



# The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

## February 2022

### Volume 51, Issue 1

Black History Month	Page 1
Council Actions	Page 2
Fair Summaries	Page 3
Public Hearing Notice	Page 3
Road Improvement Project	Page 4
Mayor's Report	Page 4
Town Extensions	Page 6
Stay-Up-To-Date	Page 7
Virtual Meetings	Page 7
FY2023 Budget Hearings	Page 7
2022 Dates to Remember	Page 7
Purple Line	Page 8
Neighborhood Services	Page 8
Collection Reminders	Page 8
Snow Season	Page 9
Fire Safety Tips	Page 10
Winter Driving	Page 10
Homeowner Assistance	Page 11
Covid Care Program	Page 11
Trolley Trail Lighting	Page 11
Communications Survey	Page 12
Notices	Page 12
Calendar	Page 13
Important Numbers	Page 14

### **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



# CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## FEBRUARY 2022

### **UPCOMING VIRTUAL EVENTS:**

**PRINCE GEORGE'S AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTER:**

[WWW.PGAAMCC.ORG/VIRTUALPROGRAMS/](http://WWW.PGAAMCC.ORG/VIRTUALPROGRAMS/)

**M-NCPPC, DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION:**

[WWW.PGPARKS.COM/1378/BLACK-HISTORY](http://WWW.PGPARKS.COM/1378/BLACK-HISTORY)

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY MEMORIAL LIBRARY SYSTEM:**

[WWW.PGCMLS.INFO/BLACK-HERITAGE](http://WWW.PGCMLS.INFO/BLACK-HERITAGE)

# Council Actions

Legislative Meeting  
December 6, 2021

## Consent Agenda

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

1. Minutes: November 22, 2021, Public Hearing; June 21, 2021, Special Legislative Meeting Minutes, June 21, 2021, Work Session Minutes; October 26, 2020, Work Session Minutes

## Legislative Action Items

1. Introduction of Ordinance 2021-OR-10 Amendment of the FY2022 Budget - **Introduced**
2. Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-15 regarding RISE Zone Renewal - **Adopted**
3. Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-16 regarding extension of sunset of the Farmers Market Dollars Program - **Adopted**
4. Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-17 regarding extension of sunset of the Business Growth Grant Program - **Adopted**
5. Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-18 regarding extension of sunset of the Business Improvement Grant Program - **Adopted**
6. Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-19 regarding extension of sunset on the Emergency Repair Grant Program - **Adopted**
7. Motion to waive residential permit fees until December 31, 2022 - **Approved**
8. Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-20 reestablishing Small Business Assistance Program - **Adopted**
9. Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-21 regarding Planning Assistance to Municipalities and Communities (PAMC) Application for Tree Inventory and Condition Assessment - **Adopted**
10. Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-22 regarding parking and standing - **Adopted**
11. Motion to authorize Town Manager to send a letter of support regarding the Prince George's County Climate Action Plan - **Approved**
12. Motion to approve Position Description for Special Projects Coordinator - **Approved**
13. Motion to appropriate from the Economic Development Fund an amount no greater than \$5,000 to support Greater Riverdale Cares/Route 1 Community Cares food program, with understanding that appropriated money is directed to those in need (resident or business) in the Town of Riverdale Park - **Approved**

We  Town Life!

## Town of Riverdale Park

[www.riverdaleparkmd.gov](http://www.riverdaleparkmd.gov)  
Cable Channels: 10 and 71

### Mayor

Alan K. Thompson, 202-527-0309  
[akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

### Council Members

**Ward 1** – Richard A. Smith, 202-527-2435  
[rsmith@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:rsmith@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

**Ward 2** – Aaron Faulx, 860-970-7776  
[afaulx@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:afaulx@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

**Ward 3** – David Lingua, 301-779-3849  
[djlingua@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:djlingua@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

**Ward 4** – Thomas Sadiq, 202-845-6251  
[tsadiq@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:tsadiq@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

