TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK

Status and Information Report Report No. 25 for 2020

December 11, 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 23, 2020.

CLOSURES AND SCHEDULE CHANGES:

Town Hall and Public Works Operations Closed	Friday, December 25, 2020	In observance of Christmas
Town Hall and Public Works Operations Closed	Friday, January 1, 2021	In observance of New Year's Day

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Ethics Commission Meeting	Tuesday, December 15, 2020 7:15 p.m.	Virtual Meeting. To join: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89455265886?pwd=K0FRTDVwLzdrRloxeGw3Y3ZmK1B6UT09 Or call: 301-715-8592 Meeting ID: 894-5526-5886 Passcode: 365331
Community Update on the Wells Run Channel Study	Thursday, December 17, 2020 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.	Register in advance to join: https://mypgc.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUsdeqorDkpE9SiULFfD4HnIBhSsm3Ae8hW

Council Work Session	Monday, December 21, 2020 7:00 p.m.	Virtual Meeting. To join: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/863704 96901?pwd=cEozRUQxVnQwbT dJNmJ5cVFNV3RkQT09 Or call: 301-715-8592 Meeting ID: 863-7049-6901 Passcode: 616359
Legislative Meeting	Monday, January 4, 2021 7:00 p.m.	Virtual Meeting. To join: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/868588 79739?pwd=UzM1VjJEWkpEN1 BTQzN2RjJPWFl3QT09 Or call: 301-715-8592 Meeting ID: 868-5887-9739 Passcode: 589324

Employee Recognition

- 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:

  - Adam Swann   10 Years of Service

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

Administration

- COVID-19: Please note the following link:
  - Governor Larry Hogan's Press Conference on December 8, 2020:
    https://governor.maryland.gov/2020/12/08/state-of-maryland-to-focus-on-health-care-workers-long-term-care-facilities-first-responders-in-initial-covid-19-vaccine-allocation/

- Meetings with Staff: Staff are available for virtual meetings while the Town buildings are closed to the public 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:

- o Members of the Mixed-Use Town Center Local Design Review Committee (M-UTC)
- o Election Judges for the Town election on May 3, 2021
- o Alternate Election Judges for the Town election on May 3, 2021
- o 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.

Council Direction Summary

The Mayor and Council provided direction to staff through the following Legislative Actions:

1. Motion authorize the Town Manager to sign Salt Utilization Agreement between the Town and Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration for the distribution of salt to the Town - ***Approved***
2. Motion to authorize the Town Manager to sign Amendment to April 16, 2018, Municipal Participation Agreement between the Town and Prince George's County regarding the Longfellow Street Stormwater Project - ***Approved***
3. Resolution 2020-R- 22 regarding sunset of the Farmers Market Dollars Program to June 30, 2021 - ***Adopted***

Community Engagement

- Holiday Safety: On Monday, December 7th during the Town's Legislative Meeting, the Police Department made a presentation to the community regarding holiday safety. Chief Morris and Assistant Chief Guixens provided updates regarding recent crime trends and offered important safety measures for this holiday season. Assistant Chief Guixens also stressed the need for everyone to maintain situational awareness at all times, and even more so during the holiday season when there are so many other distractions.

  The Department's presentation is available on the Town's website.

  The slides can be seen in the meeting packet here: http://www.riverdaleparkmd.gov/12.7.2020 Complete Packet.pdf

  And the video can be viewed here (presentation starts at 8:05): https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/JmxCWxeiGTvUTUcXkHjZM1Bl5l91NpQoXogTGs2JV1Lz 3w_GUY4EZhMJtC-lUC-qR0R- 8FO5WFBGgewz.Y989BWZD998KRUut?continueMode=true&_x_zm_rtaid=vXe8NRftR3K_ HagArs_vJg.1607434004032.9e6bbd5dbbb9a471427ee710bb1d4a00&_x_zm_rhtaid=132

- 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 1,845. 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

- Community Update on the Wells Run Channel Study: The Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation has recently completed a study of the Wells Run channel in Riverdale Park. Join Council Member Dannielle Glaros, the Town of Riverdale Park, and staff from the County's Department of Public Works and Transportation on **Thursday, December 17 from 7:00 – 8:30 pm** to learn more about the results of modeling different scenarios to determine viable options for the concrete channel sections of Wells Run. There will be time for questions.

  Register in advance for this meeting:
  https://mypgc.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUsdeqorDkpE9SiULFfD4HnIBhSsm3Ae8hW

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

- 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 Updates:
    o Utility Work on Riverdale Road: Beginning on or about December 7, 2020, crews will perform underground utility work on Kenilworth Avenue northbound and southbound from Riverdale Road (MD 410) to Rittenhouse Street, for approximately six weeks, weather permitting. Work may take place from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Temporary lane closures with flaggers will occur.
    o Utility Work on River Road: Beginning on or about December 7, 2020 crews will perform underground utility work on westbound River Road at Haig Drive for approximately two weeks, weather permitting. Work may take place from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Temporary lane closures will occur.

