

Berwyn Heights Bulletin

Incorporated 1896 ★ Sixth Oldest Municipality in Prince George's County

December 2014



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WSSC Presentation Re: Indian Creek WMR December 10, 8:00 pm

The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) will undertake a major water main replacement project in Berwyn Heights starting in the summer of 2015. Streets affected are for the most part to the west of Cunningham Drive, exclusive Cunningham Drive itself. This will entail preparations in Town right-of-ways, including tree trimming and cutting, as well as trenching and resurfacing of streets. WSSC representatives will make a presentation on the project at the December Town meeting and answer questions you might have.

Affected streets include all of 56th, 57th, 58th and 59th Avenues, Seminole Street between 56th and 62nd Avenue, Ruatan Street between Berwyn Road and Cunningham Drive, Quebec Street between 57th Avenue and Cunningham Drive, Osage Street between Hockey Rink and Berwyn Road, and Berwyn Road intersections at Osage Street and 58th Avenue.

Please contact the Town office 301-474-5000 with any questions, or WSSC Project Manager Samuel Bajomo 301-206-8523 or sbajomo@wsscwater.com

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ORDINANCE 107 - CLEAN LOT AMENDMENTS DECEMBER 10, 2014

The Berwyn Heights Town Council will hold a public hearing on proposed amendments to Ordinance No. 107 - Clean Lot that sets standards for maintenance of exterior areas of private properties in Town. The amendments seek to clarify and strengthen regulations regarding inoperable vehicles, vacant properties, condemned properties, retaining walls and other accessory structures, as well as invasive species such as bamboo and English ivy.

The hearing is open to the public and public testimony or comments are encouraged. For more information about this hearing call (301) 474-5000, or e-mail Town Administrator Cowles at jcowles@town.berwyn-heights.md.us

Curbside Leaf Collection

Ends December 31. Please bag your leaves come January.

Use brown paper yard waste bags available at your local home improvement or grocery store, or a designated trash container. Please do NOT include debris, large sticks and litter, and do not rake leaves into the street, storm drains or drainage swales.

Yard Waste Pickup

**Mondays - north of Pontiac Street
Tuesdays - south of Pontiac Street**

HOLIDAY TRASH SCHEDULE

TOWN OFFICES CLOSED ON

Christmas Day

Mon	12/22/14	Trash & Yard Waste, North Side
Tue	12/23/14	Trash & Yard Waste, South Side
Wed	12/24/14	Recycling, Entire Town
Thu	12/25/14	NO PICKUP
Fri	12/26/14	Trash & Bulk Trash, Entire Town

New Year's Day

Mon	12/29/14	Trash, Bulk & Yard Waste, North Side
Tue	12/30/14	Trash, Bulk & Yard Waste, South Side
Wed	12/31/14	Recycling, Entire Town
Thu	1/1/15	NO PICKUP
Fri	1/2/15	Trash & Bulk Trash, Entire Town

Please Do **NOT** Leave Trash
at the Curb over Weekend



Holiday Decorating Contest

Judging December 20 – 31

Light up the holidays and get ready for the **Annual Holiday Decorating Contest**.

The Town awards prizes for **Best Decorated House**, **Best Yard** and **Best Overall**.

Bulk Trash Collection Change

In January 2015, the Town's Public Works Department will begin to implement a series of changes in the refuse collection program that will consolidate the second weekly trash pickup on Thursdays. This means that by the end of next summer no trash will be collected on Fridays, freeing this day up for other tasks. The transition will involve multiple steps:

Come January 5, 2015, the weekly refuse collection schedule will be as follows:

Monday North Side	Tuesday South Side	Wednesday Entire Town	Thursday North Side	Friday South Side
Household Trash	Household Trash	Recycling	Household Trash	Household Trash
► Bulk Trash	► Bulk Trash			
Yard Waste	Yard Waste			

Worksession

October 6, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Cheye Calvo, Mayor Pro Tem (MPT) Jodie Kulpa-Eddy and Councilmembers (CMs) Patricia Dennison, Chris Rasmussen and Anthony Schreiber. Also present was Town Administrator (TA) Edward Murphy, Director of Public Works Adrian Lockley, and Clerk Kerstin Harper.

1. Mayor

Agenda: A request of Berwyn Heights Elementary School to use the Town Center for an employee's going-away party was added.

Announcements: The new Town Administrator, Jessica Cowles, will officially start to work next Monday, October 13. TA Murphy will continue to work as a consultant until the end of October. A retirement party for Mr. Murphy will be held on October 23. The TA transition will be discussed in tonight's executive session. CM Dennison's mother recently celebrated her 89th birthday.

Calendar: The school board member elected to represent Berwyn Heights on November 4 is to be invited to the November 20 Berwyn Heights legislative dinner. The University of Maryland Inn & Conference Center will be considered as a location. The January 5, 2015 worksession was moved to January 12, and the second worksession to January 26.

Minutes: On a motion by CM Dennison and second by MPT Kulpa-Eddy, the September 2 worksession minutes were adopted 5 to 0. The September 10 Town meeting minutes were distributed.

Department Reports: Mayor Calvo reported that he met with Jessica Cowles before he left on vacation. She was looking forward to getting started in the Town Administrator position. He also had a meeting with WSSC representatives in which they agreed to improve communications with Berwyn Heights about upcoming projects that involve street openings. The possibility of drafting a standard memorandum of understanding (MOU) when undertaking road construction in a municipality is under consideration. A follow up meeting will take place tomorrow to discuss the Indian Creek water main replacement project scheduled to start in summer 2015. It will affect a large number of streets in Town, including recently paved ones. Public Works Director Lockley was designated

as the point man for interactions with WSSC.

CM Dennison said that she attended the Boys & Girls Club Harvest Fest fundraiser, which was very well attended. She also announced upcoming events and noted that a lunar eclipse, or 'blood moon,' will occur on October 8. CM Rasmussen reported that he attended the last Green Team meeting to discuss the Urban Forest initiative and to think about how to ensure the health of the Town's trees on both public and private property. He also raised the issue of re-establishing a shade tree board, which is provided for in Ordinance 122, and the role the Green Team might play in managing it. CM Rasmussen also attended the Community Garden dedication and yesterday's composting workshop, and completed an inspection to renew the rental license for his Osage Street property. The Code Department hired a new part-time code officer, Keelah Allen-Smith, to assist with rental inspections mostly after hours and on the weekend. Code Supervisor Simpson will attend the next worksession to give a status report after his first 3 months in office. Code has made an inventory of frequent problems found during rental inspections including: inoperable windows, missing outlets, chipping paint and incomplete paperwork, among others. Code is also running a little behind in license fees and code fines revenue collection.

MPT Kulpa-Eddy reported that she and CM Schreiber attended a General Services Administration (GSA) open house at which the environmental impacts of relocating the FBI headquarters to Greenbelt Station were presented. She also attended a listening session with County Executive Baker and his team at the Northwestern High School, where citizens voiced concerns about crime, code issues and printers in schools. CM Schreiber commended Bruce Hockman for being selected Public Works employee of the month.

Citizen comments: There were none.

BHHC appointments: Mayor Calvo explained that the Historical Committee asked the Council to appoint Jeffrey Baldwin-Bott and Kerstin Harper as voting members, while removing Maddie Allen. Mr. Baldwin-Bott will be a new member while Ms. Harper has been a staff liaison, but would now become a voting member to make it easier for the Committee to meet a quorum. CM Dennison moved and MPT Kulpa-Eddy seconded to appoint them as full voting members.

In response to CM Rasmussen, Mayor Calvo explained that the Historical Committee's legislative authority is advisory. It is one of the Town's Committee's that came into being with adoption of a resolution by the Council. With no further comments, the members were appointed.

2. Public Works

Staff utilization: Mayor Calvo welcomed Public Works Director Lockley to discuss a range of issues affecting Public Works. Director Lockley began with an explanation of how he uses his 6 full-time and 2 permanent part-time employees to accomplish a normal week's workload. With all employees present, he has 296 man hours available to complete a week's refuse collection routine, excluding himself. Mondays and Tuesdays he needs 2 crews consisting of 1 driver and 2 laborers, each, to collect both household trash and yard waste on the north and south side of the Town. Wednesdays he needs a crew of 1 driver and 3 laborers to collect recyclables for the entire Town. This is an all day event that frequently cannot be completed in time to get to the recycling station before the afternoon deadline of 3:30 pm. The loads are dumped the following morning. On Thursdays and Fridays, the household trash is usually less, but 1 crew is needed to collect refuse and bulk trash, and another crew of 1 driver and 1 laborer to collect metals separately. Driving refuse to the landfill takes a crew of 1 driver and 1 laborer. Other tasks, such as maintenance of grounds, buildings and vehicles is carried out on an as needed basis and when there is time, mostly on Thursday and Friday afternoons.

CM Rasmussen asked if the switch to using a truck with an automated lift has been explored. It might speed up collection and reduce labor costs due to fewer work-related injuries and lost productivity. Director Lockley and TA Murphy said that the Council and Public Works Director have explored this option. The main problem with using an automated truck is parked cars, preventing the truck from reaching trash cans set out at the curb. Dumping of trash cans is not faster if the cans have to be carried from the curb around cars to the truck and back. If a can is too heavy, usually due to rain water collecting in it, two men will lift it.

Refuse collection reorganization: Mayor Calvo said that CM Schreiber has raised the issue of switching to once-a-week trash collection, which many municipalities have implemented in recent

years. Several years ago, he advocated for once-a-week collection but eventually gave up on the idea. He realized that the current trash trucks are not big enough to fit the Town's weekly trash volume with once a week collection. Since then he has begun to talk with Director Lockley about consolidating the 2nd trash pickup on Thursdays.

Director Lockley said the transition to 3 day pickup is not a problem from the Public Works Department's perspective. The main issue is that residents on the south side of the Town would have to get used to a new pickup date. However, before the consolidation is carried out, bulk refuse collection needs to be switched to Mondays and Tuesdays. To a large extent, this is already taking place as residents cleanup and de-clutter their homes on weekends and put unwanted bulk trash out on the next available trash day. Approximately 75% of bulk trash is already picked up Mondays and Tuesdays. This actually works better for the Public Works department, because it will free up time on Fridays for other tasks. However, completion of the transition to 3 day pickup is contingent on the purchase of a second 27 cubic foot trash truck, which is scheduled for FY 2016. To have the truck delivered by July 1, 2015, it needs to be ordered at least 4 months prior.

To summarize, Director Lockley said he is planning to switch bulk refuse collection to Monday and Tuesday in January 2015, place an order for the new trash truck by February 2015, and consolidate the second trash pickup on Thursdays after taking delivery of the truck in July 2015.

At 8:10 p.m., the Council took a 5 minute break.

CM Rasmussen asked if the volume of household trash could be further reduced by incentivizing more recycling. Director Lockley said, after the Town switched to in-house recycling and initiated a recycling publicity campaign, trash disposal initially went down as recycling went up. Lately, however, recycling has increased only marginally, while trash disposal has remained constant. Mayor Calvo thought that this may be due to an increase in families with young children in Town, which generally produce more trash.

