



The Berwyn News

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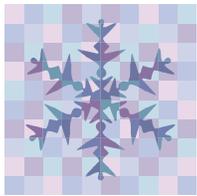
P.O. Box 535, College Park, MD 20740

Volume 18, Issue 10

www.myberwyn.org

December, 2010

**Thursday, January 20, 2011
Membership Meeting 8PM, Fealy Hall
49th Ave., & Berwyn Road**



Winter Season is here!

While you're digging out why not become a part of the Berwyn "Shovel Brigade". Our senior citizens and disabled neighbors will appreciate your help. And,

let's all try to help out the Fire Department by keeping the fire hydrants cleared and visible.

Holiday Crime Prevention

Here are a few tips to help you reduce your chances of being a victim during this holiday season.

- Use blinds and drapes for privacy.
- Don't leave home without locking door and windows.
- While away, stop mail and newspaper deliveries.



Annual Christmas Holiday Party!



On Saturday December 11, Fealy Hall was well decorated as again the Berwyners came together to celebrate the Holiday season. The atmosphere was very festive and there were plenty sweet treats. **Larry Wenzel** provided live holiday music and of course the kids were all excited when **Santa Klaus** dropped by to give the kids a little gift and find out what they wanted for Christmas. Many of the kids painted holiday ornaments and some even made Christmas cards to send to Santa. **Kayla** won the annual gingerbread holiday house and the of course the party ended with the annual challenge of getting the escaped balloons down off the ceiling!

BDCA 2010-2011 Officers

President	Kevin Young
1st Vice President	Harry Pitt
2nd Vice President	Gene Baur
Corresponding Secretary	Timothy Triplett
Recording Secretary	Liesl Koch
Treasurer	Lori Young
Board of Directors	Jerry Anzulovic & Brian McAllister
Neighborhood Watch Director	Kevin Carter
Berwyn News Editor	Michele Garnes

Play Group

Meets Wednesdays, 10AM Berwyn
Neighborhood Park (Cherry Park)
In case of rain ~ Fealy Hall

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Kevin Young

As the year comes to a close it is fitting to pay tribute to a bit of history. As 2010 slips into the history books, Berwyn marks 125 years of existence. Documents exist recognizing that the civic association was formed in 1885. The association, or as it was known in its earliest days the "Berwyn Improvement Association", was intertwined with the Berwyn Presbyterian Church. This beautiful chapel graced the corner of Potomac Avenue and Quebec Street until it was torn down in 1958. The Lake House at the corner of Potomac Avenue and Berwyn Road served as the church's parsonage and still stands today as a registered historic home. The area was known as Central Heights prior to the church's establishment.

Local legend (as told by Berwyn's official Historian Jerry Anzulovic) describes how the church and Berwyn itself got its name: "Berwyn". Berwyn is Welsh in origin and was a popular boys name among Welsh immigrants. During construction of the church building, the contractor's son, Berwyn, stepped on a nail. The boy's foot became infected and he developed lockjaw and died--not an uncommon occurrence in the days before the tetanus vaccination. The church elders honored him by naming the church "Berwyn Memorial Chapel". The name was later changed to Berwyn Presbyterian Church.

By the early twentieth century Berwyn was well established and had its own Post Office. According to T. Raymond Burch, in his book *"The History and Development of the City of College Park, Berwyn Heights, Greenbelt and Adjacent Areas"* published in 1970, his father Judge John Burch published a small weekly newspaper "The Berwyn News" between 1900 and 1908. The paper featured items of local interest and county politics.

The civic association and the Berwyn News (in its current form) are still going strong thanks to a dedicated volunteer staff. Make 2011 your year to get involved and help keep the tradition alive. Happy Anniversary Berwyn! And Happy Holidays to one and all!

**Recycle your old Holiday Lights at
My Organic Market (Aka MOM's)
9827 Rhode Island Ave.
College Park, MD**

**And, receive a 25% off coupon for
Energy Efficient Lighting at
HolidayLEDS.com**

CITY COUNCIL MUSINGS

Jack Perry 301-345-7526

Here it is December already. Am I wrong or wasn't it just June?

We Prince Georgians have a new leadership team in charge of the County. You all know about the arrest of the former County Executive and the stories about lots of money. Why is it that supposedly smart people do dumb things? Luckily, none of these actions has touched College Park. It does point to a procedure that your fair city has been involved in. There are contributions that developers agree to pay to the city for favorable votes on/for their projects. Some of these are not even in the city. With the current fiscal situation in the country, many of these agreements have died on the vine. One of these is what the developer of the Book Exchange property is offering to the city for favorable treatment. Aside from bribing the city, they are increasing the cost of development that could be put to better use on the project.

I've been asked what I would like to see accomplished by the city. My first wish is for a new City Hall. This could be built on city owned property at the College Park Elementary School site on Calvert Road. The present site could be sold to a developer. The sale monies could offset the cost of a new City Hall.

