

Calverton Current



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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.....Bernie Karns

As 2014 starts, I would like all our residents to think about how their actions affect their neighbors and the entire community.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will find a "Being a Good Neighbor Corner" that will give a couple of examples about things you need to do in order to be in compliance not only with the Calverton Covenants but also with the codes of both counties.

If you need information regarding building something in your yard or making renovations to your house, call your county or check your county website for some guidance before you proceed. Here are the websites for both counties where you can go to find more about regulations and codes. The URLs should all be on one line in your browser.

Montgomery County: The first URL is in English; the second, in Spanish.

http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/pdf/code_enforcement_english.pdf

http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/pdf/code_enforcement_spanish.pdf

<http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/goodneighbors/resources/files/faqs.pdf>

Prince Georges County:

<http://dpie.mypgc.us>

Do you need to ask a question or do you want to voice a concern about something that is happening in Calverton? Here are the phone numbers that you need to call depending on which county you live in. Remember, all calls are anonymous. They will not give anyone your name. It is confidential.

The help number for PG residents is 311. For MC residents with a 572 exchange, it is 240-777-0311. For all other MC exchanges, it is 311. These numbers are for non-emergencies. For an emergency, call 911 in both counties.

Let us be respectful of one another. Let us all start Being a Good Neighbor to all of our Calverton neighbors.

DATES TO REMEMBER

☞ **February 3, Monday - 7:30 p.m.** Calverton Recreation Council Board Meeting. Go to www.calvertonrec.org for more information.

☞ **February 6, Thursday - 7 p.m.** CCA Board Meeting. Prince George's County Police Substation, Calverton Shopping Center. Prizes for the Holiday Light Contest will be awarded. All CCA members are invited and encouraged to attend.

☞ **February 10, Monday - Deadline** for next Calverton Current.

KAREN MILLS RETIRING AS CALVERTON CURRENT EDITOR

What are we to do? Karen Mills announced her plans at the January Board meeting to step down as newsletter editor this May after 20 years. It is hard to believe that she has been putting together the Calverton Current for as long as some people work at their real jobs before they retire. Yet, Karen has been a volunteer editor and has not received any pay for all those years. Amazing!!! You have given us a really great Calverton Current not just every month, but every month for the past two decades. Thank you, Karen, for all the years devoted to the Calverton Current.

So now the Calverton Current needs a new editor. Please consider taking this position. Maybe you are not sure that you want to be editor. If you and a friend or you and a neighbor want to jointly take over the duties of producing the newsletter, that would work, too.

Bernie Karns, CCA President

THANKS TO HOMETOWN LANDSCAPE

Profound thanks to Hometown Landscape and Lawn Service for maintaining the Calverton entry area at the southeast corner of Calverton Boulevard and Gracefield Road at a greatly discounted price. A Calverton neighbor donated the remainder of the maintenance cost. The Calverton Citizens Association thanks them both.

Call 911 if you see something that looks suspicious. Do not attempt to do anything on your own.

WINNERS: CALVERTON HOLIDAY LIGHT CONTEST

This was the first year for the holiday light contest. Boy Scout Troop #1033 and Cub Scout Troop #1031 were the judges. The following are the winners in the contest:

First Place:

Jonathon and Ashley Derr, La Plata Street

Runners Up:

Todd and Donna Danielson, Dunnington Road
Donna Farnsworth, Ingleside Drive
Ron Velky, Ingleside Drive

The awards were \$200 for the first place winner, and \$100 each for the three runners up, totaling \$500. Once again, the donations came from Carrollton Enterprises, for which we are grateful. The awards will be presented at the February Board meeting. Hope to see many more holiday light participants next year!

HIGHLIGHTS OF JANUARY 2014 CCA BOARD MEETING

The Board meeting was held at Sierra's Grill on January 15. The first Thursday in January, the Board's usual meeting day, was snowed out; the second Thursday, the Prince George's County Police substation (where the Board meets now, gratis), was not available. The Board members paid for their individual dinners.

Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Tom H. gave the Treasurer's report and presented the budget for 2014. The Board will approve the budget at the February Board meeting. The 2014 membership dues are still coming in. Also, money for the ads for the 2014 CCA Directory is coming in.

Guest. William Steen attended and thanked the CCA Board for including him and his company, Carrollton Enterprises, in CCA activities. He said that it is illegal to park your car, on or off street, with expired tags. Even if the car is covered, it is illegal to have expired tags.

Purse snatches at gas stations are increasing in Beltsville. Lock your car while pumping gas or consider putting your purse in the trunk prior to leaving and just keep one card with you to use to pump gas. Then take your purse out of the trunk when you reach your destination.

Home Inspections and Light Pole. Margaret P said that Montgomery County Officer Joy Patil does home safety and security inspections. She will advise you on what you need to do to make your home more secure. Margaret will ask Officer Patil if she has a Power Point presentation about home security.

