



The Berwyn News

Published by the Berwyn District Civic Association, Inc.



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Volume 15, Issue 2

www.myberwyn.org

February 2007

**It's cold, so let's think about spring!
Mark your calendars for these events:**

College Park Egg Hunt

April 7 - The College Park Arts Exchange will sponsor children's crafts at the Annual College Park Egg Hunt, to be held at the Youth and Family Services Center (4912 Nantucket, near the corner of Edgewood and Rhode Island). Free and for children of all ages.

College Park Boys and Girls Club Parade

April 22 - The Boys and Girls Club Parade lines up at 1230 pm, runs from REI shopping center down Rhode Island to Duvall Field. Come to the Arts Exchange Bike Decorating Workshop at Davis Hall on Sat. April 21, 2-4pm, and ride in the parade the next day.

Maryland Day

April 28 - The University of Maryland open all of its door for its annual open house. There will be hundreds of hands-on activities for all ages. Walk on over to the campus for the terrific free events

...and if you must get outside...

Building Height Demonstration for Proposed Greenbelt Station Development

On Saturday, February 17 (rain date 2/24), the developers of the Greenbelt Station project will demonstrate the visual impact of an 18-story building by floating a balloon in the north core area located east of the Greenbelt Metro Station. Testing will be conducted 8-11 a.m. Residents are welcome to participate.

Berwyn District Civic Association Meeting

**Thursday, February 15, 2007
THIRD THURSDAY, 8-10 pm, Fealy Hall**

1. Roll Call for Officers, Minutes from last meeting
2. Presentation 'Rethink College Park' authors
3. Treasurer Update
4. Committee Updates
5. Civic Association Updates
6. College Park Reports from our Council Representatives
7. New Business
8. Adjournment

Congratulations to our newest city council members, Stephanie Stullich and Mary Cook. They won seats in the special election for Districts 3 and 4 (Berwyn is in District 2).

BDCA 2006-2007 Officers

President	<i>Timothy Triplett</i>
Vice Presidents	<i>Jerry Anzulovic & Chuck Ireton</i>
Corresponding Secretary	<i>Mark Shute</i>
Recording Secretary	<i>Liesl Koch</i>
Treasurer	<i>Al Cutino</i>
Board of Directors	<i>Harry Pitt, Necole Lindsay, & Debbie Mimms</i>
Neighborhood Watch Directors	<i>Janeen Miller & Gina Tomko</i>
Berwyn News Editor	<i>Bob Baca</i>

THE NEXT ISSUE of the *Berwyn News* will be distributed on the weekend of **March 10th**. The deadline for articles & ads is **March 5th**.

Send articles and ads to Bob Baca at cookwithbob@hotmail.com

Bits and Pieces of Berwyn and Branchville,

Part 8. (From the story of Berwyn resident Bill Werber, who traces his baseball career from the sand-lots to college and the major leagues.)

Contributed by: Jerry Anzulovic

That fighting for a nickel must have developed in me a love of combat at that age and I wasn't averse to taking on Lola Giles, when her big sister Mary Jane was not around.

Giles lived on the "back road" of Berwyn (i.e. Roanoke Place - JVA). It wasn't much of a road, dusty in the summer and full of muddy ruts when it rained. It only ran for about a quarter of a mile, between the Baltimore and Ohio railroad tracks and the street car line. No automobile ever graced the road. Giles was black and earned his living performing a variety of services to the white folks and raising as many pigs as necessary to provide pork for his family. Lucy, his wife, was highly respected in the community, and her services, too, we sought after.

How Giles was able to support his family was a mystery because there were some ten to eleven of them. When Dr. Griffith delivered the last of the brood, Giles and Lucy had run out of names and asked Dr. Griffith to be helpful with a suggestion. Recalling his medical school Latin and possessed of a dry sense of humor, Dr. Griffith factiously remarked:

"Giles, if I was in your position, I believe I'd name her Omega."

Omega she became and she was the last too, making the Doctor a prophet as well as a humorist. It was altogether a good thing because the Gileses, from Mary Jane on down through Omega, were a mean lot.

Mary Jane was about the age of my brother Fritz, four years my senior and her younger sister Lola was just my age. These were strong, tough kids and quite able to defend themselves in combat with male or female of comparable age.

And the day came to pass when circumstance found me cornered between the G.P. Bickford hardware and feed store and the B & O railroad station (about where the Kidwell Building is JVA) by the combined forces of Lola and Mary Jane. Lola by herself was always hard enough to handle but Mary Jane represented personal devastation. She could outrun me, too.

