

Calverton Current February

Newsletter of the Calverton Citizen's Association ♦ Silver Spring ♦ Beltsville, MD ♦ February 2016
www.calvertoncitizens.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE....BERNIE KARNS

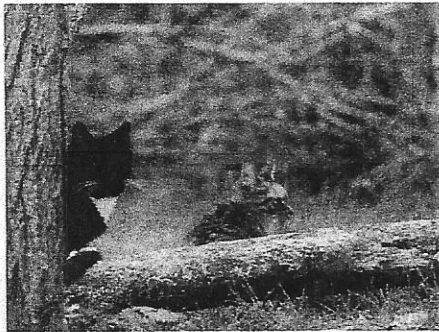
Happy New Year !!!

I know that everyone has been so excited about the great weather we have been having so far this winter. But, make sure that you are ready for the bad weather when it hits. We have posted some info on the CCA website <http://www.calvertoncitizens.org> regarding snow and ice. You will also find some info about what to do during a storm, the hazards of carbon monoxide poisoning, home security, and some scams that are occurring in the area. Some of this info is elsewhere in this newsletter.

The CCA Board needs your help with one interesting anomaly that is occurring in Calverton. There is an article in the newsletter regarding radio frequency interference. Please read the article so that you can help us pinpoint the source of the problem.

There is another problem that has been occurring in Calverton. This involves a large population of feral cats occurring around Susquehanna, Ivy, Fullerton and the Calverton Townhomes. Mary Lehman, Prince George's District 1 Council Member, worked with Laurel Cats to help solve the problem. Laurel Cats helped Calverton even though we are out of their service area of Laurel. They used money from a grant to help us. They were able to TNRed (Trap, Neuter and Return) 53 cats. It has taken Laurel Cats two months and \$3,000 to solve part of the problem to the many feral cats in the Calverton area. But, the main source of the problem is people feeding the cats. When people were asked about the cats, their response was "It is not my cat. I just feed the cat." When you feed

the cats they will keep coming back for more. Before you know the population of feral cats has multiplied and the cats are roaming Calverton again. **Please do not feed the cats.** Everyone who sees the cats should call 311 to report the problem. But, you do not feed the cats.



Laurel Cats needs our money to ensure that their service is available for the communities in their service area. Please help Laurel Cats by sending a check to P.O. Box 57, Laurel, MD 20725. www.laurelcats.org. They helped Calverton. Calverton needs to help them.

Keep Warm!! While you are sitting inside watching the snow fall or trying to keep warm when it is really cold outside, remember to think about your neighbors. Are they warm? Are they okay? Do they need anything? If you haven't seen your neighbor for a couple of days, the car hasn't moved, or the lights in the house are not on, please check on your neighbors. Be a good neighbor by making sure that your neighbor is okay.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- ♦ February 4 – CCA Board Meeting, 7pm in the Media Center at Calverton Elementary School.
- ♦ February 4 – Senior Coffee, Topic TBD, Laurel Senior Center, 7120 Contee Rd, 1 pm.

- ♦ February 5 – Wear Red Day for Heart Month
- ♦ February 8 – Chinese New Year
- ♦ February 9 – International Pancake Day. Nearly everyone flips over flapjacks (pancakes) hot off the griddle. Get up a little early and make some. This is also Fat Tuesday, the day before Lent starts. It is also known as Shrove Tuesday to some.
- ♦ February 9 – Rosh Chodesh Adar, beginning of new Hebrew month of Adar.
- ♦ February 14 – Valentine's Day and Donor Day. Show someone that you love them. You can also show people that you care by becoming an organ donor by marking the box when you renew your driver's license. <http://www.mva.maryland.gov/programs/organ-donors/renew-lives.htm> or by donating blood (<http://www.redcrossblood.org>) or call Call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Here are few local blood drives in February.
Knights of Columbus Prince George's Council, February 08, 2016, 01:30 PM- 07:00 PM 9450 Cherry Hill Road, College Park, MD 20740.
Greenbelt Community Center, February 12, 2016, 12:30 PM – 6:00 PM 15 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770.
Chick-fil-A, Johns Hopkins Rd, February 13, 2016, 10:30 AM- 03:30 PM 10975 Johns Hopkins Rd, Laurel, MD 20723.
- ♦ March 2 – Read across America Day. Get the family together and read a book.
- ♦ March 3 – CCA Board Meeting, 7pm in the Media Center at Calverton Elementary School.
- ♦ March 13 – Daylight Savings Time begins at 2:00 am. Set your clocks forward 1 hour before you go to bed on March 12.

