



The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

September 2020

Volume 50, Issue 7

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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.



Riverdale Park: Count Us In!

**THE 2020 CENSUS DEADLINE IS
SEPTEMBER 30TH**

**COMPLETE THE 2020
CENSUS TODAY**

EASY. QUICK. SAFE.

www.2020census.gov

1-844-330-2020



Riverdale Park: ¡Cuente con nosotros!

**LA FECHA LÍMITE PARA COMPLETAR EL
CENSO DE 2020 ES EL
30 DE SEPTIEMBRE**

**COMPLETE EL CENSO
DE 2020 HOY**

FÁCIL. RÁPIDO. SEGURO.

www.2020census.gov

★ **En español: 1-844-468-2020** ★

Council Actions

Special Legislative Meeting June 30, 2020

Legislative Action Items

1. Introduction of Emergency Ordinance 2020-OR-10 regarding CARES Act funding - **Introduced**
2. Motion to designate Chair of Board of Code Appeals - **Approved**
3. Introduction of Ordinance 2020-OR-11 regarding Organizational Structure of Town Government- **Introduced**
4. Introduction of Ordinance 2020-OR-12 regarding Town Personnel Manual - **Introduced**

Legislative Meeting July 6, 2020

Consent Agenda

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

1. Minutes: May 19, 2020 Public Hearing, May 26, 2020 Special Legislative Meeting, May 26, 2020 Work Session, June 2, 2020 Legislative Meeting

Legislative Action Items:

1. Motion to authorize the Town Manager to enter into an agreement with Hertrich Fleet Services, Inc. for the lease of 4 police vehicles - **Approved**
2. Motion to adopt Emergency Ordinance 2020-OR-10 regarding CARES Act funding - **Adopted**
3. Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-OR-11 regarding Organizational Structure of Town Government - **Adopted**
4. Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-OR-12 regarding Town Personnel Manual - **Adopted**

COME GROW WITH US!

WE  TOWN LIFE!

Town of Riverdale Park

www.riverdaleparkmd.gov

Cable Channels: 10 and 71

Mayor

Alan K. Thompson
akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Council Members

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

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

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

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

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

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

Administration

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fire Department - Emergency 911

Information - 301-927-0356

Brian Carpio, **Fire Chief**
Eng7twr@yahoo.com;
info@riverdalevfd.com;
www.riverdalevfd.com

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

Submission deadline: 15th of each month

Send submissions to:
towncrier@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Mayor's Report

By Mayor Alan K. Thompson

As we move into fall, the COVID-19 crisis continues and takes up much of my attention and time. I'll cover COVID-19 and a few other items in this month's report.

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 since my July/August report can occur again, perhaps requiring a return to greater restrictions than we have now. In the sections below I'll focus on different aspects of the COVID-19 crisis and response.

COVID-19/Masks – As scientists make progress on understanding transmission of the “SARS-CoV-2” coronavirus, the consensus is that most infections are caused by airborne virus. Airborne transmission can occur via large droplets or small droplets (a.k.a., aerosols). The CDC's 6-foot distancing recommendation is mainly aimed at preventing large-droplet transmission, because these droplets seldom travel more than that distance before falling to the ground.

Aerosols are much smaller droplets, and they can float in the air for up to a few hours. Infection seems to require inhaling (or absorbing in the eyes) a fair number of these droplets, and this is the source of the CDC's recommendation to keep non-distanced interactions to less than 15 minutes. I think of these aerosols as being like smoke from someone else's cigarette – if you are outside and pass by someone smoking and get a face full of smoke you are not too likely to be affected, but if you work for a long time in a not-well-ventilated room with a number of smokers you are likely to suffer consequences. (Please note that this analogy is imperfect – second-hand smoke takes years to impact you, but 15 minutes in a room filled with virus-laden aerosols can cause a COVID-19 infection within a couple of weeks).

