

# CEDMONT Nor'Easter

*The Heart of Every Community Is In Its Unity*

Northeast Baltimore/ 2<sup>nd</sup> District  
Issue Number 274  
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CEDMONT Community Improvement Association

Since 1973

A Valued Member of **HARBEL**

## Happy Valentines Day

### Meetings:

Cedmont General Meetings are held at  
*Epiphany Lutheran Church,*  
("God Is Love") 4301 Raspe Avenue  
7:30 p.m.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the following months

### Meeting Dates:

Next mtg: Feb 13  
Mar 13  
Apr 10  
May 8  
June 12

### Contact Information:

**Naomi Benyowitz** (Harbel)

**Mike Hilliard** (Harbel)

[mikehilliard@harbel.org](mailto:mikehilliard@harbel.org)

(410) 444-2100

NECOP (Status Message Number)

(410) 444-2100

**Sgt. Chris Tserkis** (NE. District)

[chris.tserkis@baltimorepolice.org](mailto:chris.tserkis@baltimorepolice.org)

(410) 396-2444

*Cedmont Community Improvement Association  
P.O. Box 11732  
Baltimore, MD 21206*

*Writers:*

*Kent & Linda Gruzsk,*

*Editor:*

*Kent D Gruzsk*

*(changed) Email: [gruzsk@citi.com](mailto:gruzsk@citi.com)*

*Linda Gruzsk, President (410) 325-5216*

*Andrea Branam, Vice-President*

*Pastor Bill Gohl, Secretary*

*Anya Rey, Treasurer*

### February Meeting:

Our next mtg. for the Cedmont Community Improvement Assoc. is **Thur., Feb. 13**, at *Epiphany (God Is Love)* Church, 4301 Raspe Ave., **at 7:30 PM**. Our guest speaker is Nomiki Bouloubassis Weitzel, who graciously accepted again this month after our last meeting was cancelled. You may have noticed her name as one who advertises in our newsletter. She is an Attorney at Law and will be discussing elderly issues. Here is a great chance to get some questions answered.

### January:

Regrettably, this meeting was cancelled. Our apologies to anyone who did show only to find a sign that there was no meeting. We hope that you have been keeping warm and safe and look forward to hosting you this month.

### Much Appreciated:

I was very surprised by all of the thoughtfulness from many who are involved with the Citizens On Patrol duties for Cedmont. The many Get Well Wishes covered two Hallmark cards. I am very humbled by everyone's thoughtful words. And I also am overwhelmed by the very generous gift that was included. I wish to publicly THANK everyone for their kindness and generosity. A special THANKS to Pat, Roland, and Andrea since I am sure they were the ringleaders behind getting the cards and circulating to the many Get Well-wishers. Let everyone know that I am fine after having two catheterizations in two days to place a total of 4 stents in my heart's blood vessels. I was unknowingly living and coping with angina pains. Now, I have every woman in my life for hundreds of miles needling me to make certain that I am taking my meds and minding my P&Qs.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

⇒ **Cedmont mtg. Thu, Feb 13 7:30 pm.** 4301 Raspe Ave. All are welcome!

⇒ **Nifty Thrifty Every Fri & Sat, 10am – 12 noon.** offers great used clothing and flea market items at Faith Community United Methodist Church, 5317 Harford Road.

⇒ **Coffee House Feb 21, Fri 7-10 pm** 4301 Raspe. Hightman Hall (Gym) Bring your voices, talent, musical instrument and take a crack at our open mic! Bring your children, family or significant other. Enjoy a fun evening playing games, winning prizes and listening to live music! **free** admission, fun, snacks and live music. \$1 for pizza slice and hot dogs! To register for open mic visit <http://www.god-is-love.org/>

### Coffee w/ COP:

We enjoyed a recent Saturday morning being hosted at the local McDonald's by Maj. Richard Worley, Ofc. White, and Ofc. Hosein. It was an informal Chat session with the police in an attempt to foster a better relationship with local communities. Several communities were represented. Our Councilman, Brandon Scott, also was there, along with the president of the NED Police Community Relations Council, Ulysses Miller. Maj. Worley noted some of the initiatives that were going on, and was given some first-hand input for some issues that were brought to his attention.

### Winter Weather Note:

*Here is the standard policy:*

Epiphany Church has stated that when Baltimore City Schools are closed due to snow, ice, etc., then all activities for that evening are also cancelled. If Cedmont has any activity on such a day, please note that our activity will also be cancelled. Please keep this in mind; and be safe! Don't go out when the weather is bad.

