

# Brookland & Bush Hill

## NEWS

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

September 2004

### **BBHCA Community Meeting**

**Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2004**

**7:00 pm**

**Bush Hill Elementary School**

#### **AGENDA**

**Approval of May 14  
Meeting Minutes**

**(See page 5 or  
[www.bbhca.org](http://www.bbhca.org))**

**Board Reports**

**2004-05 Budget**

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

**New Committees/  
Call for Volunteers**

#### **PROGRAM**

**Guest Speaker:  
Dana Kaufman  
Lee District Supervisor**

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### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

## ***BBHCA is Your Connection***

**Sharada Gilkey, President BBHCA**

**A**s some of you may know, I was elected as president of BBHCA at the May 14 meeting. (Please see the Secretary's Report on page 5) Thank you for your support over the 10 years I have served as a volunteer. I ask for and look forward to your continued support and participation during my service to you as president. This is not a one person operation, but a collaborative effort and with your assistance we can continue to make this a great place to live.

First, a warm welcome to our new neighbors who have moved to the Brookland-Bush Hill and Gunnell Estates since May. Please take a few minutes to read your first issue of the BBHCA News to find out what is happening in our community. I'm sure you have had the pleasure of meeting many of your new neighbors.

In addition, I invite you to expand your circle of acquaintances by coming to the September 14 (Tuesday) meeting at the Bush Hill Elementary School at 7 pm. This includes a presentation from an invited speaker. We are pleased to welcome Dana Kauffman, Lee District Supervisor to our September meeting (see Guest Speaker below). Minutes of past meetings and newsletters are available on our Web site ([www.bbhca.org](http://www.bbhca.org)).

Since our newsletter isn't published during the summer, this leaves a gap of more than three months without communications to members. To fill that gap, we provided informal updates via the BBHCA Web site and e-mail. If you wish to be on our e-mail notification list for future communications, please include your e-mail address on the membership ►

### **GUEST SPEAKER**

## **Dana Kauffman, Lee District Supervisor**

**D**ana Kauffman was elected Lee District Supervisor in November 1995. Kauffman governs a district of more than 100,000 residents in a county approaching one million residents. (See article by Dana Kauffman on page 8)

Kauffman serves on a number of regional agencies, committees, and subcommittees focusing on regional transportation and redevelopment and has been recog-

nized by the Virginia Transit Association for "Outstanding Contribution by a Public Official." In addition to the I-95/395/495 Congestion Management Subcommittee, he serves on the following committees:

#### **Intergovernmental Boards and Committees**

Northern Virginia Transportation  
Commission, past Chair ►



## President's Message

*Continued*

application or send a request to membership@bbhca.org. Alternatively, visit the Web site for updates at www.bbhca.org.

September is the beginning of the BBHCA membership year. If you are renewing your membership, you will notice that you now have the option to check off "renew." If that is the case, we need only your name, phone number, and dues check for \$3/\$6. You can change or add information by completing the appropriate sections. Please always include a completed membership form with your check. New members are asked to complete the entire form.

I have lived in Brookland-Bush Hill with my husband since 1994. Our house backs to what is left of Bush Hill Woods, a small five-acre park managed by the Fairfax County Park Service. We purchased our house for a number of reasons, but the main reason was the woods. But seven years ago two young boys were "playing" and set the woods on fire. Fortunately, the fire was spotted in time and the local fire house had a vehicle that could navigate the narrow path through the woods to put it out. I love the woods even more now, but I also realize that small as they are, we have to watch over

them and treat them with respect if we want to enjoy them year after year.

Brookland-Bush Hill and now Gunnell Estates could be compared to our little woods. If we take our neighborhood for granted, we could easily lose what we love about it. We must make the extra effort, each of us, to watch over our neighborhood and each other. We are all busy, but

keep our neighborhood safe.

Of course, if you are not a member and do not come to the meetings, you have effectively given up your voice in the community. It seems to be a trend in America—the belief that the individual doesn't make a difference. But in reality the individual counts because he is part of the collective opinion. It is that connection, the collective opinion,

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## The only way to ensure you won't succeed is to not even try.