CCA Board Meeting Minutes November 5, 2015

CCA Board Meeting Minutes January 7, 2016
Call to order 7:02 pm

HOLIDAY LIGHT CONTEST WINNERS

Ashley and Jonathon Derr – *Honorable Mention*
Robert and Annie Freeman – *Honorable Mention*
Duncan and Gail Munro – *Runner Up*
John Richards – *Runner Up*
Beth and Paul Hughes – *Grand Winner*

GUESTS

Tom Calomiris addressed the CCA Board regarding radio frequency interference in the Calverton community around Greenmount, Taney and Dunnington. Pepco has been involved and has corrected Pepco sources of interference. We need the help of Calverton residents to find the source of the interference. A couple of Calverton residents may come to your door if we cannot find a county or state or federal agency that can help with the problem. Please see the article related to this topic elsewhere in the newsletter.

William Steen, Carrollton Enterprises – Mr. Turner, who built Calverton, turns 100 this year. Carrollton Enterprises would like to work with the CCA Board on a celebration. Mr. Turner and Carrollton Enterprises have been very supportive of Calverton over the years and have sponsored many of the events and activities. They look forward to working with Calverton for many more years.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Expenses: Holiday Light Contest Awards, Beautification Awards, General Membership Meeting refreshments. Income: CCA Membership Dues.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: CCA dues are \$20.00 per year. Even though we are not covering our expenses now and may cut some things in the future, the board voted to keep dues at \$20.00 per year. \$20.00 per year or a little less than \$2.00 per month is a lot of money for some residents. The board will also let the Calverton community know that donations are always welcome.

Directory: Will not be printed until after the 2017 CCA membership drive. Since this is an election year and much of the information in the directory will change in November with elections, the board has decided to print the directory in 2017 so that it goes along with the current election information.

NEW BUSINESS

Traffic meeting: One board member is continuing to work with Montgomery County (MC) Department of Transportation (DOT) in order to set up a meeting to discuss the speeding problems on Calverton Boulevard and a few other streets. Prince George's DOT will also be invited to the meeting.

MS-13: Local politicians are working to bring together a gang task force again in order to discuss the problems that are occurring in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties.

New Year's gifts: The board voted to give a small gift to police, fire and politicians to show appreciation of their support of Calverton during 2015.

Spanish on the website: The website committee is going to look into a way that we can have the website translated to Spanish with a click of a button. In the meantime, we will be trying to put articles in both English and Spanish on the website.

OLD BUSINESS

Laurel Hospital: People are still working on keeping the hospital open. There may be a buyer for the hospital that will keep it open. Also, there is a group of officials and citizens who are stressing the point that the closure was decided behind closed doors and there was no disclosure or input from the local officials and the public regarding the closure.

Washington Adventist Hospital: Approval has been given to move the hospital to Plum Orchard Road behind the Target. The hospital is supposed to open in 2018.

Welcome Packet: The committee is almost done with the Welcome Packet for new residents. Please let me know when new neighbors move into Calverton. Also, let me know when you see a house for sale or for rent so we can keep track of when we may need a Welcome Packet available. One Calverton resident suggested that we go back 5 years in order to ensure that residents who have recently moved into Calverton get a Welcome Packet.

Parking: One resident said that there is a problem with cars parking illegally on Beltsville Drive by the apartments. The board will bring this up at the meeting with the county transportation departments.

MC Budget: Some board members went to the budget meeting held at the East County Regional Building. Isaiah Leggett, MC Executive, presented his Six Point Economic Plan. Please go to the CCA website to see more about Mr. Leggett's economic plan.

Maydale Nature Center: A group of East County residents are still working on getting the center opened. There is a group of residents called the Weed Warriors who meet at Maydale, Briggs Chaney Road, on the 1st Saturday of the month from 10:00 to 11:30 to pull weeds. Please feel free to join them. Contact Ellen Mann at 301-236-0045 to help. Email her at elanddonmann@verizon.net.

Meeting adjourned 8:56 pm.

The next CCA Board Meeting is Thursday, February 4, 7:00 pm at Calverton Elementary School.

CRIME REPORT

December 3 – Vandalism, 3000 Casteleigh Road, 8:18 am

December 5 – Theft from Auto, 12300 Pretoria Drive, 10:00 am

December 6 – Theft from Auto, 12300 Pretoria Drive, 12:23 pm

December 12 – Theft from Auto, 12300 Harrington Manor Drive (West Farm Townhomes), 6:06 am

December 12 – Breaking and Entering, Hunters Gate Court (West Farm Townhomes), 6:45 pm

December 17 – Theft of Vehicle, 3000 Marlow Road, 7:13 am

December 22 – Breaking and Entering, 12300 Sandy Point Court (West Farm Townhomes), 8:15 pm

December 23 – Theft of Vehicle, 13000 Gershwin Way (Tanglewood), 9:23 am.

