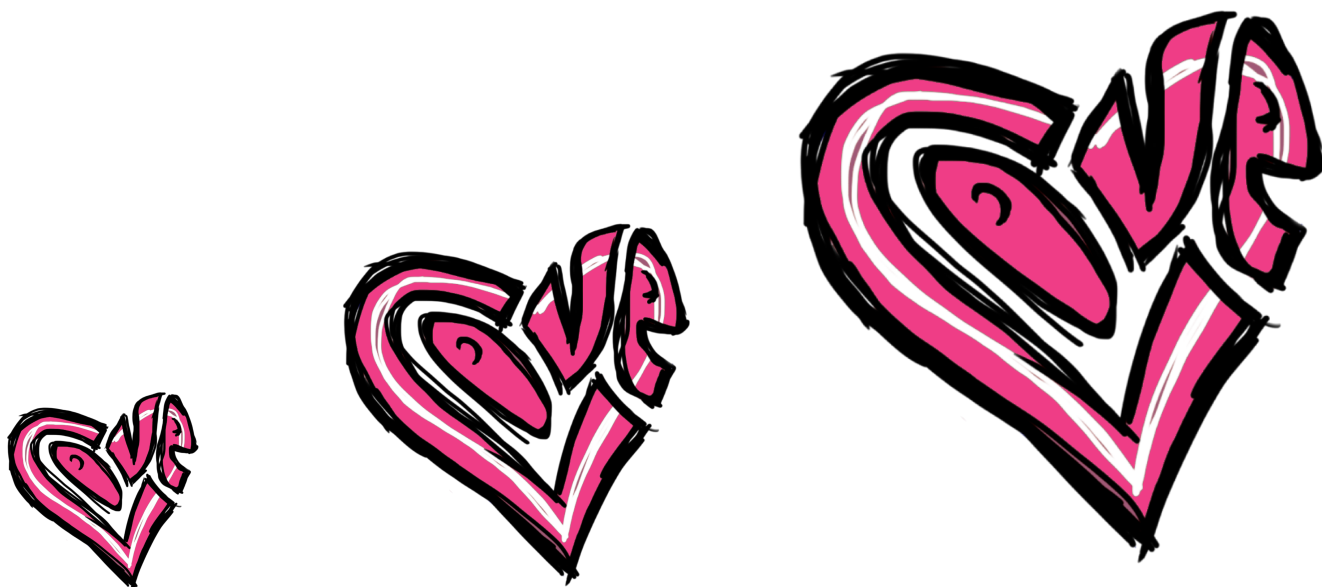




Berwyn Heights Bulletin

Incorporated 1896

FEBRUARY 2019



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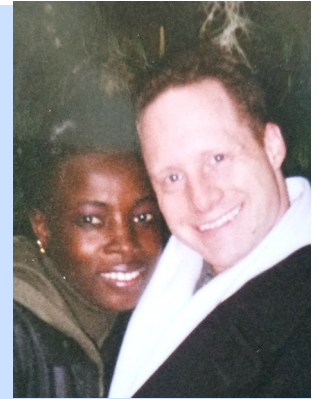
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FAMILY
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NEW COUNCILMEMBER APPOINTED

On January 15, the Town Council appointed Jeffrey Jay Osmond to fill the vacant Council seat left by the resignation of Mayor White. Mr. Osmond is a 17-year resident of Berwyn Heights and long-serving Boys & Girls Club volunteer. As a soccer coach and track commissioner for the last 10 years, he has taught Berwyn Heights youth not only specific sporting skills but sought to instill life lessons about diet, exercise and teamwork. He is married to Mrs. Fatou Danso Osmond of Banjul, The Gambia. They are blessed with having two high school soccer playing boys, Paul and Zac.



In his day job, Mr. Osmond is a Regional Coordinator for the General Services Administration, where he assists with the delivery of federal facilities design and construction. He is also a Commander in the United States Navy Reserve's Civil Engineer Corps, for which he qualified in part by earning a Masters in Architecture degree from the University of Maryland.

Mr. Osmond will be sworn in at the February Town meeting. We look forward to having him on the Council to help govern our Town.



Adrien M. Forbes

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of our colleague Adrien Forbes, 53, after a brief illness, on December 29, 2018.



Adrien was a dedicated employee and valued member of the Berwyn Heights team. He worked for the Town for over fifteen years in a variety of code enforcement and administrative roles. Professionally, he was known for his attention to detail and the pride he took in the accuracy of his work.

Adrien was a native of Ayden, North Carolina, and a graduate of North Carolina Agriculture and Technical State University, where a scholarship has been set up in his name. To donate to the scholarship fund, please make checks out to North Carolina A&T State University with 'Adrien Forbes Scholarship' written on the memo line. Donations and Condolences may be sent to Mary Forbes Williams, Adrien's mother, at 325 18th Street, NW, Washington D.C. 20002.

In Adrien's memory, the Town Council proclaimed January 9, 2019 as Adrien M. Forbes Day in the Town of Berwyn Heights and asked Town residents and his co-workers to join them in expressing their sincere appreciation for his dedicated service and their heartfelt sadness at his passing to his family and friends. The Town of Berwyn Heights flag was flown at half-mast until January 31st in his honor.

PRESIDENTS' DAY

**TOWN OFFICES ARE OPEN
NORMAL REFUSE COLLECTION**

DEPARTMENTAL ASSIGNMENTS OF COUNCILMEMBERS

Mayor Stephen Isler
Public Health & Safety

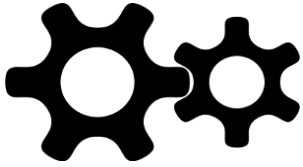
Mayor Pro Tem Jason Papanikolas
Administration

Councilmember Ethan Sweep
Public Works

Councilmember Amanda Dewey
Parks & Recreation

Councilmember Jeffrey Osmond
Code Compliance





Tel. 301-474-6897 or publicworks@berwynheightsmd.gov

PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

HOW WE PLOW TOWN STREETS

When snow or ice shows signs of sticking to the ground, Public Works begins applying salt/ ice-melt to roads and walkways throughout the Town. Plowing of roads begins once snow accumulation reaches 2". Residents can assist Public Works by moving their vehicles off the road during snow plowing operations where possible.

The Town has 9 Public Works employees and 5 trucks with plowing capabilities. Larger trucks address major roadways: Pontiac Street, Berwyn Road, Edmonston Road, Seminole Street, Ruatan Street, Cunningham Drive, and 60th Avenue. Smaller trucks focus on side roads, prioritized by traffic volume and most efficient routes. Public Works personnel also clear Town-maintained walkways.

Public Works works hand in hand with the Police Department to keep the Town safe during weather emergencies. If a snow or ice event occurs after hours, BHPD will notify the Public Works Director. Personnel are dispatched and are on scene within 1 hour of notification. Snow and ice removal continue until the event ends. At the end, additional layers of salt are applied to maintain safe passage on roads and walks in Town.



Amount of Snow	Time to Make Roads Passable	Time to Fully Clear Roads and Intersections
Less Than 4 inches	4-6 hours	1 day
4-6 inches	6-8 hours	2-3 days
6+ inches	8+ hours	3-5 days

Advertising Rates for the Berwyn Heights Bulletin

TERM	RESIDENT	NON-RESIDENT
EIGHTH (1/8) PAGE		
1 Month	\$30.00	\$36.00
6 Months	\$162.00	\$192.00
12 Months	\$230.00	\$336.00
QUARTER (1/4) PAGE		
1 Month	\$50.00	\$72.00
6 Months	\$270.00	\$384.00
12 Months	\$384.00	\$672.00
HALF (1/2) PAGE		
1 Month	\$100.00	\$144.00
6 Months	\$540.00	\$768.00
12 Months	\$768.00	\$1,344.00
FULL PAGE		
1 Month	\$200.00	\$288.00
6 Months	\$1,080.00	\$1,536.00
12 Months	\$1,536.00	\$2,688.00

REFUSE COLLECTION DURING SNOWSTORMS

During snow events Public Works needs all hands to clear the roads and is not able to pick up trash. Please do not place refuse containers at the curb if you see trucks plowing the streets. You can also check the Town website www.berwynheightsmd.gov for notices about Town office hours and refuse collection changes. Normally, refuse collection resumes the day following the storm for the entire Town.

NOTICE OF CHARTER AMENDMENT ON MAYOR PRO TEM

At the January 9, 2019 Town meeting, the Town Council adopted Resolution 13-2018 to amend the Town Charter. The Amendment will become effective 50 days after its passage on February 28, 2019, unless a referendum petition is filed with the Town on or before the 40th day after initial passage of the Resolution.

Summary of Charter Amendment: Resolution 13-2018 amends Section 306.2 of the Charter of the Town of Berwyn Heights, MD to clarify when the Mayor is absent and the Mayor Pro Tempore assumes all or a part of the Mayoral Duties.

The purpose of the Amendment is to enable the Mayor Pro Tempore to sign documents and perform other Mayoral duties on behalf of the Town when the Mayor is absent, where absence is defined as: a) The Mayor notifies the Council that he or she will be absent and is unable to perform all or a part of the duties of the office; or b) the Mayor is unwilling to sign legislation duly adopted by the Council or those documents necessary to give effect to said legislation; or c) a super majority of the Council determines by a public vote that the Mayor has failed to perform all or a part of the duties of the office.

For more information, please contact Town Manager Maria Broadbent at mbroadbent@berwynheightsmd.gov or Town Clerk Kerstin Harper at kharper@berwynheightsmd.gov.