CM Rasmussen also asked if the Council has thought about charging fees for exceeding normal trash amounts to change incentives. Mayor Calvo said the Council has discussed it. In Berwyn Heights a small percentage of residents are probably responsible for throwing out half of all

trash. The Town has tried to address this problem by citing egregious violators, who improperly dispose of their trash, not separating their recyclables, or committing other trash violations. The Council also discussed charging a fee for putting out more than one trash can, but chose not to go that route for now.

Mayor Calvo asked Director Lockley if he has a backup plan if Monday's trash volume becomes too large to be picked up with one truck on a regular basis. Director Lockley said that this happens only occasionally. He then sends a second truck to the landfill. Another option is to ask residents not to set out more than 2 trash cans on Mondays and reserve leftover trash for Thursday pickups. The Council discussed several other options: 1) move the dividing line between north and south side a block to the north, to even out the number of homes that need to be serviced for each side; 2) plan on using two trucks on Monday, but hold them until the next morning to drive to the landfill. In the morning, this might be accomplished with just the driver because there would be no lines at the landfill that require an assistant; and 3) divide the Town into thirds and collect trash only once a week. The Council deemed *Option 1* to be the least disruptive and easiest to implement backup plan if Monday pickup becomes too much to handle. It was agreed to switch to 3 day trash collection in accordance with the plan outlined by Director Lockley. Residents need to be educated about the planned changes as soon as possible.

Recycling guidelines: Director Lockley explained that Waste Management (WM), the operator of the Prince George's recycling facility, has implemented more stringent quality control measures for recyclables. Any portion of a truck load of recyclable materials deemed to be unacceptable by WM inspectors does not qualify for payment. This includes all items currently on the list of non-recyclables, such as Styrofoam, ropes, hoses, chains, or containers with food residue. In addition, anything in opaque plastic bags will not be counted as recyclable because WM inspectors cannot see what is inside. Last time, Berwyn Heights disposed of its recyclables, 30% of the load was not counted as recyclable and excluded from payment.

Mayor Calvo said this is not necessarily bad. If the stricter enforcement increases purity of the recycled material, payment for recyclables should theoretically go

up. For the Town it means launching another publicity campaign to educate residents. TA Murphy said that the Town's recycling flyer will have to be redone, then mailed to residents, probably more than once, to be followed by citations for non-compliance. CM Rasmussen suggested that someone go door-to-door to talk to residents about what goes into their recycling bins. Possibly the Green Team could be consulted to come up with a plan. The Council agreed for staff to develop an educational plan and to begin publicizing the changes as soon as possible.

Road repair update: Director Lockley reported that a new contractor completed the patching of potholes last week. This year, the repairs were made with hot patch, as last year's cold patch repairs did not hold up well. The contractor he is using will also do an inspection of Town streets to evaluate their overall condition. The inspection will become the basis for developing/ updating a priority list of streets that need to be repaved.

Mayor Calvo said that he wants to understand what a large-scale road repair project would cost to get all Town roads into good condition. Such a project could possibly be undertaken in conjunction with the upcoming WSSC water main replacement. Utilizing WSSC contractors might save the Town a considerable amount of money. A big project would have to be bonded, but could be more economical than doing many small-scale projects. It needs to be determined if the savings from doing a large-scale project are greater than the interest on a bond. The value of repaved streets in improving curb appeal would become more significant if the FBI headquarters relocates to Greenbelt Station, and more people are looking for housing in the nearby communities.

TA Murphy said he asked WSSC to come in and give a presentation about their project, which is going to affect mostly the western half of the Town. This should give the Town a time frame for its road improvement program. TA Murphy also noted that WSSC will have to cut down and prune trees in connection with this project. They have obtained a permit from the Department of Natural Resources for the tree work, and submitted a detailed by-address plan to the Town. The marked trees are both in the Town right-of-way and on private property. Mayor Calvo commented that it would be nice to have a map with the trees, and some explanation of why pruning or removal is necessary. CM Rasmussen

noted the document states that all tree removals require the consent of the Town of Berwyn Heights.

Bus stop pads and benches: TA Murphy said that the FY 2015 budget contains \$5,000 for bus stop pads and benches to be installed as part of the priority 1 sidewalks project. He has developed a list of 10 bus stop locations based on usage by riders for contractors to use in preparing their bids. The Council is requested to review the list and revise it if needed. Due to the lateness of the hour, it was agreed that Councilmembers review the list at home and make a decision at the next worksession.

Administration

Sidewalks bids: TA Murphy said the bidding for the priority 1 sidewalks project was advertised in the Washington Post and in a web-based trade publication, Construction Journal, in conformance with the Town Charter. Four bids were received. The lowest bid was by E&R Services of Lanham, which came in \$120,000 below budget at \$421,000, then NZI Construction of Beltsville at \$433,200, then GT Contracting Corporation at \$544,700 and Olney Masonry Corporation at \$556,300. The Council is requested to award the winning bid at the October 8 Town meeting.

Mayor Calvo said he is surprised that there is no bid tabulation sheet with a breakdown of costs for the different aspects of the project. He would like to know in more detail why the bids differ. Apart from price, there may be other factors he would base award of the contract on, such as flexibility to make changes to the project. After checking his email, TA Murphy was able to provide a bid analysis by C.P. Johnson Engineers, including a bid tabulation sheet comparing unit prices for 67 components of the project. CM Schreiber said he is comfortable with making a selection with the engineers having reviewed the bids and given assurances that all bids are provided by reputable contractors. With the engineer's analysis in hand, the Council was asked to review the bid sheets and check with TA Murphy if they have questions. The award of the bid will be on the agenda for the next Town meeting.

Budget amendment: TA Murphy said that the FY 2015 budget amendments are not yet finished. He had to add the State of Maryland's \$80,000 contribution for the emergency generators, the Town's \$20,000 share of the bike way grant, and salary adjustments. He will have draft ready to send out to the Council tomorrow so that it can review the

amendments prior to adoption at the October 8 Town meeting.

Merit pay: Mayor Calvo said that TA Murphy prepared 4 different options to award cost of living increases (COLAs) and merit increases for staff to become effective with the first payroll in November. The options are based on 26 employees who were evaluated. This year, employee ratings have been higher across the board than in previous years, with ratings ranging between 3.55 and 4.5 on a scale of 1 to 5. Thus 2 sets of options were prepared with higher cutoff points for merit pay: a 3.8 cutoff that would result in 13 employees receiving merit pay and 13 not receiving merit pay; and a 4.0 cutoff that would result in 9 employees receiving merit pay and 17 not. All employees will receive COLAs regardless of rating.

For both cutoff scenarios, there are two different rate increases: 1) a 2% increase for employees that qualify for merit pay and a 1% increase for employees who qualify only for a COLA; and 2) a 2.5% increase for employees that qualify for merit pay and 1.5% increase for employees that only qualify for a COLA.

Mayor Calvo, CM Rasmussen and CM Schreiber preferred Option 4, which provides for a 2.5% / 1.5% increase with a 3.8 cutoff point; MPT Kulpa-Eddy and CM Dennison preferred Option 2 with a 2.5% / 1.5% increase with a 4.0 cutoff point. CM Schreiber moved to adopt Option 4. CM Rasmussen seconded. The motion passed 3 to 2, with MPT Kulpa-Eddy and CM Dennison opposed.

Clean Lot Ordinance: Consideration of revisions to the Clean Lot Ordinance was postponed. TA Murphy said that he polled 16 Prince George's County municipalities regarding inoperable vehicles. Only two municipalities allow cars without valid tags to be stored on private property.

Town Center rental fee exception: Mayor Calvo said that Berwyn Heights Elementary School staff will hold a going-away party for longtime secretary Almura Geter and asked if the rental fee could be waived. CM Schreiber moved to waive the fee. CM Dennison seconded. The motion passed 5 to 0.

FBI headquarters letter of support: MPT Kulpa-Eddy provided a draft letter supporting the relocation of the FBI headquarters to Greenbelt Station in the context of a GSA environmental impact scoping project. Comments are due on October 23. Councilmembers agreed to review the letter and discuss it at the

next worksession.

7. Executive Session (10:20 p.m. - 10:44 p.m.)

On a motion by CM Schreiber and second by CM Dennison, the Council went into executive session to discuss the onboarding of the new town administrator. With the matter discussed, CM Schreiber moved and CM Dennison seconded to end the executive session.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:44 p.m.

Kerstin Harper, Town Clerk

Town Meeting October 8, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Calvo, Mayor Pro Tem (MPT) Kulpa-Eddy, CMs Dennison, Rasmussen and Schreiber. Also present were Town Administrator (TA) Murphy, Chief of Police Antolik, Treasurer Lape, Clerk Harper, and Garth Beall of Renard Development Corporation.

Mayor Calvo led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Presentation

Mayor Calvo welcomed Garth Beall, Manager of Renard Development Corporation, the developer of the Greenbelt Station north core. He came to give an update on the FBI headquarters relocation process. Mr. Beall said, since his last presentation before the Town Council, Renard Development Corporation submitted a proposal for the future FBI headquarters at Greenbelt Station in response to a solicitation of expressions of interest by the General Services Administration (GSA), which manages the FBI site selection process. The proposed plans try to satisfy 3 objectives: 1) accommodate the new FBI headquarters to be built on the current Metro parking lot; 2) move Metro parking to a new parking garage closer to the Metro tracks; and 3) create a mixed-use development next to the Metro station, while providing access to the buses and kiss-and-ride.

Based on subsequent discussions with GSA, the site plan that best met the above objectives (Plan B) was selected. It moves the outer loop on-ramp of the Beltway interchange further north and adds an additional 2 1/2 acres to the GSA/ FBI parcel. The State Highway Administration (SHA) is already working

on a new design for the on-ramp. Further, Plan B calls for a mixed-use development that has 800 residential units, a 300-room hotel, between 350,000 - 400,000 square feet of office space, and as much retail as can fit. The mixed-use development will be 8 stories high and accommodate bus stops and kiss-and-ride facilities. The FBI headquarters will be 13 stories high, and include parking for 3,750 cars.

Mr. Beall continued that the GSA is currently in the process of studying the environmental impact of relocating the FBI headquarters to the three locations in the running: Greenbelt Station, Landover Mall and Springfield, VA. As required by federal law, the impacts studied include traffic, noise, as well socio-economic, and cultural resources. This will be followed by issuance of Requests for Qualification (RFQ) of bidding teams, which will take place this winter; the completion of a draft Environmental Impact Study (EIS) in spring 2015; the issuance of a Request for Proposals (RFP) in summer 2015; negotiation of responses to the RFPs in fall 2015; and the award of the contract in spring 2016.

Mr. Beall said he is confident that the contract will be awarded to Greenbelt Station. To get ready, the developer is working on obtaining bonds and permits, and finalizing the plans for the Metro parking garage. The garage has to be built first to be able to clear the surface parking lot, where a future FBI headquarters will be built. Construction is expected to take 16 to 18 months. If the project schedule stays on track, the project should be completed in spring 2020.

