

# BIRCHWOOD-CLEARVIEW COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

February 2011 (Edition)

PUBLISHED BY THE BIRCHWOOD-CLEARVIEW COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC (BCCA), P.O. BOX 7, OXON  
HILL, MD 20745

**A COMMUNITY THAT CARES**

For additional community information, please go to BCCA's Website:

[www.neighborhoodlink.com/oxonhill/bccc](http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/oxonhill/bccc)

## **BCCA'S** UPCOMING EVENTS

### **EXERCISE CLASSES ARE COMING TO BIRCHWOOD RECREATION CENTER**

#### **BCCA Community Meeting –**

**When:** Wed. Feb. 16, 2011, 7:00 P.M.

**Where:** Birchwood Recreation Center

**Please Attend.**

#### **AGENDA For Community Meeting**

1. Guest Speaker: Ms. Tami Hayes, Fitness Instructor
2. Black History Trip
3. Volunteer Opportunity – Secretary Is Needed for BCCA
4. Your Concerns and Suggestions

### **FROM THE DESK OF BCCA PRESIDENT – Sylvia Griffin**

#### **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

This month as we all know is Black History Month. Take out a little time and embark on a teaching moment and share information on how so many African Americans in history have made a contribution in this country or even the world. In addition, most people are unaware of significant contributions that have been made by more recent contemporary African-American innovators in our country's, who have played a major role in the development of our society over the last half-century. It is the richness of our history that helps shape the people of who we are today. **WHAT'S IN YOUR HISTORY?**

#### **BIRCHWOOD CITY FITNESS INITIATIVE**

The Obama's Health Initiative is promoting "Let's Move" focusing on healthy living, getting our citizens on the move and eating healthy. Well, Birchwood will be a part of that initiative in providing fitness classes at our Birchwood Recreation Center. Fitness classes will start in March 2011-Tuesdays and Wednesdays @ 6:30 to 7:30. **Please come out to the Feb 16<sup>th</sup> Birchwood-Clearview community meeting and meet Ms. Tami Hayes, our fitness instructor.** Ms. Hayes will answer any questions that you may have. The fitness classes will be for the entire family--so come out and support us in keeping our residents healthy.

**NOTE:** To obtain more detailed information on our fitness classes and our Black History Trip, please come to the Feb 16<sup>th</sup> Community Meeting and also contact BCCA President Sylvia Griffin on 301-839-6719 or BCCA Vice President Michelle Ross and the Youth on [sapphire09@comcast.net](mailto:sapphire09@comcast.net).

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## **FROM THE DESK OF BCCA YOUTH LEADER – *Jahnae McCoy***

### **Youth Toastmasters Club**

**Calling all Youths between the ages of 13 to 19. Adults are welcome too!**

**We need 20 Students to sign up for the 8-week class. All materials are free of charge. Let our "Youth Toastmasters Club" take you to the next level!**

BCCA is proud to bring "Toastmasters" Training to Our Community. Don't miss the opportunity to gain valuable and useful leadership skills that will last a lifetime.

Get prepared for the next step in your life; be it career, college, or community involvement. The answer to your communication and leadership needs is the YOUTH TOASTMASTERS CLUB. BCCA is proud to sponsor the first ever "Youth Toastmasters Club". We need you to come out to learn the skills necessary to stay engaged in the 21st century. Classes will begin to form in early March 2011 and will most likely be held at the Birchwood City Recreation Center, on Fridays - from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. Please contact M. Ross at [sapphire09@comcast.net](mailto:sapphire09@comcast.net) for more information and to sign up.

## **CALLING ALL MINISTERS IN OUR COMMUNITY**

We need and request all ministers living in Birchwood-Clearview to become involved in the community and share your love to help maintain our community as a good place to live. Even if you are unable at this time to come out and volunteer a little of your time, we ask that you keep the community lifted up in your prayers. Whatever role you would like to play, please call BCCA President Sylvia Griffin on 301-839-6719.

## **NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH REPORT**

Prince George's County Police Department reported in November 2010, that there had only been two reported incidents of crime in Birchwood-Clearview during the reporting period. However, recently, there have been some home break-ins on Colony Road. The Police Department provided the following personal safety tips:

### **Safety at Home**

- Lock doors and windows when you leave home--even for a few minutes.
- Ask neighbors to watch your home and pick up your mail and newspaper when you leave home for extended periods.
- Make sure your home appears occupied, day and night. Leave a radio or TV on when you are gone and keep several indoor lights on timers. Keep outside lights on all night.
- Don't linger before entering your house; have your keys in your hand when you reach your house.

### **Safety in Your Car**

- Lock your car after entering and exiting it. Park in well-lit areas.
- Keep windows closed and doors locked while you are getting gas for your vehicle.
- Check the car's front and back seats before getting in, even if your car was locked when you left it.
- Don't linger before entering your car; have your keys in your hand when you reach your car.
- Drive to the nearest open public place and blow your horn if you suspect someone is following you.
- Don't warm your car unoccupied with the engine running and keys in the ignition.
- Put packages in the trunk

### **Safety on the Street.**

- Use caution when walking alone especially when it is dark outside. If possible, walk with another person, or change your route to avoid isolated or dark areas.
- Be alert and aware of others on the street.
- Cross the street or change directions if you suspect you are being followed and find the nearest occupied building or store.
- Don't approach a car that follows you or stops near you to ask for directions.
- Don't overload yourself with packages, books, purses, etc...

