



# Berwyn Heights Bulletin

Incorporated 1896

November 2022



**HAPPY**  
*Thanksgiving*  
**SUNDAY: NOV 6, 2-4PM**  
**BHHC WINE AND CHEESE RECEPTION**

**FRIDAY, NOV 18, 7PM TEAM TRIVIA NIGHT**

Some content inside provided in Spanish and English

Algunos contenidos internos se proporcionan en español e inglés.



**INSIDE  
THIS  
EDITION**

**10**

**BH  
Ed  
Grant**

**12**

**BHHC  
Wine &  
Cheese**

**16**

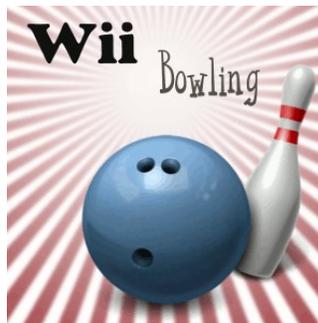
**BH  
Tax  
Credit**

# Berwyn Heights Seniors Club

Open Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 10 A.M. to 2P.M.— Next to the Town Office  
on 57th Ave. Phone 301-474-5000

## NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES

- BINGO** - Every Tuesday at 12:00 PM
- WII BOWLING**— Every Wednesday 10:30AM
- BOARD GAMES**— Every Thursday at 11AM
- POOL**—Every Thursday at 7:00PM
- BOARD GAMES**— Every Friday at 7PM
- POTLUCK & MOVIE** – Second Saturday at 5PM
- BREAKFAST** at the SILVER DINER third Thursday at 9:30AM
- CRAFTS** - Last Friday 11AM
- MEETINGS** - Second and Fourth Tuesday at 11A.M. The Fourth Tuesday is also a potluck.



**LEAGUE PLAY** has returned, but we are still looking for subs.  
Why not give it a try?

## WASHINGTON FOOTBALL

WE ARE WATCHING ALL 1:00 P.M. GAMES ON THE BIG TV. COME JOIN US!

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

# HAPPY TURKEY DAY



## Free Karate Training!!!!

Train with Sensei Leon Swain, 6<sup>th</sup> degree black belt, five-time inductee into the World Professional Martial Arts Hall of Fame. Member of Sho-Rei-Shobu-Kan Budo Organization.

## NOW BACK TO IN PERSON TRAINING!!

Berwyn Heights Town Center-5700 Berwyn Rd-2<sup>nd</sup> Fl.  
Open to all ages/all levels: Year-Round: Mondays and Fridays 5-7 pm  
Executive Club (Senior Citizens): Thursdays 12:00 – 2:00 pm

For more information, contact Theresa Beck 301-237-2829 ([becktheresag@gmail.com](mailto:becktheresag@gmail.com)), Brett Bentley at 240-678-9103 ([Brett.t.bentley@gmail.com](mailto:Brett.t.bentley@gmail.com)) or Sensei Leon Swain at 301-728-2881

## Worksession Minutes July 18, 2022 | 7:00 pm

### Call to Order:

Mayor Jodie Kulpa-Eddy called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. Present were Mayor Pro Tem Chris Brittan-Powell, Councilmember Jason Hemby and Councilmember Faustino Menjivar. Town Manager Laura Allen was present via Zoom and Town Clerk Melanie Friesen was also present. Councilmember Jason Papanikolas had an excused absence. Several residents of the Town of Berwyn Heights were also present. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy shared about technical difficulties with the cable broadcast, and the streaming service to the website was having difficulties prior to the meeting as well. She added that a DVD recording will be available, and the meeting video will be added to the website as soon as possible.

### Approval of the Agenda

CM Hemby moved to approve the agenda. CM Menjivar seconded. After no discussion, the motion passed unanimously. MPT Brittan-Powell asked about a proposed agenda item with the University of Maryland School of Public Health. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy stated that it had been rescheduled to a different date.

### Mayor

**Announcements:** Mayor Kulpa-Eddy shared a deep appreciation for Town residents who stepped up on Saturday, coordinating with a local restaurant to provide meals to residents who had lost food during the storm. MPT Brittan-Powell stated that food insecurity is prevalent in Town and he would like to explore becoming a "Feed the Fridge" location to help address that need within the community. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy also added that the ARPA residents' assistance program can provide food assistance in the form of gift cards to local grocery stores when it is reinstated. She shared that the Cooling Center in the Senior Center was available on Saturday and Sunday. She wanted to quell rumors that there was a secret Council meeting on Sunday. Several Council members were at the Cooling Center on Sunday. She reported that she left when MPT Brittan-Powell and CM Hemby arrived so that there was not a Council quorum present. MPT Brittan-Powell stated that there was a meeting with community leaders about an ad hoc committee on reenergizing the community spirit in Berwyn Heights. He stated there was confusion about the Senior Center being available at the time of the meeting; that space was used by the Senior Club to watch a baseball game, so the meeting was held in the G. Love Room. MPT Brittan-Powell also stated that he invited in advance his fellow Council colleagues, but that when CM Menjivar arrived, he left the Love room, but not the building. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy asked what kind of discussion was happening in the Love room. MPT Brittan-Powell stated that he was meeting to ask community leaders to see if there is the will to put together a formal Town Committee to put forward for Wednesday's Town Meeting. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy stated that when there is even a perception of Town business being discussed and there is a quorum of Councilmembers present, it give a perception of having a public meeting, and these must be properly noticed. MPT Brittan-Powell stated that he takes full responsibility for any errors and spoke favorably of the character of the others involved in the meeting. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy explained that as a Councilmember he is a representative of the Town and the Town is the entity that will be held accountable if someone makes a complaint to the State board. MPT Brittan-Powell replied that he was formally requesting that this matter be brought before the Ethics Commission. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy replied that the Ethics Commission is not the governing body for this type of complaint but that the State is. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy asked if the public was denied access to the meeting. MPT Brittan-Powell stated that it wasn't a Town organization meeting, that the Councilmembers present were not there as Councilmembers but as residents. He then asked again that the issue be taken to the Ethics Commission. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy asked if he was saying that this was not a public meeting. She further asked if it was not a public meeting, why was it held at the Senior Center instead of a private residence. MPT Brittan-Powell replied that his house is a mess because of the storm. He also stated that the whole Council knew about the meeting because he texted the details of it to the whole Council. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy stated that his texts weren't that detailed and reminded everyone that their texts are subject to Maryland Public Information Act requests. CM Menjivar reiterated that there were never more than two Councilmembers in the meeting at the same time. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy reiterated that whenever three or more Councilmembers are going to be meeting in one place, it needs to be publicly noticed by the Town. She then opened the floor to other announcements. CM Hemby thanked all the first responders, staff, and neighbors helping neighbors. She gave special thanks to TM Allen and the Police department for their communications. MPT Brittan-Powell added his appreciation particularly to the police officers who checked in on the most vulnerable populations in the community. CM Menjivar expressed his thankfulness to the community and the unity he saw with this storm event. **Calendar:** Mayor Kulpa-Eddy reviewed the calendar. There were no changes.

### News from the Town Manager

#### Storm Recovery Report from Town Manager, Director of Public Works, Chief of Police, and Director of Code Compliance

TM Allen shared that there is a report from the executive team summarizing their activities in response to the storm, a report from Pepco dated the 13<sup>th</sup>, and an update from the county. TM Allen had requested that the Pepco government liaison, Mr. Tony Ruffin, be available for this meeting; however, he was unable to attend but will likely be available for a future meeting to discuss Pepco's storm response. She reported that Public Works Director Puder came in on Tuesday evening and the rest of the team responded quickly. Public Works will continue to do extra yard waste pick-ups for the remainder of the week. The Town received clean-up support from the Town of Upper Marlboro, the City of Gaithersburg, and the City of New Carrollton, and the City of

Hyattsville sent their street sweeper as the Four Cities sweeper is undergoing repairs. The Town participates in the statewide Public Works Mutual Aid agreement and drew upon that to get extra support. TM Allen also specifically gave thanks to Kyle Snyder who lives in Town and is the Town Administrator for Upper Marlboro. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy asked TM Allen if the lessons learned from this storm will be shared in tonight's meeting or at a future meeting. TM Allen replied that the Town had a few unpleasant surprises from the storm, such as no generator support for some of the A/C units in the Senior Center, iNet issues with phones and internet (leaving the Town without either), and leaving staff to use their personal devices to conduct Town business, including disbursing information. Social media was more heavily relied upon because while the Town Website is mobile-friendly for users, it is not mobile-friendly for updating and maintaining. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy inquired if it would be possible to have an emergency cell phone for office use during emergencies like this. MPT Brittan-Powell shared that one of the greatest concerns he heard from residents was about communication and people wanting more information. He also asked for more detail on the mutual aid agreement. TM Allen explained that while most municipalities have mutual aid agreements with police departments, the State of Maryland also established a mutual aid agreement for Public Works, and it is easier to get support from areas that were not impacted by the events. One essentially reaches out to communities in the agreement and asks for help. MPT Brittan-Powell asked why the Neighborhood Watch/Emergency Preparedness (NW/EP) group had not been activated. Chief Antolik joined the meeting and responded that he did not activate the group because of the number of downed wires that made the area dangerous. MPT Brittan-Powell asked if the group could have been activated later when the immediate danger had been removed. Chief replied that he did not activate them at that time because he did not want to impede the work being done by the professionals in Town. Chief Antolik expressed that there is a need to identify and assess what training different members of NW/EP have to know how best they can be deployed in the future. He also spoke how in 2017 an emergency management plan was presented to the Council but was told it would never happen, and here we are. MPT Brittan-Powell asked who would determine if the power was off and it was safe to work in an area. Chief Antolik replied that Pepco would determine when it was safe. CM Hemby asked Chief Antolik if he asked for any funding in 2017 when he presented the plan. Chief replied that he did not. CM Hemby followed up and asked if Chief could identify any specific trainings that would help. He agreed to do so. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy asked if any residents had comments on the storm.

Resident Claudia Barragan asked about the status of Indian Creek playground, as

M-NCPPC has worked to clean up bike paths, but not the playground, which is heavily used by residents of the Town, specifically minority residents. She also expressed a desire to have playground inspectors from the County come to review Town parks for safety as the Town does not have any on staff. Resident Ethan Sweep shared that he wanted to express his appreciation for all the work that TM Allen, the police department and staff have done. He shared that he wanted to address the free meals that were given out on the Saturday following the storm. It was an act of kindness, but that he got a text from a Councilmember saying that MPT Brittan-Powell wanted to shut down the event as he felt it was a partisan political event and wanted the Council to override the Town Manager's approval of the event. He expressed outrage that a Councilmember wanted to shut down a relief event. MPT Brittan-Powell and Mr. Sweep discussed if the event was political in nature and who had the responsibility to communicate the event. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy shared that she sees this lesson learned as one where the Town should have provided food. Mr. Sweep shared that his community spirit and desire to volunteer have been diminished by the way this was handled.

