

# QUEENSTOWN NEWS

## FEBRUARY 2021

**CORONAVIRUS UPDATE** – Town Office is open to the public. Access to the inside office area is limited to town staff and the Commissioners only. Facemasks are required, and social distancing must be observed while inside the building. Town meetings are still affected by the partial closing and may still be held via conference call or ZOOM. Notices, links, and phone numbers needed to participate in meetings will be provided. Be sure to check our website at [queenstown-md.com/coronavirus-info](http://queenstown-md.com/coronavirus-info) for any updates.

**WINTER PREPAREDNESS** – Delmarva Power would like to remind residents to visit [delmarva.com/mobileapp](http://delmarva.com/mobileapp) to download their mobile app, which has many resources to keep customers informed during a storm. More tips, resources and safety information are available at [delmarva.com](http://delmarva.com). Delmarva Power has also added a new feature this year that allows customers to report a live outage by texting “Out” to report an outage on their mobile device. Delmarva Power customers can text “Out” to “67972”. Customers must first text “ADD OUTAGE” to “67972” to sign up for this service. Customers are asked to immediately report a downed wire or service issue by calling 1-800-898-8042, visiting [delmarva.com](http://delmarva.com) or through the mobile app.

**CAN YOU FLUSH IT??** – We would like to remind all residents that nothing other than toilet tissue should be flushed down toilets in town. “Flushable wipes”, cleaning wipes, paper towels, and facial tissues such as Kleenex are not designed to break down like toilet tissue and can clog sewer lines. Also, leftover grease from cooking should not be poured down drains as it will also clog lines once it has cooled down. Wipes, paper towels, Kleenex, and grease (once cooled) should be disposed of in regular garbage containers. We thank you for your cooperation.

**LOST AND FOUND** – Did you know the Town Office maintains a lost and found box for items found around town? Current items in the lost and found include a child’s winter hat, stuffed animal, and most recently, a men’s metal bracelet. Call the Town Office at 410-827-7646 to describe if you think an item may be yours.

**RECYCLE/TRASH REMINDER** – A reminder that recycling and trash must be placed at the curb or roadways edge, be ready for collection before the collection trucks arrive, and must be in appropriate containers to insure they are collected on pickup days. Trash must not be in recycling containers or containers with trash company logos other than Republic. Recycling must be in the blue recycling containers only. If you are missed due to these reasons, you will need to wait until the following pickup date for collection.

**PROPERTY MAINTENANCE** – We would like to remind all as we prepare for Spring that lawns in town must be maintained at a height of 6 inches or less. This includes cutting the grass and weedeating where necessary. Please avoid blowing fallen leaves and cut grass onto roadways and sidewalks. Also, a reminder that open burning (including leaves) is prohibited within the Town. The Town offers bulk pickup service every Monday and will gladly collect any bagged leaves or grass and yard debris left out for pickup.

*More on back...*

### UPCOMING SCHEDULED REGULAR MEETINGS

#### Planning Commission:

Wednesday, February 10, 7pm  
Wednesday, March 3, 7pm

#### Town Commissioners:

Wednesday, February 24, 7pm

*Meeting dates subject to change.*

*Find more meeting info at:*

[www.queenstown-md.com](http://www.queenstown-md.com)

### UPCOMING SCHEDULED RECYCLE DAYS

|            |          |    |
|------------|----------|----|
| Wednesday, | February | 3  |
| Wednesday, | February | 17 |
| Wednesday, | March    | 3  |

*Find more recycling info at:*

[www.queenstown-md.com/services](http://www.queenstown-md.com/services)

### TOWN OFFICE & SERVICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

#### **PRESIDENTS DAY – Feb. 15 – Closed**

Bulk Service will be Tuesday after Presidents Day. Other services will follow normal schedules.

*Find more holiday scheduling info at:*

[www.queenstown-md.com](http://www.queenstown-md.com)

**QAC ANNOUNCES NEW BUS STOP SAFETY PROGRAM** - Queen Anne's County Public Schools and the Office of the Sheriff have partnered with BusPatrol to implement a new stop-arm safety program to improve student safety! All 112 school buses in the school district's fleet are now equipped with advanced safety technology cloud-connected stop-arm cameras to capture drivers that illegally pass stopped school buses.

Every day, more than 7,400 students ride the school bus to and from school in Queen Anne's County. Stop-arm violations present a real danger to these students. In 2019, there were 6,388 stop-arm violations recorded in just one day in Maryland, according to the NASDPTS annual stop-arm survey. This equates to more than 1 million stop-arm violations a year in Maryland. Just one violation can cost a life.

To change driver behavior around school buses and safeguard students in Queen Anne's County, all school buses have been equipped with stop-arm enforcement technology such as external stop-arm cameras to capture drivers that illegally pass stopped school buses. Drivers that break the law and pass a school bus with its stop-arm extended can expect to receive a \$250 citation in the mail. Violation revenue will be used to fund the installation and maintenance of the equipment, as well as awareness campaigns to educate communities on safer driving practices.

Thanks to the partnership, school buses have been outfitted with additional safety technology and smart fleet management solutions from BusPatrol and Zonar at zero cost to the school district, municipality, or taxpayer. Queen Anne's County's entire school district is now equipped with:

- Stop-arm enforcement cameras
- LTE connectivity, telemetry, and GPS
- Cloud-connected interior cameras and safety cameras for school officials
- Student rider visibility
- Real-time in-cab driver coaching
- Electronic verified inspection reporting of school buses

Speaking about the new safety program, Sheriff Gary Hofmann is "hopeful that this program will educate our county residents and that drivers will not illegally pass a school bus with its lights flashing and stop-arm extended. This program is for the safety of our kids getting to and from school and even one illegal passing of a school bus is too much." Margaret Ellen Kalmanowicz, Supervisor of Transportation at Queen Anne's County Public Schools, states that "The global pandemic has had a huge impact on anyone working in student transportation. While buses have been off roads, we've been working hard to implement new programs and technology like BusPatrol which will improve the health, safety, and wellbeing of students in our school district. Drivers illegally passing school buses has been a problem for years and our bus drivers are delighted to now have their buses fully equipped with stop-arm cameras and safety tech. We are proud to announce the launch of this safety program in Queen Anne's."

Jean Souliere, CEO of BusPatrol, said: "As school buses return to roads after a brief hiatus, it's important that drivers remember to slow down and stop whenever they see a stopped school bus in Queen Anne's County. It could be your child stepping off or onto the bus that day, and every child deserves to get to school safely. Our safety program changes driver behavior and creates a culture of awareness around the school bus. We know that this works because more than 95% of first-time violators do not receive a second ticket. We're proud to partner with Queen Anne's County to prioritize student safety on the road." For more information on BusPatrol and its safety program, please visit: [www.buspatrol.com](http://www.buspatrol.com).