



National Night Out

On Tuesday, August 5, 2008 communities, municipalities, and police departments across the country will celebrate the 25th Anniversary of National Night Out, a program that recognizes the efforts of police-community partnerships to reduce crime and educate the public. In 2006, the last year for which figures are available, over 10 million people participated in the event. This year more than thirty events are scheduled throughout Prince George's County.

For our area, the program will be held at PGCPD District V at 6707 Groveton Dr., Clinton starting at 5:30 PM. There will be demonstrations of the helicopter, motorcycle and K-9 Unit and a display on auto theft prevention. Health screenings will be provided by Southern Maryland Hospital. The Fire department and Parks and Recreation are also expected to participate. A moon bounce and skate mobile will be set up for the kids. Best of all, food and beverages will be provided at no charge including hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken and pizza.

Plan to attend this family event. Come out and meet the officers who serve and protect our community.

Note: If you have children who need to earn community service hours, this is an opportunity for them to do so. Contact BHCA President, Barry Schlossberg at bjsschloss@yahoo.com or (301) 868-9083 for further information.

BHCA Treasurer on State Task Force

The State's Attorney for Prince George's County hosts monthly Community in the Courthouse sessions. Citizens are invited to discuss concerns of their community with the State's Attorney's office. Due to the amount of concerns regarding group homes and foster care, a task force was formed. The task force was asked to look into group homes answering some of the questions posed by the community such as:

- What is the difference between group homes and foster care?
- Who supervises and regulates group homes?
- What is the age range of children in group homes?
- What are these children doing? The community thinks they may be truant, destroying property, loitering and engaging in other non-productive activity.

Carolyn Green-Fitzgerald, BHCA Treasurer, is representing Brookwood-Hollaway Civic Association on this task force and will keep the community updated via this newsletter.

Neighborhood Watch Report



The Committee's Chair, Rick Brown, reports, "we continue to enjoy reduced numbers of incidents over this time last year, as a direct result of the cooperation and efforts between the Neighborhood Watch and District V Police. However, we still have work to do and cannot afford to let up; so let's all stay alert and keep our minds on safety and security." Rick also stated, "Residents are using the N.W. communications chain to receive and share safety and security information and everyone should continue to monitor and report incidents." Observations, incidents, suspicious persons, etc. should be reported to the police and subsequently, directly to Rick at 301-877-1242 or email: crb9904@verizon.net. This will allow us to follow up with our police department resources. "We continue to field questions from residents interested in learning about the N.W. Program, but are getting few new volunteers. All are *continued on page2*

Neighborhood Watch Report

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encouraged to be a “block watcher” by observing and reporting incidents in their immediate area.”

“Our patrols continue to canvas the area, but the schedule has been scaled back until we are able to enlist additional volunteers. We would like to put at least four more teams on the schedule. To achieve this we need eight individuals to volunteer 2 – 4 hours a month. In particular, we need volunteers for weekdays (evenings and days).”

We need another N.W. committee member to work with Rick and Roberta Rosser to stay abreast of what the committee is doing, assist in the absence of Rick or Roberta, attend Board meetings, and help manage the watch patrol equipment.

Note: Juvenile gatherings in the Rhodenda and Toucan/Pitman area continue to get police attention for loitering and curfew violations. Since our last issue two more “gatherings” have been broken up. Please continue to call in these incidents to the non-emergency number 301-333-4000.

More Boots on the Ground

If you saw the Washington Post's Prince George's Extra on Thursday, July 17 you read the above headline. This article highlighted the increased number of parking violations issued throughout the county. We had previously informed our members of this stepped-up enforcement when it was released by the County's Revenue Authority. Using fifteen Revenue Authority enforcement agents this is “an effort to get tough on long-ignored parking laws”. Common practices that are illegal include “parking on the wrong side of the road and parking on unpaved land unless the property is larger than one acre”. These can “result in a ticket and the resulting \$50 fine.” Officials say “the effort is a centerpiece of the County's Livable Communities Initiative, a bid to improve the quality of life”. The link to read the entire Washington Post is:
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/16/AR2008071601715.html>

Local Development Update

The Transnational Law & Business University (TLBU) on the West Side of Frank Tippet Road, had a hearing on Thursday, July 17th before the Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) for consideration of its Comprehensive Design Plan (CDP) and, in a very unusual circumstance, its Preliminary Design Plan on the same date.

BHCA President, Barry Schlossberg, testified at the hearing addressing the impact 409 single-family homes will have on the area's infrastructure including traffic, schools, public and emergency services. He told the Commission, that at an earlier meeting with the agents and possible developer, BHCA agreed to work with the developer to try to get Parks and Recreation to construct a recreation center on the area being set aside for a community park, should the development be approved.

The CDP was approved by the Commission but they placed some thirty “recommendations” on the Plan. The Commission had a different view of the Preliminary Plan noting historical, archeological and environmental concerns. Additionally, a daycare center, which had been in the base plan, was not included in the Preliminary Plan. The Commission did not approve the Preliminary Plan.

When asked what the next step would be, a representative of the developer said, “I don't know what we're going to do.”