NEED HELP PAYING ENERGY BILLS?

Maryland low-income residents are eligible to receive energy assistance through the Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) to help pay heating costs or electric bills. To apply for assistance, call the Department of Human Resources/ Office of Home Energy Programs at 800-332-6347 or visit:

<http://www.dhs.maryland.gov/office-of-home-energy-programs/>

You may also contact the Home Energy Programs Office in your area at **(301) 909-6300**, located at 425 Brightseat Road, Landover, Md. 20785

Energy Efficiency assistance is available through the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). The program can help provide improvements and repairs to homes at no cost to help lower utility bills and make a home more comfortable.

For more information, call 1-855-583-8976 or visit:

dhcd.maryland.gov/Pages/EnergyEfficiency.



Subscribe to E-Newsletter

The Town Council has re-launched an electronic newsletter that publishes important Town news mid-monthly.

You can subscribe to it on the Town website under the 'Subscribe to News' button. You can also subscribe to Nixle, Town Urgent Alerts, and other items of interest. Check it out at: <https://www.berwynheightsmd.gov/subscribe>



**HAS
TOWN
NEWS**

This Berwyn Heights listserver, formerly at Yahoo Groups, is now at Groups.io. A moderated community discussion group, it provides a platform for residents to stay informed and exchange news and opinions about Town Affairs. Sign up at:

<https://groups.io/g/BerwynHeights>

and start sending messages to the group by emailing BerwynHeights@groups.io.

COMING
SOON

Berwyn Heights Rec. Council

Join Us at Our Upcoming Events:

**Sat. Feb. 9, 1-3pm—Upstairs Party Room @ Town Center
Valentine Card Making & Cookie Decorating Party**

Family-friendly Cookie and Card decorating fun!
Cookies & supplies will be provided.



**Sun. Feb. 10, 2-4pm—Upstairs Party Room @ Town Center Regifting
Party (Adults Only) - RESCHEDULED!!**

This White Elephant-style event offers wine, cheese, &
plenty of laughs! Please bring a wrapped, new/unused
gift to participate. (Spectators welcome!)



**Sat. Mar. 16, 6-8pm—Senior Center
“Pot O’ Gold” Pot Luck Dinner**

Bring your favorite dish to share! (or \$5/person)
Enjoy dinner while mingling with friends & neighbors.



**CALLING ALL TOWN GROUPS AND LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS:
Want to be in our BH Day Parade? Enter your group’s Float
(or presentation) for a chance at a CASH PRIZE!
Contact Susan for more details!**

That’s right, Berwyn Heights Day is only a few months away!

Have any suggestions on how to make BH Day better?

Interested in Volunteering?

Join us at one of our meetings or email Susan at violindreams@verizon.net

Next Recreation Council Meetings will be Tuesday, February 5th and
Tuesday, March 5th at 7:30 pm in the G. Love Room. All are welcome!

Berwyn Heights Elementary School PTA

Family Movie Night

Friday, February 8, 6:30 pm
BHES Cafeteria

Bring a blanket and get cozy on the floor of the cafeteria to watch a fun family movie, broadcast on the big screen. Popcorn will be provided for free. Other concessions will be available for purchase.



Ice Skating Party

Friday, March 29, 6:45 to 8:45
Herbert Wells Ice Rink

\$2 per person, including skate rental. Parents must sign a waiver and children must be accompanied by an adult. Friends and family are welcome!



Upcoming Events

No general PTA meeting on February 5

February 8, Friday

Family Movie Night

February 18, Monday

No school
President's Day

March 5, Tuesday

Next PTA Meeting

March 29, Friday

Ice Skating Party

April

Kindergarten Registration opens. Details TBA.

[Facebook: Berwyn Heights ES PTA](#)

[Mailing list: www.remind.com/classes/bhespta/](http://www.remind.com/classes/bhespta/)

**Maryland
PTA[®]**
everychild.one voice.

Worksession December 3, 2018

Executive Session (5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.)

Personnel matter

Regular Meeting (Starting 7:04 p.m.)

Present were Mayor Pro Tem Stephen Isler, presiding, Councilmembers (CMs) Amanda Dewey, Jason Papanikolas and Ethan Sweep. Mayor Lynn White and had an excused absence. Also present were Town Manager (TM) Maria Broadbent, Clerk Kerstin Harper, Director of the Local Government Infrastructure Financing Program of the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Charles Day, NW/EP Co-chair Mike Attick and citizens.

Citizen Comments

Mike Attick, 62nd Avenue commented that he observed Public Works employees picking up leaf piles with the vacuum machine, but they had difficulty doing the job efficiently because they did not have rakes.

Phil Ventura, 57th Avenue, criticized the execution of the last portion of the street resurfacing project at along 56th Avenue. He believes that new curbs were improperly installed, and drainage problems not fixed leading to ice formation in winter.

Announcements

MPT Isler reported that the Council had a good legislative dinner with its State and local representatives and obtained a lot of useful information. CM Dewey added that Berwyn Heights is lucky with its representatives as they are very responsive and interested in the Town. The Green Team will continue to hold its Town cleanups on the third Saturday of each month, rain or shine.

Presentation on DHCD bond issuance process

Charles Day introduced himself saying he administers DHCD's Local Infrastructure Financing Program, which helps smaller Maryland municipalities obtain loans on favorable terms for critical infrastructure projects. Infrastructure encompasses any structure or equipment that is owned and operated by the public service system for the public benefit, ranging from local roads, to municipal buildings to service vehicles.

The program was created by the General Assembly in 1985 and has since put together some 30 pooled issuances, raising over \$470 million on behalf of local governments. The program is particularly suitable for small municipalities, such as Berwyn Heights, which don't

regularly issue bonds themselves. DHCD regularly reaches out to identify jurisdictions that want to participate in a financing, then pools their requests to capture economies of scale, and raises money in the financial markets. The cost of issuance is shared by participants on a pro rata basis, without the need to hire financial advisors or bond counsel.

Local governments can finance one or multiple projects ranging from 5 to 30-year terms. Interest rates are fixed over the term of the bond, but there is a lock-out period of 10 years prior to which the bond cannot be pre-paid. Interest rates are slowly rising but are still in a historically low environment. At this point a 5-year bond would have rate of 2.75%, a 10-year bond 3.25%, a 15-year bond 3.8%, etc.

In response to questions, Mr. Day said that over its 30-year history, there has not been a case in which a municipality has not paid its debt service. However, it is important that a municipality carefully assess what amount of debt it can afford. The application process is fairly involved as the DHCD asks for information such as a rating agency may ask to determine the financial condition of the Town. Additionally, participants are required to pledge their full faith and credit to repay the bond, meaning that municipalities would need to raise money from taxes to repay bonds if they find themselves unable to pay. The next bond issuance is planned for the spring of 2019 with an application deadline of the end of January.

Mike Attick asked what happened with Berwyn Heights being dropped from the DHCD August bond issue. Mr. Day said there was a perfect storm of unusual circumstances that cast doubt upon the Town's commitment to take out the bond. With change in leadership of the Town Council and the Mayor refusal to sign the final bond documents, DHCD's legal counsel advised to remove Berwyn Heights from the bond issue.

Neighborhood Watch/ Emergency Preparedness status: MPT Isler said, at its last meeting, the NW/EP/CERT Committee discussed the possibility of disbanding. Mr. Attick was invited to attend the worksession to explain what the Committee plans to do.

NW/EP Chair Mike Attick said he and Co-chair Merrill Weinrich had a recent meeting with TM Broadbent and Chief Antolik. They were told that the Town would like to dispose of the emergency trailer, which would put the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) out of

business. He got the impression the Town no longer wants or needs the services NW/EP/CERT provides.

TM Broadbent said she and Chief Antolik had two meetings with NW/EP/CERT and discussed the status of the Committee in terms of organization, membership, and members' training. They also discussed the range of options for re-organization: from complete independence from the Town to becoming a recognized Town organization. In the latter case, the Committee would sign an MOU with the Town, would be activated by the Town in an emergency, and would be covered by the Town's insurance. The focus of the Committee would be on community outreach and training citizens in emergency preparedness. On the other hand, the Town would not want Town-affiliated CERT volunteers to perform hazardous activities, such as cutting down trees on private property, because insurance would not cover it.

TM Broadbent continued that the Town does not want to maintain the emergency trailer because it is old and no longer roadworthy. Emergency supplies could be stored in a Town facility. If the Town wanted to set up an emergency shelter during an adverse weather event, it could ask the Red Cross to send a trailer with all the necessary equipment.

Mr. Attick replied, in his experience, the Red Cross or other official responders may take quite some time to arrive on scene if a disaster strikes. Roadways may be blocked by fallen trees or flooded. Beyond that, he doubts the Red Cross has enough trailers to serve the entire County. Having one's own resources already in place will make a big difference because time is of the essence in responding to emergencies.

CM Dewey asked whether NW/EP/CERT would consider signing an MOU with the Town. Mr. Attick replied that his Committee provided Standard Operating Procedures to the previous Council, but nothing became of that. He does not object to having an MOU with the Town but believes it would not change the situation on the ground. First responders respond regardless of MOUs. NW/EP can be particularly useful after hours and on weekends when Public Works is not on duty to remove trees and debris from the roadway or help residents.

