

# Calverton Current



Newsletter of the Calverton Citizens Association • Silver Spring - Beltsville, MD • May 2013  
[www.calvertoncitizens.org](http://www.calvertoncitizens.org)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.....Bernie Karns

We had a good turnout for the Spring General Membership Meeting on April 10. The Calverton community received an update about the bills that were approved in Annapolis and an update on crime in the area.

We want to thank State Senator Jim Rosapepe, Delegate Barbara Frush, and Delegate Joseline Pena-Melnyk, who represent the Prince George's County 21<sup>st</sup> delegation, for attending our meeting and sharing their reports on actions taken in Annapolis. We are posting their session wrap-ups on the Calverton website.

[www.calvertoncitizens.org](http://www.calvertoncitizens.org)

We also want to thank Delegate Anne Kaiser from the Montgomery County 14<sup>th</sup> delegation for coming to the meeting and sharing her session wrap-up. Her wrap-up will also be posted on the Calverton website.

[www.calvertoncitizens.org](http://www.calvertoncitizens.org)

A special thank you also goes to Major Weishaar, Sergeant Davis, Corporal Knight, and Corporal Besock from the Prince George's District VI Police station who attended the meeting. Their crime report stated that so far this year, major crime is down but theft from vehicles is up (see Crime Report on back page).

There was a recent example right here in Calverton. A Calverton resident got in his car to go to work one morning but had to go back into the house because he forgot something. When he returned to his unlocked car a very short time later, the resident noticed that several things were missing from the car. He did not call the police because he felt that it did not matter. ***It does matter.*** We need to call the police to report anything that happens no matter how minor YOU think it is. Let's say that theft from vehicle happened to 10 residents that morning, but no one called the police to report the incident. If no one calls, no one will know there is a problem. Please call because it could be a major problem within our community. If you see or hear anything suspicious, call the police. Do not think it is minor, and you don't want to disturb the police. Minor problems lead to major problems. Corporal Knight said that we should call 911. He said that we should just do it and not second guess ourselves. So please, "JUST DO IT" for the Calverton community.

We are working on rebuilding our connection with the Montgomery County police and the Montgomery County Council. We hope to have Montgomery County representation at the next CCA Board meeting and the next General Membership meeting in November.

The May 2 and June 6 CCA Board meetings will not be held at Calverton Elementary School. The school is being repaired and is dealing with issues of asbestos removal. The Media Center is torn up for renovation. Instead, we will meet at the Prince George's County Police Substation in the Calverton Shopping Center on both those nights at 7 p.m. Please mark your calendars to attend the CCA Board's May 2 and June 6 meetings.

**Remember:** The Calverton website is up and running at [www.calvertoncitizens.org](http://www.calvertoncitizens.org). Feel free to log on and navigate through the site. A button will translate the information into different languages. There is also a place to enter comments and suggestions. **We welcome your feedback.**

## DATES TO REMEMBER

☞ **May 2, 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 6, Monday - 7:30 p.m.** Calverton Recreation Council Board Meeting. Location to be determined. Volunteers always needed and appreciated. All are welcome. <[www.calvertonrec.org](http://www.calvertonrec.org)>

☞ **May 10, Friday - Deadline** for next Calverton Current.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF APRIL 2013 CCA BOARD MEETING

**Highlights.** The minutes from the March meeting were approved.

**Treasurer's Report.** The Board voted to approve the treasurer's report presented by Treasurer Tom Hickey. He is still receiving 2013 dues. The Board voted to accept a \$200 donation from Carrollton Enterprises to help defray the cost of the appreciation dinner for Dan Epps at Seibel's Restaurant.

**Visitors.** Two guests attended the meeting and spoke.

1) William Steen, Public Relations Director, Carrollton Enterprises, is working with each business in the Calverton Shopping Center to help them connect more with the Calverton community. He introduced Loretta, from LOVE Beauty Shop. The salon opened 6 months

ago; business has been light. She would like to work with the school systems and will donate \$1 to a local school for each person who patronizes her salon. To encourage students to read history, she will run a contest. If a student reads any type of history book, tells three people about it, and writes a one-page summary, s(he) can enter the contest. Loretta will choose a "winner" every 3 months.

Mr. Steen suggested a possible promotion in which Mr. Albert Turner will award a significant prize to people who shop at businesses in his shopping centers. Additional signage will be added to direct people to the merchants that are on Beltsville Road.

