

# BBHCA eNews

FEBRUARY 2011

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## NEXT COMMUNITY MEETING

**Tuesday, March 8, 7:30 pm**

Bush Hill Elementary School, Cafeteria

### AGENDA:

Minutes from September Meeting (Vote)

Board Reports

- Membership
- Treasurer

Committee Reports

- Land Use Task Force
- Neighborhood Watch

Old Business

New Business



**TOPIC: Legislative Update**

**SPEAKER: Delegate Mark Sickles,** <http://www.marksickles.com/>

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## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

### Police Probe Link between Burglary Cases

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/news-releases/2011/020111burglinks.htm>

Detectives are exploring a possible link between 19 burglary cases across three police districts and are asking residents to be alert to suspicious activity in their neighborhoods. Most recently, there were four incidents that took place Saturday, January 29, in the Fairfax Station area.

Thieves have forced open doors of unoccupied homes, typically, between the hours of 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. They have stolen small, easily concealed items from the homes. Cases appear to have started on November 13, 2010, and have occurred in the West Springfield, Mason, and McLean Police Districts.

Residents are encouraged to contact police if they see any suspicious vehicles or people in their neighborhood. Police have posted a listing of burglaries that may be linked.

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



## 10 Simple Steps to Help With Snow Removal

1. Start a neighborhood team to help shovel snow for elderly and those unable to shovel.

2. Residents and businesses should ensure all accessible parking spaces for people with disabilities are cleared of snow and ice.
3. Don't put trash cans and recycling bins out until after the plows have come.
4. If possible, remove parked cars from the road. Navigating around objects severely hampers a plow or heavy equipment driver's ability to clear the roads and costs valuable time.
5. Clear snow away from fire hydrants in your neighborhood. Ask neighbors to adopt a fire hydrant and clear snow and ice away from all hydrants so that they are easily visible in the event of a fire.
6. Shovel snow into the yard instead of into the street to minimize the problem of the snowplow covering your driveway with snow after you've just shoveled it.
7. Keep the openings of storm drains clear of snow and debris to help alleviate potential flooding and to protect the environment. (At no time, however, should a resident attempt to enter a storm drain to remove debris.)
8. Remove all portable basketball hoops from the road when possible.
9. Volunteer to use equipment you may have such as small snow blowers for a community removal effort.
10. Driving on snow is dangerous and packs the snow into compact sheets that turn to ice, making it much harder and more expensive to remove. If possible, don't attempt to drive before the plows come to your neighborhood.

Source: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/prepare/winter/you-can-help-snow-removal.htm>

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## Subscribe to *The Informed Consumer*

The Fairfax County Consumer Affairs Branch publishes a quarterly electronic newsletter, *The Informed Consumer*, to keep residents up-to-date on current consumer issues. Past topics have included credit reports, the new credit card rules, bed bugs, solicitors, foreclosure scams, hiring contractors, etc. To subscribe, e-mail [consumer@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:consumer@fairfaxcounty.gov) or call 703-222-8435.

>> For archived editions of *The Informed Consumer*, go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/consumer/enewsletter/>

>> For other consumer affairs issues, go to "Consumer Central" at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/consumer/>

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## Fairfax County Trash Truck Goes Green

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/recycling](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/recycling)

The Fairfax County Solid Waste Management Program has turned the ignition on its first hybrid trash and recycling collection truck. The new truck uses a system that converts the energy from braking into energy for acceleration. Up to 6 percent savings in fuel and maintenance costs are expected. The new system also captures carbon and soot particles, causing the truck to run cleaner.



Fairfax County, which provides waste collection services to 45,000 county residents, purchased the system with a \$35,000 federal grant.

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## Ruth Austin Marler, 1921–2011



On January 4, 2011, soon after her 89th birthday, Ruth Austin Marler passed away at home in her sleep.

Until she lost her memory just recently, Ruth could recite her birthday with ease and clarity 12/21/21. She was born at 12 noon in Los Angeles, California, the first of two daughters to Jesse Bowen Austin and Margaret Helen Stein.

