



# The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

## March 2021

### Volume 50, Issue 2

Election Notice	Page 1
Election Notice (Spanish)	Page 2
Council Actions	Page 2
Fair Summary	Page 3
Mayor's Report	Page 3
Ward 2 Report	Page 5
Stay-Up-To-Date	Page 6
Virtual Meetings	Page 6
Budget Calendar	Page 7
Dates to Remember	Page 7
Town Extensions	Page 7
Town Election News	Page 7
Neighborhood Services	Page 8
Emergency Repair Grant	Page 8
Collection Reminders	Page 9
Riverdale Park Arts	Page 10
Buy Nothing Project	Page 10
Tax Assistance	Page 11
Burton's Grill	Page 11
Tree Giveaway	Page 12
Covid-19 Vaccine	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

### **Bates Trucking and Trash Collection**

301-773-2069

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

# 5.3.21



## ELECTION NOTICE

In compliance with the Charter of the Town of Riverdale Park, Maryland, an election will be held on Monday, May 3, 2021, to elect the Mayor and Council.

Voting will take place on **Monday, May 3, 2021** at **Riverdale Park Town Hall (5008 Queensbury Road)**. Polls will be open from **7 a.m. to 8 p.m.**

Residents may also vote by mail (or ballot dropbox) by requesting an Absentee Ballot.

Absentee ballot applications are available at [www.riverdaleparkmd.gov](http://www.riverdaleparkmd.gov) by e-mail request to [TownElection@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:TownElection@riverdaleparkmd.gov), or by calling **301-927-6381 (ext. 505)**. Absentee ballot applications must be received by Friday, April 23, 2021.

Candidates for office must file a Petition for Elective Office and a Financial Disclosure Statement with the Election Judges no later than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 8, 2021, to have their names placed on the official ballot.

Petitions for Elective Office and Financial Disclosure Statements are available on the Town's website, [www.riverdaleparkmd.gov](http://www.riverdaleparkmd.gov), by e-mail request to [TownElection@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:TownElection@riverdaleparkmd.gov) or by calling **301-927-6381 (ext. 505)**. There is a \$25.00 filing fee for all candidates.

All residents sixteen years of age or older, who have resided in the Town of Riverdale Park for 45 days or more preceding Monday, May 3, 2021 (March 19, 2021 to May 2, 2021), will be entitled to vote.

More information regarding how to register to vote is available on the Town's website [www.riverdaleparkmd.gov](http://www.riverdaleparkmd.gov). Same day voter registration will also be available on Election Day, Monday, May 3, 2021.



## AVISO DE ELECCIÓN

En cumplimiento con la carta de la ciudad de Riverdale Park, Maryland, se llevará a cabo una elección el lunes 3 de mayo de 2021, para elegir al alcalde y al consejo.

La votación ocurrirá el **lunes, 3 de mayo de 2021** en el **ayuntamiento de la ciudad de Riverdale Park (5008 Queensbury Road)**. Las urnas estarán abiertas de **7 a.m. a 8 p.m.**

Los votantes también pueden votar por correo (o buzón de votación) solicitando una boleta de voto en ausencia.

Las solicitudes de boleta de voto en ausencia están disponibles en [www.riverdaleparkmd.gov](http://www.riverdaleparkmd.gov), por correo electrónico a [TownElection@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:TownElection@riverdaleparkmd.gov) o llamando al **301-927-6381 (ext. 505)**. Las solicitudes de boleta de voto en ausencia deben recibirse antes del viernes 23 de abril de 2021.

Los candidatos deben presentar una petición de oficina electiva y una declaración de divulgación financiera con los jueces electorales en el ayuntamiento a más tardar a las 5:00 p.m. del jueves 8 de abril de 2021, para que sus nombres sean colocados en la boleta oficial.

Las peticiones para cargos electivos y declaraciones de divulgación financiera están disponibles en el sitio web de la ciudad, [www.riverdaleparkmd.gov](http://www.riverdaleparkmd.gov), por correo electrónico a [TownElection@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:TownElection@riverdaleparkmd.gov) o llamando al **301-927-6381 (ext. 505)**. Hay una tarifa de presentación de \$25.00 para todos los candidatos.

