



Recent Events in North Brentwood

National Night Out

On August 1, the Town held it's annual celebration as part of National Night Out. Bookbags and prizes were given out, along with Chromebooks for several qualifying North Brentwoodians. Check page 5 for free Chromebook eligibility. To see National Night Out photos, go to page 10.



National Night Out is an effort to bring back a true sense of community in cities and towns across the US. Promoting camaraderie and police-community partnerships makes our neighborhoods safer, caring places to live. Plus, it brings police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.



Drumology

On July 29, the Panmasters Steel Pan group returned to North Brentwood with two hours of rousing drum music honoring our ancestors.

Photos from the community-favorite annual event are on page 11.



Town of North Brentwood
P.O. Box 196, 4009 Wallace Road
North Brentwood, Maryland 20722

National Immunization Awareness

August's National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM) is an annual observance held to highlight the importance of routine vaccines.



The CDC's website has great resources, to figure out what vaccines adults need, as well as vaccine schedules for different age groups of children. Go to: cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules.

Recent resurgences of polio, measles and other diseases eradicated long ago by vaccines shows the importance of immunization vigilance! As well, the Covid-19 pandemic is a dire reminder of what happens when we don't have immunity to health threats. Get info at vaccines.gov.

On the horizon... advisors to the CDC voted to recommend use (in infants and high-risk kids) of an antibody called Beyfortus to prevent the sometimes-fatal respiratory infection RSV. CDC Director Mandy Cohen is expected to accept the recommendation. Sources: Stat.com, CDC.gov

Open: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9am-1pm
Office 301.699.9699 Fax 301.699.1824
Community Channels: Comcast 71 , Verizon 1983

Use Caution during Extreme Heat

There is hot, and then there is *hot!* Extreme heat is a period of high heat and humidity (heat index) with temperatures above 90 degrees for at least two days.

During extreme heat, your body works extra hard to maintain a normal temperature, which can lead to dire consequences. Of all weather-related hazards, extreme heat leads to the highest number of annual deaths.

The main factors affecting your body's ability to cool itself during extremely hot weather are:

- ⇒ **High humidity.** When the humidity is high, sweat doesn't evaporate quickly. This keeps your body from releasing heat as fast as it may need to.
- ⇒ **Personal factors.** Age, obesity, fever, dehydration, heart disease, mental illness, poor circulation, sunburn, and prescription drug and alcohol use all can play a role in the body's ability to cool itself.

Whose at highest risk? Those 65 and older, children younger than two, and people with chronic diseases or mental illness. Closely monitor people who depend on you for their care and ask these questions:

1. Are they drinking enough water?
2. Do they have access to air conditioning?
3. Do they need help keeping cool?

People at greatest risk for heat-related illness can take protective steps on hot days:

- Never leave people/pets in a closed car.
- If air conditioning is not available in your home, go to a local cooling center.
- Take cool showers or baths.
- Wear loose, lightweight, light-colored clothing.
- If you're outside, find shade. Wear a hat wide enough to protect your face.
- Drink plenty of fluids to stay hydrated.
- Avoid high-energy activities or work outdoors, especially during midday heat, if possible.
- Limit use of the stove and oven—it will make you and your house hotter.
- Check on family members, older adults/neighbors.
- Watch for cramps, heat exhaustion and heat stroke.
- Consider pet safety. If outside, make sure pets have plenty of cool water and access to shade. Asphalt and dark pavement can be very hot for pet's feet.

Source: [cdc.gov/disasters/extremeheat/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/extremeheat/index.html)

Cooling Centers

The Department of Parks and Recreation offers cooling areas, with seating, any time temperatures reach 90 degrees or higher. County residents may stop in any of these facilities (including one in Hyattsville) to cool off.

Just check-in at the facility's front desk. Facility hours vary based on inclement weather or operational needs. Scan the QR code or go to: wellness.pgparcs.com/2900/cooling-centers to see the closest center near you.



Things to Do Near North Brentwood

Whether you are a teen looking for a pick-up basketball games or a senior interested in salsa classes, PG Co Parks and Rec has just what you want. From kayaking to painting... from elevating your SAT scores to improving your golf score... county residents can expect outstanding services, learning, and ways to have fun. Go to: mncppc.org/calendar.aspx.

PGCPS News



Effective July 1, Millard House II is Prince George's County Public Schools' (PGCPS) Superintendent.

County Executive Angela Alsobrooks appointed House, who comes to PGCPS from the Houston Independent School District.



In his new role, Superintendent House is already preparing for August 28, 2023, the first day of school.

He has determined weapons detectors will be installed at a test group of PG County high schools, as part of new safety measures to reduce the rise in gun incidents at school campuses. The detectors will be in place before the first day of the school year. High school students will also be asked to use clear backpacks.



