

The Riverdale Park Town Crier

May 2020

Volume 50, Issue 4

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Town of Riverdale Park Contact Information

Town Hall

5008 Queensbury Road 301-927-6381 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Department of Public Works

5012 Queensbury Road 301-927-6381 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Police Department

5004 Queensbury Road 301-927-4343 24-hours

Bates Trucking and Trash Collection

Bulk Trash Collection Service suspended until further notice. 301-773-2069 www.batestrucking.com



By law, every 10 years the U.S. Census counts every resident in the United States. Your participation determines representation and how billions in federal funds are distributed. If our community is undercounted, friends and neighbors miss out on an estimated \$18,250 per person over a 10-year period. Statewide, that's a total of \$26.6 billion over a 10-year period.

The federal government distributes \$675 billion to states and communities based on census data. The money is spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works, and other programs.

Every 10 years, a complete count of every person in the United States helps identify and allocate those funds. For each person in Prince George's County who fails to be counted, the County loses federal funding for your community. The 2020 Census_is more than a count. It's an opportunity to get involved and to help shape the future of your community.

CLAIM YOUR RESIDENCY

In 2010, Prince George's County had an estimated 2.3 percent undercount rate, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. See a map of hard-to-count areas at bit.ly/PGCHardtoCount.

HOW IS PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY PREPARING FOR A SUCCESSFUL COUNT?

The County is invested in ensuring every resident counts in order to adequately provide public services for our communities.

Prince George's County Council passed a Council Resolution (CR-35-2018) in support of a Complete Count Committee, which consists of Prince George's County government officials and subcommittee members from faith-based organizations, nonprofit organizations, parks, and public libraries. FIND OUT MORE

Visit: PGCensus2020.org Email: PGCensus2020@mncppc.org
Follow on Social Media: @PGCensus2020

Council Actions

Special Legislative Meeting March 25, 2020

Legislative Action Items:

- Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-06 regarding Remote Meeting Attendance - Adopted
- Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-07 to create a Town of Riverdale Park (TRP) Partners in Economic Recovery Program - Adopted
- 3. Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-08 amending the definition of the Economic Development Fund **Adopted**
- 4. Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-09 amending the Business Growth Grant Program **Adopted**
- 5. Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-10 amending the Business Improvement Grant Program **Adopted**
- Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-11 to create a Farmers Market Dollars program for Town residents in need -Adopted
- Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-12 to create a direct benefit and promotional program for Town restaurants-Adopted
- 8. Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-13 to create an Emergency Repair Grant program- **Adopted**
- 9. Council action to authorize the transfer of funds from the unallocated General Fund to the Economic Development Fund, and to the Community Development Fund
 - Motion to Suspend the Charter provision that an ordinance may not be passed at the meeting at which it is introduced- Approved
 - 2. Introduction of the Emergency Ordinance 2020-OR- 08 - **Introduced**
 - Motion to adopt Emergency Ordinance 2020-OR-08 with an effective date of March 25, 2020 -Adopted
- 10. Motion to direct the Town Manager to use available Social Concerns funds for a direct benefit grocery program to assist Town residents in need in coordination with Riverdale Elementary School- Approved
- 11. Motion to direct the Town Manager to utilize available dollars from the Operating major budget category of the FY2020 Approved Budget to Increase the Town's contribution to the Farmers Market SNAP program by \$3,000 Approved
- 12. Motion to authorize residential permit fees to be waived until September 30, 2020 **Approved**
- Motion to extend the FY2020 payment due date for Business Personal Property Taxes to September 30, 2020 -Approved
- 14. Motion to extend the payment due date for FY2021 Business Licenses to September 30, 2020 **Approved**

Town of Riverdale Park

www.riverdaleparkmd.gov

Mayor

Alan K. Thompson akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Council Members

Ward 1 – Marsha Dixon, 301-531-4230 *mdixon@riverdaleparkmd.gov*

Ward 2 – Aaron Faulx, 860-970-7776 *afaulx@riverdaleparkmd.gov*

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

Ward 4 – Christopher Henry, 301-910-9855 *chenry@riverdaleparkmd.gov*

Ward 5 – Colleen Richardson, 240-646-6457 crichardson@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Ward 6 – Hala Mayers, 301-927-6381 hmayers@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Administration

