



The Berwyn News

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2004/2005 Officers & Directors

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**Berwyn District
 Civic Association Meetings will resume in
 January 2005**
 Normally, Third Thursday
 8 P.M. – 10 P.M.
 (49th Avenue and Berwyn Road)

Holiday Party



held in Fealy Hall on

Saturday, December 18th

1 PM - 4 PM

Flier accompanying this
Newsletter



**Jolly old soul expected to arrive
on site at Fealy Hall!!!**

Greetings neighbors. Potomac Avenue was the scene of what was apparently a multi-house party on Saturday night (Dec. 4th), which became out of control as 250-350 students descended on Potomac Avenue before midnight. The police were called, the party was broken up; pepper gas was sprayed into the air at some point, though the police deny they took that measure. No arrests were made. It appears many of the students were not directly invited, though the party holders should have been aware of the consequences of hosting a large multi-house party. I am not yet aware of the details of the disturbance as of this writing, as I have gotten only some partial reports of what occurred.

The City is exploring making voting in City elections easier by having more polling places. One of the proposed new polling places would be at the Student Union on campus. That would help improve the citywide turnout. It would also make it relatively easy for students to take control of the City, which if it were to happen would put College Park in the national news frequently, as a unique study in democracy. It would be a test case - How would students new to College Park, who largely grew up in suburban affluence, who don't pay City taxes or receive City services, be able to govern? Students who have little opportunity to control how the campus is operated could control how the City is operated. What irony - it could be better than being in a reality television show.

What is the City Council doing now? In addition to looking at redevelopment of City properties downtown and looking for a new City Manager and overseeing a host of proposed housing proposals, we are looking at adopting more restrictive regulations regarding fences and looking at ways to spend money on things that are not currently budgeted. Budget issues include: more code enforcement staff; a new and improved web site for the City; and a better tracking system for resident requests and complaints.

It has been an interesting year with neighborhood preservation issues coming to the forefront. 2005 may be a make or break

year for Berwyn and College Park. I hope to see you at the BDCA's Holiday celebration at Fealy Hall.



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**Community Life Fellowship
Assembly of God
Community Activities
Meeting at**

College Park Church of God, 8800 48th Avenue

Dec 22, 7:30 p.m. Christmas Caroling

Coming in January

Got a nicotine habit? Keep that New Year's Resolution? Help is on the way!

Getting a Guitar for Christmas? We'll teach you how to play. 6:30 p.m. -7:15 p.m. Free Lessons

Can't figure him out? Can't figure her out? Marriage Communication Workshop 6 weeks, Beginning Jan 14

**Diabetes Awareness - January 19, 7:30 p.m.
Free diabetes test**

Phone 301-220-4335 for details..... www.clf.netfirms.com

Greeting neighbors,

At the November BDCA meeting a number of residents voiced their concerns with the lack of enforcement of cars speeding and running stop signs. In addition, there were complaints about the city's lack of enforcing parking violations. To try and improve the situation the BDCA will be sending letters to the businesses that regularly drive in and out of our neighborhood asking them to speak with their drivers. For selected businesses we will follow-up with a face-to-face meeting. In addition, the BDCA plans to send a letter to Holy Redeemer requesting them to ask the parents dropping off children to slow down. The BDCA will also follow-up on finding out whether the stop signs in our neighborhood are enforced. A more difficult issue is what we want to do about the traffic on 49th avenue between Ruatan Street and Greenbelt Road. The other two roads that cars can exit and enter from Greenbelt road have speed bumps, this road does not and it also does not have sidewalks. We plan to have a committee meet this winter and make a recommendation that will be voted on in a future BDCA meeting.

In December there is not a BDCA public meeting, instead we will have a holiday party on December 18 at Fealy hall from 1pm to 4pm. With the New Year fast approaching, we soon will begin collecting next year's membership fees, to make it easier on those volunteering to collect membership fees please send in your membership dues using the form on the back of this newsletter. Also, we have just started the process of putting together the new neighborhood directory, so if you have not sent in your household information please go online and enter your information (<http://mywebpages.comcast.net/ttriplett13/berwyn/bdcadir.html>).

I am happy to report that we have revised the BDCA by-laws and will be posting them by December 20 on the BDCA website and on the community bulletin board located on the bike trail in the far corner of the Holy Redeemer parking lot. Anyone wishing to suggest any amendments to the new proposed by-laws should attend the January 20, 2005 BDCA public meeting where we will vote on replacing the old by-laws with the revised by-laws.

