

# Brookland & Bush Hill

## NEWS

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

May 2009

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**Sandra "Jeannie" (Graham) Henry, President**

#### **The County Budget and Discussion with Lee District Supervisor**

At our May 12<sup>th</sup> BBHCA meeting, 7:30 pm at Bush Hill Elementary School, we will hear from Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay. By the time of the meeting the Board of Supervisors will have made a number of decisions on cuts in county services (which were made necessary by the apparently surprising fact that property values failed to continue appreciating at twenty percent per year indefinitely). This meeting will be your opportunity to ask how various services important to you have fared. In past meetings the services raised most frequently by residents have been neighborhood protection issues such as zoning enforcement and police presence, as well as senior citizen services. Jeff McKay has been a strong advocate for many of these services, while at the same time he has appreciated resident concerns about year-after-year tax increases that exceed the rate of inflation. Please be sure to come to the meeting and pose your questions and express your priorities for the coming year.

Some of you have kept up with the budget discussions better than I, but residents have indicated that numerous services important to our community are under consideration for cutbacks. The county's advertised budget plan for 2010 shows the largest number of positions being cut from the police department & fire and rescue services. Particularly troubling is the proposal to cut in half the number of Crime Prevention Officers. Our residents have come to depend highly on Officer Eggers, for example, who provides an important 2-way flow of information between our association and the police regarding incidents, issues & trends in both our neighborhood & the local area.

Next in line for cuts in the county budget are the parks and libraries. In addition, planning and zoning also comes in for a significant number of staff reductions, including cuts that will reduce the (or possibly eliminate?) the code enforcement strike force that has been so strongly supported by our residents.

As most of you know, the budget proposal also includes a large increase in the residential real estate assessment rate. In most cases this will balance the decline in this year's assessed value so that you will be paying about the same tax as in the previous year, which is of course, still considerably higher than your taxes of just a few years ago. Quite a bit of the county's budget planning information is available on line (though I did not locate the document that explained which parts of the county budget consumed the enormous increases in tax revenue enjoyed by the county from 2000 to 2006). These documents can be located at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/budget/fy2010/>

#### **Board Elections and BBHCA Budget**

The annual election of officers (for the 2009-2010 membership year) will be held during the May meeting. Thus far, the only nominations are for the current officers. These are important roles on the Board and I encourage interested residents to contact me if they have questions or would like to nominate themselves or someone else for these posts. (Please make sure your nominee is willing.) We will also hear the report from our budget audit and vote on our budget for the upcoming year at the May meeting.

**Annual Neighborhood Yard Sale** The annual BBHCA Yard Sale will be held

#### **BBHCA Community Meeting**

**Tuesday, May 12, 2009  
7:30 pm**

**Bush Hill Elementary School (Cafeteria)**

#### **AGENDA**

- **Approval of March 10 Meeting Minutes**
- **Board and Committee Reports**
- **Vote - Board & Budget Elections**
- **New Business**

#### **PROGRAM**

**Jeff McKay, Lee District, Fairfax County Supervisor**

**Visit us on the Web!  
[www.bbhca.org](http://www.bbhca.org)**

on June 6<sup>th</sup> this year, so please go ahead and mark your calendars. Last year's sale was extremely successful, with quite a few satisfied buyers and sellers. We had large number of participating homes, most of whom had sold the majority of their no-longer-needed household inventory by day's end. And those of us on the purchasing end were able to load up on lots of handy items --I personally found all kinds of practical stuff, large and small, that has been put to good use since last summer. There is need for a few volunteers to help with some of the arrangements for the sale. To volunteer, or get more information on the sale, call Sharada Gilkey at 703-313-8490 or e-mail [yardsale@bbhca.org](mailto:yardsale@bbhca.org).

