



**CROFTON CIVIC ASSOCIATION  
BOARD MEETING  
Cafeteria, Crofton Elementary School  
March 10, 2025 – 7:00 PM**

**Present:**

**Board Members:** Anna O’Kelly, Stephen Tull, James Kitchin, Daria DeLizio, Charles See, Chuck Cook, Rob Kendall.

**Staff:** Martin H. Simon, Jim Harvey, Jason Jett, Sgt. Sims, Cpl. Gable, Tara Gottschalck.

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

**Announcements:**

The Crofton Winter Farmers’ Market continues through April 26th on certain Saturdays from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Crofton Library. The market features local and regional foods, crafts, and artwork. See [Croftonfarmersmarket.com](http://Croftonfarmersmarket.com) for details. The market will be open next March 15th and 29th.

The Cardinal Players present Big Fish on March 14th , 15th , 16th, and March 20th , 21st and 22nd. All performances of Big Fish will be held at the Crofton High School auditorium. Performances begin at 7:00 PM. There is one matinee performance on Sunday March 16th at 2:00 PM. Tickets may be purchased at [Croftonhigh.com](http://Croftonhigh.com).

Community Emergency Response Team Training – Anne Arundel - Annapolis Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) has announced its Early Spring 2025 dates for its 21-hour in-person CERT Basic Training class. Volunteer to become a trained member of your community in emergency response. The training will be held on Saturday, March 15th , March 16th, and March 22nd from 9am-4pm at the Fire Training Academy in Millersville. A disaster simulation will be held on Sunday, March 23rd from 12:00 PM to 4:30 PM at the same location. Visit [aaacert.org/cert-basic-training](http://aaacert.org/cert-basic-training) for more information and for a registration link.

The 2025 Crofton Cherry Blossom Festival will be held on Saturday, March 22nd (with the 29th being the rain date) from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM between Eton Way and Eton Way on Crofton Parkway. The event includes live music, food trucks, and booths and activities from many local organizations. There will be free face painting. Rivers of the World Foundation will be conducting free water sample tests. Donations for the Crofton Baby Pantry will be accepted. Bartlett Tree Experts will be handing out 100 native tree saplings on a first-come-first-served basis and will hold a raffle for a cherry tree giveaway (including planting and installation). A map of the festival can be found on our website at [CrotonCommunity.org](http://CrotonCommunity.org).

The Greater Crofton Chamber of Commerce presents the Taste of Crofton on Tuesday, March 25th from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Come and taste food from 20+ local restaurants all in one spot at

the Crofton Country Club. See <https://croftonchamber.com/upcoming-events/> for more information.

Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, the Crofton High School PTSO is hosting a fundraiser with The Harlem Wizards, who are renowned for their electrifying performances, mixing top-notch basketball with dazzling entertainment and uplifting messages. Teachers and representatives from the community will compete to rally school spirit, engage our students, and strengthen our community bonds, all while raising vital funds for our schools. Crofton High School PTSO will share a portion of the proceeds from ticket sales to the cluster's PTO and PTA groups to benefit their schools. Doors open at 6:00 PM, and the game is at 7:00 PM. Members of the CCA Board, and the Crofton Police Department will be participating in this event. Tickets may be purchased at [croftonhighschoolptso.org](http://croftonhighschoolptso.org).

The next CCA Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday April 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at the Library Media Center at Crofton Elementary School.

The annual CCA Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday April 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:45 AM at the side field of Crofton Elementary School. There are over 10,000 stuffed eggs containing candy and prizes to find. A separate coned off area will be reserved for small children. Please bring your own bag or basket. Rain date is Saturday April 19<sup>th</sup>.

Crofton Library Events highlights: (see full schedule at [aacpl.net](http://aacpl.net))

March 13, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM, Adult Book Club: Jessica Knoll's Bright Young Women

March 13, 4:15 PM - 5:15 PM, Book Buddies: Science Comics, Ages 6 – 10

March 14, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM, Beginner Yoga, Teens (Ages 11+) and Adults

March 21, 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM, My Gym: Fitness & Fun, Ages 0-5

March 22, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM, Maryland Day: Sailing the Chesapeake, all ages

March 24, 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM, Happily-Ever-After PowerPoint Party, Adults

March 26, 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM "Women Take the Lead" presented by DancelnTime

March 29, 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM, Survival Skills Academy: Hunger Games Edition

March 31, 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM, Crofton Houseplant Club

Anna announced that resident John Sullivan has volunteered to fill the District 5 Director vacancy. Martin sent his qualifications to Board members over the weekend. The Board members voted unanimously to elect John Sullivan to the Board.

### **Approval of Minutes –**

The minutes of the February 3, 2025 meeting require approval.

There were no additional changes on these previously distributed minutes. The minutes were filed.

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

Martin added a calendar event for Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. The Crofton Kiwanis will host a free Cyber Security and Scam Identification seminar at the Arundel 7 Volunteer Firehouse training building.

Martin reported that the petition for the sidewalk extension project from Staples Corner to Bell Branch Park ended with 244 signatures from residents from both sides of Route 424. He has submitted personalized emails with the results to targeted recipients, and has received responses from most of them, some asking for additional information. He did not receive a response from the County Executive but believes that he is supportive of the project. He encouraged those who wish to provide additional support to contact the county at [Budget-Comments@aacounty.org](mailto:Budget-Comments@aacounty.org). Martin can provide talking points for those interested.

Martin publicly thanked Troop 115 Eagle Scout candidate Sam VanGorden for the bench project at Swann Park. Sam and his team relocated and restored three of the benches, one new, in preparation of the upcoming park equipment remodel project. One bench was removed from the Crofton Country Club property. The property line infringement issue is in progress with the owner.

Martin reported he provided a draft of the By-laws to the committee. Stephen Tull provided a revised Word document working draft for the committee to begin the revision process. Committee members Anna O'Kelly, Chirs Gowen, Stephen Tull, James Kitchin, and Kathy Lavin need to set an official meeting date for the first meeting. James will offer dates to the group.

As announced in the E-Advocate, Martin reported on the County Council redevelopment bill 2-25. The bill amends conditional use in commercial districts provisions allowing higher density residential development. Councilwoman Shannon Leadbetter offered three amendments to this legislation, two of which were passed. The first removed the South County areas of Region Plans 8 and 9 from the bill. This amendment was passed. The second was to remove the entire Route 3 critical corridor from the bill. It did not pass. The third amendment proposed the removal of the area of the Route 3 critical corridor within District 7, which includes the eastern side of Route 3 North from the Prince Georges County line to Johns Hopkins Road. This amendment passed.

Martin attended the State Highway Administration (SHA) meeting regarding the changes to Route 3 last month at the Waugh Chapel Community Center. It was well attended. The shared used path is to be located on the west side from Waugh Chapel and connect to the South Shore Trail on Millersville Road. An additional pedestrian crosswalk will be installed at Route 175. Several attendees asked about the installation of an overpass. SHA representatives commented that would be a larger project outside of the scope of the current one.

Martin provided the police overtime report since the last meeting. There was a total of 33.75 total hours used. 11.75 hours were used for court appearances. 9 hours were used for late calls for service. 13 hours were used for evening coverage. Due to the full complement of officers, increased policing leads to additional court appearances, which can affect the shift schedule. An additional 4 hours of overtime beyond the scheduled 8-hour shift has been granted to decrease any shortfalls in shift coverages.

**Comptroller's Report – *James Harvey***

Jim previously distributed his financial reports to the Board. He reported highlights on the finances through March.

Recreational lighting appears to be going up; however, this is because it has been combined with electricity.

Dues and membership have increased due to the recent joining of the Maryland Municipal League to reduce insurance costs. We are expecting quotes. They have asked if we wish to obtain Cyber Insurance as a group with other organizations. The Board would like Jim to investigate the cost for this.

Jim reported the resubmittal of the FY26 budget request to the county due to a rounding error of 2 cents. The FY27 budget will be built with rounding calculations to prevent this from occurring again and the FY27 budget request will be done in whole dollars only.

The recent renewal bill from Constant Contact of \$910.00 was based on last year's usage which was significantly higher due to the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events. Our usage is expected to be much lower this year. Their annual bill acts as a payment on account and usage is deducted from the account as we put out email blasts.

The CCA certificate of deposit will be moved to a 15-month higher yield account with Shore United bank on March 18<sup>th</sup>. This account offers a one-time free withdrawal.

The move to Buddy Punch from ADP had some issues. ADP was supposed to keep the partial unemployment insurance deduction and Buddy Punch would then make up the difference. Instead, ADP sent a check for a refund, which we received today. After Buddy Punch makes their first quarter SUI payment, Jim will check with the State and pay any shortfall from the returned funds. A payment of the Federal Unemployment Insurance (FUTA) returned by ADP has been sent to the IRS.

Though not yet official, Maryland had proposed extending the PFML program by 18 months, bringing us to the FY27 budget. Additionally, he has learned that there is a collective that is organizing a group-buy to get better pricing. He has asked for additional information on this program. The objective is a 0.75% - 0.80% target, rather than 0.90%. The Board would like him to investigate this option.

Jim reported there are 12 purchases for the Banners for Heroes program, exceeding the minimum of 10. He expects more before the April deadline.

Jim has ordered new banners for the Easter Egg Hunt which are easier to read.

All the purchases have been made for the Cherry Blossom Festival. Anna reminded everyone that the CCA will have a booth and will be handing out pink blossom leis, so please stop by.

**Police Chief Report** – *Chief Jason Jett*

Chief Jett reported the statistics for last month. There was a total of 437 calls for service, 260 patrol checks, 46 traffic stops, and 31 parking violations.

The department has begun enforcement of right-wheel-to-curb parking. Warnings will be issued initially.

The Chief reported they are still waiting on new parking signage for Crofton Parkway from Duke of Kent Drive to Crawford Boulevard from the county. He added that the large camper has been towed.

Martin added that he has been in contact with Councilwoman Leadbetter who is open to the idea of parking enforcement legislation specific to the tax district. She and Martin will meet with Nestor Flores and Eric Terry from county Traffic Engineering.

Chief Jett mentioned there are some systems that have been affected by the recent cyber-attack on county software programs. The Crofton Police Department is following the procedures as instructed by Anne Arundel County Police. James Kitchin added that the attack originated externally, and that most services are back on-line. Emergency services were never turned off. A webpage has been set up to provide information regarding this incident at [aacounty.org](http://aacounty.org).

Chief Jett reported on February 8<sup>th</sup> (Super Bowl Sunday), Cpl. Gable conducted an impaired driver detail resulting in one DUI arrest, along with 12 traffic stops with additional various citations and warnings being issued.

All officers have successfully completed the Easy Llama training on Diversity and Inclusion in the Workplace, and Harassment Prevention.

The Crofton police participated in several community engagement events. The department hosted the local Parent's Club of Crofton, and a group of Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. Sgt. Sims attended a local den meeting to speak about evidence collection and police safety. The police will be present at the Cherry Blossom Festival and the Easter Egg Hunt. They will also participate in the Crofton High School PTSO event against the Harlem Wizards at the end of the month.

**Committee Reports****Recreation Committee** – *Daria DeLizio*

Daria had nothing to report.

**Greater Crofton Council Liaison** – *Chuck See*

Chuck attended the MDOT meeting hosted by the GCC on February 18<sup>th</sup> on the Route 3 and 175 to Waugh Chapel improvement projects. It was well attended.

He reported he will attend the upcoming meeting of the Riedel Road/Johns Hopkins Road Traffic Committee which will be held by Zoom on Wednesday April 19<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

### **Planning and Zoning** – *Chuck Cook*

Chuck reported that Martin already reported on House Bill 2-25 which is scheduled to be voted on next week on March 17<sup>th</sup>.

Anna added she received information regarding a planned industrial park on Route 3 located at 765 and 775 Route 3 North, Gambrells. The property is currently developed (Reliable Contracting Company, Inc.) and is used as a contractor storage yard. The final plan was approved by county Planning and Zoning on February 13<sup>th</sup>. The plans show two single-story warehouse structures consisting of 386,026 square feet. This will increase tractor trailer traffic on Route 3, and there will most likely be an additional traffic light installed there to accommodate this. The developers will also be relocating wetlands.

### **Finance Committee** – *James Kitchen*

James had nothing additional to report.

### **Covenant Review Committee** – *Stephen Tull*

Stephen reported there was one submission for a fence that was approved.

He reported the committee is waiting on a submission from Prince of Peace Church regarding their illuminated sign that will replace the current sign in front of the property. Nothing has been submitted to date.

As a Region 5 Planning representative, Stephen reported there have been three meetings so far that have been focused on vision statements with regards to parks, housing, transportation, commercial development, etc. He believes the next phase will be examining zoning maps of the area. There have been informational presentations on housing and commercial development. There is a live public poll by Parks and Recreation. There may be additional polls once the vision statements are finalized. Martin asked James if there would be a public comment opportunity for different sections of Region 5. James believes there will be based on how the other Regions have operated.

### **Maintenance and Operations** – *Rob Kendall*

Rob did not have anything new to report. He is happy with the bench repositioning and is excited about the new equipment for Swann Park.

### **Public Safety Committee** – *Brian Riley*

Brian was not present and did not provide a report.

### **Education Committee** – *John Sullivan*

No report.

**Other Business –**

Kathy mentioned we are ready for the Cherry Blossom Festival and the Easter Egg Hunt. The Armed Forces/First Responders Parade is scheduled for May 10<sup>th</sup>. We will need marketing for the event in order to increase spectatorship along the parade route.

**Citizen Comments –**

Resident LouAnn Dodson expressed concern about the large camper vehicles parked on Crofton Parkway . These vehicles are blocking sightlines from Harcourt Avenue. There is also an ambulance type vehicle parked on the street. Jason explained this does not meet the weight requirements by the county to be considered illegal. Jason explained that the camper without current tags in the driveway is on private property therefore it cannot be ticketed or towed. The Chief explained that he has reached out to County Council representatives to introduce legislation for parking regulations within the tax district. He is hoping that it is passed so the department can begin enforcement.

She also asked about the six acres near Langways that has recently been sold. She asked if there was a zoning change request from the current C1 zoning. The buyer claimed they wish to build townhomes on the property. James Kitchin mentioned that he has not seen any requests for the change, but he will verify this and check the system.

With no additional questions or comments, the meeting was adjourned.

*Meeting minutes completed by Tara Gottschalck, Administrative Assistant (March 31, 2025)*

MS/JH/JJ(tg)