

# BIRCHWOOD / CLEARVIEW NEWSLETTER



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

Sept./Oct. 2011 Edition

"A COMMUNITY THAT CARES" -- Visit our website for more information:

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

## Welcome to a New Year for Your Community Association

### BCCA'S UPCOMING EVENTS

#### COMMUNITY MEETING

**Wednesday, Sept 21, 2011, 7:00 P.M.**

Birchwood Recreation Center

**We Welcome You and Need You at This Meeting!!**

#### MEETING AGENDA

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks by BCCA President, Sylvia Griffin
2. Neighborhood Watch Report - Prince George's Police Department
3. Community Association Membership Drive
4. Community Residents' Concerns and Suggestions



***FUN NIGHT (Halloween) Friday, October 28, 2011, 7:00 PM***, at the Birchwood Recreation Center. Children and Adults come with your funniest and most creative costumes and have some fun too. Refreshments will be served. ***Admission: Each person is asked to bring a can of food for the Oxon Hill Food Pantry.*** (Coordinated by BCCA's Hospitality Committee led by L. McCoy and G. Hernandez-Sanders).



## **SPOTLIGHT On BCCA's MEMBERSHIP Committee**

### **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE - 50 % GOAL**

THIS IS A NEW YEAR (**September 2011 thru August 2012**) FOR MEMBERSHIP DUES for the Birchwood/Clearview Community Association-- \$20 per house. Our Membership Committee, headed by B. Brown and assisted by S. O'Bannon, works very hard each year to get you to join the Community Association. WHY? Because membership dues contribute to helping our community to provide family activities and scholarships for our children, beautification and upkeep of our community, the newsletter, and assistance for our community by working with local government officials on behalf of our community (for example, the walking trail and pavilion at the park, speed humps). **We have about 800 homes in this community and the goal is to get 1/2 OF YOU TO JOIN the community Association- a 50% membership rate.** We need your help to accomplish this goal. **So if you want to volunteer and conduct the membership drive on your street or your block, please call BCCA President on (301) 839-6719. Let's see which street will be the first to reach its 50% rate.** Please use the attached Membership Form and join today.

## **Message From BCCA President – SYLVIA GRIFFIN**

Hello Birchwood residents. I hope everyone enjoyed their fun-filled summer--taking needed vacations and more. We have now embarked yet on another 10-month tenure where the Association will be active--and active we are. First, I would like to really thank everyone who came out on June 24, 2011, for our "Outdoor Movie Night"--equipment provided by Maryland's Parks and Recreation. This is our second year having an outdoor movie. This year, more residents attended this event--it was a wonderful evening with everyone bringing their blankets and lawn chairs to enjoy the movie. This, I hope will continue to help create a real sense of community. There are many projects that your Association Board is contemplating for the Birchwood/Clearview Community; however, we need your assistance in carrying out many of these efforts, in layman terms "we need more of you to become involved as volunteers." As I mentioned so many times before, as President, it can make a ***HUGE DIFFERENCE*** if more residents are involved.

It still amazes me when people complain about what the Association isn't doing--but yet they themselves will not get involved. The Association will continue to petition volunteering in many areas that are needed such as: Youth Leaders, Grant Writers, Neighborhood Watch, Event/Meeting Planners, Membership, Legislation, Beautification Committee, Public Affairs, Faith-Base Leaders and more. Our community can be so affective!!! if many of these areas had help.

In your community-What Can You Do To Help? Be part of the Solution and not part of the Problem-support your community!!!

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### **Save The Date!!!**

**Twenty Thousand Fathers** Of Prince George's County Maryland. Asked to Lead the Nation Back to School: **The Prince George's County Male Initiative Presents: "The Million Father March 2011" on August 22, 2011": Men Make A Difference Day on October 10, 2011.** They are asking fathers, grandfathers, uncles, brothers, sons, nephews, and all significant male role models in the lives of children to participate: to visit a school, meet teachers, staff, and other school personnel. We ask that you volunteer at least seven hours of your time to the school. To learn more visit [www.menmakeadifferenceday.weebly.com](http://www.menmakeadifferenceday.weebly.com).

