

The Brentwood Lamplighter



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TOWN OFFICES CLOSED

In observance of Labor Day, the Town offices will be closed on Monday, September 1, 2008.

BROADCAST DIGITAL TV (DTV)

On February 19, 2009, all broadcast TV stations will cease their analog broadcast transmissions and begin broadcasting exclusively in digital format. This change is known as the "Broadcast Digital TV ("DTV") Transition." The FCC requires that all cable companies (Comcast and Verizon) inform their customers how the broadcast DTV transition will affect them. Customers should have received information in their monthly billing statement. Comcast has recently learned that customers in our jurisdiction did not initially receive the message on their statements and have taken corrective action by including the notices on each statement until March 2009. For those who are interested, a "DTV Transition Tool-Kit" may be requested either from Comcast or copy is available at the Town Hall.

CREDIT REFINANCE PROGRAM

On July 29, 2008, Prince George's County Executive Jack Johnson, in conjunction with Governor Martin O'Malley and DHCD Secretary Raymond Skinner signed a MOU to help provide relief to homeowners facing foreclosure. Under the Agreement, DHCD will provide \$2.5 million and the county will provide \$1.5 million to develop a refinanced mortgage credit enhancement program. This program will encourage local banks to refinance loans for those individuals subject to foreclosure who might require special underwriting criteria. The program will provide mortgage insurance risk coverage against a predetermined top portion of the refinanced mortgage.

TREASURER HIRED

Orson Carter was hired on August 4th as Brentwood's new, full-time Town Treasurer. He possesses over 14 years of accounting experience and is a welcome addition to the Town. Prior to joining our staff, Mr. Carter worked for the Government of the District of Columbia, in addition to working with some well-known nonprofit organizations. He holds a Bachelor's degree in accounting from Jackson State University and a Master's in accounting from Strayer University. Most importantly, he is eagerly looking forward to meeting and serving the residents and businesses of Brentwood!

SENIORS AND THE DISABLED RIDE *THE BUS* FREE

Seniors (55+) and disabled customers can now ride *TheBus* FREE-of-charge during normal operational hours from 6:00 a.m.—7:00 p.m., Monday - Friday. To take advantage of this new program, riders just have to present one form of proper identification - driver's license, Metro Senior/Metro Disabled/MetroAccess card, or similar ID - to the bus driver. In addition, disabled customers with a MetroAccess ID may bring one personal companion with them on board *TheBus* at no charge. It should be noted that senior and disabled riders utilizing this FREE Fare Program will not receive a paper transfer upon boarding *TheBus*. Should riders want to transfer to a Metrobus, they will have to pay the applicable fare to the bus driver. Riders with Metro Senior or Metro Disabled cards currently pay only 60 cents for a paper transfer. Senior riders interested in obtaining a Metro Senior ID can do so simply by filling out an application available at any public library in Prince George's County. For Riders who want to obtain a Metro Disabled ID call 202/962-1558. To find out more about Prince George's County's FREE Fare Program, please call 301/883-5656.

The Town of Brentwood does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or disability. If you are a person with a disability (vision, hearing, or speech impairment) and wish to participate in Town activities or programs, please contact the Town Hall at (301) 927-3344 or Maryland Relay System at 1-800-735-2258.

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

The "yellow bus" is back! School has started and with many students heading back to school, it's time for parents to study up on some safety tips. The greatest danger children are likely to face during school hours is traffic, but bullying, strangers and theft are other issues to keep in mind. Make sure your child knows to never go into a stranger's car or home. If your child is home alone for a few hours, make sure they lock the door. And teach your children to always walk on the sidewalk to the bus stop. Law enforcement and other safety experts offer the following advice:

- If your child will be walking to school or to a bus stop, study the route they'll be taking — and don't let them walk alone.
- Make sure the route isn't close to alleys, wooded areas or empty buildings.
- Show children safe places they could run to in an emergency, such as a neighbor's house or a busy store.
- Tell them not to use cell phones or headphones while walking, to avoid any distractions.
- If a child will be on a bike, remember that state law requires children under 16 to wear helmets.
- Remind children to avoid strangers, especially near playgrounds, public restrooms and empty buildings.
- Explain to children that if they see a stranger loitering or if someone tries to follow them, they should run to a public place. Tell them that when possible, they should try to get a good look at the stranger's face, vehicle and license plate. That could help police.
- If a stranger gets too close, children should run and scream something that would alert other adults. Tell children to shout something such as, "This person is trying to hurt me!" or "Stay away from me!"
- Make sure children know their full name, address and telephone number.
- Remind them not to share this information with strangers.
- Also, don't hang a house key around your child's neck. That will only tell strangers that your child will be home alone after school. Put the key inside a pocket or sock.
- MP3 players, iPods and other popular devices could attract thieves.
- Children should not display MP3 players, cell phones or even small amounts of cash in public.
- Talk to children about bullying.
- Children may be embarrassed about being targeted by bullies, and they might not confide in you. Tell them it's OK to report a bully to a teacher or a school resource officer.