MPT Brittan-Powell expressed resident concerns about Director Pudner about his letting all of his staff go home on Wednesday night rather than keeping a skeleton crew onsite. Director Pudner replied that his staff had worked late into the night on Tuesday, slept briefly on site and then began working again on Wednesday. By then, most of the Town was passable and the crew needed rest in order to come back and do a full day of clean-up as well as the regular trash pickup that was scheduled on Thursday. The decision was discussed with TM Allen. Resident Eddie Daffron on Seminole Street asked if the Town had declared a state of emergency; why or why not. TM Allen explained that the Town did not declare a disaster as there is no benefit to the Town. The County has a threshold of \$3 Million of damage before they will declare an emergency and the State has a \$10 Million threshold of damage. To access FEMA funds, the State would have to advocate for it and they won't do that until they hit that threshold. Mr. Daffron asked if any of the equipment from the NW/EP trailer was used. Lt. Unger stated that to the best of his knowledge no equipment was used. They coordinated with the Berwyn Heights Volunteer Fire Department and offered a propane generator, but it wasn't needed. Resident Helen Weinrich on Cunningham Drive shared that she thought there was poor communication from the Town. She wanted to know how, when there is a power outage, residents are supposed to access electronic communication. She said she saw lots of police vehicles driving around and doing checks on residents, but that no one stopped to check on her. She stated that the caution tape that was used to surround downed trees and wires was hard to see. She also stated that there were many more unfamiliar vehicles in Town and she believes people are "sightseeing" the damage in Town. She commented that the trailer for NW/EP has a lot of equipment and there are people with training that could have been utilized. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy reported

that the trailer wasn't maintained as actively during Covid and the equipment is in the process of being inventoried and evaluated. Ms. Weinrich stated that if this wasn't an emergency, what qualifies as an emergency. She reported that the initial email did not identify the Cooling Center as the Senior Center and that while she saw Red Cross vehicles in Town, there was no information from the Town on how to access their services. Chief Antolik replied that this was the worst storm in his 30 years here. The Town has 3000 residents and less than 10 officers to cover all the shifts. There is no way for officers to contact every resident in Town. Officers took residents to the cooling center, phones to the center to charge them for residents, and brought water. Officers stayed in Town working in a building that had no power or A/C and did not go home. Domestic and Disorderly calls increased during the aftermath of the storm, as did traffic calls because of the lack of power on Greenbelt Road. In addition, he had an officer coordinating with Pepco to ensure things were safe. He commended Public Works for doing an amazing job during the storm. Police Department administration staff worked around the clock to respond to email and help get residents in contact with family members. TM Allen shared that there were reporters and photographers in Town covering the storm. When the cooling center was open, she spoke with people there. The Red Cross did not coordinate or communicate with Town Staff that they were in Town. MPT Brittan-Powell expressed gratitude from residents to Police Clerk Mercy Muralles and Officer Rufino for all the work that they did to help coordinate communications. Chief Antolik also replied to Ms. Weinrich that there is not a current inventory of the trailer. Ms. Weinrich shared that the trailer was inventoried under Mayor Rasmussen and that Police Clerk Muralles was involved in that inventory process and should have a list. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy added that there is a new trailer and that NW/EP was working to get the equipment transferred and evaluated. Resident Patti Dennison asked who is responsible for cleaning up all the branches that are still down. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy replied that it depends on where the branches are. If they are in residents' backyards, the resident needs to work with someone to clean them up, but branches that are moved to the front curb will eventually be picked up by Public Works. Sgt. Roberson commented that mistakes cannot be made with downed wires and that the police are not trained to assess what is a live powerline. That is 100% Pepco's responsibility to determine.

**Community Comments:** Resident Ron Luftman stated that he would like to file a complaint against MPT Brittan-Powell for abuse of power and violating the rules of a quorum by holding a meeting where 3 members of Council were present and participating in a meeting. He distributed copies of his written complaint. He reported that all three Councilmembers were actively participating in a private meeting, held in a public room. He asked under what authority did MPT Brittan-Powell exclude residents from the G. Love Room. Resident Patti Dennison also stated that she attempted to join the meeting but was not allowed to enter the room. MPT Brittan-Powell replied that he feels bad, that Mr. Luftman and Ms. Dennison mean a lot to him. Mr. Luftman continued, asking MPT Brittan-Powell why he felt that he could exclude

residents from the Love Room. MPT Brittan-Powell replied that it was a meeting for those invited and that not all community leaders were chosen to participate.

Resident Claudia Barragan shared that she is still recovering from storm damage but expressed frustration that the NW/EP wasn't utilized during the storm event. She also wanted to state again that she believes Town staff to be negligent on the residential ARPA application. She has reviewed the ARPA application for residential relief that is on hold and stated she and MPT Brittan-Powell had agreed to work on improving the application. She stated that it is misguided that the City of College Park should be emulated, and that the Town should look at what other municipalities of similar size to us are doing. She reported that Cottage City and Brentwood also have residential ARPA relief programs. They have hired part-time ARPA specialists, people who are only working on ARPA programming. She added that University Park has a 3-year commitment to their staff for wage increases that are covered by the ARPA funding as well as stormwater management projects. Ms. Barragan continued that the residential relief programs at Cottage City and Brentwood have significantly shorter applications and recommended that the Town emulate those applications from those municipalities. She proposed that staff be removed from the process of approval, but rather that the proposed ARPA dedicated staff member be over the process of this and the creation of an oversight committee that included an ARPA staff person, a member of the ethics commission, and a resident from the community. She believes the Town to be in violation of Title 6 and is discriminatory. She claimed that the Town Manager verbally refused an applicant. Ms. Barragan believes the outreach from the Town on the program to be lacking, stating that the Town should be knocking on doors and inviting people to apply. She stated that she spent time at a local park to try and share information about the program, but that she had no one interested in applying because the application was too lengthy. She also shared her belief that the Town is offering too much money per applicant. She also suggested a definition of hardship. She asked for an accounting of what had been spent. She expressed that if the amount of relief is lowered that more people will apply and use those funds to pay for things like overdue fees for the Boys and Girls Club. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy responded that the current funding isn't the only amount of funding that the Council is willing to spend on this relief, rather that it was a starting place. She suggested that reduced relief funding should be \$3000. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy expressed that the ARPA funding was designed to primarily address food and housing insecurity. Ms. Barragan countered that mental health is important during Covid and that other uses should be considered. Resident Patti Dennison asked how one applies for the ARPA relief program. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy replied that the program has been suspended until the application has been redesigned. TM Allen responded that the Town Council adopted a program in March directing staff to model our program after the City of College Park. She also stated that she never told a resident that they

were ineligible for the program, rather than the relief that they were requesting wasn't eligible under the program as it existed. MPT Brittan-Powell stated that he believes that the Town Manager did not follow the process as directed by Council. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy stated that she understood that MPT Brittan-Powell called the process into question because he didn't believe that an applicant was eligible. MPT Brittan-Powell replied that it was not because the applicant wasn't eligible, but that the first application gave an opportunity to review the process. Resident Jose Valcarcel stated that it is not the Town Manager's or the Council's decision to determine if an expense is eligible, but that the procedures should be followed, and that the application review committee should make the determination if an expense is eligible.

Resident Helen Weinrich stated that she is greatly bothered by the noise from modified mufflers and wanted to know how many tickets have been written for loud exhaust systems. She stated that the police would have to leave their cars to hear the noise. She continued that if the police are not giving out tickets for modified exhaust systems, she would like the Town to consider noise cameras. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy shared that the Chief of Police was originally asked to join tonight's meeting to do a presentation on traffic enforcement in Town but that has been postponed in order to address due to the storm response instead.

Resident Dave Wolfinger stated that Chief Antolik puts out a report every week and every month where he details what citations have been made during the week/month. He also expressed that the Chief could explain what each of the codes on the types of citations mean. MPT Brittan-Powell postulated that this might be ordinance enforcement, which would fall under Code Compliance rather than the Police Department. Ms. Weinrich continued that modified exhaust systems increase carbon footprint, increase stress and harm hearing. She continued that as it is against Maryland law to modify a muffler, and that if the police aren't enforcing it, then it is selective enforcement. She also expressed that the police are not enforcing other noise complaints, such as loud music. She shared an experience where she located the source of loud music and it was a police event that was and that they refused to turn the music down until the end of the event. She wanted to see police quotas on enforcement. She reported not seeing police monitor the stop sign at Cunningham and Seminole for years. She expressed a desire to see more police accountability and believes 10 officers is more than adequate to serve the Town.

Jose Valcarcel stated that the Town has a communication issue and believes an electronic sign could increase communication and could have been used during the storm to inform residents.

MPT Brittan-Powell shared a text from resident Kenneth Whitlow that if the Town had a "Feed the Fridge" location there wouldn't be a food insecurity issue in Town as residents could simply walk up to the fridge and access food.

**Sustainable Communities Work Group**

**Composition:** TM Allen shared that this is a follow up on the presentation from the Department of Housing and Community Development given several weeks ago. The Town needs to put together a workgroup for the application renewal process. She included the list of groups that worked on the initial 2017 application and asked for feedback.

Resident Claudia Barragan spoke stating that she believes this list of proposed organizations to be discriminatory and another Title 6 violation. She expressed her thoughts that Town Management is negligent in their inclusiveness. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy asked if there were any objections to including the Immigrant Neighbors Assembly in the workgroup. Ms. Barragan also suggested that the Town include a member of the Senior's Club and add a youth member to the workgroup.

**Four Cities Agenda topics:** Mayor Kulpa-Eddy received an email that both Greenbelt and College Park will not be available to attend the scheduled date for the Four Cities meeting as their Councilmembers will be attending the National League of Cities meeting at that time. She proposed the meeting could be virtual or that the date could be rescheduled to a proposed date of August 4<sup>th</sup>. CM Hemby expressed a desire for an in-person meeting. CM Menjivar stated that he would not be available for either date. MPT Brittan-Powell had no preference.

**Public Safety :** Mayor Kulpa-Eddy reminded everyone of the primary election on July 19<sup>th</sup> and reviewed same day registration as well as how to return a mail-in ballot.

**Public Works:** CM Menjivar reviewed that it was a good thing that Director Pudner sent his staff home to rest during storm clean-up, as being well rested is part of good safety practices. He shared that there was good communication from Town Staff and he saw police officers going block by block in his neighborhood to ask residents if they were okay.

**Administration:** MPT Brittan-Powell shared that he would hold his report until the Town Meeting.

**Code Compliance:** CM Hemby expressed thanks to all who were out working to clean up after the storm. Code Compliance identified a number of homes that were damaged during the storm and are unfit for occupancy. They were out in the community visiting homes to evaluate damage to determine what homes were habitable.

**Parks, Recreation, Education, and Civic Affairs:** CM Papanikolas had an excused absence so there was no PRECA report. CM Menjivar asked if there were any injuries from the storm. TM Allen stated that the Town received no reports of injuries caused by the storm.

**Adjournment :** CM Hemby moved to adjourn the meeting. CM Menjivar seconded. After no discussion the motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 9:40PM.

**Town Meeting Minutes :  
September 14, 2022 | 7:00 pm**

Mayor Jodie Kulpa-Eddy called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. Present was Councilmember Shinita Hemby, Councilmember Faustino Menjivar, Councilmember Jason Papanikolas, Town Manager Laura Allen and Town Clerk Melanie Friesen. Mayor Pro Tem Chris Brittan-Powell joined the meeting remotely. Also present were several residents of the community.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**1. Announcements**

Mayor Kulpa-Eddy reported out on the Executive Session that was held from 6:03PM to 6:53PM. All members of the Council were present at that meeting with MPT Brittan-Powell joining remotely. The Session was held pursuant to General Provisions Article § 3-305(b) (1) to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of an appointee, employee, or official over whom this public body has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals and (14) before a contract is awarded or bids are opened, to discuss a matter directly related to a negotiating strategy or the contents of a bid or proposal, if public discussion or disclosure would adversely impact the ability of the public body to participate in the competitive bidding or proposal process. TM Allen was present for half the meeting. CM Hemby moved to close the session with CM Papanikolas seconding.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

CM Papanikolas moved to approve the agenda. CM Menjivar seconded. After no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

**3. Consent**

CM Papanikolas moved to approve the Consent Agenda. CM Menjivar seconded. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy, CM Menjivar and CM Papanikolas voted in favor of approving the Consent Agenda. MPT Brittan-Powell and CM Hemby abstained.

