



The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

November 2021

Volume 50, Issue 9

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Town of Riverdale Park Contact Information

Town Hall

5008 Queensbury Road

301-927-6381

8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Department of Public Works

5008 Queensbury Road

301-927-6381

7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Police Department

5004 Queensbury Road

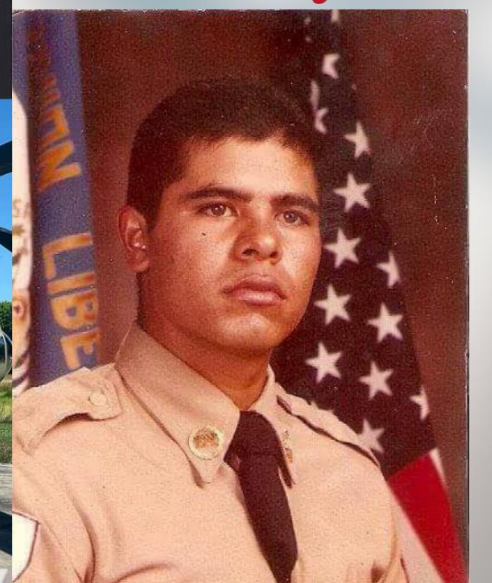
301-927-4343

24-hours



To all who served,
we are thankful
for your service.

**HAPPY
VETERANS
Day**



Council Actions

Legislative Meeting
October 4, 2021

Consent Agenda

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

1. Minutes: September 13, 2021, Legislative Meeting and March 29, 2021, Work Session

Legislative Action Items

1. Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-OR-08 regarding Amendment to FY2022 Budget related to American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds - **Adopted**
2. Introduction of Ordinance 2021-OR-09 regarding Town Personnel Manual – Mandatory Vaccinations – **Introduced**
3. Motion to authorize the Town Manager to enter into an agreement with E&R Services for an amount not to exceed \$109,684 for 48th Avenue Sidewalk Project – **Approved**
4. Motion regarding Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA) Legislative Request Survey – **Approved**

Special Legislative Meeting
October 18, 2021

Legislative Action Items

1. Motion to have the Town of Riverdale Park as signatory on a letter drafted by the City of College Park regarding the Davis Plan presented at the County Council Committee of the Whole meeting on October 14, 2021 – **Approved**



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.

We  Town Life!

Town of Riverdale Park

www.riverdaleparkmd.gov
Cable Channels: 10 and 71

Mayor

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

Council Members

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

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

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

Ward 4 – Thomas Sadiq, 202-845-6251
tsadiq@riverdaleparkmd.gov

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

Ward 6 – Hala Mayers, 202-527-2637
hmayers@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

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

Fair Summary of Legislation

FAIR SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE 2021-OR-09

This is to give notice that the Riverdale Park Town Council has introduced and intends to take action on Ordinance 2021-OR-09.

Ordinance 2021-OR-09 would add new Section O-6 to the Town of Riverdale Park Personnel Manual; require certain Town employees to obtain vaccination against certain diseases as a condition of employment and fitness for duty, with certain exceptions; and generally, relate to revisions to the Town Personnel Manual.

Ordinance 2021-OR-09 is available for inspection by the public on the Town's website www.riverdaleparkmd.gov, by e-mail request to community_input@riverdaleparkmd.gov, or by calling 301-927-6381 (extension 505).

Mayor's Report

Mayor Alan K. Thompson

Finally, the cool weather has arrived as autumn sweeps through town. At the farmer's market the tomatoes are disappearing, but crisp, tart apples are taking their place. It's hard to believe that 2021 is nearly gone.

Apologies and Thanks to the RVFD

I must apologize for neglecting to mention the Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department in my report last month. The Ward 1 special election was held at the firehouse, with the volunteers were our gracious hosts for the day. I'm sure it disrupted their routine, but they were friendly and helpful. Many thanks to all of the members who helped the election run smoothly by opening their space for everyone running or participating in the election.

COVID-19 – Pandemic

Every morning, around 8:30, I receive in my email a report of the status of the pandemic – daily and averaged diagnoses, deaths, and vaccination rates for Prince George's County, DC, neighboring counties, and the state. Many days recently we have had no deaths in the county, but sometimes there are several, and I

know there is pain, suffering, and sadness from each of those deaths.

Except for an unusual spike in cases on October 10 (I assume because of delayed reporting), the numbers have been steadily decreasing since the middle of September (I'm writing this a few days past October 15). With any luck the trend will continue, and the case rate will drop below 10 cases per 100,000 population per day, a number that those who study epidemics say is an important milestone, where we can start to relax...a little. Still only 75 % of those eligible to be vaccinated are fully vaccinated. Still our case rate is *ten times* the number of cases that we had in late June. And still people are dying. We have a long way to go, and the more careful we all are, the sooner we will be done with this pandemic. Being careful, of course, means the same things as always: wearing masks, maintaining distance, washing hands, and most importantly getting vaccinated, including getting the recently-approved booster shot, for those who qualify to receive it.

