

Calverton Current



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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—Bernie Karns

It is that time of year again to state some of the problems that occur in Calverton that not only irritates neighbors but the problems are also violations to county and state codes and laws.

Remember these county codes and Maryland laws apply to Calverton and all Calverton residents. They apply to all owners and all renters of properties in Calverton. If you see or hear any of these violations, call the non-emergency police number to report the problem. You can also call 911 to report a problem if you feel that it is a safety issue or a dangerous situation. Here are the non-emergency numbers for MC and PG.

MC – 301-279-8000 and MC District 3 – 240-773-6800.

PG – 301-352-1200 and PG District 6 – 301-937-0910

MC 311 number is 240-777-0311 if you are using your Calverton 572 exchange phone. If not, it is 311. PG 311 number is 311.

NOISE:

- Noise played or operated from any radio, television set, tape or disk recorder, phonograph, musical instrument, or any other machine, equipment or tool which produces or reproduces any sound or noise. This also includes barking dogs.
- Sound or noise cannot be heard from 9:00 pm to 7:00 am on weekdays and 9:00 pm and 9:00 am on weekends and holidays in MC. In PG no sound or noise should be heard from 9:00 pm to 7:00 am on any day.
- Sound or noise cannot be heard more than 50 feet from the source.
- An animal owner must not allow an animal to cause noise that is loud enough and persistent enough to disturb another person's quiet enjoyment.

GRASS AND TRASH:

- Grass cannot grow 12 inches or more.
- Bulky items such as mattresses, furniture cannot be left at the curb. You need to arrange a bulk pickup with your trash hauler.

These regulations can be found at the following websites and will be posted on the Calverton Citizens Association website at

www.calvertoncitizens.org:

<http://montgomerycountymd.gov/goodneighbors/>

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/community/noise-ordinance.html>

<http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/sites/EnvironmentalResources/Resources/>

when the website opens you can click on: DER (Department of Environment Resources) Publications or FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/animalservices/asd/laws.html>

URGENT MAIL SAFETY TIP:

DO NOT PUT ANY CHECKS IN YOUR MAILBOX TO GO OUT TO COMPANIES OR PEOPLE. DO NOT PUT ANY CHECKS IN YOUR MAILBOX FOR THE MAILPERSON TO PICK UP. We have had a rash of checks being stolen from mailboxes before the mailperson picks up your mail. So, please, please, please, do not put any checks in your mailbox.

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 Castleleigh 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.

(see also PARKING VEHICLES codes and laws on page 5)

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.

CCA Board Meeting May 7, 2015

Meeting called to order at 7:01 pm

Minutes from the April Board meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: the website committee is looking at switching to a local host server for the website. The cost will be the same. We will check to see if there is a backup and security plan for the server. We will decide on the website in June. The bills for the newsletter and insurance were paid.

Guests

Lieutenant Christopher Lynge and several other representatives from Calverton Fire Station 841 were in attendance at our meeting. Several topics were addressed. You will find that information in another part of the newsletter

EMT Tom Manuccia, from the Burtonsville Volunteer Fire Department came to our meeting. The last few calls were for mutual aid in this area. He presented more info regarding fire safety. You will also find this info elsewhere in the newsletter. Burtonsville will be having an open house sometime soon.

Representatives from Crossfire Worship Center, which is located in the Comfort Inn on Powder Mill Road were at our meeting. Deacon Vernon Vassell, Deacon Cornel Graver and Sister April Weir-Evans spoke about some of the programs that the church will be providing to the community. Programs that will help the elderly by picking up medicine or painting house, providing after school care for children and in the future a food pantry for people in need. The worship center is looking for a permanent location of 15,000- 20,000 square feet. If you want to find out more about these programs, call 240-898-5076.

Brian Anleu, Montgomery County (MC) Council Tom Hucker's aide, presented info on the traffic study on Calverton Boulevard. You will find the traffic study results elsewhere in the newsletter. Since the May 7 meeting, MC police did a set up a speed trap on Palermo in response to residents complaining about cars speeding down the street. Thanks goes out to Margaret Poore for reaching out to Tom Hucker in order to get the traffic study done on Calverton Boulevard. The CCA is currently working to get the no through trucks and no trucks over a certain weight signs back on Calverton Boulevard.

Corporal Schwaeble, Calverton's Community Police Officer for PG (Prince George's), said that he set up the speed camera on Calverton Boulevard again. He has been working on abandoned cars in the community and other situations in the community. Please check on your neighbors if you haven't seen them. Please be respectful to your neighbors. If someone asks you to help them or do something, please be respectful and help them. Be a good neighbor. Judicial watches, where sentencing is set for a convicted criminal, it is important for people from the community to come and show a presence. You can also send emails to express your concern. NNO will be in August. We always need volunteers.