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

- Notices received by Town:
    o 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 <u>may</u> 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: December 15, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. (Virtual Meeting)
    http://www.pgparks.com/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/_12152020-494

    Planning Board: December 17, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. (Virtual Meeting)
    http://mncppc.iqm2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=14&ID=1555&Inline=True

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

- <u>Development Activities from November 24, 2020 to December 9, 2020</u>

Permits: Building / Storage Containers

Description	Bi-Weekly Totals	FYTD 2021 Totals
Permit Inspections Conducted	1	15
Building Permits Issued	1	13
Stop Work Orders Issued	1	11

Permits Issued:

Permit #	Address	Work Description	Est. Investment
2021-B-13	4604 Oliver Street	Art Studio Addition	$32,267
		Est. Investment Bi- Weekly Total:	**$32,267**
		Est. Investment FYTD 2021 Total:	**$1,977,392**

Licenses:

Description	Bi-Weekly Totals	FYTD 2021 Totals
Multifamily Rental Inspection Conducted	0	21

Multifamily Licenses Issued	2	15
Single-family Rental Inspection	11	32
Single-family Licenses Issued	12	42
Business License Inspections Conducted	1	91
Business Licenses Issued	8	96

- <u>Neighborhood Improvement Activities from November 24, 2020 to December 9, 2020</u>

Community Standards Violations by Type:

Description	Bi-Weekly Totals	FYTD 2021 Totals
Accumulation of Garbage / Rubbish	3	24
Exterior Conditions	5	75
Interior Conditions	1	112
Overgrown Grass / Weeds	2	15
Safety	3	29
Sanitation	1	6
Total Violations Found:	**15**	**261**

Services Provided by Type:

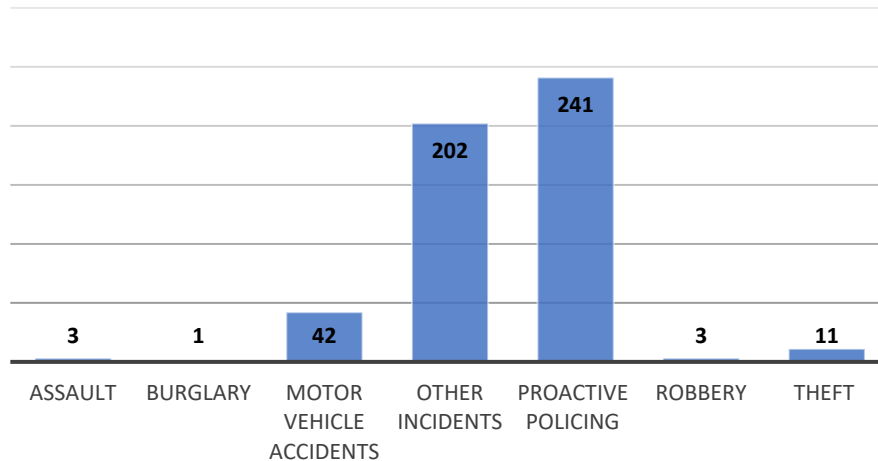| Description	Bi-Weekly Totals	FYTD 2021 Totals
Complaint Responses Performed	5	67
Fines Issued	0	4
Outreach Events / Meetings Attended	5	22
Violation Notices Issued	7	70
Warnings Issued	5	36
Total Services Provided:	**22**	**199**

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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503 Calls for Police Service
11/24/2020 to 12/09/2020

Chart showing calls for police service by category: Assault 3, Burglary 1, Motor Vehicle Accidents 42, Other Incidents 202, Proactive Policing 241, Robbery 3, Theft 11.

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, 241 or 48 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 4700 block of Queensbury Road for a commercial burglary. The investigation revealed unknown suspect(s) smashed the glass door to gain entry. Once inside the suspect(s) removed several roles of scratch off lottery tickets. Through investigative means the suspect has been identified and charged with 2nd degree burglary and theft.

- Officers responded to the 5600 block of 54th Avenue 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.

- Officers conducted a traffic stop in the 5600 block of Riverdale Road. A records check revealed the driver to have an active arrest warrant for failure to appear for driving while intoxicated. The driver was placed under arrest and transported to the Department of Corrections.

- Officers responded to a residence in the 6400 block of 47th Avenue for a theft. The victim reported an unknown suspect removed a package from their front steps.

- Officers responded to a business in the 5700 block of Riverdale Road for a shoplifter. The suspect was contacted and issued a criminal citation theft.

- Officers responded to the 5800 block of Nicholson Street for an armed robbery. The victim reported he was seated inside his vehicle when the suspect approached. The suspect produced a handgun and demanded the victim's property. The victim complied and the suspect fled to a waiting vehicle. The victim was not injured, and the investigation is ongoing.

- Officers conducted a traffic stop in the 6100 block of Kenilworth Avenue. During a probable cause search of the vehicle officers located 84 grams of suspected MDMA. The suspect was placed under arrest for possession with intent to distribute a controlled dangerous substance.

- Officers responded to the 4400 block of Queensbury Road for a robbery. The victim reported he was seated at the bus stop when the suspect approached and demanded his property. The victim refused and was physically assaulted by the suspect. Ultimately the suspect overpowered the victim and took his property. The victim refused medical treatment and the investigation is ongoing.

- Officers responded to the intersection of Kenilworth Avenue and Good Luck Road for a vehicle stopped in the roadway. Responding officers located the driver asleep behind the wheel. The driver was placed under arrest for driving while intoxicated after failing field sobriety testing.

Respectfully submitted,

John N. Lestitian, Town Manager