Todos los residentes de dieciséis años de edad o más, que hayan residido en la ciudad de Riverdale Park durante 45 días o más antes del lunes 3 de mayo de 2021 (19 de marzo de 2021 al 2 de mayo de 2021), tendrán derecho a votar.

Más información sobre cómo registrarse para votar está disponible en el sitio web de la ciudad [www.riverdaleparkmd.gov](http://www.riverdaleparkmd.gov). El registro de votantes el mismo día también estará disponible el día de las elecciones, el lunes 3 de mayo de 2021.

## Council Actions

### February 1, 2021 Legislative Meeting

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

1. Minutes: December 21, 2020 Special Legislative Meeting; December 7, 2020 Legislative Meeting; November 30, 2020 Work Session

Legislative Action Items:

1. Motion to re-appoint members of the Board of Code Appeals - **Approved**
2. Motion regarding curb cut request for 5910 Cleveland Avenue - **Approved**
3. Motion to adopt of Ordinance 2021-OR-01 regarding the 2021 Town Election - **Adopted**
4. Introduction of Ordinance 2021-OR-02 regarding 2021 Election Procedures - **Introduced**
5. Introduction of Ordinance 2021-OR-03 regarding Budget Amendment to reflect CARES Act funding - **Introduced**

## 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** – Marsha Dixon, 301-531-4230  
[mdixon@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:mdixon@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** – Christopher Henry, 301-910-9855  
[chenry@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:chenry@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

**Ward 5** – Colleen Richardson, 240-646-6457  
[crichardson@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:crichardson@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

**Ward 6** – Hala Mayers, 301-927-6381  
[hmayers@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:hmayers@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

### Administration

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

Jessica Barnes, **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)

David Morris, **Chief of Police**  
[dmorris@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:dmorris@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)

# 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](http://www.riverdaleparkmd.gov), or by e-mail request to [community\\_input@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto: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-02**

This is to give notice that the Riverdale Park Town Council has introduced and intends to take action on Ordinance 2021-OR-02.

Ordinance 2021-OR-02 would eliminate obsolete references to provisions of the Annotated Code of Maryland relating to the conduct of certain elections; authorize the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chief Election Judge, to establish and modify certain provisions and procedures applicable to the conduct of municipal elections in the Town of Riverdale Park, including provisions and procedures relating to the use of absentee ballots; and generally relate to modifications to provisions and procedures for the conduct of municipal elections in the Town of Riverdale Park.

## **ORDINANCE 2021-OR-03**

This is to give notice that the Riverdale Park Town Council has introduced and intends to take action on Ordinance 2021-OR-03.

Ordinance 2021-OR-03 would amend the adopted operating budget for the Town of Riverdale Park for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020, and ending June 30, 2021, to recognize U.S. Cares Act grant funds and appropriate such grant funds to the Town's Economic Development Fund; and generally related to amendment of the Town's FY 2021 operating budget.

## **ORDINANCE 2021-OR-04**

This is to give notice that the Riverdale Park Town Council has introduced and intends to take action on Ordinance 2021-OR-04.

Ordinance 2021-OR-04 would amend the adopted capital budget for the Town of Riverdale Park for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020, and ending June 30, 2021, to increase transfer from the General Fund to the Capital Improvement Project Fund, and to increase the Capital Improvement Project expenses by a corresponding amount; and generally relate to amendment of the Town's FY 2021 capital budget.

Ordinances 2021-OR-02, 2021-OR-03, 2021-OR-04 are 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.

## **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Alan K. Thompson

February sure was cold – I hope you all stayed warm, and I hope glorious spring weather arrives in March!