Rosaryville Road across from the Hollaway Estates Park Have you seen the Flag? It was observed that a flag and pole sitting about 100 ft. off the roadway had been recently erected. Being curious, Fletcher Mack, BHCA V.P. did some research and learned that several acres had been purchased by Global Country of World Peace but there was no information as to any development plans being filed.

A check with a resident in that area revealed they knew nothing about the purchase or the buyer. Information on the owner can be found at www.globalcountry.org.

BHCA will continue to track both of the above developments and report these developments to members in future newsletters.

August Events in Prince George's County

Events are subject to change. Please call in advance to confirm dates, times, fees and possible reservation requirements.

August 4-10, 15-17, 26-28 BOWIE BAYSOX BASEBALL

Prince George's County Stadium, 4101 NE Crain Hwy, Bowie. 301-464-4865. www.baysox.com. Minor League Baseball at its best. Final games of the 2008 season. Many games feature special events and promotions. Game starts vary. Call for information and tickets. (\$)

August 8 (7:30 pm) 30TH ANNUAL MONTPELIER SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Montpelier Mansion Grounds, 9650 Muirkirk Rd, Laurel. 301-776-2805. www.pgiparks.com. Celebrating 30 years of outstanding family entertainment and presented by the South Laurel Recreation Council. Bring a friend, a picnic basket, a blanket or a chair for these wonderful family concerts. Final performance of the season. FREE.

August 9 (8-5 pm) 1814 BRITISH INVASION OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BUS TOUR

Darnall's Chance House Museum, 14800 Governor Oden Bowie Dr, Upper Marlboro. 301-952-8010. www.pgiparks.com. War of 1812 scholar Dr. Ralph Eshelman will be our ride-along guide as we travel the routes the British Army marched through the County in August of 1814. We will visit campsites, sites of skirmishes, the Bladensburg Battlefield and the town of Upper Marlborough – a hotbed of subterfuge and treason. Bus departs from and returns to Darnall's Chance. Reservation and payment required in advance. (\$)

August 16 (9-4 pm) GREAT ARCHITECTURE SYMPOSIUM

Montpelier Mansion, 9650 Muirkirk Rd, Laurel. 301-953-1376. www.pgiparks.com. Montpelier Mansion has been called one of the best examples of Georgian architecture in Maryland. What makes a great Georgian house? Did 18th century plantation owners have a different definition of "greatness?" What can the layout of the current grounds tell us about the Snowdens and their status? In this daylong symposium, architectural and landscape historians will examine Montpelier and its environs to reveal what the Snowden estate meant to its owners and their peers, neighbors, servants and slaves. Lunch included in fee. Reservations required. (\$)

August 27 (7 pm) JAZZ ON THE PORTICO

Riversdale House Museum, 4811 Riverdale Rd, Riverdale Park. 301-864-0420 www.pgiparks.com. Bring your blanket or lawn chair for these free summer concerts featuring some of the area's finest jazz musicians. Dinner is available for purchase before the show, or bring your own picnic basket. (\$) Advance registration required.

August 30-September 1 (7 pm) METROPOLITAN INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL

Show Place Arena, 14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro. For info, call Shortcake Entertainment Group at 301-464-7445, Show Place Events Line at 301-952-7999. www.shortcakeentgroup.com www.showplacearena.com Dates tentative. Official dates yet to be announced. The 3rd Annual Metropolitan International Jazz Festival will feature some of the brightest names in contemporary jazz and R&B. Call for details. (\$) Tickets available thru Ticketmaster www.ticketmaster.com

Programs

We want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work of Trinita McCall and thank her for her efforts as Co-chair of the BHCA Programs Committee for the past two years. Trinita is moving (but not very far; to Clinton). Trinita has co-chaired the committee with Nicole Austin-Hillery who will continue as Chair.

The Committee is presently considering several programs for BHCA members including a Community Clean-up Day (in conjunction with the County's Gorgeous Prince George's Day) and an Easter Egg Hunt in the Spring.

BHCA members, particularly new members, are encouraged to contact Nicole at 301-877-5971 or email: nauleo@aol.com if you would like to work on the Program Committee.

Membership

Although we continue to add to our membership Committee Chair, Annie Willis indicates it is time to prepare our Membership Directory. She will work with former Chair, Eileen Buckley and Communications Chair, Valerie Mersier in putting this publication together. The directory should be available to members in mid to late September. If you would like to assist with the membership directory, please contact Annie Willis at awketchall@msn.com

Free Smoke Alarm & Safety Advisory Inspection

The Fire/EMS Department will visit your home and conduct a free Fire Safety Advisory Inspection. But that's not all! While there, they will install a free smoke detector in your home. To sign up for this service, go online to:

http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/Government/PublicSafety/Fire-EMS/inspection_request.asp

BHCA Contact Information

Brookwood-Hollaway Civic Association, Inc.

PO Box 280 - Cheltenham, MD 20623

BHCA WebSite - <http://groups.msn.com/BHCAInc>

Non-Members – <http://group.msn.com/BHCAIncVisitors>

Email – bhca-membership@comcast.net