CMs Sweep and Dewey said from the Town's perspective an MOU with NW/EP/CERT is needed to protect it from liability when NW/EP volunteers deploy and act on behalf of the Town. TM

Broadbent added that the Town has a need for NW/EP to perform outreach, training and other non-hazardous activities under the direction of the Town. Alternatively, the Town could award grant money to an NW/EP/CERT that is an independent 501 (c) 3 organization, self-activates and maintains its own equipment. Mr. Attick replied that Berwyn Heights CERT, Inc. is a 501 (c) 3 organization but the members are planning to disband it because it requires regular administrative work. He said he will present the options laid out tonight at the next NW/EP meeting and inform the Town of its future plans.

Council Rules 1-19 revision: MPT Isler said that the Council has gone through all 19 Council Rules and made the changes it deemed necessary. In addition to updating the content, seven Council Rules were earmarked for being moved to the Charter, the Employee Manual or an Ordinance. Two Rules were merged and one was deleted. MPT Isler asked for any further changes. A number of typographical errors were corrected. The revised set of Council Rules will be adopted at the December 12 Town meeting.

Charter Amendment: MPT Isler said that the Council revised the Charter Amendment Clarifying the Mayor Pro Tem Authority. He read revised Sections 306.2 A-C and asked if there are any additional thoughts or comments. With no further changes, the Charter Amendment will be up for adoption at the December 12 Town meeting.

Call-a-Bus: TM Broadbent explained that the Call-a-Bus was provided to the Town by Prince George's County as part of a program to provide transportation to County residents who are not served by, or cannot use, existing bus or rail services. Priority is given to seniors and persons with disabilities. The bus is currently on loan to the City of Greenbelt as a backup for their main bus. Greenbelt pays for its maintenance and Berwyn Heights for insurance. Berwyn Heights residents can make reservations for rides with Greenbelt but there are now only 2 seniors who use the service regularly.

The County has offered to sell the 1998 call-a-bus to the Town for \$1.00. Staff recommends accepting the offer and then selling the bus to Greenbelt for \$1.00, with the understanding that Berwyn Heights residents will continue to have access to the service.

In discussion the Council expressed concern about the Seniors Club and

other Town organizations not being able to use the bus for field trips if it is transferred to Greenbelt. CM Dewey asked if the Town could enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that guarantees the Town access to the bus for such use. TM Broadbent said that the Seniors prefer to use their own transportation for field trips instead of the bus because it is difficult to get into and uncomfortable to ride. Seniors who need a ride are usually transported in the Code vehicle. The Council agreed to sell the bus but asked to explore an MOU with Greenbelt to permit Berwyn Heights residents continued use.

Door-to-door solicitation: MPT Isler said there have been a number of complaints about door-to-door salesmen who are pushing residents to sign up for a different electric supplier. In some cases, they have demanded to see electric bills and refused to leave the premises when asked. Chief Antolik advises to call Berwyn Heights Police if there is a problem with solicitors. All vendors are required to have a BHPD permit but no permits have been issued to vendors of electric supply. Further, all residents are reminded not leave packages on their door steps during the holiday season as they may be stolen.

5. Minutes

On a motion by CM Papanikolas and second by CM Dewey, the November 5 worksession minutes were approved 3-0 -1, with CM Sweep abstaining. The November 14 Town meeting minutes were distributed.

6. Department Reports

MPT Isler announced upcoming events and holiday closings. CM Sweep said, with winter weather on the way, residents are requested to make room for Public Works trucks spreading salt and plowing snow. Residents are also requested to clear snow and ice of any sidewalks abutting their property. Police will respond with wellness checks if someone has no heat or is freezing.

CM Dewey said that BHPD keeps a list of seniors and people with disabilities on whom they will check when it gets very cold or snowy. Seniors are encouraged to fill out a form in the December Bulletin to provide their contact information if they want to take advantage of this service. CM Dewey also asked residents not to put cans with paint into the trash. Paint can be recycled at the Greenbelt Public Works yard or the County landfill.

7. Town Council Schedule

The Council reviewed their schedule. The Green Team meeting was canceled. The Ancostia Watershed Society presentation was added to the December 17

worksession agenda. The appointment of two Historical Committee members was added to the Town meeting agenda.

8. Citizen Discussion

Phil Ventura, 57th Avenue, commented the Council should not be in a hurry to take out another bond issue. The recently completed road project showed that the Town does not get its money's worth for street work. He believes it is better to save up for road projects instead of taking out loans. Mr. Ventura further suggested the Council should modify Section C of the Charter Amendment to have a 3rd party vote on behalf of the Mayor if the Council plans to declare the Mayor to be derelict in his/ her duty.

Mike Attick, 62nd Avenue, asked about a mediation meeting between the Mayor and Council; what type of lift the Town plans to get for its refuse trucks; and the actual cost of the road project. MPT Isler and TM Broadbent replied that a mediation meeting is in the process of being set up; that refuse trucks would be equipped with tippers, not overhead arms; and that Mr. Attick will be provided information about the expenses incurred for the road project. Mr. Attick also commented that this Council is doing a good job but suggested the Council familiarize itself with what has been going on in the Town before they were elected.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 p.m.

Town Meeting December 12, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Stephen Isler, Mayor Pro Tem (MPT) Jason Papanikolas, Councilmembers (CMs) Amanda Dewey, and Ethan Sweep. Also Present were Town Manager (TM) Maria Broadbent, Clerk Kerstin Harper, Chief Kenneth Antolik, Detective Daniel Unger, Representatives of the Prince George's County Clerk of the Circuit Court Kimberly Lyles and her Assistant and citizens.

1. Approval of Agenda

CM Dewey moved and CM Papanikolas seconded to approve the agenda. The motion passed 4 to 0.

2. Swearing-in of Mayor Stephen Isler and Mayor Pro Tem Jason Papanikolas

MPT Isler explained that Mayor White informed the Council of her resignation on December 6, making it necessary to appoint a new Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem. Pursuant to Section 306.2 of the Town Charter, the Mayor Pro Tem becomes Mayor when a Mayor resigns. Mayor Pro Tem Papanikolas was selected by the remaining Councilmembers

during a December 8 executive session. The vacant Council seat has been advertised and interested residents are requested to apply by January 9, 2019

Clerk of the Circuit Court Representative Kimberly Lyles swore in Mayor Isler and then Mayor Pro Tem Papanikolas.

Mayor Isler thanked the residents for their support during the ongoing transition of the Town Council, as well as Clerk Harper and TM Broadbent for their assistance in managing the transition and keeping the government on track. The Council is looking forward to filling the vacant Council seat and moving forward with the business of governing the Town.

3. Appointment of BHHC Members

Jim McGinnis and Mary-Lou Milstead

Clerk Harper said both Jim McGinnis and Mary-Lou Milstead are residents who grew up in Berwyn Heights and will bring with them a lot of firsthand knowledge of Town history. BHHC Chair Richard Ahrens said the BHHC changed its meeting times to make it possible for Ms. Milstead and Mr. McGinnis to attend. At its last meeting, the BHHC voted to nominate them for membership and recommends their appointment. He noted Ms. Milstead's father Fred Frost served on the first Town Council of Berwyn Heights.

MPT Papanikolas moved to make the appointments. CM Dewey seconded. The motion passed 4 to 0.

4. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by MPT Papanikolas and second by CM Dewey, the minutes of the November 14 Town meeting minutes were approved 3-0-1, with CM Sweep abstaining.

5. Mayor's Report

Mayor Isler reported that the Council hosted the annual legislative dinner with its representatives on November 28 attended by Delegates Gaines and Healey, Councilwoman Glaros and School Board Representative Thomas, and on December 5, attended the Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA) legislative dinner where it had the opportunity to mingle with other local elected officials. Councilmembers also enjoyed participating in the Town's tree lighting party, which at times had standing room only. During the coming week, the Council will drive around the Town to evaluate Christmas decorations to award prizes for the best decorated houses and yards.

6. Department Reports

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Rodri-

guez gave the report for November. The Town received State Income Tax and Prince George's County real estate tax disbursements. On the expenditure side, a bill for \$12,320 has been paid for the street renovation project. The audit was completed, and a report submitted to the State, as were a number of other annual reports due at year's end.

Town Manager's Report: TM Broadbent reported she has been working with M-NCPPC on the renewal of the Men's League agreement for the use of the gymnasium and with Chief Antolik and the Neighborhood Watch/Emergency Preparedness Committee (NW/EP) on an MOU to clarify its relationship with the Town. The electric vehicle charging station has been installed and the new electric vehicle delivered.

Mayor Isler said that two sample recycling bins on wheels of a 64 and a 96-gallon size have been stationed in the Council chamber for residents to try out. These bins are much larger than the ones currently in use and will require mechanical tippers to empty. Trash trucks will have to be equipped with the tippers before the Town can switch to the new bins.

Code Compliance: Code Compliance Supervisor Glass reported that the Code Department focused on clean lot and refuse violations during the previous month. He reminded residents to cover inoperable vehicles with a properly fitted car cover and to park vehicles only on paved surfaces. If residents wish to dispose of appliances and tires they must schedule the pickup through the Town office and pay special pickup fees of \$25 and \$5, respectively. All regular household trash should be placed at the curb in a container with a tight-fitting lid by 7:30 a.m.

Parks & Recreation: There was no report.

Public Works: CM Sweep thanked Public Works for putting up the Christmas tree and decorations at the Town Center. Public Works Director Hall reported that Public Works will finish curb-side loose leaf collection by the end of December. Thereafter residents should bag their leaves for pickup in brown paper yard waste bags or designated containers. He is working with Prince George's County to fix some drainage issues that cause icing of streets in winter. The street renovation project is almost complete with the exception of a few touch ups. He is making a punch list of items that need to be addressed sometime in the spring.