John N. Lestitian, **Town Manager** *jnlesititian@riverdaleparkmd.qov*

Jessica Barnes, **Town Clerk** *jbarnes@riverdaleparkmd.gov*

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

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

Paul Smith, **Finance and Employee Services Director**

psmith@riverdaleparkmd.gov

David Morris, **Chief of Police** dmorris@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Fire Department - Emergency 911

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

The Town Crier is also available on the Town's Website: www.riverdaleparkmd.gov

Submission deadline: 15th of each month

Send submissions to:
towncrier@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Council Actions

Legislative Meeting April 7, 2020

- Motion regarding Fence Permit for a 6-foot vinyl privacy fence in the backyard of 6317 Taylor Road - Approved
- Motion to withdraw introduction of Charter Amendment 2020-CR-01 regarding Town Government Organizational Structure -Approved
- Introduction of Charter Amendment 2020-CR-01 regarding Town Government Organizational Structure - Introduced
- Motion to withdraw introduction of Ordinance 2020-OR-06 regarding Organizational Structure of Town Government - Approved
- Introduction of Ordinance 2020-OR-06 regarding Organizational Structure of Town Government - Introduced
- Motion to withdraw introduction of Ordinance 2020-OR-07 regarding Revisions to Town Personnel Manual - Approved
- Introduction of Ordinance 2020-OR-07 regarding Revisions to Town Personnel Manual -Introduced

Fair Summary of Legislation

ORDINANCE 2020-OR-06

This is to give notice that the Riverdale Park Town Council has introduced and intends to take action on Ordinance 2020-OR-06.

Ordinance 2020-OR-06 would modify the civil service departments in the Town government; modify unclassified positions in the Town government; provide for certain severance payments for certain unclassified employees under certain circumstances; and generally relate to the organizational structure of the Town government.

ORDINANCE 2020-OR-07

This is to give notice that the Riverdale Park Town Council has introduced and intends to take action on Ordinance 2020-OR-07.

Ordinance 2020-OR-07 would amend the Town of Riverdale Park Personnel Manual to define certain terms, prohibit certain contracts of employment, alter the authority and procedures for certain performance assessments and discipline, alter certain provisions relating to voluntary departures from Town employment, and generally relate to the Town Personnel Manual.

EMERGENCY ORDINANCE 2020-OR-08

This is to give notice that the Riverdale Park Town Council has adopted Emergency Ordinance 2020-OR-08.

Emergency Ordinance 2020-OR-08 amends the Town's FY2020 Operating Budget by appropriating certain funds from General Fund Reserve to the Town's Economic Development Fund and Community Development Fund; provides emergency funding for certain programs to assist businesses and residents during the COVID 19 pandemic; and generally relates to the Town's FY2020 budget.

CHARTER AMENDMENT RESOLUTION 2020-CR-01

This is to give notice the Riverdale Park Town Council has introduced and intends to take action on Charter Amendment Resolution 2020-CR-01.

Charter Amendment Resolution 2020-CR-01 would amend Sections 702(c)(3), 702(c)(4) 702(c)(8) and 705(a)(2) of the Charter of the Town of Riverdale Park (January 2008 Revision), to modify the organizational structure of the certain positions in the Town government; alter the composition of the Town's unclassified service; modify the method of appointment and removal of certain Town positions; provide for the exercise of certain financial powers of the Town; eliminate employment contracts for certain positions in the Town; and matters generally relating to employees of the Town of Riverdale Park.

Ordinances 2020-OR-06 and 2020-OR-07, Emergency Ordinance 2020-OR-08, and Charter Amendment Resolution 2020-CR-01 are available for inspection by the public on the Town's website or by e-mail request to community input@riverdaleparkmd.gov.

RIVERDALE PARK TOWN COUNCIL

BY: JESSICA E. BARNES, TOWN CLERK

Notice of a Proposed Real Property Tax Increase

The Mayor and Council of the Town of Riverdale Park proposes to increase real property taxes.

