

BBHCA eNews

NOVEMBER 2010

NEXT COMMUNITY MEETING

Tuesday, November 9

7:30 pm

Bush Hill Elementary School, Cafeteria

AGENDA:

Minutes from September Meeting (Vote)

Board Reports

- **Minutes** (vote), go to http://www.bbhca.org/minutes/Minutes_Sept10.doc
- Membership
- Treasurer

Committee Reports

- Land Use Task Force
- Neighborhood Watch

Old Business:

- Bush Hill Woods Historical Plaque

New Business

- Bush Hill Drive Speed Bump Proposal

GUEST:



Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/lee/>



Election Day

Tuesday, November 2, 2010

Polls open 6:00 am - 7:00 pm, Bush Hill Elementary School

Information concerning the election can be found on the Office of Elections website, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb.

Candidates

8th District

Member, House of Representatives

(Vote for not more than one)

J. Patrick Murray - R
PO Box 25243

Alexandria VA 22313
murrayforcongress@gmail.com
<http://www.murrayforcongress.com>

James P. "Jim" Moran, Jr. - D
311 N Washington St, Suite 200L
Alexandria VA 22314
<http://www.jimmoran.org>

J. Ron Fisher - IG
PO Box 1310
Falls Church VA 22041
<http://www.ronfisherforcongress.com>

Write-In

8th District Sample Ballots

- [Touchscreen](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/dre_sample_ballot_8th.pdf) (http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/dre_sample_ballot_8th.pdf)
- [Optical Scan](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/sampleballot_8th.pdf) (aka paper ballot) (http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/sampleballot_8th.pdf)

Proposed Constitutional Amendments

As soon as you read these amendments and referendum, you'll wonder what you just read. Don't worry, it's not you. I strongly recommend you read the English version or "Explanation" for each. The explanation is written in plain, easy to understand, everyday English. Thank goodness someone knows how to write and we can vote with confidence. —Ed.

Question 1

Shall Section 6 of Article X of the Constitution of Virginia be amended to authorize legislation that will permit localities to establish their own income or financial worth limitations for purposes of granting property tax relief for homeowners not less than 65 years of age or permanently and totally disabled?

(For explanation, go to

http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms/documents/2010_Constitutional_Amendments/2010%20Property%20Tax%20Relief4.pdf)

Question 2

Shall the Constitution be amended to require the General Assembly to provide a real property tax exemption for the principal residence of a veteran, or his or her surviving spouse, if the veteran has a 100 percent service-connected, permanent, and total disability?

(For explanation, go to

http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms/documents/2010_Constitutional_Amendments/2010ques_tax%20relief_veterans4.pdf)

Question 3

Shall Section 8 of Article X of the Constitution of Virginia be amended to increase the permissible size of the Revenue Stabilization Fund (also known as the "rainy day fund") from 10 percent to 15 percent of the Commonwealth's average annual tax revenues derived from income and retail sales taxes for the preceding three fiscal years?

(For explanation, go to

http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms/documents/2010_Constitutional_Amendments/2010%20Rainy%20Day%20Fund3.pdf)

Fairfax County Bond Referendum

Shall the Board of Supervisors contract a debt, borrow money and issue bonds of Fairfax County, Virginia, in addition to the bonds previously authorized for transportation improvements and facilities, in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$120,000,000 for the purpose of providing funds to finance the cost of constructing, reconstructing, improving and acquiring transportation improvements, including improvements to primary and

secondary State highways, off-street parking, pedestrian improvements, and ancillary related improvements and facilities, and including capital costs of land, transit facilities, rolling stock and equipment in the Washington metropolitan area allocable to Fairfax County, Virginia pursuant to the provisions of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Compact?