"Go on and hit her," egged Mary Jane. "You'ollers wanting to hit her. Der she is, just you go ahead and hit her."

I sure wanted to hit her bad enough but not at that time nor under those circumstances. I didn't want to lose my head. At that precise moment a voice from behind me that had come around the corner of the store provided a tremendous moral lift.

"Hit her!"

It was my brother Fritz, and before the words had been heard by the Giles girls, I had flattened Lola. I could feel the air movement of Mary Jane's big fist as it passed by my nose, and as she swung and missed, Fritz caught her flush on the jaw. I thought she had

lost all her teeth until a closer examination in the dust proved it to be small pieces of red candy.

Our victory, however, was purely temporary, until the evening train from Washington, and Giles report to our Dad on the events of the day. He wore us out. Funny thing about Dad. He never asked for a statement to support our side of the picture. Looking back, I can't fault him. We deserved what we got.

When colder weather came, Giles slit the throats of his pigs and we could hear the squealing for a mile. It attracted a crowd. He'd douse them in scalding hot water, scrape them good, hang 'em up on a cross bar and gut them. We'd hang around until he passed out the bladders. After a suitable drying process, we'd blow them up and use them for footballs. My wife, and your grandmother, a city gal, doesn't believe that one to this day.



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Have something to share with your neighbors?

We're interested in your neighborhood stories, photos, opinions, and community interest items. Send them to the editor at cookwithbob@hotmail.com and we'll try to get the in the next issue of the *Berwyn News*.



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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Tim Triplett, ttriplett13@comcast.net

Greetings Neighbors,

In our January Berwyn District Civic Association (BDCA) meeting we had a sneak preview of the new garden hotel that is likely to replace the old dilapidated College Park Motel. It appears that it will be a pleasant improvement to landscape on Route 1, though we voiced our concern that they provide adequate parking and consider alternatives to the current plan of including an exit onto Pontiac Street. The proposed hotel will be four stories high with 50 rooms. The building will be a brick structure with stucco architectural enhancements.

Also in the January meeting we agreed to move this year's potluck from March to May with the hope that we might be able to have the potluck in the park around the time the new park equipment is set up. At this month's meeting we will hear a presentation from the authors of the "Rethink College Park" Website (<http://www.rethinkcollegепark.net/blog/>). This is a very informative and up-to-date site containing a vast amount of development news in and around the University of Maryland. Come and learn how you can join the debate from the comfort of your home without having to attend any planning meetings. Internet blogs are becoming an increasingly effective tool at influencing our policymaker's decisions. So I hope many of you can attend this month's BDCA meeting (held at 8 pm on February 15 in Fealy Hall), as it should be both an interesting and enlightening meeting.

Since we are waiting until May to hold the annual potluck dinner, the next BDCA event will be the April neighborhood cleanup event. This year I'd like to make it weekend event and perhaps give awards to people who have done a particularly good job of helping to improve our neighborhood. Any suggestions about how to do this as well as any ideals on how we can make this event a success would be welcome.

Finally, I have recently updated the website with pictures from this year's Berwyn Day, Bonfire, and Holiday Party. I have also added some additional Government links under the quick links menu. So if you haven't visited our website recently, you might want to check it out. My tip of the month is that you should talk to your neighbors before deciding whether to appeal the recent increase in your property assessment. All Berwyn residents saw a large increase in their property tax. If you decide to appeal, you may not lower your assessment and technically your assessment could increase. And, remember the property tax in Prince George's County cannot increase by more than 4 percent and the City has a 1 percent cap.

CITY COUNCIL MUSINGS

Jack Perry, 301-345-7526

Told you that winter would be here. There is frost on the pumpkin as I write this. Now, if somebody could explain to me what the 'wind chill factor' is and how we don't get one in the summer or spring and fall... I know the wind blows, especially when I rake the leaves.

Your city council is getting geared up for the budget for the next fiscal year. It takes a lot of time and meetings – with two new council members, I hope we get a lot of questions. Taxes, fees, and fines as well as salary, benefits, and cost of necessary trappings to run our city must be estimated and balanced. Unlike the federal government, our budget must balance. In the recent past, we have leaned on the savings to balance it. My hope is that we don't have to this year (but I also believe in Santa Claus).

