

# Town of Riverdale Park, Maryland Status and Information Report Report No. 7 for 2020



April 3, 2020

---

To Mayor Thompson and Town Council,

The goal of the Status and Information reports is to share relevant information in a timely fashion. The Status and Information Reports are distributed to the Town's elected officials, residents, and employees. Status and Information Reports are also available to businesses and visitors through the Town website. The reports are published in English and Spanish. The next Status and Information report will be published on April 17, 2020.

## **COVID-19 Staff Response**

The Mayor and Council actions on March 25<sup>th</sup> to adopt the Partners in Economic Recovery initiative (PER) positioned the Town to look outward, and to act in support of the community with visible and impactful programs. The adoption of this initiative and its action-oriented programs resulted in the staff team delivering assistance to residents within the first 20 hours of adoption.

The Staff Team remains focused on implementing strategic steps towards achieving the six (6) goals established and promulgated in the Mayor and Council's Joint Statement; and adhering to the Governor's Executive Orders as issued and amended.

### **Goal 1: Preventing the Transmission of Coronavirus**

#### **Examples of actions taken:**

- Town Hall and the Department of Public Works (DPW) buildings remain closed to the public
- Virtual meetings have been established for the Mayor and Council meetings, Boards, Commissions, and Workgroup meetings, and daily staff operations
- Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidance is being followed
- All staff functions that do not require physical presence are being performed remotely
- COVID-19 Communications Plan has been implemented
- Waggertail Dog Park remains closed to the public
- Staff have assisted in closing M-NCPPC playgrounds and facilities
- Daily work schedules and guidelines have been changed to minimize risk and spread of the virus

### **Goal 2: Ensure basic needs of residents are met**

#### **Examples of actions taken:**

- Farmers Market Dollars Program has been implemented - fifty-seven (57) households totaling 243 individuals were provided assistance during the first week of this program
- Resident + Restaurant + Town Partnership will be launched on Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>
- Social Concerns funding has been appropriated and the coordination with Riverdale Elementary School (RES) is near complete. Families within the Town with the greatest need have been identified for direct grocery assistance

- Funds doubling the Town’s support of the Maryland Market Money program have been sent
- Prince George’s County Public Schools Grab-and-Go Meal program has been expanded to include Riverdale Elementary School (RES) as a distribution site (members of the Mayor and Council advocated for the addition of RES)

**Goal 3: Continue the delivery of high-quality services to our residents, businesses, and visitors**

**Examples of actions taken:**

The Staff Team pivoted quickly to enact necessary changes and to further modify operations as conditions changed. In doing so, the focus remained on delivering high-quality services. The fourteen (14) legislative action items prepared for the March 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, and the agenda for the April 7<sup>th</sup> Legislative Meeting demonstrates the Town’s continual efforts to be forward-thinking and focused on the community.

Staff are working virtually with residents, businesses, engineers, attorneys, contractors, counterparts from other jurisdictions, and others to keep permit processes moving, calls answered, virtual-assistance delivered, Capital Improvement Projects moving forward, policy and procedures refined, and actions implemented to deliver services remotely where possible. There are certain aspects of Town operations that require staff to be in the community to deliver services. The Town has taken steps to reduce risk and follow CDC guidance as work continues. By example, it is important to note:

- All facets of police operations (administration, communications, and field work) continue to ensure the safety of our community
- Neighborhood trash receptacles and pet waste containers continue to be serviced, public spaces cleaned, and plantings attended

**Goal 4: Assist local businesses in sustaining their operations and recovering from the economic impacts of the pandemic and response**

**Examples of actions taken:**

- Adoption of the Partners in Economic Recovery Program
- Marketing plan developed for Town programs and initiatives
- Modifications to the Business Growth Grant and the Business Improvement Grant
- Launch of Resident-Restaurant-Town Partnership initiative planned
- Due date extended for business licenses and business personal property tax payments

