

BBHCA eNews

DECEMBER 2010

NEXT COMMUNITY MEETING

Tuesday, January 11, 7:30 pm

Bush Hill Elementary School, Cafeteria

AGENDA:

Minutes from September Meeting (Vote)

Board Reports

- Membership
- Treasurer

Committee Reports

- Land Use Task Force
- Neighborhood Watch

Old Business:

- Bush Hill Drive Speed Hump (Vote)

New Business



TOPIC: What to Watch for When Hiring Contractors

**SPEAKER: Wil Slaughter, Lead Investigator,
Fairfax Office of Consumer Affairs**

T-mobile Balloon Fly-over, Take II

Saturday, December 11, 1–4 pm

At the request of residents, T-Mobile is conducting another balloon fly-over after the leaves have fallen. A post-flyover meeting will be scheduled.



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Solicitors are Targeting the Elderly in Franconia District

In the past two weeks we have had two incidents in which elderly citizens have been targeted by solicitors/scam artists.

On 11/22/2010 an elderly woman was having difficulty closing the hood to her vehicle. She was approached by an individual who offered to help fix it. He followed her home and fixed the problem. She then paid him \$700 for the minor repair. He is a white male, 20 years old, 5 feet 7 inches tall, and 225 pounds. He was the passenger in a maroon pickup truck. There is no description of the driver. Please remember that if your vehicle is disabled, you can call the non emergency number, (703) 691-2131. We will come out and make sure that your safe. We can then request a tow truck or other services that you may need.

On 11/30/2010 an elderly gentleman was approached by individuals at his home. They offered to seal coat his driveway for free. When they were done they charged him \$3600 for the service. He advised them that he was calling the police. After they left he discovered that his wallet was missing. The first subject was 38 years old, 5 feet 6 inches tall, 250 pounds, and had blond hair. The second individual was a white male, 20 years old, 5 feet 7

inches tall, and 225 pounds. They left in a newer model white pickup truck, Possibly a Chevrolet. There might be damage to the front bumper.

Please be on the alert for these individuals as well as any solicitor. Call the non-emergency number, **(703) 691-2131** for any solicitor or suspicious person. You are not wasting our time. You can call anonymously. We will check them out. If there is no problem we will send them on their way.

I get way too many emails and phone calls about things that happened a week ago. The time to call is when they are present in your neighborhood!

MPO Jim Reid, Crime Prevention Officer
Franconia District Station
6121 Franconia Rd, Alexandria, VA 22310
Phone (703) 922-8263
Email james.reid@fairfaxcounty.gov
Web <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/stations/franconia/>

R U Paying Attention to Your Driving?

Police Launch New Distracted Driving Campaign

"If you're texting, eating, applying makeup, or getting dressed while you're behind the wheel, you may want to reconsider; Fairfax County Police will be watching. They're kicking off a new distracted driving campaign aimed at keeping motorists and county roadways safer.



A recent study by the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute points out that nearly **80 percent of all crashes and 65 percent of all near-crashes involved driver inattention due to distraction.**

Captain Susan Culin, Commander of the FCPD Traffic Division says "Distracted driving is a serious problem," said Captain Culin, "We see it every day; everywhere; it's become an epidemic on our roadways."

The new campaign combines public education and awareness with strict, innovative, enforcement techniques. Officers will be posted at intersections and along roads where there is high volume and high number of crash incidents, such as the Route 28 corridor and the Tyson' Corner area. "Officers may be positioned in 'unorthodox' locations where they'll be able to best view careless behaviors that take a driver's focus off of the roadway," she said.

Online Survey

In addition to the increased enforcement effort, a new survey with a focus on texting while driving is being launched. Officials want to measure and assess public attitudes and behaviors about distracted driving in Fairfax County so they can best determine and target traffic safety education efforts. The online survey is now posted for public participation at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police.

School resource officers are also encouraging teen drivers to participate. In partnership with Fairfax County Public Schools, police will distribute a new texting-awareness poster throughout schools across the county as well.

The campaign is slated to run through June 2011, with updates on education and enforcement efforts to be shared with the public.

For more information on the new campaign or distracted driving issues, please contact the Traffic Safety Division at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/traffic/> or call 703-280-0500."

