

The Riverdale Park Town Crier

September 2017

Volume 47, 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 301-864-1803 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Police Department

5004 Queensbury Road 301-927-4343 24-hours

Bates Trucking and Trash Collection

Bulk Trash Collection BY APPOINTMENT ONLY 301-773-2069

*Residents must contact Bates by 2 p.m. on Tuesday for a Wednesday pickup. Residents may request a bulk trash pickup online at www.batestrucking.com. Click on Customer Center and complete the Request Service form.



Riverdale Park Day

Saturday, October 7, 2017 12 noon to 5:00 PM

Riverside Neighborhood Park 5801 Riverside Drive, Riverdale Park

Plan to join us for a fun and family-friendly day! There will be food, music, vendors, and lots of fun for all ages!

Vendors and sponsors are needed. Please contact Nova Johns at novajohns@yahoo.com or Waverly Pollitt at wpollitt@riverdaleparkmd.gov for more information.



The first day of school for Prince George's County Public Schools is Wednesday, September 6, 2017.

Drive carefully and look twice for pedestrians!

Council Actions

Special Legislative Meeting on June 19, 2017

Legislative Action Items:

- 1. Motion to approve a street closure request for the 4900 block of Sheridan Street on June 25, 2017 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for a block party (Ward 2) **Approved**
- Motion to approve Cooperation Agreement with Prince George's County allowing the Town to apply for CDBG funds through the County— Approved
- Motion to approve Memorandum of Understanding with Prince George's County regarding Youth@Work/Summer Youth Enrichment Program – Approved
- 4. Motion to approve Memorandum of Understanding with End Time Harvest Ministries, Inc. regarding Jobs-For-Youth Environmental Health Summer Camp Internship Program— Approved

New Business:

 Motion to direct the Town Manager to issue a check for \$5,000 to National Center of Smart Growth as participant in collective group of municipalities— Approved

Legislative Meeting on July 3, 2017

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve consent agenda items: - Approved

- Street closure request for 5000 block of Queensbury Road on August 2, 2017, from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. for National Night Out (Ward 2)
- 2. Minutes from May 30, 2017 Constant Yield Public Hearing
- 3. Minutes from May 30, 2017 Special Legislative Meeting
- 4. Minutes from May 30, 2017 Work Session
- 5. Minutes from June 5, 2017 Legislative Meeting

Legislative Action Items:

- Motion to send a letter to the Purple Line Team regarding preference of Art-in-Transit options for Purple Line Stations in Riverdale Park- Tabled
- 2. Motion to send a letter to the Purple Line Team regarding name of River Road Purple Line Station- **No action taken**
- Motion to send a letter to the Prince George's County Planning Board and the Prince George's County Council regarding the Preliminary East Riverdale Beacon Heights Sector Plan- Approved
- Motion to fly the Star Spangled Banner from August 22nd to September 19th in commemoration of the Battle of Bladensburg and the Battle of Baltimore- Approved
- Motion to approve a contract with Revize Software Systems for \$17,800 for new Town website- Approved
- 6. Motion to approve an agreement with Riverdale Park Farmer's Market, Inc.- **Approved**

New Business:

- 1. Motion to approve a 6-foot fence behind the rear building line of the house at 4700 Ravenswood Road— **Approved**
- Motion to direct staff to send a letter to Aaron Marcavitch designating CM Lingua at the Town's representative on the ATHA Governing Board— Approved
- 3. Motion to adopt Resolution 2017-R-11 reaffirming Riverdale Park's commitment to its Sister City Ipala, Guatemala— **Adopted**

Town of Riverdale Park

www.riverdaleparkmd.gov

Mayor

Alan K. Thompson akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Council Members

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

Ward 2 – Aaron Faulx, 202-550-3596 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 – Alejandro Silva, 301-801-3021 asilva@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Administration

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

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

Paul Smith, **Finance Director** psmith@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Leonard Addison, **Director of Public Works** *laddison@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

Mayor Alan K. Thompson

It's hard to believe that the summer has slipped by, but the calendar doesn't lie. While the Town Council did not meet in August, council members and town staff have been quietly busy....

