

Berwyn Heights Bulletin

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

May 2013



Photo courtesy David Williams

BERWYN HEIGHTS DAY

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FY 2014 BUDGET

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CLUB CAMPOUT**



THANK YOU TO BHES GARDEN VOLUNTEERS

The Berwyn Heights Elementary School, the BHES PTA, and BHES Garden Group would like to send a GREAT, BIG THANK YOU to all who helped with the school gardens this spring.

Frank Guidry, Lowes in Laurel, for the very kind donation towards our Peace Garden Patio.

Freddie Romero, Berwyn Heights, for his expert masonry work in building the stone patio in the Peace Garden.

Rusty Barrett, Berwyn Heights, for tilling the biggest and weediest garden at the school, and...

All Garden Volunteers who helped on School Garden Clean Up Day!!



Please come and take a look at the BHES gardens. We have been hard at work making the gardens into a place the children can enjoy and learn in. Some classes planted the salad garden project this April, with plans to harvest it before the school year ends! The Peace Garden is finished. Students can now use it to learn, find peace within themselves, and share findings with others. Find out what sensations your child can experience in it.

HOLIDAY TRASH SCHEDULE

TOWN OFFICES CLOSED ON

Memorial Day

Mon	May 27	NO PICKUP
Tue	May 28	Trash Pickup, Entire Town
Wed	May 29	Recycling & Yard Waste, Entire Town
Thu	May 30	Trash & Bulk Trash, North Side
Fri	May 31	Trash & Bulk Trash, South Side

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

See Also Calendar on Page 31

N. AUDREY FOSTER †

N. Audrey Foster, beloved wife of 72 years to Calvin C. Foster, loving mother of Calvin C. Foster, Jr. and the late Kenneth N. Foster, grand-daughter Jennifer L. McEldowney and 2 great grandchildren, passed away on March 24, 2013.

IMPORTANT PEPCO TELEPHONE NUMBERS



English Speaking Customers

**CALL (202) 872-3432 TO REPORT
Downed Wires, Burning Wires, Struck
Poles or Life Threatening Electrical
System Situations**

**CALL (877) 737-2662 TO REPORT
Power Outages**

**CALL (877) 737-2662 TO REPORT
Report Street Light Out
(Need Pepco Pole Number and
house number of nearest house)**

Hard of Hearing Customers

TTY (202) 872-2369

Spanish Speaking Customers

**CALL (202) 872-4641 por
Servicio en Espanol**

**Languages other than English or
Spanish**

CALL (202) 833-7500

**Customers with Emergency Medical
or Life Support Equipment or Special
Needs**

**CALL (202) 833-7500 FOR
Registration to be on Priority List**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TOWN BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2014

The Town Council of the Town of Berwyn Heights will hold a public hearing and adopt the budget for the Town for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014 at 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 8, 2013, at the Town Administration Building, 5700 Berwyn Road, Berwyn Heights.

The Public Hearing is open to the public and public testimony or comments are encouraged. Persons with questions regarding this hearing may call (301) 474-5000 for further information.

See pages 16-18 for budget schedule and information.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON SPECIAL PUBLIC SAFETY TAXING DISTRICT BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2014

The Town Council of the Town of Berwyn Heights will hold a public hearing on and adopt the budget for the Special Public Safety Taxing District for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014 at 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 8, 2013, at the Town Administration Building, 5700 Berwyn Road, Berwyn Heights.

The Public Hearing is open to the public and public testimony or comments are encouraged. Persons with questions regarding this hearing may call (301) 474-5000 for further information.

See pages 16—18 for budget schedule and information.

Worksession

March 4, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:13 p.m. Present were Mayor Calvo, Mayor Pro Tem (MPT) Wilkinson, Councilmembers (CMs) Almoguera, Dennison and Kulpa-Eddy. Also present was Clerk Harper and Budget Assistant Kyle Snyder. Town Administrator (TA) Murphy participated via Skype.

1. Mayor

Announcements: Sarah & Christopher Dennison are celebrating her 27th birthday today. This Sunday begins daylight savings time. Clocks should be set one hour forward. MPT Wilkinson will start a new job in 2 weeks as Vice President of the National Foreign Trade Council.

Calendar: The date for the Berwyn Heights Elementary School Talent Show was added for April 19th, 7 p.m. An April 29th budget worksession was marked tentative and may be canceled.

Minutes: On a motion by MPT Wilkinson and second by CM Kulpa-Eddy, the February 19 worksession minutes were approved 5 to 0. The minutes of the February 13 Town meeting were distributed for review.

Department reports: Mayor Calvo reported that the Town signed a joint Four Cities Coalition letter and sent a separate individual letter supporting the relocation of the FBI headquarters to Greenbelt Station. The Town also signed onto a Four Cities Coalition letter opposing staff cuts at the Branchville Volunteer Fire Department. Corporal Bennett will be retiring from the Berwyn Heights Police Department and will say goodbye at the March 13 Town meeting. Her departure will create a vacancy the Council may opt not to fill in the upcoming budget. Mayor Calvo last week testified on a bill, sponsored by Delegate Kris Valderrama and Senator Jennie Forehand, to repeal the sunset of 2007 SWAT team legislation that requires police to report on and track the deployment of SWAT teams. Statistics show that, over the last 3 years, there were 4,850 deployments of SWAT teams in Maryland, with Prince George's County leading the count.

CM Dennison announced that the annual Talent Show will be held on April 19 at BHES, with a dress rehearsal taking place on the evening prior. MPT Wilkinson reported that the Public Works Department is preparing for a snow storm. CM Kulpa-Eddy said that the Emergency Preparedness Committee is getting ready for a CERT training workshop this

weekend. However, she will have to miss part of it to testify on a hearing for a bond bill that funds emergency generators at the Town Center.

Citizen comments: Mayor Calvo said the Council received an email from a resident who urged the Town to support the FBI headquarters relocation and not to incur debt to obtain emergency generators. The resident was under the misconception that the bond bill is a form of borrowing funds. A resident informed Mayor Calvo that the Acting Director of the Department of Environmental Resources, Adam Ortiz, is bringing together groups concerned with animal welfare to get their input on improving the operation of the County's animal shelter. MPT Wilkinson received an inquiry about recycling light bulbs. He replied that compact fluorescent bulbs can be taken to Best Buy, which has a designated container in their store.

Town Administrator's proposed budget: TA Murphy presented the proposed FY 2014 budget. He said that the focus of this budget is on how to make up for a loss of \$231,000 or 16% in real property tax revenues due to the decline in assessments. A large part of the loss is made up by an increase in income tax receipts, which are proposed to go up from \$285,000 this year to \$345,000 next year. This reflects an increase in actual income tax revenues the Town received in the last two years. In FY 2012, actual receipts came in at \$367,500 and in FY 2013, the Town expects to receive \$378,000, or \$92,000 more than the budgeted amount. However, the FY 2014 budget has a more conservative figure of \$345,000 to account for a dampening effect of sequestration on the federal budget. The combined increase in income and personal property tax receipts produce a less drastic decline in overall tax revenues of 8%.

Revenues other than taxes are budgeted as follows:

- ◆ + 5,300 (4%) in *licenses & permits*. This is due mostly to a \$6,000 increase in receipts from rental licenses. Receipts from building permits are also up by \$1,000.
- ◆ + \$53,000 (80%) in *intergovernmental* receipts. State police aid is up by \$20,000 from last year, for a budgeted amount of \$51,700. Highway User Revenues (HUR) are up by \$33,000, for a budgeted amount of \$59,700.
- ◆ + \$2,000 (4%) in *finances & forfeitures*. Most of the increase

would come from code fines, where the department is instituting a new policy to increase fine amounts for repeat violations. It is hoped that this will result in better compliance. Police fines are budgeted to come in at \$36,000, the same amount as last year, despite a projected a shortfall in the actual receipts this year.

- ◆ I- \$2,200 (3%) in *miscellaneous* receipts. Police fingerprinting and reports are down by \$2,000 and Cable TV franchise fees by \$1,000. Interest earnings on idle cash have gone up, however, since the Town switched its accounts to Old Line Bank and are proposed to increase by \$2,000.

Overall revenues are budgeted to go down by \$126,500.

TA Murphy continued with an overview of proposed expenditures.

- ◆ 0% increase in *general government* expenditures of \$396,000. The *Administration* budget, which includes Bulletin publishing, audit, payroll processing and network support, is proposed to go down by \$500 to \$309,500. *Municipal building* expenditures were cut by \$800 to \$30,100, while Town Center expenditures were increased by \$200 to \$33,100. The driver of the building budgets is maintenance and repair, of which regular mandated inspections make up a large part.
- ◆ - \$58,800 (9%) in *Police Department* budget to \$579,000. The reduction is obtained by not filling an upcoming police officer vacancy (private pay grade). Additional savings of \$12,400 are achieved from cuts in the gas & oil, capital outlays >500, supplies, uniforms, communications, and network support appropriations.
- ◆ - \$9,300 (8%) in *Code Department* budget to \$106,000. The reductions are obtained from cutting the part-time clerk position from 15 to 10 hours/week, and the part-time officers' hours from 20 to 10 hours/week. Additional savings of \$5,000 come from a \$2,500 cut in the postage appropriation proposed by the Code Director, and several minor cuts in other line items.

- ◆ - \$64,500 (9%) in *Public Works Department* budget to \$635,100. The main cut of \$63,800 is in the *salaries* line item, where the current director and administrative assistant positions are left vacant. Their responsibilities are carried out by the current director of operations. The budget adds money for crack sealing in the equipment and supplies line item, although not as much as proposed by the acting director. The temporary help appropriation was budgeted \$12,400 for hiring additional laborers during the leaf collection season and crack sealing periods. The budget phases out all line items related to the recycling program, except recycling supplies, as requested by the Council.
- ◆ - \$3,100 (11%) in Parks & Recreation Department budget to \$25,000. The reduction is obtained from cutting \$5,000 from the Pop's Park equipment appropriation, in the expectation that a state grant will be awarded for a wholesale renovation of the playground. An increase of \$1,000 was made in the Pop's Park supplies appropriation to pay for mulch, and \$700 was added to the concession stand line item to pay for repairs.
- ◆ -1% reduction has been budgeted in the *Cable* budget.
- ◆ - \$2,800 (1%) in the *miscellaneous* budget to \$376,000. Insurance costs have declined by \$1,620 due to a decline in unemployment compensation and general liability expenditures. Health insurance costs have been budgeted for a modest increase of \$2,700 (2%) to \$115,400 overall. While health insurance costs under the current plan would go up by 10.7%, an alternate lower rate of 3.9% can be secured if deductibles for employees are increased. Employee benefit costs overall will remain at last year's level due to a decrease of \$2,800 in pension contributions. The decline would have been greater with the 2 vacancies, if the State of Maryland had not imposed a quarterly administrative fee of \$800 and raised pension contributions to 10%.

- ◆ + \$13,000 (6%) in *Capital Expenditures* to \$242,200. The increase is due largely to a \$23,300 increase in Highway User Revenues (HUR), which are placed into the Town's infrastructure reserve. However, there is a \$12,300 offset due to a decline in receipts from the road tax. The expense for a new police car has gone up by \$2,000 to \$33,900. Transfers from surplus into the vehicle replacement have ended as all Public Works vehicles are now in the budget.

Mayor Calvo said that TA Murphy was able to balance the budget because of severe spending cuts without increases in the tax rate or transfers from surplus. The only new service proposed is a crack-sealing program to extend the lifetime of Town streets. This budget is a worst case scenario. It can serve as a baseline from which the Council can opt to restore funding by raising taxes or using surplus. It is one of the main issues the Council will address during the budget discussions: which services are deemed important enough to appropriate additional funds. Other important questions that will need to be answered are: 1) what is the financial situation likely to be over the next 3 years; and 2) what level of compensation should employees receive. He believes that the budget should not be balanced on the backs of employees and would like to consider re-instituting a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) in addition to the merit increases employees have continued to receive. Further, the Council will have to figure out how the new health care law impacts employees' health insurance benefits. Finally, the Council needs to decide what to do about the smaller accounts, such as whether to increase police and code fines or fund things important to community life.

At 8:20 p.m., the Council took a 5 minute break.

MPT Wilkinson commented he is glad that the Town was able to complete many of the building improvements this year, including new roofs, gutters and repairs of the DPW lean-to and Town Center tower and staircase. He expressed concern that the income tax receipts may be too low and that there are insufficient funds for Sports Park maintenance & repair, including for the batting cage and the picnic area. He thought that the Public Works Department could fit in 4 weeks of crack-sealing, with 2 weeks in spring and 2 weeks in fall. In addition, the crew may

need more cold patch to fix more pot holes in-house. TA Murphy said that repairing pot holes usually requires cutting wider and deeper holes to remove loose material and putting in a base before applying the patch.

CM Kulpa-Eddy sought clarification on Public Works staffing. TA Murphy said that the administrative assistant position is vacant because Mr. Lockley was made supervisor of operations. CM Almoguera proposed to increase the Playgroup appropriation by \$100 to \$250. Playgroup has grown to 75 families and would be a good place to welcome new families in Town. The money would pay for the annual BBQ and for a possible dedication ceremony for the renovated playground.

Mayor Calvo said that there may be some one-time expenditures that require use of the surplus, among them the Town Administrator search, tree planting along Edmonston Road, and recycling supplies. He encouraged the Council to make a list of items that must be funded and a list of things that the Council wishes to fund.

Pepco Tree Trimming MOU: TA Murphy provided a draft Memorandum of Understanding to give Berwyn Heights more input on Pepco's tree trimming decisions. It is based on an MOU Greenbelt has with Pepco but the Town may want to change some provisions, including: 1) whether the Town should require notification of perhaps 4-5 days for emergency work; 2) whether to give the Mayor authority to issue stop work orders, in addition to the Town Administrator; and 3) whether to delete the provision that gives Pepco the option to cancel the MOU upon 60 days notice. Additionally, the Council may want to require Pepco to obtain permits from the Town and to submit detailed plans before undertaking tree work, as Greenbelt does.

