TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK

Status and Information Report   Report No. 21 for 2020

October 16, 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 October 30, 2020.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Council Work Session	Monday, October 26, 2020 7:00 p.m.	Virtual Meeting. To join: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85400958316?pwd=d0NFK3pQT1EvbTJUcmg3LzFkQzRZQT09 Or call: 301-715-8592 Meeting ID: 854 0095 8316 Passcode: 478554
Community Meeting with Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation	Thursday, October 29, 2020 7:00 p.m.	Virtual Meeting. To join: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81197223758?pwd=YVI4SVQzU3FaSE1rc3dzVmtxdFM4QT09 Or call: 301-715-8592 Meeting ID: 811 9722 3758 Passcode: 068634
Legislative Meeting	Monday, November 2, 2020 7:00 p.m.	Virtual Meeting. To join: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87841944760?pwd=a2RsT2RQMGhLcTZjNDRCUExySWZ3dz09 Or call: 301-715-8592 Meeting ID: 878 4194 4760 Passcode: 194756

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.

- Remote Notary Services available: Staff are now available to perform Remote Notary Services for Town residents. Remote Notary Services will be performed through a virtual platform approved by the Maryland Secretary of State. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please contact Denisa Caballero at dcaballero@riverdaleparkmd.gov or Keith Robinson at krobinson@riverdaleparkmd.gov or call 301-927-6381.

- Volunteers Needed to Serve on Committees: The Town of Riverdale Park is seeking volunteers to serve as members of the Mixed-Use Town Center Local Design Review Committee (M-UTC).

  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 this important committee.

Community Engagement

- 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!

- 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 1,760. 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

- Recent Discussion with County DPW&T: The Town joined with the Town of Edmonston to participate in a discussion with the Deputy Director of Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation regarding the Edmonston Pumping Station and recent flooding. A lot of important information was shared during the meeting and additional information will be forthcoming as a result of questions from the residents and elected officials from both towns. The slides shared during the presentation are available on the Town's website: http://www.riverdaleparkmd.gov/10.7.2020%20Edmonston%20Community%20Meeting%20with%20DPWT.pdf

- DPW Continuing Education: Staff in the Department of Public Works will receive training this month on the causes of common asphalt maintenance problems and proper repair materials and methods as the sole participants in a virtual course taught at the Maryland Transportation Technology Transfer (MD T2) Center, Maryland's Local Technical Assistance Program (MD LTAP). Individual staff are also enrolling in courses on preventative pavement maintenance, winter maintenance, asphalt resurfacing and road service management occurring from October to December. This group training approach will elevate knowledge, skills and efforts in the department to maintain the Town's asphalt roads more effectively.

    Several staff will participate in a traffic calming course in November. It will focus on the appropriateness and effectiveness of various traffic calming measures that will impart a basic understanding of what it is and issues encountered when using common techniques. Participants will develop appropriate traffic calming solutions for a neighborhood and discuss it in the class.

- Free Tree Program for Residents: Homeowners are eligible for free professionally planted native trees through the Central Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization CDC (CKAR) tree canopy

project. This project is in collaboration with the Prince George's County Department of the Environment, the Chesapeake Bay Trust and other participating communities and organizations. To request a tree, visit https://ckarcdc.org/community-resources/.

- Leaf Collection: Residents are encouraged to bag their leaves and/or mulch them during lawn mowing instead of pushing them into the streets. It is extremely important to keep storm drains clear of leaves to allow the system optimal performance during a rain event. To support leaf bagging, Public Works staff will distribute five (5) leaf bags to each single-family residence in Town, starting the week of October 19th. FREE leaf bags will also be available for pick up on the third Saturday of the month (9 a.m. to 2 p.m.) at the bulk trash drop off at the Public Works building until mid-January. Identification confirming residency is required. Bagged leaves should be set out curbside by 6 a.m. on Monday for collection by the Town's hauler. If residents choose to mulch their leaves or will otherwise not use the leaf bags, they are encouraged to give them to a neighbor.

- Bates Bulk Trash Pick-up Services: As a reminder, Bulk Trash Collection is provided by appointment only. To schedule an appointment for pick-up, call 301-773-2069. Only 3 bulk items are permitted per week.

