



North Brentwood Newswire

A Heritage to Remember, a Future to Mold

December 2022

Happy Holidays

December is Human Rights Month!

This month, and every month to follow, everyone in the United States is encouraged to come together and stand up for equality, justice, and the dignity of all humans. Human Rights Month is a time to honor the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), an international document stating the fundamental rights and freedoms to which all human beings are entitled, including: freedom from discrimination, the right to equality, and the right to be considered innocent until proven guilty.

HOW TO OBSERVE: #HumanRightsMonth

Use #NationalHumanRights and #HumanRights to post on social media. Spread the word about the importance of treating everyone with respect and kindness, no matter their gender, age, race, religion, political views, or social status. National Human Rights Month is about acknowledging that people are people, plain and simple.

If we take the time to learn about other cultures, we begin to see things from others' perspectives. Especially during Human Rights Month, we should challenge ourselves to learn more about a specific culture (or several) that may make us uneasy or hesitant. By giving yourself, and your children, a little history lesson, chances are your (and your family's) preconceived notions about that group of people will change.

Since the adoption of the UDHR in 1948, human rights have been more guaranteed around the world, such as recognizing: the rights of women, children and young people, as well as the right for indigenous peoples to safeguard their land and culture. Many countries have even abolished the death penalty.

But UDHR's promise of dignity and equality is under attack. Misinformation, racial and cultural injustices, setbacks on women's rights... all as the world faces an escalating climate crisis, evolving COVID pandemics, wars/conflicts, and economic instability. People are frustrated; we've lost trust in the relevance of the governments and institutions protecting human rights because of inaction. Young people, especially, don't feel heard or know of the Declaration's existence.

Our call to action: genuine compassion that bends the arc of justice toward a space more reflective of civility, morals and values.

"Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home — so close and so small they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world." — Eleanor Roosevelt

County Executive's First Term Highlights



Angela Alsobrooks

"As I finish my first term as your County Executive, I'm so Prince George's Proud to share our first term report with you, highlighting some of the amazing and transformational work we have accomplished together over the past four years."

Education — Built ten new schools, six through the Innovative Alternative Construction Finance Program.

Youth Development — Expanded the Youth@Work/Summer Youth Enrichment Program (SYEP), providing our young people with more jobs and enrichment opportunities over the summer. More than 17,000 youth were hired via SYEP (2019-2022).

Quality of Life — Our Office of Community Relations attended 1,950 community meetings, events and walks over four years (serving approximately 199,700 Prince Georgians) ensuring the County Government is engaging residents within their own communities. We also launched the new PGC311 web and mobile app experiences, making it easier for residents to submit service requests to County Government.

Healthy Communities — Opened a state-of-the-art Behavioral Health Unit at Luminis Health Doctor's Community Medical Center, the first mental health and addiction care facility in the County. As well, 98% of seniors have been vaccinated against COVID-19.

Economic Development — Created new Economic Development Platform with historic investments along the Blue Line Corridor. Secured more than \$540 million in funding to help build walkable, bikeable neighborhoods with new amenities.

Safe Neighborhoods — All PGPD patrol officers are now fully equipped with body cameras. Established the Office of Returning Citizens Affairs in 2022 to better coordinate resources/serve returning citizens.

Wanika B. Fisher Elected to County Council

During the November 2022 General Election, Wanika Fisher, Esquire, was elected to Prince George's County Council. She represents District 2 (in the seat vacated by Deni Taveras), which includes North Brentwood. Fisher was sworn in for a four-year term on December 5, 2022.



Wanika Fisher

Interestingly, Council Member Fisher (the proud daughter of immigrant parents of Nigerian, South Asian and South African descent) became interested in politics as a child, while distributing petitions to build sidewalks for schoolchildren. After law school, as an Assistant State's Attorney, she prosecuted serious crimes while finding rehabilitative paths for nonviolent offenders. In 2018, Fisher broke barriers as the first first-generation African immigrant to be elected, from PG County, to the Maryland General Assembly's House of Delegates.

While representing District 47B, she became Assistant Majority Leader, making Fisher the highest ranking House freshman. She proudly sponsored the Right to Counsel legislation, giving tenants access to counsel in eviction proceedings, and championed bills on labor trafficking, immigration reform, and environmental rights. On the Judiciary Committee, she worked to ensure safe communities and to reform criminal justice. Fisher was appointed to several legislative workgroups, e.g.: Study Group on Economic Stability, Marijuana Legalization Work Group, and the Work Group to Address Police Reform and Accountability in Maryland.

