

The Berwyn News

Published by the Berwyn District Civic Association, Inc.



(ISSN 10619-515X)

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

Volume 15, Issue 3

www.myberwyn.org

March 2007

Take Five – Free Performances at UMD

The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center presents a free performance series on select Tuesdays. At 5:30pm, a line-up of innovative artists not only performs, but also interacts with the audience about their journey into the creative process. Visit www.claricesmithcenter.umd.edu for more information.

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

Neighborhood Clean-up

Save some time during the last weekend in April for our annual neighborhood cleanup. Look for details in the April newsletter.

Berwyn District Civic Association Meeting

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

1. Roll Call for Officers, Minutes from last meeting
2. Presentation on College Park's Youth and Family Services and Seniors programs
3. Treasurer Update
4. Committee Updates
5. Civic Association Updates
6. College Park Reports from our Council Representatives
7. New Business
8. Adjournment

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 **April 14th**. The deadline for articles & ads is **April 9th**.

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

Bits and Pieces of Berwyn and Branchville,

Part 9. (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

About 1915, a young graduate of Princeton University, William A. Eisenberger, was appointed minister of our Berwyn Presbyterian Church. A good athlete, he had been the star pitcher for his college baseball team. With such a background, he had no difficulty in gaining our enthusiastic cooperation on every project. When he began the building of a tennis court, we all pitched in to help. The posts for the wire backstops, I feel compelled to admit, were all pilfered – without Mr. Eisenberger’s knowledge – from old man Goodkey’s large piece of woods. (the top of the hill between 48th & 49th Avenue south of Berwyn Road JVA) Those posts lasted for years and served a good Christian purpose.

Kids are surely perverse little animals, though. Some of the same gang who helped build the tennis court spirited away a couple of newly constructed outhouses, built for the church convention, and carried the lumber to Indian Creek. There, over a period of several weeks, a row boat was laboriously put together and was propelled by current some three miles down stream. Who knows – if it hadn’t sprung a leak on some rocks, we might have reached the Anacostia River, and thence the Potomac, Chesapeake Bay, and the Atlantic Ocean. As it was, we had a long walk through the woods to home and just reward at the dinner table.

Many years later, the carpenter who had built the outhouses, John Hall, was hunting rabbits with my older brother and Fritz clued him in on the twenty year mystery. They both had a good laugh and John was able to sleep better that night.

I suppose I have done many other wrong things in my life, but never anything that I did not know was wrong, thanks to Mr. Eisenberger’s Christian teachings. He had a large following with all segments of the youth of the community. Before Christian Endeavor services on Sunday evening, he was a happy participant in the game, “Baby In The Hat,” and when the tennis ball was dropped into his cap, he’d bury it into you fleeing backside with great glee.

“Come on fellows, we’ve had a lot of fun. It’s time for services,” and the whole sweaty entourage would enter the church to listen. Some part of my back or bottom was, more often than not, still smarting from the impact of that tennis ball, but his unerring aim gave greater respect to his teachings.

Following service as a chaplain in World War 1, he went on to bigger and more prosperous churches. However, when my father – who was not a church member – died, Mr. Eisenberger returned to Berwyn to conduct the funeral service. When I last saw him, he was 86, but he still laughed heartily, spoke clearly, and remembered well. He called me “one of his boys” – what a high compliment.

Mrs. John Hall, a skilled seamstress whose services were much in demand, taught my Sunday School class. Later on she sewed to the sleeve of my Boy Scout coat most of the 38 merit badges I earned. She always refused the offers for payment. She and her husband, John, had an only child, Mildred, but they did a superior job of raising her. Mildred was confidential secretary to Mrs. Herbert Hoover, during he years in the White House and traveled widely with the First Lady.

And then there was Mrs. Viles – a little old lady as full of ideas as a cook book and busier than an astronaut with an emergency situation in a space ship. Every Thursday morning during the summer, she ran the “Light Bearers” program in the Presbyterian Sunday School room, keeping small boys and girls busy at all sorts of craft work. I didn’t particularly like to go to “Light Bearers” on a hot summer’s morning. My leaning tended more toward the swimming hole or gigging pike in the creek with a home made harpoon. In retrospect, though, the value of the program becomes apparent. Along with the crafts, she taught hymns and Bible passages, and the Twenty Third Psalm remains with me to this day. The virtues of regular attendance, interest, effort, and workmanship – too widely neglected today – were suitably noted with commensurate reward, perhaps on of Mrs. Viles small oil or water color paintings.

