

The Riverdale Park Town Crier

May 2017

Volume 47, Issue 4

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Town of Riverdale Park Contact Information

Town Hall

5008 Queensbury Road 301-927-6381

Department of Public Works

5012 Queensbury Road 301-864-1803

Police Department

5004 Queensbury Road 301-927-4343

Bates Trucking and Trash Collection

Bulk Trash Collection BY APPOINTMENT ONLY 301-773-2069

Residents must call Bates by 2 p.m. on Tuesday for a Wednesday pickup. For toter replacements/requests, call the Department of Public Works.

Town of Riverdale Park **ELECTION NOTICE**

In compliance with the terms of the Charter of the Town of Riverdale Park, Maryland, an election will be held

Monday, May 1, 2017

To elect Mayor & Council Members

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Riverdale Park Town Hall, 5008 Queensbury Road

All citizens who are registered to vote in the Town of Riverdale Park will be entitled to vote.

CANDIDATES

Mayor ALAN THOMPSON

Council, Ward 1 MARSHA DIXON	Council, Ward 2 AARON FAULX
Council, Ward 3 DAVID LINGUA	Council, Ward 4 CHRISTOPHER HENRY
Council, Ward 5 COLLEEN RICHARDSON	Council, Ward 6 ALEJANDRO SILVA

Geraldine Gee, Chief Judge Joseph Mooney, Deputy Chief Judge

Council Actions

Regular Legislative Meeting April 3, 2017

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve consent agenda items: - Approved

- 1. Minutes from February 27, 2017 Special Legislative Meeting
- 2. Minutes from February 27, 2017 Work Session
- 3. Minutes from March 6, 2017 Legislative Meeting

Legislative Action Items:

- Motion to approve a fence permit application for a 6-foot wooden backyard fence at 4604 Oliver Street (Ward 1) -Approved
- Motion to refer Ordinance 2017-OR-01 to the Legislative Committee for further review and defer introduction to a future meeting - Approved
- Motion to authorize the Mayor to sign Defined Benefit Plan -Approved
- Motion to adopt Resolution 2017-R-08 designating a continuous No Parking, No Standing and No Stopping Zone along the northbound lane of Taylor Road (Ward 3) - Adopted

TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK NOTICE OF A PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The Mayor and Council of the Town of Riverdale Park proposes to increase real property taxes.

- 1. For the tax year beginning July 1, 2017, the estimated real property assessable base will increase by 7.198%, from \$590,471,329 to \$632.977.261.
- 2. If the Town of Riverdale Park maintains the current tax rate of \$.6540 per \$100 of assessment, real property tax revenues will increase by 7.198% resulting in \$277,988.80 of new real property tax revenues.
- 3. In order to fully offset the effect of increasing assessments, the real property tax rate should be reduced to \$0.6101, the constant yield tax rate.
- 4. The Town is considering not reducing its real property tax rate enough to fully offset increasing assessments. The Town proposes to adopt a real property tax rate of \$.6540 per \$100 of assessment. This tax rate is 7.195% higher than the constant yield tax rate and will generate \$277,988.80 in additional property tax revenues.

A public hearing on the proposed real property tax rate increase will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 30, 2017 at Riverdale Park Town Hall (5008 Queensbury Road).

The hearing is open to the public, and public testimony is encouraged.

Persons with questions regarding this hearing may call 301-927-6381 for further information.

