

Calverton Current

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.... Bruce Donaldson

It is with great pleasure that the CCA officers and Board of Directors announce the two Vice Presidents for Outreach: Margot Hardy for Montgomery County and Luther Swafford for Prince Georges County. Margot, with her husband Fred's assistance, and Luther, with Chuck Vannoy's help, will be Calverton's ambassadors, respectively, to the surrounding communities in eastern MoCo and to the adjacent PG communities this side of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway.

Their task is to work toward building community alliances that will give Calverton a greater political impact in our dealings with the two governments and with the various agencies which we often have to deal with. As our Site 2 problem is, hopefully, on its way to a satisfactory resolution, our transportation problems are becoming more critical. The nature of transportation problems is that they envelop larger geographic areas than Calverton. By ourselves, Calverton's voice is often too small to advocate effectively our interests. We need allies among other communities for these and other such problems. We are most fortunate to have Councilwoman Marilyn Praisner and Delegate Barbara Frush to give voice to our concerns, but they need all the backup we can provide.

I would like to announce a new means of communication with CCA Board members and officers--the fax machine! If you want to send a message to a Board member, you may now fax it to 572-4626.

April will be a busy month. First, Tom Fleury will update us on West*Farm's power center plans at the April 3rd Board meeting. Then the semiannual CCA General Meeting April 9th will feature a presentation from the developers of Gracefield Village, the 3,000 resident retirement community planned for the former Great Oaks property. Calverton has several concerns in relation to that development. While we welcome such a neighbor, we also would like to see a four-lane road built through that property to off-load Calverton Boulevard, particularly in light of an FDA move to the Navy's former White Oak facility. Furthermore, we do not want such a road anywhere near Chapel View Drive. We also are concerned about the 7-story height of some of the planned buildings. Please come to this meeting. The developer will not know the depth and *Presentation by PG County Police Officers--Major*

strength of our concern for these and other issues if very few residents show up. At present, we do not know how we can reconcile our needs and concerns with the plans of the developer. *We need to have more community input; many Calverton households are directly affected by the proposed Gracefield Village.*

Accordingly, we will hold a special Calverton community meeting on Gracefield Village on April 17th.

If you have particular concerns relating to this development but cannot attend this meeting, please drop the CCA Board a line at CCA, P.O. Box 21, Beltsville, Maryland 20704-0021.

DATES TO REMEMBER

☞ **April**, CCA membership drive begins. Dues remain at \$10 per household, a real bargain. Block captains, expect to find your packets soon.

☞ **April 3**, Thursday - 8 p.m. CCA Board Meeting. Calverton Elementary teachers' lounge. Tom Fleury will brief the Board on the status of the West*Farm power center. All residents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

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

☞ **April 9**, Wednesday - 8 p.m. CCA General Meeting. Calverton Elementary multipurpose room. Developers from the proposed Gracefield Village will make a presentation. Let's have a great turnout.

☞ **April 10**, Thursday - Next Calverton *Current* Newsletter deadline.

☞ **April 17**, Thursday - 8 p.m. Calverton Community Meeting on Gracefield Village. Calverton Elementary multipurpose room. Come and make your concerns heard.

☞ **April 26**, Saturday - Bulk trash pickup for Beltsville Refuse customers.

HIGHLIGHTS OF MARCH CCA BOARD MEETING

Robert Fuller, new chief of District VI of the Prince

Georges County Police Department, attended the meeting. He was accompanied by Sergeant Rafael Hylton and Corporal Michael Delabrer. Major Fuller has been with the Department for 28 years.

Fuller reported that violent crime in this district, which includes Calverton, is low when compared with other districts inside the Beltway. The level of drug-related crimes in and around Calverton also is relatively low, but there are some bad pockets (such as around High Point High School and along Cherry Hill Road).

Taking advantage of new technology, the Department is trying to pinpoint more precisely where crime is happening. Accordingly, it has begun a mapping system whereby crime is tracked by type and date. The Department is hopeful Montgomery County will join in this effort. The County received a 1.6 million dollar grant last year to track juvenile offenders. Moreover, the Department wants to establish a computer network to collect information from victims and make drawings of suspects.

Major Fuller said that the district wants to increase police patrols on Powder Mill Road, Route 1, and in Calverton. Board members thanked Fuller for the Department's efforts regarding traffic control.

Fuller reported that false alarms continue to be a problem. Our district is the worst for false alarms. Stores and businesses have the most violations. The County is considering levying fines against people with repeated false alarms. He also informed the Board that:

- The curfew law can be used to stop people from milling around public areas late at night.
- Vehicles must display current tags, even if they are on a resident's own private property (like in a carport or driveway). If the vehicle does not have a current tag, the law requires the County to tow the vehicle.
- The Department is trying to persuade the State's Attorney's office not to allow so much plea bargaining and plea reduction.
- Fuller urges residents to contact their elected representatives and encourage law enforcement and enhanced sentencing.
- The police want to identify and arrest repeat offenders.
- A new computing system identifies ex-cons who have returned to the area by type of crime

they committed. However, only the identities of convicted child sex offenders who have returned to the area can be made public.