TM Broadbent said she drove around the

Town with a WSSC representative this morning to discuss any tree work they plan to undertake in conjunction with planned water and sewage repairs. It is worthwhile to give input to WSSC prior to planned work because the utility has a lot of leeway in what they may do in connection with a project. CM Dewey added that Washington Gas and WSSC should be asked to inspect a noticeable smell of gas at the corner of 63rd Avenue and Tecumseh Street.

Mike Attick, 62nd Avenue, asked why Public Works is not picking up leaves in the curbs. Director Hall replied that the crews are supposed to clean up curbs when leaf vacuuming. He will look into it.

Public Safety: CM Dewey reminded residents not to dispose of unused paint with household trash. Paint should be taken to the County landfill for disposal or recycled at the Greenbelt public works yard for a fee on the dates of electronics recycling. If traveling for the holidays, homeowners should stop their mail and take precautions to keep their home from being burglarized.

Volunteer Fire Department (BHVFD) Representative Matthew Huddle thanked residents for supporting the Christmas tree fundraiser. The contributions helped with the purchase of a new \$1.1 million ambulance squad. Donations will also help finance other improvements, such as the renovations planned for the firehouse in the coming year. Mayor Isler thanked the BHVFD for donating a tree for the Town's holiday party.

Detective Unger gave the police activities report. There were 6 Part I offenses, less than the 5-year average of 7.6, and 53 offenses year-to-date versus the 5-year average of 61. There were another 2 airbag thefts, plus 2 cases of wheels stolen from Honda Accords and Civics. Berwyn Heights Police is working with Cheverly Police, which has seen similar thefts, to develop leads. Berwyn Heights Police also performed 420 house checks, issued 143 State and municipal citations and 30 speed camera tickets.

In response to a question, Detective Unger said house checks can be requested by residents when they are on vacation or away from home. House check request forms are available at the Town office or online at

www.berwynheightsmd.gov/berwyn-heights-police-department. He reminded people not to drink and drive over the holidays. A zero-tolerance policy will be in effect. Partygoers are encouraged to take advantage of the 'sober ride' program offering a free ride home with Lyft up to a limit of \$15. Detective Unger con-

cluded with a BHPD rendition of "T'was the Night before Christmas."

7. Committee Reports

Green Team: CM Dewey announced that the Green Team will hold its monthly Town cleanup this coming Saturday. Newcomers are always welcome, including families with children or dogs. The Green Team is also making plans for the rai ngarden renovations in the spring.

Historical Committee: No report.

Neighborhood Watch/ Emergency Preparedness: NW/EP Co-chair Mike Attick reported that Berwyn Heights CERT, Inc. will be disbanded. However, NW/EP will continue to function. Any interested residents are invited to attend the monthly meetings held on the first Wednesday of every month in the G. Love Room.

Recreation Council: No report.

8. Unfinished Business

Resolution 13-2018 – 2nd Reading & Adoption of Charter Amendment Clarifying Mayor Pro Tem Authority: Clerk Harper read the Resolution. Mayor Isler explained that the Town Charter currently provides for the "Mayor Pro Tem to assume all Mayoral duties and responsibilities during the absence of the Mayor." This Amendment further defines when the Mayor is absent and enables the Council to carry on the business of governing in the event the Mayor refuses to sign legislation adopted by the Council as a whole, or those documents necessary to give effect to the legislation.

John Wolfrum, Quebec Street, said he last attended the September 3 meeting at which Mayor White was still Mayor and the Council discussed the bond issue with residents. At that time, the Council expressed the intent to have a mediation session. He asked if the mediation had occurred but did not work out. Mayor Isler said that Mayor White took a leave of absence shortly after the September 3 meeting with a return date of November 12. However, shortly before the November 14 Town meeting, Mayor White said she would not return until a mediation session had taken place. She agreed to arrange the session and contacted MML and the Center for Conflict Resolution of the Key Bridge Foundation. Key Bridge was in the process of scheduling a session when Mayor White announced her resignation on December 6.

Mr. Wolfrum said he could see both sides of the controversy and is glad to hear the Council was willing to work

things out. As for the Charter Amendment, the Bulletin notice of the hearing on the Amendment had the wrong date. More importantly, with the resignations of two mayors, the Council is now led by the third highest vote getter, and most Councilmembers serve in positions to which they were appointed rather than elected. He thinks this is a problem and hopes the Council will select a person to fill the vacant seat who reflects the diversity of the population.

Mr. Wolfrum also objected to subsection C of the Amendment which seems to authorize the majority of the Council to overrule the Mayor or relieve the Mayor of his or her duty, if they don't like something the Mayor is doing. Further, the same section is too open-ended and fails to spell out what the Mayor's duties are. As he sees it, this might give the majority of the Council a legal instrument to force a Mayor out for reasons of their choosing.

Mayor Isler said the Charter and Council Rules do spell out the duties of the Mayor. In the 'Strong Council/ Weak Mayor' form of government the Town has, the Mayor is for the most part an equal member of the Council. One of the few duties reserved to the Mayor is the ministerial signing of documents and legislation the Council as a whole has approved. The Mayor must sign such documents, regardless of whether he or she agrees with it. This provision prevents the Mayor from exercising a pocket veto over the actions of the Council. CM Dewey said the Council had to take special steps to sign a grant agreement for State police aid during the Mayor's absence, showing why a clarification of a Mayor's absence is needed.

Blake Dewey, Quebec Place, said he understood sub-section C of the Amendment to apply narrowly to each circumstance in which the Mayor is unable or unwilling to perform a duty of the office, with the Mayor Pro Tem's authorization to perform the Mayor's duties limited to that circumstance. He asked if this is what the Council intended. MPT Papanikolas said he would agree with that interpretation. CM Dewey said it appears further discussion of the Amendment is needed. To address the concerns about sub-section C, it might be changed to require a supermajority of the Council to declare a Mayor being derelict in his duties. TM Broadbent offered to have the Town Attorney review the Amendment.

After further discussion of the circumstances that led to the drafting of the Amendment, MPT Papanikolas moved and CM Sweep seconded to table the

Amendment to the January Town meeting. The motion passed 4 to 0.

Ordinance 175-A – 2nd Reading & Adoption of FY 2019 Budget Amendment to Purchase Salt Spreader: Clerk Harper read the adopting language of the Ordinance. TM Broadbent said the Amendment reallocates funds in the FY 2019 budget to purchase a salt spreader instead of a new dump body for a dump truck. Since the budget amendment is adopted by ordinance, there is a 20-day delay for the appropriation to become effective. However, the Public Works Department would like to have the spreader before the onset of winter weather. Therefore, she proposes to purchase the equipment, not from the capital projects, where it was budgeted, but with Public Works funds. Once the Ordinance has taken effect, the funds would be returned to Public Works budget. No changes to the Ordinance are necessary.

CM Sweep said he believes it is a good idea to purchase a salt spreader rather than a new dump body, as originally planned. The spreader is less expensive and does a better job with spreading salt. Additionally, drivers don't need a CDL license to drive a pickup truck on which the spreader would be mounted. MPT Papanikolas moved and CM Sweep seconded to approve the Budget Amendment, with the provision that the money to purchase the spreader be temporarily taken from the Public Works Department budget. The motion passed 4 to 0.

9. New Business

Resolution 15-2018 – Approval of Contract to Purchase DPW Overhead Garage Doors: Clerk Harper read the Resolution. TM Broadbent said new garage doors were funded in the FY 2019 capital budget. Overhead Doors of Washington D.C. was the lowest responsive bidder, coming in with a bid \$8,000 lower than the budgeted amount. The company has a good reputation including for servicing its doors. Staff recommends the Council approve the contract. CM Sweep moved, and CM Dewey seconded to approve the contract with Overhead Doors. The motion passed 4 to 0.

Resolution 16-2018 – Adoption of Revised Council Rules: Clerk Harper read the Resolution. Mayor Isler said that most of the Council Rules were last revised in 2001 and are due for an update to reflect the manner in which the Town Council currently conducts its business. Some Rules were substantially revised, and others had only minor stylistic changes. One Rule was deemed obsolete and was deleted and others were

designated to be moved to the Charter, an ordinance or the Employee Manual. CM Dewey made a correction to Rule 1, Section B (1) (b), adding the word "her" to "...his/ her name or address." MPT Papanikolas moved to adopt the Council Rules as amended. CM Sweep seconded. The motion passed 4 to 0.

9. Citizen Comments

Mayor Isler noted that this Council considers citizen comments very important. However, if a citizen has a concern about an individual employee or Councilmember, he or she is requested to raise those concerns with the Council in a private meeting.

Mike Attick, 62nd Avenue, asked when the driveway in the rear of the Town Center will be reopened following the installation of an electric charging station and suggested that on-street parking at 8911 60th Avenue should be disallowed because it causes long backups at the Greenbelt Road traffic light.

John Wolfrum, Quebec Street, said he thinks it is not appropriate for the Council to censor citizens' comments at a public meeting during the period set aside for comments. TM Broadbent said no citizen is being denied due process if asked to raise some personnel or personal issue in a private setting. Freedom of speech has important limitations based on time, place and manner.

