

TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK

Status and Information Report

Report No. 24 for 2020

November 25, 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 December 11, 2020.

CLOSURES AND SCHEDULE CHANGES:

Town Hall and Public Works Operations Closed	Thursday, November 26, 2020 Friday, November 27, 2020	In observance of Thanksgiving
No Trash Collection *Collection will occur on the next scheduled collection day.	Thursday, November 26, 2020	In observance of Thanksgiving

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Council Work Session	Monday, November 30, 2020 7:00 p.m.	Virtual Meeting. To join: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88469707375?pwd=VnUxcmlLTzFVeTRXc0M2U2tCaVZKQT09 Or call: 301-715-8592 Meeting ID: 884 6970 7375 Passcode: 387686
Legislative Meeting	Monday, December 7, 2020 7:00 p.m.	Virtual Meeting. To join: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81880171559?pwd=VXFzQ2FDdUJFdjRjNmZ2UUhrUUFtdz09 Or call: 301-715-8592 Meeting ID: 818 8017 1559 Passcode: 291998

Administration

- **Thanksgiving Holiday and COVID-19:** The conditions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic continue to challenge daily life. Some members of our community have lost love ones or fear losing them, some have lost jobs or worry when their job may end, some agonize about feeding their family, some have lost their homes, and some struggle every day to keep their businesses open. But in this time of great stress and challenge, residents have and continue to help each other. Residents have volunteered at food distribution sites, donated to local charities, focused their spending habits to support small businesses, and provide kind words of support and encouragement to others. Thanksgiving will be different this year, and I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the Mayor and Council, the staff team, and to the Town's residents. The Town of Riverdale Park is a diverse and caring community. Thank you!
- **COVID-19:** Please note the following links:
 - Governor Hogan's COVID-19 Update on November 23, 2020:
<https://governor.maryland.gov/2020/11/23/governor-hogan-announces-launch-of-all-hands-on-deck-covid-19-compliance-and-enforcement-operation/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k5wfwHW_8uM&feature=youtu.be
 - Prince George's County Health Officer Ernest L. Carter, MD, PhD, Directive and Order on November 20, 2020:
<https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/3303>
- **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 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:** The Town of Riverdale Park is seeking volunteers to serve as follows:
 - Members of the Mixed-Use Town Center Local Design Review Committee (M-UTC)
 - Election Judges for the Town election on May 3, 2021
 - Alternate Election Judges for the Town election on May 3, 2021
 - Members of the Board of Election Appeals for the Town election on May 3, 2021

Please contact Town Clerk Jessica Barnes at jbarnes@riverdaleparkmd.gov if you have any questions or if you are interested in volunteering.

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. The 2018 International Property Maintenance Code is available for review on the Town’s website at <http://www.riverdaleparkmd.gov/2018%20IPMC.pdf>. 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: Thank you to those who follow the Town on our social media platforms. The Town’s social media continues 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 1,831. The goal is to reach 2,000 followers on Facebook within the next 4 months. We know this is possible. If you have not 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

- 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 distributed five (5) leaf bags to each single-family residence in Town in October. 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.

- **Leaf Vacuuming:** The 2020 Leaf Vacuuming Schedule will be as follows:
 - Mondays and Thursdays: Residences north of 410/East West Highway
 - Tuesdays and Fridays: Residences south of 410/East West Highway

To make the process work as efficiently as possible, residents should adhere to the following:

- Rake leaves to the curb and pile leaves away from cars and storm drains as the leaf vacuum cannot reach around cars.
 - Be sure to remove tree limbs, rocks, and other debris from leaves to be vacuumed. These items can damage equipment and cause delays.
- **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 and businessowners. Applications will be accepted through Thursday, December 31, 2020. This grant program is designed to assist with emergency repairs in homes and businesses that would otherwise not be addressed. Successful applicants 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 or is needed for the safe and continual operation of a business. For more information, please visit

http://www.riverdaleparkmd.info/residents/emergency_repair_grant.php.

- **Purple Line Settlement:** As of the writing of this report, various reputable news outlets have reported a settlement to the litigation that has threatened this transportation project. Reportedly, the settlement will end all current litigation. The Washington Business Journal reports that as part of the settlement, Fluor Enterprises Inc. will no longer be part of the project. Additionally, the remaining partners, Meridiam North America and Star America Infrastructure Partners will stay under the banner of "Purple Line Transit Partners." The State will temporarily fill the role as the design-build contractor until a new vendor is added.
- **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:**
 - The Governor's Smart Growth Subcabinet is holding a virtual public forum for county and municipal elected leaders and planning officials on Wednesday, December 16, 2020, between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. This will be an opportunity for elected leaders and planning officials to discuss with the subcabinet local government issues relating to activities that affect smart growth, development, neighborhood conservation, and resource management. To participate in the forum, you will need to [register](#).

