



Mayor's Message



As we celebrate **Maryland 250**, we also celebrate something even more meaningful—our volunteers. Throughout our Town's history, ordinary people doing extraordinary things has made North Brentwood a strong, caring, and vibrant community.

To each of our volunteers, thank you for giving your time, talent and heart. Whether you serve at community events, help our seniors, support our youth, beautify our neighborhoods, or simply lend a helping hand when needed, your service makes a lasting difference.

Your commitment reminds us that the strength of our community is not measured by its size, but by the generosity of its people. While we honor Maryland's 250 years of history, we also recognize you're helping to write the next chapter through dedication and service.



On behalf of the Town of North Brentwood, thank you for your unwavering commitment and service. We are grateful for each of you, and we look forward to continuing to build a brighter future together. (See page 3 for photos from our Volunteers Lunch). Happy MD 250!

NBCA: Back to School & National Night Out!

On August 4, NBCA brought together two great traditions — our Back-to-School celebration and National Night Out. I hope you enjoy the event photos on page 4.

Community Survey

Your voice matters: survey results will shape Town governance! **September 1 is the deadline to complete the community survey.** Paper copies are available at the Town Office. For downloadable forms, scan the QR code on page 10, or go to: northbrentwood.com/common-unity-survey.

Important Town Meetings

Fri, Sep 4, 8 pm, Zoom— **Public Hearing** regarding a Charter Amendment for special elections Ordinance 01-2026. Use Town Meeting Zoom info (Meeting ID: 433 091 3800; passcode: 4009; dial: 301.715.8592).

Tues, Sep 8, 7:30 pm, Zoom—First **Mayor and Town Council Meeting** of the fall session.

Wed, Sep 9, 6:30 pm, Sis's Tavern—**NB Historical Society** swearing-in of new officers at the meeting.

Also in this Issue

- An in-depth reflection about Eleanor Traynham's many contributions to North Brentwood.
- PG Dept. of Housing and Community Development launched new homebuyer assistance programs.
- Back-to-school info about: tax-free shopping week, vaccination requirements, safety tips, and a school fair nearby offering free supplies.
- What you need to know about the Cyclospora outbreak in Maryland and nationwide.

Your Mayor,

Petrella Robinson

Celebrating America's 250th Anniversary

By: Councilmember Jacqueline Morales

This year, on The Fourth of July, our nation marked a



historic milestone — the 250th anniversary of American independence. Communities across the country reflected on the semi-quincentennial, a moment that invited celebration

and contemplation of our shared heritage since the 1776 adoption of the Declaration of Independence.

National festivities were held on a grand scale. In Washington, DC, the National Mall hosted days of programming that culminated in a 16-day state fair showcasing all US states and territories. Military flyovers filled the sky, and a record-setting fireworks display (nearly 900,000 bursts) illuminated the Mall in a spectacle unlike any in our history.

Across the country, freedom bells rang out, local parades marched through neighborhoods, and families gathered for block parties, backyard cookouts, and community potlucks.

Major institutions also marked the occasion. The Smithsonian and National Park Service launched extensive exhibitions exploring America's past and future. In Philadelphia, a new time-capsule was sealed, intended to remain closed until 2276 — a symbolic gesture linking generations across centuries.

These celebrations reminded us, while every American may hold different views about our nation's journey, most can find something in our country's collective culture worthy of recognition. Like the smoke-filled sky during the fireworks, some focused on the haze, while others saw only the brilliance. Yet both perspectives belong to the American story.

For me, the anniversary recalled Crispus Attucks — a figure whose life embodies the determination and complexity of America's earliest struggle for freedom. Born enslaved in Framingham, Massachusetts, in 1723, Attucks escaped bondage and lived under an

assumed identity while working on the Atlantic seas.



In 1768, amid rising colonial unrest, British troops arrived in Boston.

During the confrontation known as the Boston Massacre, Attucks, at about age 47, was killed along with five other colonists. He is widely-regarded as the first American to die in the cause of independence leading the American Revolution.

Attucks' life reflects a profound truth: even those denied freedom contributed to the fight for it. His determination to live free, and his willingness to stand in a moment of crisis, made him a symbol of the revolutionary spirit. His story reminds us America's pursuit of liberty has always been shaped by people whose courage exceeded the limitations placed upon them.

As we commemorate 250 years of independence, may we honor that spirit of determination — peculiar at times, imperfect in execution, but enduring in aspiration. It's that commitment to self-determination many celebrated this year; it remains at the core of America's ongoing story.

Redistricting: House Bill 2100

On August 5, Governor Wes Moore signed House Bill 2100 into law to prepare MD for mid-decade redistricting. The amendment puts the question of redrawing congressional districts in the voters' hands for the 2026 general election. This bill makes Maryland state constitution changes, as states across the US engage in redistricting legal battles. The bill aims to:



- Clarify "legislative district" refers only to districts for MD Senate/House of Delegates, eliminating ambiguity.
- Specify the legal standard for congressional maps; districts will be evaluated under applicable federal law, providing a clear legal framework for future challenges.
- Create a faster path for urgent court cases. HB 2100 allows the General Assembly to send congressional redistricting cases directly to MD's Supreme Court.

North Brentwood Celebrates MD's 250th Initiative

In honor of MD250 — *the state's commemorative activities to honor 250 years of American history and the diverse experiences that have shaped our nation*— the Town celebrated North Brentwood's SHARE food volunteers!