A national survey, conducted by the US Education

Department in November, found at least 12 percent of high schools use metal detectors to screen all or most students. "Many of these firearms in our educational institutions is a byproduct of what we're seeing in the community," House said. "But you have to draw a line from... what some of the issues are in the community into our educational institutions."

The new security initiatives come as the school system has experienced an increase in guns being brought into schools, and an uptick in safety incidents (e.g., fights and bullying). The increases mirror a national trend of schools reporting more violence from students and guns being brought into buildings since reopening after pandemic lockdowns. House announced the new security efforts during a media session about a range of issues including student performance, bus safety and school staffing.

Back to School Driving Safety

Let's take a little time to mentally prepare for the start of another great school year. Lowering your speed is the best way to prevent car crashes and keep everyone safe, especially near crosswalks when school is in session.

Speed Limits: Although you should always obey posted speed limits, it's particularly important during the school year. Children crossing the road to/from school may get easily distracted and step into harm's way.

Slowing down and being vigilant is crucial. Children are often outside throughout the day at recess, lunch, and for certain classes, so it's important to drive slowly in school zones at all times. **Do not ignore those signs; even if you do not see children crossing!**



Stop Signs: Stop signs are installed at locations where a **full stop** is necessary for everyone's safety. A full stop means your wheels stop turning and you feel the weight of your vehicle shift. Always assume pedestrians will cross whether they have the right-of-way or not. Parents should remind children to make sure cars have stopped before entering the street, and to wait for crossing guards to wave them across a guarded crossing.

School Buses: Many drivers get confused about when to stop versus when to pass a school bus with flashing lights. Drivers must stop when the red lights are flashing on a school bus, on streets with no raised medians or walls between their travel lanes and the school bus.

Safe Stopping: Some drivers stop mid-road to load and unload passengers, which is against state law. This is extremely dangerous, especially if kids exit on the roadway side of a vehicle. Please load/unload children in the Kiss and Ride locations, or from designated, safe parking locations. Tickets may be issued for illegal parking in and around schools because of the safety issues created.

Source: fcps.edu/news/traffic-related-back-school-safety

Code Officer Cuffie's Corner



Residents please take pride in our neighborhood. Clean up!

- Cardboard boxes must be flat and free of food particles (e.g., rinse out pizza boxes). See the county's tip about cardboard recycling below.
- I hope you read the article about safe driving at/near schools (page 3).
- Check with the Town Office before renovations to see if you need permits.

SYEP Summer Intern

Hello everyone, my name is Teyana Sackey. I am a recent graduate of Bladensburg High School and currently attend Prince George's Community College as a Psychology major.

While interning under North Brentwood leadership, I've learned a lot about the history and community that makes the Town not only a stepping stone for those in Prince George's County, but for the larger Black community. ”



Help yourself, others and the environment – **Tip #5**

Break it down.

Always Flatten & Recycle Cardboard.

It's in your hands.



Flattened cardboard should be placed inside or beside the recycling cart for collection.

Keep Prince George's County Beautiful!




mypgc.us/recycle

TOWN OF NORTH BRENTWOOD

P.O. BOX 196
NORTH BRENTWOOD, MARYLAND 20722
OFFICE: (301) 699-9699 | FAX (301) 699-1824



HOUSEHOLDS ELIGIBLE FOR ACP (AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM) ARE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE ONE FREE CHROMEBOOK LAPTOP PER HOUSEHOLD OR IF THEY PARTICIPATE IN ONE OR MORE OF THE BELOW PROGRAMS:



SNAP, MEDICAID, WIC FOR PARENTS AND INFANTS, SSI, VETERAN PENSION AND SURVIVORS BENEFIT
FREE OR REDUCED SCHOOL LUNCH OR SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM
PELL GRANT FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS
RECEIVE HOC RENTAL VOUCHER OR PARTICIPATE IN A PROJECT RENTAL BASE PROGRAM
OR HOUSEHOLDS EARN LESS THAN 200% OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL I.E. \$27,180 FOR 1 PERSON; \$36,620 FOR 2 PERSON; \$46,060 FOR 3 PERSON FOR EACH ADDITIONAL PERSON ADD \$9,440

PROOF OF INCOME WILL BE NEEDED BY SHOWING THE FIRST COPY OF YOUR TAX RETURN. W-2 OR PAYSTUBS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AS PROOF OF INCOME. AWARD LETTERS, SNAP CARD OR OTHER APPROVAL LETTERS ARE ACCEPTABLE.

CONTACT TOWN OFFICE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (301) 699-9699.