Cloth masks work against both large and small droplets – the large droplets are not projected as well, and cloth masks capture up to 2/3 of the aerosols, and tend to keep the “smoke cloud” of uncaptured aerosols closer to the person breathing them out (this is the reason the

CDC recommends both wearing a mask *and* the six-foot separation). Wearing a mask that does not cover both your nose and mouth greatly reduces both forms of protection.

There are a few important tidbits from recent scientific studies that I want to mention. One is that neck gaiters made from thin fabric may actually be worse than no mask at all – these gaiters may break up some large droplets into smaller ones that remain airborne longer. The second is that (in contrast to previous reports) wearing a mask does protect the wearer – but only if it is worn over both mouth *and* nose.

It's also important to note that you can have an active COVID-19 infection yet be without symptoms. This means that even though you do not feel ill, you may be exposing others to the virus. Not all people who are infected have a fever, trouble breathing, or suffer from exhaustion. This is why everyone, not just those with symptoms, is required to wear a mask.

I wear a mask any time I am out of my house and expect that I might run into people (I do take it off for long car rides). Being outdoors means the chance of infection is small because ventilation is good and sunlight kills the virus, but even there I almost always wear it - the mask seems a small inconvenience compared with the possible impact on others.

Under Governor Hogan's August 3, 2020, Executive Order, everyone over the age of five is *required* to wear a mask while inside almost any building where members of the public are present, and outdoors unless you are able to consistently maintain *at least* a six-foot distance from others (there are safety and other exemptions to these requirements, of course). Violation of this order is a crime and subjects' violators can be fined and imprisoned.

COVID-19/Schools – As I'm sure all parents have heard; our public schools will have only distance learning this fall. I share your disappointment that our children cannot attend in person, but it is the correct decision to minimize chances of a resurgence of COVID-19, especially given that young people are more likely to be asymptomatic spreaders of the disease.

COVID-19/Voting – I was disappointed by Governor Hogan's decision to hold a “traditional” election this fall, but, living with that decision, I recommend that everyone request a mail-in absentee ballot as soon as

possible (I requested my ballot in early August). You can do this online at:

<https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/OnlineVoterRegistration/InstructionsStep1>

The logistics of mailing out millions of individual ballots in combination with emerging problems with the US Postal Service mean that getting your ballot quickly and returning it quickly are the best way to ensure your vote is counted while minimizing the chances of COVID-19 infection. As I did in the primary election in June, I plan to drop my ballot at one of the secure drop boxes that will be available. You can learn where those boxes will be located and get more information about early voting here:

https://www.elections.maryland.gov/voting/early_voting.html

COVID-19/Hope – In the face of much of the news about the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a lot of good news, and reason for hope. There are at least half a dozen vaccines in Phase 3 trials (and success in Phase 3 will lead to approval, perhaps as early as the end of 2020), there are antibody treatments that show good promise in testing, and, most importantly, the death rate for those infected is down. I am thankful for the decrease in deaths and have high hopes that the medical advances will be effective and available relatively soon.

The town has responded with multiple programs to combat the economic impact of the pandemic that are ongoing, including the Farmers' Market Dollars program, Carryout Cash, the Food Forest, and Business Resources. Newly available since July are resources to help renters who have been financially impacted by the pandemic (funded by Federal CARES Act funds and administered by the County). Please contact the town office or read the town's web site for details on any of these programs if you are in need.

Individuals in town have also contributed time, money, and energy to help out their neighbors, whether to pick up/deliver food, make sure they had needed supplies, or just checking in on socially isolated people. I continue to donate to the Riverdale Park Cares program (coordinated by the Office of County Council Representative Glaros and the Central Kenilworth Area Revitalization CDC). You can donate to this program, which provides meals prepared by local restaurants to those in need, at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/gofundmecomgreater->

riverdale-cares This program is part of a larger effort to address food insecurity both inside and near our town.

This pandemic continues to sicken multiple people each day in our zip code, but our actions together to prevent infections are helping keep us safe. Scientists and doctors are racing to truly control the virus and bring us back to a more normal life.