Town of Riverdale Park www.riverdaleparkmd.gov

Town Hall

5008 Queensbury Road Riverdale Park, MD 20737 301-927-6381, Hablamos Español town@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Mayor Vernon Archer, 240-832-2257 varcher@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Council Members

Ward 1 – Marsha Dixon, 301-531-4230
mdixon@riverdaleparkmd.gov
Ward 2 – Alan Thompson, 301-927-7407
akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov
Ward 3 – David Lingua, 301-779-3849
djlingua@riverdaleparkmd.gov
Ward 4 – Christopher Henry, 301-910-9855
chenry3240@verizon.net
Ward 5 – Colleen Richardson, 240-646-6457
crichardson@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Ward 6 – Alejandro Silva, 301-801-3021 asilva@riverdaleparkmd.gov John N. Lestitian, Town Manager jnlesititian@riverdaleparkmd.gov Jessica Barnes, Town Clerk jbarnes@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Public Works, 301-864-1803

Leonard Addison, **Director** laddison@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Police Department, 301-927-4343

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

Code Enforcement 240-898-2500

Colleen M. Ferguson, **Code Manager** code@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Fire Department - Emergency 911

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

It is the policy of the Town of Riverdale Park, pursuant to the provision of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and The Americans with Disabilities Act, to prohibit discrimination against qualified persons with disabilities in any aspect of employment within the government.

It is also the policy of the Town of Riverdale Park to disallow discrimination in fair housing based on race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, disabilities, and/or age.

Some materials contained in *The Town Crier* represent the opinion of the authors and does not necessarily represent the view of the Town of Riverdale Park.

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

Submission deadline: 15th of each month

Submit all copies to towncrier@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Ward and Committee Reports

Ward One Report

By Council Member Marsha Dixon mdixon@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Trees

This month, I have had quite a few discussions regarding trees within our town so I thought I would share some information and get your feedback. First, as I tweeted a few weeks ago, Pepco and the Arbor Day Foundation will be giving away energy-saving trees starting March 1st on a first come first serve basis. If you are interested in obtaining a free potted tree, review this link:

http://www.pepco.com/uploadedFiles/www pepcocom/Content/Page_Content/myhome/Pay_Your_Bill/2017%20Arbor%20Day %20Bill%20Insert(1).pdf

Additionally, I have received questions about whether residents can cut down trees in their yards. Although the Town does not have any prohibitions against removing trees in one's yard, I am a proponent of ensuring that we preserve the trees and ensure our town continues to live up to its name as Riverdale *Park* by preserving and protecting the towns urban forest. I am considering proposing legislation that would prohibit residents from removing trees on their property (i.e., a tree that is greater than fifty inches in circumference and four feet above ground level).

Circulator-Connector Petition

At our last work session, we had Mike Bello speak to the Council about his petition to have a circulator/shuttle that would run through Hyattsville and Riverdale Park. There are some tweaks necessary, but I think the shuttle would be a great addition to the community and will help to tie various parts of our town to neighboring cities. If you are interested in learning more or would like to sign the petition, visit:

https://www.change.org/p/city-ofhyattsvile-mayor-and-council-let-s-createthe-city-of-hyattsville-circulatorconnector-

shuttle?recruiter=672248417&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=copylink.
Please send me an e-mail or call me if you want to discuss further. I would like to hear thoughts from others about this idea.

Whole Foods

Whole Foods has finally opened! While the Starbucks at Riverdale Park Station has been open for a couple of weeks, many residents have been waiting for the opening of the Whole Foods and the day has arrived. Whole Foods opened to fanfare on April 12th. I would love to hear about your experience while shopping there.

I recently shared some fun facts about Whole Foods on Twitter. Not only are some the vendors and products found locally, two-thirds of Whole Foods' team live in Prince George's County. Each quarter, Whole Foods' team will pick a local non-profit organization to partner with. The first partnership is with ArtWorks. Recently, I purchased oranges that turned out to be very sour. I was pleased when I was told by a Whole Foods team member that I could return the oranges since I did not like their taste.

Recently some residents raised concerns about the branding of Whole Foods as "Riverdale" rather than "Riverdale Park." After speaking with the Whole Foods Management, they advised me that they would be changing everything in the store to use the full name of our town. Look out for those changes in the future.