**Ward 5** – Karen Mejia, 202-329-7610  
[kmejia@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:kmejia@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

**Ward 6** – Hala Mayers, 202-527-2637  
[hmayers@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:hmayers@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

### Administration

John N. Lestitian, **Town Manager**  
[jnlestitian@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:jnlestitian@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

Jessica Barnes, **Administrative Services Director/Town Clerk**  
[jbarnes@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:jbarnes@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

Ivy Lewis, **Public Projects and Services Director**  
[ilewis@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:ilewis@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

Ryan Chelton, **Development Services Director**  
[rchelton@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:rchelton@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

Paul Smith, **Finance and Employee Services Director**  
[psmith@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:psmith@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

Rosa Guixens, **Acting Chief of Police**  
[rguixens@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:rguixens@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

### Fire Department - Emergency 911

Information - 301-927-0356  
Brian Carpio, **Fire Chief**  
[Eng7twr@yahoo.com](mailto:Eng7twr@yahoo.com);  
[info@riverdalevfd.com](mailto:info@riverdalevfd.com);  
[www.riverdalevfd.com](http://www.riverdalevfd.com)

The Town Crier is also available on the Town's Website: [www.riverdaleparkmd.gov](http://www.riverdaleparkmd.gov)

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

Send submissions to:  
[towncrier@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:towncrier@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

# Council Actions (continued)

## Legislative Meeting January 3, 2022

### Consent Agenda

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

1. Curb Cut Request: 4703 Oliver Street; replacement of existing driveway and apron
2. Minutes: October 18, 2021, Special Legislative Meeting; June 7, 2021, Legislative Meeting; May 24, 2021, Work Session; February 22, 2021, Work Session

### Legislative Action Items

1. Motion to authorize Town Manager to send a letter of support to the Board of Zoning Appeals for Variance Request V-112-21 for 5909 Taylor Road; variance of 7.9 feet front yard depth – **Approved**
2. Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-OR-10 Amendment of the FY2022 Budget – **Adopted**
3. Introduction of Charter Amendment Resolution 2022-CR-01 regarding Elections – **Introduced**
4. Introduction of Ordinance 2022-OR-01 regarding Town Election Procedures - **Introduced**
5. Motion to approve Council Committee Assignments - **Approved**

## Fair Summary of Legislation

### CHARTER AMENDMENT RESOLUTION 2022-CR-01 ELECTIONS

This is to give notice the Riverdale Park Town Council has introduced and intends to take action on Charter Amendment Resolution 2022-CR-01.

Charter Amendment Resolution 2022-CR-01 would amend the Charter of the Town of Riverdale Park to provide for the creation, composition, terms, duties and responsibilities of a Board of Elections for the Town of Riverdale Park; to specify the duties and responsibilities of the Board of Elections and alter certain duties and responsibilities of election judges for municipal elections; to provide for the designation, duties and responsibilities of a Chief Election Judge and Deputy Chief Election Judge; to make certain changes in style and terminology; and generally relate to the conduct

and management of municipal elections in the Town of Riverdale Park.

Charter Amendment Resolution 2022-CR-01 is available for inspection by the public on the Town's website [www.riverdaleparkmd.gov](http://www.riverdaleparkmd.gov), by calling 301-927-6381, or by e-mail request to [community\\_input@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:community_input@riverdaleparkmd.gov).

### FAIR SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE 2022-OR-01

This is to give notice that the Riverdale Park Town Council has introduced and intends to take action on Ordinance 2022-OR-01.

Ordinance 2022-OR-01 will alter the process for appointment of Town election judges; reassign certain election duties and responsibilities; modify certain terminology; eliminate certain obsolete provisions; and generally, relate to modifications to provisions and procedures for the conduct of municipal elections in the Town of Riverdale Park.

Ordinance 2022-OR-01 is available for inspection by the public on the Town's website [www.riverdaleparkmd.gov](http://www.riverdaleparkmd.gov), by e-mail request to [community\\_input@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:community_input@riverdaleparkmd.gov), or by calling 301-927-6381.

