

The Riverdale Park Town Crier

A Welcoming Community, Come Grow with Us!

June 2023						
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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. (MWF)

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

Police Department 5004 Queensbury Road 301-927-4343 24-hours

May 1, 2023

Town Election Results

<u>Mayor</u>

Alan Thompson 221 Votes

3 Write-in Votes

1 Provisional Ballot

<u>Council, Ward 1</u>

Richard Smith 74 Votes

Council, Ward 2

Aaron Faulx 57 Votes

2 Write-in Votes

1 Write-in Votes 1 Provisional Ballot

Council, Ward 3

David Lingua 22 Votes

Council, Ward 4

Ifiok Inyang 43 Votes

No Write-in Votes

No Write-in Votes

Council, Ward 5

Council, Ward 6

16 Write-in Votes for Karen Mejia

Foday Kallon 4 Votes



Sarah Zolad, Chief Election Judge Anne Kelly, Deputy Chief Election Judge Riverdale Park Board of Elections

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

Mayor

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

Council Members

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

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

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

Ward 4 – Ifiok Inyang, 202-845-6251 iinyang@riverdaleparkmd.gov

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

Ward 6 – Foday Kallon, 202-527-2637 fkallon@riverdaleparkmd.gov

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

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

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

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

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

> Rosa Guixens, **Chief of Police** rguixens@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Fire Department - Emergency 911

Information - 301-927-0356 Brian Carpio, **Fire Chief** Eng7twr@yahoo.com; Info@riverdalevfd.com; www.riverdalevfd.com

The Town Crier is also available on the Town's Website: www.riverdaleparkmd.gov Submission deadline: 15th of each month Send submissions to: towncrier@riverdaleparkmd.gov

2023 Dates to Remember

Legislative Meeting (Mayor & Council Swearing In)

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

Work Session

June 12, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.

Juneteenth

June 19, 2023 - Town Hall and DPW Operations Closed

Independence Day

July 4, 2023—Town Hall and DPW Operations Closed

Upcoming Virtual Meetings

June 5, 2023, Swearing-in of Mayor and Council and Legislative Meeting at 7:30 p.m. Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88088619365? pwd=ZUwyR3F5V3hWYitNVUNJTUtwV3JwQT09

Or call: 301-715-8592 Meeting ID: 880-8861-9365 Passcode: 20230414

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BIB	

June 12, 2023, Council Work Session at 7:30 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87157221948? pwd=Yml4SFViekptU3U4QkJmNWJza05GQT09 Or call: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 871-5722-1948 Passcode: 23414

Town Office Extensions

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

Council Actions Special Legislative Meeting April 24, 2023

Legislative Action Items

- Introduction of Ordinance 2023-OR-06 regarding FY2024 Operating and CIP Budget and Tax Rates -Introduced
- Motion to authorize Town Manager to enter into an agreement with Accubuild Construction, Inc. for \$1,172,876 for Municipal Center Renovations CIP Project #18GG01- *Approved*
- Motion to repeal and replace Resolution 2023-R-08 regarding the Board of Election Appeals— Approved
- Motion regarding participation in Maryland Department of Agriculture Mosquito Control Program - *Approved*

New Business

 Motion to adopt Resolution 2023-R-10 regarding Authorization of Signs in Town Right-of-Way -Approved

Legislative Meeting

May 1, 2023

Legislative Action Item

 Motion to approve Town election results for May 1, 2023 - Approved

Special Legislative Meeting May 2, 2023

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve consent agenda items:

1. Minutes: March 27, 2023, Special Legislative Meeting; April 22, 2023, Budget Public Hearing

Legislative Action Items

1. Motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-OR-04 regarding Chapter 75 Stormwater Management - *Adopted*

Introduction of Ordinance 2023-OR-07 regarding
54th Place Removal of Deed Restriction - *Introduced*

3. Introduction of Ordinance 2023-OR-08 regarding Riverdale Park Station Infrastructure Transfer - *Introduced*

 Introduction of Ordinance 2023-OR-09 regarding Amendment of FY2023 Budget - *Introduced*

New Business

1. Motion to send a letter regarding MARC train service at Riverdale Park Town Center station - Approved

Fair Summaries

FAIR SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE 2023-OR-07 CLOSING 54TH PLACE ALLEY

This is to give notice that the Riverdale Park Town Council has introduced and intends to take action on Ordinance 2023-OR-07. Ordinance 2023-OR-07 would authorize the abandonment and closing of a certain 30' wide alley in the vicinity of 54th Place in the Town of Riverdale Park as a public road; authorize the alley to be removed from the Town's public roads inventory; and all matters generally related to the closing of a certain alley as a public road. Ordinance 2023-OR-07 is available for inspection by the public on the Town's website www.riverdaleparkmd.gov, by email request to community_input@riverdaleparkmd.gov, or by calling 301-927-6381.