Tami Watkins, Public Affairs Manager for PEPCO, came to answer some of our questions related to work done in the community. The trimming project is done. There were two tree plantings, one in spring 2014 and the other in fall 2014. There will be one more tree planting done in the fall 2015. For more info look elsewhere in the newsletter.

Committee Reports

Membership – there is a need for block captains. High school students can get community hours delivering the newsletter. If you can help deliver newsletters, call Bernie at 301-572-8018. Thank you goes out

to Nina Harley and Donna Riley for working so hard on the Membership Committee.

New Business

Montgomery County Civic Federation – Calverton is looking into joining this organization in order to get information regarding different things happening in and around Calverton.

Email newsletter – CCA will be sending the newsletter with ads in our Calverton News and Happenings. Since this goes to mostly Calverton residents and is not posted on the website for everyone in the world to see, we will include the ads in the newsletter that emailed to our email list. Thank you goes out to Mark Doore for setting this up for Calverton.

Park at the top of Shanandale – MC is cutting down the trees and shrubs at the park because they are not in good shape and are overtaking the sidewalk. The CCA is going to work with MC to build a park that will provide a nice place to sit and reflect on life in Calverton. Look for more info in a future newsletter. Pavers as a fundraiser and honorary pavers for honoring Calverton residents.

Calverton sign at Fairland and Galway – another letter is missing. Letters are very expensive.

Neighborhood Watch Walk – June 12 from 6:30 to 7:30. We will meet on Calverton Boulevard at the Calverton Corporate Center at 3901 Calverton Boulevard. We will walk down Calverton Boulevard to Galway and then back to our starting point. See you there!!!

Beautification Contest – Look for more info and contest registration form elsewhere in this newsletter.

Old Business

Little Paint Branch Clean Up – MC came and looked at the site. One person from MC tried to climb the fence. But, they said that it was too dangerous to climb the fence because of the steep hill on the other side. MC said that all the neighbors along the creek are responsible for cleaning the creek. Their properties go to the middle of the creek. The CCA is currently working with MC to see how residents were notified that this is their responsibility.

Property at Old Gunpowder Road and Powder Mill Road – the plans for the 315 apartments was not approved by the PG District Council. The District Council asked the developer to come up with a new site plan for 110-112 townhomes and to submit that to the PG Planning Board. The CCA will keep you posted on this development.

July 4th Celebrate Calverton – The petting zoo that has come the last few years is not coming this year. We are looking into a new petting zoo. We also need two more face painters. Many volunteers are needed to make the July 4th Celebrate Calverton a successful event. Please call Bernie to volunteer some of your time on July 4th. 301-572-8018

CCA Shed at the pool is now occupied – we have moved almost everything into the new shed. Thank you to the Calverton Swim Club for allowing the new shed at the pool. Thank you goes to Jim Spencer, Jerry Rupert, Claire Rupert, Margaret Poore, Bruce Donaldson, Frank Cockrell, John Niedermair, Jeff Karns, John Niedermair, Jr. for helping to getting the shed and shelves built and for helping to move everything into the new shed.

Combined communities District 21 Legislative Wrap-Up – Monday, June 1 at 7 pm, Martin Luther King Middle School, 4545 Ammendale Road, Beltsville, MD.

Maydale Nature Center – a group of East County residents are working to reopen the nature center. There will be a public forum in June. It is tentatively set for June 10 at 7 pm at the East County Regional Center on Briggs Chaney Road.

Neighborhood Night Watch – one resident is talking to MC about the details of this program. As the CCA gets information we will pass it on to the Calverton residents. MC and PG both have a young explorers program. Information on this program will also be passed on to you when the CCA gets it.

The next CCA Board Meeting will be Thursday, June 4, at 7 pm at Calverton Elementary, Media Center.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for Celebrate Calverton July 4th Event.
You can volunteer from 7:30 am to 10:30 am or from 10:30 am to 1:30 am. Whatever time you can give, we will gladly take it. Call Bernie t 301-572-8018.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS:

Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms can be obtained for free from the fire department. The fire department will also do an inspection of your home:
PG – 301-583-2200
MC – 240-773-4715

Police safety inspection of your home:
MC District 3 – 240-773-6800
PG District VI – 301-937-0910

Code violations and inspections?
PG – 311
MC – 311, but if you are dialing from your 572 exchange you need to call 240-770-0311

PEPCO:
Emergency, down wires, etc.: 1-877-737-2662
Rebates for appliances: Customer Care at 202-833-7500
<http://www.pepco.com/my-home/save-money-and-conserve-energy/efficiency-rebates-and-incentives-and-programs/md/customers/>

Contact Miss Utility or District One by phone: Dial 811
Will provide a free energy audit of your home call Customer Care at 202-833-7500