And for motorists: Remember that school speed zones — and the law enforcement officers enforcing them — will be back in effect. Keep our children safe!

WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY

Deepest sympathy is extended to Dorothy Varnado in the passing of her sister last month. Deepest sympathies are also extended to Xzavier Wright on the passing of her friend and business partner. Our thoughts are with you.

ESTELYNN WINEBRENNER

Estelynn "Tot" Winebrenner, a long time resident of Brentwood and grandmother to Melora Anderson, died peacefully at Kensington Nursing and Rehabilitation Center on July 25, 2008. Mrs. Winebrenner would have been 100 years in December! We extend our deepest and most heartfelt sympathy to the family.

YOUTH ID CARDS

Youth ID Cards are available FREE to residents ages 6-17! Stop by any M-NCPCC community center in Prince George's County to get your new, FREE youth ID card! The card offers access to: Community center drop-in activities and amenities at centers throughout the County (does not include classes); Weekend programs just for youth and teens on Fridays & Saturdays between 7 pm and 10 pm; Use of community center fitness/weight rooms (ages 13-17)(Supervision by an adult with a valid fitness pass is required in fitness/weight rooms for those ages 13-15); Trips, performances, and sports; Community Service Learning Projects; and Leadership and employment opportunities. For additional information call 301/699-2255 or log on www.pgxtremeteens.com.

CONGRADULATIONS

To Amber Shrewsbury & John [Tony] Paris Jr. They were married on August 16, 2008. Amber was born and raised in Brentwood, the daughter of Laura and Dan Atkinson who still reside in Brentwood.



Tony has grown-up and lived in the surrounding area. His mother Diana Paris now lives in Virginia. They had a beautiful wedding and reception held at the First Baptist Church in Mt. Rainier. Rev. Kirkland performed the ceremony and did a wonderful ceremony. Best wishes to the newlyweds.

COMMUNITY SERVICE WORKERS HELP CLEAN BRENTWOOD

In response to a request from the Town, the County's Department of Corrections (Office of Community Services) sent a team of "volunteers" to assist with cleaning-up several lots in the Town. Six truck loads of illegally discarded bulk items, debris, and more were removed! The Town thanks Corporal Joseph Frock and his team for helping to keep Brentwood clean.

FREE SHREDDING SERVICE

On Saturday, October 25, 2008 from 10am to 3pm the Town of North Brentwood will host a clean-up of unwanted papers, files, newspapers, cans, bottles, and plastics from your home! To take advantage of this opportunity, bring the items to the North Brentwood Municipal Center, 4009 Wallace Road. For more information contact the North Brentwood Town Hall, 301-699-9699.

\$52 MILLION RETURNED TO OWNERS

There's \$728 million of unclaimed and lost property (from safe deposit boxes, dividend checks, etc.) that the State of Maryland has acquired. What many people don't realize is that financial institutions, utilities, insurance companies and other corporations are required to report to the Comptroller any bank accounts, security deposits, wages, insurances benefits and contents of safe deposit boxes that have been unclaimed after three years. Funds remain the property of the owners or their legitimate heirs and can be claimed anytime.

However, not all of the property in possession at the Comptroller's office is a match to the tax records. So to find out if you, your friends or your family are owed money for unclaimed or missing property, visit www.MarylandTaxes.com to find out if the government has a check for you!

PG BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Board of Education meets every other Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room, Sasscer Administration Building, 14201 School Lane, Upper Marlboro, web site www1.pgcps.org Members of the Board are: Rosalind A. Johnson (Dist. 1); Heather Iliff (Dist. 2); Pat J. Fletcher (Dist. 3); Linda Thornton-Thomas (Dist. 4); R. Owen Johnson, Jr. (Dist. 5); Donna Hathaway Beck (At Large); Verjeana M. Jacobs (At Large); Amber P. Waller (At Large); Ron L. Watson (At Large); and Edward Burroughs III (Student Member).

FREE BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

Holy Cross Hospital is offering free blood pressure screening from noon until 2:00 p.m. every Thursday. No registration is required. The hospital is located at 8580 Second Avenue, Silver Spring, 301/754-8510.

HOMEOWNERS PROPERTY TAX CREDIT

On Tuesday, Victor Ramirez joined the rest of the 47th District's delegation and Comptroller Peter Franchot at the Cora Woods Senior Center in Brentwood to announce the extension of the deadline to apply for the Homeowners Property Tax Credit.

