BBHCA *e*News

MAY 2011

NEXT COMMUNITY MEETING

Tuesday, May 10, 7:30 pm
Bush Hill Elementary School, Cafeteria

MEETING AGENDA:

- Board and Committee Reports
- **BBHCA 2011-12 Board Elections (Vote)**
- Old Business
- **New Business: Break Ins (GUEST: OFFICER JIM REID, CPO)**

TOPIC: Working with Contractors

SPEAKER: Wil Slaughter, Fairfax Office of Consumer Affairs

Nominations Needed for BBHCA Board and Committee Positions

If you have a couple of hours a month, you have an interest in keeping our community a great place to live, and you have been looking for an opportunity to contribute, now's your time! Remember, we are a civic association, *not* a homeowner's association. A civic association works to improve its neighborhood through work by volunteer members.

Nominations are needed for the following positions:

- VP Membership (elected Board position)
- VP Newsletter (elected Board position)
- Secretary (elected Board position)
- BBHCA *e*News (appointed committee position)
- BBHCA Web (appointed committee position)
- BBHCA Community Yard Sale (appointed committee position)

Board Elections will be held during the May 10 meeting. For more information about BBHCA, we encourage you to take a look at the website at www.bbhca.org.

If you or someone you know is interested in these positions starting with the 2011–2012 year (effective following the May election), please Contact Jeannie Henry at president@bbhca.org.

Suspect Identified in Brookland-Bush Hill Robberies

Franconia District Officer Jim Reid will be discussing the robberies at the Tuesday, May 10, BBHCA community meeting.

A string of daytime robberies on Piedmont, Saratoga, Westchester, and Waycross have unnerved residents of Brookland-Bush Hill over the past several weeks. Suspicious cars to individuals on bicycles with backpacks have been reported. Typical stolen items appear to be laptop computers and jewelry.

One robbery had been reported by police on the Franconia District Station web site:

- Burglary, 5800 Block of PIEDMONT DR, 3/30/11. An individual returned home to find that her home had been broken into. Items missing included two laptops and some jewelry.
  >> Franconia District Station, http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/stations/franconia/

WANTED

Now, according to a police wanted poster issued on May 4, a suspect has been identified for breaking into three other homes. Rafael Heduardo Hernandez, a 26-year-old Hispanic male, 5 feet 6 inches tall, 130 pounds with black hair and brown eyes is wanted for three counts of burglary and three counts of grand larceny.

The date and locations of the incidents were:

- March 15, 5800 block of Piedmont Drive
- April 26, 5900 block of Westchester Street
- April 29, 5400 block of Waycross Drive

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 police at **703-691-2131**. Tipsters who provide their information through Crime Solvers are eligible for a cash reward of $100 to $1,000 if their information leads to an arrest and/or closure. Tipsters never have to give their names, just the information.

Report any suspicious activity in your neighborhood to the Fairfax County Police non-emergency number, **703-691-2131.**

Woman Sexually Assaulted in Franconia

Franconia District Police Station—A woman was sexually assaulted on Tuesday, April 12, around 12:30 pm. The victim, a 62-year-old woman, was outside of a home in the area of **Waterlily Court and Valley View Drive** [the neighborhood opposite the Governmental Center/Franconia District Police Station] when a man grabbed her from behind. The suspect sexually assaulted her and fled.

The suspect’s face was covered, but he was described as having a tan complexion with a medium build, wearing a brown polo-style shirt and black pants. The victim was transported to the hospital with non life-threatening injuries.

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.

Source: http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/news-releases/2011/041311sexaslt.htm

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Roy W. Rice, 1934–2011

Services will be held Saturday, May 7, at 11:00 am, at the Demaine Funeral Home, 5308 Backlick Road, Springfield, VA 22151; 703-941-9428. More information on the services can be found at www.demainefunerals.com.

Roy W. Rice of Alexandria, Virginia, passed away on April 29, 2011. Born August 31, 1934, in Seattle, Washington, he was preceded in death by his wife, Doris E. Rice.

Beloved father of Colleen Montgomery and her husband Phil of Knoxville, TN, and Craig R. Rice and his wife Sandy of Alexandria. He is also survived by three grandchildren, Evan, Mia, and Melissa Montgomery.

Roy was well respected professionally in his field of Materials Engineering, and was also was very devoted to his family. He was very involved in the lives of his wife and children.

He also served the community in many ways over the years, coaching youth sports teams and helping with the Boy Scouts, and also giving his time and energy for many years to the Brookland-Bush Hill Civic Association (BBHCA) and the Lee District Land Use Committee. Roy's dedication and service to our community will be missed.

—*Submitted by Craig Rice*

Addendum

In May 2005, then-President Sharada Gilkey presented Roy with the *BBHCA Volunteer Service Award.* The following text was published in the *BBHCA News* in acknowledgment of Roy's service.

