



## BIRCHWOOD-CLEARVIEW

# NEWSLETTER

**"A Community That Cares" AUGUST 2023 EDITION**

Published by Birchwood-Clearview Community Association, Inc. (BCCA)

P.O. Box 7, Oxon Hill, MD 20745

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### COMMUNITY CONTACT INFORMATION

- **Prince George's County Police: For Emergency dial 911, non-emergency, dial 301-352-1200.**
- **Request services from Prince George's County: dial 311 or download the mobile Apps PGC311 at [https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.connectedbits.connectedcounty311&hl=en\\_US&gl=US](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.connectedbits.connectedcounty311&hl=en_US&gl=US)**
- **Use of Birchwood Park Building – Dial 301-699-2255**



## UPCOMINGEVENTS

**Community-Wide Meeting – Thursday, August 17, 2023, 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM, for all who live in the Birchwood-Clearview Community. Please join us in-person at the Birchwood Recreation Community Center, address: 1331 Fenwood Avenue, Oxon Hill, MD 20745.**

### PRIMARY AGENDA:

1. Prince George's Police Dept – Cpl. Dorian Johnson, COP Representative for our community
2. Assist Seniors with Completing 2023 Senior Property Tax Credit Application
3. 311 Report Update
4. Comments/Questions – Community Residents

**You are invited to attend!**

(Continuation from Upcoming Events)

**Saturdays at 9 a.m. (unless cancelled)** – Fitness in Birchwood Park with Planet Fitness Coach Will Chamber. Please come out and let's get fit together!

**Starting Saturday, August 12, 2023 thru September 2023 (Saturdays Only) - Free Assistance Completing the 2023 New Elderly Property Tax Credit Application for Seniors 65 and older.** If you would like to volunteer, contact Elton Jones @ eltonbjones@aol.com.

**Southern Regional Technology and Recreation Complex**

7007 Bock Rd, Fort Washington, MD 20744

Time: 10am to 1pm

### From the Desk of BCCA President, *Sylvia Griffin*



#### ***TRANSFORM YOUR THINKING!***

**Building Bridges:** What an impact and the ripple effect volunteering can have on our communities. It plays a pivotal role in strengthening the fabric of our society. As I stated in our July's meeting "**VOLUNTEERS ARE THE GLUE TO OUR COMMUNITY.**"

Through selfless acts of kindness, volunteers address local challenges, help with bringing resources, and uplift the underprivileged such as in our schools, homeless shelters, our parks and more; owing the growth and vibrancy to the dedication of service-minded individuals. Let Birchwood-Clearview residents become a catalyst for positive change, demonstrating that a collective effort can create a significant impact here in the South County of Prince George's Maryland. Let us nurture a sense of unity and cooperation, which will foster an environment where everyone can thrive.

**Call to Action:** I invite every one of you to join us on this journey in making our Birchwood-Clearview community a better place to live so we can amplify the impact of our efforts and make a difference in the lives of those around us. If you have a few hours to spare or can contribute specialize skills, it will be greatly appreciated. Just remember, even the smallest acts of kindness can create a ripple effect that can and will **TRANSFORM LIVES!**

Let's get the power of unity and community service to build a brighter future for all!

From BCCA Membership Committee Chair, *Gloria Hernandez Saunders*



Thank you so very much for **50** residents that have joined **Birchwood-Clearview Community Association (BCCA)**. If you did not send in your membership for calendar year 2023, it's not too late. Please join using the attached form on the last page.

Please join us for the purpose of not only benefitting your community, but also for the good feeling from a sense of serving others. If you would like to join the Membership Committee to help me, please email me at [army320@verizon.net](mailto:army320@verizon.net)

**Your Membership Dues Have Contributed to the Following Community Benefits--And Much, Much More:**

- Thousands of dollars in scholarships provided to our youth to further their education;
- Newsletter-Printing & Distribution - keeping you abreast and up to date on what's going on in the neighborhood, including state and county impact;
- Maryland officials' spending over \$3 million to build sound/safety barriers along the Capital Beltway near the Birchwood-Clearview Community;
- Street Cleaning supplies- the people you see walking with trash bags and picker uppers and mowing the entrance are keeping our community clean; County-Wide Growing Green with Pride Clean-Up Projects;
- Walking Trail, tennis and basketball courts, the pavilion, and the upcoming new playground at Birchwood Park;
- Tree planting throughout the community under Prince George's County "Right Place/Right Tree Program;"
- Community Center activities & senior activities: teen and adult Valentine dances, Halloween parties, exercise classes and chronic disease management and healthy eating classes;
- Community Days, annual holiday events including Family Breakfast/Dinner with Santa;
- Food/Coat Drives (in support of local Food Banks/Shelters); Holiday Basket Distributions and much, much more.