Trash Pickup Issues

Many people have contacted me and Town staff about issues with trash pickup. Please continue to report them to us as we work with the contractor to improve service. High demand for bulk trash pickup has led the contractor to limit bulk pickups to twenty households per week. We have implemented appointment-only drop off of bulk trash on Saturdays at the Public Works Building through the end of September to address high demand. To make an appointment to drop off bulk trash please contact the Town at 301-927-6381 or send an email to krobinson@riverdaleparkmd.gov.

Policing

The Town Council had a special meeting on June 23 to discuss, in the context of nationwide protests following the killing of George Floyd, the Riverdale Park Police Department. Chief Morris discussed the policies of the department (including the recently amended Use of Force policy), recruitment and training of officers, community engagement and transparency, and actions the Council might take to improve police accountability. Chief Morris responded to questions from the Council and members of the public. I encourage anyone interested to watch the video of the (virtual) meeting, which is available from the Agendas and Minutes page on the Town's web site at <http://www.riverdaleparkmd.gov/government/2020.php>

Census

Census data collection will end on September 30, 2020. As I am writing this article, Riverdale Park has a 64 % self-response rate, compared to 68 % for the state. *Every person* we miss will cost state and local governments an estimated \$18,000 in lost funds over the next ten years. Complete the census yourself, if you haven't, by calling 844-330-2020 (English) or 844-468-2020 (Spanish), and then reach out to your neighbors to make sure they have responded as well. Time is running out!

Contact Me

If you have any questions or comments about any aspect of Town government, please contact me by e-mail (akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov) or phone (301-237-0632). I also monitor accounts on Facebook, Twitter (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 October, when with luck and good adherence to CDC guidelines, COVID-19 cases will be low and stable or declining, and hopefully there will also be more good news from medical trials. Take care and stay safe until then.

Upcoming Virtual Meetings

Legislative Meeting

Monday, September 14, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

To participate visit:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82180801761?pwd=MEtbyTjVTNVdWl4RFJFL3hGWVN1QT09>

Or call: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 821-8080-1761

Password: 333349

Council Work Session

Monday, September 21, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

To participate visit:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89448429540?pwd=VVZtdDI1SGoxcINLeIRucVMzSXdEdz09>

Or call: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 894-4842-9540

Password: 156266

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

Tips for Parents Navigating Virtual Learning

By Children and Screens

With COVID-19 causing widespread school closures, children across the country are being given alternate resources, some online, to study outside of the classroom. Temporary solutions being devised for remote education range from online classroom tools like Google Classroom, to Zoom and podcasts by teachers. While parents are adjusting to this new scenario, during this time it's also important to help kids stay focused on learning and avoid overuse of games, social media, and videos.

"This is a stressful, unpredictable time for everyone, including families, parents and children. You can help your children by providing them with a structure and routine, and being a positive force in their education," says Dr. Pamela Hurst-Della Pietra, President of Children and Screens: Institute of Digital Media and Child Development.

1. DIGITAL QUARANTINE: Consider limiting your children's cell phones and tablets until their schoolwork is done satisfactorily, so that it can receive their undivided attention. Apps, games, and messaging features are fun, but they can also prove distracting. It may not be an option for everybody, but ideally, try to give your kids a dedicated device such as a school laptop for maximum online learning.

2. MAKE SPACE FOR LEARNING: Your children will achieve their best work in a quiet, comfortable, and dedicated space devoted to learning. Ideally, this will be a different set-up than where they normally play games or watch television. Keep in mind that children will be in this space for many hours each day, and parents should watch out for any orthopedic issues that may arise related to comfort and posture.

3. MONITOR THE (COMPUTER) MONITOR: In this new learning milieu, you can help by monitoring your children's levels of interest and engagement in adapting to their new schedule and at-home materials. The simplest way to do this. Observation. Look at your child's eyes to see if they're following along with the screen. Check if they're taking notes or zoning out. Ask questions at the end of a lesson. While this may require taking an hour off from work or stepping out for an early lunch, it's important to confirm that your children are indeed learning. If you find that your child is not

engaging with the lessons, don't be afraid to contact the school district or teachers to better explore the issue. Sometimes, easily remedied technical problems such as bad audio, poor connection, or an unhelpful camera angle can make all the difference.

