

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ... Bruce Donaldson

The CCA general meeting was held on November 13 at the Calverton Elementary School. We received briefings on state and county legislative matters from our distinguished guests, State Senators Arthur Dorman (Prince Georges County) and Ida Ruben (Montgomery County), State Delegate Barbara Frush (PG), and Montgomery County Councilwoman Marilyn Praisner.

The senators informed us about the state's budget shortfall and the dim prospects for any tax cut in light of the unfortunate situation in the Baltimore City school system (it is suing the state for education funds). Both senators regretted the PG voters' decision to retain TRIM (that is, to keep the cap on taxes and now it includes even fees).

Senator Dorman reported that he is doing all he can to hold up transportation funds for PG until County Executive Wayne Curry finds the 20 percent of the money necessary to build I-95 sound barriers for Calverton that will go with the 80 percent funded by the state. Senator Ruben outlined the difficulties the state faces in the next session to balance the budget, which is required by the state constitution.

Delegate Frush reviewed her efforts to close Site 2, such as her meetings with the head of the Maryland Department of the Environment and her draft of a bill that would force the closing of Site 2 on the basis of violations of air quality standards. (Calverton's current dilemma is that the state maintains that Site 2 is a land use issue, while Montgomery County maintains it is an operational issue.) All the Montgomery and PG County delegations in attendance were strongly in favor of closing Site 2.

Councilwoman Marilyn Praisner reported on the previous night's County Council hearings on the Fairland Master Plan, which addresses the issue of Site 2 and our transportation problems. Marilyn distributed copies of a letter to the Governor from County Executive Douglas Duncan, Council President Gail Ewing, and herself as Council Vice President requesting forgiveness of all state funds that went into Site 2. The object of the letter is to keep the cost of closing Site 2 to a minimum. Marilyn would not say that the 15-year fight to close Site 2 has been won, but she did point out that for the first time, a Montgomery County Executive was in favor of closing the facility. The struggle goes on, and it appears that we are

making progress. The cooperation of West*Farm in this battle may be decisive. Based on the testimony given by WSSC and those who spoke in its favor, the WSSC seems to be acting in desperation to save its professional face. Once again, I would like to acknowledge all the successful efforts on the part of Don Grace in having the Fairland Master Plan call for the closure of Site 2; Bill Sykora, acting chair of the Site 2 Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), who also testified on behalf of Calverton; and CAC members Jack Flood and Cristina Vera.

Once we secure the promise that Site 2 will be closed, we can put more effort into other problems our community faces. At the moment, transportation concerns seem to be preeminent among those problems. On behalf of the CCA, Stan Doore testified November 14 before the Montgomery County Council on the CCA Board-approved recommendations from his CCA Transportation Committee for road improvements.

Finally, I want to congratulate Jack Flood on the latest issue of the Calverton Directory. I also would like to thank Dan Epps for accepting responsibility of chairing our new Environmental Concerns Committee, about which I will discuss in a later issue of the Calverton *Current*. I would like to thank all the officers and Board members who volunteered and were elected at the general meeting. All the previous year's officers were reelected. It is necessary to acknowledge the vast extent to which I depend upon our two vice-presidents, Charles Brannan and Don Praisner. We simply could not have the full functioning CCA that we have without these two devoting the considerable amount of their time to our community that they do each year.

DATES TO REMEMBER

☞ **December 2**, Monday - 7:30 p.m. Calverton Recreation Council Board Meeting. Calverton Elementary teachers' lounge. All are welcome.

☞ **December 5**, Thursday - 8 p.m. CCA Board Meeting. Calverton Elementary teachers' lounge. All residents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

☞ **December 26 until...**, recycling of Christmas trees will begin at curbside on designated recycling days. There is no tree pick up at Galway School! Remove all tinsel and other decorations. Montgomery residents, do

not place in plastic bags; these are not recyclable under County regulations.

☞ **January 10**, Sunday - Next Calverton Current Newsletter deadline. No January issue. Happy holidays.

HIGHLIGHTS OF NOVEMBER CCA BOARD MEETING

Sludge Seminar--Jack Flood recently attended a seminar at the Wildlife Visitation Center in Laurel on managing sludge odors. Attendees included representatives from Federal, state, and local governments. The seminar also focused on odors emanating from land application of sludge. He learned that when this method of sludge disposal is used, the land is trenched and 10-12 tons of sludge per acre are put into the ground. After the application, treated land is covered up.