Since both of her parents were nurses in the Glendale Sanitarium and Hospital, she grew up in medicine, even doing jobs at the hospital as a child, such as sorting the dirty laundry (long before today's sanitation rules).

Howard Marler used to say that Ruth came East to meet him and get married. Well, the original reason she came East was to go to school to study medicine, but as her life unfolded, she got both and more. In 1941, she married Howard and sustained and supported his goals until he died 64 years later in 2005.

As many know, they both shared a love of motorcycles and rode into their 70s. They also agreed they would never tell Ruth's mother about it. They never did, but her mother also never told Ruth she knew their secret even though they hid the cycles whenever they came to visit.

Ruth had a daughter in 1945 and took on the responsibility of being a mother while her Howard served in the Navy. When Howard returned home in April of 1946, she became the 50s housewife and Howard returned to being a machinist at the Washington Navy Yard.

Howard also had a dream of becoming a photographer, which he and Ruth accomplished together. When he established Photos by Marler, she became his assistant. Ruth became a photographer, framer, artist, bookkeeper and every other position needed.

Ruth was active in community organizations, including Temple Trailer Community Association, Temple Trailer Community Church, Stonewall Jackson PTA, The Girl Scouts, The Fire Department, The Cancer Society, The Zonta Club, and The Alexandria Chamber of Commerce.

In the 50s she and Howard assisted Ernie Corso in founding the Mt. Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce. Howard and Ruth supported the Chamber all their lives and continue to support the it through the Howard Marler Museum which is an active member.

In June 1973, Ruth and Howard purchased lot 44, First Addition to Brookland Estates. They became active in the civic association and community activities. For many years, Howard and Ruth printed the BBHCA newsletter.

Drawing on her desire to be involved in the medical professional, Ruth started teaching Red Cross First Aid classes in the 50s (of course, riding her motorcycle to classes). She also gained a reputation as a very tough woman, and many people understood why she used the initials of RAM!

In August 1979, Ruth became a paid professional with the Red Cross. Based in the Alexandria Office, she worked in the city and in the field traveling to other states for training and teaching for 14 years. She also appeared on television, in newspapers, and in training films.

While she still working with the Red Cross, at the age of 62, she also began to work with the Fairfax County Police Department. She worked continually with them until November 2010—a career of 27 years.

Ruth continued her commitment to medicine and community service by donating her body for medical research at George Washington University. The research at the University will take between 18 months and two years to complete. At the end of that time her remains will be returned and she will be respectfully buried with her beloved Howard in National Memorial Park. Ruth is survived by her daughter, Helen Marler, and grandson, Christopher Marler.

The Howard Marler Museum is located online at <http://howardmarlermuseum.com/> and includes a guest book for those who knew Ruth.



## EVENTS

### Lee District Land Use Committee Meeting: T-Mobile Application Review

**Monday, February 7, 7–9 pm**

Helen Wilson Community Room, Lee District Government Center, 6121 Franconia Rd, Alexandria, VA 22312

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

Review of land use applications, including the T-Mobile Oakwood monopole application. Residents are welcome to attend and state their views. The Lee District Land Use Advisory Committee is made up of representatives from all the civic associations in Lee District.

Please dial 703-971-6686 to hear what cases will be heard for each meeting. Call on or after the Wednesday before the meeting (backup or regular) for the agenda and to confirm whether the meeting will be held.

### **Police Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) Presentation and Meeting**

**Wednesday, February 16, 6:30 pm**

Helen Wilson Community Room, Lee District Government Center, 6121 Franconia Rd, Alexandria, VA 22312

**Topic:** Gang Awareness

**Speaker:** Detective Carlos Lama of the Franconia Police Gang Unit

The presentation will run from 6:30 – 7:15 pm. The CAC meeting will start at 7:30 pm. The CAC meeting is traditionally characterized by reports from the Franconia police about crimes in the area, as well as other community activities such as the holiday food drive. All residents are invited to attend.

