



Mayor's Message

As we begin a new year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible community we share here in North Brentwood.

Our Town's story is one of unity, resilience, and progress — qualities that've been at the heart of our journey, since North Brentwood's founding as the first African American incorporated township in Prince George's County. Today, as your mayor, I ask us all to recommit to these values and work toward being better neighbors to one another.

Honoring Our Legacy of Togetherness

Our ancestors built this community through care and collaboration, supporting each other through challenges and triumphs alike. They understood our strength lies in our ability to come together, no matter the differences we may have. That same spirit of unity is what will carry us forward.

We may not always agree—about politics, ideas or how to tackle certain challenges—but what unites us is far greater than what divides us. We share a common goal: to preserve our rich history and build a brighter future for the next generation.

Building Bridges and Strengthening Bonds

Let's make 2025 the year we focus on bridging gaps and creating stronger connections with one another. Here are some simple ways we can show thoughtfulness and concern for our neighbors:

- **Extend a Helping Hand:** Whether it's shoveling a sidewalk, bringing a meal to a neighbor in need, or simply checking in, let's take care of each other.
- **Celebrate Our Community:** Attend Town events, join in celebrations, and support local businesses. These



shared moments remind us of the joys of being part of something bigger than ourselves.

- **Practice Patience and Kindness:** Let's listen to each other with open hearts and approach differences with understanding.

A Call to Action for Unity... and Action!

As your mayor, I'm proud of the progress we've made as a community. But, there is always more we can do to strengthen our bonds. I encourage each of you to:

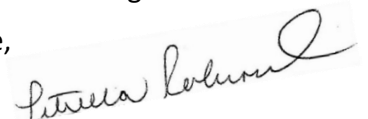
- Volunteer at events.
- Join North Brentwood Citizens Association.
- Donate your time to our Historical Society.
- Lend your expertise to our Business Association.
- Attend Town meetings and join committees.
- Simply reach out to a neighbor you haven't spoken to in a while.

Our history is a powerful reminder of what we can achieve collectively. Now that our 100th anniversary has passed, let's continue to honor that legacy by working as one to mold North Brentwood's future into a beacon of hope, collaboration and pride.

Together, we can make 2025 a year in which North Brentwood shines even brighter—because of the love, care and unity we share as neighbors.

In community and service,

Mayor Petrella Robinson





New Year, New Adventures:

North Brentwood Resolutions for 2025

As we step into 2025, celebrate the vibrant community we call home by making resolutions to explore and support all North Brentwood has to offer. Whether it's connecting with neighbors, supporting local businesses, or simply enjoying the beauty of our surroundings, there's something for everyone to enjoy right here in Town.

1. Attend community events.



Make it a priority to join in Town meetings, festivals and gatherings. These events are a great way to stay informed, meet new friends, and strengthen our sense of unity. Keep an eye

on Facebook and our website for upcoming events—we can't wait to see you there!

2. Grab a bite at Seafood Boss.

Treat yourself to some of the best seafood in the area! Known for mouthwatering crab legs, shrimp and signature Boss Sauce, this local eatery is perfect for a casual lunch or a family dinner. Patronizing local businesses like Seafood Boss helps keep North Brentwood's economy thriving.



3. Take a stroll on scenic Anacostia Trails. Looking to stay active this year? Lace up your walking shoes or hop on a bike



and explore the Anacostia Trails. This network of pathways offers a peaceful escape into nature, while connecting you to nearby communities. It's the perfect way to unwind and appreciate the beauty of our area. Read page three, to discover more about this gem in our backyard.



4. Visit Sis's Tavern. Discover the rich history and cultural significance of Sis's Tavern, a historic landmark in North Brentwood. This beautifully restored venue is more than just a building—it's a symbol of our Town's resilience and heritage. Check out upcoming events and book it for your private parties; make Sis's part of your resolution to engage with North Brentwood's story.

5. Explore Brentwood Arts Exchange. Feed your creative side: from captivating art exhibits to hands-on workshops and performances, this cultural hub is a *must* for art lovers of all ages. Make 2025 the year you embrace the arts and support our local creative community.



