



# The Berwyn News

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[www.myberwyn.org](http://www.myberwyn.org)

January, 2009

**College Park 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Tribute to  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
January 17, 2009  
2:00-4:00 PM  
Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center**

This year's theme is "Change: A New Beginning."

There will be musical, dance and literary reflections on Dr. King's dream.

Doors open at 1:30 PM

For more information, contact the College Park Committee for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day at 301-580-5514 or 301-345-3518

### **Abandoned Car?**

If someone has left their car in front of your house for more than 48 hours, you can inform the city to have them ticketed.

Call the Parking Enforcement office (301-864-5585) and give the make, model, color and, if possible, the tag number of the vehicle.

### **Meals on Wheels Needs Volunteers!!!**

Meals on Wheels is looking for weekday volunteers (9:00 AM-11:30 AM) and drivers & runners (11:00 AM to 12:30 PM) to help those who are unable to cook for themselves.

Call 301-474-1002 for more information

## **Berwyn District Civic Association**

**Next meeting is Thursday,  
January 15, 2009**

**Meetings are held the THIRD THURSDAY of  
the month from 8-10 PM in Fealy Hall**

### **BDCA 2008-2009 Officers**

<b>President</b>	<b>Jerry Anzulovic</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Kevin Young</b>
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>	<b>Timothy Triplett</b>
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	<b>Liesl Koch</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Lori Young</b>
<b>Board of Directors</b>	<b>Harry Pitt, Jack Perry, &amp; Terrance Rucker</b>
<b>Neighborhood Watch Director</b>	<b>Kevin Carter</b>
<b>Berwyn News Editor</b>	<b>Antoinette Byrd</b>

THE NEXT ISSUE of The Berwyn News will be distributed on the weekend of **February 13<sup>th</sup>**. The deadline for articles & ads is **February 9<sup>th</sup>**.

Send articles and ads to Antoinette Byrd at [asb418@gmail.com](mailto:asb418@gmail.com)

Stay informed about neighborhood activities. Visit the Berwyn web site at <http://www.myberwyn.org/> for news, photos, maps, meeting minutes, and much more.

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Jerry Anzulovic, [jvamgnc1@verizon.net](mailto:jvamgnc1@verizon.net)

In November's President's Corner column, I had spoken about how we as a community have become potential prey for others that roam here and about. Well sorry to say, a parishioner coming to midnight mass on Christmas Eve at Holy Redeemer became such. He was mugged and hurt quite badly in the church's parking lot and the details were covered in the WASHINGTON POST. What I want to remind everyone is that we are paying Prince George's County to have three police officers patrol just the city alone to help combat such occurrences. So there is no reason why anyone in the old neighborhood should take any chances if and when you suspect anything does not feel right or even look right. I have found that my own sex is the absolute dumbest as to this fact. Guys, the girls instinctively have sensitivity to this feeling. They seem to know when they are considered as prey and usually take some appropriate action. We on the other hand always think of ourselves as the predator, not the prey. That's when you are the most vulnerable. Guys, please remember your basic training and for those who did not have the pleasure of being at least two year guest of the United States Armed Forces, do not become the prey by your lack of attention to your surroundings at all times. I mean at ALL TIMES. (Good gracious, I sound like old Sergeant McBride). With just about everybody having a cell phone, there is no reason whatsoever for calling our roving patrol to come by and check out a suspicious person or activity. Let him or her who as the badge on their chest decide if everything is on the up and up. I am going to try and see if a representative from our very own group of officers will stop by at this month's membership meeting to answer any questions that we may have and to get to know us as a neighborhood.

I also would like to hear and maybe decide what we should do about activities and things that are happening and for sale at the Xtra Mart. I believe we should take some action as a community at the very least. Check at [myberwyn.org](http://myberwyn.org) for anything additional after the BERWYN NEW hits your doorstep.

The prisoners here at Point Look Out Annex wish everyone good health and prosperity and remind everyone to stay warm and be thankful that you have a warm radiator or register to curl up next too. Here's hoping to see you on the 15<sup>th</sup> at Fealey Hall.

**Have you paid your dues for the year?** We need your support to help publish and distribute this newsletter, run our website, and sponsor all those great community events. Look on page 4 for dues information.

