



Domestic Violence

Awareness Month was first designated in 1989. Since then, October has become a time to acknowledge domestic violence survivors and be a voice for its victims.



As well, domestic violence is prevalent in every community, and affects all people, regardless of age, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, gender, race, religion, or nationality. Physical violence is often accompanied by emotionally-abusive and controlling behavior, as part of a much larger, systematic pattern of dominance that can result in injury, psychological trauma and/or death.

While there has been substantial progress reducing domestic violence, an average of 20 people per minute (or 10 million annually) are physically abused by intimate partners in the US. One in three women, and one out of four men, are physically abused by an intimate partner, while one in five women, and one in seven men, will be *severely* physically abused by an intimate partner. Millions of Americans live in daily, silent fear within their own homes.

As you may know, the devastating consequences of domestic violence often crosses generations: each year millions of children are exposed to it. Domestic violence incidents affect every person within a home, and can have lasting negative effects on children's emotional well-being, and social and academic functioning.

For the month of October, the Mayor and Council of the Town of North Brentwood encourage residents to work together to spread awareness of domestic violence. Wear purple and/or illuminate your homes with purple lights, as a visible sign our community supports those impacted by domestic violence. **Source:** thehotline.org



Mayor's Message

In addition to recognizing the impact of domestic violence, October is known as Family History Month and as National Work and Family Month.

Family History Month has been celebrated since 2001. It's a chance to explore living relatives' and ancestors' heritages. Websites (such as

familytreemagazine.com) offer great ideas for engaging younger members of your family, by interviewing older relatives, creating online family trees, and more.

National Work and Family Month's purpose is to remind employers of the commercial advantages of work-life initiatives that encourage healthy, flexible

- continued on page two

Mayor's Message: *continued*

work cultures – to help employees manage their numerous personal life, work and family obligations. Achieving a good balance is crucial.

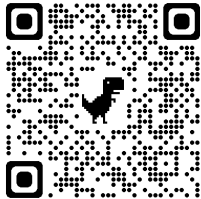
Speaking of families, these days, our families come in many forms and sizes. In North Brentwood, our history was one of segregation that led to establishing a safe haven for African Americans. Today, our Town population is more diverse, with the continued spirit of a community that cares for one another.

Sadly, in the US, many feel the increasing pressures of intolerance, aggressiveness and political polarization. Whether it's banning books, educational topics, or drag shows, for example, the rights and the legacy we leave for future generations is at stake.

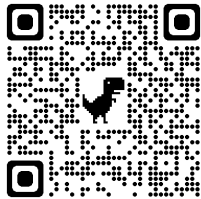
I implore all North Brentwoodians to embrace the differences between us and take into account that everyone deserves respect, a voice in our collective experience, and love. Below are a few codes to scan for causes you can support right now.



National Urban League



National Organization
for Women



ACLU Drag Defense Fund

WMATA Senior Smart Trip Cards



Did you know?... The Gwendolyn Britt Senior Activity Center sells WMATA Senior Smart Trip Cards.

Just go to the Center at 4009 Wallace Road to purchase the card.

See their front desk staff during hours of operation: Monday through Friday, from 9 am to 3:30 pm.

Purchasers must be 65-plus years of age with a government-issued photo ID. The cost is \$2.

Questions? Call 301.699.1238.

Windom Road Barrier

Town of Brentwood and Town of North Brentwood

Replacement of 1957 Historical Barrier

Press Release Date—October 2, 2023

The historical segregation barrier placed between Brentwood and North Brentwood, during the 1950's, will no longer be a barrier, which was installed to deter Black people and is a reminder Brentwood was a Sundown Town.

The two towns budgeted and received support from grant funds, Neighborhood Design Center, and artists Nehemiah Dixon and Wesley Clark to commission a purposeful sculpture to remind us of the past, but emulate strength and unity. The street will remain closed to auto traffic, but the area will evolve into one of meditation and relaxation for residents and visitors.

The timeline for the sculpture unveiling is as follows:

1) The Armature process (the metal framework on which a sculpture is molded with clay/other material) is being completed; 2) From now to January 2024, the sculpture will move to the Rough Sculpting stage; 3) From January to May 2024, the sculpture will move to the Finishing stage; 4) The unveiling is scheduled for Wednesday, June 19, 2024, at a time to be set.