Tom Fleurry of West*Farm addressed the Board meeting on the following issues:

- *Site 2*--There has been some discussion about whether proposals to close Site 2 should be included in regulatory proposals or in land use proposals. He urged that the recommendation to close Site 2 be retained in the Fairland Master Plan.
- *West*Farm Power Center*--The master plan is calling for approval to build a power center here consisting of a shopping complex of 8 large stores and 5 pad sites. The center is planned for the area bordered by Cherry Hill, Broad Birch, and Plum Orchard Roads. Car-related uses (for example, car parts stores and service stations) would be excluded. The buildings would be earth tone in color, and none would exceed 45 feet nor be visible from Cherry Hill Road or Route 29. The plans call for 35 percent open space. The power center would cause no additional traffic. The Board approved a motion reaffirming its support of the language in the Master Plan regarding the power center.

Intercounty Connector--CCA Transportation Chair Stan Doore urged the Board to affirm support of the Master Plan alignment between Route 29 and the MARC Train station on Route 1. The Board passed a motion doing so.

Speed Humps--Speed humps are being included in the budgets this year. They will be installed on Bellevue In the February issue, as a benefit to kids and to the community, free advertising will be offered to **teenagers** who want to shovel snow for their Calverton neighbors. So before January 10, send me your name,

Street in Prince Georges County and Galway and Shannandale Drives in Montgomery County. Streets will be marked in March 1997.

Multilingual Announcements--The Board is considering including announcements in several languages in the directory and newsletter.

Prom Breakfasts--The Board voted to donate \$100 for prom breakfasts to the Paint Branch and High Point High School chapters of Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD).

Mail Bag--Senator Ida Ruben sent the Board a letter expressing surprise that Calverton representatives were not officially invited to the sludge seminar. Senator Arthur Dorman sent a letter expressing surprise that no one contacted him about sludge. Peter Franchot sent a letter expressing his position to close Site 2.

Other Matters--There was fire damage at Galway

Rates for ads are \$4.00 for first 25 words and 10 cents for each additional word. Yearly advertisers note that newsletter runs 11 issues per year (no January issue). Make checks payable to CCA and send to: **CCA NEWSLETTER ADS, P.O. Box 21, Beltsville, MD 20704-0021.**

No article, ad, or letter to the editor will be accepted without an accompanying name and phone number. Authors may remain anonymous but must be identified to the Editor. All copy subject to editing.

Copy DEADLINE for FEBRUARY issue is **January 10**; it should be at YOUR door by the **LAST WEEK** of **JANUARY.**

School. Several Boardmembers remarked that the grass looks bad on Calverton Boulevard by the entrance sign. The Board will try to get a county grant for regrassing this area.

TEEN SNOW SHOVELERS, SIGN UP NOW!

From the Editor--

age, and block you live on (for example, the 11000 block of Bellevue Street) to the CCA address in the box above. I will publish it in a list in the next newsletter. Please mark on the envelope Attention: SNOW (so it

won't get confused with other CCA mail). The prospective customer can call you for rates and availability. This information must be received on a piece of paper to this box number; please do not call me or come to my house. (Businesses/adults, I welcome your advertising in the Classified Ads.)

CALVERTON DIRECTORY PUBLISHED

The 1996-97 Calverton Telephone Directory is being distributed. This directory is 96 pages, 4 pages fewer than the 1995 directory as we lost 4 pages of advertising.

I need residents to always tell advertisers that they saw their ad in the directory. I hear from advertisers that drop their ads that no one in Calverton patronizes them; I know this is not true. If the community desires to keep this handy publication in their homes, we'll all need to remind firms of their ad.

New advertisers include Ajax Appliance, Plata Grande restaurant, Maryland Liquors, McNeal's Air Conditioning and Heating, REMAX-Muntjan, State Farm Insurance-Creech, Bell Florist, and NuLook Cleaners.

Please use the advertisers who support Calverton and enable us to have this useful directory. If you have a business or know someone that you use for services, please have them contact the Editor, Jack Flood, on 572-5047, for advertising information.

