



The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

February 2018

Volume 48, Issue 1

Easter Egg Hunt	Page 1
Council Actions	Page 2
Mayor's Report	Page 3
Ward 1 Report	Page 4
Ward 2 Report	Page 5
Development Services	Page 6
Public Works	Page 6
Boy Scouts Troop 252	Page 7
Purple Line Info	Page 8
February Calendar	Page 9
Important Numbers	Page 10



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

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.bates trucking.com. Click on Customer Center and complete the Request Service form.

Riverdale Park Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 24, 2018

11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Riverside Neighborhood Park
5801 Riverside Drive, Riverdale Park MD 20737



Council Actions

Legislative Meeting on December 4, 2017

Consent Agenda

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

1. Parking restrictions in Town Center for Farmers Market (Ward 1)
2. Minutes from October 30, 2017 Work Session
3. Minutes from October 30, 2017 Special Legislative Meeting
4. Minutes from November 6, 2017 Legislative Meeting

Legislative Action Items:

1. Motion to recommend approval of Variance Request for 1-foot side street yard depth for the dwelling and 1-foot rear lot line setback for an accessory building and disapproval of 7.9% net lot coverage for 5610 Taylor Road (Ward 3) – **Approved**
2. Motion to approve closure of Rhode Island Avenue between Queensbury Road and Riverdale Road on December 16, 2017 from 9:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. for Holiday Market (Ward 1) – **Approved**
3. Motion to authorize Town Manager to execute an agreement with Opto-traffic for reimplementation of Automated Red-Light Camera Enforcement – **Approved**
4. Motion to authorize Town Manager to execute the Municipal Curbside Recycling Agreement with Prince George's County – **Approved**
5. Motion to adopt 2018 Council Calendar – **Approved**

Special Legislative Meeting on December 18, 2017

Legislative Action Items:

1. Motion to recommend approval of Variance Request for 8 feet side yard width and disapproval of 7% net lot coverage for 4802 Sheridan Street (Ward 2) – **Approved**
2. Motion to waive bid requirements to piggyback on a bid from Fairfax County and authorize Town Manager to execute an agreement with Precision Concrete Cutting not to exceed \$40,000 (included in FY18 CIP #12PW07 Streets and Sidewalk Improvement) for abatement of potential sidewalk hazards – **Approved**
3. Motion to send a letter detailing the Town's position on various aspects of the Prince George's County Zoning Re-write – **Approved**

Legislative Meeting on January 9, 2018

Consent Agenda

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

1. Minutes from November 27, 2017 Work Session
2. Minutes from December 4, 2017 Legislative Meeting

Legislative Action Items:

1. Motion to send a letter of support to Prince George's County Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement for Food Truck Hub in Discovery District for calendar year 2018 – **Approved**
2. Motion to authorize Hyattsville CDC to place wayfinding sign kiosk in Town's right-of-way at corner of Rhode Island Avenue and Queensbury Road along the Trolley Trail – **Approved**
3. Motion to authorize Mayor and Town Manager to execute documents to charter Boy Scout Troop 252 – **Approved**
4. Motion to adopt Resolution 2018-R-01 regarding Vision and Commitment to Sustainability – **Adopted**
5. Motion to adopt Resolution 2018-R-02 regarding Economic Development Fund – **Adopted**
6. Motion to adopt Resolution 2018-R-03 regarding Economic Development Grant Programs – **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**
jnlestitian@riverdaleparkmd.gov

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

Kevin Simpson, **Development Services Director**
ksimpson@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

February is the shortest month of the year, but it works hard to pack in a lot of the worst winter weather. Hopefully we won't have any huge snow storms or (more) bitter cold, but whether we do or not, be sure to stay warm and safe this month!

Holiday Gratitude

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to the holiday season in Riverdale Park this year. The town sponsored several events, including the Seniors' Luncheon, the Children's Holiday Party, and the Holiday Market and Festival of Lights. I thoroughly enjoyed the events that I attended, and heard reports that the others were great as well. Town staff from every office and department put in enormous effort to making the events happen, as well as organizing activities that benefitted those in need, such as the hat and glove tree in Town Hall, food baskets distributed by the Police Department, and the winter coat program. None of the events and activities could have happened without the many volunteers and businesses that contributed time and resources as well. I'd also like to say a big thank-you to everyone who decorated their yards and houses this season – I loved seeing the town lit up as I walked and drove around! Finally, I'd like to express my appreciation and thanks to those people who gave up some of their holiday time to keep us safe – our police department and volunteer fire department were both fully staffed on Christmas day in case they were needed, and I was glad to know they were there.

New Businesses in Town

As predicted, District Taco opened in December, and there was a very long line on the first day. I had dinner fairly late that evening, and the staff were all looking a little stunned (they got so much business that they had run out of some ingredients). The food was great – I encourage everyone to try them out. Burton's Grill may be open as you are reading this, but if not it should be open in the next few weeks. FedEx Office is also on the verge of opening – I look forward to being able to walk there when I need those services.

Another business that opened in January was a brand-new Dunkin Donuts / Baskin Robbins at the corner of Riverdale Road and Kenilworth Avenue. I look forward to picking up a dozen donuts for my family on special Saturday mornings, and heading there for ice cream when we want to choose from their amazing selection.

CSX Bridge Construction

The opening date for the bridge is now being described as "in spring 2018." While the details are a bit hazy, my most recent discussions indicate that there are two pieces of the solution. The first, as discussed last month, is the transfer of the "air easement" above the railroad tracks from CSX to the County. The second is the transfer of the bridge and road to the County from the developer. Everyone who has ever bought a house might remember the multiple steps that have to happen between the time you make an offer and closing – inspections, appraisals, affidavits, etc. Not all of these are happening in this case, but the process is similarly involved. So, the opening schedule is *still* uncertain right now. I highly suggest you read the TownAnnounce mailing list to receive

weekly updates on the status of the entire Cafritz project (including the bridge) – you can subscribe at <http://riverdale-park.org/mailman/listinfo/townannounce> if you haven't already!

I hope February treats you well -- I'll be back here in March, and thinking about spring!

Ward 1 Report

Council Member Marsha Dixon

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday. I'm excited for this new year and all of the wonderful things that I hope that our council will be able to accomplish this year. I want to thank our Town staff for the hard work that they put forth in pulling off our holiday events at the end of last year.

Past Activities

Three months ago, we conducted our Ward 1 safety walk. We surveyed the Ward 1 area and as a result of the walk, we added parking signs to some of the areas. There is a new sign "No Parking" sign on Madison St. that will eliminate the blind spot that many residents complained about. If you have any similar traffic concerns on your street, please bring it to my attention. We will schedule our next Ward 1 walk when the weather warms up and I hope even more residents will participate.

Chief Morris has a Community Advisory Committee that meets bi-monthly to discuss various topics affecting our community. At a recent meeting, we spoke about community policing. I strongly encourage residents to participate in these

meetings and bring your questions and concerns.

Upcoming Activities

Proposing New Legislation

Our country is facing a perilous time where many people living in the United States has seen our country's leader disparage their race and ethnicity. We have also see our country's current administration develop policy that excludes, rather than includes, many people who have built and continue to contribute to the strength of our country. At our recent Council work session, I discussed bringing forth legislation to allow all residents (citizens and non-citizens) of our Town to participate in Town elections.

As an immigrant of this country, one of the most empowering opportunities that this country has afforded me has been the right to make a difference—by granting me the right to vote. We have residents who have lived in our Town for over twenty years and because they are not citizens, they have never been given the right to have a say in those of us who lead our Town. I would love to hear from residents regarding their thoughts on this legislation. There have been a few neighboring cities that have successfully been able to pass similar legislation and my hope is that our Town can be added to that list.

In an upcoming meeting, the Legislative Committee will review proposed legislation related to this matter.

Miscellaneous

I have fielded many questions about what is occurring at the former Jey's Auto property. The owners are currently improving the space and recently came before the M-U-T-C committee to request a permit to install

exterior concrete curb/walkway. We look forward to an improvement of the space and a future new business in our community.

Ward 2 Report

Council Member Aaron Faulx

Since I am writing this on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day I feel compelled to comment on the legacy of a man that I admire so much. I was in 3rd grade in 1987 and required to do a book report on the biography of a historical figure. My mother helped me choose a book about Dr. King. I was shocked at what I read. I grew up in rural Western Pennsylvania in an area, that to put it lightly, lacked the diversity that we have here in Riverdale Park. What shocked me the most was that human beings could be so cruel and discriminatory to other human beings based upon the color of their skin. I was naive. I was only 8 years old. 30 years later, I know that naivety was just hope. I hoped that I didn't live in world where that hatred existed. But I do, and in this position I feel that I am obligated to acknowledge that. In the upcoming year, let us do our best to welcome all into our beautiful neighborhood with kindness and acceptance and a goal of improving the common good.

Field of Dreams

As we approach the completion of the Lafayette Avenue bridge project, the park space at the intersection of Lafayette Ave. and Tuckerman St. should be on everyone's radar. It will be a major focal point of entry into our community as it sits between the employees of the Discovery District and Riverdale Park Station and eventually on a pathway to the Purple Line Station. I think

we have an opportunity to create a space that will serve as yet another reason to proud about living in Riverdale Park. I envision a green space filled with native species focused on seasonal color for the enjoyment of everyone. Town Manager Lestitian has had introductory meetings with The Neighborhood Design Center, a non-profit organization that assists in community design projects. Our next step will be to host a charrette to gather community opinion on the space as soon as the weather gets a little better. I have recommended a cookout on the site of the park to draw up community interest and support as well as to gather ideas. In the meantime, we will be actively looking for partners in this endeavor to ensure the highest quality end product for the people of Riverdale Park. I am tremendously excited about getting started on this work.

Riverdale Elementary

On Monday, January 15th I met with Erica Wilson, a member of the Riverdale Elementary PTO, to discuss how the council can be more involved in assisting our students within the school. As a teacher of 15 years, this is an area where I feel as if I can be assistance to the town and school. She relayed to me that her children were having an amazing experience at the elementary school and that the PTO was looking for more ways to get the community involved in supporting our students. I am going to be attending the PTO's upcoming meetings in order to understand better how I can help facilitate what they and the school are trying to accomplish. Look for more information in future Town Criers about how you can get involved in helping our students have the best possible experience at Riverdale Elementary.

Development Services

***Come Grow With Us!* Economic Development Programs and Initiatives**

The Office of Development Services (ODS) recently introduced to the Mayor and Council a set of economic development programs and initiatives entitled, *Come Grow With Us!* The goal of these programs and initiatives are to promote revitalization in Town and support business attraction, retention, and expansion.

On January 9th, Town Council approved two (2) resolutions (2018 R-02 and 2018 R-03), which defined the Economic Development Fund and established three (3) grant programs:

1. Spring-forward Technology Grant Program
2. Business Improvement Grant Program
3. Business Growth Grant Program

Collectively, these grant programs will allocate \$30,000 from the Economic Development Fund to provide direct assistance to businesses in Town. The grant programs are expected to be implemented in March 2018.

Please stay tuned for more information on these programs and initiatives, in the next edition of the Town Crier.

Stay up-to-date with all of the happenings in Town:

- ✓ Like the Town's Facebook page
- ✓ Check out the Status and Information Report at www.riverdaleparkmd.gov

Public Works

Saturday Trash Drop Off

Bulk trash may be dropped off on the third Saturday of each month is from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. The schedule is: January 20, 2018, February 17, 2018, March 17, 2018, April 21, 2018. May 19, 2018, June 16, 2018.

Holiday Trash Collection

Regular trash will be collected on President's Day, Monday, February 19, 2018.

Trash Toter Repair/Replacement

Residents should call the Department of Public Works (301-864-1803), for the repair or replacement of damaged trash toters, i.e., broken lids, missing wheels, cracked toters, etc. When repairs or replacements are needed, they will usually occur by Friday of each week, unless it is called in on Thursday or Friday. Those will be delivered during the following week.

Snow Emergency Conditions

Snow emergency conditions shall be considered in effect within the Town of Riverdale Park whenever a snow emergency is declared in effect in Prince George's County by the Prince George's County Executive, the Maryland State Highway Administration, or the Maryland State Police.

Laws that apply:

- During any period in which a snow emergency condition exists and a snow emergency is in effect, it shall be unlawful to park any vehicle on any part of any street designated as a snow emergency street, provided that signs have been erected on that street giving notice that such street

is a designated snow emergency street.

- During any period in which a snow emergency condition is in effect, it shall be unlawful to park any vehicle on the odd-numbered side of any public street in the Town of Riverdale Park regardless of whether such street has been designated a snow emergency street. Streets with parking restricted on one side are exempt from this section.
- Any vehicle parked in violation of the snow emergency provisions of the section may be removed and impounded by or under the direction of any duly-authorized police officer. The owner of said vehicle, in addition to any towing or impound fee, shall be liable for a fine of \$250.

Snow and Ice Removal

As we enter the snow season, please note that Department of Public Works (DPW) staff will be plowing and salting Town streets and parking lots to clear snow and ice. DPW will treat streets in the following order:

- **Primary Streets** - i.e., Riverdale Road, Taylor Road, Lafayette Avenue, Queensbury Road, etc.
- **Residential Streets** – i.e., Oliver Street, Madison Street, Rittenhouse Street, 47th Avenue, Somerset Road, Sora Lane, etc.

Major roadways, (Rt. 201, Rt. 1, Rt. 410, Good Luck Road), will be treated by the State and County.



What Residents can do to assist with Snow and Ice Removal:

- Be patient as DPW crews work around-the-clock to clear the streets.
- Whenever possible, move parked cars from of the street so that snowplows can remove snow from the street, curb-to-curb.
- If off-street parking is **not** available, park on the **even side of the street**
- Clear sidewalks in front of your residence and refrain from depositing snow back on to the roadway as this can potentially cause an accident.

