

Calverton Current



Newsletter of the Calverton Citizen's Association ♦ Silver Spring ♦ Beltsville, MD ♦ July 2015
www.calvertoncitizens.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—Bernie Karns

Virtue is not left to stand alone. He who practices it will have neighbors. – Confucius (551 BC – 479 BC)

What does it mean to be a neighbor? Is it merely geographic nearness, a physical closeness brought about by coincidence or the whims of life? Surely at times that might be the case. But, everyone we know is a neighbor to us in some way.

A happy story is that at some point a neighbor becomes something more. Neighbors create a community and a neighborhood that is surely something greater than merely a group of people who live near each other. Neighbors can become our closest friends if we allow. Neighbors can become friends that we know for decades or may know into our retirement. Neighbors can become friends that we can rely on to loan us a tool or a helping hand.

A sad story is that our neighbor can become the villain in our lives. The antagonist or enemy who bothers us with loud music and noises, who allows the dog to roam free, who hangs the laundry in the front and side yard, who parks vehicles and leaves trash in way that makes our neighborhood unsafe. All neighbors need to understand the rules of the community you live in and seek to abide by them.

There is never a need to become the antagonist of someone else or confrontational towards someone else. We all have a choice. Communicate with respect. Be civil to one another. Regard those around you with compassion. With that in mind, I ask that everyone in our community make the choice to be a good neighbor.

It is when we create walls between each other that friction arises. It is when we treat neighbors like “others” or “outsiders”, people who are not part of our group, that neighbors have no reason to be kind or respect us or wish to fit in with us. Remember, neighbor relationships go two ways. There is no reason why any neighbor should act like an “other” or “outsider” by not showing kindness and compassion towards another neighbor. We all live here together. We are all neighbors. We all need to accept our neighbors.

We all need to choose to be the kind and the respectful one in the relationship. We can change the nature of our relationships or at least the way we feel about our relationship with our neighbors. We all need to treat each other as part of the group and the neigh-

borhood, not like “others” or “outsiders.” We can make an impact on our neighbors and our neighborhood. Be the better person, be the good neighbor, and you will have better neighbors in turn.

Let us all prove that Confucius was right 2500 years ago.

BLOCK CAPTAIN VACANCY REPORT

Montgomery County. Block Captains are needed for Blocks 40a, 40b, and 58. For more info, please call Donna Riley, Montgomery County Membership Chair, at 301-572-5186.

- Block S-40a, on Summerwood Drive, has 10 homes
- Block S-40b, on Castleigh Road has 10 homes

Block S-58, on Pretoria Drive has 22 homes

Prince George's County. Block Captains are needed for Blocks 8, 14, 38, and 39. For more info, please call Nina Harley, Prince George's County Membership Chair, at 301-572-7455.

- Block B-8, on Christine Drive, has 15 homes
- Block B-14, on Bellevue Street, has 26 homes
- Block B-38, on Wellford Drive, has 27 homes
 - Block B-39, on Briggs Chaney Road, has 17 homes

You do not have to live on the block to be the Block Captain, although this is always preferable. Maybe you could partner with a neighbor to be co-Block Captains and split the duties—one person deliver the newsletter, and the other collect dues, or you could alternate months of delivering the newsletter.

Please volunteer to serve your community as a Block Captain! The residents on these blocks are not receiving

this newsletter, paying their CCA dues, or receiving the Calverton Directory.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Saturday, July 4 – Celebrate Calverton July 4th Event. Calverton Park next to Calverton Elementary School. It will take place on the Fullerton Street side from 10:45 am to 1:30 pm. Volunteers are needed to make this event a big success. Call Bernie 301-572-8018.
- Tuesday, August 4 – National Night Out (NNO).
 - PG District VI – takes place at the District VI station on Sellman Road. Volunteers are needed for the event.
 - MC District 3 – is working with Jewru Bandeh, Director of East County Services, to have an East County NNO at the East County Regional Services Building on Briggs Chaney Road. More information to follow. Volunteers are needed for the event.