Enjoy North Brentwood! Our Town is full of opportunities to connect, explore and grow. As you plan your 2025 resolutions, remember the best adventures often start right here at home, where the heart of our community is you!

Start the New Year on the Right Path: Explore the Anacostia Trails

As we welcome 2025, many of us are setting goals to stay active, connect with nature, and explore new places. Fortunately, North Brentwood offers the perfect spot to check all of these boxes: the Anacostia Trails.

A Trail for Every Adventure

The Anacostia Trails system offers miles of scenic pathways that weave through lush greenery, and alongside the Anacostia River; the trails offer something for everyone:

- **Walkers and Joggers.** Enjoy a peaceful stroll or an invigorating jog while taking in the natural beauty of the area.
- **Cyclists.** Bring your bike and ride the interconnected paths, which are ideal for casual rides or more intense workouts.



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- **Nature Enthusiasts.** Spot local wildlife and appreciate the flora and fauna that thrive along the trails.

Why Make the Trails Part of Your Resolution?

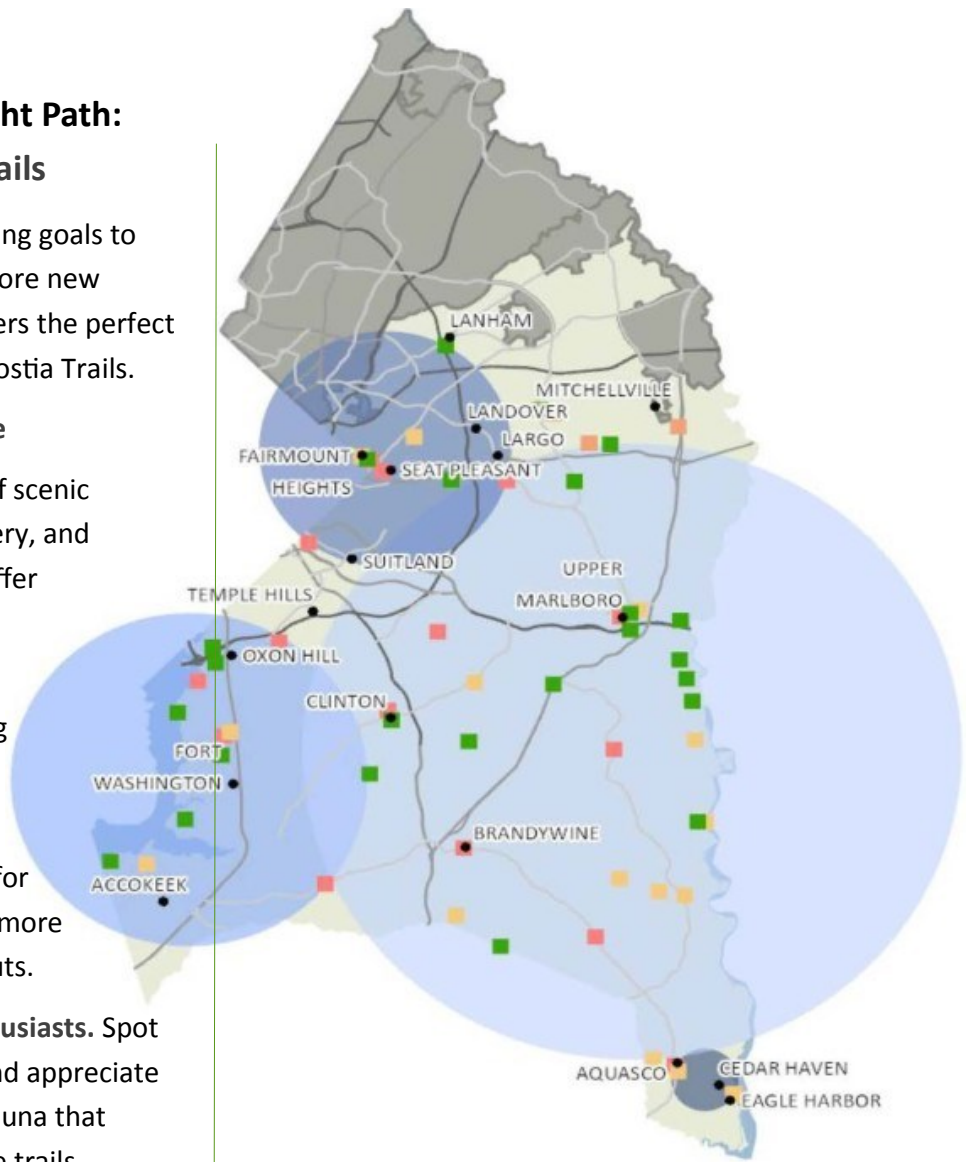
- **Stay Active.** Regular physical activity improves your health, reduces stress, and boosts your energy. The trails provide a fun, low-cost way to stay in shape.
- **Connect with Nature.** Spending time outdoors improves wellbeing and fosters a sense of calm.