(For explanation, go to http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/bond/2010_english_statement.pdf)

Source: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/upcoming.htm>

T-mobile Balloon to Fly Again

A Letter From T-Mobile

"We are requesting another opportunity to meet with the [Brookland-]Bush Hill Civic Assn. T-mobile has looked at the suggested alternatives which didn't work, but is prepared to relocate on the site on Oakwood further from the houses, reduced the height down to 125' and is prepared to do a tree pole (monopine). A balloon will be flown Saturday afternoon 1 pm until 4 pm November 11 (weather permitting). Notice will be sent out to the community."

As we hear more information, it will be posted on the Website and sent by e-mail to BBHCA members.



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Call the Non-emergency Number for Any Solicitor

Several incidents occurred in our neighborhoods involving solicitors that you should be aware of.

There is a group that is selling magazines in the area. While this is not a scam they do not have solicitors licenses. A citizen in the Woodfield Estates neighborhood (Franconia Rd/ S. Van Dorn St area) called the **non-emergency number (703) 691-2131**. We responded and ended up fighting with one of the magazine sellers and arresting him on several charges. I would recommend calling for any solicitor. While there are legitimate solicitors, most are not. If you need a magazine or other service you can use the internet or yellow pages. Remember to check for business licenses and references.

I was advised that on Friday, October 15, there were some suspicious subjects going door to door in the Wilton Woods Neighborhood (Franconia Rd/Telegraph Rd area). These subjects advised this citizen that they were from Fairfax County. They advised the citizen that they needed to clean up their back yard or that they would be fined. They also asked questions about one of their neighbors. These were two females wearing red shirts. They had lanyards around their necks with a card that said Fairfax County. They left no paperwork. Their purpose remains a mystery. I have checked with every possible county agency. I have been advised that no County employees would conduct themselves in this manner. Plus, no one that would go door to was in this area. They were not soliciting and there were no break-ins in the area. Remember you can always inspect someone's ID. This goes for individuals from private companies like utilities as well. They should be able to provide you with a phone number that you can call and confirm that they are legitimately in your neighborhood. **If something does not seem right, do not let them into your home, and call the police.**

On Friday, October 22 we arrested a subject who was stealing money from an elderly woman in Lorton. They tricked her into writing checks for tree work that was not actually done. We were alerted to this case by a concerned neighbor. A great example of citizens and police working together. Once again these people are required to have solicitors licenses, but rarely do. If you need tree work done you can use the internet or the yellow pages. The good price they give you may not be worth it. This is dangerous work and they may not have insurance [in which case you would be liable]. Once again, a good reason to call the police.

A final note on solicitors. These folks do not want to have contact with the police. They will leave the area if they see too many cruisers.

>> For the online brochure, “Is the Salesperson at your door Licensed?” go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/stations/franconia/bulletins/102810solicitor.pdf>

Weekly Incident Summary Report, October 11-17, 2010

HOMICIDE: Police are investigating an apparent homicide that occurred around 11 p.m.

Thursday, October 14—An 18-year-old man sought medical treatment at the Inova Springfield Healthplex around 10:30 pm and died shortly after 11 pm. The victim, Wyatt Campbell, 18, of 6119 Rose Hill Drive in Alexandria, had apparently been involved in an altercation earlier in the evening around the **Rose Hill Shopping Center** that resulted in bodily trauma. Detectives are currently investigating and attempting to determine the nature of the relationship between the victim and suspect(s). An autopsy will be conducted to determine the cause and manner of the victim’s death.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866- 411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text “TIP187” plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

10/13/10	5700 BLK BUSH HILL DR	DESTRUCTION - PRIVATE PROPERTY
10/17/10	5700 BLK WESTCHESTER ST	LARCENY - THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE
10/17/10	5700 BLK BUSH HILL DR	LARCENY - THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE
10/16/10	5900 BLK JANE WAY	LARCENY - THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE
10/17/10	4700 BLK UPLAND DR	LARCENY - THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE
10/17/10	5800 BLK BUSH HILL DR	LARCENY - THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE

MPO Jim Reid
Crime Prevention Officer
Franconia District Station
6121 Franconia Rd
Alexandria, VA 22310
(703) 922-8263
James.Reid@fairfaxcounty.gov



Watch Out for Children on HALLOWEEN

As children take to the streets on HALLOWEEN to trick-or-treat, their risk of being injured by motorists increases greatly.