¡Feliz Día de la Independencia!

CCA Board Meeting June 4, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm

The minutes from the May CCA Board Meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Paid bill for newsletter, general membership refreshments and website.

Guests:

William Steen – *Carrollton Enterprises.*

Do More 24 which is an online donation source for United Way which allows people to donate online to their favorite charity all day on June 4. Carrollton Enterprises partners with Doctors' Community Hospital Foundation. We hope that people will give to this cause, but you can give to your favorite charity. If you cannot give today, you can send your contribution directly to Doctor's Community Hospital Foundation.

Mr. Turner wants to say that all is well and is still very involved with Calverton. He enjoys supporting the Beautification Contest. Mr. Turner also wants to support the MC National Night Out if there is one in MC.

Corporal Schwaeble – *PG Community Police Officer.*

Speed sign on Calverton Boulevard was out for couple of weeks ago. Speeding was down a bit. Some Calverton residents were stopped due to speeding. Thank you Corporal Schwaeble and PG police for putting out the speed monitor again.

House on Castleleigh had several calls for service. There were medical emergencies at the house. There was not any type of criminal activity at the house. Corporal Schwaeble is still looking into another situation where one resident of Calverton verbally abused another resident.

The Calverton Neighborhood Watch Walk is coming up on Friday, June 12 from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Corporal Schwaeble is trying to get the white sign that will announce the walk so that it can be put on Calverton Boulevard.



One board member mentioned that there was police activity on Gazebo Court. 4 police cars and officers were at one house for about 20 minutes. No arrests were made and the police left.

One board member mentioned that there have now been two speed traps on Palermo. Thank you Commander Jones and MC police.

Committee Reports:

The Directory should be put together this year for 2015-2016.

The membership drive needs to be started.

It would be good to get coupons or giveaways for residents to get when they join. Or have the membership card to be used at various businesses for discounts.

New Business:

Constant Contact – Calverton Citizens Association News and Happenings email that comes out to broadcast what is happening. It costs \$60/month. You can send as many emails each month as you want. The board approved to continue using Constant Contact for a one year trial period.

The Calverton sign at Galway and Fairland was vandalized again. We need to replace the letters. One board member has talked to a sign company because the letters on the current sign are not bolted and can be removed by hand. It will be a permanent sign where the letters will not be able to be stolen. The board member will get a quote for a new sign.

Outlot A – the corner of Calverton and Gracefield. One board member said that CCA should maintain the area around the Calverton sign so that it looks nice and protects the sign. The CCA said that we will support the upkeep of the grounds around the sign. MC council members Tom Hucker and Marc Elrich are both working on the issue.

Blowfish Restaurant in Maryland Farms was before the PG Liquor Board trying to get a special exception to have karaoke at the restaurant. The entertainment license had been pulled almost two years and at the end of August the restaurant could apply for another. About 15 community members and Major Lloyd from District VI showed up to oppose the special exception because the Blowfish restaurant has had an average of 33 calls of service by the PG Police over the last 5 years. The Liquor Board Chairman asked the community members to work with the owner that night to try to come up with a compromise. The owner withdrew his application before we could talk to him. Major Lloyd said that District VI will try to add more coverage over the next couple months to make sure that the atmosphere and surrounding property of restaurant stays quiet.

CCA received an email regarding leaking pipes in the front yard. WSSC is not responsible for leaking pipes in the front yard. It is the responsibility of the Calverton resident to fix the pipe.

District 14 wrap up took place at the East County Regional Services Center. The topics were the budget, schools, taxes, roads, and transportation. Several Calverton residents attended the meeting.

District 21 wrap up took place at Martin Luther King Middle School. The topics were about the same. One budget change for the PG is that school fees have gone up this year. It cost nearly \$100.00 to rent the room instead of the usual \$4.00.

Calverton Welcome Packet for new residents. Four board members volunteered to work on the packet. We hope to have it available with the new membership drive this fall.

