



The Riverdale Park *Town Crier*

October 2016

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Town of Riverdale Park Contact Information

Town Hall

5008 Queensbury Road
301-927-6381

Department of Public Works

5012 Queensbury Road
301-864-1803

Police Department

5004 Queensbury Road
301-927-4343

Bates Trucking and Trash Collection

Bulk Trash Collection
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
301-773-2069

*Residents must call Bates by
2 p.m. Tues., for Wed. pickup*



Riverdale Park Day 2016

October 1, 2016; 12 noon—5:00 p.m.

Riverside Neighborhood Park

5801 Riverside Drive
Riverdale Park, MD 20737

Join us in honoring the First Responders of Riverdale Park! We will have lots of activities, vendors, good music and great food! Bring a blanket or a lawn chair and spend the day having fun with your neighbors and honoring the heroes of our community!



Veterans Day Memorial Service

Riverdale Park will host a Veterans Day Memorial Service on Friday, November 11, 2016 at 11:00am at the Veterans Memorial Park, near the MARC Station. There will be light refreshments at Town Hall following the ceremony. Please mark your calendars and come out to support and Honor our service men and women.





Council Actions

September 6, 2016

Legislative Meeting

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve consent agenda items: – **Approved**

1. Resolution 2016-R-13 regarding a Resident Agent for Riverdale Park
2. Termination and Release of Covenants for remaining Riverside Subdivision properties and authorize the Mayor to execute Termination and Release of Covenants on behalf of the Town
3. Fence Permit Request for 6-foot wooden backyard fence at 5807 Sora Lane (Ward 4)
4. Fence Permit Request for 6 foot PVC backyard fence at 6311 51st Avenue (Ward 2)
5. Street Closure Request for September 17, 2016, from 12 noon to 6:00 p.m. for 43rd Street between East-West Highway and Queensbury Road for Block Party (Ward 1)
6. Minutes from June 20, 2016 Special Legislative Meeting
7. Minutes from June 20, 2016 Public Hearing regarding RISE Zone
8. Minutes from July 5, 2016 Legislative Meeting

Legislative Action Items:

1. Motion to adopt Resolution 2016-R-14 regarding recommendation to appoint CM Dixon to MUTC Committee – **Adopted**
2. Motion to direct Department of Public Works to start the process for permit parking for the 4500 block of Sheridan Street – **Approved**
3. ~~Motion regarding crosswalk from Queensbury Road to east of Lafayette Avenue.~~

HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

Share these easy and effective tips with your trick-or-treaters:



WALK SAFELY

Teach children to make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them and put down the electronic devices.

TRICK OR TREAT WITH AN ADULT

Children under the age of 12 should not be unsupervised. If kids are mature enough to be out unsupervised, remind them to stick in familiar areas that are well-lit or to trick-or-treat in groups.

KEEP COSTUMES BOTH CREATIVE AND SAFE

Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape, choose face paint over masks, and have kids carry glow sticks or flash lights so drivers can see them.

DRIVE EXTRA SAFELY ON HALLOWEEN! Popular trick-or-treating hours are 5:30 pm –9:30 pm, so be especially alert for kids during those hours.

Town of Riverdale Park

www.riverdaleparkmd.gov

Town Hall

5008 Queensbury Road

Riverdale Park, MD 20737

301-927-6381, Hablamos Español

town@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Mayor Vernon Archer, 240-832-2257

varcher@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Council Members

Ward 1 - Marsha Dixon

301-531-4230

mdixon@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Ward 2 - Alan Thompson

Chair, Finance Committee, 301-927-7407

akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Ward 3 - David Lingua

Chair, Public Safety, 301-779-3849

djlingua@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Ward 4 - Christopher Henry

Chair, Public Works, 301-910-9855

Chenry3240@verizon.net

Ward 5 - Colleen Richardson

240-646-6457

crichardson@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Ward 6 - Alejandro Silva

Chair, Legislative Committee, 301-801-3021

asilva@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Leonard Addison, Acting Town Manager

laddison@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Jessica Barnes, Town Clerk

jbarnes@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Public Works, 301-864-1803