Mr. Wolfrum asked whether citizens can make arrangements ahead of time to speak at a meeting about a particular matter. He was informed that he can contact any Councilmember or the Town Manager and ask that a topic be added to the agenda. Mr. Wolfrum reiterated his concern that too many Councilmembers have been appointed to their position rather than been elected. He suggested the Council consider holding a special election if a third Councilmember were to leave. Mayor Isler replied that the Council has the option to fill a vacant seat by choosing a candidate who ran in the previous election or invite applications from qualified voters of the Town. This Council has considered revising the Charter and ordinances to further clarify the succession process.

Blake Dewey, Quebec Place, congratulated the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem on being sworn in today. He thinks this Council has done a lot of good work despite a rough start.

Phil Ventura, 57th Avenue, had several comments. He criticized the road repair work for the failure to mark the new pavement in the 60th Avenue cul-de-sac

and expressed his support for further review of sub-section C of the Charter Amendment. He regretted the change in how the Town is run in that residents like himself are no longer allowed to help out at the Public Works Department. He quoted from a letter he received from TM Broadbent asking him to stop speaking to Public Works employees or their contractors.

Mr. Ventura then produced two emails by former Mayor White requesting him to oversee the road project. He believes this gives him the right to monitor the road work and speak with employees and contractors. He has spoken to the contractor on multiple occasions. The contractor agreed with him about installing curbs along the west side of 56th Avenue, redoing a driveway with runoff problems and fixing the sub-base in a couple of spots on Pontiac Street, but he was told to hold off.

CM Dewey moved and MPT Papanikolas seconded to admit Mayor White's emails into the official record. The motion passed 4 to 0. MPT Papanikolas noted that the emails were sent from a private account and that the Council was not informed of the arrangement with Mr. Ventura. Mayor Isler said the Council should have been informed of the arrangement so that it could have vetted the person tasked to watch the road work. It is an open question if another person was needed to oversee the project, next to the Public Works Director, who was properly vetted and hired to do this job.

CM Sweep asked why Mr. Ventura has waited until now to make the arrangement public. To him it looks like the kind of backroom deal Mr. Ventura has accused the Council of making. Mr. Ventura said he brought it up now because of TM Broadbent's letter forbidding him to talk to employees. TM Broadbent was asked to explain the reasons for sending the letter. She said that Mr. Ventura's manner of speaking with Director Hall was inappropriate and threatening. The letter asks that any concerns about projects or the director be brought to the attention of the Town Manager or the Town Council instead. It is not the place of a resident to tell the Public Works Director what to do or to give instructions to Public Works staff.

There ensued further discussion about whether residents can speak to and instruct employees. Mr. Wolfrum said the Council cannot forbid residents to speak with staff, but staff are not obligated to listen or respond. Mayor Isler said citizens can indeed speak with

staff, but they cannot threaten, berate or confront them. At this point, whatever Mr. Ventura may say to Public Works staff is not constructive. Therefore, he is better off working through Councilmembers, who were elected to take care of the affairs of the Town, or filing a complaint with the Town Manager. Councilmembers expressed their commitment to listen to and try to resolve the concerns raised by citizens via phone calls, emails or face-to-face conversations.

Blake Dewey, Quebec Place, said this Council followed up on citizen comments in at least two important instances: lowering the building permit fee and finding out whether canopies require a permit if used for parking cars.

Joan Hayden, Seminole Street, commented via telephone about residents not being listened to by the Council and a lack of follow-up. Mayor Isler replied that this Council has made a concerted effort to improve communication with residents, inviting citizen comments on all topics during meetings, discussing items at meetings in response to citizen comments, and adding a bi-weekly newsletter. To address Ms. Hayden's particular issues, he offered to speak with her offline.

John Biddle, Berwyn Road, asked via telephone why the Council hears variance requests if it cannot rule on them. MPT Papanikolas replied that the County's Board of Zoning Appeals decides variances (exceptions to County zoning regulations) but will often request input from the municipalities relating to properties in their jurisdiction. Variances offer municipalities a measure of control over what residents can build on their property by placing conditions on their support for variances.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

Worksession
December 17, 2018

Executive Session (6:00 – 7:00 p.m.)
Personnel matter

Regular Meeting (Starting 7:04 p.m.)
Present were Mayor Stephen Isler, Mayor Pro Tem (MPT) Jason Papanikolas, Councilmembers (CMs) Amanda Dewey and Ethan Sweep. Also present were Town Manager (TM) Maria Broadbent, Clerk Kerstin Harper, and Anacostia Watershed Society Representatives Joshua Clark, Matthew Gallagher and Stacy Lucas, and citizens.

1. Announcements

Town offices will be closed for the holidays on December 24 and 25.

2. Presentation by Anacostia Watershed Society

CM Dewey said [Anacostia Watershed Society](#) (AWS) representatives are here tonight to contribute to the Town's ongoing discussion about flooding and stormwater management. In November the Council was briefed on the upgrades to the Town's stormwater drainage system recently completed by Prince George's County. The Council learned that further upgrades to the system to handle more runoff during major storms would require tearing up the streets and moving houses. Therefore, it is important to look at other ways to mitigate stormwater runoff.

Joshua Clark, Landscape Architect and Environmental Designer with AWS, gave a presentation on the activities of AWS to restore and protect the Anacostia River and its tributaries. The goal is to restore the Anacostia to a fishable and swimmable river by 2025 by reducing pollution through installation of green infrastructure and rebuilding people's relationship with the river through education.

Much of the pollution of the Anacostia comes from increased rainwater runoff from paved surfaces, such as motor oils, pet waste and litter, as well as sediment, which washes into streams and rivers. To reduce pollution, AWS works to increase greenspace in the watershed where stormwater can soak into the ground and installs projects that filter, capture, and reuse stormwater, known as green infrastructure. Examples of green infrastructure include rain gardens, rain barrels, green roofs, and pervious pavement as well as planting shade trees. In Prince George's County property owners can receive "[rain check rebates](#)" for installing approved stormwater management systems and recoup some of the cost of installation.

In response to questions, AWS representatives said that homeowners can get informal technical assistance from AWS for installing green infrastructure and it maintains references for contractors that can design and install green infrastructure. For design and implementation of projects AWS partners with Corvias and Prince George's County. The Chesapeake Bay Trust is another organization that provides technical assistance to private property owners as well as some grant funding.

TM Broadbent invited AWS to go on a walk to identify possible sites in Berwyn

Heights for mitigating runoff and they agreed. AWS also confirmed that they are willing to help with the revitalization of the Town Center rain gardens as a demonstration project. AWS thanked the Council for inviting them and left educational materials for distribution to residents.

Citizen Discussion (added item)

Maria Epon, 8925 58th Avenue, said she is one of the property owners whose property was flooded during the flash flood of June 2014 but unfortunately was not covered by insurance. She has since repaired her home with her own funds. Her property has a storm drain running through the back yard, but it does not seem to work because every time it rains she has water in her basement. The County came out to inspect the drain after the flood and declared that it is functioning properly. She has not been able to get them to come back and check the system again despite the continued water backups during storms. She is hoping the Town can give her some advice or help in getting the problem solved. TM Broadbent offered to take Ms. Epon's contact information and reach out to the County on her behalf.

Ms. Epon further stated that the 2014 flooding of her home necessitated repairs to her electrical systems for which a County permit and inspection was needed, as well as a Town permit. She asked why the Town charges a permit fee when it does not perform inspections. TM Broadbent said the Town ensures that the work is done by a licensed professional, but it does not have staff to perform electrical inspections. The Town's permit fees were recently lowered to reflect the lesser degree of service provided.

Ms. Epon also reported that she used to rent the Town Center a lot but does so less now because the facility is not being kept up. She did rent the room last Saturday and was surprised to find that the Town now requires insurance. She asked why this Town requires insurance where other municipalities do not. TM Broadbent said the Town's insurance company and Town Attorney recommend it to protect the Town from becoming liable for any accident or damage that may occur during an event. Customers have the option to utilize their own insurance or the Town's 'TULIP' insurance referenced on the rental application form, but it must be at the \$1 million level, and be received by the Town one week prior to the event.

Lastly, Ms. Epon reported that she had a bad experience when she came to pick up the keys for the Town Center she was

renting last weekend and found the offices closed for a holiday party. She would have appreciated receiving a call to let her know that the office was closed. TM Broadbent apologized and explained that staff thought Ms. Epon was not going to hold the event because the insurance coverage she initially obtained was not at the required level.

3. Discussion Items

Charter Amendment re Mayor Pro Tem Authority – review of Section C:

Mayor Isler said the Amendment was up for adoption at the December 12 Town meeting but it was tabled because the Bulletin notice had the wrong date and several citizens expressed concern about Section C, which provides that the Mayor is absent if "the majority of the Council determines by a public vote that the Mayor is unable or unwilling to perform all or a part of the duties of the office." The Council agreed that the concerns raised required further discussion.

CM Dewey said she believes it is best to leave Section C as is, except to require a supermajority of those Councilmembers present. Since the Amendment can't address every possible eventuality, it is better to err on the side of the majority of the Council than on the side of one individual. Mayor Isler said one concern expressed by citizens is whether Section C could be used to remove a Mayor from office. CM Dewey and TM Broadbent said that the Amendment relates only Section 306.2, which provides for the Mayor Pro Tem to assume the duties of the office when the Mayor is absent, meaning an instance of limited duration. It does not deal with recall or removal from office, covered by other sections of the Charter.