- 1. For the tax year beginning July 1, 2020, the estimated real property assessable base will increase by 6.2%, from \$ 710,717,537 to \$ 754,747,690.
- 2. If the Town of Riverdale Park maintains the current tax rate of .6540 per \$100 of assessment, real property tax revenues will increase by 6.2% resulting in \$287,957 of new real property tax revenues.
- **3.** In order to fully offset the effect of increasing assessments, the real property tax rate should be reduced to \$0.6158, the constant yield tax rate.
- 4. The Town is considering not reducing its real property tax rate enough to fully offset increasing assessments. The Town proposes to adopt a real property tax rate of \$.6540 per \$100 of assessment. This tax rate is 6.2% higher than the constant yield tax rate and will generate \$287,957 in additional property tax revenues.

A virtual public hearing on the proposed real property tax rate increase will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 5, 2020. Visit

https://zoom.us/j/98610133147?pwd=V3dHdEhHRzVCdE9ub 3pqV09CeTJ0Zz09 or call 301-715-8592 (Meeting ID: 986-1013-3147 and Password: 789282) to participate. The hearing is open to the public, and public testimony is encouraged.

Testimony may also be mailed to: Town of Riverdale Park, Real Property Tax Rate Testimony, c/o Town Clerk Jessica Barnes, 5008 Queensbury Road, Riverdale Park, MD 20737 or emailed to community_input@riverdaleparkmd.gov. Written comments will be accepted for seven (7) days following the virtual public hearing. The Fiscal Year 2021 Operating and Capital Improvement Budget is scheduled to be introduced on May 12, 2020.

Persons with questions regarding this hearing may call 301-927-6381 for further information.

** Please note that there is NO change to the real property tax rate in the FY2021 Proposed Operating and Capital Improvement Budget.**

Mayor's Report

Those who have read my Mayor's Report for many years know that I usually start the reports with a focus on the season. I do this because town government, as with the seasons of the year, have regular cycles with aspects to celebrate, and aspects to dread. The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted, for the moment, many of the cycles of town government, and the joys of spring, for me, feel muted and distant, as if the blooming flowers and almost-warm-enough days are on the other side of a plastic barrier. As I wake each day and prepare to catch up on the news that accumulated while I slept, I try to take a deep breath and appreciate the fact that the cycles of most of nature are undisturbed by COVID-19, and that we will, soon enough, return to a regular world, though we are likely to find that world different than the one we inhabited before COVID-19.

COVID-19

Every week I spend hours on telephone/video conferences staying up to date on the COVID-19 pandemic and response. I spend still more time reading and digesting news to understand how the pandemic might impact Riverdale Park residents and businesses. I am grateful to be advised on these calls by experts from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, County Executive Alsobrooks and her team (including the Prince George's County Department of Health), County Council Representative Glaros, and representatives of Governor Larry Hogan and state agencies. My assessment of the current situation, and predictions for the future, are based on all of the information I've processed.

COVID-19: Current situation

Please remember that I am writing in mid-April, and the situation will almost certainly have changed by the time you are reading this.

From the perspective of town operations, we are working to provide as many services as possible while keeping our staff and residents safe. First and foremost, all employees are observing Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on physical separation and use of personal protective equipment (PPE). Next, any employees that can perform their jobs via telework are doing so, and those who must come in are performing as much of their jobs as possible from home; every employee's situation is different and the town is being flexible in all policies to enhance safety.

Because of the greatly-reduced staffing at town hall, we are requiring residents to conduct business through the town's web site and via telephone.

The Town has implemented procedures and processes to reduce the risk of exposure. Examples include: Public Works staff is sanitizing all town facilities twice a day, and frequently-used surfaces such as doorknobs more often than that; they are also operating as separate teams with offset hours to minimize the chances that we could have a transmission of COVID-19 between staff members. In the Police Department, procedures are in place to minimize contact both with each other and with members of the public, though of course there are situations where officers must engage with criminals. Development Services and Neighborhood Services, which usually have lots of contact with the public, are limiting (for the moment) interior inspections to life-safety concerns, and are pursuing the implementation of virtual inspections.

From a health perspective, it appears at this time (mid-April) that in Prince George's County both daily hospitalizations and daily deaths may have stabilized – which means that we are at the maximum number of infections of the first wave of this disease. As a direct result of the many personal sacrifices that all of you have made, the rates of death and hospitalization are much lower than they would have otherwise been. That being said, I expect that in the County there are an additional 200-300 people who will die, and thousands more to be diagnosed, assuming the stay-at-home orders continue (or we have a carefully-phased restart). I know of gravely-ill residents of Riverdale Park suffering from COVID-19, and expect that residents of Riverdale Park will die as a result of COVID-19, with many more becoming seriously ill. We all need to remember that as we go about our daily business, and think about the future - lives are on the line.