One person who recently died of COVID was Colin Powell. He was fully vaccinated, but his immune system was compromised, and he had not received his booster (he had an appointment to receive it when he became ill). As I read the article about his final days, I thought about the fact that someone had transmitted the virus to Secretary Powell, someone probably much younger and healthier, and most likely unvaccinated. That person may have thought that they didn't need to get the vaccine, and there's a good chance that *they* didn't need it, but, Secretary Powell *did* need them to get it. Had that person, whoever it is, gotten vaccinated a few months earlier, Secretary Powell would still be alive today. I read an estimate that 3 % of the US population has a moderately to severely compromised immune system, which means there are a few hundred in Riverdale Park, and at least 30,000 in the county. Those 30,000 people are counting on the young and healthy to get vaccinated, so the people with compromised immune systems (and children under 12) have a better chance to survive.

Assistance for Veterans

My neighbor Robert White is always interested in helping veterans get all of the benefits to which they are entitled, both from the federal government and the state. If you are a veteran and would like his assistance, please contact him Monday thru Thursday between 9am and 6pm at 240-898-4011. He can assist with VA

claims and is a wealth of knowledge about all benefits available to veterans.

Congratulations and Farewell to Chief Morris

It is with gratitude, mixed with a little sadness, that I give Police Chief David Morris congratulations and best wishes on his retirement, which will happen in November. Chief Morris started with the town shortly after I was first elected, and he has always had a sharp focus on excellent policing and on providing his officers and civilian staff with the resources, training, and support they need to do their jobs well. His focus on continuous improvement, and his insistence on hiring only the best officers, have helped to create the professional force that keep us all safe. As he said when he announced his retirement to the Council, policing requires extreme sacrifice for both the officers and their families, and Chief Morris has earned his retirement, and the ability to relax and spend time with his family. Chief, you are always welcome in Riverdale Park. I'll make the time to talk over a cup of coffee or two any time you want to drop by!

Contact Me

If you have any questions or comments about any aspect of Town government, please contact me by e-mail (akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov) or phone (202-527-0309 – my new town mobile number!). I also monitor accounts on Facebook, Twitter (most often), and Instagram. I will get back to you as quickly as I can, but please remember that while I love being Mayor, I have a full-time job during the day (as do the other members of the Town Council), and it may take me a little while to get back to you. If you leave me a voice mail (and please do if I don't answer!) I'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 December. Take care and stay safe until then!



Congratulations to Ward 1 Councilmember Richard Smith for being elected to serve on the Town Council.

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

BE THE FIRST TO KNOW

Follow us!



@RiverdaleParkMD



@Riverdale_Park_



@RiverdaleParkMD_gov



@Town of Riverdale Park

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

- ✓ Visit the Town's website for updates:
www.riverdaleparkmd.gov
- ✓ Check out what the Council is working on:
http://www.riverdaleparkmd.gov/government/meeting_agendas_and_minutes.php
- ✓ Read the Town Manager's Status and Information Report:
http://www.riverdaleparkmd.gov/government/town_administration/status_and_information_reports.php
- ✓ Follow the Town's Social Media accounts:
 - Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/RiverdaleParkMD/>
 - Instagram:
https://www.instagram.com/riverdaleparkmd_gov/?hl=en
 - Twitter: https://twitter.com/Riverdale_Park_
 - Youtube:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeaNS8-6xwTyPJculj7vuCQ/videos?view_as=subscriber

Upcoming Virtual Meetings

Legislative Meeting: November 1, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82946240741?pwd=cZCUEx4U3RXbVZrL3lFK0JseDMwZz09>

Or call: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 829-4624-0741

Passcode: 579554

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83648483245?pwd=dWFhcE95OVVUc2xJSXhHKzVncFYyZz09>

Or call: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 836-4848-3245

Passcode: 579554

2021 Dates to Remember

- Legislative Meeting: November 1, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
- Riverdale Park Sustainability Committee (Green Team) Meeting: November 10, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom
- Town Hall and DPW Closed: November 11, 2021 (Veterans Day)
- Work Session: November 22, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
- Town Hall and DPW Closed: November 25 and November 26, 2021 (Thanksgiving)
- Legislative Meeting: December 6, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
- Riverdale Park Sustainability Committee (Green Team) Meeting: December 8, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom
- Work Session: December 20, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.
- Town Hall and DPW Closed: December 24, 2021 (Christmas)
- Town Hall and DPW Closed: December 31, 2021 (New Year's Day)

