CROFTON CIVIC ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING
Crofton Elementary School, Library Media Center
February 9, 2026 – 7:00 PM

Present:

Board Members: Anna O'Kelly, James Kitchin, Meredith Schramm, Charles See, Kitty Gross, John Sullivan.

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

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

Announcements:

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

The Crofton Farmers Winter Market continues on February 14th and 28th at the Crofton Library from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Stop by and get local and regional foods, crafts, and artwork. See Croftonfarmersmarket.com for details.

On Friday, February 13th, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, the CCA will host its first Teen Tote Bag Paint Night Event. Kids aged 11-15 will paint a tote bag with their choice of three designs (Sports theme, Sasquatch, or Sunflowers). The event will be held at the AVFD Training Building located at 2374 Davidsonville Road, Gambrills. This is a free event for 20 participants. Please visit the Croftoncommunity.org website to register.

Town Hall will be closed on Monday, February 16th, for Presidents' Day.

The CCA Coffee with Candidates event has been rescheduled to Wednesday, February 18th, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Chesapeake Coffee Roasters, 2100 Concord Blvd., Suite J, in Crofton (behind Aldi's). There will be free coffee tasting and tours of the Chesapeake Coffee Roasters roasting facility, where guests will learn how coffee is blended, flavored, and roasted. There will also be some light-fare food provided.

Candidates from both parties in the following local elections will be on hand to meet residents, discuss ideas, and answer questions over a cup of coffee.

- Anne Arundel County Executive
- Anne Arundel County Council Districts 4 & 7
- Maryland General Assembly Districts 33B & 21
- Clerk of the Court

The event is free, but capacity is limited to the first 100 people to RSVP. Register today on our website at Croftoncommunity.org.

On February 23rd, 7:00 PM, at the First Baptist Church, we will be joined once again by the County's Bureau of Watershed Protection and Restoration folks at DPW for their presentation of Plan "C" of the Phase II Beaver Creek Restoration Project. All CCA members are invited to come learn about this revised proposal and ask questions of the engineers and decision makers.

Crofton High School presents Frozen, the Broadway Musical, on February 27th through March 7th. Matinée performances begin at 2:00 PM. Evening performances begin at 7:00 PM. Tickets are $12 for adults, and $8 for students, and seniors. For tickets and additional information, see Croftonhigh.com.

The next CCA Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 9th at 7:00 PM at the First Baptist Church, Crofton.

On Sunday, March 22nd, from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM, Crofton Kiwanis will host an Easter Egg Decorating on Keepsake Wooden Eggs event at the Crofton Library for kids aged 5-12. Kids will be provided with three wooden eggs, acrylic paint, markers, and colored pencils to decorate their eggs as they please. There is a $10.00 donation/materials fee. The event is limited to 40 kids. For reservations, please visit Croftonkiwanis.org.

On Thursday, March 26th, 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM, the Greater Crofton Chamber of Commerce hosts its annual Taste of Crofton at the Crofton Country Club. This event showcases the best restaurants, caterers, and eateries from our greater Crofton Community. Eat. Socialize. Enjoy! See Croftonchamber.com to purchase tickets.

The Annual CCA Easter Egg Hunt and Cherry Blossom Festival are scheduled for the same day, Saturday, March 28th. Please mark your calendars for these two very popular CCA events! The Easter Egg Hunt begins promptly at 12 noon at the side field of Crofton Elementary, so be sure to arrive a few minutes early with your bag or basket. The Easter Bunny will be there to greet the children. There will be 10,000 candy and prize ticket-filled eggs to find.

The Cherry Blossom Festival begins at 11:00 AM and goes to 2:00 PM, and is located on the inner loop of Crofton Parkway between both entrances to Eton Way. There will be food trucks, arts and crafts, and live music.

The Maryland Municipal League is sponsoring an essay contest, "If I Were Mayor I Would …" If interested, additional information can be provided.

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

- February 11, 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM, A Beginners Guide to AI: What You Need to Know Now
- February 12, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM, Adult Book Club, *Tilt* by Emma Pattee
- February 16, All Branches Closed for President's Day
- February 20, 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM, Senior Social Hour
- February 23, 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM, Crofton Houseplant Club
- February 28, 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM, Navigating Senior Living and Healthcare
- March 5, 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM, Youth Art Month Exhibit Reception
- March 6, 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM, Senior Social Hour

Meeting Minutes Approval

The meeting minutes of the following meetings require approval.
November 10, 2025, CCA Board and Budget Meeting, November 17, 2025, Budget Meeting, and December 8, 2025, Board Meeting. All minutes were previously re-distributed after Board Comments and filed.
The minutes from the January General Membership Meeting have not yet been completed and will be finalized at the next Board meeting in March.

Vice President Vacancy

Anna announced that a Declaration of Candidacy form for Kevin Wilson of District 1 was previously distributed to Board members. Anna asked for a vote of all in favor of electing Kevin Wilson to the Board of Directors' Vice President position. The Board voted unanimously to elect Kevin as Vice President.