**4. Mayor & Councilmember Reports**

Mayor Kulpa-Eddy reviewed the 30 day County-wide Juvenile curfew. She shared that Chief Antolik reported the Police Department had not seen any issues with it by the time of the meeting. She stated she had attended a hearing on a proposed change to the County Zoning Map, but despite concerns it might affect some properties in Berwyn Heights, it turns out it will not. Pepco has been tasked with getting more information from communities on streetlights and LED lighting, and will hold a total of four meetings with the municipalities; she attended the first one held earlier today. She was also able to attend a couple of recent Town Organization meetings including the Rec Council and NW/EP meeting. She was at the "Hello Huskies" night at the Berwyn Heights Elementary School and the Seniors Appreciation Lunch hosted by the Police Department. The Police Department will host a Multicultural day on October 1st from 11-3 in the lower parking lot of the community center.

MPT Brittan-Powell deferred his report to the

upcoming Worksession.

CM Hemby shared that she had the honor of delivering the postcards concerning the flood survey and that she was warmly welcomed by the residents. There had been over 140 responses from the questionnaire. She thanked staff for getting the postcards produced quickly. She thanked Mr. Ronald Daley for their discussions during Lakeland Day. She updated that Code Compliance did not issue any tickets during the month of August, but that they will be looking for any remaining issues from the storms and will be contacting residents as needed to address remaining hazards.

CM Menjivar reported that the ARPA Residential Relief Committee is reviewing applications and that he is working with the Mayor and those residents to get their requests completed. He reviewed the playground inspection of Pops Park and reported that some equipment was taken out of service, maintenance completed, and hazards removed.

CM Papanikolas shared that most of his updates will be covered by the committee reports. He added that both he and the Mayor are on the Maryland Municipal League Summer Conference Planning Committee. He will be receiving his certificate for graduating from the Academy of Excellence in Local Government this weekend.

## 5. Committee Reports

**a. Education Advisory Committee:** CM Papanikolas shared that they did not meet during the month of August.

**b. Green Team:** CM Papanikolas reviewed that they met on the 11th. The meeting covered the Sustainable Maryland grant application, which Paul Kavanagh will be taking the lead on writing. The Green Team watched the presentation from the 4 Cities meeting on enacting legislation banning plastic bags, and determined it will only affect two retailers in Town. They are considering the implications of that before making recommendations. He added that the Adopt-a-Block program is going well.

**c. Historical Committee:** Debby Steele-Snyder reported that the Historical Committee did not meet in August but participated in National Night Out. The next meeting will be September 28th at 7:30 pm, and visitors are welcome to join. She added that committee elections will be held at that meeting. The Wine and Cheese event is returning after 3 years, with a presentation by Maya Davis, director at the Riverdale House Museum. The event will be held on November 6 from 2-4PM.

**d. Neighborhood Watch/ Emergency Preparedness:** Mayor Kulpa-Eddy shared that no one from the Police Department was available for the meeting as they were responding to an incident. The Committee talked about Bulletin ideas, recruitment and working with the Volunteer Fire Department for a fire safety presentation in October.

They also expressed interest in the storm response survey results.

**e. Recreation Council:** Mayor Kulpa-Eddy shared that the ice cream social will be on Thursday, September 15th. Trunk or Treat is coming up on October 22 at the lower parking lot at the community center and that a Sound Sensitive Halloween party will be held upstairs in the Town Center the following day. Saturday, October 8th is the last concert of the summer series. Finally, an Arboretum walking club trip is coming up on September 17th; meet in the Town Hall parking lot at 10AM. She reminded residents of the regular meet-ups of the Walking Club and Game Night. She reported that the next Rec Council meeting has been moved to September 27th to avoid a conflict with Yom Kippur.

## 6. Old Business

### a. Home Retrofit Program

MPT Brittan-Powell stated that he brought this forward because the appropriateness of the Special Meeting has been called into question and he wants this program to be reaffirmed. CM Papanikolas reviewed that an Open Meetings Act Complaint has been made but while he does not believe anything that would come from the advisory board would undo the work done at that meeting, there is no issue with reaffirming the program. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy questioned why the changes discussed during the August 19th meeting were not included in the documents presented at this meeting. MPT Brittan-Powell stated that since his goal was reaffirmation, he did not believe that the changes were appropriate to include in this meeting. CM Papanikolas moved to reaffirm the action taken at the August 19th meeting. MPT Brittan-Powell seconded. With no further discussion the motion passed 4-0 with CM Hemby abstaining.

### b. Traffic Enforcement Follow-up

TM Allen shared the cost information and possible locations for temporary speed bumps and the cost of LED stop signs. She continued that this would be a pilot project, with limited stop signs and temporary speed bumps (including signage announcing "speed bumps ahead"). Mayor Kulpa-Eddy asked about the location for the Pops Park South Bound speed bump, to clarify its exact location. She would also like to have residents informed about the LED stop signs as they might be quite bright. TM Allen stated that residents will be notified. CM Papanikolas asked how long it will take to implement the changes. TM Allen replied that she believes it will be within two months. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy moved to approve the staff recommendations. CM Hemby seconded. After no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

### c. ARPA Residential Relief Program – Setting Award Limits

Mayor Kulpa-Eddy reviewed that the program is once again active and that they

have received 4 applications. None of the applications were complete enough to go forward, but the review committee will be meeting every 2 weeks to continue working on the applications. During previous discussions on the ARPA relief program, there had been discussion to reduce the total amount awarded from \$5000 to \$3000 per applicant. MPT Brittan-Powell stated that by lowering the amount offered the program could help more people. Both CM Papanikolas and CM Menjivar stated they were fine with lowering the relief amount. There was discussion if more money could be paid at the end of the fiscal year if funding remains. CM Papanikolas moved to accept the recommendation to set the amount of relief to \$3000, and to set the limit for food voucher cards to \$500 per household. MPT Brittan-Powell seconded. After no further discussion the motion passed 4-1 with CM Hemby stating that she believes the amount should be higher. After the vote, there was discussion on educating residents about the program.

## 7. New Business

### a. Men's League Agreement Renewal

TM Allen reviewed the Town's long standing use agreement with the Berwyn Heights Community Center for the Men's Basketball league. Generally, the agreement has been for longer terms and the league would like a longer-term agreement with Park and Planning this time. Mr. Jim McGinnis, league contact, was invited to speak on the changes that need to be made to the agreement.

Resident Claudia Barragan made a comment that she believes that as the representative of INCbh she should have been able to speak on the ARPA program.

Mr. McGinnis shared that there are changes to the times that Park and Planning are offering, and the league is willing to accept these changes. Mr. McGinnis expressed that he had concerns about the termination clause and wants a definition of "convenience", as well as correcting the name from "A men's league" to "The Men's League". Mayor Kulpa-Eddy asked for confirmation that there will be no changes to the cost of the liability insurance. TM Allen will check and ensure it is covered by the current budget. CM Papanikolas would like to have some protection for the Men's League if the agreement is cancelled by Park and Planning, possibly with a prorated refund. TM Allen will edit the document and send it back to Park and Planning. Mr. McGinnis and CM Papanikolas discussed ways to amend the wording.

### b. Disaster Relief Fund Program

MPT Brittan-Powell shared that the intent from the August 19 Special Meeting is to provide relief to residents. He is bringing this up at a Town Meeting because there was not a Worksession in early September. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy asked what kind of outcome he is looking for this evening. MPT Brittan-Powell stated that he wanted

this to be presented to be more in a worksession fashion for them to make comment and adjustments. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy shared that some of the questions regarding this proposal are similar to those they have found in the ARPA relief program. TM Allen asked if the intent is to create a budget allocation or a separate fund from an accounting standpoint or to simply put funding as a budget allocation. CM Papanikolas stated that he understands this to be more in the idea of a reserve account. He also mentioned that the previous Council had voted down a disaster reserve account. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy stated that it would be good to review why that Council decided against it. CM Hemby asked for clarification if this was a onetime allocation or an annual allocation. MPT Brittan-Powell stated that it was for the Council to decide. CM Hemby stated that during the last meeting, she made a suggestion to move \$175,000 from the stormwater engineering study to be used for to help members of the community. She was later contacted by other Councilmembers to tell her that because she didn't use the word "relief" in the motion that the funds couldn't be used for residential relief. She stated that as a new Councilmember she doesn't know all of the political details. She continued, wondering why there is now a proposal that doesn't have any funding attached to it. She wants to know where the funding is now if it isn't going to relief. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy stated that she understands that it is allocated to the Home Retrofit program, but since that meeting is in question the funding may also be in question. CM Papanikolas shared that he watched the meeting, as he was unable to attend, and he feels that CM Hemby's intent was clear and that technicalities should never keep the Council from action. He suggested reaffirming the funding for the home retrofit program and then setting aside a separate allocation for the disaster relief fund. CM Papanikolas shared that the only program that was discussed at the Special Meeting was the home retrofit program and the only funding that should be reaffirmed is for the home retrofit program. MPT Brittan-Powell stated that it was his understanding that the retrofit program would have access to that money but not that it would be exclusively for the home retrofit program. He continued that if intent should not be hindered by technicalities, then the funding should cover both programs. CM Papanikolas stated that the only program that was discussed at the Special Meeting was the home retrofit program and that the \$175,000 was allocated at the Special Meeting. CM Hemby and TM Allen discussed how quickly they could move on getting retrofit products for residents. CM Papanikolas moved to reaffirm the \$175,000 allocated for the home retrofit program. CM Hemby seconded. CM Papanikolas called for rule of order and asked for a vote on the motion. The motion carried 4-0-1 with MPT Brittan-Powell abstaining.

### c. Budget Amendment for the Establishment of a Holistic Watershed Model

MPT Brittan-Powell shared that since the storms he has been speaking with engineers and other Town Managers and believes that the Town needs a good model of what the Town Watershed looks like in order to make informed decisions. He stated that he knows there are certain target areas due to the two events that have impacted them, but that there are other locations that may be higher risk areas. He stated that we are at the bottom of the barrel for the County to do this review for us, but that it would be a long-term process. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy stated that we are not at the bottom of the engineering study list, but rather halfway through as the Town has been working with the County since the first flooding event in 2014 and Berwyn Heights already has the attention of County. CM Papanikolas clarified that he was on the same call with MPT Brittan-Powell and that we are at the bottom of the Capital Improvement Project list.

CM Papanikolas moved to introduce and waive the first reading of Ordinance 183C. MPT Brittan-Powell seconded. During discussion, Mayor Kulpa-Eddy said that she believes there needs to be more information before it is introduced. CM Papanikolas made points of procedure, that ordinances have to be read at two Town Meetings, a public hearing needs to be held, and there will be a 20-day waiting period before the Ordinance becomes law. The motion was called to a vote, and it passed 3-2 with Mayor Kulpa-Eddy and CM Hemby voting against the motion. TM Allen asked for clarification that this would be a new appropriation from the ARPA reserve funds. Council will be bringing this to the September 19th Worksession for further discussion and review.

### 8. Resident & Community Comments

Mayor Kulpa-Eddy shared that while resident comments would not be timed, she asked that people consider being succinct and keeping their comments to approximately 3 minutes.