2022 Dates to Remember

- Legislative Meeting: January 3, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.
- Work Session: January 31, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.
- State of the Town Presentation: March 14, 2022
- Budget Public Hearing: April 9, 2022
- Budget Public Hearing: April 23, 2022

Neighborhood Services

If you have concerns regarding a property in your neighborhood, please contact Neighborhood Services. One of the primary duties of the Neighborhood Services team is to educate residents about the Town's community standards. In most cases residents simply do not know that they are not meeting the Town's community standards as defined

in the Town Code. In some cases, another community partner such as Prince George's County, may be needed to address your concerns. Information about the Town's community standards can be found on the Town's website, www.riverdaleparkmd.gov, under Town Code and TRP's Vision and Commitment Statements.

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

Brad Goshen- bgoshen@riverdaleparkmd.gov or 301-927-6381 ext. 514

Tulip Nicol- tnicol@riverdaleparkmd.gov or 301-927-6381 ext. 508

Collection Reminders



Residential Trash

Place residential trash in durable, leak-proof bags before placing it in containers. Close lid tightly to keep rainwater out to reduce spillage. Clean trash can regularly. Place trash can curbside by 6:00 a.m. on

Mondays and Thursdays or the night before collection.

Yard Waste

Do NOT mix yard waste with household trash. Place yard waste in paper bags or in reusable bins marked as yard waste. Bundle branches and limbs with rope or string (do not use wire). Bundles must be less than 4 feet long and less than 3 inches in diameter, and weigh less than 60 pounds. Place yard waste curbside by 6:00 a.m. on Mondays or the night before collection.



Recycling

As a reminder, NO PLASTIC BAGS ARE PERMITTED. Curbside recycling is provided by Prince George's County Department of the Environment. Please call 311 or 301-883-4748, if you have any questions or concerns about this service. Place recycling bins curbside by 6:00 a.m. on Wednesdays.



Bulk Trash

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

www.jedatruckinginc.com/book-online. 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.

Leaf Collection

Residents are encouraged to bag their leaves and/or mulch them during lawn mowing instead of pushing them into the streets. It is extremely important to keep storm drains clear of leaves to allow the system optimal performance during a rain event.

To support leaf bagging, Public Works staff distributed ten (10) leaf bags to each single-family residence in Town. FREE leaf bags will also be available for pick up on the third Saturday of the month (9 a.m. to 2 p.m.) at the bulk trash drop off at the Public Works building until mid-January. Identification confirming residency is required.

Bagged leaves should be set out curbside by 6 a.m. on Mondays for collection by the Town's hauler. If residents choose to mulch their leaves or will otherwise not use the leaf bags, they are encouraged to give them to a neighbor.

Emergency Repairs Grant Available

The Town is soliciting grant applications from homeowners and businessowners. This grant program is designed to assist with emergency repairs

in homes and businesses that would otherwise not be addressed.

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



Prince George's County COVID-19 Vaccination Information

COVID-19 vaccines are free for all residents who live and work in Prince George's County regardless of insurance coverage or immigration status.

Information provided during pre-registration will NOT be used by the federal, state or local government for any civil or criminal prosecution or enforcement, including, but not limited to, immigration enforcement. Your information will be private and protected. Providers and vaccination sites collect certain information from individuals receiving the vaccine to monitor how many people are receiving the vaccine and to ensure dose matching and appropriate timing for the second dose.

Complete the COVID-19 Pre-Registration Form to get on the vaccination wait-list. As appointments become available, individuals who complete and submit a pre-registration form and are eligible will receive an email from the Health Department with a link and instructions on how to make a vaccine appointment. COVID-19 vaccines are offered by appointment only. You only need to pre-register once.

<https://covid19vaccination.princegeorgescountymd.gov/>

The County is currently vaccinating individuals 16 and older who live or work in the County. You will receive an email with your appointment details from the Health Department or one of our vaccination partners as appointments become available. When you go to your appointment, please make sure that you bring your ID and/or proof of employment documentation. If you need to reschedule your appointment or you have already received your vaccination and want to cancel, you can email the Health Department at COVIDVax@co.pg.md.us

The Health Department is also collaborating with hospitals, pharmacies, and other partners throughout the county to provide vaccinations to eligible residents from our pre-registration list. You may hear from one of them with appointment opportunities as well. We encourage you to explore all available resources.

