CROFTON CIVIC ASSOCIATION
BOARD & GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Crofton Elementary School
May 18, 2026 – 7:00 PM

Present:

Board Members: Anna O'Kelly, Kevin Wilson, Brian Riley, Meredith Schramm, Charles See, Chuck Cook, Kitty Gross.

Staff: Martin H. Simon, James Harvey, Chief Jason Jett.

President Anna O'Kelly opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements:

Anna announced the meeting was recorded to assist with the transcription of the minutes.

The Crofton Farmers Market will be held every Saturday from 8:00 AM to Noon at the Crofton Library through December 19th. Stop by and get local and regional foods, crafts, and artwork. See Crofton Farmers Market on Facebook for details.

The Crofton Kiwanis, with support from the CCA, is holding its annual Crofton Pie Bake-Off at the Farmers Market on Saturday, July 11th, from 10:00 AM to Noon. The Rain Date is scheduled for Saturday, July 18th. This event is a fundraiser for the Crofton Christian Caring Council's Baby Pantry. Slices of pie will be sold to the public for a $5 donation, or you can bring a donation of diapers, wipes, or baby food to get a slice of pie. Judges will taste the pies at 10:30 AM, and the awards and prizes for the best pies will be announced at 11:30 AM. The best pies will be awarded gift cards and a custom engraved pie spatula for:

- Best Fruit-Filled Pie
- Best Cream Pie
- Best Savory Pie (ex. Shepard's Pie)

There will also be a special trophy for the "Top Pie" for the overall best pie of the event. Registration is free, and participants may register on our website at Croftoncommunity.org.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church is hosting a Food Truck Night every Tuesday evening through October in the parking lot from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM. There will be 8 to 10 trucks each Tuesday.

Town Hall will be closed Monday, May 25th, for Memorial Day.

The first concert of the CCA Summer Concert Series begins on Sunday, June 7th, featuring Pocket Change (Easy Listening). Summer Concerts are each Sunday from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Crofton Country Club. Please bring a blanket or chair as there is no seating provided on the grass.

The next CCA Board meeting is scheduled for June 8th at 7:00 PM at the Library Media Center, Crofton Elementary School.

The Crofton Kiwanis is hosting its annual Crofton Kiwanis / Team Surlis, Gress & Co of RE/MAX Leading Edge 10K Challenge and 5K Run on Saturday, June 13, 2026, at 8 AM. Participants may run the 5K or 10K course on and around Crofton Parkway, beginning at the Crofton Country Club. The 5K race will begin immediately after the 10K race. Registration is now open at Croftonkiwanis.org.

Crofton Library Events: (see full schedule at AACPL.net)

- May 29, 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM, Senior Social Hour
- May 30, 9:30 AM – 10:00 AM, Storytime Regal Cinemas at Waugh Chapel
- June 4, 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM, Planting the Rainbow Flag: Preserving LGBTQ History in Maryland
- June 5, 10:30 AM — 11:30 AM, Beginner Chair Yoga
- June 6, 13, 20, 27, 10:00 AM — 1:00 PM, Plant Clinic: Ask A Master Gardener
- June 6, 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM, Fossils are Fun with Calvert Marine Museum
- May 25, All Branches Closed for Memorial Day

Special Guest Speaker – Senator Dawn Gile

Senator Gile provided a summary of the Maryland State legislative session which runs from January through April. She provided handouts of her comprehensive end of session letter and encouraged attendees to sign up for her electronic newsletter.

The number one item of concern for Marylanders has been the rising costs of utility bills. This is a nationwide issue. HB 1532, the Utility Relief Act, was passed which provides targeted relief to assist residents. This bill limits speculative utility charges, so that utility companies cannot collect on projected future costs. It provides stronger oversight on utility spending and increases scrutiny by the Maryland Public Service Commission over expenditures and rate increases. Most of this is related to large energy users such as data centers, which are now required to contribute more fairly to the cost of the electric grid. This is happening throughout the country. Their use should not be impacting regular users. This bill also contains incentives for the development of green energy.

HB 895, Protection from Predatory Pricing Act, was passed to prohibit dynamic and predatory pricing. This prevents retailers from increasing prices on-line versus in-store and also prevents AI pricing and the use of surveillance data to set individualized prices.

The FY27 budget does not contain any tax increases. Though some programs were cut, there were significant increases in things such as education and Medicare.

