

The Berwyn News

Published by the Berwyn District Civic Association, Inc.



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P.O. Box 535, College Park, MD 20740

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www.myberwyn.org

January 2008

Preschool Education Fair

A Preschool Education Fair will be held Saturday, January 26, 2008 from 2-4 pm at the College Park Community Center on 5051 Pierce Avenue. Details of this free event can be found on page 4.

Time for Ice Skating

The arrival of the cold weather means that it's a great time to go ice skating. And right here in College Park, you can skate at the Herbert Wells Ice Rink (close to the Metro station). This ice skating facility includes the rink, an indoor warming room and party room, and a snack bar. Rental skates are available. They have lessons for all experience levels, open skating, themed skating, hockey, and much more. For details, drop by for a visit or call 301-277-3717.

Christmas Tree Recycling

The last collection of Christmas trees will be during regular refuse collection on January 14th. All trees should be placed at the curb by 7 a.m., and must be free of lights, tinsel, ornaments, and other decorations in order to be collected.

No More Leaf Vacuuming

Leaf vacuuming is done for the year. The city will still collect your leaves, but they now must be in paper yard waste bags or approved reusable containers (plastic bags will not be collected). Leaves must be at the curb by 7:00 a.m. on your regular collection day. More than 10 bags must be called in for special pick up by the city.

Berwyn District Civic Association

Thursday, January 17, 2008
THIRD THURSDAY, 8-10 pm, Fealy Hall

1. Introductions
2. Presentation and Question & Answer session with Mr. Steven McBride, who will discuss the projected development that he and Otis Warren are planning on building in front of the University Towers and in place of Koon's Quick Lube and the old Maryland Bank building.
3. BDCA officer reports
4. Council member reports

BDCA 2007-2008 Officers

President	<i>Jerry Anzulovic</i>
Vice President	<i>Kevin Young</i>
Corresponding Secretary	<i>Timothy Triplett</i>
Recording Secretary	<i>Liesl Koch</i>
Treasurer	<i>Lori Young</i>
Board of Directors	<i>Harry Pitt, Jack Perry, & Patrick Hyousse</i>
Neighborhood Watch Director	<i>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 15th**. The deadline for articles & ads is **February 11th**.

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

City Offices are closed for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday on January 21st. Refuse collection and recycling on that Monday will be moved to Tuesday.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Jerry Anzulovic, jvamgnc1@verizon.net

One thing I am certain about and that is everyone here in the Berwyn and Branchville neighborhoods knows how to celebrate the holidays. The amount of lawn decorations and lights was truly wonderful. As usual, Patuxent Avenue really had some colorful displays. Maybe next year, the Association should resurrect the holiday display awards activity. We shall work on it. I can only say, PEPCo has got to love us in Berwyn and Branchville.

The Holiday/Christmas party went off without a hitch. The old gentleman from the North Pole showed up on time and from what I could see, the small ones enjoyed themselves almost as much as did the old folks.

This month's meeting will have Mr. Steven McBride showing to us the projected development that he and Otis Warren are planning on building in front of the University Towers and in place of Koon's Quick Lube and the old Maryland Bank building. If you would like to ask some questions and give them your ideas, this is the time to do it. It will be on Thursday, January 17th at Fealy Hall. I have invited the members of the Lakeland Civic Association to come also, since development at that site affects them as much as it affects us.

For all of you out there who pay their dues on the calendar year, this is the month to pay your dues. It is \$10.00 per person or \$15.00 per family. The dues go to helping to publish the *Berwyn News* as well at least provide the "seed" money for the other Association activities. We are the oldest active Civic Association in Prince George's County and we need your monetary support to continue to make it so.

The prisoners here at Point Lookout Annex wish everyone in Berwyn and Branchville a Happy New Year, even to those insulting Federals who walk by all the time with their much beloved maids and/or butlers. I always remind them that their conditions here are much better than at other camps, for I know there are other prisoners who have to stay tied or chained to a stake and are outside most of the time. They always give me that look as if to say that what I am telling them is more Yankee reconstruction talk. I hope you will forgive them when they put on their show of bravado when they are out on their daily evening constitutional. They only want you to know that if they were given the chance and were just let free from their neck chains that would be better leaders of Berwyn and Branchville than I am. I sincerely believe that they believe I do not have very much brain and/or common sense. Time will tell.

Remember! STOP completely at all STOP signs. The city/county squad car is very active and WILL separate violators of the stop sign ordinance from their brass in the blink of an eyelash. Watch out for the little ones as they get off the "cheese buses" this time of year. It gets very dark very soon. They are our future. Remember in your prayers all the young and

for matter of fact all the old ones who are overseas in harms way. Pray that they will be back soon. REMEMBER! Primary day is Tuesday, February 12th and you can vote absentee ballot, by just requesting one if you are not going to be able to get to the polls in time. It seems that both sides of the aisle have a good choice of candidates to choose from, so I should not hear from anyone that they cannot find someone to vote for. HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL.