Mayor Calvo said that Greenbelt's MOU works in conjunction with a city ordinance that requires permits for tree work. He thinks the permit requirement for tree work in the Town's right-of-way should be in an ordinance that applies to utilities generally rather than only to Pepco. While he likes some of the changes TA Murphy proposes; it would be difficult to negotiate those concessions. It would be easier to secure concessions already granted in Greenbelt's MOU. Regarding the stop-work order, he thinks it is proper for the Town Administrator or another staff member to issue it. The Mayor could do so if the town administrator is not available. Similarly, extending the notification period from 60 to 90 days to cancel the MOU is pointless because the Town cannot stop Pepco from doing so;

but the Town would no longer be under an obligation not to issue stop-work orders.

CM Kulpa-Eddy said that Pepco notified residents of the tree trimming work they did in the Town last summer, although the notification was not specific about locations and was sent 3 months prior to their arrival. CM Almoguera said that Pepco should be asked to be more specific about when and where the work is performed so the Town can monitor what they are doing. Mayor Calvo said this can be accomplished through a permit, which would be valid for a certain period. Pepco should also be asked to present plans for major tree work to the Town Council. TA Murphy was asked to revise the MOU to include the Council's changes and seek to obtain Pepco's consent.

2. Administration

Bulletin cover: The following items were approved for the April Bulletin cover: Talent Show theme; announcements of Talent Show, introduction of FY 2014 budget and Berwyn Heights Day.

Emergency generators bond bill: TA Murphy said this Saturday the House and Senate of the Maryland General Assembly will hold a hearing on the bond bill that provides funding for the emergency generators at the Town Center and Town Administration building. It is helpful for Town councilmembers to appear before the committees and show support. The Town is requesting the State to contribute half of the estimated cost of \$160,000 to purchase and install the generators. The Town would pay the other half.

Mayor Calvo said that he plans to testify and asked TA Murphy to draft a written statement by Wednesday, which he will adapt to prepare a 3 minute testimony. It is important that he has the details on the equipment, installation requirements and costs so he can fully answer any questions CM Kulpa-Eddy also plans to attend.

Nothing was discussed under **3. Code Compliance, 4. Parks & Recreation, 5. Public Safety, and 6. Public Works.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Kerstin Harper, Town Clerk

Budget Worksession March 11, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mayor

Calvo, MPT Wilkinson, CMs Ahrens Denison and Kulpa-Eddy. Mayor Calvo arrived late with apologies. Also present were Town Administrator (TA) Murphy, Clerk Harper and Mike Attick.

1. Mayor

Announcements: Mayor Calvo sent his apologies for a late arrival.

2. Budget

MPT Wilkinson asked Councilmembers to review the proposed budget by department and by major activity to identify line items that should be changed. Decisions were postponed until after Mayor Calvo's arrival.

Revenues

Taxes: MPT Wilkinson noted that this budget is structured to make up for a loss of \$231,000 in real property tax revenues from last year's total of \$1,461,000, as discussed at previous worksessions. TA Murphy added that the decline is the result of the recent reassessment. The Town lost approximately \$50 million in assessed value. The decline will also be reflected in road tax receipts, which are down by \$14,200. Personal property tax receipts are up by \$1,800, and income taxes are proposed to go up by \$60,000, making up for some of the losses.

Licenses & Permits: These revenues are projected to go down by 8% overall. As most license and permit fees have not been raised in many years, the Council has marked them for potential increases. Business license receipts have gone down in recent years as the number of businesses in the commercial district has declined. Rental license receipts are projected to go up due to an increase in rental units. The line item for media resource center membership fees can be deleted or hidden because the center has been closed.

Intergovernmental: These revenues are proposed to go up by 80% in FY 2014 due to increases in state police aid of \$19,700 to \$51,700 and highway user revenues (HUR) by \$33,300 to \$59,700. For FY 2014, there are indications that in FY 2015, HUR may decline again.

Fines & Forfeitures: Police fines & forfeitures are proposed at \$36,000, same as last year, although the long term trend in police fines is down. Code fines, including those paid through liens, are projected to go up by \$2,000 to \$19,200, based on a planned increase in fines for repeat violations. CM Kulpa-Eddy suggested giving residents the option of paying a \$50 cash fine for a repeat violation, instead of going through the lien process, where they would be charged interest.

Miscellaneous: *Interests & dividends* are

up by \$1,200 to \$6,600 because the Town switched its accounts to a bank with a higher interest rate. Recycling disposal receipts are proposed at \$3,600, the same amount as last year. Currently, the recycling market is such that the Town earns money from disposal of recyclables. Town Center rental receipts are down from previous years because the Town increased rates and because incomes are down. The Town could advertise the rental facility to boost rentals. Other appropriations in the miscellaneous budget, including miscellaneous police services, cable TV PEG grants and abatements, are either flat or declining, for an overall decline of \$2,200 or 3%.

CM Kulpa-Eddy noted a WSSC reimbursement of \$31,000 for FY 2012 for damaging the Town's streets during a water main replacement project. She asked if WSSC will also reimburse the Town for inadequate workmanship in resurfacing Osage Street after a sewer replacement project. TA Murphy said that WSSC committed to pay the Town \$100,000 when the road is due for renovation. CM Kulpa-Eddy said that the Town should monitor WSSC when they start to do work on storm water lines along Indian Creek.

Expenditures

General Government

Mayor & Council: TA Murphy noted that the public relations appropriation still contains \$2,000 earmarked for a joint BHES-Community Center computer center but was proposed for funding a budget assistant for TA Murphy. FY 2013 actual for the conferences & training line item is still below the budgeted because the MML summer conference fees have not been paid yet.

Town Administration: The bulletin appropriation, which covers layout, printing and mailing, is slated to remain flat. The audit appropriation has been held to \$12,000 because the auditor has charged in excess of an agreed upon amount. Legal expenses, which are at the Council's discretion, are proposed to go down by \$1,000 to \$6,000.

MPT Wilkinson noted that \$1,050 is budgeted for the 2014 Town election. He asked what it would cost to rent voting machines. TA Murphy said that would add approximately \$2,000 to the appropriation. MPT Wilkinson asked if the Town Administrator search is budgeted under administration. TA Murphy said that is not yet budgeted but could be charged under the miscellaneous line item, or possibly to the Mayor & Council budget.

At 7:47 p.m., Mayor Calvo arrived.

TA Murphy noted that network support is proposed to decline by \$3,500 to \$6,500 as the Town just went through a computer and software upgrade. The \$8,000 capital equipment >500 appropriation has funds for the purchase of additional computers across all departments, including a new server for the Police Department. Mayor Calvo said that this appropriation was intended to fund regularly scheduled upgrades of computers and accessories in accordance with a town-wide IT plan. A server should not be part of this line item. He expressed skepticism about the \$3,500 decrease in the network support line item as the FY 2013 estimate is for \$10,000. The law books appropriation of \$2,000 might be reduced as all statutes can now be accessed online. A subscription, that includes access to case law, is likely to be cheaper than purchasing the books.

Municipal Building: The only change to this budget is in the maintenance & repair line item, which is proposed to decrease by \$1,000 to \$9,000. Many improvements have been made last year, including replacement of the roof and installation of energy efficient lights, which will likely reduce costs in the coming year. Hospitality and custodial supplies may be too low. CM Almoguera proposed to increase custodial supplies by \$100.

Town Center: Mayor Calvo noted that with the exception of salaries, this budget is proposed to be flat at \$23,700. The maintenance & repairs appropriation is proposed to remain flat at \$11,000 despite estimated expenditures of \$12,300. TA Murphy said that the new handicap accessible door to the Senior Center has had expensive repairs. It probably needs a dedicated electric line to the panel. The estimated FY 2013 electricity appropriation is considerably below the FY 2014 budgeted amount, possibly due to the installation of energy saving lights. The capital outlay appropriations have been moved to the capital expenditures budget and can be deleted from the Town Center budget. The old utility account can also be deleted.

At 8:15 p.m., the Council took a 5 minute break.

Public Safety

Police Department: The Police Department budget is proposed to go down by \$58,200 or 10%. This is due to the elimination of one vacant police officer position for a saving of \$42,600. The Council will need to decide later whether to apply some of the savings to increase the hours of the part-time officer, who cur-

rently administers the speed camera program at 10 hours per week. TA Murphy provided a cost-analysis for different amounts of hours added per week. Additional savings from cutting a full-time officer position accrue because police vehicle and uniform expenditures will go down.

Mike Attick suggested making the part-time officer full-time. The Town would still save money because the current part-time officer has his own health insurance, while the work of reviewing speed camera tickets can be divided among the remaining officers. Mayor Calvo said that the Town would save some money, but it would have to pay a pro-rated share of what that full-time employee's health insurance would be. In addition, there would costs related to holiday pay, sick leave and pension benefits.

Mayor Calvo thought that the gas & oil appropriation could be reduced, which is based on a projected cost of \$4.25 - \$4.50 per gallon. This year the cost of gasoline averaged \$3, 70 per gallon. TA Murphy said he has cut this line item because less gas will be used with one less full-time officer. CM Kulpa-Eddy said the National Night Out appropriation is too low at \$800. The cost of the event was \$2,400 last year with the remainder being funded from donations.

TA Murphy said that the capital outlay >500 appropriation was cut substantially, eliminating a new server and funding only 2 new laptops instead of the 8 requested. Mayor Calvo said that there may be some money left in this budget to purchase needed laptops, or additional funds may become available through secret service task force forfeitures. Chief Antolik should provide a 10 year history of capital purchases to show what IT and other equipment needs the Police Department has.

Code Compliance

Code Compliance Program: This budget is proposed to go down by \$9,300 or 9%, mostly due to the reduction in part-time hours to one of the officer position and the code clerk position. The postage line item was cut from \$5,500 to \$3,000 or 45% because communication with homeowners and landlords has been largely switched to email and regular mail, instead of certified mail. The vehicle maintenance & repair line can be reduced more because the new car will be less expensive to maintain, especially if Public Works performs oil changes.

TA Murphy noted that the van program was cut by \$100 or 10%. Mayor Calvo said that this is not based on past experience. He would leave this appropriation

unchanged.

Public Works

Building: TA Murphy said he cut this budget by \$4,000 or 12% by going back to FY 2012 expenditure levels. The expenditures in this fiscal year were above normal levels because a lot of upgrades and repairs were undertaken. This includes installation of energy-efficient lighting and gas heaters, bathroom renovation, and purchase of a new training laptop. Mayor Calvo said he would like to have more details on what upgrades were made and to which account they were charged. He would also prefer the Energy Grant appropriation be moved to the capital expenditures budget.

Streets & Sanitation: This budget is proposed to be cut by \$61,000 to \$566,200 or 10%. As in the Police Department, the reduction has been achieved mainly by eliminating a vacant full-time position. A substantial reduction in temporary staffing hours is also proposed. It budgets 960 hour for 2 temporary staff to help during leaf season and crack sealing. Mayor Calvo said he would like to restore some of the money to add temporary staff hours and give the department more flexibility to accomplish labor intensive jobs. The director could also use this money to give more hours to the current part-time employees if he prefers it.

MPT Wilkinson asked why the estimated expenses in the gas & oil line item exceed what was budgeted. TA Murphy said that cost of diesel fuel has remained at around \$4.30 per gallon but usage is up. He does not know why but believes that the new larger truck requires special fuel that is more expensive and uses more of it. Mayor Calvo said he would like to have more information on this line item to understand the expenses.

The equipment rental line item was increased by \$3,000 to \$8,000 so that Public Works can rent crack-sealing equipment for street repairs. The street projects line item may also be increased by shifting \$10,000 from the infrastructure reserve to deal with any incidental street problems.

Mayor Calvo said he would like to add money to the tree service line item to replace trees Pepco cut down along Edmonston Road and to trim trees in the right of way where needed. Last year, Public Works rented a cherry picker to do this kind of work. However, the Town cannot trim trees within 2 feet of the power lines. CM Kulpa-Eddy said she has flagged tree service for a potential cut.

TA Murphy was asked to delete line

items that are no longer relevant, such as DPW lease purchases and the recycling line items that were moved to the streets & sanitation budget.

PRECA

The Parks & Recreation budget is proposed to be cut by \$3,200 to \$25,000 or 11%, mainly by cutting money from the equipment line item. Last year, the Council had added money to this appropriation to pay for new playground equipment, which may not be needed if the Town is awarded a State grant for a new playground. The supplies line item was increased to pay for mulch and potential higher repair expenses associated with a new playground. CM Almoguera said that the equipment line item could be zeroed out if the grant is awarded. MPT Wilkinson suggested that this year the money might be moved to Sports Park for new batting cages. CM Almoguera requested raising the supplies line item to fund the dedication for the new playground. She moved, and MPT Wilkinson seconded, to shift \$100 from the equipment line to the supplies line for this purpose. The motion passed 5 to 0. TA Murphy was asked delete the recreation aide line item.

Miscellaneous

Insurance: This budget is proposed to go down by \$1,600 or 1% this year, but the Town has not yet received the final rate information. IWIF provided a preliminary estimate of \$7,000, which does not include the audit. For health insurance, it is proposed to stay with CareFirst but switch to a higher deductible plan. This would reduce rate increases from 10.7% to a 3.9%. However, the Town will not receive final quotes on insurance rates until May. Mayor Calvo said that currently the Town pays 100% of employees' deductibles through Health Reimbursement Account (HRA). The Council may want to consider having employees pickup a share. TA Murphy pointed out that usage of this money is very low. He will provide a break-down of health insurance costs.

