



The Riverdale Park Town Crier

A Welcoming Community, Come Grow with Us!

November 2023

Volume 52, Issue 11

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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

Riverdale Park Receives Prestigious Sustainable Maryland Certified Award

The Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland announced that the Town of Riverdale Park was one of 16 Maryland municipalities honored at the Sustainable Maryland Awards Ceremony at the 2023 Maryland Municipal League's annual Fall Conference. Sustainable Maryland is an initiative that is designed to support Maryland's 157 municipalities as they look for cost-effective and strategic ways to protect their natural assets and revitalize their communities. Sustainable Maryland is a certification program for municipalities in Maryland that want to go green, save money, and take steps to sustain their quality of life over the long term.



Highlights of Riverdale Park's Accomplishments Include:

- ♥ The Town of Riverdale Park established a Farmers Market Dollars program to assist residents impacted by economic stressors and continues to fund the program each year; the Town dispersed \$248,043 to address food insecurity through the Farmers Market Dollars Program in FY2023 and has budgeted \$100,000 for FY2024.
- ♥ The Town of Riverdale Park started planning and has budgeted, to design and create two linear parks on underutilized Town-owned property. This is an innovative approach to preserve green space on public land, improve pedestrian connectivity to the existing street grid, and increase community access to parks.

Achieving Silver Certification requires great work and it is important to recognize and thank the Sustainability Committee for their efforts:

**Sarah
Batto**

**Lora
Katz**

**Dan
Behrend**

**Jillian
Molina**

**Billy
Friebele**

**Mary
Proenza**

**Alex
Hirtle**

**Allison
Clune**

**Tanya
Johnson**

**Sarah
Wayland**



Boletín En Español

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

Mayor

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

Council Members

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

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

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

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

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

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

Administration

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fire Department - Emergency 911

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

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

Submission deadline: 15th of each month

Send submissions to:
towncrier@riverdaleparkmd.gov

2023 Dates to Remember

LM-UTC Meeting

November 1, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.

Legislative Meeting

November 6, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.

Veteran's Day Observed

November 10, 2023, Town Hall & DPW Closed

TSDC—Focus Group Session #1

November 14, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

TSDC—Focus Group Session #2

November 16, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

TSDC—Focus Group Session #3

November 18, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.

Thanksgiving Recess

November 23 & 24, 2023, Town Hall & DPW Closed

Work Session

November 27, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.

Ethics Commission Meeting

November 29, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.

Legislative Meeting

December 4, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.



Town Office Extensions

General Inquiries (301) 927-6381: ext. 500, 503

Assistance in Spanish: ext. 500, 503

Town Provided Services (Public Works): ext. 500, 503

Permits and Licensing: ext. 500, 503

Neighborhood (Code-related) Concerns: ext. 508, 514

Business and Economic Development: ext. 509

Accounts Payable: ext. 500

Human Resources: ext. 507

Town Clerk: ext. 505

Police Department (Non-emergency): ext. 560



Council Actions

Legislative Meeting

October 2, 2023

1. Motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-OR-11 regarding Amendments to Personnel Manual: Article O Workplace Safety, Section O-6 Mandatory Vaccinations – **Adopted**
2. Motion to approve letter for Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) Annual Budget Forums: October 4 and October 17, 2023 – **Approved**
3. Motion to authorize Town Manager to sign an agreement with Icon American Power & Construction LLC for an amount not to exceed \$184,472 for the Trolley Trail Lighting Project CIP Project #20PP03 – **Approved**

Special Legislative Meeting

October 16, 2023

Legislative Action Item

1. Motion to authorize Town Manager to initiate contract negotiations with RedSpeed Maryland LLC for Red Light Camera and Parking Permit Enforcement Systems (RFP No. DPW 2023 – 004) – **Approved**

New Business

1. Motion to create an ad hoc committee to perform a root cause analysis about an event at the October 2nd, 2023, Town Council Legislative Session where remarks were made by a member of the Town Council that may have (1) created legal exposure for the Town and (2) violated Town policy that applies to Town Council members. The committee shall provide an analysis of the event and recommendations to the full council about how to prevent future events of the same nature. This committee will have as members Mayor Thompson, the Chair, CM Faulx, CM Inyang, and Director Barnes. – **Approved**

FY2025 Budget—Community Input

As Town Staff begin to prepare for the FY2025 Operating and Capital Improvement Budget, community input is encouraged. If you have any initial thoughts regarding items or projects that should be included in the FY2025 Proposed Operating and Capital Improvement Budget, please send them to community_input@riverdaleparkmd.gov. As in previous years, there will be many other opportunities throughout the budget preparation process for community input, including two public hearings in April 2024.