## **COVID-19**

I am amazed every month to look back on my previous article and see how much has changed, and how much is still the same. The good news as I write this article is that infection rates, hospitalizations, and deaths are all dropping quickly from the mid-January high, which was when I was last writing. Thank you to everyone who stayed home, stayed safe, wore a mask (or two!), avoided gatherings, and washed your hands. This success belongs to all of us who did that – let's keep it up.

### **COVID-19: Vaccine distribution**

In February's Town Crier I wrote with optimism about the rollout of vaccines, and anticipated better supply. While the supply is better, the rollout here in Maryland has been troubled. The situation is changing so fast that I don't even dare write about it here, but I do recommend following the updates from County Executive Alsobrooks (and all on her COVID-19 team) and our local County Council Representative Dannielle Glaros (her weekly newsletter is packed with all sorts of good information.) You can also contact me if you have questions. At the moment, and this will probably be true for at least a few months, put your name on a "vaccine wanted" list from as many providers as you can, and pick up the phone/check your email/listen for a text and jump on the first opportunity you can. I found out this evening that at this moment there are 125,000 people on the waiting list in Prince George's County, and the County is getting only a thousand doses of vaccine each day....but that can change in a moment. (And the FDA is scheduled to meet later this month to decide whether to approve the Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccine; if approved, it would drastically expand the supply).

Just so you know, I was vaccinated shortly after writing my last Town Crier article, and will get my second dose soon. As I predicted last month, my body's response was similar to any vaccine: I had a sore arm and felt a little tired for a few days. I'll let you know how the second dose went in next month's report (or look for me on social media)!

### **COVID-19: Variants**

The good news reported above is balanced by the bad news that there are many new variants of the coronavirus, and at least some of them appear to be much, much easier to transmit. That means that behavior that was safe before (for example, standing six-feet away from someone for 15 minutes or less) may no longer be safe when the new variants arrive. You may need to be further apart, spend less time, or wear a better mask. The technical names for these variants describe the changes from the "standard" coronavirus that causes COVID-19, but you've probably heard about them by where they were first observed: B.1.351, first observed in South Africa, P.1, first observed in Brazil, and B.1.1.7, which is now the most common variant in the United Kingdom (so "U.K."). These are the variants that are in the news today, but there are some other variants that you may hear about soon, including

B.1.429 and B.1.427, which are spreading quickly in California.

The public health people I track seem most concerned with B.1.1.7/UK, which seems to be up to 50% more contagious than current strains – almost all of the COVID-19 cases in parts of Europe are now this variety, and a few dozen cases have already been recorded in Maryland. Dr. Peter Hotez, a vaccine expert and microbiologist, went so far as to say that the B.1.1.7 variant is "almost like a new epidemic in the US."

There is still good news though, which is (1) the currently-approved vaccines, and the expected-to-be-approved-soon vaccine from J&J, *are effective* against these variants. The vaccines are not as effective against these new variants as against the early-to-mid 2020 variants, but there are still 0 (zero!) serious cases or deaths from these variants for people who have completed the vaccination protocol (including a few weeks after the second dose). And, in South Africa, where vaccines are in much shorter supply than here, cases from the B.1.351 variant have been brought under control by (you might guess the answer) masks, social distancing, avoiding gatherings and poorly-ventilated public places, and hand washing. Continue to take these actions (be more careful, even!), get vaccinated as soon as you can (while waiting for your turn!), and together we will get COVID-19 under control!

### **COVID-19: School Re-openings**

Given the new highly-contagious variants of the coronavirus, I do not know why we are rushing to re-open schools, but we seem to be doing it. While there have been successful re-openings of schools elsewhere (when the schools were operating with strict anti-transmission policies, and community spread was lower than we are seeing now), it was not with these new variants circulating. I have suggested to State health authorities that they should have "rapid response teams" for our schools that are similar to what they had in place for nursing homes last May, and I hope they will take my advice. Prince George's County Public Schools CEO, Monica Goldson, has announced that our public schools will implement a hybrid learning schedule in April. In this model, students will be allowed to split their time between in-person and remote learning, if they choose to. I *hope* they will insure that all the teachers and staff are fully vaccinated before they are asked to return to the classroom.