College Park is on the brink of some substantial development that will change the way we look as a city. We are also facing some dramatic changes in the city infrastructure (buildings, equipment, and potential staffing). These will all have a cost attached to 'em which we can't push off and let the children pay for 'em. All we can do is make the best decision with what we hope is the best information (and further hope that future generations of the city don't say 'what were they thinking?').

I hope you have seen the city cars with the magnetic signs of 'em. They will let you know what department is in the neighborhood. Our contract police also have a sign on 'em so you can tell which cops are working for the city. They are doing stop sign and speeding enforcement in the neighborhoods so...be alert.

Why would you have trash around your house? College Park Public Works will pick up almost anything that you put out for collection. You can also call for 'special or bulky trash' pick up. Anything except hazardous waste. Prince George's County will assist you in disposal of this material.

If your trash cart has been attacked by varmints, the city will replace it if you call 'em. You may want to take more care about putting varmint food in the cart. You are also responsible for keeping the cart clean. When the weather is good, hose it out, dump the water on the grass, and clean up the paper stuff when it dries. (A personal note: I recycle – give me a call, I may be able to help you. \$\$)

A neighborhood note – Holy Redeemer Catholic Church will have a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, February 19th. \$3 per person, \$12 for a family up to eight, and \$15 for more than eight. Pancakes, sausage, and a fabulous fixings bar – all you can eat. Bring back an empty plate and we will fill it up again. 8:30 am until

after the 10 am mass (hint: come early or on the ½ hour.) The parish supports the neighborhood, so let's support them.

I'm going to bundle up and try to get warm. See you on Thursday. May God continue to bless this wonderful country.

– Jack Perry, Councilman

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. Check page 6 of the newsletter for dues information.

COUNCILMAN VIEWS AND COMMENTS

Bob Catlin

301-345-0742 or Catcprtc@aol.com

Greetings neighbors. Just as it appeared spring was fast approaching, winter reappeared and we have had some of our coldest weather in several years. One thing we can look forward to for spring is Rita's, a store selling Italian ices, custard, and shakes. Rita's will be located at 8900 Baltimore Avenue, west of where Greenbelt Road intersects Baltimore Avenue. Rita's is a nationwide franchise with dozens of stores in Maryland and the DC metropolitan area. The only other Prince George's location is in Bowie. Rita's website indicates the cost of opening up a store is generally in the \$250,000-\$350,000 range. Early in 2006, Jiffy Lube was beginning a project to protect its property from falling into the stream valley. This year University View and the university have embarked on a similar project in the area behind University View. Since the bank is much lower behind University View, the project has an estimated cost of \$250,000 as compared to the one million dollars the Jiffy Lube project cost.

Things are looking up for the Berwyn commercial area. With the fixing up of Ridgeway's property and interior renovations of some other properties, by the middle of 2007 the commercial strip should be in better shape than it has been in many decades.

It appears work has finally begun on renovation of the University House Apartments (formerly Berwyn House) in Lakeland. The property has sat vacant since August. The existing apartments have 132 units, with 72 more units planned. I am not certain that the new units will be built. Even if they are, it seems unlikely that any new units can be ready by the fall 2007 semester. No other significant student housing is to come on line in 2007 or 2008, either, though a small, long vacant, apartment building in the Old Town neighborhood appears it may reopen by the fall 2007 semester. There is still a significant shortage of

student housing in College Park, though the supply has increased by more than 4,000 beds since 2000.

The council members recently submitted their "wish list" ideas for the next budget. Some of my ideas come from problems I have noticed from some extensive walking around, that I think we might be able to address. One problem is that many people do not maintain or use their trash totes properly. We can contract for a service that will go behind the trash trucks and wash out the totes. Perhaps, by doing this a couple times a year we can have better looking, better smelling totes, that our animal population will be less likely to eat holes in. We also have a lot of grass growing in some streets in areas usually near the curb. We should look at having a plan to deal with this unwanted vegetation. Another issue is that we now have a lot of rental properties, about 150, that have opted out of using the City's trash collection. If we cut the charge from \$180 to \$150 or even \$120, we should be able to bring more properties back into the system and reduce the problems that result from having private trash services operating in the neighborhoods.

Please remember to join or renew your BDCA membership for 2007. I hope to see you at the February 15th meeting.

