



**CROFTON CIVIC ASSOCIATION
BOARD and GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Crofton Elementary School, Library Media Center
September 15, 2025 – 7:00 PM**

Present:

Board Members: Anna O’Kelly, Stephen Tull, James Kitchin, Charles See, Charles Cook, Kitty Gross, John Sullivan.

Staff: Martin H. Simon, James Harvey, Chief Jason Jett, Cpl. Kyle Gable, Tara Gottschalck.

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

Announcements:

Anna announced that the voting on the amended By-laws will not take place this evening as intended since the seventy-five-person quorum has not been met. There are forty-six residents in attendance. The vote will be rescheduled for the next General Membership meeting in January.

Anna announced that this meeting is being recorded to assist the Administrative Assistant with the transcription of the minutes.

The Greater Crofton Chamber of Commerce is hosting its annual Fall Festival on the Green event on September 27th from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Crofton Country Club. This event features over 100 vendors, arts and crafts, food trucks, music, and family entertainment. The Crofton Police Department will have a booth, so please stop by and say hello.

Also at the festival, at 11:30 AM, all dogs are invited to the 10th Annual Crofton Dog Show and Pie Eating Contest. The judged event is fun and family-friendly, and kids are welcome to escort their dogs. Medals and prizes will be awarded in several categories. Participation in the contest is free for entrants. Contestants should reserve their place in the contest by completing the registration form at our website at Croftoncommunity.org. Registrations close on September 24th.

It is the time of year when CCA residents can nominate candidates for the Crofton Citizen of the Year award. Nominees must live in the tax district. The Crofton Civic Association recognizes those people who have made a positive impact on Crofton. Nominations may be made online from our website. The deadline is Friday, October 3rd. The Board of Directors will choose the winner. The award will be presented at the annual Community Awards Banquet, hosted by the Greater Crofton Chamber of Commerce, at the Blue Dolphin Seafood Bar and Grill on Thursday, November 6th.

The next CCA Board meeting is scheduled for October 13th, in the Library Media Center at Crofton Elementary School at 7:00 PM. This meeting will be combined with our first Budget meeting for FY27, which will review the Public Safety and Recreation Budgets. The Budget meetings continue on;

October 27th, which will review the Maintenance and Operations, and the Administration Budgets.

November 3rd, which will review the Overhead, Reserve Funds Planning, and CCA Budgets.

November 10th, which will be a combined Board and Budget meeting reviewing the Tax Rate Determination, Final Review and Adjustments, and the Board's vote.

All meetings begin at 7:00 PM.

The annual St. Paul's Quilters Quilt Show is scheduled for Friday, October 3rd, from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM, Saturday, October 4th, from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM, and Sunday, October 5th, from 8:00 AM to Noon at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1370 Defense Highway. There will be quilts, quilted kitchen items, Christmas items, and children's items for sale. Admission is free, and there will be door prizes. Proceeds go to local charities and the Arundel Volunteer Fire Department.

The 10th annual Crofton Chili Cook-off, brought to you by the CCA, Crofton Kiwanis, and the Crofton Farmer's Market, will be held at the Crofton Farmer's Market on October 19th from 10:00 AM to 12 Noon. Two awards will be given:

- Crofton Chili Cook-Off Champion
- Crofton Chili Cook-Off People's Choice

There will also be a special prize for the hottest chili. The event will benefit the Crofton Christian Caring Council's Food Pantry, which provides food for families in need and the homeless. Participant registration is free, and registration forms can be found on our website at Croftoncommunity.org.

The Crofton Police Department will host its 3rd Annual Trunk-Or-Treat event on Friday, October 24th, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, at Crofton Village Green. This popular event will feature local businesses, food giveaways, games, prizes, and lots of candy!

On Saturday, October 25th, the Crofton Kiwanis and the CCA will host their annual Halloween Parade and Party. The parade begins at the Crofton Country Club and ends at Town Hall. You may sign up for the costume contest by 10:00 AM at Prince of Peace Church. Costume judging starts at 10:00 AM and ends at 10:50 AM. The parade kicks off at 11:00 AM, and kids can join in at the tail of the parade, which travels down Crofton Parkway and ends at Duke of Kent Drive. The winners of the costume contest will be announced at Town Hall's backyard after-party, where there will be make-and-take crafts and light refreshments.

Approval of Minutes –

The previously distributed minutes of the Board meeting held on August 11th require approval. There were no additional changes needed. The minutes will be filed.

Town Manager's Report – Martin H. Simon

Martin reported that the Ice Cream Social was well attended, with an estimated 300 people in attendance.

The CCA hosted a third presentation for residents, featuring representatives from the County's Watershed Protection and Restoration division, on the Beaver Creek Phase II portion of the project.

Martin and Jim have met with committee chairs and staff on FY27 budget priorities.

