



Mayor's Message



As another year draws to a close, it's easy to dwell on the strife in the Middle East, Ukraine, and here in the states... but, lots of good things are happening, too. Just think about the many caring people who work tirelessly to effect

positive change throughout the world, and here in North Brentwood. Our citizens are some of most encouraging and caring people I've ever known. Thank you for your dedication and good works that make our Town the best place to live anywhere!

North Brentwood's Town Council, staff and committee volunteers, and those who run NBCA and the Historical Society, work hard each year to improve the lives of all North Brentwoodians. From Green Up, Clean Up days... to getting the historic Sis's Tavern and Windom Road barrier projects off the ground... and countless hours helping citizens find resources for Covid prevention and financial assistance through the pandemic and beyond... we have a lot of goodwill to reflect upon this year.

Lastly, I wish you a joyous holiday season. This issue of *NewsWire* offers tips for safe driving, creating a green traditions, and resources to help you and yours. If you're alone this holiday, reach out to your North Brentwood neighbors for love and support!

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

Year in Review: 2023

A few favorite, genuine remembrances, from 2023, that capture the true spirit of "I AM North Brentwood!"



February — A touching moment between Mayor Robison and Black History Month honoree Christopher Powell. He was recognized as a local hero, for meeting the challenges of cerebral palsy, including learning how to walk, building a robust life and a meaningful career. We love Chris!



May — Mayor Petrella Robinson was reelected, and Aaron Baynes was reelected to serve as Ward II Councilmember.

June — The Towns North Brentwood and Brentwood, and Neighborhood Design Center, celebrated Juneteenth at an event at the historic Windom Rd Barrier.



August — At National Night Out, the Town gave out book bags and prizes, along with Chromebooks for a few lucky North Brentwoodians. The yearly event promotes camaraderie and police-community partnerships that make our neighborhoods safer, caring places to live.

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

Newest Segment of Trolley Trail Now Open



Completion of the PG County Trolley Trail extension has been a year in the making, with millions going toward the project for which so many have waited. The new, ten-foot wide, half-mile-long paved path stretches from Farragut Street to Charles Armentrout Drive, connecting to the Northwest Branch Trail that comes out of Silver Spring leading into DC.

Previously, bicyclists had to cross heavily-traffic on Rhode Island Avenue and ride along a narrow shoulder, to connect to the other trails, discouraging casual cyclists and families with younger children. Now that it is fully completed, the \$6.4 million bicycle-pedestrian route will connect the Rhode Island Avenue Trolley Trail to the Anacostia Tributary Trail in Hyattsville, Maryland.



OUTDOOR ADVENTURERS

Witness Maryland's winter wonderland with us! Meet at Mount Rainier Nature Center to ride our bus and discover what natural treasures our state has to offer. Every third Saturday of the month.

Ages 18+ Price: \$10 (R), \$13 (NR)

REGISTER at pgparksdirect.com

Activity #22401

Sat Dec 16, Conowingo Dam, Fishers Park Section #149A

Sat Jan 20, Smallwood State Park Section #149B

Sat Feb 17, Virginia Birding & Wildlife Trail Section #149C



Mount Rainier Nature Center
4701 31st Pl. Mount Rainier, MD 20712

Witness Maryland's winter wonderland! Meet at Mount Rainier Nature Center to ride the mini-bus and discover what natural treasures our state has to offer. Every third Saturday of the month.

REGISTER at pgparksdirect.com | Ages 18+ Price: \$10 (R), \$13 (NR) | Activity #22401, sections 149A-149C

FBI to Move Headquarters to Maryland



On November 9, 2023, the FBI announced it will move its headquarters from Washington, DC to Greenbelt, MD. The 61-acre site was chosen after scoring highest in four of five selection criteria, e.g.: Greenbelt is a transit accessible site, with a 0.1 mile walking distance to Metro and commuter rail.

The decision, to move the FBI's headquarters, is the culmination of a decade-long effort to find the law enforcement agency a new secure home. GSA, which heads federal real estate, began exploring relocation in 2013, after officials warned the downtown-DC Hoover building didn't comply with modern security requirements and was in disrepair. But in 2017, the Trump administration halted the bidding process for a new FBI center. The project was taken off ice in 2021, when an omnibus bill (multi-project legislation) called for a relocation and provided funding for the effort.

Initially, DC, MD and VA placed bids for new locations; but, Maryland and Virginia lawmakers wrote into the omnibus that funding would apply only to a campus in the suburbs, blocking the District's bid in the process. Before the selection of Greenbelt, both states sought the FBI relocation project for the federal investment in underserved communities in their respective states.