Renard Development has partnered with Related Management of New York and Elcor Development to build the \$1.2 billion FBI headquarters. The concept plan calls for a complex of 5 buildings, including 2 parking garages that incorporate many green features, such as solar paneling on the parking garage, green roofs and state-of-the-art storm water management facilities. Additionally, the development will leave intact the current Indian Creek flood plain and nearby wetlands, as well as undertake stream restoration work on Narragansett Run.

Mayor Calvo asked how GSA makes the decision to award the contract. Mr. Beall replied that the first consideration is cost, but environmental impacts, access by road and by rail are also very important criteria. He thinks Greenbelt Station is the best suited and the most ready of the 3 proposed sites. Here, the FBI headquarters would be located within an easy

walk from the Metro station at 275 yards. The other sites will require a shuttle service. Also, Greenbelt Station already has an approved concept and preliminary site plan, and is on a fast track for approval of the detailed site plan. The other 2 sites have not yet started the design and approval process.

Mayor Calvo asked what Berwyn Heights and other neighboring municipalities can do to bring the FBI to Greenbelt Station. Mr. Beall said that a letter of support in the current scoping process would be most effective. A video by the Four Cities Coalition, highlighting the attractions and benefits of these communities, is also welcome. MPT Kulpa-Eddy said that a letter of support by the Town has been prepared and is ready to go out by the deadline. Mayor Calvo concluded that Berwyn Heights is excited about the prospect of bringing the FBI here and is willing to help in any way possible. He thanked Mr. Beall for the presentation.

2. Minutes

Clerk Harper read a summary of the September 10 Town meeting minutes. On a motion by CM Dennison and second by MPT Kulpa-Eddy, the minutes were approved 5 to 0.

3. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Lape gave the Treasurer's report for the month of September.

4. Mayor's Report

Mayor Calvo reported that a new Town Administrator, Jessica Cowles, has been hired and will start this coming Monday. She previously worked for the City of Annapolis as a legislative and policy analyst and this will be her first position as a town administrator. She emerged as the top candidate from a long and intensive search process that included interviews by the Council, the directors, as well as staff and citizen panels. Ms. Cowles impressed the Council with her creativity and energy that will be important in moving the Town forward. Credit also goes to TA Murphy who laid the groundwork during his long tenure for hiring Ms. Cowles. The Council is grateful for all his help with hiring the new town administrator and for agreeing to stay on to facilitate the transition.

Mayor Calvo continued that tonight the Council will bring to completion another long-term project. After 3 years of planning, the contract for building the priority 1 sidewalks project will be awarded later tonight. The Town received 4 bids, with the lowest one coming in significantly under budget at \$421,000. The project will also improve bus stops around Town

with pads and benches. The work of former Councilmembers Wilkinson and Almoguera to expand the network of sidewalks should be remembered tonight.

At the last worksession, Public Works Director Lockley was present to discuss upcoming changes to the weekly trash collection, among other things. The Council agreed to move the Friday trash pickup to Thursday, servicing both north and south side homes on one day. This frees Public Works staff up to do other jobs on Fridays and is expected to yield big efficiencies and boost morale. The change will be implemented over the next 9 months as it requires the purchase of a larger trash truck and moving bulk trash collection to Mondays and Tuesdays.

Road repair plans was another topic discussed at the last worksession. WSSC will undertake a major water main replacement project next year that will result in digging trenches on many of the Town's streets. Apart from the disruption, this will afford the opportunity for the Town to piggyback onto WSSC's contract for resurfacing these streets, and realize substantial savings. Mayor Calvo, CM Schreiber, Director Lockley and TA Murphy met with WSSC representatives yesterday to discuss the project and how WSSC and the Town can become better partners in improving the Town's infrastructure under and above ground.

Mayor Calvo further reported that the Council recently awarded Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs) and merit increases to 26 employees, effective November 1. All employees will receive a 1.5% COLA, and about half of the employees will receive an additional 1% in merit increases. Lastly, Berwyn Heights was awarded its *Sustainable Maryland* certification in September. This represents the culmination of a two-year effort, primarily by the Green Team, to sign up for the program and implement the projects needed to earn the certification. Credit also goes to the Public Works Department, which helped the Green Team throughout the process, particularly with setting up the community garden that was recently dedicated.

5. Department Reports

Administration: MPT Kulpa-Eddy reported that she attended a listening session of the County Executive and his team last week. This is a great opportunity for residents to bring up any concerns about any County services directly with the executive team. Two more listening sessions will be held on October 9

at Oxon Hill High School and on October 16 at Flowers High School. Further, on October 18, a pro-bono legal services workshop will be held at the Greenbelt Library where residents can get help with mortgage foreclosures and loan modification problems.

In Town news, the Council received the priority 1 sidewalks bids and will award the contract later tonight. Mr. Murphy is still working on settling issues with the State Highway Administration (SHA) to get the sidewalks on the 8900 block of 63rd Avenue started, and with Prince George's County to finish the emergency generators project. Lastly, MPT Kulpa-Eddy said she is looking forward to the Council's first worksession with the new Town Administrator in place.

Code Compliance: CM Rasmussen reported that the Code Department has hired a new part-time officer, Keelah Allen-Smith, to help with rental inspections. Ms. Allen-Smith is a full-time code officer for the City of College Park and brings a lot of experience to the job. Fall is a time when rental inspections spike because there is a lot of turnover in rental apartments, with students moving in for the new school year. The Code Department has seen an increase of failed inspections as it takes a closer look at deficiencies that pose a health and safety risk.

CM Rasmussen reminded residents that the Town requires a building permit whenever a County building permit is required. This includes major home improvement projects, as well as construction of additions, outbuildings and fences. Further, the Council has begun to review the Clean Lot Ordinance, and the accompanying Commercial Clean Lot Ordinance, to update regulations on the storage of inoperable vehicles and to tighten the process for fining repeat offenders and for abatement of vacant properties. Lastly, CM Rasmussen offered a definition for "phragmite," a tall, perennial reed that alters the ecological balance of wetlands, which had been mentioned in Mr. Beall's presentation on the Greenbelt Station development.

Parks and Recreation, Education and Civic Affairs: CM Dennison thanked retiring TA Murphy for all his help to her department over the years. She then reported that the Boys & Girls Club harvest fest was a big success. Many beautiful mums and pumpkins were sold for the benefit of the club. Upcoming events include Trunk or Treat on October 25, Halloween on October 31, Veterans Day on November 9 and the Holiday Tree

Lighting on December 6. CM Dennison reminded residents that November 4 is Election Day, and voting occurs at the BHES cafeteria. Further, free flu shots are available on October 28 at the Springhill Lake community center.

Public Health and Safety: Chief Antolik gave the police activities report for September. There were 9 Part I offenses, which is in line with the 5 year average of 9.6. The year to date total is 53, which is above last year's total of 43, but still lower than the 5 year average of 62.2. The police also issued 151 State and Town citations and 101 speed camera citations. There was 1 arrest of an intoxicated Latino male for assaulting his girlfriend. In another assault the victim declined to press charges. There were also 3 thefts, including a motorcycle, which has since been recovered. Chief Antolik concluded with safety tips for trick-or-treating on Halloween.

Referring to the citation data in the monthly report, Mayor Calvo asked why there was a large drop-off of citations issued in September. Chief Antolik replied that it reflects the resignation of one officer, officers taking vacation, and officers being stationed at the school when students were returning from summer vacations.

Public Works: CM Schreiber reported that the Public Works staff completed the repair of 64 pot holes, using a new contractor, and that Bruce Hockman was selected as employee of the month. He reminded residents that filled trash cans should not exceed the 50 lbs limit. Heavy trash cans are more difficult for the pickup crew to handle. Further, residents are encouraged to recycle more as the Town gets paid for recyclables, whereas it has to pay for depositing trash at the landfill. This will also help the Town transition to a new trash collection schedule where both the north and south side will be picked up on Thursdays for the second weekly collection.

6. Committee Reports

Green Team: Mayor Calvo reported that the Green Team held a well-attended composting workshop this weekend, which is part of an effort to educate residents about options for reducing the trash they dispose. The Green Team also held initial discussions with CM Rasmussen about the role they might play in revising the Urban Forest Ordinance and devise rules to better care for the Town's tree canopy.

Historical Committee: CM Dennison announced that the Historical Committee will host a Veteran's Day event on November 9.

Neighborhood Watch/Emergency Preparedness: MPT Kulpa-Eddy reported that the NW/EP participated in Greenbelt's emergency preparedness day on September 28. They brought their emergency trailer to help educate people about emergency readiness. Committee members will also be out this weekend to help with the 80th anniversary celebration of the Town of Edmonston. On Halloween, NW/EP will assist the police patrolling the Town to ensure the safety of trick-or-treaters. Lastly, residents were encouraged to respond to the NW/EP survey published in the October Bulletin to gauge what residents know about emergency preparedness. The survey continues to be available online through December at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/2SYBFVS>.

Recreation Council: Reported under Department Reports.

7. Unfinished Business

Ordinance 167-A - 2nd Reading and Adoption of FY 2015 Budget Amendments: Clerk Harper read a summary of the Ordinance. CM Dennison moved to adopt it. CM Rasmussen seconded. Mayor Calvo explained that the Council usually adopts budget amendments in June at the end of a fiscal year to reconcile the budget. However, there were a number of developments that warrant an amendment at this time. The main driver were the salary adjustments that had to be made with the hiring of new TA Cowles while keeping TA Murphy on as a consultant to facilitate the transition. There were also several grants that require changes to the budget. This includes the Safe Routes to School grant, for which the Town will be reimbursed after it has spent the money for constructing the 63rd Avenue sidewalk; an \$80,000 grant from the State to install emergency generators the Town has to match; and a \$20,000 bike-way grant from the Maryland Heritage Area Authority (MHAA) that also requires a Town match. In addition, the amendments appropriate additional funds to purchase a Code tracking system.

CM Rasmussen clarified that a final decision on the purchase of the electronic code tracking system has not yet been made. The budget number is based on the research Code Supervisor Simpson has done comparing several systems. MPT Kulpa-Eddy asked whether the amendment appropriates money for the

replacement of the street sweeper. TA Murphy said it does as shown on page 2. With no further comments, the Council voted 5 to 0 to approve the budget amendment.

8. New Business

Resolution 11-2014 - Award of Sidewalk Construction Bid: Clerk Harper read the Resolution. Mayor Calvo explained that the Council had the chance to review the sidewalk bids at the October 6 worksession and get some questions answered. The bid award is the capstone of a long process that officially started with a public hearing on sidewalks on October 3, 2011. At the time, the first revenue from speed cameras had come in, and the sidewalks were one of the capital projects considered for using this money.

