

Urgently Needed! BBHCA Vice President of Membership

Looking for an easy way to serve your community? If you have approximately 5–7 hours a month, are familiar with basic spreadsheets (Excel), and enjoy people, this is the volunteer opportunity for you! Your civic association urgently needs a Vice President of Membership. For more information, contact Jeannie Henry, President, by e-mail at president@bbhca.org or call (703) 525-8972 (evenings).

Contribute Your Questions to the Candidates Debate

The BBHCA Board has made arrangements for a debate between the candidates for Lee District Supervisor at the September 18 community meeting. We would like to get your thoughts on questions that we should ask the candidates to address in their presentations. Let us know what issues are important to you by e-mailing your questions to president@bbhca.org. Please submit your questions by July 31.

Zoning 101: They Paved Paradise and Put Up A Parking Lot

Residents along the 5700 block of Westchester (and beyond) have been privy to the noise of bulldozers for most of the month of June. The noise, sometimes starting at 6:30 am, has been emanating from the Sagres Construction Company on Oakwood Road. According resident Mike Wooten, whose residence backs to the site and who spoke with representatives of Sagres, the company has razed the wooded site in order to lay gravel for an employee parking lot. The representative apologized for the early morning start times and indicated they would be putting up a fence around the lot. Other residents on Westchester had previously contacted Marc Wadsworth, who is in charge of zoning issues in Lee District Supervisor Dana Kauffman's office, to complain about the excessive noise.

Based on the complaints, Kauffman's Chief of Staff Jeff McKay asked Fairfax County Inspector Jim Getts to look into the matter. According to an e-mail follow-up on July 3, Getts "visited the site today and ascertained that there has been illegal land clearing and no permit. A notice of violation will be prepared on Thursday and delivered on Friday. There should be no further construction until Sagres Construction submits a plan to Fairfax County and that plan is approved."

Zoning 101: Strike Teams Focus on Zoning, Building and Safety Violations

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/striketeam/>

June 1—"Fairfax County is undertaking a countywide effort to crack down on illegal boarding houses, and today, the code enforcement teams are operating in the northern and southern parts of the county.

Earlier this week, the strike teams had already issued

violations for four homes, and the county is pursuing legal action against two properties. Residents can report a suspected illegal boarding house at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/striketeam.

“Overcrowded and illegal boarding houses harm more than just our quality of life,” said Board of Supervisors Chairman Gerald E. Connolly. “These illegal homes can be unsafe for the residents living in them, as well as the neighborhood. This effort is aimed at keeping our neighborhoods safe, vital and attractive.”

Deputy County Executive Robert A. Stalzer leads the overall initiative, and there are 15 different county agencies staffing the effort’s operations, planning, logistics, financing and administration. Operationally, there are two strike teams composed of zoning, building, health and fire code inspectors. Police officers, sheriff’s deputies and county attorneys are also supporting the teams’ efforts.

The teams are responsible for inspecting residential properties suspected to be illegal boarding houses or with suspected violations. As part of the initiative, the county also will seek to prosecute landlords who are profiting from systematically violating zoning, building and safety ordinances.

Given the recent changes in state law, the county will use all the authority currently available while continuing to consider any new legislation that may be needed to deal with illegal boarding houses.”

>> [Make a Complaint](#)

Residents May Submit Zoning Complaints Anonymously

Although zoning complaints are confidential by law, Lee District Supervisor Dana Kauffman recently reminded the leaders of the area’s civic associations that he is willing to be the complainant of record. Residents may want to report potential zoning violations (such as illegal boarding houses, unpermitted structures, or hazardous debris), but hesitate to do so because they are afraid of repercussions from the violators. Such residents can forward their legitimate zoning complaints to Dana’s office. He will then submit the complaint in his name so that the resident’s name does not appear in the records for the complaint.

Dana’s office can be contacted at 703-971-6262.

Mandatory Recycling of Mixed Paper and Cardboard Begins July 10

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/recycling



All Fairfax County residential and non-residential properties (including schools, businesses and institutions) will be required to recycle mixed paper and cardboard beginning July 10. The responsibility to establish a recycling program on both residential and non-residential properties rests with each property owner. Recycling requirement guides have been prepared to assist non-residential and multi-family residential property owners. For more information, click on the link above.

BBHCA Community Yard Sale Turns a Profit

A total of 19 homes participated in the 2007 BBHCA Yard Sale (compared to 25 last year). Registration fees brought in more than \$180 minus expenses of approximately \$100. Fees for nonmembers were increased this year. All proceeds go towards BBHCA expenses.

