



The Berwyn News

Published by the Berwyn District Civic Association, Inc.



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www.myberwyn.org

June 2008

College Park/University of Maryland Fireworks - Friday, July 4th

A free concert and fireworks are on tap for Friday, July 4 beginning at 7 pm at the University of Maryland in Lot 1 adjacent to Campus Drive off Adelphi Road. Come enjoy all your favorite Rock and Roll tunes with The Fabulous Hubcaps.

Fireworks start at dusk - about 9 p.m. You can expect a 30 to 40 minute program. In case of rain, the fireworks show will be held Saturday, July 5. Concessions open at 5 p.m. offering hamburgers, hot dogs, funnel cakes, ice cream, snow cones, soda and bottled water. Grass seating is limited, so bring your lawn chairs and blankets. Personal coolers are also allowed.
Great family fun!

National Night Out Tuesday, August 5th

Join your neighbors as we celebrate the 25th annual National Night Out, a unique crime and drug prevention event. More details will be announced on the Neighborhood Watch email.

Berwyn Day Saturday, September 6th

It's time to mark your calendars for our annual neighborhood end-of-summer celebration. We'll have games, food, and fun at the neighborhood park. And while it's several months off, we don't have membership meetings or another newsletter before the event. We can also use your help before, during, and after Berwyn Day, so please contact Jerry if you can lend a hand sometime during the day.

Berwyn District Civic Association

Thursday, June 19, 2008
THIRD THURSDAY, 8-10 pm, Fealy Hall

1. Introductions
2. Officer Elections (and we are still looking for volunteers for some positions! Talk to any officer for information and get involved in your community!)
3. Awards presentation
4. BDCA officer reports
5. 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 *Berwyn News* goes on break over the summer, so THE NEXT ISSUE will be distributed on the weekend of **September 12th**. The deadline for articles & ads is **September 8th**.

And the next general membership meeting will be on Thursday, September 18th.

Have a great summer!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Jerry Anzulovic, jvamgnc1@verizon.net

What a hot time it has been over the last few days. I hope that the weather will turn a little cooler over the next few weeks. I know that the old timers here in Berwyn and Branchville used to say that this time of year this type of weather is good for corn and tobacco, but was hell on the horses and the women. I truly believe that because we shall be reaching five dollars a gallon very soon, very few of us will be going on any extended vacations this summer. I believe a lot of us will hang around the old homestead on our vacations, so maybe we can get to know each other a little bit better. If we have some brownouts and blackouts this summer, I believe we shall get to know each other a whole lot more.

This month's membership meeting is only having the annual election of the Association's officers and an award to a man who keeps on almost a daily basis the community looking better. I only wish I had his determination and drive. I can only tip my hat and thank Russell Robinette on behalf of all the residents of Berwyn and Branchville for his efforts to try and keep the old neighborhood a little bit tidier. As an aside, I do believe that there were less "move out piles" this year. Either the kids are staying with us longer or they are being more frugal. Whatever, when you see Russell and Robert on their almost daily mission, say thank you.

Berwyn Day is scheduled for Saturday, September 6th. You also will hear more about this over the summer. If anyone wants to help out give me a call. I already have one or two and will be seeking more. Maybe with everyone staying around home this summer we can have a nice relaxed Berwyn Day to celebrate the ending of summer. I am sure that we shall be visited by the campaigning politician or two. Also, plan on participating in the Neighborhood Watch's Night Out in August. It is a good time to walk with your neighbors and get to know a portion of the community that you maybe did not know existed before.

Here at Point Lookout Annex, a new prisoner has arrived. Her name is Weezie and she had a little rough time before she arrived here. The other two POWs have taken her under their paws so to speak and she has learned to shout insults at the proper unionist when they walk past the camp in their lordly manner. Well have a good summer and I hope to see all of you later on.

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!

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 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.

Don't let this be your last Berwyn News!!

Your editor needs to step down for a while, and we need a volunteer to take over starting with the September edition. It's an easy way to make a difference in your community, especially if you are already up to speed with word processing. Contact Bob Baca at cookwithbob@hotmail.com if you are interested, and he'll be happy to discuss the nuts and bolts of the position.