When asked about leaving the General Assembly for the County Council, Fisher said she "loved" Annapolis; but, wants to be involved in the community every day, versus three-month General Assembly sessions. Fisher is also a private attorney with a criminal defense focus. Her BA, in Government and Politics, is from University of Maryland College Park; she earned her Juris Doctor from Penn State's Dickinson School of Law.

Town Residential Assistance Program

North Brentwood is accepting applications from residents for rental/mortgage and/or utility assistance. Our Residential Assistance program provides temporary relief to all eligible applicants who've experienced financial hardship during the pandemic.

Please complete the application included on pages 7-8 of this newsletter. It's also available in the Forms section of our website: northbrentwood.com/town-services. Drop off a signed copy at the Town office, during normal operating hours; or email to Councilmember Wiley (cwiley@northbrentwood.com) or Councilmember Dame (edame@northbrentwood.com). Any questions may be directed to either councilmember.

Currently, North Brentwood pays a maximum of \$2,000 for rental/mortgage help and/or utility assistance. Approved households will be able to reapply for more assistance in the future, pending available funds.



Each winter, Watkins Regional Park in Upper Marlboro, MD, invites visitors to see the amazing drive-through holiday light show with two million-plus twinkling lights. The festival features many new displays such as a 54-foot LED musical tree. Flaring holiday flamboyance is sponsored by The Department of Parks and Recreation and is one of the most affordable light festivals in the area. The attractions in the park include Old Maryland Farm, the Chesapeake Carousel, the miniature train, and Watkins Nature Trail.

Runs through Sun Jan 1, 2023: 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm

Price: \$10 per car / \$15 at gate; \$20 per van / limo

Waste Collection Services

Yard waste – Monday only

Regular / bulk trash (4 items only) – Tuesday only

Regular trash / recycling – Friday only

For more details about waste removal, go to our website: northbrentwood.com/town-services.

COVID-19 Updates

As of December 13, 581 Marylanders were recently hospitalized, and the positivity rate fell to 11.35%. K-N95 masks are still available at the Town Office. For a PCR or Rapid Antigen test, call Lotus Primary Care and Wellness Clinic in Hyattsville (6495 New Hampshire Ave #140) at 240.770.4177.

Code Officer Cuffie's Corner

The holidays are a joyful time for families and friends to get together, but it can also be an especially dangerous time of year. Protecting your home from intruders during the holidays, whether you're at home or on vacation, is one essential part of ensuring a merry holiday season. Let's look at the best safety practices to easily prevent your home from being targeted by burglars during the holidays:

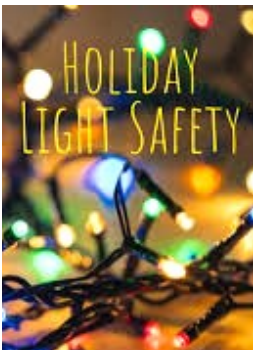
- Install secondary locks (e.g., window pins, sliding door bars and deadbolts) on doors and windows. Make sure to lock all of these at night and when you leave the house.
- Don't broadcast holiday and vacation plans on social media; you could be signaling the wrong person about when you won't be home.
- Call or email newspaper delivery, USPS and other carriers about your lack of availability; reschedule deliveries for a time when you'll be home.
- Install security surveillance cameras around your home, and set up alarm systems for your doors, windows and garages. This is the easiest way to deter a burglar from breaking into your house.
- Secure valuable items, gifts, and documents using a heavy safe box and lock. Another alternative is leaving these with a trusted friend or neighbor while you're away.

***Starting January 1, 2023 if you have an unpaid parking ticket, your tag number will be turned over to the MVA; your tags may be suspended. Please pay tickets now to avoid additional fees/consequences.

'Tis the Season for Safety

Enjoying the holidays with loved ones is a cherished tradition, but don't let your guard down. The season's festivities may bring us closer together, but they also bring potential hazards.

The good news is that holiday safety is achievable with awareness and preparedness. Here are some simple tips to ensure family time is enjoyed with care.



Electrical Fires

Holiday lights can start fires. Deck the halls safely by checking string lights for cracked sockets and frayed wires. Keep decorations three feet from heat sources.