FAIR SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE 2023-OR-08 RIVERDALE PARK STATION

This is to give notice that the Riverdale Park Town Council has introduced and intends to take action on Ordinance 2023-OR-08. Ordinance 2023-OR-08 would accept certain public streets and public infrastructure in the Riverdale Park Station development.

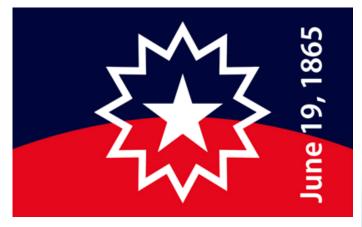
Ordinance 2023-OR-08 is available for inspection by the public on the Town's website

www.riverdaleparkmd.gov, by email request to community_input@riverdaleparkmd.gov, or by calling 301-927-6381.

FAIR SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE 2023-OR-09 AMENDMENT OF FY2023 BUDGET

This is to give notice that the Riverdale Park Town Council has introduced and intends to take action on Ordinance 2023-OR-09. Ordinance 2023-OR-09 would amend the Town's FY2023 Operating & Capital Improvement Budget by recognizing and appropriating certain revenues in excess of those anticipated for purposes related to automated speed enforcement; and generally, relate to amendment of the Town's FY2023 budget. Ordinance 2023-OR-09 is available for inspection by the public on the Town's website www.riverdaleparkmd.gov, by email request to community_input@riverdaleparkmd.gov, or by calling 301-927-6381.

Juneteenth



Juneteenth ("June Nineteenth") marks the day when federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, in 1865, to take control of the state and ensure all enslaved people were freed. The troops' arrival came a full two-and -a-half years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. Juneteenth honors the end to slavery in the US and is considered the longest-running African American holiday. On June 17, 2021, it officially became a federal holiday. Today Juneteenth commemorates African American freedom and emphasizes education and achievements. It's a time for reflection, rejoicing, assessment, self improvement, and for planning the future! Celebrate with M-NCPPC on:

Saturday, June 17, 2023 12 noon-5 pm Watkins Regional Park 301 Watkins Park Drive Upper Marlboro, MD 20774





- @RiverdaleParkMD
- @Riverdale_Park_

You

- @RiverdaleParkMD_gov
 - @Town of Riverdale Park

Mosquito Control Program

The Town will participate in the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Mosquito Control Program this year. Spray season began at the end of May and is anticipated to end in mid-September.



Spraying will take place after dark on **Tuesdays** and may continue until midnight or later. Spraying will commence as soon as it is dark. As a <u>precaution</u>, it is advised that residents stay inside their homes and close their windows while the spray truck is in the vicinity, bring in any pets, and remain in the home for 20-30 minutes after the spray truck has passed by. If there are people outside when the truck passes by, no spray will be released, and the truck will not make another pass down that street.

The spray schedule will rotate every 3 weeks meaning that Riverdale Park may not be sprayed each week. The frequency of spraying will be determined by surveillance data collected and complaints received. In order to determine if your community will be sprayed on its scheduled spray night, please contact <u>301-422-5080</u> between 2-4 p.m. that day. Any unscheduled sprayings will be announced on the Maryland Department of Agriculture's webpage <u>www.mda.maryland.gov</u> or on

Twitter <u>@MdAgMosquito</u> and <u>@MdAgDept</u>.

For more information regarding the Department of Agriculture's Mosquito Control Program, visit <u>http://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Pages/</u> mosquito_control.aspx.

As a reminder, to reduce the presence of mosquitos, residents must keep their property free of mosquitos breeding containers, stagnant water, bird baths, wading pools, pet watering dishes, tin cans, old tires, clogged gutters or flowerpots. Other water holding containers should be stored upside down.

To file a complaint about mosquitos, contact the Maryland Department of Agriculture at 301-422-5080 or file a complaint online via the MDA website (listed above).

To request an exemption from the spraying program or for more information about an exemption, visit <u>https://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Documents/</u> MosquitoControlExemptionForm.pdf



Mayor Thompson's Message—June 2023

The spring has been cool so far, but summer is arriving this month and there have been a few deliciously warm days. With that weather we can expect more and more produce at the Farmers Market, and long June days with late sunsets to enjoy that food – it's a glorious time of year!