## BBHCA Draft Meeting Minutes—Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Called to order at 7:35pm.

### Committee Reports

*Secretary* - the minutes in the March newsletter were from the November meeting instead of the January meeting. The January meeting minutes were handed out at the beginning of the March meeting and were deferred for approval until after the other reports. After those attending the meeting had an opportunity to read the minutes, a motion was made to approve the January minutes. There were two amendments, which have been corrected and posted on the BBHCA website, and are: under Land Use Report should read, Approved the amendment to the comprehensive plan for zoning change. And the phone number for the non-emergency police number is 703-691-2131

*Treasury*: - We are in a good position regarding income vrs outgoing. Our primary income is the newsletter. For the month of March our total expenses were \$254.10 and this was for the mailing of the letter to prospective members. Our final end of month cash is \$19,158.77. The money market that we currently utilize (Morgan Stanley) only earned 32 cents. The Treasurer is looking at moving to another money market with a higher interest yield. We need to do an annual audit before our next meeting (May) and need 2 volunteers to review the budget and reports.

*Membership*: - Letter went out end of February to approximately 600 homes that had yet to join the Association. Through this mailing we gained 85 members of which 15 were from the new Gunnel Estates. We recently approved the annex of LaVista Drive in Gunnel Estates and 7 of those homes joined our membership. To date we have 243 members at a total of \$5,345. This is \$1,121 over last year's membership and is due largely to the increase of the membership dues. The Association encompasses 819 homes.

**Neighborhood Watch** - During this period there has been no major, or for that matter, minor incidents to report. You are reminded though to keep a vigil with the longer hours and warmer months approaching. For police emergencies call 911, for non-emergencies call 691-2131.

Deborah Moore —secretary@bbhca.org  
Our neighborhood watch chair is looking for members of the community to be a contact to report suspicious activity on their “beat.” These can be dog walkers, joggers, or families that regularly are out walking.

**Land Use** - Recommended for approval to the Board of Supervisors are the Browne Academy; Springfield Mall rezoning, Hill Top rezoning; Metro Center 2 (near GSA site behind current metro); Pallone Chevrolet on Backlick Road to acquire a piece of property that fronts on Fullerton for office use (This is near the Engineering Proving Ground); and the I 95/395 HOT lanes (northern section) - 36 miles w/28 miles developed in existing HOV. Construction to start 2010. Website is VAMegaPorjects.com.

**New Business** - Parking/RV Use - an article on community parking was in the January BBHCA newsletter. Bob Michie attended a meeting on community parking districts which is a way to get commercial vehicles out of neighborhoods. The county recommends “nuclear” parking which will take vehicles from a large area of Lee District and incorporate the parking in one place. Some areas of the county have started to implement community parking - Mt. Vernon is one area. Commercial vehicles include boat, watercraft trailers, camping homes, vehicles (contractor) more than 12,000 lbs, and vehicles with more than 16 passengers.

Bob Michie recommended that our neighborhood not look into this. We have an established neighborhood and we would be asking our neighbors to make a change. There are enough zoning regulations that would make having a commercial vehicle in our community against the law. There are exemptions to community parking that include RVs parked in front of a home for less than 48 hrs or a commercial contractor working on a home. Also, if you have a driveway and you have a commercial vehicle that is parked in it 10 ft from the state road you are not impacted.

Nominations for Board Members - all nominations are open. These are President, Vice President for Membership, Vice President for the Newsletter, Secretary &

Treasurer. Between now and the next mtg if any member would like to serve or knows of someone who would like to serve, please notify the board so their name can be put up for nomination. In order to hold a position on the board you must be a paid member.

**Program** - Guest Speaker, Delegate Mark Sickles updated us on the recent budget session and bills passed in Richmond. The session ends April 8.

1. A bill passed that allows you to carry a gun in restaurants that have an ABC license. In VA you can carry a gun in the open with the exception of a courthouse, church or school. It is expected that the Governor will veto this bill.

2. A bill passed and signed yesterday by the Governor. This is to ban smoking in restaurants starting 12/1/09. The exceptions are outside patios and restaurants that have a separate ventilated area. Virginia is the first state in the South to pass a ban on smoking.