December 26 – Breaking and Entering, 12300 Herington Manor Drive (West Farm Townhome), 9:30 am

January 7 – Breaking and Entering, 11800 Twinlakes Drive, 1:30 pm

January 11 – Theft of Vehicle, 3000 block Shurbert Drive (Tanglewood), 8:20 am

January 11 – Theft of Vehicle, 31000 Fairland Road, 12 pm

◆ There were 4 (four) Thefts of Vehicles from December 17 to January 11 in and around Calverton. **Do not leave your car idling to warm up when you want to go to work, shopping, etc.** This gives a thief the perfect opportunity to steal your car.

◆ Also, there were 3 Thefts from Vehicles. **Do not leave anything in your car.** Take your GPS, computer, phone, etc. out of your car. If they see it, they will take it.

PHONE CALLS AND SOLICITATION AT THE DOOR INCIDENTS:

January 15 – Call from IRS stating that they are filing a lawsuit against you. Do not call them back. The IRS does make phone calls. Contact TIGTA to report the call. Use their "IRS Impersonation Scam Reporting" web page. You can also call 800-366-4484. Report it to the Federal Trade Commission. Use the "FTC Complaint Assistant" on ftc.gov. Please add "IRS Telephone Scam" in the notes.

January 12 – A phone scam that may be aimed at small businesses, possibly including Churches, but residents also get called inadvertently, because it was supposedly from OSHA. You can contact any OSHA area office throughout the nation to report a misleading solicitation, or to get information on specific workplace safety and health requirements. Those office addresses and phone numbers are available on the agency's Web site at <http://www.osha.gov/html/RAmap.html>. Or call **Maryland State Plan Office**, Phone: (410) 527-4447.

January 12 – Suspicious solicitors, sometimes claiming to be WSSC employees, are canvassing the Montpelier Community and possibly other nearby neighborhoods offering in-home water quality testing. This is potentially dangerous scam because WSSC does not send employees to solicit. To report suspicious activities involving WSSC employees or vehicles, please call your local police immediately and then call WSSC at 301-206-8888 or call 911. <https://www.wsscwater.com/contents/news/2014/customer-warning-protect-yourself.html>

The Prince George's County Police Department COPS Unit would like to conduct your free home security survey for you.

THE HOME SECURITY SURVEY

We will inspect the following inside and outside:

- Hinged, garage and sliding doors
- Frame and strike plates
- Locks
- Hinges
- Door viewers
- Windows and casements
- Alarms
- Lighting
- Shrubbery

We will introduce and review:

- Security habits
- Operation ID
- Vacation practices
- Neighborhood watch
- Safety inside and outside of your home

For more information or to schedule your home security survey, please e-mail Cpl. Woody at jmwoody@co.pg.md.us. Montgomery County Police will also conduct a free home security survey for you. Please call Joy Patil at 240-773-6800 to set up a home security survey.





Winter Can Bring Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Winter is here and thousands of adults and children will experience "flu-like" symptoms. But not all such cases are caused by the flu virus. Some victims actually have been unknowingly exposed to carbon monoxide (CO), which can result in serious injury or even death.

In fact, the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning can be quite similar to flu symptoms, which can sometimes even mask a CO poisoning. The longer CO symptoms are overlooked, the more difficult it becomes to treat victims effectively.

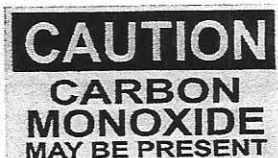


The symptoms of CO generally progress as exposure increases. If exposure is prolonged, symptoms can become life-threatening, including increased heart rate, loss of consciousness, convulsions and seizures. Coma, brain damage and death can result if exposure is severe.

