

TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK

Status and Information Report

Report No. 4 for 2021

February 19, 2021

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 March 5, 2021.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Closed Meeting to consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State; General Provisions Article, §3-305(b)(4)	Monday, February 22, 2021 7:00 p.m.	Virtual meeting via Zoom
Special Legislative Meeting and Council Work Session	Monday, February 22, 2021 7:30 p.m.	Virtual meeting. To join: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86471657868?pwd=LzZkTXVEM2ZoOGtpa0ZMSVFIWk92Zz09 Or call: 301-715-8592 Meeting ID: 864-7165-7868 Passcode: 191709
Legislative Meeting	Monday, March 1, 2021 7:00 p.m.	Virtual meeting. To join: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82162436703?pwd=R1AvMHdOVXYrNH5T0lveTE4U1BUdz09 Or call: 301-715-8592 Meeting ID: 821-6243-6703 Passcode: 545465

Employee Recognition

- **Kudos:** Special thanks to the Public Works Team for keeping Town roads and sidewalks safe during the recent weather events. Well done!

Administration

- **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 Keith Robinson at krobinson@riverdaleparkmd.gov or call 301-927-6381.

Community Engagement

- There are free tax preparation and filing options available to low and moderate income households. Here is a list of a few of those options.
 - **AARP:** Offers free state and federal tax preparation services. Customers can choose between in-person and remote tax assistance depending on site availability. Eligibility: Anyone with low to moderate income, with a special focus on taxpayers who are 50 or older may qualify. Contact: Call 1-888-AARP-NOW (1-888-227-7669) or go online to the [AARP Foundation Tax Locator](#).
 - **CASA:** Offers free state and federal tax preparation services. Eligibility: Individuals/families who made less than \$57,000 in 2020, specifically Spanish speakers. May also be able to assist persons who speak other languages, call for information. Must have an appointment. Contact: Call 410-732-7777 to schedule an appointment.
 - **CASH Campaign of MD:** Offers free state and federal tax preparation services. Customers can choose between virtual appointments or drop-off tax preparation. Eligibility: If you live in the Baltimore area and made \$57,000 or less in 2020 you may qualify for free tax preparation. You must have an appointment to receive services. Contact: Call 410-234-8008 Mon-Fri, 9AM-3PM.
 - **CASH Campaign of MD Partners:** Offers free state and federal tax preparation services. Customers can choose between virtual appointments or drop-off tax preparation depending on site availability. Eligibility: If you made \$57,000 or less in 2020 you may qualify for free tax preparation services. Contact: Call 1-800-492-0618 or [check out the list of tax partners offering free tax preparation services](#). See the attachment for a full list of sites.
 - **VITA:** Offers free state and federal tax preparation services. Eligibility: The filer made less than \$57,000 in 2020. Contact: Call 1-800-906-9887 and ask to find a location or go online to the [IRS VITA locator](#).
 - **IRS:** Offers free federal (sometimes state) tax preparation services. Online services only or independent filing. Eligibility: The filer must have made under \$72,000 in 2020 to qualify for free online filing services. If the person made over \$72,000 they offer free

