



# The Berwyn News

Published by the Berwyn District Civic Association, Inc.



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

January 2007

## Live Xmas Tree Collection

Christmas trees will be collected on regular refuse collection days during the weeks of January 16<sup>th</sup> and January 22<sup>nd</sup>. All trees should be placed at the curb by 7:00 a.m. and must be free of lights, tinsel, ornaments and other decorations in order to be collected.

## Ice Skating

The cold weather means that it's time to get outside and go ice skating. And the closest place to go is here in College Park. The Herbert Wells Ice Rink is located near the airport and Metro station and has general skating sessions, lessons, hockey, gear rental, and more.

For hours, rates, and information, call 301-277-3717 or visit [www.pgparcs.com/places/sportsfac/icerinks.html](http://www.pgparcs.com/places/sportsfac/icerinks.html)

## Neighborhood Playgroup

The neighborhood playgroup is still meeting. During good weather, we meet at the Berwyn Neighborhood playground (a.k.a. Cherry Park) on Wednesdays from 10 am to noon. If the weather is too cold or wet, we move indoors to Fealy Hall. All ages are welcome.

For more information, contact Rachel at 301-474-7065.

## Berwyn District Civic Association Meeting

Thursday, January 18, 2007  
THIRD THURSDAY, 8-10 pm, Fealy Hall

1. Roll Call for Officers, Minutes from last meeting
2. Presentation on Hotel to replace the College Park Motel
3. Treasurer Update
4. Committee Updates
5. Civic Association Updates
6. College Park Reports from our Council Representatives
7. New Business
8. Adjournment

College Park has a special election on January 16 to replace outgoing city council members, but this election does not involve the residents of Berwyn. Our city council representatives, Jack and Bob, have not left their positions, so Berwyn is not included in the special election.

### BDCA 2006-2007 Officers

President	<i>Timothy Triplett</i>
Vice Presidents	<i>Jerry Anzulovic &amp; 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, &amp; Debbie Mimms</i>
Neighborhood Watch Directors	<i>Janeen Miller &amp; Gina Tomko</i>
Berwyn News Editor	<i>Bob Baca</i>

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

Send articles and ads to Bob Baca at [cookwithbob@hotmail.com](mailto:cookwithbob@hotmail.com)

## Bits and Pieces of Berwyn and Branchville,

**Part 7.** (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**

J. Fred Keefauver was Berwyn's storekeeper (*the 1<sup>st</sup> store is in the center of the Association's seal, JVA*), and he had a wagon also, which delivered the groceries that had been ordered by phone. I can still remember Earl Loveless, the good natured but unambitious young man who made the deliveries, I can also remember the interior of Keefauver's store. On the floor sat baskets of vegetables and fruits, which dogs mistook for hydrants. Adjunct to the store was a feed storage area well populated with rats. Upon those occasions when the proprietor decided to decimate these unwelcome guests, a carnival ensued. Armed with brooms, flat shovels, barrel staves and shinny sticks, we lads would arrive to participate in the kill, and to give "Possum" a hand. The latter was a tough little rat terrier belonging to the Smiths who lived across the dirt road from the store. A single rat presented no problem to "Possum". Indeed, to our cheers, he would nail two of the creatures, almost in one motion. Quick as a flash, with the courage of a mongoose, he was a rat killing tough little dog. We all loved him.

The shinny sticks we used as weapons were homemade from young hickory saplings selected in the woods. It would be better to say, "woods-made", I suppose. The top of a proper sapling would be bent over to touch the ground and then a fire would be built under the bow near the other end. The heat and flame would sear the hickory into a permanent crook. We would then saw off the stick at its base, skin off the bark, and tire tape the handle. The resulting stick was well suited for flailing away at a tin can, or a pine knot, which served as a puck, as one tried to propel it across an opponent's goal line, or for swinging at rats. An inadvertent, or intentional, belt across someone's shins sometimes resulted in some pretty good fistfights, but that was always fun to watch. And you know, I remain convinced that swinging a club at a swerving rat coming from Keefauver's grain shed made me a reasonably good curve ball hitter when I got to the major leagues.

A streetcar line ran into Berwyn and beyond a half a mile or so to Branchville. Where the track crossed the Berwyn road a few stores and a barbershop had sprung up. Charley Carey, the barber, gave a good hair cut for a quarter and shaves for 15 cents. His name was Charley Attick, but everyone called him Charley Carey. I don't know why to this day. Charley had propensities for whiskey and gesturing when he talked. This combination one-day nearly did in a customer. The victim survived, but the episode was almost fatal to Charley's shaving business. He never did get the blood stain from the floor. I usually got my hair cut

early in the day before he had begun to imbibe. Anyway, he liked small boys and we liked him.