Resident Steve Beckham spoke regarding paying additional payments from the ARPA relief program, stating that he hates the idea that you need to use all the funds that are allocated. He also responded to CM Hemby's comment about the Home Retrofit program getting caught up in political issues, stating that the issue is not political but procedural.

Resident Rob Baker wanted to know where the \$175,000 allocated to the Home Retrofit program is coming from. CM Papanikolas replied that it is coming from the American Rescue Plan Act funding. Mr. Baker stated that he wants to see speed bumps on Osage Street. He would also like to see preventative maintenance work done on the trees in Town. He expressed that he has documentation of water and mud running through his yard, that he would share with those involved in a watershed study. He added that he would like to see motion detectors put on the LED stop signs.

Debby Steele-Snyder responded to the playground inspection, stating there is a low section on the Cunningham Drive side of Pops Park that is a wet spot where water gathers and doesn't drain. She suggested adding mulch into that area. It is also a mosquito issue.

Dave Wolfinger stated that he wants to make everyone aware that he is not anti-police but has questions and has more questions with every answer. He would like to have a sit down with the Police Department and other concerned citizens. He stated he would like to know more about what the enforcement is going to be for stop signs. He also expressed that per the Chief's monthly report there are more warnings than citations given and he would like to see that changed.

Ms. Claudia Barragan stated that she is also representing INCbh which has been an approved assembly since April. She referred to the Code Compliance report where two properties were cited in July for performing work without the proper permits. She stated that it doesn't sit well with her. She also would like to see that the work that is done by her and INCbh is credited to them and that they are included in all things. She would like to have clarification on the ARPA funds, detailing what was spent in what fiscal year and what funding is available. She would also like to know what the Town is doing with residents' WSSC bills, as it has been several months since their presentation. She gave thanks for the flooding remediation and prevention programing; however, she was critical of the written program description. INCbh is meeting with the Green Team to work on a community resiliency grant. Ms. Barragan shared her gratitude to CM Hemby for making the storm survey happen, while also being critical of the questions in the survey. She would have liked to have had the results of the survey presented at this meeting. She shared that the results of the survey indicate there is a flood resiliency issue in Berwyn Heights. She continued that she is not the cleaning lady for policy work and that the work that she is doing should be done by the Town.

### 8. Adjournment

CM Papanikolas moved to adjourn the meeting. CM Hemby seconded. After no discussion, the motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 9:12PM.

## Worksession Minutes

### September 19, 2022 | 7:00 pm

#### Call to Order

Mayor Jodie Kulpa-Eddy called the meeting to order at 7:01. Also present was Councilmember Shinita Hemby, Councilmember Faustino Menjivar and Councilmember Jason Papanikolas as well as Town Clerk Melanie Friesen. Mayor Pro Tem Chris Brittan-Powell and Town Manager Laura Allen joined the meeting remotely. Also present was Sharmila Bhatia from the Board of Election Supervisors and members of the Berwyn Heights community.

### Approval of the Agenda

CM Menjivar moved to approve the agenda. CM Hemby seconded. During discussion, MPT Brittan-Powell moved to amend the agenda to add a discussion about the Disaster Relief Fund and to add a discussion to create a workgroup to be more efficient in stormwater management. CM Menjivar moved to approve the agenda as amended. CM Hemby seconded. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy expressed concerns that there was no notice for these discussion items or background documents for the amended items. With no further discussion the motion passed 3-2 with CM Hemby and Mayor Kulpa-Eddy opposing.

### Mayor

#### Announcements

Mayor Kulpa-Eddy reported on the Executive session that was held on September 16<sup>th</sup> from 7:34-8:55PM. Mayor reported out on the Executive Session on September 16 at 7:34-8:55PM. The meeting was closed under § 3-305(b)(1) and (b)(7) to discuss a personal matter and obtain legal advice. All CMs were present, along with Attorney Fred Sussman from the firm Council Baradel; the MPT attended remotely. No actions were taken in the closed session. Tonight, a County engineer was expected to give a presentation on the County Stormwater Drainage Study, but last Thursday he asked to reschedule it. Lastly, she mentioned the Town Council received thank you cards from BHES students and a certificate of appreciation for donations made during the 2021-2022 school year.

#### Election Debriefing, Sharmila Bhatia

Chief Judge of the Board of Election Supervisors (BoES) Sharmila Bhatia shared a report of the May 3, 2022 election. Prior to the election there was a good deal of work done to advertise the election to increase voter turnout. Postcards were ordered and mailed, but the post office did not deliver most of the cards. Only one judge reported ever receiving the post card. The April Bulletin, which contained a great deal of election information, was also not delivered by the post office to most homes in Town. Election banners were located and displayed at two prominent intersections in Town and yard signs were displayed around Town. Ms. Bhatia shared that she would like to see these used again. TC Friesen updated the absentee ballot application to be in line with the Prince George's County absentee ballot application. Ms. Bhatia added that only 15% of registered voters participated in the election, which was disappointing given the work to promote it and the fact that there were a large number of candidates on the ballot. She continued that the Town is one of the municipalities that still use paper ballots and while there are costs associated with using electronic ballots, it may be something to consider. Ms. Bhatia shared that the BoES would like to review and update the Election Ordinance, modernizing and streamlining it to address gaps. CM Papanikolas asked about the differences in voter turnout. Ms. Bhatia reviewed that in 2018 the turnout

was also around 15% with 2020 having 33% turnout due to the election being held by mail. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy shared that there has been discussion about absentee ballots being counted early. Ms. Bhatia said that they would like to work towards validating absentee ballots during the day of the election. CM Papanikolas asked if the County would have procedures for this. There was further discussion on the election ordinance including the possibility of adding ranked choice voting, early voting, and dividing the Town into Wards. They also reviewed the cost of the mail-in election of 2020 which was about \$5,000. TM Allen suggested reaching out to the Town Attorney to see what changes need to be made, based on what they want to accomplish. CM Papanikolas stated that the Election Ordinance is fundamental to the democracy of the Town and he would like it to be reviewed. Ms. Bhatia offered to bring the BoES together to begin working on it and then bring it to Council. MPT Brittan-Powell asked that the ordinance be inclusive and asked the Council to consider ways to increase voter registration, especially in Latino communities.

#### July 18<sup>th</sup> minutes

Mayor Kulpa-Eddy reviewed that these minutes were not approved during the Consent Agenda at the August Town Meeting. MPT Brittan-Powell had made several suggested edits. The edits were discussed, as well as the need to make sure they reflect what occurred in the meeting, as the minutes are the official record of the meeting. There was further discussion about the possibility of meeting videos being the official record, as is the case in some municipalities. Council also reviewed Council Rule 2, which outlines the requirements of the minutes. Ultimately, there were three edits to the July 18<sup>th</sup> minutes that received consensus 1) to edit the portion regarding Mr. Sweep to reflect there was discussion regarding his comments; 2) to reflect that the question to Director Pudner about not having staff on-site the second night after the storm was prompted by resident comments to MPT Brittan-Powell; and 3) that the ARPA relief suspension came about not because an applicant was ineligible, but rather that the application presented the first opportunity to review the approval process. The amended minutes will be submitted for approval as part of the Consent Agenda at the October Town Meeting.

#### News from the Town Manager

TM Allen provided an update on the APRA projects as she understands where they are to-date. The stormwater study funding has been reallocated to Relief and is the biggest substantial change since the last update. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy also reviewed the Town Calendar but there were no highlights beyond a change in the Rec Council meeting date.

#### Resident Comments

Mayor Kulpa-Eddy asked residents to keep their comments to approximately three minutes to keep the meeting progressing.

Resident Helen Weinrich on Cunningham spoke on the issue of Town flooding and inquired about the status of the flood doors and backflow preventors and would like to know the start date of any relief. She added that there should be direct compensation to residents who have had damage as she thinks that Town bears direct responsibility for the flooding issues in Town. She added that there are drainage issues beyond what we know about. She also does not think that a new Police Department building should be a priority use for the ARPA funds, that streetlighting and safety should be a priority and asked about Police Department enforcement and accountability.

Resident Jose Valcarcel asked if residents will be allowed to comment on other parts of the meeting or if they will be limited to this time to speak only. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy responded that it will depend on the conversation; if there is time, a succinct and substantive comment could be made to help the Council get their work done.

Resident Claudia Barragan stated that she would like to have the residential and business relief programs separated on the ARPA projects list. She would also like a total of what has been spent on the ARPA projects list separated by fiscal year. She expressed concern about the PTA request for technology, as the way the school has been assessing the utilization of digital devices is biased, especially against Latino students. She also stated that she had found guidance from Treasury on how Homeowner's Assistance programs could be utilized. Finally, she spoke on the Code Compliance Property Maintenance Ordinance Review, stating that the ordinances need to take into consideration Fair Housing Laws as the assumption in Town is that immigrant trash is dirty. Mr. Valcarcel spoke again briefly, commenting on how the word "transcription" was used during the conversation on Meeting Minutes and how it should be clarified that the Minutes are not a verbatim transcription. He reserved the remainder of his time to speak on the Ordinance review topic.

#### Code Compliance

##### Property Maintenance Ordinance Review

CM Hemby invited TM Allen to report on this item. TM Allen stated that this was first drawn to her attention when she started working at the Town. There is a difference between homeowner-occupied and renter-occupied unit standards. She was bringing this forth to gauge Council interest in addressing the differences and to determine if Council wanted staff to work on it. CM Hemby stated that she would like to hear from residents on this, especially if they feel that they are getting different responses from Code Compliance, before Council begins to work on changing the Ordinance. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy clarified that this is not about making changes today, but rather gauging Council interest in addressing the differences in the future. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy continued that the rental ordinance was recently updated in response to the

concerns about short term rentals in Town. She continued that updated standards were included in the revised rental ordinance, but the Council at that time did not update the homeowner ordinance. MPT Brittan-Powell stated he believes the spirit behind this is positive and constructive but would like to make sure that caution is utilized because renters are a more vulnerable population, especially given the current housing market. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy addressed that the ordinance doesn't address structurally sound maintenance and she believes that the Town ought to be concerned about this, regardless of who is living in the property. CM Papanikolas stated that the Rental Ordinance incorporates the Prince George's County standards, whereas the homeowners' does not. CM Papanikolas continued that the Town should not hold renters to a higher standard than homeowners. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy asked if the Commercial Clean Lot Ordinance should be reviewed at the same time. TM Allen will discuss this with Director Goodwin. CM Menjivar asked if there were any fire codes that need to be addressed at the same time. The consensus was that the Council is interested in reviewing the Ordinances.

Resident Jose Valcarcel would like to separate the issues, between Ordinance 120 and 107. He expressed that he agrees that in regard to 107, reaching out to the community is appropriate, but with Ord 120 that most jurisdictions follow whatever building code is most stringent, be it county, state, or international building code.

CM Papanikolas reiterated that he finds it one-sided that renters have different standards than homeowners. CM Hemby clarified that she would like to hear from residents on their experiences with Code on this issue. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy added that rentals will always have the oversight of inspectors that homeowners will not have, as inspections are a condition of having a rental license, which is not something that can be done with homeowners.

CM Hemby gave a general Code Compliance update that inspections are resuming. She stated that storm damage is not being assessed, but standard hazards such as high grass are being addressed.

#### **Parks, Recreation, Education, and Civic Affairs**

CM Papanikolas shared that since the August Town Meeting, NW/EP had a quick meeting and that he would like to see how the Town can incorporate them into the emergency plan.