## **Carjackings, Murders**

In all my years of writing for the Town Crier, this is the hardest part of an article I have ever had to write.

I don't know exactly where to start, so I'll start with facts: there have been two murders in town so far this year, both associated with carjackings. The first was in early January, and the second on February 12. Because there are ongoing investigations there are not many more details that are available, except that neither victim was a resident of Riverdale Park, though I doubt that is any comfort to their families.

In response to these murders (which seem to be part of a nationwide flare up of carjackings), the Council, Town staff, police department, and volunteers are working quickly to reduce the chances of another carjacking, and especially another murder, from happening. We are considering education programs for all residents of town on how to reduce your chances of being carjacked, and how to survive if it happens (let them take your car and anything else they want, as a start). We are looking to accelerate deployment of technology (already in our long-range budget) so that criminals *know* they are likely to be identified and brought to justice if they commit crimes in our town. We are concentrating police resources and patrols in the neighborhoods where carjackings are happening. And, we are asking all of you to call the police with information when you see a crime being committed, or if you think something suspicious is going on.

None of these actions will guarantee an end to carjackings and violence, but we must work to make our town safer for residents and visitors.

## **Elections**

As I said last month, town elections are now on the not-too-far horizon (May 3). The Town Council is working on election-related legislation (some housekeeping work on the Town Charter to remove a reference to a section of state election law that no longer exists, routine legislation setting the time and date of the elections (adopted in February), and changes to elections procedures to allow easier absentee voting (as happened in the general election to improve COVID-19 safety). Stay tuned for more!

## **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 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'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 April, when hopefully there will be good news to share. Take care and stay safe until then!

# **Ward 2 Report**

CM Aaron Faulx

## **Recent violence in RP**

There is a recent rash of violence that has been occurring across the entire Washington Metro area. Riverdale Park has not been spared from this violence. In the last few months, we have had multiple carjackings, some of which resulting in homicide. At our February 22<sup>nd</sup> Special Legislative Meeting the Mayor and Council will consider introduction of budget amendments that will expedite projects aimed to improve lighting and provide neighborhood safety cameras in areas most impacted by this violence. I will be supporting these amended budget actions to improve the likelihood of safety for all of Riverdale Park. We must ensure safety and security within the entirety of our community.

## **State of the Parks**

During the pandemic, Mara and I have had the opportunity to walk most mornings. We have incredible park space in Riverdale Park. From Riverdale Park in Ward 1, the Riverdale Recreation Area in Ward 2, to Riverside Drive Park which covers multiple wards, we have an abundance of recreational space for our residents. That space, however, isn't activated the way that it should be. One view of our parks would lead you to believe that Riverdale Park is the baseball capital of Maryland. We have the space to have so many more and diverse amenities. What we don't have is the collective voice that may achieve these necessary changes. The Council has lobbied Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC) for the past two years to try and increase amenities in our park space with very limited success. I am calling on our shared community to start to organize to lobby

MNCPPC for improvements into our local parks. We are lucky to have an abundance of space. Our parks will be easily accessible from multiple purple line stops and trail systems. We have all the ingredients for a remarkable park system in our own backyard. I envision our parks with increased amenities like functioning restrooms, improved basketball courts, new futsal courts, bocci, pickleball courts, community gardens, pollinator gardens and greenspace, etc. An activated and utilized park system only increases the desire for people to live in our community. Let's spend the next couple of years finding our collective voice and bringing better amenities to our park system for all our residents to enjoy! Let's emphasize the Park in Riverdale Park!

### **Lafayette Underpass Project**

The Neighborhood Design Center (NDC) will be hosting a virtual charrette in the upcoming weeks to bring together ideas for the area. We do not have a date yet confirmed for when this will occur so please pay attention to the town website for updates. You can also email me at [afaulx@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:afaulx@riverdaleparkmd.gov). The Lafayette Underpass Improvement Project is a high yield project in my opinion. Currently, it is an eye sore that needs some attention and love. It marks an entrance into our Town Center area and offers a tremendous opportunity for creating a space that can help welcome people into our incredible town.

