



# The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

**October 2020**

Volume 50, Issue 8

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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.

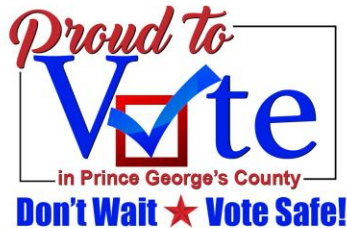
### Police Department

5004 Queensbury Road  
301-927-4343  
24-hours

### Bates Trucking and Trash Collection

301-773-2069

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



## Key Dates & Deadlines for the 2020 General Election

### 1 Request your mail-in ballot as soon as possible.

Ballot applications will be mailed  
the week of August 24.

Completed ballot applications  
must be **RECEIVED** by the  
County Board of Elections  
by October 20.

### 2 You can request your mail-in ballot online or by text: **elections.mypgc.us** or **elections.maryland.gov** **Text VBM to 77788**

### 3 You can also complete and return a mail-in ballot application **IN PERSON** at the County Board of Elections, or you can drop off your ballot application.

County Board of Elections  
1100 Mercantile Ln, Suite 115A  
Largo, MD 20774  
Hours: Mon. – Fri., 8 AM - 4:30 PM



Ballots will be  
mailed by the end  
of September.

Completed mail-in  
ballots must be in a  
secure drop box by  
8:00 PM on  
November 3, 2020.

### EARLY VOTING

**Oct. 26, 2020  
to  
Nov. 2, 2020**

Polls open  
from 7:00 AM  
to 8:00 PM  
each day.

Information on  
voting centers  
will be available  
soon.

Polls open  
from 7:00 AM  
to 8:00 PM.

### SEPT 2020

Information on  
secure drop  
box locations  
will be available  
soon.

If mailing a ballot on  
November 3, voters are  
urged to go inside the  
post office to have a  
clerk postmark it.



Information on  
voting centers  
will be available  
soon.

### ELECTION DAY

**November 3, 2020**



**Not registered to vote? You must do so by October 13.**

Visit [elections.maryland.gov](https://elections.maryland.gov) to register online or call 301-341-7300  
to receive a voter registration form.

**WE  TOWN LIFE!**

# Council Actions

**Legislative Meeting  
September 14, 2020**

## Consent Agenda

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

1. Minutes: June 30, 2020 Special Legislative Meeting, April 14, 2020 Work Session

## Legislative Action Items:

1. Introduction of Ordinance 2020-OR-13 regarding Juneteenth as a Town Holiday - **Introduced**
2. Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-19 regarding Vision and Commitment to Ethical Governance - **Adopted**
3. Motion to authorize Town Manager to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with State Highway Administration (SHA) regarding reimbursement for mowing on 410- **Approved**
4. Motion to extend the due date for Business License fees to December 31, 2020 - **Approved**
5. Motion to authorize residential permit fees to be waived until December 31, 2020 – **Approved**
6. Motion to authorize Town Manager to send a letter to M-NCPPC regarding Capital Budget Requests - **Approved**
7. Motion to authorize Town Manager to send a letter opposing the proposed MARC service cuts - **Approved**

## Fair Summary of Ordinance 2020-OR-13

This is to give notice that the Riverdale Park Town Council has introduced and intends to take action on Ordinance 2020-OR-13.

Ordinance 2020-OR-13 would amend Article F, Section F-3(a), of the Town of Riverdale Park Personnel Manual to add Juneteenth as a Town holiday.

Ordinance 2020-OR-13 is available for inspection by the public 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).

**RIVERDALE PARK TOWN COUNCIL**

**BY: JESSICA BARNES, TOWN CLERK**

## Town of Riverdale Park

[www.riverdaleparkmd.gov](http://www.riverdaleparkmd.gov)

Cable Channels: 10 and 71

### Mayor

Alan K. Thompson  
[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**  
[jnlesitian@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:jnlesitian@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)

# Mayor's Report

By Mayor Alan K. Thompson

As we continue moving into fall, we are faced with an active crisis - the COVID-19 crisis – and recovery from a flood in September (and work to prevent future floods). I'll cover both of these and a few other items in this month's report. There's a lot of information here, so let's dive right in!