**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 2008! 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.

THE BERWYN NEWS ADVERTISING AGREEMENT

<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 (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!!!

COUNCILMAN VIEWS AND COMMENTS

Bob Catlin

301-345-0742 or Catcprtc@aol.com

Greetings neighbors. Best wishes for a healthy and prosperous 2008. A new City Council with three new and two almost new members has taken office. Jack Perry and I are now the two oldest members of the elected body and have the most years on the City Council by a wide margin. Over the past 10 years that Jack and I have served, we have seen 18 other Council members come and go in the other three districts.

The City's financial health is good. We just got the results of our financial audit for FY2007 which showed that money-wise things are fine. The City has financial reserves that equal about 24 percent of the budget and we do not have looming issues with retirement pensions and medical costs as many jurisdictions do.

I spoke about plans for a number of student housing projects on Route 1 last month. Since then one new project a little further away has been tentatively proposed. A 900 bed project has been discussed for a seven acre tract that lies both north and south of Metzert Road east of University Blvd. The northern piece of the site was the location of a community pool that closed about six years ago. The southern piece of the site borders on the University. Most of the beds would be located on the northern portion of the site as that area would be the more densely developed.

On January 22nd at 7:30 pm, the City will hold a public hearing for the concept plan for the renovation of Duval Field. The plan has been reviewed by the officers of the Boy's and Girl's Club and residents who live near the field, so the concept plan presented should be close to the final project that goes forward. The process of constructing a small skate park known as a "skate spot" is slowly moving forward. The location for the skate spot is Sunnyside Neighborhood Park, a M-NCPPC park located west of Rhode Island Avenue above the beltway.

It was recently announced that federal funding for a number of projects has been approved that will aid the City. These projects include: funding (\$100,000) for a Paint Branch Stormwater Management Plan to be matched by three other parties; funding (\$2,657,000) for restoration of the Paint Branch Stream; funding (\$146,000) for educational programs, exhibits and displays at the College Park Aviation Museum; funding (\$300,000) for the City's downtown redevelopment project; and funding (about \$450,000) for preparation costs for the East Campus development.

In news from our public schools, the County's Board of Education has authorized detailed planning for its preK-8th grade initiative. Under the proposed plan our public school, Paint Branch Elementary, would become a school for children through the 8th grade, but not

until at least the 2011-12 school year. Also with respect to Paint Branch School, the University of Maryland is proceeding with plans to become heavily involved in the school's operation beginning in the next school year.

In other local news, street lights are now installed on the Trolley Trail between Lakeland and Paint Branch Parkway and the Lakeland neighborhood's streets are now basically for permit parking only.

I hope to see you at Fealy Hall on January 17th for the BDCA's monthly meeting.

CITY COUNCIL MUSINGS

Jack Perry, 301-345-7526

Happy New Year! I hope you and yours have a happy and prosperous 2008 – wow – 2008. If you didn't get your leaves out to the curb for mechanical pickup – you missed it. Now you must put 'em in paper bags for pick up on your normal collection day. Our student neighbors are still on winter break as I write this. They will return.

Didja notice that the reserved parking spaces on Pontiac Street @ Route #1 were empty for a very long holiday – boy, the University College has a nice benefit package.

Your Mayor and City Council got a raise beginning in January – it is much less than a County Councilmember received and less than their discretionary funds. They can splash this money all over their district (kinda like an incumbent insurance fund), even though they are term-limited. An elimination of this would free up public monies for worthwhile county-wide expenses.

Your fair city is kinda doing the same thing with our grant program. We are awarding city tax dollars to local groups for their programs. Some of them in my opinion are not government programs. But then, who am I to say – the city goes after developers for proffers to use on city projects that would not be able to stand on its own or when complete will cost future taxpayers for the continued maintenance and upkeep. Some of these are an expansion of city government.

The same thing could be said about grants that we get from other government agencies and levels of government – i.e. state, county, and last buy not least the feds. Some, if not all, of these come with strings attached. Many folks now have a difficult time with 'wants & needs.' There is no doubt about it...College Park goes first class – and the taxpayers are footing the bill.

Don't misread the above...your city does a terrific job of managing your tax dollars. There may be programs

that we undertake that could use more oversight and the citizens deserve a fair explanation of how it benefits the overall mission of the city.

Public Works still occupies the largest percentage of our city budget at 40+%. The largest source of revenue is property tax at 30+%. We have sufficient reserves to pay off all of our debt if we wanted to. We would be debt-free and our cushion would be scary to the accountants. In today's financial world, we use debt to finance long-term purchases. We invest our excess and pray for a good return (interest). The long-term purchases, usually high dollar items, are then paid for by those who use 'em [a modification of the 'pay as you go']. With interest rates dropping and costs continuing to rise, i.e. oil, utilities, salaries, benefits, and insurance (both health and liability), it is good to have a cushion. To look at the big picture is sometimes a scary thing. However, with good management and oversight, we can live with it. I want to assure that future generations of College Park residents and taxpayers won't say 'what were they thinking?'

