

Brookland & Bush Hill

NEWS

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

November 2003

BBHCA

Community Meeting

Tuesday, November 11, 2003

7:00 pm

Bush Hill Elementary School

AGENDA

Welcome and Introductions

Secretary's Reading
of the Minutes

Treasurer's Report

Second Vice President's
Membership Report

OLD BUSINESS

Need a volunteer for
Chairperson

Neighborhood Watch
Committee

NEW BUSINESS

BBHCA Directory

Annual Donations

Next meeting: January 13, 2004

Items from the Floor

PROGRAM

Mr. Dana Kauffman
Lee District County Supervisor

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Community Discussion
Adjournment

BEVERAGES AND SNACKS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A Visit with Dana Kauffman

Larry Carter, *President BBHCA*

By the time this newsletter is delivered the November 03 elections will be completed.

There will be some new faces on the Fairfax County School Board, a new Chairman of the Board of Supervisors and perhaps a few others. A for-sure constant will be our Lee District County Supervisor, Mr. Dana Kauffman, who had no opposition. Dana has agreed to join us for our next meeting on November 11th. It will be a perfect time to get his take on the election results in addition to many other topics of interest to our community. Road construction issues and perhaps lessons learned from the recent hurricane cleanup I'm sure will be items of interest. There will be a question and answer period at the end so if your topic of interest isn't addressed you can make sure that it is.

We are still in need of a volunteer for our Neighborhood Watch committee. We have several people on the committee who have been long-time members and participants; what we need is a chairperson. This is a way of getting involved in the community. Please step forward and let us know if you are interested. This position is very well suited to being handled with shared responsibilities. You'll note that our membership chair is currently a

shared position. Figure out a way to help us and we'll work with you on implementation.

We are still on the lookout for someone to assume the role as President of the organization next fall. Elections will be in May 04. I will be stepping down at the completion of this year's duties that basically end with the Annual meeting in May. I will still be in the area next year and will be more than happy to help in a position as Past President. If you've ever thought about getting more involved in the community, this would be an excellent opportunity to do so.

We've had a few complaints about commercial vehicles on our streets and about increased construction vehicle traffic on Bush Hill Drive now that Oakwood Drive has been closed off to all traffic. It's not clear why access has been eliminated but it has forced all the construction vehicle traffic supporting the new homes going up in Gunnel Estates onto Bush Hill and La Vista. Dana's office is trying to look at the options available and figure out good compromises but there isn't a defined solution yet. Perhaps by the time of our meeting something will be known. If this is of interest, come to the meeting and hear the latest and provide your thoughts and suggestions

President's Message

Continued

on the subject.

The community meetings will 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 November 11, 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.

★ IT ALL ADDS UP! ★

Bush Hill Elementary will be celebrating its 50th year during the 2004/05 school year.

We are looking forward to working with our community and our 50th Year Celebration Committee to plan a spectacular celebration! We will need all of your creative ideas, your memories, and specifically names/pictures/memorabilia of our alumnae.

If you would be interested in joining our committee, or if you would just like to share information, we would love to have you on the committee or just hear from you! Please contact Cecelia Breazeale, Asst. Principal; Jack Pitzer, Principal; Martha Shoemake, PTA President; or Candy Willkens, Principal; at the Bush Hill Elementary School office at 703-924-5600.

We look forward to hearing from YOU!

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Members of the Brookland Bush Hill Civic Association

Message From Supervisor Kauffman

That's ridiculous! What do you mean you can't just say 'No!' to newhomes being jammed onto an already over crowded road?"

Not a day goes by without at least one caller, incredulous about the County's inability to enact legislation to meet local needs. They-you-think we're nuts.

Mother May I?

Welcome to the wonderful world of the Old Dominion. Virginia is unique in many ways, not the least of which is how it clings to the Dillon Rule that permits the state to box us in. They give us neither controls to limit the pace of development nor the funds to pay 'catch-up' with transportation.

Who was Dillon and why do we care about his rule? John Forest Dillon was the chief justice of the Iowa Supreme Court some 110 years ago. In his time, he was considered to be the foremost authority on municipal law and local government. Judge Dillon distrusted local government (look up his writings sometime) and his influence led many state supreme courts to adopt his form of government. There was historical logic to his approach during a time when the governing bodies in many of the country's urban areas were nests of graft and corruption. Judge Dillon's strict interpretation of local government powers provided a way for the courts to rein in local government excesses.

However, as the country became more urbanized and economically sophisticated, states began to move away from this 'one size fits all' method of governance. Today, most states have abandoned this form of Mother May I government, yet Virginia, ever reluctant to abandon tradition, holds on. There have been numerous attempts to move Virginia toward a more 'home rule' approach and the Dillon Rule restrictions have been loosened for towns and cities. However, they are still in place for counties such as Fairfax. While this may have made sense years ago when counties were rural and economic and political power resided in cities and towns, it no longer makes sense when a county such as Fairfax is of such overwhelming economic importance to the entire state.

More Than an Academic Issue

Fairfax County must rely on the state legislature for enabling legislation that will allow it to enact laws and ordinances. If we want to pass legislation controlling growth, we need Richmond's OK. Our hands are tied even when it comes to practicing 'smart growth.' To date, Richmond has consistently denied our requests to preserve stands of mature trees by keeping us from

transferring development intensity from undeveloped lots to others next to Metro stations. Also, this past session, we couldn't find a single legislator (of either party) who would support the new tree-save legislation that was unanimously endorsed by my colleagues on the Board of Supervisors.