Mayor Calvo said that he would like to discuss merit increases as part of a more general discussion about salaries. Salary increases have not kept up with cost of living increases (COLA) in the last few years. He would like to find a way to adjust salaries for the rate of inflation, and give a cost of living increase either this year or next. CM Almoguera asked if a COLA could be paid from surplus. Mayor Calvo replied that money would have to be taken from surplus for 3 years or until the next re-assessment. It implies a wager that the real estate market will recover sufficiently to pay for the increased salaries implemented now. If not, the

Town will have to raise taxes.

CM Kulpa-Eddy asked if the street sweeper appropriation is based on a contract with the other Four Cities municipalities. TA Murphy said that is based on paying 25% of the employee's salary who drives the sweeper, and 10% of the fuel and maintenance costs.

Capital Expenditures – Operating Budget

Mayor Calvo said that it is not necessary to break out the different transfers to the infrastructure reserve. Also, he would like to appropriate some money for replanting of buffer trees along Edmonston Road to offset the Pepco's excessive tree trimming. This expense could be kept to a minimum by purchasing young trees and shrubs and having Public Works plant them.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:41 p.m.

Kerstin Harper, Town Clerk

Town Meeting

March 13, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Calvo, Mayor Pro Tem (MPT) Wilkinson, CMs Dennison and Kulpa-Eddy. CM Almoguera had an excused absence. Also present were Town Administrator (TA) Murphy, Chief of Police Antolik, Treasurer Lape, Clerk Harper and citizens.

Mayor Calvo led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Presentation

Mayor Calvo announced that Corporal Michelle Bennett will retire as an officer of the Berwyn Heights Police Department and has come to bid the Town good bye. Chief Antolik said that he has known Ms. Bennett since she was a child and is sad to see her go. She was an excellent community resource officer and an asset to the Town. In appreciation of her service, Chief Antolik presented her with a retirement badge.

Mayor Calvo said that Officer Bennett joined the Berwyn Heights police in 2006 after a less than satisfying career at the Prince George's County Police Department. In his time as Mayor, he has not met another officer, who has embraced service for the Town with the same enthusiasm. Ms. Bennett was particularly successful in forging a close relationship with the young people of Berwyn

Heights. She will also be remembered for transforming National Night Out into an event that is rivaled in popularity only by Berwyn Heights Day. Mayor Calvo presented Ms. Bennett with a plaque to thank her for her service.

Officer Bennett said that Berwyn Heights felt like breath of fresh air after her service on the Prince George's County police force. The friendly reception she received inspired a new commitment to her job and the people she served. She loved working with young people and their families, and thanks the Town of Berwyn Heights for giving her this opportunity.

MPT Wilkinson said that Officer Bennett has been a wonderful female role model for children, especially minority children. He thanked her for her conscientious and professional interaction with the school community, which will be greatly missed. CM Kulpa-Eddy thanked Ms. Bennett for her support and cooperation with the Neighborhood Watch/Emergency Preparedness Committee. CM Dennison said that it was good to have a woman officer to talk to, and thanked Ms. Bennett for helping her family.

2. Minutes

Clerk Harper read a summary of the February 13 Town meeting minutes. On a motion by CM Dennison and second by MPT Wilkinson, the minutes were approved 4 to 0.

3. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Lape gave the Treasurer's report for the month of February. Mayor Calvo asked to break out speed camera revenues as a separate item in future treasurer's reports.

4. Mayor's Report

Mayor Calvo welcomed TA Murphy back from a 2 month absence. Mayor Calvo gave an overview of the proposed FY 2014 budget, which is structured to compensate for a 16% decline in real property tax revenues after the recent assessment. The revenue shortfall reduces the budget by 10% overall or \$261,500, but maintains the existing tax rates. An increase of 21% or \$60,000 in income tax receipts helps offset some of the losses. A \$33,000 increase in Highway User Revenues (HUR) and an uptick in receipts from Code fines and fees also make up some of the lost revenue.

Despite the offsets, TA Murphy had to make \$135,000 in cuts to the operating budget to balance revenues and expenditures. This was accomplished mainly by eliminating vacant full-time positions in the Police and Public Works Depart-

ments, as well as some part-time hours in the Code Department. The Parks & Recreation budget was reduced by 11% by cutting the playground equipment appropriation. It is hoped that a state grant will pay for a complete overhaul of the Pop's Park playground. Health insurance costs are expected to increase by 11% but exact figures remain unknown until the Town receives the quotes for next year in May. The infrastructure reserve is in good shape because of the increase in Highway User Revenues. This enables the Town to plan for another street renovation project in the near future.

Mayor Calvo continued that the Town of Berwyn Heights remains in a strong financial position. Strong reserves and a substantial surplus provide a cushion to get the Town through the difficult times. The Town Council plans to mitigate the cuts in personnel in the Police and Public Works Department by providing funds to increase the hours of current part-time staff when needed. The Council is also thinking about giving a cost of living increase (COLA) to Town employees, whose salaries have not kept up with the rate of inflation and higher benefit contributions. Residents are welcome to give input on the proposed budget in upcoming worksessions,

In other news, Mayor Calvo reported that he, CM Kulpa-Eddy and TA Murphy spent last Saturday in Annapolis testifying on a bond bill. The bill was sponsored by Berwyn Heights' legislative delegation and will help fund emergency generators at the Town Center and the Town Administration Building. The State and the Town each would pay half of the estimated \$160,000 it would cost to install the backup gas generators. Berwyn Heights also signed a Four Cities letter supporting the relocation of the FBI Headquarters to Greenbelt Station and sent an individual letter as well. The relocation is widely believed to be a big boost to this area's economy and has stirred a lot of interest among residents.

Further, Mayor Calvo commended the Neighborhood Watch/Emergency Preparedness Committee (NW/EP) for the CERT workshop they held last weekend. It drew more than 30 people, including 8 from Berwyn Heights. When he stopped by, he was impressed with the level of organization and the enthusiasm in the room.

5. Department Reports

Administration: No report.

Code Compliance: CM Kulpa-Eddy corrected a statement she made at the last Town meeting: the new code car is a

Ford Escape, not a Ford Explorer. Further, CM Kulpa-Eddy said she had the opportunity to listen to the hearing on the FBI Headquarters relocation in the US House of Representatives this morning. The General Services Administration (GSA) received 35 packets in response to its Request for Information from interested jurisdictions, including West Virginia and Pennsylvania. Maryland was represented by Steny Hoyer and Donna Edwards. It will take approximately 60 days for GSA to go through the information packets and narrow the field. A formal Request for Proposals may be issued sometime in the summer.

In Code news, CM Kulpa-Eddy appealed to business owners to keep up their properties. As businesses are located mostly along Greenbelt Road, they are the first thing many people see of the Town of Berwyn Heights. A well kept business district not only gives a good impression of the Town but will help draw customers and clients. The Town has a clean lot ordinance that details the requirements for maintaining commercial properties. This includes keeping grass cut below 6 inches, and trees and shrubs neatly trimmed so that they do not obscure sight lines for drivers. All structures including parking lots must be structurally sound and kept free of trash and litter.

Parks and Recreation, Education and Civic Affairs: CM Dennison announced an upcoming Talent Show on April 19 and Berwyn Heights Day on May 4. All Town committees should attend the next Recreation Council meeting to coordinate their participation.

Public Health and Safety: Chief Antolik gave the police activities report for February. There were 4 Part I offenses, as opposed to the 5 year average for February of 6. The year-to-date total is 7, half of the 5 year average of 13.2. Police also issued 60 State and 41 Town citations. The speed camera program generated 51 tickets on Pontiac Street and 218 on Greenbelt Road, for a total of 269. Lastly, Chief Antolik issued reminders for celebrating a safe St. Patrick's Day.

James Hurley, President of the Berwyn Heights Volunteer Fire Department (BHVFD) reported that the Department had a busy month, with fires in Greenbelt and Lanham and numerous accidents. Two fire fighters participated in the CERT training last weekend and were certified. Mr. Hurley encouraged the Council and residents to follow the BHVFD on their website at www.BHVFD14.org as well as on Facebook and Twitter for the latest news.

Mr. Hurley said that BHVFD heard from the Fire Commission that the County Fire Department's budget will be tight next year. There is likely to be a change in the billing procedure for ambulance services as a result of the expiration of an MOU with the County this June. Currently, the County bills for ambulance services. The volunteer companies, who mostly own their ambulances, receive a share of the receipts. This largest source of revenue for BHVFD is now somewhat uncertain.

Mr. Hurley said that the BHVFD's fundraising drive has ended for this year and receipts continued to go down. Although an effort is made to keep the list of addresses updated, the donations mostly come from the same families. The department hopes that the Town will continue to support it with a donation. A welcome development was the introduction of Senate Bill 0899, which appropriates state money for volunteer companies to maintain and upgrade their facilities. He will let the Town know if a letter of support would be useful.

Public Works: MPT Wilkinson reported that the Nevada Street trail is now completed and connects Nevada Street with Indian Creek trail. Further, he has received word that the PGCPs construction office has put sidewalks out to bid connecting the old to the new Greenbelt Middle School. The State Highway Administration came out for an on-site visit regarding the safe routes to school grant. Prospects for funding a sidewalk on the 8900 block of 63rd Avenue are good. SHA officials had lot of questions about the raised crosswalk on Pontiac Street, and expressed reservations about funding sidewalks on the 8700 block of 62nd Avenue because of ADA compliance issues.

In other news, the Public Works Department is making plans to prepare for a tighter budget and less manpower next year. Last week, Public Works prepped the roads for another snow storm that did not materialize, cleaned up dangling utility wires and marked tree stumps along Quebec Street for removal. MPT Wilkinson reminded residents not to put yard waste into recycling bins. Rather it should be placed into plastic or paper yard waste bags. The next electronic recycling date is on April 27. Meanwhile, old electronics can be disposed at Best Buy, and light bulbs at MOMs organic market.

6. Committee Reports

Green Team: Mayor Calvo reported that the Green Team is working on a plan to earn bronze certification under the Sustainable Maryland program. Last week-

end, the Green Team helped students plant strawberries at the school gardens. Another project involves setting up a collection point at the Town Center for small electronic items, including batteries and light bulbs.

Neighborhood Watch/Emergency Preparedness: Mike Attick reported that the CERT training workshop was a great success with 32 participants coming from as far away as Fort Washington and Baltimore. One elderly participant suffered an asthma attack. As Berwyn Heights ambulances were out on a call, it took the Branchville ambulance 7 minutes to arrive after a 911 call had been made. Mr. Attick said that the delay is due to staff shortages at the Branchville Fire Department, and shows the negative impact of the County's decision to remove all professional fire fighters from that department. Further, a free CPR class is scheduled in Bowie next week. Interested residents should contact Chair Ron Shane to register.

7. Unfinished Business

There was none.

8. New Business

There was none.

9. Citizens Discussion

Mr. Attick suggested the Town make available a dumpster or trash container at the Public Works yard for residents to drop off old electronic equipment the week prior to an electronic recycling day at the Greenbelt Public Works yard. Berwyn Heights employees could take those items with them when helping out on that day.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Kerstin Harper, Town Clerk

Worksession

March 18, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:13 p.m. Present were Mayor Calvo, Mayor Pro Tem (MPT) Wilkinson, Councilmembers (CM) Dennison and Kulpa-Eddy. CM Almoguera had an excused absence. Also present were Town Administrator (TA) Murphy, Clerk Harper, Budget Assistant Kyle Snyder and CP Johnson Engineer Brian Davila.

1. Mayor

Announcements: There were none.

Calendar: The date, April 13, 11 a.m, for the Nevada Street connector trail dedication was added.

Minutes: On a motion by CM Dennison and second by CM Kulpa-Eddy, the February 19 worksession minutes were approved 3 to 0. On a motion by CM Dennison and second by CM Kulpa-Eddy, the March 11 budget worksession minutes were approved 4 to 0.

Department reports: Mayor Calvo reported that County Executive Baker proposed legislation that would give him the power to appoint the superintendent of Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) and control over the PGCPS budget, which amounts to a take-over of the school system. Mayor Calvo said that he supports the proposal because the school board has been ineffective and averse to taking responsibility for the school system's failings. He hopes that this will put an end to the revolving door superintendents and bring some sense to the school budget. School systems that have been successful in making needed reforms generally have had superintendents backed by a strong executive. MPT Wilkinson and CM Dennison expressed reservations about giving the County Executive this kind of power because the county has its own problems and future executives may not be as capable.

Mayor Calvo continued that PG Scrap was robbed last Friday. The crime was apparently well planned and perpetrators were able to escape with \$30,000. Prince George's County Police is taking the lead in the investigation. Further, the Town's testimony at the emergency generator bond bill hearings went well. Mayor Calvo is reaching out to a non-profit group that has implemented a solar energy program in University Park to see if it is possible to use solar energy for powering emergency generators. Last week, the Town received the February income tax disbursement, which was \$20,000 lower than expected. This validates the more conservative projection of \$345,000 in FY 2014 income tax receipts.

MPT Wilkinson reported that Public Works prepared for another snow event that failed to materialize. CM Dennison announced upcoming events.

Citizen comments: There were none.

Sidewalks design & engineering: TA Murphy introduced Brian Davila, who heads the public sector engineering division of CP Johnson & Associates. Mr. Davila said that CP Johnson's public sector division deals exclusively with governments, which have different needs than private sector clients. He then explained the process used for completing design and engineering of a project. In phase I, CP Johnson will collect data about the location of utility lines and

property lines, and make an inventory of project components, such as storm drains, curb openings, signage, and trees in the public right of way. The firm will also contact county agencies about environmental permits. Permits apply only to projects that exceed 5,000 square feet. The cost for any environmental studies would be extra.

