



**CROFTON CIVIC ASSOCIATION**  
**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP AND BOARD MEETING**  
**Crofton Elementary School, Duke of Kent Drive, Crofton**  
**May 13, 2024 – 7:30 PM**

**Present:**

**Board Members:** Anna O’Kelly, Marsha Perry, Daria DeLizio, Charles See, Stephen Tull, and Hal Sheldon.

**Staff:** Martin H. Simon, James Harvey, Sgt. Jason Jett.

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

**Announcements by President Anna O’Kelly:**

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

Anna reminded everyone that tonight is the CCA Board of Directors Elections which are taking place in the lobby and will be concluded at the end of this meeting after Citizen Comments are completed or 9:00 PM, whichever comes first. The winners will be announced at that time.

Beginning on May 11th the Crofton Summer Farmers Market returns on Saturdays through October from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the Crofton Library. The market features local and regional foods, foods, crafts, and artwork. See [Croftonfarmersmarket.com](http://Croftonfarmersmarket.com) for details.

On May 20th the Crofton 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Golf Outing at the Crofton Country Club is scheduled to begin at 8:00 AM. Interested participants may sign up from the link posted to our website at [Croftoncommunity.org](http://Croftoncommunity.org). Registration & Nico’s Bagels & Brunch Breakfast begins at 8:00 AM. The \$150 registration fee includes greens fees, golf cart, practice facility, 60th Anniversary logo golf hat, A sleeve of 60th Anniversary golf balls, a 60th drink koozie, breakfast, buffet lunch, exciting hole contests including a \$10,000 prize, other door prizes, and awards. We’ll play a four-person scramble format. Golfers of all skill levels are invited to this community event. Proceeds from this event will help support the remainder of 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events throughout the year.

On Tuesday May 21st from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM, at the Crofton Library, the Crofton Village Garden Club will host a Flower Show as part of the Crofton 60th Anniversary events. There will be over 200 horticulture, floral design, and educational exhibits.

Town Hall will be closed on Memorial Day, Monday May 27th.

On June 1st from 2:00 PM to 10:00 PM at the Crofton Country Club the CCA will host Summerfest. This is a Crofton 60th Anniversary free music event featuring six bands with food trucks on site. Three groups of student musicians will perform first, the Croton High School Band, the School of Rock house band, and the Priddy Music Academy band. They will be followed by the adult bands Dust on the Bottle, Honey Sol, Brendan Lane & the Sugar Packets, and Here's to the Night. Please bring your own seating.

June 2nd begins the annual CCA Summer Concert Series every Sunday through July 21st from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Crofton Country Club. Bring your chairs, blankets, and enjoy a picnic dinner while enjoying great music. Scheduled bands:

- June 2: Pocket Change ~ Easy Listening
- June 9: To Be Determined
- June 16: Sandra Dean Band ~ Classic Rock
- June 23: Six Pack Rodeo ~ Country with a Kick
- June 30: Bay Winds ~ Classical Band Music
- July 7: Built 4 Comfort ~ Blues
- July 14: Bay Jazz Project ~ Jazz
- July 21: Wicked Olde ~ Pop to Folk

On June 8th at 8:00 AM, the Crofton Kiwanis hosts their 36th annual Crofton Kiwanis/Team Surlis 10K Challenge & 5K Run charity fundraiser. The race starts and ends at the Crofton Country Club. The 10K course is certified, running throughout the neighborhood. The 5K starts immediately after the 10K and is run entirely on Crofton Parkway. The first 300 registered runners will get a 2024 race T-shirt; water and snacks will be available, pre-race and post-race. Participants may register at [croftonkiwanis.com](http://croftonkiwanis.com).

The next CCA Board meeting is scheduled for Monday June 17th at 7:00 PM, at the Library & Media Center, Crofton Elementary School.

Anna announced the following free events at the Crofton Library, 1681 Riedel Road, Crofton. See the full calendar on their website at [www.aacpl.net](http://www.aacpl.net):

- May 16<sup>th</sup>, 4:15 – 5:15 PM, Voice Your Story with Opera Baltimore
- May 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 – 7:30 PM, Meki's Tamure Polynesian Arts Group
- May 17<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 – 11:30 AM, Parachute Play for Seniors
- May 18<sup>th</sup> and all Saturdays through May & June, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM, Plant Clinic: Ask a Master Gardiner
- May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM, AACo Community College – Information Session for Adult Learners
- May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6:00 – 8:00 PM, FarmUnity Spring Harvest Festival
- June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2:00 – 4:00 PM, Anime Program

**Approval of Minutes** –

The minutes from the CCA Board meeting held on April 8, 2024, require approval. There were no additional corrections or revisions needed for these previously distributed minutes. The minutes were filed.