#### **Technology Grant for BHES**

CM Papanikolas shared that this grant is only for the educators, to replace their equipment in the classroom. He expressed understanding of Ms. Barragan's concerns and suggested bringing in County School Board members to listen to those issues. This grant is to replace projectors and the window to purchase these is small, making this somewhat urgent. MPT Brittan-Powell stated this is basic equipment needed in the

classroom and is happy to support it. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy asked how the funding will be handled and wants to ensure that it is done in an equitable manner. CM Papanikolas stated that he believes that the money could come from the ARPA budget for educational grants. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy replied that this line item was put on hold until after the needs assessment had been. She stated funding for other schools that Berwyn Heights students go to, such as Greenbelt Middle School and Parkdale High School should also be considered. She asked about advertising the grant. MPT Brittan-Powell stated that he is comfortable trusting CM Papanikolas to reach out to schools. CM Hemby asked why we were only funding five (5) projectors. CM Papanikolas stated it was because the school system is replacing some, and others are being upgraded to a different smartboard that doesn't require projectors. This grant addresses the shortfall. MPT Brittan-Powell expressed his support for using ARPA funds for this purpose. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy wanted to make sure the Council was in agreement to disregard the needs assessment and grant manager processes for this limited purpose. The Council decided to re-open the grant to make is available to all BH residents' schools.

Mr. Valcarcel stated that if other schools are recipients of similar funding, they should be schools where students in Berwyn Heights go.

#### **Public Safety**

Mayor Kulpa-Eddy reported that she attended the PGCA meeting last Thursday night, which had a presentation on 5G Small Cell wireless facilities, as well as broadband access which will incorporate I-NET in some fashion. There was also an update on the school boundary issue, which has been delayed for another year. She also attended a Route 1 Leaders Roundtable on stormwater, transportation, and property taxes. She reminded residents to apply for the State Homeowners Tax Credit (if they are eligible) by October 1<sup>st</sup>. Finally, she shared about the Berwyn Heights Police Department Multicultural event which will be held on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Public Works**

CM Menjivar reminded everyone not to place any plastic bags or other non-recyclables in the recycling bins. He also reviewed information from the September Bulletin on traffic safety.

#### **Administration**

##### **Ordinance 183C Budget Amendment for Holistic Watershed Study**

MPT Brittan-Powell reviewed that at the last meeting, the Council discussed a budget amendment and invited questions from the rest of the Council. CM Papanikolas expressed a desire to see the County storm drain update presentation. MPT Brittan-Powell stated that he had several conversations with the County representative who will be presenting to the Town and ex-

pressed confidence in Mr. Griffiths. MPT Brittan-Powell continued that the County has limited resources and that this ordinance will address the financial aspect of a collaborative relationship with the County and any other partners. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy stated that she would like to see the presentation from the County and learn exactly what additional funding is needed. MPT Brittan-Powell expressed that the budget amendment process is lengthy and doing this now will allow the Town to engage the process when the study is ready to go forward. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy reiterated that she would like to see the County's next steps before allocating funds for something and does not want to duplicate County efforts. MPT Brittan-Powell replied that this amendment does not spend any money, just allocates it. CM Papanikolas stated that the Council already introduced the Ordinance and waived the first reading at the September Town Meeting. It was determined that if the County does their presentation in October, then the second reading could be in November with access to the funds by early December. A public hearing will also occur at the October Town Meeting.

#### **Disaster Relief Fund Discussion (amended agenda item)**

MPT Brittan-Powell shared that one of the concerns with moving the Disaster Relief Fund was that they have an application form drafted. He thanked Dr. Kavanaugh of the Green Team for his assistance. CM Papanikolas stated that he hasn't had the time to review the documents. He suggested taking the time to review this and send comments to MPT Brittan-Powell by Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Creation of a Council subcommittee for stormwater management (amended agenda item)**

MPT Brittan-Powell shared that it was his desire to make worksessions as efficient as possible and wondered in the creation of subcommittees to do some of the work in advance would be helpful. He would like to work with CM Menjivar on stormwater management issues. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy asked what kind of work would be done on the subcommittee. CM Menjivar replied that it would be items such as sidewalks, curbs, and roads. There was discussion over the purpose and process of a creating such a subcommittee. It was determined that the Council would submit suggestions for the procedure on creating a subcommittee to MPT Brittan-Powell, also by September 26<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Adjournment**

CM Papanikolas moved to adjourn the meeting. CM Menjivar seconded. After no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 9:15PM.

## Berwyn Heights Education Grant Application

The Berwyn Heights Education Grant was created to support, enhance, and improve learning opportunities and outcomes for children and families of Berwyn Heights.

Organizations serving members of the Berwyn Heights community may submit applications; priority will be given to 501C organizations, teachers, PTA's/PTO's serving Berwyn Heights.

Funding of the grant is at the discretion of the Berwyn Heights Town Council and is based on the availability of funds. For the 2022-2023 school year, awards will be given to projects focusing on improving learning outcomes for historically underrepresented populations in the school system and/or projects focused on ensuring on all students are provided with equitable learning opportunities.

The deadlines are:

Round 1 Proposal Questions Due Date:

**November 1st**

Round 1 Application Due Date: **November 7th**

Round 1 Notification Date: **December 1st**

Eligibility information and application guidelines can be found at: [https://](https://www.berwynheightsmd.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif301/f/uploads/bh_education_grant_2022-23_round_1_application.pdf)

[www.berwynheightsmd.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif301/f/uploads/bh\\_education\\_grant\\_2022-23\\_round\\_1\\_application.pdf](https://www.berwynheightsmd.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif301/f/uploads/bh_education_grant_2022-23_round_1_application.pdf)

We encourage you to learn more and apply!

## SANTA IS COMING HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Local Real Estate agent and Berwyn Heights resident,

Brittany Jacoby, is bringing Santa's Workshop back home for the holidays!



Santa's Workshop is a Berwyn Heights original! The previous, longtime owner of historical **5712 Ruatan St.**, Carl W. Gohr Jr., lovingly displayed his handcrafted Santa's Workshop on the wrap-around porch each holiday season.

After the homestead was sold off many years ago, Santa's appearances stopped. Now under the ownership of Brittany and Chris Jacoby and family, and thanks to the generosity of the Gohr sisters, Teri Gohr Somin and Cheryl Gohr Halkos, Santa will return to his rightful place on the **5712 Ruatan St.** porch!

\*Santa will set up his shop the evening of November 26th 2022. There will be FREE cocoa and treats from 5-7 pm that evening. He and his elves will work dutifully for the month of December. Come on by!

Brittany Jacoby, REALTOR®

[brittany.jacoby@longandfoster.com](mailto:brittany.jacoby@longandfoster.com)

C: (435) 668-5882 O: 202-364-1300

Instagram: @britjacobyrealtor



## Tree Care Tips!

**The trees in our neighborhood absorb stormwater! Ensure that the trees on your property are properly maintained by:**



Removing invasive vines from trunks.  
Using 2 to 4 inches of non-cypress mulch under young trees to keep weeds and grass that compete for nutrients and water away.

Consult an ISA Certified Arborist when considering tree work to ensure that the work is done properly and is necessary. Confirm that they avoid harmful, extreme pruning practices such as "topping".

Berwyn Heights Shade Tree Board

Next meeting: November 10, 2022, 7 pm

Contact: Amanda Dewey, [amandamdewey@gmail.com](mailto:amandamdewey@gmail.com)

# CODE COMPLIANCE

## Why Are Permits Important?

Construction permits are issued to help ensure safety when doing building and remodeling projects. Projects need to comply with current building, construction, and zoning codes. Missing permits can lead to problems including penalties, poor-quality work, building or structure collapse, structural defects, leaks, electrical malfunctions, and fires.

Note: For building permits, one must be issued from both the Town and from Prince George's County.

## What Can Happen if the Permit Process is Skipped

Obtaining permits and having work done to code by licensed professionals is key in helping to sustain safe, healthy living conditions in the community. Permits also help ensure quality work is being done on your home.

Some contractors avoid pulling permits to skip the hassle and having to adhere to stricter building and inspection standards. Homeowners should take care to verify that required permits have been issued. You'll want a licensed, insured professional in charge of your project. When inspections are required throughout the permitting and the building process, there is more accountability.

## Other Complications of Unpermitted Construction Work

### Fines

Contractors and/or homeowners can be cited and fined for undertaking work without a permit. If a Stop Work order is issued and construction continues, fines can mount into the thousands.

### Demolition of projects

In some cases, a building official can order an unpermitted project be taken down.

### Difficulty at the time of sale

A seller must disclose to potential buyers what remodeling and renovations have been. An owner may be required to go back and obtain permits before sale. If fines were issued for unpermitted work and haven't been paid, they'll appear during title search.

***Prince Georges County is specifically cracking down on unpermitted residential building projects and “flippers”. They are advising buyers to beware of repair work done without permits and inspections; Showing potential buyers how to check permit history; And advising buyers to walk away if anything illegitimate is found. Prince George’s County is also coding properties found doing unpermitted work in such a way that would deter title companies from issuing title insurance.***

### Insurance claim denials

Unpermitted work can cause a homeowner's insurance company to deny a claim—For instance, if:

An accident that causes damage happens involving a structure built without a permit

Someone is injured on your property by an unpermitted addition

There is an electrical fire and no permit was issued for the electrical work

For questions about permit requirements and to check if permits have been pulled for your project , contact Town Code Compliance at 301-513-9331 [code@berwynheightsmd.gov](mailto:code@berwynheightsmd.gov) and Prince George's County Department of Permitting Inspections and Enforcement DPIE at 301-636-2000



# BHHHC *Historical Committee*

*Come out to our*  
**Fall Wine & Cheese  
Event**

*Join us for history filled after-  
noon!*

The Berwyn Heights Historical Committee will be hosting a Fall Wine and Cheese Reception. The featured presenter will be Maya Davis, Executive Director of Riversdale House Museum.



*Photo Courtesy DCist*

**When- Sunday November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022** Time- 2pm- 4pm  
**Where: Berwyn Heights Town Center, a Free Event!**  
5700 Berwyn Rd, Berwyn Heights MD 20740

The next meeting of the BHHC is on Wednesday, November 16, 2022 in the Love Room at 7:30 pm.

All other inquiries to:  
[dsteelesny@yahoo.com](mailto:dsteelesny@yahoo.com)

For more information  
visit our Website:

[https://  
berwynheightshistory.com](https://berwynheightshistory.com)

and on Facebook.



We are always looking for new members and visitors are always welcome. Stop by one of our meetings! 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month! (Except Nov & Dec).

***Everyone is welcome!***

NOVEMBER 11, 2022 ★ VETERANS DAY

TODAY WE HONOR THOSE WHO  
SERVED AND THOSE WHO CONTINUE TO  
SERVE.

★ HAPPY VETERANS DAY ★





# Berwyn Heights GreenBee

[bgreen.berwynheights@gmail.com](mailto:bgreen.berwynheights@gmail.com)

[www.berwynheightsgreenteam.wordpress.com](http://www.berwynheightsgreenteam.wordpress.com)

Facebook: @BerwynHeightsGreenTeam



Our next virtual Green Team meeting will be Thursday, November 10 at 7:00 pm.

Email us to get the link. All residents of Berwyn Heights are welcome.

Nuestra proxima reunion virtual del Equipo Verde sera el jueves 10 de noviembre a las 7:00 pm. Mandenos un correo electronico para obtener el sitio de la pagina web. Todos los residentes de Berwyn Heights son bienvenidos.