- The nonemergency number for the Beltsville Station District VI is 572-0910.

Corporal Delabrer is in charge of the Calverton shopping center substation and is a community outreach officer. He welcomes community involvement and hopes that residents will visit the substation and talk about their concerns. The substation is being funded by the shopping center merchants. The phone number is 572-9097.

Diversity--President Bruce Donaldson called for more diversity in age, race, ethnicity, and gender in the composition of the Board membership.

Resignations--Tom Poore and Bob Nixon have recently resigned from the CCA Board.

Site 2--Montgomery County officials have sent a letter to officials of the Environmental Protection Agency requesting the county be excused from repaying a grant used to construct Site 2, in the event Site 2 is closed. At such time as EPA agrees to excuse the county from repaying the grant funds, the county intends to request that Site 2 be closed.

Calverton PTA Request--Carla Viands of the Calverton Elementary PTA attended the meeting and requested funds for playground equipment. The Board deferred action on the request.

Common Grounds Maintenance--The Board voted for a contractor to maintain the Calverton common grounds for 1997.

Correspondence--Bruce Donaldson announced that two letters were written on behalf of the CCA in the past month: one concerning Powder Mill and Gunpowder Roads and improvements on Cherry Hill Road, and the other concerning Federal assistance for infrastructure related to the possible FDA move to White Oak.

ARE WE WINNING THE BATTLE AGAINST GYPSY MOTHS?

According to Ralph Luetters, Maryland State Agriculture Inspector, gypsy moth infestation peaked 4 years ago and has decreased continually each succeeding year. However, Greenbelt National Park still has an infestation. Luetters says that spraying and the introduction of a fungus and virus are controlling the gypsy moth population. Area sampling indicates Calverton should not have a significant infestation this year. Remember, folks, the gypsy moths are here to

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

20704-0921
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 MAY issue is **April 10**; it should be at YOUR door by the **LAST WEEK** of **APRIL**.

CALVERTON SPANISH CONNECTION

Spanish-speaking persons in Calverton may call Cristina Vera for information and concerns they may have about the area. Call 572-5817.

POOL MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE

The Calverton Swim Club has a limited number of memberships for sale. The Swim Club features a 50-meter Olympic-size pool, a basketball court, two ping pong tables, and three sand volleyball courts. Summer activities include women's, men's, and coed volleyball leagues; swim and dive teams; swim lessons; and family, adult, teen, and preteen social events. Purchase price is \$500. To purchase a membership or for more information, call 572-4203.

MATH TUTORING

The Galway PTA is establishing a math tutoring program at Galway. Anyone from the community is welcome; you do not have to be a parent of a Galway student. The program will be held Wednesdays from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. A math degree is not necessary; instructions and materials will be provided by the teachers. Please consider volunteering for this valuable program. Please call Laura Robey, 890-7729; Linda Kuhn, 890-3511; or Robyn Mann, 572-5521, if you can give us 1 hour per week.

TEEN LAWN MOWERS, SIGN UP NOW!

From the Editor--

In the May issue, as a benefit to kids and to the community, free advertising will be offered to **teenagers** who want to mow lawns for their Calverton neighbors. So before April 10, send me your name, age, phone number, and block you live on (for example, the 11000 block of Bellevue Street) to the

stay, but their population seems to be effectively controlled.

CCA address in the box to the left. I will publish it in a list in the next newsletter. Please mark on the envelope Attention: GRASS (so it won't get mixed up with other CCA mail). The prospective customer can call you for rates and availability. (Businesses/adults, I welcome your advertising in the Classified Ads.)

PRUNING FOR BEAUTY AND SAFETY

Calverton is 30+ years old now and is still looking grand, especially in the spring. Some of our shrubs and bushes are also 30+ years old, too. Landscape experts advise that pruning shrubbery keeps it healthy and also maintains the proper proportions with the house or spot where it is situated. Pruning shrubs below the height of the windows also keeps the interior of the house light and airy and helps to keep insects from entering the house.

Shrubbery should be maintained at a reasonable size for safety as well as beauty. The police recommend that all windows and doors in the front of the house should be visible from the street. This means that bushes and foundation plantings should be pruned away from them. Windows and doors on the sides and back of the house should also be kept open and visible so our neighbors can see if any strangers are lurking.

After all, why should we provide the very screen that burglars want? Bushes planted across the sidewalk in front of the front door 30 years ago may now be 10 feet tall and 4-5 feet wide. These are particularly dangerous, the police say, because a burglar can be totally hidden. Besides, who wants to step outside their front door and see nothing but a big bush???

PG COUNTY CURFEW REGULATIONS

Prince Georges County has curfew regulations in effect for youth under the age of 17. They are:

Sunday through Thursday
 10 p.m. until 5 a.m.

Friday and Saturday
 12 midnight until 5 a.m.

This law governs youth who are in a public place, such as streets, schools, shopping centers, parks,

playgrounds, theaters, restaurants, bowling alleys, arcades, and transportation facilities. The law does not apply if the youth is accompanied by a parent or other adult authorized by the parent or is returning home by

a direct route within one hour of a school activity or an activity of a religious or other voluntary association.

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).