Town Seal Design Focus Groups

To support an effort, led by the Riverdale Park Town Seal Redesign Committee, to refresh and reconsider the Riverdale Park Town Seal, the Neighborhood Design Center will host a series of focus group gatherings, open to the public. Each 1.5 hour meeting will engage residents about their relationship to the Town, and what they would like to see represented in a new Town Seal.



Dates & Times

- **Session 1** @ Riversdale House Museum, 4811 Riverdale Road | Tuesday, Nov. 14th, 6:00-7:30 pm
- **Session 2** (in Spanish) @ Edmonston Recreation Center, 5100 Tanglewood Drive | Thursday, Nov. 16th, 6:00-7:30 pm
- **Session 3** @ Riverdale Park Station, 6730 45th Street, 2nd Floor | Saturday, Nov. 18th, 3:00-4:30 pm



Please RSVP to mhambleton@ndc-md.org. Each date is limited to 8 slots. If you are interested in joining the process but can't make any of the above dates, please reach out. **You can also participate by filling out a brief survey to share your thoughts and feelings on the Town Seal Redesign -- just follow the QR code above.**

Ethics Commission

The Town of Riverdale Park is seeking a volunteer to serve as a member of the Ethics Commission. Please contact Jessica Barnes, Director of Administrative Services at 301-832-6068 or jbarnes@riverdaleparkmd.gov if you have any questions or if you are interested in volunteering.

Better Ways to Reach You

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



Mayor Thompson's Message—November

It is the middle of October as I write this, and fall is in the air. I hope that everyone had a great Halloween! This will be a short report because everyone is having meetings and events right now, and I'm trying to attend them!



Alan Thompson
Mayor

VISION AND COMMITMENT

The Town Council is working on a variety of Vision and Commitment statements, which we on the Council use to remind ourselves of long-term goals, and the town staff use when proposing policies (including the priorities in the budget) to us. We have already discussed, but not completed, statements on Housing and Neighborhoods, and Sustainability, and just started discussion of Business and Economic Development and Infrastructure. I encourage everyone in town to review these statements and provide feedback to your representatives (including me!) as we work through them in the months ahead.

SUSTAINABLE MARYLAND RECOGNITION

I am delighted to report that the Town of Riverdale Park has received Silver Certification from Sustainable Maryland. The Town Council, staff, members of the Green Team, and town residents work collaboratively to identify and implement projects and programs to make the Town more sustainable. I was particularly pleased to see our efforts in Watershed Stewardship were recognized, as that has been a priority of the Town in recent years. The fact that we were recognized with the highest level of certification demonstrates Riverdale Park's commitment to continually improving sustainability.

COVID-19

The COVID-19 situation looking better now than it has for several months. While the "influenza-like-illness" indicator was high in Washington DC for the last few weeks, it has dropped, as have hospitalizations and test positivity in our region. While things are good now, we don't know what the future holds so don't let down your guard TOO much. If you haven't gotten the latest vaccine (approved in September) I recommend it....and think about getting a flu vaccine (and RSV if you are 60 or older).

Contact Me

If you have any questions or comments about any aspect of Town government, please contact me by e-mail

(akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov) or phone (202-527-0309 – my town mobile number). I also monitor accounts on Mastodon (@RPMdMayor@forall.social, my preferred social media site right now), Facebook, and Instagram. I will get back to you as quickly as I can, but please remember that while I love being Mayor, I have a full-time job elsewhere during the day (as do most of the other members of the Town Council), and it may take me a little while to get back to you. If you leave me a voice mail (and please do if I don't answer!) I'd be grateful if you could let me know what times are good for me to call you back. I'll be back here in December as we celebrate a variety of winter holidays. Take care and stay safe until then!