In fact, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that HALLOWEEN is consistently one of the top three days for pedestrian injuries and fatalities, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that **children are four times more likely to be struck by a motor vehicle on HALLOWEEN than any other day**

of the year.

Because excited trick-or-treaters often forget about safety, motorists and parents must be even more alert. Here are some tips for helping keep young ones safe on HALLOWEEN.

Motorists

- Slow down in residential neighborhoods and obey all traffic signs and signals. Drive at least 5 mph *below* the posted speed limit to give yourself extra time to react to children who may dart into the street.
- Watch for children walking on roadways, medians and curbs. In dark costumes, they'll be harder to see at night.

- Look for children crossing the street. They may not be paying attention to traffic and cross the street mid-block or between parked cars.
- Carefully enter and exit driveways and alleys.
- Broaden your scanning by looking for children left and right into yards and front porches.

Parents

- Ensure an adult or older, responsible youth is available to supervise children under age 12.
- Plan and discuss the route your trick-or-treaters will follow.
- Instruct children to travel only in familiar areas and along established routes.
- Teach children to stop only at well-lit houses and to never enter a stranger's home or garage.
- Establish a time for children to return home.
- Tell children not to eat any treats until they get home.
- Review trick-or-treating safety precautions, including pedestrian and traffic safety rules.
- Make sure HALLOWEEN costumes are flame-retardant and visible with retro-reflective material.

Trick-or-Treaters

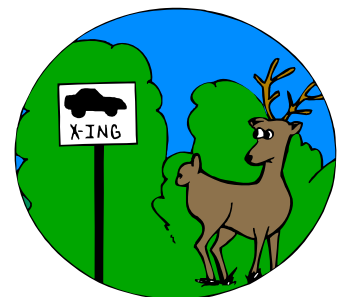
- Be bright at night—wear retro-reflective tape on costumes and treat buckets to improve visibility to motorists and others.
- Wear disguises that don't obstruct vision, and avoid facemasks. Instead, use nontoxic face paint. Also, watch the length of billowy costumes to help avoid tripping.
- Carry a flashlight containing fresh batteries, and place it face down in the treat bucket to free up one hand. Never shine it into the eyes of oncoming drivers.
- Stay on sidewalks and avoid walking in streets if possible.
- If there are no sidewalks, walk on the left side of the road, facing traffic.
- Look both ways and listen for traffic before crossing the street. Cross streets only at the corner, and never cross between parked vehicles or mid-block.
- Trick-or-treat in a group if someone older cannot go with you.
- Tell your parents where you are going.

Source: Fairfax County Police Department, Traffic Safety Division

Be Alert for Deer

Police caution motorists to stay alert for deer in the roadways. **Virginia was ranked among the top 10 states in the nation for deer/vehicle collisions in 2009.**

The vast majority of these collisions occur during the deer breeding season between now and early January. Motorists should pay close attention and remain alert at all times, especially at dawn and dusk when deer are active and are likely to be seen quickly entering roadways in herds. Police are posting a mobile sign board on roads where deer/vehicle collisions have been reported in recent weeks, such as Braddock Road and Pleasant Valley Road.



Safety tips for motorists include:

- Deer are most active between 6 and 9 pm
- Use high beam headlamps as much as possible at night to illuminate the areas from which deer will enter roadways.
- Deer generally travel in herds—if you see one, there is a strong possibility others are nearby.

- Do not rely on car-mounted deer whistles; they may not work.
- If a deer collision seems inevitable, attempting to swerve out of the way could cause you to lose control of your vehicle or place you in the path of an oncoming vehicle. Do not swerve to miss a deer. This may cause you to lose control of your vehicle, strike a tree or another vehicle or to overturn. If you cannot avoid hitting a deer, take the following precautions;
- Slow down and grasp the steering wheel firmly with both hands.
- Take your foot off the brake at the time of impact so the front end of your vehicle will lift up and enable the deer to go under the car, rather than over it—reducing the danger of it crashing through the windshield or windows.
- If the animal is injured or killed, report the collision through the county’s non-emergency line at 703-691-2131.

