

# BBHCA eNews

FEBRUARY 2012

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## Coyote Takes Residence in Bush Hill



BBHCA has a new resident coyote that has been spotted by numerous neighbors over the past couple months. Although 80% of their diet is rodents and rabbits, coyote will kill cats and dogs. Anyone with outdoor cats is urged to consider keeping them indoors.

If you see or come across the coyote, **do not run or walk away** as they consider this to be a sign that you are prey. Stand your ground until they go away.

If you walk a small dog at or after dusk, the park service recommends you carry a big stick. Note that coyotes become aggressive towards all dogs when they are raising their young in late April-June. Please notify BBHCA if you are aware of a coyote den.

>> For additional information, [http://www.bbhca.org/PDFs/WCO\\_Training\\_Manual\\_Coyote.pdf](http://www.bbhca.org/PDFs/WCO_Training_Manual_Coyote.pdf)

>> For detailed information, read <http://nwco.net/PDF/coyote.pdf>

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## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS BBHCA Yard Sale Coordinator(s)

If finding deals is your idea of a good time, then you may be the perfect person to coordinate the BBHCA June Yard Sale.

The process is set up online, so if you are comfortable with a computer you can easily guide your neighbors on how to sell their used, but back in style records and rock & roll memorabilia. The process starts in April and ends in early June.

Best of all, you can even take part and clear a space in your basement for something you really want. Contact [yardsale@bbhca.org](mailto:yardsale@bbhca.org) for more information now.



## Virginia Launches Online Advance Directive Registry

<https://www.virginiaregistry.org>

Last month, the Commonwealth of Virginia launched a free online Advance Health Care Directive Registry. An advance directive lets family members and physicians know the extent and types of medical care people want - and do not want - if unable to express their wishes.

The registry stores Advance Health Care Directives, Health Care Powers of Attorney, Declarations of Anatomical Gift. The state maintains the registry in a secure site.

For more information, click on the link above.

Source: *Fairfax 50+ E-News*

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## You May Qualify for Tax Relief

[http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta/taxrelief\\_home.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta/taxrelief_home.htm)

**Older adults and people with disabilities** may qualify for Fairfax County real estate and car tax relief. Residents must file an application for relief between January 1 and April 1, 2012 if they have filed before. New applicants have until December 31, 2012 to file.

To receive tax relief, applicants must:

- Be 65 + or have acquired a permanent and total disability (if you become 65 during the year or acquire a disability for a portion of a year, tax relief is prorated).
- Have a gross income of no more than \$72,000. This includes the income of all relatives living in the home.



The following income limitations and percentage of relief apply:

- \$52,000 or less – 100 percent
- \$52,001-\$62,000 – 50 percent
- \$62,001-\$72,000 – 25 percent

To find out more about county tax relief limitations and exclusions from the Fairfax County Department of Tax Administration, click on the link above.

Source: *Fairfax 50+ E-News*

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## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

### The Year in Review—Franconia

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/stations/franconia/bulletins/20120109yearinreweiw.htm>



The Franconia District Station of the Fairfax County Police Department has had a year to remember. Overall crime has dropped and traffic behavior is changing; providing a safer environment for all of us. **Overall crime dropped nearly 7% in 2011 as compared to 2010.** We had several cases which contributed to those lower numbers. A GPS theft ring was busted in February and a prescription fraud task force was established early in the year and re-established later in the summer. A Business Watch was created following a series of stolen lawn care equipment in the Lorton area. Our Ghost Cruiser was out nearly every day in 2011 which has shown to slow motorist. Our Traffic Enforcement Officer has written over 2700 citations this year and our Parking Enforcement Officer was

busy in our neighborhoods helping to maintain the county's code on parking restrictions. Our Franconia residents had their moment as well when a citizen helped catch a driver speeding. Another resident called the police for suspicious activity and two arrests were made.

Throughout the year, greater emphasis was placed on **communicating with the residents** of the Franconia Police District. The station web page has been updated more frequently and an e-mail subscription was established to get information directly to those interested. We currently have 500 subscriptions and hope to break 1000 in 2012. In June, officers along with the station commanders began a series of "Walking Tours." These tours continued with warm welcome until the weather turned cold. A total of five communities were visited; you can expect to see officers in your "hood" in 2012. The year ended strong with our second annual "Fill the Wagon" food drive. The response this year was outstanding, and we hope to see an even greater turnout next year. A free service provided by the officers at the Franconia Station is Child Safety Seat Inspections; 478 seats were inspected in 2011.

