

Brookland & Bush Hill

NEWS

A Newsletter for the Residents of Brookland and Bush Hill, in Alexandria, Virginia

January 2004

BBHCA

Community Meeting

Tuesday, January 13, 2004

7:00 pm

Bush Hill Elementary School

AGENDA

Secretary's Reading
of the Minutes

Treasurer's Report

Second Vice President's
Membership Report

OLD BUSINESS

Need a Volunteer for President

Neighborhood
Watch Chairperson

NEW BUSINESS

Membership Directory

Items from the Floor

PROGRAM

Officer Philip Edwards
Community/Police Relations

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Community Discussion
Adjournment

BEVERAGES AND SNACKS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year!

Larry Carter, *President BBHCA*

I hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday Season. But it's now time to roll up our sleeves and kick-off a new year-2004. Our next community meeting will be January 13th at the Bush Hill Elementary School. Our guest speaker will be Officer Philip Edwards from the Fairfax County Police Department. Officer Edwards is the Crime Prevention Officer for the Franconia Police District and usually participates in the monthly Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings. He will provide us an update on police activities in and around our Brookland-Bush Hill area. He will also discuss Neighborhood Watch and the part it plays in protecting residents, the Citizens Advisory Committee and its role in the community and other issues of interest. Since we are still in need of a volunteer to chair our Neighborhood Watch Committee, this will be an excellent opportunity for anyone interested to come and find out what's involved in a meaningful Neighborhood Watch organization. It will also be an opportunity to get answers to any concerns you may have about unusual activities you've witnessed or any other concerns you have about your specific neighborhood and street.

We are still on the lookout for someone to assume the role as President of the Brookland-Bush Hill Civic Association. I will be stepping down at the completion of this year's duties. This will be my third consecutive year as President. The association's year ends with the Annual meeting in May when a new slate of officers will be elected. If you've ever thought about getting more involved in the community, this would be an excellent opportunity to do so. Give me a call or send me an email if you are interested; or, better yet, come to the meeting on January 13th and say hello.

Residents on Piedmont Drive have been working a petition process to become a part of the County's leaf collection program. Anna and Charles Keller have been spearheading the petition process. The petition area includes all of Piedmont Drive and Pratt Court, Pratt Street from Ambler Street to Pratt Court, and Ambler Street to Brookland Road. There are some 60 homes in the petition area and slightly more than 50% of the homeowners must sign the petition to have the service begin next fall. If you live on one the streets listed above and are interested in receiving the leaf collection service, please

President's Message

Continued

contact Charles Keller at (703) 971-7184. There is a small fee involved for the service, but it can be quite a benefit with all the trees we have in this neighborhood. Charles and Anna Keller have done a great job pulling this process together. Help them complete it so you'll be ready for next fall's leaf clean-up.

The community meetings begin as close to 7PM as participants allow. If you haven't joined the association yet, it's never too late to

get involved. The annual dues of \$3 per person and \$6 per household are very reasonable for a voting position in the affairs of the association and, thereby, the community. We meet at the Bush Hill Elementary School. The meetings are normally on the second Tuesday of every other month beginning in September. The next meeting is January 13, 2003. Come and meet some of your neighbors. Make some new friends. Find out what others are experiencing and see if you can help in some way to make our community *just a little better*.

BBHCA Members Vote

During the November 11 BBHCA meeting, attending members voted to make \$400 in donations, \$100 to each of the following: Franconia Volunteer Fire Dept, Fairfax Cty Library at Rose Hill, Citizens Action Committee (CAC), and Bush Hill Elementary Parent Teachers Association.

A member vote will be taken at the January meeting on whether or not to publish a 2003-2004 BBHCA membership directory (a vote was not taken as originally planned during the November meeting). In the past, only BBHCA members were included in the directory. However, adding nonmembers would be time consuming and costly. Let us know what you think at the next meeting. Other issues may also be raised for a vote of the membership. Your vote counts at BBHCA!

If you have questions about BBHCA membership, please contact Sharada Gilkey (703) 313-8490 or Marti Morris at (703) 547-6705. A membership application was provided with the last two issues of the newsletter (the yellow sheet) and is also available online 24/7 (in case you wake up in the middle of the night feeling disconnected and want to be an integral part of our wonderful community) at www.bbhca.org.