From BCCA Ways and Means Committee Chair, *Sharon Sims-Colbert*



**Ms. Michelle Ross and Ms. Sharon Sims-Colbert**



Our very own, Ms. Michelle Ross and Ms. Sharon Sims-Colbert received Prince George's County **"Red Jacket"** Community Service Awards. Red Jacket recipients are nominees who partner to address issues within their community and engage and uplift their neighbors. Check out this [video](#) of Ms. Ross and Ms. Sims-Colbert talk about how they support each other and their community and what being nominees meant to them.

***Birchwood Recreation Center Playground Groundbreaking*** – As many of you know the original ground breaking target date for the new playground groundbreaking at Birchwood Park was extended to December 2023 – January 2024. However, we recently learned from MNCPPC representatives, in our July's BCCA Meeting, additional funding is required for an entry way to Birchwood Park which would require more funding. We are working with County Stakeholders to resolve this issue and will submit an update soon. Stay tune....

***It would be an oversight if I did not mention these things that make a difference in "Our Community"***

1. Become a Member!!
2. Encourage a neighbor to join the newsletter distribution list.
3. Get Involved!! You may not be able to join a Committee however you can volunteer at an event.
4. Use the BCCA email to communicate with any Officer or Committee Chair. Knowledge is Power!!

**If you are interested in serving on the Ways and Means Committee, please contact me at [sharon.sims2@verizon.net](mailto:sharon.sims2@verizon.net)**

## From BCCA Beautification Committee Chair, *Betty Woods*



Hello Neighbors,

I want to give a shout out to the many families who've been busy sprucing up their lawn care, thus, beautifying our awesome community. As I drive throughout the community, I'm awed and amazed at the beauty of your lawns. Kudos to you and keep it going!

A little reminder... if you're disposing of a **mattress or box spring, it must be encased in plastic**, otherwise no pickup will take place. Also, your yard debris, leaves, grass clippings etc., will not be picked up if you bag it in plastic. If you see a neighbor doing either, please gently inform them of these rules.

Please keep your dogs on a leash and carry poop bags to clean up after them.

Continue to enjoy the waning days of summer and keep those yards **POPPIN!**

## From BCCA Hospitality Committee Chair, *Lottie McCoy*



**BCCA Hospitality Committee serves you.** In cooperation with other BCCA committees, we coordinate refreshments for meetings, community days, recreational activities and other Association events. For additional information or to let me know that you want to join me and help serve, please email me at [lottie.mccoy@icloud.com](mailto:lottie.mccoy@icloud.com)

### **TRANSPORTATION FOR SENIORS IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY**

**Nutrition Program:** Senior County residents may receive free transportation to strategically located group sites for a nutritional lunch and companionship. Senior residents who are homebound, and cannot attend a nutrition site, may be eligible to have meals delivered to their residence.

**Medical Program:** County seniors and residents with disabilities may receive transportation throughout the County for medical purposes, especially dialysis.

**General Transportation:** Limited transportation is provided for County seniors to visit senior activity centers, for shopping trips, and other recreational purposes.

For further information on these programs, please call 301-499-8603 or click on the link <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/1100/Senior-Transportation-Services>.



From BCCA Education Committee Acting Chair, Michelle Ross



## Doris Saunders Community Scholarship 2023 - 2024 Academic Year Due Date Extended

**Calling all College Bound Students** - The Birchwood/Clearview Manor Community Association (BCCA) in collaboration with our residents want to celebrate passionate, college-bound students, as you prepare to take the next step on your journey to greatness! We are looking for dedicated students, leaders, students that have given back to their community or a leader in school! The bottom line is that we want to reward students who have excelled both in and outside of the classroom. If this sounds like you, please keep reading!

The ***Doris Saunders Scholarship***, in the amount of \$400.00, is in honor and loving memory of a valued, beloved community member and volunteer who served her community. We want to continue in the tradition of paying it forward and honor students who have given back to the community and will continue to "give back" to their community. Two deserving students will receive the scholarship, based on merit, leadership and commitment to community.

### **Qualifications to Apply:**

- 1) Graduated from high school in May/June 2023;
  - 2) is a current Birchwood/Clearview Manor resident;
  - 3) is planning to enroll in an accredited undergraduate program for the 2023 - 2024 Academic school year; and,
  - 4) Must have a grade point average of 2.75
- Proof of all qualifications will be required, if selected.

The ***Doris Saunders Scholarship*** recipients will be selected by a committee, based on the following:

- 1) Participation and leadership in the community (including church and/or place of worship) and high school leadership activities (list your activities in your submission); and
- 2) Submission of a 200-word essay: "Why higher education and community involvement are important in the 21st Century."

Applicants' submission date August 5, 2023, has been extended. Entries should be submitted to the 2023 BCCA Scholarship Committee, no later than **August 31, 2023. Please include your address, phone number, e-mail and Parent/Guardian contact information.** The scholarship proceeds will be paid directly to your institution to assist with books or tuition. If you are selected, you will be notified by e-mail and will be honored at a future Birchwood/Clearview Manor Community meeting. And, your essay will be shared in the BCCA Newsletter.