Actor Chadwick Boseman once stated, "The wise build bridges while the foolish build barriers." Our stories have the power to break down obstacles. Thanks to the both towns' citizens for supporting this project.



Both Towns eagerly look forward to its completion.





President Biden Visited PGCC!

Governor Wes Moore at PGCC, flanked by fellow speakers Steny Hoyer, Ben Cardin and Christopher Van Hollen.

On Thursday, September 14, Mayor Robinson attended President Joe Biden's speech, about his Bidenomics platform, at Prince George's Community College in Largo, MD. His address signals an emphasis on the state of the economy, as the country prepares to head into the 2024 election cycle.

"Our faculty and staff work diligently at being a strong support system and economic bridge for this community. We believe in the power of collective effort and boldly embrace challenges on the road to extraordinary achievement. President Biden's visit to the PGCC campus confirms that the College is a vital part of Maryland's thriving economy," PGCC President Falecia Williams said.

PGCC student trustee Sade Davis introduced President Biden. He spoke about: fair taxation for the wealthy and large corporations; protecting and strengthening Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid; and lowering costs for hardworking families.

Biden added: "As many of you know, my wife is a professor at a community college. As a matter of fact, she's teaching today. She has an expression 'Any country that out-educates us will out-compete us.' The

work you're doing here preparing students to compete in the economy of the future is real, it matters."

President Biden's speech marks a vital conversation about building the economy from the middle out and bottom up. State and local government leaders attended the event and shared remarks.

Maryland Governor Wes Moore said: "Our President has been very clear on his vision to empower and educate workers and to grow the middle class. And it's a vision that I stand by because it's not only good for Maryland, it's good for all of us." He also announced the State will direct \$17 million for adult education, including funds for all of MD's 16 community colleges.

US Senator Ben Cardin praised the President's significant strides within a divided government:

Congress has passed major bills to help implement Bidenomics, including the American Rescue Plan Act, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the CHIPS and Science Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act. President Biden's transformational investments in American families are growing our economy, creating jobs, closing the income gap, and delivering for Maryland.

Sources: voanews.com, pgcc.edu, and afro.com

WALKTOBER2023

October in Maryland becomes WALKTOBER: a month in which the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), and partnering agencies, such as AARP, promote and host events spotlighting pedestrians' safety, health and commuting options. In fact, walking is recognized as the Maryland's Official State Exercise.

Throughout October, MDOT is sponsoring a series of 90-minute webinars, or Walkinars, to highlight how we can rally, collectively, around walking. It's an activity central to the state's Active Transportation efforts and a critical component of public well-being.

The four webinars are tailored to interest pedestrian walkway enthusiasts, advocates, planners, and residents. Panelists will build on MDOT's efforts, by identifying resources to strengthen and sustain local partnerships— and by sharing new tools and technologies being used across the country, to identify and plan for pedestrian-accessible routes for all ages and abilities.

This Walktober, learn about how to safely use our state's pedestrian infrastructure to incorporate walking in your daily routines. The webinar series occurs each Thursday this month, from 10:30 am to 12 pm EST.

For more info about the Walkinars, and to view videos (including a few from the CNN Heroes program), go to: mdot.maryland.gov/tso/pages/Index.aspx?PageId=136.



United States Postal Services Concerns

File a complaint about mail services



You can report issues about mail service by phone, online or in person at a USPS facility:

- Track a package or use USPS's Email Us form to file a complaint online. Select a reason for your complaint, including delivery issues and dissatisfaction with USPS employees or facilities.
- Call 800.ASK.USPS (8777) or TTY: 800.877.8339.
- Speak with your local post office station manager.

If your complaint is not resolved:

- Find your USPS district consumer affairs office to discuss your complaint by phone or by mail.
- Write to the main USPS Consumer Advocate office:

United States Postal Service
Office of the Consumer Advocate
475 L' Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, D.C. 20260-0004

Report theft, fraud, or waste by USPS employees

To file a complaint about theft, fraud, or waste at a USPS facility, or by an employee, contact the USPS Office of the Inspector General (OIG):

- Online: uspsig.gov/hotline.
- Call 888.USPS.OIG (888.877.7644).