He kept a set of boxing gloves in his shop, and in summer when business was not too brisk, we usually found them laced to our fists. Three rounds of a few minutes each were normal, and we tried to knock the pluperfect tar out of one another. Charley saw to it though that no one got hurt. The nickel paid each contestant would buy a chocolate ice cream cone, or a coke. I guess Carl Hoffman and I had some 50 fights and we learned a good bit about the benefits of a strong attack. Later on when I had more money from an enlarged allowance and from picking potato bugs, I spent most of it in the back of the barbershop, getting pretty good with a cue stick, I might add. Charley has been gone a long time, but the last I heard his son Mayo, runs the place – could be a grandson.



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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Tim Triplett, [ttriplett13@comcast.net](mailto:ttriplett13@comcast.net)

Greetings and Happy New Year!

The Berwyn District Civic Association (BDCA) did not hold a meeting in December. Instead we held our annual holiday party on Saturday, December 16. I want to thank all the volunteers who helped decorate Fealy Hall and those who helped with the clean-up. Thanks to Larry, we had terrific live music and the kids this year made some memorable picture frames. However, as always, Santa stole the show as the little ones lined up to tell Santa what they wanted for Christmas. Santa told me in private, that the best way to get what you want is to ask for at least two things more expensive than the gift you really want! Congratulations goes out to Al Cutino's (AKA Santa) grandson Trevor who won this year's door prize (he also won the prize drawing two years ago).

Our next BDCA social event is the pot luck dinner which is usually held in March. This year I am thinking about delaying the pot luck dinner until the spring and holding it at the community park. This would hopefully coincide with our new park equipment. We will discuss this possibility at our next BDCA meeting and will announce the decision in next month's newsletter.

In the January BDCA board meeting, we were presented with a plan to combine property lots behind the Route 1 bowling alley and Pizza Hut. The current property owner plans to sell the lot to a developer who would build on this lot either mid-rise apartments or condominiums. While the BDCA did not take a position for or against the current plans, we did voice our concern about potential congestion issues that could result from placing too large of a building at this location.

In this month's BDCA meeting (Thursday, January 18) we will be presented with the current plans for a hotel to replace the College Park Motel. While everyone would love to see this eyesore replaced, I hope many of you can come out and let the developer know that we are concerned about having adequate parking and also concerned about increased traffic in our neighborhood. Also we want to make sure that this hotel is well designed with appropriate landscaping given that this property is part of the Berwyn Community.

It looks like we have new book store opening up in our Berwyn business district, and I hope they get strong patronage from local Berwyn residents. This year the BDCA website ([myberwyn.org](http://myberwyn.org)) has seen a large increase in the number of unique visitors with a total of 5,550 unique visits in 2006 (a unique visitor is counted only when bringing up more than one page and taking no longer than 30 minutes between individual pages.). The busiest month was November with 1,072 unique

visits and January was the slowest month with 140 unique visits. In 2005, we had 1,033 unique visits, so the web site is now receiving five times as many requests. If you have any suggestion about how we might improve our web site, please let me know. I plan to soon update the picture page with the most recent Berwyn Day, bonfire, and holiday party pictures. Finally, my tip of the month is don't spend too much money on winter clothes, because it seems like each year our winters are getting shorter and milder.

### 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](mailto:cookwithbob@hotmail.com) and we'll try to get the in the next issue of the *Berwyn News*.

## CITY COUNCIL MUSINGS

Jack Perry, 301-345-7526

I may as well join the chorus...what happened to winter? It is short sleeves and, in some cases, shorts. The grass that we planted in the park on the bonfire site needs to be cut. Seriously, don't let the snow shovel and scraper get lost. We've still got time for a winter wonderland.

Your council is getting busy on the downtown redevelopment and hopefully other levels of government will not take any action that will slow us down. Some of those who have moved on still want to keep their hands on the pot. This worries me.

We are going to propose to amend the charter to bring College Park's borrowing authority into the 21st century. Newer procedures than what the charter currently allows can save the taxpayer money.

Bob and I are looking for some citizens to serve on the city recreation board. The responsibilities of this committee are to propose and run recreation functions of the city. They also have the responsibility for permitting the use of Duval Field and the field at the Calvert Road school site. Interested? Give either of us a call.

Leaf pick-up by the machine has concluded. Now you must put them in paper bags for pick-up by the city crews. Call 301-474-4194 for information.

Our street sweeper has been through the neighborhood. If your car was in the way, the sweeper driver went around your car, and now you have to bag up the debris for pick-up.

Pepco has been throughout the city and fixed a number of burned out street lights. The city pays if it

is lit or not. Call Pepco about any light that you see out (and then call again).

A franchise has been awarded to Verizon for cable TV service. Now Comcast has competition and it will be a fiber optic system with other benefits. The city council meetings et al will be on both systems. As the systems is built, you will be contacted, I'm sure, about signing up and fees etc.