There ensued discussion of what constitutes a quorum, whether a provision should be added to clarify that the Amendment does not deal with the Mayor's removal from office, and what circumstance is covered by Section C that is not covered by Sections A and B. The Council agreed to modify Section C to clarify that it applies to a Mayor's absence of which the Council was not notified, but when important business needs to be carried out. The words "the Mayor is unable or unwilling to perform" were replaced with "the Mayor has failed to perform." TA Broadbent was asked to have the Town Attorney review the revised Amendment.

Council priorities review: Mayor Isler said he wanted to review what progress has been made on the priorities of the 48th Council and possibly add and delete some. TM Broadbent has provided a memorandum with updates. Mayor Isler

suggested the Council review the memo as well as the Quality of Life Commission recommendations and discuss this at a future meeting. It was agreed to defer deliberation to the 2nd worksession in January, at which time a new Councilmember may be on board and benefit from the review.

Mid-monthly e-newsletter: Mayor Isler said he would like to continue a Council e-newsletter started by former Mayor White to provide a mid-monthly news update between editions of the Bulletin. He provided a 2-page draft template and explained a proposed layout: Council notes, seasonal information, Town Meeting updates and upcoming events would go on page 1, and news from the Town departments with contact information and employee spotlights on page 2. The Council would gather content in the first half of the month, discuss content at the 1st worksession, finalize the newsletter after the Town meeting, and then post it on the website and Town list serves. In discussion, the following points were made:

- 2 pages might be too long;
- Someone needs to be designated as editor and publisher of the information;
- Contributions need to be submitted in a timely manner;
- The newsletter should be published on an agreed upon date.

8911 60th Avenue on-street parking:

TM Broadbent said that Berwyn Heights Police has made preliminary traffic observations on 60th Avenue before the intersection with Greenbelt Road, where traffic tends to back up during rush hour, especially when buses or trucks are lined up. They recommend posting no parking signs in front of 8911 60th Avenue between the hours of 7-10 am and 4-6 p.m. but will continue to monitor the situation for the next weeks.

In discussion, CM Sweep suggested making one side of the street 'no parking' rather than designating short periods for 'no parking'. He also invited residents who live in the 8900 block of 60th Avenue to comment or report their observations.

Men's League Community Center Use Agreement:

TM Broadbent explained that she has met with representatives of the Men's League and the Community Center to work out a renewal of a long-standing agreement to use the gymnasium. One of the sticking points is M-NCPPC's requirement that an insurance certificate be provided. The Men's League maintains they are considered part of the Boys & Girls Club and are

covered by the Town's insurance. MPT Papanikolas said the Men's League is an offshoot of the Boys & Girls Club but is not considered a subsidiary organization in the current bylaws of the Boys & Girls Club. Nor is it covered by the Boys & Girls Club's insurance.

TM Broadbent laid out 3 options for insuring the Men's League:

- Adopt Resolution to designate Men's League a Town organization, which makes them eligible to be covered by the Town's insurance;
- Make a donation to the Men's League stipulating that they purchase insurance that names both the Town and Park & Planning as insured;
- Have the Men's League purchase their own insurance that names the Town and Park & Planning as insured.

There ensued discussion of the consequences of choosing a particular option. TM Broadbent was asked to explore the cost associated with making a donation and covering the Men's League under the Town's insurance. Once the information is at hand, the Council would vote on adopting the Agreement at the January Town meeting and ask if M-NCPPC can extend the current agreement to that point.

4. Minutes

On a motion by MPT Papanikolas and second by CM Sweep, the November 19 worksession minutes were approved 4 to 0.

5. Department Reports

Mayor Isler reported that the Council and employees had an enjoyable holiday lunch; that the Council will judge Christmas decorations until December 21 with an announcement of the best decorated house and yard to be announced at the January Town meeting; that applications for the vacant Town Council seat will be due on January 9; and that residents can request BHPD to perform house checks while on vacation.

CM Sweep announced holiday closing of December 24, 25, 31 and January 1, during which no trash will be collected. He thanked everyone for a nice holiday party, and CM Dewey for making cookies for everyone. CM Dewey said she appreciates BHPD for working over the holidays to keep the Town safe. Unfortunately, there have been more airbag thefts from Hondas, which is also occurring in neighboring jurisdictions. BHPD still has steering wheel clubs for sale that help deter the thefts. Lastly, residents are encouraged to check on their pets if they are outside.

6. Town Council Schedule

The 2nd worksession in January was moved from January 19 to January 14. Interviews of Council applicants will take place on the same date, prior to the worksession.

7. Citizen Discussion

There was none.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:44 p.m.

Signed: *Kerstin Harper*, Town Clerk



BE A CRIME SOLVER

You can make a difference in your community. If you have information about an unsolved crime call, text or submit your tip online and we will take it from there.

NEW Crime Solvers Mobile App: 'P3-Tips'

Free app for iOS and Android allows you to send anonymous messages with no length limitations, as well as photos, videos and documents with a tip.

Anonymous Tip Line: 1-866-411-TIPS(8477)

Calls are answered 24/7. All calls are completely anonymous. Your identity remains secret—no caller ID is used. You will not be asked to appear in Court.

You can also report tips to the BHPD station during normal business hours at 301-474-6554.



Berwyn Heights GreenBee



The **GreenBee** is your monthly guide to tips and resources from the Green Team!

Email us your ideas at bgreen.berwynheights@gmail.com.

Website: www.berwynheightsgreenteam.wordpress.com

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/BerwynHeightsGreenTeam

Due to Valentine's Day, our next meeting will be Tuesday, February 12, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Center, in the G. Love Room. All residents are welcome to attend!

English Ivy Harms Trees!

Many think that English ivy vines are aesthetically pleasing. However, it spreads aggressively and can easily choke out other plants. This in turn affects the wildlife that rely on these plants.

When the ivy attaches to trees, it blocks out sunlight and steals its water and nutrients. When the vines are wrapped around a tree, the tree has a higher risk of falling in severe winds because of the weight of the vines and it's already weakened state.

Removing ivy: You can't just pull it out or rip it off because it can hurt the tree. You'll need to cut the vines as close to the base of the tree as possible to delay regrowth.

Recommended tools: pruning shears (clippers), a pruning saw, a sturdy screw driver, and gloves. With your cutting tools, carefully and thoroughly cut every vine and stem around the base of the tree. Use the screwdriver to pry away thick ivy vines from the tree bark, be careful not to wound the bark. For thicker vines, you might need a handsaw to cut through them. Make sure there are no stems left because a single one can grow to more.

Once done with the base, make your way up to the shoulder level of the tree. Cut around the tree as you did on the base. Then you can also put sections of the vines gently, trying not to pull plant bark along with it. Examine the tree well, making sure there are no roots or vines left behind. Then, remove any ivy on the ground, so it won't grow and climb back up to the tree. Check back periodically to inspect for and remove regrowth.

It's important to have a healthy tree canopy. Where would you like to see more trees in town? Submit your input online: bit.ly/BHTrees

Save the Date!

Saturday March 30th

The Green Team will be hosting a Spring Rain Garden Event! We've invited Anacostia Watershed Society to teach us how to start a rain garden and you'll get hands-on practice planting in the town's existing garden.

The event will also feature kids crafts, plant giveaway and refreshments.

More details in next month's bulletin.

Town Clean-up

**Saturday February 16th
(3rd Saturday of the month)**

10am – 12pm

Meeting point at the Town Center

Take action as a proud Berwyn Heights resident and let's work together to keep our town beautiful and litter-free!

We will provide instructions and clean-up supplies (safety vests, rubber gloves, trash bags and pickers). No need to pre-register.



Historical Committee

Aladdin 'The Cedars'

The Cedars bungalow, marvelously priced and remarkably designed, is available in 5 floor plans, one of which is sure to meet your idea of a convenient, sturdy home. (Aladdin Catalogue 1925)

This Aladdin mail order house was built by John W. Hall in 1920. Hall was a carpenter and an early member of the Berwyn Heights Association. In 1917 he and his wife Blanche purchased lot 37 in block 43 from Elwood and Sally Taylor. The house we find today at the corresponding address, 8801 63rd Avenue, differs from the catalogue image (see dormer window in south elevation). It may have been an upgrade, a different model year, or Hall made alterations to suit his own taste. The Halls sold their home in 1946.



NEXT MEETING – FEBRUARY 27 – 7:30 PM

Contact Richard Ahrens for information
dicka247@gmail.com

Visit our website at
www.berwynheightshistory.wordpress.com

Berwyn  Heights Playgroup

For Preschoolers and Younger

Mondays 10:30am - 12:00pm


In Town Center if Cold or Rainy

1st & 3rd Monday of month - Indian Creek
2nd & 4th Monday of month - Pop's Park

Please contact Rachel Cicero at (rachelcicero55@gmail.com) for information and to be added to the group's listserv.

NEED SOMETHING SWEET FOR YOUR VALENTINE? TRY

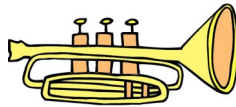
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Spring Soccer Pre K/K-U14 = \$70/child

Spring Soccer BBSL U15 & up = \$90/child

+ Plus \$20 Uniform Fee for All New Players

Spring Track—\$70



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www.berwynheightsbgc.org

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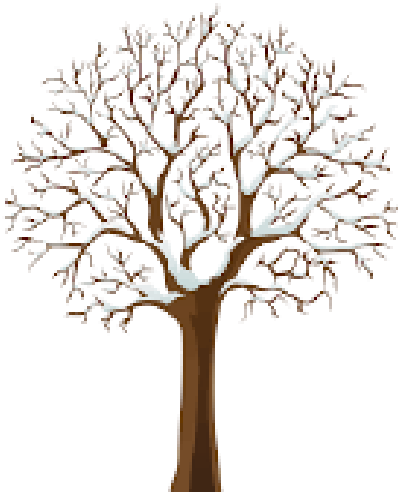
Open to all ages/all levels | Year-Round: Mondays & Fridays 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Executive Club (Senior Citizens): Thursdays 12:00 – 2:00 pm

For more information, contact Sensei Brett Bentley at 240-678-9103

(Brett.t.bentley@gmail.com) or Sensei Leon Swain at 301-728-2881

WINTER TREE MAINTENANCE



It's important to keep our BH trees healthy and strong!

