# BBHCA *e*News

**December 2008**

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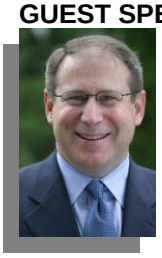
## NEXT COMMUNITY MEETING

**January 13, 2008** (Tuesday)
7:30 pm
Bush Hill Elementary School (Cafeteria)

**AGENDA:**
Minutes from November Meeting (Vote)
Board and Committee Reports
New Business

**GUEST SPEAKER:**



Mark Sickles, Delegate for 43rd District (invited)

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

**November 10**—"An officer attempted to initiate a traffic stop on a vehicle for speeding near the intersection of Franconia Road and Westchester Street on Monday, November 10 around 10:26 p.m. The driver of the vehicle accelerated and a brief traffic pursuit began. The suspect stopped the car near Neville Court and Westchester Street and bailed out of the vehicle. An investigation led officers to the driver's home where he was subsequently arrested. Jaime Salazar, 18, of 5704 Larpin Lane in Alexandria, was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center and charged with felony speed to elude, driving on a suspended operator's license and carrying a concealed weapon without a permit." (E-mail report from Franconia District Police Station)

**November 15**—"Police in Fairfax County have safely apprehended a gunman who fatally shot a man Saturday night in Alexandria. James Becker, age 51, of no known address, was arrested Saturday night and is facing a murder charge. He is being held at the Fairfax County jail. Police found the victim, an adult male in his forties, shot to death, lying in a driveway in the 5400 block of Forest Avenue near the intersection of Franconia and Old Rolling Roads shortly before 9 p.m." (News Channel 8, http://www.news8.net/news/stories/1108/570430.html)

Residents of Brookland-Bush Hill endured several hours of suspense as a police helicopter circled above the streets searching for the gunman. Those living near the incident were not allowed to leave or return to their homes until the suspect was found in a nearby shed. The victim and gunman were homeless men living in a residential garage and were arguing over money.

**CRIME PREVENTION TIP:** Change your house numbers from the shiny brass and chrome to matte black numbers [against a light background]. It is easier for police and fire personnel to see your address numbers both in the light of day and darkness of night. And turn your porch lights on at night!

**CAC:** The Citizens' Advisory Committee for the Franconia District Police Station will meet on **Wednesday, December 17**, at 7:30 pm in the Helen Wilson Community Room in the Lee District Building at 6121 Franconia Road. Residents are encouraged to use this opportunity to bring the police's attention to crime-related issues or concerns in their neighborhood. A social period, beginning at 7:00 pm will precede the meeting.

**MODIP:** The Fairfax County Police Department offers residents 55 years of age and older enrollment in the Mature Operator's Driver Improvement Program (MODIP). This eight hour course, which provides safe driving information, is sanctioned by the American Automobile Association (AAA) and is presented by certified Fairfax County Auxiliary Police Officers. Upon completion of this course, drivers are eligible for the Virginia State-

mandated insurance premium reduction (check with individual insurance carriers for the amount). The classes are normally held the second Saturday of each month at the Franconia District Station. The next seminar is scheduled at the Franconia District Station, located at 6121 Franconia Road, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on **December 13, 2008**. Registration is required and can be done by contacting the MODIP reservations line at (703) 924-6588. The fee for this course is $10.00 per person for books and materials.

## Conflict Resolution

http://www.crinfo.org/

As the economy worsens, you, as well as family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors you know, may be facing significant hardships. With those hardships, tensions climb. If you find those tensions are getting out of control, get help.

- **How To Stop Fighting**
  http://stop-fighting.crinfo.org/
  A seven-step tutorial for those involved in relationship conflicts.

- **Suggestions for Relationship Conflicts**
  http://www.crinfo.org/suggestions/relationships.jsp
  Answers to frequently asked questions about what to do when you are in a relationship conflict.

- **Finding a Mediator/Arbitrator**
  http://www.acrnet.org/referrals/
  This referral list includes all current Advanced Practitioner (AP) members of the Association for Conflict Resolution who have met the strictest training and experience requirements.

## Simple Steps To Becoming Winter Ready

The first snowflakes fell on our neighborhood on November 18! Virginia is overdue for a major statewide winter storm, and citizens should get ready now for the upcoming snow and ice season. Virginians can find winter-specific safety information and related links at www.ReadyVirginia.gov.

"It's been eight years since we've had a big winter storm, which is a long time even by Virginia standards," said Michael Cline, state coordinator for the Virginia Department of Emergency Management. "It's critical that every family get ready for winter dangers such as power outages and slippery roads."

"This winter's forecast is for near normal precipitation, some of which is likely to be snow or ice," said Bill Sammler, warning coordination meteorologist for the NWS in Wakefield. "Use Winter Preparedness Week as a time to get ready for possible severe weather and to ensure your family's safety."

Simple steps to becoming winter ready include getting emergency supplies, making a communications plan, and staying informed about local conditions.

- **Get a kit.** Emergency supplies for winter weather include essential items to last at least three days in case of a power outage. At a minimum, these supplies include a battery-powered radio and extra batteries, food and water, flashlights and extra batteries, a first aid kit, blankets and warm clothing, medications if needed and pet supplies.

- **Make a plan.** A family communications plan means discussing with your family what you would do in case of severe winter weather in your area. Decide on a meeting place if your family cannot return home because of closed roads. Choose an out-of-town friend or relative as a point-of-contact for family members. Always tell someone before you travel on snowy or icy roads where you are going and when you expect to arrive.

- **Stay informed.** Before, during and after a winter storm, it is critical that you stay informed of conditions by listening to reports from media and emergency officials who are closest to you. Local media will give instructions from local, state and federal agencies including road conditions, winter storm watches and warnings, and power outages.

Some additional winter safety tips include:

- Plug **space heaters** directly into wall sockets, not extension cords. Keep them at least three feet from other objects. Never leave space heaters unattended.
- Install a **smoke detector** in every bedroom and one on every level of your home. Check the batteries monthly, and replace them once a year at the same time every year.
- Install a **carbon monoxide detector** outside the bedrooms in each separate sleeping area of the home. For Q&A on carbon monoxide poisoning, go to http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PUBS/466.html.
- Make sure that **outdoor pets** have adequate shelter, unfrozen water and food.
- **For road conditions call 511** or go to www.511Virginia.org. Driving is most dangerous when the temperature is at or under 32° F. If the road is wet, it could be icy, especially on bridges and curves. Even after roads have been treated with salt and/or sand, drivers should slow down. Leave a safe distance between vehicles, and never use cruise control in winter weather conditions.
- If your household includes someone with **special needs** (has a disability, requires electricity to operate home medical equipment, needs to go to dialysis, etc.) call your local emergency management office to let them know what you would need during an emergency. Many offices compile such information so they will know where the critical needs may be in the community during an emergency.

## LINKS TO KEEP

**Lee District Home Page**
http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/lee/
Check out the new look and content for the Lee District Web page. You'll find local News and Events, Key Services, and Fairfax County News Releases plus links to Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay and his staff.

**Community Emergency Alert Network (CEAN)**
https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cean/
CEAN delivers important emergency alerts, notifications and updates during a major crisis or emergency, in addition to day-to-day notices about weather and traffic. Messages will be delivered to all devices you register: e-mail account, cell phone, text pager, satellite phone, or wireless device. Register online. CEAN complements other public notification methods, such as cable Channel 16, the Fairfax County Government Web site, the Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Line (703-817-7771, TTY 711) and area media, both radio, television and online.

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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 *e*News do not necessarily reflect the views of the Brookland-Bush Hill Civic Association or its Board of Directors.

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