### **New Mural in Town**

I just wanted to take this time to thank Debby and Fernando Gonzalez of 2Fifty Texas BBQ for inviting me to the unveiling of their beautiful new mural outside of their restaurant along Lafayette Avenue. They commissioned the work from Ward 3 resident Tanglewood Sue. It is a beautiful and colorful addition to our town that reminds me of the diversity that we share and celebrate in this community. Thank you, Debby, Fernando, and Sue, for making these dreary days come to life with the incredible art that you have added to our community.

### **New Addition**

When Mara and I settled upon moving to Riverdale Park as our new home 8 years ago, we hoped this would be the kind of place where we could make new friends and develop a sense of community. It has far exceeded even our wildest dreams! Riverdale Park is a place that we wanted to establish roots. It is in that sentiment that we are excited to announce that we will be adding a new addition to our family in the spring. We our

tremendously excited that our first child, a son, will be calling Riverdale Park home hopefully in mid-April.

### **Contact**

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

Call/Text: 860-970-7776

Email: [afaulx@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:afaulx@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

Twitter: @RPMdWard2

## **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/?hl=en](https://www.instagram.com/riverdaleparkmd_gov/?hl=en)
  - Twitter: [https://twitter.com/Riverdale\\_Park\\_](https://twitter.com/Riverdale_Park_)
  - Youtube:  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeaNS8-6xwTyPJculj7vuCQ/videos?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeaNS8-6xwTyPJculj7vuCQ/videos?view_as=subscriber)

## **Upcoming Virtual Meetings**

### **March 1, 2021 Legislative Meeting at 7:00 p.m.**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82162436703?pwd=R1AvMHdOVXYrNHN5T0lveTE4U1BUdz09>

Or call: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 821 6243 6703

Passcode: 545465



**March 10, 2021 Riverdale Park Sustainability Committee (RPSC) at 7:30 p.m.**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87321703887?pwd=RDEvSkS0Y1h6cExBYUc2Sno2aDVtdz09>

Or call: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 873 2170 3887

Passcode: 970226

**March 15, 2021 State of the Town 7:00 p.m.**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83760575091?pwd=V3Q4YmZ6dFJpdmcreisvMHhBY2RLUT09>

Or call: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 837 6057 5091

Passcode: 095235

**March 29, 2021 Council Work Session at 7:00 p.m.**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83760575091?pwd=V3Q4YmZ6dFJpdmcreisvMHhBY2RLUT09>

Or call: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 837 6057 5091

Passcode: 095235

If you would like to provide written comments for the Legislative Meeting or Council Work Session, please call 301-927-6381 or e-mail them to: [community\\_input@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:community_input@riverdaleparkmd.gov).

## 2021 Dates to Remember

- 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 (Elections): ext. 505
- Police Department (Non-emergency): ext. 560

5.3.21



## 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](http://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](http://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) or e-mail [TownElections@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:TownElections@riverdaleparkmd.gov).

## 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](http://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 (ext. 505) or send an e-mail to [TownElections@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:TownElections@riverdaleparkmd.gov)

## 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 the Neighborhood Services team:

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

**CJ Reading- [creading@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto: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](http://www.riverdaleparkmd.info/residents/emergency_repair_grant.php) or contact Development Services



Director Ryan Chelton at  
[dchelton@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:dchelton@riverdaleparkmd.gov) or 301-927-6381 ext.  
509.

## WSSC Notification System

If there is a water or sewer emergency in or near your neighborhood, get alerts via text or e-mail. Visit <http://wsscwater.com/cns> to register.

## 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](http://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/home/trash\\_concerns/index.php](http://www.riverdaleparkmd.info/home/trash_concerns/index.php).