Mayor Calvo continued that sidewalks were not built when most of the Town streets were first paved in the 1950s and 1960s. Today there is new interest in a walkable community, as Berwyn Heights is again filled with families with young children. Sidewalks became a priority of the previous Town Council where two Councilmembers with young children were strong sidewalks proponents. Unfortunately, the design and permit approval process proved much more difficult and lengthy than anticipated and these Councilmembers have since retired. Nonetheless, it is exciting to see this project realized after so much time and effort has been invested.

Mayor Calvo said the Council appropriated \$540,000 for the sidewalks projects, using money from the speed camera reserve, Metroland compensation and the surplus. The lowest bid by E&R Services at \$421,000 is substantially below budget, which is very good news. He is looking forward to seeing the sidewalks constructed as early as the end of this year, and children being able to walk to school on them next year.

MPT Kulpa-Eddy said she is sorry she cannot share the Council's enthusiasm. She is concerned that the sidewalks will bring a lot of changes to the Town, not all of them positive. There are several trees that will be cut down and more than that will be impacted by the construction. She is also concerned about the cost of the project and that there may be additional expenses that did not show up in the bid tabulation sheet.

CM Dennison moved to adopt the Resolution. CM Schreiber seconded. The motion passed 4 to 1, with MPT Kulpa-Eddy opposed.

9. Citizens Discussion

There was none.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:09 p.m.

Kerstin Harper, Town Clerk

Worksession October 20, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Cheye Calvo, Mayor Pro Tem (MPT) Jodie Kulpa-Eddy and Councilmembers (CMs) Patricia Dennison, Chris Rasmussen and Anthony Schreiber. Also present was Town Administrator (TA) Jessica Cowles, retiring TA Edward Murphy, Code Compliance Supervisor Kevin Simpson, Director of Public Works Adrian Lockley, and Clerk Kerstin Harper.

1. Mayor

Announcements: New TA Jessica Cowles is officially taking the reins as town administrator tonight. Mr. Murphy will continue to work as a consultant until the end of October to close out a number of ongoing projects. The Code Compliance agenda items will be held until he gets here. Early voting for the gubernatorial election begins on Thursday, October 23.

Calendar: Introduction of Clean Lot Ordinance amendments is planned for the November Town meeting; followed by the introduction of Urban Forest Ordinance amendments at the January Town meeting. A review of Council Rules is also in the works. Sir Walter Raleigh's was approved as the location for the Town's November 20 legislative dinner.

Minutes: On a motion by CM Dennison and second by MPT Kulpa-Eddy, the September 15 worksession minutes were adopted 4 to 0.

Department Reports: Mayor Calvo reported that he spent much of his last week at the Town office to help TA Cowles get oriented. This included a thorough review of the agenda process. Henceforth, a request for agenda items will go out on the Monday prior to a worksession, including two directors. Submission of agenda items will be Wednesday prior to a worksession, and requested items need to be accompanied by background documentation. This will help TA Cowles and Mayor Calvo understand the content and context of the request when they approve the agenda. The purpose of this process is

to keep items off the agenda that are not ready for consideration or do not require Council action.

Mayor Calvo further reported that a letter went out last Friday to inform residents that sidewalk construction will start on October 27, beginning at Sports Park and moving north and east along the planned route. The letter will be posted on the website for reference. The letter contains contact information of the contractor which residents can call with questions and to make arrangements to have private driveways resurfaced. All easement agreements with affected property owners have been finalized and signed.

Mayor Calvo followed up with WSSC on the denied claims for sewage backups during the June 10 flash flood. Contrary to what was promised, WSSC did not copy the Town on the results of their investigations about the backups, nor did they give affected residents easy access to the findings. County Councilmember Olson and his Chief of Staff Danielle Glaros have been very helpful in getting WSSC to address the matter. MPT Kulpa-Eddy said that WSSC commissioners invited public feedback at the meeting she recently attended. This may be another avenue to communicate the Town's concerns. Mayor Calvo agreed.

In response to CM Schreiber, Mr. Murphy explained that the sidewalk easement agreements give the Town the right in perpetuity to use a portion of someone's property for sidewalks, as well as permission to disturb additional ground on a property for the purpose of constructing the sidewalk.

CM Dennison reported that the Berwyn Heights Elementary School walkathon raised \$13,600, some which will be used for a museum field trip. Her department is funding a plaque to be posted at Pop's Park to acknowledge a grant from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Community Parks & Playgrounds program to renovate the Park. TA Cowles added that the plaque will also acknowledge the Town Council's contribution.

Citizen comments: CM Dennison received a comment that the code tracking software the Town plans to purchase is too expensive. Mayor Calvo received a comment from the Boys & Girls Club that a group of men regularly gets together at Sports Park and leaves behind a large number of beer cans. There is frustration that the police so far have not been able to talk to them.

Four Cities agenda: Mayor Calvo said that there are already 3 presentations the hosting City of Greenbelt has placed on the agenda: 1) a briefing on the Pepco/ Exelon merger; 2) briefing on the Prince George's County zoning rewrite; and 3) an update on the FBI headquarters relocation. MPT Kulpa-Eddy said that in connection with the FBI relocation the funding of a promotional video may be raised. Mayor Calvo said that the Town could make a \$5,000 contribution from its PEG reserve. However, he would attach some conditions to the funds regarding the content of the video.

CM Schreiber asked if the Town's contribution to Four Cities projects is always one quarter or proportionally to its size. Mayor Calvo replied it depends: with respect to the street sweeper, Berwyn Heights pays 1/4 of the purchase price but a proportional amount for operational expenditures, i.e. the salary of the driver and maintenance costs.

FBI EIS scoping letter: Mayor Calvo said that MPT Kulpa-Eddy has drafted the letter of support for relocating the FBI headquarters at Greenbelt Station, which the Council will be asked to approve later. The briefing the Council received from Garth Beall at the last Town meeting has proved very helpful in understanding where the project stands.

Mayor Calvo has learned more about the competing sites at meeting with Congressman Hoyer's staff. The Springfield, VA site would provide the smallest parcel to build on and, like Greenbelt Station, would be in walking distance of a Metro station, but further away than Greenbelt. In addition, Springfield residents are not enthusiastic about the prospect. The Landover location is only considered because the developer is politically well connected but it is not ideal in other respects. That location would require a shuttle to connect to the nearest Metro stop and is not likely to attract businesses and residents to become the kind of transit-oriented development envisioned. The only concern of Hoyer's staff was the reservations expressed by Greenbelt environmental groups, namely Citizens to Conserve and Restore Indian Creek (CCRIC). The City of Greenbelt has offered to meet with CCRIC to discuss their concerns.

MPT Kulpa-Eddy said she drafted the letter to highlight the advantages the Greenbelt location offers, primarily its accessibility by Metro, by car and by bicycle. Other advantages include the absence of hazardous materials and better storm water management that

comes standard with construction of new federal buildings.

With no further comments or edits from the Council, MPT Kulpa-Eddy moved and CM Dennison seconded to approve the letter of support. The motion passed 4 to 0. Mayor Calvo will sign the letter tonight so it can go out before the Wednesday deadline.

3. Public Works (discussed out of order)

Truck bids: Mayor Calvo welcomed Director of Public Works Lockley to discuss several Public Works-related items. Director Lockley explained that he has obtained estimates for 3 different packages of a Ford F-350 crew cab 1-ton dump truck to replace the current 1997 model. The truck will be used in snow plowing operations and hauling of mulch, appliances and scrap metal. The purchase piggybacks onto the State's bid, which obviates the requirement for 3 bids. He recommends purchasing a diesel-powered, as opposed to a gas-powered truck although it adds \$7,000 to the price. The diesel motor's greater horse-power will enable this truck to plow snow and haul heavy loads. Other options specified include different models for a snow plow costing between \$3,400 - \$4,000 and a salt spreader costing between \$3,500 - \$3,600. The diesel truck with the recommended options would cost \$53,200.

In response to Council's questions, Director Lockley said he recommends purchasing the Meyer snow plow, which comes with a control panel to manipulate plow angles and height and is already used with the Town's other snow plowing trucks. There are spare parts in storage for it. The drawback is a higher maintenance cost than the alternate model specified. Also recommended is a Swenson V box salt spreader, as opposed to the more expensive Swenson stainless steel tailgate spreader. A tailgate spreader can accommodate a larger load of road salt and is easier to operate. But it should be combined with a more expensive stainless steel dump body that can stand up to the corrosive road salt. While adding a cost of \$4,000, a stainless body would extend the life of the truck by approximately 2 years, thus making it less expensive over the long term.

Mayor Calvo said Director Lockley should not be constrained by a budgeted amount for a particular vehicle or piece of equipment but consider its long-term value to the Town when recommending a purchase. He asked that Director Lock-

ley provide the Council with an estimate for a diesel dump truck with a 4 x 4 stainless steel dump body for the next worksession as the basis for a Council decision. The purchase will also entail a change in the vehicle replacement fund.

CM Rasmussen, who arrived at 8:08 p.m., asked why there is a preference for using road salt as opposed to sand, and whether using sand would obviate the need for a stainless steel body. Mayor Calvo said that salt is needed to melt the ice on the hills which are otherwise difficult to navigate. Director Lockley was asked to include sand spreading as option for the truck purchase. In response to CM Schreiber, Director Lockley said he recommends the diesel truck because it has more power and reduces fuel costs.

WSSC water main replacement project: Mayor Calvo explained that WSSC will undertake a water main replacement project next year that will require trenching 1/5 of the Town streets. When done, they will resurface that side of the street on which the trench was dug. There is an opportunity for the Town to piggyback onto WSSC's milling and paving contract to resurface the affected streets in their entirety, and possibly additional streets, at a lesser cost than would otherwise be available. However, he does not know if the contractor would rebuild the sub-base of same streets and replace curbs and gutters if it should prove necessary. It would drive up the overall cost. Director Lockley said that the WSSC contractor would remove and replace the existing roadways and curbs where needed. Since the Town does not know the condition of the sub-base the cost of renovating these roads in their entirety would not be known until the streets are opened. Only the price for mill and overlay is certain.

Mayor Calvo said there are a number of options on how to proceed relating to choice of contractor, scope of the project and whether to rebuild the road or only apply a temporary overlay. Before making a decision on whether to piggyback onto the WSSC milling and paving contract, he would like to have estimates of what it would cost for the Town go out to bid on its own and resurface all streets that need it. This should produce a unit price for road repairs that can serve as the baseline for evaluating the different options for repaving Town streets. He would consider bonding a large scale project if it brings down the unit price. The Town may need to hire an engineering firm to help with this. Director Lockley

and TA Cowles were asked to gather this information.

At 8:45 p.m., the Council took a 10 minutes break.

2. Code Compliance

Code Supervisor 3-month update:

Mayor Calvo welcomed Code Supervisor Simpson to give an update on his first 3 months in office and discuss other current issues. Mr. Simpson said that Code officer Hall went out on sick leave shortly after he came on board. As a result, he performed most of the rental inspections, but recently hired Keelah Allen Smith, who is a full-time code officer for the City of College Park, to assist him. She mostly does rental inspections in the evenings and on weekends. To date, 120 rental inspections and re-inspections on 85 properties have been completed. A number of inspections have dealt with ensuring that rental properties have a proper egress window in basement apartments in conformance with regulations the Council recently adopted. Further, he has spent time developing a staffing plan and new templates for code correspondence and is working with the Town Administrator reviewing the Clean Lot and Urban Forest Ordinances the Council plans to amend.