In case you missed it, I recently joined University Park's Mayor Len Carey on the Kojo Nnamdi show to discuss the opening of the new Whole Foods. In case you missed it, you can listen to it at: https://thekojonnamdishow.org/shows/2017-04-12/will-the-whole-foods-effect-spread-to-prince-georges-county

Legislative Committee

The legislative Committee will be reviewing an update to Chapter 68 of the Town Charter pertaining to maintenance of garbage, weeds and rubbish on real property or premises in the Town. A proposed draft was presented at last month's work session. The Committee will update the draft and present it to the full Council for approval in the upcoming months.

Miscellaneous

Recently, I was contacted recently about putting a basketball hoop in the neighborhood park located on 46th Avenue. I was told by Maryland Parks and Planning that there used to be a basketball hoop at the playground many years ago but it was removed. Please contact me if you have any questions or are opposed to the addition of one basketball hoop.

Ward Two Report

By Council Member Alan Thompson akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Spring has arrived, as it does every year, bringing with it warm breezes, long days, flowering trees (and their pollen), and the shift from indoors to outdoors for our Farmer's Market.

Mosauitos

I'm not going to repeat my long discussion from last month (check it out on the town's web site - http://www.riverdaleparkmd.info/Crier2017.cfm - if you missed it) but please remember to minimize the places where mosquitos can breed by dumping out water, and treating places that collect water.

Whole Foods/Riverdale Park Station

The Whole Foods Market (and the Starbucks next door) opened a little bit later than I had anticipated, but I'm absolutely excited that they are open and business is booming. My family's Easter dinner included lamb and asparagus from Whole Foods, and both were delicious! Keep your eyes open over the months ahead as more businesses open in the Riverdale Park Station development. You can learn

more about the businesses slated to open there on the website,

http://riverdaleparkstation.com/.

Trolley Trail

Now that businesses are opening in Riverdale Park Station, residents have been asking when the Trolley Trail just west of the railroad tracks, connecting town center and the Riverdale Park Station development, will open. The current plan is for the trail to open late summer. In the meantime, you can take the trail up to Tuckerman Street, follow Tuckerman to Route 1 and head north on Route 1 to get to the development on foot.

Home-based Businesses

The Prince George's County Zoning Ordinance is an extremely complicated law that regulates (among many other things) exactly what activities are allowed on every piece of land in the county (including the lots in Riverdale Park). One of the complicated pieces of the law is something called "Home Occupation" which (despite the name) is about running a business out of a residential property. Ward 2 has several businesses like this that I know of, including home day care businesses, piano teachers, a realtor, and a physical therapist. (In the interest of full disclosure, my wife operates a home-based instructional business in our house, which we have been extremely careful to keep within all rules and regulations, both town and county). The Zoning Ordinance has several very strict requirements on these "Home Occupation" businesses, including that they may NOT "alter the residential appearance of the dwelling, or adversely impact the residential character of the neighborhood."

Several residents have asked me about the activity going on at the northwest corner of East-West Highway and Taylor Road, a lot that is zoned R-55 (One-Family Detached Residential). The owner of that property has applied to open a "Home Occupation" business in that house. He has an established business that has operated elsewhere in town in a commercially-zoned area; he now wants to run a "Home Occupation" business out of that home. Both the town and the county are concerned

that the owner of the business (and the house) will not meet the requirements of the zoning ordinance. We are working with the owner to make sure that he understands and will fully comply with all requirements of the zoning ordinance (including, at this stage, that he does not change the building's "residential character...or its primary residential use").

Stay tuned as we sort this out, and feel free to contact me or town staff if you have any questions.

Town Budget

This is the first year where the Town Manager, rather than the Mayor, presents a budget to the Council. I had an informal meeting with Town Manager Lestitian about his draft budget in mid-April, just so we could be sure the budget would appropriately address the town's priorities, but have not seen the full budget yet. The Finance Committee will hold a hearing on the budget on a Saturday in May (check the calendar) to which all members of the public are invited.