MD TWO FIFTY

Lunch at Burton Grill was held on

Saturday, July 25, where tokens of appreciation were given to each volunteer.



Color-Me-Fridays 🌸

📍 Mural Park, next to Sis's Tavern, North Brentwood, MD

Music & refreshments! Come celebrate with color and community.

“Let's Paint the Town”

Fri, Sep 4 | 6-8 pm

Wear a colorful, stylish outfit that makes you feel great and ready to paint the Town!



“Safety in Color”

Fri, Sep 11 | 6-8 pm

Honoring 911, let's gather heroes: police officers, firefighters, nurses, doctors, teachers... join the fun!

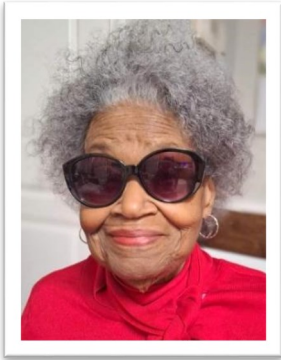
National Night Out & Back-to-School 2026

On August 4, NBCA held the Town's annual 'Neighbors Night Out,' as part of the National Night Out/Back to School celebration. Attendees received free school supplies and enjoyed, games, food, music, visits from law enforcement and emergency response personnel, and plenty of neighborhood pride!

Let's kick off the 2026-27 school year with excitement and unity.



A Mayor's Tribute: Eleanor Francine Traynham



By: Mayor Petrella Robinson

In the July issue, of *NewsWire*, we extended sympathies to the family of Eleanor Traynham, upon her passing. Now, we'd like to more fully honor the life and legacy of this beloved community elder, a lifelong champion of

North Brentwood and neighboring communities.

On behalf of the Town of North Brentwood, it is my honor and my privilege to pay tribute to a woman whose life helped shape the history of our community.

Some people leave memories. Others leave a legacy. Eleanor left both. She was one of those rare individuals whose commitment to her community never wavered. She believed that serving others was not simply an obligation—it was a calling. *"My main objective is to give back to my community."*

Eleanor was born and raised in North Brentwood and retired here in 1992. She dedicated her life to preserving its history, strengthening community, and serving others.

Throughout her life, Eleanor wore many hats. She faithfully served as Town Clerk, and later as a Council Member, helping guide North Brentwood with integrity, wisdom and compassion. Her leadership was steady, thoughtful, and always centered on what was best for the people she served.

But, Eleanor's service reached far beyond the walls of Town Hall. She was a founding board member of **Prince George's African American Museum and Cultural Center (PGAAMCC)**, helping ensure the stories, struggles, achievements, and triumphs of African Americans in Prince George's County would never be forgotten.

She was also a founding board member of **Gateway Community Development Corporation**, understanding that preserving a community means investing in its future as well as honoring its past.

As well, she was Secretary of the **Senior Club** and Treasurer of **North Brentwood Citizens Association**, an

organization that supports Town residents, promoting growth and respect throughout the community.

Many families remember Eleanor for another extraordinary act of compassion—she established the **SHARE Program**, providing food and assistance to neighbors during difficult times. She understood caring for a community meant ensuring no one was forgotten. Long before food insecurity became a widely-discussed issue, Eleanor was already doing something about it.

Perhaps one of the roles she cherished most was as the **Official Historian of North Brentwood**. When asked about where she was raised, she would say 306 John Street, which is now Webster Street. She remembered that address even in her 90s.

Eleanor understood something many people overlook: a town without its history risks losing its identity.

She preserved photographs, documents, stories, and memories — making sure future generations will know where they came from and appreciate the sacrifices of those who built this remarkable Town. Because of Eleanor, countless pieces of North Brentwood's story have been protected for generations yet to come.

She knew history wasn't just about dates and buildings, it was about people. It was about families. It was about resilience. It was about hope.

Eleanor believed our history deserved to be celebrated, preserved, and shared. She reminded us every resident contributes another chapter to North Brentwood's story.

What's more, her good works extended beyond our Town. She proudly served with **Brentwood Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary**, and as Treasurer for **Hall of Fame Prince George's, Inc.**, demonstrating her belief that community service takes many forms. Whether supporting first responders, or helping families in times of need, Eleanor was always willing to lend a helping hand.

She was also a mother and a wife. Eleanor F. Thomas married Private Percy Garfield Traynham, Jr.; from this union they had a son, Neal Thomas, and Neal had a *continued on page 6*

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daughter Nicole (all deceased). She leaves behind: sister Gail, brothers Harrison and William, granddaughter Niema, nieces, nephews, and a host of family/friends.

All of this... while attending Bowie State Teachers College, studying elementary education in the 1950s; working for USPS for 30 years (1959 to 1990); and being an active member of North Brentwood AME Church — where she began singing at the tender age of 3 with the guidance of her father James (Curtis) Thomas.

Embracing Change

While Eleanor worked to preserve North Brentwood's heritage, she, like former Mayor Lillian Beverly, embraced the Town's growing Hispanic population.

In 2007, Eleanor was interviewed for an *NBC News* article about PG County's traditionally Black beltway towns attracting Latino families, and wariness both cultures can have toward one another. (The writer noted most in North Brentwood strive to embrace diversity with grace.)