## SEPTEMBER 10 FLOOD

As I think many of you know, many areas of the town were flooded on September 10. While there was fortunately no loss of life or serious injury, at least a few dozen homes were seriously damaged (with several feet of water in their basements), cars were totaled, and possessions were ruined. Having suffered through a flash flood as a teenager, decades ago, I understand the suffering all who were flooded are going through, and the lifelong impact they will carry. All of you who were flooded have my full sympathy.

This flood was the second "500 year" flood in six years, which suggests that this level of flooding happens a lot more often than that; a friend of mine who tracks models of climate change (which used to be called "global warming") has said that the mid-Atlantic region is not expected to get much warmer, but rainfall is expected to increase. That may explain what we are experiencing. There was flooding across the region – I've heard reports of similar floods in DC, Silver Spring, College Park, Edmonston, Bladensburg, Hyattsville, Colmar Manor, Mount Rainier, Upper Marlboro, and Cheverly, and I expect there are more. Within town I've heard reports from multiple areas, including sections of Wards 1, 2, 3, and 6. Anyone who has significant flooding in their house from the September 10 storm should report it to Prince George's County at [bit.ly/PGCFloodDamage](https://bit.ly/PGCFloodDamage). If enough people who have been impacted file a report, those who do not have flood insurance may be able to receive relief for the damage done to their homes. (FEMA has reportedly not been very good about providing relief in situations like this in recent years, but the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and Small Business Administration (SBA) have programs that may help).

I'll detail in the next several paragraphs what I know about the flood from driving and walking around town, talking to people, hearing from Town Council members, and doing some research:

*Ward 6* had flooding along Jefferson Street, and in the apartments at 54<sup>th</sup> and Jefferson. There has been flooding in that area during normal storms recently, and we are concerned that some of the flooding is associated with a broken storm drain. I am working with town staff to have this addressed as quickly as possible.

I have no reports from *Ward 4* or *Ward 5*, nor did I see anything while driving/walking these areas. I would not be surprised if some cars in *Ward 5* were flooded.

*Ward 3* had flooding on Longfellow Street. (This is likely due to a longstanding and slow-moving stormwater management project that addresses issues in that area.) I am working with County Council Representative Glaros to expedite this project and will discuss it with County Executive Alsobrooks when I next meet with her). There was also flooding at the southern end of Taylor Road, near the Edmonston pumping station. There are reports that the pumping station did not work on time or correctly (there are similar reports for other pumping stations elsewhere in the county). In conversations with several members of the Town Council in mid-September, they strongly encouraged me and town staff to collect information from the county about what happened, including a full root cause analysis if the reports of incorrect operation are correct, and, if the response to the flooding was inadequate, ensure that it doesn't happen again.

*Ward 2* had a lot of flooding in the 5000 block of Ravenswood, and on the east side of 51<sup>st</sup> Avenue. It is still unclear to me whether this was from Wells Run overflowing in the middle of East-West Highway and seeking a path to the Anacostia River, the river itself rising, or some combination of the two. I do **NOT** at this time believe that the flooding on 51<sup>st</sup> is due to the failure of the pumping station in Edmonston that I discussed above. If the pumping station had worked properly, it would have put **more** water into the river and the additional water downstream would have blocked the water coming from upstream, making the flooding upstream even worse. I heard from a few residents on Riverdale Road on the east side of the Anacostia – the Captain John Creek cleared its concrete channel, and they saw massive water flow through their yards from Riverdale Road. Wells Run overflowed its banks on East-West Highway near Taylor Road, and people had to be rescued from their cars.

Ward 1 had flooding near Wells Run for areas of Tuckerman, Sheridan, 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and 45<sup>th</sup> Place. Reports from University Park are that Wells Run had water flowing over the top of the bridge where it crosses at Baltimore Avenue. East-West Highway at Beale Circle was also flooded.