- **Discover Community History.** The trails connect to landmarks and stories that celebrate the history of North Brentwood and surrounding areas.

Getting Started

- **Plan Your Visit.** Trail access points are conveniently located near North Brentwood. Start small with a quick walk; gradually build up to longer adventures.



- **Invite Friends and Family.** Exploring the trails is a great way to spend quality time with loved ones, while enjoying the outdoors.
- **Stay Safe.** Dress warmly, wear comfortable shoes, and bring water, especially during colder months.

Make 2025 the Year of Discovery

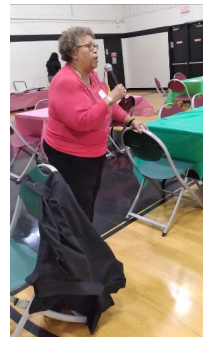
Whether you're taking a first step toward a healthier lifestyle, seeking moments of reflection, or simply wanting a new local adventure, the Anacostia Trails are calling. Let's make 2025 the year we explore the beauty and serenity of our community.

So, lace up your shoes, grab a friend and head to the trails!

For more info, go to:
anacostiatrials.org.



North Brentwood's Annual Christmas Luncheon: 12/11/24



NBCA Christmas Yard Decorating Contest

The Town of North Brentwood proudly recognizes the winners of the North Brentwood Citizens Association's 2024 Christmas Yard Decorating Contest!

Congratulations to **3924 Allison Street**, whose owners dazzled us all and earned the well-deserved **1st Prize**. A big round of applause also goes to residents of **4519 Banner Street**, whose festive display captured the spirit of the season and **2nd Prize**. Finally, we celebrate the creative efforts of those at **4012 Allison Street**; you brightened our community and took home **3rd Prize**.

Thank you to all participants for spreading holiday cheer and making North Brentwood shine with joy and festive spirit this holiday season!



CDC: Get Covid-19 Vaccine Every 6 Months

The CDC recommends (people 65 years-plus and those immunocompromised) get a second dose of 2024-25 COVID-19 vaccine six months after a first dose. So, if you got your first vaccine or booster in September, you're likely eligible for second dose in March 2025, in time for the next COVID season/annual uptick in cases.

Source: [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)

Code Officer Cuffie's Corner

Be Proud of North Brentwood!



This is a friendly reminder about the need to adhere to Town's parking and vehicle compliance regulations. To maintain community safety, accessibility, and appearance, these policies are strictly enforced:

- **Expired Tags.** Vehicles with expired registration tags are subject to towing.
- **Abandoned Vehicles.** North Brentwood is not a storage area for cars, trucks, or other vehicles.

If your vehicle is towed, the associated costs are:

- **Towing Fee.** \$215.
- **Storage Fee.** \$50 for the first 18 hours and an additional \$50 for every 24 hours thereafter.

Please avoid unnecessary inconvenience and expense by ensuring your vehicle registration is current and your parking complies with Town regulations.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us keep North Brentwood a safe, clean, and welcoming community for all. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact our Code Enforcement Office.



Municipal members joined our county colleagues at the 37th Annual meeting of the **Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT)** to hear about the evolving workforce and how to use intergenerational relationships to create an engaging culture.



#MDMunicipal

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.
- **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.

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.

Veteran's Book Group

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

- Jan. 21st 2025
- 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.

Pepco's Winter Storm Preparedness:

Stay Safe and Informed

As temperatures drop and winter storms loom, preparedness is more than just a precaution—it's a responsibility. Together, we can ensure we're ready for whatever winter throws our way.