**November 18, 2nd floor of the Town Center:**

**18 de noviembre, en el segundo piso del Town Center:**



Come to Trivia Night with a team or join a new one. Test your science and environmental knowledge against your neighbors!

Acompañenos a la noche de Trivia, con un equipo o forme parte de uno nuevo. Pruebe con sus vecinos, sus conocimientos sobre la ciencia y el medio ambiente!

# Berwyn Heights Recreation Council

**Saturday, November 5th, 11am—Craft Day (all ages)** Town Center (1st Floor)

Come & be creative while working on a wide variety of fun craft projects.



**Sunday, November 6th—Trip to Patapsco State Park.** Meet at the Town Center Parking Lot at 10am. We will try to carpool to save gas.

**Friday, November 18th, 7-9pm—Team Trivia Night!** Town Center (2nd Floor)

**\*Adults Only .** Free to play! Doors open at 6:30pm. Join us in a "moment of science" as we partner with the Green Team for this trivia game (all questions will also have some connection to Berwyn Heights). Teams (up to 6 people) will compete for prizes. Singles are welcome—let us know if you would like to be placed on a team. Refreshments (drinks & snacks) will be available.



**Wednesday, November 30th, 7pm—Book Discussion**

Town Center (1st Floor) "True Grit" by Charles Portis



And join us for **GAME NIGHT every FRIDAY NIGHT, at 7:30pm**

Town Center (1st Floor) Join in with our collection of board, strategy & card games, or feel free to bring your own!



**\*NEW TIME\*** Our **WALKING CLUB** will be meeting at the Sports Park Parking Lot every **MONDAY, WEDNESDAY and FRIDAY morning at 9am**

Kicking off our Holiday Season, we will be hosting our annual **Toys for Tots drive** starting **Monday 11/28** with boxes located at the Town Office, Senior Center and BHPD for you to drop off new, unwrapped toys. We will also have a food drive, so non-perishables can be dropped off at the Town Office as well.

And, in December—**Saturday, December 3rd, our Holiday Craft Fair**

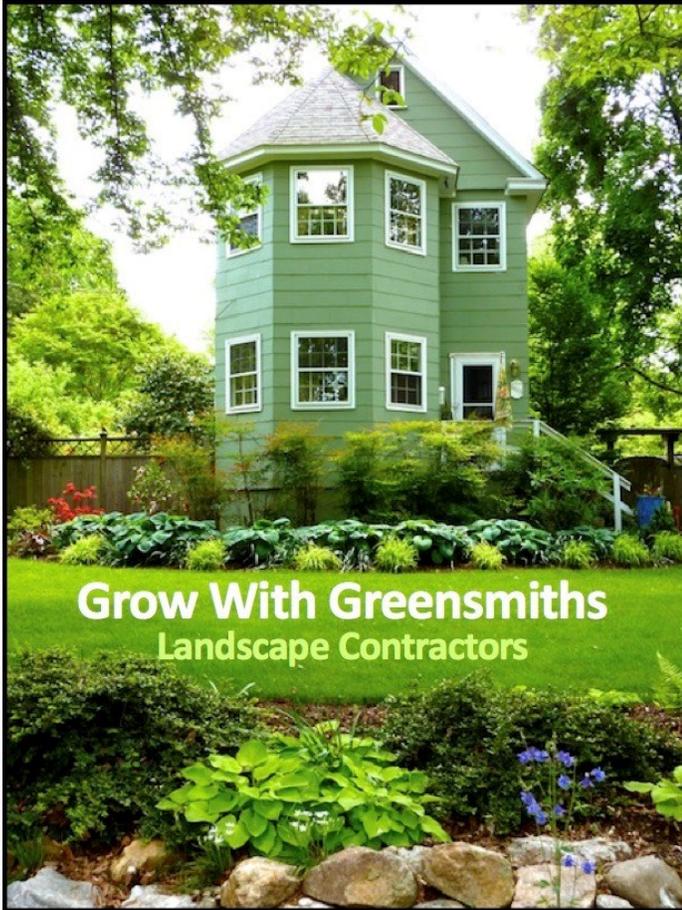
**(11am-3pm)** followed by our **Annual Tree Lighting Party (6-7pm).**

Start your day shopping with local artisans, and then enjoy the evening festivities as we decorate the Town Christmas Tree, sing carols, and enjoy cocoa and cookies.



Our next in person meetings will be **Tuesday, 11/1 and Tuesday, 12/6 at 7:00pm in the G. Love Room at the Senior Center.** ALL ARE WELCOME!

Questions? Comments? Contact us at [violindreams@verizon.net](mailto:violindreams@verizon.net)



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Berwyn Heights Resident for 37 Years**

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## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH/ EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



Next meeting is November 2 , 2022 7PM in the G. Love Room

With the increase in storms and amount of damage from these storms in the way of flooding, wind damage and trees down as a result of the wind, here are some resources for every resident to use to make a plan for those times you need assistance...

FEMA offers many resources in English, Spanish and several other languages for assistance before, during and after a major and not so major storm(s). So go to FEMA.gov to review, print out and maintain the resources you may need to get through a storm and the aftermath of any damage left behind. There are resources for individuals, small businesses and local governments. So lets work together to stay prepared in the event of a major or not so major storm.

Happy Veteran's Day - November 11

Happy Thanksgiving - November 24

### **Do you want to know more?**

Stay up to date with what is happening in Town!

You can subscribe to alerts for News & Announcements. Sign up to receive the e-newsletter in your inbox. [www.berwynheightsmd.gov/subscribe](http://www.berwynheightsmd.gov/subscribe)

Get alerts when a meeting agenda has been posted at [www.berwynheightsmd.gov/town-council/pages/watch-council-meetings](http://www.berwynheightsmd.gov/town-council/pages/watch-council-meetings)

## **Berwyn Heights Residential Tax Credit**

**Did you qualify and receive the Maryland State Homeowners' Tax Credit?**

**If you did, you may be eligible to receive the Berwyn Heights Residential Tax Credit.**

**Find the application on the Town website under the FORMS tab or by visiting**

**<https://bit.ly/BHtaxcredit> or scanning the QR code below.**





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Join the Berwyn Heights Community Preparedness server on Discord by scanning the QR code and downloading the app.

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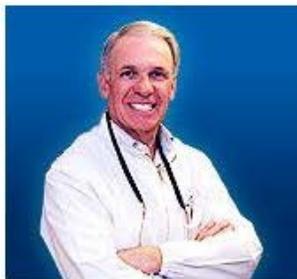
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Thinking of selling or buying?? I have a **full marketing plan**. I seamlessly take you from A-Z in the world of selling your home. I sell more Berwyn Heights homes than other agents, let me show you how I do it. Consistency, proven results, referral network, satisfied clients, top producer! I have lenders, stagers, contractors & more for your selling /buying needs.

**Happy Thanksgiving!! Here are a few What's Happening Events during November.....**

- Nov 3 Laurel textiles showcase
- Nov 5 Beer Fest at Nats park
- Nov 6 Annapolis Arts Festival
- Nov 6 Berwyn Heights Wine and Cheese Reception
- Nov 11 Alpaca and fleece festival I W Friendship
- Nov and Dec tour the Amazon Fulfillment Center
- Nov 17 Beaujolais and Beyond French Embassy
- Nov 24 Thanksgiving Day

- FREE MARKET ANALYSIS OF YOUR HOME
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- LICENSED IN MD & DC
- 20 YEARS + OF REAL ESTATE EXPERIENCE
- TOWN RESIDENT

**Just a few of my transactions in the last 30 days.....will your address be here next month???**

**NEW LISTING- 6207 Tecumseh PI 4 BR 2 BA Brick Rambler w/ fireplace, open kitchen/ living room, shows well \$430K.**

**NEW LISTING- 6210 Seminole PI 3BR 2 BA brick rambler w/FP and in law suite.\$419,900.**

**REDUCED- 6610 Patterson St Riverdale 3 BR 1.5 BA cape, close to everything incl upcoming metro purple line! \$350K.**

**If you are thinking of selling, call me now..the market is changing!**

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



## Don Bunuan | Realtor



Hi, I'm Don Bunuan. As your Berwyn Heights neighbor and long-time area resident, I'm a big fan of the Route 1 Corridor and everything it has to offer.

As a Realtor®, I provide unparalleled service to my clients and am proud to have been named a "Top Agent" by *Washingtonian Magazine*.

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*- Patty Galati and Karen Jung*



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Don@GoBrentRealty.com

C: 301.213.6332 | O: 301.565.2523





# September Incidents

**Friday, September 2, 2022, at 3:25 pm, 'DISORDERLY / ARREST'**

On September 2, 2022, at about 3:25 pm, OFC Hollowell was conducting a premise check at the Berwyn Heights Elementary School during school dismissal. The School Principal told Ofc Hollowell about a white male that was entering the school property (in the back of the building). The white male subject was carrying a metallic aluminum flagpole about 4 feet long with the American flag attached and wearing a Chinese hat. The School Principal stated she politely asked the white male how she can help him. In an aggressive manner, he approached her and asked for two students. She then told him the two students were dismissed from school. He responded back to the School Principal by saying "your days are numbered; your days are done". The School Principal asked him to leave the school property. He began to walk away from the School Principal he then turned around, walked up close to her face, and aggressively asked her if she was the School Principal. The white male subject said again "your days are numbered". He was asked again to leave by the School Principal he told her "Fuck you". The white male subject began walking away yelling vulgarities where school staff, young elementary students, and parents stopped and heard his yelling. Officer Lowndes and Sgt Roberson located the white male subject walking in the 5700 block of Pontiac Street carrying the metallic aluminum flagpole with the American flag attached on his shoulder and wearing a Chinese-style hat. The responding officers asked him to put the flagpole down, but he refused.

The subject was highly intoxicated and refused to identify himself. For the safety of the school students, parents, and school staff the subject was arrested. During the arrest, the subject was later identified by his driver's license as a 57 Y/O/W/M, Mr. Guy Andrew Rhoads of Berwyn Heights. Mr. Rhoads twisted and pulled away struggling during the entire arrest.

Ofc Lowndes transported Rhoads to Doctors Community hospital because he wanted to see a doctor and he was

cleared by the doctor. Rhoads did not suffer any injuries during the arrest. He was then transported to Upper Marlboro detention center for presentation to the District Court Commissioner for criminal charges. Further investigation revealed that the School Principal verbally banned Rhoads from the school grounds last school year 2021.

**Friday, September 5, 2022, at 5:00 pm, 'THEFT FROM AUTO'**

On September 5, 2022, at about 5:00 PM. The victim came to Berwyn Heights Police Department to report his stolen front Maryland license plate # 9DN1228 that was attached to his work vehicle a 2019 White Ford truck. The stolen license plate was last seen attached to his vehicle on the afternoon of September 5, 2022. Earlier this morning he noticed his motor vehicle's front license plate was taken by an unknown suspect. Prince George's County teletype was notified by the reporting officer. The stolen license plate information was entered into NCIC by Communication Specialist # 1318.

**Friday, September 23, 2022, at 6:44 pm, 'THEFT FROM AUTO'**

On 09/23/2022 at approximately 1844 hours, the Telephone Reporting Unit spoke with the Victim who advised that sometime between 09/01/2022 at approximately 1800 hours, and 09/23/2022 at approximately 1700 hours while the listed Vehicle, a 2014 Dodge Ram 1500 bearing MD registration 9EX1005 was parked at the Shell Gas Station 5550 Greenbelt Road, an unknown suspect stole the listed Rear Registration Plate from the listed Vehicle. The Unknown Suspect stole the Victim's listed Rear Registration Plate from the listed vehicle and fled in an unknown direction making good on their escape.