SB 235, the Maryland Housing Certainty Act, was passed creating standards so that approved projects move forward quickly, also adjusting development fees to reduce the costs passed on to buyers and renters.

HB 894, the Maryland Transit and Housing Opportunity Act, passed which allows for easier transit-oriented development for people to live near public transportation.

SB 928, the Maryland Phone-Free Schools Act, was passed which requires all school systems to implement clear policies limiting cell phone use during the day. These policies should decrease distractions for students and allow teachers to be more effective.

Senator Gile personally sponsored the following bills:
SB 892, the Menopause Care and Coverage Act, which expands menopause related care and requires insurance coverage for evaluation and treatment and improves provider training.

SB 891, Perinatal Behavioral Health, passed which supports maternal health by improving screening and provider training.

SB 685, School Sexual Abuse and Misconduct Response, which directs the Maryland State Department of Education to develop framework on how to respond to allegations of sexual abuse and misconduct in schools.

HB 1326, Child Abuse and Neglect – Disclosure of Reports and Records, which holds accountable sustained abusers in child grooming such as in childcare providers and youth organizations.

Senator Gile is the chair of the Anne Arundel County Senate Delegation and sponsored bills on behalf of the county including targeted property tax relief, and legislation related to local businesses.

She sponsored bills for capital budget funding, secured significant capital funding for Crofton and surrounding areas including $600,000 to replace failing stormwater and sediment control for the county fairgrounds, $400,000 for a newly constructed county food bank, $450,000 for a new marsh walk for the Arlington Echo education facility, and $465,000 for a new septic system for Maryland Therapeutic Riding.

Special Guest Speaker – Delegate Stuart Schmidt

Delegate Schmidt has been assigned to the Government Labor and Elections Committee this year, a brand-new committee in the House.

His office will award seventy-five scholarships to high school students enrolled in college throughout the county.

Delegate Schmidt provided a summary on some of the bills he worked on this session.
The Independent Voter bill which allows unaffiliated independent voters to vote in primary elections without declaring a primary party. There are currently one-million ineligible voters in Maryland.

He co-sponsored nineteen other bills. He worked with Delegate Otto of the Eastern Shore and passed a one-million-dollar scholarship and education bill for the farm industry.

There were a number of bills passed in 2025 which significantly increased fees, such as titling and registration, which are affecting residents now. He will continue to fight more increases by working on affordability issues. It is troubling that people are continuing to leave Maryland for other tax and pension friendly states due to rising expenses.

Delegate Schmidt thanked the community for his support, and he will continue to represent his constituents and looks forward to continuing working along with Senator Gile.

Citizen Questions

A resident on Crofton Parkway asked for a determination of the financial situation for the state in the next 5 to 10 years since it is currently in deficit. Senator Gile responded that the state is constitutionally mandated to have a balanced budget. The federal government has cut its budget causing shortfalls in the state including Medicare. Tax cuts will continue to be made in order to balance these shortfalls. Delegate Schmidt added that the state is passing costs down to the local level, resulting in increased taxes in the county.

A resident on Whitfield Court stated he is recently retired military personnel who is leaving the state due to affordability. State and property taxes are too high. Senator Gile sympathized and commented that she is fighting the tax on military retirement pay, in addition to other legislation on increasing affordability in the state.

A new resident asked about access to affordable after school programs for children. SAC programs have long wait lists. Senator Gile spoke about the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, which was legislation that was passed before her tenure, including programs for early childhood education. This program is in the phase of identifying facilities. The school Boards also have their own plans. The last legislative session they passed HB 849 and HB 1321, to add $20 million to Maryland's Child Care Scholarship Fund to support childcare providers, and shorten waitlists, and cap co-payments.

Martin added that on June 29, at 7:00 PM, at the Waugh Chapel Community Center, the CCA and GCC will co-host a legislative session summary with Senator Rosapepe and his House colleagues from District 21.

Meeting Minutes Approval

The meeting minutes of the April 20, 2026, Board meeting require approval. There were no additional changes needed. The minutes were filed.

Town Manager's Report – *Martin H. Simon*

Martin mentioned the memorial service honoring local resident Pat Heucker, which was held today. Pat was an important member of our community and volunteered much of her time ensuring environmental justice, sane rules for development, and quality educational opportunities for children. She will be dearly missed.

Martin attended the State Highway Administration meeting at the Waugh Chapel Community Center on Route 3 improvements. So far, the project to repair the portion of Route 3 at the

front entrance at Crawford Boulevard has begun digging up and replacing the old concrete. The work will continue on weekends through June until completed. There will also be larger traffic signal poles installed to accommodate lights over each lane of traffic. A new red light traffic camera is also due to be installed at Cronson Boulevard (Southbound).

The sixteen-page election edition printed Advocate was produced and mailed to the community. The May edition of the E-Advocate was thirty-six-pages and completed in early May.

The CCA and the Crofton Police Department both participated in the Greater Crofton Chamber of Commerce's Spring Festival on the Green.

Martin confirmed participation in the state's Mosquito Control program which runs from June 3rd to October 6th.

He reported the Armed Forces/First Responders Parade had a great turnout for participants, though not as much for the viewers. The Recreation committee held a post parade meeting to improve the participation, including moving the date up a week to avoid the Mothers' Day Holiday.

Martin reported the county would not respond to the tree and log debris they left behind in the Crofton Natural Area by Swinburne Avenue. He had Marty Mows take care of the remaining cleanup.

The problem trees on Crossgate Avenue have been taken care of. At the request of the Village Green Property Management, an additional 4 to 5 trees will be removed from our property behind the Tricon building.

Martin reported that Maintenance and Operations is moving forward with the rain garden refurbishment project at Crawford Boulevard beginning in June. The project should increase drainage and prevent ponding water in the area between the rain garden and lake.

It was discovered that the water meter at the front entrance was cracked and leaking. The county has replaced it. An additional leak was found in the pipe behind the brick wall which is scheduled for repair this week.

In the next few weeks mulching is scheduled for both sides of the path leading to Hardy Field, and the replacement softfall will be added to all three playgrounds in the community.

Martin reported on the first-time use of online voting used in this year's CCA elections. It went very well with one hundred thirteen casting ballots. There was one duplicate, which was eliminated by the Elections Committee. Participants have communicated they liked the user friendliness and ease of the system.

Martin reported there was 49 ¼ hours used for police overtime. 28 hours were used for special events, 12 ½ were used for court appearances, and 7 ½ hours were used for the heroes banner

installations, and 1 ¼ hours were used for late calls for service. The overtime budget has been exceeded for this year, mostly due to Operation CHEER from December. There are a few remaining events this calendar year that will be covered by unspent salary resources due to being down an officer.

Comptroller's Report – *James Harvey*

Jim distributed his report to Board members which provides reconciliation of accounts through April 30th.

Jim reported we have received our second tax payment from the county on May 1st which totaled $464,691.

He reported that the workman's compensation insurance has dramatically increased to about $40,000 annually. He has investigated an alternative to Avery Hall, and has found a company called Enova, which has quoted an annual premium of $19,154. He encouraged the Board to decide on this soon.

Jim reported that first batch of flags has sold out, and we have ordered a second batch. Some residents have requested refrigerator/car magnets which are inexpensive. Others requested garden flags, which we can postpone until next year. Magnets would be 4 X 6 inches, costing $200. The Board voted to add the magnets to our inventory.

Jim requested the Board vote on moving $1,500 of funds from the FY27 contingency expenses in order to retain the new auditor used last year. We under-budgeted based on the previous auditor, who is now retired. The new company charges $8,000. The board voted to move the funds for the new auditor.

He reported that our health insurance cost premium will increase 8% next year.

He reported the first ever CCA safety committee meeting was held, as mandated by our new insurance company. They toured the facility and properties and identified items for Keith to repair.

Jim reported that we tried Facebook advertising for the first time for the parade. The cost was $40, which provided 4,700 impressions. There were about thirty kids for the bike parade, and Newk's, Chick-fil-a, Nico's and the Family Bike Shop donated prizes for the bike decorating contest.

The annual Crofton Pie Bake-off has a new junior category this year for kids 16 and under.

James asked about the Encova proposal and when does it need to be made. Jim responded that he could go back to them with any additional questions from the Board. Since the Board did not need any additional information, Anna asked if they were ready to vote on the move to Encova for Workman's Compensation Insurance. The Board voted in favor of switching to the new insurance company, Encova.

Police Chief's Report – *Chief Jason Jett*

The Chief reported on crime in the area. In the early morning hours on April 27th there was a string of commercial robberies at businesses in Waugh Chapel Center and along Defense Highway. Twelve businesses had windows broken and were ransacked. Our Flock safety camera on Good Hope Drive and Defense Highway caught the suspects and their vehicles on video, which was submitted to Anne Arundel County Police. The investigation led to the arrest of 6 individuals, including one juvenile.