In response to questions about how he utilizes staff, Mr. Simpson said the staffing plan is still a work in progress. His part-time staff works a combined 32 hours per week, with 20 hours going toward rental inspections and 12 hours towards clean lot monitoring. He is setting priorities for clean lot activities to make the best use of time, focusing on vacant properties, abatements and abandoned vehicles. He spends around 65% of his time on administrative tasks and around 35% in the field doing inspections or patrols.

Mr. Simpson continued that rental inspections have taken up much of his time because the Department is enforcing standards that were not previously enforced. This requires considerable education and follow-up with rental home owners. He does not yet have a good sense whether this will lead to increased efficiency in the rental licensing program once the new approach has been accepted by all. However, he believes that the rental licensing program requires a lot of paperwork, some of which may be unnecessary. For example, rental owners must submit new tenant rights and responsibilities forms every year, regardless of whether tenants changed or not. A review of the

ordinance and the rental licensing process may be warranted to reduce this burden. Mayor Calvo suggested that the rental license application could be pre-populated with the data on file and asking rental owners to make changes only where needed.

Code tracking software: Mr. Simpson explained that he researched 3 vendors offering code enforcement software; summaries for each were provided to Council as part of the background documentation. All 3 systems are web-based and are compatible with mobile devices for use in the field. They enable a code officer on patrol to access the history of code violations for any given property on the spot and to update the file with new information and photos. The software can generate forms and letters of notification referencing specific ordinance sections; produce reports on code activities and performance; and provide for the filing of citizen complaints about code matters. Comcate and Citizen-serve systems allow existing electronic data to be migrated without staff having to re-enter the data manually. All systems charge by module offered: in this case, code enforcement, rental licensing, and urban tree maintenance. All systems provide secure off-site data storage, which take this responsibility out of the hands of a single person.

Mr. Simpson recommended purchasing the Comcate system with which he is already familiar from his previous job. It is more user-friendly compared to the others and more flexible in customizing templates and editing data. Lastly, Comcate is the least costly in the long run with the lowest annual maintenance costs of \$4,100. He was also able to negotiate a lesser installation quote by combining modules: the building permit module will be included in the rental licensing module; and the code enforcement module will include urban tree maintenance and refuse collection violations in addition to clean lot violations.

CM Rasmussen said that a resident has called in questioning whether the cost of implementing an electronic code tracking system is worth the cost. What are the advantages and efficiencies that will accrue from purchasing it? Mr. Simpson said that the Department will be better able to better service inquiries about the status of code cases by being able to instantly access the relevant data. It will also streamline the paperwork and work flow and make the Department more efficient.

Mayor Calvo said that he is already con-

vinced this is worthwhile but Mr. Simpson and TA Cowles should work on providing a concrete cost/ benefit analysis to justify the annual cost of \$4,100. This question needs to be answered at the latest when Code makes its FY 2016 budget request in February 2015. The benefits from using the system can take different forms. It could save staff time, approximately equal to 4 hours a week, or increase productivity elsewhere in code operations. CM Rasmussen said that there may not be enough data to draw firm conclusions about the efficiencies this technology will yield. Mayor Calvo asked for a motion to approve the purchase of the Comcate system, including tablets. CM Rasmussen so moved. MPT Kulpa-Eddy seconded. The motion passed 5 to 0.

Condemned property update: Mr. Murphy said that he spoke with the Assistant Director of the Department of Permits, Inspections & Enforcement (DPIE) about using the County process for demolishing condemned homes. DPIE is willing to perform the demolitions and can do it faster if the Town pays for it, possibly within 6 to 7 months.

Clean Lot Ordinance revision: Mayor Calvo said at an earlier worksession the Council identified 7 items it wants to revise in *Ordinance 107 - Clean Lot*. Mr. Murphy has produced a draft incorporating the proposed changes. TA Cowles has commented on the draft to make stylistic corrections but no changes in substance.

Mr. Murphy explained that he made a number of changes in *Section 4 - Definitions*:

Section 4 (A) Clarifications were made to the definition of abandoned, inoperable vehicles;

Section 4 (B) Definition was added for accessory structure, as defined in the International Residential Code, to include retaining walls, fences and other structures incidental to, and located on the same property as the main building.

Section 4 (D) Definition for bamboo was added.

Section 4 (F) Definition for invasive plants was added;

Section 4 (K) Definition for repeat offender was changed to mean any occupant, lessee, owner or property manager who has been noticed for two or more violations of this ordinance in a rolling 12 month period, rather than in a calendar year;

Section 4 (P) Definition for vacant prop-

erty was added to mean any property that is unoccupied for 15 consecutive days. Owners of vacant properties are also required to register with the Town Administrator and/ or Code Department and provide contact information. Mayor Calvo commented that the latter requirement should probably be in the *Violations* Section.

Changes in the *Section 5 - Violations* include:

Section 5 (B) A provision was added to require any property owner, manager, or occupant to prevent the spreading of bamboo or other invasive species to neighboring yards without a neighbors' approval. If such species spread to neighboring yards, the owner of the originating property is responsible for the removal at his expense.

The Council still needs to decide if bamboo should be outlawed or allowed but owners held responsible for confining it to their yards under a grandfather clause.

Section 5 (D) A process was added for the Town's Police Department to cause the removal of vehicles that have been declared abandoned, non-road worthy, or inoperable at owner's expense. Proper notification and assignment of case number of owner are essential.

Section 5 (L) A provision was added to require all accessory structures to be structurally sound and maintained in accordance with Prince George's County (PGC) Property Maintenance Code and Zoning Ordinance. This Section further provides that, if an accessory structure is not safe or maintained properly, owners can be required to repair it, or the Town can repair it at owner's expense.

The Council still needs to decide whether to follow PGC code regarding fences in front yards, which may be in conflict with Town regulations.

Section 5 (M) This provision, added at the suggestion of Code Supervisor Simpson, would require all homes to have an approved street number, plainly visible from the street fronting the property.

TA Murphy said the Council may also want to consider shortening the compliance periods for repeat offenders. The normal compliance period in which a violation has to be corrected is 15 days. Mayor Calvo said that repeat violators must correct violations in 7 days, as provided in Section 8. However, he thinks there should be an immediate fine for egregious repeat offenders, who are

"gaming the system" and waiting until the last possible moment to remedy a violation before a fine is imposed. Tracking this type of violation takes up a lot of time, and should be discouraged with an immediate fine. Such a provision would still have to be added to the proposed changes to the Ordinance.

Further, compliance periods for remedying structural problems, such as unsafe retaining walls, need a different time frame. The Code Department will probably have to engage the owner and work out a plan to fix the problem. Vacant properties' time lines should also be reviewed. Owners of vacant properties are often banks that have foreclosed on a mortgage and are listing it for sale. Currently, they have 15 days to correct a violation, but they are often difficult to contact or unresponsive to notices of violation. Therefore, compliance periods for vacant properties should be shortened to perhaps 3 days, which is the period Prince George's County allows, so abatement may be performed as soon as possible. CM Rasmussen suggested that vacant property owners might be given to the opportunity to register their vacant properties to remain in good standing. Mr. Murphy said that most vacant properties are in a short-term transition from being foreclosed to being resold. Registration would likely be a rare occurrence.

TA Cowles and Code Supervisor Simpson were asked to incorporate tonight's comments into an amended Ordinance that can be introduced in November. A review of the corresponding Commercial Clean Lot Ordinance was postponed.

4. Administration

Town Administrator update: TA Cowles gave an overview of her first week in office. She said she spent a lot of time in briefings with Mr. Murphy, studying the FY 2015 budget, and learning the office systems. She also met with Code Supervisor Simpson, whose department she will supervise, and discussed the Clean Lot Ordinance revision, among other things. She arranged to meet with Director Lockley and his Public Works staff and plans to do the same in other departments so all Town staff can get to know her. She also plans to meet with Councilmembers individually to learn what their priorities are. At a recent PGCMA meeting, she had already met several city managers and councilmembers from nearby jurisdictions. Getting oriented is the first step in a fairly detailed on-boarding plan, leaving a lot more things to get done. It has been a very busy but exciting first week.

Mayor Calvo said that he has spoken with TA Cowles a number of times and that she was formally introduced at full staff meeting last Monday. He further proposed that an open house be held sometime in November at which residents can meet Ms. Cowles. If a convenient date can be found, this might be advertised in a flyer to all Town residents.

Sidewalk construction engineering services: Mr. Murphy said he is proposing the Town engage C. P. Johnson to be the on-site inspector for the sidewalk construction. This would include a pre-construction meeting to go over the plans and point out any items that might be overlooked. During sidewalk construction C. P. Johnson will make frequent inspections to ensure that construction conforms to standards. They will also supervise the installation of the "Jellyfish" storm water runoff facility at the Public Works yard. The Town has guaranteed the proper installation and maintenance of the storm water filter by signing a Declaration of Covenants with Prince George's County, which will inspect it on a regular basis. Mr. Murphy said that he has assurances that the cost of this service will not exceed a total of \$33,000, although it may mean that some aspects of the job will be omitted.

CM Rasmussen expressed his concern about trees that would be removed for the sidewalk construction. He noticed many trees throughout the Town that have blue dots on them and appear to be marked for removal or pruning. Mayor Calvo said that the Council sought to minimize the trees that would be removed when it was planning the sidewalks. There are not many that will be felled, and most of those are not in good condition. Marked trees include those marked by WSSC for its upcoming water main replacement project. The Council will still have an opportunity to review them.

Mayor Calvo asked for a motion to approve the construction engineering services contract. CM Schreiber so moved. CM Rasmussen seconded. The motion passed 4 to 1, with MPT Kulpa-Eddy opposed.

Retirement party: MPT Kulpa-Eddy sought clarification as to whether the expense for Mr. Murphy's retirement party needed Council approval, and which line item it should be paid from. Mayor Calvo said the Council does not need to approve it and that it should be taken from the Administration Depart-

ment's miscellaneous or non-departmental appropriation. Additional funds can be appropriated in a budget amendment.

Nothing was discussed under **5. Parks and Recreation** and **6. Public Works**.

7. Executive Session (10:40 - 11:44 p.m.)

On a motion by CM Schreiber and second by MPT Kulpa-Eddy the Council went into executive session to discuss a personnel matter. With matter discussed, CM Schreiber moved, and MPT Kulpa-Eddy seconded to close the executive session.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 p.m.

Kerstin Harper, Town Clerk



After Business Hours:

**NON-EMERGENCY POLICE
DISPATCH PHONE
NUMBER— 301-352-1200**

**Tell the P.G. County Dispatcher the
nature of your problem; specify that
the on-duty Berwyn Heights Police
Officer respond to your call.**

**IN AN EMERGENCY
CALL 911**

BERWYN HEIGHTS POLICE BEAT

"Police Beat" includes crimes and accidents that occurred during the month of October 2014. It is not a complete listing of every crime and/or accident that occurred in the Town. Incidents are listed from beginning of the month to the end of the month starting with the first report taken during the period within a specified category.

