 2-15 an opportunity to become history detectives.

The Classical World

Did you know that early Federal America was heavily influenced by the ancient Greek and Roman worlds? Come explore these connections!

Ages 10-15

February 16, 1-2:30 pm

Registration required by February 10

Advance registration is required. The cost is \$3 per child for residents of Prince George's and Montgomery Counties and \$4 for non-resident families. Registration includes a hands-on activity kit for pick up before the lesson. Participants must have a computer with the capabilities to use Microsoft Teams with video camera and microphone to engage. An email with link and detailed instructions will be sent out closer to the event.

Registration may be completed at www.pgparksdirect.com or via this direct link: <https://tinyurl.com/HstryatHome>. For more information, email riversdale@pgparks.com; TTY 301-699-2544; or visit our website at history.pgpark.com.

Riversdale House Museum, a National Historic Landmark, is located at 4811 Riverdale Road, in Riverdale Park, Maryland. This facility is owned and operated by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County



Black History Month Virtual Museum Tours:

A series featuring a virtual museum tour of art exhibited at the Prince George's African American Museum & Cultural Center. To view all tours and events checkout www.pgaamcc.org.



Prince George's County Memorial Library System will host various Black History Month Virtual Events: www.pgcmlls.info/events

Harriet Tubman: In Her Own Words

Friday, February 05: 4:00pm - 5:00pm

AGE GROUP: TEEN (13-18 YRS), ELEMENTARY (5-12 YRS), ADULTS

EVENT TYPE: VIRTUAL EVENT LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Janice Curtis Greene will mesmerize audiences with her portrayal of the life of Harriet Tubman historical program highlighting Harriet Tubman's journey to freedom. Learn of the tragedies and triumphs of this American hero from childhood through old age.

Read Aloud-Black History Month

Monday, February 08: 10:00am - 10:30am

AGE GROUP: YOUNG CHILDREN (0-5 YRS)

EVENT TYPE: VIRTUAL EVENT STORYTIME OR PLAYDAY BLACK HISTORY MONTH

PGCMLS staff host virtual read-aloud programs for you to enjoy at home. Join us for stories, songs, and more! Recommended ages: 2 to 5. This week, for Black History Month, Ms. Marsha will read a Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor Book!

BLACK HISTORY MONTH-Black Business Success w/ Prince George's African American Museum

Wednesday, February 17: 1:30pm - 3:00pm

AGE GROUP: ADULTS

EVENT TYPE LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

BLACK HISTORY MONTH – Black Business Success w/ Prince George's African American Museum and Cultural Center. The FEC@PGCC is inviting you to our special weekly series, Virtual Empowerment Hour: JOIN US ON SELECT DAYS IN JANUARY & FEBRUARY at 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Career Chat:

Historically Black Colleges

Wednesday, February 17: 3:00pm - 4:00pm

AGE GROUP: TEEN (13-18 YRS), ADULTS

EVENT TYPE: LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Join us as we chat explore colleges and universities. This week we will chat with former students of historically black universities and colleges and learn more about their college experiences.

Black History Month: Children's Reader's Advisory

Friday, February 19: 4:00pm - 5:00pm

AGE GROUP: ELEMENTARY (5-12 YRS), ADULTS

EVENT TYPE: DISCUSSIONS BOYS/GIRLS READ BLACK HISTORY MONTH

In honor of Black History Month, join us for a reader's advisory that focuses on self-confidence and features black and brown main characters. Stay tuned for a special read aloud of one of the featured books.

Viewer's Advisory: Bridgerton

Friday, February 19: 7:00pm - 8:00pm

AGE GROUP: ADULTS

EVENT TYPE: VIRTUAL

Join PGCMLS librarians for a lively discussion on the popular hit TV show Bridgerton!

Black Consumerism in America

Thursday, February 25: 1:30pm - 3:00pm

AGE GROUP: ADULTS

EVENT TYPE: VIRTUAL

The FEC@PGCC is inviting you to our special weekly series, Virtual Empowerment Hour



COVID-19 (Coronavirus)



Vaccination Phased Distribution Plan

COVID-19 vaccines will be distributed through a phased approach to the most at-risk populations first. Vaccination efforts will continue until every Prince Georgian is able to get the vaccine. This is a long process that will take weeks to months to get through each phase. We will continue to keep the community updated on our progress in each phase.



HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Prince George's County

STAY UPDATED: mypgc.us/COVIDVaccine

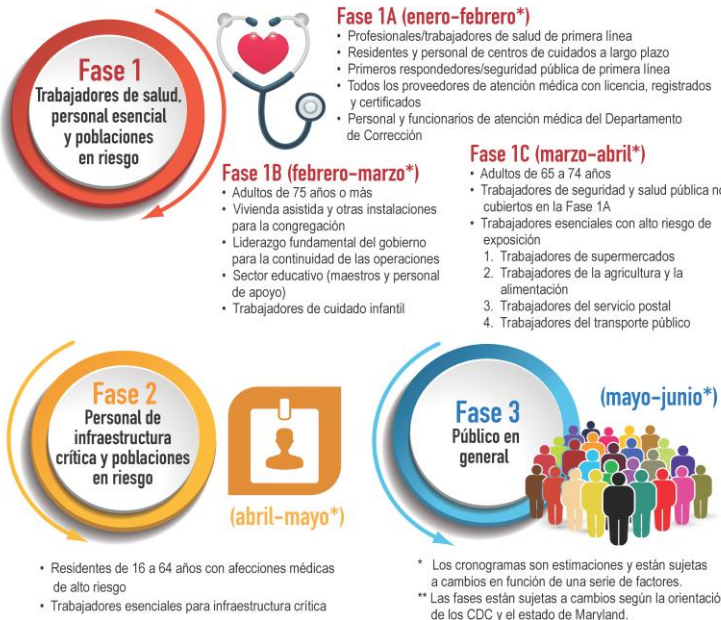


COVID-19 (Coronavirus)



Plan de distribución de vacunación por fases

Las vacunas COVID-19 se distribuirán a través de un enfoque por etapas a las poblaciones de mayor riesgo primero. Los esfuerzos de vacunación continuarán hasta que todos los residentes del Condado puedan vacunarse. Este es un proceso largo que llevará semanas o meses para superar cada fase. Continuaremos manteniendo a la comunidad actualizada sobre nuestro progreso en cada fase.



HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Prince George's County

MANTÉNGASE ACTUALIZADO: mypgc.us/COVIDVaccine



COVID-19 VACCINE



COVID-19 VACUNA

Scheduling Process for Vaccine Appointments in Prince George's County

Anyone who lives or works in Prince George's County that wishes to receive the COVID-19 vaccine must fill out the County Health Department's pre-registration form:
<https://bit.ly/PGCVaccineForm>

When you are eligible to receive a vaccine based on the County's phased distribution plan AND appointments are available based on vaccine supply, the Health Department will send a link via email with instructions on how to schedule an appointment.

When the County enters future phases of vaccine distribution, individuals that have pre-registered will receive a notification that they are eligible, and as appointments become available, will begin to receive links to schedule appointments.

PLAN AHEAD!



- Bring a form of photo identification to your appointment.



- If you are eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine because of your job, make sure you bring proof of employment with you to your appointment.



- If you have insurance, please bring your insurance card with you to your appointment.
- Current COVID-19 vaccines require two doses. Make sure you schedule your appointment for a second dose right after your appointment for the first dose, and make sure you keep that appointment.

Proceso de programación de citas para vacunas en el Condado de Prince George

Cualquier persona que viva o trabaje en el Condado de Prince George que desee recibir la vacuna COVID-19 debe completar el formulario de preinscripción del Departamento de Salud del Condado:
<https://bit.ly/PGCVaccineForm>

Cuando sea elegible para recibir una vacuna según el plan de distribución del condado y las citas estén disponibles según el suministro de la vacuna, el Departamento de Salud le enviará un enlace por correo electrónico con instrucciones sobre cómo programar una cita.

Cuando el condado entre en las fases futuras de distribución de vacunas, las personas que se hayan preinscrito recibirán una notificación de que son elegibles y, a medida que las citas estén disponibles, comenzarán a recibir enlaces para programar citas.

¡Planifique con anticipación!



- Lleve una identificación con foto a su cita.



- Si es elegible para una vacuna COVID-19 debido a su trabajo, asegúrese de llevar una prueba de empleo a su cita.



- Si tiene seguro, por favor traiga su tarjeta de seguro a su cita.
- Las vacunas actuales de COVID-19 requieren dos dosis. Asegúrese de programar su cita para una segunda dosis inmediatamente después de su cita para la primera dosis, y asegúrese de asistir a esa cita.

HEALTH
DEPARTMENT
Prince George's County

Stay Updated: mypgc.us/COVIDVaccine

HEALTH
DEPARTMENT
Prince George's County

Manténgase actualizado:
mypgc.us/COVIDVaccine

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Virtual Contest Winners

The Town asked residents for photos of their homes decorated for the holiday season. Below are our 3 contest winners! 1st place winner will be receiving a \$50 gift card to a restaurant in Town of their choice. 2nd place winner gets a \$25 gift card. 3rd place winner gets a \$10 gift card.

Thank you to all who participated in this fun contest!



February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Public Hearing for Charter Amendment & Legislative Meeting 7 p.m.	2	3 Recycling Collection	4 Trash and Yard Waste Collection Farmer's Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Town Center)	5	6
7	8 Trash and Yard Waste Collection	9	10 Recycling Collection	11 Trash and Yard Waste Collection Farmer's Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Town Center)	12	13
14 Happy Valentine's Day	15 Town Hall & DPW Services Closed Presidents' Day	16	17 Recycling Collection	18 Trash and Yard Waste Collection Farmer's Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Town Center)	19	20 Bulk Trash Drop Off 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
21	22 Council Work Session & Special Legislative Meeting 7 p.m. Trash and Yard Waste Collection	23	24 Recycling Collection	25 Trash and Yard Waste Collection Farmer's Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Town Center)	26	27
28						