COUNCILMAN VIEWS AND COMMENTS

Bob Catlin

301-345-0742 or Catcprtc@aol.com

Greetings neighbors. Late last month the City Council passed the City's FY2009 budget. The budget narrowly passed by a vote of five in favor and three opposed. The proposal to about double City spending on police to a cost of about \$1 million a year finally succeeded in bringing out opposition to spending more money on policing. The opposition appears to be largely coming from neighborhoods which have not yet been impacted by crime. Time will tell as to whether or not the increased police spending in the adopted FY2009 budget will be at risk in future years. The adopted budget was unchanged from the revised budget that the Mayor and City Council largely agreed to in April. That budget was little changed from the budget the Mayor and City Council received from the City Manager in late March.

A groundbreaking ceremony has been scheduled for the City's parking garage on June 19th. If all goes as planned it will open in spring 2009. By the time you read this newsletter, I expect that the City Council will have passed an emergency ordinance permitting the City to abate tall grass on vacant properties. Currently the City has about 40 properties in some stage of foreclosure. Some of these properties are now or will soon become vacant. The entities foreclosing are often unable to maintain their "new" properties in a timely manner. The ordinance will allow the City to provide some basic yard maintenance; the costs of which we will recoup at a later time.

By the time you read this newsletter, I expect the City Council will have authorized the City Manager to sign a letter of intent with regards to the proposed East Campus project. The letter of intent will come with about \$60,000 from the developer so that the City can hire the expertise necessary to review the developer's proposal to have the City (and the County) participate in tax increment financing to help pay for infrastructure improvements and public parking. The East Campus developers expect to file a preliminary detailed site plan in early July. The City would explore the developer's East Campus proposal as part of a larger study of a tax assessment district which would also include the existing downtown area as well as the "Knox Box" residential area. The study is expected to be completed in early fall.

Frank Underwood, a long time Berwyn resident and a longtime member and officer of the Branchville Volunteer Fire Company and Rescue Squad, is being honored this month. Frank is expected to be elected President of the Maryland State Fireman's Association. Consequently, Tuesday, June 17th has been proclaimed by the City as Frank Underwood Day. Frank, as many of you are aware, is currently recuperating at his home on Ruatan Street following heart bypass surgery. We

wish Frank a speedy recovery and a successful year leading Maryland's fireman.

Dervey Lomax from Lakeland passed away on June 8th. Mayor Lomax served the City for most of the second half of the last century as a council member and also served a term as the Mayor of College Park. My tenure on the City Council began in December 1997 when I was elected to the council seat which Mr. Lomax retired from. Mr. Lomax was a major force in shaping College Park after the City's incorporation in 1945, first winning election to the City Council in 1957 and then serving the City in an elected capacity for about 30 of the next 40 years. My condolences go to Mr. Lomax's wife, Thelma and their family.

The BDCA will, for the second consecutive year, honor Russell Robinette for his major role in helping keep Berwyn litter free. In addition to many hours cutting grass and doing other chores for numerous Berwyn residents, Russell spends 15 to 20 hours a week picking up litter in our neighborhood. Russell makes a real difference to our quality of life in Berwyn. Please come to Thursday's BDCA meeting at Fealy Hall to help us thank Russell for his outstanding effort in improving Berwyn.

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.

We need you to be a BDCA volunteer! The BDCA is run completely by volunteers who strive to improve our lives in Berwyn. Is that goal of interest to you? Then volunteer as an officer for the next year. It doesn't require much time, and no experience is needed...only an interest to make Berwyn a wonderful place to live. Please talk to any current officer about getting involved.



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CITY COUNCIL MUSINGS

Jack Perry, 301-345-7526

Not a very exciting month at the city council. The budget was adopted for the fiscal year that will start in July. Yes, a tax increase was adopted. After a hearing of those residents who want a police force, overwhelmingly from the Old Town and Calvert Hills neighborhoods. The council adopted a budget with giveaways and perks to special groups. We've gone into the savings to balance the budget along with a tax increase for 'contract police' at an amount that is unknown at this time. The 'just throw money at it' prevailed.

Decisions about a new city hall and future funding for public works facilities have not been addressed, yet those decisions will have to be made at some time (and by made, I'm saying 'paid for').

Discussions about East Campus are ongoing. The developers are asking the city to take the lead on establishing a T.I.F. (tax increment financing) district. We are to sell \$180 million in bonds to be repaid over a very long time by the taxes generated by the development. Prince George's County will have to participate in the program as city taxes would not be sufficient to cover the debt.