> "Roy Rice, his wife Doris, and their two children moved into their new house on Hopark Dr. in January 1969. Within one to two years he was attending meetings of the Brookland Civic Assn., the forerunner of our current Brookland Bush Hill Civic Assn. After the Association was broadened to include Bush Hill, Roy subsequently started attending meetings of the Lee District Land Use and Transportation Advisory Committee. Roy Rice has continued on this committee as his main civic activity for total service of over 25 years. This includes serving on various committees for Area Plan reviews, especially for the area around the Van Dorn Metro Station. However, he has also served on other advisory organization, e.g., on the Fairfax County Group Residential Facilities ('Homes') Commission for about 10 years, the Lee District Association of Civic Associations as a vice president, and on the South East Fairfax Development Corp. Board of Directors. Roy Rice also served our Association directly as an officer on the Executive Committee, and three years as President (reviving the organization after it closed down for a year or so for lack interest).

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Eight Tips for Calling 9-1-1

- **Use 9-1-1 for emergencies only.** An emergency is any serious situation that requires the help of a police officer, firefighter or emergency medical provider right away. When in doubt, go ahead and call 9-1-1. The 9-1-1 call taker can determine if you need emergency assistance and get the appropriate help.

- **If you call 9-1-1-even by mistake-do not hang up the phone.** If you call by accident, stay on the line until you can tell the call taker that there is no emergency-so the call taker doesn't have to waste time calling you back or sending police with lights and sirens to check your address for an emergency.

- **Stay calm and help the call taker help you.** Call takers can't help you if they can't understand you. Take a deep breath and think before you talk. Speak slowly and clearly. Call takers are trained to get the most important information first so they can get help on the way. Answer all of the call taker's questions-no matter how irrelevant they may seem-before you hang up or leave the phone.

- **Determine the location of the emergency, if possible, before you call.** Knowing your location and providing the right address are vital for getting police, fire and EMS units to respond. For wireless 9-1-1 calls, sometimes the 9-1-1 call center that answers may not be the one that services the area you are calling from. Look for landmarks, signs at cross streets and distinctive buildings. Know the name of the city or county where you are.

- **Teach your children how to call 9-1-1.** Be sure they know what 9-1-1 is, can dial from your home and cell phone, and trust the 9-1-1 call taker. Make sure they are physically able to reach at least one phone in your home. When calling 9-1-1, your children need to know their name, parent's name, telephone number and especially their address. Tell them to answer all the call taker's questions and stay on the phone until they're told to hang up.

- **Prevent prank calls to 9-1-1.** Prank calls not only waste time; they are illegal in most states and endanger public safety. If 9-1-1 lines or call takers are busy with prank calls, someone with a real emergency may not be able to get the help they need. Be sure all members of your household are aware that prank or harassing calls to 9-1-1 will be dealt with by local law enforcement agencies.

- **Post your home address clearly and prominently.** Posting your 9-1-1 address at your driveway entrance and on your home will prevent confusion among emergency responders about your location. Try using something reflective or illuminated so that the address is visible at night. Do not assume that your mailbox clearly posts your address. Mailboxes are not always at the entrance of a driveway and usually are not marked clearly on both sides. Check with your local city or county for ordinances on posting 9-1-1 addresses, and always report missing street signs.

- **Know your phones.** Educate everyone in your home about the phone system in your home as well as how to use your cell phone.

Source: http://www.nena.org/911-tips-guidelines

Grill with Safety in Mind

As the grilling season begins, the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department wants to remind residents that grill fires cause an estimated average of 10 deaths, 100 injuries, and $37 million in property loss each year nationwide, according to the U.S. Fire Administration.

Grills, hibachis, and barbeques on residential properties continue to be a high fire risk and, on average, result in more injuries and higher dollar losses when compared to all other fires.

It is crucial that each person diligently practice fire safety when cooking or grilling outside. Please review the safety tips below:

Grill Safety Tips

- **Keep grill at least 15 feet from your home**, building, or any combustibles and ensure adequate air circulation.
- **Check your equipment before each use.** Leaks or breaks of containers or pipes account for approximately 23 percent of all grill fires

on residential properties.

- **Charcoal must be kept dry.** Wet charcoal can spontaneously ignite. Spare propane bottles should be stored outside away from the home. A backyard shed is a good place.
- **Keep children and pets away from the grill.** Grills continue to give off heat long after cooking has stopped.
- **Never place hot ashes in paper or plastic bags or containers.** Only use metal containers for hot ashes.
- **Use Underwriters Laboratories (UL) approved electrical starters** in place of lighter fluid.

Source: http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr/news/2011archive/2011_034.htm

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Homelessness Budget Out Scaled By Need

In just 14 months, more than 95 percent of the financial assistance available through the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing (HPRP) program has been expended.

In October 2009, when the implementation of HPRP was being planned, the conversation centered on how to spread the word about available HPRP resources throughout the community. No one believed that in just 14 months we would be planning how to run the program with all of the financial assistance dollars spent. However, that is exactly where we are today. Efforts are now underway to cultivate new funding sources as the demand for assistance within our community continues to be great.

While this is a reason for concern, it also presents an opportunity to shift our focus from implementing HPRP to realizing HOST. Housing Opportunities Support Teams (HOST) provide flexible and adaptive services needed to help individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless to obtain or maintain housing in the Fairfax-Falls Church community.