Mr. Davila said that environmental reviews are intended for large scale developments rather than small redevelopment projects such as this. He has made preliminary contact with Park & Planning and the Department of Public Works & Transportation (DPWT) about the requirements, and was informed that an agreement on a waiver might be worked out. For example, the Town could offer to mitigate storm water runoff near Indian Creek instead of using pervious concrete for sidewalks.

Mayor Calvo said that he would prefer not to mitigate storm water runoff by using pervious concrete for sidewalks. Pervious concrete is more expensive and has a shorter lifespan than regular concrete. He thinks that an alternative solution might yield a greater environmental benefit. Mr. Davila said that the issue of how best to handle storm water runoff and other environmental mandates is one reason why CP Johnson has a 30% design phase. It ensures that all parties are on the same page when a concept plan is submitted.

In response to Councilmembers' questions, Mr. Davila explained that CP Johnson prefers to use its own surveys to design and engineer a project, the cost of which is included in their proposal. The survey is the basis for designing sidewalks for their specific locations, taking into account trees, poles, slopes, and property lines. If there is not enough right-of-way, sidewalks can be built to take up part of the existing roadway. Sidewalks can also incorporate traffic calming structures such as landscaped bumpers built into the road. Those elements will be incorporated into the concept design, to be approved by the Council before the project moves to the next stage. Residents directly impacted by sidewalk construction might also be given another opportunity to comment.

Mr. Davila confirmed that the cost estimates in the submitted proposal are firm, even if additional work is required for a particular project component. The exception is the design of a storm water management structure. CP Johnson was initially told that the Town plans to use pervious concrete to mitigate storm water runoff and the proposal was

based on that.

Further, the proposal references a retaining wall for a property in the commercial district that has a significant slope, but for which an easement may not be available. In this case, the sidewalk would be placed entirely within Town right-of-way, using a retaining wall instead of re-grading the property. Generally, the solution for properties where easements cannot be obtained is to design more steeply-sloped driveways. However, CP Johnson will provide sketches showing what a driveway would look like with and without an easement. Often home-owners will change their minds. In other instances, CP Johnson has offered to build a wider driveway that can fit additional cars in exchange for an easement. Most easement issues can be resolved by negotiation.

Mr. Davila said that CP Johnson is not involved in the construction process but can provide construction observation to ensure that the plans are followed. For references, the Town can contact the City of Hyattsville, where they have recently done work, as well as many other cities and agencies.

At 8:20 p.m., the Council took a 10 minute break.

Nothing was discussed under **2. Code Compliance, 3. Parks & Recreation, 4. Public Safety, and 5. Public Works.**

6. Administration

Code car surplussing: TA Murphy said that he would like the Council to give permission to sell the old, white code car, which is no longer needed following the purchase of a new code car. CM Dennison so moved. MPT Wilkinson seconded. CM Kulpa-Eddy said that Director Solomon would like to keep the white Crown Victoria as a backup, or get the latest surplussed police vehicle. Oftentimes a second code car is needed when 2 officers are working at the same time. The old Saturn is uncomfortable for the Code Department's tall employees and not always available.

Mayor Calvo said that he is concerned about the additional costs in maintenance and repairs this would entail. TA Murphy elaborated that the Town spent around \$1,500 per year on repairs of the 2 old code cars. The white car has manifold problems that would be too expensive to fix. It would not fetch more than \$300 if sold. Mayor Calvo said he does not want to sink any more money into this car. CM Kulpa-Eddy agreed, but asked if TA Murphy could check if there is another off-line police car in better

shape, which the Code Department could have.

Mayor Calvo said he does not like the idea of continuing to transfer surplussed police vehicles to the Code Department because they require expensive repairs. He thought the purpose of purchasing the new code car was to be able to dispose of the old code cars. However, he agrees to keep this old code car until it breaks. The Council agreed to keep the old code car as a backup.

Robotics Club request for meeting space: Clerk Harper explained that the Town received an inquiry about the availability of meeting space at the Town Center for a Robotics & Science club. The club is run by University of Maryland engineering students who work with a group of k-12 students with an interest in robotics and science. The members meet after school 3 times a week, build robots, do outreach at schools and prepare to participate in robotics competitions. The club currently meets at a church in Lanham but would like to meet closer to the University. While the club has no connection to BHES or Berwyn Heights' families, it may afford an opportunity for extra-curricular science education and preparation for high school science and technology programs or engineering studies at university.

In response to Council questions, Clerk Harper said that the club currently has 25 members and brings tools and materials for building robots. Club members would probably car pool to Berwyn Heights if they were given meeting space. There is no charge to joining the club but members may be asked to participate in fundraising. The Council declined to grant the request because the club has no ties to Berwyn Heights and cannot be easily accommodated at the Town Center. While the concept of a robotics club is worthy, this club is well established and already has a meeting space.

Budget: Mayor Calvo said that he had hoped to discuss the surplus tonight but TA Murphy is still working on the background document.

Mayor Calvo continued that he recently received an invitation from Pepco's municipal liaison Jerry Pasternak to meet and discuss tree trimming issues. He had requested but not yet received information from Pepco on plants suitable for re-growing a buffer along Edmonston Road prior to the meeting. The plants for the buffer should not grow too tall and preferably be evergreen. He would like to have a cost estimate for this project,

which could be funded from the surplus.

MPT Wilkinson asked whether money in the Public Works beautification appropriation can be used to buy trash cans and recycling bins for Pop's Park and Indian Creek Park. TA Murphy noted that the Town has received the donation from 7 Eleven earmarked for the purchase of trash cans. He needs instructions on what type of trash cans to purchase and where to place them. MPT Wilkinson said he will consult with Acting Director Lockley but the initial plan was to mount the trash cans at bus stops and around 7 Eleven and the commercial district.

CM Kulpa-Eddy asked if TA Murphy has talked with Code Director Solomon about adjusting code fees and fines. TA Murphy said he has not done so yet. He will furnish background this information at upcoming budget discussions.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Kerstin Harper, Town Clerk

Budget Worksession March 25, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. Present were Mayor Calvo, MPT Wilkinson, CMs Almoguera, Dennison and Kulpa-Eddy. Also present were Town Administrator (TA) Murphy, Clerk Harper and Budget Assistant Kyle Snyder.

1. Mayor

Agenda: A discussion of Indian Creek Park parking improvements was added.

Announcements: Mayor Calvo attended hearings in Annapolis on legislation that would enable County Executive Baker to take over the Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS). The Prince George's County delegation is divided on the proposal and not happy about the timing. The legislators will have 2 weeks to put a bill together. MPT Wilkinson may not be able to attend the April 1 worksession.

2. Budget

Mayor Calvo said that TA Murphy and Budget Assistant Snyder have produced a series of memos to provide in-depth information on certain aspects of the FY 2014 budget, which the Council requested for review tonight. This includes a one-page budget summary with surplus and reserves details.

Surplus & Reserves: Mayor Calvo said that the *Surplus & Reserves* section on the one-page summary of the FY 2014 budget needs to be corrected before the budget is introduced. It contains lines that primarily serve the audit but are confusing to a lay reader. Further, the stated amounts for some of the line items appear to have mistakes. For example, the *infrastructure reserve* shows the amount of \$69,989, which is lower than the \$141,000 transferred into it. The *supplemental to the vehicle replacement reserve*, which should show the money the Town receives for recycled materials, shows \$0; and the amount of \$1,022,660 listed for the *surplus available* is greater than what it should be. *Fund balance less reserves* more nearly reflects the amount of the undesignated or available surplus.

Mayor Calvo continued that the purpose of this section is to simply show the amount of money that is in each reserve – infrastructure, vehicle replacement, cable, and NW/EP trailer - and what the undesignated surplus is. It should not be a budget worksheet. The Council needs to have a good understanding of the money available in the reserves and the surplus to make sound decisions on restoring funding for certain items. In addition, documentation needs to be developed on how the one-page summary should be composed, as well as what the underlying policy assumptions for the line items are. For example, the money earned from recyclables should flow into the vehicle replacement reserve. Unspent cable revenue should flow into the cable reserve, while unspent NW/EP funds should flow into the trailer reserve.

Further, the speed camera revenue, the use of which is restricted to public safety expenses, should be shown as part of the budget, but not necessarily as part of the operating budget. On the other hand, the *non-spendable reserve* item does not need to be shown as part of the one-page summary. It contains the amount of pre-paid bills and serves to make the budget tie out with the audit but should be reflected under expenditures. CM Almoguera cautioned about leaving out items from the budget that will make it appear as though the budget does not add up to the bottom line. TA Murphy was asked to revise the section for the next discussion.

Income tax revenues: The Council reviewed a spread sheet showing monthly receipts of income taxes going back to FY 2007. November, February and May are the months when the Town

usually receives disbursements. The 4th disbursement is often received in July or August of the next fiscal year, which is why the spreadsheet lists July and August twice. However, this has caused a double counting mistake in FY 2011 and FY 2012, resulting in inflated total receipts. The \$395,200 in FY 2012 total income tax receipts are in fact \$27,800 lower than the spreadsheet indicates. This validates the conservatively budgeted income tax receipts of \$345,000 for FY 2014.

Highway User Revenues: Mayor Calvo noted that there was an attempt in the State legislature by Baltimore and Howard County to scoop out \$2.6 million from the municipal HUR budget, which was defeated. However, this year's HUR was funded from a one-time transfer of unclaimed income tax refunds, which will not be available next year.

Health care: TA Murphy said that the FY 2014 health care budget is based on switching to a higher deductible CareFirst plan and on not filling the 2 vacancies in the Police and Public Works Departments. This keeps the increase in the health care budget to a relatively modest 3.91%. In addition, there is a \$32,800 Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) pool from which employees' deductibles get paid. The HRA was implemented in FY 2009 to qualify for lower premiums and bring down overall health care costs. This account is depleted at a current rate of \$13,000 per year. At the beginning of each fiscal year, the Town replenishes the HRA to bring it back up to the required level, and pays annually a \$1,800 administrative fee. Three employees, who have their own health insurance, receive a \$2,000 Health Care Offset reimbursement, which is included in their salary.

Mayor Calvo asked if TA Murphy has information on which employees use the HRA and what the pattern of usage is. TA Murphy said that he may be able to get anonymous information from the HRA Administrator about how many employees use the HRA and can provide a monthly statement of HRA expenses. Mayor Calvo said he would like to be able to track the Town's year-to-year expenditures on health insurance, which would include health insurance premiums, HRA expenses, life, vision and dental insurance expenses, as well as the "in-lieu" expenses for employees with their own health insurance. The health insurance costs should also include information about how many employees are covered from year-to-year.

At 8:05 p.m., the Council took a 5 minute

break.

Health care, continued: TA Murphy elaborated on the age calculation that impacts health insurance premiums. Premiums are determined in part by the age bracket into which an employer's workforce falls. Currently, the Town is the 42 - 44.9 age bracket based on the average age of employees that includes 2 retirees. If the workforce moves into the next higher bracket, premiums can go up by up to 15%. Assuming the same workforce and the same plan, the FY 2014 health insurance budget would go up by 10.7%, based on June 1 rates. If the Town switches to the higher deductible plan, rates would go up by only 3.91%, saving the Town approximately \$5,000.

Mayor Calvo said he sees no problem switching to the higher deductible plan because the Town pays the deductibles through the HRA while also securing lower premiums. However, if the July 1 rates go up again, the Town may have to look to other options to contain the costs. This could include shifting a greater share of premiums to employees, for example, or cut the equivalent amount from other areas of the budget. Next year, the implementation of the Affordable Care Act will likely bring more changes to health care and the Town's insurance budget. TA Murphy noted that dental insurance is projected to go up by 8% and life insurance will remain the same. He has not received quotes for vision insurance. Mayor Calvo suggested the Town consider offering employees the option to buy more life insurance because the current package is not very good.

Police fleet: Mayor Calvo said that in FY 2014 the budget proposes the purchase of 1 new police car. The fleet on the whole is good shape after the purchase of 2 new cars last year and the retirement of 1 officer. There are 5 vehicles in excellent and very good condition. Two more are in good condition and 6 are in fair condition. It is notable that most miles put on a police vehicle come from commuting, not from patrolling.

Public Works fleet: Acting Director Lockley provided a first-time Public Works fleet audit for FY 2013 that breaks down maintenance and repair costs by vehicle. It also tracks mileage and rates condition. Mayor Calvo recalled that the Council previously asked to separate the more predictable maintenance costs from the more volatile repair costs in the FY 2014 budget. In this manner, it can be shown how much is saved from in-house maintenance and significant repair expendi-

tures for Public Works vehicles are isolated. MPT Wilkinson noted that the 1997 pickup truck and 1983 tractor surplussed last year still appear in the audit. If the vehicles cannot be sold, they should be taken to the junk yard or sold for parts because the DPW yard is getting too crowded.

TA Murphy suggested adding the street sweeper to the vehicle replacement reserve because it is replaced every 4 to 5 years. Mayor Calvo said this is a good idea, but probably not this year because of the tight operating budget.

Gas budget: TA Murphy informed that there has been a significant increase in Public Works' monthly gas consumption. Acting Director Lockley attributes this to the new larger trash trucks, which have lower miles per gallon and need expensive additives.

Code fleet: Director Solomon provided the warranty information for the new code car requested by the Council. It has

a standard 3 year/ 36,000 miles bumper to bumper warranty, and a 5 year/ 60,000 miles power train warranty. The old Saturn serves as backup car for the Administration and Code Departments and expenses are paid from the Administration budget.

T-ball field parking lot (added item): MPT Wilkinson said that in the FY 2013 budget the Council set aside money for beautification in the Public Works budget, which requires approval from the Council to be spent. A portion of the funds were used for the bollards at the Indian Creek playground. Acting Director Lockley proposes to spend about half of the remaining \$4,800 on a plastic mesh to protect the grass on the parking area adjacent to the T-ball field. This would also include installation of bollards to mark where cars should park, as well as the building of stairs to the field. The other half of the funds would be spent on dual trash/recycling containers for several locations around Town, includ-

ing Pop's Park and the school soccer field and basketball court.