I reread the Wells Run Study for Riverdale Park Station, and from my reading of that document the big issue in that neighborhood is that the Wells Run channel underneath the CSX railroad tracks cannot handle the flooding from upstream. For a 100-year flood, most of the bridges can handle around 2300 cubic feet per second (cfs) of water, but the CSX bridge can only handle 1300 cfs. The difference between those two numbers, around 1000 cfs, is what fills the neighborhood during a flood like this, and that is a LOT of water. In comparison, the increased water flow due to the Cafritz development, again as I am reading this report, is around 100 cfs during a 100-year flood (from ~75 cfs in the pre-developed state to ~170 cfs after full buildout). Please note that in my “Mayor’s Report” at the September 14 Legislative session I had found different numbers for the Cafritz Project stormwater production, and I need to verify that my interpretation of the report is correct.

So, what can we do to prevent future flooding?

The County is in the midst of multiple storm water management projects, including the Longfellow Street project in Ward 3 (which will help with local flooding in that area), and, far upstream of us (a little upstream of where Wells Run passes under Adelphi Road) a project known as the “Nine Pond” project, which will reduce peak flow in Wells Run and improve water quality. The Nine Pond project has been under discussion for around ten years, and is in the County’s FY 22 budget (which starts in July, 2021), with construction expected to take less than a year. Hopefully both of these will provide relief, even in a future “500-year” flood.

We are discussing other projects as well for the area of Ward 1 that was flooded, such as modifying the Riverdale Neighborhood Park in that area (or possibly the recently-vacated Army Reserve Center parking area) to serve as a surge storm water facility. We have been discussing the park modification with the County for a few years, and after this most recent event have been working with County Council Representative Glaros to speed up those discussions...but we have to see if these ideas will actually address the flooding, first.

Ideally everyone upstream of us would have landscaping that would hold rain water on site for several hours to a few days, and we should do the same for those downstream of us. If I look at my yard, I can imagine it would be pretty easy to put in a rain garden (such as the one to the east of Town Hall) that could hold the several inches of water that flood my property each time it rains. If all properties – residential, commercial, government – did that, the current storm drain system might be able to handle runoff from the streets for everyone downstream from us. But we have decades of development that was built without thought to doing this, and while there are Chesapeake Bay Trust grants to help with the cost, it is still expensive and disruptive, and may not even be possible for many yards and houses.

Looking forward, the Town Council and I will be gathering more information about both this flood and ways to minimize flooding in the future, and will take action where we can. We will advocate and work with the county, state, and federal government when we cannot take action ourselves. If you live in a house identified by FEMA as being in a 100-year flood plain, or near one of the stormwater channels (which are NOT identified by FEMA) I would recommend getting flood insurance (I have it and I’m not in a 100-year flood plain). You can read more about the FEMA program at <https://www.fema.gov/flood-insurance> or <https://www.floodsmart.gov/flood-insurance/why>

Please share any ideas you have on how to reduce flooding with your town council representatives, me, or with the Town by “reporting a concern” on the Town website.

### **COVID-19**

Every week I spend many, many hours staying up to date on the COVID-19 pandemic and response. While the news for Maryland at this moment is again good, with regular daily decreases in diagnoses, hospitalizations, and particularly deaths, we must remain vigilant. The resurgence of COVID-19 cases we saw in Maryland in July can occur again, perhaps requiring a return to greater restrictions than we have now. I am quite worried about this happening at the University of Maryland, with in-person classes having started about a week before I wrote this report. I wrote in September about the importance of wearing masks, and will update that this month and briefly discuss vaccines.

### **COVID-19: Mask update**

Masks and avoiding contact are still, at the moment, the most effective tool we have to prevent spread of this terrible disease. It is likely to be an important part of the continuing response for many, many months.

The new information is that wearing masks seems to protect you from severe illness if infected, because you take in less virus to start with. In a food-processing plant in Arkansas where masks were mandatory, 95 % of those infected had no symptoms, compared to 40 % of the infected having no symptoms in other locations. There may be long-term health problems after COVID-19 infection, even if you have no symptoms, but if you are going to get infected it's best to avoid the possibility of severe symptoms, which seem to get worse with the amount of virus you are exposed to.

