

Presidential Primary

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

6:00 am – 7:00 pm

Polling place for Lee District, Precinct 401, Bush Hill:

Bush Hill Elementary School
5927 Westchester St., Alexandria 22310

>> For information and a sample ballot, go online to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/upcoming.htm or call **703-324-4700** for 24-hour recorded information.

Add Your 2¢ to the Future of Our Parks

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/plandev/greatparks.htm

Lee District Workshop

www.bbhca.org/park_planning_workshop.htm

Tuesday, February 26

7:00 pm

[Garfield Elementary School](#)

“The Fairfax County Park Authority seeks your input! Great Parks, Great Communities is an exciting new planning process initiated to get your ideas for balancing Fairfax County's future park needs and resources, within each district of the County....

“The first phase of the project involves assessing the current park system, within 14 geographic planning districts. This is accomplished through "Existing Condition Reports" that describe current park resources within each area. These will be posted online in early 2008.

“In the second phase, the Park Authority will seek input from park users and community residents to gain an improved understanding of the park system from varying perspectives throughout the County. During this phase, we will be asking the public and County staff for their input on how the current park system serves their needs, and what changes are appropriate to balance the park system and accommodate future needs and growth. Public participation in this process will occur through 10 workshops planned between January and April, 2008, an interactive website and other outreach activities.

“The end result will be the development of a long-range guide for future planning and development of the Fairfax County park system. The final document will be approved by the Park Authority Board and serve as the basis for the County's Comprehensive Plan Amendment to update the park recommendations. This comprehensive approach to park planning will ensure the parks system will continue to successfully serve changing community needs and protect precious park resources.”

Seventh Annual Trail Caucus

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/7thtrailcaucus.htm>

Monday, February 11

Green Springs Gardens

7:30 pm

“The Seventh Annual Trail Caucus...will once again bring together trail enthusiasts from Fairfax County and the region to discuss recent accomplishments, specific projects and challenges ahead. The Fairfax County Park Authority offers residents unique trail experiences, along hundreds of miles of trails and is pleased to sponsor this caucus...”

"The program will feature an introduction to natural surface trail construction presented by an experienced professional trail builder. Also on the program are a presentation on the Park Authority's [Great Parks, Great Communities](#) planning initiative, volunteer recognition, a discussion of recent accomplishments by local trail groups, information about the recently completed Park Authority trail mapping project, and an update on Park Authority trail projects."

>> For more information on **trails in Fairfax County**, go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/trailsframe.htm

Virginia Overhauls Its Mental Health System

www.ncsl.org/programs/health/shn/2008/sn507b.htm

"When a Virginia Tech student killed 33 students and professors last April 16, he drew national attention to a recurring, controversial subject: how to ensure that persons with mental illnesses get the help they need, when they need it.

'Mental health will be a significant issue in the Commonwealth of Virginia during its 2008 session,' said Delegate Phil Hamilton. By January 9 (the deadline for introduction of legislation) lawmakers had proposed more than 100 bills pertaining to the issue."

>> For the full article, click on the link above.

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures, Volume 29, Issue 507, January 22, 2008

2008 Native Seedling Sale

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/seedlingsale.htm

The Fairfax County annual seedling sale is in full swing! This year they are offering 12 bare-root seedlings and two (2) seed packets to help you provide a butterfly buffet in your yard. The selections provide nectar for butterflies or are butterfly hosts, the special plants that butterflies select to nourish their caterpillars.

The cost for this year's package is \$17.95. Supplies are limited, so don't wait to [order](#). *Orders will be taken while supplies last or until **April 14, 2008**.*

Fireplace Safety—Can Your Ashes

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr/news/psaarchive/psa08_001.htm

We learned from the great presentation by our Franconia Fire Department at the January BBHCA community meeting that improperly disposed fireplace ashes are the number one cause of fires in the winter. "As outdoor temperatures drop, and people take measures to keep themselves warm this winter, fire incidents involving fireplaces may increase."

SAFETY TIPS:

- Have the chimney inspected annually and cleaned as necessary.
- When cleaning the fireplace, store ashes in a non-combustible metal container with a tight fitting lid and place the container away from the house.
- Never leave a fireplace fire unattended.
- Make sure the fire is completely out before going to bed or leaving the house.
- Allow ashes to cool before disposing in a metal container (it takes sometimes four days for ashes to cool down).
- Dispose of ashes in a metal container.
- Call 911 immediately when a fire occurs. Residents should not attempt to extinguish the fire themselves.

Special thanks to the Franconia Fire Department for one of the best presentations ever!

>> For more seasonal fire and life safety information, please visit our website at:

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr/educate/educate.htm

Visit the Franconia Museum

www.franconiamuseum.org/

Monday, Wednesday, Saturday
10 am - 2 pm
Franconia Governmental Center
Helen Wilson Community Room
6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA 22310

Led and run entirely by local volunteers, the Franconia Museum preserves the past, present, and future of the Franconia area in pictures, artifacts, and stories. The Franconia Museum reaches out by educating, enriching, and bringing together the greater community. The Museum now has a permanent exhibit at the Franconia Governmental Center. In addition, the museum hosts Story-Swaps two to three times a year and the Franconia History Day in the fall.

"Looking across six lanes of traffic on Franconia Road, it is difficult to imagine that it was once a rural "rolling road" for Virginia tobacco on its way to the port city of Alexandria. Before it was a bedroom community, Franconia was the birthplace of the first Virginia governor from Northern Virginia, witness to a Mosby raid, and a thriving Afro-American community called Carrolltown."