**Goal 5: Minimizing the individual, societal, and economic impact of the crisis regionally**

**Examples of actions taken:**

- Participation in area, regional, state, and national conference calls and virtual meetings
- Exchange of ideas and best practices
- Advocating for resources and changes to processes
- Leveraging relationships to better respond to local situation

**INTENTIONALLY BLANK**

**Goal 6: Ensuring that we maintain sufficient resource reserves to be able to address the crisis as it develops over the months ahead**

**Examples of actions taken:**

- FY2020 budget reviewed and projections updated
- FY2021 budget being reviewed and revised
- Capital Improvement Projects analyzed, and restricted use revenue requirements and timelines reviewed
- \$150,000 from unallocated General Fund moved to Economic Development Fund to support new and revised programs under the Partners in Economic Recovery Program

**Employee Recognition**

- COVID-19 Response: The staff team has and continues to demonstrate dedication to the community, resourcefulness, creativity, and resilience as we work together through this difficult time. Kudos, for a job well done, as we continue to hope for a timely resolution!
- Employee Anniversaries: Please join me in extending a sincere thank you to the following team members for their years of dedicated service to the Town’s residents:
  - Joseph Walch 9 Years of Service
  - Orville Saunders, III 3 Years of Service
  - Rosa Guixens 1 Year of Service
  - Matthew Kenyon 1 Year of Service

Best wishes on your work anniversary and thank you for your dedicated service!

**Community Engagement**

- 2020 Census Forms: Invitations to respond to the 2020 Census were mailed and delivered to households between March 12-20. Once you receive your invitation, be sure to respond online, by phone, or by mail as soon as possible.
- 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](mailto:Community_Input@riverdaleparkmd.gov).
- Trash Concerns App Streamlines Process: In partnership with Bates Trucking and Trash Services, the Town has launched a dedicated Trash Concerns app on our website! The Trash Concerns app can be used to order a new trash can, report missed recycling, and any other trash related concerns. [http://www.riverdaleparkmd.info/ho.../trash\\_concerns/index.php](http://www.riverdaleparkmd.info/ho.../trash_concerns/index.php).



- **Social Media Outreach:** The Leadership Team, along with key team members from the Office of Administrative Services, continue to review and improve the Social Media Outreach initiative to expand our reach in sharing information. The Town’s website remains the primary source for electronic information. Facebook and secondary Twitter accounts will expand efforts to amplify our messaging. At this time of great change, it is important that residents and businesses assist the Town in growing our social media outreach. We have established a goal to have 1,500 Facebook followers by May 31, 2020 and we need you to assist the Town in achieving this goal. If you haven’t visited, liked, and followed our Facebook page please do so. If you already have, encourage your neighbors, friends, and business associates to do the same. Link: <https://www.facebook.com/RiverdaleParkMD/>



- The Town of Riverdale Park (TRP) is also active on the following social media platforms and ask that you join us:
  - Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/riverdaleparkmd\\_gov/?hl=en](https://www.instagram.com/riverdaleparkmd_gov/?hl=en)
  - Twitter: [https://twitter.com/Riverdale\\_Park](https://twitter.com/Riverdale_Park)
  - Youtube: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeaNS8-6xwTyPJculj7vuCQ/videos?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeaNS8-6xwTyPJculj7vuCQ/videos?view_as=subscriber)

### **Environment**

- **ALERT – Change to Bulk Trash Pick-up Services:** Bulk Trash Pick-up from Bates has been suspended until further notice. Bates Trucking has suspended all municipal curbside bulk trash services in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Residents are asked to store materials appropriately until regular services resume.
- **Yard Waste Mondays:** Yard waste collection is every Monday. Yard waste should be at the **curbside by 6:00 a.m.** Residents are responsible for the following items:
  - Yard waste must be placed in paper bags or reusable bins that are clearly marked "Yard Waste"
  - Branches and limbs need to be bundled with rope or string (do not use wire), additionally all branches, limbs, and bundles must be:
    - less than 4 feet long,
    - individual branches less than 3 inches in diameter
    - weigh less than 60 pounds
- **Recycling Collection – important note:** The Recycling Collection Program is provided by Prince George’s County. Items will not be collected if the items to be recycled are placed in any type of plastic bag. Town staff continue to receive reports that recycling items placed for pick-up are in plastic bags. Prince George’s County requires that recycling be placed in a blue tote or in a reusable collection container that is clearly marked “RECYCLING” or with an “X.” **NO PLASTIC BAGS OF ANY KIND ARE TO BE INCLUDED IN THE RECYCLING CONTAINER** (i.e., plastic grocery bags, plastic wrappers on soda or water containers). For additional information, please call 311 or 301-883-5810.

## Development

- Purple Line Updates:

- Pedestrian Safety: As work continues along the alignment, the Purple Line construction team is committed to keeping everyone safe. Pedestrians are advised to follow any construction signs and use the open sidewalk(s). Pedestrians are not allowed in the construction work zones. This is for your safety as well as for the construction team.
- Open for Business: Throughout construction the Purple Line will maintain access to all businesses along the alignment for customers as well as business deliveries.
- Quintana Street Road Closure: Beginning on or about April 30, 2020, crews will be closing Quintana Street at the intersection of Kenilworth Avenue for road reconstruction. This work will last for approximately one month. The detour can be viewed here: <https://plmdnews.com/1p2>
- Postponed Night-time Lane Closures along Riverdale Road: The scheduled traffic shift detailed below has been postponed until further notice. At a later date, crews will shift Riverdale Road between the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and Veterans Parkway, for utility relocations. One lane will remain open in each direction. Work will take place during night-time hours from 7 p.m. to 5 a.m. on weekdays and weekends.
- Long-Term Lane Closure on Kenilworth Avenue: On July 8, 2019, the Purple Line implemented a long-term closure of the right-hand southbound lane on Kenilworth Avenue between River Road and Riverdale Road. Barriers will be placed to delineate the work zone. Pedestrians and bicyclists are required to stay outside of the construction zone at all times. Work will take place from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays and weekends.
- Lane Closures on Baltimore-Washington Parkway: During the month of April, crews will continue work on the Baltimore-Washington Parkway in the area of the Riverdale Road overpass. Work will take place from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays and weekends. Temporary lane closures will occur.
- Lane Closures along Riverdale Road: During the month of April, crews will be relocating utilities along Riverdale Road between the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and 67th Place. To conduct this work, lanes will intermittently be closed on 66th Avenue and 67th Avenue. Work will take place from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays and weekends. Temporary lane closures with flagging operations will occur.
- Weekend and Night Closures on Kenilworth Avenue: During the month of April, crews will be working along Kenilworth Avenue between River Road and Riverdale Road. Work will occur in two shifts, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 7 a.m. on weekdays and weekends. Temporary lane closures will occur.

- Weekend Work and Lane Closures on Riverdale Road: During the month of April, crews will be working along Riverdale Road between Kenilworth Avenue and Veterans Parkway. Work will take place from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 7 a.m. on weekdays and weekends. Temporary lane closures will occur.
- Purple Line Construction Notices: Purple Line construction continues. 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](http://purplelinemd.com), find “Construction” and click on “Subscribe for Updates.” The construction hotline is 240-424-5325.
- TRP-RPS - Riverdale Park Station News: For more information on store openings, events, and development news, check out the Riverdale Park Station transit and general websites and social media pages:
  - Transit Website: <http://www.rpstransit.com/>
  - General Website: <http://www.riverdaleparkstation.com>
  - Facebook: Riverdale Park Station: <https://www.facebook.com/TheStationRP/>
  - Twitter: @RDPStation: <https://twitter.com/RDPStation>
  - Instagram: rdpstation: <https://www.instagram.com/thestationrp/>
- Notices received by Town:
  - Notice was sent to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC) by Lerch, Early & Brewer, Chtd., representing DVG Apartments LLC consenting to an extension of the 70-day period for the Planning Board hearing scheduled for April 2, 2020 regarding the East Pines, PPS 4-19031 project. The applicant would like for this matter to be continued to a date to be specified at the April 2, 2020 Planning Board hearing. For more information please contact Christopher Hatcher at 301-657-0153 or by email at [clhatcher@lercheearly.com](mailto:clhatcher@lercheearly.com)
  - The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission is ready to accept the application for the Magruder Pointe Project. The subject property is located at 40<sup>th</sup> Place and Gallatin Street, Hyattsville, MD 20781. The nature of the application is for a detailed site plan submission which includes 16 single family detached and 15 single family attached units, and associated infrastructure. For more information please contact Sean Bruce at [sfbdevelopment@gmail.com](mailto:sfbdevelopment@gmail.com) or the M-NCPPC case reviewer, Henry Zhang, at 301-952-3530.
- Development Activities from March 19, 2020 to April 1, 2020

**Permits: Building / Storage Containers**

Description	Bi-Weekly Totals	FYTD 2020 Totals
Permit Inspections Conducted	1	49
Building Permits Issued	1	35
Stop Work Orders Issued	0	18

**Permits Issued:**

Permit #	Address	Work Description	Est. Investment
2020-B-35	4708 Queensbury Road	New Home	\$300,000
<b>Est. Investment Bi- Weekly Total:</b>			<b>\$300,000</b>
<b>Est. Investment FYTD 2020 Total:</b>			<b>\$3,992,143</b>

- Neighborhood Improvement Activities from March 19, 2020 to April 1, 2020

**Community Standards Violations by Type:**

Description	Bi-Weekly Totals	FYTD 2020 Totals
Accumulation of Garbage / Rubbish	6	104
Exterior Conditions	5	131
Interior Conditions	0	445
Overgrown Grass / Weeds	0	51
Safety	0	133
Sanitation	1	42
<b>Total Violations Found:</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>906</b>

**Services Provided by Type:**

Description	Bi-Weekly Totals	FYTD 2020 Totals
Complaint Responses Performed	10	207
Fines Issued	1	36
Outreach Events / Meetings Attended	0	44
Violation Notices Issued	5	124
Warnings Issued	3	154
<b>Total Services Provided:</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>565</b>

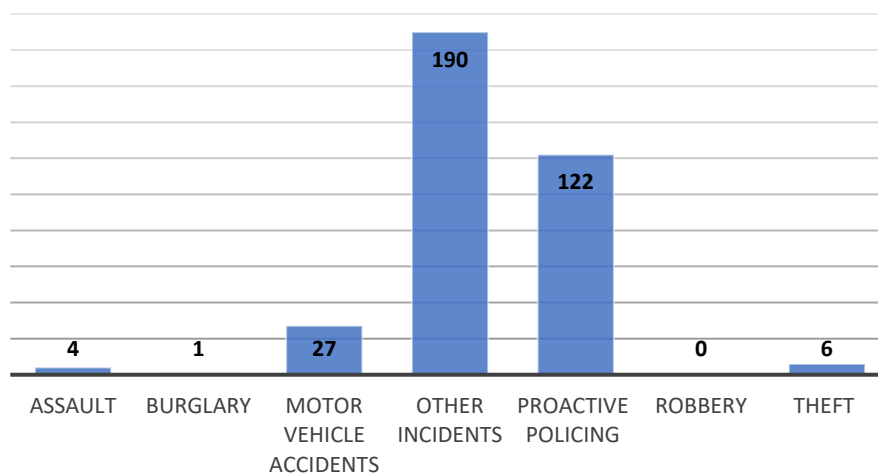
*Note:*

1. "FYTD" means Fiscal Year to Date, starting from July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020.
2. "Accumulation of Garbage / Rubbish" includes violations pertaining to the storage of waste materials in interior or exterior property areas.
3. "Exterior Conditions" include, but not limited to; chipping, flaking, and peeling paint, graffiti, storage of inoperable vehicles, damaged accessory structures, driveways, doors, overhangs, roofs, stairways, walls, windows, and other exterior components.