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

Before I talk about the COVID-19 vaccines that are under development, I'm going to encourage you (and ask you to encourage everyone you know) to get the *flu* vaccine. The flu vaccine is safe, effective, and available now. Because the symptoms of flu and COVID-19 are similar, you will at least save yourself from being scared if you avoid getting the flu (and the flu is a serious illness all by itself). By the time you are reading this article I will have gotten my flu vaccine (they've been available about a week as I write this).

I had hoped to write a long article on COVID-19 vaccines, talking about safety, effectiveness, cost, when they might be available (and the different stages of availability – supplies will be limited at first), and where can get vaccinated. I hope that I will be able to cover this in the November Town Crier, but want to say here that from what I am hearing from my advisors at Johns Hopkins and the Scripps Institute, it will be at least a few months before we know how well the vaccines currently being tested will work. The FDA can authorize a vaccine for use if it has been demonstrated to be safe and “may be effective.” I will wait until I have more information than that before I take a vaccine.

More on this next month....

### **Voting**

If you want to vote by mail, you should request a mail-in ballot immediately, ideally online at <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/OnlineVoterRegistration/InstructionsStep1>

News reports have said that if you ask for the “email/print at home” ballot it is not scannable and will have to be transcribed by a Board of Elections employee to a scannable ballot, so I have requested the paper mail-in ballot (and I plan to drop it in a secure drop box rather than mail it back). The last day to request a mail-in ballot is October 20, and if you wait until then I would recommend the email/print at home version, just to be sure your ballot is counted at all.

### **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 (301-237-0632). 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 November, when with luck and good adherence to CDC guidelines, COVID-19 cases will be low and stable or declining (and those that there are without symptoms!), and hopefully there will also be more good news from vaccine trials. Take care and stay safe until then.

## **Ward 1 Report**

By CM Marsha Dixon

I hope that everyone is continuing to do well. The school year has begun, and like many parents of school-aged children, I've become a teacher for my kindergartner who is distance learning. There's no greater way to learn how to be patient, than trying to teach a 5-year-old.

Recently, our Town experienced a flash flood that left some residents with severe water damage to their homes and personal property. The Town is working with the county to come up with ways to prevent the

water swells, which have become more frequent, in the future. In the meantime, please contact me if you have experienced any damage. I'd like to get a better sense of how many Ward 1 residents have been affected and I would also like to know how I can contact you when the Town gets more information on potential federal aid.

As a reminder, though our Covid-19 rates have declined in Prince George's County, please continue to be vigilant about exercising safety precautions (e.g., wearing a mask) so that we can continue to see a decline in our numbers.

I hope everyone stays safe as we enter into the Fall season.

## Ward 2 Report

By CM Aaron Faulx

On Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, as I was teaching virtually from my attic, a student commented that the rain was starting in Alexandria, Va. Within ten minutes, a rainstorm started in Riverdale Park that would drop roughly 6 inches of rain over the next 70 minutes. I have never seen anything like it, but to residents of RP, it was eerily similar to a storm that had occurred here in 2014. From my porch I was able to see that Rittenhouse Street was flooded and impassible. Even more alarming was that Well's Run had flooded and East-West Highway had to be shut down as first responders were rescuing people from cars that were caught in the deluge. Little did I know that residents all over Ward 2 and the entire town were having nightmares occur in their basements and backyards. Over the next couple of days, I received calls and emails from residents whose homes, basements, backyards, and bank accounts were being devastated by the second "500-year storm" to hit Riverdale Park in the last six years. I honestly don't have the words that can express my dismay over their continued experience. We need to act as a full council to take action on behalf of our residents. This cannot continue to happen in our community. Prince George's County is responsible for stormwater management and I will advocate on behalf of Town residents to the county. We as a town need to ensure that all our voices are heard by county, state, and federal officials in order to bring about the fixes we need.

### What are we doing?

The first thing I would do would be to encourage all residents to watch Mayor Alan Thompson's remarks from our last council meeting on Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. It was a remarkable presentation that laid out some of the programs that we need to support in order to alleviate the issues that we face as a town. It delves into the problems that have led to this continual issue that we face as a town and promotes solutions that we can support. It is must viewing for anyone who has experienced damage because of these unprecedented storms.