To learn more about deer activity in Fairfax County, check <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/animals/wildlife/management/deer-management.htm>.

Humor in the County

“Fairfax County Wins Regional Award for Trap, Neuter and Return Program: Humane Education Efforts Build Citizen Army to Solve Community Problem”

The above was a headline that left readers wondering what was being trapped, neutered, and returned. Apparently it took a “citizen army” and was a “community problem.” Did certain neighbors need to be concerned for their welfare?

Not until you got into the story did you breathe a sigh of relief that the subject of all the attention was stray cats. Whew!



EVENTS

Election Day

Tuesday, November 2, 6 am – 7 pm
Bush Hill Elementary School

To save time, be sure to read the constitutional amendments and bond referendum in advance. All can be found online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/upcoming.htm>. Scroll down the page for the amendments and referendum.

West Virginia History and Gambling Tour!

Saturday, November 20

Franconia Museum, 6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA

Start the day at 8 a.m. with coffee, donuts at the Franconia Museum. Board a comfortable rest-room equipped motor coach for the trip to the local Laurel Grove historic site and then the Jefferson County Museum in Charles Town. Enjoy a buffet lunch at the Hollywood Casino and then gamble with a \$20 FREE Play card at the slots or at the tables for a few hours. We’ll end the day overlooking Harper’s Ferry, the Potomac and the Shenandoah Rivers

SPECIAL ADDED ATTRACTION: While in Charles Town, we’ll show you the court house where John Brown was convicted and the spot where he was hanged. The Jefferson County Museum is a treasure trove of displays and artifacts from the Revolutionary War and Civil War eras.

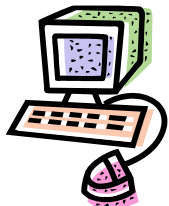
COST: \$100 each. Includes Buffet lunch and a \$20 FREE play card for slots at Hollywood Casino and a fast-food value card per person on the way home, as well as the entrance fee to each historic site.

Contact Don Hakenson at 703-971-4984

Future BBHCA Meetings (Tuesday, 7:30 pm)

Bush Hill Elementary School (Cafeteria)

January 11, 2011	TBA
March 8, 2011	TBA
May 10, 2011	TBA + BBHCA Elections



LINKS TO KEEP

Fairfax County E-mail Lists

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/email/lists/>

Sign up for Fairfax County E-mail subscriptions to receive newsletters, updates and alerts on various topics. You can choose from multiple subscription options, which can be sent directly to your e-mail account.

Samples include:

- Fairfax County Weekend Events Update
- Fairfax 50 Plus E-News—news and events for residents 50 and over
- First-Time Homebuyer Notifications
- Advertised jobs
- Public Library events, activities, and services
- Vacuum Leaf Announcements for Area 8 (BBHCA)
- Fairfax Connector bus service information
- and much more!

Fairfax County Events Calendar

<http://www.fxva.com/seedoplan/fairfax-virginia-events/calendar/>

Bored? Have guests in town? Check out what's happening in Fairfax County. Every day is filled with something to do.

Avoid Back Pain While Raking Leaves

<http://www.spineuniverse.com/conditions/back-pain/avoid-back-pain-while-leaf-raking>

"...leaf raking is one of the typical fall activities...for top ways to hurt your back..."

BBHCA 2010–2011 Board

President: Jeannie Henry president@bbhca.org

VP Newsletter: Sarah Kelly newsletter@bbhca.org

VP Membership: Richard Frederick membership@bbhca.org

Treasurer: Joan Akins treasurer@bbhca.org

Secretary: Deborah Moore secretary@bbhca.org

eNews

Editor: Sharada Gilkey eNews@bbhca.org

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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