



BIRCHWOOD-CLEARVIEW

NEWSLETTER

“A Community That Cares” *OCTOBER 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 will be held in-person on Thursday, October 17th for everyone living in the Birchwood-Clearview Community, at the Birchwood City Recreation Center, 1331 Fenwood Avenue, Oxon Hill, MD 20745.

We had a very engaging/brainstorming meeting last month. So, come out 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.”

Health and Wellness

- **Line Dancing – Wednesdays @ 1:15** – Mary Coleman will be instructing the line dance class, so come out and dance your stress away, have fun and stay active.

- **Fitness in the Park - Saturdays @ 9am** - Fitness at Birchwood Park with Planet Fitness Coach, Will Chambers, will be held in Birchwood City Recreation Park under the Pavilion (weather permitting; else via Zoom).
- **October 31 - SYSTAZ with VISIONZ SC/BCCA Presents: TRUNK OR TREAT** (see flyer below).



- **Thursday, November 7th – BCCA will Honoring our Veterans – Save the Date!** More information forth coming.

From the Desk of BCCA President, Sylvia Griffin

Take Action!

A CALL TO ACTION!

Let's address the elephant in the room. It has been a great concern across many communities in the county in helping to close the gap with our Hispanic/Latino communities with other diverse groups. However, despite this tremendous growth and influence, the communities still often face barriers in many areas such as civic engagement, representation and leadership where we all reside. It is important more than ever; it is crucial for Birchwood's Hispanic/Latino individuals to actively engage with the Birchwood City-Clearview Community Association to step up into leadership or volunteer roles to help shape the future of our Birchwood community.

Here is why-and how-it can make a difference for us all:

- 1) When you engage in matters you are allowing your voice to be heard, your voice has the power to influence practices, address issues and advocate for change. But this can only happen if more of us are involved in decision-making processes.
- 2) Shaping the future of our youth, many young Hispanic/Latinos face challenges in education, employment and opportunities for growth. By getting involve, we as an Association collectively can push for equitable access to resources and programs that support all our young people (mentorship, involvement in school boards or youth programs) it can be transformative. [HOW TO GET INVOLVED?](#)
- 3) **JUST VOLUNTEER-** with our Birchwood City-Clearview Community Association. Right now, we are looking for individuals to volunteer with the new (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion-DEI) Committee. The DEI Committee will coordinate community activities to educate and improve communications and relationships among culturally diverse residents of the community.
- 4) You can run for Office in the Association (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Chair of Committees) or volunteer. Let's lift each other up, support our Birchwood/Clearview Community, and be the leaders our community needs.

JOIN THIS CALL OF ACTION TODAY!

From the Desk of BCCA Secretary, Wanda Gross

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.

- 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.
- 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.

From the BCCA Event Planner Committee Chair, Ygenia Bounds

Hello Neighbors!

Thank you to those who have been participating in the afternoon Wellness Wednesday, Line Dance Class at 1:15pm (there is room for more – come on and join us!).



I just like to let everyone know about our line dance leader, Mary Coleman. Mary have been doing line dancing for many years, but a teacher since 2012. She teaches twice a week at Camp Spring Senior Center, Tucker Road Recreation Center once a week and Birchwood once a week. Mary is enthusiastic about teaching us new steps and is a pro at her craft. She's motivating, encouraging and enjoy what she's doing. We're happy to have her enthusiasm and lovely demeanor.

So, Birchwood/Clearview come out and join us on Wednesdays from 1:15 to 2:15pm in making this a beautiful success for our seniors. Here to a way to a healthier you and I hope to see you at our next class!! 🧑🏾‍🎨 🧑🏾‍🎨 🧑🏾‍🎨

Upcoming Events: Evening games for all; fitness and wellness through exercising for all; tea party; and sneaker ball for the teens. Come one and come all to help make these events successful.

Thanks, Ygenia Bounds



From the BCCA Beautification Chair, Betty Woods

Good friends and neighbors, have you noticed that fall is “falling” rapidly as we lose more daylight, see subtle changes as the leaves dry and begin to change color, and let’s not forget that nip of a chill in the air that has driven many of us to start pulling out the warm clothing and adjust our thermostats. Yep, we can see the remnants of summer slipping away as fall makes its entrance.

What an exciting time we had during community day! If you missed it, you really missed a delightful time.

I’m hoping to see many of you participating in the **clean-up event** coming up. It builds friendship bonds; you get to know your neighbors (better) and it helps to beautify our community.

Many yards are bursting with colors associated with fall. It’s always great seeing the pride and care you put into taking care of your property which helps our neighborhood remain clean, healthy and eye appealing. Kudos to those who pick up the trash and debris some callous people flagrantly toss out. Obviously, some people just don’t care!