On behalf of all the dedicated members of the Birchwood/Clearview Manor Community Association and the family of Doris Saunders, we wish you good luck! If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Ross at [Ross063012@gmail.com](mailto:Ross063012@gmail.com).

## From BCCA Publicity Committee Chair, *Veda Dixon*



If it was your first time, or first time in a longtime, attending July's BCCA meeting, give yourself a hand! We were excited to see new faces and old ones too! We all play a part in our community and as BCCA's President stated: **"VOLUNTEERS ARE THE GLUE TO OUR COMMUNITY."**

With that said, we need volunteers to serve on various committee chairs; as the Committee Chair or a Committee Member. Take a look at the various committees listed on the membership form, last page. If you're interested or need more information on what each committee does, contact me [veda4533@icloud.com](mailto:veda4533@icloud.com).

### **Events Hosted**

July 20, 2023 - **BCCA's Farewell Celebration for the Merrill Family!** The Merrill Family who is relocating from our community to New York, was celebrated at our July's BCCA's Meeting. BCCA President, Sylvia Griffin, presented a gift and a Certificate of Appreciation to the Merrill Family. Marriner and his wife, Christine, and some of their children were in attendance. On behalf of the community, Ms. Griffin expressed great appreciation for the service and care the entire family provided to our community. She named a few of them, including Marriner's serving as BCCA President and as the Youth Committee Chair, the entire family mowing and cleaning up the entrance to our community on an ongoing basis, delivering BCCA Newsletter, shoveling snow for residents, and last but not least going door-to-door singing Christmas Carols and giving out homemade cookies. Your presence will truly be missed.



Pictures celebrating the Merrill Family

## **What's New**

**Free Notary Service for Birchwood-Clearview Seniors 65 and Older.** BCCA's Secretary, Wanda Gross, is offering notary service. You may contact her at (301) 247-8926 or via email [mommy1954.wg@gmail.com](mailto:mommy1954.wg@gmail.com).

**BCCA's New Email for 311 Reports, Suggestions and Concerns** – BCCA has initiated a new email address [bccaconcerns@gmail.com](mailto:bccaconcerns@gmail.com) for neighbors to solicit their suggestions and/or concerns to BCCA at any time, not just in our monthly meeting. Also, BCCA Vice President, Elton Jones, is keeping track of the Prince George's County 311 Reports. Therefore, after you have submitted a 311 Report (with picture(s), if possible) and receive a report number, please submit your 311 Report number and picture(s) to the email above. BCCA will do what it can to address your concerns and/or suggestions. Thank you!

**New Elderly Property Tax Credit Application?** This new credit, effective July 1, 2023, will provide up to a 20% credit of the County property taxes, inclusive of any Homeowners and Homestead Tax Credit, for up to 5 years. Applications will be made available in Spring 2023. To be eligible, you must meet the following criteria:

1. Age 65 and over;
2. Own and reside at property for which credit is sought for at least the previous 10 years;
3. The assessed value does not exceed \$500,000 at the time of application;
4. The application must be submitted by October 1, 2023.

### Elderly Property Tax Credit Application

Elderly Property Tax Credit Application -Español

**\*\*Please allow 4-6 weeks for your application to be reviewed**

Elderly Property Tax Credit Application FAQs

Elderly Property Tax Credit Application FAQs - Español



### **Dogs Should Be On Leash**

Per Prince George's County Regulations, it is against the law for the owner or custodian of any animal to allow the animal to run at-large. Violators are subject to pet impoundment and fines. Call 311 with concerns.

### **No Smoking in Parks**

The Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County, part of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, sends a reminder to the community **that its parks have been and will continue to be smoke free.** This includes all forms of tobacco, e-cigarettes, vapes and marijuana.

***Our Community Matters! Become a Volunteer and Get Involved!***



## BIRCHWOOD CITY-CLEARVIEW MANOR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC. (BCCA) MEMBERSHIP FORM

BCCA’s mission is to enhance the quality of life for residents of the Birchwood-Clearview Community. This is accomplished through community volunteers and membership dues from residents. Become a member of BCCA for the calendar year 2023 by completing this form and enclosing your annual membership fee of \$25.00 per household. Please make your check payable to BCCA and mail to BCCA, P.O. Box 7, Oxon Hill, MD. 20745-0007. ATTN: Mrs. Hernandez Saunders, Chair of BCCA’s Membership Committee.

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME of RESIDENT(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

- Membership Dues \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Donation for Scholarship \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- General Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Community volunteers are needed. This includes students who need community service hours. Volunteering for just a **Little While** can make a **Big Impact** in any of the following areas. *Please check all areas of interest.*

Membership	Recreation /Youth	Publicity	Education	Legislative
Beautification	Hospitality	Communications	Community Service	Ways and Means/Sponsored Activities
Any Other Areas of Interest (Please explain)				

To see some of BCCA’s accomplishments over the years, please read the articles under the Membership Committee in this newsletter and also click on <https://welcometobcca.org/about/>

### THANK YOU FOR JOINING AND SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY