

Town of Riverdale Park, Maryland

Status and Information Report

Report No. 17 for 2018



August 24, 2018

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 September 7, 2018.

Upcoming Meetings:

Public Hearing: Amendments to Chapter 64 section 64-20 School Zone Speed Monitoring Systems Authorized	August 27, 2018, 7:30 p.m.	Town Hall
Council Work Session	August 27, 2018, 8:00 p.m.	Town Hall
Playground Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony	August 30, 2018, 10:00 a.m.	Behind Riverdale Elementary School
Mixed-Use Town Center Design Review Committee	September 5, 2018, 7:30 p.m.	Town Hall
Community Walk	September 8, 2018, 9:00 a.m.	Meet at new Capital Bikeshare Station (near Whole Foods)
Legislative Meeting	September 10, 2018, 8:00 p.m.	Town Hall

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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:

- Jeremy Emerick 13 Years of Service
- Waverly Pollitt 13 Years of Service
- Gentry Jones, Jr. 1 Year of Service
- Kevin Simpson 1 Year of Service

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

- Police Officers Honored: Pfc. Jaime Amaya and Pfc. Alexander Harbitz will receive awards at the Maryland Police Chiefs and Sheriffs' Associations' annual award ceremony in Ocean City, Maryland. Pfc. Amaya will be recognized for Exceptional Police Performance and Pfc. Harbitz will receive a Traffic Safety Award. These officers were selected by a committee comprised of Law Enforcement Executives after a review of state-wide nominations. Please join the staff team in congratulating Officers Amaya and Harbitz for their outstanding service.

Administration

- Taking Pride in who we are: Updated decals have been added to Public Works and Development Services vehicles. Members of the community will also notice that Town vehicles are being better maintained. Staff have implemented a vehicle cleaning schedule and are developing plans to address deferred maintenance and required improvements.
- Updated schedules being prepared: Updated snow, leaf collection and sweeper schedules are being prepared and will be published through the Town's established communications (website, Facebook, Town Announce, etc.).
- Parking Spaces: Staff is working with the Town's contracted engineer to determine the feasibility of changing the parking configuration in front of the Public Works building. Initial review indicates the potential of adding at least eight (8) parking spaces. Additional parking in this area will make parking immediately in front of Town Hall and the Police Department more available for those conducting business in the municipal offices.
- Automated Job Recruitments: The Town's implementation of the web-based BambooHR system has professionalized all aspects of our Employee Services operation. An important aspect of this is the recruitment function. The online process adds efficiencies in-house but just as important presents a professional image to potential applicants. Please see the following links:
 - <https://riverdalepark.bamboohr.com/jobs/view.php?id=2>
 - <https://riverdalepark.bamboohr.com/jobs/view.php?id=3>

Community Engagement

- Celebrating the Playground: As noted in the calendar on the first page of this report, a ribbon cutting for the new playground at Riverdale Elementary School will be held on Thursday, August 30th. This project was originally envisioned in 2013. The Town, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Prince George's County, M-NCPPC, and Prince George's County Public Schools partnered to make this project a reality.

- Please follow the Town on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RiverdaleParkMD/>



Environment

- University of Maryland Community Garden Project: During the Fall Semester, the University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Sciences will conduct a feasibility study of a community garden in Town for a student capstone project. This study will explore opportunities for a community garden by identifying ideal location(s), determining community support, and reviewing community gardens in neighboring jurisdictions. This project is expected to be completed by the end of the year.
- Mosquito Spraying: The Town's scheduled night for spraying is Tuesdays after 7:30 pm. As a reminder, spraying begins after dark and may continue until midnight or later. MDA will not conduct spray activity during daylight hours.

Residents should take the usual steps to reduce the presence of mosquitoes on their property. For example, residents must keep their property free of mosquitoes breeding containers, stagnant water, bird baths, wading pools, pet watering dishes, tin cans, old tires, clogged gutters or flower pots. Other water holding containers should be stored upside down.

Complaints about mosquitoes can be faxed to the Maryland Department of Agriculture at 301-422-0502 or call 301-422-5080 with questions or concerns.

- Recycling Reminders: Staff have observed that residents continue to put their recycling in plastic bags. In 2014, the Waste Management Division of the Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources required that ALL recycling be placed in the blue totes or in collection cans/containers (i.e., trash cans), 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.
- Trash Tote Repair/Replacement: To coordinate the replacement of damaged trash totes, residents should call the Department of Public Works at 301-864-1803. The Town's contracted trash service provider will replace the damaged totes. Please note that a replacement tote will not be delivered if the damaged one is not there for pick-up. Replacements will take place on Thursdays.

Development

- Prince George's County Housing Rehabilitation Assistance Program: The Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has partnered with Housing Initiative Partnership (HIP) and the Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County to provide home improvement loans of up to \$60,000 to eligible homeowners who need to make repairs on their homes.