As we go about our busy lives, let’s encourage each other. Put a smile on someone’s face by speaking, engaging in a bit of conversation and just caring. We are that village that will help to shape and guide our future leaders.

Everyone, stay safe, be vigilant and spread kindness. See ya at the next meeting. Blessings and Peace. 😊

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

Happy Fall

Birchwood City – Clearview Manor Community!!



This is one of the most vibrant seasons of the year!! The oranges, yellows, reds and greens are welcoming color to guide us into the coming “Holiday Seasons” for the remaining of 2024. The hot days are gone, and jackets are needed. The “Joys” of anticipation begin as we make plans for family gatherings near & far, great food, or just plain old quiet time.

There are events within our community, at our places of worship, social clubs, exercise classes at **Our Recreation Center** all year long that we make time to participate, plan, and attend as we execute plans for 2025 to include introductions of new adventures and goals.

Updates

The Community had Two Members of the Executive Board speak on October 2, 2024, concerning the **“Budget Year 2025”**. During this virtual Park & Planning Budget Meeting, their testimonies included these remarks: The Scheduled & Planned Upgrades at the Birchwood Park & Recreation Center installation of our new Playground to include the recently

new drainage safety measures which are now a requirement. Request for funds to meet the new mandates at all "Park Entrances" County Wide and Public Safety.

ENJOY THE SEASONS!!



Prince George's County will host a Countywide community cleanup program entitled "Growing Green with Pride." This event supports our Beautification Initiative to make our community cleaner by conducting individual community litter collection events, which demonstrates our shared commitment to keeping our communities appealing and attractive. Community organizations and groups are encouraged to participate.

Join Us For The
Fall 2024 Program: October 19, 2024
8:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.
Starting At the "Birchwood Recreation Center"



A Little History from the Past Above!!

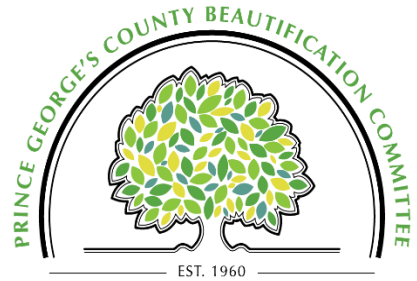
Growing Green with Pride is a collaboration of the "Beautification Committee" Chair - Betty Woods & the Ways & Means Committee – Michelle Ross, Denise Jordan-Williams & Sharon R. Sims-Colbert, Chair.

Meet Our Partners
DPWT
The Neighborhood Design Center
During this
"Semi-Annual" Event





*Community Members!!
Join the list of “Honored
Winners” In the Birchwood-
City Clearview Community*



Since 1970, the County Beautification Committee has hosted an annual Beautification Awards Program. Through this Program, Prince George’s County (P.G.C.) honors those who have contributed to the community through excellence in gardening and landscaping. Early each spring, residents and landscape professionals are invited to enter the Program. All landscaping efforts are eligible including community efforts, school garden projects, landscaping of government, commercial and industrial sites and residential efforts, both maintained by the owner or professionally designed and maintained.

2025 Nominations Wanted
Contact Sharon R. Sims-Colbert @ sharon.sims2@verizon.net

Birchwood City – Clearview Manor Community has participated in the P.G.C. private property “Beautification Program for the last **seven years**” and has numerous award recipients!! **Congratulations to all & especially to the 2024 awardees!!**

From the BCCA Community Services Chair, Lucy Hall

**Birchwood City Community Association (BCCA)
Community Residents’ Opportunity to Participate in Updating Constitution and
Bylaws**



BCCA’s Community Services Committee Chair and five other BCCA members (Lucy Hall, Richard Henry, Carmen Mack, Donna Joyner, Sharon Sims-Colbert and Sylvia Griffin) are working on the 2024 Bylaws Review Committee. Before the end of October 2024, the drafted amended Constitution and Bylaws will be ready for review by BCCA members for final approval.

To have the opportunity to participate in this review process, a resident of the Birchwood-Clearview Community must be a BCCA member in good standing. “In good standing” means that you have paid your 2024 BCCA membership dues during the period from January 2024 to the present time. To know your status, please email BCCA Membership Committee Chair, Gloria Hernandez Saunders at army320@verizon.net or call Lucy Hall at **301-839-0499**.

We want as many residents as possible to take part in this civic event. Therefore, please share this information with your neighbors because we do not have emails for most of the residents in our community.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS CELEBRATION



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

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

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.**

Thank you to everyone who made our **2024 Birchwood/Clearview Community Day, on October 5th** a big success! Thank you to our community, partners, vendors, county representatives and all the folks whose labor of love shined so brightly on our wonderful day! Below are photos capturing our beautiful day:









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 - 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

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