4. DIGITAL RECESS: Make sure that your children take plenty of breaks in order to get physical activity and time away from screens. Set alarms similar to those they would encounter at school and encourage them to get up, get some fresh air, go for a walk or bike ride, or have a snack so that they are not sedentary for the entire day.

5. FACETIME: In-person interaction is ideal for kids, but until it's safe for them to return to school, encourage your children to video chat or text message rather than simply scrolling through social media. You don't want your children to feel socially isolated, but at the same time, you want to protect them from becoming wholly reliant upon their devices. Sit your children down for face-to-face conversations about screen time. In order to give them agency, discuss how much time they think is reasonable to spend online and make a "contract," committing to goals for on-screen vs. off-screen hours.

6. WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER: Remember that you're not alone in this journey. Check in with other parents to see what they've found effective or to ask if they need help. Share your concerns and useful hints. If you need contact information for other parents or resources, reach out to the PTA or your child's school. It is important that we all work together as a community for the good of our children and families.

7. PLAN YOUR WORK AND WORK YOUR PLAN: Good planning can relieve stress for both children and parents. Check in with your kids about their plans and help them develop a written schedule not only for the day, but for the week as a whole. Help them prioritize and learn to create goals, tasks, and deadlines, just like adults do when they go to work. Tasks that may not have been difficult for them while attending school in person can become more challenging when learning from home, so it's important to reinforce boundaries and offer incentives for healthy behaviors. To avoid disruption, some after-school activities may be offered via online video apps, Facetime, or Skype.

8. THIS AIN'T NO VACATION: Even though staying home from school might feel like a holiday, remind your kids that they're not on vacation. Assignments, grades, requirements, and tests like state exams, SATs, and ACTs aren't going away just because classes have moved online.

9. DON'T FORGET TO HAVE FUN: Plan off-screen activities for the whole family. Between school and work obligations, it's rare for parents and children to have this much time together, so turn it into an opportunity for bonding. Write predictions for a TV show that the whole family watches. Organize a tournament, family card games, charades, or chess, or get outside for a hike or walk together after school. Follow your community's guidelines about safe behavior and events, of course, but make sure you still find time for fun with your kids.

Without a doubt, this is a challenging time for parents, teachers, and children alike. Studies show that screen time can have both positive and adverse impacts on kids, and the shift to online education will only increase your child's time with their devices.

"Hopefully these commonsense practices can help you and your family navigate this new terrain and make the most out of at-home learning," says Dr. Hurst-Della Pietra. You can write to me at info@childrenandscreens.com with any problems or suggestions that were not covered in this article."

Community Input

Input from the community is welcomed and encouraged as we navigate a new medium for holding public meetings. The public is invited to join the meetings virtually or e-mail comments to community_input@riverdaleparkmd.gov. The internet or a smart phone are not the only ways to join in. You may also call from a landline to listen to the meeting and provide comments or call Town staff (301-927-6381) prior to the meeting and we will assist you with submitting your comments. We look forward to hearing from you!

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.

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

Remote Notary Services Now Available

Staff are now available to perform Remote Notary Services for Town residents. Remote Notary Services will be performed through a virtual platform approved by the Maryland Secretary of State. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please contact Denisa Caballero at dcaballero@riverdaleparkmd.gov or Keith Robinson at krobinson@riverdaleparkmd.gov or call 301-927-6381

Volunteers Needed to Serve on Committees

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

The Ethics Commission meets several times throughout the year and meeting days/times are flexible. For more information about the Ethics Commission, visit <http://www.riverdaleparkmd.info/EthicsCommission.cfm>.

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 if you are interested in serving on these important committees.

