



BIRCHWOOD-CLEARVIEW

NEWSLETTER

"A Community That Cares" SEPTEMBER 2023 EDITION

Published by Birchwood City-Clearview Manor Community Association, Inc. (BCCA)
P.O. Box 7, Oxon Hill, MD 20745

Website: www.welcometobcca.org Email: birchwood.clearview@gmail.com



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**
- **Use of Birchwood Park Building – Dial 301-699-2255**



UPCOMINGEVENTS

Community-Wide Meeting – Thursday, September 21, 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. **Remember, you don't have to wait until the monthly meeting to get your questions/concerns addressed, you may send your questions/concerns via email to bccaconcerns@gmail.com.**

PRIMARY AGENDA:

1. Prince George's Police Dept – Cpl. Dorian Johnson, COP Representative for our community
2. Birchwood-Clearview Community Day – October 21, 2023, 11am – 4pm
3. Updates from Elton Jones, VP
4. Comments/Questions – Community Residents

You are invited to attend!

(Continuation from Upcoming Events)

Birchwood City-Clearview Manor Community Day, Saturday, October 21, 2023 – 11 am – 4pm. You are invited to attend! We are looking for Vendors – Cost \$25; first come-first serve. Vendor/Product must be preapproved by Maryland’s Parks and Planning. ***Also, we need volunteers for this event.*** If you would like to participate as a Vendor or Volunteer, please contact Veda Dixon at h15642vad@hotmail.com, or Sylvia Griffin, sygriffin@gmail.com.

Fitness In Birchwood Park - 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!

Do you need assistance completing the 2023 New Elderly Property Tax Credit Application for Seniors 65 and older? – BCCA is offering free Assistance thru September (Saturdays Only) at the following location:

Southern Regional Technology and Recreation Complex
7007 Bock Rd, Fort Washington, MD 20744 - Time: 11am to 1pm

From the Desk of BCCA President, Sylvia Griffin



Fostering Unity and Diversity

We are living in a world that seems to grow more connected by the day, the significance of community culture remains paramount. The residents of Birchwood-Clearview, I believe, have embraced this idea wholeheartedly. Just think about it for a moment...creating vibrant traditions, values and celebrations that reflect both unity and diversity.

It should always be a part of Birchwood-Clearview’s ongoing efforts to celebrate and embrace diversity, bringing together individuals from many cultural backgrounds to highlight the rich spectrum that coexist within the community. In the spirit of inclusivity, Birchwood-Clearview continues to take steps to ensure that every resident feels valued and represented.

Let us preserve our culture traditions for future generations to have and enjoy such as, sharing stories, recipes, music, and customs, fostering connections that can extend beyond just mere tolerance but to true appreciation.

In preserving traditions, I would like to encourage our more season persons of our community and take a proactive role in passing down your cultural heritage to our younger generation. I believe this will allow the youth to engage with their roots in creative and meaningful ways.

In looking ahead, Birchwood-Clearview stands as a testament to the power of unity in diversity, by embracing our differences and celebrating our commonalities, but always continually evolving. In hopes of Birchwood-Clearview to continue to offer valuable lessons in cultivating a sense of togetherness, while embracing the beautifulness of cultures that make up its foundation. So, with each passing year, our community commitment should be to preserve culture traditions and foster that sense of belonging as an inspiration for others seeking to do the same.

“Birchwood-Clearview to become the leading community in South County of Prince Georges.”

From the Desk of BCCA Secretary, Wanda Gross



How to Prepare for a Natural Disaster

This is National Preparedness Month and I want to provide some information to aid our residents; especially our older residents and people with disabilities, who may experience a more challenging time of a disaster.

The thought of a natural disaster can be frightening, but we can prepare ourselves and our family with a few simple steps. Though you may not know what kind of disaster will strike or when, if you take the time to prepare for several possible scenarios, you'll be ready in the event of an emergency. The following steps (just a few) that will help you to be successful and keep you and your family safe.

1. Create a plan,
2. Discuss how to prepare and respond to most likely disasters,
3. Identify three ways to receive warnings to determine the best evacuation routes,
4. Decide how family members will communicate, and
5. Choose multiple meeting spots.

