



BIRCHWOOD-CLEARVIEW

NEWSLETTER

"A Community That Cares" MARCH 2024 EDITION

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

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

Social media: Follow us on [Instagram](#) and friend us [Facebook](#)



Support Our Community – BCCA Annual Membership - \$25 per household

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 – Please join us in-person on Thursday, March 21, 2024, 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM, for all who live in the Birchwood-Clearview Community, at the Birchwood Recreational 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 via email to bccaconcerns@gmail.com.

Friday, March 15, 2024, BCCA Presents: “Grown Folks Night Out,” 6:30pm – 9:30pm; click on link for more information [2024 GROWN FOLKS NIGHT OUT - Birchwood Clearview Community Association in Oxon Hill, MD % \(welcometobcca.org\)](https://www.welcometobcca.org).

Saturdays @ 9am - Fitness in Birchwood Park with Planet Fitness Coach, Will Chambers, is now via Zoom. See you on Zoom!

Wednesday, April 3, 2024 @ 12 noon and 6:30 pm “Getting Financially Fit in 2024”, see attached flyer for more information.

From the Desk of BCCA President, Sylvia Griffin



It is already March and spring is in the air, time is really going by extremely fast as they say, “Where has time gone”. Even though March is moving fast however, let us bring attention to shed light on few various important causes. From health wellness to social justice, advocacy, and action. Here are just a few of awareness themes for March.

Women History Month: dedicating, honoring, and celebrating the contributions of women throughout history. I feel it’s time to recognize the achievements of women in various fields and acknowledge the ongoing fight for equality. Not only women that made history but also, celebrating those who are currently and tirelessly advocating for many of injustices and inequality that women stand in the need of today.

National Nutrition Month: Birchwood residents let us all focus, as well as encourage, each other in making informed food choices and getting involve with physical activities. Shout Out to Will Chambers and Veda Dixon and other participants in leading Birchwood’s exercise classes on Saturdays.

Autoimmune Disease Awareness Month: which affects millions of people worldwide, yet they are often misunderstood and underdiagnosed.

National Social Work Month: We all know the importance of a Social Worker which is a vital role in supporting individuals and communities, also advocating for social justice, addressing systematic inequalities. Recognize those that have contributed to this field of important work in creating positive change.

GET INVOLVED: Help Birchwood to educate and bring awareness to our community on these important themes. Participate in local invents, fundraisers or volunteer opportunities to these causes.

Let us join in making a positive impact and create a more inclusive and compassionate Birchwood Community.

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



DPIE's Stepped Up Enforcement Blitz

The Department of Permitting, Inspections, and Enforcement (DPIE) has launched the "Stepped Up Enforcement Blitz," an enforcement campaign that is focused on addressing unlicensed and illegal businesses. This code enforcement blitz is in response to increasing resident complaints regarding illegally operating businesses in the County.

The Enforcement team will concentrate on the areas in the County with the highest complaint rates. DPIE's Enforcement team will work to raise awareness of County Codes, which are in place for health and safety reasons, and explain necessary steps needed to come into compliance.

How Does the Code Enforcement Blitz Work? DPIE's "Stepped Up Enforcement Blitz" will have several phases: an outreach strategy, an amnesty period, followed by with citations.

It begins with public outreach through flyers and collaboration with various community groups regarding illegal businesses. DPIE is targeting two categories of unlicensed businesses: those that can achieve compliance and those that cannot achieve compliance.

Businesses that can achieve compliance are defined as establishments that are operating outside of County Code but are able to bring their operation into compliance. Examples of businesses that can come into compliance include:

- Unpermitted Residential Hair Salons/Barber Shops or Nail Salons
- Food Trucks Vending on Side of Public Roads
- Tax Preparation Business in Your Home
- Unlicensed Room and Boarding House Rentals
- Unlicensed Day or Elder Care
- Operating a Store from Your Home

For these types of businesses, DPIE will educate business owners on how to secure required permits and licenses and provide a 90-day window for businesses to respond before issuing fines.

For more information, click on link: [Unlicensed Business Enforcement Blitz | Prince George's County \(princegeorgescountymd.gov\)](https://princegeorgescountymd.gov/unlicensed-business-enforcement-blitz)

2024 Prince George's County 54th Annual Beautification Awards

Who May Enter? Any person or group maintaining property in Prince George's County is invited to submit an application (this includes professionally designed and maintained gardens).

What about Judging? Each garden will be evaluated by accredited judges of the University of Maryland Extension Master Gardeners of Prince George's County.

For more information and application, click on link [Beautification Awards | PGCBC Beautification Committee \(pgcbeautification.com\)](https://pgcbeautification.com) or contact Sharon Sims-Colbert, Sharon.sims2@verizon.net, 301-455-4355:

From the BCCA Beautification Committee Chair, Betty Woods



Great day good neighbors and friends!

Are you enjoying this beautiful weather and the brand-new mercies our great God has given? I am so excited as I observe the tell-tale signs of Spring gearing up for a grand entrance; birds nesting, flowers blooming, longer days, and yes, even the allergy symptoms that tag along. It's time to shake off the remains of winter and get moving!

It's wonderful going through the neighborhood and seeing people bagging the remaining leaves, picking up debris, and getting rid of clutter. Some are even power washing or applying a coat of fresh paint.

We live in such a rich and diverse community which gives us strength and unity and yes, POWER! Power to unite for change and getting positive results for our community. Let's start by paying our membership dues and attending and supporting community events and meetings. Your voice could be that one missing link needed for change and results.

I'll close this out with three items that tug on my heartstrings.

- **Safety:** please slow down, make a complete stop at stop signs before proceeding.
- **Be mindful of your neighbors:** When you're cranking that music and blasting it to get your groove working, you just might be disturbing someone who needs their sleep, or just trying to relax and watch a little TV. We don't all share the same taste in music, so, please be considerate.
- **Poop and loose dogs:** Too many loose dogs roaming the neighborhood; some are even a bit aggressive. Take heed, you might be setting yourself up for a lawsuit. I hope I don't have to say this again... **PICK UP YOUR DOG'S POOP!!!**

Get Ready for Prince George's Growing Green with Pride Day

We hope that you join us for **Growing Green with Pride Day, Saturday, April 27, from 8am to 12 noon** (see attached flyer). Please meet us at the Birchwood City Recreation Park under the Pavilion at 8am for supplies and instruction. For more information, contact Betty Woods, bttywood@gmail.com, 301-651-4318 or Sharon Sims-Colbert, Sharon.sims2@verizon.net, 301-455-4355.

From BCCA Publicity Committee Chair, Veda Dixon



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.**



Spotlighting: Jayden, 4 years old, learning to read music to play the piano. Little Jayden is the grandson of BCCA Event Planner, Ygenia Bounds. Congratulations and we hope to get a follow-up of Jayden playing his first song.

Spotlighting: The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC) K9-Unit in Training and in our community. This specialized unit currently includes a Sergeant, five officers and their canine partners. The K-9 unit is responsible for Patrol/CDS Detection and Explosive Ordinance Detection, as well as the following: All crimes in progress calls; Area and building searches; Assisting mutual law enforcement partners; Burglary and robbery alarms; Searching for lost persons; Tracking and apprehending fleeing suspects; and Vehicle and narcotic searches. For more information, click on link [K9 Unit | MNCPPC, MD.](#)



Birchwood City Recreation Park Come Alive!

Winter is just about gone and the springtime weather is already upon us. The beautiful weather has been wooing the trees and flower as they begin to blossom, as well as the visitors and neighbors coming out to enjoy walking, grilling and fun activities in the park. I too was wooed Friday, March 1st, to get a walk in around 2:30pm, and enjoyed meeting neighbors and visitors who were very nice when I approached them to ask for a photo for the newsletter. I said hello to:

Travastein



Greg and Sheila



Franco and Dayton



Angel and Friend



Monica and Fernando



Bennie and David



Ricardo and Milo



MARCH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

***"HAPPY BIRTHDAY" TO ALL THOSE WHO ARE CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY THIS MONTH!
May your day be blessed and filled with joy!***

Zodiacs – Pisces (March 1st – 20th) and Aries (March 21st - 31th)

Flowers – Pisces (Water Lily) and Aries (Honeysuckle)

Birthstones – Pisces (Amethyst/Aquamarine) and Aries (Aquamarine/Diamond)

In case you missed it! The Summer Youth Enrichment Program (SYEP) offers County youth and young adults ages 14 to 24 with enriching and constructive summer work experiences in community organizations, private sector companies, and government agencies.

- **Ages:** 14-24
- **Timeframe:** July 1 - August 9

Click [Learn More](#)

The Youth@Work Internship Program offers temporary and permanent opportunities for young adults ages 18 to 22 who participated in the Summer Youth Enrichment Program (SYEP). The internship extends employment opportunities to former SYEP participants to retain the best and brightest talent by filling staffing gaps in entry-level positions.

- **Ages:** 18-22
- **Requirement:** prior participant in SYEP

Click [Learn More](#)

For further information, click the link below:

[Youth Employment | Prince George's County \(princegeorgescountymd.gov\)](http://princegeorgescountymd.gov/youth-employment)



Unlicensed Rental Homes - A rental license must be obtained to rent a single or multi-family dwelling. Please go online at <http://dpie.mypgc.us> under Forms and Checklist or call 301-883-6168 for more information.

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.**

From BCCA Membership Committee Chair, *Gloria Hernandez Saunders*



Objective/Purposes:

To promote, foster and protect the welfare of the community, improve the civic recreational, social, and economic status and condition of the community.

Membership:

Any person 18 or more years of age living within the boundaries of Birchwood City/Clearview Manor shall be eligible for membership in BCCA.