Scholarship Program

The Prince George's County Municipal Association is offering scholarships to residents of municipalities in Prince George's County. Applications can be picked up at any Prince George's municipality. The entire application (including letters of recommendation) is due no later than April 30, 2007. Incomplete applications and those submitted after the deadline will not be considered. Selection of the scholarships will be made by a countywide committee and announced by the end of May. For more information, visit <http://www.ci.college-park.md.us/>

Community Services Grant Program

The purpose of the City of College Park Community Services Grant is to provide resources for community programs and opportunities. The City of College Park believes that supporting community activities enhances the community as a whole. The City will provide grants to fund programs and activities that promote enhanced community opportunities for its residents. The maximum community services grant award per organization for fiscal year 2007 is \$3,000. Applications are due by 5 pm on February 28th. For more information, visit <http://www.ci.college-park.md.us/>. If you have an idea for such a grant in Berwyn, be sure to let one of the officers know so that we might submit a grant application!

BERWYN NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH
Gina Tomko (gtomko@epe.org)

Hello neighbors! I'm happy to report that we've had a fairly quiet month. There have been only a few things reported on the neighborhood watch site. If you haven't joined the online group yet, you can do so by sending an email to Berwyn_neighborhood_watch-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Berwyn Activity:

January 15, many of you reported seeing police at 5007 Quebec Street. Apparently, the house had been broken into and the police were there to secure the home. The house was vacant at the time and there is no available information as to what time of day or night the break in occurred.

College Park Activity:

January 19, at 4:10 a.m., an unknown suspect entered a residence in the 7500 block of Rhode Island Avenue through an unsecured patio door. The suspect then entered the victim's bedroom while the victim was asleep and held her around the waist area. At this point the victim began to move around and the suspect went into the hall. The victim then woke up and observed the suspect looking at her from the hallway. The suspect then fled back through the patio door.

Although this incident occurred in the Old Town College Park area, it illustrates the importance of keeping doors and windows locked at all times!

January 27, at 2:20 a.m., two suspects entered a house in College Park Woods, displayed handguns, and announced a robbery. The house was occupied by approximately fifteen individuals, which included some University of Maryland students. The suspects took cash, cell phones and the victims' pants. Reportedly, the house was recently purchased and it appeared to have been converted into a gambling house. The basement was furnished with three professional gambling tables, flat screen TVs, a cash room, and a bar. Most of the victims were patrons of the gambling house. Some victims/patrons may have left prior to the arrival of police.

Quick Tips:

- Never leave your car running unattended. It only takes a second for a thief to jump in and drive off, not to mention you can be ticketed \$55 and 1 point!
- Never automatically open your front door without checking out the situation first. Make sure you know who is at your door before opening it.
- All doors in your home leading to the outside should have dead-bolt locks.
- When away at night, leave a light on a timer.
- Never leave you spare key over a door or under a mat.

Be a concerned neighbor.

If you see a suspicious person, car, or situation, contact the police.

Thanks and be safe!

--Gina

THE BERWYN NEWS ADVERTISING AGREEMENT 2007

<u>AD SIZE (width x height)</u>	<u>ONE ISSUE</u>	<u>10 ISSUES</u>
1/8 Page (Biz Card) (3.75"x2.5")	\$25	\$200
1/4 Page (3.75"x5")	\$35	\$275
1/2 Page (Horizontal) (7.5"x5")	\$50	\$350
1/2 Page (Vertical) (3.75"x10")	\$50	\$350
Full Page (7.5"x10")	\$75	\$500

Send your payment, business name, mailing address, phone, email, and contact person to:

Berwyn District Civic Association, PO Box 535, College Park, MD, 20740 with checks payable to
"Berwyn District Civic Association, Inc."

Ad files, ad size, and number of dates to run should be sent via email to the editor at cookwithbob@hotmail.com. We prefer picture files (jpg, gif, etc), but can work with text or pdf files (although some formatting changes may be necessary).

Ads will not run until payment is received as instructed above! For further information, please contact Bob Baca (Berwyn News editor) at cookwithbob@hotmail.com.

Thank you for supporting our community!!!

Don't Forget your Dues for 2007!!