City staff is working on next year's, FY08, budget. If you think you have a way to spend or save the city some money, call the finance or city manager's office (or Bob or I and we will pass it on). Time is of the essence.

I plan on submitting a list of public improvements to streets in our neighborhood and some of my pet projects from years past. We always spend more on streets and roads than we receive from the state from motor vehicle taxes. This could be from all those cars that park on our streets that are not from College Park, let alone Maryland.

I didn't realize that my stating that I was in favor of enforcing all laws equally would be interpreted so narrowly by the mayor. I'm still against 'party permits'.

An election to replace resigning council members will prove to be interesting for the future of the city. Remember, we get what we deserve and the election will be decided by a minority of the population. Think about it.

Keep those snow shovels nearby and take time to come to the civic association this week. May God continue to bless this great county and all who live here.

– 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.

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## COUNCILMAN VIEWS AND COMMENTS

**Bob Catlin**

**301-345-0742 or Catcprtc@aol.com**

Greetings neighbors. After a two year lull, this year we should see some progress in revitalizing the Route 1 corridor, though any significant construction will not begin until the fall. A good source of information is the City's Economic Development Update ([http://www.ci.college-park.md.us/economic\\_development\\_updates.htm](http://www.ci.college-park.md.us/economic_development_updates.htm)).

Another source of information, created by two U of MD graduate students is an internet site, Rethink College Park (<http://rethinkcollegepark.net/blog/>). This site contains a lot of the pictures of proposed development and examples, good and bad, of development elsewhere. Because it allows for the expression of opinions, this kind of site promises to make development decisions, or in our case development recommendations, more transparent because the issues can be discussed in a broader context than has been possible.

JPI, the proposed builder of apartments and townhouses at Cherokee Street in a project called Jefferson Square, is studying a similar project for the west side of Route 1, where two large mostly vacant parcels are prime for development. The parcels used to each have a building - Lasick's and the Hillcrest Hotel. JPI is looking at constructing about 200 apartments and a few townhouses where the property extends west to Autoville Drive. The combined project represents an investment of over \$100 million.

During 2006, 31 detached homes and 2 townhouses were sold in the Berwyn neighborhood. The median sales price for a detached home was \$366,000, with an average sales price of \$380,565. Two Berwyn Road townhouses sold in July and December for \$312,000 and \$315,000, respectively. From January to June, 19 detached homes sold for a median price of \$375,000. From July through December, 12 detached homes sold for a median price of \$353,700. In 2005, 31 detached homes also sold, at a median price of \$337,500. Six townhouses sold that year at a median price of \$264,000.

Related to these sales prices, in late December homeowners received an updated property assessment from the state. These assessments showed increases averaging at least 100 percent in Berwyn and across College Park for residential properties. While the state's assessors were more aggressive with their appraisals than I expected, for owner occupied properties the higher assessments would not be fully realized in property tax bills for more than ten years. The Homestead Tax Credit limits the increase in assessments for calculating property tax to no more than ten percent per year. The County's limit for 2007 will be four percent, while the City's limit will be one percent. The City took action in 2004 to set its cap at one percent. We had good timing! College Park residents can expect that their property tax bills will increase by about 5 to 5.5 percent in 2007, which will mean a tax increase of about \$100 to \$150. While you can appeal your assessment if you think it is too high (or too low), the Homestead Tax Credit means that it would take at least two more assessment cycles before you are actually taxed at the 2007 assessment levels. I hope to see you at the BDCA's January 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

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

Happy New Year! I hope you all have had a joyful and safe holiday. I'd like to give a recap of events that have been posted recently 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@yahoo.com.

**December 13**, at 10:15 p.m., a "Peeping Tom" peered into a window at [the 7500 block of] Rhode Island Avenue. The victim, a 21 year-old University of Maryland student, observed the suspect as she was watching television in the basement of the house. The victim screamed, and the suspect fled on foot. The suspect is believed to be the same one who committed these acts several weeks ago. Prince George's County Police Department patrol officers responded to the scene and canvassed the area for the suspect with unsuccessful results.

**December 14**, at 10 p.m., an African-American man in his late 20s came to the door of a resident and said he lived on Tecumseh Street, but mispronounced the name. He said that his wife had been taken a few days ago. The resident realized it was a scam and closed the door immediately. A call was made to the nonemergency police.

**December 22**, at 9:15 p.m., County police with the K-9 unit were conducting a search in the 48th Avenue area near Berwyn Rd. for a suspect wanted for an armed robbery in the 8500 block of US 1. The suspect is described only as a black male, 40s, with a dark hat. He claimed to have a gun, but none was seen.