I have encouraged Town Staff and the Mayor to consider lobbying the county and state for pre-disaster mitigation grant monies from FEMA through their Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program. I would like to thank College Park resident Stuart Adams and Riverdale Park resident Ryan Littlewood for bringing this program to my attention. They have both shown tremendous initiative and are engaged in trying to help our community benefit from this grant program. Funds from this program may be utilized for design elements in our Town that could decrease resident's exposure to flood water damage.

### Residential Emergency Repair Grant Program

The Town is pleased to announce this program that may be able to assist residents that experienced damage because of the storm on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Residents may apply for up to \$2000 in matching funds for emergency repairs to your home on items like hot water tanks, HVAC systems, roof leaks, broken or blocked sewer lines, and other storm damage. The application window for these grants closes on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. If you have any questions about this program, please email [development@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:development@riverdaleparkmd.gov) or call (301) 927-6381. Applications are available at [http://www.riverdaleparkmd.gov/residents/emergency\\_repair\\_grant.php](http://www.riverdaleparkmd.gov/residents/emergency_repair_grant.php). If you have any trouble filling out the application, please reach out to me and I will be glad to assist you in the process.

### Contact

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact me in any of these forms.  
Email: [afaulx@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:afaulx@riverdaleparkmd.gov)  
Phone/Text: (860)-970-7776  
Twitter: @RPMdWard2

## Upcoming Virtual Meetings

### October 5, 2020 Legislative Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

To join:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84423489646?pwd=RjlzV01JRXNEbXZQNh3eUs3UGxBUT09>

Or call: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 844-2348-9646

Passcode: 261552

### October 26, 2020 Work Session at 7:00 p.m.

To join:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85400958316?pwd=d0NFK3pQT1EvdTJUcmg3LzFkQzRZQT09>

Or call: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 854 0095 8316

Passcode: 478554

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

## Town Cable Channel

The Town is working to improve the quality of the cable channel transmissions. The acquisition and installation of new equipment is necessary to make this happen. In the coming weeks, a Request for Proposal (RFP) will be created in order to acquire and install new equipment. This process will likely take several months. Thank you in advance for your patience as we work towards this goal.

## Meetings with Staff

Staff are also available for virtual meetings while the Town buildings are closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Virtual meetings can be scheduled by phone or by e-mail. If you need assistance with scheduling a virtual meeting, please call 301-927-6381.

## Town Office Contact 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: ext. 505

Police Department (Non-emergency): ext. 560

## 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)



# International Property Maintenance Code

By Ryan Chelton, Development Services Director

The Town began its review of the 2018 International Property Maintenance Code (IMPC) in September of 2019. Updates and discussion on various aspects of the proposed IPMC have been discussed at many Council meetings over the last year. When adopted the provisions of the code will apply to all existing residential and nonresidential structures and all existing premises. This code will establish the minimum requirements and standards for premises, structures, equipment and facilities for light, ventilation, space, heating, sanitation, protection from the elements, a reasonable level of safety from fire and other hazards, and for a reasonable level of sanitary maintenance. In the next several weeks, the staff team will conduct a final review of the model IPMC and the proposed local amendments. This review will include seeking input from code officials from neighboring jurisdictions. The results of this review and any additional amendments will then be presented to the Mayor and Council prior to a recommendation for adoption. If anyone has input, staff ask that they email [Community\\_Input@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:Community_Input@riverdaleparkmd.gov) or call 301-927-6381.

## Emergency Repair Grant

By Ryan Chelton, Development Services Director

The Town is soliciting grant applications from homeowners who reside in Town. Applications will be accepted through Thursday, December 31, 2020. This grant program is designed to assist homeowners with emergency repairs in homes and businesses that would otherwise not be addressed. Residents 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. For more information, please visit [http://www.riverdaleparkmd.info/residents/emergency\\_repair\\_grant.php](http://www.riverdaleparkmd.info/residents/emergency_repair_grant.php).

# Business Grants

By Ryan Chelton, Development Services Director

Business Grants have been amended as part of the Partners in Economic Recovery to assist businesses during these difficult times. The Business Improvement Grant Program is now accepting applications with limited interior work that serves to attract commerce in addition to the previously qualifying projects. The Business Growth Grant Program is accepting applications with both hard and soft project costs and applicants are no longer required to match program funds 10:1 and are now required to match 2:1. If you have any questions about these programs or any of our other programs for Town businesses, please contact our Development Services office at 240-825-5333.

## Volunteers Needed to Serve on Committees

The Town of Riverdale Park is seeking volunteers to serve as members of the Mixed-Use Town Center Local Design Review Committee (M-UTC).

M-UTC meets on the first Wednesday of most months to review development applications. For more information about MUTC, visit <https://www.mncppc.org/3352/Riverdale-Park-MUTC>.

Please contact Town Clerk Jessica Barnes at [jbarnes@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:jbarnes@riverdaleparkmd.gov) if you are interested in serving on this important committee.

## Leaf Collection

By Ivy Lewis, Director of Public Projects and Services

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. Public Works staff will distribute five (5) leaf bags to all single-family residences in October. 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 Monday for collection by the Town's hauler. Limited leaf vacuuming will occur during leaf season this year.



# Prince George's County Board of Elections

Eleven (11) Early Voting Centers will be open for voting on Monday, October 26, 2020 through Monday, November 2, 2020 (7AM – 8PM) and also on Election Day, Tuesday, November 3, 2020 (7AM – 8PM)

Forty (40) Election Day Vote Centers will be open for voting on Election Day Only – Tuesday, November 3, 2020 (7AM – 8PM)

Voters can vote in-person at the Early Voting Center of their choice during the Early Voting dates or the Election Day Vote Center of their Choice on Election Day.

For a list of the Early Voting Centers and Election Day Vote Centers, visit  
<https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/31809/2020-Pres-Gen-Early-Voting-and-Election-Day-Vote-Centers-9-4-2020?bidId=>.



**Proud to Vote**  
in Prince George's County

**Don't Wait ★ Vote Safe!**

**Mail-in Ballot Application - Important Reminders**

Prince George's County is strongly encouraging voters to vote by mail in the 2020 General Election.

Mail-in ballot applications will be mailed by the State Board of Elections to Maryland registered voters beginning the week of August 24.

When filling out your ballot application by hand, remember to:

- ✓ MAKE SURE YOU WRITE LEGIBLY
- ✓ FULLY COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION
- ✓ SIGN YOUR APPLICATION

Ballot applications that are mailed will contain a prepaid business envelope for return.

You can go IN PERSON to the County Board of Elections to complete and return a ballot application all at once, or you can drop off your ballot application.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

All ballot applications must be RECEIVED by the Prince George's County Board of Elections by October 20.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

If you lose the prepaid envelope, you can mail your application, with appropriate postage, to:  
1100 Mercantile Ln, Suite 115A  
Largo, MD 20774

**ADDRESS & HOURS:**

County Board of Elections  
1100 Mercantile Ln, Suite 115A  
Largo, MD 20774  
Hours: Mon. - Fri., 8 AM - 4:30 PM

Complete your application online by October 20.



Go online to [elections.mypgc.us](https://elections.mypgc.us) or  
[elections.maryland.gov](https://elections.maryland.gov)



Text VBM to 77788

**Not registered to vote? You must do so by October 13.**

Visit [elections.maryland.gov](https://elections.maryland.gov) to register online or call 301-341-7300 to receive a voter registration form.

## 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.**

## Prince George's County Health Department Testing Sites

COVID-19 testing is available at the following sites operated by the Prince George's County Health Department:

### Cheverly Health Center

3003 Hospital Dr. Cheverly, MD 20782  
Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

### Laurel-Beltsville Senior Activity Center

7120 Contee Rd. Laurel, MD 20707  
Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 pm.

### Langley Park/Chillum area

Rollingcrest-Chillum Recreation Center  
6120 Sargent Rd. Chillum, MD 20782  
Monday - Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

### Wayne K. Curry Sports and Learning Center

8001 Sheriff Road, Landover, MD 20785  
Monday – Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

### First United Methodist Church of Hyattsville

6201 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, MD 20782  
Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays  
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
<https://www.hyattsville.org/788/Coronavirus-COVID-19>

# 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 are permitted.



Curbside recycling is provided by Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DOE). Please call 311 or 301-883-4748, if you have any questions or concerns.