WSSC: 24 hour call center for emergencies: 301-206-4002
Washington Gas: Gas odor or leak is and emergency: call 911 and get out of the house
Emergency line: 703-750-1400 or 1-800-752-7520
Paving Hotline: 703-750-4524
Paving emails: Dgurbard@washgas.com or Kbates@washgas.com

AHEAD OF THE STORM

Montgomery County's Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Offers Storm Tips. Hurricane and Summer Storm Season begins June 1

The National Weather Service has designated the week of May 24, 2015, as National Hurricane Preparedness Week leading up to the June start of the summer storm and hurricane season. The Atlantic Hurricane season lasts from June to November. The Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security

(OEMHS) joins the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and the National Weather Service (NWS) in urging residents to take necessary precautions to stay safe.

The National Weather Service has designated the week of May 24, 2015, as National Hurricane Preparedness Week leading up to the June start of the summer storm and hurricane season. The Atlantic Hurricane season lasts from June to November. The Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (OEMHS) joins the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and the National Weather Service (NWS) in urging residents to take necessary precautions to stay safe.

County residents are encouraged to sign up for Alert Montgomery, Montgomery County's emergency warning system, to receive important notifications of weather watches and warnings, along with information about road and facility closures, traffic signal outages and other emergency information. Go to to sign up for alerts that can be sent to land-line phones, cell phones or other mobile devices.

County residents are encouraged to sign up for Alert Montgomery, Montgomery County's emergency warning system, to receive important notifications of weather watches and warnings, along with information about road and facility closures, traffic signal outages and other emergency information. Go to <https://alert.montgomerycountymd.gov> to sign up for alerts that can be sent to land-line phones, cell phones or other mobile devices.

The effects of a hurricane or tropical storm can be far-reaching. Areas impacted directly by a hurricane or tropical storm can be affected by high winds and flooding, especially along waterways and in low-lying areas. Fringe areas of these storms are vulnerable to tornadoes and in-land flooding caused by heavy rain.

The effects of a hurricane or tropical storm can be far-reaching. Areas impacted directly by a hurricane or tropical storm can be affected by high winds and flooding, especially along waterways and in low-lying areas. Fringe areas of these storms are vulnerable to tornadoes and in-land flooding caused by heavy rain.

An alert is issued if hurricane conditions are within the specified area. Watches are typically issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds. Residents are advised to prepare their homes and businesses; review an evacuation plan and listen closely for further condition updates and instructions. Warnings are typically issued 36 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds. When a Warning has been issued residents should complete storm preparations and seek shelter or evacuate if instructed to do so.

A Hurricane "Watch" is issued if hurricane conditions are possible within the specified area. Watches are typically issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds. Residents are advised to prepare their homes and businesses; review an evacuation plan and listen closely for further condition updates and instructions. A Hurricane "Warning" is issued when hurricane conditions are expected within the specified area. Warnings are typically issued 36 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds. When a Warning has been issued residents should complete storm preparations and seek shelter or evacuate if instructed to do so.

STORM PREPAREDNESS TIPS:

BEFORE A STORM - crank radio, extra flashlights a

- Build an Emergency Supply Kit, which includes items like non-perishable food, water, a battery-powered or handnd batteries.
- Make a Family Emergency Plan. Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so it is important to know how you will

contact one another, how you will get back together and what you will do in case of an emergency.

- Continually monitor the media (radio or TV) – Be aware of storms which could impact your area.
- Know how you will be warned in an emergency...Alert Montgomery, (NOAA Weather radios with a tone alert are a good option).
- Ensure your home is ready. Bring in outdoor items that could become projectiles in high wind.
- Turn the refrigerator and freezer to the coldest setting in anticipation of a power outage. Open the door only when necessary and close quickly. Frozen food in a half-full freezer will remain safe for up to 24 hours, and in a full freezer, up to 48 hours.