A Gift of the Past: "Fairfax Stories 1607–2007"

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/2007/267a.htm

"This historical anthology is available for \$10 in paperback or \$25 in hardback. It can be bought in-person or by phone through the county's Maps and Publications Center, Suite 156, Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, 703-324-2974, TTY 711. Shipping and handling will be charged for books delivered by mail.

"The book covers 400 years of the county's fascinating characters, stories, pictures and history—including everything from spies to ghosts to politics. ...Inside its 260 pages, readers can learn about a suspected confederate spy; a ghost at Keene Mill School; the migration of Filipino Americans; homeland security Cold War style; and more."

Free Tax Preparation Starts January 19

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/partnerships/press/cash_01-15-2008.htm

CASH is an all-volunteer coalition that provides free income tax preparation services, focusing on the EITC, to **Fairfax County residents with annual household incomes less than \$40,000**, at 12 sites in northern Virginia.

Sites open January 19, 2008. See below for days and hours in Alexandria. Clients should bring photo identification and Social Security cards for all taxpayers, spouses, and dependents.

Kingstowne Library 6500 Landsdowne Centre Alexandria, VA 22315-5011	Tuesdays: 6 pm - 8 pm Saturdays: 11 am - 1 pm <i>Closed February 9 and 12</i>
South County Access Fairfax Center 8350 Richmond Highway, 1st Floor Alexandria, VA 22309	Wednesdays: 6 pm - 9 pm

>> For more information, call (703) 324-5171, or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/partnerships/cash.htm

Fairfax County Sells AAA-Rated Bonds

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/2008/011.htm

"On January 15, Fairfax County sold \$234.5 million in Aaa/AAA/AAA-rated tax-free general obligation 1-to-20-year bonds for public improvements. The bonds were sold at the fourth lowest interest rate achieved by the county in the 30 years since the AAA rating was awarded.

"The bonds were sold to Bank of America at a true interest rate of 3.7699 percent. This interest rate represents a differential of 44 basis points under the Bond Buyer Index, which stood at 4.21 percent on Jan. 11. The lowest rate the county has ever received for 20-year bonds was 3.54 percent in March 2004."

>> *For the complete news release, click on the link above.*

Zoning 101: Community Improvement Program

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rha/CIP2.htm

"The Community Improvement Program is a cost-sharing program that preserves and improves older, yet stable residential neighborhoods. The Board of Supervisors established the program in 1978 to prevent those areas from becoming blighted and deteriorated by providing needed public improvements, such as roads, curbs and gutters, and storm drainage systems, that were absent in the original development. Incidental improvements include sidewalks, trails, streetlights, streetscape, and utility upgrading. The property owners and the County share the costs of sidewalks, curbs and gutters, and driveway entrances."

Editor's note: For additional information on the process (long and tedious) and the future of the program (none due to lack of funds for the foreseeable future), click on the link above. BBHCA has its own experience with the CIP—some sections of the neighborhood chose to pay and upgrade when the County still had funds to offset the costs to residents and others did not. The last section to be upgraded was along Piedmont in the 1990s.

At this time, a written history (or blog) does not exist, but maybe we can convince someone to who has a long history with BBHCA and the neighborhood to write that chapter for the benefit of those who wonder why they have ditches instead of sidewalks and/or storm drains. Remember, we used to be a rural community not so long ago.

Neighborhood Watch

Robert D. L'Heureux, Chair, 703-609-2966
neighborhoodwatch@bbhca.org

Eternal vigilance is not only the price of freedom—it is the price of keeping your stuff. Keep doors locked and garage doors closed. Lock your car doors, too. Pay attention to cars you do not recognize and that are acting suspiciously on your street. Petty theft and car vandalism keep happening in the BBHCA neighborhood. If you don't care about your stuff, at least look out for your neighbor's stuff. Call Officer Bennett, the Crime Prevention Officer, with any information you think might help the police, 703-691-2131.

Links To Keep

Fairfax County Police

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/

Get the latest news on local crimes (News Releases), submit an incident report (File Police Report), and find information on Victim Services, Volunteer Opportunities, Youth Gangs, and more...

Green Home Makeover

www.thegreenguide.com/green_home/

Pick a room and find out what you can do to make it greener. Take a quiz and calculate your CO₂ quotient. No, holding your breath won't help. Sponsored by National Geographic which, ironically, also uses the site to promote its print magazine.

Starting a Business Seminars

www.fairfaxcountyedc.org/08releases/jan04-08-b.htm

The popular "Entrepreneurship 101: Starting a Business in Fairfax County" seminars will continue in 2008 with nine sessions scheduled for the year. As of publication, the next available seminar is in March.

The State of Green Business 2008 (PDF, 1.76 MB)

<http://stateofgreenbusiness.com/files/StateOfGreenBusiness2008-final.pdf>

Joel Makower and the editors of GreenBiz.com answer the question: How are U.S. businesses doing in their quest to be greener and more environmentally responsible? It introduces the GreenBiz Index, a set of 20 indicators of progress, tracking the resource use, emissions, and business practices of U.S. companies: carbon, materials, energy, and toxics intensity, clean-tech investments, e-waste recovery, paper use, employee commuting, and more. © 2008 Greener World Media, Inc. (www.greenbiz.com)

Fairfax County Nature Centers

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/nature.htm

The County has five interactive nature centers open to families. Each center is unique, but all offer trails and programs for adults, children, and families. Many events are free or require just advance registration.

BBHCA 2007–2008 Board

Jeannie Henry, President	president@bbhca.org
Sarah Kelly, VP Newsletter	newsletter@bbhca.org
Richard Frederick, VP Membership	membership@bbhca.org
Kevin Henry, Treasurer	treasurer@bbhca.org
Deborah Moore, Secretary	secretary@bbhca.org

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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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