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

## Snow Season - Rules to Remember

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

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





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

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

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

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

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

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

## Riverdale Park Arts in the Spotlight!

On February 7th local artists and members of Riverdale Park Arts gathered online to celebrate the diverse talents of our community with its first-ever Online Artist Showcase. Hosted by Co-President Robert DiLutis, the show kicked off with a message from Town Manager, John Lestitian, who set a welcoming tone by expressing support for the Arts in Riverdale Park. Later in the showcase Mayor Alan Thompson echoed his thoughts with a very personal and heartfelt greeting. Congratulations to all of the artists that participated and made this showcase an incredible event. To date, the showcase has been viewed more than 175 times on YouTube. Here is a rundown of the artists that were featured during the showcase.

Annapolis Woodwind Quintet  
 Ria Yang and Ying-Shan Su, Piano Duo  
 Lili Nativi, El Salvadorian Breakfast  
 Lisa Shiota, Japanese Flute  
 Robert DiLutis and Rita Sloan, Clarinet and Piano Duo  
 Valerie Thompson, Art and Science  
 Riversdale House Museum  
 Lucius Jackson, Art of the Cocktail  
 Pat Doyen, Short Film  
 Carol Anne Bosco, Cello and Violin Duo  
 Samuel Williams, Book Reading  
 Polka Terps

If you missed the show, it's not too late to catch the rebroadcast.

**Watch us here!** <https://youtu.be/ipNG6U7vZK8>

We hope you will check out the showcase and visit us at **[riverdaleparkarts.org](https://riverdaleparkarts.org)** to become a member. A special thanks to all those that helped put such a great event together. BRAVO! We are all looking forward to our next show in Spring 2021!

## The Buy Nothing Project Launches in Riverdale Park

Are you interested in connecting more with your neighbors, saving money, reducing your carbon footprint? If so, we invite you to join us as a member of Buy Nothing Hyattsville, Riverdale Park & University Park, MD (<https://bit.ly/2N2bhIR>)! Once you answer the three easy membership questions, you'll find a group of people who gift and wish for everything from baby clothes, to kitchen items, to books, to food, acts of self, and more with the goal of spending reducing waste and sharing within a community. No gift or wish is too big or too small, no money is ever exchanged, and pickups are typically less than a mile away. [Please note that you do need to have a Facebook account to participate].

The Buy Nothing Project began as an experimental hyper-local gift economy in Bainbridge Island, WA. Since then, it's grown to over 30 countries internationally, with hyper-local micro-groups sprouting up in your local neighborhoods. Buy Nothing Project rules are simple: Post anything you'd like to give away, lend, or share

amongst neighbors. Ask for anything you'd like to receive for free or borrow. Keep it legal. No hate speech. No buying or selling, no trades or bartering, as we're strictly a gift economy. It's an online community group started by neighbors, for neighbors, and we hope you'll join us!

## Tax Preparation Assistance

There are free tax preparation and filing options available to low and moderate income households. Here is a list of a few of those options.

- [AARP](#): Offers free state and federal tax preparation services. Customers can choose between in-person and remote tax assistance depending on site availability. Eligibility: Anyone with low to moderate income, with a special focus on taxpayers who are 50 or older may qualify. Contact: Call 1-888-AARP-NOW (1-888-227-7669) or go online to the [AARP Foundation Tax Locator](#).
- [CASA](#): Offers free state and federal tax preparation services. Eligibility: Individuals/families who made less than \$57,000 in 2020, specifically Spanish speakers. May also be able to assist persons who speak other languages, call for information. Must have an appointment. Contact: Call 410-732-7777 to schedule an appointment.
- [CASH Campaign of MD](#): Offers free state and federal tax preparation services. Customers can choose between virtual appointments or drop-off tax preparation. Eligibility: If you live in the Baltimore area and made \$57,000 or less in 2020 you may qualify for free tax preparation. You must have an appointment to receive services. Contact: Call 410-234-8008 Mon-Fri, 9AM-3PM.
- [CASH Campaign of MD Partners](#): Offers free state and federal tax preparation services. Customers can choose between virtual appointments or drop-off tax preparation depending on site availability. Eligibility: If you made \$57,000 or less in 2020 you may qualify for free tax preparation services. Contact: Call 1-800-492-0618 or [check out the list of tax partners offering free tax preparation services](#). See the attachment for a full list of sites.
- [VITA](#): Offers free state and federal tax preparation services. Eligibility: The filer made less than \$57,000 in 2020. Contact: Call 1-800-906-9887 and ask to find a location or go online to the [IRS VITA locator](#).
- [IRS](#): Offers free federal (sometimes state) tax preparation services. Online services only or independent filing. Eligibility: The filer must have