DURING A STORM

- Follow instructions and emergency advice from County officials or heed shelter or evacuation requests made through announcements on radio/television.
- Keep an eye on the sky. Look for darkening skies, flashes of light or increasing wind. Listen for the sound of thunder. If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be struck by lightning.
- Blowing debris or the sound of an approaching tornado may alert you. Tornado danger signs include a dark, almost greenish sky; large hail; a large, dark, low-lying cloud or a loud roar, similar to a freight train.
- Gather family members, bring pets indoors and have your emergency supply kit ready.
- Close outside doors and window blinds, shades or curtains. Close all interior doors. Stay away from doors, windows and exterior walls. Stay in a shelter location (small interior room, closet, or hallway on the lowest level) until the danger has passed.
- During lightning, do not use wired telephones, touch electrical appliances or use running water. Cordless or cellular telephones are safe to use.
- During a power outage use flashlights and battery-powered lanterns for light. Avoid using candles which pose a fire risk.
- Ensure a supply of water for sanitary purposes such as for personal cleaning and flushing toilets. Fill a bathtub or other large container with the water. This is particularly important for those whose water runs off of an electrical system.
- If your residence could flood, store valuable and personal papers in a waterproof container.
- Do not walk through flowing water. Drowning is the number one cause of flood deaths. Six inches of swiftly moving water can knock you off your feet.
- Stay indoors and limit travel to only absolutely necessary trips. Listen to radio/television for updates. Do not attempt to drive through a flooded road – you can become stranded or trapped.
- After a Storm
- Stay off roads to allow emergency crews to clear roads and provide emergency assistance.
- Help injured or trapped persons. Do not attempt to move seriously injured persons unless they are in immediate danger of death or further injury.
- Use the telephone only for emergencies.
- Use care around downed power lines. Assume a downed wire is a live wire.

- Watch out for overhead hazards such as broken tree limbs, wires and other debris.
- Avoid walking into flood waters. The water may be contaminated by oil, gasoline or raw sewerage, contain downed power lines or animals.
- Look for hazards such as broken/leaking gas lines, damaged sewage systems, flooded electrical circuits, submerged appliances and structural damage. Leave the area if you smell gas or chemical fumes.
- Clean everything that gets wet. For food, medicines and cosmetics; when in doubt, throw it out.
- Make sure backup generators are well ventilated. Never use grills, generators or camping stoves indoors.
- Call 311 (or 240-777-0311 from a cell phone or from a location outside of Montgomery County) to report downed trees on public property and for help with County services, or go to mc311.com. If wires are involved with the downed tree, if anyone is trapped, or the tree is blocking a roadway, call 9-1-1.

For additional emergency information visit the Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security website at: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/oemhs

5TH 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 or mail it to CCA Beautification Contest, P.O. Box 21, Beltsville, MD 20704-0021. Entries must be received by June 30th. 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:
- * 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).
- * An applicant must be certified by the Membership Chair of the county the applicant lives in as being a CCA dues-paying member of the current year (2015).
- * 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.
- * 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 winner are final and not subject to appeal. Awards will be announced and presented at the Fall 2015 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.

TREE PLANTING PROGRAMS FOR FALL 2015

Montgomery County has a new program that starts fall 2015.

They will provide a free shade tree, plant it and care for it for two years. All free of charge. Go to www.treemontgomery.org

Marylanders Plant Trees is a program that offers \$25 off coupon for the purchase of a native tree at 86 participating nurseries across the state. Go to www.trees.maryland.gov.

Application to Enter the 2015 Calverton Beautification Contest

Name : _____

Address : _____

Phone # : _____

Email (optional) : _____

I swear that I am a current 2015 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**

Entrees must be received by June 30, 2015

(President's Message -continued from page 1)

PARKING VEHICLES:

- Vehicles cannot be parked opposite the flow of traffic. Left wheels of your vehicle must **not** be against the curb. Park on the side of the street in the direction that you would be driving.
- Parking on the street is to be parallel to the curb, not perpendicular. The side of your vehicle should be along the curb or parallel to the curb. The front end of your vehicle should not be facing the curb. Your vehicle should not be parked perpendicular to the curb. This is not a shopping center so you do not pull your car straight into the curb.
- Vehicles must be parked 35 feet from an intersection or intersecting roadway. People need to be able to turn into the street and turn out of the street safely
- Vehicles cannot not park within 5 feet of a driveway. Peoples need to be able to pull into the driveway.
- Do not park directly across from your neighbor's driveway so that they cannot pull out of their own driveway.
- Parking your vehicle across the sidewalk so that it blocks the path of pedestrians is illegal. Do not block the sidewalk.
- There is an off-street parking limit of **one** light commercial vehicle. Heavy commercial vehicles and recreational vehicles are prohibited from parking on residential streets,

except temporary parking for loading and unloading.

- Heavy commercial vehicles are defined as follows: a gross vehicle weight of more than 10,000 pounds; a manufacturer's rated capacity of more than one ton; more than 21 feet long (including any object loaded onto the vehicle); or are more than eight feet high (including racks, but not antennas). These vehicles are prohibited from parking off-street in residential neighborhoods.
- Recreational vehicles include motor homes and trailers, including those used to transport other leisure equipment. One recreational vehicle per household can be parked off-street on available surfaced area in residential neighborhoods.
- Lawn maintenance companies operating as home occupations are allowed only one single-axle trailer or truck at a time.
- Vehicles parked in front yards must be on surfaced areas.
- The on-site parking for home occupations is limited to two spaces.
- There is an off-street parking limit of **one** light commercial vehicle.
- Inoperable or unregistered vehicles are not allowed anywhere on the property or on the street.