



**CROFTON CIVIC ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING
First Baptist Church
August 3, 2026 – 7:00 PM**

Present:

Board Members: Anna O’Kelly, Kevin Wilson, Brenda Wakefield, James Kitchin, Meredith Schramm, Charles See, Chuck Cook, Kitty Gross, Jack Kemerer.

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

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

Announcements:

Anna announced that the meeting was being recorded to assist with transcribing the minutes.

The Crofton Farmers Market is being 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.

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. 8 to 10 trucks will be there each Tuesday.

Due to a couple of rainouts, our final concert of the CCA Summer Concert Series will be next Sunday, August 9th, with a classic rock and contemporary show by the band Greydog. The show runs 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. We are hoping to reschedule the band Goodfellas, which was rained out for a second time last night. We will post any updates to our website and social media.

National Night Out 2026 is scheduled for tomorrow, August 4th, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Crofton Country Club. This is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. Bring the whole family out for an evening of music, food, games, hands-on activities, prize giveaways, and plenty of fun! The Crofton Police Department will have a booth, so please stop by and say hello.

The Greater Crofton Chamber of Commerce (GCCC) and Cheaper Than a Geek are hosting a free Electronics Recycling Event on Saturday, August 15th, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the GCCC’s location, Suite 1, 2138 Priest Bridge Court, in Crofton. Bring anything with a plug that you want to recycle, and they’ll take care of it. Residents can bring up to 5 items, and local businesses can bring up to 10 items.

Crofton Elementary School's Cub Fest will be held at CES on August 20th from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM. This free event includes music, games, obstacle courses, food trucks, and more. Bring a blanket or chair.

The CCA's annual Ice Cream Social is scheduled for Sunday, August 30th, 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM, in Town Hall's backyard. This free, family-friendly, end-of-summer party will include music, face painting, balloon twisting, a bounce house, and of course lots of ice cream!

Just before the Ice Cream Social starts, we will be co-hosting with area Scout troops a Bike Rodeo in the parking lot of Crofton Elementary School from Noon to 2:00 PM. Family Bike Shop will be on hand to inspect bikes and helmets. We will put out more details later this week in the E-Advocate Newsletter and on our website at CroftonCommunity.org.

Looking ahead to September, the 11th Annual Crofton Dog Show will be held in conjunction with the Fall Festival on the Green, Saturday, September 26th, at Crofton Country Club. Registration is being announced in the August E-Advocate later this week.

Town Hall will be closed on September 7th for Labor Day.

Our next CCA Board and General Membership Meeting will be held on Monday, September 14th, at 7:00 PM. As of now, we are scheduled to meet at Crofton Elementary School, but should that change, we will post it on our website.

For Crofton Library events, please refer to the complete list at AACPL.net.

Meeting Minutes Approval

The meeting minutes of the June 8 Board meeting require approval. There were no additional revisions needed. The minutes were filed.

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

Martin reported that the rain garden refurbishment project at the front entrance has been completed. Additional plantings will be added in the fall. The water leak in the vault next to the rain garden is still leaking after being repaired twice. He will follow up with DPW on the repair. Once completed, the function of the rain garden can be fully evaluated.

He reported there have been several grounds maintenance projects completed since June. The turf grass at all three cul-de-sac islands in the Willows has been replaced. Stones have been added where the trash vehicles run up onto the curbs. Five dead trees have been removed from Hardy Field. Dead wood has been removed from the trees at the Willows playground. Ten trees in the median between the Village Green and Farrel Avenue have been trimmed or removed. Five dead or dying trees have been removed from the Village Green near Tricon. There is one remaining tree in the area that will be taken care of. New softfall has been added to all three playgrounds. The windows and siding at Town Hall have been power washed.

Martin toured our properties with the arborist from the county, who identified several large trees that need to be removed. He will obtain estimates for this work. She identified other

trees that others have expressed concern over as not being safety hazards. She provided an update on the overdue maintenance of the forest conservation easement. The contracted work was approved on a large purchase order at the beginning of the project. Since then, and without explanation, DPW liquidated the remaining funds at the end of last year. Currently, a new purchase order has been generated that will address the maintenance needed, including the removal of the white tubes around the trees. Martin will follow up once the start date has been determined.

Martin reported that the Eagle Scout project installing the three park benches at the Crofton natural area is in progress. Marty Mows has poured the concrete pads; we have obtained the steel bench frames, and the scout will be painting the wood portion. They will be installed on August 18th.

Martin reported that Keith will be installing the big kid swing seat at Swann Park on Wednesday. The baby seats have been replaced at Swann and Willows parks. He will be working on the chain ladder at Swann Park.