If you have problems registering or have questions, please contact: Chuck Boyd, Maryland Department of Planning, Chuck.Boyd@Maryland.gov, Phone: 301-639-1634

- **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: December 3, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. (Virtual Meeting)

<http://mncppc.igq2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=14&ID=1553&Inline=True>

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

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

- Development Activities from November 12, 2020 to November 23, 2020

Permits: Building / Storage Containers

Description	Bi-Weekly Totals	FYTD 2021 Totals
Permit Inspections Conducted	0	14
Building Permits Issued	0	12
Stop Work Orders Issued	1	10

Licenses:

Description	Bi-Weekly Totals	FYTD 2021 Totals
Multifamily Rental Inspection Conducted	0	21
Multifamily Licenses Issued	2	13
Single-family Rental Inspection	7	21
Single-family Licenses Issued	7	30
Business License Inspections Conducted	3	90
Business Licenses Issued	0	88

- Neighborhood Improvement Activities from November 12, 2020 to November 23, 2020

Community Standards Violations by Type:

Description	Bi-Weekly Totals	FYTD 2021 Totals
Accumulation of Garbage / Rubbish	0	21
Exterior Conditions	3	70
Interior Conditions	8	111
Overgrown Grass / Weeds	0	13
Safety	6	26
Sanitation	2	5
Total Violations Found:	19	246

Services Provided by Type:

Description	Bi-Weekly Totals	FYTD 2021 Totals
Complaint Responses Performed	3	62
Fines Issued	0	4
Outreach Events / Meetings Attended	2	17

Violation Notices Issued	15	63
Warnings Issued	2	31
Total Services Provided:	22	177

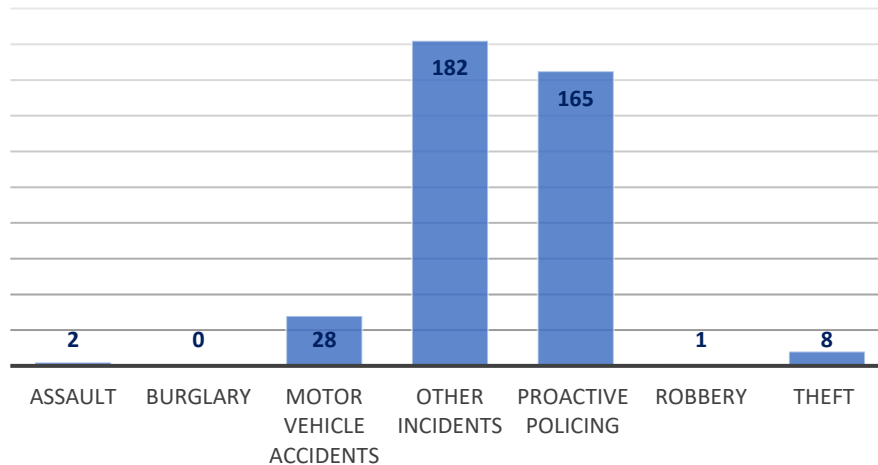
Note:

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

386 Calls for Police Service 11/12/2020 to 11/23/2020



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, 165 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 conducted a traffic stop in the 5400 block of Kenilworth Avenue. During a probable cause search of the vehicle officers located 12.5 grams of suspected cocaine. The occupant was placed under arrest for possession of a controlled dangerous substance.
- Officers responded to the 5300 block of Riverdale Road for an assault. The victim reported being slapped on the buttocks by an unknown suspect. The suspect fled the scene on a bicycle and the investigation is ongoing.

- Officers responded to the 4700 block of Queensbury Road for a disabled vehicle on the railroad tracks. A record checked revealed the driver to have an active arrest warrant through the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office. The individual was placed under arrest and vehicle was impounded for safekeeping.
- Officers responded to a business in the 6200 block of Baltimore Avenue for a trespassing complaint. The business manager reported an individual inside the business who was previously barred from the property. Officers contacted the individual who refused numerous requests to leave the property. The individual was placed under arrest for trespassing and disorderly conduct.
- Officers conducted a traffic stop in the 5400 block of Spring Lane after observing a vehicle being operated without headlamps. The driver of the vehicle failed sobriety tests and was placed under arrest for driving under the influence.
- Officers responded to a business in the 5600 block of Riverdale Road for a disorderly complaint. The business manager reported an intoxicated individual inside the business bothering patrons. The individual was removed from the property and issued a criminal citation for disorderly conduct.
- Officers responded to the 5400 block of Riverdale Road for a suspicious person. The caller reported an individual inside of the laundry room trespassing. Officers contacted the individual and conducted a records check. The individual was found to have an active arrest warrant through the Prince George's County Sheriff's Office. The individual was placed under arrest and transported to the Department of Corrections.
- Officers responded to the 5400 block of Powhatan Road for an armed robbery. The victim reported he was seated inside of his vehicle when the suspect approached, produced a handgun and ordered him out of the vehicle. The victim complied and handed over his wallet. The suspect then got inside the victim's vehicle and fled the scene. The victim was not injured, and the investigation is ongoing.

Respectfully submitted,



John N. Lestitian, Town Manager