Riverdale Road Bridge

I am excited to report that the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) contacted the town this summer to let us know that they are going to replace the Riverdale Road bridge over the Anacostia River. While Riverdale Road is a town street, the bridge belongs to (and is maintained) by SHA. We don't yet know the schedule for replacement, but the road will be closed during construction. We are discussing the bridge's heavy pedestrian traffic, in particular to and from Riverdale Elementary, with SHA, and will work with them to come up with a plan to maintain pedestrian access during construction.

Riverdale Park Station

Some of the new businesses in the Riverdale Park Station development are getting closer to opening. District Taco, Gold's Gym, and Xfinity all brought sign proposals to the Mixed-Use Town Center Local Design Review Committee in early August, and the proposals were approved. From looking at construction it looks like they could be open this month or early October. (I know that Xfinity has planned a grand opening for early in October.)

The trolley trail through the development was originally scheduled to be open by now, but the active construction zone has prevented that, in consideration for the safety of the trail's users. The latest reports are that a *temporary* trail will open in late summer, with the permanent trail installed when interfering construction is complete. I am working with our partners in both the M-NCPPC and in the county to open it as quickly as possible, and am really looking forward

to using it myself. At this point, the opening, depends on the completion of the construction for the townhomes and businesses on the north side of the site. The good news is that it looks like they're getting close!

Bridge Construction

Construction of the bridge connecting the Cafritz development to Rivertech Court is also well underway, although the completion date is now the fourth quarter of 2017. The girders and decks for the main span are in place already, and the predicted construction completion is slated for early November. The opening date (probably a few weeks later) will be determined by the county. Readers of the TownAnnounce mailing list receive weekly updates on the status of the entire Cafritz project – you can subscribe at http://riverdale-

park.org/mailman/listinfo/townannounce if you haven't already.

Purple Line

The Purple Line is moving forward! The Town Council's recommendations for station naming and art that I discussed in July's report will come before the Council for action at the September 5th legislative meeting.

Leaking Trash Trucks

The Town has been in ongoing discussions about performance issues with the company we pay to pick up trash (hopefully this will be resolved by the time you are reading this). One issue in particular is that some of the trucks are leaking rancid liquid from the garbage onto the streets. There are multiple reasons this might happen, but you can do your part by keeping liquids out of your trash, as is required by the town code. If you notice smelly stains on the street on trash days please contact the Public Works department as quickly as possible at 301-864-1803 so the contractor can come clean up the mess (and Public Works can track compliance).

East-West Highway / Riverdale Road Intersection

In more good news from SHA, the project to improve pedestrian safety on East-West Highway between Kenilworth Avenue and the Baltimore-Washington Parkway (in response to the tragic death of Thelma Flores while crossing East-West Highway in September, 2014) started accepting bids on the project this summer. While the town has been pushing for an even faster response, we are well ahead of the original schedule for the project.

Discovery District Development

Development activity in the "Discovery District" (formerly known as M-Square) on the north side of town is heating up. The College Park Academy building will open for classes this month, and development plans for "flex-space" (research/development/light industrial) buildings near the new bridge over the CSX tracks are

almost complete, with construction possibly starting this year. We will be meeting soon with the owner of other parcels in the Discovery District (4400-4600 River Road in particular) to discuss their plans. Finally, for those of you who haven't seen it, there is a new "pop-up" park at the corner of University Research Court and River Road, with an mBike bike share station and lunchtime food trucks.

There's even more going on, so please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about what's going on in town. If you leave me a voice mail message please be sure to tell me what times of day I can call back — I do a lot of my work as Mayor on weekends and evenings, and want to be sure I don't disturb you when I call back (I'll reply to e-mail at all sorts of odd hours!).

Enjoy the weather this month as things cool off from summer, and I'll be back in October!



Ward 3 Report

Council Member David J. Lingua

Over the summer, the Feherty Troops First Foundation began placing residents in the Leroy Petry Village of Honor, located just off Lafayette Avenue, south of Longfellow Street. On behalf of the neighbors in Ward 3 and the Town of Riverdale Park, a warm welcome to the new residents.

