



## BIRCHWOOD-CLEARVIEW

# NEWSLETTER

"A Community That Cares" *AUGUST 2024 EDITION*

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

Website: [www.welcometobcca.org](http://www.welcometobcca.org) Email: [birchwood.clearview@gmail.com](mailto: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](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** – was held on Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup> via Zoom due to the sewage issue at Birchwood Park Recreation Center.

**We had a very engaging/brainstorming meeting. So, come on and join us, to voice your opinions on things you like and don't like about the community and help us continue to enhance our community and make it even better for all of us. Your voice needs to be heard as part of BCCA's new "Fishbone Problem-Solving Exercise." (See last two pages of what we worked on).**

### Health and Wellness

- **Fitness in the Park - Saturdays @ 9am** - Fitness at Birchwood Park with Planet Fitness Coach, Will Chambers, **is now back at Birchwood City Recreation Park under the Pavilion (weather permitting).**
- **BCCA Back to School Event** – was rescheduled due to sewage issue at the Birchwood Park Recreation Center. An updated date and details are coming soon.

## From The Desk of BCCA President, Sylvia Griffin



Time is upon us for parents getting children ready for the 2024-2025 school year. It is important for the Birchwood/Clearview community to highlight our youth in this month newsletter. **Pointing out the importance to empower our youth through community involvement.** It is more crucial than ever in having our youth involve with community, especially as we try to navigate the many complex social issues and environmental challenges, we all face. However, as a community, we can't forget the energy, creativity, and passion a lot of our young people bring which is an **INVALUABLE ASSET** to our community.

Let me just highlight a few wonderful benefits why youth community involvement matters so much:

- 1) Take empowerment and skill development- they can engage in community activities that will empower them by providing our youth with opportunities to develop leadership skills.
- 2) Having social responsibility, and in doing that they can participate in community projects that can instill social responsibility amongst our youth, they can work together for the betterment of the community.
- 3) They can learn about positive change through having empathy for others, the importance of collaboration with others.
- 4) Driving positive change: involving our youth brings fresh perspectives and innovative ideas to address local issues, whether they are advocating for environmental sustainability, promoting social justice, or supporting vulnerable population, young people are catalysts for positive change.

I can point out so many benefits that our youth can have on our community but the bottom-line youth involvement in today's world nurtures future leaders and active citizens who are more likely to stay engage in civic affairs throughout their lives. This also sustained involvement which is crucial for continued growth and prosperity of our Birchwood/Clearview community. **I like to encourage "EACH ONE! REACH ONE! of our youth.**

**Note: Prince Georges County School starts Monday, August 26, 2024**

### **BCCA ASSISTANT SECRETARY POSITION**

**BCCA is seeking a volunteer to serve as Assistant Secretary whose duties shadows the Secretary's duties (see duties description below). If you are interested, please contact Sylvia Griffin via cell 240-460-8743. Thank you!**

- The Secretary Board Member will attend and participate in meetings on a regular basis, and special events as able. The Secretary, in consultation with the President, prepares agendas for the Executive Board and Community meetings.

- Will be responsible for the recording and to maintain a complete file for all minutes and agendas of all Community and Executive Board meetings for record management purposes.
- Shall conduct all correspondences for the Association as the President and Executive Board may direct.
- Responsible for collaborating with board members to set up meetings, giving proper notice of any meetings, and promptly distributing agendas and meeting minutes.
- Be aware of community concerns that can be addressed by BCCA's mission, objectives and programs. For assistance in his/her recording and corresponding duties, the Secretary may appoint Assistance Secretary with the consent of the President.

### From the BCCA Event Planner Committee Chair, Ygenia Bounds



#### Hello Neighbors!

Thank you to those who have been participating in the afternoon Wednesday, Line Dancing Class at 1:15pm (there is room for more – come on and join us!). **Due to a sewage issue at Birchwood Park Recreation Center, class has been cancelled until further notice.** I

am hoping the Center will be back open on Wed., August 21st; fingers crossed.