10/17/2014 at 11:20 a.m., Pfc. Ignowski impounded a 1999 Ford SUV from the location of the 8500 block of Cunningham Drive. The vehicle was left abandoned.

10/23/2014 at 12:25 pm, Det/Cpl. Unger impounded a 1986 Isuzu from the location of the 8300 block of Cunningham Drive. The vehicle was left abandoned.

10/23/2014 at 12:25 pm, Det/Cpl. Unger impounded a 1972 Chevy Truck from the location 8300 block of Cunningham Drive. The vehicle was left abandoned.

10/23/2014 at 11:40 am, Det/Cpl. Unger responded to the 6201 Greenbelt Road Suite U6 for a report of a strong arm robbery. A black male entered the pain management center and demanded Oxycodone. The case is being investigated by BHPD.

10/23/2014 at 5:30 pm, Pfc. Duck re-

sponded to the 6201 Greenbelt Road Suite M7 for a disorderly patient. The 26 y/o, b/m patient was out of control and had to be transported by the police to the hospital for an evaluation.

10/24/2014 at 8:00 am, Pfc. Ignowski submitted a theft / fraud report. Female suspect compromised the Berwyn Heights credit card number to access services through Experian. Case is being investigated by BHPD.

10/25/2014 at 9:07 am, Pfc. Ignowski responded to the Metropolitan Family Planning for a protester disturbing the peace. Complainant told Pfc. Ignowski that a female protester was making too much noise.

10/25/2014 at 11:20 pm, Cpl. Roberson responded to the 7-11 on Greenbelt Road for a report of a vehicle being damaged while parked at 7-11.

10/26/2014 at 6:30 pm, Cpl. Roberson responded to the 7-11 on Greenbelt Road for a report of an unknown person attempted to pass a counterfeit \$100.00.

10/28/2014 at 11:15 am, Det. Unger impounded an abandoned 1991 Toyota from the 8500 block of 58th Ave.



ask for Michael
FREE ESTIMATES

301-580-1264
BerwynLawnCare@gmail.com

*Since 1988, we have
been privileged to serve
many local communities.
Now residing in Berwyn Heights,
we offer the following
services for both
Residential & Commercial:*

- * **MOWING & MULCHING**
- * **DESIGN & INSTALL**
- * **PLANTING & SEEDING**
- * **YARD CLEAN-UPS**
- * **HEDGE TRIMMING**
- * **LEAF REMOVAL**
- * **GUTTER CLEANING
& MORE**

Recreation Council: *Events and Updates*

Saturday, December 6th, 6:00–8:00 PM, Senior Center



Holiday Party and Tree Lighting

Join us in the wonderful traditions of making holiday crafts, singing carols, lighting the tree, visiting with Santa, and sharing with those less fortunate, while Phil Ventura entertains us with his accordion.

- 6–7 PM Crafts and toy drive collection
- 6:30 PM visit with Santa Claus
- 7:15 PM Tree Lighting

Please consider donating a new, unwrapped toy for the Marine TOYS FOR TOTS Foundation. Donations will also be accepted at the Town Office leading up to the event!

Recent Events

Town Clean-Up Day...

Was a great success! Thanks so much to all who participated in making Berwyn Heights look shiny and new!

Trunk r' Treat!

Decorating contest winners are:

1. **The Wolfinger Family**
2. **The Buker Family**
3. **The Stephens Family**

Thanks to all who participated and attended Trunk or Treat, and to the **Higgins Family** who have gone all out every year! Also a very special **THANKS** to Berwyn Heights Public Works Department, Police Dept., and Fire Dept. for your participation. And to our SHELL Station, the Boys & Girls Club, and the Silver Diner for all of your donations. Last but not least, thanks to our Community Center for co-sponsoring the event! It was great fun for all!

Election of Officers held December 4th ♦ New Members Sought ♦ Come see what we are all about !

Next meeting: DEC. 4, 7:00 PM, Town Center. For more information, please contact: Trinity Tomsic (301)-474-6350, trinity.tomsic@gmail.com, Jaime Sampson, sampson.jaime@gmail.com or Tim Tormoen, tortormoen@yahoo.com

Berwyn Heights Historical Committee

It was a great turnout for our **Wine & Cheese Reception** on November 9th, however, due to an emergency, we did not have our guest speaker---not to worry, Ms. Davis is fine and we are currently looking at rescheduling the presentation. We will keep you posted with updates on both the Town website and the BHHC Blog.

The show went on anyway, when our youngest volunteer ever, resident Antwan McDonald, took center stage to demonstrate

the art of "Break Dancing". His talented moves received an ovation!

The crowd also enjoyed a ten-panel War of 1812 exhibit, many door prize drawings, great music and a tasty spread of beverages, fruit,

cheese, crackers and cookies.

In 2015, we are looking forward to celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Berwyn Heights Association, we hope you can make our next Wine & Cheese event!



We invite those who are interested in working on events and projects to our monthly meetings. You don't have to be a historian or researcher to join us!— just a Town resident who wants to have fun giving back to their community! The BHHC meets at the Town Office on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. **Our next meeting is December 16**



Visit the BHHC Website & BLOG at: <http://berwynheightshistory.wordpress.com>
ATHA (Anacostia Trails Heritage Area / Maryland Milestones): www.anacostiatrials.org



Welcome to...

Aaron I. Linchuck

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DrLinchuck.com**



Berwyn Heights GreenBee



The GreenBee is your monthly guide to tips and resources from the Green Team! If you'd like to share your ideas, please email us at bgreen.berwynheights@gmail.com, or contact Therese Forbes, outreach coordinator, at 301-982-7115. Our next meeting will be in January; please see the January Bulletin for further details.



Important Recycling Changes

You may have seen a notice about recycling changes mentioned in the November Bulletin, but if not, below is some new and important information. The operator of the county's recycling facility, Waste Management, has tightened the rules regarding the materials that they will accept for recycling. Berwyn Heights needs your help in complying with these new guidelines, because the town loses money when materials cannot be accepted by the recycling facility—and then those materials unfortunately end up in the landfill instead of being recycled. Please note:

- Please do not place recyclables in plastic bags
- Please ensure your recyclables are free of contaminants that can be a health hazard for workers or that can damage processing equipment—these include items like diapers, food waste, needles, rope, garden hoses, & propane tanks
- Please be sure that when you recycle items such as foil, pizza boxes or other food containers that they are free of food scraps and residue, so please thoroughly rinse out and clean these items



Greening Tips the Holidays!



With the holiday season approaching, here are just a few eco-friendly ideas to help minimize not only waste, but also expense and stress!

- **Gift wrapping and holiday cards:** During the holiday season between Thanksgiving to New Year's, Americans throw out about 25% more trash compared to any other time of the year, which amounts to about 25 million tons of garbage! Here are some ideas for reducing waste:
 - For wrapping presents, try to purchase recycled and/or recyclable wrapping paper, or even better, be creative and reuse things such as newspaper comic strips or magazine pages, outdated maps, children's artwork or colorful linens to wrap your gifts. Or completely avoid using paper by using decorative tins, baskets or boxes and reusable cloth ribbon.
 - For holiday greeting cards, consider sending an electronic greeting card with photos or use a set of cards made from 100% recycled paper.
- **Types of gifts:** Rather than buying the latest fad item, consider giving these kinds of gifts:
 - Gifts of time, such as help with housework or child care
 - Homemade gifts such as baked goods, handmade crafts or personalized photo albums
 - Items that are sure to be used such as gift certificates or tickets to movies, concerts or sports events
- **Holiday lights:** Everyone loves to decorate with lights as part of the holiday season, but electric lights do consume a lot of energy. Below are some energy-reducing tips:
 - Try to turn them on only at night and turn them off before going to bed.
 - Ideally use LED lights, which are brighter but use one-tenth of the energy of standard mini-bulbs—and last longer than traditional bulbs.
- **Christmas trees:** If you celebrate Christmas and plan to have a tree, consider these options:
 - You can purchase a live potted tree that you can plant, or leave it potted and use it again next year.
 - If you decide to get a freshly cut tree, consider purchasing it from the Berwyn Heights Volunteer Fire Department. And then you can easily recycle your tree by just simply putting it curbside along with your yard waste—Public Works will take the trees to the county yard waste composting facility.



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8515 60TH AVENUE - \$175,000.00 **Sold**

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Sunday 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:00 n.

Sacrament of Reconciliation - Saturday 3:30 p.m.

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HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS



Shopping

- Do not buy more than you can carry. Plan ahead by taking a friend with you or ask a store employee to help you carry your packages to the car.
- Wait until asked before taking out your credit card or checkbook. An enterprising thief would love to shoulder surf to get your account information.
- Have your keys in hand when approaching your vehicle. Check the back seat and around the car before getting in.
- Do not leave packages visible in your car windows. Lock them in the trunk or, if possible, take them directly home.
- Before shopping online, secure your personal computers by updating your security software. Everyone's computer should have anti-virus, anti-spyware, and anti-spam software, as well as a good firewall installed.
- Keep your personal information private and your password secure. Do not respond to requests to "verify" your password or credit card information unless you initiated the contact. Legitimate businesses will not contact you in this manner.
- Beware of "bargains" from companies with whom you are unfamiliar—if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!
- Use secure websites for purchases. Look for the icon of a locked padlock at the bottom of the screen or "https" in the URL address.
- Shop with companies you know and trust. Check for background information if you plan to buy from a new or unfamiliar company.

After You've Opened the Gifts

- Burglars know that many households have new, and oftentimes expensive, items in their homes following the December holidays—especially items such as new computers, stereo components, televisions, cameras and other electronic equipment.
- Consider keeping broken-down boxes inside until the morning of your regular recycling pick-up. Some burglars actually look inside garbage cans for evidence of holiday gifts.
 - ◇ Town-wide **recycling**: Wednesday, **December 24th** and Wednesday, **December 31st**
 - ◇ Town-wide **trash collection**: Friday, **December 26th** and Friday, **January 2nd**
 - ◇ **Electronics** (old laptops, monitors, TVs, VCRs) and **Expanded Polystyrene** (block "Styrofoam" #6): drop off **January 24th** from 9 am to Noon at the Greenbelt Public Works Facility, 555 Crescent Road. No Styrofoam peanuts, trays, clamshells, etc.

Take a Holiday Inventory

- The holidays are a good time to update—or create—your home inventory. Take photos or make videos of items, and list descriptions and serial numbers. If your home is burglarized, having a detailed inventory can help identify stolen items and make insurance claims easier to file.
- Include things like TVs, VCRs, stereo equipment, cameras, camcorders, sports equipment, jewelry, silver, computers, home office equipment and power tools on the list.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS from NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH/EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

RECYCLING CHANGES

**IT IS NO LONGER
ACCEPTABLE TO PLACE
YOUR RECYCLABLE
ITEMS IN PLASTIC
BAGS SUCH AS
ILLUSTRATED BELOW**



Waste Management (WM), the operator of the Prince George's recycling facility, has stepped up quality control and inspection of recycled materials, and tightened the rules of what will be accepted. The Town of Berwyn Heights stands to lose money if the new recycling guidelines are not followed. Your cooperation is needed to help us comply with the new guidelines.