CRIME UPDATE

The Prince Georges County side of Calverton had two incidents reported to the police between 9/26 and 10/26. A car was stolen from the block of Beltsville Road (apartments). Also, a home was robbed on the 3100 block of Beltsville Road. The thieves broke a basement window and stole computer equipment, jewelry, and a leather jacket.

TESTIMONY ON FAIRLAND MASTER PLAN BEFORE THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL

November 12, 1996

My name is Bruce Donaldson. I and Mr. Donald Grace are Montgomery County residents representing the Calverton Citizens Association. We are here tonight to urge the Montgomery County Council to adopt the Fairland Master Plan as a whole, and in particular, the Plan's resolution of three issues of paramount importance to Calverton and the greater Fairland area. Our three interrelated concerns are (I) the Site 2 composting facility; (ii) vitally needed road improvements in the Fairland area; and (iii) the development of the US 29 - Cherry Hill employment center.

First, we wish to make the general comment that the Calverton

community applauds the new Master Plan's focus on improving the compatibility of land use in the Fairland area with our many, large prospects for the quality of our lives. Specifically, we endorse in the strongest possible terms, the Plan's recognition that Site 2 is not at all compatible with either the physical or commercial health of our communities, or just the simple stench-free enjoyment of our homes, many of which well predate the opening of Site 2. It must be noted that despite enormous unforeseen expenditures of County funds, to the extent of over 10 times the original cost estimates, it is now abundantly clear that Site 2 has not lived up to the promise that was made that Site 2 would be an acceptable neighbor. Site 2 never will be even a barely tolerable neighbor. For over 12 long years, we have suffered terrible odors, and we fervently believe that we have also suffered with respect to our community health. Enough is enough! It is time to expeditiously close Site 2. Furthermore, with all due respect to County Executive Duncan's desire for operational flexibility, we nevertheless respectfully suggest that Site 2, as the State of Maryland government has been telling us, is a land use problem. Therefore, the Fairland Master Plan is truly the proper place to address this land use problem. The Fairland Master Plan is the way to document for our community that this County government is finally ready to end the residential and commercial disaster that is Site 2.

We want to use this opportunity also to express our alarm over the additional traffic that will be generated by the planned reuse of the Naval Surface Warfare Center as the site for the Food and Drug Administration at White Oak. It is quite clear that the projected FDA access road to Cherry Hill Road will deluge our already overtaxed neighborhood roads with new traffic. Without cooperation from Prince Georges County to dramatically improve the traffic flow in the vicinity of the intersection of Cherry Hill Road and Powder Mill Road, this traffic will be forced onto Calverton Boulevard, which is our main residential street. We urge the Council to support the recommended bicounty program to address this substantial problem. We recognize the limitations you face in urging action on the part of Prince Georges County. However, it is your prerogative to approve the Master Plan's recommendation that: (I) land be dedicated to A287 through Great Oaks from Cherry Hill Road in Montgomery County; and (ii) that Calverton Boulevard be reclassified from an arterial road to a primary road so that measures can be taken to control the inevitable growth in traffic on our main residential street. Returning to the subject of the projected FDA access road to Cherry Hill Road, let me emphasize that, in the absence of such improvements of Powder Mill Road east of Cherry Hill Road and Cherry Hill Road itself, we are strongly opposed to any new access road onto Cherry Hill Road from the FDA project. Mr. Stanley Doore of the Calverton Transportation committee is waiting to provide more detailed information and recommendations regarding the interaction between Fairland and adjacent Prince Georges County traffic.

On other matters, we endorse the Plan's recommendations to modify the zoning in the US 29 - Cherry Hill Road Employment Center in order to: (I) permit uses compatible with both the employment center and our residential communities; and (ii) limit uses that would be incompatible (such as Site 2). We believe that the Plan's proposed overlay zone, along with the closing of Site 2 will balance the interests of business and citizens, and provide a self-contained employment area where people will want to live and work.

Thank you for this opportunity to make our concerns known to you.

Please call the SLUDGE HOTLINE for odors

699-4177
Please report all CRIME INCIDENTS to Nancy Peirce, 572-4030 (Prince Georges County), or Don Praisner, 572-4647 (Montgomery County).