Cafritz Bridge Construction

Construction of the bridge connecting the Cafritz development to Rivertech Court is now well underway, although the completion date has slipped into the "fourth quarter" of 2017. The abutment walls were all completed by the end of April, and the girders for the main span are anticipated to be in place sometime during the next 60 to 90 days. 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!

Election

Town elections (Mayor and Town Council) are on Monday, May 1, 2017. As I announced in January, I am running for Mayor. I hope that many of you have met Aaron Faulx, who filed for the Ward 2 seat, and I hope to see you at the polls on election day!

Enjoy the beautiful month of May, and look for my column again in June!!

Public Works Report

By Leonard Addison

Saturday Drop Off

The 2017 schedule for drop off of bulk trash on the third Saturday of each month is from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. on: The schedule is: **May 20**, June 17. July 15, August 19, September 16, October 21, November 18 and December 16.

Memorial Day

In observance of Memorial Day, Town government offices and the Department of Public Works will be closed on Monday, May 29th. Trash will **not** be collected. The next collection day will be Thursday, June 1st.

Maryland PLANT Community Award

Once again the Town of Riverdale Park has been awarded the 2016 Green Award by the People Loving and Nurturing Trees (PLANT) Program. The program is in partnership with the Maryland Urban and Community Forest Committee of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. This award is given to communities to recognize their devotion to planting and caring for the trees in our community.

Tree Planting

The Department of Public Works will plant new trees in the community in the spring. Residents who would like to have a tree planted near their homes should contact the department at 301-864-1803, to be placed on our list. Please note that being placed on the list does not guarantee that a tree will be where you designate, but your preference will be taken into consideration.,

Trash Toter Repair/Replacement

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.

Upcoming Events at Riversdale

MOTHER'S DAY IN THE GARDEN AT RIVERSDALE

Celebrate mom, grandma, or another special lady with a FREE guided tour at Riversdale on Sunday, May 14, 2017, from 12:15 – 3:15 pm. Spend time in the open hearth dependency kitchen, where costumed members of the Riversdale Kitchen Guild will be demonstrating 19th century cooking and preparing Mother's Day delights throughout the afternoon. Cap off your visit with a glass of lemonade and a stroll through the garden. Limited to one free tour with each paid admission.

Rosalie Stier Calvert, the mistress of Riversdale, was mother to nine children who grew up in the home and wrote to her father in 1805, "My children are beginning to give me a lot of work, but at the same time much pleasure." Five children lived to adulthood, including Charles Benedict Calvert, founder of the present-day University of Maryland College Park.

Fee: Adults \$5 | Seniors \$4 | Students \$2 | Children 4 & under FREE. One free tour with each paid admission.

For more information, call 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544; email Riversdale@pgparks.com; or visit our website at history.pgparks.com. Follow us on Twitter @Riversdale1801 and find us on Facebook at Facebook\RiversdaleMuseum.

Riversdale House Museum, a National Historic Landmark, is located at 4811 Riverdale Road, in Riverdale Park, Maryland. This facility is owned and operated by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County. Riverdale Park Artis Council







Riverdale Park ArtsFest 2017

The Riverdale Park Arts Council is hosting its 10th Annual ArtsFest featuring local artists, artisans, authors, poets, crafts dealers and other vendors of the arts to displaying and selling original works or merchandise.

The outdoor event will be held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 6, 2017 in the parking area beside the Riverdale Park MARC Train Station located at 5008 Queensbury Rd. The Rain Date is the same time on Sunday, May 7.

Waggertail Dog Park

We all want the best for our dogs and that's why dog lovers rejoiced when Waggertail opened in our town last July. We were happy that our dogs could get some exercise after waiting for us all day long



and we thought that socializing with their own kind would be good for them. But did you know that dog parks aren't appropriate for all dogs?

Dogs have unique personalities, differ in their energy levels, and exhibit different styles of play. Some do not even prefer the company of other dogs. Therefore, not all dogs play well with every other dog. Our wonderful dogs try to communicate these preferences to us, all of the time. Their body language constantly shows information about their likes, dislikes, and fears. Unfortunately, people are not always watching.