I would like to see the modular buildings at Public Works replaced. These portable classroom type buildings have outlived their usefulness. I have some questions about the facilities that the Public Works staff is using compared to other departments in the city.

I believe that the city has the ability to pay for both of these projects. We have elected to be a city and perform all of the duties of a municipal government. There is no reason that we should have second class facilities to work in and out of.

I would like to see English declared as the official language of College Park. I firmly believe that the way you keep an immigrant down is by not encouraging them to learn English. If our intention is to keep them down, then we should continue on the current path.

Your fair city has a student liaison position and we are somewhat of a pioneer for a college community to have one. We receive letters and emails from other communities asking about our program. I guess it has some advantages for relations between the student body and the city government. The

Continued on next page

selection process involves the SGA and a committee of council members. It has evolved into a "heart beat" position. Also, there is a person that will take over if #1 can't do the job. Well, it appears that there are some problems with the current system. These are not to be expected: #1 Graduating; #2 (heart beat) doesn't want to continue for whatever reason. These are both students who came to College Park for an education and thought it would be "neat" to be on the City Council. The city even pays a stipend. The process for a replacement doesn't start for a couple of months and I guess the students won't be represented.

No, I didn't forget about the Thirsty Turtle. It's just that I don't have any further information to share with you.

There is no meeting this month. We have had our Christmas Party for the young and young at heart. Kathy and I wish each of you a joyous holiday season. May you and yours have a happy and prosperous new year. I continue to thank God continue to bless this great nation?.



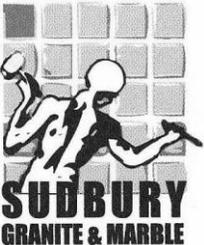
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COUNCILMAN'S VIEWS AND COMMENTS
Bob Catlin 301-345-0742 or Catcprtc@aol.com

Greetings neighbors.

The City has posted an online Resident Satisfaction Survey. You can see the survey at www.collegeparkmd.gov/survey. This is the City's first survey since 2007. It is comprehensive, so it is long and may take you 15+ minutes to answer it fully. You can start the survey though, save it, and finish it later, when you have time. You can also request a written version of the survey (in Spanish, if you want, too). Call 240-487-3501 to request to have a copy mailed. Survey responses must be received by January 10th, as the results will help guide City staff and the elected body in preparing our FY2012 budget next spring.

The Cordish Companies (from Baltimore) held an open house at Ritchie Coliseum on November 30th to talk about the East Campus Project. Their ideas of smaller blocks and more visibility into the project from the adjacent streets (Route 1 and Paint Branch Parkway) were well received by the public. Work is underway at the Severn Building (AKA Washington Post) to prepare for the transfer of various University functions from East Campus. All of the Post's presses have now been removed.

The City's audit firm will present their report on the City's FY2010 Certified Annual Financial Report at the Council's January 4th worksession. The City will shortly thereafter go out for permanent financing for its parking garage which opened in August 2009.

The two new student apartments, which opened in August, are now on the property tax rolls. MGM (Mazza) is valued at about \$70 million and University View II is valued at about \$60 million. That means about \$420,000 a year in additional property tax revenue for the City. Two more major student housing projects (Varsity and Enclave) will be on the tax rolls in another year, but then what? Perhaps then we can look forward to some projects of a different (not student housing) nature for sites such as East Campus and the former Koon's Ford site. East Campus will have graduate student housing, but it will not be subject to property taxes.

Maryland's Board of Regents have very recently proposed a major expansion of the system's undergraduate enrollment by 2020. College Park MAY be proposed to expand undergraduate enrollment by up to 4,000 students (from about 25,000 to perhaps, 29,000). These increases would require significant capital expenditures by the State this decade.

While December's weather has not been conducive for bicycling so far plans are being undertaken to enhance our bicycling infrastructure. Park and Planning is working on completing plans to expand the Rhode Island Avenue Trolley Trail to the south of East West

Continued on next page

Highway and connect it to the Northwest Branch Trail, too. Some money is available for construction, but another \$1 million in funding is needed, to complete construction and add lighting to portions of the trolley trail. WMATA recently announced it would spend more than \$1 million to enhance bicycle parking at many of the metro stations. The College Park Metro Station would see many bicycle enhancements. For example, existing bicycle parking at the station would be covered and additional bicycle parking would be placed inside the station, but outside the fairgates.

I hope to see you at next month's BDCA meeting. Since a new year is almost here, please take a moment to join the BDCA or renew your membership. Though the BDCA is a volunteer organization, it still requires about \$4,000 a year in revenues to operate.

THE BERWYN NEWS ADVERTISING AGREEMENT

<u>AD SIZE</u>	<u>ONE ISSUE</u>	<u>10 ISSUES</u>
1/8 Page (Biz Card)	\$25	\$200
1/4 Page	\$35	\$275
1/2 Page (Horizontal)	\$50	\$350
1/2 Page (Vertical)	\$50	\$350
Full Page	\$75	\$500

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with checks payable to
"Berwyn District Civic Association, Inc."