Cooking Fires

Making a holiday feast? Cooking is the main cause of home fires, especially during the holidays. Never leave the kitchen with the stove turned on, and always keep a fire extinguisher nearby. For more home fire prevention tips, visit usfa.fema.gov/prevention.

Cyber Threats

Be wary of holiday scams. Online thieves do most of their damage at this time of year. Regularly monitor devices for security breaches, check the 'sent' email to make sure it's legitimate, and don't click on links or download files unless you're 100% sure it's valid. Awareness is your best defense. Visit cisa.gov/shop-safely for information about holiday scams and other cyber threats.

RSV, Coronavirus & Seasonal Flu

Flu season is here... again. For those six months and older, vaccination is the most effective way to reduce the risk from seasonal flu. For info and vaccination resources, visit cdc.gov/flu/prevent. Remember, cases of Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and Covid are also climbing, so mask up!



Helpful Tips when Shoveling Snow

Warm up with gentle stretches before shoveling.

Out of shape or overweight?

- Tackle snow shoveling at a slow pace, to avoid the risk of a heart attack.
- Push snow out of your way instead of lifting it, whenever possible.
- Take small loads of snow on your shovel.
- Bend your knees, keep your back straight and lift with your legs. Keep your arms close to your body when lifting a load.

Take frequent breaks:

- Stand up and walk around to reduce strain on lower back.
- Extend/stretch your back muscles.
- Place your hands on the back of hips and slightly, gently bend backwards - do not bounce.



Be Prepared Even in Your Car

Before taking a winter trip, tell someone where you're going, intended route and expected arrival time. Keep your gas tank full to prevent gas line freeze-up. Have an emergency kit in the car with:

- * Jumper cables
- * Roadside flares
- * Window ice scraper
- * Fresh water and high-energy food
- * Blanket or sleeping bag
- * Extra pair of gloves
- * Heat pads made for hunting
- * Candles and matches in weather-tight container
- * Cellphone, CB, or emergency calling device
- * Flashlight with fresh batteries
- * Pencil and notepad for messages
- * Small shovel
- * Traction items (bag of sand, cat litter and mats)



County Teens Shine in Equestrian Sports

After a 20-year hiatus, Prince George's County recently hosted the 64th annual Washington International Horse Show, at the Show Place Arena in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Two county teens stood out amongst competitors.

Before and after the event, the county showcased some amazing young Prince Georgians doing great things in the equestrian world. Morissa Hall, 16, and 14 year-old Nicholas "Nic" Jackson are true ambassadors of the sport: Hall is a two-time Maryland High School Rodeo Association All-around Cowgirl and Rodeo Queen; and Jackson is the 2020 Junior World Finals Bull-riding Champion.

In the arenas where they've competed across the country, Hall and Jackson, who are Black, had not seen many champions who look like them. County Executive Alsobrooks proudly recognized both and exclaimed, "Let it be known that the Rodeo Queen, for anyone who's curious about it, grew up in Prince George's County." Alsobrooks also said, looking at Hall before turning to Jackson: "Let us take a look and see what a champion looks like."

Both Hall and Jackson have similar stories: years of discipline and sacrifice, along with the support of their families, who are determined to see their children excel while breaking down any barriers.



Morissa Hall



Nicholas Jackson

One-time Student Loan Debt Relief

President Biden, Vice President Harris, and the US Department of Education announced a three-part plan, to help working and middle-class federal student loan borrowers transition back to regular payments, as pandemic-related support expires.

The Department of Education (ED) will provide up to \$20,000 in debt relief to Federal Pell Grant recipients and up to \$10,000 to non-Pell Grant recipients.

Step 1: Check if you're eligible

You're eligible for student loan debt relief if: you have a student loan through ED; and in 2020 or 2021, your annual federal income was below \$125,000 (individual or married, filing separately) or \$250,000 (married, filing jointly or head of household).

Step 2: Prepare

Log in to your StudentAid.gov account and make sure your contact info is up to date. Updates will be sent by both email and text message, so sign up to receive text alerts. If you don't have a StudentAid.gov account (FSA ID), create one to help manage your loans.

Step 3: Submit your application

The application is on ed.gov until December 31, 2023.

*** UPDATE:** File your application and make payment arrangements asap. The student loan forgiveness plan is being reviewed in a second Supreme Court case.