**Sunday, September 25, 2022 at 5:36 pm, 'THEFT FROM VEHICLE'**

The victim contacted the police to report the theft of his Catalytic converter. Victim alleges that he parked his vehicle on the street at 63\*\* Seminole ST on 9/24 at 0430 and returned at 1930 hrs. The victim discovered that his vehicle was very loud and when he investigated he discovered that the catalytic converter was removed. No witness or suspect information.

**Tuesday, September 27, 2022 at 10:30 am, 'THEFT'**

On September 27, 2022 at about 10:30 AM, Pvt. Lowndes responded to the Berwyn Heights Police Department for a report of a stolen debit check card. Victim stated the unknown suspect took her SECU MD debit check card between the listed dates and times. The unknown suspect made several unauthorized transactions from her checking account in the amount of \$2,756.54. She was advised by this reporting officer to deactivate the stolen debit check card.

**Tuesday, September 27, 2022 at 5:00 pm, 'MISSING PERSON'**

At 2203 hrs, 9/27/2022, Cpl. T. Hollowell #1449, Berwyn Heights Police responded to 89\*\* 59th Avenue, Berwyn Heights, Prince George's County Maryland., for a missing person report. The investigation indicated the parent found out during a school meeting the missing has missed numerous school days at Parkdale High School. The missing is a 9<sup>th</sup>-grade freshman who was to come home at the end of the school day. The missing failed to come home as she was angry with her father (parent) for asking for her school record. The missing person had her phone taken away by the parent. They have no additional information about her friends or where they live. The missing was a former student of Greenbelt Middle School and has numerous friends in the Greenbelt area. The missing has no known medical conditions. The missing was entered by teletype C-976 into NCIC.

Call 911

**For Emergencies**



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

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

# BULLETIN BOARD

## Help Wanted: Spanish Translator

**\$12/hr (Part-time)** Mon, Tue, Wed, Thurs 3pm-8pm & Sat 7am-12pm.  
Open Interviews Monday- Thursday at 11:30am. 6103 Greenbelt Rd.

## 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.

## Approved Childcare of Essential Personnel

Opening for infant to 12 years old. Licensed and approved by the State to provide childcare during COVID-19. Meals provided. Openings Monday-Friday from 6 AM to 6 PM. Please contact Karuna at 301-345-2939 or [karunaemeldaroz-ario@outlook.com](mailto:karunaemeldaroz-ario@outlook.com).

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

**Meals-on-Wheels** needs your HELP! This 45-year old program needs volunteers to help with their daily operations out of College Park location. Please call 301-474-1002 M-F, 8:30-12p if available.

**Need Yard Help?** Shawn and Jeremy have helped Berwyn Heights residents with mowing, raking, mulching, and more for several years. Call 301-310-3807.

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

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

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



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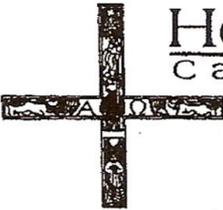


## Learn more about what is available in Berwyn Heights!

Visit the Community tab on the Town Website to learn more about

- ◇ County Community Resources
- ◇ Area Recreation
- ◇ Town Groups and Assemblies
- ◇ Bee City USA
- ◇ And so much more!

<https://www.berwynheightsmd.gov/home/pages/community>



**HOLY REDEEMER**  
Catholic Church

**Weekend Masses:**  
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Tel: 301-474-3920 • Web Site: [holy-redeemer.org](http://holy-redeemer.org)  
Email: [parish@holy-redeemer.org](mailto:parish@holy-redeemer.org)

**Thomas A. Gentile, Attorney**



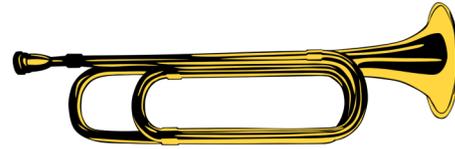
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# The Bugle



November 2022

Our Meetings are the first Friday of every month at 7pm via ZOOM.

## Fall Soccer Season Has Begun!

*¡Ha comenzado la temporada de fútbol de otoño!*

**We are in need of volunteers!**

*¡Necesitamos voluntarios!*



We have teams for PK4-  
High School!

Please consider volunteer-  
ing to help coach or man-  
age a team!

¡Tenemos equipos para PK4-  
High School!

¡Considere ofrecerse como  
voluntario para ayudar a en-  
trenar o administrar un equipo!

**The Berwyn Heights Boys & Girls Club welcomes children of all skill levels and abilities and currently offers Track and Soccer Programs for ages 4 & up.**

*El Club de Niños y Niñas de Berwyn Heights da la bienvenida a niños de todos los niveles y habilidades y actualmente ofrece programas de atletismo y fútbol para niños de 4 años en adelante.*

**Interested in becoming a member? Have suggestions or ideas? Looking to volunteer?**

*Interesado en ser miembro? ¿Tienes sugerencias o ideas? ¿Quiere ser voluntario?*

**Contact us at: [info@berwynheightsbgc.org](mailto:info@berwynheightsbgc.org)**

**Follow us on Facebook! [www.facebook.com/berwynheightsbgc](http://www.facebook.com/berwynheightsbgc)**



# BERWYN HEIGHTS

## Volunteer Fire Department & Rescue Squad, Inc.

Berwyn Heights Volunteer Fire Department & Rescue Squad, Inc. • 8811 60<sup>th</sup> Avenue • Berwyn Heights, MD 20740

*In Case of Emergency Call 911!*

### Recent Working Incidents

Sept. 17th- At appx 520pm, volunteers staffing Rescue Squad 14B were alerted to the area on 6th Street and Main Street in Lanham for a reported house on fire. Units arrived to find a 1-story, single-family home with fire showing.

Sept 19th- **Greenbelt 2nd Alarm** Volunteers staffing Ladder Truck 14 & Ambulance 14B were alerted to the 9100Blk of Springhill Lane in Greenbelt for a first due ox alarm. Truck 14 arrived to find fire showing from a two-story middle-of-the-row townhouse. During interior operations, crews found fire in the attic that extended into adjoining units, and the command requested a 2nd alarm to the scene. TK14 laddered the building, opened up for the engine companies, ventilated, searched, and conducted overhauls. Ambulance 14 transported an injured firefighter to an area hospital. Units operated for 2 hours before returning to service.

Sept 21st- Rescue Squad 14, operating as the County's northside Technical Rescue Support Team, was alerted to assist units on the scene of a trench rescue in the area of Rossborough Ln and Rhode Island Avenue. College Park VFD Truck 12's aerial as a high directional to hoist the worker out of the 8ft deep trench to awaiting EMS units.



Sept 27th- Volunteers staffing Ladder Truck 14 & Paramedic Ambulance 14 were dispatched to the 5300-block of Hamilton St. in Bladensburg for a reported apartment fire. Units arrived to find fire showing from the 2nd floor. Truck 14 crews operated with Bladensburg VFD to extinguish the fire and search for victims.

Oct 9th- Volunteers staffing Rescue Squad 14 & Chief 14A were alerted to the 8500Blk of Greenbelt Rd in Greenbelt for a reported Apartment Fire. Units arrived to find fire showing.

Oct 11th- Rescue Squad 14 was alerted to the high rise building fire in the 9300Blk of Cherry Hill Rd in College Park. Units arrived to find heavy smoke and fire, a 2nd Alarm was requested.

### Thanksgiving Safety Tips:

For most, the kitchen is the heart of the home, especially during the holidays. As you start preparing your holiday schedule and organizing that large family feast, remember, by following a few simple safety tips you can enjoy time with your loved ones and keep yourself and your family safe:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stovetop so you can keep an eye on the food.
- Stay in the home when cooking your turkey and check on it frequently.
- Keep children away from the stove. The stove will be hot and kids should stay 3 feet away.
- Keep the floor clear so you don't trip over kids, toys, pocketbooks or bags.
- Be sure electric cords from an electric knife, coffee maker, plate warmer or mixer are not dangling off the counter within easy reach of a child.
- Keep matches and utility lighters out of the reach of children up high in a locked cabinet.



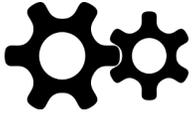
### Christmas Tree Sale 2022

We are happy to announce that the annual BHVFD Christmas Tree Fundraiser at the Firehouse is back again this year!

Please visit the Department's website at [www.BHVFD14.org](http://www.BHVFD14.org), or the December Bulletin, for details in the coming weeks. We anticipate beginning the sale sometime after Thanksgiving.

Be sure to get your tree early, we usually sell out mid-December!





# PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

## Fall Leaf Collection

Public Works will begin curbside leaf collection on Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. We will rotate each week between Northside (North of Pontiac Street) and Southside (South of Pontiac Street). We will place signs at neighborhood entrances stating, “Leaf Collection- Next Week” and “Leaf Collection- This Week” for added communication. Please note that if we have inclement weather or if our leaf vacuum truck has mechanical issues, this schedule may be delayed.

Please note the following leaf collection details:

- Please do not mix any other debris with leaves. Our vacuum can not pick up branches, and the compost facility at College Park doesn't accept any other debris.
- Please do not park cars next to leaf piles. If a car is blocking a leaf pile, it will be skipped until we have time to come back.
- Please do not place leaf piles in the road. Keep them piled on top of the curb so they don't block storm water drainage.
- There will be no leaf collection the week between Christmas and New Years due to the holiday trash schedule. Please try to have any final leaves placed at the curb by December 31<sup>st</sup> for a final clean-up in the first week of January. We will have limited capacity to pick up piles in January before College Park's facility closes for the season, and January winter weather can sometimes end the window of opportunity to vacuum up leaves after the New Year. Once College Park's facility closes, any remaining leaves will need to be bagged by residents for normal yard waste pick-up.

## Food Compost: New Curbside Option, effective October 24<sup>th</sup>

Beginning October 24<sup>th</sup>, the Town began allowing food scraps to be comingled with yard waste or placed at the curb on your yard waste days.

For this new food composting option, please place food scraps in one of the following containers:

- Compostable green bag (not plastic- must be compostable)
- If dry and it can be done in a sanitary non-leaking manner, they can go in a brown paper yard waste bag (can be mixed with yard waste)
- 5-gallon bucket

Food scraps that can be accepted by the Compost Facility:

- ✓ All food items, such as vegetables, breads and starches, meat and bones
- ✓ Compostable or biodegradable bags
- ✓ Can be combined with yard waste
- X Grease is not acceptable

Public Works crews will not handle loose food scraps left in an unsanitary state, so please place food scraps in one of the above manners in a way that will not require workers to touch the food scraps. Leaking bags with holes, etc, will be responsibility of residents to correct before they will be picked up.

Since 5-gallon buckets, and small amounts of food scraps in green compostable bags may be difficult to see for the yard waste truck, it would help to let Public Works know if you plan to utilize the curbside program so we can look out for them at your house on yard waste days. You can send a quick email to [publicworks@berwynheightsmd.gov](mailto:publicworks@berwynheightsmd.gov) to let us know to look for them. As a reminder, yard waste is picked up with your first trash pick-up of the week (North of Pontiac- Mondays, South of Pontiac- Tuesdays).

The compost bins behind Town Hall will be phased out over the next month. As we make this transition, food scrap recycling enthusiasts are welcome to email [publicworks@berwynheights.md](mailto:publicworks@berwynheights.md) to offer feedback or ask any questions you may have. Let us know what you think!