It was rather amazing, actually, how many fine, solid and successful citizens came from what some people might call a hick community. One suspects that the emphasis placed there upon character development played a major role in the end product.

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,

At the February Berwyn District Civic Association (BDCA) meeting we heard a presentation from David Diddio, one of the authors of the website "Rethink College Park" (www.rethinkcollegepark.net/blog/). David gave an overview of the website he edits along with his co-editor Rob Goodspeed. The site includes a blog (A blog is a user-generated website where entries are made in journal style and displayed in a reverse chronological order) that provides commentary or news on development issues that impact College Park. The need for this web site is in part due to the concern that College Park residents don't know what development is planned for their community until ground has been broken. The website is, according to Mr. Diddio, an opportunity for College Park residents and students to "get on the same page." Students in the School of Architecture at the University of Maryland have draw up plans for development in College Park that reflect what students would like to see. So far, there have been 140 posts made. The website includes a link to a Library page, which includes "a listing of all the relevant documents that are the building blocks" of the site. The library page is factual only. The blog part of the website is constantly updated and includes pictures. Everyone who works on the site is a student. In order to post on the site, your first comments have to be approved by the website staff. Subsequent posts are not vetted. The site gets 150–200 hits every weekday. Approximately 40% of the hits are by College Park residents and 40% are by students.

At this month's board meeting the main discussion was about whether or not the BDCA should support the construction of the purple line. The Purple Line is a proposed light rail transit line that will cross over College Park south of our neighborhood. It will connect Bethesda, Silver Spring, College Park and New Carrollton. While there was general consensus that some form of public intra-county transportation is needed to improve the difficult east-west commute, it was not clear that the proposed purple line would solve the problem. So, the board members decided that the next step would be to invite an expert to come out to a future BDCA public meeting to explain how the purple line will work. At that point the BDCA will take a vote of its members to decide what position, if any we would like to take in regards to the proposed purple line.

This month's meeting will be held on Thursday, March 15 at 8pm in Fealy Hall (4902 Berwyn Road). Peggy Higgins, College Park's Director of Community Resources, will make a presentation at next month's meeting about College Park's Youth and Family Services and Seniors programs. The last weekend in

April is our annual clean-up the neighborhood weekend and hopefully soon afterward we will have our new park equipment and can celebrate with a big pot luck dinner in the park. My tip for this month is to not wait until the end of April, but start you spring cleaning now, so that by spring Berwyn will be the neighborhood we all deserve.

CITY COUNCIL MUSINGS

Jack Perry, 301-345-7526

We are moving ever so slowly on the downtown redevelopment. This includes the parking garage and then the relocation of the City Hall. We will probably have to have a temporary location while a new City Hall is built. The current site will be redeveloped with condos and some commercial at street level. No exact plans are on the table. The developer must decide if the project is a go for him. He has gotten a market study and is evaluating those recommendations to see if they fit his projections for a doable project. He is in it to make money.

College Park could have been further along if the "silly council" hadn't spent an inordinate amount of time on the City Hall site selection process. The only good thing is that by the time we are ready to sell our condos, a new market may be available. The hope is that these condos will not be for students.

Your site staff is working on the FY08 budget. I have submitted my wish list for projects I hope that the manager can find room (read money) for in his submission to the Council. Some are old, some are new, most of them are in District #2, and others are throughout the city. I am a basic man and only suggested things that are in keeping with the reason, I believe, for a city government.

I'm not aware of any new lawsuits against the city and those that are pending are being addressed by the city's attorney and our insurance companies as necessary.

Snow on Sunday is expensive, as it cost more to being in employees on Sunday I told you that winter would be back. My thanks and kudos go out to the city employees for the job they did (and continue to do every day) (heartily seconded by the editor – rmb).