2) Corporal Knight, Prince George's County Police, ([GBKnight@co.pg.md.us](mailto:GBKnight@co.pg.md.us)), said that the CCA Board is welcome anytime to meet at the substation in the Calverton Shopping Center. He reported that theft from vehicles has risen. Usually the perpetrators are youth who steal things like laptops, purses, wallets, and GPS devices from the car. Remember to lock car doors. A refresher course for Neighborhood Watch is upcoming. People need to call the police more often. Reporting incidents is very important to obtain the resources needed to protect the community.

Cpl. Knight passed out inventory sheets. He said that residents should list their electronics on the sheet, record the serial numbers for the items, and take a picture of the item. If items are stolen and then pawned, the owner may be able to recover them if the serial number is known and matched.

Other crime is down compared to this time last year. Briggs Chaney Shopping Center still has problems; it is hoped that the new District 3 police station under construction on New Hampshire Avenue will improve response time. Opening is scheduled for 2014.

Mr. Steen noted that Carrollton Enterprises may purchase an engraving tool for the police to use for engraving personal items to prevent robbery. The tool would be used at Neighborhood Watch events at which residents would bring in their valuables for the police to engrave with identifying information

*Website Committee.* The mission statement should incorporate the verbiage in the Calverton Directory. No one in Calverton has contacted the Website Committee with suggestions or ideas. Just to confirm, Claire Rupert volunteered to help keep the info on the website updated.

*Bylaws Committee.* There are still some issues that need to be resolved. Another Bylaws Committee meeting is needed. President Bernie Kams talked about adding another committee to the bylaws – a committee honoring residents and friends of the community who have made significant contributions to Calverton.

*CCA Dues.* There was discussion about lowering the dues to \$15, but the Board decided to leave them at \$20.

*Better Signs.* The Board voted to spend \$100 to purchase better signs advertising the General Membership meeting and placed along Calverton streets prior to the meeting. Vice President Frank Cockrell will get the better signs for the next general meeting. Pat Thornberg offered to donate old real estate signs, and Frank will pick them up.

*July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration.* Chairs or co-chairs are needed for this activity. Bernie sent an email to the person who sent a quote last year regarding providing the hotdogs and hotdog stand. He has not responded yet. Someone needs to volunteer very soon.

*Craiglawn Street.* Pat Thornberg said that she and Wanda Swecker tried to get Craiglawn Street (Prince George's County) repaved. Prince Georges County Delegates appropriated money to have the street repaved. Craiglawn Court and other streets were repaved, but not Craiglawn Street. Pat and Wanda are going to the County offices in Upper Marlboro to request a grant to get the street repaved. They may need the CCA Board's support.

Frank Kammel suggested getting PG County Councilwoman Mary Lehman involved as well as the local newspapers. More people should call. Also, have residents sign a petition. The CCA Board can write a letter of support. If the grant is approved, the suggestion was made to hold a press conference to show the extreme efforts that must be expended to get action in Prince George's County.

*Appreciation Dinner.* President Bernie Kams reported that the dinner honoring former President Dan Epps was very successful. She commended Vice President Frank Cockrell for doing a great job. Prince Georges County Councilwoman Mary Lehman attended, as did constituent aides for the 21<sup>st</sup> Delegation, other business people, High Point High School principal, and CCA Board members.

## THIRD 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. Again, the Beautification Committee will be looking at Calverton as a whole rather than dividing it into Prince Georges and Montgomery Counties.

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](mailto: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, 2013. 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 CCA dues-paying member for the current year (2013).
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 2013 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 2013 CALVERTON BEAUTIFICATION CONTEST\*\*\***

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_  
(optional)

I swear that I am a current 2013 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](mailto: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, 2013.**

**BLOCK CAPTAIN AND NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTOR VACANCY REPORT**

**Prince George's County.** Block Captains are needed for Blocks 5, 14, and 38. For more info, please call Nina Harley, the new Prince George's County Membership Chair, at 301-572-7455.

- Block 5, on Craiglawn Road, has 20 homes
- Block 14, on Bellevue Street, has 26 homes
- Block 38, on Wellford Drive, has 27 homes

Also, a **Distributor** is needed to deliver the packets of newsletters to the Block Captains of Blocks 16 through 23.

**Montgomery County.** Block Captains are needed for Blocks 41, 52, 54, and 55. For more info, please call Donna Riley, Montgomery County Membership Chair, at 301-572-5186.

- Block 52, on Galway Drive, has 20 homes
- Block 54, on La Plata Street, has 15 homes
- Block 55, on La Plata Street, has 19 homes

You do not have to live on the block to be the Block Captain, although this is always preferable. The duties of the Block Captain are to deliver the monthly newsletter (11 issues a year) and collect the CCA membership dues (once a year) in the fall. 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!** The residents on these blocks are not receiving this newsletter, paying their CCA dues, or receiving the Calverton Directory every two years.