Report mail fraud/theft, by a person or company outside of USPS

The US Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) is the federal law enforcement agency protecting the mail system.

File a complaint through USPIS online about:

- Fraud: ehome.uspis.gov/fcsexternal/default.aspx
- Theft: faq.usps.com/s/article/Mail-Theft

Complain about a USPS policy change

To comment about postage rates, or other policies, contact the Postal Regulatory Commission: prc.gov/contact.





Halloween Safety Tips

Whether your Halloween plans are for adults or kids, there's plenty to consider before choosing a costume, putting on makeup, and eating a bag full of treats. To help you and your loved ones enjoy a safe and happy Halloween, here are some tips from the US Food and Drug Administration, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

- ⇒ Wear bright, reflective costumes or add strips of reflective tape so you'll be more visible; make sure costumes aren't so long you could easily trip.
- ⇒ Wear makeup and hats, rather than costume masks that can obscure your vision.
- ⇒ Test the makeup you plan to use at least 24-48 hours in advance. Put a small amount on the arm of the person who will be wearing it. If a rash, redness, swelling, or other signs of irritation develop (where the makeup was applied), that's a sign of a possible allergy.
- ⇒ Check the FDA's list of color additives to see if your makeup's colors are FDA approved. Vibrantly colored makeup is popular at Halloween, but if ingredients aren't approved for the intended use, don't use it. This is especially important for colored makeup around the eyes.
- ⇒ Ensure colored contact lenses are fitted by a professional. Don't wear decorative contacts that appear to change how your eyes look, due to the risk of eye injury.
- ⇒ Wear costumes labeled as "flame resistant." If you make your costume, use flame-resistant fabrics such as polyester or nylon.



**NORTH BRENTWOOD CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
PRESENTS
FAMILY NIGHT BLOCK PARTY HALLOWEEN STYLE**



WEAR YOUR BEST COSTUME

COME OUT AND JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF FUN FOR EVERYONE!!

WHEN: TUESDAY OCTOBER 31ST, 2023

TIME: 6PM-8PM

PLACE: SIS TAVERN /MURAL PARK)

4516 41ST AVE. NORTH BRENTWOOD, MD 20722

GAMES

CANDY

**CANDY
APPLES**

MUSIC

**HOT
CHOCOLATE**

SMORES

**DONATIONS NEEDED - The Town is accepting wrapped candy donations for Halloween Party, October 31.
Please drop off at town office by October 25, 2023**

Medicare's Open Enrollment Period: What you need to know



Medicare plans can change each year and so can your healthcare needs. The Open Enrollment period — which occurs each year from

October 15 to December 7 — gives you the chance to review and make changes to current coverage.

If you miss open enrollment, you'll most likely be automatically re-enrolled in your plan (if it's still offered in your area), as long as you continue paying any necessary premiums.

For an easy guide to basic Medicare, Medicare Advantage plans and Medigap (with resource links), go to usatoday.com and use the search tool with the words "Medicare open enrollment for 2024."

Utility/Mortgage Assistance Ends Nov 1

North Brentwood's Resident Assistance Program ends November 1, 2023. We're glad we could help. The funds will be reallocated to Public Safety, Public Works and other needed areas if possible. More info will be made available soon. Come to meetings and join Town groups to stay abreast of happenings.



Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

Salsa & Salsa

Learn to Make Salsa
with Fresh Ingredients



On-Site
Salsa Instructor

**Friday, October 13, 2023
Edmonston Recreation Center**

5100 Tanglewood Drive
Edmonston, MD 20781

5:30 PM - 8:00 PM



TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK

Have any questions? Comments?
Email townhall@edmonstonmd.gov or Call (301) 699 - 8806

Customer Assistance Program from WSSC

ATTENTION

Customer Assistance Program (CAP) customers

ENROLL NOW through the Maryland Office of Home Energy Programs (OHEP) to continue receiving the following benefits:

- Eligible for payment plans up to 48 months
- Free annual plumbing inspection for water leaks
- Late fees permanently waived
- and more

Enroll now at dhs.maryland.gov/OHEP
Have questions? Call **1-800-332-6347**



To participate in WSSC's Customer Assistance Program (CAP), customers must first apply for energy assistance directly through the Maryland Office of Home Energy Programs. The OHEP application and instructions are available in English and Español.