The mayor has convinced the Council that the city should go begging for money from other levels of government. We are asking Congressman Hoyer's office to get us money for the parking garage. We are also taking the lead in asking for a study of the Paint Branch Creek (which is already being studied by the Corp of Engineers). I don't think that we should take the lead...we should let Prince George's County and the Park and Planning Commission do that, support their request, and notify the Congressmen and Senators of

our support for this project to protect the Anacostia River and the Bay.

There are some grand ideas and plans for the complete renovations of DuVal Field on Rhode Island Avenue. This was overhauled once before with federal block grant monies. Now we are doing an end run, using the Boys and Girls Club to get a Maryland state bond to help us with this project. Some of the money already earmarked for this project will come to the city from the developer of the Greenbelt Metro land as a proffer. Along with city funds we will rebuild this facility to the tune of a million dollars.

This will all take place while our own Public Works employees use a portable classroom-type building as their main office and bathrooms and lunch room. If you would like to see how they are treated, stop by Public Works and ask to see the ready room or foreman's office and lavatory and locker room facility.

Development at Springhill Lake and the Metro Station at Greenbelt will put the elementary and middle schools in the area under a greater strain than they are now. We are working with the surrounding cities and towns to address this as it will affect the children in College Park.

See you Thursday. Tell us if you see or saw the new meeting signs. Visit us on the web. May God continue to bless this great nation.

– 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 5 of the newsletter for dues information.

COUNCILMAN VIEWS AND COMMENTS

Bob Catlin

301-345-0742 or Catcprtc@aol.com

Greetings neighbors. Spring must be just around the corner as it appears global warming is to blame for daylight savings time beginning earlier starting this year. On Saturday, March 31st, the Mayor and Council will meet at City Hall all day (8am to 5pm) to review the City Manager's proposed budget for FY2008 (July 07- June 08). The public is invited to watch. A second Saturday meeting will likely be necessary later in April. After generally lean revenue years my first 7 years on the City Council, the past two years have seen strong revenue growth on a number of fronts and with our rising property assessments, especially for commercial property, for this year and the following two years we are likely to continue to experience strong revenue

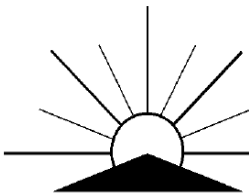
growth, even before economic development is factored in.

We are nearing decision time on our Downtown Development Project. A downtown parking garage and some retail, too and a relocation of City Hall await a decision after we see the calculations of our staff and consultants and Capstone, our development partner. While the process has drug out longer than we expected we have been fortunate that the Friend's School, which is housed in a City property on Calvert Road, is going to be a year late in moving out of our facility into their new building south of Westchester Park. As a result we collected about \$120,000 more in rent than we expected.

The City voted last month to oppose PDC Campfire's subdivision plan for the 1.3 acre site behind the bowling alley/Pizza Hut. In the end PDC Campfire reduced their proposed number of units down from 300 to about 180. That still would have resulted in an eight-story building that would cover virtually the entire parcel of land. The Planning Board approved the subdivision plan, but agreed to make its approval very clear that its decision did not signify that a developer would be entitled to build at that density when it came time to act on a detailed site plan. While we lost the vote, we got a lengthy discussion of the issues with the Planning Board and its staff. As a result, I know that they recognize the validity of our issues, even though they found it premature to try to resolve them at this stage in the process.

The "For Sale" signs have come down from the former auto parts store on Berwyn Road, adjacent to Route 1. So perhaps we will see some activity there this spring. With the renovation of the old carpet store into a Rita's (Italian ice and ice cream) up the street and JPI working to gain approval for a \$110 million project a little further north at Cherokee Street, Route 1 may be poised to begin shedding its 1950s look by year's end.

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



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BERWYN NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH
Janeen Miller (janeenmiller@juno.com)

School Bus Safety #1:

Last month, in the Riverdale Park area, there were two incidents of a man exposing himself to young girls (ages 12 and 14) as they waited for their morning school bus. The man pulled up in a car and asked each girl a question, then exposed himself while they spoke. Police gave a lookout of a black male driving a silver vehicle, perhaps a Toyota. Please advise your school age children to be cautious. Both incidents occurred only a short distance from an elementary or middle school.

School Bus Safety #2:

Did you notice the County Police message board on Berwyn Road reminding drivers to stop when you see a school bus loading and unloading children? This is because we had an incident on Berwyn Road last month where the driver of a black two-door sedan failed to do so. My kids had just crossed in front of the school bus when the car went past. Please think about what you're doing and take extra care around school buses.