### **UPCOMING INFORMATION ON PRESCRIPTION DRUGS:**

October is "Prescription Drug" Month. You don't want to miss this article on prescription drugs.

## **Message From BCCA Youth Leader – JAHNAE MCCOY**

Birchwood City/Clearview Association (BCCA) is proud to announce the winner of the **First Annual Doris Saunders Scholarship**. The scholarship, in the amount of \$300.00, is awarded to **Ms. Ciandra Gaston**. Ms. Gaston submitted her essay, "Education is the Key to Success." (Please see the last page for Ms. Gaston's winning essay.) Ciandra says she is inspired by her parents and says that "without education, I can't be successful and achieve my goal of becoming an educator and goes on to say, "with education; however, my possibilities are endless and I can do anything." We congratulate Ciandra for not only submitting her winning essay, but for being admitted to the Temple University Honors Program, a comprehensive, four-year experience designed to challenge her boundaries, expand her possibilities, and prepare her for the world ahead. Birchwood/Clearview salutes Ciandra and we know Ciandra will "reach back and teach someone," just as Doris Saunders reached in and out to teach all those that came in contact with her. Way to go Ciandra! Birchwood/Clearview is serious about honoring our youth. Watch this space -- for you, too, can be the recipient of the next scholarship.

**CONGRATULATIONS** To Birchwood/Clearview residents Reverend and Mrs. Gay who on October 9, 2011, 10:30AM are celebrating the 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of their church (Christ Deliverance FWBC) located at 800 Comanche Ave, Oxon Hill, MD.

## SENIORS' CORNER

### **Key Phone Numbers for Senior Citizens**

**Call Prince George's County Area on Aging 301-265-8450** for General Information, Assisted Living Subsidy, Aging Division, Elder Abuse, Foster Grandparents, Health Insurance Counseling, and the Nursing Home Ombudsman.

**Call 301-265-8487** for Employment for Seniors.

Call **1-800-201-7165** for **Maryland Department of Aging**

Seniors and disabled customers can now ride **TheBUS FREE**. **TheBus is a bus company that provides service only in PG County** during the hours of 6 AM to 7PM. Just show one form of identification to the bus driver. Also, there is additional (limited) transportation for seniors to senior activity centers, for shopping trips and other recreational purposes, Call 301-499-8603 for more information.

(Note: If you would like to contribute an article or information for the Seniors' Corner, please call L. Hall on 301-839-0499.)

### **NEEDED: VOLUNTEERS TO HELP DELIVER BCCA NEWSLETTER**

We need back-up volunteers to deliver the newsletter on each street. We don't have any volunteers for the 1500 Block of Birchwood Drive. Please call L. Hall on 301-839-0499 if you would like to help.

This new year, our plan is to deliver the newsletter every other month instead of each month.

### **COUNTY-WIDE COMMUNITY CLEAN UP**

Birchwood/Clearview is taking part in Prince George's county-wide effort on Saturday, Oct. 22, 2011. The county will provide trash bags, gloves, picker-upper gadgets, rakes, etc... Resident Barbara Brown has volunteered to pick up the material from the County. **Now all we need are volunteers to help clean up the entrances at Birchwood Drive and Chrisfield Drive and any other areas in the community that you think need cleaning.** If you would like to help for a few hours on that day, please call BCCA President, Sylvia Griffin on (301) 839-6719 and give her your name.

### **Thank You**

To all of you who either donated money, food, games, other items and/or your volunteer time shopping for the food, cooking the food, setting up, cleaning up, planning, making signs--all to help make our community day on May 21, 2011 a great success.