Jim has been busy with our new auditors. Anna and James will be meeting with them this week.

Martin, the Board, and County Executive Steuart Pittman attended a dedication ceremony to Marsha Perry for her lifetime of service to Crofton. Marsha was honored with a newly erected street sign, "Perry Place," on her street, which is set on top of the signs for Edgerton Place and Eton Way. Marsha thanked the Board members.

Martin reported on the community survey, which was included in the last mailed issue of the Advocate. There have been 231 responses so far. He encouraged residents to participate if they have not yet done so. The deadline is 9/30.

Martin reported that there have been eighteen Cherry Tree host volunteers. The price quotes have allowed an increase from ten to twenty trees. Both he and Kitty will tour the sites this week to ensure the areas are suitable for the new plantings.

Martin provided a report on Police Overtime for the month. Thirty-one total hours were authorized; three for special events, five for court appearances, twelve for late calls, four and one-half for training, and six and one-half for traffic detail.

Stephen asked about the Beaver Creek meeting. Martin reported it was well attended. He is waiting for follow-up information from the meeting, which he has not yet received. He believes by next month's meeting, the Board will be ready to move forward with a vote on whether or not to provide the deed of easement for the county to proceed with the project.

Comptroller's Report – *James Harvey*

Jim previously distributed his Comptroller's report to Board members.

He reported that the county provided its FY25 Annual Summary Sheet for the Crofton SCBD's county account. The County is holding \$715 in property taxes, which he has added to the FY27 budget.

Jim thanked resident Bonnie Roth for her \$100 donation to the Crofton Police Department.

Jim reported that we are still waiting for a refund from the IRS for the fine associated to the misfiling of the CCA's 990 form. While the filing was done on time, it was rejected and not refiled until April, at which time we had accrued a fine. The IRS is asking for patience since its staff cuts have slowed down the refund process.

We have recently purchased a Ford F-150 Interceptor for the police department. The new vehicle replaces the older 2013 Ford Explorer that was used as a trade-in. The Board had set aside \$67,000 for the vehicle, and approximately \$2,500 in unspent Vehicle Replacement Funds will be returned to the fund.

The 2020 and 2021 Ford Explorers have received upgraded lighting for cruise setting, allowing for stationary lighting to remain on, instead of flashing.

Jim reported that a modification was made to the short-term disability policy so the employer's portion of FICA taxes will be paid by Hartford instead of us.

The Police reported connectivity issues with WIFI in the squad room and a WIFI booster is scheduled to be installed on Thursday.

We continue to receive completed community surveys.

The September *E-Advocate* was distributed on September 5th and has a 68% open rate.

Jim reported that since the mailing of the printed Advocate, there has been an increase in registrations for Cherry Tree Hosts, Dog Show registrants, and Chili Cook-off registrants.

We have made over seventy social media posts in the last thirty days.

There were nineteen attendees at the tour of the Crofton Meadows II Water Treatment Plant. Next spring, a tour of the Crofton Wastewater Treatment Plant will be scheduled.

Jim is looking at adding a new event in January or February, a Coffee with Candidates night at Chesapeake Coffee Roasters. Their executive team is meeting in September to discuss reopening the tasting room to the public, which has been closed since COVID.

The Crofton Library has agreed to host a new CCA event, two new painting classes for kids. One class will be designed for younger children, and a separate class will be offered for older kids.

There are thirteen dogs registered for the Crofton Dog Show.

There are six registrants for the Crofton Chili Cook-off.

Committee Reports

Anna announced that Daria DeLizio, District 1 Director, has resigned from the Board of Directors. The Board is looking for any volunteers who reside in District 1 who may be interested in filling the position.

Covenant Review Committee – Stephen Tull

Stephen reported there were no covenant complaints or approvals submitted this month.

Public Safety Committee – *Brian Riley*

Brian was not present and did not provide a report.

Finance Committee – *James Kitchin*

James reported that the Finance Committee has already met with Jim regarding the FY27 budget planning. Both he and Anna are scheduled to meet with the new auditor tomorrow at Town Hall.

Recreation Committee – *Vacant*

Greater Crofton Council Liaison – *Chuck See*

Chuck reported that the next GCC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 24th, at 7:00 PM at the Waugh Chapel Village Commons Community Center. A guest speaker will be scheduled to provide updates on the 450,000 square foot warehouse space and new traffic signal on Route 3 North.

Education and Civic Affairs – *Chuck Cook*

Chuck reported he spoke to members of the Board of Education today on the recent Crofton High School redistricting plans. The Board of Education will release amendments on Wednesday, which will drive two public hearings in October, dates to be determined. After the October meetings, the Board will meet in November to select its final version with amendments.

Maintenance and Operations – *Kitty Gross*

Kitty reported she has been researching rain gardens to repair the garden at the front entrance. Martin will look for the original plans.

She mentioned she toured the area of Beaver Creek and commented the erosion is similar to the golf course area where she lives. She will discuss it further at the meeting when the Board votes on whether or not to provide the deed of easement to the county to continue the project.

Kitty reported she was tasked by Jim to find out if our fire hydrants could be painted to celebrate the 250-year anniversary of the U.S.A. She reached out to Chief Shultz at the Anne Arundel County Fire Department. She explained the hydrants are now under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Works (DPW). He did not think permission would likely be given due to the strict regulations now in place for fire hydrants. She has requested a contact from DPW and will report on her progress. Jim added that this is being done for a potential community fire hydrant decorating contest.

Planning and Zoning – *John Sullivan*

John reported he and Anna were contacted by John Bailey, the president of the Friends of The Historic Johns Hopkins House, to ask the CCA to take a position on the historical preservation of the home. The current owner is not interested in preserving the historical aspects of the property. The CCA does not have an official position. John encouraged anyone interested to visit the organization's website to learn about ways to help.

John mentioned that Pat Huecker shared the legislation on Adequate Public Facilities (APF) for schools, raising questions about why the county is allowing more development if area schools are already over capacity. The current redistricting of Crofton High School does not make sense.

Stephen attended the Region 5 SAC meeting and is putting together a report to share.

John asked Board members if they knew if the trees had been marked for the Beaver Creek restoration. Martin had not been to the site recently. Kitty did not see any tape during her visit.

Jim added that the Region 5 maps have been posted online by the county, and comments are open until October 22nd.

Stephen added that the Johns Hopkins House is currently zoned as both R1 and R5, and that the SAC committee recommended it be revised to R1 only.

Police Chief Report – *Chief Jason Jett*

Chief Jett reported on crime in the community. The Crofton Giant has had an increase in thefts and shoplifting. Cpl. Gable was able to identify all the subjects from the last six incidents who will be charged. A stolen automobile was recovered on Carlyle Drive. A vehicle stolen from Birdview Court was recovered on Crofton Parkway, where the vehicle was left running. Thefts from autos continue to occur throughout the community. The Chief reminded residents to keep their vehicles locked.

Chief Jett reported on the statistics from last month. There were three hundred-fifteen calls for service, thirty traffic and parking enforcement citations issued, and two hundred-two patrol checks.

The Chief reported that five Flock Safety License Plate Readers (LPR) with live video feed will be installed around the community in the next few weeks. These units will offer tracking of vehicles that enter and exit the community. The Board has agreed to a two-month free trial period and will decide whether or not to move forward with the program at that time. The police department has applied for a grant totaling \$19,000 from the Governor's Office for Crime Prevention, which will cover the program's cost for one year.

Chief Jett reported that the 100 Club of Anne Arundel County will honor Cpl. John Sims at their annual awards meeting in October. The Crofton Police Department has become a member of this organization, which offers support to active first responders. The Chief reported that Cpl. Gable has been nominated for the 24th annual Impaired Driving Law Enforcement award. He made fifteen DUI arrests last year.

The Chief reported the department purchased a new vehicle, a Ford Pursuit F-150. The Chief is phasing out the unmarked patrol vehicles to make them more visible in the community. One unmarked vehicle will remain.

The Chief reported there is currently one open vacancy in the department. They are seeking a certified MPCTC (Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commission) officer.

Chief Jett reported the department is working on the 3rd annual Trunk-Or-Treat event. He asked if any businesses are interested, please contact him.

Jim added that Flock Safety is automatically linked to the Anne Arundel County RTIC (Real-Time Information Center) command center, as well as to surrounding counties.

James Kitchin added that the RTIC system has been in existence for about a year. He provided the following statistics: Homicides have been reduced by 14%, non-contact shootings have been reduced by 42%, robberies have been reduced by 57%, carjackings have been reduced by 46%, and thefts have been reduced by 28%.

The Chief commented further that the installation should take place in early October. There are several surrounding the community now: Crossgate Drive and Route 3 North, the Checkers on Davidsonville Road, Hyman Lane and Davidsonville Road, and Davidsonville Road and Route 50.

Citizen Comments –

A resident asked about the drivers racing on Route 3. Chief Jett responded that these will be captured on live video feed, making it easier to track these individuals.

A resident asked about the data storage by Flock Safety. The Chief responded that they use cloud storage, and the department can decide how long to hold the data. It is likely they will use the thirty-day hold option.

A resident mentioned involvement in an attempted robbery of her personal property while inside the Walgreens at Waugh Chapel. She also suggested moving the police department outside of Town Hall. Anna responded that this has been investigated. The costs would be very high to modify the space to accommodate personnel.

With no additional questions, the meeting was adjourned for an Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

Meeting minutes completed by Tara Gottschalck, Administrative Assistant (September 22, 2025)