SAVE May Lower Student Loan Debt

On July 31, the Biden administration launched beta site studentaid.gov/idr, for its new income-based federal student loan repayment plan SAVE, (Saving on a Valuable Education). Borrowers may submit applications for the program now, as federal student loan payments resume in October. The full website launches in August, and applications submitted during the beta period will not need to be resubmitted. Enrollment is estimated to take ten minutes; many sections may be auto-populated with info the government has on hand (e.g., tax returns). “We will be able to show borrowers their exact monthly payment amount and give them the ability to choose the most affordable repayment plan for them,” per an official.

Borrowers only need to apply once, not yearly as past systems required. Users will receive a confirmation email once the application is submitted; the approval process, which can be tracked online, is expected to take a few weeks. Those already enrolled in the federal REPAYE, or Revised Pay As You Earn, income-driven repayment plan will be automatically switched to the new SAVE plan.

SAVE was finalized after the Supreme Court eliminated President Biden’s student debt forgiveness plan. This significant change to the federal student loan system could lower some borrowers’ monthly loan payments and reduce the amount owed over the lifetime of their loans.

Source: [cnn.com/2023/07/30/politics/biden-student-loan-repayment-plan](https://www.cnn.com/2023/07/30/politics/biden-student-loan-repayment-plan)

Mortgage and/or Utility Assistance

North Brentwood is still accepting residents’ applications for rental/mortgage and/or utility help. The Residential Assistance program provides temporary relief to eligible applicants experiencing financial hardship.

The application is on our website in the Forms section: northbrentwood.com/town-services. Drop off a signed copy at the Town office; or email to Councilmember Wiley (cwiley@northbrentwood.com) or CM Dame (edame@northbrentwood.com). Direct questions to either councilmember. Currently, North Brentwood pays up to \$2,000 for rental or mortgage help and/or utility



assistance. Approved households may reapply for more aid in the future, pending available funds.

Tax Credit For Seniors

The Elderly Property Tax credit provides up to a 20% credit on your county property taxes, inclusive of the county portion of the Homeowners’ and Homestead credits (for up to five years once eligibility is met). To be eligible for this tax credit, which began July 1, *at least one owner must meet the following criteria:*

- 1) Applicant must be at least 65 years of age (born on or before June 30, 1958), AND
- 2) The same owner must have resided there, as a principal residence, for at least the previous 10 consecutive years (on/before June 30, 2013), AND
- 3) The max assessed property value is \$500,000.

Good Intentions in North Brentwood

Good Intentions Inc., partnered with County Councilwoman Wanika Fisher, to host a community food distribution event on Saturday July 22 in North Brentwood.



The Sibling Duo behind Good Intentions is Deja Neah



Fennell and Jeffrey Fennell, who feel meeting community members where they are, and doing work that brings

municipal and corporate partners, creates a genuine presence of empowerment and aid.

* Mosquito bits (which safely control larvae) were given out at the event. Some are still available at the Town Office, while supplies last.



Church Services: *Most are held virtually*

- ◇ **First Baptist Church of North Brentwood**
4000 Wallace Road / 301.277.4742
Senior Pastor Rev. Dr. Duane T. Kay
Sunday Service: 9:45 am
Facebook Live: First Baptist Church of North Brentwood, MD / YouTube Live: FBCNB Church
Teleconference: 712.770.5505, code 54327#
- ◇ **AME Zion Church**
4037 Webster Street / 301.927.7698
Rev. Samuel Whittaker
Sunday School: Live Facebook service 10 am
- ◇ **St James Pentecostal Church**
3925 Allison Street / 301.277.4376
Rev. Carolyn Dildy
Sunday Service: 11:30 am

WMATA Senior Smart Trip Cards

Gwendolyn Britt Senior Activity Center sells WMATA Senior Smart Trip Cards at 4009 Wallace Rd. Must be 65-plus years of age with a government-issued photo ID. Cost of the card is \$2. See front desk staff during hours of operation: Monday through Friday, 9 am to 3:30 pm. Questions? Call 301.699.1238.

Metro Lift Reduced Fares



Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's new reduced fare program, Metro Lift, offers 50% off Metrobus and Metrorail trips for locals living in DC, Maryland, and Virginia and enrolled in SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). The program is designed to expand access, increase affordability, and advance equity across the region.

Those who qualify need their SmarTrip® card, an active SNAP Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card, a current government-issued photo ID, and a phone number. Users may enroll in Metro Lift online at wmata.com/metrolift. Schedule appointments online or by phone to avoid long wait times (wmata.com/metrolift or call 888.SMARTRIP).

Water & Energy Assistance Programs

The Maryland Department of Human Services provides funds to help low income households pay water/sewer and energy bills 30 days or more past due. Go to: dhs.maryland.gov/office-of-home-energy-programs.

As well, WSSC Water Commissioners unanimously extended the **Get Current temporary water bill amnesty program through August 31**. This is the second extension of the popular financial assistance program helping eligible customers with delinquent balances (as of May 1), by providing bill credits and waiving 100% of late payment charges and turn-on fees.