Leonard Addison, Director

laddison@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Code Enforcement 240-898-2500

Colleen M. Ferguson, Code Manager

code@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Police Department, 301-927-4343

David Morris, Police Chief

dmorris@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Fire Department - Emergency 911

Information - 301-927-0356

Brian Carpio, Fire Chief

Eng7twr@yahoo.com;

info@riverdalevfd.com;

www.riverdalevfd.com

It is the policy of the Town of Riverdale Park, pursuant to the provision of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and The Americans with Disabilities Act, to prohibit discrimination against qualified persons with disabilities in any aspect of employment within the government.

It is also the policy of the Town of Riverdale Park to disallow discrimination in fair housing based on race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, disabilities, and/or age.

Some materials contained in *The Town Crier* represent the opinion of the authors and does not necessarily represent the view of the Town of Riverdale Park.

The Town Crier is also available at the Town's

Website: www.riverdaleparkmd.gov

Submission deadline: 15th of each month

Submit all copies to

towncrier@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Mayor's Report

By Mayor Vernon Archer

The single most important concern of the Town of Riverdale Park government is maintaining a safe environment us all. I believe most of us would agree that if we don't feel safe, then not much else really matters. This is reflected in a great many ways ranging from budget priorities to personnel assignments. We will devote 49% of our total spending on the police this year. Additionally, significant spending in General Government, Public Works and our "Miscellaneous" category are, ultimately, about safety as well.

Since we all look to the police first and foremost to keep us all safe, I want to use this report to tell you about the lengths we go to in order to make sure that our officers do keep us safe. I want you to, at least, know something about how we use the selection process, training, recertification, professional development and disciplinary process to ensure that we have a very high quality force. By "a high quality force," I mean one that keeps all of us safe—everyone who lives, works, or passes through Riverdale Park—and has an absolute minimum of avoidable mistakes when dealing with the public.

We seek to ensure the highest quality from the moment we begin the process of hiring a new officer. Candidates must pass in depth background investigations, physical and mental health examinations, drug screenings, credit check, significant interviews with neighbors, coworkers and employers, and polygraph or voice stress analysis.

The minimum requirement for new officers is the 26 weeks of basic training required by the Maryland Police Training Commission. During that time candidates must become competent in a large number of topics which include (but are not limited to): criminal law, constitutional law, traffic law, juvenile law, use of force as applied within the 4th, 5th, 8th, & 14th amendments, emergency medical care, criminal investigation, patrol procedures, communications, report writing, emergency vehicle operations, crisis intervention, ethics, community policing, sexual assaults, domestic violence, autism and persons with special needs, crime prevention, and terrorism and weapons of mass destruction.

After being hired, all new officers receive extensive Field Training. The Maryland Police Training Commission (MPTC) mandates 240 hours of training (very recently raised from 80 hours), but our police demand much more. Riverdale Park Police field training for new officers is 60 working days, or 600 hours. All of this time is done under the supervision of Field Training Officers who in turn are senior officers trained and certified by the MPTC. Such officers must be recertified every three years.

After their first year and Field Training, officers receive annual in-service training. Maryland law requires 18 hours minimum. Our officers, at a minimum, attend an annual 40-hour course at Southern Maryland's Community College, Criminal Justice Center. In the last few years, our officers have attended classes on additional training topics including: Officer Safety & Survival, Adjudication of Misconduct, Serving a Diverse Community and Creating Unity, Maryland's Leadership Challenge, Strengthening Your Supervisory Skills, Forensic Statement Analysis, and Workplace Violence.

At the command staff level, our Riverdale Park Police have trained and developed as professionals at a level much beyond the local or national norm. Chief David Morris, Lt. Colonel Patrick Timmons, and Lieutenant Robert Turner are graduates of the FBI National Academy on the command staff, and a fourth graduate will soon be added as Lieutenant Andrew Powell is currently at the Academy. This is something the town should be very proud of; historically only one-half percent of law enforcement commanders from around the country achieve this distinction.