Elections

Elections were held on May 1, and the new Council will be sworn in on June 5. I welcome new members Ifiok Inyang, who represents the redrawn Ward 4 and Foday Kallon, who

represents Ward 6 (the boundaries of Ward 6 are fairly similar to the old ward). And I'm pleased to be serving another term, along with Richard Smith (Ward 1), Aaron Faulx (Ward 2), David Lingua (Ward 3), and Karen Mejia (Ward 5). A total of 224 voters turned out, mostly voting in-person. Many thanks to all who came out, especially when there were no uncontested seats!

A lot of people worked hard to make the election happen, and I want to thank them as well. Town staff from every department, spearheaded by Director of Administrative Services Jessica Barnes, worked tirelessly to keep everything running smoothly. Central to the effort was the Board of Elections, with Chief Judge Sarah Zolad and Deputy Chief Judge Kate Kelley leading the Board Members and non-Board election judges before and on election day. The Board of Election appeals was not called into action, but those volunteers stood ready to serve and I appreciate them being there. A few days after the election I had a great conversation with Chief Judge Zolad and know that the Board has plans for improving registration and outreach in the years to come (though they'll take a month to catch their collective breath, having completed the election). I personally and officially appreciate the efforts of all of those involved.

Budget

Barring a big surprise, the budget will be adopted by the time you see this. We responded to the inflation that's been in the news by providing a good-sized cost of living increase to our staff, but have kept the property tax rate unchanged (as we have for over a decade). We have now allocated almost all of the American Rescue Plan Act funds that we received from the federal government and are planning projects to ensure we spend it within the mandated time frames.

COVID-19

Both the United States and the World Health Organization ended the COVID-19 public health emergency in May. While the number of cases is down (and will appear to drop even more in the weeks ahead since testing is no longer free), the virus is not gone, and all of us can still get sick. I will continue to encourage caution and safe behavior as science learns more about long COVID, and I'm excited to see that the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is starting to advocate for clean air in public places – if policies to ensure clean air are implemented, the chances of a rebound of COVID will be greatly reduced (and the number of flu and cold cases will drop as well). As I did last month, I would recommend opening your windows and socializing outdoors! As al-ways, wearing a mask when you can helps reduce the chance of infection. Stay safe and healthy!

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 town mobile number). I also monitor accounts on Mastodon (@RPMdMayor@forall.social, my preferred social media site right now), Facebook, Twitter (@RPMdMayor), and Instagram. I will get back to you as quickly as I can, but please remember that while I love being Mayor, I have a full-time job elsewhere 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. I'll be back here in July as we head into the summer break. Take care and stay safe until then!



Alan Thompson, Mayor



Before you dig. Every dig. MISS

Call MISS UTILITY at 811 or visit www.missutility.net

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. 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 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.

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, <u>www.riverdaleparkmd.gov</u>, under Town Code and TRP's Vision and Commitment Statements.

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

Stephen Smith- <u>ssmith@riverdaleparkmd.gov</u> or 301-927-6381 ext. 508

Jermaine Dixon- jdixon@riverdaleparkmd.gov or 301-927-6381 ext. 514



Better Ways to Reach You

Over the coming months we will begin to transition to Constant Contact, a communication platform that will provide more functionality. In order to make sure that you receive important updates from us, we need to collect some information to build our database. Feel free to scan the QR Code below or register at https:// forms.gle/kcKKnfJF2LpJUaqm7.



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-todate information, visit purplelinemd.com, find "Construction" and click on "Subscribe for Updates". The construction hotline is 240-424-5325.



Legal Aid

If you need assistance, please call Maryland Legal Aid at 410-951-7750. https://www.mdlab.org/get-helpservices/





TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK

RENTAL LICENSES

TOWN RENTAL LICENSE APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY JULY 1, 2023

Applications available at:

www.riverdaleparkmd.gov

Contact us:

301-927-6381 licenses@riverdaleparkmd.gov







Rental Properties in Town

Guidelines for Property Owners

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

SPEEDING ENDANGERS EVERYONE ON THE ROAD

The speed limit in Town is 20 mph

DRIVING SAFETY TIPS

Stay focused and alert

Come to full stops at red lights and stop signs

Don't follow others too closely

Allow more time for traveling

TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK



SPEED

IMIT

SLOW

DOWN

TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK

A C C E S S O R Y S T R U C T U R E G R A N T P R O G R A M

Repair or Replace your old fence, shed, or

detached garage with a grant from the

Town of Riverdale Park!

