

**From the Editor**

*Due to a number of factors, i.e., organizing and taking part in the Community Yard Sale, getting the flu, and my computer's hard drive crashing, I was sadly remiss in publishing the June eNews. Usually we skip the month of July, but we have important news to share and want to make up for missing June.* —Sharada Gilkey, eNews Editor

**NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH**

Bob L'Hereaux, [neighborhoodwatch@bbhca.org](mailto:neighborhoodwatch@bbhca.org)

**Neighborhood Watch at Bush Hill Park**

A second meeting of neighbors concerned about incidences of drug trafficking in Bush Hill Park was held June 26. Franconia Crime Prevention Officer Alice Eggers addressed over 25 neighbors on the issue. Most importantly, she emphasized that *any* suspicious activity should be reported to the police so that it can be logged and tracked. Minutes of the meetings will be posted to the BBHCA Web site ([www.bbhca.org](http://www.bbhca.org)).

**Attempted Abduction in the Hayfield Area**

May 30—"A 19-year-old Hayfield-area woman was grabbed by a man as she was jogging on Friday, May 30, around 11 pm, near Welch Court and Buckhaven Court. The victim saw a man in a dark green pick-up truck drive past her several times and eventually park. The driver got out of the truck, ran toward her and grabbed her in a bear hug. The victim was able to fight off her attacker and run away unharmed. The suspect ran back to his truck and fled on Welch Court, toward Broadmoor Street.

The victim was not able to clearly identify the suspect's race. He was between 6 feet 3 inches and 6 feet 11 inches tall. He was wearing work boots and a hooded sweat shirt. The truck was possibly a Ford with a large cab, carrying a lawnmower in the back.

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."

**Home Invasion Robbery in Springfield**

June 4—"A 64-year-old Springfield woman and her 21-year-old live-in aid were the victims of a home invasion robbery. On Wednesday, June 4 shortly before 10 am the woman was in the living room of her apartment in the 6700 block of Metropolitan Center Drive; her aid was in his bedroom. The female victim answered a knock at the door and was confronted by two men, one brandishing a handgun. Both suspects wore long-sleeved shirts with "Verizon Wireless" logos. Both victims' hands were bound. The suspects ransacked the apartment, taking an undisclosed amount of cash, jewelry and electronics. The victims were not injured and the suspects fled. The victims were discovered by a building maintenance man who then called police.

The suspects were both described as Hispanic men in their early 20s. One suspect was approximately 5 feet 10 inches tall, with a medium build. He wore a white, button down shirt and blue jeans. He had dark hair and dark eyes. The second suspect was approximately 5 feet 7 inches tall, with a thin build. He wore a black, button-down shirt, dark pants, a skull cap and sunglasses.

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."

## **ZONING 101**

Carol Alim, [zoning@bbhca.org](mailto:zoning@bbhca.org)

### **Public Zoning Hearing for United Wesleyan Church, Trin St.**

**July 8, Governmental Center, 12000 Gov't Ctr Pkwy**

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

Application description: "For an existing church to permit addition, increase in seats and site modifications."

>> For permit (SP 2007-LE-029) specifics, go to  
<http://ldsnet.fairfaxcounty.gov/ldsnet/ZAPSMain.aspx?cde=SP&seq=4085975>

>> Questions, call 703-324-1280

### **Vacant Properties Invite Vandals and Vermin**

Vacant homes that are not being regularly maintained invite illegal activity and can become a home to less desirables—both human and animal. "Due to a rise in the number of reports of persons entering vacant homes and commercial buildings, individuals are urged to keep an eye on such homes in your neighborhood. Report any suspicious or unusual activity by calling the Police non-emergency telephone number: 703-691-2131.

If you notice the home is not being maintained, e.g., the grass is more than 12" high, contact zoning at 703-324-1300.

### **Grass Laws Updated**

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/publications/pfm/grass/>

If you ever felt cutting grass was undervalued, now you can put a price on it. By amending the grass laws, Fairfax County has taken steps to have owners of a property maintain the site. You can click on the above link for the nitty gritty, but basically the law says if you don't keep your grass below the mandated 12 inches, you will first get a warning to cut the grass within 14 days. After 14 days, if the grass is still not cut, the County will do it for you at the cost of \$250 the first time and multiples of that amount subsequently. The cost will be added to your tax bill (clever!).



We are happy to report that the law is working quite well as several vacant properties in the neighborhood, which were previously being "let go," are now being mowed.