Upcoming Virtual Meetings

Legislative Meeting: November 6, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85077731174?pwd=K2FLK2w2T3VXRGMcVM0QjVwVEdldz09>

Or call: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 850-7773-1174

Passcode: 61523

Town Seal Design Com: November 7, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87955800684?pwd=TIYxdE00RTRZZ3NaWGHuM3ZPcXVldz09>

Or call: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 87955800684

Passcode: 119761

TRP Board of Elect.: November 15, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84224222026?pwd=WFZpSmZONGNNZmZRdUMvSFVuTzNmUT09>

[pwd=WFZpSmZONGNNZmZRdUMvSFVuTzNmUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84224222026?pwd=WFZpSmZONGNNZmZRdUMvSFVuTzNmUT09)

Or call: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 842-2422-2026

Passcode: 10122023

Work Session: November 27, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83711731648?pwd=Rm95NjJyNmV3OWRXMmR3UnAwTTRFQT09>

[pwd=Rm95NjJyNmV3OWRXMmR3UnAwTTRFQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83711731648?pwd=Rm95NjJyNmV3OWRXMmR3UnAwTTRFQT09)

Or call: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 837 173 1648

Passcode: 15623

Ethics Commission: November 29, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83470094107?pwd=UFFObXcyeGFodWthYVdYalRpa24xUT09>

[pwd=UFFObXcyeGFodWthYVdYalRpa24xUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83470094107?pwd=UFFObXcyeGFodWthYVdYalRpa24xUT09)

Or call: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 834-7009-4107

Passcode: 10172023

Events at Riversdale House Museum



Location: Riversdale House Museum
4811 Riverdale Rd, Riverdale Park, MD 20737

Visit With Good Niklaas

Saturday, December 9, 2023, 9-10 am & 11 am-12 noon
Make some memories with family and friends during this annual tradition! Good Niklaas invites you to learn about Belgian customs and enjoy a festive craft, personal chat, and a gift to continue the fun at home. Capacity limited. Register <https://tinyurl.com/2kakn99h> first session from 9AM – 10AM, and <https://tinyurl.com/nu6zv5k4> for second session from 11AM – 12 PM. Registration is required by November 30. Ages 12 & under
Fee: Resident \$3/adult, \$5/child; Non-Resident \$4/adult, \$7/child

Riversdale by Candlelight

Enjoy self-guided tours of the candlelit museum, a children's craft, and peek into the open-hearth kitchen. Make memories with family and friends over a cozy drink, shopping, and a performance by Parkdale High School chorus. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/3wkhu2fa>.
All ages: Fee: \$5/person, children 12 and under are free accompanied by adult.

HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE

Let's work together to support the children of TRP this holiday season

**NEW TOYS CAN BE DROPPED OFF AT:
TOWN CENTER DURING HOLIDAY EVENT**

**DECEMBER 2, 2023
RAIN DATE: DECEMBER 9, 2023**



TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK



TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK

SAVE THE DATE

Holiday Event

DECEMBER 2, 2023

RAIN DATE

DECEMBER 9, 2023

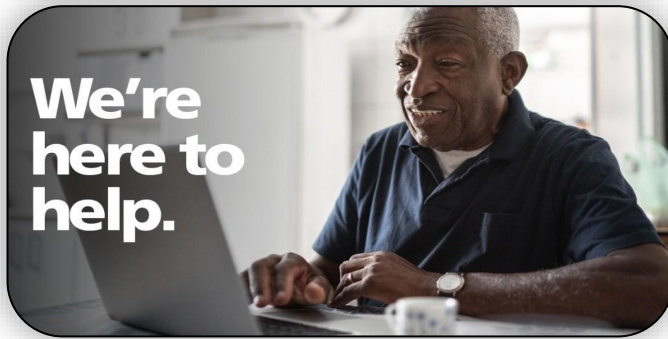
TOWN CENTER

INTERSECTION OF
QUEENSBURY ROAD &
RHODE ISLAND AVENUE



301-927-6381 www.RiverdaleParkMD.gov

Utility Scam Awareness Month



As the holidays approach, Pepco offers tips to help residents identify scammers attempting to steal money and personal information. Pepco generally sees increased reports of attempted scams during the holiday season, when targeted victims' stress and activity levels are high. The ruse: trick customers into: providing personal and/or financial information, and making false payments under the pretense of keeping their service active. Scammers are also attempting to swindle those still facing pandemic-related economic challenges, by pressuring families and businesses struggling with past-due balances.