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by living here we are each responsible for keeping our neighborhood a pleasant and safe place to live.

Contrary to what some may believe, BBHCA is not an enforcer. We do not make or enforce rules or laws. We do not arbitrarily decide to put in speed humps or stop signs to reduce speeding. We have no such powers. Rather, BBHCA is a facilitator. The Board directly serves more than 225 member households. Members vote at each meeting on a variety of issues that affect the neighborhood. We follow the consensus of the members and work with Lee District officials, VDOT, zoning board, police department, fire department, and other public services to

that makes us count. Our connection is through BBHCA.

Democracy didn't start at the national level. It started with a small collection of individuals with a common purpose or belief. Democracy starts at BBHCA. If you don't make the connection here, with your neighbors, in your own backyard, where do you expect to make it?

I invite you to make that connection by joining the Brookland-Bush Hill Civic Association, attending meetings, and even consider volunteering a few hours of your time each year. Really, it doesn't take much.

"The only way to ensure you won't succeed is to not even try."

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## Guest Speaker Kauffman

*Continued*

Virginia Railway Express (Principal),  
past Chair

Council of Governments Board of  
Directors (Alternate)

Council of Government Air Quality  
Committee (Principal)

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit  
Authority (Principal)

## Intragovernmental Subcommittees

Development Process

Personnel

Transportation

Revitalization

## Interjurisdictional Committees

Fort Belvoir, Chair

Alexandria, Member

District of Columbia, Member

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# Neighborhood Watch Update

**Randall Bowman—Neighborhood Watch Coordinator  
(703) 922-9334 bowmanrand@verizon.net**



**H**ope everyone had a safe and enjoyable summer! Fortunately Brookland-Bush Hill and Gunnel Estates continues to be a relatively quiet and safe neighborhood. There were a few thefts from cars in July along Brookland and Brookview, with stereos and other valuables being stolen but I haven't noted much else recently in the weekly Incident reports issued by the Fairfax County police.

If you see any suspicious activity in the neighborhood, including people, trucks, cars or noises, call the Fairfax County Police Non-Emergency number, (703) 691-2131. Of course, in the event of any situation that is life-threatening or immediately damaging to property, you should call 911.

## Crime trends

The police have noted the following crime trends this summer in the Franconia District in general:

There continues to be a problem with Hondas and Acuras being stolen. Please keep your vehicles locked at all times and never leave your vehicle running and unattended. Security devices such as "The Club" can be an added deterrent.

There were a number of burglaries in the North and West Springfield areas.

There continue to be purse larcenies at stores in the area. Keep your purse closed and close at hand when shopping.

This time of year motorcycle theft is more common, with Hondas, Kawasakis, and Suzukis being stolen. Try to keep motorcycles garaged if possible.

## Home Security Survey

In July I had a Home Security Survey conducted on my home. This is a free service provided by the police. A member of the police

auxiliary came to my house on a Saturday and spent less than an hour on the survey. He checked the outside doors, lighting and landscaping, then checked the interior windows and door locks. He made some useful recommendations and filled out a report/checklist listing the recommendations and gave me a copy. I feel this is a useful service. If you are interested, call the Franconia Police Station Crime Prevention Unit at (703) 922-8263.

## S.A.F.E.

Sexual Assault Free and Empowered is a women's self defense program that teaches realistic self-defense tactics and techniques. To learn more, or to sign up for the course call (703) 246-7806.

## MODIP

Another service of the Fairfax Police is the Mature Operator's Driver Improvement Program. This is an 8-hour class on safe driving for drivers over 55 years of age. The cost is only \$10 and the class is held the second Saturday of each month at the Franconia District station. Those completing the course are eligible for a Virginia State mandated car insurance premium reduction. Call (703) 924-6588 to make reservations.

The Franconia District Crime Prevention Office publishes a monthly "Eye on Crime" newsletter that gives information on the above programs and other useful information. If you wish to receive this newsletter by e-mail, please contact the Crime Prevention Office at fracpo@fairfaxcounty.gov or call (703) 922-8263.