## Crime & Behavior:

(by Andrea Buie-Branam)

There has been a recent uptick in break-ins, robberies and assaults in Cedmont; many in the morning before noon. Why? Crime follows the path of least resistance. I have some great neighbors, but how do we address the *exceptions*? I mean the ones who are working age and yet always at home congregating on porches or walking in groups through the streets at all hours - the ones who take a good mind and waste it devising ways to hurt (through fear, theft or a combination of both) the good neighbors of Cedmont. How do we address the *exceptions*? Refuse to enable the negative behaviors of our *exceptional* neighbors. Are you an enabler? Do you see strange cars pulling up to "*exceptional*" houses briefly numerous times and do nothing? Or see a group of *exceptionals* knocking on doors and say it's none of your business? Do you leave your porch light off to save \$6.38/yr? Do you know your neighbors? (they mind their business and you mind yours, right?) Do you think attending neighborhood meetings to be a waste of time? (You have children, a house to manage, a job, and the Thursday night TV line up, right?) Are you waiting for someone else to fix YOUR neighborhood problems? (Good Luck with that!) If one or more of the above fits, maybe you are an enabler. *Exceptionals* love enablers. They get bolder each time the enabler ignores them and tell their friends, "Great place. You can get away with anything here. No one cares!" Well, I care and so do many other neighbors. We know our neighbors. We talk, share news, and call one another when something does not appear to be right. Instead of buying that super-size meal one time out of the year, we turn our lights on at dusk. We have Block Watch numbers, and use them when something looks suspicious in our block. We attend neighborhood association meetings and learn about how we can help ourselves and law enforcement in the protection of our wonderful neighborhood. We note tag numbers, car descriptions, and "useful" descriptions of people of interest (by the way, young black male fits many who are contributing and thoughtful neighbors). We use 311 (the best thing since sliced bread; okay showing my age☺). We participate in the Northeast Citizens on Patrol (NECOP), patrol our area and report any issues (by the way, when on patrol, I report more than a few zoning issues with my handy dandy 311 application on my phone. Gotta love new technology!)

## Silence Not Golden:

(by Andrea Buie-Branam)

I have been blessed with many mentors over the years. The one piece of advice that I use regularly is "Before you open your mouth to complain, ask yourself if you are willing to play an active role in the solution. If your answer is 'no', Keep your mouth shut!" Those of you who know me also know I rarely keep my mouth shut. So what are YOU going to do for your community? Hide in your homes and whine about the problems in Cedmont and the Great City of Baltimore; or, be a part of the solution? It took time for the issues to appear and it will take time to resolve them. No overnight miracles are in sight. There is strength in numbers. Attend neighborhood association meetings. I, for one, would love to see an active committee of individuals address nuisance homes. Unfortunately, though we have a thousand homes in Cedmont, we have fewer than two dozen volunteers. Gomer Pyle might say, "Shame, shame, shame!" (yes, I am that old). Looking forward to seeing you at the next Cedmont meeting.

## Recyclables:

Cedmont is split – Tue. or Wed.

### Bulk Trash Pickup:

– **Mon. Feb 17**

*Note: Call 311 by Tue. Feb 11<sup>th</sup> to schedule.*

### Dumpster Dates:

*Intersection of Powell and Kavon Ave.*

- Mar 22
- Jun 21
- Aug 31
- Nov 1

## Need a Job?

Come to your community job hub location: **Transforming Life Church of God**, 4801 Sipple Ave., 21206. Phone: 410-485-6193, Every Monday, 9AM – 3PM. No lines or crowds. Professional, individual attention given to everyone. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Job Skills; Computer Literacy; Interview Preparation; On-site Employer Interviews. Call to sign up for GED classes

## What's on Your mind?

Do you have something to say? Or wish to advertise something? Have any suggestions? Provide me with your thoughts, articles, suggestions, or whatever you wish to sell or advertise - as a member, it is published for **FREE**. Send it to [gruzsk@citi.com](mailto:gruzsk@citi.com). PS: Let me know if you wish to be anonymous.

## Tax Help: 2-1-1

United Way of Central Maryland (UWCM) helps low- to moderate-income Marylanders by providing **free tax preparation**, <http://www.uwcm.org/about211>, a 24/7 health and human service hotline. Please spread the word about this service, available to MD residents who made \$58,000 or less in the 2013 tax year. For more, call 2-1-1.

## Request & Response:

*Mike Hilliard wrote to Prince Anand, owner of the HUBCAP Inn:*

Mr. Anand,

I am hearing reports that there is a considerable amount of glass in the alley in the rear of the Hubcap Inn. Would you be willing to remove it, and could you please encourage your patrons not to throw glass bottles in the alley? Thanks – Mike Hilliard

*Mr Anand responded on the same day:*

Mr Hilliard,

I will check on this right away. I have one employee who works on this every day. That's his job to make sure the area is clean. I was there for the past two community meetings, but last meeting was cancelled and December's was just a party. I want to make sure everything I need to correct is done. Also from last week, due to snow, I didn't check it properly. Thanks for your help. I will correct this right away.

Sincerely,

P Anand

*-We wish to THANK Mr. Anand for his prompt attention to this matter.*

## Car Broken Into:

*(One Community Resident Reported)*

My Tahoe and Hyundai were recently broken into, but the ALARM didn't go off. My registrations were taken and I stupidly had keys in the glove box compartment. I could not understand why the alarms did not go off. Then, I came across an article from CNN News that said thieves in large cities across the country had a new hand-held device that they were using to simply OPEN the locks on cars. Recently police in Texas caught one of these criminals with this device and are now in the process of trying to figure out just how this is working to try to defeat its effectiveness. However, for now, make certain absolutely nothing of value is left in your vehicle, and use a CLUB to prevent the thief from driving away if he is able to POP your locks.