Elections Committee Appointment

Anna announced the members of the Elections Committee for the 2026 Board of Directors Elections: Mandy McNeely of District 1, Jessica Hood of District 3, George Percival of District 4, and Mike Eppinger of District 5. All have previously served on the Elections Committee.

Chuck See added that he will inquire if there is any interest of District 2 members to serve on this committee.

Anna asked for a vote of the Board members to approve these nominations to the Elections Committee. All Board members voted unanimously to accept these members to the CCA Board Elections Committee.

Anna announced that all Declaration of Candidacy forms for the 2026 elections must be received no later than March 30th.

Crofton Flag

The CCA held a contest last fall for an official Crofton Flag. While the basic design has been approved, the Board members wished to slightly modify the background design. After the discussion, all agreed on the translucent background, without the triangle design behind the cardinal. The designer will be notified, and the flags will be produced in a 2' x 3' size and will be available for sale to the public on the CCA's website. There will be a flag raising ceremony held at Town Hall in the spring.

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

Martin reported that he, Anna, and Chuck Cook attended the County's District 7 Budget Town Hall meeting at Southern High School last month. He thanked the Couty Executive for expediting the feasibility study with SHA on the sidewalk extension project to Bell Branch Park. The study is underway and expected to be completed in June. He encouraged the County Executive to add to his FY27 budget request such sums necessary to act upon the plan the study recommends. He thanked everyone who signed the petition last year.

Martin reported on the snow removal on CCA properties in the community. Marty Mows helped out since our snow blower was out of service. He reported there were numerous calls to Town Hall from elderly and disabled residents who were seeking assistance with snow removal. He had Jim reach out to local Scout leaders in the community, who then set up a network to pair available scouts to people in the areas of need.

Martin met with Kitty and Anna regarding the rain garden at the front entrance and potential drainage fixes. He is waiting on revised quotes from landscapers and hopes to have a report for the March meeting.

Martin reported the police overtime hours used between December 8th and January 7th. There were forty-nine and three-quarters hours used. Forty hours were used for additional patrols at Crofton Centre. Two late calls for motor vehicle accidents resulted in five and three-quarters hours, and four hours were used for court appearances.

Overtime for January 8th to today was a total of thirty-one and one-half hours. Twenty-one hours were used for court appearances, six and one-half hours used for the General Membership Meeting, and one and one-half hours for late calls for service, and two and one-half hours for special Super Bowl DUI enforcement.

There were eight hours of administrative leave approved on January 18th for Cpl. Gable for Coast Guard Drill. Non-essential civilian staff were granted leave for January 26th and 27th due to the snow event, however, Martin still reported to Town Hall (since he lives so close).

Anna asked about the April Board meeting date. Martin clarified it has been revised to April 20th from April 13th at Crofton Elementary.

Comptroller's Report – *James Harvey*

Martin provided a report in Jim's absence. Jim previously distributed his report to the Board.

On January 14th, the FY27 budget request was submitted to Anne Arundel County.

On January 28th, the annual commercial loan payment was made.

The LGIT insurance company completed an appraisal of our properties with physical structures, which will add an increase of $77 to our annual premium.

Martin and Jim will be meeting with representatives of the FirstNet cell phone network to inquire about adding the recently approved Town Hall staff-issued cell phones to the police network, and overall system updates in order to provide better communication during emergencies.

Martin reported that representatives of MESONET met with Martin, Jim, and Anna. This organization's mission is to design, build, and operate a network of closely spaced data collection systems to advance emergency preparedness, improve regional weather forecasts,

and expedite disaster assessment and recovery. They are looking for spaces in Anne Arundel County. They toured CCA properties but found no suitable sites for their equipment, and we suggested they investigate Bell Branch Park. James will connect them with the CAC and the county's Recreation and Parks department.

Constant Contact is offering an SMS messaging service that would allow the police department to send emergency and police notices to district residents. Those interested will have to opt in to the system. We will promote this service in the next issue of the printed Advocate. This messaging system will be maintained by Chief Jett in coordination with the Town Manager.

Police Chief's Report – *Chief Jason Jett*

Chief Jett reported on the 2025 police statistics. There were 5,956 calls for service, 269 traffic stops, 90 traffic accidents, 3,100 patrol checks, and 87 reports were written. January through today, there have been 676 calls for service, 310 patrol checks, 95 traffic stops, and 10 parking violations.

The Chief reported that DPW has installed new parking restrictions on the outer loop of Crofton Parkway from Crawford Boulevard to Duke of Kent Drive. There is no parking from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This is to prevent the long-term parking of trailers, boats, Recreational Vehicles, and abandoned vehicles in that area. This is a major complaint by the community. The department postponed enforcing these new regulations due to the recent snow event. Enforcement will begin next week now that the snow has been cleared. He has received five complaints about the new signage.

At the January General Membership meeting, Martin asked persons interested in attending a meeting to discuss the new parking regulations to contact him or the Chief directly. Given the complaints from residents of District 1, Kitty suggested Martin go ahead and set up a meeting based on the interest expressed at the General Membership meeting. Martin agreed to set up a meeting with the community to discuss the matter. A resident asked that the signs be removed immediately. The Chief responded that he will not request DPW to remove the restricted parking signs until alternatives can be discussed at a meeting with the community.