For more info about how to apply for energy assistance: go the PG County Council website (pgccouncil.us), call OHEP at 800.332.6347, or go to the Department of Human Services website: dhs.maryland.gov/office-of-home-energy-programs/.

CAP customers receive the following benefits:

- Exemption from Ready to Serve Charges, also known as fixed fees.
- Waiving of state-mandated Bay Restoration fee.
- Only charged for water and sewer usage.
- Eligible for payment plans up to 48 months.
- Late fees permanently waived.
- Free annual plumbing inspection for water leaks.
- Eligible to receive high-bill adjustment removing 100% of excess water/sewer usage, for one billing cycle during any three-year period.

Code Officer Cuffie's Corner

Here are some guidelines to prevent HVAC problems this fall, reduce electricity costs and help your system last longer:

- **Clean and replace air filters** for an easy, inexpensive way to preventatively—maintain your HVAC. When you have a dirty air filter, allergens and other pollutants get trapped, reducing the system's efficiency. Follow the suggested replacement schedule, generally every month, and definitely when seasons change. Doing this regularly may trim 5-10 percent off your monthly energy bill.
- **Clean and seal air ducts** to prevent drafts and energy waste. Many homes have leaky air ducts that cause a home to not cool or get hot enough. You may want to invest in ductwork sealing.
- **Clean the outdoor compressor unit** to remove debris that accumulates in/around the external unit and impedes airflow. Get rid of any leaves, sticks or trash that get stuck in the grill or under the unit. You can also hose down the cover and compressor coils (after turning off the power to the unit) to remove dust, pollen and dirt.
- **Protect the outdoor HVAC unit from bad weather** with a temporary covering—especially if hail is in the forecast—but know it's also an invitation for small animals (which can chew and destroy wiring) to take cover for the winter. Also, covering can trap moisture and cause mold. If you use a heat pump for heating and cooling, don't cover it.
- **Change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors** ideally twice a year, in spring and fall. Knowing these lifesaving detectors are working properly will give you peace of mind.

Low income families may qualify for free weatherization for HVAC systems. The Office of People's Counsel has links for major providers, such as BGE and Pepco: opc.maryland.gov/Consumer-Learning/Weatherization/EmPower-Weatherization-Programs.



HOW TO PREPARE YOUR HVAC SYSTEM FOR FALL

- CHANGE YOUR FURNACE FILTER EVERY 3 MONTHS.** (Illustration: furnace filter)
- CLEAN YOUR DUCTWORK AND VENTS, AND MAKE SURE FLAMMABLE OBJECTS DON'T BLOCK YOUR VENTS.** (Illustration: furnace vent)
- CHECK FOR DUCT LEAKAGE, AND REPAIR WITH ALUMINUM OR MASTIC TAPE.** (Illustration: duct tape)
- CHECK YOUR OUTDOOR UNIT FOR DAMAGE AND REMOVE ANY DEBRIS.** (Illustration: outdoor HVAC unit)
- CLEAR YOUR FURNACE FLUE OF OBSTRUCTIONS, SUCH AS LEAVES.** (Illustration: furnace flue)
- HAVE AN HVAC TECHNICIAN PERFORM A MAINTENANCE CHECKUP.** (Illustration: HVAC technician)

— OPC —
OFFICE OF PEOPLE'S COUNSEL
State of Maryland

Sandbags

Sandbags are located in the rear of the Town municipal building, at 4009 Wallace Road. Citizens are welcome to take sandbags for their homes.

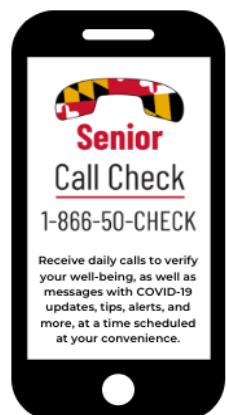
Report Streetlight Outages

It's easy to report streetlight outages at the PEPCO website (pepco.streetlightoutages.com) or by calling 800.735.2258. The online streetlight outage reporting tool is available 24/7.

Senior Call Check in MD

Senior Call Check is a FREE service available to adults 65-plus. Seniors may receive an automated daily call at a time they designate.