#### **Thank You To:**

Bar. Brown, Br. Brown, Mr. Cole, C. French, K. Graves, Mr. & Mrs. Griffin, L. Hall, J. Jones, D. Joyner, E. King, L. McIntosh, J. McCoy and our youth, L. McCoy and Family, D. Monroe, Mr. & Mrs. Spears, Mr. & Mrs. O'Bannon, Mr. & Mrs. Picot and Andre, M. Ross, G. Hernandez-Saunders and daughter, J. Smith, P. Walker, Mr. & Mrs. Webster, and all others who helped.

We also thank all of the entertainers and express appreciation to Giant Food, Safeway, Pepsi Cola, Shoppers' Food, and Popeye's for their donations.

We also express appreciation to Oxon Hill Library, Senator Muse, Councilmember Patterson, Delegates Turner, Walker, and Valdarrama; and Prince Georges Police, Sheriff and Fire Departments for their participation and support.

## Education Is The Key To Success

“Education is the key to success” - Solomon Ortiz. This statement has been proven true over and over again by the success of countless people including President Obama, Frederick Douglass, and Condoleezza Rice. From my youth I have been educated by the strong women in my family and the words of wisdom in the bible. To have received from these women a Christ centered education was a blessing. But in receiving this gift I also understood how much more I have to give to someone else. That is why through my education and achievements my ultimate goal has always been to become an educator myself and give others hopefully a piece of what I received. My continued thirst for education has been an inspiration to my family, inspiring an aunt of mine to go back to college and a cousin of mine to get better grades. Through the lives of others I have seen the importance of education specifically my parents who though not college educated received very good grades in high school and have done well in the work world. However my college educated relatives have succeeded beyond my parents and have an inspiration for knowledge. My parents because of their lack of education always pushed for me to do better than them and have inspired me to continue my education on until my doctorate degree.

Education is important to me because it is the foundation on which all great figures stand and is the key to my future. Without education I can't be successful and achieve my goals of becoming an educator myself because I can't teach if I do not learn. With education however my possibilities are endless and I can do anything. Education is the driving force of the world and if all people are educated then all people can make a difference and change the world. Beyond myself I look to the importance of education in my community because I alone can't change the world. Education is important to my community because it prepares the next generation of people to govern this community with pride and dignity. Birchwood is only as strong as its leaders and because the children are the future it is very important that they are educated so they can become strong leaders. The upkeep of the community school and the sponsoring of various activities for children will propel the next generation forward to be successful and educated. Without education in the community hopes are low for the next generation to succeed and continue the leadership of this great community. But with education the future leaders of this community can continue the pride and strength of this community and build a better brighter future for generations to come.

In conclusion because education is the key to success it should forever be important to me and my community. Education has changed the lives of countless people and will continue to influence the world for the better. Education builds better people and a better world so it will always be important.

*Ciandra*



**DETACHABLE MEMBERSHIP FORM - NEW MEMBERSHIP YEAR (Sept 2011 to Aug 2012)** Please join the BCCA by completing this form and enclosing your annual membership fee of **\$20.00 per household for the year 2011-2012**. Make your check payable to BCCA and mail to P.O. Box 7, Oxon Hill, MD. 20745-0007, and include the following information:

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

RESIDENT'S NAME (s) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. (Optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Dues\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation for Scholarship\$ \_\_\_\_\_

General Donation\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check which committee/area you would like to help:**

Membership	Public Affairs	Ways & Means	Recreation/Parks & Planning
Legislation	Beautification	Community Service	Education/Scholarship
Hospitality	Technology	Publicity/Newsletter	Sponsored Activities
Neighborhood Watch Program	Youth Activities	Other areas (Please Specify)	

Printing by **Harris Printing Service** (our Community Printer) at 5610 Galloway Drive, Oxon Hill, MD. 20745--specializing in printing signs, business cards, books, flyers, forms, letterhead, newsletters, etc... **President Obama's albums available Dec. 2011.** Call Mr. Harris on 301-567-1929.