Old Business:

Park at the top of Shanondale – one board member will contact MC to discuss our ideas for the park to see if Calverton will be

allowed to do something in the park.

The Maydale Nature Center community meeting will be Wednesday, June 10 at 7 pm at the East County Regional Services Center at 3300 Briggs Chaney Road. East County residents want Maydale reopened.



July 4th – got a petting zoo and got 2 face painters. Since July 3 is a holiday for county employees, PG County wants to meet us on July 1 at Calverton Elementary at 7:30 pm in order to deliver tables, chairs, etc. Margaret will put out the flags along Calverton Boulevard. Now we need lots of volunteers to help with all the jobs.

Noise – 7 am to 9 pm in PG. If an officer comes out the first time it is a warning, the second warning is \$500.00 fine and the third time is \$1000.00. The noise cannot be heard more than from 50 feet from the noise source. MC has a noise ordinance from 7 am to 9 pm on weekdays and 9 am to 9 pm on weekends. MC has no noise from 9 pm to 7 am on weekdays and no noise from 9 pm to 9 am on weekends.

Parking problem – trailer parked over the white line along Galway. It is parked partially on the street and is not within the parking lane. Call non-emergency police number. Vehicles have to park 35 feet from the intersection or intersecting roadways.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our Celebrate Calverton July 4th Event needs your help. You can volunteer from 7:30 am to 10:30 am or from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm. Whatever time you can give, we will gladly take it.

Call Bernie at 301-572-8018. All ages are welcome to help. Students will receive volunteer hours for helping on July 4th. But, you have to bring your form with you when you come. Call Bernie at 301-572-8018.

CRIME UPDATE

The police now have a new campaign for crime. SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING. The early reporting of crime increases the effectiveness of police response. Here is one example of where the Calverton community can help the police.

Many residents do not find door-to-door sales an acceptable practice because it makes people uneasy and people feel unsafe. So, many companies and utilities no longer solicit at the door because they realize people don't like it. There have been a few instances of house break-ins and forced entry into the home in the last several months while someone is supposedly selling something door-to-door. If someone comes to your door, don't



Join the CCA Announcement Email List

Text CALVERTON to 22828
to get started...

Or, visit <http://CalvertonCitizens.org> and click on "Join Our Email List"

open your door. Get a description of the person, get any other information about the person and then call 911 immediately. If you see someone going door-to-door, get a description of the person, get any other information about the person and then call 911 immediately. So, here is our opportunity as a community to help our police. The police want you to call 911 so that they can verify that the person is a legitimate representative of

The Rockets' Red, White, and Blue Glare

How did fireworks become America's Fourth of July pastime?
by Forrest Wickman

For as long as Americans can remember, the nation has celebrated the Fourth of July by staging grand fireworks shows in public squares and lighting smaller displays at home. Why do we commemorate Independence Day by setting off thousands of small explosions?

Because John Adams wanted us to. Before the Declaration of Independence was even signed, he envisioned fireworks as a part of the festivities. In a letter to Abigail Adams on July 3, 1776, he wrote that the occasion should be commemorated "with Pomp and Parade, with Shews, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more." The first commemorative Independence Day fireworks were set off on July 4, 1777. The Pennsylvania Evening Post wrote that in Philadelphia, "The evening was closed with the ring of bells, and at night there was a grand exhibition of fireworks (which began and concluded with thirteen rockets) on the Commons, and the city was beautifully illuminated." The paper noted that "Everything was conducted with the greatest order and decorum, and the face of joy and gladness was universal." That same year, fireworks also lit up the sky in Boston, where they were exhibited by Col. Thomas Crafts over the common. By 1783 a large variety of fireworks were available to the public. In 1784 one merchant offered a range of pyrotechnics that included "rockets, serpents, wheels, table rockets, cherry trees, fountains, and sun flowers."



Forrest Wickman is a Slate senior editor.