**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 September 2007! 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:
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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

Properties Sold or Rented (Berwyn 8, Branchville 0)

- 5020 Berwyn Road**, \$357,444, (\$369,900), Dimitrios Marafatsos, Absentee owner, 2613 Belle Crest Lane, Silver Spring, MD, 20906, 301-871-3618, DOM 179, 1170 sf, SS \$0, SA Michael Schmidle, getmoving@realestatebyownerinc.com, SB Real Estate By Owner, Arlington, VA, 703-233-4844.
- 8409 Potomac Avenue**, \$395,000, (\$399,900), Hector & Maria Caballero, Owner occupants, 443-319-5549, DOM 125, 1053 sf, SS \$11,850, SA Lisa Brady, lisa.brady@longandfoster.com, Long & Foster Real Estate, Silver Spring, MD, 301-388-2600.
- 4705 Tecumseh Street, 102**, \$255,000, (\$277,900), Vinnett Riley-Baptiste, Owner occupant, 2 BR, DOM 401, SS \$7,650, SA Martha Martinez, martha.martinez@longandfoster.com, Long & Foster Real Estate, College Park, MD, 301-441-9511.
- 4705 Tecumseh Street, 302**, \$272,000, (\$272,900), Clyne Cunningham & Suzanne Randolph, Owner occupants, 2 BR, DOM 296, SS \$1,300, SA Mary Charters, mcharters@kw.com, Keller Williams Team Realty, Gaithersburg, MD, 301-978-9775.
- 4705 Tecumseh Street, 304**, \$219,287, (\$229,900), Eliot Davila, Owner occupant, 1 BR, DOM 267, SS \$8,771, SA Jose Casanez, acasanez@cbmove.com, Coldwell Banker, Washington, DC, 202-387-6180.
- 4707 Tecumseh Street, 101**, \$199,900, (\$199,900), James Meade, Owner occupant, 1 BR, DOM 129, SS \$0, SA Sakima Howard, Kimhowardrealtor@yahoo.com, REMAXOne, Bowie, MD, 301-464-0044.
- 4707 Tecumseh Street, 302**, \$202,900, (\$199,000), Angel Mejia & Sarah Hall, Absentee owners, 2 BR, DOM 202, SS \$0, SA Karia Gutierrez, kgutierrez@fairfaxrealty.com, Fairfax Realty, Hillandale, MD, 301-978-9775.
- 4707 Tecumseh Street, 303**, \$254,900, (\$254,900), Ellen Karner, Owner occupant, 2 BR, DOM 224, SS \$0, David Friia, daveandtina@att.net, RE/MAX Exclusive, Hanover, MD, 301-464-0044.

Properties under Contract (Berwyn 28, Branchville 0)

- 5053 Berwyn Road**, \$347,000, Damjan Jevtic, Absentee owner since 02/24/2005.
- 4903 Osage Street**, \$509,999, Charles, Donald & Jean Hall, Absentee owners since 03/18/1993.
- 8503 Rhode Island Avenue**, \$384,900, Robert & Christine Moss, Owner occupants since 01/27/1999.
- 5016 Roanoke Place**, \$315,000, Francosco & Aura Lau, Owner occupants since 06/30/2004.
- 4702 Tecumseh Street**, \$499,000, Ellen Roberts, Absentee owner since 11/08/2005.
- * **4705 Tecumseh Street, 7 units**, \$199,000-\$262,900, Stephen Tennant, Absentee owner since 06/17/2005.
- 4707 Tecumseh Street, 6 units**, \$199,000-\$267,000, Stephen Tennant, Absentee owner since 06/17/2005.
- * **4709 Tecumseh Street, 9 units**, \$264,000-\$282,900, Stephen Tennant, Absentee owner since 06/17/2005.
- 9002 48th Place**, \$360,000, Lori & Kevin Taylor, Absentee owners since 08/19/2005.

Properties for Sale or Rent (Berwyn 9, Branchville 0)

- 8402 48th Avenue**, \$1975 per month, MGA Management Company, Absentee owner.
- 4703 Berwyn Road**, \$1,500,000, Quality Enterprises, Absentee owners since 06/28/2001
- 5065 Berwyn Road**, \$315,000, Jean Juste & Solange deBeau, Absentee owners since 08/23/2005.
- 4705 Greenbelt Road**, \$449,000, William & Ellen Roberts, Absentee owners since 06/22/2006.
- 8304 Potomac Avenue**, \$449,900, Gasim Ali, Absentee owner since 11/15/2005.
- 5009 Quebec Street**, \$465,000, Linda Burgess-Brown, Owner occupant since 05/25/1970.
- 4705 Tecumseh Street, 202**, \$264,900, Stephen Tennant, Absentee owner since 06/17/2005.
- * **4709 Tecumseh Street, 302**, \$272,900, Stephen Tennant, Absentee owner since 06/17/2005.
- 4806 Tecumseh Street**, \$449,900, Omar Nason, Absentee owner since 05/26/2004.

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.
Click "BDCA Message Board" at the top-center of the page and post your message.