Regarding multi-generational living by newcomers, she was quoted as saying, "Basically they are only doing the same thing African Americans did years ago... [we] migrated from the South, they always had a place where family members could come and stay. Change comes; you have to be able to adapt to change."

Celebrating Eleanor's Legacy

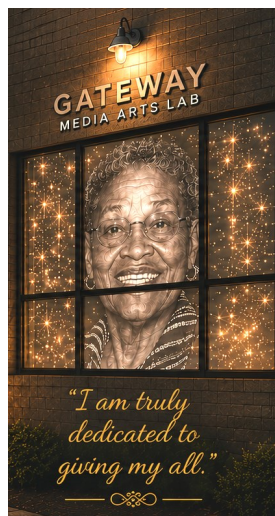
To honor her life, *Gateway Media*



Arts Lab projected images of Eleanor, from July 30 to August 3, each evening, 8:30 pm to 12

am.

On July 1, Mayor Robinson, and North Brentwood's Town Council, issued a proclamation recognizing Eleanor's 18-plus years of Town service.



Parting Thoughts & Prayers

Her leadership, generosity, and commitment to our Town, and PG County, leave a lasting impact that will continue to inspire generations to come.

For those of us who had the privilege of knowing her, Eleanor was more than a public servant.

She was a mentor. A teacher. A trusted friend. A quiet leader.

She never sought recognition, yet she earned everyone's respect.

She taught us that true leadership is measured not by titles but by service and thoughtfulness.



As Mayor, I recognize communities are built by people willing to give of themselves without expecting a thing in return. Eleanor was exactly that kind of person.

Her fingerprints are everywhere in North Brentwood — in the organizations she helped establish, in the history she preserved, in the programs she created, and in the countless lives she touched.

Future generations may never know all she did behind the scenes; but, they will benefit from her vision, her determination, and her unwavering love for this Town.

To Eleanor's beloved family, thank you.

Thank you for sharing her with North Brentwood for so many years. We knew her as a leader and community servant, you knew her as a mother, grandmother, relative, and friend. We share in your sorrow, and we share in your pride. Her life was a gift—not only to your family, but to an entire community.

As we celebrate Eleanor today, may we also accept the challenge she leaves behind.

Let us: continue preserving our history, serving one another, building organizations that strengthen our community, and reaching out to those in need. And let us continue loving North Brentwood with the same devotion Eleanor demonstrated throughout her life.

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The Scriptures remind us in Proverbs 31:31:

"Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate."

Today, we honor Eleanor not only with our words but with our gratitude.

Her work speaks for her. Her legacy speaks for her. And her love for North Brentwood will continue to speak for generations to come.

Publik Playhouse & Other Performances



One group that continually showcases MD's contributions to culture is Prince George's Publik Playhouse (formerly the Cheverly Movie Theatre).

For the calendar of live performances, go to pgtheater.com/calendar. (The links to the Playhouse website have not worked for us, we suggest calling 301.277.1710 for info.) These are just a few of the productions mounted at Publik's theater and other nearby venues this year:

Aug 21 - Sep 5, 2026

Lion in Winter, Greenbelt Arts Center

Sep 18-27, 2026

The Maltese Falcon, Upstage Artists

Oct 16-17, 2026

Disenchanted! Bowie Center for the Performing Arts

Nov 6-7, 2026

Adrian Dunn and the Adrian Dunn Singers

Dec 4-13, 2026

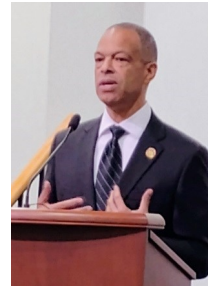
Babes in Toyland, Upstage Artists

Dec 5-6, 2026

The Nutcracker, call 301.277.1710 for info.

In Memoriam: Eleanor Traynham

Family, friends and civic leaders gathered on July 21, 2026, for a Memorial service for Eleanor Traynham, at New Mount Nebo Baptist Church, in Capitol Heights.



Diana Fennell's Birthday Celebration

Diana Fennell (who won the democratic nomination for District 47A Delegate to the MD General Assembly) invited family and friends celebrate her birthday at Colmar Manor.



District 47 Leaders Meeting



By: Councilmember Jacqueline Morales

Municipal leaders from across Prince George’s County gathered on August 1 for a District 47 roundtable discussion, with State Senator Malcolm Augustine, at El Viajero Restaurant, in Hyattsville.

The meeting was held as part of County Executive Aisha Braveboy’s *Elevate Prince George’s* Listening Tour—Mayor Robinson attended with members of her leadership team, representing North Brentwood.

Purpose of the Meeting

The Leaders Meeting is an initiative designed to bring together residents, elected officials and business leaders to help shape countywide policy priorities through open dialogue.

The session was intentionally informal, structured as a collaborative forum rather than a traditional legislative briefing. Senator Augustine encouraged leaders to speak candidly about their municipalities’ needs, successes and long-term aspirations.

His guiding questions: “Where do you want to go in the district?” and “What do municipalities want to see?” framed the conversation around vision, growth and partnership.

Across the district, leaders expressed similar concerns: infrastructure improvements, public safety, redevelopment of aging properties, and investments to strengthen community quality of life. At the same time, each municipality highlighted issues unique to its community.