Steps to Prepare for Winter Storms

Preparation is key to minimize disruptions/stay safe:

- **Make an Emergency Storm Kit.** Stock up on bottled water, non-perishable food, flashlights, batteries, medications, a first-aid kit, blankets and warm clothing in case of power outages.
- **Create a Winter Storm Plan.** Have a clear plan for your household in the event of an outage/severe storm. Identify a safe, warm location to wait it out. Keep important contact numbers handy.
- **Stay Connected.** Confirm your current phone number in the "My Alerts and Notifications" section of pepco.com/myaccount, to receive critical updates during emergencies. Download pepco.com/mobileapp, to access real-time info.
- **Access Additional Resources.** Visit pepco.com/stormprep for tips, resources, and safety info.

Pepco's Commitment

If a severe storm hits, we monitor local weather reports closely and follow emergency management officials' guidance. Our response plan prioritizes restoring power to the greatest number of customers as quickly and safely as possible. To learn more, visit pepco.com/restoration.

Pathway to Purchase Mortgage Program

In October, the Department of Housing and Community Development, and the Redevelopment Authority, worked with the State to launch the MD Mortgage Program's Pathway to Purchase: the county's First-Time Homebuyer Assistance Program. The partnership increased benefits for homebuyers and makes it easier to buy a first home:

- Pathway to Purchase now offers up to \$25,000 in down payment and closing cost assistance.
- The program still provides a zero percent deferred loan, which is forgiven after 10 years.
- Homebuyers no longer need 1.75 percent of the purchase price in cash for the down payment.

For info, go to princegeorgescountymd.gov/business/redevelopment-authority/first-time-home-buyer-assistance-programs/pathway-to-purchase) and the MD Maryland Mortgage Program site (mmp.maryland.gov).

Blizzard Warning

Severe winter weather is expected within the next **12 to 36 hours** or is occurring -- including whiteout conditions.
Do not travel.

take action.

Winter Storm Warning

Dangerous winter weather is expected within the next **12 to 36 hours** or is occurring. **Considerable travel problems** are expected.

take action.

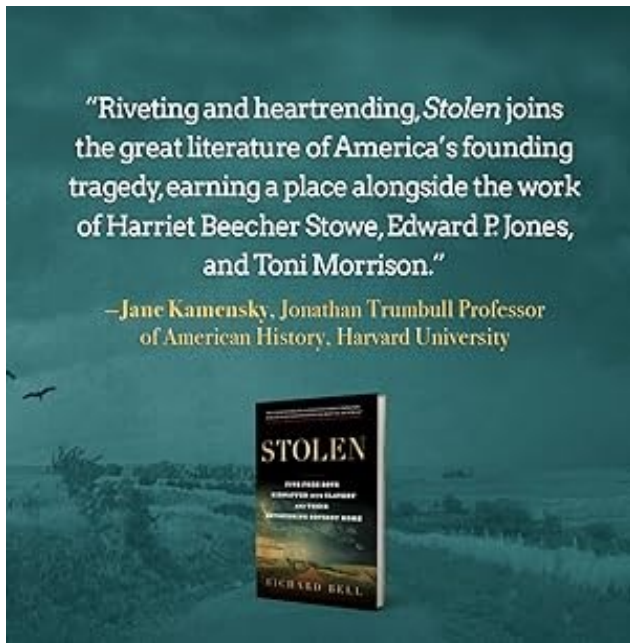
Winter Weather Advisory

Potentially dangerous winter weather is expected within the next **12 to 36 hours** or is occurring. **Travel difficulties** are expected.

be aware.