A short follow-up survey (13 replies) sent to all participants showed that 85% made enough in sales to make their effort worthwhile. Survey results were e-mailed to participants and posted to the Web site at

http://www.bbhca.org/PDFs/2007_BBHCA_YardSale_SurveyResults.pdf.

Neighborhood Watch

Robert D. L'Heureux, Chair, (703) 971-3039

neighborhoodwatch@bbhca.org

The usual amount of petty theft in Springfield and Lorton has been reported, along with the usual number of auto thefts. With the summer weather, however, those disposed to crime have more time on their hands. Please use reasonable caution in locking your homes and autos both at night and during the day. Ask neighbors to look out for your property if going on vacation or away for a weekend. Don't make it tempting.

Finally, in late May, a man running for exercise on Springfield Road was bitten on the leg by a rabid bat. Keep a sharp eye out. Never touch wild animals-especially mammals, dead or alive. If they permit you to touch them, they are likely rabid.

>> Franconia Crime Prevention Officers Alice Bennett and Jim Nida, (703) 922-8263

Breathe Deep, With Caution

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/airquality



“Although the air quality in our region has improved significantly during the last several decades, it still does not meet the federal standards for ozone and fine particulate matter. Last year there were 21 days forecast as **Code Orange** and above for ozone pollution. If everyone contributes by taking a few air quality actions, it will be a tremendous step toward meeting the standards.

There are several easy ways you can make a positive impact this summer.

- **Turn your car engine off instead of idling.** The major cause of air pollution in this region is vehicles and their exhaust fumes. If you know that you will be idling more than 30 seconds waiting in line at school, the bank, the gas station or drive-up restaurants, you can save gas and reduce exhaust by turning your engine off and restarting it.
- **Change to energy-efficient, compact fluorescent light bulbs.** Replacing a single 100-watt incandescent light bulb with a fluorescent one can save \$30 in electricity costs over each bulb's lifetime, according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Fluorescent bulbs also last 10 times longer. If every household used five fluorescent light bulbs, they could prevent greenhouse gas emissions equal to more than 8 million cars, according to the EPA.



- **Take the bus.** This year, Northern Virginia bus lines, including Fairfax Connector, will offer **free rides on Code Orange days**, in addition to Code Red and Purple days. For information, go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/connector.”

How Does Your Garden Grow?

Water Your Lawn Wisely

<http://www.thegreenguide.com/blog/tow/828>

“According to the EPA, landscape irrigation is estimated to account for almost one-third of all residential water use, totaling more than 7 billion gallons per day. Resist the temptation to keep your lawn golf-course green and follow these water-saving tips.”

Poll Shows U.S. Coastal Residents Unprepared for Hurricanes

Emergency Management Update, June 20, 2007



“Despite the historic and devastating hurricane seasons of 2004 and 2005, a new Mason-Dixon poll reveals that a dangerously high percentage of residents in hurricane-vulnerable states still aren't prepared, don't take the threat of hurricanes seriously and have big gaps in what they know about hurricanes—even among those who live within 30 miles of the coast.

Among the most alarming findings of the survey:

- 53 percent don't feel vulnerable to a hurricane or related tornado or flooding.
- 52 percent have no family disaster plan.
- 61 percent have no hurricane survival kit.
- 88 percent have taken no steps to make their homes stronger.
- 16 percent said they might not or would not evacuate even if ordered to do so.

The poll is one of the leading elements of the National Hurricane Survival Initiative, <http://www.hurricanesafety.org/>, a public education and safety outreach partnership that includes the National Hurricane Center, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the National Emergency Management Association, the Salvation Army and the state of North Carolina.”

Links To Keep

Politics and Money Go Together Like...

<http://vpap.org/cands/index.cfm>

Wondering where the money comes from that goes to our politicians? This easy-to-navigate site shows you exactly where the political bucks start and stop.

Fairfax County Summer Concert Series

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/>

The Web site for the summer concert series has had a major facelift. You can now search by genre, performance type, date, or key word. Plus, you can download and print the brochures for each region. Summer has never been hotter!

Fairfax Libraries Offer Free Entertainment Indoors

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/

Authors, actors, artists and animal wranglers will give free performances and presentations at library branches all summer long. Also, teens can participate in special activities such as film production workshops; and students entering 7th and 8th grades can win up to \$100 in a special writing contest co-sponsored by the For Love of Country Foundation. The events and activities are free; registration is required for most. Call your local library branch to sign up beginning two weeks before an event; a list of branches and telephone numbers is available via the above link.

eNews Takes A Break in August

The next issue of the BBHCA eNews will be published in September. Matters of urgency will be posted if necessary. Have a great summer!

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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

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