

The Brentwood Lamplighter



Published by the Mayor and Town Council of Brentwood, Maryland

April 2008

Volume 36 Issue 4

SPECIAL ELECTION

On behalf of the Mayor and Council, candidates, and residents of the Town, we wish to thank Aneeka Harrison (Chief Election Judge) Dottie Varnado (Election Official), Vivian Addison (Election Official) and Mary Reed (Consultant) for taking time out of their business schedules in order for the Special Elections to proceed in such a professional manner. These positions are important, they are time consuming; and carry a great deal of responsibility. We applaud these residents for an excellent job well done!

The Mayor and Council wish to also extend "thanks" to the League of Women Voters of Maryland and especially Gloria Johnson, Esq., who moderated our "Candidate's Public Forum" on March 11th. We have received nothing but raving comments on how the Forum was professionally conducted. Such a forum is a critical part of an election, offering residents the chance to ask questions and hear potential candidates' respond on how they wish to move the Town forward.

The Special Election was held on Monday, March 17, at the Town Hall. 165 of 1100 registered voters came out to vote and 8 sent in an absentee ballot. The winning candidate was Verron (Ron) Bretemps of Upshur Street, he was sworn in at the March 18 Council meeting.

The results of Special Election:

Verron F. Bretemps	60 (53 votes/7 absentees)
Jeff Clark	44 (43 votes/1 absentee)
E. James Cooksey	38
Tina Fulp	31

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Interested in joining a Neighborhood Watch? Information may be obtained by visiting the web site brentwoodNW@gmail.com.

TBTV OFFERS VALUABLE INFORMATION

View **Channel 71** (ComCast) and **Channel 36** (Verizon) for current information about Town events and live Council meetings!

PARDON OUR DUST

The maintenance staff is in the process of painting the Town Hall, it will take a few weeks to complete. Therefore, we ask for your patience while the work is being completed.

MISS BRENTWOOD CONTEST

The Town staff is working on a "Miss Brentwood Contest" as well as a parade for Brentwood Day. Meetings will be scheduled to discuss the two activities, all residents are invited and encouraged to attend as well as volunteer. As you know, Brentwood Day is scheduled for Saturday, June 7, so the "Miss Brentwood Contest" will commence in late May. Further information will be provided on cable and in the May newsletter. Flyers will be distributed detailing the application process.

BRENTWOOD DAY

Brentwood Day is fast approaching and we need to start planning for the event. We love to get suggestions, but we also need volunteers. The Town would love to put on a parade this year so we need your assistance. VOLUNTEER!

WEST HYATTSVILLE

The City of Hyattsville will be holding its 122nd Anniversary Parade on Saturday, May 10, at 10:00 a.m. with a festival at Magruder Park immediately following the parade. All are welcome to attend. For more information call the Recreation Department at 301/985-5020.

NEW RESIDENTS

The Town does not know of new residents until the property transfer report is sent to us by the County, which is about three months behind. If you, or you are aware of anyone, who recently moved to Brentwood, please call the Town Clerk, Linda Grigsby, 301/927-3344 and give her the information. A "Welcome" packet will be mailed or delivered to them. Thank you for your assistance in making Brentwood "Welcoming" to all.

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.

SUMMER PLAYGROUND IN BARTLETT PARK

M-NCPPC's Department of Parks and Recreation is partnering with the Town of Brentwood to hold another Summer Playground in Bartlett Park from June 22 to August 3 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. daily. The summer playground offers games, crafts, and other fun activities for Prince George's County residents only, ages 6-12. Children are free to come and go during the day and to attend some days and not others. Neither "Before Care" nor "After Care" is provided in conjunction with summer playgrounds. The fee is \$25 per child, whether a child attends six hours a day for all six weeks or select days and times only. Optional field trips and special events may be offered for additional fees. Children must meet the minimum age of 6 by August 31, 2008 in order to attend this program. For more information and/or registration call 301/864-1611.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICE

(Martha Nichols, Code Enforcement Officer)

The Town has received numerous complaints from residents concerning defective Pepco street lights. The largest complaint concerns street lights that work intermittently, cycling on and off. The Code Enforcement Officer conducted a night-time survey on March 11 & 12, 2008 to identify problem street lights. Twenty-eight defective lights identified by the survey and reports by Councilmember Ron Bretemps and Jeff Clark of Perry Street were submitted to Pepco by e-mail. Pepco is advising the Town that it can take up to 4 weeks to correct the problem. Thank you for your patience. The Code Enforcement Officer will be conducting night-time surveys on a regular basis. Residents are also urged to report any light malfunctions at 1-877-737-2662.

MEASURE FOR MEASURE



Shakespeare Tina Fulp, Brentwood resident, will be performing in an all-female take on Shakespeare's "Measure for Measure" on April 5, 3:00 p.m. at the Venus Theatre Play Shack located at 21 C Street, Laurel, MD. The audience is encouraged to bring their own food and drink. The box office can be accessed calling 1-866-811-4111 or visit the website, www.venustheatre.org.



SPRING CLEAN-UP SATURDAY, APRIL 19,

2008, 7:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon,

has been scheduled for SPRING CLEAN UP. Now is the time to get rid of all that "stuff" you have been hanging on to for so long. It is also a good time to clean up your property—clean

up, fix up, paint. While you are cleaning up, do the sidewalks and gutters around your property. Let's all work together to make our Town beautiful. If you have any questions please contact the Town office at (301) 927-3344.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

All items **MUST** be placed at the curb by 7:00 am (**NO CALL BACKS**). Items may not be placed at the curb before dusk the night before pickup.

No regular trash will be picked-up, bulk items only.

Acceptable Items: Sofas, chairs, tables, mattress, box spring and similar items provided 2 people can lift into back of truck.

Non-Acceptable Items: Household hazardous wastes/paints, brush, no tree stumps or yard waste, tires, no loose piles, no concrete or construction materials, no liquids/batteries, no carpet, no appliances, no household solid waste or trash.

FREE RESIDENTIAL DISPOSAL DAYS

(Richard Welch, Maintenance Foreman)

Beginning June 1, 2008, the Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources' Waste Management Group will provide a new days/hours of operation for County citizens and residents to dispose of their trash, free of charge. Residential vehicles permitted free of charge include cars, station wagons, sedans, SUV's, XUV's, passenger vans, pickup trucks (no larger than a F-250-styled vehicle), and trailers (no larger than 5' by 9'). Commercial customers and those exceeding residential limits will continue to be charged at the posted rate. Waste restrictions apply. The Brown Station Road Sanitary Landfill is closed on Sundays. There also will be a change in the days and hours of operations for the facilities. For more information call the Waste Man-

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

APPROVED: Registration fee of \$175 for booth at MML 2008 Convention

APPROVED: Acceptance of Election results

APPROVED: To conduct a Workshop on Aging either April 19 or April 23, 10am-noon

APPROVED: Executive Session to discuss personnel/legal issues.

COUNCIL MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS/SPECIAL MEETINGS

All meetings/work shops are held at the Town Hall and are open to the public and televised.

The Mayor and Council will hold two scheduled meetings per month. Those meetings will be on the first and third Tuesday of each month. The meetings on the first Tuesday will generally be a work session/meeting, although the Council can pass motions as needed. The meetings on the third Tuesday will include reports from the clerk, treasurer, town administrator, and council.

- Tuesday, April 1, 2008, 7:00 p.m., Workshop on Editorial Analysis of Codes
- Tuesday, April 1, 2008, 7:30 p.m., Workshop/Meeting
- Thursday, April 3, 2008, Basketball Pilot Program
- Tuesday, April 8, 2008, 7:00 p.m., Presentation of FY-2008-09 Budget
- Tuesday, April 15, 2008, Council Meeting/Budget
- Tuesday, May 6, 2008, 7:00 p.m., Workshop on Budget
- Tuesday, May 20, 2008, 7:00 p.m. Public Hearing on Budget
- Tuesday, May 20, 2008, 7:30 p.m., Council Meeting

TOWN MOTTO

Below are the two current suggested Town Motto that the Mayor and Council would like you, the residents, to vote on. Please check your choice and return to the Town office no later than Friday, April 11, 2008.