International Property Maintenance Code

Currently the Town follows the Prince George's County Property Maintenance Code which is based on the 2000 International Property Maintenance Code. The County's code is only applicable to residential structures. The 2018 International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC) applies to both residential and commercial structures and has been discussed at Council meetings over the last several months. Community Input is encouraged and welcomed. Comments may be e-mailed to Community_Input@riverdaleparkmd.gov.

Information from Prince George's County Board of Elections

2020 PRESIDENTIAL GENERAL ELECTION DATES

General Election - November 3, 2020 from 7 am until 8 pm.

Early Voting for the General Election - Monday, October 26, 2020 through Monday, November 2, 2020 from 7 am until 8 pm.

Election Day Vote Centers and Early Voting Sites will be posted when they are available.

Contact us:
1100 Mercantile Lane, Suite 115A
Largo, MD 20774
Phone: 301-341-7300
Email: election@co.pg.md.us

Frequently Asked Questions

1. There is a lot of election-related information regarding the 2020 Presidential General Election in Prince George's County. How do I know what information is true?

So far during this election cycle, a lot of misinformation has been disseminated. If you have any questions or are unsure of the validity of the information that you've received, please contact the Prince George's County Board of Elections on 301-341-7300 or email us on

election@co.pg.md.us

2. What are the dates for the 2020 Presidential General Election and Early Voting?

Election day is Tuesday, November 3, 2020 (7am-8pm)

Early Voting begins on Monday, October 26 and ends on Monday, November 2, 2020 (7am-8pm each day).

3. What is the safest way to vote?

To reduce the risk of spreading the COVID-19, we encourage voters to vote by mail. An application will automatically be mailed to your home during the week of August 24, 2020. However, there are three ways you can request a mail-in ballot NOW:

- Online if you have a Maryland's driver's license or MVA-issued ID card.
- Complete and return one of the forms below:
https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/documents/Abse ntee_Ballot_Application_English.pdf

https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/documents/Abse ntee_Ballot_Application_Spanish.pdf

Read the instructions, enter the required information, print the form, sign it, and return it to your local board of elections. You can return it by mail, fax, or email (scanned as an attachment).

- Get one from the Prince George's County Board of Elections Office, 1100 Mercantile Lane, Suite 115A, Largo, MD, 20774 complete, and turn in the form.

4. Will I be mailed an actual ballot like in the 2020 Primary Election?

No. You will not automatically be mailed a ballot. You will only receive a ballot if you request one. You can do that one of three ways as indicated in Question 3 of this document.

5. When will I receive my ballot once my application is processed?

Ballots will be mailed in mid-September. They are NOT available now.

6. What is the deadline to submit the application to receive a mail-in ballot?

All ballot applications must be returned to the Prince George's County Board of Elections Office no later than Monday, October 20, 2020. The application must be physically in the office by 4:30 pm on that date. To ensure that you receive a ballot in a timely manner, it is

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED that you submit your ballot application much earlier than the deadline.

7. What kind of ID is required to cast a ballot by mail?

If you are a registered voter and voted before, no ID is required to receive or submit a ballot by mail. A very small number of newly registered voters may need to provide ID with their voted ballots. If you have to provide ID, there will be instructions with your ballot.

8. I am hearing a lot of negative information about the United States Post Office and no longer trust it. Can I drop my ballot in a Board of Elections Drop Box?

Yes. The Prince George's County Board of Elections will have drop boxes in various locations throughout the County. Any ballots dropped in those boxes will be picked up by Board of Elections' staff and delivered directly to the Prince George's County Board of Elections Office. The locations and dates that the drop boxes will be installed will be posted at the end of August 2020.

9. Can I vote in person?

Yes. Although we encourage you to vote by mail, you can vote in person at one of Prince George's County's eleven early voting sites. You can also vote at one of the limited vote centers on Election Day (Due to COVID-19). The list of early voting and Election Day sites will be published at the end of August 2020. If you choose to vote in person, please be prepared because there may be long lines.

10. How do I know if I am registered to vote?

If you aren't sure if you are registered, or at what address, check your voter registration status by visiting our voter lookup site: <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch> . If you do not have internet access, call 301-341-7300 and ask a representative to check your registration or text CHECK to 77788.