The move is a win for Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-Md.), who championed two proposed sites in Maryland for years. Hoyer pushed to bring federal buildings to Prince George's County, a DC suburb state officials contend has long-been neglected by federal government. It's also a coup for Maryland Governor Wes Moore, a

Democrat, who aggressively lobbied for the move to his state, with the backing of national civil rights organizations. Regarding Hoyer's efforts, PG County Executive Angela Alsobrooks said the congressman, "spoke in one language and it's called FBI. This has really been an effort of love and tenacity on his behalf..." Additionally, MD Attorney General Anthony Brown fought efforts six years ago by then-President Trump to keep the FBI headquarters in DC. Brown also praised Alsobrooks and Moore as being the "real closers" during a presentation with GSA officials in March as part of "Team Maryland."



Team MD (left to right): Rep. Glenn Ivey (D-4th district); Lt. Gov. Miller; Gov. Moore, Rep. Hoyer, and MD Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen.

Said Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller, "There's over a billion reasons that it should be here in Greenbelt as opposed to Springfield [the other FBI building site the GSA considered]," including "probably close to \$1.5 billion in savings to the American taxpayers." Miller also said the Greenbelt location, as the most transit-accessible facility of the sites considered, has the potential to take thousands of cars off the road.

However, a bipartisan Virginia group (including Democratic Sens. Mark Warner and Tim Kaine and Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin) issued a statement claiming an "irrevocably undermined and tainted" process saying the decision "must now be reversed." Warner called for an inspector general investigation.

Source: wtop.com/prince-georges-county/2023/11/gsa-defends-greenbelt-decision-posts-letter-and-memos-addressing-complaints

Sis's Lights Up North Brentwood

NDC Entrepreneur Park

The Neighborhood Design Center has partnered with the Town of North Brentwood, to create a concept design for a park on the site of the historic Randall House, adjacent to Sis's Tavern. The focus of the park would be to showcase the Town's history of entrepreneurship.

On Tuesday November 28, 2023 the NDC delivered a presentation and shared the preliminary concepts they have in mind for the future project. Residents were able to participate and provide input about what they'd like see once the park is completed. We would like to continue to gather community feedback related to: the future park site, North Brentwood's entrepreneurship history, and potential features of the park. Please email your thoughts to townmanager@northbrentwood.com.



District 2 Barbie Girls Empowerment Event



The December 9 event (at Joe's Movement Emporium in Mt. Rainier) supported Councilmember Wanika Fisher: as the youngest woman elected to PG County Council, Fisher fiercely advocates for women

and girls, and supports other female leaders as well. In attendance were MD Comptroller Brooke Lierman, North Brentwood and Mayor Petrella Robinson among others.

The inaugural event was designed for gender-identifying female students, ages 11 through 17. Attendees heard from a panel of career professionals to inspire their dreams for success during the "Think Outside of the Box" career session. The girls also learned about managing money in a financial education session, participated in an online safety session, and engaged in discussions about self-love and self-care. Everyone also received access to a special make-up tutorial.



Wanika Fisher and Brooke Lierman at the Barbie Girls Empowerment event.

Community Service Hour Opportunities

North Brentwood scholars needing service hours may contact Town Administration: call 301.699.9699 or email townmanager@northbrentwood.com, to ensure academic success by building leadership skills and a deeper understanding of social issues.

Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over

Give the Gift of Safe Driving

This season, for many, the holidays are a time of giving; one of the greatest gifts is sober driving. This year, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is spreading the messages: Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over, If You Feel Different, You Drive Different, and Drive High Get a DUI. The campaigns (Dec. 14 to Jan. 1) educate about the dangers and consequences of driving drunk/high, and law enforcement is stepping up patrols to get impaired drivers off the roads.

Drunk driving is a daily problem on our nation's roads, but it's more prevalent around the holidays. During Christmas and New Year's in 2020, there were 209 preventable drunk-driving-related fatalities. That year, in total, 11,654 people were killed nationwide in drunk-driving crashes, nearly one-third of the auto fatalities. The tragedy of these deaths is felt year-round, but, for many, most strongly during the holidays.

Like drunk driving, drug-impaired driving is illegal in all 50 states. From 2019-2021, NHTSA conducted a study at trauma centers/medical examiner offices involving drivers who were seriously injured or killed: about 26% of those drivers had active THC (found in marijuana) in their systems. Whether the drug is a legal prescription or obtained illegally, impaired driving can be deadly for drivers, passengers and others on the road.

If you have a holiday gathering on your calendar, make smart choices and plan how to get home safely once the celebration ends. If you're the designated driver, make a commitment to 100% sobriety to keep you and your friends safe.

Equally important, if you see an impaired driver on the road, contact local law enforcement immediately. Doing so could save the life of the driver, passenger, and other drivers. And, if you have a friend who is about to drive impaired, take their keys and make arrangements to get them home safely — it will be the greatest gift you ever give this holiday season and beyond.