We hope to do another Wed., **evening Line Dancing Class from 6pm to 7pm; as well as Game Night at 7:15pm, once the Center is back open.** With that said, your participation will determine if we keep the evening class/game night events. If we have good participation, we will continue. Please come out and support your neighborhood events.

Thanks, Ygenia Bounds

### **AUGUST BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS**



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

***May your day be blessed and filled with joy and peace!***



## SPOTLIGHT ON BCCA MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

**Gloria Hernandez Saunders-Chair, Lucy Hall-Vice Chair,  
Members: Barbara Bishop, Priscilla Thomas Oredugba,  
Rudolph Janifer, and Stephanie Moore**

### 1. What is a Membership Committee?

Through an ongoing membership drive, a Membership Committee encourages people living in a community to join the community association and get involved in community activities.

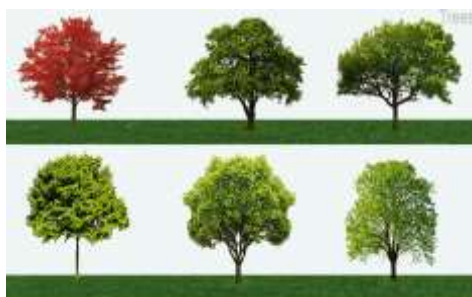
### 2. A Membership Committee also tells the people living in the Community what benefits they gain by joining the community association.

**Well, Read on.** Look below for some of the benefits provided to the community by the Community Association: BCCA volunteer officers and staff work with state and local governments to coordinate services for the upkeep and enhancement of our community and **monitor the progress of your 311 calls for service.** Thousands of dollars provided in educational scholarships.

BCCA convinced Washington Gas **to pave every street** in the community after it proposed to pave only the streets on which it performed work. Helped to get **street sweeping** recently restarted. Kept Valley View a school for **all students.**

Check **our local park:** The walking trail, pavilion, tennis and basketball courts, free health fitness and games for all, and the upcoming new playground--all result from BCCA efforts.

BCCA also helps others by collecting and providing food and clothes to food pantries and other charitable organizations.



**Environmental Help:** BCCA coordinated efforts with various partners to have trees planted throughout the community. Trees not only beautify the community landscape but they also reduce air pollution and help to purify the air.

Many other benefits including new things that are planned, such as more youth activities.

So, come on and join us, attend meetings to voice your opinions on things you like and don't like about the community and help us continue to enhance our community and make it even better for all of us. **Your voice needs to be heard as part of BCCA's new "Fishbone Problem-Solving Exercise."**

**PLEASE JOIN BCCA!**

From BCCA Membership Committee Chair, *Gloria Hernandez Saunders*

## BCCA MEMBERSHIP FORM



**Birchwood City-Clearview Manor  
Community Association, Inc.,  
Oxon Hill, MD 20745 (BCCA)**

**BCCA 2024 Membership**

**Drive**

**(January-December)**

Annual Membership Fee: \$25.00 per household

**BCCA's Mission** is to enhance the quality of life for residents of the Birchwood City-Clearview Manor Community. This is accomplished through community volunteers and membership dues from residents.

**Benefits Derived From Membership Dues Include:** Scholarships to further education; Family Community Day, Breakfast with Santa, back-to-school supplies, etc.; newsletter printing & distribution to keep residents updated on pertinent information; County-wide Clean-up projects and tree planting; construction of and upkeep of the walking trail, tennis and basketball courts, the pavilion, and the upcoming new playground at Birchwood Park; and much, much more.

Please complete this 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, Membership Chair.

**OR** pay your membership dues via **Zelle**: Login to your bank app, send money using Zelle. Search for BCCA's Treasurer, Percell Walker's, email: [Percellwalker@verizon.net](mailto:Percellwalker@verizon.net) - BIRCHWOOD CITY COMMUNITY ASSOC.,

**OR** use **CashApp** - \$birchwoodBCCA (Percellwalker@verizon.net)

**NOTE: If you use Zelle or CashApp, Be sure to complete this form and email it to Mrs. Hernandez Saunders at [army320@verizon.net](mailto:army320@verizon.net)**

**DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name(s) of Residents** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Dues\$** \_\_\_ **Scholarship Donation\$** \_\_\_ **General Donation\$** \_\_\_ **Total \$** \_\_\_