## Public Hearing for Charter Amendment Resolution 2022-CR-01 Elections

The Mayor and Council of the Town of Riverdale Park will hold a public hearing to receive public comments on a proposed amendment to the Town Charter to provide for the creation, composition, terms, duties and responsibilities of a Board of Elections for the Town of Riverdale Park; to specify the duties and responsibilities of the Board of Elections and alter certain duties and responsibilities of election judges for municipal elections; to provide for the designation, duties and responsibilities of a Chief Election Judge and Deputy Chief Election Judge; to make certain

changes in style and terminology; and generally relate to the conduct and management of municipal elections in the Town of Riverdale Park.

PLACE OF MEETING: Virtual Meeting via Zoom  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88529876721?pwd=VmxZM1VmZmRSNFV2OUZJOTZUOVZydz09>  
Or call: 301-715-8592 (Meeting ID: 885-2987-6721  
Passcode: 579554)

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

DATE: February 7, 2022

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](mailto:community_input@riverdaleparkmd.gov).

## Notice of Road Improvement Project

This is notification that the Town of Riverdale Park has a Road Improvement Project on your street. The contractor performing the work is ECM Corporation. The project is scheduled to be completed within four months, weather permitting.

**Please note:** Due to the nature of the project and seasonal temperatures, there may be a partial shutdown of the project due to temperatures at or below freezing or when supply plants close for the season. The project will resume when temperatures reach acceptable levels, and the supply plants reopen.

**Date Range of Project:** December 2021 to April/May 2022

### Impacted Locations:

- 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue between Sheridan Street and Tuckerman Street
- Maryland Avenue between MD 410 Overpass and Tuckerman Street
- Sheridan Street at 49<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- 54<sup>th</sup> Place Cul-De-Sac
- Jefferson Street between Kenilworth Avenue and 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- Greenway Drive between Kenilworth Avenue and Spring Lane
- 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue at Madison Street

- Oglethorpe Street between 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Lafayette Avenue
- 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue between Nicholson Street and Oglethorpe Street
- Madison Street between 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Taylor Road
- Nicholson Street between 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Taylor Road
- Supra Place Cul-De-Sac
- Signet Lane Cul-De-Sac
- Rivertech Court (bike lane)

**Scope of Work:** Reconstruction and resurfacing sections of the roadway; replacement and/or installation of new curb ramps; and/or connection of new sidewalk panels to existing sidewalks.

**Preparation for Work:** Some work may require parking restrictions on your street. No parking signs will be erected at least 24 hours before parking restrictions take effect.

### Contact for Questions:

Ivy Lewis  
240-375-6448  
[ILewis@RiverdaleParkMD.Gov](mailto:ILewis@RiverdaleParkMD.Gov)

## Mayor's Report

Mayor Alan K. Thompson

Freezing rain is rattling against my storm windows as I write this report, and it is cold, dark, and windy. The holidays are over, and spring is distant. It is, however, the dawn of a new year, and I look at the year ahead with hope and faith that 2022 will be better than 2021.

### Looking back on 2021, and ahead to 2022

It is tempting, looking back at 2021, to focus on the many negative events of the year. It was a year that started with the January 6 attack on the US Capital and ended with the arrival of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, and with it the highest number of cases seen during the entire pandemic. I have heard scores of stories of individual tragedy and have experienced it in my own family.

Fortunately, there are also tremendous successes and moments of joy that occurred during the year. COVID vaccines became available, and hundreds of millions of people in the country have received them. In town, we held both the regular election in May, and a special election to fill a vacancy in September; both proceeded

smoothly, and we have an effective and engaged council with many new faces. The Greater Riverdale Cares / Greater Riverdale Thrives group has provided food to thousands of vulnerable families in the area, including hundreds in Riverdale Park. The town has continued and streamlined programs created early in the pandemic to support our residents and businesses. Beyond our response to COVID-19, the town completed projects to install electric vehicle charging stations in our historic town center, installed sidewalks along 48<sup>th</sup> avenue, and provided lighting along the “trolley trail” hiker-biker path (with more lighting of the trail in the works).