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# Secretary's Report—Membership Meeting, May 11, 2004

## Call to order

President Larry Carter called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM. BBHCA Officers attending in addition were Sharada Gilkey (Second Co-Vice President—Membership), Marti Morris (Second Co-Vice President, Membership), Judy Connelly (First Vice-President—Newsletter), Mike Fogarty (Treasurer), Robert Michie (Lee District Representative to Fairfax County Trails Committee and member of BBHCA Zoning and Land Use Committee), Roy Rice (Chair, BBHCA Land Use Committee), Randall Bowman (Chair, Neighborhood Watch) and Helen Gettys Michie (Secretary).

Helen Michie read the March 9, 2004, BBHCA minutes. It was moved and seconded from the floor that the minutes be accepted.

Mike Fogarty read the Treasurer's report. BBHCA currently has \$3,972 in our checking account and \$17,440 in our savings account. It was moved and seconded from the floor that the Treasurer's report be accepted.

## New Business

Margery Shepherd, a BBHCA member, has been researching the best way to archive the Brookland Bush Hill Civic Association newsletters from October 1981-May 2004. A discussion followed on the best way to archive this large collection of newsletters. Margery told the audience that it would cost about \$170 to microfiche these newsletters. Discussion followed about scanning these newsletters and making them available as CD Rom Disks. Marjorie generously volunteered to contribute money to the project.

Bob Michie made a motion that the Brookland Bush Hill Civic Association spend up to \$500 to scan the BBHCA newsletter archives so that they can be made available at the John

Marshall Library, and to individuals for purchase. The motion was moved and seconded from the floor.

## Election of Officers

John Neves, Chair of the Nominations Committee explained the voting process. Under the bylaws of the Brookland Bush Hill Civic Association dues are \$6 per two person household, \$3.00 for a one person household. Only those members actually present at the meeting may vote. He then presented the slate of officers as follows:

*President:* Sharada Gilkey  
or Marti Morris

*First Vice President-Newsletter:*

Judi Connelly

*Second Vice President-Membership:*

Darrell J. Meyer

*Treasurer:* Michael Fogarty

*Secretary:* Helen Michie

Marti Morris and Sharada Gilkey made brief presentations to the audience about their qualifications to be president of the Brookland Bush Hill Civic Association.

Sharada Gilkey was elected President of the Brookland Bush Hill Civic Association by written ballot. The other officers were elected as a group (since there were no contested positions) by a show of hands from the membership.

The speaker for the meeting was Mark Sickles, our Representative to the Virginia House of Delegates, 43rd District. Mr. Sickles gave an informative talk about the recently completed 2004 Virginia legislative session. Questions from the floor followed.

Zoning History and the Comprehensive Plan Zoning Decisions on the Properties just north of the boundaries of the Brookland Bush Hill Civic Association were addressed.

Roy Rice presented information about the zoning history and the comprehensive plan zoning decisions on the properties just north of the boundaries of the Brookland Bush Hill Civic Association. These decisions directly impact the possibilities for pedestrian access to the Van Dorn Metro station.

## Volunteer Appreciation

Larry Carter, our outgoing President of the BBHCA for the last three years was given a plaque from the Board for his outstanding volunteer service. The plaque was presented by First Vice President Judi Connelly. Earlier Larry Carter presented the officers of the Brookland Bush Hill Civic Association with small gifts of appreciation.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Helen Gettys Michie  
BBHCA Secretary

## Community Yard Sale

Special thanks to Dot Cosby for organizing and promoting the BBHCA Community Yard Sale held June 5. It was a success. We'd like to hear from those who did participate. Please send me an e-mail or respond on the membership application /renewal form. We are looking for volunteers to help organize next year's yard sale and make it even better!