Regarding the street light at Gracefield Road and Calverton Boulevard, Officer Patil informed the CCA that Montgomery County will not install another light there. Nina H also advised that residents turn on their front porch lights in the evenings.

District VI Update. Frank C said that Major Weishaar is now at District I, Hyattsville. Officer Haynes is now Corporal Haynes. Captain Lloyd is now the commander for District VI. The CCA should invite Captain Lloyd to its next Board meeting to welcome her.

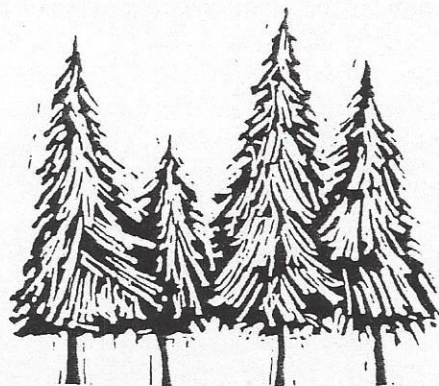
Red Barn in Calverton. Although not a barn, but a garage, it appears to be a chop shop. Prince George's County Department of Permitting, Inspections, and Enforcement (DPIE) has not responded to our inquiry. The next step is to call DPIE and set up a meeting.

Shed at Pool. Jerry R will be the CCA's contact for the shed construction at the Calverton pool. It will be installed next to the pool shed. Jerry will attend the Calverton Swim Club Board meeting on February 3.

Police Academy. Alfonso T would like 12 Prince George's County residents to volunteer to take the 12-week course at the County's Citizen Police Academy. The time possibly will be Mondays from 6 to 9 pm. Montgomery County has its own program.

Sofas, Beds in Street. Ben M has seen bulky trash and furniture on the curbs in Calverton for months at a time. He will prepare a letter that the CCA can send to residents alerting them to the consequences of violating zoning codes. Are there licenses needed for running a transportation business? The idea of installing parking signs that indicate "non-commercial vehicles only" should be explored.

Science Gateway. The CCA will send in testimony regarding transportation issues at the February 4, Montgomery County Council Public Hearing on the White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan. The meeting will take place at the County Council Office Building in Rockville. The testimony will either be presented in person or sent by email.



BEING A GOOD NEIGHBOR CORNER

Are you going to build a garage or maybe a shed in your backyard? Do you know the steps you have to take before you even start to build one? Talk with your neighbors. Is it going to be too close to the property line? Is it going to be too tall or too large for the surrounding neighborhood? Talk to your neighbors. Tell them what you are planning. No one likes to wake up and look out the window to see a surprise two-story garage being built without all the permits and approvals. You need to call either 240-777-0311 in Montgomery County or 311 in Prince George's County. They will tell you exactly what you need to do as far as getting a building permit, making sure that your structure meets zoning codes. Because guess what?? You may have to tear it down if you did not get all the proper documentation required to build it, and it winds up not meeting code.

Are you going to trim those trees in the front of the house near the street? You might want to think twice. It is not legal. If you feel that the tree is diseased and dying, or you think that you have a very good reason to work on it, you have to call the county. The county will come out to look at the problem. Please do not just go out and trim the tree, even if you think that you know what you are doing. You may hurt yourself or bring down a power line.

BLOCK CAPTAIN VACANCY REPORT

Montgomery County. Block Captains are needed for Blocks 40a, 42, and 64. 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-42, on Castleleigh Place, has 22 homes
- Block S-64, on Shanandale Drive, has 15 homes

Prince George's County. Block Captains are needed for Blocks 12 and 33. For more info, please call Nina Harley, Prince George's County Membership Chair, at 301-572-7455.

- Block B-12, on Greenmount Avenue, has 24 homes
- Block B-33, on Fullerton Street, has 27 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 every two years.

YOU MAY PAY YOUR 2014 DUES DIRECTLY TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

The official 2014 CCA dues collection period has ended, but maybe you did not get a chance to pay. Maybe your Block Captain did not collect or you were away when he/she came to your house.

If no one has collected your membership dues, and you would like to pay, please complete the form below. Dues are only \$20; make your check payable to CCA. This may be mailed, dropped off at the membership chair's home, or you may call to arrange for a pickup. Your 2014 membership card will be mailed or dropped off to you.

If you live in Prince George's County, please contact:

Nina Harley
13205 Taney Drive
Beltsville, MD 20705
301-572-7455

If you live in Montgomery County, please contact:

Donna Riley
12721 Bexley Terrace
Silver Spring, MD 20904
301-572-5186

We realize that many of you who live on blocks with no Block Captain may not see this newsletter, because there is no Block Captain to deliver it! Neighbors, please pass this information along to a neighbor.

Name _____

Spouse's Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Check () if you are a new resident.