Your new council has been sworn in and I only hope that the learning curve for new council members is a short one. There are election promises and ideas that must now face reality. College Park does not control every aspect of our decisions. Other levels of government and agencies do. We must work with 'em and hope that we get the best results we can.

We have received that notice from Prince George's County about our municipal tax differential. This is a reduction in our property tax for government services that the city does and the county doesn't have to do. A whopping \$0.02, two cents. A convoluted formula is used to rate city versus county and a reduction is arrived at. Those towns that have police departments receive the largest and their local tax rate is higher even with the differential.

A survey on the proposed pedestrian overpass in North College Park has been done. My read of the results is that the City Council made the correct decision in asking for it. The developer of the old sand and gravel property will pay for it. Future generations will be able to cross over the railroad and the Metro tracks and have access to the new development on Mr. Smith's property.

There have been some serious fires in the area. Do you have a smoke detector? Does it work? Do you have an escape plan? Get out and stay out! Use all your common sense about fire prevention. Before you go in your house, look for your address – can you see it? How about your neighbors? The numerals should be large and in contrast to the background. (Gold on white doesn't get it.) It should be visible from the street, not obstructed by bushes or other things. Who

benefits? You do for emergencies and the UPS man (bringing your plain brown wrapped packages.)

See you Thursday at your meeting. May God continue to bless America.

p.s. That yellow dumpster at Holy Redeemer is for the Youth Group. They will accept newspapers. Just follow the directions. Thanks.

Snow and Sidewalks

While the city does a great job at clearing the snow from the roads (just see how fast College Park clears the locals streets compared to other areas), it is your responsibility to clear the snow from the sidewalk in front of your house. Keep those sidewalks safe for all of the walkers in the neighborhood. The city requires that sidewalks in front of properties be cleared within eight daylight hours after the end of the snowfall.

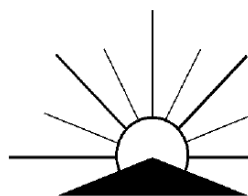
Free Preschool Education Fair

Parents: bring your soon-to-be preschoolers!

Back by popular demand, the Preschool Education Fair will be held Saturday, January 26, 2008 from 2-4 pm at the College Park Community Center on 5051 Pierce Avenue (in the Lakeland community).

The Preschool Education Fair is a great chance to meet teachers and parents from a wide variety of great preschool programs offered in the local area. This program is hosted by the College Park Education Advisory Committee and Joan Sicher, Subcommittee Chair. For more information, please call Stacey Baca, EAC Chair at 301-614-3922. For directions to the Community Center please call 301-441-2647. This is a free event.

Sponsored by the College Park Education Advisory Committee



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

On January 1st at approx. 6:30am, two cars were stolen from the 4900 block of Quebec Street. Both cars were Ford Crown Victoria police interceptors. One was white, with a broken passenger side mirror; the other car was black with license plates reading 4 U TIM. Please keep an eye out for these two vehicles.

We have asked District 1 Police if they can provide our neighborhood watch with any free steering wheel locks to use for auto theft prevention. They don't have any in stock at the moment, but are working on getting some. In the meantime, if you happen to have a steering wheel lock or some other theft prevention device that you are not using, please start using it. We need to take every possible precaution against auto theft. We'll keep you updated as to if and when District 1 is able to provide us with some anti theft devices.

As a reminder, do not leave your cars unattended while the engine is running. According to police, about a third of stolen vehicles have keys left in the ignitions while the driver waits indoors for the car to heat up or cool down. Police are issuing \$55 tickets, which is the penalty for leaving a running car unattended.

Another interesting note:
State Farm Insurance Company reports that the top ten most stolen vehicles of 2007 in Maryland by make, model and model year were:

1. 1994 Honda Accord
2. 1996 Dodge Caravan
3. 2000 Honda Civic
4. 1990 Toyota Camry
5. 2000 Dodge Intrepid
6. 1994 Plymouth Voyager
7. 1996 Jeep Cherokee/Grand Cherokee
8. 1997 Ford Taurus
9. 2001 Dodge Stratus
10. 1997 Ford Crown Victoria

Do some research online. Look up the make and model of the car you own and see for yourself where it falls on the list of top stolen vehicles.

Again, we'll keep you updated as to whether we can get some steering wheel locks from District 1.

For those of you interested in joining the Berwyn watch online group, send an email to:

Berwyn_neighborhood_watch-
subscibe@yahoogroups.com.