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### *Multiple Issue Rates (per issue)*

(4–5 issues, September 2001-May 2002)

|  |       |
|--|-------|
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### 2003-2004 BBHCA Newsletter Copy Deadlines

| ISSUE    | TEXT DEADLINE |
|----------|---------------|
| Nov 2004 | Oct 8, 2004   |
| Jan 2005 | Dec 7, 2004   |
| Mar 2005 | Feb 4, 2005   |
| May 2005 | Apr 5, 2005   |

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## Brookland-Bush Hill Civic Association Officers

### PRESIDENT

Sharada Gilkey  
703-313-8490  
[president@bbhca.org](mailto:president@bbhca.org)

### FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

*Newsletter*  
Judi Connelly  
[newsletter@bbhca.org](mailto:newsletter@bbhca.org)

### SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

*Membership*  
Darrell Meyer  
703-313-8490  
[membership@bbhca.org](mailto:membership@bbhca.org)

### SECRETARY

Helen Michie  
703-971-3769

### TREASURER

Michael Fogarty  
703-719-7929, 703-719-0774  
[fogarty@cox.net](mailto:fogarty@cox.net)

### PAST PRESIDENT

Larry Carter

### COMMITTEES

#### ZONING AND LAND USE

Roy Rice  
703-971-4379  
[roywrice@aol.com](mailto:roywrice@aol.com)

#### NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Randy Bowman  
[bowmanrand@verizon.net](mailto:bowmanrand@verizon.net)

#### CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Bob Michie  
703-971-3769  
[michier@cox.net](mailto:michier@cox.net)

#### BBHCA WEB SITE

Bob Michie  
703-971-3769  
[webmaster@bbhca.org](mailto:webmaster@bbhca.org)

Sharada Gilkey  
703-313-8490

# Message from Supervisor Kauffman—*The Coming Wave*

**W**e're getting older—and lots of us are heading toward senior citizen status much faster than you'd think arthritic knees could travel.

People over 55 years of age now count for 18.6 percent of Fairfax County's population. Just a few years from now in 2010, that number is expected to increase by 40 percent. That's a lot of baby boomers with high expectations of their County government and tax dollars.

My colleagues and I on the County Board will be looking at these statistics as we make budget decisions over the next decade. At the local level, we'll be playing out the larger drama taking place in Congress where huge budget commitments have already been set in motion. Surely it's no coincidence that the new drug benefit is being enacted just as the first baby boomers near retirement age. Unlike the Federal budget, however, Fairfax County is legally obligated to balance its budget. There's no deficit financing option at the local level.

## The Balancing Act

Today, almost two thirds of our County budget is focused on services for those under the age of 19. At 27.5 percent of our population today, the youth population is also projected to grow by close to double digits during this decade, making it that much harder to allocate scarce resources to the young ... and the not-so-young.

When it comes to the County services side of the budget equation, seniors have good reason to complain. In the County's FY2004 budget, services to seniors represent only 1.7 percent of General Fund disbursements. While we offer a wide array of services, there are long waiting lists and our Adult Day Care programs are nearing capacity.

Given the coming senior population spike, we must re-evaluate County budget priorities, joining creativity with the political will to make some tough decisions. Services that are now free should be means tested with charges based on ability to pay. Many programs now offered by different agencies will have to be merged if we are to keep pace with demographic change while holding our County budget in line.

## What's Available for Seniors Today?

Fairfax County's Area Agency on Aging serves all older adults (60 years of age and up) and their caregivers. If you are looking for a specific program, have questions for yourself or a family member, or need assistance, the Area Agency on Aging may be able to help you. The Agency publishes helpful materials including a caregiver packet and pamphlets with frequently called numbers and information on how to find your way through the home care maze. You can visit the Agency's web site at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/service/aaa/homepage.html](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/service/aaa/homepage.html). You can also send your questions by e-mail to [Fairfax\\_aaa@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Fairfax_aaa@fairfaxcounty.gov), or call the Agency at 703-324-5411.

The Agency can help sort through the confusing and sometimes frightening maze of senior needs and services and help seniors and caregivers sort out their options. Daily, Agency staff answer questions that range from the easy—"how do I get into senior housing and how do I find out about senior taxi discounts?"—to the more complex—"My mother is moving here. What services are available?"—to the cry for help—"I'm so overwhelmed, I'm not even sure where to begin. Please help me."