Speaking of Longfellow, along it and a portion of 48th Avenue are signs asking drivers to slow down. This past spring a traffic and speed study was conducted along Longfellow to determine the extent speeding was occurring. The survey results showed approximately one in twenty are traveling greater than ten miles over the speed limit. Whether they were residents or not was undetermined. Along with Stop signs, the topic of driver courtesy and mindfulness has been brought up before on these pages. Advocating for such practice is ever more important in the present day. While staff will do what they can to promote safe driving, ultimately it comes down to the driver. With that in mind, please, be aware of your driving speed and the area you are traveling through. What's more, share this value with a friend.

The Town has held several discussions with Bates Trucking about their diminished level of service as to trash collection. On June 19, with staff and before the council, and again on August 4, there have been substantive discussions regarding Bates making marked and noticeable improvements regarding trash collection. To that end, be sure trash being put out is in a tightly secured bag, one which is not overfilled. As well consider if the items can be recycled.

In July, the Town received a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Assessment Report for the Trolley Trail; created by the Virginia Center for Policing Innovation at the request of the College Park City - University Partnership. Specific to Riverdale Park, the report discussed improvement measures for the portion south of Queensbury Road, the intersection with Queensbury Road, Town Center parking lot and Maryland Avenue, and the portion north of the lot. While in appreciation of the report and its findings, implementation will occur in conjunction with the FY18 and future budgets.

The Central Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization CDC (CKAR-CDC) will be holding ESOL and Job Readiness Training sessions starting August 28 and running through September 25. Sessions will be held at the Greater Riverdale Empowerment Center, 6801 Kenilworth Avenue, Suite 203. As well the CDC is beginning another opportunity for businesses and residents to receive a tree (or two) at no cost with the "Go Green Plant Trees" project. The spring planting saw the allotment all accounted for at locations in an around town. For more information, visit the new website, www.ckarcdc.org.

Again this year, for four weeks the Town is flying the Star Spangled Banner in recognition of both the Battle of Bladensburg and the Battle of Baltimore. Each year the Riversdale Mansion holds a modified reenactment of the August 24th battle as part of an effort to encourage the discovery and understanding of early 19th Century American history here in Maryland and Prince George's County. It is in this same spirit in which the banner waves at town hall. Should family or friend come to visit and there is the opportunity to tour Riversdale, please do.

Public Works

Saturday Drop Off – Bulk trash drop-off is scheduled for the third Saturday of each month is from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Department of Public Works, 5012 Queensbury Road. The 2017 dates are: September 16, October 21, November 18, and December 16.

Reminder regarding items accepted for recycling:

- Glass Food and beverage containers
- Metals Aluminum foil, aluminum, bimetal, ferrous, and steel food and beverage containers, empty aerosol cans
- Mixed Paper/Corrugated Cardboard All paper, aseptic/gable-top milk and juice cartons, catalogs, flattened corrugated cardboard (boxes), frozen food packaging, hard- and soft- covered books, paper bags and wrapping paper, magazines, newspapers with inserts, paper board (cereal and cracker boxes), telephone books
- Plastics Drinking cups/glasses, flower pots, narrow-neck containers with code identification numbers 1 through 7, empty prescription bottles, wide-mouth containers with code identification number 1 through 7, including peanut butter, yogurt, cottage cheese, sour cream, mayonnaise and whipped topping and margarine/butter tubs

<u>Trash Toter Repair/Replacement</u> – Residents should call the Department of Public Works for the repair or replacement of damaged trash toters, i.e., broken lids, missing wheels, cracked toters, etc. When repairs or replacements are needed, a list will be provided to Bates Trucking each Friday, with the expectation for deliveries to occur during the following week.

<u>Office Closing</u> – In observance of the Labor Day holiday, Town offices will be closed on Monday, September 4th.

<u>Holiday Trash Collection</u> – Regular trash will <u>NOT</u> be collected on Monday, September 4th. The next collection day is on Thursday, September 7, 2017.