The current projections on the scientific and medical future of COVID-19 is mixed. Some of the experts I've heard from expect that effective antiviral treatments (something like Tamiflu, but that works against COVID-19) could be available in 3-6 months. There may be a seasonal reduction in COVID-19, as we see with seasonal flu in the summer, but there is little evidence to suggest that it will be as large as we see for seasonal flu. Even if we have a seasonal reduction in the summer, the virus will return in the fall. The expectation for a vaccination against COVID-19 is that the earliest it could be available is summer of 2021, and more likely fall of

2021, almost 18 months from now. This means that we are likely to have some form of the stay-athome/distancing programs now in place for the next 15-18 months. As the County and state ramp up COVID-19 testing and contact-tracing in the months ahead these restrictions are likely to ease, but will not go away, in particular for people in high-risk populations.

COVID-19: hope for the future and news of progress Although the current situation is bleak, and we are all unhappy with the requirements to stay home and remain physically distant from others, this situation and crisis is temporary, and many of us can expect to return to a somewhat more normal situation in the not-too-

distant future. I can also say that the community is moving quickly to address the economic impacts on many of our residents and to ensure food security.

As I am writing, the Town's Farmers Market Dollars program has been in effect for three weeks and has allowed more than 600 residents to purchase fresh food at our Farmers Market. Several other efforts to provide food are also seeing success:

- World Central Kitchen has recently started a program that will provide thousands of meals per week in our zip code;
- A program suggested by Banana Blossom Bistro owners Phil and Annie Esguerra, Greater Riverdale Cares, has been organized by Dannielle Glaros – this program collects donations at a GoFundMe page (https://www.gofundme.com/f/gofundmecomg reater-riverdale-cares) to pay for area restaurants to provide meals to residents in need:
- The Christian Life Center has ramped up and adjusted – to improve safety – their existing food distribution program and provided food to 500 families this week;
- The Capital Area Food Bank has committed to providing thousands of boxes of food at area locations through the end of May; and
- The Megamart supermarket had a free food distribution for community members hurt by the economic effects of the pandemic.

All-in-all these programs distributed more than 6,000 meals to area residents in the first week of full operation in April and expect to continue and expand through the COVID-19 crisis. I am proud of Riverdale Park, our neighboring communities, businesses, and non-profit organizations for jumping in to address this critical issue of food security in the current economic situation, and would like to thank everyone involved.

Town Budget

As I mentioned at the very beginning of this report, there are cycles of town government, and one of them is our annual budget. We were far along in the budget preparation process when the severity of the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic impacts became apparent. The budget has been significantly adjusted: expected revenues were reduced, spending reduced to match, and priorities adjusted within the spending. The Town Council is reviewing the budget as I write, and it will be formally introduced at the May legislative meeting — please check elsewhere in this issue of the Crier or on the town's web site to find out how to join us online or by telephone!

Contact Me

If you have any questions or comments about any aspect of Town government, please contact me by e-mail (akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov) or phone (301-237-0632). I also monitor accounts on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. I will get back to you as quickly as I can, but please remember that while I love being Mayor, I have a full-time job during the day (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 June, when hopefully we will all be feeling safer and the economy and life in general will be adjusting to a new normal.





Upcoming Virtual Meetings

Legislative Meeting and Real Property Tax Rate Public Hearing

Date: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

To participate visit:

https://zoom.us/j/98610133147?pwd=V3dHdE

hHRzVCdE9ub3pqV09CeTJ0Zz09

Or call: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 986-1013-3147 Password: 789282

Special Legislative Meeting

Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

To participate visit:

https://zoom.us/j/97883319327?pwd=Z3pYSk

V5RStFMEdoWmpLWWxIOGZwUT09

Or call: 301-715-8592

Work Session, Special Legislative Meeting and Public Hearing regarding Charter Amendment Resolution 2020-CR-01

Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

To participate visit:

https://zoom.us/j/93082526906?pwd=T0ZFSn

qxVkIRZW0yaWhMeTBXOVhJUT09

Or call: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 930-8252-6906 Password: 081450

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



Purple Line Construction Notices

Purple Line construction is still 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, find "Construction" and click on "Subscribe for Updates". The construction hotline is 240-424-5325.