## COUNCILMAN VIEWS AND COMMENTS

Bob Catlin

301-345-0742 or [Catcprtc@aol.com](mailto:Catcprtc@aol.com)

Greetings neighbors. A new year and a new chapter in the in history of the City have begun. As we begin 2009, work has begun on a 12-story student housing building that will front the existing University View Apartment building and provide retail stores along Route 1. Further south, progress is very evident in the construction of a public parking garage. The construction is captured in a downtown web cam, which is located above the location of the old Wawa store, in the College Park Shopping Center. The camera link is at:

<http://bookholders.com/camera1.asp>. This month two of the three full-time contract police officers began patrolling the City; the third will begin in February.

The City's books and records have been audited for FY2008 and everything has been found to be in order. We finished the FY08 with a budget surplus of about \$325,000 and with reserves of more than \$3.15 million. The City has assets valued at \$17.7 million and liabilities of about \$4.9 million, so net assets are about \$12.8 million. The City had outstanding debt of about \$3.2 million at June 30, 2008, which reflects some of the \$9 million, which the City will borrow in 2008-09 to construct the parking garage and associated retail space. The City spent about \$11.3 million in FY08, which included almost \$1 million in capital improvements.

The former auto parts store at the western end of Berwyn Road (4703) was sold in November for \$390,000. The store will once again sell auto parts and supplies.

In late November the County court awarded the City a very favorable summary judgment decision in the case brought by various landlords against the City for its rent stabilization ordinance, which was enacted in 2005. The landlords have asked the judge for reconsideration of his decision. As the ordinance was to sunset later this year, we will need to consider whether or not to extend the term of rent stabilization, as the ordinance recognized that the supply of new housing in the City could be much greater by the fall of 2009. Now it looks like 2012 would be the earliest that the proposed housing could be built.

The County's Planning Department held a series of resident meetings early in December to gather information for the updated rezoning of the Route 1 corridor and the Hollywood commercial area. The Planning staff and its consultants are to report back to the City in early February the early results of their effort to revise zoning for these parts of the City. The process will likely take until, at least, the spring of 2010.

## CITY COUNCIL MUSINGS

Jack Perry, 301-345-7526

Happy New Year! It is my hope and prayer that you and yours enjoy a safe and prosperous 2009. Your council and mayor have our work cut out for us in the upcoming year.

The economic picture for the near future is not good. I anticipate a drop in revenues for our city. This year we may be all right. The next fiscal year will be the telling point. The cycle of reassessments will kick in and the proof will be in the pudding.

College Park has empty stores, office space for rent, as well as development projects that are at a standstill because of financing difficulties—no money.

The union contract will be coming up and those employees are in the same boat as the rest of us. College Park, unlike the Federal Government, must have a balanced budget. It is also different than the Feds in that we can't "print" money and the amount of debt we are allowed is capped at a percent of our budget.

There are those on your council who are looking to other governments to include in the "bail out" mania, College Park projects. They are under the impression that others should come to our "rescue" and we shouldn't feel any pain. It is all right for others but not us. When you have a rising tide all boats go up; likewise, within an ebbing tide "everything" goes down.

We can only control so much of our own destiny, as I have stated in past notes. So many others provide us with much of our income. We can't make more widgets and sell 'em. All we have are services. To pay for these services at the level to which we have become accustomed costs money. If our income drops, then some adjustment will have to be made to our expenses. Some items can be put on the back burner. However, the cost to provide them later will show a corresponding increase because of the delays. We may have to adopt the attitudes that Americans used during the Depression years. I only pray that it won't take a World War to shake us out of this. With the world situation the way it is, we better all turn to a "higher power" for resolution.

When you read this, we will have on board our three (3) County contract officers. We will also have twenty (20) plus part-time County police officers patrolling our fair city. While I do not support the idea of contract police officers, I'll admit there is a greater visibility of police in College Park. We are also sending a lot of tickets and fines to the State because of traffic enforcement. Maybe drivers will learn their lesson.

College Park's parking garage is well underway. No decision has been made on the city hall site. No money

is forecast for Route 1. No decision on renovations of Duval Field. No progress on replacing the portable buildings at the Public Works yard. Some street work has been put on hold because of WSSC plans for water & sewer work on programmed streets.

On a personal note, thanks for all of your support and concern about my health. The doctors and I are having many discussions. If you want to know about tests, I can tell you. I may not have had them all, but I've had a bunch. Thank God for modern medicine.

See you at the meeting. May God continue to bless this great nation.

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### Holiday Thanks Lori Young

Greetings---

The Berwyn Annual Holiday part was a big hit!! We had crafts for the kids, live music and caroling, lots of delicious treats and a visit from Santa!! The atmosphere was friendly and it was nice to relax and take time to mingle with neighbors during the busy holiday season!

Special thanks to all who made this event a success:

Set-Up Crew: Harry Pitt, Kevin Young, Doug Hunter, Bob Catlin  
Gingerbread House Artists and Crafts: Sandy and Forrest Tyler, Ellen Woodbridge  
Clean-Up Crew: Jerry Anzolovich and Jack Perry  
Music: Larry Wenzel  
Santa: Bob White  
Santa's Helpers: Emily Berkson and Linda Pitt  
Generous Donation: Maria Huffer  
And to all others I may have missed!!!

Our customary Santa had to cancel at the last minute due to illness and Bob helped out without a second thought....Thanks, Bob!!!!

WISHING YOU ALL A HEALTHY AND SAFE NEW YEAR!!!



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## Firewood and Invasive Insects

**Bob Baca**

**Berwyn resident and USDA biologist**

With colder temperatures upon us, many of us are lighting up the logs in our fireplaces for heat or simply for atmosphere. You might be surprised to know that here in Prince George's County there is quarantine in place with regards to firewood. It's illegal to move firewood out of the county as well as within some parts of the county. And it's all due to a little green insect.

The emerald ash borer, an exotic, federally-regulated pest that is responsible for the death of more than 40 million ash trees in Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio, threatens these same trees in Maryland. The insect was first detected in Maryland in 2003 after a Michigan nurseryman broke quarantine and shipped infested trees into a Prince George's County nursery. After three years of work, officials believed the insect was eradicated from Maryland. In August 2006, the same experts found evidence that the emerald ash borer is still in the county.

As a result, moving any hardwood firewood (i.e. not pine) out of Prince George's County is prohibited. Additionally, the area of the county south of I-495 and Pennsylvania Avenue is considered to be the Infested Area. Moving firewood into the rest of the county from the Infested Area is prohibited.

This means that if you go and collect firewood from southern parts of the county for use here, it is illegal. And if you take firewood from here to go camping or to a cabin outside of the county, it is illegal. If you are found doing so, you likely face a significant fine and possible imprisonment.

Is this really serious? No doubt about it. The 40 million dead trees noted above in the Midwest met their fate largely due to people moving firewood throughout those states before it was realized that firewood was the culprit. Worse is that once the emerald ash borer is in an area, it is extremely difficult to control. Individuals may be able to protect trees, but due to costs and logistical reasons, it is nearly impossible to control larger areas, such as forests and parks.

There is reason to be concerned as over the past few years, the emerald ash borer was found in Prince George's and Charles County, MD as well as Fairfax County, VA. While these infestations are generally small, it was similarly small infestations that have grown out of control in Ohio and Michigan. Ash trees are also very popular among homeowners and municipalities, so you could very well have one on your property.

I have not seen evidence of the emerald ash borer in

Berwyn on my walks around the neighborhood. But it would be easy to overlook. The insect is about the size of a firefly with a metallic green color. It is a pretty insect, so you would not think it to be the tree-destroying bug that it is. To learn more about the insect, firewood restrictions, and control efforts, please visit:

[www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/plant\\_pest\\_info/emerald\\_ash\\_b/index.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/emerald_ash_b/index.shtml)

## A Note From Our Corresponding Secretary....

**Timothy Triplett**

Happy New Year Berwyners,

I'm sure that many of you are quite busy and don't have the time to get involved this year with the Berwyn District Civic Association (BDCA), but please consider at least joining the BDCA. It still only costs \$15 for a family or business and just \$10 for an individual. Your membership fee helps cover the cost of our community events and the monthly newsletter. And, now you can pay on-line using your credit card on the BDCA website ([www.myberwyn.org](http://www.myberwyn.org)). If you already paid, please encourage your neighbors to join.

By the way, we had a nice turnout at this years BDCA holiday party and we are planning to have a potluck dinner at the park this spring. If you have any thoughts or ideas on how we can improve our events or increase attendance please let us know by posting a note on the BDCA website message board. To post a message you simple click the message board option on the top of the [www.myberwyn](http://www.myberwyn) web page and then click the add message option.

### **BERWYN DISTRICT CIVIC ASSOCIATION Annual Membership Dues**

**Membership dues are \$10 per person or \$15 per family, collected once a year.** Paying your dues today will make you an active member through January 2010! Your dues support publication of this newsletter, community events, advocacy for Berwyn issues, and much more. Make checks payable to "Berwyn District Civic Association, Inc."

Please Print Clearly!

Send payment, family name, and street address to:

***Berwyn District Civic Association***

***PO Box 535***

***College Park, MD 20740***

Any individuals or businesses who contribute \$25 or more will be acknowledged on the BDCA website sponsorship page. If you want to contribute but prefer not to be acknowledged, please let us know with your payment. For those contributing \$50 or more, you may provide us with a link to your business or personal website which we'll add to the BDCA site.