English ivy is an invasive species that kills trees. Use the winter season to remove any ivy that may have climbed your trees this year. Simply snip the vine near the ground, wait a while for the vine to die, and tug it off your tree!

Let us know where you want to see more trees in Berwyn Heights at bit.ly/BHTrees

The Berwyn Heights Shade Tree Board was appointed by the Mayor & Town Council to protect and maintain our urban forest.

Next meeting: January 10, 2019, 7 pm, G. Love Room.

Contact Amanda Dewey, adewey@berwynheightsmd.gov

CODE COMPLIANCE

PLEASE BE REMINDED TO

- Store fire wood 6" off the ground;
- Cover inoperable vehicles with fitted car cover;
- Place refuse in a can with a tight-fitting lid;
- Place leaves and yard waste in paper yard waste bags or a designated container.

APPLIANCE & TIRE PICKUP

The Town offers pickup service for appliances at \$25 per appliance and tires at \$5 per tire. You can schedule and pay for the pickup at the Town office. Applications are posted on the [website](#) under Forms/ Public Works.

You can also request the Town to pickup large amounts of bulk refuse, such as may result from an apartment cleanout. Public Works will inspect it and give an estimate for the service.



Interested in Knitting, Quilting, Other Needle Arts Projects?

Stop by the College Park Needle Arts Society for camaraderie, conversation and lots of mutual inspiration! There are no group projects and no dues. We currently meet Friday mornings, 9:30 - 11:30 am, at the Berwyn Heights Town Center, 5700 Berwyn Road.

For information, call Leslie Montroll at 301-277-9630 or Janet Freitag at 301-906-8535 or email CPNeedleArts@earthlink.net

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

BH Elementary School PTA

President: Marilyn King
President@BHESPTA.org

Secretary: Velma Hamilton
Treasurer: Lilly Ridge

Boys & Girls Club

President: Brandon Batton
Vice President: Angela Wolfinger
angela.wolfinger@gmail.com

Registrar: Tiffany Papanikolas
240-338-5191

Treasurer: Sandra Zuniga
Secretary: Leslie Wolfinger
Athletic Director: Vacant
Soccer Commissioner: Vacant
Track Commissioner: Jeff Osmond

Education Advisory Committee

Chair: Katie Curtis
[windowdoll@gmail.com](mailto>windowdoll@gmail.com)

Green Team/ Shade Tree Board

Chair: Amanda Dewey
amandamdewey@gmail.com
Public Outreach: Therese Forbes
therese@celticclans.com

Historical Committee

Chair: Debby Steele Snyder
dsteelesny@yahoo.com

Men's Basketball League

Jim McGinnis 301-651-8142

Neighborhood Watch/ Emergency Preparedness/ CERT

Co-Chair Merrill Weinrich
mweinrich2@verizon.net
Co-Chair Michael Attick
mikeattick@verizon.net

Karate Club

Leon Swain 301-728-2881
Brett Bentley 240-678-9103
Brett.bentley@gmail.com

Playgroup

Coordinator: Rachel Cicero
rachelcicero55@gmail.com

Quilter's Club

To be determined

Recreation Council

President: Susan Jones
violindreams@verizon.net
Secretary: Theresa Beck
beck_theresa@yahoo.com

Seniors Club

Ray Smith 301-474-3482

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Berwyn Heights Seniors Club

Next to the Town Office on 57th Avenue — Open Monday thru Friday,
10 A.M. to 2 P.M. — Phone 301-474-0018

THE BEST THERAPY IN THE WORLD IS TIME OUT WITH YOUR FRIENDS!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

February 3	Phil Waltz
February 4	Dave Wolfinger
February 8	Frank Baxter
February 15	Ron Luftman
February 22	Agnes Belasco
February 23	Karen Reznick
February 23	Barron Wilson

FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES

BINGO — Every Tuesday at 12:30 P.M..

WII BOWLING — Wednesday at 10:30 A.M.

GAME NIGHT — Every Thursday at 7:00 P.M.

SELF DEFENSE COURSE — Every Thursday at 12:00 Noon, upstairs in the Senior Center

POTLUCK & MOVIE — 2nd Saturday at 5:00 P.M.

MEETINGS — 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 11:00 A.M.
The 4th Tuesday is a Pot Luck!

HAPPENINGS

February 3 — Super Bowl Party.
Meet Time to be determined.

February 10 — Concert at University of Maryland. Meet at 2:00 P.M.

MISCELLANEOUS



WEATHER CLOSINGS

If the PG County Schools are closed, the Senior Center is also closed.

DID YOU KNOW? The Berwyn Heights Police Department maintains a list of seniors who live alone. To add your name, call the Department at 301-474-6554.

DO YOU JUST "SIT HOME"?
Why not visit the Seniors Center instead?



Now that Winter is here, come to the Center, get a cup of coffee, a soda, or a bottle of water and, of course, something to eat. You can always count on something to eat when you are with the Seniors.



DECEMBER INCIDENTS

Thursday December 6, 2018 at 1:39 pm, 'THEFT'

On 12/06/2018 victim residing at the 8600 block of Cunningham Drive came to the Station and talked with Detective Sergeant Unger about his girlfriend stealing his ATM card and using it. Berwyn Heights Police Department criminal investigation division will be handling the case. Investigation still pending.

Friday December 7, 2018 at 7:00 am, 'ANNUAL FIREARM TRAINING'

Officers attended their 2018 annual firearm training as mandated by the training commission.

Wednesday December 12, 2018 at 7:00 pm 'TOWN HALL MEETING'

Detective Sergeant D. Unger and Chief Gattis-Antolik attended the Town Hall meeting. MPT. Stephen Isler was sworn-in as Mayor after the recent resignation of Mayor Lynn White.

Friday December 14, 2018 at 4:38 am, 'THEFT OF AIRBAG'

Officers responded to the 8600 block of 63rd Avenue for a report of a theft of an airbag from a 2007 Honda Ridgeline.

Friday December 14, 2018 at 6:09 am, 'THEFT OF AIRBAG'

Cpl. J. Ignowski responded to the 5900 block of Berwyn Road for a report of theft of an airbag from a Honda.

Friday December 14, 2018 at 7:15 am, 'THEFT OF AIRBAG'

Cpl. J. Ignowski responded to the 5900 block of Berwyn Road for a report of theft of an airbag from a Honda.

Friday December 14, 2018 at 7:25 am, 'THEFT OF AIRBAG'

Cpl. J. Ignowski responded to the 5900 block of Berwyn Road for a report of theft of an airbag from a Honda.

Friday December 14, 2018 at 7:38 am, 'THEFT OF AIRBAG'

Cpl. J. Ignowski responded to the 5600 block of Berwyn Road for a report of

theft of an airbag from a Honda.

Saturday December 15, 2018 at 1:44 am, 'EPS'

Officers responded to the 5700 block of Berwyn Road for an individual fighting with his family. After a brief struggle, the (EPS) officers placed him in custody. EPS subject was combative and high on CDS.

Monday December 17, 2018 at 3:25 pm, 'MISCELLANEOUS POLICE REPORT'

Berwyn Heights Police Department received numerous tips regarding substandard living conditions of a home in the 5600 block of Goucher Drive. Indications are there are at least ten (10) tenants living in the dwelling. Reportedly, the residence currently has no heat, and there may be rat and/or roach infestations, posing a health and safety hazards to the tenants.

Wednesday December 18, 2018 at 7:22 am, 'THEFT OF TAG'

Cpl. J. Ignowski responded to 6105 Greenbelt Road for a report of a Maryland license plate taken from the rear of a 2014 Chrysler. The registration number of the missing plate is Maryland 70125CG with December 2020 validation sticker 70125CG attached. The suspect replaced the tag with Maryland plate 4AT5544.

Wednesday December 18, 2018 at 10:00 am, 'FRAUD'

Cpl. J. Ignowski responded to the 8500 block of 60th Place for a report of an identity theft. Victim reported that an unknown suspect opened an account in his name and created an outstanding bill in his name. Officer viewed an introduction letter and a bill in the amount of \$253.02 dated 12/11/2018 from Lendmark Financial Services, 6479 Baltimore National Pike, Catonsville, Maryland 21228. Victim reported that he called the merchant to discuss the bill and was told the suspect used a Pennsylvania driver's license and a United States Social Security Card in his name to purchase jewelry in the amount of \$6,500.00 from Elite Jewelers and then financed the purchase with Lendmark Financial Services. Case was forwarded to Det.Sgt. Unger.

Saturday December 22, 2018 at 4:15 pm, 'UNATTENDED DEATH / OVERDOSE'

Cpl. P. Roberson responded to the 7700 block of Edmonston Road for a death report. On scene, contact was made with fire department personnel who unsuccessfully attempted to resuscitate a 31 y/o male. Witness reports that she contacted 911 after discovering her tenant unresponsive. Responding PG Vice unit recovered a quantity of C.D.S. The body was transported to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner for an autopsy.