3. A bill passed that allows Dulles Airport to kill animals on their property. This is the result of the recent US Airways crash due to a flock of geese.

4. A bill passed to allow unemployment benefits to military spouses.

5. A bill passed on conducting a study on biosciences and biotechnology. This has nothing to do with stem cell. This bill was instigated because MD & NC, whom both border VA, are major research centers with major dollars. This bill will enable VA to tap into some of the research funds for biosciences & biotechnology by working with our research coll. & univ.

VA had a budget shortfall of \$3.7B because of the economy. Lots of cuts were on the line - K-12, higher ed, hospital/nursing homes. Because of the stimulus package passed by the President, VA received \$4.8B of which \$700M is going toward transportation. The stimulus package allowed VA to add back to K-12, higher ed, hospital/nursing homes, disabled children. VA is the first state to pass a budget with stimulus money.

VA has a 2-year budget cycle and we are in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year. Medicaid covers 16 percent of the budget. K-12 covers 35 percent and higher education covers 12 percent. This yr the budget was a 6-wk session not 8, limited to 15 bills. State Senators don't have a limit Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Message from Supervisor Jeff McKay

COUNTY'S BUDGET

You could call the County's FY10 budget a lemonade budget --if ever we made lemonade out of lemons, it was this year. In a year that saw the steepest drop in property values since the County began keeping records, the FY10 property tax rate of \$1.04 per \$100 of assessed value will still result in a lower tax bill for most Lee District residents. It is also a year where bipartisanship prevailed with a 10-0 vote to adopt the budget.

I would have liked to see the property tax rate be even lower and I will be working with my Board colleagues to find ways to diversify revenue so that the burden does not continue to fall most heavily on property owners. Currently, almost 64 percent of the County's General Fund comes from homeowners. That's way too high and given the volatility of the real estate market, that's not sound budgeting.

I went into our budget deliberations believing that there are some government responsibilities that are not negotiable and I am pleased that my positions prevailed. Critical police and fire public safety cuts, including regional shopping center officers, school resource officers, and the sexual predator enforcement and detection team,

among others have been restored. Unacceptable response times for medical emergencies were avoided with the restoration of EMS services, and many vital human services that are especially necessary during tough economic times were spared.

It was very important to me that we not lose the progress we're making keeping our neighborhoods healthy, so I insisted that the proposed cuts to zoning enforcement, property maintenance, and the strike team be restored. I also successfully pushed for funding to be restored to our senior centers and services.

While we held the transfer to the school system at the same level as FY09, at 53.8 percent of the County's budget, it's our biggest priority. We were also able to restore core functions of the schools including police resource officers, clinic room aids, and Head Start. We were also able to fully fund transit --both Connector bus services and Metro.

When we began our budget process, we were looking at a projected \$650 million shortfall to maintain our FY09 level of services. We closed the shortfall through a number of means. We froze County County employee salaries, cut 306 positions, and held budgets for most County agencies at or below the FY09

level. We cut half the Penny for Affordable Housing, reduced overtime funding, and cut funds budgeted for fuel and take home cars. And --where we could, we raised fees in such areas as commercial parking violations and construction permits.

You can find more detailed information on the County's website at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/budget/>.

It's obvious that our citizens have high expectations for their local government, the services it provides, and the quality of those services. Now that the FY2010 budget has been adopted, I have begun the hard work of FY2011. I would value your observations and opinions as we move forward.

CIVIL SERVICE AND EMPLOYMENT LAW

Robert D. L'Heureux
McNamara & L'Heureux, P.C.
6094 B Franconia Road
Alexandria, Va 22310
(703) 971-8702 Ext. 14

Malia H. Eckert



I am happy to announce my affiliation as a Realtor with Long & Foster.

Having started in real estate over 20 years ago, and taken a break to raise my family in the Bush Hill neighborhood, I am now excited to resume my real estate work.

Please call me if you have questions or need help with your real estate needs!