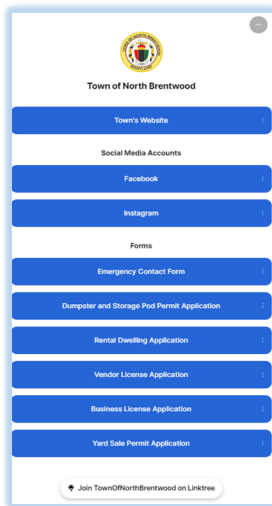
Guest Historian Speaker Series



Ticket Price: \$5R/\$7NR, Free for Montpelier House Museum Members. **Age:** 16 years+

Join a talk, on Saturday, January 22, at Montpelier House Museum, from 3 pm to 4 pm, with Dr. Richard Bell, the author of *Stolen*. The book tells the incredible story of five boys whose courage changed the fight against slavery in America. Their ordeal shines a glaring spotlight on the Reverse Underground Railroad, a black-market network of human traffickers who stole thousands of legally free African Americans to fuel slavery's rapid expansion in the decades before the Civil War.

North Brentwood's Linktree Hub



"[https:// linktr.eeTownOfNorthBrentwood](https://linktr.ee/TownOfNorthBrentwood)"

There's a portal for the Town's website, social accounts, and online forms/permits. You can share the Linktree via social media or email (select "... " in the grey circle, at the top right of the main screen).

Homestead Property Tax Credit

To help homeowners deal with large assessment increases on principal residences, state law established the Homestead Property Tax Credit. The Credit limits the increase in taxable assessments each year to a fixed percentage, which, in North Brentwood, is 10 percent.

- ALL Maryland homeowners must submit a *one-time* application to establish eligibility for the credit: only *once* during your time in your property.
- The Homestead Credit does not limit the market value of a property determined by Department of Assessments and Taxation. Instead, it's a credit calculated on assessment increases exceeding 10% from one year to the next.
- Before calling or emailing the Department, please check SDAT's Real Property search page to determine if you already have a Homestead Tax Credit on file. Find the status of your eligibility by looking up your property on: sdat.dat.maryland.gov/RealProperty.

Once you've accessed your property's page, the status of your Homestead application is located at the bottom of the page. A status of "Approved" or "Application Received" means no further action is required.

- If the status of your property says "Homestead Application Status: No Application," you must file an application.
 - **File online.** For fast service, go to Maryland One Stop, a portal for state agencies with one simple login, and no need for an access code to fill out a one-time form. Go to: onestop.md.gov and browse by State Agencies. Then, select Department of Assessments & Taxation and click on "Homestead Tax Credit Eligibility Application."
 - **Paper application.** Alternatively, you can complete and submit the paper application on pages 11 and 12 of this newsletter. Or, go to: dat.maryland.gov/SDAT%20Forms/Homestead_application.pdf to download it. Fax completed paper applications to 410.225.9344, or mail to: Department of Assessments and Taxation, Homestead Tax Credit Division, 700 East Pratt Street, 2nd Floor, Suite 2700, Baltimore, Maryland 21202.

Questions? Call 866.650.8783, or email the Homestead unit at sdat.homestead@maryland.gov.

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 (see page eight).
- **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.

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 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

WANT TO DO YOUR OWN TAXES FOR FREE?
Visit 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



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



Free/Open Auditions: Shakespeare in the Parks 2025

Prince George's Publick Playhouse seeks talented actors to bring Shakespeare's timeless works to life in its outdoor, immersive setting. Don't miss this chance to shine! Pay: \$16/hr. Rehearsals: May 18 to June 13th. Performances: June 14 to July 6th.

THE PROGRAM: The MNCPPCA's Arts and Cultural Heritage Division in PG County will present Shakespeare in the Parks Tour Production of *The Comedy of Errors* in summer 2025. Each year, the program offers a free professional, yet family-friendly production of a Shakespearean play, touring various parks across PG and Montgomery counties.



BRENTWOOD ARTS EXCHANGE

RIGHT
OVER **LEFT**
DMV RUNWAY REVIEW

**JANUARY 20 -
MARCH 8, 2025**

OPENING RECEPTION
Saturday, January 25, 2025
5 - 8pm

ARTIST TALK
Saturday, February 15, 2025
2 - 4pm





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: January 20 and February 3

* 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: January 13 & February 10. Call-in: 774.267.2052.

North Brentwood Historical Society: 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, by the 3rd Monday of each month with subject line "Newsletter."

Boletin En Español



"Just one small positive thought in the morning can change your whole day" — Dalai Lama

We're on the Web:

www.NorthBrentwood.com and



Town of North Brentwood-Prince George's

North Brentwood Resident