Pepco has some tips to help identify scams:

Pepco will never come to customer's home or business to:

- Request immediate payment, especially with a prepaid cash card or cryptocurrency.
- Ask for a Pepco account number, or other personal info, such as a driver's license number.
- Disconnect service without previous written warning. If a person comes to your home/ business to disconnect service, call Pepco to discuss your account status.

Pepco will never call a customer to ask for:

- An account number.
- Personal information, such as a Social Security number or bank information.
- A direct payment with a prepaid cash card.

To identify an actual Pepco employee, know:

- All field employees wear a uniform with the Pepco logo, including shirt and safety vest.
- Pepco employees visibly display a company ID badge with the logo and employee's name.

Small Business Saturday

TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK

shop local.
shop TRP.

Small Business Saturday is a national shopping day that takes place on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. In 2023, Small Business Saturday is on November 25. It is day to celebrate and support small businesses and all they do for our communities. This year, we know that our small businesses need our support now more than ever as they navigate, retool and pivot from the effects of the coronavirus pandemic. Live music will be provided to complement our campaign to #SHOPLOCAL and #SHOPTRP.

Emergency Repairs Grant Available

The Town is soliciting grant applications from homeowners and businessowners for the Emergency Repair Grant Program. This grant program is designed to assist with emergency repairs in homes and businesses that would otherwise not be addressed. 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. Successful applicants can be reimbursed for up to \$2,000 after work has been completed and paid for or \$5,000 if the applicant can demonstrate the emergency repair is due to a natural disaster. Applicants that have a household income of no greater than 50% of the Area Median Income can have the matching requirement waived. Grants require a 1:2 match for the first one thousand dollars (\$1,000) and a 1:1 match thereafter. Grants are subject to funding availability. For more information, please visit http://www.riverdaleparkmd.info/residents/emergency_repair_grant.php or contact ARPA Project Manager, LaVerne Peakes at lpeakes@riverdaleparkmd.gov 301-789-4141.

Municipal Government Works Month



Since 1993, Maryland's cities and towns have celebrated Municipal Government Works (MGW) Month each November, to promote citizens' interest in and understanding of governments serving communities. To elevate municipal government awareness, Mayor Thompson will issue a proclamation on November 6, 2023 naming November as MGW Month. Participating in MGW Month enables municipalities to:

- Actively showcase their government/how it works.
- Foster goodwill by educating youth about the impact of local government.
- Fulfill two requirements for the MD Municipal League (MML) Banner City/Town program.
- Maximize MML membership by taking part in League programs and activities.

FOLLOW US



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.

Leaf Collection: Residents are encouraged to bag their leaves and/or mulch them during lawn mowing. 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 has 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.



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.

United States Postal Services Concerns

File a complaint about mail services

You can report issues about mail service by phone, online or in person at a USPS facility:

- Track a package or use USPS's Email Us form to file a complaint online. Select a reason for your complaint, including delivery issues and dissatisfaction with USPS employees or facilities.
- Call 800.ASK.USPS (8777) or TTY: 800.877.8339.
- Speak with your local post office station manager.



If your complaint is not resolved:

- Find your USPS district consumer affairs office to discuss your complaint by phone or by mail.
- Write to the main USPS Consumer Advocate office:

United States Postal Service
Office of the Consumer Advocate
475 L' Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, D.C. 20260-0004

Report theft, fraud, or waste by USPS employees

To file a complaint about theft, fraud, or waste at a USPS facility, or by an employee, contact the USPS Office of the Inspector General (OIG):

- Online: usps.oig.gov/hotline.
- Call 888.USPS.OIG (888.877.7644).

Report mail fraud/theft, by a person or company outside of USPS

The US Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) is the federal law enforcement agency protecting the mail system.