Would you like to volunteer in any of these areas?  Membership  Recreation/Youth  
 Publicity  Education  Ways and means/Sponsored Activities  Beautification  
 Hospitality  Communication  Community Services  Legislation

**THANK YOU FOR JOINING BCCA FOR THE YEAR 2024!**



## FORMULARIO DE MEMBRESÍA DE BCCA



**Comunitaria Birchwood City-Clearview  
Manor, Inc.,  
Oxon Hill, MD 20745 (BCCA)  
Campaña de membresía de BCCA 2024  
(enero-diciembre)  
Cuota de membresía anual: \$25.00 por hogar**

La misión de BCCA es mejorar la calidad de vida de los residentes de la comunidad Birchwood City-Clearview Manor. Esto se logra a través de voluntarios de la comunidad y cuotas de membresía de los residentes.

**Los beneficios derivados de las cuotas de membresía incluyen: becas para educación superior; Día de la Comunidad Familiar, Desayuno con Santa, útiles escolares, etc.; impresión y distribución de boletines para mantener a los residentes actualizados sobre la información pertinente; Proyectos de limpieza y plantación de árboles en todo el condado; construcción y mantenimiento del sendero para caminar, las canchas de tenis y baloncesto, el pabellón y el próximo nuevo patio de juegos en Birchwood Park; y mucho, mucho más.**

Complete este formulario de membresía y envíelo por correo con su cheque/giro postal a nombre de BCCA. Envíe por correo a: BCCA, P.O. Box 7, Oxon Hill, MD 20745-0007, a la atención de: Sra. Hernandez Saunders, Presidenta de Membresía.

O pague sus cuotas de membresía a través de Zelle: inicie sesión en la aplicación de su banco, envíe dinero usando Zelle. Busque el correo electrónico del Tesorero de BCCA, Percell Walker: Percellwalker@verizon.net - ASOCIACIÓN COMUNITARIA DE BIRCHWOOD CITY, O use CashApp - \$birchwoodBCCA Percellwalker@verizon.net)

NOTA: Si utiliza Zelle o CashApp, asegúrese de completar este formulario y enviarlo por correo electrónico. a la Sra. Hernandez Saunders en Army320@verizon.net

**FECHA** \_\_\_\_\_

**NOMBRE del (los) RESIDENTE(S)** \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECCIÓN** \_\_\_\_\_

**TELÉFONO** \_\_\_\_\_ **Correo electrónico** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cuotas de membresía \$** \_\_\_ **Donación para beca \$** \_\_\_ **Donación General \$** \_\_\_ **Total \$** \_\_\_

**¿Te gustaría ser voluntario en alguna de estas áreas? \_\_Membresía  
\_\_Recreación/Juventud \_\_Publicidad \_\_Educación \_\_Formas y medios/Actividades  
patrocinadas \_\_Embellecimiento \_\_Hospitalidad \_\_Comunicación \_\_Servicios  
Comunitarios \_\_Legislación**

**¡GRACIAS POR UNIRTE A BCCA PARA EL AÑO 2024!**

From BCCA Education Committee Acting Chair, Michelle Ross



## Doris Saunders Community Scholarship 2024 - 2025 Academic Year

**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. We are looking for leaders... We are looking for students that have given back to their community. 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 2024;
  - 2) is a current Birchwood/Clearview Manor resident;
  - 3) is planning to enroll in an accredited undergraduate program for the 2024 - 2025 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 should submit their entries via email to Michelle Ross, [ross063012@gmail.com](mailto:ross063012@gmail.com), Attention 2024 BCCA Scholarship Committee, no later than **Friday, August 16, 2024 (date has been extended)**. **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.

## From BCCA Beautification Committee Chair, Betty Woods

**Greetings good neighbors**, I certainly hope all is going well and that you are contented, healthy and happy. If you notice, summer is gradually getting ready to fade into the background as fall gets ready to make its appearance. I want to give you some tips on trees that hopefully, will prevent you from having a problem I've had.

On Friday morning, I was in bed watching TV, when a massive oak tree in my neighbor's yard uprooted and fell on my house, destroying my shed, a large portion of my deck and landed on my roof right across my bedroom. **Had a huge limb not impaled the ground breaking the impact of the weight, my roof would have been crushed and so would I. God is good!**

**Please inspect your trees.** If the tree is not flowering and healthy, it might have root rot. If you notice wilting yellowing leaves, dying brown leaves and needles, mold or fuzzy patches or if the tree is leaning, these are indicators that the tree is unhealthy or diseased. Seeds are carried by wind, rain and animals resulting in unwanted tree growth. It doesn't take long for roots to get established and the tree grows quickly.

Please be considerate of your neighbors. When limbs encroach the neighbor's property, and/or straddles a fence (which is what happened in my case), take responsibility and remove them. We want the golden rule to apply to others, just as it's applied to us. Be kind and considerate; check on your neighbors from time to time, especially in rough weather. **I thank God for the two neighbors who ran over to check on me.**

Enjoy the remainder of your summer. Stay safe and considerate. Blessings. (Psalm 34:8)

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*Special Note: I appreciate my Birchwood/Clearview family for their acts of kindness shown during this difficult time. Special thanks to the association for the beautiful peace lily. It is a source of comfort for me. ❤️*

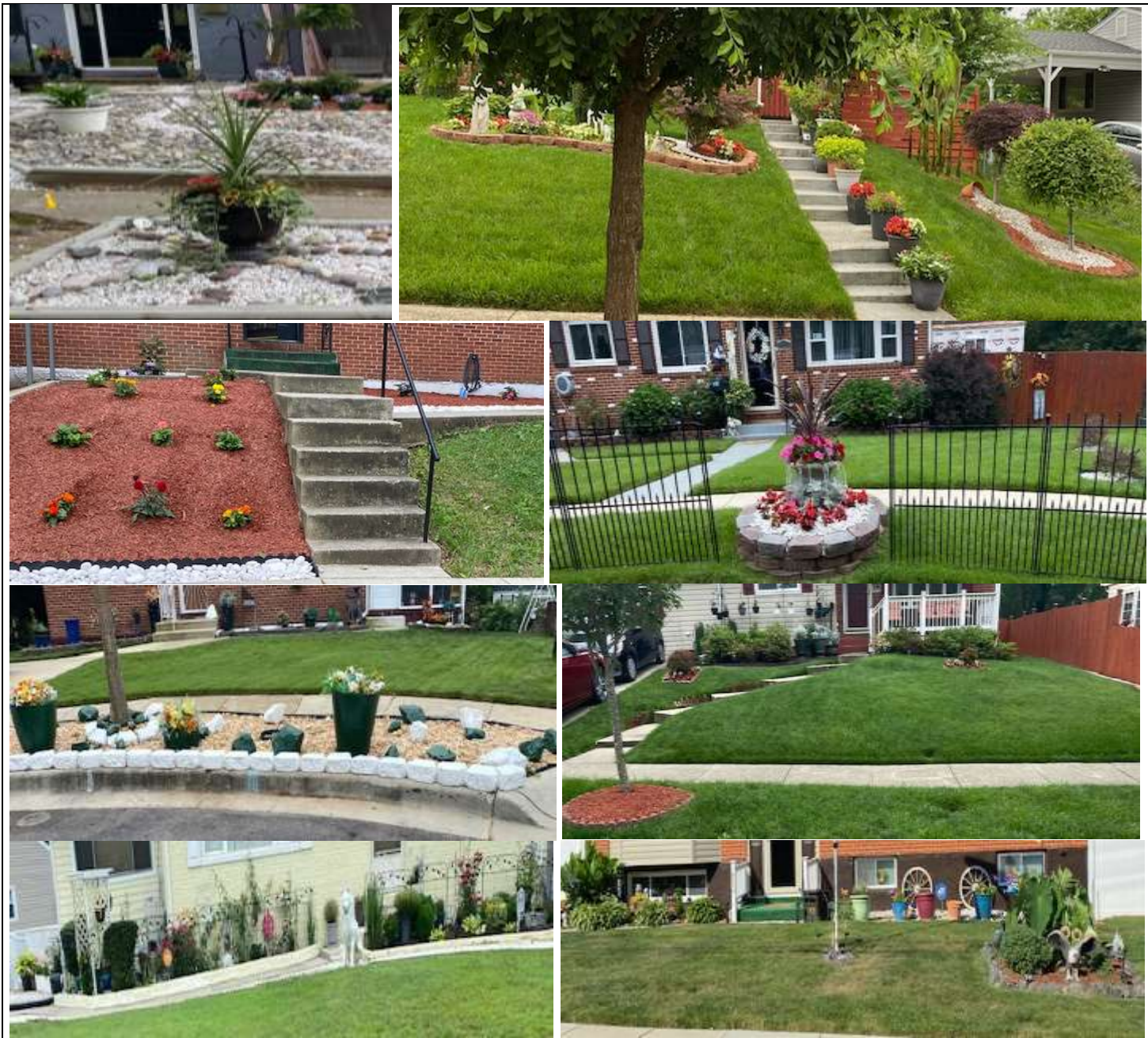
## From BCCA Publicity Committee Chair, Veda Dixon