Tuesday December 25, 2018 at 11:07 am, 'THEFT'

Cpl. J. Ignowski and Sgt. T. Moroney responded to the X-TRA Fuel for a report of a theft of cigars. Suspect asked for a pack of Backwoods band cigars. When the cashier put the cigars on the sale counter, the suspect snatched them and fled the store. Suspect fled south on 60th Avenue then east on Seminole Street.

Wednesday December 26, 2018 at 9:42 pm, 'ANIMAL COMPLAINT'

Cpl. S. Krouse and Pvt. C. Rufino responded to the area of Kenilworth and Pontiac Street to assist County police with a dog struck by a car. County police requested a unit to dispatch the severely injured dog. The dog was dispatched with a 12 gauge departmental issued shotgun, the use of which was authorized by SGT Moroney.



CALL 911
For Emergencies

CALL 301-352-1200 For Non-Emergency Police Assistance

Tell the PGC Police Dispatcher the nature of your problem and ask that the on-duty BH Police Officer respond to your call.

Visit us online at:
<http://www.berwynheightsmd.gov/police-department>

BULLETIN BOARD

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.

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.

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.

Piano Lessons in your home. Former PGCPs music teacher, experienced private instructor. Students with special needs welcome. Ms. Liz 240-601-2825.

Moving? All The Way Moving. LLC licensed and insured company giving FREE wardrobe boxes along with low prices. NStudio or small 1 bedroom \$195-\$260. NLarge 1 bedroom or 2 bedroom \$260-\$375. N3 bedroom or a house \$763-\$1090. Prices shown are general. Please contact us for a free quote today. Call 202-820-0771.

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 and Jeremy have helped Berwyn Heights residents with mowing, raking, mulching, and more for several years. Call 301-474-2002.

Get Out More! Let me help you free up your time by helping you in different ways. If you have children, I babysit age 3 and up. Do your kids need help in school? I tutor in different subjects. Don't have time to exercise your lovable pet? I enjoy dog walking/sitting. Please call Greta at 301-982-7115. References upon request.

Help is Here. Do you need help grocery shopping, bill paying, pick up prescriptions, post office run, general household management, shopping and more...look no further...for \$20 per hour have your own personal concierge. Reliable, Dependable, Fast, and more importantly, TRUSTWORTHY. Call Jackie at 202-669-6297. I'll be there tomorrow.

Loving, Licensed Child Care: (CDA) credentialed in BH. M-F 6:30 AM to 5:30 PM. Ura Daley, 301-313-9131.

Infant or Senior Care: Nurse/midwife, recent US refugee, legal with work permit, looking for infant care or senior care. Full or part time. IRC internationally certified. Worked in Burundi and Tanzania. Special gift with babies, children with disabilities, and disabled adults. Intermediate English, fluent French. Does not drive. Contact: joselynkanyudo@gmail.com

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.

For Sale: Men's backpack, Kelty size 3, small/medium, excellent condition, \$30. Rollerblades, Women's size 8, good condition, \$10. Knee, elbow and wrist pads, \$5. Call 949-431-1128



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301-908-9427 (cell)
tgentile301@yahoo.com
www.homasgentile.com



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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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Email: parish@holy-redeemer.org

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FEBRUARY HAPPENINGS:

All Month-Artic House DC 21st Century Art.

Feb 6- PG Parks performance "Heros of the Underground Railroad".

Feb 9 BH "cookies and Cards" decorating fun for the family.

Feb 14-28 National Harbor "Big Apple Circus"

Feb 14 Valentines Day

Every Tues eve- BH Yoga.

Feb 25-28 Annapolis Restaurant week.

Feb trivia How many residents and homes are in Berwyn Heights? answer correctly and win Valentines Flowers!

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Price Adjustment-5814 Seminole St 3BR 2BA rambler w/
potential inlaw suite \$291,200.

Available- 6207 Seminole St 4BR 2BA, FP, potential inlaw suite
\$320,000.

SOLD-7916 Lakecrest Dr 1 BR end unit condo \$120K



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



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In Case of Emergency Call 911!

Recent Working Incidents

Dec 14: Truck 14 was alerted to the 1000Blk of Rhode Island Ave in College Park for a building fire. Truck 14 was first arriving unit and discovered heavy fire showing from a one story small commercial strip mall. Crew of Truck 14 searched and opened up the structure. Units operated for several hours until being released.

Dec 11: Truck 14 and Chief 14B operated on a Working Apartment Fire in the 200Blk of Lakeside Drive in Greenbelt, fire in the kitchen.

Nov 29: Truck 14 operated in the 11600Blk of 35th Ave in Beltsville for a Working House fire.

Nov 28: Truck 14, Squad 14, Ambo 14, Utility 14, and Chief 14B operated in the 5700Blk of Berwyn Road in Berwyn Heights for a working House Fire, fire on the 2nd floor.

Nov 16: Squad 14 & Chief 14B responded for Mutual Aid to MoCo, and operated in the 700Blk of North Hampton St in Silver Spring for the working House Fire, fire showing from the 2nd floor.

Nov 6: Truck 14 & Squad 14 operated in the 3300Blk of Major Denton Dr in Beltsville for a Townhouse Fire.

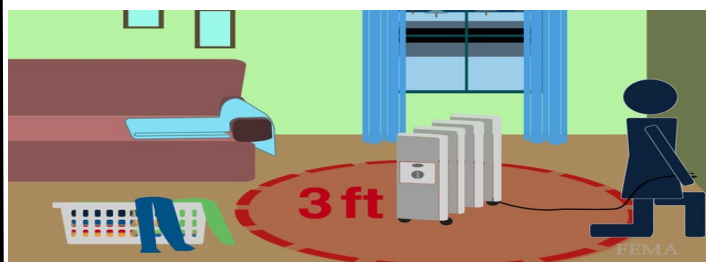
BHVFD Call Volume: November 2018	
Rescue Squads:	149
Ladder Truck:	101
Technical Rescue Support Unit:	3
Ambulance:	222
Total Runs Nov 2018:	475

THANK YOU!

We just wanted to thank all Town residents who contributed to our Annual Fund Drive mailer, and who purchased trees from our annual Christmas Tree Sale Fundraiser this year! These are our two largest fundraiser we hold to raise funds to help our Volunteer Fire Department going! As usual our Tree sale sold out two weeks early thanks to the community's support!

HEATING SAFETY TIPS:

Heating equipment is a leading cause of home fire deaths. Half of



home heating equipment fires are reported during the months of December, January, and February. Some simple steps can prevent most heating-related fires from happening.

- Keep anything that can burn at least **three feet away** from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.





February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 7:00 PM WORKSESSION 	5 7:30 PM REC COUNCIL MEETING 	6 	7 	8	9 1:00 PM VAKEBTINE'S CRAFTS
10 2:00 PM REGIFTING PARTY	11 	12 	13 	14 	15	16 10:00 AM TOWN CLEANUP
17 STREET SWEEPER	18 PRESIDENTS' DAY TOWN OFFICES OPEN 	19 7:00 PM WORKSESSION 	20 	21 	22	23
24	25 	26 	27 7:30 PM BHHHC MEETING 	28 		



Please do not park on the street when the street sweeper is in Town to ensure the street sweeper cleans everywhere along the curbs.

Trash, Bulk Trash, Yard Waste
North-side Collection



Trash, Bulk Trash, Yard Waste
South-side Collection



Recycling Collection



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Police Administrative Office (301) 474-6554
Code Compliance Department (301) 513-9331
Email: code@berwynheightsmd.gov
Public Works Department (301) 474-6897
Email: publicworks@berwynheightsmd.gov
Fire Department (301) 474-7866
Senior Center (301) 474-0018
Community Center (Gym) (301) 345-2808
Town Office (301) 474-5000
Office Hours: MON - FRI 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Call-a-Bus Reservations (301) 513-9331

Mayor and Council

Stephen D. Isler (301) 537-2228 sisler@berwynheightsmd.gov
Mayor — Public Health & Safety

Jason W. Papanikolas (240) 338-5191 jpapanikolas@berwynheightsmd.gov
Mayor Pro Tem — Administration

Ethan D. Sweep (218) 280-2273 esweep@berwynheightsmd.gov
Councilmember — Public Works

Amanda Dewey (443)-646-3529 adewey@berwynheightsmd.gov
Councilmember — Parks & Recreation, Education & Civic Affairs

Jeffrey Osmond — josmond@berwynheightsmd.gov
Councilmember — Code Compliance

Regular Trash Collection Schedule

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

Heavy Trash Day:
Monday for North of Pontiac
Tuesday 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@berwynheightsmd.gov
Be assured that your communication will be answered promptly

Watch Council Meetings



On Comcast channel 71
FIOS channel 12

Most recent meeting: M-S 11:00 A.M.
2nd most recent mtg: M-S 3:00 P.M.
3rd most recent mtg:
Tue, Thu, Fri., Sun.: 8:00 P.M.

Town of Berwyn Heights Website: <http://www.berwynheightsmd.gov>; Follow us on Twitter @BerwynHeightsMD

Questions — call Kerstin Harper, Administration at (301) 474-5000, or email kharp@berwynheightsmd.gov
Advertising Rates — call Yvonne Odoi, Administration at 301-474-5000, or email: yodoi@berwynheightsmd.gov
Submission Deadline is the 15th of the month
Helen Van Doren: Layout