Carbon monoxide cannot be detected by human senses. The only safe way to detect it is to properly install CO alarms in the right locations in the home. Surprisingly, 75 million American homes do not have CO alarms. In addition to installing CO alarms, watch for these symptoms of CO poisoning:

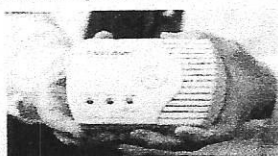
MINOR SYMPTOMS

Headache
Nausea
Vomiting
Irritability
Blurred vision



MODERATE SYMPTOMS (in addition to minor symptoms)

Drowsiness
Weakness
Dizziness
Fainting
Severe headache
Difficulty thinking



SEVERE SYMPTOMS (in addition to moderate symptoms)

Increased heart rate
Loss of consciousness
Convulsions/seizure

During winter the chance of CO poisoning increases so please make sure to ask the question "Is it flu or CO poisoning?" Don't wait until it's too late to install CO alarms. For more information, visit www.knowaboutCO.com

Both Prince George's and Montgomery Counties Fire Department will come to check your smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector. The fire department may be able to provide a new one for you. Call the Calverton Fire Station at (301) 883-7741 or the Burtonsville Fire Station at (240) 773-4715

INTERFERENCE TO RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

Extremely strong interference to AM broadcast, short wave (SW), and very high frequency (VHF) radio signals has been observed and investigated in Calverton. The problem has been observed for at least one year. The area most affected is on Dunnington RD between Greenmount Avenue and Taney Drive. Preliminary investigations by Pepco RFI (radio frequency interference) has eliminated all potential Pepco related sources of the interference. Other RF engineers have also been involved in measurements. The source or sources of the interference appear to be power supply or power management devices systems.

A presentation and question and answer session was given at the CCA board meeting on January 7, 2016. Residents in the above noted area are encouraged to tune their AM broadcast band radios or short wave radios (below 4 MHz) to check the strength of the interference. We ask cooperation of neighbors in the event that a Calverton resident who is an electronics engineer and an accompanying block captain asks for help in an effort to find the cause and remedy of the interference.

Please call Tom Calomiris (301) 572-2916 if you have any questions.

WSSC CUSTOMER WARNING

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM SCAM ARTISTS

LOOK FOR THE WATER DROP AND PHOTO I.D.

As recently as just a few days ago suspicious solicitors, sometimes claiming to be WSSC employees, are canvassing the Montpelier Community and possibly other nearby neighborhoods offering in-home water quality testing. These fraudsters tend to work throughout a region, so everyone in the D.C. metro area should be alert for similar flyers. If in doubt, ask a friend or relative to read a suspicious solicitation.

This is potentially dangerous scam : Laurel – January 16, 2014

Prince George's County is warning residents to be on the lookout for a fraudulent flyer asking for fire inspection fees. Because scam artists may try other methods to separate people from their money, WSSC wants our customers to know:

- All WSSC employees are required to carry and prominently display their **WSSC photo ID badges**. When in doubt, customers should demand to see the employee's ID badge for verification.
- All WSSC workers who need access to customers' homes, properties or businesses drive blue vans, trucks or cars, clearly marked with the **WSSC name and water drop logo**.
- Most WSSC work in the field is conducted **outside of homes**.
- WSSC employees will never ask for payment at your home.
- Ask anyone potentially posing as a WSSC employee for his or her supervisor's name and telephone number.

If you fear for your safety, call 911. To report suspicious activities involving WSSC employees or vehicles, please call your local police immediately and then call WSSC at 301-206-8888.

Prince George's Snow and Ice Control

<http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/sites/PublicWorks/Services/SIC/Pages/default.aspx>

Snow tracking in Prince George's County: <http://snowtracking.princegeorgescountymd.gov/snowplow/>

- * When a snow emergency is declared, Routes are prioritized for service into categories: primary, secondary and residential. Primary and secondary roads are serviced first to ensure that public safety and other emergency vehicles can travel. After completion of these roads, residential roads receive service.
- * To assist crews, citizens and residents are requested to:
 - Move and keep vehicles off snow emergency routes
 - Park in driveways or other off-road locations wherever possible
 - Park only on the **EVEN NUMBERED** sides of roads/streets
 - Removal of snow/ice from sidewalks abutting their homes or businesses
- * During a snow and ice event, residents and citizens are encouraged to wait 12 hours after the precipitation has stopped to call the Snow Information Center at 301.350.0500 or CountyClick 3-1-1 to report emergencies or concerns about roadway conditions.