11. Can voters register to vote online?

Voters can register online if they have a Maryland driver's license or Motor Vehicle Administration state ID by clicking on the following link: https://elections.maryland.gov/voter_registration/index.html

The deadline to register to vote is 5pm on Tuesday, October 13, 2020.

12. Is ID required to register to vote?

No, but you must provide some information so election officials can verify your identity.

If you use the State Board's online system to register, you must enter your Maryland driver's license number or Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) issued state ID number, the date MVA issued your license or ID card, and the last 4 digits of your Social Security number. If you reside outside of the United States or are a member of the military or spouse or dependent of a member of the military, you must enter the last 4 digits of your US social security number. If you provide a license or State ID number, your signature on file with the MVA will become your official voter registration signature. If you provide a social security number, it will be used as your official voter registration signature.

Riverdale Park Food Forest



By Ryan Chelton
Development Services Director

The Town has establishing a Food Forest to assist residents whose income has been impacted by COVID-19 and are having difficulty finding food. The Food Forest will consist of multiple garden beds containing tomatoes, squash, peppers, cucumbers, beans, and more! Supplies for the Food Forest will be provided by the Town and volunteers will assist with the planting. If you have a green thumb and are interested in volunteering, please contact our Development Services office at 240-825-5333.



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 p.m.

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>

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.

SNAP Assistance

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

Food Distribution Sites: SEED Food Distribution Center

SEED FOOD Distribution Center

5819 EastPine Drive
Riverdale, MD 20737
301.458.9808

Every Wednesday 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Bulk Trash Drop Off

Bulk trash will be accepted, **by appointment only**, every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. from August 1st through

September 26th at the Department of Public Works building located at 5012 Queensbury Road. Please call **301.927.6381** to schedule your drop off. Town residents are permitted to bring **up to eight acceptable items** for drop-off during their scheduled appointment time. This will be a contactless drop-off. Residents are required to wear a mask covering their nose and mouth and to bring someone with them who can assist with unloading.

Appointments may be made by calling 301-927-6381. Due to COVID-19 safety requirements, no unscheduled drop-offs will be accepted. A list of acceptable items will be available on the Town's website www.riverdaleparkmd.gov.

Acceptable items:

- Furniture: bookcases, chairs, end tables, bed frames, loveseats, dressers, coffee tables, tables, desks
- Large Yard Toys/Yard Ornaments
- Carpet and Carpet Padding: no larger than 10x20, rolled and tied at both ends
- Large Appliances: refrigerators, washers, dryers, stoves, freezers
- Small Household Appliances: toasters, toaster ovens, and microwaves, blenders, lamps

Unacceptable Items:

- bagged trash
- A/C units
- water heaters
- electronics
- hazardous waste
- chemicals
- paint/solvents
- animal carcasses
- ash
- automobile parts
- compressed cylinders
- drums
- tanks
- construction material
- demolition debris
- glass: windows, mirrors, etc.
- roofing shingles
- yard waste: stumps/logs, etc.
- tires

Mattresses:

All mattresses and box springs must be covered in plastic in order to be collected by Bates. Mattress bags

have been required by Prince George's County since February 2019. The County's website states: "NOTE: Effective February 1, 2019, for the health and safety of staff, Prince George's County residents requesting curbside collection of Bulky items will be required to completely cover mattresses and box springs in a protective plastic covering in order to be collected. Plastic zippered mattress covers are available at many local retail stores for a nominal fee."

New Station at Riverdale Park Apartments Aim for Summer 2021 Opening

By Alison Beckwith



A new apartment complex at the Station at Riverdale Park near Whole Foods is aiming to open next June.

Senior Property Manager Lydia C. Chandlee told the Hyattsville Wire there are still several more months until construction on [the Residences](#) at the [Station at Riverdale Park](#) is finished, but that the current goal is to complete the interior of the 225 units by the end of February, with pre-leasing beginning in March and renters moving into the units in June.