In its 33rd year, this program reduces the property taxes that limited income Marylanders must pay every year. In 2007, over 3,800 Prince Georgians had their property taxes reduced by an average of \$1,500. The County and many municipalities offer similar discounts.

This year, **homeowners must reapply for the credit.** The deadline for applying has been extended to October 1, 2008. If you and your spouse make less than \$60,000 and have a net worth less than \$200,000, you're probably eligible. The form is available at the Town Hall, the office of Victor Ramirez, 301-858-3340, or you can visit the Department of Assessments and Taxation's website at www.dat.state.md.us. If you think you might qualify, [please take advantage of this program.](#) And please [spread the word](#) to limited income homeowners in your community who need the help.

Christmas In April Helps Qualified Homeowners

Christmas in April is an annual, one-day project to repair the homes of those who, due to age, disability and financial hardship, cannot do the work themselves. All work is done on the last Saturday in April 2009.

To be eligible for consideration, the home to be repaired must be owned and occupied by the homeowner and the homeowner must be elderly and/or disabled.

While there are no income requirements, the program does take need into consideration when making final selections. If you are interested in volunteering, want more information or an application packet, call 301-868-0937 or visit their website at www.christmasinaprilpg.org/. Applications are also

PUBLIC SAFETY INFORMATION CORNER

CODE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

for July/August 2008

VIOLATIONS

TOTAL

Grass/Weeds Over Twelve Inches	72
Property Maintenance Citations Issued	50
Parking on Unpaved Surfaces	5
Parking Tickets Issued	7
Vehicle Warning To Be Towed	10
Graffiti: Property Owners Notified	3
Reported Animal Nuisances/Problems	2
Notified County of Illegal Construction	2
Clean Lot Letters Sent by Certified Mail	12

Other Activity

Rental Property Applications Mailed FY08/09	61
Rental Property Inspections FY08-09	3
Building Permits Issued	3
Notified Pepco-Street Lights Not Working	16
Talked/Met With Residents	46

If you have any comments and/or questions, contact Martha Nichols, Code Enforcement Officer at 301/927-3344. If she is not available to take your call, please leave your name and number and your call will be re-

DOGS IN THE PARK

The Mayor and Council would like to make it perfectly clear that we encourage and welcome dog owners and their dogs in our park as long as they abide by the laws set forth governing their behavior. For the health and safety of other park visitors, please * Scoop Your Poop – please bring a bag with you to the park and clean up and dispose of any waste created by your dog. Those playing in the park will appreciate it. * Keep Your Dog on a Leash – You must keep your dog under control and on a leash at all times while in the park. * Do Not Leave Your Dog Unattended In Your Vehicle During Hot Weather – especially during hot weather, while you go off to enjoy some other aspect of the park.

Below are some of the “off leash dog parks and dog beaches” in the area:

- Quiet Waters Park – 600 Quiet Waters Park Road, Annapolis, MD, 410/222-1777
- Broadneck Park – 618 Broadneck Road, Arnold, MD, 410/222-7317
- Bell Branch Park – 2400 Davidsonville Road, Gambrills, MD, 410/222-7317
- Downs Park – 8311 John Downs Loop, Pasadena, MD, 410/222-6230
- Maryland City Park – 656 Brock Bridge Road, Laurel, MD, 401/222-7317

CRIME REPORT AND OFFICER ACTIVITY

ACTIVITY	TOTAL
Area Checks	250
Business Checks	39
Disorderly Conduct (includes Domestic Incidences)	6
Felony/Misdemeanor Arrest/Adult	2
Field Observation & Foot Patrols	16
Parking Tickets Issued (by contract police officers only)	1
Stolen Vehicle (Reported/Recovered)	2
Stop and Frisk (includes ID checks in autos)	1
Stop Sign & Traffic Enforcement	124
Vehicle Criminal & Warning Citations	103

If you have any comments and/or questions, contact Peter Jones, Town Administrator at 301/927-3344. To have a police officer dispatched, call 301/333-4000. If no one is available to take your call, please leave your name and number and your call will be returned.

**REMEMBER: DIAL 911 FOR ALL EMERGEN-
CIES**



BRENTWOOD ANTI-CRIME ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Brentwood Anti-Crime Advisory Committee presented their Report and Recommendations on “Crime Prevention and Rebuilding the Brentwood Committee” to the Council on July 15, 2008. Serving on the Committee are Brentwood residents Shawn Cassatt, Barbara House, Laura Rogers, Nina Young, and Xzavier Wright. The Mayor and Council extend their full appreciation to these volunteers who gave of their valuable time to meet every Thursday evening to undertake an “extensive interview and research process in order to identify crime hot spots, clarify procedures to contacting the police, communicate with and mobilize citizen to participate in their own safety.” The Council will now take their recommendations under consideration for implementation. Copy of the

PUBLIC SAFETY INFORMATION CORNER

BURGLARY PREVENTION TIPS

Protect Your Home



Lock your doors and windows – Most burglars are opportunists. They would rather go through an unlocked door or window than a locked one. Be sure to lock your doors and windows even if you are leaving your home for just a short time.