He reported that on June 24th, a small memorial service was conducted by the Crofton Village Garden Club with friends and family, honoring resident Marcia Richard. A plaque has been installed next to the cherry tree that was planted in her honor at the median on Crofton Parkway at Eton Way.

Martin provided the police overtime report. Twenty-three hours were used since June 8. 9 hours were used for the 5/10K Kiwanis/Team Surlis races, 2 ½ hours were used at the American Heart Association's Relay for Life event at Crofton High School, 1 ½ hours were used at the Vuong's self-defense class for women, 4 hours were used for late calls for service, and 6 hours were used for court appearances.

He announced that currently the remainder of our Board meetings are scheduled at the Library Media Center at Crofton Elementary School; however, we have received a bill for \$552 for the two meetings in the fall. He will follow up with the new COO and request that the fees be waived.

Comptroller's Report – James Harvey

Jim previously distributed his report to the Board.

Jim reported that we are \$2,200 under the projections for the end of the year that were made in May, but reasonably close.

The reserve fund moves previously reported in June will not be made until the upcoming meeting with the auditor, since the county has revised the instructions for the audit. Once it is determined what procedural changes are needed, the reserve funds will be moved accordingly.

We have moved the CCA accounts over to CFG. The Atlantic Union Bank accounts have been closed.

Jim reported that our insurance policy with The Hartford has been renewed. There was an unexpected increase in the life insurance, which is related to the age of the staff. The cost of Short-term and Long-Term Disability insurance increases were modest.

He is waiting to hear from Buddy Punch, who has short-paid the federal taxes in the first and second quarters of 2026. The bills have been paid directly to the IRS. When this occurred last year, the issues were resolved. We are waiting on an explanation for why it occurred again.

Jim reported the initiation of a disaster recovery service account with Royal Plus at no cost to the tax district. They can install a command center for operations within 24 hours of any disaster.

A \$100 donation from resident Bonnie Roth for police equipment has been made to the police department.

The Crofton PD/Crofton Town Hall SMS Emergency Notification system that was launched in June has over 500 registrations. This seems to have resulted in a large increase for our email Listserv, which has increased from 2,500 to 3,000.

The Anne Arundel County Arts Council has provided the \$1,000 grant for the summer concerts, which is \$1,500 less than what we budgeted for.

Jim requested that Board members with functional area oversight schedule time to meet with him in September to discuss budget projections for FY28.

With the recent addition of a Heroes Banner for Russ Shipley, we now have a total of 92 banners around the Parkway.

Jim reported that the Crofton Pie Bake-off was successful. There were 25 contestants, who brought 50 pies. There was over \$1,200 raised for the Christian Caring Council's Baby Pantry plus donations of diapers and baby formula.

Police Chief's Report – *Chief Jason Jett*

Chief Jett reported that he has officially ended the contract with the Flock Safety Camera system. The company has not yet removed the equipment and is still operational. He has begun investigating other similar systems, including vehicle-mounted systems.

Chief Jett reported that complaints of E-Bikes continue. He has written an article regarding the requirements in the E-Advocate as well as on the police social media. Individuals have been riding on the golf course, which is private property. Chief Jett has increased patrols in the area after the incident at hole 14, which caused \$1,200 in damage. There have been riders reported on the path off Tyrone Street behind the Willows, and in the Crofton Natural Area behind Swann Park.

New Board member and Public Safety Committee Chair Jack Kemerer participated in ride-alongs with the department on both a day and evening shift. Jack will report on the recent Public Safety meeting.

The Chief reported the department will participate in the upcoming Bike Rodeo sponsored by Family Bike Shop.

Chief Jett reported they have received 7 applications for the open position in the police department. Unfortunately, none of the candidates were eligible.

Chief Jett reported the department continues with required certification training. Some online programs are available through the Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT) of Maryland. Firearms training will begin later in the month of August. The department has completed its audit through MPTC, verifying that all training is up to date. Cpl. Utzig will attend an upcoming field training course in September. Sgt. Sims will attend a required refresher course. The Chief attended a two-day leadership training workshop offered by Prince George's County Fraternal Order of Police.

The Chief reported on the July statistics. There were 747 calls for service, 25 traffic stops, and 415 patrol checks.

He provided an update on crime in the community. There have been some wheel thefts in the Arrive apartments. There were some theft-from-auto incidents on Galaxy Drive. A stolen car from Montgomery County was recovered that was parked on Trent Street. There was no damage to the vehicle.

Chief Jett reported the department's participation in community events. They participated and provided traffic safety for the Kiwanis 5/10 K race and the American Heart Association's Relay for Life. Upcoming events include National Night Out tomorrow, August 4th, and the Bike Rodeo and Ice Cream Social on August 30th. The 4th annual Trunk-Or-Treat event will be scheduled on a Friday in October at the Village Green. Sgt. Sims is planning an additional Women's safety and self-defense program at Vuong's Martial Arts in the fall.