With much of the exterior already complete, an on-site leasing office is expected to open by the end of December with more information on floor plans and mockups of the units.

But she said a lot of the floor plans for the units are tentative at best, with the ongoing pandemic raising a lot of questions for a lot of different industries. Chandlee said once construction is completed, likely by the end of February, the property will be turned over to Bozutto to handle the leasing and management of the complex.

Chandlee said the apartments are aimed at commuters and families looking for a livable, workable community near the Metro station in College Park, the MARC heavy rail station in Riverdale Park's historic city center, and the future Purple Line.

The ground floor of the Residences will be retail and while they are in conversation with a few service-type tenants, there's nothing to announce as of now.

Meanwhile, a new Chase ATM has been installed at the Station next to Habit Burger. The permitting is finishing up and everything should be up and running next week.

Boy Scouts Troop 252

By Robert Killen, Scoutmaster

Scouting is still "Outing!" Troop 1250, of St. Mary of the Mills Catholic Church in Laurel, asked three of us to be Merit Badge (MB) Counselors for a week-long out-of-doors MB Week at their church. I was "Fire Safety Merit Badge" Counselor. Fifteen Scouts, in 5 days, three groups of five each, met with me during the day (HOT, no rain until I got home) and we went over the requirements. Each Scout had a copy of the MB book, Workbook and requirements list. By the end of the week, every Scout had filled in his MB Workbook!

I believe that none had opened the pages of the MB book before that Monday morning; looking up information made them familiar with the topic - INTIMATELY! All were well-behaved, and each patrol was accompanied by a Scouter from the troop. By Wednesday, they all followed directions, even the Scouters! A great learning experience for all.

Troop 252 has folded; all the Scouts have aged (mostly Eagles with Palms) out, with no new Scouts to fill the holes. Eneida Martínez-Brown has been proclaimed "Committee Chair Emeritus," Sandra Tolson has been proclaimed "Committee Member Emeritus," and Bob Killen has been proclaimed "Scoutmaster Emeritus." We are still active in National Capital Area Council and Baltimore Area Council {BAC}. Bob is an Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 1250, and Sandra is a Committee member, and we are VERY busy counseling many Merit Badges.

We're determined to *safely* keep the "Outing" in "Scouting" with the 44th Annual BAC Scout **Orienteering Day** at Broad Creek's

Camp Oest (35 miles NE of Baltimore) on **Sat., Sept. 12.** (This is a new date, new location, and is **limited this year to MD units** only.) Sandra Tolson and I are planning on attending and staffing this event.



1. Darkness

"When Daylight Saving Time ends November 1, 2020, many people will find themselves spending more time driving in the dark," the National Safety Council warns. "Depth perception, color recognition and peripheral vision can be compromised in the dark, and the glare of headlights from an oncoming vehicle can temporarily blind a driver."

Though just 25 percent of our driving is at night, 50 percent of traffic deaths occur then, according to the council, a nonprofit founded in 1913 to reduce preventable deaths.

A 50-year-old driver might need twice as much light to see as well as a 30-year-old, the safety council says. And at 60 and older, we generally see road signs less clearly, have more trouble judging speed and distance, and are bothered more when headlights glare, according to the American Optometric Association.

2. Critters

You're 3.5 times as likely to hit an animal, especially a deer, in November as at any other time of the year, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety says. Deer are likely to be mating in November, and that's why you see more of them.

West Virginia, Montana, Pennsylvania, South Dakota and Iowa had the highest proportion of collision claims with animals between July 1, 2018, and June 30, 2019, according to the institute and State Farm Insurance. An adult deer, the smallest of several breeds of hoofed mammals, can weigh 300 pounds or more, so that's like hitting two adult men.

About 1 of every 100 drivers will hit a deer during the driver's life behind the wheel, animal-rights group PETA says.

With both leaf peepers and fallen foliage, make sure you have plenty of stopping distance to avoid a rear-ender.