In response to CM Kulpa-Eddy, MPT Wilkinson said that the cost of pole-mounted trash cans for bus stops will be paid from a 7-Eleven donation. TA Murphy said that he will again contact Park & Planning to try to get a formal approval for installing grass protector at the T-ball field parking area, which is on their property. Mayor Calvo suggested going through Councilmember Olson's office. CM Almoguera asked that no recycling containers be installed at Pop's Park before the new playground is constructed.

CM Dennison moved, and CM Almoguera seconded to approve the spending of the beautification funds as described. The motion was approved 5 to 0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Kerstin Harper, Town Clerk



Berwyn Heights Playgroup

Come join us to get to know other parents
in the community while our children play!

New Infants Playgroup Meeting Weekends!

Sundays at 3:00pm

Contact Rose Almoguera (rose.almoguera@yahoo.com)
for meeting location

Weekday Playdate (preschoolers and younger)

Thursdays 10:30am-12:00pm

**Rotation of Playgrounds: 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month at Indian Creek Playground
and 2nd & 4th Thursdays at Pop's Park**

Parents of infants and toddlers, the Berwyn Heights Playgroup is actively meeting and is always open to any interested members of the community! This playgroup is designed to offer neighborhood children and parents a safe, fun opportunity to socialize and get to know each other while also exploring available resources for children in the metro area.

Please contact Rose Almoguera (rose.almoguera@yahoo.com) for more information and to be added to the group's listserv.

Recreation Council News & Events

Be Part of Berwyn Heights Day!

Pancake Breakfast
\$5 (per person)
\$3 (under 12)

IT'S NOT TOO LATE! We still need volunteers to help with the Pancake Breakfast, games, ticket sales, and the Fun Run. It's a great way to meet your neighbors and give back to your community . . .

Students can earn Community Service hours!

Fun Run
\$10 (18 yrs +)
\$5 (13-17 yrs)
\$3 (under 12)
strollers FREE!

Live Bands & DJ
Parade, Awards & Performances
Seniors' Bake Sale



Cha Cha the Clown!
Food & Drinks
Games | Rides
Craft Vendors



Saturday, May 4

FREE 2013 Berwyn Heights Day T-Shirts for all Fun Runners!

NEXT RECREATION COUNCIL MEETING: Thursday, May 2 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Center

COUNCIL CONTACTS: Trinity Tomsic – 301-474-6350, trinity.tomsic@gmail.com • Kristen Buker – 443-623-0013, KristenBuker@aol.com

TOWN-WIDE YARD SALE \$\$\$\$Saturday, June 22 at 8:00 am (rain or shine)

Only \$3.00 to have your location & items for sale printed on the map, copies will be available June 21st at the Town Office, and June 22nd at the Community Center parking lot. The map will display all participating addresses of the yard sales, as well as, list of items for sale. Advertisements for the Yard Sale will be placed in the *Penny Saver*, *Gazette*, and the *Washington Post*.

For additional information, please contact Trinity Tomsic at: trinity.tomsic@gmail.com, or call: 301-474-6350.

YARD SALE REGISTRATION FORM

Please return this form and \$3.00 (make checks payable to: Berwyn Heights Recreation Council) to the Town Office no later than Monday, June 17, 2013 (C.O.B. – 5:00 p.m.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Items Being Sold That Day (please check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Clothes | <input type="checkbox"/> Books |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Clothes | <input type="checkbox"/> Furniture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Toys | <input type="checkbox"/> Kitchen Items |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other – please list | <input type="checkbox"/> Knick Knacks |

BERWYN HEIGHTS DAY

SATURDAY MAY 4, 2013

..... **PARADE ROUTE**

(starts at BH Elementary)

- - - **TRAIN ROUTE** (rides are FREE)

ROAD BLOCKS

11:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

12:–1:30 p.m. (during parade only)



**BHVF FIRST AID STATION
& FIRE PREVENTION INFO**

PARADE, Performances, Awards & Presentations

- ♦ LIVE DJ at Grandstand
- ♦ **12:00 noon – PARADE begins**
- ♦ "Citizen of the Year" Awards
- ♦ BHHHC Historic Street Marker Dedication
- ♦ ZUMBA Dance Demo — 1:30 p.m. at GRANDSTAND

ATTRACTIONS

- 1 CRAFT VENDORS 11 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- 2 BHNW EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS Trailer
- 3 BHHHC *The Berwyn Heights Historical Committee*
- 4 VOLUNTEER & INFORMATION Booths — 2 locations
- 5 FREE Blood Pressure Check-Ups Express Healthcare
— 10:00 am to 12:00 noon at TOWN CENTER
- 6 CHA CHA the CLOWN—Balloon Twisting Sculpting

CONCERTS 2 LIVE BANDS (starts at 1:30 p.m.)

at Sports Park (Community Center if rain)

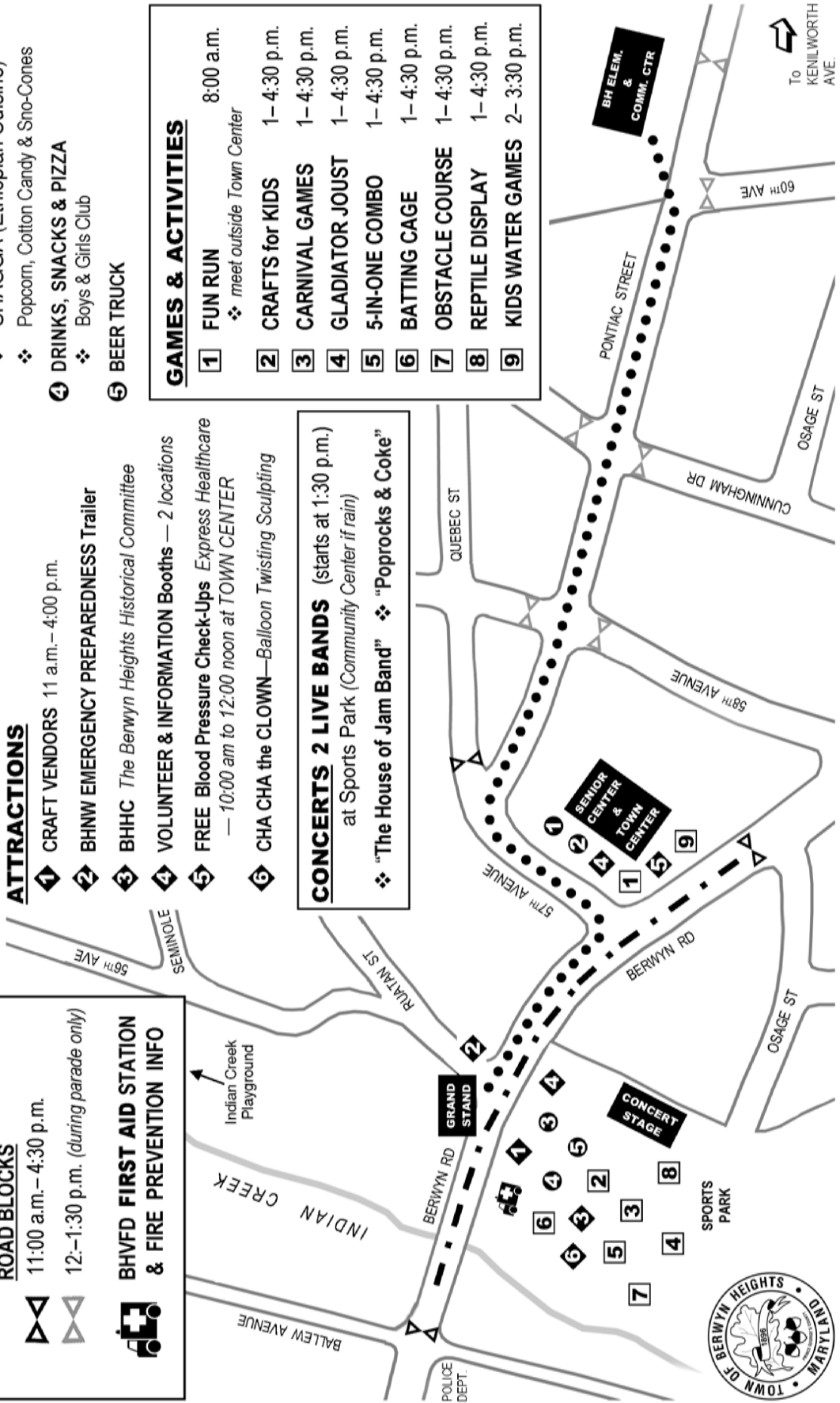
- ♦ "The House of Jam Band" ♦ "Poprocks & Coke"

FOOD & DRINKS

- 1 Senior's BAKE SALE 8:30 a.m.
♦ Senior Center
- 2 PANCAKE BREAKFAST 9–11:00 a.m.
♦ Town Center - Upper Level
- 3 FOOD VENDORS 12:00 noon
♦ GRILLING by the Karate Club
- ♦ SHAGGA (Ethiopian Cuisine)
- ♦ Popcorn, Cotton Candy & Sno-Cones
- 4 DRINKS, SNACKS & PIZZA
♦ Boys & Girls Club
- 5 BEER TRUCK

GAMES & ACTIVITIES

- 1 FUN RUN 8:00 a.m.
♦ meet outside Town Center
- 2 CRAFTS for KIDS 1–4:30 p.m.
- 3 CARNIVAL GAMES 1–4:30 p.m.
- 4 GLADIATOR JOUST 1–4:30 p.m.
- 5 5-IN-ONE COMBO 1–4:30 p.m.
- 6 BATTING CAGE 1–4:30 p.m.
- 7 OBSTACLE COURSE 1–4:30 p.m.
- 8 REPTILE DISPLAY 1–4:30 p.m.
- 9 KIDS WATER GAMES 2–3:30 p.m.



Fun Run



**Berwyn Heights Day
Walk/Run for Fun!!!
Saturday, May 4**

Start Time: 8:30 a.m. Registration: 8:00 a.m.



Come out and join the fun. Bring the whole family for a fun 5k run or walk around Lake Artemesia. **Registration is \$10.00 per adult, \$5.00 13-17 yrs., \$2.00 12 and under (strollers free) and includes a custom-designed T-Shirt by resident David Williams.** Post-race refreshments will be served. Proceeds will go to the Berwyn Heights Recreation Council. These are non-competitive races.

Course: The run walk will begin at the Town Center and will proceed to Lake Artemesia and nearby paths.



Please bring your completed form and race fee to the Fun Run Registration on Berwyn Heights Day. Forms may also be returned prior to Berwyn Heights Day at the Town Center. Make check payable to Berwyn Heights Recreation Council. Additional forms will be available on Berwyn Heights Day.

Name _____ Age _____ (only if under 18)

Phone _____

Circle T-Shirt Size

Child: 8-10 14-16

Adult: S M L XL XXL

WAIVER MUST BE SIGNED BEFORE REGISTRATION WILL BE ACCEPTED

I know that running a race is a potentially hazardous activity. I should not enter and run or walk unless I am medically able and properly trained. I agree to abide by any decision of a race official relative to my ability to safely complete the run. I assume all risks associated with this event including, but not limited to falls, contact with other participants, effect of weather, traffic and the condition of the road track, all such risks being known and appreciated by me. Having read this waiver and knowing these facts and in consideration of you accepting my entry, I, for myself and anyone entitled to act on my behalf, waive and release the Town of Berwyn Heights, its agents, servants, or employees and event sponsors for all claims or liability of any kind arising out of my participation in this event including any liability which may arise out of negligence or carelessness on the part of the persons named in the waiver.

Signature _____ Date _____

Parent's Signature if under 18 _____

- BUDGET MESSAGE -

Dear Town Residents:

The Town budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013 was introduced at the Town Meeting on Wednesday, April 10 and is scheduled to be adopted at the Town Meeting on May 8.

The triennial property reassessment completed in January saw residential property values drop 18% and commercial property values increase 2% for an overall decrease of 16% in real property assessments and a \$231,000 reduction in real property taxes, the Town's largest source of revenue.

Despite this loss of revenue, the introduced FY 2014 budget retains the current operating budget real property tax rate of 48.6 cents and the personal property tax rate at \$1.215 (both per \$100 of assessed value) and the current 3 cent real property tax rate and the 7.5 cent personal property tax rate for the dedicated road repair fund.

Revenues from most other sources are flat, but there are a few revenue bright spots. The state has increased Highway User Revenue (HUR) to \$59,689, up from \$26,377 and the police grant aid to \$51,709, up from \$31,955. The other bright spot is income tax receipts, which are estimated to rise \$60,000 or 21% over this year's budget level to \$345,000. These increases with small increases in cable TV fees and permits reduces the revenue shortfall to \$126,000.

To maintain current tax rates and balance the budget, the introduced budget institutes several cost savings, including leaving vacant a police officer's position, eliminating a public works position, and reduced part-time code hours. However, to mitigate the loss of full-time police and public works positions, the Town Council agreed to pull \$40,000 in one-time revenues from the Town's surplus (something that the Town Council is prepared to repeat in each of the next two years) to fund additional hours for the part-time police officer and additional temporary support for public works as well as increasing a pool of funds for employee merit increases and cost-of-living-adjustments (COLAs). Overall, the introduced operating budget is \$221,471 or 8% lower than the current year.

The FY 2014 introduced budget again funds the outright purchase of a new police cruiser rather than relying on lease purchasing, appropriates the transfer of \$49,689 of Highway User Revenues to the Infrastructure Improvement Fund, appropriates the \$91,769 generated by the dedicated road tax to the Infrastructure Improvement Fund, and appropriates \$66,900 to the Vehicle Replacement Fund.