Additionally, three members of the RPPD are graduates of the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command. This ten-week program is an extremely challenging academic program that, along with the FBI National Academy and the Southern Police Institute, is considered one of the top three training programs in the country.

One last topic I need to share with you is the insistence on a high level of discipline and ethical behavior in our department. To demonstrate our commitment, I'll share the outline regarding the three officers terminated from our department during the period our current chief has been in command. First, let me say that no one has been let go for actions actually in the line of duty. One officer was released for defrauding the Federal Government. A second was dismissed for participating in unauthorized secondary employment, interfering with a witness in the issue, and making sworn false statements about the matter. I'm including a third officer who resigned immediately prior to termination, who was under investigation for domestic violence charges and additional criminal activity.

I hope that the information shared with you in this report will help you to understand at least two things: 1) the Town of Riverdale Park takes maintaining a high quality, professional police force very seriously and we work diligently to ensure that this force continuously improves; and 2) when we honor and thank our police officers as first responders at this upcoming Riverdale Park Day and other events you can rest assured that we are thanking individuals and a force that clearly deserve our confidence and thanks.

Ward and Committee Reports

Ward One Report

By Council Member Marsha Dixon
mdixon@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Transparency and Accountability

At last month's legislative meeting and work session, a few residents in attendance expressed their desire to obtain permit parking on the 4500 block of Sheridan Street. The neighbors made compelling arguments for the Council to consider their request. The Council passed a motion to begin the process for determining whether to provide permit parking on that block. The effort made by the residents was a reminder that being a voice in your community is one of the best ways to guarantee change. As always, I strongly encourage residents who have requests or concerns to attend Council meetings.

As a correction: The council meetings may be viewed on channel 12 (not channel 11 as I previously stated) for residents who have Verizon as their cable provider. Also, last month's issue incorrectly noted my Twitter handle. Follow and tweet me at @marsha4ward1.

Economic Development

As I mentioned in last month's issue, we are ready to see a long-overdue reinvigoration of our town center. Well, I am pleased to announce that

District Taco is opening its first Maryland location in Riverdale Park!

"On the Agenda"

Once a month, prior to each Legislative Council Meeting, I hold an "On the Agenda" with Councilwoman Dixon event. "On the Agenda" is a very informal gathering where residents and I can discuss any upcoming Council agenda items as well as any other concerns raised by residents. I hope that these meetings will serve as a way for residents to casually meet each other as well as provide residents who are unable to attend council meetings with an opportunity to express their thoughts. Although the gatherings are geared toward keeping Ward 1 residents informed, it is open to anyone. **The next meeting will be held at Town Center Market on Saturday, October 1st at 11:00 a.m.**

My Upcoming Events

I will be attending the Fall Maryland Municipal League Conference on behalf of the Council. The purpose of the conference is to provide training for city and town officials on municipal issues. I am looking forward to participating in the various workshops and sharing what I learn with my colleagues upon my return.

Ward Two Report

By Council Member Alan Thompson
akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov

Town Manager Search

The Town Manager search is moving forward at full speed. I was impressed with the strong response to the on-line survey of residents about the characteristics and priorities you would like the Town Manager to have, and advice you'd like to provide him or her. The survey results, along with interviews with Council Members and Town Staff have helped develop language for recruitment ads that are already running. After meeting with the recruitment consultant, the schedule for hiring a Town Manager is more clear – we are looking at a final decision during the first few weeks of December, with the new Town Manager starting work in early 2017.

Park at Tuckerman and Lafayette (“Field of Dreams”)

With the bridge construction underway, we need to decide how to remake the green space at the corner of Lafayette and Tuckerman, currently known as the “Field of Dreams.” As I stated last month, I would like to have a community meeting to discuss options for this green space on Saturday, October 8, from 10 am to noon at Riverdale Park Town Hall (5008 Queensbury).

Dog Park

Waggertail Dog Park is now open and operating! By the agreement we have with Parks and Recreation, we must register users of the park. You can register at Town Hall during normal business hours, and the Friends of Waggertail Dog Park will also have a registration table at Riverdale Park Day on October 1. To learn more about the park and to become involved with the Friends of Waggertail Dog Park contact them at *waggertaildogpark@gmail.com*.