<u>Mosquito Control Program –</u> The State/County Mosquito Control Program ends on September 17, 2017.

Summer Youth Enrichment Program – The Town of Riverdale Park participated in the Prince George's County Summer Youth Enrichment Program by employing six (6) youth during the months of July and August. The program offered the youth the opportunity to get training and experience on what it means to be in a work environment where promptness, reliability, and the ability to take and follow instructions is expected. They also learned about the tasks performed by a public works department. Each of the students were given Certificates of Achievement for successfully completing the program. Best of luck to Dariel Parra, Muyang Morfaw, Tyrell Watkins, Ryan Newsome, Jeremiah Chappin and Jared King.

Update from County Council Vice Chair Dannielle Glaros

It is an honor to serve you on the Prince George's County Council. Please join my distribution list to receive a semi-monthly email newsletter. Send an email to CouncilDistrict3@co.pg.md.us to be added. In the next few months I will share



important updates on the Countywide Transit Plan, Comprehensive Housing Study, Zoning Ordinance Rewrite, Fiscal Year 2019 Budget, events and more. You can also engage with me

www.Facebook.com/PGDistrict3 or on Twitter @GlarosCouncil3.

New playground equipment will be installed soon at Riverside Park and I'm pleased to be working closely with the Town of Riverdale Park and Department of Parks & Recreation to build a brand new playground at Riverdale Elementary later this school year. The project is in permitting now. It will be used by students during the school day and will be open to the community during non-school hours. PGCPS will add a new pre-K play area at the school as well.

As economic development comes to District 3 and the County, I am committed to ensuring that our unemployed and underemployed residents are prepared and knowledgeable about job opportunities. In Summer 2016 I launched a Workforce Development initiative which led to many meaningful connections

One of many results of these ongoing conversations is the successful launch of the Central Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization CDC's Riverdale Career Empowerment Center with new partners.

Please mark your calendar and spread the word about the 3rd Annual College & Career Fair I'm sponsoring at Parkdale High School on Thursday, October 12, from 5:30 – 7:30 pm. All high school students and their families are welcome. More than 50 colleges and employers will be represented.

Please reach out to me at 301-952-3060 or CouncilDistrict3@co.pg.md.us if I can assist you in any way.

Boy Scout Troop 252

By Robert Killen

Committee Member Sandra Tolson and Scoutmaster Bob Killen attended the Pony Penning in Chincoteague on 26 July, watched the swim, waited for the hour resting period after the swim, then visited the ponies in the pen. They really didn't like being penned all together, having had the whole island of Assateague to roam, almost alone, or just in small families.

Sandra shared with me that she is now re-reading "Misty of Chincoteague" and "Stormy, Misty's Foal," written by Marguerite Henry, plus "Sea Star," "King of the Wind" and "Born to Trot."

On the way home we visited both Harriet Tubman Museums in Cambridge, which filled the rest of the day. We collected many souvenirs to share with our Scouts and Scouters, to prime them of our next visit on The Shore. Sandra rated that day as an "A++ day."

The immediate future includes enduring the "Eagle's Nest" course in September/October, and the annual Orienteering Competition in November at Broad Creek, plus more bicycling, on horse trails and macadam, swimming, hiking and camping, as time permits.

Contact Sandra Tolson, saanee@yahoo.com 301-927-2275 or Eneida Martínez-Brown e.martinezbrown@ gmail.com 301-864-0059, or Bob Killen rfkille@yahoo. com 301-483-8455 if you would like to participate. We meet at 7 PM Friday evenings in the Riverdale Park Town Hall when we're not camping. Our Town Crier will keep you in the loop.

National Night Out Photos

Thank you to everyone who attended National Night Out. Luckily, the rain did not damper the festivities! Please see below for pictures from the event.