Coronavirus Testing Hotline

COVID-19 tests are available in Prince George's County. The Health Department is administering tests **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**. Call **301-883-6627**. Our nurses evaluate you over the phone, and if you get an appointment, you will be assessed once again when you arrive. It may take a few days to get results. If you get tested and your symptoms get worse, DO NOT wait for your test results, SEEK MEDICAL CARE RIGHT AWAY.

This hotline is also for residents who have general COVID-19 questions or concerns. The hotline is open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily to receive updated information about the coronavirus disease. *Please contact 911 for medical emergencies only.

COVID-19 Screening Appointments

Weather permitting, the FedExField screening site will be open on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday with extended hours: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Testing by appointment will also be available Tuesday and Thursday next week at the Health Department's clinic in Cheverly (3003 Hospital Drive, Cheverly, MD 20785) 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

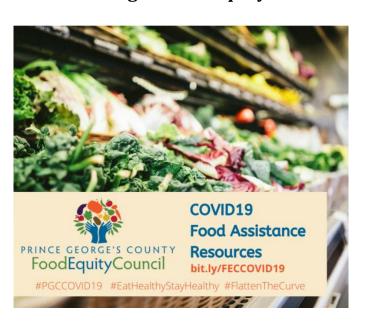




The Capital Area Food Bank (CAFB) is an invaluable partner and resource to us in Prince George's County. We are so grateful to those organizations and individuals who have stepped up to ensure the CAFB has the resources it needs to provide for residents in need in Prince George's County. If you or somebody you know is in need of food resources at this time, please visit the Capital Area Food Bank website to find a food pantry or distribution site nearby.

www.capitalareafoodbank.org/covid19response
or contact Hunger LifeLine at
hungerlifeline@capitalareafoodbank.org or by calling
202-644-9807

Prince George's Food Equity Council



SNAP Assistance:

Call <u>Maryland Hunger Solutions</u> at 866-821-5552 for assistance and questions related to SNAP applications. They can assist with completing and submitting SNAP applications over the phone, submit any changes to your active SNAP case, answer questions about your benefits, and direct you to additional food resources.











May 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
upcoming med	VID-19 pandemietings and events	s. Please be sure	to visit the Tov	_	1	2
3	Trash & Yard Waste Collection	Legislative Meeting & Real Property Tax Rate Public Hearing 7 p.m.	MUTC Meeting 7:30 p.m. Recycling Collection	Farmer's Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Town Center) Trash Collection	8	9
Happy Mother's Day	11 Trash & Yard Waste Collection	Special Legislative Meeting 7 p.m.	Recycling Collection	Farmer's Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Town Center) Trash Collection	15	16
17	Trash & Yard Waste Collection	Work Session, Special Legislative Meeting & Charter Amendment Public Hearing 7 p.m.	Recycling Collection	Farmer's Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Town Center) Trash Collection	22	23
24	Memorial Day Town Hall & DPW Closed	26	Recycling Collection	Farmer's Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Town Center) Trash Collection	29	30
31					<u> </u>	

To participate in a Zoom meeting, log in information will be provided on the Town's website and will be made available with each meeting agenda. Please contact Town Hall at town@riverdaleparkmd.gov or 301-927-6381 if you have any questions.

PRSRT STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID HYATTSVILLE, MD PERMIT No. 2090

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

Prince George's County Public Schools: 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

Washington Gas: 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

Lion's Club

Pat Prangley at 240-882-4993

Northern County Soccer Alliance NCSA@soccer.net or 301-577-3559

Riverdale Park Boy Scout Troop 252
Scoutmaster Bob Killen at 301-483-8455

Madison Hill Homeowners Association

301-583-8857

Riversdale Historical Society 301-864-0420

Riverdale Park Farmer's Market Jim Coleman at 301-586-5973

Riverdale Park Business Association www.shoplocalriverdalepark.com

Riverdale Park Arts Council
Samuel Williams, Jr. at 909-380-4231

Riversdale Chamber Music Society
Robert DiLutis at rdilutis@umd.edu or
www.riversdalechambermusic.com