Please do NOT place your recyclables into PLASTIC BAGS. WM sets aside bagged recyclables because they cannot tell what is inside. The Town does not receive payment for these items. Please, keep your recyclables free of CONTAMINANTS that are a health hazard for workers or damage processing equipment. If these items are found, the Town will not receive payment.

Do Not Recycle	
FOOD Scraps and Residue	HAZARDOUS WASTE such as:
NEEDLES and Hospital Waste	• Ammunition
DIAPERS	• Batteries
ROPES, Chains, and Hoses	• Paint and Solvents
STYROFOAM	• Oil and Gasoline
PVC Pipes	• Pesticides
YARD Waste and Lumber	• Medicines
CONSTRUCTION Material	• Radioactive Materials
SCRAP METAL (oversized)	



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BERWYN HEIGHTS SENIORS CLUB

“Celebrating 30 Years in Berwyn Heights”

The Senior Center is open from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M., Monday through Friday. Drop in and meet your neighbors. Also check the boards for special activities. Drop in to the Center, or attend the meeting, and find out what's going on. There is always something to do even if it is just getting together.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

December 2	Juaming Li
	Mary Ann Eley
December 10	Ken Antolik
December 15	Heidi Walter
December 19	Othell Heath
	Anne Hixon
December 28	Barbara Case
December 30	Victor Gash

DECEMBER ACTIVITIES

December 2	Bingo	12:30 P.M.
December 3	Wii Bowling	10:30 A.M.
December 4	Pool Night	7:00 P.M.
December 9	Meeting & Potluck	11:00 A.M.
December 10	Wii Bowling	10:30 A.M.
December 11	Pool Night	7:00 P.M.
December 13	Potluck & Movie	5:00 P.M.
December 16	Bingo	12:30 P.M.
December 17	Wii Bowling	10:30 A.M.
December 18	Pool Night	7:00 P.M.
December 23	Bingo	12:30 P.M.
December 24	Wii Bowling	10:30 A.M.
December 30	Bingo	12:30 P.M.
December 31	Wii Bowling	10:30 A.M.



**Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year!**

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Berwyn Heights Boys and Girls Club



DECEMBER 2014



Fall Activities!

- On Thursday between 6:00-8:00pm and Saturday from 10:00-12:00pm starting the first week of December, the BHBGC will begin winter art classes in the Town Center for a six week period!
- The Art Way Alliance classes are designed to spark an interest in the area of comic media arts and students learn the power of positive self image by creating custom STEM themed characters and comic books! The registration fee is \$80.00 per student. For more information and to register please call Shinita Hemby @ 202 531-6066.

Volunteer Opportunities

- Please consider sharing your talents with the BHBGC. We need volunteers to help chair the following committees: Fundraising, Membership, Communication/Planning, and Media/Webistes. We would love to have you on board with us to help our community.
- We welcome your thoughts, ideas, and concerns!

Thank You!

- Special thanks to Dunkin Donuts, Jersey Mikes, Silver Diner, and Little Caesars Pizza who donated to the Fall Harvest Festival. Futher, Sharon McCraney who provided most of the art and crafts for the Festival!
- Without their contributions, the Harvest Festival would not have been as successful. Please support these businesses by stopping by and thanking them for their support of our Boys and Girls Club!



Please check out our website: bhbgc.leag1 or call Shinita Hemby at (202) 531-6066!

Behind every Great Kid is a Great Adult, Setting a Great Example!



FREE KARATE TRAINING For more information contact:

Theresa Beck at (beck.theresa@yahoo.com) 301-237-2829 or
Sensei Leon Swain at 301-726-2881.

BERWYN HEIGHTS PLAYGROUP For more information contact:

Jaime Sampson (Sampson.jaime@gmail.com)
We meet indoors at the Town Center if cold or rainy.



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Hi! Happy Holidays to everyone! While during or after the holidays, when you decide to buy or sell a home, your Realtor should do more than put a sign in the yard or just bring a contract to the table. My goal is to deliver individual best-in-class service & advice, so that this is as easy and profitable as possible. If you or someone you know is buying or selling, I can help! Licensed in MD and DC.

5 Simple decorating tips:

1. Front Door- paint it or replace it. It's the crown jewel of the interior and exterior! There are many affordable customs doors and installation.
2. Door Hardware- from closets to the front door knobs/ handles-use same finish/style throughout for a more cohesive look.
3. 6 Panel interior white doors- add symmetry and a clean line to the interior and also brightens your space.
4. Draperies- Install hardware at top of the wall, just below ceiling for the illusion of height which makes the room seem larger.
5. Kitchen Drawers- update knobs and pulls in classic rubbed bronze. Add a fresh coat of paint to walls and you've instantly updated your kitchen.

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LISTED/SOLD this month by Sharon:

SOLD-5818 Quebec St- 3BR, 2BA, updt kit,hwdw flrs,\$250's.

UNDER CONTRACT-5819 Swarthmore Dr-4BR,2.5BA split level w/carport & deck.....\$Low \$300's.

REDUCED-5712 Ruatan St- 6Br, 2.5 BA farmhouse...\$399,900.

SOLD-6113 Quebec Pl-4BR,2BA,sunrm,deck....\$275,000.

If your property is currently listed with another broker, this is not a solicitation of that listing.





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Berwyn Heights Elementary School PTA

December 2014

THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to everyone who supported and helped with this year's **Walkathon!** With support from many local businesses who were featured in last month's BH Bulletin, the PTA raised a record-breaking amount of **\$13,561!!** The students had a wonderful day walking to the lake and back and hearing all about the wildlife at the lake from the Park Rangers. The money raised will enable the PTA to provide lots of extra opportunities for our students. The PTA was already able to contribute \$1,000 towards transportation for field trips to several different Smithsonian Museums last month!

Membership Corner



Didn't join the PTA yet? It's never too late! Please join the PTA to support your child, their school and all the wonderful "extras" your PTA is able to provide. Membership is currently \$12.00 per person or \$20.00 for a family.

Please give cash or check and contact information to your child's teacher and you'll receive a membership card.

Join the email list!

Make sure you don't miss a thing going on at school by joining the PTA email list.

Please email president@bhespta.org to join.

Box Tops = Free Money for BHES!



Please keep clipping Box Tops from participating products and shop online at your favorite store and you can earn up to 15% cash back for our school! Find out more at www.btfe.com.

Town Residents, if you would like to collect Box Tops for BHES there is a collection box in the Town Hall. Thank you for your support!

Important Dates



Dec. 2 - PTA Meeting, 6:45pm, school library. All are welcome!
Dec. 4 - K-2nd Reading & Math Night
Dec. 9 - 3rd-6th Reading & Math Night
Dec. 10 - 2-hour early dismissal
Dec. 22 - Jan. 2 - School closed



Gardening News



November 7th was **Fall Harvest Day!!** It was a great day of celebrations for the 5th grade classes who

finally got to eat the vegetables they grew in the new raised beds that were installed over the summer. They harvested their herbs and vegetables and turned them into a beautiful and delicious pasta salad they all got to share.

A big "thank you" to our new 5th grade science teacher, Ms. Conover, for keeping the kids on track with the garden experiments, watering and weeding! Everything grew beautifully.

Thank you Berwyn Heights!

A huge THANK YOU to Mayor Chye Calvo, the Berwyn Heights Town Council and the residents of Berwyn Heights for a generous grant to the school that gives the students access to new, wonderful computer-based programs to help them learn.

With the grant, the school has been able to purchase a program to help the 2nd-5th grade students learn to type; a computer-based music curriculum for the whole school; and two early reading online programs for kindergarten. They are all a big hit with the students. Thank you!

BULLETIN BOARD

House Cleaning: Berwyn Heights resident since 2000 - with 25 years professional house cleaning experience and takes pride in the work done looking for new clients. References in Town and out of town are available. Please give me a call and let me help tackle the house cleaning for you. Free estimates. Please call (301) 474-3024.

Want adventure and achievement? Join Boy Scout Troop 740. We meet at Holy Redeemer's Fealy Hall every Tuesday evening. For details, call scoutmaster Loren Lavoy at 301-651-4928.

Need Computer help? Call RJ 240-602-0815. Microsoft A+ Certified.

Licensed Family Daycare: Opening for infant to 12 years old. Before and after care for BH Elementary School available. Vouchers are accepted. Meals are provided. Openings are Monday-Friday from 6 AM to 6 PM. Please contact Karuna at 301-345-2939.

1 Men's Full Size Leather Golf Bags: \$50. Canning jars pint & quart size: \$5 mix & match a dozen. Call Jeff after 4 PM at 301-474-5803. Cash only.

Discounted tickets to Capitals' games: Great discounted seats for every CAPS and WIZARDS home game. Aisle seats in great sections for Caps and Wizards. No add-ons — Just great seats at discounted prices. Call Jody or Steve at 301-474-3613. Berwyn Heights residents for almost 50 years.

College dorm room items for sale: 3 like-new appliances. Black 4-cup Mr. Coffee Model DRX5 with brew and set delay; small Emerson 2009 Microwave oven Model MW7305B; small Sanyo 2009 refrigerator Model SR-A2480M [301-646-6938](tel:301-646-6938).

BH Republican Club meets once a month, usually on the last Monday, at the Senior Center and welcomes all residents to participate. For more information, check out the Berwyn Heights Republicans Webpage: www.npgcrc.com/pages/BHR.html

STRESSED!!! Are you a Senior, a relative or friend of a Senior? Are you, or they, worried about staying home long-term? If you'd like some direction or assistance, without alienating your loved one, I CAN HELP YOU. Sealani Weiner, Geriatric Care Manager. Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker in MD & DC, Certified Care Manager AND Berwyn Heights resident. 240-965-7274.

House Cleaning: Help with shopping, cooking, etc. 40-year resident of Berwyn Heights. Very reliable and reasonable rates. Please call DJ at 301-345-1746

Pet Services: Experienced dog walker and pet sitter available. Will happily help you with your pets. Call Katelyn, 301-233-2588.

Lawn mowing and trimming, yard raking and cleanup, basement cleanout, painting, plumbing, general handyman. Reasonable rates and flexible schedule. Call Phil at 202-718-8530. Berwyn Heights references available.

Meals-on-Wheels needs your HELP! This 35-year old program needs volunteers to help with their daily operations out of College Park location. Please call 301-474-1002 M-F, 8:30-12:00 if available.

Need Yard Help? Shawn (17) and Jeremy (16) can help with mowing, raking, mulching, and more. Call 301-474-2002.