To date, more than 1,500 customers use **Get Current** program benefits. To learn more and to determine if you qualify, visit wsscwater.com/getcurrent.



Get Current
Amnesty Program
EXTENDED
through **August 31!**

100% + Bill Credits
Late Fees Waived

Find out if you're eligible at
wsscwater.com/getcurrent

ACT NOW!
Residential water service
TURNOFFS
have resumed

Healthy Babies

Pregnancy and Postpartum Coverage



Are you having a baby? You may get **free** health care if you are not a U.S. citizen. Medicaid may be able to help. Medicaid pays for health care for people who cannot afford it. Medicaid is the same as Medical Assistance.

Sign up for Medicaid as soon as you know you are pregnant. Get the care you and your baby need right away. You may keep Medicaid up to four months after your baby is born.

Who can get Medicaid?

To be eligible, you must:

- Be pregnant
- Live in Maryland
- Meet **income limits**

The best way to know if you can get Medicaid is to apply.

What health care can I get?

Medicaid will pay for:



Doctor visits



Hospital care



Dental care



Lab work and tests



Prescription drugs



Mental health care



Behavioral health care



Transportation Services



Unpaid Medical Bills Before Medicaid

Medicaid may help pay for health care you had in the three months before you applied. To learn more, talk to Maryland Health Connection, or go to your local Health Department or Department of Social Services.

Help in other languages

Learn more about this free help, see [Interpreter Services](#) or call **1-855-642-8572**. TTY users call **711** for Maryland Relay.

Starting July 1, 2023, you can apply:



- Online at marylandhealthconnection.gov
- By calling **1-855-642-8572**
- TTY users call **711** for Maryland Relay
- In person at a **local Health Department**
- In person at a **Human Services Office**
- By using the Maryland Health Connection App



Maryland Department of Health • Medicaid Administration

201 W. Preston St., Baltimore, MD 21201 | mdh.medicaidmch@maryland.gov | health.maryland.gov/healthybabies

GET MONEY

for CHILD CARE

New fast track Child Care Scholarship Application process!



SCAN ME

Apply Now!

Do you live in Maryland? Are you also currently working or enrolled in a school or training program?

If so, you may qualify for a Child Care Scholarship!*

3 easy steps to apply!

Receive 60 days of temporary child care assistance while your application is processed.

- 1 Complete a short online application
- 2 Submit 2 documents
- 3 Find out if you are approved within 3 business days

money4childcare.com

Now available statewide

* Income requirements apply







DRUMOLOGY
Honoring Our Ancestors
July 29, 2023



North Brentwood Newswire

A Heritage to Remember, a Future to Mold

Town Directory

Town Office: 301.699.9699

Mayor: Petrella Robinson x1225

Council Members:

Aaron Baynes x1227

Charles Wiley x1222

Evan Dame x1229

Town Manager:

Jacqueline Goodall x1226

Treasurer: Shelley Dorsey x1224

Code Enforcement Officer:

Martha Cuffie x1223

Town Clerk: Carl Jones x1221

Assistant Clerk:

Cristian Ortiz-Romero x1227

Maintenance: Greg Butler

Prince George's County Police: 911

Non-Emergency: 301.333.4000

Park Police:

Non-Emergency: 301.459.9088

Emergency 301.459.3232

Notaries:

D. Edmonds 240.581.0838

S. Jones 301.922.2259

C. Ortiz-Romero 240.351.6302

Community Channel:

Comcast 71 Verizon 1983

REMINDERS...

Upcoming Town Meeting: September 6

Meetings are conducted via ZOOM @ 7:30 pm.

Meeting ID: 433 091 3800 / Passcode: 4009 / Call: 301.715.8592

- **No Mayor & Council meetings in August**
- Mayor & Council will reconvene on September 6

All Town meetings begin at 7:30 pm. Join and share your ideas and concerns, and learn what's going on in North Brentwood and surrounding municipalities. We look forward to hearing from you!

North Brentwood Citizens Association: Meetings are at 6:30 pm. Next meeting: September 11, 2023. Call-in: 774.267.2052.

North Brentwood Historical Society: Meetings are at 6:00 pm. Next meeting: September 13, 2023. Dial-in: 774.267.2052.

NEW SHARE Program: North Brentwood residents interested in receiving SHARE packages must call 301.699.9699 to be added to the list. Please leave your name, contact number and address.

If you have news to share, email asstclerk@northbrentwood.com, by the 3rd Monday of each month with subject line "Newsletter."

Boletín En Español

We're on the Web:

www.NorthBrentwood.com and



Town of North Brentwood-Prince George's

North Brentwood Resident