4. *“Interior Conditions” include, but not limited to; cracks and holes in ceilings, floors, and walls, missing stair railings, water-damaged surfaces, and lack of proper ventilation.*
5. *“Overgrown Weeds” include grass or weeds more than 10 inches in height.*
6. *“Safety” includes, but not limited to; damaged/missing electrical outlets, covers, light fixtures, carbon monoxide and /or smoke detectors, lack of escape windows in bedrooms, missing address numbers, major structural damage, and unsafe buildings.*
7. *“Sanitation” includes, but not limited to; insect/rodent infestation, mildew/mold on surfaces, uncleanliness, and storage of hazardous waste.*

### Public Safety

## 350 Calls for Police Service 03/19/2020 to 04/01/2020



Calls for Service defined: A call for service is any activity performed by a sworn police officer in the performance of their assigned duties. Calls for service covers both proactive activities such as area checks and traffic enforcement, as well as a portion of field investigative reports, traffic accidents, and response to various incidents. Calls received for dispatch are also included in the calls for service total.

Staff are working to enhance reporting capabilities to more accurately differentiate between proactive police actions and responding to dispatched incidents. The above chart illustrates that at a minimum, 122 or 35 percent of calls for service were proactive actions on the part of the Town’s police officers.

Proactive Policing includes traffic safety, business and residential checks, field interviews, and quality of life issues.

Other Incidents includes disorderly complaints, fights, suspicious subjects/vehicles, parking complaints, traffic complaints, and assisting individuals.



Highlighted reports:

- Officers responded to a business in the 6100 block of Baltimore Avenue for a theft. An employee reported that an individual entered the business and fled with \$70.00 worth of merchandise. The investigation is ongoing.
- Officers responded to the 5500 block of Kenilworth Avenue for an assault. The investigation revealed two individuals were involved in a dispute in a gas station parking lot. During the altercation the suspect sprayed the victim in the face with pepper spray. The victim refused medical treatment and the investigation is ongoing.
- Officers responded to a residence for an individual threatening suicide. Family members reported that an adult female in the home was uncontrollable and had threatened to kill herself. Due to the individual's actions and imminent threat of harm to herself, she was transported to the hospital for an emergency psychological evaluation.
- Officers responded to the 5600 block of Kenilworth Avenue for an assault. The investigation revealed the suspect and victim were involved in a dispute over money. During the argument the suspect produced a knife and stabbed the victim several times. The victim was transported to the hospital in serious condition. Through investigative means the suspect has been arrested and charged with attempted 2<sup>nd</sup> degree murder and 1<sup>st</sup> degree assault.
- Officers responded to a business in the 6000 block of Baltimore Avenue for a burglary. The investigation revealed unknown suspect(s) broke into the business office and removed items. The investigation is ongoing.
- Officers responded to the 5700 block Riverdale Road for a motor vehicle collision. The operator of the striking vehicle was found to be intoxicated and was placed under arrest for DUI.
- Officers responded to a business in the 5400 block of Kenilworth Avenue for a disorderly complaint. An employee reported an intoxicated individual inside the business harassing customers and refusing to leave. Responding officers removed the individual from the business and issued a criminal citation for trespassing.
- Officers conducted a suspicious person stop in the 5400 block of 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue. A probable cause search revealed the individual to be in possession of large quantity of a controlled dangerous substance. The individual was placed under arrest for possession of a controlled dangerous substance with the intent to distribute.
- Officers responded to a business in the 6600 block of Baltimore Avenue for a shoplifting. The suspect was arrested on the scene by responding officers. A records check revealed the suspect had active arrest warrants for assault and malicious destruction of property.

Respectfully submitted,



John N. Lestitian, Town Manager