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## Recolección otoñal de hojas

Obras Públicas comenzará su recolección otoñal de hojas de aceras el lunes 7 de noviembre. Estaremos rotándonos cada semana entre la parte norte (el norte de la calle Pontiac) y la parte sur (el sur de la calle Pontiac). Colocaremos señalamientos en las entradas de los vecindarios, que dirán: “Recolección de hojas próxima semana” y “Recolección de hojas esta semana”, para facilitar la comunicación.

Tenga en cuenta que si tenemos inclemencias meteorológicas o nuestra aspiradora de hojas presenta problemas técnicos, esta programación puede retrasarse.

Por favor ponga atención en los siguientes detalles para la recolección:

- No mezcle ningún otro tipo de residuo con las hojas. Nuestra aspiradora no puede recopilar ramas, y las instalaciones de composta de College Park no aceptan otro tipo de desechos.
- Evite estacionar los autos junto a las pilas de hojas. Si un carro bloquea la pila, ésta se dejará hasta que tengamos tiempo de regresar.
- Evite colocar las pilas de hojas sobre el camino. Déjelas sobre la acera para dejar libre el drenaje de desagüe.
- No habrá recolección de hojas durante la semana entre Navidad y Año Nuevo debido a los horarios festivos de recolección de basura. Haga el esfuerzo para que toda recolección final de hojas pueda estar lista sobre la acera el 31 de diciembre para la última recolección de acera durante la primera semana de enero. Estaremos operando con una capacidad limitada para recopilar las pilas en enero, antes que las instalaciones de College Park cierren por la temporada; en enero el clima a veces puede cerrarnos la última oportunidad de aspirar las hojas después de Año Nuevo. Cuando las instalaciones de College Park cierren, cualquier residuo de hojas tendrá que ser embolsado por los residentes para que puedan ser recolectadas de manera normal en colectas de residuos de jardín.

**Compostaje de alimentos: nueva opción en la acera a partir del 24 de octubre**

A partir del 24 de octubre, la ciudad autorizó que los residuos de comida se puedan mezclar con los residuos del jardín o que se dejen sobre la acera en los días de recolecta de residuos de jardinería.

Para esta nueva opción de compostaje de alimentos, por favor deposite sus residuos de comida en alguno de los siguientes contenedores:

- Bolsa verde compostable (no de plástico, debe ser compostable)
- Si son residuos secos, se pueden desechar de una manera higiénica sin fugas o goteos, en una bolsa de papel marrón para residuos de jardinería (puede ir mezclada con desechos del jardín)
- Cubo de 5 galones

Residuos de comida que pueden ser recibidos en las instalaciones de composteo:

- ✓ Todos los desechos como vegetales, panes y féculas, carne y huesos
- ✓ Bolsas compostables o biodegradables
- ✓ Pueden estar mezclados con residuos de jardinería
- X Los aceites y grasas no se aceptan

Las cuadrillas de Obras Públicas no manipularán residuos de comida sueltos que sean dispuestos en un estado insalubre; así que, por favor, coloque los residuos de comida en una de las opciones anteriores, para que los trabajadores no toquen los residuos de comida. Cuando las bolsas tengan hoyos, fugas u otro tipo de daño, los residentes tendrán la responsabilidad de hacer lo necesario para que estén en buen estado antes que sean recolectadas.

Debido a que los cubos de 5 galones y las pequeñas cantidades de residuos de comidas en bolsas verdes compostables pueden ser difíciles de identificar por el camión de basura de jardinería, a Obras Públicas le ayudaría mucho que le haga saber si está pensando sumarse al programa en la acera para que podamos buscarlos en su casa los días de recopilación de basura de jardinería. Puede enviar un correo a [publicworks@berwynheightsmd.gov](mailto:publicworks@berwynheightsmd.gov) para comunicarnos que debemos buscarlos. Recuerde, los residuos del jardín se recolectan con la primera recolección de basura de la semana (Norte de Pontiac: lunes, Sur de Pontiac: jueves).

Los botes de composta que están atrás del ayuntamiento se quitarán durante el próximo mes. Durante esta transición, los entusiastas del reciclado de residuos de alimentos pueden enviarnos un correo a [publicworks@berwynheights.md](mailto:publicworks@berwynheights.md) para hacernos comentarios o las dudas que puedan tener. ¡Háganos saber lo que piensa!

**COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS**

**BH Elementary School PTA**

President: Lilly Ridge  
[President@BHESPTA.org](mailto:President@BHESPTA.org)

Secretary: Angie Wiens  
Treasurer: Sara Jacobsen

**Boys & Girls Club**

President: Robin Harris  
[rcrestwell@yahoo.com](mailto:rcrestwell@yahoo.com)

Vice President: Brandi Cowgill  
[brandie9105@gmail.com](mailto:brandie9105@gmail.com)

Registrar: Tiffany Papanikolas  
[tif.papanikolas@gmail.com](mailto:tif.papanikolas@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Sandra Zuniga  
Secretary:

Athletic Director: Darryl Harris  
[darryl.harris@aimdgroup.com](mailto:darryl.harris@aimdgroup.com)

Fundraising Chair:

**Education Advisory Committee**

Chair: Allison Holmes  
[thebheac@gmail.com](mailto:thebheac@gmail.com)

**Green Team/ Shade Tree Board**

Facilitator: Jeffrey Knutson  
[jbknutson@verizon.net](mailto:jbknutson@verizon.net)

Public Outreach: Therese Forbes  
[therese@celticclans.com](mailto:therese@celticclans.com)

**Historical Committee**

Chair: Debby Steele Snyder  
[dsteelesny@yahoo.com](mailto:dsteelesny@yahoo.com)

**Immigrant Neighbors Community of Berwyn Heights (INCbh)**

POC: Claudia Barragan (301)458-0288  
[info@incbh.org](mailto:info@incbh.org)

**Men's Basketball League**

Jim McGinnis 301-651-8142

**Movie Club**

Jonathan Loutsch  
[bhmovieclub@gmail.com](mailto:bhmovieclub@gmail.com)

**Neighborhood Watch/ Emergency Preparedness**

Co-Chair: Joan Hayden  
[jjmosley45@gmail.com](mailto:jjmosley45@gmail.com)

Co-Chair: Randy Fortwengler  
[bhnwep53@aol.com](mailto:bhnwep53@aol.com)

**Karate Club**

Leon Swain 301-728-2881  
Brett Bentley 240-678-9103  
[Brett.bentley@gmail.com](mailto:Brett.bentley@gmail.com)

**Quilter's Club**

Coordinator: Janet Freitag  
[quilttag1@yahoo.com](mailto:quilttag1@yahoo.com)

**Recreation Council**

President: Susan Jones  
[violindreams@verizon.net](mailto:violindreams@verizon.net)

**Seniors Club**

Ray Smith 301-474-3482

# November 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	 	<b>1</b>  Rec Council 7PM	<b>2</b>  NW/EP 7PM	<b>3</b> 	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Craft Day 11AM
<b>6</b> Wine & Cheese Reception 2-4PM	<b>7</b>  Worksession 7PM 	<b>8</b>  Election Day	<b>9</b>  Town Meeting 7PM 	<b>10</b>  Green Team 7PM	<b>11</b> Town offices closed 	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 	<b>15</b> 	<b>16</b>  BHHC 7:30	<b>17</b> 	<b>18</b> Team Trivia (Adults only) 7-9PM	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  Worksession 7PM 	<b>22</b> 	<b>23</b> 	<b>24</b> Town offices closed THANKSGIVING DAY THANKSGIVING DAY THANKSGIVING DAY	<b>25</b> Town offices closed 	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  BHEAC 7PM	<b>29</b> 	<b>30</b>  Book Discussion 7PM			

The streetsweeper will be in Town from Oct 31-Nov 4. Please move your car off the street when possible.

A quorum of Town Council Members may be present at any community organization meeting. No action will be taken by Council at any community organization meeting. Location of meetings is subject to change after publication. To join community meetings, please contact the meeting organizers or use the contacts on page 26.

Trash, Bulk Trash, Yard Waste  
North-side Collection



Trash, Bulk Trash, Yard Waste  
South-side Collection



Recycling



# BERWYN HEIGHTS BULLETIN

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

**CARRIER-ROUTE SORTED**  
**PRESORT STANDARD**  
**U. S. Postage Paid**  
**College Park, Maryland**  
**Permit No. 5442**

## POSTAL CUSTOMER BERWYN HEIGHTS, MARYLAND

**Dated Material — Do Not Delay!**

### TOWN INFORMATION

#### Town of Berwyn Heights Phone Nos.

Emergency - Fire & Rescue ..... 9-1-1  
 Police (Non-Emergency) ..... (301) 352-1200  
 Police Administrative Office ..... (301) 474-6554  
 Code Compliance Department ..... (301) 513-9331  
**Email: [code@berwynheightsmd.gov](mailto:code@berwynheightsmd.gov)**  
 Public Works Department ..... (301) 474-6897  
**Email: [publicworks@berwynheightsmd.gov](mailto:publicworks@berwynheightsmd.gov)**  
 Fire Department ..... (301) 474-7886  
 Senior Center ..... (301) 474-0018  
 Community Center (Gym) ..... (301) 345-2808  
 Town Office ..... (301) 474-5000  
 Office Hours: MON - FRI 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

#### Mayor and Council

Jodie Kulpa-Eddy (301) 345-1516 [jkulpaeddy@berwynheightsmd.gov](mailto:jkulpaeddy@berwynheightsmd.gov)  
 Mayor — Public Health & Safety  
 Christopher Brittan-Powell (240) 786-2578 [cbrittanpowell@berwynheightsmd.gov](mailto:cbrittanpowell@berwynheightsmd.gov)  
 Mayor Pro Tem — Administration  
 Shinita Hemby (301) 771-0969 [shemby@berwynheightsmd.gov](mailto:shemby@berwynheightsmd.gov)  
 Councilmember — Code Compliance  
 Faustino (Tino) Menjivar (240) 854-7845 [fmenjivar@berwynheightsmd.gov](mailto:fmenjivar@berwynheightsmd.gov)  
 Councilmember — Public Works  
 Jason Papanikolas (240) 338-5191 [jpapanikolas@berwynheightsmd.gov](mailto:jpapanikolas@berwynheightsmd.gov)  
 Councilmember — Parks & Recreation, Education & Civic Affairs  
 Laura Allen — (301) 474-5000 [lallen@berwynheightsmd.gov](mailto:lallen@berwynheightsmd.gov)  
 Town Manager

#### Regular Trash Collection Schedule

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

**Heavy Trash Day:**  
 Monday for North of Pontiac  
 Tuesday for South of Pontiac

**Recycling Schedule:**  
 Wednesdays for the entire Town

#### Town Helpline

Do you have a suggestion or problem or a question on an ordinance, or have a historical question? Want to receive meeting agendas or minutes by email?  
 Email Town at [contact@berwynheightsmd.gov](mailto:contact@berwynheightsmd.gov)  
 Be assured that your communication will be answered promptly and in confidence.

#### Watch Council Meetings



**On Comcast channel 71**  
**FIOS channel 12**

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

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

Questions — call Melanie Friesen, Administration at (301) 474-5000, or email [mfriesen@berwynheightsmd.gov](mailto:mfriesen@berwynheightsmd.gov)

Advertising Rates — call Yvonne Odoi, Administration at 301-474-5000, or email: [yodoi@berwynheightsmd.gov](mailto:yodoi@berwynheightsmd.gov)

Submission Deadline is the 15th of the month