Ad files, ad size, and number of dates to run should be sent via email to the editor at berwynnews@gmail.com.

We prefer picture files (jpg, gif, etc), but can work with text or pdf files (some formatting changes may be necessary).

Ads will not run until payment is received!

Thank you for supporting our community!!!

**My Little Miracles 'Tis the Season
By Helen Long**

I came out of my house loaded down with packages and with my checkbook and all of my credit cards tucked under my arm. When I got to my car, the checkbook was starting to slip so I put it on the trunk of my car for safekeeping (I know!). I then proceeded to put the packages in the front seat of the car, got in behind them, and drove off (I know!). It was hours later before I realized what I'd done and panic set in. Then the phone rang.

The gentleman on the other end of the line told me he had found my checkbook and my credit cards scattered all over Berwyn Road. It seems he had dropped his daughter off at the University and was on his way to the Berwyn Café for a falafel when he came upon the mess I'd made. (Miracle #1)

As it turns out, my Miracle #1 owns a jewelry store in Bethesda, where I went to pick up my belongings. For someone who seldom ventures farther away from home than Costco, this was a daunting journey. I filled up the car with gas (so if I got lost I could drive around for days without running out of gas). I packed snacks, drinks, and blankets so I wouldn't starve, die of thirst, or freeze to death along the side of the road between here and there and back. I programmed my GPS and set out on my journey to that strange, far-away land known as Bethesda. Miracle #2 is that it only took about 20 minutes, I had no problems at all, and I quite enjoyed not only being able to but pretty much encouraged to drive fast.

I'm exceedingly grateful to our own Berwyn Café and it's falafels for luring my Good Samaritan to my rescue and to my Good Samaritan. His name is Elyahu, a talented jewelry designer, who owns Secréte Fine Jewelry on Old Georgetown Road in Bethesda. I highly recommend both establishments.

The reason for my sharing this story is to remind people that good and decent individuals walk amongst us (and we shall know them by their falafels). I'm just saying.

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BERWYN BYLINES – HISTORY

THE DULLNIGS' HOUSE IS 100 YEARS OLD! Chris Dullnig

For those of you who are unfamiliar, that's the house with tan siding, maroon porch and white trim next to the neighborhood park, at 8400 Rhode Island Avenue. My family has lived here for the last 46 years.

It was built in 1910 by a Mr. Aitcheson on land about where the current Holy Redeemer basketball court sits. In 1930 the Aitchesons moved to Laurel and gave the house to Holy Redeemer church which used it as a convent for the Sisters of Providence.

At this time, or soon after, the back porch was finished off with a huge country kitchen and the community room for the nuns downstairs, and two bedrooms and a bathroom upstairs. This kitchen is now our library room. Mother Superior had an office on the first floor there. Our living room used to be a small chapel where the sisters had mass and prayers.

The house was used as a convent until 1960 when the current convent next to the church was completed. The house was then given by the church to the caretaker of the school, Mr. Umphries, provided he move it. They wanted to keep the land to expand the church/school parking lot. Mr. Umphries had a new foundation built on Rhode Island Avenue, just on the other side of Quebec Street, and had the house moved there. As the house was travelling over Quebec Street, the sewer collapsed underneath it. The whole house shook and nearly all the horsehair plaster walls in the house cracked or broke.



Courtesy of late Jean Woodhouse

In 1964, Mr. Umphries put the house up for sale and my father noticed it. For a family of nine living in a duplex in Palmer Park, it was a godsend. My dad went to Mr. Umphries and gave him all the money he had on him, \$1.87, to hold the house for him while he got financing. He did, and bought the house for \$17,400.00. We moved in on July 4th, 1964.

As great as it was for our family of nine, it was obvious the house had been lacking maintenance. There was a long list of to-do things. Those cracked walls were falling down, the windows rattled in their frames, the paint was peeling, the wood on the porch had rot, the

porch roof leaked, as did the flat roof on the back of the house, doors that no longer led to stairways or side porches were nailed shut. But, it was big enough for the nine of us, was right next door to a Catholic school we would all go to, and was closer to work for both mom and dad. And, as it turned out later, being walking distance from the University of Maryland made it possible for me to afford to go to college. The problems could be fixed.

In 1984, Mom and Dad wanted to retire, but could not sell the house without significant repairs first. So, I bought it from them, as is, and the repairs started. New windows, a new roof, walls, porch, railings, etc. Later – new floors, bathrooms, kitchen, bedrooms.

From loving this new huge place, to wanting to get away from a wreck of a house as soon as I could, to group home, to back to family home, I now find it a pretty nice place to live. The neighborhood ain't so bad neither.

BERWYN DISTRICT CIVIC ASSOCIATION Annual Membership Dues

Membership dues are \$10 per person or \$15 per family, collected once a year. Paying your dues today will make you an active member through June 2011! Your dues support publication of this newsletter, community events, advocacy for Berwyn issues, and much more. Make checks payable to "Berwyn District Civic Association, Inc."

Please Print Clearly!

Send payment, family name, and street address to:

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Thank you!