The officers at the station have continued to better themselves to **assist the public**. We have received additional training to increase our understanding of emotionally disturbed persons and issues regarding homelessness. We have improved our communication with other agencies such as the Department of Family Services through the Community Action Advisory Board. We gained valuable refresher training on traffic safety topics such as driving while intoxicated, moped, and pedestrian laws.

Looking ahead to 2012, the Franconia Station will focus on continuing the downward movement of crime in our Police Service Areas (PSA's) by utilizing tools such as **crime analysis** as well as the knowledge and skills of our officers and detectives assigned to our neighborhoods. Soon, communities will be able to check our website for a Walk and Talk page which will show where we will be in 2012 and when. We will monitor closely the effects of BRAC on our highways as well as any changes which occur at the Springfield Mall in 2012 – both major projects in our district. Captain Bennett is committed to providing our community with exceptional police service through the use of creative approaches, coordination with our Department and County resources, strong communication, and community involvement. Remember to check out our website for up to date information, as well as our street sign in front of our police station for seasonal and timely messages.

To ensure you receive the most up to date information, please sign up for our email subscription to receive **emails updates** from our Crime Prevention Officer throughout the year. Remember, "Crime Prevention Starts with You – Get Involved."

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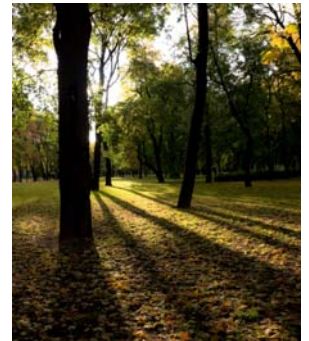
## Park Authority Seeks Comment on Proposed Fees

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/feeproposal-FY12.pdf>

Information outlining all proposed fee changes is now available for public review. Information can be found online at the above link. Additionally, a desk copy of the fee proposal is available for review at Park Authority offices in the Herrity Building and at staffed park facilities, including all RECenters, golf courses, nature centers, and historic sites.

A 30-day comment period is now underway. Mail and e-mail comments must be received no later than **February 14, 2012**. Additionally, public input on these proposals is invited. Citizens may wish to attend the public comment meeting to speak or simply wish to forward comments. Feedback will be accepted online at [Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov), or you may send your written comments to: Attention Public Information Office/Fee Comments, Fairfax County Park Authority, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 927, Fairfax, VA 22035-1118.

Source: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/feemeeting.htm#>



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## 2012 Reduced Cost Rabies Clinics

**Sully District Government Center**  
4900 Stonecroft Blvd.  
Chantilly, VA 20151  
2 p.m. - 4 p.m.



- Sunday, January 29, 2012
- Sunday, June 24, 2012
- Sunday, September 23, 2012

**Mason District Government Center**

6507 Columbia Pike  
Annandale, VA 22003  
2 p.m.- 4 p.m.

- Sunday, March 4, 2012
- Sunday, August 5, 2012
- Sunday, November 4, 2012

**Mount Vernon Recreation Center**

2017 Belle View Road  
Alexandria, VA 22307  
2 p.m.- 4 p.m.

- Sunday, April 22, 2012

Cost is 12.00 per pet

Please note:

- Dogs, cats and ferrets will be eligible for vaccinations.
- Dogs MUST be on leashes.
- Cats and ferrets MUST be in carriers.
- All pets will receive a 1-year rabies vaccine. To obtain a 3-year vaccine, bring your pet's rabies certificate showing your dog's current rabies vaccination and expiration date. Only those who are able to show proof will be eligible for the 3-year vaccination for their pet.
- Only rabies certificates will be issued (no tags).
- 2012 dog licenses will be sold at each clinic at additional cost of \$10.00.

**EQAC Presents 2011 Annual Report on the Environment**

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/2011/updates/2011-annual-report-on-environment.htm>



*EQAC's priority recommendations:*

- Increase the Stormwater Service District rate in FY 2013 by a penny, from a rate of 1.5 cents per \$100 assessed real estate value to 2.5 cents per \$100. This would provide more funding for modest watershed improvement programs and a somewhat more realistic infrastructure replacement timeline.
- Establish an Environmental Improvement Program projects fund similar to the Information Technology fund.
- Modify the Comprehensive Plan to better utilize Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology to integrate the latest Comprehensive Plan changes and make those changes accessible.

