

CEDMONT Nor'Easter

The Heart of Every Community Is In Its Unity

Northeast Baltimore/ 2nd District
Issue Number 275
March 2014

CEDMONT Community Improvement Association
Since 1973
A Valued Member of **HARBEL**

Wear the Green - Happy St. Pat's Day

Meetings:

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

Meeting Dates:

Next mtg: Mar 13
Apr 10
May 8
June 12

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March Meeting:

Our next mtg. for the Cedmont Community Improvement Assoc. is **Thur., Mar. 13**, at *Epiphany (God Is Love) Church*, 4301 Raspe Ave., **at 7:30 PM**. Hopefully Mother Nature will cooperate and allow us to finally hold our monthly meeting. We have invited our councilman, Brandon Scott, as well as our representative HARBEL contact, Mike Hilliard. This is a great chance to get some of your questions answered.

February:

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.

Second to None:

by City Councilman Brandon M. Scott
Each year, during the week of Valentine's Day, I host the annual "Week of Love". During this week, I travel throughout the 2nd District to do various acts of kindness and to also spread love and cheer. Although we were hit with a number of snow storms during that particular week, I was able to travel to Moravia Park Elementary School and Baltimore International Academy to read and give sweet treats to the students, and attend a few community meetings to deliver small tokens of my appreciation just to name a few. It is very important that we continuously let those whom we love and appreciate know how we feel about them. I truly appreciate each and every one of my constituents; and I am extremely proud and honored to represent the citizens of Baltimore, who I believe are "2nd to none!"
Note: Brandon is so committed to Baltimore City that he refuses to shop or eat anywhere

except within the city limits.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

⇒ **Cedmont mtg. Thu, Mar 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 Mar 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/>

Car Wash Opposed:

The Cedmont Community Improvement Association OPPOSED the zoning appeal to use 5935-47 Belair Rd. for car wash and auto detailing. We are seeking to tone down the number of Dealerships and businesses involved with automobiles. Also, with the City's new Rain Water Tax, how is this runoff to be treated? Will the City tax residents even more to allow for the water, suds, dirt, and grime runoff to be sent down City sewers? We wish to deny Mr. Zachary Sergotick's request and have it reviewed further.

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.

Behavior - Response:

(by Deborah Frassetto)

Regarding articles in the recent Nor'Easter, Andrea Buie-Branam's two articles were forthright and encouraging. Kudos! I, too, have an "exceptional" neighbor. At first many of us were terrified that retaliation would come if we took any action; also, my husband forbid me. Then, I met a Baltimore City Policeman. He told me of police frustrations and added these "exceptionals" are known as the 'brain child' of the mayor. The apparent goal is to insert these people into stable areas and hope they will learn "acceptable" lifestyles. Learning this, I decided that "if you want normal, then let's show what normal is." Next, for very legitimate reasons, I called Child Protective Services who came and investigated. Things changed somewhat for the better! Then, I made detailed notes on the suspicious activities which led to a lame response from the police. The only successful response I've gotten was a call made one night regarding a fight in progress at "the exceptional's" residence. There was a resulting arrest. Sadly, the key here is what I had to say to 911 to get 2 marked cars and 1 unmarked car to come -lights flashing, wheels spinning, and from all directions. The 911 operator asks, "Do you wish the officers to follow-up with you?" I said, "Only if it involves a fatality." Fantasy or not, I continue to believe that my suggestion of loss of life is the only reason there was a favorable response. I am not giving up, even though I feel defeated. At this residence I witness drug sales all of the time, day and night. I have seen large quantities of Tide detergent unloaded from a van and taken into the home. I have seen one of the residents commit larceny at the local CVS. I have reported these things and am told that "they have to be caught in the act". Despite person and automobile descriptions with license numbers and times of day, I have been told that the police need at least 500 complaints before they have cause to investigate or send info to the drug task force.

Regarding the article on car theft... I think I understand why my husband's car alarm in his windowless van did not go off, and over \$1,000 worth of handmade automotive tools were stolen. Also, our neighbor had his car broken into twice at about the same time and his alarms did not deploy! He had his lawn mower stolen, and we had our air compressor stolen. All of this has happened since the "exceptionals" moved in. And although we can see our

compressor and the lawn mower in the "exceptional's garage", the police say they can do nothing since we cannot prove the items are ours (by engraved initials or Driver License, etc.) More egregious to us, the police could not and then would not fingerprint our van after the theft - even though there were clear fingerprints and a hand-print on the vehicle. The responding officers had no fingerprint kit with them. After they left, I called the desk sergeant who told me that, because of funding not all vehicles were equipped with fingerprint kits and advised me to call 311 and request a car with a fingerprint kit be sent out. So, I called, made the request and they sent the same two officers who had previously come. Again, they had no kit and declined to find one. I cannot attend meetings when the police are represented. I am too full of rage over this and I would act badly. We keep our houses well lit. We call each other reporting all manner of things, e.g. service/repairmen who we are expecting, or when we are traveling for a day or a week. One neighbor cut down his trees to expose his house to light and sight and he installed a 24/7 video system to record surrounding activities. I know about our Citizens on Patrol, but can you tell me what they are able to accomplish? Lastly, ashamedly, I admit that I do not understand the differences between a delegate, a State senator, a US senator, a Congressman or the system of districts. I vote, but poorly. Would you consider a meeting topic or a workshop to help me and others understand how it all fits together?

Recyclables:

Cedmont is split – Tue. or Wed.

Bulk Trash Pickup:

– Mon. Mar 17

Note: Call 311 by Tue. Mar 11th to schedule.

Dumpster Dates:

Intersection of Powell and Kavon Ave.

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

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. PS: Let me know if you wish to be anonymous.

Thoughtful Thievery:

Various Stories of Hard Lessons Learned:

Long Term Parking:

Some people left their car in the long-term parking, and someone broke into the car. Using the information on the car's registration in the glove compartment, they drove the car to the people's home and robbed it. Do not leave the registration card in it, nor your remote garage door opener.

GPS:

Someone had their car broken into while they were at a football game. Things stolen from the car included a garage door remote control and a GPS, which had been mounted on the dashboard. When the victims got home, they found that their house had been ransacked and just about everything worth anything had been stolen. The thieves used the GPS to guide them to the house, then the garage remote control to gain entry to the house. Something to consider if you have a GPS - don't put your home address in it... Put a nearby address (like a store or gas station) so you can still find your way home but no one else would know where you live.

Cell Phones:

This lady had her handbag stolen, along with her cell phone, credit card, wallet, etc. Twenty minutes later when she called her hubby from a pay phone telling him what had happened, he says, "I received your text asking about our Pin number and I replied a little while ago." When they rushed down to the bank, the bank staff told them all the money was already withdrawn. The thief used the stolen cell phone to text "hubby" in the contact list and got the pin. Avoid using names like Home, Honey, Hubby, Sweetheart, Dad, Mom, etc.... And very importantly, when sensitive info is being asked through texts, CONFIRM by calling.

Purse in the Grocery Cart Scam:

A lady went grocery-shopping at a local mall and left her purse sitting in the children's seat of the cart while she reached for something off a shelf... wait! Her wallet was stolen, and she reported it to the store personnel. After returning home, she received a phone call from the Mall Security to say that they had her wallet and that although there was no money in it, it did still hold her personal papers. She immediately went to pick up her wallet, only to be told by Mall Security that they had not called her. By the time she returned home again, her house had been broken into and burglarized. The thieves knew that by calling and saying they were Mall Security, they could lure her out of her house long enough for them to burglarize it.