Holiday Online Shopping Tips

- **Compare prices.** Similar items typically fall into a general price range. Scammers try to entice victims to their websites with ridiculously low prices. Remember to account for shipping and handling in the cost of on-line purchases.



- **Shop from a trusted source;** Research the seller. Anyone can set up shop online. Confirm the online seller's physical address and phone number in case you have any problems or questions. If you were emailed a retail coupon code or special promotion, confirm the terms directly with the retail source.
- **Keep your anti-virus software up-to-date.** Make sure you have installed the latest firewall and anti-virus software to protect your computer against online attacks.
- **Enter financial information only on secure sites.** Do not e-mail financial information, like your credit card or checking account number. If you initiate a purchase on-line, look for indicators that the site is secure. Although no indicator is fool-proof, look for a lock icon on the browser's status bar, or a URL address that includes an "s" after the http.
- **Don't save your credit card or account information to the seller's site.** While this may be seen as a convenience for returning customers, you never know who could access the website or your computer looking for account information.
- **Don't send cash or wire money for payment.** Do not wire money via Western Union or Money Gram for items purchased on-line; you may be giving your money to scammers and you may never get the item you "ordered." Pay by credit card.
- **Keep a paper trail.** Print and save records of all your on-line transactions; including the product description, price, on-line receipt and emails.
- **Read the fine print; Review the refund policy and delivery rates.** Look to see if you can return a product for a full refund if you are not satisfied. Check out who pays for the cost of shipping a returned item and whether or not there are any fees for returning items.

Source: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/topics/112910cybermonday.htm>

Fill the Wagon



The Franconia Police Station has begun a food drive to "fill the wagon." The "wagon" is the marked police vehicle which you occasionally see patrolling the streets. It is primarily used to transport prisoners to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center. However, this holiday season, our goal is to "fill the wagon" full of non-perishable food items to be delivered to local food banks and churches.

We are accepting donations from now until Monday, December 20. You can deliver donations to the Franconia District Station lobby at **6121 Franconia Road**. We will also be taking the wagon around town to local grocery stores and businesses to collect food donations, so be on the look-out for the police wagon in your community. A list of businesses and pickup times will be provided shortly; please help the Fairfax County Franconia District Station "fill the wagon!"

New Ways to Receive Information from Fairfax County

Ask Fairfax!

This new online forum offers an opportunity for the public to discuss key topics in the community with county staff. Each chat focuses on a specific issue. Submit questions ahead or during the discussion. After the live chat, transcripts and videos are available. For upcoming chats, a list of topics and to submit questions, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/askfairfax/.

Weekender

This weekly newsletter highlights upcoming weekend activities and events in Fairfax County. Subscribe at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/email/

Winter Preparedness Week



Dec. 5-11 is Winter Preparedness Week in Virginia and Fairfax County offers tips and information at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/prepare/winter/.

Topics include cold temperatures and wind chill; frostbite and hypothermia; frozen pipes and plumbing protection; home heating assistance and alternative heating sources; road safety; pet safety; clearing snow and debris; and care for people with disabilities.

Fairfax County uses a number of tools and resources to keep residents informed about the weather and operating status, including

- **Fairfax County** website (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/),
- **Twitter** (<http://twitter.com/fairfaxcounty>),
- **Facebook** (www.facebook.com/fairfaxcounty),
- **Community Emergency Alert Network (CEAN)** — <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cean/>, and
- **Fairfax County Government Channel 16** (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cable/channel16/vod.htm)

Additional winter preparedness information is available at the **Virginia Department of Emergency Management** winter weather Web page (www.readyvirginia.gov/stayinformed/winter.cfm)

Fairfax County Environmental Improvement Program, FY 2012

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/environment/eip/>

The EIP focuses on the areas of:

- Growth and land use
- Air quality and transportation
- Water quality
- Solid waste
- Parks, trails and open space
- Environmental stewardship



A quick search of this 400-page document shows that Lee District is mentioned only a few times, mostly in regards to the Astroturf at Lee District Recreation Center. However, there are some interesting proposals with regard to land use in Fairfax County which deserve attention.

Recycle Your Live Christmas Tree



All Christmas trees less than 8 feet tall can be recycled at the curb in Fairfax County during the first two weeks in January at no additional cost. Please remove tree stands, ornaments, tinsel, lights and tree toppers. For larger trees, contact your trash collector for collection details.