Municipal Priorities Raised

Town Manager Shelly Dorsey-Washington outlined North Brentwood’s key priorities:

- Reopening Prince George’s African American Museum and Cultural Center, restoring a vital cultural anchor.
- Developing a senior living community on Rhode Island Avenue, supporting aging residents.
- Advancing redevelopment of 4505–4511 Rhode Island Avenue, a key site within the county’s Section Plan.
- Improving bus shelters with comfortable seating, enhanced lighting and ADA-friendly design.
- Rehabilitating vacant buildings to reduce blight and encourage economic activity.
- Implementing beautification initiatives to strengthen community pride and walkability.
- Expanding the Farmer’s Market, to support local vendors and increase access to fresh foods.

These priorities were also shared in writing with Council Member Victor Ramirez. North Brentwood’s leadership will continue proactive engagement with Ramirez, and other elected officials, to advance initiatives that serve the best interests of residents.

Mental Health Spotlight: NAMI PG County

One of the most impactful moments of the meeting came from the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) representative, who delivered sobering, heartfelt remarks about the growing mental health needs in the community.

NAMI (namipgc.org) provides critical support to those affected by mental illness and their families, offering support groups, educational programs, and resources to help residents navigate mental health challenges.

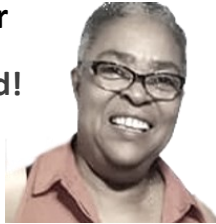
Looking Ahead

The session covered far more than can be captured here, reflecting the depth of commitment shared by municipal leaders across District 47. Residents should know the Mayor, Town Council and staff all remain fully engaged, working diligently to keep North Brentwood safe, informed and moving forward.

Code Officer Cuffie's Corner

Be Proud of North Brentwood!

Mosquito Control



- Remember to reduce mosquito breeding by empty standing water in your yard: birdbaths, trash can lids, etc.
- Maryland Department of Agriculture Larviciding (spraying) runs through September/early October, once per week, Monday to Friday, between 8 am and 4:30 pm.
- **Mosquito Bits are available for pickup at the Town Office during office hours. See me or Public Works.**

Trash & Recycling Schedule

Tuesday/Friday = Trash pickup

Tuesday = Bulk Trash (no appliances, 4-item limit)

Friday = Recycling pickup

All mattresses must be covered in plastic.

Recycling How-to

Recycling Collection – Every Friday

Recycling is collected **once a week**, on Fridays. Our Town uses **single-stream recycling**, which means all approved recyclables can go in the same container.

However, if you mix regular *trash* with recycling, you will be fined \$100. The trash company will not take it.

Did you know... If there are any food traces on an item, it won't be recycled? Everything must be clean.

Tip: place plastic and glass things to be recycled in the top rack of the dishwasher, if you're running a load anyway. Items that can be recycled include:

- Cardboard and paper.
- Plastic bottles and take-out food containers (only those marked #1–#7).
- Metal cans and aluminum.
- Glass bottles and jars.

Do NOT place plastic bags, greasy pizza boxes, food waste, or Styrofoam in the recycling bin.

Fall Property Maintenance

As fall approaches, now is a great time to prepare your property for the season. Remember, all mattresses and box springs must be fully wrapped in plastic before curbside collection.

Planning a shed, fence, driveway, deck, or other exterior improvement? Be sure to check with the Town Hall first, as many projects require a permit before work begins. A little preparation now helps keep our community safe, clean and beautiful.

Affordable Eye Exams this Summer

The Prevention of Blindness Society (POB) of Metro Washington has a **Summer Eye Exam Program** at their DC office (415 2nd Street NE), for people ages 5 to 100. They accept many forms of DC, MD and VA Medicaid. Exams are \$40 for self-pay patients. Basic single-vision and bifocals eyeglasses start at \$40, including frames.

Book online: youreyes.org/summerclinic.



**TOWN OF NORTH
BRENTWOOD**

**IMPORTANT
ANNOUNCEMENT**

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Public Hearing
SEPTEMBER 4, 2026
AT 8:00 PM

Hearing Will Be Virtually via Zoom
Meeting ID: 433 091 3800
Passcode: 4009
Dial In: 1-301-715-8592

Public Hearing regarding **Charter
Amendment Ordinance 01-2026**, an
ordinance empowering the Mayor and Council
to hold special elections

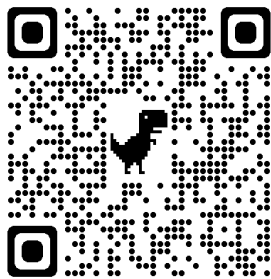
Take the Community Survey Today!

WE URGENTLY ASK YOU TO TAKE THE TOWN SURVEY.



Your input informs planning efforts, and helps us to better understand residents' needs and priorities, and to learn opportunities for improvement.

Paper surveys are available at the Town Office. Scan the QR code to go northbrentwood.com/community-survey to get: English and Spanish downloadable PDF forms, and links to Google Docs versions.



Gateway Farmer's Market on Saturdays



The Gateway Farmers Market (3901 Rhode Island Avenue in Brentwood) brings together bakers, farmers, makers, neighbors, and local vendors for another vibrant season.

The market is open every Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm, rain or shine, through November. Get hungry, check your recipes, plan a dinner party, bring tote bags, call an old friend for coffee, pull out your vases for spring flowers, and dust off your picnic blanket.