This matching grant program aids Town residents seeking to demolish, improve, repair, and /or replace accessory structures on their property, which includes, fences, detached garages, sheds, and certain walls.

Applications available at

www.riverdaleparkmd.gov

For more information, please call 301-927-6381

or email development@riverdaleparkmd.gov

TROLLEY TRAIL DAY SAVE THE DATE



FUN RUN BIKE RIDE LOCAL MUSIC KIDS ACTIVITIES FOOD & DRINK & MORE!

COLLEGE PARK • RIVERDALE PARK • HYATTSVILLE College Park City-University Partnership • Maryland Milestones/ATHA Inc. • Hyattsville CDC Schedule at collegeparkpartnership.org/trolleytrailday Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Municipal Center Renovation project, public meetings are being held via Zoom.

June 2023

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).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
] Farmer's Market Town Center 3pm-6:30pm Trash Collection	2 Train Stop Tunes Town Center 5pm-7pm	3
4	5 Legislative Meeting 7:30 PM Trash & Yard Waste Collection	6	7 Recycling Collection	8 Farmer's Market Town Center 3pm-6:30pm Trash Collection	9 Train Stop Tunes Town Center 5pm-7pm	10 Trolley Trail Day Town Center 12pm– 4pm
11	12 Work Session 7:30 PM	13 RPSC (Green Team) 7:30 PM	14 Recycling Collection	15 Farmer's Market Town Center 3pm-6:30pm Trash Collection	ا 6 Train Stop Tunes Town Center 5pm-7pm	17 Bulk Trash Drop-Off
18 Father's Day	19 Juneteenth	20	21 Recycling Collection	22 Farmer's Market Town Center 3pm-6:30pm Trash Collection	23 Train Stop Tunes Town Center 5pm-7pm	24
25	26 Trash & Yard Waste Collection	27 Mosquito Spraying	28 Recycling Collection	29 Farmer's Market Town Center 3pm-6:30pm Trash Collection	30 Train Stop Tunes Town Center 5pm-7pm	
		Notes Town Hall will be open for in-person services on Mondays – Wednesdays – Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Please note that Town Hall will be closed on Mon- days, Wednesdays & Fridays from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. for lunch. Services are also available Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. via phone at 301-927-6381, via email at community_input@riverdaleparkmd.gov, and online at www.riverdaleparkmd.gov. If you need immediate assistance at any time, please call 301-927-6381.				

PRSRT STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID HYATTSVILLE, MD

POSTAL PATRON RIVERDALE PARK, MARYLAND 20737

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

Important Phone Numbers

<u>Comcast</u>: www.comcast.com Customer service: 1-800-934-6489

Pepco: www.pepco.com To report an outage: 1-877-737-2662 Customer service: 202-833-7500

Prince George's County: www.princegeorgescountymd.gov Animal Control: 301-780-7200 Assessments: 301-952-2500 Parks and Recreation (maintenance): 301-918-4700 Permitting, Licenses and Enforcement: 301-636-2000

Public Works and Transportation: 301-883-5650

<u>Prince George's County Public Schools</u>: www.pgcps.org Riverdale Elementary: 301-985-1850 William Wirt Middle School: 301-985-1720 Bladensburg High School: 301-887-6700 Parkdale High School: 301-513-5700

Verizon: www.verizon.com

<u>Washington Gas</u>: www.washingtongas.com To report a gas leak: 703-750-1400 or 800-752-7520 Customer Service: 703-750-1000

Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC):

www.wsscwater.com To report a water main break or sewage backup: 301-206-4002 Customer service: 301-206-4001 or 1-800-634-8400



Local Organizations

<u>Northern County Soccer Alliance</u> NCSA@soccer.net or 301-577-3559

<u>Riverdale Park Boy Scout Troop 252</u> Scoutmaster Bob Killen at 301-483-8455

Madison Hill Homeowners Association 301-583-8857

Riversdale Historical Society 301-864-0420

<u>Riverdale Park Farmer's Market</u> Jim Coleman at 301-586-5973

<u>Riverdale Park Business Association</u> www.shoplocalriverdalepark.com

<u>Riverdale Park Arts</u> Samuel Williams, Jr. at 909-380-4231

Riversdale Chamber Music Society

Robert DiLutis at rdilutis@umd.edu or www.riversdalechambermusic.com