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

Martin reported that the 30<sup>th</sup> annual Armed Forces Parade was a success and thanked everyone who participated. The after party at Town Hall was well attended. He thanked Kathy and the police department and Board members for their assistance.

Martin encouraged people to sign up for the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Golf Outing. The deadline for registration has been extended to Wednesday.

Martin provided an update on the water line installation from Farlow Avenue to the ballfield at Hardy Field, which was halted last month due to the County requiring a survey before the work could begin. That has now been completed, and the project will begin shortly. This new survey will be helpful to the CCA for projects moving forward.

Martin provided an update on the new playground equipment at Hardy Field. He met with Anna and Rob regarding the new color scheme, equipment selection, and layout. The \$15,000 overage has been lowered to \$10,707. That will come from the remaining FY24 Park Equipment expense funds. RTAAC has submitted their tax-exempt certificate this week and should be making a 50% deposit this week. This project is on time for the summer. The equipment order has a five week lead time.

Martin has discussed additional year end projects with Anna and Rob, including a roof replacement on the garage at Hardy Field. The entire structure needs repair. The CAC has agreed to obtain estimates for a package deal for the roof, siding, and trim, and agrees to split the costs. Since the CAC is now a 501(c) 3 organization, Martin would like to work together with them on fundraising for other projects.

Martin mentioned additional projects such as the removal of threatening trees at Hardy Field and playground, leaning trees and cleaning up the rain garden at the Crawford Boulevard median, cleaning out the drains to the rain garden, cleaning up the ivy along many of the trees in the "W" section, repair to some of the brickwork at the entrance by Mayfair, and sprucing up a planting bed at the corner of Swinburne and Crofton parkway. He is waiting on estimates for this work and hopes to have it contracted at the end of May for completion by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Martin reported the completion of his Community Emergency Response Training on emergency preparedness.

Martin provided a police overtime report. There were 41 hours of overtime paid for special events from April 8<sup>th</sup> to May 13<sup>th</sup>; Tree Climbing competition, Festival on the Green, and the Armed Forces Parade. There were 21 hours of regular overtime paid for Sgt. Sims for his Crisis Intervention Training, and Cpl. Gable worked DUI and traffic checks for Cinco de Mayo, and additional shoplifting crime prevention measures at the Crofton Center. We remain under budget for overtime for FY24.

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

Jim passed out a budget report to the Board members. At present the fiscal year will close with approximately \$190,000. Money left over would usually go to FY26 budget to hold in reserve, however, it was planned in the FY24 budget to add \$80,000 to the reserve funds as follows: Adding \$5,000 for maintenance truck replacement, \$10,000 to police equipment, \$5,000 to police IT, \$5,000 for Admin IT, and \$50,000 to a revolving fund account. These are for saving for future expenses and for vehicle replacement.

Additionally, we are not allowed to have a line of credit without an act of County Council, and therefore need to self-fund for five months from July 1<sup>st</sup> to December 30<sup>th</sup>, including our large insurance expense. There is currently \$210,000 in the revolving account for this purpose. This is not sufficient because of the future car replacement expenses. Jim recommended it be increased to \$480,000.

Jim reported on the Crofton 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary programs. Expenses for Summerfest and the Kidz Fest programs are 100% covered by funds raised for the 60<sup>th</sup> program. Any additional money will go towards lowering ticket prices for the Homecoming Reception and Oktoberfest in October.

Jim provided the Board member officers with their copies of the Board Excellence Governance Handbook. The Board agreed at last month's meeting that Board officers will be given a copy of this publication.

As discussed at last month's meeting, Jim provided Board members with a proposal for a document retention policy for their review and comment. He added that we do not have a policy for the retention of personnel records. He provided the example that OSHA retains their records for thirty years.

Jim reported that the annual worker compensation insurance audit reclassified the Town Manager position from a clerical employee to municipal employee, reversing a decision made by a previous auditor two years ago. This change increases the workman's compensation premium an additional \$9,586, which was required to be paid in a single payment.

Jim reported the May Advocate print edition had \$6,875 in advertising. The E-Advocate had 1,300 views. Social media followers continue to grow.

There are thirty-six registered golfers. Thirty Heroes banners were purchased. If we receive ten additional requests for banners, we can renew the program.

The annual Crofton Pie Bake-off has been rescheduled for July 20<sup>th</sup>. The annual Higgins and Friends Crofton Pet Fair and Dog Show has been moved to October 5<sup>th</sup> to accommodate the date for the Fall Festival on the Green. It will relocate from the Village Green to the Crofton Country Club.

Stephen introduced a motion to accept Jim's proposed reserve fund increase. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

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

Brian was not present at the meeting and did not provide a report.