If Fairfax County wants to increase the tax on cigarettes in order to lower the property tax rate, it cannot without Richmond's permission. As we have seen, that permission is not forthcoming. We continue to be in the untenable position of not being able to use alternative revenue sources to ease the burden on homeowners and senior citizens.

Every winter, finds the Board of Supervisors crafting its legislative wish list and traveling to Richmond, hat in hand to present its 'legislative package.' For years, the package has included requests for legislation that we desperately need if we are to protect our quality of life, property values, and schools. This past year, I went to Richmond to testify in favor of an adequate public facilities ordinance. Such an ordinance would allow us to time phase development-that is, require that roads, schools, and infrastructure be in place before a development can be built.

Unfortunately, the result was consistent. We came back every year empty handed. We must depend on a Northern Virginia delegation that understands us and has persuasive power with the rest of the state.

Your Vote Can Make a Difference

As I write this column, we are close to Election Day. You have held me to a high standard when it comes to responding to community concerns and I expect nothing less. Local problems are best solved at the local level. To deny Fairfax County the tools it needs to respond to local problems is to deny the legitimacy of your concerns. Ask hard questions of those who want to represent you and then vote as if your community's future depended on your vote-because it does.

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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
royrice@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

BBHCA Members Vote

During the September 16 BBHCA meeting, Mike Fogarty, BBHCA treasurer presented the 2003-2004 BBHCA budget. The budget was unanimously approved as published in the September BBHCA News by the members in attendance.

A member vote will be taken at the upcoming November meeting on whether or not to publish a 2003-2004 BBHCA membership directory. 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!

NOTE: Each BBHCA member household is entitled to one (1) vote. Join BBHCA today to be eligible to vote on important issues pertaining to your neighborhood. Voting cards are provided at each meeting for members.

If you have questions about BBHCA membership, please contact Sharada Gilkey (703) 313-8490 or Marti Morris at (703) 547-6705. A membership application is provided with this issue of the newsletter and is also available online at www.bbhca.org.

Toastmasters Club

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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.

THIS COULD BE YOUR AD!

Advertise your products or services in *BBHCA News* to more than 700 homes in the Brookland-Bush Hill neighborhood.

As little as \$10 for a business card size ad!

For more information, see ad rates below.

2003-2004 BBHCA Newsletter Copy Deadlines

ISSUE	TEXT DEADLINE
Jan. 2004	Dec. 5, 2003
Mar. 2004	Feb. 7, 2004
May 2004	Apr. 9, 2004

Send copy to:
newsletter@bbhcanews.org

BBHCA Membership as of 10/7/03

The current membership count is 118 which represents 14.75% 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 each household to use their 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!

Number of Members by Street

Street	No.	Street	No.
Ambler	1	Nedra Avenue	1
Anne Ly Lane	1	Neville Court	7
Barbmore Court	3	Ninian Avenue	5
Brookland Court	1	Old Rolling Road	2
Brookland Road	12	Piedmont Drive	1
Brookview Court	2	Poyntz Place	1
Brookview Drive	2	Pratt Court	4
Bush Hill Drive	3	Pratt Street	3
Fort Ellsworth Court	1	Saratoga Street	1
Forest Avenue	1	Sumner Road	6
Hopark Drive	8	Thetford Place	2
Jane Way	9	Waycross Drive	3
Larno Drive	2	Westchester Street	15
Layne Estates Court	1	Westridge Court	9
Mayfair Court	2	York Road	2
Mayfair Lane	6		
Nedia Avenue	1	TOTAL	118

Important Telephone Numbers

Life Threatening Events/Damage to Property	911
Police reports of non-emergency events/ noise complaints	703-691-2131
Animal Control	703-830-3310
Faifax County School Security	703-764-2500
Report STOP/SPEED SIGNS	
Damaged (VDOT)	703-383-8368
Damaged Street Signs (FC Sign Shop)	703-934-2840
Street Light Outages	1-888-667-3000
Faifax County Zoning Enforcement	703-324-1300
Fairfax County Health Department	703-246-2300
Supervisor Kaufman’s Office	703-971-6262

BBHCA Investigating Leaf Removal for Brookland Estates

BBHCA Members in Brookland Estates are interested in acquiring the leaf collection service that many streets in Bush Hill enjoy. This service is not free: the County bills it as an additional item on our annual Real Estate Tax Bills. The actual fee is a percentage of the assessed property value. Homeowners will not find out the exact amount until the Neighborhood successfully petitions the Board of Supervisors to acquire the service. At that point, the County Staff prepares the estimates for the homeowners. The Neighborhood can then accept or decline the service. The rules are that at least 55% of the homeowners (not renters!) must approve the bill before the service can start. This process closely resembles the one Brookland and Bush Hill went through for the Community Improvement Program back in the 1990's.

**Needed Right Away:
Volunteers to brief the neighbors in the Brookland Estates area.**

**Please contact the BBHCA Project Managers:
Anna and Charles Keller
Piedmont Drive
(703) 971-7184**

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1/2-page (7.5" x 4.75" or 3.5" x 10")\$50
Full-page (8.5" x 11")\$100
Multiple Issue Rates (per issue)	
(4-5 issues, September 2001-May 2002)	
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1/2-page (7.5" x 5" or 3.5" x 10")\$40
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Next newsletter: January 2004

Deadline: December 5, 2003

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Make Your Vote Count!

Send in Your BBHCA Membership Dues.