The following are departmental expenditure highlights:

Administration – Budget funds the Office of Town Administration and the maintenance, repair, and operation of the municipal building, Town Center and Senior Center.

Code Compliance & Transportation – Budget funds a Director, 2 part-time code officers, and a part-time code clerk to assist residents' compliance with community standards and to provide low cost transportation service for the elderly and disabled, upon request.

Police Department – Budget funds Town Council's continued commitment to provide 24/7 police protection. Department will consist of the Chief, 5 full-time and 1 part-time patrol officers, and a police clerk; and includes purchase of one new police cruiser. The Town Council also utilizes the Public Safety Taxing District to fund 1 police detective.

Public Health and Safety – Budget proposes making a \$1,000 contribution to support the Berwyn Heights Volunteer Fire Department and \$2,500 for Emergency Preparedness/Neighborhood Watch.

Public Works Department - Budget proposes to continue to provide refuse, trash, bulk refuse, metals, and yard waste collection service and once-a-week pick-up of recyclables.

Parks Recreation – Budget proposes continuing to fund special events such as Berwyn Heights Day plus resources to maintain Pontiac Street Field and Pop's Park. Town is awaiting word on the awarding of a state grant to totally refurbish Pop's Park..

Insurance and Employee Benefits – Budget anticipates a 3.91% increase in health insurance premiums by increasing deductibles, no increase in workers compensation premiums, no increase for general liability, and no increase in the unemployment insurance rate. The budget also includes an appropriation for the Town's match for the Maryland pension system, which increased from 8.99% to 10% of payroll. (Employees contribute 7% of their base pay).

Debt Service – As it has been since 2012, the Town is now totally debt-free

Residents should contact us with questions, suggestions, comments, or concerns regarding the proposed budget and to participate in the budget adoption process at the public hearings on Wednesday, May 8 at 8:00 p.m.

Best regards,

Mayor Cheye Calvo and the Berwyn Heights Town Council

**ONE PAGE SUMMARY
INTRODUCED FISCAL YEAR 2014 BUDGET**

	FY 10 ACTUAL	FY 11 ACTUAL	FY 12 ACTUAL	FY 13 ESTIMATED	FY 13 BUDGET	FY 14 INTRODUCED	% OVER / UNDER FY 13 BUDGET
REVENUES							
REAL ESTATE PROPERTY TAX	\$ 1,570,262	\$ 1,436,719	\$ 1,437,888	\$ 1,461,482	\$ 1,461,482	\$ 1,230,120	-16%
PENALTIES ON TAXES	\$ 5,334	\$ 5,442	\$ (2,855)	\$ 1,070	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	0%
PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX	\$ 267,051	\$ 260,566	\$ 299,384	\$ 260,849	\$ 266,000	\$ 266,000	0%
ROAD FUND TAX	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 109,195	\$ 104,152	\$ 104,586	\$ 91,969	-12%
INCOME TAX	\$ 257,718	\$ 318,688	\$ 367,454	\$ 348,086	\$ 285,000	\$ 345,000	21%
RECYCLING TAX	\$ 61,260	\$ 71,470	\$ 71,470	\$ 71,470	\$ 72,870	\$ 72,170	-1%
HIGHWAY USER REVENUE	\$ 18,247	\$ 11,111	\$ 42,336	\$ 40,075	\$ 26,377	\$ 59,689	126%
POLICE AID	\$ 49,377	\$ 38,505	\$ 38,505	\$ 38,500	\$ 31,955	\$ 51,709	62%
LICENSES AND PERMITS	\$ 102,777	\$ 117,130	\$ 130,491	\$ 121,302	\$ 122,836	\$ 128,136	4%
SERVICE CHARGES	\$ 2,034	\$ 2,770	\$ 4,068	\$ 2,600	\$ 2,700	\$ 2,700	0%
INTERGOVERNMENTAL	\$ 42,396	\$ 8,232	\$ 25,232	\$ 8,232	\$ 8,232	\$ 8,232	0%
FINES AND FORFEITURES	\$ 70,365	\$ 60,336	\$ 56,800	\$ 53,019	\$ 55,200	\$ 57,200	4%
MISCELLANEOUS	\$ 44,103	\$ 70,363	\$ 80,678	\$ 55,553	\$ 62,980	\$ 60,792	-3%
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 2,490,925	\$ 2,401,332	\$ 2,660,646	\$ 2,566,390	\$ 2,501,218	\$ 2,374,717	-5%
TRANSFERS FROM RESERVES	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 686,929	\$ 133,959	\$ 134,970	\$ 40,000	100%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 2,490,925	\$ 2,401,332	\$ 3,347,575	\$ 2,700,349	\$ 2,636,188	\$ 2,414,717	-8%
EXPENDITURES							
MAYOR AND COUNCIL	\$ 14,898	\$ 15,974	\$ 17,176	\$ 18,800	\$ 23,000	\$ 23,000	0%
TOWN ADMINISTRATION	\$ 271,876	\$ 261,817	\$ 300,944	\$ 304,110	\$ 310,025	\$ 309,497	0%
MUNICIPAL BUILDING	\$ 29,781	\$ 23,684	\$ 23,606	\$ 27,580	\$ 30,913	\$ 30,141	-2%
TOWN CENTER	\$ 25,260	\$ 28,144	\$ 52,419	\$ 36,944	\$ 32,913	\$ 33,141	1%
POLICE DEPARTMENT	\$ 551,415	\$ 595,190	\$ 600,471	\$ 608,008	\$ 633,621	\$ 595,677	-6%
MISC. PUBLIC SAFETY	\$ 2,168	\$ 3,266	\$ 3,022	\$ 3,500	\$ 4,000	\$ 3,500	-13%
CODE COMPLIANCE & VAN	\$ 103,927	\$ 103,928	\$ 101,013	\$ 97,472	\$ 115,466	\$ 106,274	-8%
PUBLIC WORKS	\$ 724,333	\$ 704,446	\$ 681,964	\$ 688,802	\$ 699,574	\$ 640,529	-8%
PARKS & RECREATION	\$ 22,177	\$ 15,214	\$ 25,129	\$ 20,372	\$ 28,150	\$ 25,000	-11%
CABLE	\$ 6,442	\$ 3,147	\$ 6,496	\$ 15,476	\$ 15,476	\$ 15,476	0%
INSURANCE	\$ 108,551	\$ 92,724	\$ 86,309	\$ 94,406	\$ 112,886	\$ 113,519	1%
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$ 196,368	\$ 199,873	\$ 206,466	\$ 221,709	\$ 245,961	\$ 257,737	5%
4-CITIES STREET SWEEPER	\$ 7,857	\$ 16,940	\$ 18,348	\$ 18,413	\$ 20,000	\$ 19,000	-5%
DEBT SERVICE	\$ 92,827	\$ 90,806	\$ 4,621	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 36,387	\$ 22,232	\$ 29,277	\$ 32,753	\$ 31,870	\$ 33,869	6%
TRANSFERS TO RESERVES	\$ 125,245	\$ 109,145	\$ 327,515	\$ 197,363	\$ 197,363	\$ 208,357	6%
TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET	\$ 2,319,513	\$ 2,286,530	\$ 2,484,776	\$ 2,385,708	\$ 2,501,218	\$ 2,414,717	-3%
CAPITAL PROJECTS	\$ 66,804	\$ 118,020	\$ 686,929	\$ 133,959	\$ 134,970	\$ -	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 2,386,317	\$ 2,404,550	\$ 3,171,705	\$ 2,519,667	\$ 2,636,188	\$ 2,414,717	-8%
Difference - Receipts & Expenses	\$ 104,608	\$ (3,218)	\$ 175,870	\$ 180,682	\$ -	\$ -	
ADJUSTED BEGINNING FUND BALANCE	\$ 1,398,070	\$ 1,627,921	\$ 1,738,164	\$ 1,548,400	\$ 1,548,400	\$ 1,666,601	
RESERVES							
Operating Reserve	\$ 442,000	\$ 442,000	\$ 442,000	\$ 442,000	\$ 442,000	\$ 442,000	
Infrastructure Improvement Reserve	347,019	347,019	111,613	200,518	130,463	341,909	
NW/EP Trailer Reserve	1,832	2,565	3,543	3,543	2,565	3,543	
PEG Cable TV - Capital Outlay Reserve	40,515	52,843	55,609	64,613	52,843	18,483	
Recycling Tipping Fee Fund	-	10,163	10,163	10,163	10,163	10,163	
Vehicle Replacement Reserve	157,032	238,332	162,956	234,324	227,132	301,224	
Non-Spendable (Prepaid Expense)	-	4,621	7,983	-	-	-	
TOTAL of RESERVES	\$ 988,398	\$ 1,097,543	\$ 793,867	\$ 955,161	\$ 865,166	\$ 1,150,122	
Surplus Available	\$ 639,523	\$ 650,784	\$ 818,363	\$ 678,640	\$ 745,627	\$ 684,836	

- 2014 BUDGET MESSAGE -

SPECIAL PUBLIC SAFETY TAXING DISTRICT

Dear Town Residents:

In 2005, Berwyn Heights became the first municipality in the State of Maryland to exercise the new authority granted to towns and cities by Governor Ehrlich and the General Assembly to create a special taxing district to enhance public safety. The Town passed the ordinance creating the Public Safety Taxing District encompassing the commercial and industrial properties on Ballew Avenue, Berwyn Road, Branchville Road, Greenbelt Road and 55th Avenue. The special taxing district provides the Town additional resources to finance the capital and operating costs for an eighth police officer to enhance police protection in the commercial district and the Town at-large. The eighth officer enhances the current public safety efforts by providing the Berwyn Heights Police Department increased flexibility and coverage and allows for a second on-duty officer during the evening and midnight shifts.

To mitigate the effect of the new Public Safety Taxing District on Town businesses, the Town Council elected to phase in the financing and equipping of the eighth police officer over three years. In fiscal year 2006, the first year, the Town established a real property tax rate of 10 cents per \$100 of business and industrial property assessed value to purchase a fully equipped police patrol car at a cost of \$24,000. In fiscal year 2007, the Town added a personal property tax rate of 5 cents per \$100 of assessed value permitting the Town to hire the eighth officer in January 2007.

In fiscal year 2008, another 5 cents was added to the personal property tax rate for a total of 10 cents per \$100 of personal property assessed value to fully fund the 8th police officer. In fiscal year 2009, the personal property tax rate was increased from 10 cents to 15 cents per \$100 of assessed value to further reduce dependence on the General Fund for the eighth officer's pay, benefits and other costs.

In fiscal year 2012, the Town Council increased the tax rate on real property 3 cents and 7.5 cents on business personal property per \$100 of assessed value, all to be placed in a dedicated road repair improvement fund.

Over the past six years, the Town was able to set aside enough funds to purchase a new police patrol car used by the eighth police officer to replace the patrol car purchased in 2006.

The 2014 budget, like the 2013 budget, proposes no increase in either the Public Safety Taxing District tax rate or the tax rate for the dedicated road repair improvement fund.

Berwyn Heights benefits from one of the lowest crime rates in Prince George's County and last year crime went down again. The Town Council envisions continuing to use the Special Public Safety Taxing District funds to make the Town safer for our residents and businesses.

Best regards,

Mayor Cheye Calvo and the Berwyn Heights Town Council

PUBLIC SAFETY TAXING DISTRICT INTRODUCED FISCAL YEAR 2014 BUDGET SUMMARY

	FY 11 ACTUAL	FY 12 ACTUAL	FY 13 BUDGET	FY 14 PROPOSED	TOWN COUNCIL CHANGES	FY 14 INTRODUCED	% OVER/UNDER FY 13 BUDGET
REVENUES							
REAL ESTATE TAX-CURRENT YEAR	\$ 38,791	\$ 31,871	\$ 38,899	\$ 34,986	\$ -	\$ 34,986	-10%
REAL ESTATE TAX-PRIOR YEARS	\$ 244	\$ 614	\$ 244.00	\$ 244	\$ -	\$ 244	0%
PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX	\$ 31,615	\$ 34,703	\$ 32,165	\$ 31,949	\$ -	\$ 31,949	-1%
PENALTIES & INTEREST ON TAXES	\$ 692	\$ 1,324	\$ 692.00	\$ 1,007	\$ -	\$ 1,007	46%
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 71,342	\$ 68,512	\$ 72,000	\$ 68,186	\$ -	\$ 68,186	-5%
TRANSFER FROM SURPLUS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23,739	\$ 3,425	\$ -	\$ 3,425	-86%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 71,342	\$ 68,512	\$ 95,739	\$ 71,611	\$ -	\$ 71,611	-25%
EXPENDITURES							
POLICE SERVICES	\$ 58,166	\$ 59,668	\$ 64,662	\$ 66,691	\$ -	\$ 66,691	3%
INSURANCE	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$ 4,601	\$ 1,558	\$ 4,962	\$ 4,920	\$ -	\$ 4,920	-1%
OPERATING BUDGET	\$ 62,767	\$ 61,226	\$ 69,624	\$ 71,611	\$ -	\$ 71,611	3%
CAPITAL BUDGET-POLICE CRUISER	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23,739	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-100%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 62,767	\$ 61,226	\$ 93,363	\$ 71,611	\$ -	\$ 71,611	-23%
BALANCE	\$ 8,575	\$ 7,286	\$ 2,376	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-

Code News

Code Activity for March 2013:

Top code violations: High Grass/ Overgrown Vegetation = 0; Trash/ Litter = 25; Vehicle Violations = 11; Yard Waste = 12; Miscellaneous Violations = 19; Abatements = 2.

Other activities: New Rental Properties = 0; Rental Inspections and Re-inspections = 16; Rental Investigations = 4; Building Permits = 1; POD Permits = 0; Roll-off Permits = 7; Abatements 1.