- fillable tax forms for the filer to complete independently. Contact: Go online to [choose an online free filing service](#).
- **Comptroller:** Offers free state tax preparation services. Virtual appointments available. Contact: For general information and free Maryland income tax assistance call Taxpayer Services at 410-260-7980 from Central Maryland, or 1-800-MD-TAXES (1-800-638-2937). Assistance is available Mon-Fri, 8:30AM-4:30PM. You can also [schedule an appointment online](#).
 - **Resident Resources for Energy Assistance:**
 - **Prince George’s County:** The County’s website contains a list of energy assistance programs and organizations to assist residents: <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/1677/Energy-Assistance>
 - **Pepco:** Pepco offers a variety of options for energy assistance to include payment arrangements, due date extensions, budget billing, and bill payment assistance. For more information, visit [https://www.pepco.com/MyAccount/CustomerSupport/Pages/MD/AssistancePrograms\(MD\).aspx](https://www.pepco.com/MyAccount/CustomerSupport/Pages/MD/AssistancePrograms(MD).aspx)
 - **Energy Assistance Toolkit:** The Office of People's Counsel has created an [energy assistance toolkit](#) to help Maryland households facing utility turn-off notices keep their power on. This toolkit includes videos on how to fill out the Office of Home Energy Programs application, application forms, and resource guides.
 - **Bulk Fuel Assistance:** The Fuel Fund of Maryland helps with bulk fuel assistance for the entire state, see the attachment. For more information about the Fuel Fund or to apply for help, [visit their website to fill out an application](#) or call 410-235-9080 for assistance.
 - **Call for Artists Submissions for Riverdale Park Public Art Initiative - Deadline to Apply is Friday, March 19, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.:** On behalf of the Town of Riverdale Park, the Hyattsville CDC is announcing a Call for Artists for the Riverdale Park Public Art Initiative. The Initiative seeks five (5) sculptures of various styles and sizes to display for a one year-long placement, at pre-determined, publicly accessible sites within the Town of Riverdale Park. As part of the Town’s plan to create an engaging, publicly accessible outdoor sculpture gallery across its many neighborhoods, we seek site-appropriate sculptural work fitting of each chosen location. All sites have an existing installed concrete footer/pad, specifically designed to accommodate a range of sizes of work and a variety of bases.

Submittals may be of any durable, easily maintained, exposure-ready media, and, due to the planned temporary nature of the initiative’s installations should be of existing or nearly completed work. Following a jurying process, the works will be installed by the selected artist for year-long exhibition. At the end of the exhibition term, the works will also be made available for purchase through the Riverdale Park Public Art Initiative website at <https://hycdc.org/rppai>.

Artists across the greater metropolitan region are welcome to apply, especially those who live or have studios within Prince George’s County. Local established and emerging sculptors, woodworkers, metalworkers, and artists of any durable media are welcomed.

ARTIST HONORARIUM

At this issuance, the stipend for selection in this Call is \$2,000 per selected work, to include all artist fees, costs for installation, documentation of the installed work, transportation, and insurance.

- 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: We need your assistance to grow the Town's social media reach. Please ask your neighbors, friends, businesses, and visitors to follow the Town on social media. 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 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 1,939. The goal is to reach 2,000 followers on Facebook within the next 6 weeks. 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

- WSSC Notification System: If there is a water or sewer emergency in or near your neighborhood, get alerts via text or email. Visit <http://wsscwater.com/cns> to register.
- Energy Efficiency Resources for Residents:
 - Weatherization: The [Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development](#) offers programs that provide homeowners of all income levels with resources to improve their home's energy efficiency. Their programs can help with insulation, hot water system improvements, furnace repair or replacement, renewable energy systems, and other health and safety enhancement. [Click here](#) to check out all of their weatherization programs.
- 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. 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:
 - Lane Closures for Utility Relocation along Riverdale Road: Crews will continue to perform underground utility relocations at Riverdale-area intersections between 64th Avenue and Fernwood Terrance along Riverdale Road (MD 410) for approximately three months, weather permitting. Work may take place Monday through Friday—and on weekends, as needed—7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Temporary lane closures will occur.
 - Lane Closures for Overnight Utility Relocations along Riverdale Road: Beginning on or about February 14, 2021 crews will perform underground utility relocations overnight along Riverdale Road (MD 410) between 64th Avenue and 67th Avenue for approximately two nights, weather permitting. Work will take place overnight from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. Temporary lane closures will occur.
 - Lane Closures for Overnight Utility Relocations along Kenilworth Avenue: Crews have resumed utility relocations along Kenilworth Avenue (MD 201) between River Road (MD 431) and Riverdale Road (MD 410). Work may take place overnight from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. on weekdays and weekends. Temporary lane closures will occur.
 - Lane Closures for Utility Relocations along River Road: Crews have resumed utility relocations along River Road (MD 431) between Haig Drive and Rivertech Court. Work may take place on weekdays, and as needed on weekends, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Temporary lane closures will occur.
 - Lane Closures for Utility Relocations along Kenilworth Avenue: Crews have resumed daytime and nighttime utility relocations along Kenilworth Avenue (MD 201) between Campus Drive and Riverdale Road (MD 410). Work may take place from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. on weekdays and weekends. 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:
 - 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:
 - Scam Alert: If you have received a text from “Maryland-MDOT Urgent” addressing “MDOT customer” with a link, please ignore the text. This text was not sent by any agency associated with the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), including the MDOT Motor Vehicle Administration. It is SPAM and has been reported to MDOT’s IT Department. DO NOT click on the link and DELETE the message. If you did open it and clicked the link, for information on identity theft and ways to protect your identity, see