Per CNN, Biden has extended the January 23, 2023 pandemic payment pause deadline, until after pending litigation is resolved – or the end of August, whichever comes first. The administration's goal is to cancel some student debt before payments restart. The Supreme Court will hear arguments in a case in February; a decision is expected by June.

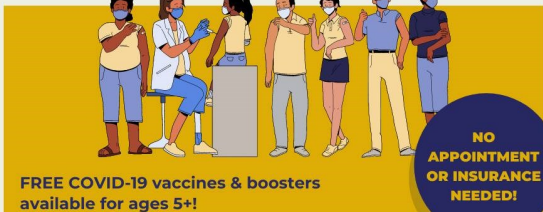
Student Debt
Relief Application



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

GET YOUR VACCINE!



FREE COVID-19 vaccines & boosters
available for ages 5+!

NO
APPOINTMENT
OR INSURANCE
NEEDED!

First United Methodist Church, 6201 Belcrest Rd.

Tuesdays, 11 AM - 7 PM

11 AM - 7 PM: Vaccines & boosters for ages 12+
3 - 7 PM: Vaccines & boosters for ages 5+

Saturdays, 9 AM - 1 PM

Vaccines & boosters for ages 3+

Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult



HYATTSVILLE.ORG/COVIDVACCINE
(240) 832 6952

WMATA Senior Smart Trip Cards

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

Caroling in North Brentwood

2022





Application for Residential Assistance

APPLICANT NAME:

Current Address:

City, State, Zip Code:

Primary Phone:

Alternate Phone:

HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

(List the Head of Household and all other members who live in the residence. Give the relationship of each family member to the head.)

Member's Full Name	Relationship	Birthdate	Age	Sex	Social Security No.

Race of Head of Household (Check One) - Optional

(This information is being collected to assure compliance with fair housing and equal opportunity rules.)

- ☐ White ☐ Black ☐ Asian/Pacific Islander
☐ Native American/Alaskan Native ☐ Hispanic

You may qualify for a rental/mortgage assistance and/or utility assistance if any or all of the following circumstances can be verified for your household. Please check any that apply to you.

- ☐ Are you currently more than 30 days past due on rent and/or mortgage payments? If yes, please explain:
- ☐ Are you currently more than 30 days past due on any utility bills? If yes, please explain:

APPLICATION CERTIFICATION: I/we understand that the above information is being collected to determine if I/we are eligible to receive residential assistance. I/we authorize the Town of North Brentwood to verify all information provided on this application.

Head of Household Signature	Date	Spouse Signature	Date





Overdue Bills

What are the types and amounts of overdue bills (e.g. mortgage/rent or utility bill such as electric, gas, or water)?

Type of Bill	Amount Past Due	Days Past Due	Payment Basis (weekly, monthly, etc.)

Please attach any overdue utility bills or rent/mortgage payment to this application and e-mail the entire package to cwiley@northbrentwood.com or edame@northbrentwood.com. You may also drop off a hard copy of the application and any accompanying documents at the town office during normal operating hours.

If approved for financial assistance, any monies awarded will be paid directly to the mortgage/lease holder and/or utility company. No direct cash payments will be made to residents.

APPLICATION CERTIFICATION: I/we understand that the above information is being collected to determine if I/we are eligible to receive residential assistance. I/we authorize the Town of North Brentwood to verify all information provided on this application.

Head of Household Signature	Date	Spouse Signature	Date





Council Chair

CALVIN S. HAWKINS, II



*Invites you to attend
a screening of the documentary film*



LORTON: PRISON OF TERROR

**SATURDAY
JANUARY 7, 2023
5:00 - 8:00 p.m.**



**PRINCE GEORGE'S
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**The Center for Performing Arts,
Proscenium Theater**

301 Largo Road, Largo, MD 20774


www.pgccouncil.us/CMALHawkins • (301) 952-2195

<https://www.instagram.com/CMALHawkins>

facebook.com/CMALHawkins



**PRINCE GEORGE'S | COUNTY
COUNCIL**



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD. FIRE / EMS DEPARTMENT *TIPsheet*

HOLIDAY FIRE SAFETY

NEED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION? PLEASE CONTACT
PGFD COMMUNITY OUTREACH AT 301-883-5250

SAFETY FIRST!