Other topics addressed by the report include climate change and energy; land use and transportation; air quality; water resources; solid waste; hazardous materials; ecological resources; wildlife management; and noise, light pollution and visual blight.

Fairfax County uses its "Environmental Improvement Program" (EIP) to provide a strategic approach to prioritizing environmental actions for implementation, as well as integrate and link environmental goals and objectives into all levels of county decision-making. The EIP has received a National Association of Counties Achievement Award.

## Native Seedling Sale

The annual seedling sale makes low-cost native shrub and tree seedlings available to Northern Virginia residents. Seedling packages go on sale each year in January and are available for pick-up in mid-April. Trees and shrubs help cleanse water, prevent soil erosion, provide habitat, cool our climate, and clean our air. Consider adding native trees and shrubs to our community!



### Incredible Edibles for Humans and Wildlife

Many of our native shrubs and trees have been in use for centuries by humans, and have provided habitat benefits for wildlife. This year's seedling sale features native species that have fruits, berries, nuts, leaves or roots you can eat or use yourself and that birds and other wildlife will find delicious.

- **Shrub and Small Tree Package** includes 10 seedlings for \$15.95
- **Tree Package** includes 7 seedlings sold for \$11.95

>> For a full description of the plants included, go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/seedlingsale.htm#>

A full, nonrefundable payment must accompany your order by **Monday, April 16, 2012**, or until supplies run out. You will receive a confirmation receipt and a map to the pickup site in Fairfax County, off of Braddock Road (two miles outside the Beltway). Pick up times for orders are on Friday, April 20, 9 am-4 pm, or Saturday, April 21, 9 am-12 noon.

>> [View the 2012 Order Form \(PDF\)](#)

Source: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/seedlingsale.htm#>



## EVENTS

- **Book Discussion Group (Adults)**

**Thursday, February 16, 7:15 - 8:30 pm**  
John Marshall Library, Meeting Room

Call branch for book title, 703-971-0010

- **Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) Meeting**

**Wednesday, February 15**

6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Helen Wilson Community Room, Lee District Government Center, 6121 Franconia Road

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/stations/franconia/franstacac.htm>

**Topic:** TBA.

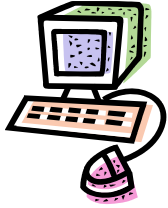
**What is CAC?** The purpose of the CAC is to:

1. Provide a forum for obtaining citizen input about the delivery of police services.
2. Provide a formalized process that will facilitate citizen and community cooperation with the police.
3. Identify specific and potential problem areas concerning the police.

- **BBHCA Community Meeting**  
**Tuesday, March 20**  
Bush Hill Elementary School, Cafeteria  
[www.bbhca.org](http://www.bbhca.org)

**Topic:** State of Lee District  
**Speaker:** Mark Sickles, Lee District Delegate

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## LINKS TO KEEP

- **Pets and Animals in Fairfax County**  
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/animals/>

Fairfax County strives to ensure safe and healthy living for pets and other animals, as well as the residents that own them. Our [Animal Shelter](#) is a place with open doors and warm hearts for every lost, abandoned, abused, temporarily homeless, or unwanted Fairfax County animal and always has many dogs, cats and other animals up for [adoption](#). The Fairfax County Wildlife Biologist handles wildlife-related issues or concerns and develops wildlife management programs for Fairfax County. This and much more useful information is available through this portal.

- **National Weather Service (Eastern Region Headquarters)**  
<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/>

Get detailed weather information—current and forecasts for local, regional, and national weather. Put this link on your cell phone if you have Internet access!

- **Electrical Outages in Northern Virginia**  
<http://www.dom.com/storm-center/northva.jsp>

Dominion Electric's power grid map shows electrical outages in the region. You will also find storm preparation tips and what to do in the event of an outage, including food storage. Put this link on your cell phone if you have Internet access!

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## BBHCA 2011–2012 Board

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VP Newsletter: Rebecca Johnson [newsletter@bbhca.org](mailto:newsletter@bbhca.org)  
VP Membership: Rebeccah Wolfkiel [membership@bbhca.org](mailto:membership@bbhca.org)  
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Secretary: Deborah Moore [secretary@bbhca.org](mailto: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 any e-mails from BBHCA, respond to [membership@bbhca.org](mailto:membership@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](http://www.bbhca.org)