>> To file a "grass complaint," call 703-324-1937 or go to  
[http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/environmental/grass\\_height.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/environmental/grass_height.htm)

### **Where Did the Music Go?**

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/downloads/08LeeDistWeb.pdf>

Summer nights are still rocking at Lee District Park (7 pm, Wednesday nights), but Kingstowne has moved its summer music venue to Hayfield Elementary School (7 pm, Saturday nights). We were informed that several businesses complained about the event. In addition, the police were concerned about their ability to control the crowds due to the

proximity of the theatre and restaurants. Understandable, and maybe you'll like the new venue better.

>> For links to all free performances in Fairfax County, go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/>

### Celebrate July 4<sup>th</sup> at Lee District

[http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/maps/parkmaps\\_lee.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/maps/parkmaps_lee.htm)

"Lee District Park's carousel opens at noon. Kid's will enjoy activities from 4 to 9 p.m. Vendors will sell food from 4 pm to closing. A DJ will get the party rocking from 5 to 6:30 pm. The Sock Monkeys will perform from 7 to 9 pm. A color guard will lead the formal ceremony from 9 to 9:15 pm. **The fireworks begin at 9:15 pm.** Parking lots open at 3 pm and the cost is \$5 per car. The park is located at 6601 Telegraph Road in Franconia. Call 703-922-9841."

### Citizens Police Academy

July 9 - August 6



Fairfax County citizens have the opportunity to attend a 35-hour course designed to provide a "glimpse behind the badge." Learn about police training, animal control, police helicopter capabilities, gangs, narcotics-related issues, major crimes, explosive ordnance team, tactical team, crime scene investigations, criminal investigations, neighborhood patrol units, crime analysis, crime prevention programs, traffic management, the 911 call center, and more.

Courses are held on nine consecutive **Thursday evenings** from 6:30 pm to 10:00 pm, with the exception of the final class. This final class is held on a Saturday from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. Class locations rotate to various police facilities.

#### How do I apply?

The Citizens Police Academy is open to all individuals who *live or work in Fairfax County* and are *at least 18 years old*. Due to the popularity of this class, we ask that participants attend at least eight (8) of the ten (10) weeks. For more information, call 703-280-0713 or e-mail [CPA@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:CPA@fairfaxcounty.gov).

>> To download the application form, go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/pdf/cpaapplicationform-2007v2.pdf>

### Pick Your Pesticide Exposure Wisely

<http://www.realage.com//ct/tips/5776>



"...going organic with these 12 fruits and veggies could cut your exposure to pesticides as much as 90 percent!"

- Peaches
  - Nectarines
  - Strawberries
  - Cherries
- 
- Apples
  - Pears
  - Grapes (imported)

- Spinach
- Lettuce
- Potatoes
- Celery
- Sweet bell peppers

Note that not all farmer's market vendors sell organic produce, though many offer "low pesticide" or "pesticide free" produce because the cost and effort to be certified as organic is high (as reflected by the often higher prices). Ask, don't assume.

>> For a comprehensive list of farmers markets in Northern Virginia, go to <http://dc.about.com/od/farmersmarkets/a/FarmersMktVA.htm>. Try them all! Each has its own character and selection of produce.

### Gas \$aving Tip

<http://www.betiresmart.ca/inflation/proper.asp?loc1=inflation&loc2=proper>



Did you know that you lose 3 lbs of air from your car tires each month? "Tires are like big balloons" and they slowly leak air. Under-inflated tires can cost you big bucks by significantly reducing your gas mileage. (Tip courtesy of Ross at Franconia Texaco)

Click on the above link to learn more important tips on checking your tire pressure.

### Green Index by National Geographic

<http://event.nationalgeographic.com/greendex/>

"National Geographic and the international polling firm GlobeScan...conducted a study measuring and monitoring consumer progress toward environmentally sustainable consumption in 14 countries around the world." As you might have guessed, the US scored...

### Links To Keep

#### Fairfax County: Who Do I Call for Assistance?

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/faqs/concerns.htm>

You can also print the brochure of frequently asked questions in English, Spanish, Korean, Farsi, or Vietnamese.

#### Enhanced Code Enforcement Strike Teams **NEW!**

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

#### Foreclosed or Vacant Properties

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

#### MyMoney.gov

<http://mymoney.gov/>

#### BBHCA 2007–2008 Board

Jeannie Henry, President	president@bbhca.org
Sarah Kelly, VP Newsletter	newsletter@bbhca.org
Richard Frederick, VP Membership	membership@bbhca.org
Kevin Henry, Treasurer	treasurer@bbhca.org

Deborah Moore, Secretary

secretary@bbhca.org

**eNews Editor**

Sharada Gilkey, BBHCA member 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](http://www.bbhca.org)

© 2008 Brookland-Bush Hill Civic Association. All rights reserved.