Maryland Attorney General’s ID Theft page for help:

<https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/Pages/IdentityTheft/default.aspx>

MDOT and its business units would not ask customers to provide this personal information in this way. We take the privacy our customers and their personal information very seriously.

- Metro Update: Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Information: Metro’s annual budget process is underway. Today we are sharing an overview of the FY22 budget proposal and our plan for gathering feedback from across the region. Later this month, we will send an email “toolkit” with ready-to-go social media posts and other resources that you can share with your constituents and community members. We hope to encourage broad participation in the public comment period, and your help will be valuable!

Budget Overview

Unfortunately, Metro faces a significant budget shortfall due to a decrease in ridership caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Federal funding legislation passed by Congress in 2020 allowed Metro to avoid layoffs, continue providing essential service and prepare for transit ridership to return. However, even with the additional funding, there’s not enough money to fill the entire budget gap for the Fiscal Year 2022 budget that begins July 1, 2021.

We’re working with our Congressional delegation to secure additional funding to continue providing service as the region comes back to work. But service cuts remain a looming threat, and Metro must plan accordingly.

The proposed FY22 budget maintains current rail service levels and increases bus service throughout the region in a staggered approach through the end of 2021. If additional financial resources are not secured, the proposed budget considers service cuts and workforce reductions beginning in January 2022 in order to fill the budget shortfall.

Public Outreach Timeline

As Metro plans its Fiscal Year 2022 budget, we want to know what matters most to community members. Public outreach will include signage in Metro stations, buses and MetroAccess vehicles; Covid-19-safe in-person outreach at Metro stations and bus stops; social media posts directing customers to an online survey; and much more. Below are a few key dates to keep in mind for the budget process:

February 20, 2021: Public comment period opens

March 8-10: Series of five virtual public hearings

March 16: Public comment period closes

April: Metro’s Board of Directors adopts final budget

Next Steps

Public feedback will be vital in helping Metro’s Board of Directors and management make decisions about pandemic recovery. With most Metrobus and Metrorail riders no longer using the system on a regular basis, this year’s budget outreach will require more expansive outreach efforts to meet community members where they are.

- 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:

Board of License Commissioners: February 23, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. Virtual Meeting.
https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/_02232021-1830

Planning Board: *No information available at time of report.*

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

- Development Activities from February 4, 2021 to February 17, 2021

Permits: Building / Storage Containers

Description	Bi-Weekly Totals	FYTD 2021 Totals
Permit Inspections Conducted	2	29
Building Permits Issued	2	21
Stop Work Orders Issued	0	13

Permits Issued:

Permit #	Address	Work Description	Est. Investment
2021-B-20	5912 Cleveland Avenue	New Driveway	\$14,000
2021-B-21	4517 Tuckerman Street	New Addition	\$45,000
Est. Investment Bi- Weekly Total:			\$59,000
Est. Investment FYTD 2021 Total:			\$2,571,956

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Licenses:

Description	Bi-Weekly Totals	FYTD 2021 Totals
Multifamily Rental Inspection Conducted	0	21
Multifamily Licenses Issued	0	20
Single-family Rental Inspection	2	49
Single-family Licenses Issued	0	62
Business License Inspections Conducted	7	113
Business Licenses Issued	5	110