Responsible owners make it a priority to become familiar with dog body language. For instance:

- A seemingly, friendly, happy dog, with an exuberant play style may actually be a bit of a bully if he will not respond to a fellow dog's body language asking to be left alone.
- A slow, stiff, upright wag of a tail may mean, "beware" rather than, "I want to be your friend." Polite dogs generally do not make direct eye contact and approach another dog in a straight line. They, instead, approach in an arc, without staring.

By learning to recognize dog body language and understanding the play style of their own dog, a good owner can set their dog up for a positive dog park experience. For example:

- A dog, who is not usually a jumper, begins to jump on its owner or on other nearby people.
 This can be a clear sign that the dog is uncomfortable. Likewise, hiding behind people or under benches is another sign that playtime is over. An attentive owner realizes that it may be time to go home.
- A dog, during play, sits down and will no longer move at the urging of his play companion. An aware owner recognizes this as a sign that the dog is no longer enjoying the other dog's play and should end their interaction.
- A prolonged, hard stare of one dog towards another, is often a warning sign. A good owner knows to remove his or her dog or, at the very least, break the line of vision, so the dogs lose eye contact with each other.

Even the friendliest of dogs can be pushed over the line in the often intense, high-arousal environment of dog park play. Small dogs, no matter how fearless, are especially vulnerable when allowed to play with the larger dogs, when the arousal level is high. The best dog owners closely supervise their dog in the park, so they can intervene when play turns to signs of fear or bullying, thus preventing fights. A good owner understands that a time-out can diffuse a tense situation and will recall their dog or if the dog cannot be recalled, make a loud noise to startle the dogs long enough to regain control of their dog. A

good owner will always be ready to leave the park, or perhaps not enter it at all, when it is the best action to take to prevent an altercation.

There are many good resources available to dog owners to learn about dog language and safe play. Some of the best are:

iSpeakDog

http://www.ispeakdog.org/ An awesome new website. Part of its mission:

"We want to empower dog owners with the same knowledge used by dog behaviorists and ethologists, and give people practical tips on how to respond more effectively and humanely."

The Dog Gurus

https://www.thedoggurus.com/ although a subscription site, there are many free articles under the tab *Pet Parents*.

Dog Park Assistant App for iPhone and Android (\$0.99)

"This app is filled with video clips and photographs of dog behavior and will help teach you how to understand dog play and dog-dog interactions better."

Robin Bennett's blog:

http://www.robinkbennett.com/category/pet-parent/ and book "Off-Leash Dog Play" available at her site and on Amazon.

"Certified Professional Dog Trainer (CPDT-KA).
Author and a consultant for pet care facilities on the subjects of dog daycare, training and off-leash dog play. 20 years in the pet care industry, and an advocate of safe interactions between dogs and people and between dogs and other dogs."

HELP PROTECT HONEYBEES

Honeybees have been on Earth for about 25 million years and play a vital role in our everyday life. Through pollination, bees help produce many crops like almonds, berries, fruits and vegetables. But, this popular pollinator is struggling.

In 2014, beekeepers reported losing about 40% of honey bee colonies. Consider following some of these tips to help the bees stay abuzz.

Buy local. Support beekeepers in Prince George's County and the State of Maryland by purchasing locally grown fruits and vegetables, and honey.

Reduce pesticide use. When plants are in bloom, bees are foraging. Be careful when using pesticides because they can also be poison to bees. Reduced use can help prevent poisoning.

Plant a garden with bee-friendly plants. In a window box, backyard or community green space, encourage bees to visit your garden by planting daisies, sunflowers, hollyhocks and foxaloves.

Source: Prince George's County Second Nature

Community Circles

Community Yard Sale

There will be a community yard sale held June 10th from 8am – 1pm. If you would like to have your address listed on the "Go to yard sale" sheet, please email it to kimberlylovius@gmail.com.