TIP: Prince George's County DOE recommends that you write your address on your recycling bin so that it can be easily located.

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

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

Prince George's County  
Forestry Board's

## Walking Tree Tour

Meeting Location: Riversdale House Museum, 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park



**Saturday, Oct. 17 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

Join us for a walking tour of some of Prince George's County's most beautiful trees. Social distancing will be practiced and masks are required.



RSVP by Oct. 9 at <https://tinyurl.com/pgchampiontour2020>

RSVP Required. Donation of \$15 or more requested. All proceeds will go towards providing scholarships to Prince George's County students going to Natural Resources Careers Camp. Lunch will be provided.

For more information, call 240-601-2802 or [kimberleyknox@hotmail.com](mailto:kimberleyknox@hotmail.com)



# RENTAL LICENSES

## TOWN RENTAL LICENSE APPLICATIONS → DUE JULY 1, 2020

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE AT:

[WWW.RIVERDALEPARKMD.GOV](http://WWW.RIVERDALEPARKMD.GOV)

QUESTIONS: PLEASE CALL

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES AT

301-927-6381 OR EMAIL

[LICENSES@RIVERDALEPARKMD.GOV](mailto:LICENSES@RIVERDALEPARKMD.GOV)

## Rental Properties in Town

Guidelines for Property Owners

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

## ARE YOU A TENANT HAVING DIFFICULTY PAYING YOUR RENT DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC?

*If you sign the CDC declaration and give it to your landlord, you cannot be evicted due to unpaid rent until December 31, 2020. The purpose of the order is to prevent the spread of the virus. All adults on your lease should fill out the declaration. You are still required to continue trying to pay rent and should continue following the rules of your lease.*

### ELIGIBILITY FOR SIGNING

- Be trying to obtain government assistance for rent. You can apply for help from the Prince George's COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program
- Be making annually less than \$99,000 for an unmarried person (or \$198,000 for a couple) or not be required to report any income to the IRS in 2019 or have received a stimulus check during the pandemic
- Be unable to pay full rent due to loss of income or high medical expenses from the COVID-19 pandemic
- Be trying to pay your full rent to the best of your ability
- If evicted would have to move into a homeless shelter or other place with crowded living conditions

If you need help determining whether you meet the CDC's criteria or if you are not a citizen or resident, please call Housing Initiative Partnership at 301-699-3835. This declaration is sworn testimony, so you should only sign it if you are sure you meet the requirements. By signing, you should also understand that you will need to pay the rent you owe eventually, and your landlord may still charge late fees, interest, or other penalties. If you are not able to pay, you may be evicted after December 31, 2020.

## ¿ES USTED UN INQUILINO QUE TIENE DIFICULTADES PARA PAGAR LA RENTA POR LA PANDEMIA DE COVID- 19?

*Si firma la declaración del CDC y se entrega la declaración a su dueño, no puede ser desalojado por no pagar la renta hasta el 31 de diciembre de 2020. El propósito de la orden del CDC es prevenir la propagación del virus. Todos los adultos en su alquiler deben completar la declaración. Aún debe continuar tratando de pagar la renta y debe seguir las reglas de su alquiler.*

### ELEGIBILIDAD PARA FIRMAR

- Está tratando de obtener ayuda del gobierno. Puede solicitar ayuda del condado de Prince George's COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program
- Está ganando anualmente menos de \$99,000 como persona soltera (o \$198,000 como pareja) o no está obligado a reportar ningún ingreso al IRS del 2019 o ha recibido un cheque de estímulo del gobierno durante la pandemia.
- No puede pagar la renta completa por la pérdida de ingresos o los altos gastos médicos de la pandemia de COVID-19
- Está tratando de pagar la renta completa o realizando pagos que se acerquen al monto total
- Si es desalojado, su única opción es mudarse a un refugio para personas sin hogar u otro lugar con condiciones menos favorables.