Some of the practical services pro-

vided by the Area Agency on Aging include:

- Insurance counseling (Medicare; Medigap insurance; long-term care insurance; Medicaid; Federal employee health plans; military health plans; prescription assistance programs, and complicated medical bills)

- Workshops for seniors and caregivers

- Home delivered meals (Meals on Wheels)

- Golden Gazette newspaper

- Volunteer placement

- Visiting and telephone programs

- Long-term care ombudsman

- Employment training

- Volunteer in-home services

- Assisted transportation

- ElderLink case management

any of these services are provided by volunteers. If you are looking for a way to support your community and make a difference in the lives of our senior citizens, please consider participating in some of the visiting and telephone programs the Agency offers. These include:

**Senior Friendship:** Volunteers visit socially isolated older adults to provide companionship, emotional support, and links to services.

**Telephone Reassurance:** A volunteer is matched with an elderly person and visits once a week by phone.

**Pets on Wheels:** Trained volunteers and their pets visit area nursing homes to provide residents with companionship.

**Volunteer In-Home Services:** Volunteers assist with a variety of tasks to enable an older adult to remain independent in his or her own home. This might include grocery shopping, light housekeeping, minor home maintenance, transportation, and the like.

We're getting older as a community. Now, our challenge is to also get wiser.

## Report from Richmond—Mark Sickles, 43rd District

As the summer comes to an end, and the new school year is upon us, it is a good time to observe a remarkable event: the Fairfax County Public School budget was fully funded for the first time in memory.

While there will always be disagreements over whether too much funding is going to one school program versus another, the School Board was able to pay for many high priorities due to the additional funding provided by the Board of Supervisors and the Virginia General Assembly.

In Richmond, the extended budget and tax debate yielded the “Public Education Standards of Quality/ Local Real Estate Property Tax Relief Fund,” an historic \$1.5 billion in additional funds appropriated for public education. In Fairfax County, the new money increases the overall State share of our K-12 system from 19 percent in 2004 to 20 percent in 2005. Under the basic aid formula—intended to cover certain basics under the recently strengthened, but long mandated, “Standards of Quality” (SOQs)—the State currently pays 26 percent (of the SOQs) based on the value of our property and the income of our citizens in comparison to the

remainder of the State. However, Fairfax County provides educational opportunities that far exceed those mandated by the SOQs.

For statewide comparison purposes, the average State share for school divisions is 40 percent of SOQs. This basic aid disparity is a point of contention and is the subject of campaigns for public office, including my own. It is the foremost example usually cited to illustrate how the State shortchanges our region and is the most objectionable distribution formula if you live in a “wealthy” jurisdiction. Obviously, the large Fairfax delegation uniformly supports improving our K-12 return.

Unfortunately, we do not have the votes, nor do we currently have a unified strategy to induce change. In all of this, it is important to remember that in any state, and under constitutional directive, a relatively equal educational opportunity must be provided for all citizens.

The question remains, however, what is a fair return for a County of our overall wealth? Bills have been introduced in recent years by Northern Virginia representatives that mandate that no school system shall receive less than 35 percent of its SOQ obligation from the State. I

believe this is a reasonable objective. If it were law, Fairfax County would receive approximately \$78 million more per year, equal to about five cents on the real estate property tax rate.

Finally, how did the School Board use the new funds? There has been a reduction in class size in elementary and middle schools, new full-day kindergarten in nine schools, the elimination of fees for the AP and IB tests, the creation of Elementary and Middle After-School Programs in an effort to reduce gang activity, and funding to meet federal No Child Left Behind mandates, such as the provision of transportation to new schools for students who have not made “Adequate Yearly Progress.”

Just as the beginning of the school year is a time of promise and expected achievement, it is also a time for preparing for next year’s legislative session. If you would like to contact me regarding any issue or legislation, please send an email to [del\\_sickles@house.state.va.us](mailto:del_sickles@house.state.va.us). My phone number is (703) 317-0036 if you would like to talk or set up an appointment. With the school year ahead, I wish you, your children or neighbor’s children a happy, healthy, and challenging new school year.

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