For more information visit FEMA's website at: www.fema.gov

Also, Check out this post on Nextdoor from FEMA Region 3:

https://nextdoor.com/p/hMwwnZ2x3QGj?utm_source=share&extras=ODQ2Mzc5OTc%3D

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH
WHAT'S IN YOUR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS KIT?

- FIRST AID KIT & ESSENTIAL MEDICATIONS**
Especially prescription medications and medical records
- FOOD**
Nonperishable food items, such as canned goods, nuts, & dry cereals
Don't forget to pack a can opener!
- WATER**
At least three gallons per person
- CLOTHING**
Protective clothing, rainwear, and bedding/sleeping bags
- IMPORTANT ITEMS**
Battery or hand-powered radio, flashlight, phone charger, and extra batteries
- PERSONAL CARE**
Toiletry items

Sign Up for ALERT Prince George's Today!
<https://alert.mypgc.us>

Logos for Prince Georges County, OEM, and ALERT Prince Georges are included at the bottom.

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

Greeting from the Ways & Means Committee!!

"Growing Green With Pride" community event will be held **Saturday, October 28, 2023.**

This year, we will meet at the Birchwood Community Center from 8:30am to 12:30pm.

Event Volunteers - Contact Sharon Sims-Colbert: sharon.sims2@verizon.net or Betty Woods, Beautification Chair - bttwoods@gmail.com to sign-up for this event. (This change was mandated as the Community Day event which is scheduled on Saturday, October 21, 2023.)

Pick-Up Volunteers - All scheduled pick-up of supplies and planting materials will still be under the County-wide schedule of **October 16th through 21, 2023**. If you can volunteer to transport these items, your assistance will be greatly appreciated. Anyone with pickup capability is essential. Please contact Betty Woods (bttwoods@gmail.com) or Sharon Sims-Colbert (sharon.sims2@verizon.net) for more information, see below schedules.

Thank You So Very Much!!

IMPORTANT DATES AND INFORMATION FOR GROWING GREEN WITH PRIDE DAY FALL 2023

Plant Material Pickup Dates and Location

For HOA, Civic Associations, Churches, Private and Charter Schools Only

Monday - Friday, October 16-20.....8 A.M. to 2 P.M.

Wednesday, October 18.....5 P.M. to 8 P.M.

Saturday, October 21.....8 A.M. to noon

*Not open on weekends & holidays

Litter Supply Pickup Dates and Location

Wednesday, October 18.....5 P.M. to 8 P.M.

Thursday-Friday, October 19-20.....8 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Saturday, October 21.....8 A.M. to noon

Department of Public Works and Transportation
MOC Building, 8400 D'Arcy Road, Forestville, MD 20747

Application Deadline

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2023

Plant material for HOA, Civic Associations, Churches, Private and Charter Schools are available for pickup at:

DPW&T Maintenance Facility, 8400 D'Arcy, Forestville, MD 20747

Plant materials for Prince George's County Public Schools will be delivered by the schools' maintenance operations.

Plant material for municipalities are available for pick up at:

M-NCPPC - Randall Farm Maintenance Facility, 4200 Ritchie Marlboro Road, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

"Prince George's County "Beautification Committee" - Notifications via mail has been sent to honorees. Congratulations!! **The Annual Awards Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, September 27th, 2023.** Please follow the instructions on your acknowledgement letter and **respond before September 20, 2023. "JOB WELL DONE"!!**

Residents, become a part of this elite program. Contact the BCCA Ways & Means Committee or visit the Ways & Means Committee Table on Community Day to receive more information and view past & present HONOREES!!

Birchwood/Clearview Playground Installation Update: Pending review is still in progress.

Respectfully,
BCCA Ways & Means Chair
BCCA Beautification Chair

From BCCA Beautification Committee Chair, *Betty Woods*

Good Neighbors, greetings, and best wishes for an awesome and productive day. I wanted to share some of my day with you. Earlier, I went on a field trip in our neighborhood. I covered every street, road, drive, etc., some twice. I wanted to get the feel of the neighborhood on this sunny day. I was quite pleased with most of what I observed.

There are countless yards of beauty. Some serious and hard work has been done to showcase your hard work and I applaud you. Great job!! There are a few yards that could use a little work but overall, not bad. A special shout-out to the residents on Colony Rd and Fargo Dr. With the exception of one vacant house, the entire streets were exceptionally beautiful and well cared for.



A few pictures of yards taken during my field trip

Just a couple of tips I want to pass along.

- ✓ If you have climbing vines that have encroached upon your house you might want to remove them because they can cause damage and invade the area so badly that over time, water retention happens.
- ✓ September is the ideal month to feed your lawn with a good nitrogen rich fertilizer.
- ✓ And, finally, for those with the gardening fever this is the ideal time to plant those veggies that like the cold weather, such as: broccoli, carrots, chard, cauliflower, etc.

We're welcoming anyone who has a love and concern for our awesome community to join us on this committee.

Blessings

From BCCA Publicity Committee Chair, *Veda Dixon*



Introducing the “Good News” Segment! This is where we share and feature your “Good News”! We hope the “Good News” will inspire, encourage, and give our readers “food for thought.” With that said, **please send me any “Good News” you would like to share, the first Monday of each month via email H15642vad@hotmail.com. Thank you!**

SPOTLIGHTING Mrs. Carrington, a long time BCCA member, who has expended a great deal of personal effort in serving in an unofficial capacity as the eyes and ears of her beloved neighborhood. I know this because I see the results of her efforts. She consistently looks out for the neighborhood in identifying blight, unsafe conditions, loose dogs and accumulation of trash and furnishings throughout the community. She has a rapport with Prince George’s Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement, aka DPIE, inspector and as such, matters relating to the conditions of property within the community are given high priority.

To thank Mrs. Carrington adequately is impossible. She spends her personal time ensuring the neighborhood is safe for our residents. She takes great care to see that residents are notified of actions that may impact them. Finally, she is appreciated for her invaluable commitment to the safety of her neighbors.

Mrs. Carrington is a true treasure in our Community and we are grateful for the work she does!

[Submitted by Michelle Ross](#)

CONGRATULATIONS to my grandson, **JaJuan**, who received a 4-year full-paid tuition scholarship to college. From elementary through high school, he volunteered and took part in many Birchwood-Clearview Community Association (BCCA) events including: BCCA Community Days, Newsletter delivery, Halloween parties and Breakfast and Dinner with Santa. When applying for scholarships, he used his involvement with BCCA as part of his community activities. **So, Congratulations to JaJuan and Thank You to BCCA.**

[Submitted by Lucy Hall](#)

(Continuation from Publicity)

What's New



New T-Shirts – BCCA Walkers! For all you Birchwood-Clearview walkers out there, we have something for you. Thanks to Elton Jones, Sr., BCCA VP, we now have our very own BCCA Walkers T-Shirt! It's a quality cotton T-Shirt with vinyl lettering. Elton is selling these T-Shirts for \$20. To place your order, contact Elton via email eltonbjones@aol.com or Veda h15642vad@hotmail.com.



Effective January 1, 2024, Prince George's County prohibits a retail establishment from providing a plastic carryout bag to shoppers and, with certain exceptions, can charge 10 cents for each paper carryout or reusable bag provided to a customer. To assist residents in making the transition, the County will provide a limited amount of free reusable bags and will announce distribution dates and locations once finalized. Visit www.mypgc.us/bagitright for more information.

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.



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!

From BCCA Membership Committee Chair, *Gloria Hernandez Saunders*



Hello, Birchwood–Clearview Residents! Thank you for your membership with the Birchwood City – Clearview Manor Community Association, Inc. (BCCA).

This will be the last time this year we will include the membership form in the Newsletter. If you would like to become a member for the year 2023, please join using the attached form on the last page.

Next year, BCCA Membership Committee plans to launch a Community-Wide Membership Drive going door-to-door. We want to welcome our new neighbors as well as our long-standing neighbors to become a part of BCCA. **As the saying goes, “United we Stand, Divided we Fall.”** We want our community to be **United** in order to make a difference and to change/improve the things we can for the betterment of our wonderful community. If you would like to join the Membership Committee to help me with the door-to-door, Community-Wide Membership Drive, please email me at army320@verizon.com.

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.

**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**