**Finance Committee** – *Renee Speer*

Renee was not present at the meeting and did not provide a report.

**Committee Reports****Planning & Zoning** – *Marsha Perry*

Marsha thanked Pat Huecker for all her assistance and research on local planning and zoning issues. Marsha thanked Jim for all his assistance on the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee. She encouraged people to attend the final homecoming event at the Crofton Country Club in October. Marsha reported on her Crofton history project she is working on with Jim and Mark Smith. It will contain stories submitted by Crofton residents under the theme “The Voices of Crofton.” She encouraged residents to contribute. Marsha also thanked Ray Sauser, Manager of the Crofton Country Club, for his assistance with the Anniversary events.

Region 5 area planning is beginning, and she suggested that Chuck apply to be a representative on the planning board.

Marsha and Pat reported that the Appeals Board meeting that was scheduled for Monday regarding the properties on Route 450 that applied for up zoning did not take place since the property owner was unable to attend. The hearing has been postponed to June.

Marsha and Pat spoke about the application for the Region 5 Planning Board. The application is three pages and asks the following: name address, company you work for, your position there, your job title, and are you currently or do you have experience in the following professions: Homebuilding/Real Estate, Military/Contractor, Real Estate/Realtor. There is no place to enter your Community Association information. Additionally, it requires a financial disclosure. This is very different from past applications. There is concern that there is no room for community representatives that are not property developers. James Kitchin will investigate this.

**Recreation Committee** – *Daria DeLizio*

Daria has nothing to report.

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

Chuck reported that the next meeting on Riedel Road/Johns Hopkins Road Traffic Safety Committee is scheduled for May 28<sup>th</sup> by Zoom, with Nestor Flores of Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works representative. He will provide time and any additional information once he receives it.

The next GCC meeting is scheduled for June 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at the Waugh Chapel Community Center.

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

Stephen reported a Real Estate agent asked if a playhouse in the yard is allowed. They are acceptable.

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

Rob has been working with Martin on the playground equipment at Hardy Field, and the end of year projects.

**Education Committee** – *Hal Sheldon*

Hal reported on remarks made by Dr. Mark Bedell, Anne Arundel County Superintendent of schools. Schools in the county will be cutting teaching staff and reassigning others ahead of the 2024-25 school year.

Hal reported that Crofton Middle School is hosting a Hoops for Heart fundraiser for the American Heart Association on May 20-24.

The last day for Crofton Elementary School Students is June 11<sup>th</sup>.

Hal reported that next year's enrollment for Crofton Elementary School has increased by 15%.

**Police Chief Report** – *Sgt. Jason Jett, Acting Chief*

Chief Jett reported the police department has been busy with procuring new equipment to increase productivity and services within the community.

He reported that some officers were honored with prestigious awards for their service and dedication as reported in the E-Advocate.

He reported that the officers attended Crisis Intervention Training and a Field Training refresher course.

The officers have participated in several community events such as the Spring Festival on the Green, the Spring Arbor Picnic for first responders, and the Armed Forces Parade.

The Chief reported on the statistics for the month of April. There were 607 calls for service, 339 Patrol Checks, and 76 traffic stops which included 2 DUI citations.

Chief Jett reported that there has been an increase in theft from autos and wheel and tire theft, mostly at Arrive apartments. These incidents occur predominantly in the early morning hours just before daylight, between Monday evening and Wednesday morning. Based on this pattern the department has conducted two overnight patrols in an attempt to catch the suspects. Both attempts were unsuccessful. Cpl. Gable has been flexing his hours to working later in the evenings in hopes of increasing the chances of catching these individuals. Arrive apartment management and residents have expressed gratitude for the efforts of the Crofton police in this matter.

Chief Jett reported that the crime activity at Ace Hardware has been reduced. He believes this is due to additional patrols in the shopping center. The manager expressed her appreciation to the Crofton police for their assistance in this matter.

The Chief reported on April 15<sup>th</sup> Sgt. John Sims received a Business Partner of the Year Award from the Maryland Central Chamber of Commerce. Sgt. Sims has provided exemplary service at Crofton Elementary School and serves as a mentor and positive role model to all students. His smile and professionalism can be seen always at the school. The Chief added that he has personally adopted Crofton Woods Elementary School, and has received a very warm welcome by the students.

The Chief announced that on April 24<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Kyle Gable was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal by the United States Congress. Cpl. Gable received this prestigious award due to his response and action during the insurrection incident at the U.S. Capitol on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

The Chief reported on the new equipment purchases for the department. A large portion has arrived and is already in use. The LPR's will be shipped in May. The new handguns will ship in August. Vehicle upgrades have been ordered. The Lidar units, tint meters, and medical kits are on the way. He thanked the Board for approving these purchases.