Looking ahead, there is a lot of uncertainty (more so than usual), but there are many exciting projects in the works: additional Capital Bike Share locations will be installed, a grant application was submitted (fingers crossed!) to landscape the park at the corner of Tuckerman and Lafayette, work is underway to mitigate flooding for areas impacted in 2020, the permit process for the Municipal Center project is nearly complete, a food hall is coming soon to Riverdale Park Station, and the Purple Line project seems to be moving again!

### **COVID-19 – Pandemic**

When I was writing my report in mid-November, the Omicron variant of COVID-19 had not even been discovered, and now we appear to be a few days past the peak of infections – a lot has happened in just a few months. Although it appears (when I am writing this in mid-January) that the Omicron wave has peaked, there are lessons that we can learn and apply when future variants appear.

To quickly summarize what’s known about Omicron: (1) it’s much, much more contagious than previous variants, (2) it is *somewhat* less likely to cause severe illness, (3) the current vaccines are still highly effective (90+%) against hospitalization and death, but (4) the vaccines are much less effective against infection (unless you have had a booster within the last 4-6 weeks).

These four factors created an unprecedented number of reported infections, peaking in early January at approximately 250 cases/day/100,000 population in Prince George’s County (Washington DC was even higher at around 300 cases/day/100,000). The “level of concern” for infection rates is 10 cases/day/100,000, so these numbers are **huge**. Given the difficulties in getting tested at an official site (hours-long waits) and many people using at-home tests, the actual rate could have

been three to four times the reported rate. With a 5-to-10-day course for the disease, it is likely that 5 % of the county was infectious at the peak of the Omicron wave.

As town staff and I were watching the case counts and emerging information about Omicron come in, we realized in late December that the only way we could reduce the impact of Omicron was to get as many high-quality masks into the hands of our most-at-risk residents as quickly as we could. The best masks to prevent transmission are (from most protective to less): N95, KN95, KF94, surgical, and cloth. We initially ordered 20,000 surgical and 17,000 KN95 masks, and after distributing those we were able to find, from a different supplier, 20,000 N95 masks for distribution. All of this has been funded with a tiny fraction of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds we received from the federal government. We will have distributed all of these masks, and almost certainly more, by the time you read this report. If you are able to afford to purchase your own masks, I would recommend purchasing from [projectn95.org](https://projectn95.org), a nonprofit which is very careful to screen the masks they sell and ensure they work as they are supposed to (a large fraction of the masks labeled “KN95” have been found to be counterfeit or to not meet the requirements).

Town staff also generated information sheets on how to properly use these masks, based on guidance from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (the CDC). When we purchased these high-grade masks, we were ahead of CDC guidance regarding which masks should be used by regular people (new guidance was issued by the CDC on January 13), but we *conservatively* were consistent with CDC guidance that the N95/KN95/KF94 masks should be used once and discarded (this guidance is, I believe, aimed at health care workers). Many people – including the inventor of the material that makes N95 masks so effective – believe that these masks can be reused at least several times, and I hope that the CDC will update their guidance soon.

While we will continue to distribute and encourage the use of high-grade masks, we cannot neglect the other tools we have available to combat the virus. One of those tools is to encourage all of you, during waves of infection like this one, to minimize your interactions with people outside of your household. If you must interact with others because of work or school, strive to maintain physical distance from others, and filter the air, or keep shared spaces well-ventilated. I believe that the county school system made a wise decision to have

distance-only learning during the peak of the Omicron wave, and hope that the resumption of in-person schooling will not trigger another wave of infections.