In other news the Neighborhood Preservation Task Force has grown in strength and is now part of a bigger organization called the Neighborhood Preservation Coalition (NPC). Many of you may have read some of the articles they have published in the Gazette and Diamondback. The NPC and BDCA are trying some new ideals in an effort to get something done about the Ridgeway property (abandoned property next to the Smile Herb Shop). As of today we have been in contact with the county executive's office asking for any possible help under the livable communities' initiative, and we are waiting for word back from the county attorney's office. We have been successful in having the county zoning inspector issue violations at the county level, and we have written to the county fire Marshall asking for help. Also, at our November BDCA meeting the NPC asked people to support "Old Town" College Park in their efforts to preserve part of their communities historical district designation, the hearing deciding this issue will be held on Wednesday, January 19, 2005 in Upper Marlboro. A large attendance of residents will certainly help their cause.

Finally, the next public BDCA meeting will be held on Thursday January 20. The final agenda will be included in next month's newsletter, but I believe the main topic will be a discussion on improving our neighborhood park.

Enjoy the holiday's and if you haven't made your New Year's Resolution, how about becoming more active in supporting your community!



The City Council has had a busy year. I suspect that I've attended more closed this year than in any year that I've been on the city council. I voted to go into 'executive session' some time and not to on many occasions. I'm a proponent of open government, however there are times when it is necessary to go out of public view in order to obtain full information that will not jeopardize the public's right to know. It also protects personnel questions and possibly identities. Many times information is shared with the council that enable us to make, what we hope, are the best decisions for the city of College Park.

This city council seem bent or determined to make decisions that will affect the future of our city. There is nothing wrong with this, that's why we serve. One thing that bothers me is that many on the council feel they can make the decisions and please Everybody. Anybody that has ever made any decisions knows that is impossible. Everybody is never going to agree. In our system, the majority rules. You and I do not agree on decisions that are made up and down the line, but we live with 'em, and the system works. There are occasions when the errors of our ways are realized and corrections are made so it's not all bad.

Case in point: The city is going to build a parking garage in the downtown area. The land that has the best potential is the site of the existing city hall building. So...a new site for this facility must be found. The most logical, in my opinion, would be the old College Park Elementary School, 'Friends school'. The city owns this and it has public use restrictions on it. Use of this site for a new city hall would not take property off of the tax rolls and the current tenant is relocating. Now we come to trying to please Everybody!! We can't!!

Many of the closed meetings could and should have been shorter but running of the mouth and repeating same things drags these out. I would love to get home from a meeting before midnight. The council could do it with determination and some appreciation of the others time. City staff would also benefit by getting out earlier. The taxpayers of the city would also benefit from more efficient use of time.

Short Notes:

- City Manager search continues
- Fences in the city on residential property – This is the next target of the city council.
- Leaf pick up, weather permitting, continues. We may get one more in Berwyn.

- Paper Bags. They are going to become mandatory in '05 so I would suggest you start planning – Watch the sales
- Ridgeway Property continues with more agencies and bureaucrats involved.
- Berwyn Road improvements progressing to design stage with construction in Spring '05.
- Route #1 improvements – Don't hold your breath...ICC is taking all of the state road money and certain developers are building projects that will suck off more funds and the flagship campus of USM will take a back seat.
- City Police on the radar screen of some council members at the behest of the few. First step: spend money on a study...so what is new.
- Towing company on I property at the end of Berwyn Road – Gone – Some good things do come to those who wait – No more back up beeping alarms for the homes on Potomac Avenue.
- Contract Police Program – At full strength finally.
- City WEB page – Getting better with help from citizens – Entire City code and charter now on line. Another item is a list of all rental units in the city – CHECK IT OUT! <http://mywebpages.comcast.net/ttriple13/berwyn/>
- City Polling Places – A minority of City Council members are Cow towing to a vocal minority of University students for a polling place on the campus. So all of the polling places for city elections are under the microscope – Crybaby students say they can't get to city hall or Davis Hall to vote so change the system. Again another case of trying to please everyone it sounds just like some of those whine and cheese folks from all over the country.
- My Deepest sympathies go out to the LASICK family on their loss – This unfortunate fire has, I believe, opened a door for redevelopment that noone could have foreseen – if Lasick site and the old Hillcrest Hotel site were combined, some very exciting changes on route #1 if the Auto Electric company site on the corner were included. WOW!

I guess my writer's block is gone – Let me get this on down to Jacquie so she can put it in the news letter – Hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and enjoy the Holidays and the use it or loose it time off.

