

Town of Riverdale Park, Maryland Status and Information Report Report No. 15 for 2020



July 24, 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 August 7, 2020.

Upcoming Meetings

Council Work Session	Monday, August 31, 2020 7:00 p.m.	Location TBD
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Employee Recognition

- **Employee Anniversaries:** Please join me in extending a sincere thank you to the following team member for their years of dedicated service to the Town's residents:

- Anna Wendland 19 Years of Service

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

- **COVID-19 Response:** As conditions change, the staff team continues work to reduce risks, improve service delivery, and ensure our efforts are sustainable. I am thankful for all their efforts in demonstrating dedication to the community, resourcefulness, creativity, and resilience as we work together through this difficult time.

Administration

- **Meetings with Staff:** Staff are also available for virtual meetings while the Town buildings are closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Virtual meetings can be scheduled by phone or by e-mail. If you need assistance with scheduling a virtual meeting, please call 301-927-6381.
- **Volunteers Needed to Serve on Committees:** The Town of Riverdale Park is seeking volunteers to serve as an alternate member of the Ethics Commission and members of the Mixed-Use Town Center Local Design Review Committee (M-UTC).

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

M-UTC meets on the first Wednesday of most months to review development applications. For more information about MUTC, visit <https://www.mncppc.org/3352/Riverdale-Park-MUTC>.

Please contact Town Clerk Jessica Barnes at jbarnes@riverdaleparkmd.gov if you are interested in serving on these important committees.

Community Engagement

- **Happy Birthday Riverdale Park!** The Town turned 100 years old on June 14, 2020! Our photo collection contest ended on June 30, 2020. Members of the Town’s Centennial Committee are reviewing your photo submissions and will be choosing 3 winners from the entries. First place winner will receive a \$50 gift card to a restaurant in Town of their choice (so long as the restaurants have gift cards available). Second place winner gets a \$25 gift card. Third place winner gets a \$10 gift card. BONUS: 20 randomly selected entries will receive a “We Love Town Life!” t-shirt. Only Town resident entries will be eligible for the prize drawings. We will be sharing the submissions across our social media accounts shortly; be sure to keep a lookout on our Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts for your photos!
- **Community Input:** Input from the community is welcomed and encouraged as we navigate a new medium for holding public meetings. The public is invited to join the meetings virtually or e-mail comments to community_input@riverdaleparkmd.gov. The internet or a smart phone are not the only ways to join in. You may also call from a landline telephone to listen to the meeting and provide comments or call Town staff prior to the meeting and we will assist you with submitting your comments. We look forward to hearing from you!
- **2020 Census Forms:** Riverdale Park households received their invitations to respond to the 2020 Census in mid-March. It is imperative that everyone responds as soon as possible online at www.2020census.gov, by phone at [844-330-2020](tel:844-330-2020), or by mail. The Town currently has a response rate of 60.8%. The State’s current response rate is 66.3%. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to complete their 2020 Census forms today!
- **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.
- **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.



- Social Media Outreach: The Leadership Team, along with key team members from the Office of Administrative Services, continues 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. As of today, you have increased followers to 1,678. We now know that 2,000 is possible. 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
 - Twitter: https://twitter.com/Riverdale_Park
 - Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeaNS8-6xwTyPJculj7vuCQ/videos?view_as=subscriber

Environment

- Bulk Trash Drop-off to Resume on August 1st: Bulk trash will be accepted, **by appointment only**, every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. from August 1st through September 26th at the Department of Public Works building located at 5012 Queensbury Road. Town residents are permitted to bring **up to eight acceptable items** for drop-off during their scheduled appointment time. This will be a contactless drop-off. Residents are required to wear a mask covering their nose and mouth and to bring someone with them who can assist with unloading.

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

- Cancellation of 2020 Adult Mosquito Spray Program: The Town has received notice from the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) that their adult mosquito spray program, which the Town has participated in for many years, has been cancelled for this year due to budget constraints related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Town staff are working to identify possible options to continue this highly valued service.

MDA has reported that they anticipate being able to respond to complaints and conduct larviciding activity until they run out of the insecticide that they have in stock. Complaints regarding mosquitos may be submitted via their online form:

<https://www.doit.state.md.us/selectsurvey/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=740K154#>.

- Bulk Trash Pick-up Services Resume: Bulk services were suspended on April 1st due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Bates Trucking resumed bulk services on June 17th. As a reminder, Bulky Trash Collection is provided by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, call 301-773-2069.

Appointments can also be scheduled online by filling out the [Bates Request Form](#). Only 3 bulk items are permitted per week.

- **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:**
 - Quesada Road Closure: Beginning on or about August 22, 2020, the Purple Line will implement a closure of Quesada Road at the intersection of Kenilworth Avenue for road reconstruction until approximately October 1, 2020. The detour can be viewed here: <https://plmdnews.com/r2j>
 - Quintana Street Road Closure: On or about June 22, 2020, crews closed Quintana Street at Kenilworth Avenue for road reconstruction until approximately October 1, 2020. The detour can be viewed here: <https://plmdnews.com/1p2>
- **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 www.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: @RDPSStation: <https://twitter.com/RDPSStation>
 - Instagram: rdpsstation: <https://www.instagram.com/thestationrp/>

- Upcoming Meetings: This feature in the Status and Information reports is provided to ensure awareness of upcoming meetings that may have information or agenda items related to development in or near the Town. Below please find links to the agendas for the Board of License Commissioners, the Planning Board, and the Historic Preservation Commission. Please visit the links for additional information:

Planning Board: July 30, 2020, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. (Virtual Meeting)

<http://mncppc.igam2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=14&ID=1533&Inline=True>

Historic Preservation Commission: *No information available at time of report.*

Board of License Commissioners: *No information available at time of report.*

- Development Activities from July 1, 2020 to July 22, 2020

Permits: Building / Storage Containers

Description	Bi-Weekly Totals	FYTD 2021 Totals
Permit Inspections Conducted	0	0
Building Permits Issued	0	0
Stop Work Orders Issued	0	0

- Neighborhood Improvement Activities from July 1, 2020 to July 22, 2020

Community Standards Violations by Type:

Description	Bi-Weekly Totals	FYTD 2021 Totals
Accumulation of Garbage / Rubbish	2	2
Exterior Conditions	5	5
Interior Conditions	2	2
Overgrown Grass / Weeds	2	2
Safety	1	1
Sanitation	0	0
Total Violations Found:	12	12

Services Provided by Type:

Description	Bi-Weekly Totals	FYTD 2021 Totals
Complaint Responses Performed	9	9
Fines Issued	0	0
Outreach Events / Meetings Attended	2	2
Violation Notices Issued	3	3

Warnings Issued	4	4
Total Services Provided:	18	18

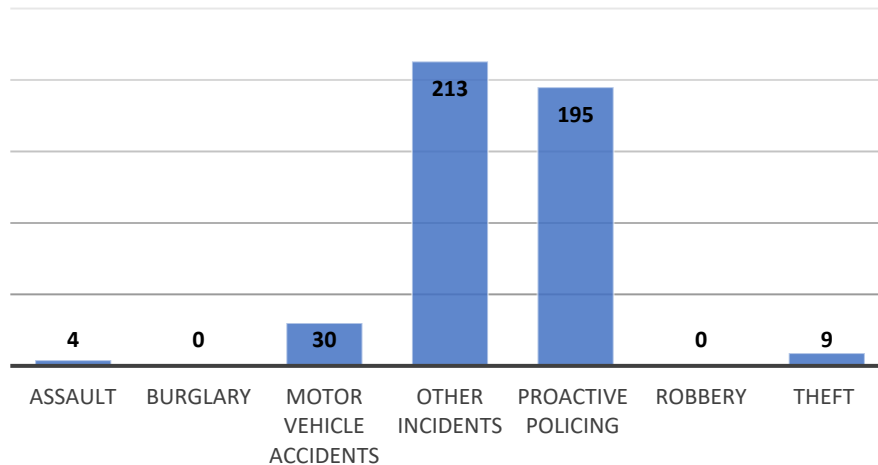
Note:

1. *“FYTD” means Fiscal Year to Date, starting from July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021.*
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.*

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Public Safety

451 Calls for Police Service 07/09/2020 to 07/22/2020



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, 195 or 43 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 5400 block of Kenilworth Avenue for an assault. The investigation revealed the suspect and victim were involved in a verbal dispute which escalated and turned physical. The suspect produced a knife and stabbed the victim. The victim was transported to the hospital for treatment for serious but non-life-threatening injuries. The investigation is ongoing.
- Officers observed an individual in 6500 block of Baltimore Avenue whom the officers knew had an open arrest warrant for 4th degree burglary. The individual was placed under arrest and transported to the Department of Corrections.

- Officers responded to a business in the 5400 block of Kenilworth Avenue for a theft. The investigation revealed the suspect entered the business and removed alcoholic beverages. Through investigative means the suspect was identified and charged with theft.
- Officers responded to a business in the 4700 block of Queensbury Road for an assault. The investigation revealed suspect became disorderly and swatted items off the counter striking an employee. The investigation is ongoing.
- Officers responded to a business in the 5600 block of Riverdale Road for a trespassing complaint. The store manager reported an individual inside the business who was previously given a trespass notice. The individual was placed under arrest for trespassing.
- Officers responded to a business in the 5400 block of Kenilworth Avenue for a disorderly complaint. The individual was removed from the property and issued a criminal citation for disorderly conduct.
- Officers responded to the 5400 block of Jefferson Street for an assault. The investigation revealed two individuals were involved in a verbal dispute which escalated and turned physical. The suspect produced a knife and cut the victim. Through investigative means the suspect was identified and charged with 1st degree assault. The victim was treated for non-life-threatening injuries.
- Officers responded to the 5900 block of Taylor Road for a suspicious vehicle blocking the roadway. Responding officers located the vehicle running and the driver asleep. The operator failed field sobriety tests and was placed under arrest for driving while intoxicated.
- Officers responded to the 5700 block of Riverdale Road for a check on the welfare. Several motorists reported a partially clothed individual running in and out of the travel portion of the roadway. Due to the individual's actions they were transported to the hospital for a psychological evaluation.
- Officers responded to the 5400 block of Riverdale Road for a contact shooting. The investigation revealed two suspects were involved in a physical altercation with the victim. During the altercation the victim sustained a non-life threatening gunshot wound. The scene was processed, and numerous pieces of evidence were recovered. The investigation is active and ongoing.

Respectfully submitted,



John N. Lestitian, Town Manager