All of the new trash trucks are now in the city and are or will be in service shortly. Single stream recycling is being phased in route by route (neighborhood by neighborhood).

Our summer population takes over now, and you and I get to enjoy our city without the inconvenience of the off-campus residents.

There have been some adjustments to the fees paid for rental properties. These absentee landlords are still not paying the full cost of the program. It is being subsidized by the rest of the property owners in the city and the council doesn't seem to care.

You and I are feeling the pressure of rising prices. Your city government is not exempt or immune, so running the city will cost more in terms of gas, oil, utilities, office products, and equipment. This will put a noticeable hit on the operations next year. Street paving alone is above what we anticipated.

You will continue to pay for an empty building on Calvert Road, pay Prince George's County twice for police protection and lots of quasi-governmental agencies will raise their fees and charges.

The neighborhood: Lots of renovations are underway. Some foreclosures are evident. If you can help by cutting the grass, the whole community will benefit. Do not fear to call an absentee landlord to take care of their property. Come out to the civic association on

Thursday and volunteer for an office or a committee. Bob and I are looking for folks to serve on city committees; Recreation, Cable TV, Better Environment, and Veterans Memorial.

Personal thanks to Bob Baca for his work on the newsletter. Sorry to see you go Bob (and this says that we need a new editor...wanna help?)

May God continue to bless this nation. See you on National Night Out and Berwyn Day later in the upcoming months.

Holy Redeemer Parish and



This program is a simple and free service for communities to use for paper recycling. The Holy Redeemer Abitibi Paper Retriever bin is located at the second Berwyn Road parking lot entrance. There is no charge to Holy Redeemer, but the more we recycle, the more funds we raise for Holy Redeemer School and Holy Redeemer Youth Group.

By participating in the Abitibi Paper Retriever Recycling Program, Holy Redeemer will:

- Earn money for Holy Redeemer School and Holy Redeemer Youth Group,
- Save on the costs of solid waste disposal and divert paper from local landfills,
- Teach young people the importance of environmental stewardship.

We need ALL of your: Newspapers, magazines, catalogs, office & school papers, and mail

DO NOT include: Plastic, glass, metals, trash, or CARDBOARD

Please participate in this program, as the church supports the BDCA with meeting rooms, equipment, and much more each and every year.

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

Gina had commitments that prevented her from writing this column, so your editor has taken the liberty of providing some updates.

Many of our student neighbors have left the neighborhood for the summer. Please keep an eye on any empty houses near you. While they may not have any people in them, there still may be items of interest to potential burglars. And if burglars are looking into your neighbor's home, they are probably looking into yours as well. Be sure to report any strangers checking out unoccupied homes to the non-emergency police number.

With the warmer weather and longer days, we've had our share of minor crimes, mostly thefts from cars and open homes. People have been wondering once again whether or not certain unusual activities should be reported to the non-emergency police number. Your rule of thumb should be that if it's unusual or suspicious to you, call it in. Let the police decide what to do...that's their job and they are trained to handle such situations. If you wait, you risk letting a crime take place under your nose. And if you are wrong, you've simply let another patrol car ride through our neighborhood. The non-emergency number is 301-333-4000.

Some of you have asked about photos that were mentioned in recently Neighborhood Watch emails, but did not seem to be part of the email. Depending on how you access your emails, you might not get attached photos from the Neighborhood Watch postings. But they are available at the Berwyn Neighborhood Watch web site. To access it, go to www.myberwyn.org/watch.htm. Click on the link to the watch email, and after you log in, you'll be able to see any posting photos.

For those interested in joining the Berwyn watch online group, send an email to Berwyn_neighborhood_watch-subscibe@yahoo.com.

Got Mosquitoes?

Those biting insects of summer are back in force, particularly with the warm, wet weather we've had recently. One of the best ways to control mosquitoes is to get rid of standing water on your property. They only need a tiny bit to survive, so clean out your gutters, drain trash cans, and empty out those flower pots.

Summer Baseball is back in College Park!



COLLEGE PARK BOMBERS

Looking for a fun, nearby, and inexpensive way to head to the ballpark? Head on over to the University of Maryland to see the College Park Bombers play! They are part of the Cal Ripken, Sr. Collegiate Baseball League and will be playing games on campus from now through July.

Gates open at 6:15 pm, and games start at 7:30 pm. All seats are general admission. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$3 for kids ages 6-12, and free for kids under 6 (or over 60, or in uniform, or with an 'A' on their report card).