- Neighborhood Improvement Activities from February 4, 2021 to February 17, 2021

Community Standards Violations by Type:

Description	Bi-Weekly Totals	FYTD 2021 Totals
Accumulation of Garbage / Rubbish	0	32
Exterior Conditions	4	95
Interior Conditions	1	121
Overgrown Grass / Weeds	0	16
Safety	6	63
Sanitation	2	9
Total Violations Found:	13	336

Services Provided by Type:

Description	Bi-Weekly Totals	FYTD 2021 Totals
Complaint Responses Performed	4	99
Fines Issued	1	6
Outreach Events / Meetings Attended	2	31
Violation Notices Issued	5	106
Warnings Issued	4	60
Total Services Provided:	16	302

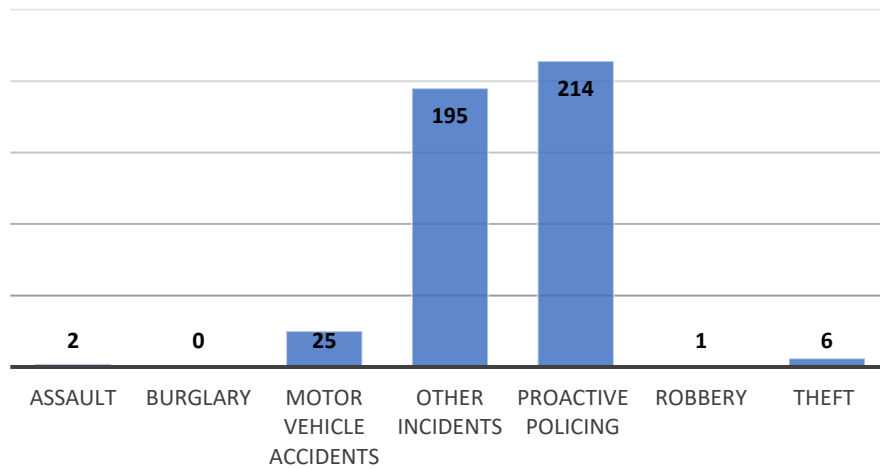
Note:

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.

Public Safety

**443 Calls for Police Service
02/04/2021 to 02/17/2021**



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, 214 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 5300 block of Riverdale Road for a theft. The victim reported unknown suspect(s) broke into a work van and removed tools.
- Officers responded to the 5400 block of Jefferson Street for a package theft. The victim reported unknown suspect(s) removed a laptop computer from their front porch.
- Officers responded to a business in the 4500 block of Woodberry Street for a disorderly complaint. An employee of the business reported an individual inside the business causing a disturbance and refusing to leave. The individual was escorted from the property and issued a no trespass order.
- Officers responded to the 6300 block of Taylor Road for a theft. The victim reported unknown suspect(s) broke into their vehicle and removed the airbag.
- Officers responded to a business in the 6200 block of Baltimore Avenue for a check on the welfare. Officers contacted the individual and due to their actions, the individual was transported to the hospital for an emergency psychological evaluation.
- Officers responded to the 5400 block of 54th Avenue for a carjacking/shooting. An adult male was discovered suffering from an apparent gunshot wound. Officers and Medics attempted to perform life saving measures on the scene. The victim was transported to the hospital where he was pronounced deceased. Prince Georges County Police Homicide Detectives responded and assumed the investigation.
- Officers responded to a business in the 6600 block of Baltimore Avenue for a trespassing complaint. An employee of the business reported an individual inside the business causing a disturbance and refusing to leave. The individual was removed from the business and issued a criminal summons for trespassing.
- Officers responded to the 5600 blk of 54th Avenue for a domestic disturbance. The investigation revealed the victim was being harassed and threatened by her estranged husband. The suspect was located and placed under arrest for stalking.
- Officers responded to the 6300 block of 49th Avenue for a suspicious vehicle. A records check revealed the 2003 Jeep was reported stolen through the Prince George's County Police Department. The vehicle was impounded for safekeeping pending notification to the owner.

Respectfully submitted,



John N. Lestitian, Town Manager