BCCA Executive Board:

President - Sylvia Griffin
Vice Pres. - Elton Jones
Secretary - Wanda Gross
Treasurer – Percell Walker

Committee Chair members:

Beautification – Betty Woods
Communication – Felica Pratt
Community Service – Lucy Hall
Diversity – Silvia Cruz
Education – Michelle Ross
Hospitality – Lottie McCoy
Legislation – Donna Joyner
Publicity – Veda Dixon
Recreation/Youth – Emily Mencino Cruz
Ways and Means – Sharon Sims-Colbert

Membership Chair:

Gloria Hernandez Saunders
army320@verizon.net

Membership Drive

Birchwood City/Clearview Manor Community Association, Inc., Oxon Hill, MD

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 2024 (January – December), by completing this form and enclosing your **annual membership fee of \$25.00 per household.**

Benefits include but not limited to:

- **Community Events such as Community Day, Grown Folks Night Out, Breakfast with Santa, Health/Educational Seminars, Back to School Supplies, etc.**
- **Scholarship funding 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;**
- **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;" and more.**

Please complete the Membership Form and mail it with your check/money order payable to BCCA. Mail to: BCCA, P.O. Box 7, Oxon Hill, MD 20745-0007, Attn: Mrs. Hernandez Saunders, BCCA Membership Chair.

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

You may also pay your membership dues (\$25) via **Zelle**, login to your bank app, send money using Zelle. Search for BCCA's Treasurer, Percell Walker's, email: **Percellwalker@verizon.net - BIRCHWOOD CITY COMMUNITY ASSOC or CashApp - \$birchwoodBCCA (Percellwalker@verizon.net)**. Be sure to complete the form below, and send it via email to Mrs. Hernandez Saunders at army320@verizon.net.

DATE: _____

NAME of RESIDENT(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____ EMAIL _____

Membership Dues \$ _____

Donation for Scholarship \$ _____

General Donation \$ _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____ or amount paid via Zelle or CashApp \$ _____

(Remember, when using CashApp, please include your name/description (membership) in comment section.)

Community volunteers are needed. This includes students who need community service hours. Please volunteer for just a **Little While** to 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 more information about BCCA's Newsletters and Events, click link:

<https://welcometobcca.org/about/>

THANK YOU FOR JOINING AND SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

RAIN
— or —
SHINE

GROWING GREEN
Prince George's MARYLAND county
WITH PRIDE



Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive

Help beautify our county by joining neighbors in your community for a day of cleaning, weed removal and planting.



SATURDAY
APRIL 27
8AM-12PM

Registration is required for participation. Please click the link below to register:

<http://MyPGC.us/GrowingGreen>

by April 19th, 2024



Students may earn service learning hours!

Contact Tonya Hairston at
GrowingGreenWithPride@co.pg.md.us
or 301-499-8641 for more information.



Reference in this flyer to any specific firm, entity, business or corporation by name is for the limited purpose of providing information and convenience of the public, and does not constitute endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by Prince George's County, Maryland.
The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by Prince George's County, Maryland.

What's Your Plan for Financial Freedom?

- Are you prepared for the rising cost of your child's college education?
- Will you outlive your money, or will your money outlive you?
- If you suffered a heart attack, stroke, cancer, kidney failure, how will you pay your bills?
- Does your current life insurance contain living benefits?
- Do you know what living benefits are in a life insurance policy and how they work?
- Are you taking full advantage of your employer's retirement plan?
- Are you losing tax dollars unnecessarily?
- Are you protected from foreclosure and/or eviction with Mortgage/Rent Protection?



GETTING FINANCIALLY FIT IN 2024

You are invited to a
FREE- No-Obligation WORKSHOP
Wednesday, April 3, 2024 @ 12 noon and 6:30 pm



Topics to be discussed:

- How Money Works
- Getting Out Of Debt
- Leaving a Legacy
- How to Prepare for a Tax-Free Retirement
- The 'New Kind' of Life Insurance

RSVP Contact: Sylvia Griffin, President
Phone: 240-460-8743
Please RSVP by April 1, 2024
2 Sessions to choose from

You don't want to miss this!

Host: Sylvia Griffin, President

Co-Host: Melvin Latimer

Presenters: Anthony Stewart
of American Classic Agency and
Stewart Financial Services

Workshop Location:

Birchwood Civic Association
1331 Fenwood Avenue
Oxon Hill, MD 20745
www.AClassic.com www.SFSinc.co
SFS Office Phone: 301-794-4290



Anthony Stewart
President/CEO
ACA and SFS



Melvin Latimer
Financial Services
Professional



BCCA will host three FREE Workshop/Sessions in the Month of April, see below. Please contact [Sylvia Griffin, sygriffin@gmail.com](mailto:sygriffin@gmail.com), 240-460-8743, if you have any questions.

- 1. Wednesday, April 3rd: Getting Financially Fit in 2024**
Two Sessions: 12 noon and 6:30pm
Location: Birchwood Community Center
RSVP by Sunday, March 31, 2024
- 2. Sunday, April 7th: Wild Bunch Social Group & BCCA (Fish Fry-Bikers)**
Location: Birchwood Community Center
Autism Awareness 2pm-7pm
- 3. Wednesday, April 17th: Health/Wellness**
Virtual: Two Sessions: 12-12:30 and 7:00-7:30pm
RSVP by Friday, April 12, 2024