- Yard Waste Mondays: Yard waste collection is every Monday. Yard waste needs to 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

- Emergency Repairs Grant Available: The Town is soliciting grant applications from homeowners who reside in Town. Applications will be accepted through Thursday, December 31, 2020. This grant program is designed to assist homeowners with emergency repairs in homes and businesses that would otherwise not be addressed. Residents can be reimbursed for up to $2,000 after work has been completed and paid for. An "emergency repair" is defined as a situation that is life-threatening or one that prohibits someone from living in decent, safe, and sanitary conditions. For more information, please visit http://www.riverdaleparkmd.info/residents/emergency_repair_grant.php.

- Purple Line Updates:
  - MDOT MTA Resumes Purple Line Work: MDOT MTA gets the first assumed Purple Line contracts underway. Distribution of construction notifications will occur in advance of work resuming in your area(s). If you have any questions, please contact our outreach hotline at (443) 451-3706 or email outreach@purplelinemd.com.

- 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 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:
  - General Website: https://thestationrp.com/
  - Facebook: Riverdale Park Station: https://www.facebook.com/TheStationRP/
  - Twitter: @thestationrp: https://twitter.com/thestationrp
  - Instagram: thestationrp: https://www.instagram.com/thestationrp/

- Notices received by Town:
  - Notice was received regarding the rescheduling of a Join Public Hearing of the Prince George's County District Council and Planning Board on the Countywide Sectional Map Amendment (CMA) for Prince George's County. The virtual public hearing will be held on Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. To view the interactive web based preliminary zoning map or to learn more about this project, visit the Zoning Rewrite website at www.zoningPGC.pgplanning.com. Further questions can be directed to the project team at 301-952-4944 or by email at ZoningPGC@ppd.mncppc.org

  - Notice was received requesting feedback from the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority regarding the Fiscal Year 2021 budget amendments proposals that include:
    - Metrorail service adjustments during weekdays
    - Metrorail service adjustments during weekends
    - Yellow Line Turnback
    - Closing the Metrorail system earlier Sunday through Thursday
    - Continue reduced Metrobus service and operating hours

    Feedback is requested by 9 a.m. Monday, October 19, 2020. Full details are available at www.wmata.com/budget

- 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:

  Historic Preservation Commission: October 20, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. (Virtual Meeting)
  http://www.pgparks.com/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/_10202020-434

Planning Board: October 22, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. (Virtual Meeting)
http://mncppc.iqm2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=14&ID=1544&Inline=True

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

- <u>Development Activities from October 1, 2020 to October 14, 2020</u>

Permits: Building / Storage Containers

Description	Bi-Weekly Totals	FYTD 2021 Totals
Permit Inspections Conducted	2	9
Building Permits Issued	2	7
Stop Work Orders Issued	1	5

Permits Issued:

Permit #	Address	Work Description	Est. Investment
2021-B-06	4902 Queensbury Road	New Driveway	$7,000
2021-B-07	4811 Sheridan Street	New Single-Family Home	$330,000
		Est. Investment Bi- Weekly Total:	**$337,000**
		Est. Investment FYTD 2021 Total:	**$1,699,400**

NOTE: In FY2020, the Est. Investment for the same period was $2,703,115. While there are many factors that impact private investment, the current economic uncertainty is likely at play.

Licenses:

Description	Bi-Weekly Totals	FYTD 2021 Totals
Multifamily Rental Inspection Conducted	5	12
Multifamily Licenses Issued	0	2
Single-family Rental Inspection	0	14
Single-family Licenses Issued	4	15
Business License Inspections Conducted	0	87
Business Licenses Issued	7	88

- Neighborhood Improvement Activities from October 1, 2020 to October 14, 2020

Community Standards Violations by Type:

Description	Bi-Weekly Totals	FYTD 2021 Totals
Accumulation of Garbage / Rubbish	1	19
Exterior Conditions	15	46
Interior Conditions	28	46
Overgrown Grass / Weeds	1	12
Safety	6	15
Sanitation	0	1
Total Violations Found:	**51**	**139**

Services Provided by Type:

Description	Bi-Weekly Totals	FYTD 2021 Totals
Complaint Responses Performed	5	51
Fines Issued	0	3
Outreach Events / Meetings Attended	0	10
Violation Notices Issued	6	40
Warnings Issued	3	22
Total Services Provided:	**14**	**126**

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.*

430 Calls for Police Service
10/01/2020 to 10/14/2020
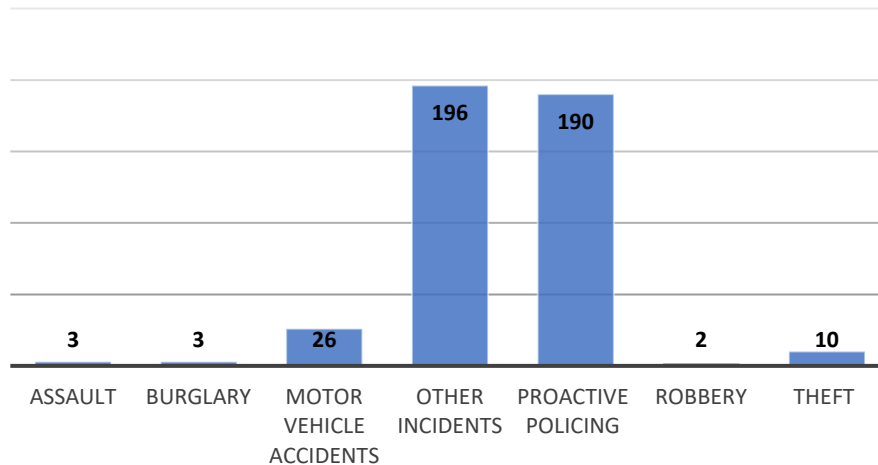
Calls for Service defined: A call for service is any activity performed by a sworn police officer in the performance of their assigned duties. Calls for service covers both proactive activities such as area checks and traffic enforcement, as well as a portion of field investigative reports, traffic accidents, 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, 190 or 44 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 the 5000 block of Nicholson Street for a residential burglary. The investigation revealed unknown suspect(s) forced entry through a rear window. Once inside the suspect(s) removed property from the residence. A possible suspect has been identified and chargers are pending.

- Officers responded to the 6200 block of Baltimore Avenue for a robbery. The investigation revealed the victim was walking up to the bank when the suspect approached and produced a handgun. The victim relinquished a bank deposit bag and the suspect fled to an awaiting vehicle. The victim was injured but declined to be transported to the hospital. The investigation is ongoing.

- Officers responded to a business in the 5700 block of Riverdale Road for a theft. An unknown suspect entered the business and grabbed several boxes of perfume from the shelf. The suspect fled the business and the investigation is ongoing.

- Officers responded to the 5400 block of Kenilworth Avenue for two attempted commercial burglaries. In both incidents the suspects attempted to pry open the front door to the businesses but were unsuccessful. Through investigative means two suspects have been identified and charges are pending.

- Officers responded to the 5900 block of Harrison Avenue for a robbery. The victim reported to be robbed at knife point by an acquaintance. The victim was not injured, and the investigation is ongoing.

- Officers responded to the 6600 block of Rhode Island Avenue for a theft. The victim reported Halloween decorations stolen from their front yard.

- Officers responded to the 4800 block of Madison Street for a motor vehicle tampering. Responding officers located and arrested an individual who was observed breaking into several vehicles.

- Officers responded to a business in the 6200 block of Kenilworth Avenue for an assault. The investigation revealed the victim was involved in a verbal altercation with two suspects inside of the business. The suspects attacked the victim and severely beat him causing facial and head injuries. The victim was transported to the hospital for treatment. The suspects were placed under arrest and charged with 1st and 2nd degree assault.

- Officers responded to the 6600 block of Baltimore Avenue for an assault. The victim who is an Uber driver, reported that he was involved in verbal disagreement with his passenger. During the argument the passenger pointed a handgun at the victim and threatened him. The suspect exited the vehicle and fled on foot. The investigation is ongoing.

- Officers responded to the 4500 block of Sheridan Street for a motor vehicle theft. The victim reported their 2008 Suzuki SUV was stolen overnight. The vehicle has been entered into NCIC as stolen.

Respectfully submitted,

John N. Lestitian, Town Manager