Things to Do Near North Brentwood

Aug 18 @ 7 pm - 9 pm, Game Night and Taco

Tuesday, mixt Food Hall, 3809 Rhode Island Ave, Brentwood. The Maryland Expansion Pack is a board game/tabletop gaming event for experienced and casual gamers. Meet new people, try new games. hyattsvillewire.com/event/game-night-and-taco-tuesday-at-mixt-food-hall-2/2026-08-18.

Aug 21-23, Blue Crab

Classic Pickleball Tourney,

PickleRage, 851 Cromwell Park Dr, Glen Burnie. Compete in one of the region's premier pickleball events. Registration starts at \$50. annearundelchamber.org/bluecrabclassic.



Aug 23 @ 11 am to 2 pm, Puppy Plunge 2026, Camp



Letts, Edgewater. SPCA of AA County event features beach access for dogs, live music, food and drinks,

local vendors, contests, and opportunities for furry friends to splash, play and socialize. \$15/car.

aacspca.org/event-calendar.

Aug 27-30, Times Vary, MD State Fair, Timonium

Fairgrounds. Carnival rides, classic fair food, agricultural exhibits, horse racing, live entertainment, concerts, livestock competitions, and family-friendly attractions.

marylandstatefair.com.



Aug 29 - Oct 25, Weekends, MD Renaissance

Festival, 1821 Crownsville Rd, Crownsville. Beloved tradition transports visitors to a 16th-century English village: jousting, royal entertainment, artisan demos, and costumed performers. 140 shops and food vendors. Must purchase tickets online. rennfest.com/tickets.

Mayor Leads Storytime at Summer Camp



Mayor Petrella Robinson joined 24 Thomas Stone Elementary Summer Camp students, for a special story time session.



The event focused on the importance of respect.

Campers read along, ate Chick-fil-A boxed lunches, got “Respect

Hero” badges, and sang/danced to Aretha Franklin’s *R-E-S-P-E-C-T*. Thank you, Mayor Robinson, for investing in our young leaders and helping to make the experience a fun and meaningful day!

Back to School for PGCPs 2026-27 School Year

It’s time to gear up for a new school year! Some key first dates at Prince George’s County Public Schools include:

- Aug 24: Student Orientation Day
- Aug 25: First Day of School for All Students
- Sep 7: Schools and Offices Closed (Labor Day)

Go to go.activecalendar.com/pgcps for more dates.

Immunization Requirements for School

Maryland school districts are reminding families immunizations are not optional, and to add vaccinations to their to-do lists. The American Medical Association especially recommends children be current on COVID-19 and MMR (mumps, measles and rubella) vaccines, as measles cases are at their highest level in decades.

PGCPS requires all pre-K through Grade 12 students receive age-appropriate shots; the school must have proof of each child’s record: pgcps.org/offices/school-health/immunizations.

Maryland Tax-Free Week: Aug. 9-15

Clothes and shoes \$100 or less are eligible to be exempt from the state’s 6% sales tax during Maryland Tax-Free Week. The first \$40 of a backpack is exempt; any amount over \$40 is taxable.



This year, there’s even a contest in which Marylanders can win up to \$1,000 by posting a video recorded at a store. Get the full details about 2026 Shop Maryland Tax-Free Week: wbaltv.com/article/maryland-tax-free-week-2026-back-to-school-shopping/72693047.

School Supplies Increase

As parents shop online for school supplies, many are finding increased costs. According to 2026 research by *Nextdoor*, 70% of parents expect to spend more on back-to-school shopping this year at an average of \$746.

New analysis from the economic think tank Groundwork Collaborative, and The Century Foundation, found the upcoming school year will cost families almost \$4,000 per child, nearly 11% more than it did last year.

Getting to School Safely

The National Safety Council reports distracted walking can be dangerous, even deadly:

- Don’t text or talk on a phone while walking. If you must text, move out of the way of others and stop on the sidewalk.
- Never cross the street while using a device.
- Do not walk with headphones in your ears.

Drivers can be distracted too. Help keep children safe by eliminating all distractions.

Students should get to bus stops early and stand away from the curb while waiting for the bus. Supervise young children at bus stops.

Source: wbaltv.com

SHOP MARYLAND

TAX-FREE WEEK 2026

AUGUST 9-15

Save on Essentials



- ✓ Sweaters
- ✓ Shirts
- ✓ Jeans
- ✓ Dresses
- ✓ Robes

*Each article of clothing must be priced at \$100 or less.

- ✓ Underwear
- ✓ Belts
- ✓ Shoes and boots
- ✓ First \$40 of a backpack purchase is tax-exempt; any amount beyond the first \$40 is taxable.



#ShopMDTaxFree

Free Immunization **CLINIC**

Does your child need shots for school?

Register today for a free immunization clinic made possible through our partnership with the Prince George's County Health Department. This clinic is designed especially for families with children who are uninsured or underinsured.

Why this matters...

Maryland State Law (COMAR 10.06.04.03) requires all students enrolled in Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12 to receive age-appropriate immunizations.

Staying up to date helps your child stay healthy, in school, and ready to learn.

Spots are filling quickly!

Scan the QR code to schedule your appointment today and secure your child's spot.