Malia H. Eckert
(703) 280-0781 (Home)
(703) 573-2600 (Office)



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**President's Message**

*Continued from Page 1*

**Green Spring Garden Day**

As noted above, Fairfax parks are hard hit in the budget proposal, and this includes numerous cuts in programs and staff at nearby Green Spring Gardens, a beautiful retreat that is well known to many of our residents. By attending the annual Garden Day sale on May 16<sup>th</sup> you may not only find numerous gems for your own garden, but help fund preservation of the garden's grounds and services. More than 40 vendors of rare and unusual plants from across the state will have booths set up for the popular event, which also happens to occur during peak bloom for thousands of the park's trees, shrubs and perennials. For more information or directions see <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gsgp/> or call 703-642-5173.

# Your Neighborhood Real Estate Companies

HomeFirst Realty  
6271 Franconia Road  
Alexandria, VA 22310  
703-971-1800  
www.HomeFirstRealty.com



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## Neighborhood Watch Update

Robert LHeureux —Neighborhood Watch Coordinator  
(703) 609-2966 neighborhoodwatch@bbhca.org



The Fairfax Police Department is reporting a number of incidents reflecting that those impulsive people who are stimulated by mild weather to do mischief (and worse) are responding to Spring. Those of school age will soon have lots of time on their hands. Keep an eye out for your property and your neighbors. Remember not to keep valuables in view in your car. The replacement for the car window they break will cost you more than that GPS or camera you left on the seat.



(Notary Public)

### SARAH KELLY Realtor

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## Lee District Nights Summer 2009 Concerts Lee District Park Amphitheater

Concerts are held at 7:30 pm every  
Wednesday evening in June, July, and August.

### JUNE

June 3 The United States Navy Band 'Cruisers'  
June 10 Chinese Dance and Music  
June 17 Bill Emerson and Sweet Dixie (Bluegrass)  
June 24 The US Navy Band Country Courant

### JULY

July 1 Rick Franklin & His Delta Blues Boys (Blues)  
July 8 King Teddy (Swing)  
July 15 The Alexandria Klezmet (Klezmer)  
July 22 Fairfax Symphony Orchestra Summer Band  
July 29 The Nighthawks (Rockabilly)

### AUGUST

August 5 The US Army Band "Blues Jazz Ensemble"  
August 12 Pietasters (Ska)  
August 19 John McCutcheon (Folk)  
August 26 The Irish Breakfast Band (Irish)

# BBHCA Financial Review and Budget Analysis for 2008-2009

Kevin Henry — *Treasurer*  
(703) 525-8972 treasurer@bbhca.org

The following Report is presented in accordance with Article 3 Section 4 and Article 6 Section 3 of the Brookland-Bush Hill Civic Association (BBHCA) Bylaws.

## Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee

Kevin Henry, BBHCA Treasurer ~ Sharada Gilkey, Westchester St ~ Mike Rompilla, Jane Way

### Scope:

This review covers the 2008-2009 membership year, which will end May 31, 2009. This review is compiled and based upon data and documents provided to the Committee by the BBHCA Treasurer, Kevin Henry.

### Results:

Since the previous review, the recommendation to close the Morgan Stanley money market account & move that money to a new account that does not have an annual fee has been implemented. A money market account has been opened at Burke & Herbert Bank, which will make it easier for future officers to transition control of the finances between treasurers.

Income and expenses for 2008-2009 were presented in a Worksheet Summary that was an updated copy of the one presented to the membership at the March 2009 meeting. The summary was produced by the Treasurer. The summary was compared to BBHCA Bank Statements from Burke and Herbert, and Money Market Statements from Morgan Stanley and Burke and Herbert. The committee members agree that the revenue from the summary matches bank statements, and the summary of expenses are reflected in the statements as well.

The committee did not get to the next level and examine membership revenue deposits, but we did examine invoices from vendors. We are satisfied that Association money was collected, reported, and spent according to the 2008-2009 budget plan. The proposed budget for 2009-2010 includes the publication of 4 newsletters per year.