For more information on this program, please contact HIP at (301) 699-3835. For reference purposes, please review the link below:

http://hiphomes.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/Flyer_HRAP-2018.pdf

- Community Development Accessory Structure Grant Program: Staff has started accepting applications for the Town's Accessory Structure Program. Under this program, homeowners who reside in single-family properties in Town can apply for up to \$1,000 in grant funding from the Town to repair or replace accessory structures on their properties, which includes; decks, fences, garages, retaining walls, and sheds. Funding for this program is from the Town's Community Development Fund.

If you are interested in this program, please complete one of the application forms below and submit it to the Office of Development Services.

Application Forms: [English](#) [Spanish](#)

- Meeting with Town of Edmonston Code Enforcement Department: On Thursday, August 23rd, staff met with the Town of Edmonston Code Enforcement staff to discuss code-related concerns along boundaries of Riverdale Park and Edmonston on Lafayette Avenue.
- Riverdale Park Station News: For more information on store openings, events and development news, check out the Riverdale Park Station website and social media pages:
 - Website: <http://www.riverdaleparkstation.com>
 - Facebook: Riverdale Park Station
 - Twitter: @RDPSStation
 - Instagram: rdpsstation
- Purple Line Construction Notices: Purple Line construction is underway. The next twelve (12) months of construction will focus on utility relocation work. Residents are encouraged to subscribe for updates via e-mail or text message. For the most accurate and up-to-date information, visit purplelinemd.com, find "Construction" and click on "Subscribe for Updates". The construction hotline is 240-424-5325.
- Notices received by Town:
 - Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) is ready to accept Special Permit Application SP-150003-01 for 7-Eleven Riverdale Park located at 6315 Baltimore Avenue. The request is for a monument sign at the existing 7-Eleven store. For more information, contact Matthew Tedesco at 301-441-2420 or the M-NCPPC case reviewer, Taslima Alam at 301-952-4976.

- Applications for amendments to Riverdale Park Station (Cafritz Property) Detailed Site Plan DSP-13009-15, Special Permit SP-130003 and Secondary Amendment SA-130001-02 and a new Special Permit Application will be submitted for review to the Development Review Division of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. For more information, contact Larry Taub at 301-572-3274 or ltaub@omng.com
 - A Site Development Concept Plan for Magruder Pointe (Site Development Concept #10823-2018-00) located near the intersection of Gallatin Street and 40th Place in Hyattsville has been submitted to the Prince George’s County Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement. For more information, contact Bryan Turton at 301-364-1858.
 - A Conceptual Site Plan for Dewey Property (CSP-18008) located at 3308 Toledo Road in Hyattsville will be submitted for review to the Development Review Section of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. For more information, contact Chris Hatcher at 301-657-0156.
 - A Historic Area Work Permit (HAWP) for 4711 Oliver Street/Wilson-Gleis House (68-004-97) has been submitted and is under review by the Prince George’s County Historic Preservation Commission. For more information, contact Tyler Smith at 301-952-5331.
 - Prince George’s County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) approved with conditions the Historic Area Work Permit (HAWP) for 4711 Oliver Street/Wilson-Gleis House (68-004-97) to replace the front porch floor with Accoya floor boards. The conditions are as follows: the applicant apply for and receive a Prince George’s County permit, as necessary and the applicant provide photos of the completed work to the HPC staff within 60 days of completion.
- **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: August 28, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. (Largo)
<https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/08282018-1143>

Planning Board: September 20, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. (Upper Marlboro)
<http://mncppc.iqm2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=14&ID=1427&Inline=True>

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

Development Activities from August 9, 2018 to August 22, 2018

Business Licenses:

Description	Bi-Weekly Totals	FYTD 2019 Totals
Licenses Issued	24	103
Notices Issued	0	253
Fines Issued	0	0

Rental Licenses:

Description	Bi- Weekly Totals	FYTD 2019 Totals
Inspections Conducted	40	104
Licenses Issued	11	30
Notices Issued	1	78
Fines Issued	0	0

Permits: Building / Storage Containers:

Description	Bi-Weekly Totals	FYTD 2019 Totals
Inspections Conducted	25	66
Permits Issued	4	21
Stop Work Orders Issued	1	3

Permits Issued:

Permit #	Address	Work Description	Est. Costs
2019-B-12	4800 Ravenswood Road	18.5'x16' deck with steps	\$10,000
2019-B-13	4707 Nicholson Street	Egress Window	\$5,500
2019-B-14	5610 Taylor Road	Build 8x36 covered porch and 6-foot fence	\$20,000
2019-B-15	4912 Riverdale Road	Roof Repair	\$18,000
Est. Costs Bi- Weekly Total:			\$53,500
Est. Costs FYTD 2019 Total:			\$561,310.00

Neighborhood Improvement Activities from August 9, 2018 to August 22, 2018**Community Standards Violations by Type:**

Description	Bi-Weekly Totals	FYTD 2019 Totals
Accumulation of Garbage / Rubbish	14	41
Exterior Conditions	23	50
Interior Conditions	9	74
Overgrown Grass / Weeds	6	12
Safety	29	164
Sanitation	2	18

Services Provided:

Description	Bi-Weekly Totals	FYTD 2019 Totals
Complaint Responses Performed	10	57
Fines Issued	0	1
Outreach Events / Meetings Attended	7	20
Violation Notices Issued	8	29
Warnings Issued	10	25