Receipts: All Permits = \$305; Fines and Late Fees = \$1,025; Liens = \$100; Code Fines, Cleanouts, Abatements = \$500; Liens mailed to the County = \$300.



Berwyn Heights Volunteer Fire Department, Co.14

Berwyn Heights Volunteer Fire Department & Rescue Squad, Inc. • 8811 60th Avenue • Berwyn Heights, MD 20740
Station Telephone: (301) 474-7866

In Case of Emergency Call 911!

Department's Annual Banquet

The Berwyn Heights Volunteer Fire Department held our Annual Banquet on Saturday April 13th, at the Martin's Crosswinds in Greenbelt to recognize and celebrate the hard work and dedication of the membership. The banquet was very well attended by past and present members and their families, local elected officials, and area Fire Chiefs. The Department honored Department Past President James Ward, Past- Treasurer Paul Martein, and Past-Fire Chief Charles Fusco for their many years of service to the Department and community. The volunteer members listed below were awarded for responding to the most emergency calls in 2012:

Home Response Most Runs:

- 1) Christopher Hagan- 596 Calls
- 2) **Tie:** Kyle Snyder-292 Calls
Mark Grant-292 Calls
- 3) Chase Fabrizio- 237 Calls
- 4) Ryan Wagner- 234 Calls
- 5) Daniel Jones- 232 Calls

Bunkroom Most Runs:

- 1) John Hoffman- 1,445 Calls
- 2) Steve McDonald- 1,278 Calls
- 3) Scott Pierce- 984 Calls
- 4) Nathan Collins- 938 Calls
- 5) Brian Consolo- 823 Calls

EMS-Only Most Runs:

Rochelle Pazmino-293 Calls

Presidents Award:

Micheal Felicotti

Fire Chief's Award:

Ryan Wagner

We would like to thank the Hyattsville VFD for providing a crew to staff our station during the banquet!

Squad 14 Named Busiest Heavy Rescue in the County!

On March 25th, Prince Georges County Fire/EMS Department announced the County's busiest Fire/Rescue units for 2012. Berwyn Heights Rescue Squad 14 was named the busiest Heavy Rescue Squad in the county, responding to a total of 1,721 calls in the year 2012, with an additional 60 calls as the Technical Rescue Team.

Follow us on



Clothes-Dryer Safety Tips

- Keep the area around your dryer clear of things that can burn, like boxes, cleaning supplies and clothing, etc.
- Make sure to clean out the lint filter after each load, this prevents heat from building up and catching fire.
- Turn off the dryer when you leave home.
- Make sure your dryer is properly grounded.



Station 14 Call Volume: March 2013

Rescue Squads:	151
Ladder Truck:	64
Technical Rescue Support Unit:	2
Ambulances:	114
Total Station Runs for March:	331
Working Structure Fires	3
Vehicle Extrications	1

Be Sure to Visit our Fire-Prevention/ First Aid Booth on Berwyn Heights Day for Games, Activities and Information!! See you on May 4th!



The Bugle – May 2013 The Berwyn Heights Boys and Girls Club



Berwyn Heights Day is Saturday, May 4th! If your child would like to participate in the parade, please have him/her at the school's lower parking lot by 11:40am. Please remember to let your child wear his/her uniform to represent their BHBGC sport.



Exciting news!!! – If you've always wanted to go camping and enjoy the great outdoors, this is an event you do not want to miss!!! All BHBGC members are welcome to camp out at Sports Park on May 18th starting at 5 pm and ending at 10 am the following morning. There will be great food, fun, and games for the entire family. To RSVP please see Kathy Schuster at Berwyn Heights elementary school or contact Shinita Hemby at hembygirl@yahoo.com or by calling (202) 531-6066 to reserve your space. The price is \$10 per family if paid in advance by May 15th and \$15 per family the day of the campout and may be paid to Kathy or Shinita.

Volunteer



If you have a little time in your schedule to volunteer with the Boys and Girls Club, we would be happy to meet you! Our next meeting will be held on Friday, May 3rd, 2013 at 7:00PM at the Berwyn Heights Town Center. If you would like to help out and want to speak with someone, please contact Shinita Hemby at (202) 531-6066 or by email at hembygirl@yahoo.com.

Motivation is what gets you started; Determination is what keeps you going!

Berwyn Heights Historical Committee

BHHC Tours the UMD Hornbake Library

On March 24th, the BHHC enjoyed a fascinating tour of the University of Maryland's Hornbake Library, and the Katherine Anne Porter Room that houses personal memorabilia of the distinguished Pulitzer Prize winning author, generally known for her best-selling novel of 1962, *Ship of Fools*.



Clockwise (from left) Curator Douglas McElrath highlights details from the 1853 "Sides Map of Riversdale"; Emerita Curator, Beth Alvarez talks about the life of author Katherine Anne Porter, who lived in the Towers at Westchester Park until her death in 1980.

SECOND ANNUAL Bostwick House & Garden Festival

Sunday May 5, 1-4:00 pm

FREE admission

Take a step back in time to the eve of the War of 1812 with 1800s music and more!

Ethnic Musical Performances, Historic Tours, Children's Games, 1800s Trade and Craft Demonstrations, Heirloom Plants & Crafts sale, Heritage Breed Farm Animals, and plenty of food!



For more information, call:
301-887-0777
or visit:

www.battleofbladensburg1812.com

The Berwyn Heights Historical Committee (BHHC) was established in March 2003 with the mission to preserve and make known the history of the Town of Berwyn Heights.

Here we share some of the work of the Committee, and a digest of current activity (see blog). We hope readers find this interesting and provide feedback that sheds more light on our past.

BHHC MEETINGS & EVENTS

February 16, 2013, 2:00 - 5:00 pm: Presidents' Day Wine & Cheese Reception

February 26, 2013, 7:30 pm: BHHC meeting

FOLLOW BLOG VIA EMAIL

Discover Our Town's Past ONLINE

On our brand new website, we share the work of the Committee plus a current digest of events, projects and activities.

Visitors to the site are welcome to comment and share information about our Town's past and the colorful people who lived here.

Visit us today . . .

<http://berwynheightshistory.wordpress.com/>

The BHHC welcomes new members and volunteers who are interested in working on events and projects that highlight our Town's history. The BHHC meets at the Town Office on the fourth Tuesday each month at 7:30 p.m. Our next meeting will be on May 28th.

Richard K. Gehring
Home Improvements
 Remodeling & Repairs
 Carpentry — Drywall
 Painting
 Serving Berwyn Heights
 For over 25 Years
 MHIC #84145
 Telephone
 301-441-1246

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Boys & Girls Club

President: Shinita Hemby 202-531-6066
 Soccer Commissioner: Jason Papanikolas
 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 League

Jim McGinnis 301-345-1223

Playgroup

Rose Almoguera 301-974-1777

Quilter's Club

Lois Williams 301-345-6214

Recreation Council

Trinity Tomsic 301-474-6350

Seniors Club

Jean McConnell 301-345-6373

Green Team

Therese Forbes 301-982-7115

BULLETIN BOARD

Rooms for Rent: \$450.00 - \$500.00. Please call (301) 237-2829.

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.

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.

Do you need an affordable daycare? Hi, my name is Carol and I would like to help you. I'm CPR certified and I have three children on my own. Give me a call if I'm the one you need. (301) 474-0963.

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.

Attention Seniors: Kind, compassionate Berwyn Heights resident available to go grocery shopping, run errands, etc. Please call Mary Ann at (301) 982-9295.

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.

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.

Tutor: High school math, science, history and writing. Please call 301-982-9636.

Child Care: Loving, licensed child care in BH, Monday thru Friday, 6:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. Call 301 (313) 9131.

Computer Repair: Having computer problems? Want files moved from an old computer to a new one? Flat rates cheaper than any store around. Call Jason 301-919-9980.

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

Most food & drugs we consume cause the diseases that "require" more drugs. Are you one who is being kept sorta-sick forever? Stop being a perpetual patient and get the six lists to save you. SCOTT 301-325-8223.

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.

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:

Dog Walking: 30 minutes, \$15.00 per walk. Special offers for multiple pets. Local trustworthy neighbor. Pet first aid and CPR certified. Call 240-605-2745.

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 Help with Spring Cleanup? Shawn (17) and Jeremy (15) can help with cleanup, raking, mulching, and more. Call 301-474-2002.

Looking for short, medium, and long term dog lovers to care for our pet. Call Joe 301-467-6183.

Walnut Console Piano in good condition. \$200 or best offer. Call Cheryl 443-909-8551.

Look for the Street Sweeper logo in the Sunday column of the Town Calendar on Page 31. It identifies the week(s) in which our streets will be swept during the month.

Please try not to park in the street whenever possible when the street sweeper comes to Berwyn Heights.

BERWYN HEIGHTS POLICE BEAT



"Police Beat" includes crimes and accidents that occurred during the month of March 2013. 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.

03/01/2013 at 8:30 am, Pfc. Ignowski submitted a 'Bad Check' report. A 44 Y/O, W/F, wrote a bad check to pay for her parking ticket.

03/02/2013 at 9:30 am, Pfc. Ignowski responded to the 5600 block of Osage for a report of a damaged grate of a residential house.

03/03/2012 at 5:10 pm, Pfc. Roberson responded to the 8900 block of 58th Avenue for a report of vandalism to a side mirror of a 2003 Cadillac.

03/04/2013 at 11:16 am, Pfc. Ignowski responded to the 8400 block of 58th Avenue for a report of a 'violation of a peace order'. Suspect, a 59 Y/O, B/F, refuses to accept a protective order.

03/04/2013 at 4:45 pm, Pfc. Ignowski responded to the 6200 block of Ruatan Street for a report of theft. Unknown person(s) removed several items from in front of a house while the house was under construction. Items were copper wires and a wood stove.

03/22/2013 at 11:35 am, Pfc. Ignowski responded to the 6300 block of Pontiac for a report of found property.

03/24/2013 at 1:15 pm, Pfc. Ignowski responded to the 5700 block of Seminole Street for a report of a suspicious package left at a resident. Investigation revealed that it belongs to the next door neighbor.

03/27/2013 at 6:57 pm, Pfc. Thompson responded to the 8700 block of Edmonston Road for a report of a residential burglary. Investigation revealed that sometime between the hours of 8:00 am-6:45 pm, an unknown person(s) entered the house through the basement window. Once inside, they removed several items of value before leaving the scene.

03/29/2013 at 12:55 pm, Pfc. Ignowski while on routine patrol observed a suspi-

cious person loitering near a recent burglary scene at the location of Tecumseh Place and Edmonston Road. A 20 Y/O, b/m was seen sitting on a curb. The subject stated that he lives around the corner which was not true. He was checked and sent on way.

03/30/2013 at 9:55 am, Pfc. Ignowski responded to the Greenbelt Road Shell for a vandalism complaint. Victim, a 24 y/o, b/m, resident of Washington DC stated that he picked up two black females from a party and, during the ride; one of the females became disorderly. He stopped at the Shell Station and ordered them out of the car. At which time one of the female pulled out a fixed blade knife from her boot and punctured the victim's tire before fleeing the scene.

NON-EMERGENCY POLICE DISPATCH PHONE NUMBER (301-352-1200)

1. Call 301-352-1200 (P.G. County Police).
2. Give dispatcher your name, address where you are, a phone number where you can be reached, and explain why you need a police officer.
3. Critically Important: Tell the dispatcher you want the on-duty Berwyn Heights police officer to respond.
4. In an emergency, Call 911.

03/30/2013 at 12:30 pm, Pfc. Ignowski responded to Osage Street at 60th Avenue for a disorderly call. On scene he was confronted by a 33 y/o, b/m that became disorderly and causing disturbance. The subject confronted Pfc. Ignowski about a citation that he received and became aggressive and violent towards Pfc. Ignowski. Mr. Walter Maurice Nash a 33 y/o, b/m refused to comply with the lawful order and caused a disturbance. He was placed under arrest and charged with disorderly.

03/31/2013 at 6: 35 pm, Pfc. Ignowski responded to the 8500 block of 63rd Avenue to assist the Fireboard with a forced entry.93 y/o, w/m was found unresponsive on the floor of the house. He was transported to PGH.

03/31/2013 at 8:00 pm, Pfc. Ignowski responded to the 5700 block of Nevada Street and assisted the Fireboard with an intoxicated 71 y/o, w/f. She was transported to Doctor's hospital.

03/31/2013 at 10:22 pm, Pfc. Ignowski responded to the 8900 block of 60th Avenue for a report of an attempted armed robbery. Victim a 27 y/o, b/m stated that he was approached by four black males. One of the males pointed a handgun and demanded his I-pod. Vic-

tim ran and dropped his I-pod and headphones while running. One of the suspects picked up the I-pod and all left in a vehicle.

Thomas A. Gentile Attorney

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



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to Berwyn Heights Residents

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Mike Smith Hauling & Trash Removal	28



IMPORTANT SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH/ COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

Hurricane Preparedness Week is May 26 - June 1, 2013

The 2013 Atlantic Hurricane Season begins June 1st

To prepare for a hurricane, you should take the following measures:

- To begin preparing, you should create an emergency kit (food, water, basic supplies for your family for **3 days**) and make a family communications plan.
- Know your surroundings. Listen to the radio or TV for information.
- Identify levees and dams in your area and determine whether they pose a hazard to you.
- Learn community hurricane evacuation routes and how to find higher ground. Determine where you would go and how you would get there if you need to evacuate. Don't forget to include your pets!
- Make plans to secure your property:
 - Be sure trees and shrubs around your home are well trimmed so they are more wind resistant.
 - Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts.
 - Reinforce your garage doors; if wind enters a garage it can cause dangerous and expensive structural damage.
 - Plan to bring in all outdoor furniture, decorations, garbage cans and anything else that is not tied down.
 - Determine how and where to secure your boat.
- Install a generator for emergencies.
- If in a high-rise building, be prepared to take shelter on or below the 10th floor.