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Michael Fogarty & Sandra Wilkinson

Members of the Brookland Bush Hill Civic Association

Meeting Minutes Online

The minutes for the November 11 meeting are online at www.bbhca.org. See what you missed and be sure to mark your calendar for the next meeting in January. Everyone is invited—members and nonmembers. Your participation is key to our success. Take a break from your routine and join your neighbors. Every meeting is different and your suggestions for guest speakers are welcome. By the way, if you are itching to put "President" on your resume, we need one next year.

Message from Supervisor Kauffman

A few months ago, I wrote in this column about the importance of electing representatives who would be our partners in controlling growth. Election Day has come and gone and the County Board of Supervisors is about to begin work on the 2004 legislative package it will present to the General Assembly. (In Virginia—a Dillon Rule rather than a Home Rule state such as Maryland—counties must rely on the state legislature for enabling legislation that will allow them to enact laws and ordinances.)

I will be working closely with the new Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Gerry Connolly, and the rest of my Board colleagues to craft a common sense proposal that requests legislation to expand local government's ability to better manage the impacts of new residential development where the public facilities necessary to serve the development are not available. Based on guidance from our County Attorney's office, any such legislation must incorporate the following to have any chance of passing muster with the state.

■ It should allow us to identify which public facilities would be

addressed in the ordinance (i.e. schools, roads, or some other facility);

■ It should allow us to establish the level of service standards for each type of facility.

■ It should allow us to deny or defer approval of a subdivision plat or site plan submission where the identified public facilities have been determined to be inadequate to serve the proposed development;

■ It should provide us with the option of approving a subdivision plat or site plan subject to a condition pertaining to timing or phasing where the public facilities are currently inadequate to serve the development, but are anticipated to be provided;

■ It should provide us with the option of allowing the property owner to elect to make a contribution towards providing the inadequate public facilities in exchange for obtaining plat or plan approval; and lastly, but of the utmost importance;

■ It should not create or impose a requirement on the locality to have to construct or otherwise make adequate any inadequate public facility. In plain English, the General Assembly should not require us to

'make the developer whole.'

Our state legislatures and our Northern Virginia legislative delegation have two historical opportunities this year. They can make our antiquated tax system fairer and loose the restraints that prevent localities from managing growth. These are more than feel-good slogans. Not only our quality of life, but our economic vitality ride on these decisions.

Happy Holidays

It's hard to believe that 2003 is almost over! My best wishes to you and your families for a happy and healthy holiday season and New Year.

Supervisor Kauffman's Annual Open House

My staff and I will be greeting our Lee District family at our yearly open house on Saturday, January 24 from 1 to 4 pm in the community room of the Franconia Governmental Center (6121 Franconia Road). Please bring your family and friends and join us.

The Springfield Arts Guild will have an art show in the lobby of the building at the same time. The display will showcase local artists and the artwork will be available for sale.

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WHO? The Franconia Orators

WHERE? John Marshall Library

6209 Rose Hill Drive

Alexandria, VA

WHEN? 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Cox Offers Digital Video Recording (A TiVo-Like Service) in Franconia Area

By Robert Michie

Cox Communications is now offering its cable subscribers a digital video recording (DVR) option. The service replaces your VCR and present cable box with an integrated cable terminal and recording device. People who have switched to DVR say that the last time home technology shifted so much in convenience was the introduction of microwave ovens in the 1970's. Not even broadband Internet compares to this technology, they say.

The DVR service, as sold by Cox, comes in the form of a new cable box and hand controller. The box has a hard drive capable of holding 40 hours of television programming. Cox charges \$9.95 a month for the service, which includes the equipment upgrade. As that \$3.00 of your present cable bill is actually rent on your old terminal, the DVR service costs you just an additional six dollars a month. You must be a digital subscriber before you can order the DVR package.

The DVR can do the most amazing things. It is always recording the last sixty minutes of whatever you are watching. Therefore, you can pause live TV, and pick up the show whenever you are ready. Sports fans can do the equivalent of a fast rewind to see a play again, and then press a special button that allows you to rejoin the broadcast in "real time." Or you can continue to watch the program with your own personal tape delay, which gives you the ability to fast forward through commercials.

The staff of the Piedmont Drive Computing Center uses its DVR to settle arguments. We may have multiple computers here, but we have just one TV. The DVR can record two

programs on different channels simultaneously, so our games of paper-rock-scissors are very infrequent now. The DVR is preprogrammed to save recorded shows for fourteen days before dumping them to make room for new programs. Users can override this choice to save a program indefinitely.

The program is fully integrated with the Cox Program Guide. Pressing a button in the guide is all that is necessary to record a show. The system can also be set to record all instances of a program with just a few clicks. Playback quality appears to be higher than VHS cassettes, but not quite up to DVD, as played through an S-Video connection. It is certainly as good as your present over-the-wire viewing experience.