After three attempts (no answer), the agency will call your named contacts to check on you. Register by phone at 866.50.CHECK (866.502.0560) or at: aging.maryland.gov/Pages/senior-call-check.aspx.



Town Legislation: § 208-1 Noise Clause (added 10-7-2019 by Ord. No. 2019-04[1])

The Mayor and Council of the Town of North Brentwood hereby declare, as Town public policy, that every person is entitled to an environment free of noise levels detrimental to life, health and enjoyment of property. The purpose of this section/clause is to establish the lawful and unlawful limits of noise within the Town, and the enforcement procedures and requirements pertaining thereto. (This legislation has been edited for brevity for this publication.)

Definitions. As used in this section, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

CONTINUOUS NOISE: Audible for at least one minute, even if the second level doesn't vary to the human ear.

DAYTIME: Unless otherwise specifically noted, means the hours from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm.

IMPULSIVE NOISE: A short burst of sound not exceeding 10 seconds in duration.

INTERMITTENT NOISE: Any noise audible for more than a period of 10 seconds, but less than one minute.

NIGHTTIME: Unless otherwise specifically noted, this means the hours from 10:00 pm to 8:00 am.

NOISE: Any sound occurring on either a continuous, intermittent or impulsive basis. It also means the intensity, frequency, duration and character of sound, including sound and vibration, of subaudible frequencies.

Noise Prohibitions

It shall be unlawful for any person (homeowner, owner, tenant, firm, or corporation) to cause a violation of this section — or to allow on property owned, occupied, or on which that person has a right or license to occupy — any noise or sound level that exceeds the maximum permissible sound level or that otherwise violates this section.

Nothing in this section abridges or conflicts with the powers of the State of Maryland regarding noise control.

Presumption. Except as otherwise provided in this section, noise emanating from any operation, activity, or source (exceeding the maximum permissible sound levels established herein) is prohibited. Any noise audible from a distance greater than those specified, below, is presumed to exceed the maximum permissible sound level.

Vehicle. The use or operation of a motor vehicle or equipment, in or on the motor vehicle, in such a manner as to exceed the maximum sound levels established by this section is prohibited.

Nonresidential zones. Provided the noise is not audible within any residential area, if the noise emanates from a source located within a nonresidential zone, the *maximum permissible sound level (from either the source of the noise or the property that is the source of the noise)* is:

Daytime: Any continuous noise audible from a distance of 50 feet or less. Any intermittent noise audible from a distance of 100 feet or less. Any impulsive noise repeated at least once within five-minutes that is audible from a distance of 150 feet or less.

Nighttime: Any noise audible from a distance of 50 feet or less.

Residential zones. If a noise emanates from a source within a residential use zone, or if the noise can be heard within a residential use zone, regardless of the location of the source, the *maximum permissible sound level (from either the source of the noise or the property that is the source of the noise)* is:

Daytime: Any continuous or intermittent noise audible from a distance of 50 feet or more. Any impulsive noise audible from a distance of 60 feet or more.

Nighttime: Any noise audible from a distance of 40 feet or less.

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



Latinas in Aviation

To celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, go to College Park Aviation Museum and Airport on Saturday October 14, from 10 am to 4 pm. Watch as pilots featured in the *Latinas in Aviation* book fly into the College Park Airport and share their unique experiences and passion for aviation. This one-of-a-kind event gives you the opportunity to meet and hear from contributing authors, while learning about the magic of flight. Explore kids activities, static aircraft displays, interactives, presentations, mentorship circles, and scholarship opportunities throughout the event!



Get **free** COVID test kits at
COVIDtests.gov or
1-800-232-0233

- ▶ There are no shipping costs.
- ▶ You don't have to give a credit card or bank account number.
- ▶ You only need to give your name and address.

Anyone who asks for more information than that is a scammer.

Report them to the FTC at
ReportFraud.ftc.gov or your attorney
general at **ConsumerResources.org**.





Sis's Tavern
4516 41st Avenue
North Brentwood, MD



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: October 16, November 6, November 20

Meetings are conducted via ZOOM @ 7:30 pm.

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

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 meetings: October 9, November 13, December 11.

Call-in: 774.267.2052.

North Brentwood Historical Society: October 11, 2023, Sis's Tavern, 6:30pm – no meetings in November and December.

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