If a member of your household becomes infected, it is possible to avoid infecting the rest of your household. If you can qualify, there is a county program to assist with isolation/quarantine; you can find out more about it (and apply) at <https://assess.pgchd-phn.app/index.php/181471/lang/en/newtest/Y>. You can also send an email to [COVIDcare@co.pg.md.us](mailto:COVIDcare@co.pg.md.us) to request more information. A key component of avoiding transmission in your household seems to be ventilation – keeping the exhaled air from the infected person from getting into the uninfected. Open windows and cross-ventilation (when possible) are reported to be very effective. I know that not everyone is able to do this and am providing the information to help those of you who can make these adjustments.

Last but far from least, is that vaccination is still an important tool. While the vaccines are not as effective against Omicron as they were against previous variants, data from around the world suggests that a huge fraction of those hospitalized by this variant, around 90 %, were unvaccinated. Even though this variant is somewhat less severe than previous variants were, the much higher infection rate (4 to 5 times higher than previously seen) overwhelmed hospitals. Some hospitals were forced to turn sick people away, referring them to another hospital in the region. With a higher vaccination rate the hospitals might have been able to maintain levels of care during this wave of infections.

While I've heard about it for a while, I am becoming more concerned with medical symptoms that persist for weeks, months, or longer after an infection with COVID – what many are calling “long COVID.” Look for more on this in future reports as I learn more, but by itself the threat of long COVID should motivate everyone to avoid becoming infected.

With the encouragement of Council Member Faulx and town staff, I created a video explaining many of these ideas and published it on the town's YouTube page; there are versions in both English and Spanish. You can access those videos, and more, with the QR Code included in this report.



## Contact Me

If you have any questions or comments about any aspect of Town government, please contact me by e-mail ([akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov)) or phone (202-527-0309 – my town mobile number). I also monitor accounts on Facebook, Twitter (@RPMdMayor, it's my preferred social media site right now), 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 March, when spring will be closer. I'm *still* hoping for a better year in 2022. Take care, stay safe and warm until then!

## Town Office Extensions

- General Inquiries (301) 927-6381: ext. 500, 503
- Assistance in Spanish: ext. 500, 503
- Town Provided Services (Public Works): ext. 500, 503
- Permits and Licensing: ext. 500, 503
- Neighborhood (Code-related) Concerns: ext. 508, 514
- Business and Economic Development: ext. 509
- Accounts Payable: ext. 500
- Human Resources: ext. 507
- Town Clerk: ext. 505
- Police Department (Non-emergency): ext. 560





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

- ✓ Visit the Town's website for updates:  
[www.riverdaleparkmd.gov](http://www.riverdaleparkmd.gov)
- ✓ Check out what the Council is working on:  
[http://www.riverdaleparkmd.gov/government/meeting\\_agendas\\_and\\_minutes.php](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](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/](https://www.instagram.com/riverdaleparkmd_gov/)
  - Twitter: [https://twitter.com/Riverdale\\_Park\\_](https://twitter.com/Riverdale_Park_)
  - Youtube:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeaNS8-6xwTyPJculj7vuCQ>

## 2022 Dates to Remember

- Legislative Meeting: February 7, 2022, at 7 p.m.
- RPSC (Green Team) Meeting: February 9, 2022, at 7:30 p.m.
- Work Session: February 28, 2022, at 7 p.m.

- Legislative Meeting: March 7, 2022, at 7 p.m.
- State of the Town Presentation: March 14, 2022
- Work Session: March 28, 2022, at 7 p.m.
- Budget Public Hearing: April 9, 2022
- Budget Public Hearing: April 23, 2022

## Upcoming Virtual Meetings

### **February 7, 2022, at 7 p.m. Legislative Meeting and Public Hearing on Charter Amendment 2022-CR-01**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88529876721?pwd=VmxZM1VmZmRSNFV2OUZlOTZUOVZydz09>

Or call: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 885-2987-6721

Passcode: 579554

### **February 28, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. Special Legislative Meeting and Work Session**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88400234707?pwd=SFRSUW5xcXJHK3Q5dzFmMzNaMnhBUT09>