The Cox digital video recording technology competes with the TiVo service (www.tivo.com). TiVo has technological and programming advantages, not the least of which are set top devices that record up to 80 hours of programming. The latest TiVo sets also have built-in DVD recorders that allow you to save your favorite recordings "offline" for years. However, you may find integrating a TiVo box into your system rather difficult. The high-end TiVos retail at places such as Best Buy for \$800 or more (but a price for a unit that is comparable to the Cox system is about \$200). TiVos must be connected to your home's telephone line so it can periodically download its TV Guide (it does this with an 800 number free call). TiVos also require a monthly subscription of about \$10 for basic service. Therefore the Cox DVR service is a clear winner both on price points and overall service.

Brookland-Bush Hill Civic Association Officers

PRESIDENT

Larry Carter,
703-924-5055
president@bbhca.org

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Newsletter
Judi Connelly
newsletter@bbhca.org

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT and MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Marti Morris 703-547-6705
and Sharada Gilkey
703-313-8490
membership@bbhca.org

SECRETARY

Helen Michie
703-971-3769

TREASURER

Michael Fogarty
703-719-7929, 703-719-0774
fogarty@cox.net

PAST PRESIDENT

Carol Lewis

COMMITTEES

ZONING AND LAND USE

Roy Rice
703-971-4379
roywrice@aol.com

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Open—Need a volunteer

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Bob Michie
703-971-3769
michier@cox.net

BBHCA WEB SITE

Bob Michie
703-971-3769
webmaster@bbhca.org

Sharada Gilkey

(Web site only)
sgilkey123@aol.com

Delegate Mark Sickles and Senator Toddy Puller to Hold Virginia Budget & Tax Reform Town Meeting

By Mark Sickles

At 1 p.m. on Saturday, January 17, 2004, at the Franconia Government Center, Senator Toddy Puller and I will be holding a town meeting to discuss Governor Warner's two-year budget proposal, his tax reform initiative, and other matters currently before Virginia's General Assembly. We hope that you will plan to attend and participate in the discussion. The meeting is likely to last two hours but we will stay as

long as the discussion is productive.

The General Assembly session starts on January 14, 2004, and lasts for 60 days. Beginning on April 3, 2004, I will be holding scheduled office hours at the Government Center, 6121 Franconia Road, on the first Saturday of the month from 10 a.m.-12 p.m., or longer as necessary. If you would like to schedule an appointment for any other time, do not hesitate to call me at

(703) 317-0036, send an email to del_sickles@house.state.va.us, or letter to P.O.Box 10628, Alexandria, VA, 22310. Let us know if you would like to be kept informed via email.

Thank you very much for your support last November. I look forward to working with the community to help make South Fairfax County and Virginia a better place to live.

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2003-2004 BBHCA Newsletter Copy Deadlines

ISSUE TEXT DEADLINE

Mar. 2004 Feb. 7, 2004

May 2004 Apr. 9, 2004

Send copy to:
newsletter@bbhcanews.org

BBHCA Membership as of 12/9/03

We are getting closer to our goal! Keep those membership applications coming in! The current membership count is 209 which represents 26% of households in Brookland-Bush Hill. Our goal is to have 30% or 240 households. Unlike the "old days" when we went from door to door to collect members dues, we now rely on you to use your own initiative. Please take a few minutes to write a check for \$6 (\$3 for single occupancy) to support your civic association. Ask your neighbor if they have joined yet! Thank you!

Number of Members by Street

Street	No.	Street	No.
Ambler	2	Nedra Avenue	2
Anne Ly Lane	1	Neville Court	9
Barbmore Court	6	Ninian Avenue	6
Brookland Court	2	Ninian Court	2
Brookland Road	22	Old Rolling Road	3
Brookview Court	3	Piedmont Drive	8
Brookview Drive	4	Poyntz Place	1
Bush Hill Drive	16	Pratt Court	5
Clouds Mill Drive	4	Pratt Street	9
Foldi Street	1	Saratoga Street	2
Fort Ellsworth Court	1	Sumner Road	8
Forest Avenue	1	Thetford Place	3
Hopark Drive	11	Trin Street	1
Jane Way	18	Waycross Drive	8
Lane Drive	2	Westchester Street	24
Larno Drive	4	Westridge Court	9
Layne Estates Court	1	York Road	2
Mayfair Court	2		
Mayfair Lane	6	TOTAL	209