**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](mailto:H15642vad@hotmail.com).**

Hello Everyone! Boy, it's been some hot days where I didn't even attempt to go outside but before the hot days, and during my neighborhood walks, I noticed some beautiful yards and new/improved designs and I was impressed. 😊 So, I'm featuring just a few lawns I enjoyed viewing (there were many more) and this is Good News! Everyone, keep up the great work you are doing with your landscaping.





**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.**

**Birchwood/Clearview Community Meeting  
Problem Solving Path – As of August 15, 2024  
Brian David Esch - Facilitator**

1)Problem Statement—2)Causes—3)Solutions—4)Prioritization—5)Action Registry

**Problem Statement**

**Lack of Involvement in Birchwood Association Activities**

Over several years, participation in BCCA community activities, meetings, and events has decreased. Attendance at monthly meetings has decreased, and fewer residents are volunteering for committees or events. This lack of involvement is impacting our ability to address the many community issues that we are faced with such as:

- 1. Traffic control for vehicles
- 2. Litter in our neighborhood; poorly maintained common areas
- 3. Safety concerns in neighborhood and park
- 4. Decreasing membership, fewer community events
- 5. Communication differences with various demographic groups (Spanish speakers from the Latino community)

Resulting in a lack of interpersonal connections among residents and less perspectives in decision making.



Problem: Decreasing membership of former members and need to increase membership of new members

What are the causes you can think of that contribute to decreasing BCCA membership or lack of increase of new members?

**Causes**

- Non-English speakers feeling not connected
- Folks not feeling invested in the community
- Not knowing your neighbors (especially new folks in the community)
- Lack of trust among perhaps undocumented neighbors
- Lack of communication in familiar language
- Other priorities (busy work, caretaking of elders and children)
- When the meetings are scheduled (always have hybrid meetings?)
- Lack of follow-up with new members (no one talked to them)

## **Solutions**

- During community meetings, have childcare available
- Having Spanish and English-speaking classes at the community center
- Translate meetings from English into other language
- Give youth community hours for participating in meetings/events
- Create marketing that appeals to different audiences on various platforms (Wanda)
- Block/Community/Diversity party—break into streets (with nametags) in different seasons
- Invite Latino members to play Latin music at events (being aware of hours and respect)
- Have heritage/cultural celebrations (like Cinco de Mayo or R&B party or call it Birchwood International Day or Birchwood Festival Day)
- Neighbors advertise their businesses in community newsletter (Wanda offers free notary services for seniors over 65 years old)
- Make in-person meetings also streamed with Zoom
- Record in-person meetings
- More hands for Gloria (chair of membership); more hands for the welcoming committee (the chair is empty)
- Send letters, birthday wishes (possibly automate this)
- Newsletter is in English and Spanish & meetings can have subtitles if streamed/recorded
- The kids are Latino so go to their schools and go to their social media apps and go the parents and contact the Parent Teacher Association (PTA)—ask the PTA for ideas.
- Let people know community meetings integrate problem solving into it.