In addition, the State of Maryland's vaccination sites are open to individuals 16 and older statewide. To access these sites, you must pre-register with the State (separate from the County Health Department's pre-registration system) by visiting covidvax.maryland.gov, or calling 1-855-634-6829. You can also text "MDREADY" to 898-211, and you will receive text notifications on your smartphone regarding updates about Six Flags and the State's other mass vaccination sites.

Maryland Homeowner Assistance Fund

The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development will be launching the Maryland Homeowners Assistance Fund in late 2021. The Fund will be open to homeowners statewide. Visit the Maryland Homeowner Assistance Fund webpage to learn more about the program and the eligibility requirements.

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

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

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

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

Water Bill Assistance

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

Contact WSSC Water at 301-206-4001 Monday to Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. For more information, visit the WSSC Water website
https://www.wsscwater.com/assistance?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery.

Prince George's County Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)

The County has spent more than \$24 million to provide emergency rental assistance to more than 3,400 households, and they still have millions of dollars remaining to assist those in need. We encourage landlords and tenants to work together and take advantage of this opportunity. Visit <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/3703/Emergency-Rental-Assistance-Program> for more information and to apply.

NEW ERAP HOTLINE NUMBER: (301) 883-6504

Assistant Chief Participates in the Police Unity Tour



Assistant Chief Rosa Guixens participated in this year's Police Unity Tour. The Police Unity Tour is a four-day bicycle ride that aims to raise awareness of Law Enforcement Officers who have died in the line of duty. This event also seeks to raise funds for the National Law Enforcement Officer's Memorial and Museum. Congrats, Assistant Chief Guixens, on a successful ride!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY® IS ON NOV. 27TH

SHOP SMALL WITH AMEX



ACCESSORY STRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM

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

RIVERDALE PARK

COME GROW WITH US!



PROGRAMA DE AYUDA ECONÓMICA PARA ESTRUCTURAS DE ACCESORIA

¡Repare o reemplace su cerco viejo, cobertizo o garaje separado con una beca de la **Ciudad de Riverdale Park!**

Este programa de subsidios complementarios ayuda a los residentes de la ciudad que buscan demoler, mejorar, reparar y / o reemplazar estructuras accesorias en su propiedad, que incluyen cercos, garajes independientes, cobertizos y ciertas paredes.

Aplicaciones disponibles en www.riverdaleparkmd.gov

Para más información, llame al 301-927-6381 o envíe un correo electrónico a development@riverdaleparkmd.gov

RIVERDALE PARK

COME GROW WITH US!



Making art & music accessible
to our community

RIVERDALE PARK ARTS

CALL FOR MUSICIANS

Open to all solo musicians including
winds, strings, guitar, piano and more!
\$50 per performance



Train Stop Tunes

5:00PM-7:00PM
Riverdale Park Town Center
6200 Rhode Island Avenue
Riverdale Park, MD 20737

**EVERY
FRIDAY**

To apply visit: <http://www.riverdaleparkarts.org/>



**SPEED
LIMIT
20**

The speed limit in the Town of Riverdale Park is

20 miles per hour

For your safety and the safety of others

**SLOW
DOWN**

RIVERDALE PARK



TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK

Festival of Lights



Submit photos of your decorated home by December 17th and enter to win!

Rules and Prizes

*First place winner will receive a \$50 gift card to a restaurant in Town of their choice.

*Second place winner gets a \$25 gift card.

*Third place winner gets a \$10 gift card.

*BONUS: 20 randomly selected entries will receive a We Love Town Life t-shirt!

*Only Town resident entries will be eligible for the prize drawings.

*Entries must be received by December 17 for prize drawings.

How to enter:

Send your photos via a DM to our Twitter, Facebook, or Instagram,
or send via email to TRPsocialmedia@riverdaleparkmd.gov

RIVERDALE PARK

November 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Trash and Yard Waste Collection Legislative Meeting 7 p.m.	2	3 Recycling Collection MUTC Meeting 7:30 p.m.	4 Trash Collection Farmer's Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Town Center)	5	6
7	8 Trash and Yard Waste Collection Legislative Meeting 7 p.m.	9	10 Recycling Collection RPSC (Green Team) Meeting 7:30 p.m.	11 Veterans Day Town Hall & DPW Services Closed	12	13
14	15 Trash and Yard Waste Collection	16	17 Recycling Collection	18 Trash 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 Work Session 7 p.m.	23 Special Farmer's Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Town Center)	24 Recycling Collection	25 Town Hall & DPW Services Closed 	26 Town Hall & DPW Services Closed	27 Small Business Saturday
28	29 Trash and Yard Waste Collection	30	<p>Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Municipal Center Renovation project, public meetings are being held via Zoom.</p> <p>If you have any questions about how to participate in a public meeting or need assistance, please contact the Town Clerk at 301-927-6381 (extension 505).</p>			