File a complaint through USPIS online about:

- Fraud: ehome.uspis.gov/fcsexternal/default.aspx
- Theft: faq.usps.com/s/article/Mail-Theft

Complain about a USPS policy change

To comment about postage rates, or other policies, contact the Postal Regulatory Commission: prc.gov/contact.



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:

Stephen Smith– ssmith@riverdaleparkmd.gov or 301-927-6381 ext. 508

Robert Redman– rredman@riverdaleparkmd.gov or 301-927-6381 ext. 580

Purple Line Construction Notices

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



Green Team

Riverdale Park's Sustainability Committee (RPSC or Green Team) meets on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:30 pm. The next meeting is November 14, 2023 via Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84004794706?pwd=ejkwSkpHQ3EzeWMrdFRqaHFhOGVxQT09>

Or call: 301-715-8592
Meeting ID: 840 0479 4706
Passcode: 202301

TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK

Festival of Lights

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



*First place winner will receive a \$100 gift card to a restaurant in Town of their choice.
 *Second place winner gets a \$50 gift card.
 *Third place winner gets a \$25 gift card.
 *Only Town resident entries will be eligible for the prize drawings.
 *Entries must be received by December 17th for prize drawings.

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

 @RiverdaleParkMD_gov  @RiverdaleParkMD

TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

PARTICIPATE, LEARN, AND SHARE YOUR IDEAS

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2023
 9:30 AM VIA ZOOM**

Town Seal Redesign

Join to hear from the Neighborhood Design Center (NDC) about the Town Seal Design Process and opportunities to participate. Join Zoom Meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83953286968?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83953286968?pwd=Mj9aNTpZWVlISXcrSHQvdmY5WnFFdz09)

[pwd=Mj9aNTpZWVlISXcrSHQvdmY5WnFFdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83953286968?pwd=Mj9aNTpZWVlISXcrSHQvdmY5WnFFdz09)

Meeting ID: 839 5328 6968 Passcode: 10262023

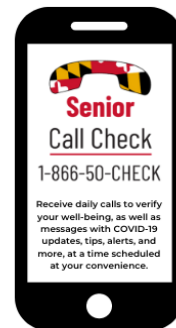
Report Streetlight Outages

It's easy to report streetlight outages at the PEPCO website (pepco.streetlightoutages.com) or by calling 800.735.2258. The online streetlight outage reporting tool is available 24/7.

Senior Call Check in MD

Senior Call Check is a FREE service available to adults 65-plus. Seniors may receive an automated daily call at a time they designate.

After three attempts (no answer), the agency will call your named contacts to check on you. Register by phone at 866.50.CHECK (866.502.0560) or at: aging.maryland.gov/Pages/senior-call-check.aspx.



How to Prepare HVAC System for Fall

Here are some guidelines to prevent HVAC problems this fall, reduce electricity costs and help your system last longer:

- **Clean and replace air filters** for an easy, inexpensive way to preventatively-maintain your HVAC. When you have a dirty air filter, allergens and other pollutants get trapped, reducing the system's efficiency. Follow the suggested replacement schedule, generally every month, and definitely when seasons change.
- **Clean and seal air ducts** to prevent drafts and energy waste. Many homes have leaky air ducts that cause a home to not cool or get hot enough. You may want to invest in ductwork sealing.
- **Clean the outdoor compressor unit** to remove debris that accumulates in/around the external unit and impedes airflow. Get rid of any leaves, sticks or trash that get stuck in the grill or under the unit. You can also hose down the cover and compressor coils (after turning off the power to the unit) to remove dust, pollen and dirt.
- **Change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors** ideally twice a year, in spring and fall. Knowing these lifesaving detectors are working properly will give you peace of mind.

Low income families may qualify for free weatherization for HVAC systems. The Office of People's Counsel has links for major providers, such as BGE and Pepco: opc.maryland.gov/Consumer-Learning/Weatherization/EmPower-Weatherization-Programs.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD. FIRE / EMS DEPARTMENT



TIPsheet

HOLIDAY FIRE SAFETY

NEED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION? PLEASE CONTACT
PGFD COMMUNITY OUTREACH AT 301-883-5250



A Season for Sharing in Fire Safety

Each year fires occurring in the United States during the holiday season will claim the lives of over 400 people, injure 1,650 more, and cause over \$990 million in damage and will account for 40% of all fires during this time period of October thru January.

The Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department wishes to remind everyone that by following some of these simple life-saving steps you can ensure a safe and happy holiday season.

Holiday Decorations: All decorations should be nonflammable or flame-retardant and placed away from heat vents.

Wrapping Paper: Never Put Wrapping Paper in a Fireplace. It can result in a very large fire, throwing off dangerous sparks and embers and may result in a chimney fire.

Artificial Christmas Trees: If you are using a metallic or artificial tree, make sure it is flame retardant.

Candle Care: Avoid Using Lit Candles, If you do use them, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked down. Never leave the house with candles burning. Never Put Lit Candles on a Tree. Do not go near a Christmas tree with an open flame - candles, lighters or matches.

Holiday Lights: Maintain Your Holiday Lights. Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory.

Do Not Overload Electrical Outlets: Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Make sure to periodically check the wires - they should not be warm to the touch. ***Do Not Leave Holiday Lights on Unattended.***

Preventing Christmas Tree Fire Hazards: Special fire safety precautions need to be taken when keeping a live tree in the house. A burning tree can rapidly fill a room with fire and deadly gases.

Selecting a Tree for the Holiday: Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needle should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long, has probably dried out, and is a fire hazard.

Caring for Your Tree: Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree. Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. We recommend that you water the tree 3 times a day and keep the tree stand filled with water.

Disposing of Your Tree: Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood burning stove. When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. The best way to dispose of your tree is by taking it to a recycling center or having it hauled away by a community pick-up service.

Remember in case of an EMERGENCY DIAL 911 - Get Out and Stay Out!



November 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30 Trash & Yard Waste Collection	31	1 LM-UTC Meeting Recycling Collection	2 Farmer's Market Town Center 3pm-7pm	3 Train Stop Tunes Town Center 5pm-7pm	4
5	6 Legislative Meeting 7:30 pm Trash & Yard Waste Collection	7	8 Recycling Collection	9 Farmer's Market Town Center 3pm-7pm	10 Train Stop Tunes Town Center 5pm-7pm Town Hall/DPW Closed Observance of Veteran's Day	11 Veteran's Day Ceremony Veteran's Monument 11:00 am
12	13 Trash & Yard Waste Collection	14 TSDC Focus Group Session #1 6:00 pm	15 TRP BOE 6:30 pm Recycling Collection	16 TSDC Focus Group Session #2 6:00 pm Farmer's Market Town Center 3pm-7pm	17 Train Stop Tunes Town Center 5pm-7pm	18 TSDC Focus Group Session #3 3:00 pm Community Convo 9:30 am Bulk Trash Drop-Off
19	20 Trash & Yard Waste Collection	21	22 Recycling Collection	23 Thanksgiving Day  Town Hall/DPW Closed	24 Train Stop Tunes Town Center 5pm-7pm Town Hall/DPW Closed	25 Small Business Saturday 
26	27 Work Session 7:30 pm Trash & Yard Waste Collection	28	29 Ethics Commission 7:30 pm Recycling Collection	30 Farmer's Market Town Center 3pm-7pm	1 Train Stop Tunes Town Center 5pm-7pm	2 Holiday Event 

Notes

In-person services will be paused for the duration of the renovation process, which begins on Monday, September 11, 2023. Virtual Services will be available Monday - Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM via phone at 301-927-6381, via email at community_input@riverdaleparkmd.gov, and online at www.RiverdaleParkMD.gov. Residents can also schedule appointments with Town Staff if needed. If you need immediate assistance at any time, please call 301-927-6381.

CARRIER ROUTE

PRESORT

PRSRT STD

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

HYATTSVILLE, MD

POSTAL PATRON

RIVERDALE PARK, MARYLAND 20737



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

Important Phone Numbers

Comcast: 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

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
Robert DiLutis at
riverdaleparkarts@gmail.com
www.riverdaleparkarts.org/

Riversdale Chamber Music Society
Robert DiLutis at
thereedmachine@gmail.com or
www.riverdaleparkarts.org