May God continue to Bless America,



Jack



Information Provided by
Jerry Anzulovic
of Bright and Associates

Properties [JA1]Sold (Berwyn 3, Branchville 1)

- 8322 Potomac Avenue, \$322,500, (\$349,000), James R. Futrell, Owner occupant, DOM 108, SB Singer Real Estate, SA Bill Singer wksinger@comcast.net, SS (\$.00).
- 8904 Rhode Island Avenue, \$131,250, Lea Teitelbaum, Absentee owner, this is not an "Arms Length" transaction, 6418 Glenn Dale Road, Glenn Dale, MD., 20769-9205
- 5016 Roanoke Place, \$265,000, (\$265,000), Francisco A. & Aura A. Lau, Owner occupants DOM 131, SB Long & Foster Real Estate of Silver Spring, SA Dan Quinn Dan.Quinn@LongandFoster.com, SS (\$.00)
- 4819 Ruatan Street, \$370,000, (\$390,000), Shawn Jang, Absentee owner, DOM 125, SB Fairfax Realty, Inc., SA Ahmet Tekman matt@demetropolitanhomes.com, SS (\$.00).

Properties under Contract (Berwyn 15, Branchville 1)

- 4711 Berwyn Road, \$309,000, Ulysses Glee, Absentee owner since 8/5/1977.
- 5012 Berwyn Road, \$205,000, Claude Edwards, Owner occupant since
- 5028 Berwyn Road, \$225,000, Gloria Pope, Absentee owner since 2003.
- 4713 Branchville Road, \$249,900, Rasheed A. Mustafa, Owner occupant since 3/14/2000.
- 4808 Osage Street, \$249,900, Kris A. Magnuson, Owner occupant since 10/9/2003.
- 8308 Potomac Avenue, \$287,000, George D. & George D. Jr. Vincent, Owner occupants (?) since 10/1/93.
- 8436 Potomac Avenue, \$309,990, Mary B. Embody, Owner occupant since 6/12/1997.
- 8519 Potomac Avenue, \$255,000, Frances O. Barrett, Absentee owner since 3/29/2001.
- 8521 Potomac Avenue, \$255,000, Frances O. Barrett, Absentee owner since 3/29/2001.
- 5005 Quebec Street, \$299,000, Albano B. & Rose Cutino, Owner occupants since 1960.
- 4718 Ruatan Street, \$289,900, Galen P. & Christine Dively, Absentee owners since 11/06/1995.
- 4700 & 4702 Tecumseh Street, Unimproved acreage, \$110,000, Gerald A. & Shirley J. Behrens, Owners since 5/25/1982.
- 8701 48th Avenue, \$299,000, Tom G. & Frances G. Simon, Had been owner occupied since 11/02/1956.
- 8603 49th Avenue, \$259,900, John F. & Elizabeth Hendricks, Owner occupants since 1940.
- 8702 49th Avenue, \$310,000, Michael D. Holder, Owner occupant since 1/5/1983.
- 8609 50th Place, \$215,500, Dawn K. Nichols, Absentee owner since 7/26/2002

Properties for Sale (Berwyn 7, Branchville 0)

- 5108 Berwyn Road, \$409,900, Lundy S. & Rose A. Taylor, Owner occupants since 2/21/1985.
- 4904 Osage Street, \$325,000, Albert A. & Margaret A. Gam, Owner occupants since 4/12/1971.
- 8413 Potomac Avenue, \$364,990, Quinnie & Cindi B. Stephens, Owner occupants since 8/1/1995.
- 8408 48th Avenue, \$295,000, Michelle Tam & Zo Ann Song, Absentee owners since 1/8/2002.
- 8410 48th Avenue, \$295,000, Michelle Tam & Zo An Song, Absentee owners since 1/8/2002.
- 8500 49th Avenue, \$329,000, Zo Ann Song, Absentee owner since 8/27/2001.
- 8707 48th Place, \$329,000, Mohammed R. & Hosne A. Ali, Absentee owners since 5/10/1979.

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



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The next issue of the Berwyn News will be distributed on the weekend of JANUARY 15th.
Deadline for ads and copy – January 10th.

21st District Delegates

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Delegate Brian Moe
Delegate Barbara Frush

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E-mail:

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Barbara_Frush@house.state.md.us
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By Authority: Carol B. White, Treasurer



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BERWYN DISTRICT CIVIC ASSOCIATION

2005 Membership Dues

Membership dues are still only \$10 per family! - Membership dues are collected once a year. *Note: If you paid your membership fee at Berwyn Day 2004 picnic, then your membership is up to date and you can disregard this form.*

Please Print Clearly!

Street Address: _____

Family Name _____

Send your \$10 check (made payable to BDCA) and completed form to: **PO Box 535, College Park MD 20740**



Any individuals or businesses who contribute \$25 or more will be acknowledged on the BDCA forthcoming website sponsorship page. Those contributing \$50 or more will be listed as gold star contributors. If you want to contribute more but prefer not to be acknowledged then simply write in anonymous below. If you would like to include a link to your business or personal website then please provide a URL link below.

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