Clinic Location

Cheverly Health Department
3003 Hospital Drive, Suite 2082
Cheverly, MD 20785





CITY OF MOUNT RAINIER



WELCOME

back to school Fair

Come out, enjoy the event, connect with neighbors, and help celebrate the beginning of an excellent school year! Hosted by the City of Mount Rainier, this community event will feature a school supplies giveaway, vendors, activities, and new and gently used clothing.

**Friday August 21st, 2026
2 pm-5 pm**

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

FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE REACH OUT TO OUR SOCIAL SERVICES COORDINATOR
NICAURY LORA VASQUEZ
SOCIALSERVICES@MOUNTRAINIERMD.ORG
202-579-5011



Parks & Recreation
M-N C P P C
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD

DHCD Homebuyers Assistance Programs

PG's Dept. of Housing and Community Development launched new homebuyer assistance programs July 1st. The programs reduce purchase barriers — down payments and closing costs — via low- and no-interest loans, to help those eligible achieve the dream of homeownership, while investing in communities.



Per DHCD, whether you're a first-time homebuyer, a public servant seeking to live in the community you serve, or head a moderate-income household looking to

establish roots in the county, there is a program that may help make homeownership possible:

Homeownership Equity Program provides up to \$30k in down payment and closing cost assistance through a zero-interest deferred loan. The program targets homeownership within communities inside the Capital Beltway (I-495), supporting neighborhood stabilization, economic growth, and equitable access to housing.

Critical Workforce Housing Assistance Program offers down payment/closing costs through a zero-interest deferred loan of up to \$50,000 or 25 percent of the home's purchase price, whichever is less. Those potentially eligible include: healthcare professionals, first responders, educators, public safety personnel, government employees, and other essential workers vital to the County's economy.

Pathway to Purchase is the county's flagship program, which gives up to \$50k in financial assistance to qualified first-time homebuyers and those who have not owned a home in three years. After 15 years, the zero-interest, no-payments deferred side loan (not part of the primary mortgage loan) is forgiven, as long as it remains the primary residence for the entire time.

Note: A potential homebuyer must use an approved lender to apply for any one of the three assistance programs, vs. applying for the programs directly.

Programas de Asistencia para Compradores de Vivienda

El Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Comunitario de Prince George (PG) lanzó nuevos programas de asistencia para compradores de vivienda el 1 de julio. Estos programas reducen las barreras para la compra —el pago inicial y los gastos de cierre— mediante préstamos con intereses bajos o sin intereses, para ayudar a quienes cumplen con los requisitos a alcanzar el sueño de ser propietarios de una vivienda, a la vez que invierten en las comunidades del condado.

Según el DHCD, ya sea que compre una vivienda por primera vez, sea un funcionario público que busca vivir en la comunidad a la que sirve o sea el jefe de una familia de ingresos moderados que desea establecerse en el condado, existe un programa que puede ayudarle a lograr la compra de una vivienda:

El Programa de Capital para la Propiedad de Vivienda ofrece hasta \$30,000 en asistencia para el pago inicial y los gastos de cierre a través de un préstamo diferido sin intereses. El programa está dirigido a la adquisición de vivienda en las comunidades dentro del Cinturón Capital (I-495), apoyando la estabilización de los vecindarios, el crecimiento económico y el acceso equitativo a la vivienda.

El Programa de Asistencia para Vivienda para Trabajadores Críticos ofrece un préstamo diferido sin intereses para el pago inicial y los gastos de cierre, de hasta \$50,000 o el 25% del precio de compra de la vivienda, lo que sea menor. Entre los posibles beneficiarios se incluyen: profesionales de la salud, personal de primeros auxilios, educadores, personal de seguridad pública, empleados gubernamentales y otros trabajadores esenciales cuyas contribuciones son vitales para la economía del condado.

El programa Camino a la Compra es el programa insignia del condado, que otorga hasta \$50,000 en asistencia financiera a compradores de vivienda calificados que adquieren su primera vivienda y a quienes no han sido propietarios de una vivienda en los últimos tres años. El préstamo complementario diferido sin intereses ni pagos (que no forma parte del préstamo hipotecario principal) se condona después de 15 años, siempre y cuando la vivienda siga siendo la residencia principal durante todo ese tiempo.

Nota: Un posible comprador de vivienda debe utilizar un prestamista aprobado para solicitar cualquiera de los tres programas de asistencia, en lugar de solicitarlos directamente.

Prince George's County **Department of
Housing and Community Development**

STEPPING INTO HOMEOWNERSHIP

The Prince George's County **Department of Housing and Community Development** is expanding homeownership opportunities in Prince George's County through financial assistance programs designed to make buying a home possible.

DHCD Financial Assistance Programs



NEW AS
OF 7/1/26



Critical Workforce
Housing Assistance
Program

NEW AS
OF 7/1/26



Pathway 
to Purchase



For program details scan the
QR code or visit: hcd.mypgc.us.



EVERYONE BELONGS
Welcome **HOME**



Elevate
PRINCE GEORGE'S
One County United



Aisha N. Braveboy
County Executive

Condado de Prince George's **Departamento
de Vivienda y Desarrollo Comunitario**

ADENTRÁNDOSE EN SER PROPIETARIO

DE UNA CASA

El Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Comunitario del Condado de Prince George's está ampliando las oportunidades de propiedad de vivienda en el condado de Prince George's a través de programas de asistencia financiera diseñados para hacer posible la compra de una casa.

Programa de Asistencia Financiera



NUEVO A PARTIR
DE 7/1/26



NUEVO A PARTIR
DE 7/1/26



Critical Workforce
Housing Assistance
Program



Pathway 
to Purchase



Por detalles del programa,
escanea el código QR o visita:
hcd.mypgc.us.



EVERYONE BELONGS
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Aisha N. Braveboy
County Executive



Good Intentions
Foundation, Inc.

go.goodintentionsfoundation.org/yac



JOIN OUR GOOD INTENTIONS YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

BECOME A YOUTH LEADER. MAKE AN IMPACT.

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS
2026–2027 Council

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

Join a team of young leaders working alongside Good Intentions Foundation to shape programs, advocate for youth, and help build stronger communities through Maryland's ENOUGH Initiative.

Meeting Schedule: Every Third Wednesday

Meeting Time: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Council Term: September 2026 – June 2027

WHO CAN APPLY?

- ✓ **Youth ages 13–18**
- ✓ **Passionate about leadership**
- ✓ **Committed to serving the community**
- ✓ **Ready to make a difference**

yac@goodintentionsfoundation.org

MEMBER OPPORTUNITIES

- ♥ Leadership Development
- ♥ Community Service Projects
- ♥ Youth Advocacy, Program Planning

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

- ✓ PASSIONATE ABOUT LEADERSHIP
- ✓ INTERESTED IN SERVING THEIR COMMUNITY
- ✓ READY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE
- ✓ WILLING TO WORK WITH OTHER YOUNG LEADERS



SCAN ME



go.goodintentionsfoundation.org/yac



EYE EXAMS AND EYEGLASSES

SUMMER 2026

KIDS AND ADULTS



No Insurance: \$40 eye exam
(Eyeglasses available for
an additional fee)

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Most DC, MD, and VA
Medicaid plans accepted

BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT!



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of Metropolitan Washington®



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

FAIR ELECTION

FUND COMMISSION



APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

The Prince George's County Council is seeking qualified applicants who reflect geographical and political diversity to serve on the Fair Election Fund Commission. In accordance with Sec. 10-331 of the Prince George's County Code, the County Council is appointing five members to serve on the board.



APPLICATION PERIOD

**AUGUST 7 –
AUGUST 21, 2026**

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS



Individuals must meet the qualifications outlined in Sec. 10-331 of the County Code.

SCAN TO VIEW
QUALIFICATION
REQUIREMENTS

HOW TO APPLY



To be considered for this position, individuals must complete an application form by **Friday, August 21, 2026**.

SCAN TO APPLY
ONLINE

Individuals who have met the qualifications will be notified of their eligibility by email.

LEGAL NOTICE



SCAN TO VIEW
ADVERTISEMENT



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

APPLY TO SERVE.

MAKE AN IMPACT.



APPLICATION PERIOD

**AUGUST 7 -
AUGUST 21, 2026**

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Individuals must meet the qualifications outlined in **Sec. 2-533** of the County Code.



▶ **SCAN TO VIEW
QUALIFICATION
REQUIREMENTS**

HOW TO APPLY

To be considered for this position, individuals must complete an application form by **Friday, August 21, 2026.**

Individuals who have met the qualifications will be notified of their eligibility by email.



▶ **SCAN TO
APPLY ONLINE**



INFORMATIONAL MEETING / LISTENING SESSION

Hear from those under consideration by the Council.



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2026



10:00 A.M.



COUNCIL HEARING ROOM
WAYNE K. CURRY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
LARGO, MARYLAND 20774



WATCH LIVE: [PGCCOUNCIL.US/LIVE](https://pgccouncil.us/live)

LEGAL NOTICE: pgccouncil.us/772/Legal-Advertisements

**POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY
BOARD WEBSITE:**

pgccouncil.us/PoliceAccountabilityBoard

HAVE QUESTIONS OR WANT TO SHARE YOUR INPUT?



Public comments, letters of support, or potential candidate questions may be submitted using the Council's eComment portal.



SCAN TO VISIT
pgccouncil.us/Speak



For those unable to use the portal, comments/written correspondence may be emailed to:

onlinesignup@co.pg.md.us
or faxed to (301) 952-5178.



Comments must be received by
3:00 p.m. on Monday, September 7, 2026.

Cyclospora Outbreak: What You Need to Know



No doubt, you've heard about the *Cyclospora* parasite — which leads to the gastrointestinal illness *Cyclosporiasis* — and to avoid lettuce, especially that shipped by Mexican supplier Taylor Farms.

Cyclospora is not a 'new thing.' Cases rise annually in the US during spring and summer, particularly from May 1 to August 31, with

regular outbreaks since the mid-1990s. However, 2026 is notable for an unusually high case count:

- On July 24, the CDC reported 4,173 laboratory-confirmed, domestically acquired cases have occurred since May 1, with 7,400-plus (mostly in MI and OH) awaiting analysis.
- **In the Old Line State, the MD Department of Health's latest update listed 110 *Cyclosporas* cases in 2026.**

The *Cyclospora* outbreak is hurting lettuce sales and restaurant traffic, with visits dropping at salad-focused chains, *CBS News* reported. Here's what MD residents should know about safely ordering fast food:

- **Taco Bell** pulled shredded iceberg lettuce from restaurants in affected states (IN, KY, MI, OH, and WV) and indefinitely removed the supplier's lettuce from national distribution.
- **Chipotle** told *Restaurant Business Online* it doesn't believe ingredients used in its menu items are associated with the illnesses. The company said its romaine lettuce and super-greens salad mix are not sourced from Mexico.
- **Qdoba** stated there is "no data suggesting any connection between Qdoba restaurants and the reported cases."
- **Wendy's** said its restaurants were not affected by the outbreak, according to a *Reuters* report.
- **Subway, KFC and Pizza Hut** received the recalled lettuce in Alabama, the state's public health department said, adding that more businesses are likely to be added.
- **McDonald's** has been silent, but the chain's salad mixes caused a multi-state *Cyclosporiasis* outbreak in 2018.

Hold the Lettuce

Be your own health advocate when eating out, food safety experts say. When ordering:

- Ask your server where the restaurant gets its lettuce and how it is prepared.
- Skip raw lettuce/produce. Choose menu items with cooked vegetables.
- Check restaurant health grades and follow public health updates because the recall and outbreak information is changing quickly.

How To Handle Produce

It's not just lettuce... to reduce the risk of getting sick from *Cyclospora*, the CDC advises:

- Wash all fruits and vegetables thoroughly under running water before eating, cutting or cooking. It's important to thoroughly wash produce even if it is labeled as pre-washed.
- Scrub firm fruits and vegetables (e.g., melons and cucumbers) with a clean produce brush.
- Give extra care to raspberries. Rinsing may reduce *Cyclospora* contamination, but the berries' uneven surface can trap the parasite. Place berries in a colander and rinse gently under cool running water just before eating.
- Cut away any damaged/bruised areas on fruits and vegetables before preparing and eating.
- Cook produce to a temperature of at least 158 ° F (70°C) to kill *Cyclospora*.
- Refrigerate cut, peeled or cooked fruits and vegetables within two hours.
- Leave off raw garnishes and toppings, such as cilantro, parsley, salsa, slaw or other uncooked greens; all have been linked to past outbreaks.
- Avoid precut fruit, salad bars and self-serve toppings, where the source and handling may be harder to verify.

Source: *patch.com*

**JOIN US FOR AN
EVENING RECEPTION WITH**

Victor
Ramirez
DEMOCRAT FOR COUNTY COUNCIL

**Wednesday, August 19, 2026
6:00 - 7:30 PM**

**Miller's Ale House
3430 East-West Hwy
Hyattsville, MD 20782**

**Co-Host: \$2,500
Sponsor: \$1,000
Patron: \$500
Friend: \$250
Guest: \$125**



Please contribute securely online at:
bit.ly/RamirezAug19 (case sensitive)
or make checks payable to: Friends of Victor Ramirez
c/o Rice Consulting, 17 W. Courtland St.,
Suite 210, Bel Air, MD 21014

For more information, please contact Rice Consulting at
410-838-6355 or victorramirez@riceconsultingllc.com

Authority: Friends of Victor Ramirez, Micah Watson, Treasurer



bitly



Town Directory

Town Office: 301.699.9699

Mayor: Petrella Robinson x1225

Council Members:

Aaron Baynes x1227

Jacqueline Morales x1222

Evan Dame x1229

Town Manager:

Shelley Dorsey-Washington x1226

Treasurer: Tracy Gross x1224

Code Enforcement Officer:

Martha Cuffie x1223

Town Clerk: Carletta Lundy x1227

Assistant Clerk:

Cristian Ortiz-Romero x1227

Maintenance:

Greg Butler/Anthony Avents

Prince George's County Police: 911

Non-Emergency: 301.352.1200

Park Police:

Non-Emergency: 301.459.9088

Emergency 301.459.3232

Notaries:

S. Jones 301.922.2259

C. Ortiz-Romero 240.351.6302

REMINDERS...

Town Meetings @ 7:30 pm: Tues, Sep 8; Mon, Sep 21; Mon, Oct 5

- Meetings are conducted via ZOOM. Meeting ID: 433 091 3800 / Passcode: 4009 / Call: 301.715.8592.
- Meetings are also live-streamed on Facebook.
- Zoom archive: youtube.com/@TownofNorthBrentwood.

All Town meetings begin at 7:30 pm. Join and share your ideas and concerns, and learn what's going on in North Brentwood!

North Brentwood Citizens Association Meeting @ 6:30 pm: Sep 14

Zoom Meeting ID: 826 2227 5426 / Passcode: m12hc5.

North Brentwood Historical Society Meeting @ 6:30 pm: September 9

at Sis's Tavern. This Annual Meeting swears-in new officers: President Jacqueline Morales, Vice President Joanne Keini, Secretary Robbin Queen, Assistant Secretary Shaleta Robinson, and Treasurer Tracy Gross.

SHARE Program for North Brentwood residents: To get SHARE packages, call 301.699.9699. Please leave your name, contact number and address.

NBCA Membership: If you have not joined North Brentwood Citizens Association, or renewed your membership, please do it soon! This group plans most Town activities. Membership is just \$15 per household. Send funds by cashapp: \$NorthBrentwood-CA. Your volunteer help is NEEDED!



community channel:
Xfinity 71 / Fios 1983



facebook.com/northbrentwood



instagram.com/northbrentwoodmd



www.northbrentwood.com



youtube.com/@TownofNorthBrentwood

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

—Helen Keller