3. Tires

Tires perform better on rainy surfaces if they have enough tread. And they stop faster and steer better on dry ones.

Also, proper tire pressure helps keep you rolling smoothly and safely. Expect your tires to drop at least 1 pound per square inch (PSI) of pressure each month, no matter the weather.

When the air cools in the fall, that accelerates. Tires will drop another pound per square inch of pressure for every 10 degrees of temperature drop.

Check tire pressure with a good handheld gauge from an auto parts store when the car's been sitting two or three hours. Correct pressure will be noted on a decal pasted on the driver's side door jamb or the door itself and in the owner's manual.

The pressure inscribed on the tire sidewall itself is a maximum and not the recommended inflation — though it might coincidentally match the recommended PSI for your car.

4. Dampness

We think of big puddles as dangerous — and they are — because front wheels can float, and you can lose steering. That's called hydroplaning.

But even before the puddles accumulate, rain can pool on the dust, grime and oil that are on all roads and make the pavement slick. That's especially true if your area hasn't had rain in a while.

Slowing your speed helps. If you're on a busy road, you can drive in the tracks of cars ahead of you where the road is driest.

5. Glare

The blinding distraction of sun glare waxes as summer wanes.

Sounds wrong, but it's logical because the sun moves closer to the horizon. That points it straight into your eyes and makes it more likely to reflect at low angles off buildings, other cars and windows.

Have your sunglasses handy. Don't look directly into the lights of oncoming traffic when you drive at night.

And keep your windshield clear, so dirt streaks don't contribute to the glare.

6. Fog and frost

Those harbingers of winter are fall hazards in some areas.

Otherwise refreshing chilly autumn mornings can trigger fog, reducing your vision and distance perception. This is when you're supposed to use those fog lights that many cars have. They shine wide, low beams along the road and onto the edges of a street, which also is helpful for critter spotting. Don't use them instead of your regular headlights but rather in addition to low-beam headlights.

Don't click on your high beams. Those make visibility worse because the bright light bounces off the fog and right back into your eyes.

When temperatures have been cold enough that moisture on the road has turned to ice in spots, slow down.

Pay special attention to bridges and overpasses. All those "bridge freezes before road" signs are serious.

7. Inexperience

You live where it's temperate and dry, you say, so thanks, but no thanks.

But hold on. Common sense suggests that you sometimes take a trip, driving your own vehicle or a rental.

And when you do, you're out of your depth, beyond your normal driving experience. That means the fall challenges listed here can be even more daunting because you seldom face them and don't have the muscle memory to react smoothly.

Freelance writer James R. Healey was auto writer and columnist for USA Today.

Editor's note: This story, originally published October 13, 2016, has been updated with additional information.



RENTAL LICENSES

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

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE AT:

WWW.RIVERDALEPARKMD.GOV

QUESTIONS: PLEASE CALL

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES AT

301-927-6381 OR EMAIL

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).
- 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.

September 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 Farmer's Market 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (Town Center) Trash Collection	4	5 Bulk Trash Drop Off Appointment Only 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
6	7 Town Hall and DPW Closed 	8	9 Recycling Collection	10 Farmer's Market 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (Town Center) Trash Collection	11	12 Bulk Trash Drop Off Appointment Only 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
13	14 Legislative Meeting 7:00 p.m. Trash & Yard Waste Collection	15	16 Recycling Collection	17 Farmer's Market 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (Town Center) Trash Collection	18	19 Bulk Trash Drop Off Appointment Only 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
20	21 Council Work Session 7:00 p.m. Trash & Yard Waste Collection	22	23 Recycling Collection	24 Farmer's Market 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (Town Center) Trash Collection	25	26 Bulk Trash Drop Off Appointment Only 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
27	28 Trash & Yard Waste Collection	29	30 Recycling Collection	To participate in a Zoom meeting, log in information will be provided on the Town's website and will be made available with each meeting agenda. Please contact Town Hall at town@riverdaleparkmd.gov or 301-927-6381 if you have any questions.		

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 or call 301-927-6381 for more information.