**Recommendations:** The committee makes the following recommendations:

- The civic association should strive for a membership of at least 200, which is approximately 25% of the neighborhood.
- We recommend the budget be approved as presented.
- We recommend increasing the advertising rates.
- We encourage each current member to recruit one new member.



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# BBHCA Community Yard Sale

June 6, 2009

Spring means it's time for the annual BBHCA Community Yard Sale for all residents\* on **Saturday, June 6**, from **8 am to 1 pm**. Use this opportunity to clean up and cash in!

The registration fee will get your home included on a neighborhood map with a description of your items for sale. The map will be posted online the week of the sale. The BBHCA will advertise on Craigslist and other yard sale web sites, post signs at the boundaries of our neighborhood, promote the sale on the BBHCA web site, supply multiple copies of the yard sale map to participating homes to distribute the day of the sale, and provide balloons.

**Deadline:** Please complete the registration form and submit it with the fee by **Wednesday, May 27**, so your sale items can be included with the map. (By participating, you also agree to distribute the Yard Sale maps to potential buyers.) For more information now and leading up to the event, visit [www.bbhca.org](http://www.bbhca.org).

**Rain date:** Sunday, June 7, 2009.

\*Must live within the Brookland, Bush Hill, or Gunnell Estates community.

## REGISTRATION FORM

**\$10 Current BBHCA Member**

**\$15 I am a Neighbor**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (required<sup>†</sup>): \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>†</sup> Correspondence regarding the Yard Sale will be made by e-mail, including instructions for updating your online listing of sale items on Google Maps.

**Please list items** below that you would like to have listed with the map (e.g., office chair, infant clothes, 26" 10-speed bicycle). Try to be as specific as possible. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (non-refundable)      Check payable to **BBHCA**.

► Please send this completed form with payment to:

**BBHCA Yard Sale**  
**5782 Westchester Street**  
**Alexandria, VA 22310-1145**

**Tel: (703) 313-8490**

**E-mail: [yardsale@bbhca.org](mailto:yardsale@bbhca.org)**

**Web: [www.bbhca.org](http://www.bbhca.org)**

Submit your registration by **Wednesday, May 27**, so your home and sale items can be included on the map.

# Brookland-Bush Hill Civic Association

Representing the residents of

Brookland-Bush Hill & Gunnell Estates in Alexandria, VA

## 2008-09 Meeting Dates

*Tuesdays*

May 12, 2009

## Meeting Location:

Bush Hill Elementary School  
5917 Westchester Street  
Alexandria, VA 22310  
membership@bbhca.org

## Contact:

Dick Frederick, Second VP  
membership@bbhca.org

## Board Meetings

*Wednesdays*

June 9, 2009

## Contact:

Sarah Kelly, First VP  
newsletter@bbhca.org

## Contact:

Jeanie Henry, President  
president@bbhca.org

## BROOKLAND-BUSH HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Fiscal year starts on June 1 and ends May 31

ITEM	ACTUAL	PROPOSED
	TO DATE	BUDGET
	FY2008-09	FY2009 -10
Membership Dues	\$4,450	\$4,000
Interest	146	20
Newsletter Ads	1,345	1,200
Donations	1,170	0
Miscellaneous	50	0
Yard Sale	205	175
<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$7,366</b>	<b>\$5,395</b>
Bank Charges	100	0
Newsletter	1,904	2,700
newsletter postage	1,498	2,000
Yard Sale	180	150
Security Bond	0	100
Meetings	10	10
Miscellaneous	83	50
Postage	254	275
Web Page (hosting)	0	180
Contingency	0	100
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$4,030</b>	<b>\$5,565</b>
<b>Profit (Loss)</b>	<b>3,335</b>	<b>(170)</b>
<b>End of Year Cash</b>	<b>\$18,433</b>	<b>\$15,200</b>

## Brookland-Bush Hill Civic Association

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