In case of emergency or to report a crime in progress, call 911. For all non-emergencies, call 301-333-4000.

## **Black History Being Made Today**

As our BCCA President Mrs. Griffin said on the front page, there are significant contributions that have been made by more recent contemporary African-American innovators in our country. The following information describes the achievement of one of them. (Note: Parents and Grandparents, please encourage your youth family members to read the following article about this 25-year old young lady.)



U.S.Coast Guard's Lt. JG La'Shanda Holmes

## **Lt. JG La'Shanda Holmes is Coast Guard's First Black Female Helicopter Pilot**

As reported by the United States Coast Guard News, the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) has appointed its first black female helicopter pilot. She is 25-year old La'Shanda Holmes. It is been said that she is an inspiration on USCG search and rescue missions in Southern California because of her achievement. Peers believe she will motivate others, especially minority girls, to aim for high achievements also. It is evidence from her background that if a young person wants to achieve, it is possible. Ms. Holmes mother died when La'Shanda was very young and she was then put in foster care. It was reported that Ms Holmes sometimes wondered what life had to offer and doubted what she was capable of, but she clung to her religious faith during these difficult times in an effort to persevere and go forward. She graduated as an honor student from her high school and attended Spelman College, one of the historically Black colleges in Atlanta, GA.

## **BCCA'S WARM CLOTHING AND FOOD DRIVES:**

**Warm Clothing Drive** –Please share your blessings with others and reach into your closet and pull out that gently worn, warm garment and share it with your community.

**Food Drive** - When you go to the store, please pick up a few items for your neighbors. All food items will be shared with the Oxon Hill Food Bank. We are continuing this drive in honor of our dear, beloved *Doris Saunders*. For both drives, please contact Michelle on 301-839-2268 or at [saphire09@comcast.net](mailto:saphire09@comcast.net) to arrange for pick-up, or you may bring the clothes and food to the community meeting on Feb 16th.

## Local Events Celebrating Black History Month

DATE	EVENTS
Wed, Feb. 2, through Sunday, May 1, <b>(Our community's Proposed Trip date is Sat. Feb 26)</b>	<b>National Geographic Museum</b> - 1145 17th St., NW DC 20036 -202 857 7588 <b><u>America I Am: The African American Imprint Exhibition</u></b> An award-winning touring exhibition with more than 200 artifacts, over 12,000 square feet, conceived and presented by broadcaster Tavis Smiley. Take a journey through trials and triumphs while exploring nearly 500 years of <b>African American contributions to the economic, political, cultural, and spiritual development of the United States.</b> <u>Ticket prices are \$12 for adults; \$10 for students, military personnel, and seniors (over age 62); and \$6 for children ages 2-12. Free for children under age 2.</u>
Sunday, Feb 27, 4 pm	<b>Maryland Publick Playhouse,</b> 5445 Landover Road, Cheverly 20784 - 301-277-1710 <b><u>PRAISE</u></b> - Gospel singer Cora Harvey Armstrong opens this annual liturgical dance festival featuring top dance troupes from area churches. - <b>All ages welcome. \$12 Per person; \$10 for seniors, students &amp; groups of 15</b>
Sat., Feb 26, 2 pm	<b>Oxon Hill Library</b> - 6200 Oxon Hill Road, (301) 839-2400 <b><u>Poetry Celebration with Collective Voices</u></b> Come hear inspiring poetry about the African American experience and literary tributes to the heroes and heroines that left an enduring legacy. The three women who make up Collective Voices have performed together nationally and internationally. This program is sponsored by the <i>Maryland Chapter of AARP and the Friends of Oxon Hill Library.</i> <b>Families welcome - FREE</b>

### BIRCHWOOD-CLEARVIEW COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

**NEW MEMBERSHIP YEAR 2010-2011 (Sept 2010 to Aug 2011) Yearly Dues: \$20 per household.**

DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 RESIDENT'S NAME(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Membership Dues \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Scholarship Donation\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 General Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total Amount Enclosed\$ \_\_\_\_\_

The Association needs volunteer help. Please place an X besides the area below where you want to give  
**"a LITTLE time for a BIG cause."**

☐ Membership ☐ Education/Scholarship ☐ Recreation ☐ Ways & Means (Fundraising) ☐ Beautification  
☐ Legislation ☐ Hospitality ☐ Publicity/Newsletter ☐ Youth Committee ☐ Public Affairs ☐ Community  
☐ Service ☐ Technology

**After completing this form, detach and mail it along with your check (payable to BCCA) to P.O. Box 7, Oxon Hill, MD 20745-0007 or bring it to the monthly community meeting. Thank You for Your Support**

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