Or call: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 884-0023- 4707

Passcode: 579554

## FY2023 Budget Public Hearings

### **Saturday, April 9, 2022, at 9:30 a.m.**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83934913952?pwd=NU1kNjVXUm8rS0hWcklWcDBlVklJUT09>

Or call: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 839-3491-3952

Passcode: 579554

### **Saturday, April 23, 2022, at 9:30 a.m.**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81250484281?pwd=d2l0RmJSL1pFa2tyVzdkdVJEN3FJQT09>

Or call: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 812-5048-4281

Passcode: 579554



## Purple Line Construction Notices

Purple Line construction is well underway. Residents are encouraged to subscribe for updates via e-mail or text message. For the most accurate and up-to-date information, visit [purplelinemd.com](http://purplelinemd.com), find "Construction" and click on "Subscribe for Updates". The construction hotline is 240-424-5325.

## Neighborhood Services

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

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

Brad Goshen- [bgoshen@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:bgoshen@riverdaleparkmd.gov) or 301-927-6381 ext. 514

Tulip Nicol- [tnicol@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:tnicol@riverdaleparkmd.gov) or 301-927-6381 ext. 508

## Collection Reminders



### Residential Trash

Place residential trash in durable, leak-proof bags before placing it in containers. Close lid tightly to keep rainwater out to reduce spillage. Clean trash can regularly. Place trash can curbside

by 6:00 a.m. on Mondays and Thursdays or the night before collection.

### Yard Waste

Do NOT mix yard waste with household trash. Place yard waste in paper bags or in reusable bins marked as yard waste. Bundle branches and limbs with rope or string (do not use wire). Bundles

must be less than 4 feet long and less than 3 inches in diameter and weigh less than 60 pounds. Place yard waste curbside by 6:00 a.m. on Mondays or the night before collection.



### Recycling

As a reminder, NO PLASTIC BAGS ARE PERMITTED. Curbside recycling is provided by Prince George's County Department of the Environment. Please call

311 or 301-883-4748, if you have any questions or concerns about this service. Place recycling bins curbside by 6:00 a.m. on Wednesdays.





### Bulk Trash

Collection is by appointment only on Thursdays. Schedule collection by 12:00 p.m. on Wednesdays by calling 240-604-6077 or online at

[www.jedatruckinginc.com/book-online](http://www.jedatruckinginc.com/book-online). Please note that bulk trash collection is limited to three (3) items per week. Set out bulk trash scheduled for pickup by 6 a.m. on Thursday.



### Report a Concern

To report a concern, call 301-927-6381 or submit a request online. The Trash Concerns app can be used to order a new trash container, report missed collections

and report any other trash-related concerns. Visit [www.riverdaleparkmd.gov](http://www.riverdaleparkmd.gov) and click on the Trash Concerns icon.

### Disposing of Bamboo

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



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

## Let's Plan for Snow Season - Rules to Remember

The Department of Public Works is prepared 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

**Calvin Cafritz Enterprises is responsible for snow and ice removal from roadways in Riverdale Park Station.**

# 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.

## Winter Driving Safety Kit

Acting Chief of Police Rosa Guixens

The Riverdale Park Police Department (RPPD) reminds residents that it is important to take precautions before driving in hazardous conditions during the winter months. Winter car preparation is crucial to staying safe in cold weather emergencies on the road.

RPPD recommends residents keep the following items in a Winter Driving Safety Kit:

- Ice Scraper
- Shovel
- Gloves and Winter Clothing
- Blanket
- Emergency Flares
- First Aid Kit
- Cell Phone Charger
- Flashlight
- Water and Snacks
- Windshield Washer Fluid

Residents are also reminded to take valuables out of their cars or at minimum, to keep valuables hidden and out of sight. Always lock vehicles. During the cold winter months, area drivers may be tempted to warm up their cars while staying 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 that you won't be left out in the cold:

- Never leave your car running or the keys in the ignition when you 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 that 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.

The Maryland Transportation Article § 21-1101, Unattended Motor Vehicle, states, "...a person driving or otherwise in charge of a motor vehicle may not leave it unattended until the engine is stopped, the ignition locked, the key removed, and the brake effectively set."