Keeping Older Drivers Safe on the Road

Are you an older driver? If not, you likely know one: a parent, grandparent or a neighbor. Between 2012 and 2021, the US population of those 65 and older went up by 22%. And, in 2021, 17% of all traffic fatalities were people 65-plus.

How Aging Can Affect Driving: Medical Conditions

As people age, it's important to monitor changes in health as it relates to driving. While some drive safely into their nineties, others with medical conditions, eyesight or sleep problems, tremors, or memory issues find driving more difficult and dangerous. Ask yourself, or the older driver in your life:

- Can you remember the routes you often drive?
- Do traffic signs and signals, or other drivers, make you feel overwhelmed while driving?
- Have you recently received a ticket or citation for a driving violation, or been in a minor crash?

Medications and Driving

Many older people take multiple OTC or prescribed medications. Unfortunately, some of these drugs, or a combination of drugs, can impair judgment, reflexes or the alertness necessary for safe driving. An older driver's primary care provider or pharmacist can help determine if medications may affect their driving.



- ✓ Get regular eye exams
- ✓ Avoid driving in poor weather conditions
- ✓ Give yourself extra time to reach destinations
- ✓ Talk your doctor about medications and driving
- ✓ Ask friend/family to do a test drive with you

Source: www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/older-drivers

Church Services:

- ◇ **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.

Paratransit: Mobility Services in PG County

The county offers several programs to help citizens get where they need to go, at discounted rates or for free! Go to: princegeorgescountymd.gov/departments-offices/public-works-transportation/metrotransportation/paratransit.

Call-a-Bus is a demand response curb-to-curb service available to all county citizens not served by, or who cannot use, existing bus or rail services.

Call-a-Cab is a transportation assistance program that provides mobility at a reduced cost for county seniors (age 60+) and/or county persons with disabilities.

MetroAccess provides complimentary shared-ride, door-to-door paratransit service for people whose disability prevents them from using the bus.

Senior Transportation Services (STS) is part of the Call-a-Bus program; it provides scheduled curb-to-curb transportation throughout the county to resident seniors (age 60-plus) and persons with disabilities.

Happy Birthday to Two Town Officials!



*Town Manager
Jacqueline Goodall*



*Mayor Petrella Robinson
(right) with friends*

All of North Brentwood celebrates you and rejoices to have your company. Thank you for your leadership and vision to pave North Brentwood's bright future!

Going Green for the Holidays

A Green Holiday promotes environmental wellness: reduce consumption by using renewable resources and reusing/repurposing objects. This year, make it a time of sustainable traditions that help the environment.

5 Tips for Greening Your Holidays



- 1** Use reusable utensils, plates, napkins, and tablecloths
- 2** Have guests bring containers to take home leftovers
- 3** Use more plant-based ingredients in your cooking
- 4** Give experiences instead of physical gifts, like a museum membership or art class
- 5** For physical gifts, instead of using non-recyclable metallic or glittery wrapping paper, use old newspaper or other 100% paper options

For more tips, visit:
simplifytheholidays.org



OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

Self-Care During the Holiday Season

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

Regardless of your holiday hopes, consider if it's truly realistic 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 not to think 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 can realistically attain and savor unexpected joys.

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

As well, the holidays may stir up negative emotions. A gratitude journal may help you to focus on the good elements about your life and things for which you're thankful — while reminding you not to take people and good fortune for granted. When it comes to checking in with yourself, ask questions such as:

- How am I feeling today?
- Am I taking enough time for myself to recharge?
- Are there stressful things coming up... can I do something to relieve that stress beforehand?

After a self check-in, if you need a moment to yourself take it. Schedule some me-time to regroup/recharge. One last key thing: set healthy boundaries this season. Know it's OK to say NO. You may not be able to make it to each 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 so you'll be as relaxed as possible. Avoid spreading yourself so thin you feel overwhelmed.

REMEMBER YOU ARE SEEN AND YOU ARE LOVED.



You're not alone. Help is available.

[samhsa.gov/find-help](https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help)

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline
988 or 988Lifeline.org

- Español (opreme 2)
- LGBTQI+ Youth (press 3)

Veterans Crisis Line
Dial 988 (press 1)

[FindSupport.gov](https://www.findsupport.gov)

SAMHSA's
National Helpline
1-800-662-HELP (4357)

Disaster Distress
Helpline
1-800-985-5990

[FindTreatment.gov](https://www.findtreatment.gov)



Holiday Assistance

Need help with holiday gifts, food, bills...? There are resources to ease your burden. For ideas, go to: [needhelppayingbills.com/html/prince_george-s-county_free_holiday_assis.html](https://www.needhelppayingbills.com/html/prince_george-s-county_free_holiday_assis.html).

