



BIRCHWOOD-CLEARVIEW

NEWSLETTER

"A Community That Cares" *MAY 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](#)



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, May 16, 2024, 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM, for all persons living in Birchwood-Clearview to come out and take part in BCCA's community problem-solving sessions, 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.

Health and Wellness Classes:

- **Wednesdays/Fridays (to be announced) @ 1:15pm**, Birchwood City Recreation Park – **Come out and learn how to Line Dance with instructor Mary Coleman**. Use your mind and learn a dance, increase your steps, for your health is your wealth; all while having fun!
- **Saturdays @ 9am** - Fitness in Birchwood Park with Planet Fitness Coach, Will Chambers, is now back in Birchwood City Recreation Park under the Pavilion (weather permitting).

Revised Elderly Property Tax Credit Hearing - Tuesday, May 28 @ 10am - Wayne K. Curry Administration Building, 1301 McCormick Drive, Largo, MD 20774. Council Member Edward Burroughs is calling on the community to support the bill by filling the seats at the hearing and publicly testifying. **If you can, please attend; email me (Veda Dixon H15642vad@hotmail.com) if you need a ride.** For more information, click link: [Senior Tax Credit Bill Fix - Public Hearing \(google.com\)](#).

From the Desk of BCCA President, Sylvia Griffin

Mental Soundness



As many of you know, May is known for “Mental Health Awareness Month,” to serve as a reminder the importance how we overlook our mental well-being in our daily lives. As **“A Community That Cares,”** not only in the physical structure of a community but also, the people that lives in the community. It is BCCA’s goal to promote a thriving community. The Association wants to continue to raise awareness on Mental Health, not just for the month of May; but to continue breaking down stigmas surrounding mental health challenges. Even though there has been progress made in recent years, stigma still surrounds mental health issues; many time preventing individuals from seeking the help they need. It is **VERY CRUCIAL** to prioritize mental well-being or mental soundness, as I like to call it, as we navigate the complexities of life.

We as a community can break and work together to challenge these misconceptions and create a community culture of acceptance and/or support. **WE CAN START BY:**

- **Talk openly** about mental health with friends, family or maybe a close neighbor. Share your own experiences and encourage others to do the same. I know I did, when I experienced losing love ones (death can affect you as well);
- **Educate** ourselves and our community about mental health conditions and how they impact individuals;
- **Practice Self-care, (my favorite):** make selfcare a priority, engage in activities that bring you joy, relaxation (massage and fishing for me LOL!), and fulfillment. Whether its exercise, mediation, or spending time with love ones, find what works for you!

That’s why building a supportive community is essential for mental health. Whether it’s through local support groups, online forums, or social networks, find out what works for you! So, as we observe Mental Health Awareness Month, let’s remember that mental health is a fundamental part of our overall well-being. Let us create a Mental Soundness community where everyone feels comfortable seeking help and receiving the support they need.

“Let us continue keeping our Birchwood/Clearview Community THRIVING!”

FROM the BCCA Community Services Committee Chair, Lucy Hall



Child and Adult Care Food Program at Local Child Care Centers, Adult Day Care Centers and Family Child Care Homes

Maryland's Department of Education (MSDE) disperses federal funds from the US Department of Agriculture's Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) to agencies located throughout Maryland. These funds go to licensed or approved day child and adult care facilities or family child care homes to provide healthy meals and snacks at no charge to enrolled participants.

For information about agencies participating in CACFP **throughout Maryland**, please contact the Office of School and Community Nutrition Programs at **(410) 767-0219**.

Please join BCCA during this **2024 Membership Drive** and volunteer to serve on this Community Service Committee so we can research and provide information on available services to benefit all residents in our community. Any amount of time will be appreciated. Please contact me at lucyhall782@gmail.com.

From the BCCA Beautification Committee Chair, Betty Woods



Hello neighbors!

I'd like for us to start a **"swap shop"** where we swap ideas, propagated plants and other items that might be useful or wanted by someone else. I have an abundance of **Lambs Ear** (see picture) that I'd like to share. It's a perennial that can serve as ground covering for bare areas or mix it between your blossoming plants. **I'd like for someone to gift me propagated indoor plants and pollinators.** **Let's do a seed swap....what are your ideas? Let me know by sending me an email bttywoods@gmail.com.**

Blessings!

From BCCA Event Planner Committee Chair, Ygenia Bounds



On Friday, May 3rd, we kicked off a Health and Wellness Program that consisted of **"Line Dancing."** **Mary Coleman our dance instructor**, was very excited and instrumental in helping me pull off a sizable group within Birchwood/Clearview. There were about fifteen plus Senior residents that were having fun in the sun and learning dance steps to some upbeat music. The plan is to continue this Health and Wellness Program thru the summer, every week, **Wednesday or Friday (to be announced) from**

1:15pm to 2:15pm. Please come out and join us and meet your neighbors and hopefully to improve your overall health! **You may sign up with me via email, redhair1970@yahoo.com or Wanda Freeman, wbfreeman1@verizon.net. All are WELCOME!**

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.**

Featuring our Neighbor: Ms. V. Horne, Vegetable Gardener

On my many walks throughout the neighborhood, on Birchwood, there is a yard that has a beautiful vegetable garden in the front yard. I am a fast walker but when I come to this house, I would slow down just to gaze at all the vegetable plants to see what was growing. Tomatoes, okra, peppers, zucchini, and squash, and you can tell they were kept with love and care. I wonder who this garden belongs to?

Recently on an early morning walk, I saw her! I said, “Well, well, I finally get to meet the person who has been keeping this beautiful garden.” Ms. Horne was very friendly and had no problem telling me about her garden and what she was planting.



Ms. Horne is such a nice lady. She even gave me a cherry tomato plant and invited me to come by and get some vegetables when they were ready; she loves sharing with her neighbors. It was my pleasure meeting you Ms. Horne and thank you again for sharing your love of gardening with me!



MAY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

“HAPPY BIRTHDAY” TO ALL THOSE WHO ARE CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY THIS MONTH!

May your day be blessed and filled with joy!

Happy Birthday to Lillian Daily – May 15

Zodiacs – Taurus (May 1st – 21th) and Gemini (May 22st - 31th)

Flowers – Taurus (Poppy) and Gemini (Lavender)

Birthstones – Taurus (Diamond/Emerald) and Gemini (Emerald/Pearl)

From BCCA Membership Committee Chair, *Gloria Hernandez Saunders*



It's Membership Drive Time!

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

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;**
- **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