made under \$72,000 in 2020 to qualify for free online filing services. If the person made over \$72,000 they offer free fillable tax forms for the filer to complete independently. Contact: Go online to [choose an online free filing service](#).

- [Comptroller](#): Offers free state tax preparation services. Virtual appointments available. Contact: For general information and free Maryland income tax assistance call Taxpayer Services at 410-260-7980 from Central Maryland, or 1-800-MD-TAXES (1-800-638-2937). Assistance is available Mon-Fri, 8:30AM-4:30PM. You can also [schedule an appointment online](#).

## Burton's Grill and Bar "Dining Bubbles"

By Alison Beckwith

Burton's Grill and Bar recently added outdoor "dining bubbles" for customers who want to distance themselves from others diners and/or eat outside during the cold weather.

The Riverdale Park Station restaurant put up three plastic-covered geodesic domes last Friday on the sidewalk along Van Buren Street.

The bubbles seat six, have ambient lighting, space heating and can be zippered open or closed by patrons. Manufactured by Florida-based Garden Igloo USA, the seven-foot tall domes cost around \$1,100 and were something of an internet sensation in the summer of 2019 when they became available on Amazon.

Lately they've become a popular option around the country and in Baltimore and D.C. as restaurants have had to limit indoor dining due to the coronavirus even as winter weather has made outdoor dining difficult. But not everyone is sold on the dining bubbles. Experts on the spread of airborne diseases say the safest design would feature no more than two walls to allow enough air flow to reduce the potential spread.

Though the bubbles may prevent the spread of germs from a nearby table, people should only dine inside one with members of their social group, such as immediate family.



# FREE TREE GIVEAWAY!



Sponsored by the Prince George's County Soil Conservation District  
Prince George's County Forestry Board

## Saturday, April 10 – Two Locations Must Pre-Register To Get Trees

Must Be a Prince George's County Resident—Limit to Two Trees Per Family

### 9 a.m. to Noon

Prince George's County Soil Conservation District  
5301 Marlboro Race Track Road  
Register at <https://tinyurl.com/TreeGiveaway1>  
Supplies Are Limited—Please Pre-Register

### 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Riverdale Park, 6602 Rhode Island Avenue  
Register at <https://tinyurl.com/TreeGiveaway2>  
Supplies Are Limited—Please Pre-Register

All of the trees are 1–2' Willow Oaks. These beautiful trees can become up to 60' in height and 40' wide at the crown/top of the tree.

For more information, contact the Prince George's County Forestry Board at 240-601-2802 or email [kimberleyknox@hotmail.com](mailto:kimberleyknox@hotmail.com).



## 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.



- 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>

Quando 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.

Quando 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.



- 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.



Stay Updated: [mypgc.us/COVIDVaccine](https://mypgc.us/COVIDVaccine)



Manténgase actualizado:  
[mypgc.us/COVIDVaccine](https://mypgc.us/COVIDVaccine)

# March 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1  Legislative Meeting 7 p.m.  Trash and Yard Waste Collection	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  RPSC Meeting at 7:30 p.m.  Recycling Collection	11  Trash and Yard Waste Collection  Farmer's Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Town Center)	12	13  Madison Hill HOA Meeting CANCELLED
14	15  State of the Town 7:30 p.m.  Trash and Yard Waste Collection	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  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	29  Council Work Session 7 p.m.  Trash and Yard Waste Collection	30	31  Recycling Collection	<div>5.3.21</div> <div>Register To Vote 2021</div> <div>TRP</div> <div>VOTE</div>		