The only exemption states, "...this section does not apply to a person who: is in charge of a motor vehicle that has had the engine started using a remote keyless ignition system and has been operating unattended for up to 5 consecutive minutes when the vehicle is not in motion; or allows a motor vehicle that is locked and is on private property not open to the public to operate unattended for up to 5 consecutive minutes when the vehicle is not in motion."

Violators are subject to a \$70.00 fine and one (1) point on their license. Help your police department help you; don't become a victim! Stay safe and warm!

## Maryland Homeowner Assistance Fund

The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development will be launching the Maryland Homeowners Assistance Fund in late 2021. The Fund

will be open to homeowners statewide. Visit the Maryland Homeowner Assistance Fund webpage to learn more about the program and the eligibility requirements.

<https://dhcd.maryland.gov/Residents/Pages/HomeownerAssistanceFund.aspx>

Complete an Expression of Interest Form and be added to the MD-DHCD's email list.

<https://dhcd.maryland.gov/Residents/Pages/HomeownerAssistanceFund/ExpressionofInterest.aspx>

If you are a homeowner who has fallen behind on your mortgage payments, getting help early in the process can mean the difference between saving your home and losing it to foreclosure. A housing counselor can help you understand your options based on your specific circumstances and can assist you with finding a solution that works best for you. *Contact a housing counselor today.* You can also call 1-877-462-7555 to find a state-approved nonprofit agency that can provide individual guidance to homeowners facing foreclosure.

## Water Bill Assistance

The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) has resumed water service turnoffs. WSSC Water is encouraging customers that need assistance to establish convenient payment plans or apply for financial assistance to prevent a water service turnoff.

Contact WSSC Water at 301-206-4001 Monday to Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. For more information, visit the WSSC Water website

[https://www.wsscwater.com/assistance?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.wsscwater.com/assistance?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).

## What is the COVID Care Program?

The Prince George's County Health Department's COVID Care Program is for residents who have been exposed to COVID-19 or who are COVID-19 positive. The program will help people:

- With social service needs, including:
  - Connecting to health insurance, medical care, and mental health care at a Federally Qualified Health Center
  - Food
  - Living situation

- Utilities
- Transportation, and other needs
- With isolation and quarantine:
  - The County will deliver COVID Care Kits to the homes of people who consent
  - COVID Care Kits include PPE, cleaning supplies, tissues, toilet paper, and educational materials
  - Food insecure residents will also receive a 2-week supply of food, including fresh produce, canned goods, and kitchen staples like bread, tortillas, and rice

If you are aware of Prince George's County residents who have tested positive for or who were exposed to COVID-19 and need services, please refer them to the COVID Care Program at

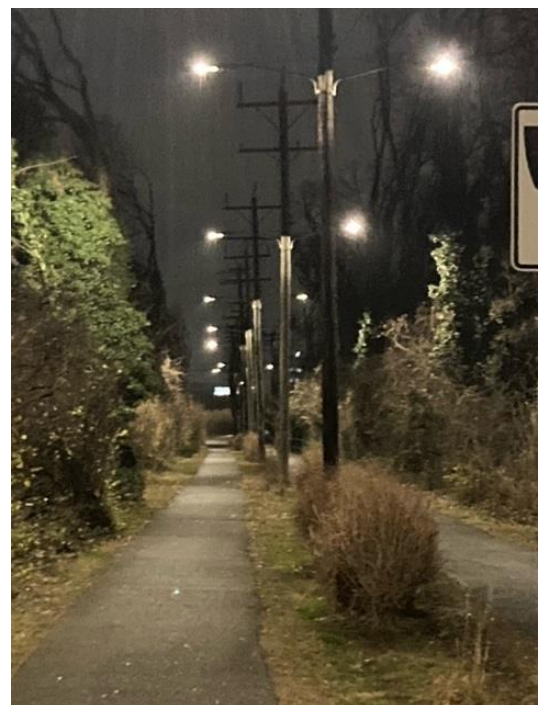
<https://assess.pgchd-phn.app/index.php/181471/lang/en/newtest/Y>

Questions? [COVIDcare@co.pg.md.us](mailto:COVIDcare@co.pg.md.us)

People who qualify will be contacted by a Community Health Worker from the Prince George's Healthcare Alliance. Please encourage those you refer to answer the phone when they receive a call.