Chief Jett reminded folks that school starts in a few weeks and to pay additional attention to traffic safety.

Committee Reports

Covenant Review Committee – Kevin Wilson

Kevin announced the two new volunteers to the committee: Jessica Hood and Michelle Calender. He reported there are no new submissions for review.

Public Safety Committee – Jack Kemerer

Jack reported on the recent Public Safety Committee meeting on July 13th. The topics included parking, basketball hoops, and traffic calming methods.

He would like to address traffic speeding concerns by adding automated electronic speed monitors to areas in the community.

He thanked the police department for the *Advocate* article on E-bikes.

He recommended adding remote LPR's to our police cars since we have ended our contract with the Flock Safety cameras.

He would like to recruit new members to the committee.

He reported that the resident who parks their trailer with jet skis on Crofton Parkway has sold his home and will be moving out of the community.

He reported on the use of extension cords stretching from homes to the street for charging electric cars. He will look into solutions for this since it is not allowed in the community.

He thanked Chief Jett for the ride-along. He participated in both the day and evening shifts.

Maintenance and Operations – Kitty Gross

Kitty reported that the rain garden project has been completed. New plantings will be added in the fall.

She reported a large dead tree in the curb lawn on the corner of Stratton and Swinburne. Martin will investigate. He clarified that the maintenance of trees in the curb lawn is the responsibility of the homeowner; however, if the tree is dead or dying and poses a safety threat, county DPW will remove it.

She reported on the golf course border areas, specifically in the areas on Eton Way and Spring Green Avenue, where the weeds are over a foot tall. Martin commented that the country club manager is usually responsive to our complaints. She suggests a letter from the Board to the country club explaining the concerns from the community might encourage results.

Kitty asked the status of the bond initiatives for the upgraded park and playground equipment. Martin responded that he has gone through the new system and is waiting on the updated estimates on the equipment. He is not sure of the timeframe beyond this.

Kitty commented on some community blogs that complain there is no police presence in the community. The Chief believes that this is due to our unmarked vehicles since there is presence on both day and evening shifts. He has been looking into having them wrapped so that they are clearly identifiable.

Education and Civic Affairs – Chuck Cook

Chuck reported that the lawsuit against the redistricting of the Crofton feeder system to the high school has been issued a stay by the courts. For the remainder of the 26-27 school year, the Nantucket Elementary students required to attend Arundel High School by this redistricting decision can choose to attend Crofton High School.

Greater Crofton Council Liaison – Chuck See

Chuck reported on the meeting of the GCC held on June 29th. Senator Rosapepe and his team presented a summary of the last legislative session.

He reported there is an upcoming meeting of the Riedel Road/Johns Hopkins Road Traffic Committee, scheduled for 6:00 PM on August 12th. This meeting will be held by Zoom.

Recreation Committee – Meredith Schramm

Meredith reported that the next meeting of the Recreation Committee is scheduled for August 17th. They will discuss potential programs for the FY28 budget and recommendations for the Board.

Finance Committee – James Kitchen

James reported that the committee met at the end of June. They made recommendations to move \$80,000 to reserve funds of the \$84,000 budget surplus. Notable transfers were: \$22,500 to the ADA compliance fund, and \$17,500 to the property tax income gap fund, for the operational budget in between our payments from the county. Jim noted there is a summary of the recommendations on the last page of the Comptroller's report he distributed to the Board.

Planning and Zoning – Brenda Wakefield

Brenda reported the vetoes on the Region 5 Plan were overturned by the county council.

She reported the Sly Horse Tavern property in Village Green has been sold, including the property adjacent to it. The new owners own the Harvest Thyme restaurant in Davidsonville. The new restaurant will be a steakhouse called Prime Thyme. There will be a speakeasy on the lower level, and it will also have outdoor seating. It will be at least 18 months before opening.

Other Business

Anna reported that she attended the county meeting at the library last Thursday regarding the sidewalk extension project for the area. There were three proposed designs shown. The pathway will extend from Staples Corner into the park.

James commented that the overrides of the vetoes of the Region 5 Plan do not clear a path for the 377 new homes at Two Rivers. The developers still do not have the zoning authority to put those houses in. The special exception that was approved in the early 2000's states that Two Rivers is capped at 260 homes, and that piece of land must be used for a golf course or an agricultural park.

Jack asked if our Articles of Incorporation need updating. Martin explained they do not. He is the resident agent filed with the state. The articles do not require an update to do this.

Citizen Comments

There were no citizen comments or questions.

The meeting was adjourned for an Executive Session to discuss the acquisition of real property.

Meeting minutes completed by Tara Gottschalck, Administrative Assistant (August 19, 2026)

MS/JH/JJ(tg)