

Who is John W. Anna Jr.?

To the Editor:

Last month's *Beltsville News* (6/2005) reported that John Anna received a Citizenship Award from the Beltsville Lions Club. As a member of the Beltsville Lions Club, I am aware of the honor and the distinction that this award signifies. It is worthwhile to point out that the Beltsville Lions have not presented this award in quite a number of years.

So, who is John Anna? How many of you who have benefited from his quiet involvement in our community know him? John is a former-Marine, a husband and a father. John is a businessman and the owner of Adirondack Tree Experts. John has been a political ally and an opponent to me. Through it all, he has been a good friend.

John is one of those extraordinary businessmen who believe in giving back. He unselfishly supports numerous and wide-ranging causes to help better our community. He has provided funding to various schools and institutions to

help our community today and into the future. Included in his generous support, John has provided instruments to our local school so all students will have the opportunity to develop and enjoy their musical talent. In addition, John has reached out to various organizations, such as Special Olympics Maryland, Prince George's County, the Boys and Girls Club, High Point High School, Pallotti High School, Faith Baptist Christian School, First Baptist Church of Beltsville, Laurel Museum, Hyattsville "Babe Ruth" Baseball League, and the Beltsville Lions, to name a few. For the last nine years, John has been the main contributor to "National Night Out" here in Beltsville. Recently, he funded the creation of a park in honor of the late Mayor of Laurel, Frank Casula. All of this kindness is to make a difference in our community.

On a personal level, I am aware that on numerous occasions John has helped families purchase groceries and clothing in times of need. Additionally, he has paid for the funeral and the burial for the father of an acquaintance who could not afford the expense.

I am sure that John has done much more than I know. The one thing I do know, he has been a tremendous asset to our community.

It is fitting that the Beltsville Lions Club chose John Anna to be the first person to receive this award in more than 7 years. I can think of no one more deserving of the prestigious award. John, thank you!

Kevin Kennedy,
Beltsville