Hurricanes cause heavy rains that can cause extensive flood damage in coastal and inland areas. Everyone is at risk and should consider flood insurance protection. Flood insurance is the only way to financially protect your property or business from flood damage. To learn more about your flooding risk and how to protect yourself and your business, visit the Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration (NFIP) Web site, www.floodsmart.gov or call 1-800-427-2419.

Check out our new website at: <http://bhnwep.webs.com/>. Stop by our booth on Berwyn Heights Day. Hope to see you there!



Free Karate Training!!!!

Train with Sensei Leon Swain, 5th degree black belt, four-time inductee into the World Professional Martial

Arts Hall of Fame, and member of Shihan John Roseberry's Sho-Rei-Shobu-Kan Budo Organization.

Open to All Ages/ All Levels:

Berwyn Heights Town Center-5700 Berwyn Rd-2nd Fl.

Year-Round: Mondays and Fridays 5-7 pm

Berwyn Heights Day May 4th— We'll Be Grilling Hot Dogs and Hamburgers at Sports Park for our fundraiser. Please Stop By and See Us.

For more information, contact Theresa Beck at 301-237-2829 (beck_theresa@yahoo.com) or Sensei Leon Swain at 301-728-2881



Berwyn Heights Elementary PTA Newsletter

May 2013

Berwyn Heights, MD

End of Year Pool Party!

Who: Students, Staff and their Families

When: COMING SOON

Where: Ellen Linson Pool

The PTA will be supplying hot dogs, chili, and condiments from Hard Times Cafe. We ask each family to help. Please bring store bought (County policy) drinks, side dishes and desserts. Also, please leave the food in the original containers.

If your last name begins with:

A-D: Drinks - Water, Juices, Sodas E-J: Veggies and Fruit K-N: Side Dishes - Salads, Chips O-Z: Desserts

We will be swearing in our 2012-2013 PTA Officers at the Pool Party

Mark Your Calendars

May 2nd – 6:30 pm Health, Safety and Wellness

Night/Book Club

May 6th-10th – Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week

May 27th - No School - Memorial Day

June 7th – Last Day of School (as of April 15th)

Box Tops = Free Money!

Final Collection for the 2012-2013 school year - June 1st! Please keep up the good work! Ms. Ottiano's class won the last Box Top collection.

Special Events

Teacher Appreciation Week – Show your teachers how much they are appreciated. We believe that teachers play a key role in each child's development and evolution. We need two parent volunteers per class for a clean-up night. Please contact Officers@BHESPTA.org to volunteer. A half sheet for teacher appreciation week will be coming home, please fit it out and return to school with your student. Look for more information to come home soon.

Health, Safety and Wellness Night - The PTA is hosting a Health, Safety, and Wellness Night on May 2 from 6:30-8:00. Please join us for some healthy snacks, exercise, and safety tips. Visit the PTA Book Club table to learn more about healthy choices and to pick out a book to keep!



Gardening

The school and school garden volunteers would like to thank those that helped us so far this Spring!

Thank you to Frank at Lowes, in Laurel, for their very kind donation towards our Peace Garden Patio. Thank you to Freddie Romero for his expertise masonry work in building the stone patio in the Peace Garden.

Thank you to Rusty Barrett for tilling the biggest and weediest garden at the school....and a big thank you to all the garden volunteers that helped in our School Garden Clean Up Day!!

Please come take a look at the gardens. We have been hard at work making the gardens into something the children can enjoy and learn in. Some of our classes planted the salad garden project this April with hope to harvest it before the school year ends! The Peace Garden project is finished and ready for children to learn, find peace within themselves, and share findings with others. What senses will your child experience in there?

Please contact fundraising@BHESpta.org if you would like to make donations to the school gardens or if you are interested in participating in future events.

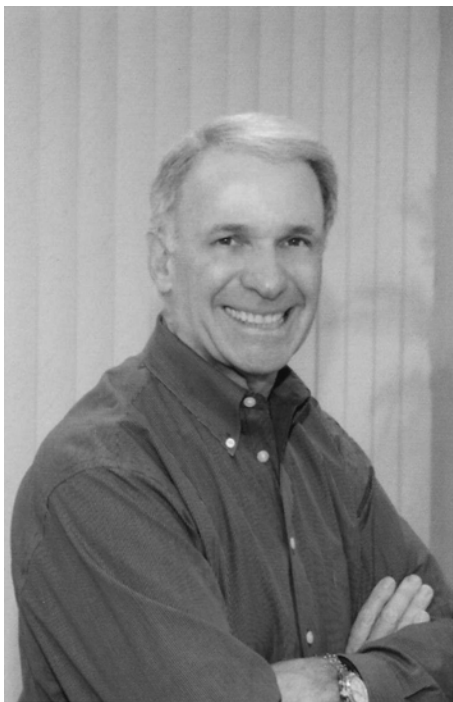
Check out our BHES PTA Website:

BHESPTA.org

Contact us at: Officers@BHESPTA.org.

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Norman R. Ressin, D.D.S., P.A.

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night's sleep.

BERWYN HEIGHTS SENIORS CLUB

“Celebrating 30 Years in Town”

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

May 3	Anna Cordone
May 4	Marie LaRue
May 9	Joseph Hudak Howard Johnson
May 12	Jean Koko Gyl
May 14	Rachele Schultz
May 23	Herman Seeger
May 27	Calvin Foster

MAY ACTIVITIES

May 1	Wii Bowling	10:30 A.M.
May 2	Pool Night	7:00 P.M.
May 4	Berwyn Heights Day	
May 7	Bingo	12:30 P.M.
May 8	Wii Bowling	10:30 A.M.
May 9	Pool Night	7:00 P.M.
May 11	Potluck Dinner & Movie	5:00 P.M.
May 14	Meeting	11:00 A.M.
May 15	Wii Bowling	10:30 A.M.
May 18	Pool Night	7:00 P.M.
May 21	Bingo	12:30 P.M.
May 22	Wii Bowling	10:30 A.M.
May 23	Pool Night	7:00 P.M.
May 28	Meeting & Potluck Bingo	11:00 A.M. 1:00 P.M.
May 29	Wii Bowling	10:30 A.M.
May 30	Pool Night	7:00 P.M.

SENIORS TRIPS

May 18 — Mystery Trip

Sept. 21 — Hooper Island Crab Feast

December 8 — Shreck the Musical, Old Oprey House, Charles Town, WVA. Show and Dinner—\$95.00.

Contact Margritt Vause for info (301-356-5566)



See you at our Bake Sale table at the Seniors Center on Berwyn Heights Day. We'll be open at 8:30 A.M.





DAVID HARDING
Assistant Service Manager

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Greenbelt, MD 20770

(301) 441-9600
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Weekend Masses:
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Sunday 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:00 n.
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Your Town Update...

Sold
6203 Pontiac Street - 5 Bdrm, 3 Bath \$260,000

Sold
5722 Nevada Street - 3 Bdrm, 2 Bath \$245,000

Sold
4715 Tecumseh Street - 4 Bdrm, 3 Bath \$260,000

Active
6214 Ruatan Street - 4 Bdrm, 2 Bath \$299,000

Active
8900 57th Avenue - 4 Bdrm, 3 Bath \$264,900

Contract
6005 Berwyn Road - 6 Bdrm, 2 Bath \$239,900

Contract
8412 Cunningham Drive - 4 Bdrm, 3 Bath \$227,900

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Berwyn Heights GreenBee



The GreenBee is your monthly guide to tips and resources from the Green Team! If you'd like share your ideas, please email us at bgreen.berwynheights@gmail.com, or contact Therese Forbes, outreach coordinator, at 301-982-7115. Our next Green Team meeting is May 16th at 7:00 p.m. (Town Office).

Are You Interested in Community Gardening? Berwyn Heights Community Garden - Call for Volunteers

Do you want to help us make a community vegetable garden happen in Berwyn Heights? We are looking for volunteers to help with the planning process. We need to find a site, design/build the garden plots, and establish guidelines. If you are interested in serving on the planning committee, please contact Trinity Tomsic at [301-474-6350](tel:301-474-6350) or trinity.tomsic@gmail.com for more information.

Gardening Tip: Use Companion Planting to Reduce Garden Pests

Companion planting is the practice of growing plants next to each other for mutual benefit. It creates diversity within your garden and can repel unwanted insects as well as attract ones that are beneficial to your vegetable garden! As an added benefit, many plants and herbs typically used for companion planting in a vegetable garden are also edible.

The following plants attract beneficial insects: Yarrow, mint, lemon balm, thyme, asters, Mexican sunflower, zinnias, cosmos, marigolds, calendula, and chamomile.

Heavily scented plants can deter pests. Try incorporating garlic, onion, mint, and cleome in your vegetable garden.

Here are a few other examples you can try to incorporate companion planting practices in your garden:

- Plant radishes around your squash plants to deter squash bugs
- Rosemary and sage can repel the carrot fly
- Plant tomatoes with onion, garlic, strong smelling herbs (mints and bee balm) and basil
- Plant lettuce in the shade of tomato plants
- Plant beans and peas with potatoes, corn, squash, cucumber, dill, lettuce (not with onion family or marigolds)

Does Your Yard Need Some TLC? Order Local SMARTLEAF® Compost

The City of College Park Public Works Yard will deliver SMARTLEAF®, which is made from composted leaves. Price: \$18.00 per cubic yard (\$19.08 including tax). Delivery fees are extra. Call 240-487-3590 or email publicworks@collegeparkmd.gov to order and visit <http://www.collegeparkmd.gov/smartleaf.htm> for information.

GreenBee BuzzWorthy: Use Resuable Bags

Using reusable bags instead of disposable plastic ones when you can is a small but very important step that you can take on a daily basis to help reduce waste. Consider these facts about plastic bags:

- The average person in the U.S. uses *500 plastic bags each year*
- Only between *1 and 3 percent* of plastic bags are recycled
- Plastic bags take *400 years* to decompose
- Plastic bags also pose a serious danger to birds and marine mammals that often mistake them for food. Thousands die each year after swallowing or choking on discarded plastic bags
- Producing plastic bags requires millions of gallons of petroleum that could be used for transportation or heating

Added benefits of reusable bags: In addition to being much better for the environment than disposable plastic bags, reusable bags are:

- Multi-purpose (not only are they good for carrying groceries, but also books, clothes, toys and many other things)
- Generally sturdier (they usually have strong handles and can hold greater amounts of weight)
- Often able to fit large quantities of items (without ripping like plastic bags often do!)

COOKES



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Some Questions I get asked.....a lot

1. *Are open houses worth it, do they sell my house?*
2. *Should I short sell my house, do I need to stop making payments?*
3. *Let's start a little high with the price, we can always reduce it?*
4. *How's the market....Cant I just sell my home "As-Is"?*

If you have a question like this, or would like the answers to these or your specific question...email me/ call me! I will always get back in touch with you quickly!



LISTED/SOLD this month by Sharon:

NEW LISTING-6906 Osage St....3BR,1.5BA rambler, lg yard, shed, ½ BA in MBR...\$234,900.

NEW LISTING-8711 63rd Av....3BR,1Full/2 half BA rambler, new kitchen, lg yard....\$249,900.

UNDER CONTRACT-6820 Quebec St....6BR,3+ BA, farmhouse....\$370s.



























CONTINGENT...6117 Ruatan St....4BR, 2BA rambler, HDWD flrs, Updt BA's.....\$230s.

SOLD-6220 Seminole Pl....3BR, 1.5 BA rambler w/garage....\$225,000.



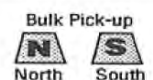
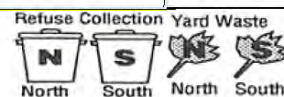
May 2013

Town of Berwyn Heights Monthly Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			 1 NW/EP Meeting Town Office 7:30 P.M.	 2  Recreation Council Meeting Town Office 7:00 P.M.	 3 	4 BERWYN HEIGHTS DAY 
	 6  Worksession 7:00 P.M. Town Office Televised on Ch 71, FiOS 12	 7 	 8 Town Meeting FY 2014 Budget Adoption 8:00 P.M. Town Office Televised on Ch 71, FiOS 12	 9 	 10 	11
	 13 	 14 	 15	 16  Green Team Meeting 7:00 P.M. Town Office	 17 	18 Boys & Girls Club Campout 5:00 P.M.
	 20  Worksession 7:00 P.M. Town Office Televised on Ch 71, FiOS 12	 21 	 22	 23 	 24 	25
26	27 Memorial Day Town Offices Closed No Trash PickUp	 28  BHHC Meeting Town Office 7:30 P.M.	 29	 30 	 31 	



PLEASE DO NOT PARK ON THE STREET
IF POSSIBLE DURING THE WEEK WHEN
THE STREET SWEEPER IS IN TOWN.



BERWYN HEIGHTS BULLETIN

TOWN OF BERWYN HEIGHTS
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Berwyn Heights, Maryland 20740-2799

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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
 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
 Maryland Relay Service (TTY)..... 1(800) 735-2258

Mayor and Council

Cheye Calvo (301) 474-6350 ccalvo@town.berwyn-heights.md.us
 Mayor — Public Safety and Health
 James Wilkinson (301) 982-5152 jwilkinson@town.berwyn-heights.md.us
 Mayor Pro Tem — Department of Public Works (please call before 8:30 p.m.)
 Rose Almoguera (301) 974-1777 ralmoguera@town.berwyn-heights.md.us
 Councilmember — Administration
 Patti Dennison (301) 404-2759 pdennison@town.berwyn-heights.md.us
 Councilmember — Parks and Recreation, Education and Civic Affairs
 Jodie Kulpa-Eddy (301) 345-1516 jkulpaeddy@town.berwyn-heights.md.us
 Councilmember — Code Compliance, Construction and Transportation

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
 to request a pay time.

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