Childcare: Miss Debbie, the Mary Poppins childcare provider of 29 years in B.H. is ISO another family. Will play, read, color, do puzzles but no heavy housework as your child is more important. Will also watch children on weekends and evenings. Call (301)345-7622.

Berwyn Heights Cleaning: Cleaning your home like my own. Residential & commercial. References available in Berwyn Heights. Over 10 years professional experience. Providing my own materials and rational price. 240-645-5140 or angelalazo1@hotmail.com

4 Bedroom 2 Bath for rent. Contact Jim Faruki at 703-402-8080 or Jmfaruki@yahoo.com.

Tutor: Learning Specialist with vast experience helping children with learning challenges. For a free consultation call or email Kathy Brosh, 301-474-2002, kathybrosh@gmail.com. References available.

**YOU CAN HELP STOP
CRIME IF,
WHEN YOU SEE
SOMETHING, YOU
SAY SOMETHING
TO THE LOCAL
POLICE
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COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Boys & Girls Club

President: Shinita Hemby 202-531-6066

Soccer Commissioner: Jason

Papanikolas 240-338-5191

Baseball Commissioner: Ronnie

Compton 301-345-2661

Tee Ball Commissioner: Jim Hudson
301-982-2052

Basketball Commissioner:

Kristen Buker 240-965-7055

Cheerleading Commissioner: Kristen
Buker 240-965-7055

Ball Hockey Commissioner: Kevin

Conover 301-441-1569

Track Commissioner: Jeff Osmond

301-474-2737

Neighborhood Watch/Emergency Preparedness/CERT

Co-Chair Ron Shane 240-965-7022

Co-Chair Joan Hayden 301-474-5037

Historical Committee

Sharmila Bhatia 301-446-6920

Men's Basketball League

Jim McGinnis 301-345-1223

Playgroup

Jaime Sampson
sampson.jaime@gmail.com

Quilter's Club

Lois Williams 301-345-6214

Recreation Council

Trinity Tomsic 301-474-6350

Jaime Sampson
sampson.jaime@gmail.com

Seniors Club

Jean McConnell 301-345-6373

Green Team

Therese Forbes 301-982-7115

BH Elementary School PTA

Georgiana Stark
President@BHESPTA.org

Karate Club

Leon Swain 301-237-2829
Theresa Beck 301-728-2881
beck_theresa@yahoo.com



Berwyn Heights Volunteer Fire Department & Rescue Squad, Co. 14



Berwyn Heights Volunteer Fire Department & Rescue Squad, Inc. • 8811 60th Avenue • Berwyn Heights, MD 20740
In Case of Emergency Call 911!

Recent Working Incidents:

Oct 17th- Squad 14 extricated a trapped driver from an accident IL I-495/ Rt 50.

Oct 19th- Squad 14 & Ambo 14 extricated a trapped driver from a mini van on its side in the rear parking lot of 125 Crescent Rd in Greenbelt.

Nov 3rd- Truck 14 & Chief 14B operated on the 2 Alarm building fire in the area of University Bld/Riggs Rd in Adelphi.

Nov 3rd- Truck 14 responded to the 8400blk of Edmonston Rd in Berwyn Heights for the natural gas leak in the house.

Nov 4th- Truck 14 & Chief 14A operated in the 8600Blk of Greenbelt Rd in Lanham for the small basement fire in an apartment. While Squad 14 operated on a bus crash.

BHVFD Members Recive Service Awards:

On Friday November 7th, volunteers staffing Truck 14, Squad 14, Ambo 14, C14, C14A & C14B loaded up and headed over to the Greenbelt American Legion Post 136 to attend the Annual Public Service Award Banquet. Two of our members were recognized for their service and actions over the past year.

Vol. EMT-B of Year: Our **Jane Schmidt**

Vol. Fire Fighter of the Year: Our **Everette Hoffman**
Awards were presented by City of Greenbelt Mayor Emmett Jordan.

Toys for Tots Drop Off Point

Remember, the BHVFD Firehouse is an official Drop-Off site for the PGPD divison of the US Marine Corps Toys for Tots program. Swing by and drop off a wrapped new toy for needy children and get a tour of the station!



Christmas Tree Safety

Each year, fire departments respond to an average of 210 structure fires caused by Christmas trees. Carefully decorating Christmas trees can help make your holidays safer.

Picking the tree

-If you have an artificial tree, be sure it is labeled, certified, or identified by the manufacturer as fire retardant.

Placing the tree

-Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 1" - 2" from the base of the trunk.

-Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.

-Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.

-Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.

Lighting the tree

-Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.

-Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Connect no more than three strands of mini string sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of LED strands to connect.

-Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.

-Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

After Christmas

-Get rid of the tree when it begins dropping needles. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home. Check with your local community to find a recycling program. Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.



Code News

October Activity



The winter season is approaching and this is the time of the year when some residents store wood in their yard for the fireplace. Town Ordinance **107-5G** permits the storage of wood on the premises as long as it does not provide a breeding ground for insects and vermin; and the wood is elevated at least 6 inches above the ground.

There are numerous of ways to store firewood such as using pallets, or placing the wood in a small shed (as pictured above). Please note that any new shed over 150 square feet requires building permits from the County and Town.

Feel free to contact the Code Compliance Department at (301) 513-9331 for any concerns or questions about storing firewood.

Clean Lot Violations	
High Grass/ Vegetation	5
Tree Parts/ Yard Waste	1
Refuse Collection/ Litter	6
Vehicles	10
Miscellaneous	9
Total Clean Lot Violations	31
Warnings	15
Fines	12
Abatements	5
Rentals	
New Rentals	0
Lost Rentals	2
Total Rentals	198

Inspections	16
Re-inspections	14
Fines	3
Vacant Homes	
New Vacant Homes	6
Lost Vacant Homes	1
Total Vacant Properties	50
Permits	
Building	10
Dumpsters/ PODS	1
Violations	1



Berwyn Heights Volunteer Fire Dept.

Annual Christmas Tree Fundraiser Sale!

The Berwyn Heights Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad will once again be holding our Annual Christmas Trees Fundraiser Sale in the rear parking lot of our station. This is one of our most important fundraisers of the year. We would like to thank everyone in advance for your support.

Live in Town? We will deliver your tree for FREE!

Sale hours:

Monday – Friday 5:00pm to 10:00pm

Saturday – Sunday 9:00am to 10:00pm

Tree prices:

Fraser Fir: 4-5ft \$30.00

Fraser Fir: 6-8ft \$40.00

The first 100 customers will receive a complimentary BHVFD Challenge Coin with their tree purchase!!



Santa on a Fire Truck- Christmas Eve 7pm-9pm

BHVFD volunteers will once again be escorting Santa around Town on December 24th, 2014, from approximately 7pm until around 9pm. We try our best to ensure Santa visits all streets in Berwyn Heights, College Park Estates, and Westchester Park, **but we will still be responding to emergency calls during this time** which may affect our rounds. Just listen for our sirens on Christmas Eve!





December 2014

Town of Berwyn Heights Monthly Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Nov. 30	 1  Worksession 7:00 P.M. Town Office Televised on Ch 71, FiOS 12	 2 	 3 NW/EP Meeting 7:30 P.M. Town Office	 4  Rec. Council Meeting 7:00 P.M. Town Office	 5 	6 HOLIDAY PARTY TOWN CTR. 6:00 P.M. 
7	 8 	 9 	 10 Town Mtg. Clean Lot Ordinance 8:00 P.M. Town Office Televised on Ch 71, FiOS 12	 11 	 12  Employee Holiday Luncheon 1:00 P.M. (Town Offices Close at Noon)	13
14	 15  Worksession 7:00 P.M. Town Office Televised on Ch 71, FiOS 12	 16  BHHC Meeting 7:30 P.M. Town Office	 17	 18  Green Team Meeting 7:00 P.M. Town Office	 19 	20
21	 22 	 23 	 24 CHRISTMAS EVE: Town Offices Close At 1:00 P.M.	25 CHRISTMAS DAY: Town Offices Closed 	 26   	27
28	 29 	 30 	 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE: Town Offices Close at 1:00 P.M.	Jan. 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY: Town Offices Closed No Trash Removal	 Jan. 2   	Jan. 3



THE STREET
SWEEPER WILL
NOT BE IN
TOWN DURING
DECEMBER.

Yard Waste



Bulk Pick-up



Recycling
Collection



Street
Sweeper

Refuse Collection



BERWYN HEIGHTS BULLETIN

TOWN OF BERWYN HEIGHTS
5700 Berwyn Road
Berwyn Heights, Maryland 20740-2799

CARRIER-ROUTE SORTED
PRESORT STANDARD
U. S. Postage Paid
College Park, Maryland

POSTAL CUSTOMER BERWYN HEIGHTS, MARYLAND

Dated Material — Do Not Delay!

TOWN INFORMATION

Town of Berwyn Heights Phone Nos.

Emergency - Fire Rescue 9-1-1
 Police (Non-Emergency) (301) 352-1200
 Police Administrative Office (301) 474-6554
 Code Compliance Department (301) 513-9331
 Email: code@town.berwyn-heights.md.us
 Public Works Department (301) 474-6897
 Email: publicworks@town.berwyn-heights.md.us
 Fire Department (301) 474-7866
 Senior Center (301) 474-0018
 Community Center (Gym) (301) 345-2808
 Town Office (301) 474-5000
 Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 Call-A-Bus Reservations (301) 474-5000

Mayor and Council

Cheye Calvo (301) 474-6350 ccalvo@town.berwyn-heights.md.us
 Mayor — Public Safety and Health
 Jodie Kulpa-Eddy (301) 345-1516 jkulpaeddy@town.berwyn-heights.md.us
 Mayor Pro Tem — Administration
 Patti Dennison (301) 404-2759 pdennison@town.berwyn-heights.md.us
 Councilmember — Parks and Recreation, Education and Civic Affairs
 Christopher Rasmussen (612) 432-0710 crasmussen@town.berwyn-heights.md.us
 Councilmember — Code Compliance
 Anthony Schreiber (301) 466-1807 aschreiber@town.berwyn-heights.md.us
 Councilmember — Public Works

Regular Trash Collection Schedule

North of Pontiac..... Mondays & Thursdays
 South of Pontiac..... Tuesdays & Fridays

Heavy Trash Day:

Weekly on Thursday for North of Pontiac
 Weekly on Friday for South of Pontiac

Recycling Schedule:

Wednesdays for the entire Town.

Town Helpline

Do you have a suggestion or problem or a question on an ordinance, or have a historical question? Want to receive meeting agendas or minutes by email?
 Email Town at
contact@town.berwyn-heights.md.us
 Be assured that your communication will be answered promptly

Watch Council Meetings



On Comcast channel 71
FIOS channel 12

Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays
 at 11:30 a.m.
 or call the Town Office

Town of Berwyn Heights Website: <http://www.berwyn-heights.com>
Questions or advertising rates — call Administration Department at (301) 474-5000.
Or email: jcowles@town.berwyn-heights.md.us
Submission deadline is the 15th of the month by 12:00 noon!
Helen Van Doren, Design & Layout