All members of the community are welcome and encouraged to participate. You are not required to provide an email to participate. Good luck with your sale!



Save the Date! 2017 Town Events

- Tuesday, August 1, 2017: National Night Out at RPPD
- Saturday, October 7, 2017: Riverdale Park
 Day at Riverside Neighborhood Park
- Saturday, November 11, 2017: Veteran's Day Ceremony and Refreshments
- Wednesday, December 6, 2017: Seniors Luncheon at Crescent Cities Center
- Saturday, December 16, 2017: Children's Party at Town Hall; Holiday Market at Town Center 12noon to 8:00 p.m.; Festival of Lights at MARC Station 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Local Organizations

Lion's Club: Contact Pat Prangley at (240) 882-4993.

Northern County Soccer Alliance: Contact *NCSA@soccer.net* or (301) 577-3559.

Riverdale Park Boy Scout Troop 252: Contact Scoutmaster Bob Killen at (301) 483-8455.

Madison Hill Homeowners Association: For information, call (301) 583-8857.

Riversdale Historical Society: Contact Riversdale Mansion at (301) 864-0420.

Riverdale Park Farmer's Market: Contact Jim Coleman at (301) 586-5973.

Riverdale Park Business Association: For more information, visit www.shoplocalriverdalepark.com.

Riverdale Park Arts Council: Contact Samuel Williams, Jr. at (909) 380-4231.

Thank you to everyone who came out for the annual Easter Egg Hunt at Riverside Neighborhood Park! A special thank you to our volunteers who make these events possible!







Arbor Day 2017



CODE FOR CALENDAR Abbreviations

M-UTC — Mixed Use Town Center PW — Public Works,5012 Queensbury RPBA — Riverdale Park Business Association

Regular trash, heavy trash, and metal recycling
 Please no paints, metals, tires, or items with Freon; applies to Town-Wide Trash Pick Up also!

Most activities at Town Hall unless otherwise noted. To be listed in the Crier and/or its Calendar, send a message to:

towncrier@riverdaleparkmd.gov

CARRIER ROUTE PRESORT

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

Town of Riverdale Park | May 2017

5008 Queensbury Road Riverdale Park, Maryland 20737

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 TOWN ELECTION 7a—8p, TH Reg. Leg. Mtg., 8p, TH Trash Collection	2	MUTC, 7:30p, TH Yard Waste Collection	4 Trash Collection	Riversdale Mansion Tours, 12p-3p Boy Scouts, 7p-9p, TH	6 ARTSFEST 2017, 11a—5p, Town Center Rain date: May 7
7 Riversdale Mansion Tours, 12p-3p Doll Club, TH, 3p-6p	8 Regular Legislative Session, 8p, TH Trash Collection	9	10 RPBA, 5:30p, TH Yard Waste Collection	11 Trash Collection	Riversdale Mansion Tours, 12p-3p Boy Scouts, 7p-9p, TH	Budget Review Meeting 12noon, TH
Riversdale Mansion Tours, 12p-3p Doll Club, TH, 3p-6p	15 Trash Collection	16	Riverdale Park Sustainability Meeting, 7:30p, TH Yard Waste Collection	18 Trash Collection	Riversdale Mansion Tours, 12p-3p Boy Scouts, 7p-9p, TH	Budget Review Meeting 10a, TH
Riversdale Mansion Tours, 12p-3p Doll Club, TH, 3p-6p	22 Trash Collection	23	Lion's Club, 7p, TH Yard Waste Collection	25 Trash Collection	Riversdale Mansion Tours, 12p-3p Boy Scouts, 7p-9p, TH	27
Riversdale Mansion Tours, 12p-3p Doll Club, TH, 3p-6p	29 MEMORIAL DAY TH/PW CLOSED	30 Work Session, 8p, TH	31 Yard Waste Collection			