_____ A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE
_____ TOWN OF VISION, PEOPLE OF
_____ COMMITMENT



TAX INFORMATION

INCOME TAX REMINDER: When completing the address portion of your tax return, please remember to give Brentwood as your Town. It is important so that we can get our correct local share of the Maryland income tax.

The **EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT (EITC)** is based on the amount of your earned income. You must file a tax return to claim the credit. If you were employed for at least part of 2007, you may be eligible for the EITC based on these general requirements:

- You earned less than \$12,590 (\$14,590 if married filing jointly) and did not have any qualifying children.
 - You earned less than \$33,241 (\$35,241 if married filing jointly) and have one qualifying child.
- You earned less than \$37,783 (\$39,783 if married filing jointly) and have more than one qualifying child.

For additional information visit the Internal Revenue Service web site: www.irs.gov.

FREE TAX ASSISTANCE. Community Tax Aid Inc. is a nonprofit organization that will provide free federal and state income tax preparation services to individuals with income up to \$22,000 and families (with three or more members) with income up to \$40,000. Individuals and families can have no more than \$1,000 from interest, dividends, and capital gains. The clinic will be held at the New Carrollton Library, 7414 Riverdale Road, New Carrollton, April 7, 6:00 to 8:00 pm. For additional information call (301) 459-6900. To learn about Community Aid Inc., visit them online at www.communitytaxaidcc.org or call (202) 547-7773.

FREE MULCH

Free mulch is available for Brentwood residents on a first come-first serve basis. Interested residents can contact the Town Hall, 301-927-3344, to make arrangements for pick-up.

GREEN STUFF

Over Half of America's solid waste is construction & demolition debris. Choosing to reuse saves energy, reduces waste, and creates jobs. It also makes repairs affordable for homeowners, nonprofits, and small businesses - creating cleaner, safer communities!

Community Forklift

Low-Cost Building Materials

Wed. 12pm-7pm & Thurs. - Sat. 9am-5pm

301-985-5180

www.communityforklift.com

4671 Tanglewood Drive, Edmonston, MD 20781

Articles submitted by Councilmember Robinson

HOOPS! HOOPS! AND MORE HOOPS!

Basketball is coming to the Town of Brentwood! The City of Mount Rainier and the Town of Brentwood is hosting a "pilot" youth basketball development program. Thanks to Prince George's Public Schools, Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission and other businesses. The program will be held at Thomas Stone Elementary School Gymnasium from June 6, 2008 through August 2, 2008. The hours of operation will be Friday and Saturday from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. The program is aimed at providing recreational activities for youths 13 to 18 years of age. In addition to basketball, the program will also have a life skills component. The program will be open to boys and girls in the Town of Brentwood free of charge. Participants must register to participate in this program.

Parents and other community adults will also be invited to attend the life skills session of the program. The program will need your support! **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED** coaches, teachers, mentors, etc.

If you would like to have your name placed on the registration or volunteer roster please call me at 301-927-2887. More detailed information will be provided prior to the opening of the program.

SUMMER JOB OPPORTUNITIES

The Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission/Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County is now hiring for: Inclusion Staff/Day Camp Leaders to assist children with disabilities in inclusive camp settings in Prince George's County. June through August 2008. Monday - Friday with daytime hours - Salary based on experience: to \$10.90/hrly For more information contact Joan Quinn, Inclusion Services at 301-408-4330.