Salting and Snow Removal in Montgomery County

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcg/emergency/snow.html>

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-highway/snow/snowplow.html#>

- * When it snows, 200 employees with 175 pieces of equipment spring into action. Here's a snapshot of the County's snow response plan:
- * When snow begins to cover roads, salt crews spread salt on all main County roads and emergency routes.
- * When snow accumulates to three inches, plowing and salting crews continue to clear all main County roads and emergency routes.
- * Once the snow stops, crews begin plowing neighborhood roads.
- * Crews complete plow routes and spread abrasives on hills, at intersections and on roads around schools.
- What are the requirements for County homeowners to their sidewalks of snow and ice?**
- * A person is responsible for removing snow and ice on any sidewalk, other walkway on or adjacent to property that the person owns, leases, or manages, including any walkway in the public right-of-way, to provide a pathway wide enough for safe pedestrian and wheelchair use within 24 hours after the end of the precipitation that caused the condition.
- * For more information regarding residential sidewalks and snow removal:
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/safesidewalks/faq.html> or call 240-777-0311

BLOCK CAPTAIN VACANCY REPORT

We still need Block Captains for 9 blocks.

Montgomery County. Block Captains are needed for Blocks 40a, 40b, 42, 44, 50a, and 63B. For more info, please call Donna Riley, Montgomery County Membership Chair, at 301-572-5186.

- Block S-40a, on Summerwood Drive, 10 homes
- Block S-40b, on Castleleigh Road, 10 homes
- Block 42, on Castleleigh Place, 22 homes
- Block S-44, on Kilkenny Street, 20 homes
- Block S-50a, on Kilkenny Street, 7 homes
- Block S-63B, on Gracefield Road, 8 homes
- Block 68, on Red Lion Lane, 19 homes

Prince George's County. Block Captains are needed for Blocks 8 and 13. For more info, please call Nina Harley, Prince George's County Membership Chair, at 301-572-7455.

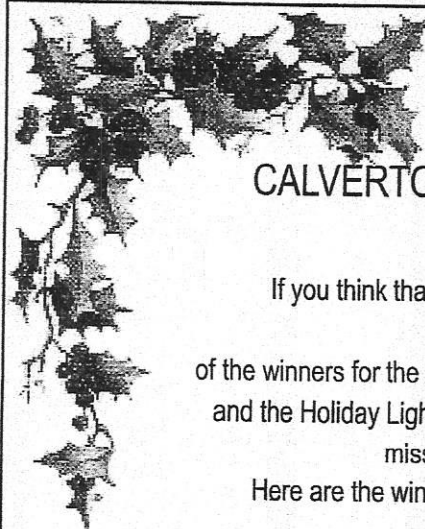
- Block B-8, on Christine Drive, 15 homes
- Block B-13, on Elkridge Street, 25 homes

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, 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.

CALVERTON CITIZEN'S ASSOCIATION 2016 BUDGET

REVENUE			
Newsletter		850.00	
Dues		15,500.00	
Interest		<u>35.00</u>	16,385.00
EXPENSES			
Newsletter		3,000.00	
Insurance		2,800.00	
Awards		1,000.00	
Website/Email Alert		780.00	
Donations		200.00	
Supplies		100.00	
Legal/Zoning Expense		500.00	
Neighborhood Watch		500.00	
4th of July		6,000.00	
Postage		40.00	
Bank Charges		40.00	
Gift/Cards/Flowers		200.00	
Rentals		60.00	
PO Box		200.00	
Maintenance Expenses		1,000.00	
Meeting Expenses		280.00	
Miscellaneous		<u>185.00</u>	<u>16,885.00</u>
CASH FLOW FROM CURRENT FUNDS			(500.00)
CASH FROM RESERVES			<u>500.00</u>
NET CASH FLOW			—



CALVERTON CONTESTS WINNERS

If you think that you have missed the announcements of the winners for the Beautification Contest and the Holiday Light Contest, you did not miss the announcements. Here are the winners for each contest.

Beautification Contest:

The Winner was:

Charles Peterson, 3306 Fullerton Street

The Runners-Up:

Sidonie McCoy, 3135 Beltsville Road

Phil Edmunds, 2500 Dunnington Road

Christine Thomas, 3133 Beltsville Road

Ray Morgan, 13027 Ingleside Drive

Winifred Evans, 12910 Forest View Drive

When you drive around Calverton you will see the signs marking the winners of the contest. But, you may want to wait until Spring to take the house tour to see the true beauty of the yards and to see how hard they worked to give us the beauty in their yards.

Holiday Light Contest:

The Winner was:

Beth and Paul Hughes

The Runners-Up:

John Richards

Gail and Duncan Munro

Honorable Mentions:

Ashley and Jonathon Derr

Annie and Robert Freeman

I hope that you got to drive around Calverton to see all the lights that were displayed this year. A lot of houses had great light displays. But, only a few can win. I know it takes a lot time and hard work to put up the lights. I just want all the contestants to know that you all make Calverton beautiful, brighter and cheerier with your light display.