You can get more information and buy tickets online at: www.collegeparkbombers.org.

New Trail at Lake Artemesia

Have you seen the new birding trail around Lake Artemesia? If not, be sure to get out for a walk about the lake, a real local treasure. There are new informational signs around the lake, maps, and a guide on the types of birds found in the area.

The College Park Farmer's Market

Every Saturday through October, you can get fresh produce, honey, breads, flowers, and more at your local Farmer's Market. They are open from 7 am to noon at the Wells Ice Rink/Linson Swimming Pool (and those in the know get there early for the best and freshest selection). The watermelons were wonderful recently, and the berry season is going strong.

Remember, no newsletters or meetings until September. The BDCA goes on break for July and August. But keep watching your emails and the BDCA online message board for activities that will pop up over the summer.



Information Provided by
Jerry Anzulovic
of Bright and Associates

Properties Sold or Rented (Berwyn 1, Branchville 1)

- 8708 Rhode Island Avenue**, \$ 370,000, (\$425,000), 5 BR, 2 BA, 2022 sf, SS \$0, DOM 276, Felipe & Isabel Urquilla, Absentee owners, 5106 Berwyn Road, 301-345-4940, SA Dorothy Heymann, dorothyheyman@fairfaxrealty.com, SB Fairfax Realty, Hillandale, MD, 20902, 301-439-9500.
- 9008 48th Place**, \$400,000, (\$415,000), 6 BR, 2 BA, 1152 sf, SS \$0, DOM 62, Thomas Baugher, Absentee owner, 4700 Bready Road, Rockville, MD, 20853, 301-570-9292, SA Danny DeAngelo, deangelod@msn.com, SB Weichert Realtors, Upper Marlboro, MD, 20772, 301-249-4844.

Properties under Contract (Berwyn 2, Branchville 0)

- ***8520 Potomac Avenue**, \$349,900, Robert & Stephen Ford, Owner occupants since 10/01/2004.
- 4914 Tecumseh Street**, \$149,000, (Building lot), 9228 sf, Ilhame Sefiani, Absentee owner since 02/11/2004.

Properties for Sale or Rent (Berwyn 15, Branchville 1)

- 5055 Berwyn Road**, \$329,000, 4 BR, 2½ BA, Tanya Walentowicz, Absentee owner since 07/22/1997.
- 4705 Greenbelt Road**, \$449,000, William & Ellen Roberts, Absentee owners since 06/22/2006.
- * **4707 Greenbelt Road**, \$449,900, William & Ellen Roberts, Absentee owners since 06/23/2006.
- 4805 Greenbelt Road**, \$175,000, Michael Bailey, Absentee owner since 03/02/2007.
- 4904 Osage Street**, \$355,000, Matthew & Monika Nuhse, Owner occupants since 02/01/2005.
- 8407 Patuxent Avenue**, \$365,000, Richard & Donna Burns, Owner occupants since 07/18/1983.
- 8400 Potomac Avenue**, \$369,900, Scott Roberts, Absentee owner since 11/23/1998.
- 5007 Quebec Street**, \$349,900, Russell Dickerson, Owner occupant since 03/24/1988.
- 5004 Roanoke Place**, \$350,000, 6 BR, 3 BA, Jose & Aurelia Cruz, Owner occupants since 02/17/2006.
- 4702 Tecumseh Street**, \$350,000, Alfredo G. Orozco, Owner occupant since 05/02/2006.
- 4705 Tecumseh Street, #102**, \$219,922, Vinnett Riley-Baptiste, Owner occupant since 10/30/2006.
- 4705 Tecumseh Street, #301**, \$259,900, Sushil Goel & Suraiya Moin, Owner occupants since 08/16/2007.
- 4709 Tecumseh Street, #104**, \$220,000, 2 BR, 2 BA, Sonia Mercado-Caceres & Delsa Mercado, Owner occupants since 06/28/2007.
- * **4709 Tecumseh Street, #303**, \$259,000, 2 BR, Michael Wright, Owner occupant since 08/16/2006.
- 8901 48th Avenue**, \$349,900, Jose Zavala & Ana C. Aguilar, Absentee owners since 09/29/2005.
- 8702 49th Avenue**, \$1150 per month, 2 BR, 1 BA basement apartment, Karen 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 them in the next issue of the *Berwyn News*.