Note:

1. *“FYTD” means Fiscal Year to Date, starting from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019.*
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.*

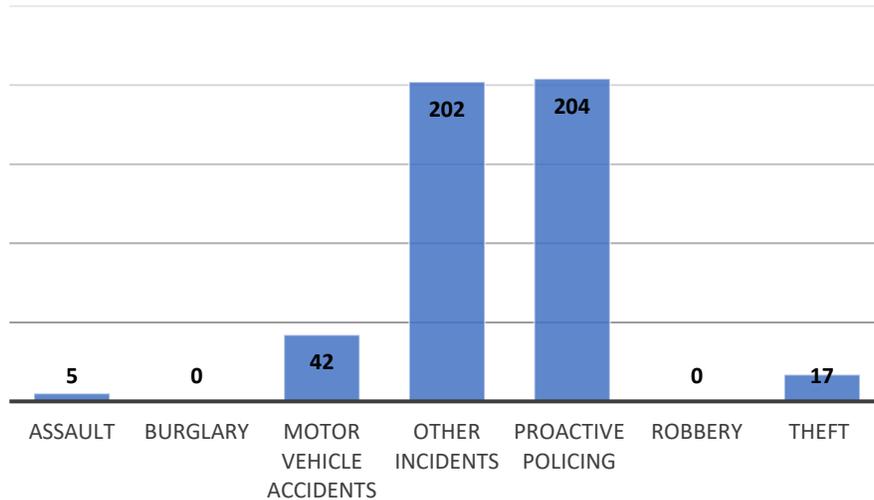
Neighborhood Improvements

- **Partnering to Improve Appearance:** Staff are scheduled to meet next week with State Highway Administration officials to explore a joint cleanup initiative along State routes within the Town. The goal is to bring the curb appeal along these State routes up to the Town’s standards.
- **Mini-makeover of Public Trash Receptacles:** Staff have ordered and will install rain bonnets on public trash containers throughout the Town. The rain bonnets will assist in keeping rain out and trash in. The goal is to have less litter and to reduce the weight of the refuse by keeping it dry.
- **Improving Curb Appeal:** Staff are weeding and cleaning out community gutter pans and have repaired numerous sections of broken curbs. Staff are also continuing to repaint curbs, straighten sign posts and replace outdated signage.

- New Street Sweeper: The new street sweeper has been delivered and is in use. This capital acquisition will assist staff in maintaining our neighborhoods.

Public Safety

**470 Police Calls for Service
08/09/18 to 08/22/18**



Police 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, 204 or 43% 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 citizen assists.

Highlighted reports:

- Officers conducted a traffic stop for suspended registration plates in the 5400 block of Kenilworth Avenue. A records check revealed the driver to have an active arrest warrant through the Prince George’s County Sheriff’s Office for failure to appear while driving on a suspended license. The driver was placed under arrest and transported to the Department of Corrections.

- Officers responded to the 5300 block of Kenilworth Avenue for a group of individuals drinking alcohol and trespassing. Officers dispersed the group. One individual returned to the scene and refused numerous requests to leave the property. The individual was placed under arrest and charged with failure to obey a lawful order of a uniform police officer and trespassing.
- Officers responded to the 5400 block of Kenilworth Avenue for an assault. The investigation revealed two individuals were involved in a verbal altercation which turned physical. The suspect punched the victim several times in the face causing injury. The suspect was located a short distance away and placed under arrest for 2nd degree assault. The victim was transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.
- Officers responded to a business in the 6300 block of Baltimore Avenue for a theft. An employee reported the suspect walked behind the counter, removed 65 packs of cigarettes and fled the business without paying for the merchandise. Through investigative means the suspect was identified and charged with theft under \$1000.
- Officers conducted a traffic stop in the 5400 block of Jefferson Street for the operator using a handheld cellular device. A records check revealed the driver to have an active extraditable felony arrest warrant through North Carolina for assault with a deadly weapon. The operator was placed under arrest and transported to the Department of Corrections for extradition.
- Officers responded to a business in the 5400 block of Lafayette Place for a theft report. An employee reported several business checks were stolen from the office. The investigation revealed the suspect had cashed the checks resulting in a loss of over \$11,000 for the business. Through investigative means the suspect was identified and charged with theft over \$10,000.
- Officers conducted a traffic stop in the 5500 block of Kenilworth Avenue for the driver not being restrained by a seatbelt. A records check revealed the driver to have an active arrest warrant for failure to appear while driving without a license. The driver was placed under arrest and transported to the Department of Corrections.
- Officers responded to the 5800 block of Riverdale Road for a domestic assault in progress. The investigation revealed the suspect, while operating his vehicle, got into a verbal altercation with the victim, his significant other. The altercation turned physical and the suspect began punching and choking the victim. Witnesses who observed the assault notified the police department and officers were able to stop the vehicle in the 6200 block of Riverdale Road. The suspect was placed under arrest for 2nd degree assault. The victim sustained non-life-threatening injuries.

Respectfully submitted,

John N. Lestitian, Town Manager