Activate your alarm system – Alarm systems are only useful when you remember to activate them.

Light up the outside - Burglars are less likely to "hit" a well lit home or business.

Report suspicious persons and activity immediately to police – You know what is out of the ordinary in your neighborhood better than the police.

Ask a trusted neighbor or family member to watch your house – When you are away from your home for an extended period ask a friend to pick up your mail, newspaper, trash cans, and to watch out for suspicious activity around your home. You can also contact the Mount Rainier Police Department to check on your home while you are gone or call the Brentwood Town Hall and leave a message for the Prince George's County Contract Police Officers that are employee by the Town.

Keep a record of your valuables – Write down serial numbers of items and take photos of valuables, then store the information in a safe place. Use an Operation Identification Record and keep this information safely in one location.

MARYLAND ON-LINE SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY

The Maryland Department of Public Safety & Correctional Services maintains an on-line registry of convicted sex offenders that is provided as part of the State's efforts to protect children and others from those with histories of crimes against children and other sexual offenses. The website is www.socem.info. The public information contained on this website is free and simple to navigate using a home computer. For those without Internet capabilities, the Sex Offender Registry Unit can be contacted at 410-585-3600. Staff contact is Alan Crevelling, Public Safety Coordinator, 301-809-3079.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



National Night Out (NNO) is an event in which towns and cities come together to traditionally celebrate by turning on front porch lights, holding candlelight vigils, as well as hosting a variety of events and activities. It is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support for and participation in local anti-crime programs, strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. This year our Town again join the City of Mt. Rainier in hosting National Night Out, which was held on Tuesday, August 7, at the Thomas Stone Elementary School. Thanks go to Cpl. Victor Kenworthy and Cpl Eddie Murphy for coordinating Brentwood's participating this year! A special thanks goes out to County Councilman Will Campos for awarding the Town a special grant in the amount of \$1,500. The event was fun filled and a big success! We hope to see you again next year.



GOAT ARRESTED

CAPSHAW, Ala. - The goat was arrested, the Mercedes-Benz was assaulted and the dog came along for the ride.

It happened Sunday when a woman driving the Mercedes saw a goat and dog playing on U.S. 72 in northern Alabama, Sheriff Mike Blakely said.

She stopped, afraid they would get hit, Blakely said. But the goat jumped on the car and wouldn't come down. Fearing scratches and dents in her import's paint job, she called the Limestone County Sheriff's Department. A deputy got the goat down and put it in his patrol car, but then the dog jumped into his back seat too.

The deputy took the dog to a veterinarian and the goat to the home of another deputy.

"If anybody is missing a goat and dog, they need to let us [Limestone County Sheriff's Department] know," Blakely said.

retrieved July 8, 2008: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/25576560/>1=43001>

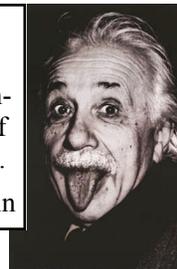
September 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Town Offices Closed Labor Day	2	3 	4	5 	6
7	8	9 Bulk Trash Council Mtng 7:30pm	10  LGIT Meet & Greet 3-5pm	11 Gateway CDC Mtng 7pm North Brentwood Town Hall	12 	13
14	15	16	17 	18 Homeland Security Summit	19 	20
21	22	23 Bulk Trash	24 	25	26 	27
28	29	30	 Join the Brentwood Online Community: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/			



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 Brentwood, MD 20722
 (301) 927-3344 fax-(301) 927-0681
 town_bwood@hotmail.com
 www.townofbrentwood-md.us

Laws alone can not secure freedom of expression; in order that every man present his views without penalty there must be spirit of tolerance in the entire population.



-Albert Einstein

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DIRECTORY

Mayor **Bettyjean Bailey Schmiedigen**

301-927-6820

Councilmembers **Ron Bretemps**

301-277-4943

Marlene Robinson

301-927-2887

Roger E. Rudder

301-927-0351

Margaret G. Terry

240-296-5243

Brentwood Town Hall 301-927-3344

Police 911 - Emergency

301-333-4000

301-699-2630

Brentwood VFD 301-985-5400

Comcast Cable

Service and repairs 301-731-4260

CARRIER ROUTE
 PRESORT