The Chief reported that Operation CHEER (Crofton Holiday Enhanced Enforcement Response) implemented at the Crofton Centre at the end of December was successful. There was one reported theft incident which occurred at Giant while no officer was on duty. There was a total of 78 hours of overtime on this detail. All businesses were grateful for their presence, and numerous residents thanked them for the additional patrols of the area. This program was run from November 28th through December 24th.

The Chief reported that the Flock Safety System trial has been extended through March 23, 2026. There have been several technical issues, and there are two cameras that need to be moved. Before the end of the trial, he will review statistical data and determine whether or not he recommends continuing with the program.

He reported that he implemented overnight patrols as requested by the community in the recent survey beginning on January 4th. Cpl. Gable works 9:00 PM to 5:00 AM, Sunday through

Thursday. He has noticed a significant reduction of incidents in the community. There was one case of a theft from auto when Cpl. Gable was at the detention center with a DUI arrest. He believes this overnight shift is acting as a deterrent to crime in the community. Over the two-month period, Cpl. Gable has had three DUI arrests, and one hundred traffic stops. He frequently patrols the area where there has been increased thefts from autos activity.

Kitty asked if the unmarked vehicle patrolling the shopping center during the holidays was our police department. The Chief verified it was Sgt. Sims and added county police also use unmarked vehicles.

Committee Reports

Recreation Committee – *Meredith Schramm*

Meredith reported there are 14 of 20 participants for the upcoming teen tote bag paint night this Friday. The registration is still open for the remaining spots.

Planning and Zoning – *John Sullivan*

John reported Planning and Zoning Bill 98-25 ordinance on signs. DPW had a working group to talk about visual pollution associated with signs and how that can be changed. They met on January 20th to form an amendment to the bill. There will be a hearing on February 17th.

John reported the Starter and Silver Homes Act of 2026 which promotes affordable housing in the state, could potentially reduce county control over housing density, because of the ability to have affordable housing. The Growth Area Network (GAN) has proposed amendments to try clarifying what this act encompasses.

Maintenance and Operations – *Kitty Gross*

Kitty attended the University of Maryland seminar with Jim. There is a large amount of research done on weather issues, and the MESONET network. The installation of additional sensors allows them to get specific information and how it affects the immediate area. The university is frequently in touch with the National Weather Service which provides local reports to television weather reporters. There was a session on Flood Control. Fragile island communities are concerned that their federal research grants have been cancelled. She learned there is extensive scientific information on weather and disaster related issues available to the public. Jim will include this information in the upcoming E-Advocate.

Kitty reported on the rain garden construction at the front entrance. While the rain garden is not a failure, it does need to be improved. Higher areas can be reduced and the soil used for the lower swampy area. Much of it is overgrown and needs regular maintenance. We are waiting to hear back from the landscaper's proposal. She will consult what is available in the budget.

Finance Committee – *James Kitchin*

James reported that the committee has not met as a group officially yet this year. He mentioned that the Vice President usually serves on this committee. The FY27 Budget was presented to the community in January, and the paperwork was signed and sent to the county.

Greater Crofton Council Liaison – *Chuck See*

Chuck reported there have been no meeting of the GCC scheduled for 2026.
He attended a meeting of the Riedel Road/Johns Hopkins Road Traffic Committee. The committee is working on projects to increase the safety of these roads such as traffic calming islands to prevent passing and adding additional pedestrian crosswalks. They have added speed cameras and discussed changing the positions of these cameras. This group meets quarterly by Zoom.

Education and Civic Affairs – *Chuck Cook*

Chuck had nothing to report.

Covenant Review Committee –

No report.

Public Safety Committee – *Brian Riley*

Brian was not present and did not provide a report.

Citizen Comments

Resident Tim Aiken asked whether Board members will attend the upcoming meeting with DPW regarding the Beaver Creek Restoration Plan "C." Six Board members and the Town Manager will attend.

A resident asked for a summary of the project. Martin explained the county wishes to mitigate the amount of soil erosion that runs off into the bay. Phase I was in the area of Route 424 to Crofton Parkway. Phase II was the Crofton Country Club, which refused to participate. The new Phase II is the area behind the "W" section homes. The Board denied the request by the county based on the pushback from residents who would lose their natural tree screening from Route 3. They are now proposing a revised plan that reduces the amount of tree removal at the upcoming meeting.

John Sullivan, District 5 representative, clarified that, when asked whether there was an alternative to the proposed plan, county representatives said no. The CCA Board then voted not to transfer the easement for the project. Since then, the county has proposed a new alternative plan which will be presented at the meeting on February 23rd .

Resident LouAnn Dobbs asked what the result of the bylaws vote was. Anna explained the bylaws were passed as amended, keeping the 75-person quorum. The revised bylaws have been published on the website.

With no additional questions, the meeting was adjourned.

Meeting minutes completed by Tara Gottschalck, Administrative Assistant (February 22, 2026)

MS/JH/JJ(tg)