School Bus Safety #3:

Do you ever wonder what the laws are regarding driving behind a school bus while it is loading? The rule is that if you are within 20 feet of the rear of a school bus, you must stop. So, if the bus is loading or unloading passengers on a perpendicular street, within 20 feet of an intersection, you must not travel through the intersection. When in doubt, just stop.

Robbery: There was a robbery at the Best Western Hotel on February 8 at about 10:45 p.m. A suspect entered the Best Western posing as a customer and inquired about renting a room. The Suspect handed the desk clerk a note demanding money. At the same time the suspect leaned over the counter and implied that he had a weapon. Fearing for her safety the clerk complied and gave the suspect money. The suspect then fled out of the hotel, walked out the back of the lot and crossed Route 1 toward the 7-11. Surveillance Photos are posted on the neighborhood website.

Have you joined the Neighborhood Watch e-mail list? To do so, send a message to:

**Berwyn_neighborhood_watch-
subscribe@yahoogroups.com**

Please report all suspicious activity to the Prince George's County Police non-emergency number at 301-333-4000, and to the Berwyn Neighborhood Watch at:

Berwyn_neighborhood_watch@yahoogroups.com

For items needing the attention of the Contract Police (non-immediate in nature), please contact the Department of Public Services at 301-864-8877.

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:
*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.



Information Provided by
Jerry Anzulovic
of Bright and Associates

Properties Sold or Rented (Berwyn 6, Branchville 0)

- 5065 Berwyn Road**, \$315,000, (\$315,000), Jose Ortiz, Absentee owner, 10117 Phoebe Lane, Adelphi, MD, 20783, 1320 sf, DOM 72, SS \$0, SA Brenda Benton, Brendabenton@mrisc.com, SB Realty Executives/2000, Beltsville, MD, 20705, 301-937-7999.
- 8409 Potomac Avenue**, \$395,000, (\$399,900), Hector & Marie Caballero, Absentee owners, 8766 Cloudleap Court, Columbia, MD, 443-319-5549, 1053 sf, DOM 125, SS \$11,850, SA Lisa Brady, lisa.brady@longandfoster.com, SB Long & Foster Real Estate, Inc., Silver Spring, MD, 20904, 301-388-2600.
- 5102 Roanoke Place**, \$385,470, (\$245,000), Santos Landeverde, Absentee owner, 5313 Taylor Road, Riverdale Park, MD, 20737-2062, Unlisted phone, 1312 sf, DOM ?, SS ?, SA ?, SB ?
- 4707 Tecumseh Street, 204**, \$275,000, (\$275,000), William O'Neil, Owner occupant, 2 BR, DOM 78, SS \$200, SA Jose Casanez, acasanez@cbmove.com, SB Coldwell Banker, Washington, DC, 20009, 202-387-6180.
- 4709 Tecumseh Street, 204**, \$250,000, (\$282,900), Jong Sun Suh, Absentee owner, 7024 Buxton Terrace, Bethesda, MD, 20817, 301-229-5502, 2 BR, DOM 276, SS \$0, SA Judy Shin, Judy@mrisc.com, SB Weichert, Realtors, Rockville, MD, 20852, 301-468-1600.
- 4709 Tecumseh Street, 303**, \$275,400, (\$272,900), Michael Wright, Owner occupant, 2 BR, DOM 83, SS \$27,290, SA Mary Charters, mcharters@kw.com, SB Keller Williams Realty, Gaithersburg, MD, 20878, 301-978-9775.

Properties under Contract (Berwyn 26, 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, 5 units**, \$199,000-\$267,000, Stephen Tennant, Absentee owner since 06/17/2005.
- * **4709 Tecumseh Street, 8 units**, \$264,000-\$277,900, 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)

- 4703 Berwyn Road**, \$1,500,000, Quality Enterprises, Absentee owners since 06/28/2001
- 5031 Berwyn Road**, \$320,000, Jeffrey & Lesa Kline, Absentee owners since 12/21/1995.
- 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.
- 8402 48th Avenue**, \$1,975 per month, MGA Management Company, Absentee owner.

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.