Trash, Yard Waste and Recycling Collection During Inclement Weather Events

Sometimes inclement weather will delay trash, recycling, or yard waste pick-up. In those cases, Town staff will post a notice on Facebook and Town Announce/Town Talk.

Boy Scout Troop 252

Scoutmaster Robert Killen

We (Scouts and Scouters) decorated the Christmas tree in the Riverdale Park Town Hall (front hallway) with all that would fit of some 400 pairs of donated children's gloves, along with 234 cans of non-perishable food brought in by 100% of our Scouts and Scouters.

We have a new Troop 252 Scribe, Seth Hardison. His first attempt at writing for the **Town Crier** is just below. Here's Seth's report -

On Friday, January 12, 2017, we talked about the court of honor for me, Amir and Michael we said that Michael was going to lead the first part of the ceremony then when it was time to get his awards I would take his place we said that we might do a color guard and hurry back

to the ceremony. I am getting the awards cooking merit badge and the rank of second class. Amir is getting the rank of tenderfoot and Michael is getting the merit badges Photography and Citizenship in the world and he is getting the rank of star he has just been awarded with the order of the arrow.

Back to Bob: I have tasked each of our Scouts to do something for his own advancement every day; since they all have phones capable of sending email, forwarding their progress to me what each has done DAILY. They are complying gradually. Otherwise, we are just doing on Friday night what they should have done during the week - no way for them to ascend the Trail to Eagle.

We will attend the Winter Rendezvous on February 17th in Cheltenham.

Our next Troop 252 Court of Honor is scheduled to be held on February 23rd at 7:30 PM. Please feel free to attend.

Michael Jarquin was just voted by our Scouts into the Order of the Arrow, the honor camping group of the Boy Scouts. He is scheduled to attend the Spring Ordeal, and, of course, you already know that all our Scouters and Michael will attend the Baltimore Area Council University of Scouting on March 10th.

We will also attend the Adventure Skilloree - Patuxent District Spring Camporee April 13-15, 2018 at the American Legion Youth Camp 9201 Surratts Road in Cheltenham.

Since the last issue of the Town Crier, CC/COR Eneida Martínez-Brown, CM Sandra Tolson, CM Olivia Hardison and SM Bob Killen have been busy assisting Scouts from our troop and other troops in the National Capital Area and Baltimore Area Councils complete Merit Badges necessary for their advancement. More next month!

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



Riverdale Park Animal Hospital

**Riverdale Park Animal Hospital
Your pet's health is our priority!**

**We are a full service animal hospital
specializing in wellness services and
boarding located in the heart of
Riverdale Park, MD.**

We also offer affordable wellness plans.

**Call us today to schedule an appointment
at 301-277-5408 or check us at
[www. RiverdaleParkAnimalHospital.com](http://www.RiverdaleParkAnimalHospital.com).**

5702 Riverdale Road, Riverdale MD, 20737

Purple Line Construction Notices

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



February 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>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!</p>				1 Farmer's Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Town Center)	2 Boy Scouts 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.	3
4 Youth Entrepreneurs in Fine Art 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.	5 Regular Legislative Meeting 8:00 p.m.	6	7 MUTC Meeting 7:30 p.m.	8 Farmer's Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Town Center)	9 Boy Scouts 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.	10 Madison Hill HOA Meeting 10:30 a.m.
11 Youth Entrepreneurs in Fine Art 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.	12	13	14 Riverdale Park Business Association 5:30 p.m.	15 Farmer's Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Town Center)	16 Boy Scouts 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.	17 Bulk Trash Drop-Off 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Dept. of Public Works)
18 Youth Entrepreneurs in Fine Art 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.	19 Presidents' Day Town Hall and DPW Closed	20	21	22 Farmer's Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Town Center)	23 Boy Scouts 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.	24
25 Youth Entrepreneurs in Fine Art 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.	26 Council Work Session 8:00 p.m.	27	28 Lions Club 7:00 p.m.	<p>Trash collection occurs on Mondays and Thursdays. Yard waste is collected on Wednesdays.</p> <p>Please contact the Department of Public Works at 301-864-1803 for more information.</p>		

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

Madison Hill Homeowners Association

301-583-8857

Riversdale Historical Society

301-864-0420

Riverdale Park Farmer's Market

Jim Coleman at 301-586-5973

Riverdale Park Business Association

www.shoplocalriverdalepark.com

Riverdale Park Arts Council

Samuel Williams, Jr. at 909-380-4231

Riversdale Chamber Music Society

Robert DiLutis at rdilutis@umd.edu or
www.riversdalechambermusic.com