SENIORS and LOW-TO-MODERATE INCOME HOMEOWNERS

Do you know about the below market-rate loan available to you through a partnership with the Town of Brentwood and the Washington Area Community Investment Fund, Inc. If you need renovations to your home (roof, siding, doors, windows, etc.). Please call 202-529-5505 for assistance in completing an application or answering your questions. A flyer is enclosed in the newsletter.

PLANNING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

The Prince George's County Planning Board will be hosting a workshop "Better Models for Development: Creating Livable Communities on Thursday, April 10, 2008 from 9:00am - 12pm. Featuring nationally, recognized expert, author and speaker, Ed McMahon. For more information call 301-952-3560.

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

On Friday, March 28th, the Mayor presented the Proposed Budget for FY 2008-09 to the Council. It will be presented to the public at a workshop scheduled for April 8 and reviewed April 15, May 6 and May 20, at the Town Hall. The Mayor and Council hope to have the budget ready for its first reading on Tuesday, June 3. A Public Hearing on the budget will be held Tuesday, June 17, with adoption of the budget to occur at a brief Council meeting that evening. Residents are invited to attend all workshops, public hearings, and meetings. As most of you know, the Town has not had a permanent Town Treasurer since 2006, but utilizing contract personnel to serve as the Treasurer. Ms. Farida Muhammad has been serving in that capacity since August 2007 and has proved to be a competent, reliable, resourceful, and knowledgeable person. Without her assistance it would have been difficult in preparing and presenting the proposed budget. I wish to thank and applaud her for all she has done in assisting me, not only preparing the budget but for the day-to-day operation of the Treasurer's office.

The Mayor and Council is very much interested in bringing recreation programs to the residents of the Town, such as tutoring, "read a book" program, arts/crafts and English/Spanish classes, etc. So, if you like to work with young people, have ideas for programs/projects, and would work on a volunteer basis, please contact the Town office or the Mayor.

Council minutes are available in the Town Hall Monday-Friday during regular business hours. Any resident wishing to review Council actions may do so by looking at the Minutes. Copies are available for personal use upon request through the Town Clerk.

Curb and sidewalks repairs and/or installation have been made all over Town as part of the Mayor and Council's street improvement plan.

PEPCO REPRESENTATIVE ATTENDING COUNCIL MEETING

At the April 15, Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Town Council, Ernie Baker, Pepco Representative, will be attending to answer any questions on highway lighting and concerns of Brentwood residents. Plan to attend.

April 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	FREE MULCH Call for Pick-Up 301-927-3344	1 Council Wrkshp 7pm 	2	3 Basketball Pilot Prgm Mtng pm	4 	5
6	7	8  Budget Presentation 7pm	9 	10	11 	12
13	14	15 Anti-Crime Comm. 6:30pm Council Mtng 7:30pm 	16	17 	18	19 Spring Clean-Up 7am-12pm
20	21 	22 	23	24	25  Arbor Day Plant-A-Tree 	26
27	28	29 	30	 Brentwood Residents Anti-Crime Listening Session A una Sesion Contra el Crimen		



Mayor and Town Council
Town of Brentwood
 4300 39th Place
 Brentwood, MD 20722
 (301) 927-3344 fax-(301) 927-0681
 www.townofbrentwood-md.us
 town_bwood@hotmail.com

SPRING CLEAN-UP
 Saturday, April 19
 7am-12pm
 Place Out Your Stuff,
 Friday Night!



PRSR STD
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 Brentwood, MD
 Permit No. 5444

DIRECTORY

Mayor Bettyjean Bailey Schmiedigen
 301-927-6820

Councilmembers Marlene Robinson
 301-927-2887
 Roger E. Rudder
 301-927-0351
 Margaret G. Terry
 240-296-5243
 Ron Bretemps
 301-277-4943

Brentwood Town Hall 301-927-3344
Police 911 - Emergency
 301-333-4000
 301-699-2630
Brentwood VFD 301-985-5400

CARRIER ROUTE
 PRESORT



To join the Brentwood Online Community Group List,
 please go to:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BrentwoodMD>