



### Mayor's Message

As we step into February, we welcome the opportunity to honor and celebrate Black History Month. This annual observance is more than a reflection of the past; BHM is a powerful living history of

African Americans' strength, resilience, and contributions to our nation and our community.

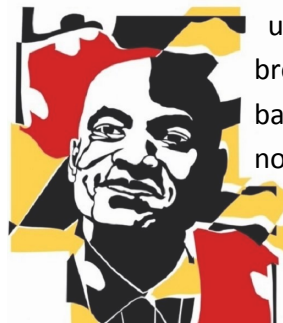
For us, in North Brentwood, the first African American incorporated municipality in Prince George's County, Black history is not just a story we tell—it's the very foundation upon which our Town is built. Town events kickoff with: the **6888 movie Watch Party** at the Community Center (Feb 1, 1 to 3 pm), with presenting poets, drinks, popcorn and hot dogs; and **NBCA Black History Trivia** on Saturday, February 8 from 2 to 4 pm.

The national 2025 Black History Month theme is **African Americans and Labor**, focused on varied, profound ways work *and working* of all kinds—free and unfree, skilled, and unskilled, vocational and voluntary—intersects with the collective experiences of Black people. Indeed, work is at the center of much of Black history and culture.

North Brentwood's heritage is steeped in the stories of those whose work ethic built-up families, especially the Black entrepreneurs who paved the way for the thriving community we enjoy today. As we remember and honor their legacies, we are reminded that we, too, have a role to play in shaping the future. It is up to us to ensure the ideals of equality, opportunity, and unity remain central to the story of North Brentwood.

Throughout this month, I encourage you to participate in events and activities that highlight and celebrate Black history. Whether it's showing up with the family at one of our events or M-NCPPC's, engaging with local organizations, or having meaningful conversations with your neighbors, kids and grandchildren, you have the power to contribute to a deeper understanding of our shared history.

Let us also take this time to recognize the leaders of today who embody the spirit of resistance and progress. Figures such as Vice President Kamala Harris and Maryland's own Governor Wes Moore remind



us that breaking barriers is not just a



thing of the past—it's an ongoing effort in which we all have a stake.

As we celebrate this month, hold our heritage close and look forward with purpose. Together, we can honor the sacrifices of those who came before us, while molding a future that reflects the best of who we are as a community. In North Brentwood, Black history is not confined to February; it is woven into the fabric of our everyday lives. Thank you for joining me in celebrating this meaningful month. Let's continue to uplift one another, celebrate our heritage, and inspire the generations to come.

## Speed Camera Enforcement Began in North Brentwood on January 22, 2025

As mentioned on the Community Channel, in last month's newsletter, and on North Brentwood's Facebook and Instagram pages—as of January 22, 2025, speed camera enforcement became officially active in designated areas of our Town. This initiative is part



of our ongoing efforts to improve road safety and protect the lives of drivers, passengers and pedestrians.

Speed cameras now monitor vehicle speeds on both ends of Route 1, to ensure compliance with posted speed limits. These cameras serve as a critical tool to encourage safer driving behaviors, reduce speeding incidents, and minimize the risk of accidents.

Violations captured by the cameras will result in citations (\$40 each) being issued to the registered owners of the vehicles.



### Why This Matters

Speeding is a leading cause of traffic accidents, and its consequences can be devastating. By adhering to speed limits, you're protecting yourself as well as safeguarding those in your car, fellow drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists. School zones and busy intersections are particularly vulnerable areas where reduced speeds prevent serious injuries and save lives.

### What You Can Do

- **Be Aware:** Pay attention to posted speed limits and adjust your driving accordingly, especially in school zones and areas marked with speed camera signage.
- **Plan Ahead:** Allow extra travel time to avoid feeling rushed and tempted to speed.
- **Stay Vigilant:** Watch for children, pedestrians and cyclists, especially during early morning and evening hours when visibility may be reduced.

## Supporting a Safer Community

The implementation of speed cameras is not about issuing fines—it's about fostering a culture of safety and responsibility on our roads. As a community, we can work together to make North Brentwood a safer place for everyone. Your commitment to following speed limits, and driving cautiously, plays a vital role in achieving this goal.

If you have questions or concerns about the speed camera enforcement program, please contact the Town of North Brentwood's Code Enforcement Officer Martha Cuffie: call 301.699.9699 x1223 or email her at [mcuffie@northbrentwood.com](mailto:mcuffie@northbrentwood.com). Let's work together to make our streets safer for all.

Thank you for your cooperation and dedication to protecting our community.

## Strong Readers PG Summit Meeting

On January 23, 2025, Teach 'em to Fish and Maryland Reads held a call-to-action planning session for Strong Readers at Sis's Tavern. Many representatives from varied venues were present, including: Dr. Millard House, Superintendent of Prince George's County Schools; Council Chair Joylene Ivey; Dr. Lawler, NACCP Education committee; Andrew Fellows, UofM; many County educators, and more.

Look for a Reading Summit to be held in the future. Our children need to advance in READING!



We are a community of passionate individuals dedicated to transforming lives through the power of reading. Our journey is fueled by the belief that *every child in Maryland deserves the gift of reading proficiency*—the key that unlocks doors to knowledge, opportunity, and fulfillment.



# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## Watch Party

### The Six Triple Eight

**When America Needed Hope, They Delivered**

The 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, also known as the "Six Triple Eight", remains one of the least recognized yet highly significant units in World War II history. As the first all-female, all-Black battalion deployed overseas, the Six Triple Eight was critical in ensuring the smooth mail delivery operation for American forces stationed in Europe.



**Join Us & Bring Your Family**

**Saturday, February 1, 2025**

**North Brentwood Community Center | 1 PM**

**4012 Webster Street, North Brentwood, MD 20722**

Presenting Poets: Lorraine Konde & our own Erin Wiley

Light Refreshments & Popcorn Provided

**Up Next:** NBCA Black History Trivia | Saturday, February 8, 2024 from 2-4 PM



North Brentwood Citizens Association  
presents

# Trivia for the Culture: Celebrate Black Excellence



**Join Us & Bring Your Family**

**North Brentwood Community Center**

4012 Webster Street, North Brentwood, MD 20722

**Saturday, February 8, 2025**

**2 PM - 4 PM**

*Know the Past, Own the Future!*



## M-NCPPC Black History Month 2025

Throughout February, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) has planned a robust lineup of events to honor Black History Month. These programs are designed to educate, inspire, and bring the community together to celebrate the rich history and achievements of African Americans. Here are some highlighted events you won't want to miss:

The **Black History Month 2025 Opening Reception** is Sunday, February 2 (2 to 5 pm), at Montpelier Arts Center. This event will feature the unveiling of the 2025 Black History Month Poster, along with inspiring guest speakers, performances, and light refreshments. It's a nice companion event to North Brentwood's 6888 movie Watch Party at the Community Center (on Feb 1 from 1 to 3 pm).

Also on February 2, music enthusiasts can enjoy **Afro Blue: A Black History Month Celebration** at the Publick Playhouse. Starting at 2 pm, Howard University's premier jazz ensemble will deliver a powerful performance, blending a *cappella* arrangements with rich harmonies to honor the spirit of Black history through music.

Art lovers can participate in a creative experience on Thursday, February 6, at the **Black History Month Collage Workshop** held at the Mount Rainier Nature Center. From 6:30 to 8:30 pm, attendees will explore themes of Black history and culture through making collages. Materials will be provided, and the event is open to all ages.

Nature enthusiasts can join the **Backyard Bird Walk** on Wednesday, February 12, from 9 to 10 am at Mount Rainier Nature Center. This guided walk will focus on local bird species and their significance in Black culture and history, making it a unique, educational outdoor experience for all ages.

On Thursday, February 20, unwind at the **Mocktail Paint Party** at Mount Rainier Nature Center. Participants can enjoy a relaxing evening of painting,

accompanied by non-alcoholic drinks, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. This event celebrates Black artistry and community.



*Celebrate African American heritage with programs focusing on "African Americans and Labor."*

From performances to history lessons to tours, there are plenty of exciting M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation events and activities planned throughout Prince George's County.

For the latest information on **Black History Month** happenings, please visit [pgparks.com](http://pgparks.com) and search **Black History**.

**Parks & Recreation**  
M-NCPPC  
*live more, play more*  
[pgparks.com](http://pgparks.com)

And on Tuesday, February 25, PG's Publick Playhouse will give performances of Black History's **Groundbreaking Geniuses**, at varied times starting at 10 am.

Genius comes in all shapes and sizes. Black History is filled with amazing inventors, artists and thinkers who changed the world, e.g.: authors Ralph Ellison and Maya Angelou; surgeon Daniel Hale Williams; dancer Alvin Ailey; and mathematician Dorothy Vaughan. Must have a ticket to enter. Schools can call 301.277.1710 for group sales.



For a full list of M-NCPPC Black History Month events, updates, and info, please visit the M-NCPPC the events page at [pgparks.com](http://pgparks.com).

\* Flyers for North Brentwood's first two Black History Month events are on pages 3 and 4 of this newsletter. The full slate of Town BHM events will be posted on Facebook, Instagram, the Community Channel and our website: [northbrentwood.com/events-list](http://northbrentwood.com/events-list).

## Code Officer Cuffie's Corner

### Be Proud of North Brentwood!



#### 1. Keep Sidewalks Clear:

After a snow or ice event, it's crucial to keep sidewalks clear and safe for pedestrians. Property owners *and tenants* are responsible for shoveling sidewalks adjacent to property, and around mailboxes, within 24 hours after snowfall, hail, freezing rain or sleet ends.

Clearing walkways helps prevent slips, falls and injuries for those walking in our community. Keeping a clear path to your mailbox ensures mail delivery.

#### 2. Tips for Clearing Snow Safely:

- Dress warmly in layers before heading outside.
- Take breaks and stay hydrated.
- Use sand, cat litter or ice melt to improve traction on icy surfaces.
- If you need assistance clearing your sidewalk, consider reaching out to a neighbor or community resources for support.

#### 3. Check on Elderly and Vulnerable Neighbors:

Winter weather can be particularly challenging for seniors and those with mobility issues. Check in with neighbors and residents who may need help shoveling snow, getting groceries or staying warm. A simple act of kindness can make a big difference.

#### 4. Properly Dispose of Trash and Recyclables:

Winter storms can disrupt regular trash collection schedules. To keep the Town clean, ensure trash and recyclables are securely bagged and placed out on the correct day. Avoid leaving items exposed to snow/wind, as these can scatter and create hazards.

#### 5. Winterize Your Home to Protect against the Cold:

- Insulate pipes to prevent freezing and bursting.
- Seal windows and doors to reduce drafts and conserve energy.
- Keep HVAC heating systems maintained and functioning efficiently.

#### 6. Drive and Park Responsibly:

When snowplows are active, avoid parking on the street to allow for thorough snow removal. As well, drive cautiously and be mindful of icy conditions to ensure your safety and that of others on the road.

#### 7. Report Hazards or Concerns:

If you notice icy sidewalks, un-shoveled walkways, or other safety concerns, report these issues to the Town of North Brentwood for follow-up. Your vigilance helps keep our community secure, clean and accessible for everyone.

Let's work together to ensure a safe, enjoyable winter season in beautiful North Brentwood. Thank you for your cooperation and for doing your part to care for our Town and its residents.

**STAY HEALTHY THIS WINTER!**

Wash your hands, cover your coughs, and get vaccinated to protect yourself against The Flu, COVID-19, and RSV. Let's keep our gatherings safe!

For more information, please scan the QR code

### RSV Dashboard

The MD Department of Health's online data dashboard tracks RSV hospitalizations, and info about prevention, symptoms and treatment. Go to:

[health.maryland.gov/phpa/OIDEOR/CIDSOR/Pages/Respiratory-Syncytial-Virus-\(RSV\).aspx](https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/OIDEOR/CIDSOR/Pages/Respiratory-Syncytial-Virus-(RSV).aspx)

**It's cough and cold season.**

Certain viruses can make you sicker than the common cold.

**Take steps to protect against flu, RSV, & COVID-19.**

Maryland DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

## Your Voice, Your Future:

### PG County Executive Special Election March 4

If you haven't heard, Prince George's County is gearing up for an important election season, with the County Executive race taking center stage. The County Executive plays a critical role shaping policies and priorities that directly impact our schools, public safety, transportation, and economic development.

#### What Does the County Executive Do?

The County Executive is the county's chief executive officer: implementing local laws, managing county government operations, and crafting a budget that reflects our communities' needs. Their decisions affect everything from funding for local programs to long-term planning for growth and sustainability.

#### Why This Election Matters

The County Executive election influences the direction of Prince George's county for the next four years. Issues such as affordable housing, public transit improvements, education funding, and economic development are expected to be hot topics during the upcoming election campaign.

#### How to Get Involved

- **Register to Vote:** Ensure you're registered to vote; check your status at the Maryland State Board of Elections site: [voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch](https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch).
- **Meet the Candidates:** Attend forums, town halls, and debates to learn where candidates stand on issues that matter most to you: [elections.maryland.gov/elections/2025/SP\\_Primary\\_Candidate/gen\\_cand\\_lists\\_2025\\_1\\_by\\_county\\_ALL.html](https://elections.maryland.gov/elections/2025/SP_Primary_Candidate/gen_cand_lists_2025_1_by_county_ALL.html).

#### Vote Early or on Election Day

- **Early voting:** (Feb 26 to March 3, 2025) will be held at select county sites, 10 am to 8 pm Wednesday through Saturday (and the Monday before Election Day), and from 12 pm to 6pm on Sunday.
- **Ballot dropbox** locations, and availability, are TBD.



- Of course, you can cast your **vote on Election Day**, Tuesday, March 4, from 7 am to 8pm. Consider voting by mail if it's more convenient for you.

#### Make Your Voice Heard

Local elections are your chance to shape the future of Prince George's County. Let's work together to ensure North Brentwood's residents are informed, engaged, and ready to cast their ballots.

For more information about voter registration, polling locations, and election updates, visit the Prince George's County Board of Elections site: [elections.maryland.gov](https://elections.maryland.gov).

#### Veteran's Book Group

This free program (ages 18-plus) meets every third Tuesday—at Montpelier Arts Center in Laurel—from January to May:

- Feb. 18th 2025
- Mar. 18th 2025
- Apr. 15th 2025
- May 20th 2025

Active service members and



veterans of all eras are invited to join this free, monthly small-group reading and discussion dinner series. It's centered around books related to military experiences or that offer a veteran's perspective.

Discussions are led by Dr. Karen Arnold, former poet-in-residence at the Arts Center and moderator for multiple literature groups in Baltimore. Dinner and reading materials are provided.

Veterans Book Group is coordinated statewide by MD Humanities and presented locally in partnership with Montpelier Arts Center. Call 301.377.7800 for more info and to register. Space is limited; registration required.

## Tax Season is Here: What Maryland Residents Need to Know

As a new year begins, so does tax season—a time to get financial documents in order and prepare to file income taxes. For Maryland residents, it's important to be aware of key deadlines, resources, and updates to ensure a smooth, stress-free tax filing process.

### Key Deadlines

- **Start of Filing Season:** The IRS and the Maryland Comptroller's Office typically begin accepting tax returns in late January.
- **Tax Filing Deadline:** The deadline to file federal and Maryland state taxes is **April 15, 2025**. Be sure to file on time to avoid penalties.

### Steps to Prepare for Tax Season

1. **Gather Your Documents:** Collect all paperwork, e.g., W-2s, 1099s, interest income statements, and receipts for deductions and charitable donations.
2. **Check for Maryland Tax Updates:** Visit the state Comptroller's website for any changes to state tax laws or credits for this tax year.
3. **Choose Your Filing Method:** Maryland offers several ways to file your taxes:
  - **Online.** Use Maryland's free iFile system or commercial software.
  - **By Mail.** Submit paper tax returns to the address listed on your tax forms.
  - **With Assistance.** Consider hiring a tax pro or go to a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site.

### Maryland Tax Credits and Deductions

Take advantage of state-specific tax credits and deductions, to maximize your refund/reduce liability:

- **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC):** For eligible low- and moderate-income families.
- **Homeowners' Tax Credit:** Provides relief based on income and property taxes owed.
- **Student Loan Debt Relief Tax Credit:** For qualifying Maryland residents with student loan debt.

### Free Tax Preparation Resources

- **VITA and TCE Programs:** If your household income is \$60,000 or less, you may qualify for free tax prep services via Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) or Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs.
- **CASH Campaign of MD:** provides free tax prep for individuals/households making \$64,000 or less.
- **Maryland Comptroller's Office:** Access free filing options and resources at [marylandtaxes.gov](http://marylandtaxes.gov).

### Tips for a Stress-free Tax Season

- **File Early:** Avoid the last-minute rush; filing taxes early also reduces the risk of identity theft.
- **Double-Check for Accuracy:** Ensure personal info (such as Social Security numbers and banking details) is correct before submitting your return.
- **Plan for Payment:** If you owe taxes, consider setting up a payment plan through the Comptroller's Office.

Stay organized and use resources to make the process clear-cut. For info, go to the IRS website, [211md.org](http://211md.org) or call the MD Comptroller's Office for help.

**USE FREE TAX PREP & DIRECT DEPOSIT!**

**CASH CAMPAIGN OF MARYLAND**  
Creating Assets, Savings and Hope

If you made less than \$64,000 in 2023, you may qualify for free tax prep!

IRS certified volunteers at nonprofits and local agencies will e-file your taxes and direct deposit your refund into your bank account.

**GET YOUR TAX REFUND FAST & FREE!**  
Call 800-492-0618 for a list of sites or visit [CASHMD.ORG](http://CASHMD.ORG)

**WANT TO DO YOUR OWN TAXES FOR FREE?**  
Visit [cashmd.org](http://cashmd.org) for free software to do your own taxes!

Scan here to find a tax preparer

**DHS**  
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

**TAX TIME ALLIES**



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# You Are Cordially Invited to Attend An Evening in Annapolis With **DISTRICT 47** PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY



Senator  
Malcolm Augustine



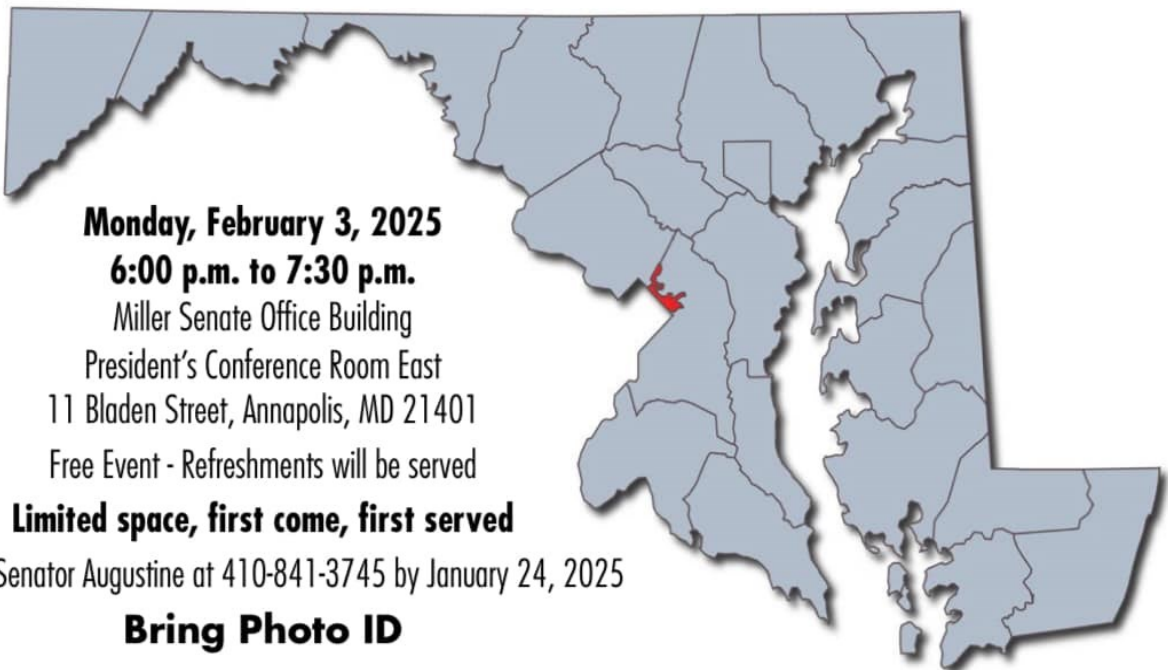
Delegate  
Diana M. Fennell



Delegate  
Julian Ivey



Delegate  
Deni Taveras



**Monday, February 3, 2025**

**6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

Miller Senate Office Building

President's Conference Room East

11 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

Free Event - Refreshments will be served

**Limited space, first come, first served**

RSVP to Senator Augustine at 410-841-3745 by January 24, 2025

**Bring Photo ID**

You may park at Calvert Street Garage for free parking after 6:00pm. Limited bus service is provided at designated District 47 areas in District 47A and District 47B. **RSVP TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT.** Go through security at the front entrance of the Senate Office Building and show your ID.

For information on Gott's Garage and other parking accommodations, visit [AnnapolisParking.com](http://AnnapolisParking.com).



# PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FIRE/EMS DEPARTMENT



## NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS! FIREFIGHTER I/II

The Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department is one of the busiest combination departments in the Nation. Annually, the Fire/EMS Department provides over 293,000 unit responses to approximately 183,000 incidents.

### CONTACT OUR RECRUITER

301-883-3164  
240-563-2172



pgfdrecruiter@co.pg.md.us



[JOINPGFD.COM](http://JOINPGFD.COM)

SCAN THE CODE!  
APPLY NOW!



### BENEFITS

- *Work Schedule: 24/72*
- *Starting Salary: \$54,000*
- *Retirement - 20 Years of Service*
- *Medical/Dental/Vision/Prescription*
- *Health Insurance*
- *Life Insurance*
- *Annual Vacation Leave*
- *Sick Leave*
- *Military Leave*
- *Employee Assistance Program*  
For yourself and household

**APPLICATION PERIOD NOW EXTENDED TO JANUARY 17, 2025!**

### MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- *18 Years Old (at the time of application)*
- *Valid Driver's License*
- *High School Diploma or GED Equivalency*
- *U.S. Citizenship or Permanent Residents*

**#SERVICEISTHEMISSION**

# Fatherhood Empowerment Initiative:

"Purpose, Passion & Perspective"



## For:

Formerly incarcerated fathers and returning citizens who are fathers.

## When:

Thursdays  
Feb. 20 - Aug. 7, 2025  
6pm- 8pm

## Where:

**Creative Suitland Arts Ctr.**  
4719 Silver Hill Road  
Silver Hill, MD 20746



Tara H. Jackson, Acting County Executive

## What:

Participants will engage in a 6-month Rites of Passage program that will culminate with a graduation ceremony.

In addition to weekly interactive group sessions, participants will engage in course work outside of class, to include tasks to further enhance the foundation of fatherhood, family reintegration, and relationship sustainability. Please pre-register by using the attached QR code.

## Presented By:

Bruce D. Edwards, Esq. in conjunction with the Prince George's County Returning Citizens Affairs Division/ Office of the County Executive



# 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

Jacqueline Morales x1222

Evan Dame x1229

**Town Manager:**

Jacqueline Goodall x1226

**Treasurer:** Shelley Dorsey x1224

**Code Enforcement Officer:**

Martha Cuffie x1223

**Town Clerk:** Patricia Page 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:**

D. Edmonds 240.581.0838

S. Jones 301.922.2259

C. Ortiz-Romero 240.351.6302

**Community Channel:**

Comcast 71 Verizon 1983

## REMINDERS...

**Upcoming Town Meeting: February 3 & February 18**

\* Meetings are conducted via ZOOM and at NBCC in person.

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: **February 10.** Call-in: 774.267.2052.

**North Brentwood Historical Society:** Meets **March 12** at 6:30 pm.

Dial-in: 774.267.2052.

**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](mailto:asstclerk@northbrentwood.com), by the 3rd Monday of each month with subject line "Newsletter."

**Boletin En Español**



*"The time is always right to do what is right." — Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

We're on the Web:

[www.NorthBrentwood.com](http://www.NorthBrentwood.com) and



Town of North Brentwood-Prince George's

North Brentwood Resident