Farmers’ Market

The Farmers' Market is shifting into the autumn harvest! It is open every Thursday from 3pm to 7pm in Town Center (near the corner of Rhode Island

Avenue and Riverdale Road). Items available this time of year include (but are not limited to) greens, radishes, scallions, white and sweet potatoes, squash, pumpkins, cabbages, broccoli, lettuces, berries, eggplants, mushrooms, free-range hen eggs, roasted coffee, tomatoes (though the season is sadly almost over), and green peppers. I hope to see you at the market!

Public Works Report

By Leonard Addison

Halloween

As a reminder to parents who allow their children to participate in trick or treating on Halloween, please remember to provide brightly colored clothing, flashlights and/or reflective outerwear for their safety.

Saturday Drop Off

Scheduled dates in 2016 for drop off of bulk trash (the third Saturday of each month, from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.) are: **October 15**, November 19, and December 17.

Holiday Collection

Regular trash **will be** collected on Columbus Day, Monday, October 10, 2016.

Guide to Public Works

An updated Guide to Public Works is now available for distribution. It is included as part of a packet of public works services and Town resources that all residents will find helpful as they seek information on how to acquire services in/outside of our community.



This guide is designed to inform residents about the services that the DPW provides to our community. However, the department does not have the authority to resolve issues on your property, i.e., trees, bees, stray animals or other nuisances that are not in the Town’s right of way.

Riverside Neighborhood Park Soccer Field Renovation

Starting August 15, 2016, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) will close Riverside Neighborhood Park in Riverdale Park for much needed repairs. The soccer field is projected to reopen August 12, 2017. As alternatives, the M-NCPPC is offering to overlay a smaller size soccer field where the softball field is now. In addition, the soccer/football field at Riverdale Recreation Park will be available for use. Reservations for that field can be made through the M-NCPPC's Sports Office. Please contact Teresa Robinson, Field Permitting Supervisor, at 301-446-6823, for reservations.

Mosquito Control Program

Adulticiding began May 31, 2016, **and will run through September 21, 2016**. Spraying will be contingent upon the results of their standardized surveillance methods. If the area tested needs to be sprayed, spraying will take place on Tuesday nights. They will not spray if the sprayer encounters too many people on the night of spraying.

In order to reduce the presence of mosquitos, residents must keep their property free of mosquito 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 mosquitos can be faxed to the Maryland Department of Agriculture at 301-422-0502 or call 301-422-5080 with questions or concerns.

Yard Waste Collection

The Waste Management Division of the Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources issued a notice (included in resident's August 2013 tax bill) that requires **ALL yard waste** to be placed in brown paper bags or loose in a **clearly marked "YARD WASTE" collection can/container (i.e., trash cans)**. Yard waste will no longer be collected in plastic bags. For additional information, please call 311 or 301-883-5810.

Trash Toter Repair/Replacement

Residents should call the Department of Public

Works for the repair or replacement of damaged trash toters, i.e. broken lids, missing wheels, cracked toters, etc. When repairs or replacements are needed, they will occur no later than the week following the time at which the request was made.

Boy Scouts Troop 252

By Robert Killen

Our last meeting was sparsely attended, so Guillian Cañete, took notes:

"On September 16, only Anthony Lizandro, Ms. Tolson, Ms. Brown, and I attended. I worked on my Family Life Merit Badge. Ms. Brown wanted Mr. Killen to look over some things before signing off. The twins worked on some of their advancement requirements, specifically the First Aid part. We ended the meeting around 8:30 because Ms. Brown had to leave, and without her, we would not have two-deep leadership. Guillian C."

"Upcoming events: Saturday September 24, 8:45am-12pm, Sweetgum Picnic Area @ Greenbelt National Forest (6565 Greenbelt Road, Greenbelt, MD 20270) will be a good opportunity for community service hours. Riverdale Park Day will be held on Saturday, October 1st from 12 noon to 5:00 p.m. at Riverside Neighborhood Park. We'll be there, too. That covers everything. Michael, signing off."

I (Bob Killen) checked out the Health and Safety forms from Anthony and Lizandro, and they need more items filled in before they are acceptable. Also, many Scouters need to complete the Youth Protection course before we can go camping. Mr. Aquilino, Ms. Brown, Ms. Tolson, Mr. and Ms. Cañete, and I are the only Scouters certified to take our Boy Scouts camping. We need to remedy this situation SOON!

Anthony and Lizandro successfully completed their Scoutmaster Conference (SMC) and Board of Review (BoR) for Scout, and Michael successfully completed his SMC and BoR for Second and First Class Scout. I attended the Pony Penning in Chincoteague and the Howard County Pow Wow.

Contact Sandra Tolson-
saanee@yahoo.com, 301-927-2275;

Eneida Martínez-Brown, e.martinezbrown@gmail.com, 301-864-0059; Bob Killen, rfkille@yahoo.com, 301-483-8455, if you would like to join. We meet Friday evenings at the Riverdale Park Town Hall.

Waggertail Dog Park

The Friends of Waggertail Dog Park (FoWDP) and their canines welcome all Riverdale Park and other Prince George's County residents



who are dog lovers to our newly opened, off-leash dog park. The beautiful and spacious dog park was officially opened on July 25, 2016, and dedicated to the memory of the late Judy Glaes, long time Riverdale Park resident, and a true friend to dogs. Judy, along with a group of fellow residents, played a pivotal role in the founding of the dog park. To add to the celebration, and in support of the dog park, Unleashed by Petco in Hyattsville, donated dog bowls, toys, and treats to the new park.

Free registration of your dog is required to use the dog park. Register at the Riverdale Park Municipal Offices during business hours or register at the FoWDP table during Riverdale Park Day on October 1. You will need proof of residency in Prince George's County and your Prince George's County dog license.

Waggertail Dog Park is located at the end of 51st Avenue in front of the large baseball field. If you drive to the park, turn off Kenilworth Ave at River Road and enter the Riverdale Community Recreation Park at Haig Drive, where there is ample parking. Once you park, follow the sidewalk, which runs between the middle of the ball fields, towards 51st Avenue. The dog park will be on your right past the tennis courts. There are two parking spaces on 51st Avenue, near the front gate of the dog park, that are reserved for persons with disabilities.

The large, grassy dog park has a fenced lobby area containing gates opening into large and small dog areas. Features include a water fountain, large shade trees, comfortable benches and over two

acres of space giving dogs and people plenty of room to get acquainted.

If you plan to use the dog park, the Friends of Waggertail Dog Park need your involvement to make the park run smoothly. FoWDP will act on behalf of all dog park users as a voice to the Town Government, making recommendations on improvements to the dog park and informing the Town of maintenance and other issues. We hope to plan events and create a greater feeling of community through our organization.

Come meet your fellow dog lovers and make a difference in your community by joining the FoWDP. If you are interested in being part of the pack, email waggertaildogpark@gmail.com to join the FoWDP.

Community Circles

Students: Looking for Community Service Hours?

Join us at Riverdale Park Day on Saturday, October 1, 2016, at Riverside Neighborhood Park. AM volunteers should arrive at 10:30 a.m. PM volunteers should arrive at 2 p.m. Day volunteers are also welcomed! *Please check-in at the Town of Riverdale Park table when you arrive.*

Local Organizations

Lion's Club: Contact Pat Prangley at (240) 882-4993.

Northern County Soccer Alliance: Contact NCSA@soccer.net or (301) 577-3559.

Riverdale Park Boys Scouts Troop 252: Contact Scoutmaster Bob Killen at (301) 483-8455.

Madison Hill Homeowners Association: For information, call (301) 583-8857.

Riversdale Historical Society: Contact Riversdale Mansion at (301) 864-0420.

Riverdale Park Farmer's Market: Contact Jim Coleman at (301) 586-5973.

Riverdale Park Business Association: Contact Ted Spiropulos at 301-758-3822 or ted@towncentermarket.net

Riverdale Park Arts Council: Contact Samuel Williams, Jr. at (909) 380-4231