PGFD
EVERYONE GOES HOME

A Season for Sharing in Fire Safety

Each year fires occurring in the United States during the holiday season will claim the lives of over 400 people, injure 1,650 more, and cause over \$990 million in damage and will account for 40% of all fires during this time period of October thru January.

The Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department wishes to remind everyone that by following some of these simple life-saving steps you can ensure a safe and happy holiday season.

Holiday Decorations: All decorations should be nonflammable or flame-retardant and placed away from heat vents.

Wrapping Paper: Never Put Wrapping Paper in a Fireplace. It can result in a very large fire, throwing off dangerous sparks and embers and may result in a chimney fire.

Artificial Christmas Trees: If you are using a metallic or artificial tree, make sure it is flame retardant.

Candle Care: Avoid Using Lit Candles, If you do use them, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked down. Never leave the house with candles burning. Never Put Lit Candles on a Tree. Do not go near a Christmas tree with an open flame - candles, lighters or matches.

Holiday Lights: Maintain Your Holiday Lights. Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory.

Do Not Overload Electrical Outlets: Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Make sure to periodically check the wires - they should not be warm to the touch. ***Do Not Leave Holiday Lights on Unattended.***

Preventing Christmas Tree Fire Hazards: Special fire safety precautions need to be taken when keeping a live tree in the house. A burning tree can rapidly fill a room with fire and deadly gases.

Selecting a Tree for the Holiday: Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needle should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long, has probably dried out, and is a fire hazard.

Caring for Your Tree: Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree. Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. We recommend that you water the tree 3 times a day and keep the tree stand filled with water.

Disposing of Your Tree: Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood burning stove. When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. The best way to dispose of your tree is by taking it to a recycling center or having it hauled away by a community pick-up service.

Remember in case of an EMERGENCY DIAL 911 – Get Out and Stay Out!

From Mayor Robinson: Planning Self-care during the Holiday Season

The holiday season can be very stressful for many people. However, there are many ways you can protect your mental health during this time. When trying to prevent, or lessen, the stressors of the holidays, knowing your triggers and having a game plan (e.g., budgeting, not over-committing your time and/or avoiding upsetting situations) can benefit you in the long run.

Regardless of the hopes you have for the holidays, consider how realistic it is you'll be able to meet those expectations. Keep in mind, there are times we don't meet the goals we set, which can result in feeling down... especially during the holiday season. Do your best to avoid anticipating all expectations will come to fruition. For example, you cannot predict how others will behave at a holiday event! Again, try to adjust your thinking: set goals you know you can realistically attain, and savor the victory of unexpected joys.

Additionally, I know during the holidays it's so much fun to go Christmas shopping and to splurge on holiday treats; however, keeping spending within limits can be tough for many of us. We find it so easy to overspend this time of year that we forget to ask ourselves: once this is all over will we be in debt? Be sure to set a sensible budget for yourself and stick to it.

As well, during the holiday season, we might find ourselves getting caught up in negative emotions. Writing in a gratitude journal may help you to recognize all of the good elements about your life and things for which you're thankful — while also reminding you of things not taken for granted.

When it comes to checking in with yourself, ask questions such as:

-How am I feeling today?

-Am I taking out enough time for myself to recharge?

-Are there any stressful things coming up... can I do something to relieve that stress beforehand?

Once you completed that self check-in, if you realize you need a moment to yourself do so. Schedule some me time, to regroup and recharge. One last important thing: set some healthy boundaries this holiday season. Know that it's OK to say NO. You might not be able to make it to every holiday party or do every gift exchange. It does not make you a bad person to set boundaries. If you know there are certain events you'd like to attend, plan ahead/set extra time so you'll be as relaxed as possible. Avoid spreading yourself so thin you feel overwhelmed.



REMEMBER YOU ARE NOT ALONE, YOU ARE SEEN AND YOU ARE LOVED



Patricia Robinson



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

Asst Treasurer: Alana Hill 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 Meetings:

Tuesday | January 3 & January 17, 2023

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: Next meeting will be on January 9. The call-in number is 774.267.2052.

North Brentwood Historical Society: Will meet on January 11 at 6:30 pm. Dial-in number: 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 4th Monday of each month with subject line "Newsletter."

Boletin En Español



We're on the Web:

www.NorthBrentwood.com and



Town of North Brentwood-Prince

North Brentwood Resident