## Trolley Trail Lighting Update

Phase One of the Trolley Trail is near completion. Lights installed to date are lit! Take a look at the lighted Trolley Trail below:





# Festival of Lights

## Virtual Photo Contest

### WINNERS



**1st place**

5404  
Powhatan  
Street



**2nd place**

4910  
Queensbury  
Road

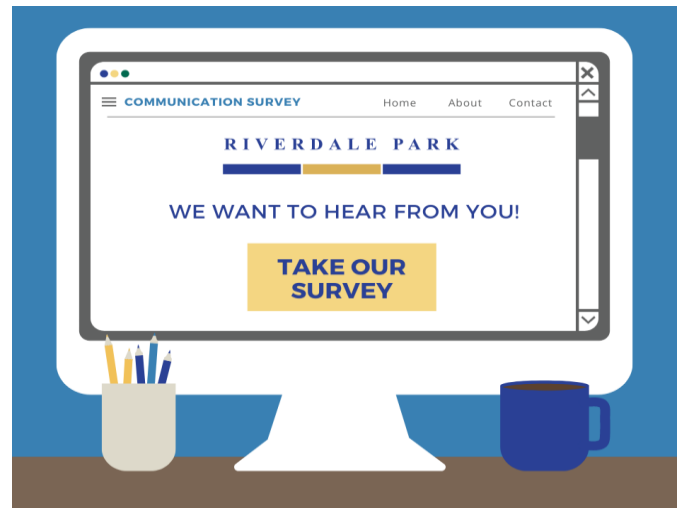


**3rd place**

4908  
Somerset  
Road

## Congratulations Winners!

Thank you to all who  
participated in the contest!



We Want to Hear from You: The Town of Riverdale Park needs your insight to improve the delivery of information from the Town. In our shared support of small in Town businesses, \$10 digital gift cards are being offered to residents of the Town of Riverdale Park who complete the Communications Survey (while supplies last and one gift card per household). The Communications Survey can be found here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TRPCrierSurvey>




*Be a good neighbor...*  
**shovel your sidewalk**

Give a helping hand to  
elderly or disabled  
neighbors by assisting  
them with their sidewalk  
snow clean-up.



# February 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Recycling Collection MUTC Meeting 7:30 p.m.	3 Trash Collection Farmer's Market 3 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. (Town Center)	4 Train Stop Tunes Town Center Market 7 p.m.	5
6	7 Trash and Yard Waste Collection  Public Hearing and Legislative Meeting 7 p.m.	8	9 Recycling Collection  RPSC (Green Team) Meeting 7:30 p.m.	10 Trash Collection Farmer's Market 3 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. (Town Center)	11 Train Stop Tunes Town Center Market 7 p.m.	12
13	14 Trash and Yard Waste Collection  Valentine's Day 	15	16 Recycling Collection	17 Trash Collection Farmer's Market 3 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. (Town Center)	18 Train Stop Tunes Town Center Market 7 p.m.	19 Bulk Trash Drop Off 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
20	21 Town Hall and DPW Services Closed	22	23 Recycling Collection	24 Trash Collection Farmer's Market 3 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. (Town Center)	25 Train Stop Tunes Town Center Market 7 p.m.	26
27	28 Work Session 7 p.m. Trash and Yard Waste Collection	<p>Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Municipal Center Renovation project, public meetings are being held via Zoom.</p> <p>If you have any questions about how to participate in a public meeting or need assistance, please contact the Town Clerk at 301-927-6381 (extension 505).</p>				

--	--	--