### **Future BBHCA Meetings (Tuesday, 7:30 pm)**

Bush Hill Elementary School (Cafeteria)

**March 8, 2011**

**Legislative Update from Delegate Mark Sickles**

May 10, 2011

TBA + BBHCA Elections

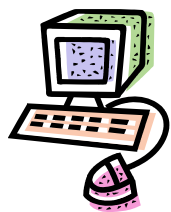
### **Civil War "Both Sides Tour VI"**

**Saturday, April 23, 8:00 am – 6:30 pm**

Franconia Museum, 6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA

Start the day with coffee and donuts at the Franconia Museum. Board a motor coach for the trip to the local Union Fort and then west to meet Jackson and his men as they march from the Shenandoah Valley. Enjoy a buffet lunch at the Golden Corral Restaurant in Manassas and then proceed to the nearby Battlefield Visitors Center to view artifacts and information before reliving the battle on the actual site.

Cost: \$100 each, includes bus ride, buffet lunch and a snack card, as well as the entrance fee to the Visitor's Center. For registration information, call Don Hakenson at 703-971-4984 or e-mail [dhakenson@cox.net](mailto:dhakenson@cox.net).



## **LINKS TO KEEP**

### **Take 12 Steps for Health**

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rec/Take12/>

The Take 12 program is free and anyone can participate at any time. This program is designed to help you accomplish healthy goals each month, with tips to keep you going for the duration. Check out free workshops, monthly e-mails, and more to motivate you and your family into a healthy lifestyle!

### **VDOT Snow Removal**

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/navbar/faqs/snowremoval.htm>

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is responsible for plowing public roads including interstate, primary, secondary and residential roads in Fairfax County. Clearing is done on a priority basis, with interstates and high volume roads cleared first.

Call VDOT's Customer Service Center at **1-800-FOR-ROAD** (1-800-367-7623) (TTY 711) 24 hours a day to:

- Report all unsafe and hazardous road conditions
- Report work requests for state-maintained roads
- Other VDOT questions

## **Financially Fit in 2011**

[http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/consumer/tip\\_sheets/financial\\_fitness\\_2011.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/consumer/tip_sheets/financial_fitness_2011.htm)

To become financially fit is easier said than done. According to data from the Federal Reserve, consumer credit card debt increased by \$6.5 billion in the third quarter of 2010. When not used wisely, debt can block your daily needs, create stress and reduce your ability to get credit at favorable interest rates or not at all. If your debt burden is more than 40 percent of your gross income, it's time to come up with a strategy to pay it down. The greatest challenge is deciding how and where to begin. Click on the link above to get some points to consider so you can develop a plan of action now.

### **Document Shredding/Recycling Program for Residents in 2011**

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling/shredding.htm>

Residents may shred up to five medium-sized packing boxes of paper per household. This free service is intended for shredding documents of a personal or sensitive nature such as tax documents, medical, or financial records.

### **Fairfax County Weekender**

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/weekender/>

The *Fairfax County Weekender* highlights a selection (not all) of County events taking place each weekend.

To receive the *Weekender* each week by e-mail,

- click on the above link,
- under the *Weekender* page title, click on the link "Subscribe!" and
- under *Weekender* enter your e-mail address and follow the directions.

Additional events and activities can be found at the **Parks** (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/>) and **Library** (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/>) pages, and elsewhere on the **Fairfax County** website (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov>).

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### **BBHCA 2010–2011 Board**

President: Jeannie Henry [president@bbhca.org](mailto:president@bbhca.org)

VP Newsletter: Sarah Kelly [newsletter@bbhca.org](mailto:newsletter@bbhca.org)

VP Membership: Richard Frederick [membership@bbhca.org](mailto:membership@bbhca.org)

Treasurer: Joan Akins [treasurer@bbhca.org](mailto:treasurer@bbhca.org)

Secretary: Deborah Moore [secretary@bbhca.org](mailto:secretary@bbhca.org)

### **eNews**

Editor: Sharada Gilkey [eNews@bbhca.org](mailto:eNews@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](mailto: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](http://www.bbhca.org)