

Calverton Current



Newsletter of the Calverton Citizens Association • Silver Spring - Beltsville, MD • May 2014
www.calvertoncitizens.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.....Bernie Kams

Hello, Calverton,

We had a good turnout for our April General Membership Meeting. The CCA Bylaw changes were approved. The approved bylaws will be delivered to your door with the next newsletter.

The new Calverton Directory will be coming to your door soon. Keep your eyes open for your Block Captain because they will be bringing you a new directory with the May newsletter. Remember to support all the advertisers that are in the directory. They deserve consideration since they have supported Calverton.

Karen Coakley, president of the Beltsville Citizens Association, came to our general membership meeting. She informed us that Rushern Baker, Prince Georges County Executive, has provided funds in the budget for a feasibility study for the modernization of High Point High School. Mary Lehman, District 1 County Council, and state Senator Jim Rosapepe and the entire Maryland 21st delegation all support the modernization of the school. The study will provide recommendations to Prince Georges County on what is the best way to proceed on bringing High Point into the 21st century. Hopefully, the recommendation will be a new High Point High School. We will keep you informed on the result of the feasibility study.

This year is Calverton's 50th birthday. Happy Birthday, Calverton! On Friday, July 4th, we are going to celebrate the big event. Mark your calendar now for a day of fun, food, and festivities. We need your help to make the event a success, so call me at 301-572-8018 to volunteer.

Dear Calverton Neighbors,
It has been my pleasure to serve as Editor of the Calverton Current for the past 20+ years. I am retiring effective with this issue. I wish all of you the best.

Karen Mills
-30-



DATES TO REMEMBER

☞ **May 1, Thursday - 7 p.m.** CCA Board Meeting. Prince George's County Police Substation, Calverton Shopping Center. All CCA members are invited and encouraged to attend.

☞ **May 5, Monday - 7:30 p.m.** Calverton Recreation Council Board Meeting. Go to www.calvertonrec.org for more information.

☞ **May 10, Saturday - Deadline** for next Calverton Current. Please volunteer to be editor or to work on the newsletter.

HIGHLIGHTS OF APRIL 2014 CCA BOARD MEETING

Treasurer's Report. Income last month came from CCA membership dues and directory ads. The insurance for liability was paid.

CCA Directory. It is almost done, and it looks good. A note was added asking that residents support the advertisers and local businesses. Put unity back in community.

Calverton Current. The April newsletter was late because there was a problem copying the CCA Bylaws, which were an insert. No volunteers have signed up to do the newsletter yet. Discussion on ways to divide the duties of the newsletter were discussed. Someone suggested paying a newsletter editor, but the bylaws state that, as volunteers, we don't get paid. It was suggested getting a newsletter committee together with four volunteers to divide the duties (President's message, highlights of minutes, classified ads, crime report, other events) and a chair to pull it all together. If the newsletter were to cut back to every other month or quarterly, the advertisers would suffer. The newsletter is also needed every month to alert the community to news and information. It was suggested to call the departments of both counties to get on email lists for information. Could prepare a one-sheet newsletter with the highlights of the minutes and Dates to Remember on the front page and the classified ads on the back page. We could mail the newsletter to residents to take the burden off the Block Captains, but the Block Captains are an important link between the CCA Board and the residents. Will set up a newsletter committee meeting to get volunteers together.

Please call Bernie Karns (301-572-8018) to sign up to work on the Calverton Current.

Zoning and Legal Action Committee. Zoning issues are being looked at in both counties. If nothing is resolved, Board members will be setting up meetings with Montgomery County and Prince George's County officials to discuss the violations.

Stream Cleanups. The stream along Gracefield Road and the creek at Calverton Boulevard and Craiglawn Road need to be cleaned up. Residents along the stream need to call 311 to report the problem. Wanda will take on directing the stream cleanup in Prince George's County down at the beginning on Calverton Boulevard.

Shed Update. The shed is being built at the pool. The pool will pay for the building permit and base foundation. We need to go through our papers to downsize.

Corner of Calverton Boulevard and Gracefield Road. A letter will be sent to the owner of this property about what is expected of the owner to maintain the property.

National Night Out. This annual August event cannot be held at the Calverton pool. The pool is a club, and there are liability issues with allowing non-members into the pool grounds. They will let us use the side parking lot to set up tables, moonbounce, and other things we decide to do. Would like to combine the 50th anniversary of Calverton on July 4th with National Night Out events. Then do a Neighborhood Watch Walk on National Night Out in August.

Montgomery County Police District 3 Meeting. Frank C attended for the CCA. Captain Johnson, district commander, is retiring. The police are making more traffic stops and showing a greater police presence in eastern Montgomery County.

Prince George's County Police District VI. The Police District is undergoing a re-accreditation process to make sure it is meeting standard criteria.

High Point High School. The school needs letters of support to renovate or build a new school. A representative from the Beltsville Citizens Association will be at the April General Meeting to talk about the feasibility and possibility that the school will get renovation or a new school.

Gazette. The local newspapers pile up on driveways for weeks and weeks. The Gazette has said that they still deliver because advertisers have paid for the paper. The resident has to call and say they don't want it delivered (opt-out).

CCA NEWSLETTER EDITOR(S) WANTED

The editorship of the Calverton Current will be open starting with the June issue, which is prepared in May. Some of the duties include but are not limited to:

- Insert the President's letter, Board meeting minutes, and other articles into the newsletter.
- Throughout the month, search library racks, the Internet (sign up for email notifications from departments in both counties), and newspapers for information relevant to Calverton.
- Check in the Local Living section of the Thursday Washington Post for crime incidents in Calverton (District 3 in Montgomery County; District VI in Prince George's County).
- Go to the CCA box at the Beltsville Post Office several times a month and pick up ads for the Classified Ads page. Karen Mills will pass on the key to the post office box. Turn the ads money in to the CCA treasurer.
- One person can do this, or the duties can be divided, say one person does pages 1-3, and another person takes care of the Classified Ads page (page 4). There are many other ways to divide the duties.
- The current editor, Karen Mills, will help you get set up.

BLOCK CAPTAIN VACANCY REPORT

Montgomery County. Block Captains are needed for Blocks 40a and 40b. 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 Castleleigh Road, has 10 homes

Prince George's County. Block Captains are needed for Blocks 33 and 37. For more info, please call Nina Harley, Prince George's County Membership Chair, at 301-572-7455.

- Block B-33, on Fullerton Street, has 27 homes
- Block B-37, on Dunnington Road, has 18 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, 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 this year.

GOOD NEIGHBOR CORNER

Now that the weather has turned beautiful, it's time for the residents in Calverton to enjoy spending time outside. That means more noise, whether from parties, building that new deck, or mowing the lawn. We all have to be more diligent about respecting our neighbors' needs.

Both Montgomery and Prince George's Counties have

ordinances related to noise disturbances. Generally, there should be no noise at night after 9 p.m. On weekdays, the noise ordinance goes until 7 a.m. and on the weekends, until 9 a.m.

If you know you are going to plan something noisy, talk to your neighbors. Or even include them in your plans. After all, it's hard for somebody to be upset about the noise from your party if they are there having fun with you! At the very least, you should let them know of your plans and encourage them to let you know if they feel you are being too loud. Often just that much consideration will defuse any sort of situation before it starts.

This doesn't go just for noise, though. If you are planning an event, make sure to respect other things such as street parking rules. Don't block streets and don't take up all the parking so your neighbors have nowhere to park. Let your guests know where it's acceptable to park and where it isn't.

All of these things are just part of being a community and being a good neighbor. It helps maintain a respectful and communal atmosphere so we can all thrive in Calverton. Now get out there! Enjoy the weather and enjoy our neighborhood!

FOURTH ANNUAL BEAUTIFICATION CONTEST

We are having a lovely spring, and Calverton residents have begun sprucing up their yards. We hope many homeowners (as well as renters) enter the Beautification Contest this year. Like last year, the amount of the total award will remain at \$1,000.

Cash awards will be awarded to five yards. First place will be awarded \$400, and the other four places will be awarded \$150 each. The winners will be decided by the vote of the CCA Beautification Committee. It is the committee's expectation that the prizes will be taxable.

To enter the best-looking home and yard contest, please complete the application on the opposite side of the page and either email it to jrupert@p2r.net or mail it to: CCA Beautification Contest, P.O. Box 21, Beltsville, MD 20704-0021. **Entries must be received by June 1, 2014. The first yard inspections will tentatively begin June 10.** Monthly inspections will continue through September. Only the front and side yards will be inspected.

Who May Enter the Beautification Contest?
The eligibility criteria for entering the contest are as follows:

1. An applicant must be a Calverton resident living in a home in Calverton. The home or yard must not be in violation of any Calverton Covenant, except for the

- Covenant regarding backyard fences (Covenant #10).
- 2. An applicant must be certified by the Membership Chair of the county the applicant lives in as being a dues-paying CCA member for the current year (2014).
- 3. An Officer or Delegate of the CCA, or member of the Beautification Committee (or their immediate families), are not eligible to enter during their term and for one year after they leave their position.
- 4. A resident cannot win more than once every 4 years.

What Will the Committee Be Looking For?
--Criteria for Judging Home and Yard

- Proper use of landscaping, preferably in an environmentally sound way.
- Maintenance and overall appearance of home and grounds.
- Special features and alterations, such as walls, pavers, natural screening, arbors, exterior lighting, fountains, gardens, rain barrels, pergolas, etc.
- Architectural features such as front porticos, shutters, windows, doors, siding, shingles, etc.

The decisions of the Beautification Committee on which residents are eligible and the identity of the award winners are final and not subject to appeal. Awards will be announced and presented at the Fall 2014 General Membership meeting, and winners must be present at the Fall meeting. The names of the award winners will be published in the next edition of the *Calverton Current* after the Fall meeting.

*****APPLICATION TO ENTER THE 2014 CALVERTON BEAUTIFICATION CONTEST*****

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Email address _____
(optional)

I swear that I am a current 2014 dues-paying member of the CCA. I agree to allow the Beautification Committee members to enter my front yard and side yards for inspection purposes only.

(Signed) _____

Please email this information to jrupert@p2r.net or mail this form to: CCA Beautification Contest, P.O. Box 21, Beltsville, MD 20704-0021.
Entries must be received by June 1, 2014.