Chief Jett reported there have been several incidents of political sign theft and damage in the community. Signage on community property that is not allowed to remain past the weekend is taken care of by Town Hall personnel. Any other individuals removing or damaging signs may be charged criminally.

The Chief reported a weapons discharge on Tilghman Drive, which is outside of our community. This was a domestic incident. No one was injured and an arrest was made.

The Chief encouraged residents to remain vigilant by keeping car doors locked and removing any valuables. Please report any suspicious activity to the police department.

The Chief went over statistics for the month of April. There were 553 calls for service, 34 traffic stops and parking enforcement, and 341 patrol checks.

The police department participated in some community engagement events: the CCA Annual Armed Forces/First Responders Parade, the spring Festival on the Green, and they provided support for the Police Unity Tour. The department has hosted tours for Pack 731 Cub Scouts, and a class from Crofton High School. They also participated in Field Day at Crofton Elementary School. The department will patrol the Kiwanis 5/10 K race on June 13th. There will be brief partial road closures in the community.

Chief Jett extended congratulations to Cpl. Gable for his completion of the Traffic Safety II designation from the Maryland Highway Safety Office. He is the first Crofton officer to complete this training.

The Chief will provide a review of the Flock Safety System at the next board meeting. A decision must be made whether or not to continue this program. The free trial end date is July 23rd. The camera on Layton Street has been removed due to a permitting issue and will be placed across the road. Crofton Elementary School has concerns with the camera located at Duke of Kent Drive, due to its proximity to the school. The Chief assured them that school property is not in the view of this camera. As the software update issues continue, the Chief will not be recommending this program moving forward.

The Chief reminded residents that the summer months increase pedestrian and bicycle traffic, so please slow down and be aware of your surroundings. He will also publish an article regarding E-bikes and their operating and safety regulations.

Committee Reports

Covenant Review Committee – *Kevin Wilson*

Kevin reported the two open complaints have been resolved. He publicly thanked resident Aaron Gray who is leaving the committee, which will now have two open vacancies beginning in June. He asked if anyone is interested in serving on this committee to contact him or Town Hall.

Public Safety Committee – *Brian Riley*

This is Brian's last meeting as Secretary. Anna thanked him for his many years of service on the Board of Directors. Brian had nothing to report.

Finance Committee – *James Kitchin*

James had nothing to report.

Recreation Committee – *Meredith Schramm*

Meredith reported on the Armed Forces/First Responders Parade. There was strong community participation. The bike parade was well received and has potential for continuation in the future. The post parade meeting yielded actions such as additional volunteer support, improved participation, and improving community engagement along the route. The committee is planning to move the parade to May 1st next year.

Greater Crofton Council Liaison – *Chuck See*

Chuck reported that the GCC hosted a meeting with the State Highway Administration on April 22nd at the Waugh Chapel Community Center. SHA representatives presented a summary of the projects on Route 3 in the area.
At the two large warehouses on Route 3 North, there will be a new traffic signal, and a third lane added from there to the light at Route 175.
There is a new traffic light on the southbound side at Churchview Road.
In 2028 there will be a widening of Route 97 from Route 32 to Route 50, making it three lanes each way.

Last week there was a meeting of the Riedel Road/Johns Hopkins Road Traffic Safety committee. There are several traffic calming islands now installed, along with traffic cameras by the schools. There is a listing on the Anne Arundel County website where anyone may participate in these Zoom meetings.

Education and Civic Affairs – Chuck Cook

Chuck had nothing to report.

Maintenance and Operations – *Kitty Gross*

Kitty reported she participated in the Safety Committee Tour.
She continues working on the Rain Garden refurbishing project.

She will be concentrating on getting the state bond bill funding for Swann Park. It was granted three years ago but still has not been released.

Planning and Zoning – *John Sullivan*

John was not present and did not provide a report.

Citizen Comments

There were no citizen comments.

2026 CCA Election Results

Mike Eppinger, Elections Committee Chair, presented the election results. 133 votes were cast.

Anna O'Kelly (President)
Kevin Wilson (Vice President)
Brenda Wakefield (Secretary)
James Kitchin (Treasurer)

Meredith Schramm (District 1)
Charles See (District 2)
Charles Cook (District 3)
Kitty Gross (District 4)
Jack Kemerer (District 5)

Meeting minutes completed by Tara Gottschalck, Administrative Assistant (June 5, 2026)

MS/JH/JJ(tg)