**January 1**, at approximately 9:15 a.m., three suspects entered the Advanced Auto Parts Store in the 2500 block of University Blvd. Once inside, the suspects displayed handguns and demanded money. The victims complied and the suspects fled the scene. The suspects are also believed to be responsible for the following robberies (all of which occurred on New Years Day):

9:22 a.m., Dollar Store, 2400 block of University Blvd.  
9:51 a.m., Rite-Aid, 1800 block of East-West Highway.  
9:56 a.m., CVS, 5600 block of Sargent Road.  
10:22 a.m., Dollars and Sense, 3700 block of Bladensburg Road.

The Prince George's County Police believe that all the robberies are related. In all incidents, the suspects are described as black males, from 160-180 lbs., and around 6' tall. All were wearing black jackets and blue jeans. One suspect wore a black sweater with "Spider-Man" on the back. The suspects were armed with handguns

**January 3**, at approx. 5 p.m., a young African-American female was seen rummaging through the base of the tall bushes on the corner of 49th and Berwyn Road (4800 block). She eventually headed up Berwyn Road toward Route 1. She was acting very odd and out of sorts. Fifteen minutes later, three young African American males (all wearing black ski jackets, two with black ski hats, one with dreads) were seen heading down Berwyn Rd. They stopped at those very same bushes and one proceeded to walk up a neighbor's driveway, causing the sensor light to come on.

As always, we should all continue to be vigilant in our observing and reporting any and all suspicious activity to the police and to one another.

I would also like to remind folks to use the Berwyn message board for any information that does not pertain to the purpose of the watch site.

Thanks and be safe!  
--Gina

**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.

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**  
**16<sup>th</sup> Annual College Park Tribute**  
**"A Call To Conscience"**

Saturday, January 13, 2007, 2:00-4:00 p.m.  
Kay Theater, Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center  
University of Maryland, College Park  
(University Blvd and Stadium Drive)

Master of Ceremonies:  
Vyatas Reid of Fox45 TV Baltimore

Performances include:  
Maryland Boy Choir  
College Park Youth Choir  
SGI-USA Washington, D.C. Regional Chorus  
Metropolitan Washington Bahá'í Chorale  
Paint Branch Elementary School

Organized by the College Park Committee for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

301/345-3518 or 301/580-5514 for more information



Information Provided by  
*Jerry Anzulovic*  
 of Bright and Associates

**Properties Sold or Rented (Berwyn 2, Branchville 0)**

- 4800 Osage Street**, \$465,000, (\$479,000), Frank Grosso, Absentee owner, 7307 Flax Street, Springfield, VA 22152, 703-912-3552, DOM 155, 1544 sf, SS \$0; SA Gary Durand, Gd588@aol.com, SB RE/MAX 100 Waldorf, MD 20602, 301-843-5100.
- 8400 49<sup>th</sup> Avenue**, \$300,500, (\$295,000), kimberlygiroux@championrealty.com, SB Champion Realty, Odenton, MD 21113, 410-551-0000.

**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.
- 8409 Potomac Avenue**, \$399,900, William Nickols, Absentee owner since 11/21/2000.
- 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, 8 units**, \$199,000-\$277,900, 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, 8 units**, \$264,000-\$282,900, Stephen Tennant, Absentee owner since 06/17/2005.
- 9002 48<sup>th</sup> Place**, \$360,000, Lori & Kevin Taylor, Absentee owners since 08/19/2005.

**Properties for Sale or Rent (Berwyn 12, Branchville 0)**

- 4703 Berwyn Road**, \$1,500,000, Quality Enterprises, Absentee owners since 06/28/2001
- 5020 Berwyn Road**, \$369,900, James & Mary Milmo, Absentee owners since 11/26/1974.
- 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.
- 8503 Rhode Island Avenue**, \$384,900, Robert & Christine Moss, Owner occupants since 01/27/1999.
- 4705 Tecumseh Street, 202**, \$264,900, Stephen Tennant, Absentee owner since 06/17/2005.
- 4707 Tecumseh Street, 303**, \$199,000, Stephen Tennant, Absentee owner since 06/17/2005.
- 4709 Tecumseh Street, 102**, \$267,000, 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).

**THE BERWYN NEWS ADVERTISING AGREEMENT 2007**

<u>AD SIZE</u>	<u>SINGLE ISSUE</u>	<u>10 ISSUES</u>
1/8 Page (Biz Card) (3.75"w x 2.5"h)	\$25	\$200
1/4 Page (3.75"w x 5"h)	\$35	\$275
1/2 Page (Horizontal) (7.5"w x 5"h)	\$50	\$350
1/2 Page (Vertical) (3.75"w x 10"h)	\$50	\$350
Full Page (7.5"w x 10"h)	\$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!!!**

**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."  
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