Chief Jett reported Sgt. Sims attended a weeklong Crisis Intervention Training hosted by the Anne Arundel County Police. He and Cpl. Gable will also attend this training. Cpl. Gable has been recertified as a field training officer. Sgt. Sims will conduct the training, and moving forward, Cpl. Gable will be responsible for training any new employees of the Crofton Police department.

Chief Jett reported on the parking restriction project. DPW is in the process of creating the new signage.

The Chief reported on the third Police Accountability Board complaint. It was handled by him in house. The complaint was regarding a traffic stop conducted by Cpl. Gable. Chief Jett spoke to the complainant on the phone. The subject argued the tint on his car is not a primary traffic offense. Chief Jett explained that it is a traffic offense that can result in a traffic stop by police. The subject then agreed to drop the complaint. The Chief notified the PAB of the result, who then notified the Administrative Charging Committee.

Ofc Redding remains on medical leave. He will be reevaluated in June.

Chief Jett spoke about the possibility of a take home car program. He does not believe it is a viable concern for the Crofton Police department. The officers are happy with the car allowance they receive, and as far as he is concerned the subject is closed. He understands it's use as a recruitment tool for County police. He asked James Kitchin if the County Council will pass the current budget that proposes raising starting salaries of incoming officers to \$70,000. Due to low recruitment, James believes the budget will pass without any cuts to police salaries.

**Spencer Dixon, Legislative Director for Senator Gile**

Spencer Dixon, Legislative Director for Senator Gile provided an update on recent bills that were passed.

He commented on the Blueprint for Maryland's legislation for education with regards to the reduction of teachers across District 33, specifically Severna Park, Broadneck, and Crofton due to budget restrictions. Senator Gile is aware of this and believes in the reinvestment in Maryland public education. He stated that it is important to recognize that nothing in the blueprint calls for a reduction in pupil allocation funding at any school. It is meant to be additive. Schools require more resources.

Senator Gile has sent letters to County Executive Pittman and Dr. Bedell to continue to be collaborative partners in this while making their position clear that if there was enough funding there is nothing stopping the county from supplementing programs to ensure there is no harm to students.

He provided an update on recent sessions. Several bills were passed. Nineteen were personally sponsored by Senator Gile, and four through her role as Chair of the AA County Senate Delegation.

He touched on some important bills recently passed.

The Port Act, an emergency bill that was a result of the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse. It provides supplemental support to workers who have been displaced or laid off due to the collapse, and includes small businesses affected.

The ARC Act, Improving the Accountability Rehabilitation and Coordination for our Juvenile justice system. This was in response to high profile youth crime last summer. It clarifies and provides stronger accountability, as well as clearing up some administrative challenges to ensure the department is providing rehabilitation services.

He spoke about two consumer protection bills that were sponsored by Senator Gile.

The first is a comprehensive online data privacy bill which would protect users in the state of Maryland. He provided an example of a website called Pray.com, a website people could enter in certain life challenges they are experiencing and ask for prayer. The website would then sell this data for targeted marketing such as gambling rehabilitation, and marriage debt or counseling.

Another bill brings relief to the consumers from ticketing agencies. This bill outlaws speculative ticket sales. It was legal in Maryland to have a scalper offer a ticket to an event before the tickets were released for sale to the public. This has now been outlawed in the state of Maryland and is the second state to do this. There is a provision of the bill that requires a study by the Attorney General's office, so it may be revisited in the future.

Lastly, there were legislative bonds passed, including one cross-filed with Delegate Schmidt, which is the \$100,000 bond to replace the roof of the Bowie Elks Lodge located in Crofton.

He left copies of the end of session letter for people to take.



**Citizen Questions or Comments –**

James Kitchin commented on the Blueprint for Education, which is an unfunded mandate. The County received \$40,000,000 less in additional funding than last year, while providing an additional \$48,000,000 to the school system. Due to the decrease in state funding, Dr. Bedell made tough decisions regarding the staffing of teachers in the district. The County is sympathetic to this issue. Spencer Dixon commented they are looking into legislation to meet these needs. There is additional state funding coming next year.

**2024 Board Election Results –**

The Elections Committee Chair, Nancy Kervin, announced the results of the 2024 election.

All positions were uncontested.

All incumbent Board members were re-elected. There is a new Board Officer, James Kitchin elected as Treasurer. The new Board of Directors will begin their term on June 1, 2024 for two years. There were forty-four total votes. Martin thanked the volunteers on the Elections Committee.

With no other questions or comments, the meeting was adjourned for an Executive Session to discuss Legal Matters.

*Meeting minutes completed by Tara Gottschalck, Administrative Assistant (June 12, 2024)*