Smithsonian Magazine Museum Day Live! at Riversdale

Riversdale House Museum is joining museums across the country to open its doors for FREE during the thirteenth annual Smithsonian Magazine Museum Day Live! on Saturday, September 23 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Find out more and print the required ticket here: http://smithsonianmag.com/museumday/. This initiative emulates the spirit of the Smithsonian Institution's Washington DC-based facilities, which offer free admission every day.

Smithsonian recognizes the extraordinary power of museums, and other cultural institutions, to provide visitors with insight and inspiration. The event represents a nationwide commitment to boundless curiosity and the pursuit of knowledge wherever you are. Over 200,000 people downloaded tickets for last year's event, and this year's event is expected to attract more museum-goers than ever before. Riversdale is proud to be a part of this on-going, engaging program.

For more information, call 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544; email Riversdale@pgparks.com; or visit our website at history.pgparks.com.



September 2017

Boy Scouts
7 p.m. to
9 p.m.

2

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Youth	Town Hall	Regular	MUTC	Farmer's		
Entrepreneurs	and DPW	Legislative	Meeting	Market	Boy Scouts	Madison
in Fine Art	Closed	Meeting	7:30 p.m.	3 p.m. to 7	7 p.m. to	Hill HOA
3 p.m. to		8:00 p.m.		p.m.	9 p.m.	Meeting
6 p.m.	NO Trash			(Town		10:30 a.m.
	Collection			Center)		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Youth				Farmer's		Bulk Trash
Entrepreneurs				Market	Boy Scouts	Drop-Off
in Fine Art				3 p.m. to 7	7 p.m. to	9 a.m. to 2
3 p.m. to				p.m. (Town	9 p.m.	p.m. (Dept.
6 p.m.				Center)		of Public
						Works)
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
		Chief's		Farmer's		
Youth		Community		Market	Boy Scouts	
Entrepreneurs		Advisory		3 p.m. to 7	7 p.m. to	
in Fine Art		Committee		p.m. (Town	9 p.m.	
3 p.m. to		Meeting		Center)		
6 p.m.		7:00 p.m.				
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Youth				Farmer's		
Entrepreneurs	Council			Market	Boy Scouts	
in Fine Art	Work			3 p.m. to 7	7 p.m. to	
3 p.m. to	Session			p.m. (Town	9 p.m.	
6 p.m.	8:00 p.m.			Center)		

All Meetings and events are held at Town Hall unless another location is indicated. Also, all meetings are open to the public so please plan to join us!

Trash collection occurs on Mondays and Thursdays. Yard waste is collected on Wednesdays. Please contact the Department of Public Works at 301-864-1803 for more information.

CARRIER ROUTE PRESORT

POSTAL PATRON RIVERDALE PARK, MARYLAND 20737 PRSRT STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID HYATTSVILLE, MD PERMIT No. 2090

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

Important Phone Numbers

Comcast

www.comcast.com

Customer service: 1-800-934-6489

Pepco

www.pepco.com

To report an outage: 1-877-737-2662 Customer service: 202-833-7500

Prince George's County: www.princegeorgescountymd.gov

Animal Control: 301-780-7200 Assessments: 301-952-2500

Parks and Recreation (maintenance): 301-918-4700 Permitting, Licenses and Enforcement: 301-636-2000 Public Works and Transportation: 301-883-5650

Prince George's County Public Schools: www.pgcps.org

Riverdale Elementary: 301-985-1850 William Wirt Middle School: 301-985-1720 Bladensburg High School: 301-887-6700 Parkdale High School: 301-513-5700

Washington Gas

www.washingtongas.com

To report a gas leak: 703-750-1400 or 800-752-7520

Customer Service: 703-750-1000

Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC):

www.wsscwater.com

To report a water main break or sewage backup: 301-206-4002

Customer service: 301-206-4001 or 1-800-634-8400

Local Organizations

Lion's Club

Pat Prangley at 240-882-4993

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

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

<u>Madison Hill Homeowners Association</u>

301-583-8857

Riversdale Historical Society

301-864-0420

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

<u>Riverdale Park Business Association</u> www.shoplocalriverdalepark.com

Riverdale Park Arts Council

Samuel Williams, Jr. at 909-380-4231

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