Information Provided by  
Jerry Anzulovic  
of Bright and Associates

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**Properties Sold or Rented (Berwyn 3, Branchville 0)**

- 4702 Tecumseh Street**, \$415,000, (\$350,000), DOM 124, ss \$.00, la 2,200 sf, 6 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, Absentee owner, Armanpreet Johal, SA Bob Ginnis, [bobginnis@mris.com](mailto:bobginnis@mris.com) 301-910-8125; SB Seneca Realty, Germantown, Md., 20874-2642, 301-540-5277.
- 4703 Berwyn Road**, \$390,000, 4800 sf, Auto Parts store, Owner, Clarke & Puckett, LLC, c/o Mr. William Clark, 1022 Verdigris Way, Odenton, Md., 21113-3843.
- 8315 Potomac Avenue**, \$351,550, 5 bedrooms, 3 baths, Lynn E. & Emma Ingram

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**Properties under Contract (Berwyn 3, Branchville 0)**

- 5009 Quebec Street**, \$398,500, 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1,248 sf, Linda M. & Robert L. Brown, Owner occupants since 3/9/2005.
- 5004 Roanoke Place**, \$350,000, 6 bedrooms, 3 baths, Jose H. & Aurelia Cruz, Owner occupants since 2/17/2006.
- 4705 Tecumseh Street**, Unit 301, \$259,900, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, Sushil K. Goel & Suraiya Moin, Owner occupants since 8/16/2007.

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**Properties for Sale or Rent (Berwyn 10, Branchville 1)**

- 4812 Berwyn Road**, \$354,900, 2 bedrooms, 1 & 1/2 baths, Kathleen L. Kiley & Calvin Lee, Owner occupants since 10/4/2001. LISTING EXPIRED, NOT ON THE MARKET.
- \*5047 Berwyn Road**, \$1,550 per month, 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, Andrew H. C. Lowe, Owner occupant since 5/11/1990.
- 5055 Berwyn Road**, \$329,000, 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, Tanya Walentowica, Absentee owner since 7/22/1997. WITHDRAWN FROM MARKET BY OWNER, 12/29/2008.
- 8400 Potomac Avenue**, \$369,900, Scott A. Roberts, Absentee owner since 11/23/1998.
- 8521 Potomac Avenue**, \$319,900, 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, Charles R. Bailey, Absentee owner since 9/15/2006.
- 5007 Quebec Street**, \$349,900, Russell R. Dickerson, Owner occupant since 03/24/1988.
- 5106 Roanoke Place**, \$310,000, 5 bedrooms, 2 baths, Rolando Crespín & Rut I. Valladares, Absentee owners since 12/8/2005, WITHDRAWN FROM THE MARKET 12/2/2008.
- \*4705 Tecumseh Street**, Unit 102, \$179,000, Vinnett Riley-Baptiste, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, Owner occupant since 10/30/2006, Price change 12/03/2008.
- 4709 Tecumseh Street**, Unit 104, \$220,000, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, Sonia I. Mercado-Caceres & Delsa M. Mercado, Owner occupants since 6/28/2007.
- 4709 Tecumseh Street**, Unit 304, \$224,999, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, Jack B. Johnson, Absentee owner since 12/7/2006.
- 8513 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue**, \$260,000, 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, Juan P. Martinez, Owner occupant since 1/18/2006.
- \*8901 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue**, \$245,900, 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, Jose Zavala & Ana C. Aguilar, Absentee owners since 9/29/2005. Now under FNMA 12/19/08.

DOM means day on the market from listing to filing of deed at courthouse. Underline means a new listing.

\* means a change in offered price, LA means living area only (NOT the basement or lower level).

**Visit the Berwyn online MESSAGE BOARD!**

Post your questions, items for sale, announcements, and more at [www.myberwyn.org](http://www.myberwyn.org).  
Click "BDCA Message Board" at the top-center of the page and post your message.

**Your Ad Here!**

Have a business in the neighborhood, a home-based business, or some other ad that you need people to see? The *Berwyn News* has great rates for ads and over 500 copies are delivered throughout the Berwyn neighborhood each month (and is also available online).

**Have something to share with your neighbors?**

We're interested in your neighborhood stories, photos, opinions, and community interest items. Send them to [asb418@gmail.com](mailto:asb418@gmail.com) and we'll try to get them in the next issue of the *Berwyn News*.