Si necesita ayuda para determinar si cumple con los criterios del CDC o si no es un ciudadano o residente, llame a Housing Initiative Partnership al 301-699-3835. Esta declaración es testimonio del jurado, por lo que solo debe firmar si está seguro de que cumple con los requisitos. Al firmar, también debe comprender que eventualmente deberá pagar la renta que adeuda y que el dueño aún puede cobrar cargos por el alquiler, intereses u otras multas. Si no puede pagar, es posible que lo desalojen después del 31 de diciembre de 2020.

### ACCESS THE DECLARATION HERE:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/declaration-form.pdf>

Note: This flyer is intended for general information purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. If you need legal advice, please contact the Prince George's County Legal Aid Bureau at 301-560-2101 or 888-215-5316.

### ENCUENTRE LA DECLARACIÓN AQUÍ:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/declaration-form.pdf>

Una nota: Este documento es solamente para proveer información general, y no es un consejo legal. Si necesita un consejo legal, contacte al Prince George's County Legal Aid Bureau a 301-560-2101 o 888-215-5316.





# RESIDENTIAL EMERGENCY REPAIR GRANT PROGRAM



Apply to receive up to  
**\$2,000**



**for emergency repairs to your home**

This matching grant program aids Town residents in repairing things like hot water tanks/systems, HVAC, broken or blocked sewer lines, roof leaks, and storm damage.

**Application deadline is December 31, 2020.**

Applications are available at  
[www.riverdaleparkmd.gov](http://www.riverdaleparkmd.gov)

For more information, call **301-927-6381**  
or email [development@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:development@riverdaleparkmd.gov)



# PROGRAMA DE SUBSIDIOS DE REPARACIÓN DE EMERGENCIA RESIDENCIAL



Aplique para recibir hasta  
**\$2,000**



**para reparaciones de emergencia en su hogar**

Este programa de subvenciones equivalentes ayuda a los residentes de la ciudad a reparar cosas como tanques / sistemas de agua caliente, HVAC, líneas de alcantarillado rotas o bloqueadas, goteras en el techo y daños por tormentas.

**La fecha límite de solicitud es el 31 de diciembre de 2020.**

Las solicitudes están disponibles en  
[www.riverdaleparkmd.gov](http://www.riverdaleparkmd.gov)

Para mas informacion llame al **301-927-6381**  
o envíe un correo electrónico a  
[development@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:development@riverdaleparkmd.gov)



# October 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>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 <a href="mailto:town@riverdaleparkmd.gov">town@riverdaleparkmd.gov</a> or 301-927-6381 if you have any questions.</p>				<p>1</p> <p>Farmer's Market 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (Town Center)</p> <p><b>Trash Collection</b></p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p><b>Legislative Meeting 7:00 p.m.</b></p> <p><b>Trash &amp; Yard Waste Collection</b></p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p><b>M-UTC Meeting 7:30 p.m.</b></p> <p><b>RPSC Meeting 7:30 p.m.</b></p> <p><b>Recycling Collection</b></p>	<p>8</p> <p>Farmer's Market 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (Town Center)</p> <p><b>Trash Collection</b></p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p><b>Trash &amp; Yard Waste Collection</b></p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p><b>Recycling Collection</b></p>	<p>15</p> <p>Farmer's Market 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (Town Center)</p> <p><b>Trash Collection</b></p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p><b>Bulk Trash Drop Off 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.</b></p>
<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p><b>Trash &amp; Yard Waste Collection</b></p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p><b>Recycling Collection</b></p>	<p>22</p> <p>Farmer's Market 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (Town Center)</p> <p><b>Trash Collection</b></p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p><b>Council Work Session 7:00 p.m.</b></p> <p><b>Trash &amp; Yard Waste Collection</b></p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p><b>Recycling Collection</b></p>	<p>29</p> <p>Farmer's Market 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (Town Center)</p> <p><b>Trash Collection</b></p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p><b>Halloween</b></p>

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there may be additional changes to upcoming meetings and events. Please be sure to visit the Town's website [www.riverdaleparkmd.gov](http://www.riverdaleparkmd.gov) or call 301-927-6381 for more information.