Healthy Holiday Season

Flu, COVID-19 and RSV can be especially dangerous for children and adults 60 and older. Vaccinations can help you have a healthy holiday season with your loved ones. Find vaccines near you at [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov).



**Getting vaccinated means
spending more time with the ones
you love this holiday season.**



NORTH BRENTWOOD CITIZENS ASSOCIATION SPONSORS:

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS YARD DECORATING CONTEST

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2023



1ST Prize = \$200

2ND Prize = \$100

3RD Prize = \$75

JUDGING CRITERIA:

Appearance

Originality

Workmanship

“LIGHTS MUST BE ON BY 6PM”

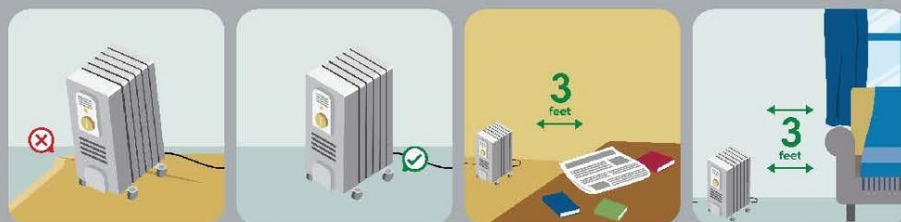


Portable Heater Fire Safety



Follow these portable heater tips to help prevent winter fires and to stay safe this winter season.

Place space heaters on a solid, flat surface. Keep them at least three feet from things that can burn.



Check your space heater for cracked or damaged cords and plugs. Plug space heaters directly into wall outlets, don't use an extension cord or power strip.



For more information and free fire-safety resources, visit www.usfa.fema.gov.



Click here to
add image.



IS THIS FOOD EXPIRED?

UNDERSTANDING DATE LABELS

The dates that food companies put on packages are not regulated and do not mean that the food is unsafe to eat, except in the case of baby formula. Most foods are still tasty and nutritious after the date has passed. **Not sure if food is spoiled? Check for off odor, flavor or texture.**

"BEST BY" OR "BEST IF USED BY" DATE

This date tells you when the food will have the **best flavor**.
It is **still safe to eat** past this date.

"USE BY" OR "EXPIRATION" DATE

This is the last date that the product will be at its **peak quality**.
It is **still safe to eat** past this date (except for baby formula).

"PACKING/MANUFACTURING" DATE

This is the date used by manufacturers for tracking.
It is not an expiration date - it is not related to food quality or safety.

"SELL BY" DATE

This tells the store how long to display the product for sale.
It is **still safe to eat** past this date.

GOOD FOR UP TO ONE YEAR AFTER THE DATE:

- Packaged food like cereal, pasta, dried beans, and baking mixes
- Frozen foods
- Canned goods including soup, condiments, meat, fruit, and vegetables

GOOD FOR UP TO 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE:

- Butter
- Cheese
- Eggs

GOOD FOR UP TO SEVEN DAYS AFTER THE DATE:

- Milk
- Yogurt
- Cream Cheese



Questions? Contact us at 215-223-2220 or info@sharefoodprogram.org.

Special Holiday Activities Near North Brentwood



Festival of Lights: Watkins Park

It's an area tradition! Create magical moments while watching the night sky fill with holiday lights — boost the experience with a horse-drawn carriage ride or joining the I-Spy game. Please bring canned goods for local food banks.

Hours: Open 5–10 pm until January 1.

Tickets. Cars pay \$10 online or \$15 at gate. (Online ticket sales end daily at 4 pm.) Bring printed ticket or other forms of payment! Go to pgparks.com/event_list/festival-of-lights to purchase tickets and to get details about tickets for vans, limos and buses.

Free Admission: December 25th is free for PG County residents for their year-round support of Parks and Recreation programs!

ICE! in National Harbor, MD | Christmas at Gaylord National (marriott.com)

2 MILLION POUNDS OF ICE:
17,000 SQUARE FEET

Experience the beloved ICE! attraction featuring RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER™

Embark on a magical journey through larger-than-life, immersive scenes from the iconic 'Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer™' carved from more than two million pounds of ice.

In the one-of-a-kind holiday experience ICE!, you'll zip down two-story-tall slides made of pure ice, traverse

through immersive ice tunnels and arches, and step into colorful, multi-sensory scenes starring Rudolph, Clarice, Bumble, Sam the Snowman, and Hermey the Elf!

Get info and tickets: christmasatgaylordnational.marriott.com/ice.





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 Meetings: Tuesday, January 2

- **No Mayor & Council meetings in DECEMBER**

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 meeting: **Monday, January 8, 2024.** Call-in: 774.267.2052.

North Brentwood Historical Society: TBD. Dial-in: 774.267.2052.

**XMAS Luncheon at North Brentwood Community Center
December 14, 2023@ 12:30 PM**

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