Recycle packaging and gift wrap

Cardboard boxes and packaging, gift wrap (with the exception of foil wrap) and holiday cards can be recycled through your normal curbside paper recycling collection.

Conserve energy

Using LED decorative lights and timing devices can save on energy usage during the holiday season. Never leave lights on overnight.

Can the grease

You can prevent sewer backups and overflows by pouring grease into used cans, adding an absorbent (like kitty litter or a paper towel) and disposing of it in the trash when full.

For more information on these and other environmental topics, go online to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/environment.



EVENTS

Safe & Secure Community Shred

December 11, 8–11 am

NVCC's Annandale campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale

Residents may recycle up to 5 boxes of paper documents. This event is to securely dispose of paper documents only. Do not bring credit cards, digitally stored information (computer discs, hard drives, etc.) or film to this event as it will not be accepted. Please be sure to remove all documents from binders and remove files from hanging file folders. Your car must be in line by 11 am in order to be served.

"A Night in Bethlehem"

Sunday, December 12, 6-8:30 pm

United Wesleyan Church, 5502 Trin St, Alexandria, VA 22310, 703-971-9293

You are invited to join us for a free Christmas experience like no other. You'll get to interact with Bible-time characters, talk with Roman Soldiers, witness the nativity scene with live animals, and "purchase" goods, Bible-time food and make crafts at a live marketplace with Roman coins. Bring the family out for a night of fun and celebrate "the Reason for the Season."

Future BBHCA Meetings (Tuesday, 7:30 pm)

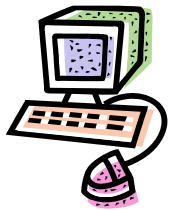
Bush Hill Elementary School (Cafeteria)

March 8, 2011

TBA

May 10, 2011

TBA + BBHCA Elections



LINKS TO KEEP

Free Annual Credit Report

www.annualcreditreport.com

This central site allows you to request a free credit file disclosure, commonly called a credit report, once every 12 months from each of the nationwide consumer credit reporting companies: Equifax, Experian and TransUnion.

Long-Term Care Insurance Policy Checklist

<http://www.newyorklife.com/nyl/v/index.jsp?contentId=13240&vgnextoid=b9d3e62f139d2210a2b3019d221024301cacRCRD>

Also check out the links to the right side of the checklist. You will find excellent Tools, Resources, and Related Articles.

NAIC Shopper's Guide to Long-Term Care Insurance (PDF)

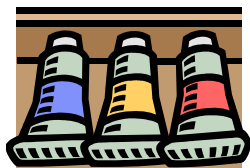
http://www.newyorklife.com/newyorklife.com/General/FileLink/Static%20Files/NYL2/pdf/LTC_Shopper_Guide.pdf

"The National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) has written this guide to help you understand long-term care and the insurance options that can help you pay for long-term care services."

Workhouse Arts Center

<http://www.workhousearts.org/index.php>

9601 Ox Road, Lorton, VA 22079 (approx. 14 miles)



"The Workhouse Arts Center is a project of the Lorton Arts Foundation. The expansive complex, once a correctional facility and now a center for arts, culture, and history, has a rich past and an exciting new presence.

Visitors to the center can tour the grounds, learn about the history of the complex, visit the artists' studios, participate in art classes and workshops, attend musical and theatre performances, and visit the two-story gallery building to take in the latest exhibitions of local, regional, and international artists.

When all phases of the renovation are complete, the Workhouse Arts Center will consist of 234,000 square feet of adaptively reused buildings and 60,000 square feet in new construction, and the site will include 40 acres of open space. The Lorton Arts Foundation has established in the Workhouse the region's most distinctive cultural arts center."

>> **2010-2011 Workhouse Course Catalog (PDF)** <http://www.workhousearts.org/docs/FW2010-2011%20Catalog%20Final%20b.pdf>

BBHCA 2010–2011 Board

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eNews

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This electronic newsletter is sent to current members of the Brookland-Bush Hill Civic Association (BBHCA). If you do not wish to receive this or any other e-mails from BBHCA, respond to eNews@bbhca.org and enter "unsubscribe" in the subject line. The views expressed in eNews do not necessarily reflect the views of the Brookland-Bush Hill Civic Association or its Board of Directors.

Brookland-Bush Hill Civic Association

Alexandria, VA 22310

www.bbhca.org

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