Happy New Year! -Gina

**Recent Items from the
BDCA Online Message Board**

Since not everyone is connected online, here are a few recent items from the Message Board where people are looking for help or which might be of general interest to the neighborhood:

Does anyone have an hour, a truck, and a smile to donate to the Berwyn community garden project? We are trying to obtain the compost tumbler at the abandoned Adelphi Road garden. But it's too big for our small cars.

Please contact berwyncommunitygarden@gmail.com

I'm wondering - what are the regulations for trimming overhanging trees. There are several from neighbors yards that are over the street and wires, but I don't want the power company to come hack them off flat. If I hired an arborist, would there be any issue with the city or district? Is this something that gets controlled?

No answer was posted, so if you know, contact the Berwyn News editor and he'll get it online and in the next newsletter.

If anyone knows anyone living at the Oasis Condominiums, please let me know. I think we should establish a contact with them and their condo organization. I have been trying through their management firm, Summit Management in Bethesda, but so far have been unsuccessful.

Again, if you can help, let the editor know, and he'll pass this information on to the appropriate person.

Join the new listserv for the Berwyn Community Garden. Sign up at:

<http://groups.google.com/group/berwyn-community-garden>

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 2 of the newsletter for dues information.



Information Provided by
Jerry Anzulovic
of Bright and Associates

Properties Sold or Rented (Berwyn 1, Branchville 0)

4816 Berwyn Road, \$460,000 (\$515,000), Kevin & Melanie Carter, Owner occupants, 1750 sf; ss \$0; DOM 114; SA Kathleen Brooks, Kathleen.brooks@longandfoster.com; SB Long & Foster Real Estate; Bethesda, MD, 20814; 301-215-6444.

Properties under Contract (Berwyn 11, Branchville 1)

4705 Greenbelt Road, \$449,000, William & Ellen Roberts, Absentee owners since 06/22/2006.
8306 Potomac Avenue, \$399,000, Donald Kirsch, Absentee owner since 10/27/1992.
8403 Potomac Avenue, \$407,000, Deborah Vanadia-Mims, Owner occupant since 12/12/1997.
4907 Quebec Street, \$415,000, Joshua & Valerie Durrant, Owner occupants since 07/30/2002.
8708 Rhode Island Avenue, \$425,000, Frances Darling, Owner occupant since 08/20/1970
4718 Ruatan Street, \$375,000, Jarred & Sue Hester, Owner occupants since 03/02/2005.
4702 Tecumseh Street, \$499,000, Ellen Roberts, Absentee owner since 11/08/2005.
4705 Tecumseh Street, #202, \$264,900, Stephen Tennant, Absentee owner since 06/17/2005.
4707 Tecumseh Street, #304, \$259,900, Stephen Tennant, Absentee owner since 06/17/2005.
4709 Tecumseh Street, #104, \$267,000, Stephen Tennant, Absentee owner since 06/17/2005.
4914 Tecumseh Street, \$149,000, (Building lot), 9228 sf, Ilhame Sefiani, Absentee owner since 02/11/2004
9002 48th Place, \$360,000, Lori & Kevin Taylor, Absentee owners since 08/19/2005.

Properties for Sale or Rent (Berwyn 11, Branchville 2)

4711 Berwyn Road, \$2,200/month, 5 BR, 3 BA, Shelley & Ina Kline, Absentee owners since 08/03/2004.
4802 Branchville Road, \$380,000, Thomas & Glenda Kines, Owner occupants since 02/01/1995.
4707 Greenbelt Road, \$499,000, William & Ellen Roberts, Absentee owners since 06/23/2006.
8400 Potomac Avenue, \$369,900, Scott Roberts, Absentee owner since 11/23/1998.
8514 Potomac Avenue, \$424,900, Rudolph Schwartz, Absentee owner since 08/05/2003.
***8520 Potomac Avenue**, \$349,900, Robert & Stephen Ford, Owner occupants since 10/01/2004.
***5000 Quebec Street**, \$370,000, Richard Fahey, Owner occupant since 06/05/1991.
5007 Quebec Street, \$349,900, Russell Dickerson, Owner occupant since 03/24/1988.
5009 Quebec Street, \$398,500, Robert & Linda Brown, Owner occupants since 03/09/2005.
4707 Tecumseh Street, #103, \$1,800/month, 2 BR, Bruce Weneck, Absentee owner since 10/11/2006.
4709 Tecumseh Street, #303, \$279,000, 2 BR, Michael Wright, Owner occupant since 08/16/2006.
8901 49th Avenue, \$349,900, Jose Zavala & Ana Aguilar, Absentee owners since 09/29/2005.
***8702 49th Avenue**, \$1,200/month, 2 BR, Karyn Keating-Volke, Absentee owner since 10/19/2005.

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.

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). See page 2 for details and get your ad in the December newsletter.

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*.