Source: http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/partnerupdate/host-highlights.htm

Since the implementation of the **Fairfax-Falls Church 10-Year Plan**, homelessness has decreased more than 14 percent. Some of the key highlights from the past year include:

- The Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing program helped close to 900 people received the services and supports they needed to prevent or end their homelessness.
- Of the 3,076 people who were literally homeless, 482 were able to secure permanent housing.
- A Housing Options Committee was established to lead the community's efforts to create 2,650 new affordable housing units for persons who are literally homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Source: http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/news/naeh_releases_snapshot.htm

>> **How you can help**, http://www.slideshare.net/fairfaxcounty/ending-homelessness-call-to-action

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Spring Rabies Door-to-Door Canvass Underway

Animal Control Officers will be conducting a rabies vaccination and dog licensing education campaign in several neighborhoods across Fairfax County this month. Police targeted neighborhoods where animals tested positive for the rabies virus in 2011 or late 2010. So far, eight animals have tested positive and a total of 23 since October 2010. Statewide, 63 animals have tested positive for rabies throughout the first two months of 2011 compared to 32 for the same timeframe in 2010. Officials typically are more concerned with rabies exposures in spring since there are more people (and pets) outdoors.

Rabies is a deadly virus that is transferred through the central nervous system tissue or saliva of an infected animal. Rabies vaccinations are mandatory in Fairfax County for all dogs and cats. The goal of the door-to-door campaign is to remind pet owners about the laws requiring all dogs and cats four months of age and older to be inoculated against rabies. All dogs four months of age and older must also have a dog license; failure to license

your dog or inoculate pets against rabies may result in fines of up to $250. Residents should expect to see the roving officers beginning the weekend of March 26 through May 28.

Even if your pet is an “indoor” cat or dog, the threat of exposure to the rabies virus is real. Rabies is carried by wild animals that live in Fairfax County, including raccoons, foxes, skunks, bats, and others.

For more information, including a brochure “Wildlife, Your Pets and the Law,” visit http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/animals.

Traps Set Out to Track Spread of the Emerald Ash Borer

Glue traps will be hung in ash trees across Fairfax County to detect the emerald ash borer, an insect that kills these trees. The large, purple traps will help to monitor this pest’s presence in the county.

Officials ask the public to report traps that have fallen to the ground, and they advise not to touch them since they are covered with extremely sticky glue. Call the Fairfax County Forest Pest Branch at 703-324-5304, TTY 711, to report fallen traps or to permit traps to be put on private property.

Unless there is an infestation in an area already, the traps won’t bring the insect to locations where they are hung. Approximately 500 traps will be placed across the county as part of a statewide effort to track the insect.

County and state officials will monitor the traps regularly to check for emerald ash borers. The traps allow this pest to be found without damaging trees. Otherwise, arborists must cut away an ash tree’s bark to find the insects.

The triangular traps are non-toxic. They don’t contain pesticides or chemicals. To catch the insects, however, the traps are baited with natural plant oils and covered with non-toxic glue.

To date, this pest has been found in Arlington, Fairfax, Frederick, and Prince William counties. To prevent this pest from spreading to other parts of Virginia, state and federal quarantines ban the transport of firewood out of Northern Virginia. The quarantine covers: Fairfax County, Arlington County, Clark County, Fauquier County, Frederick County, Loudoun County, Prince William County, cities of Alexandria, Fairfax City, Falls Church, Manassas, Manassas Park, and Winchester.

However, firewood may be transported *within* the quarantined areas. When camping outside quarantined areas, use firewood from local sources, instead of transporting it.

Emerald ash borers have killed more than 25 million ash trees in the U.S. The borers are native to Asia, and they probably first arrived in this country in the 1990s.

For more information about the trapping program, call the Fairfax County Forest Pest Branch at 703-324-5304, TTY 711, or the Virginia Department of Agriculture Consumer Services at 804-786-2373, TTY 711.

Source: http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/2011/updates/emerald-ash-borer-traps.htm

EVENTS

Fairfax County's Independent Living Program

May 4-June 15, 1:00 pm to 3:15 pm
West Springfield Governmental Center

6140 Rolling Road, Springfield, VA

All events are free and open to adults 60 years and older and adults with physical disabilities. Preregistration is required, and space is limited. To preregister, please call 703-324-7210, TTY 711, or e-mail Jennifer.Edge@fairfaxcounty.gov. Go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/DFS/OlderAdultServices for information on county services for older adults and caregivers.

Legal Tools for Caregivers

Tuesday, May 10, 7-9 pm
Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306
Online registration: https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hscode/EReg/Registration.aspx?groupID=1

As a family caregiver you may need to make legal and health care decisions for a loved one. Learn about legal tools that can help you ensure your loved one's wishes are carried out. Topics include durable power of attorney, trusts, guardianship, and advanced medical directives. Speaker: Betsy Sue Scott, Esq., Law Office of Betsy Sue Scott. For directions, call: 703-765-3645

FREE Clean-up Events

Saturday, May 14 – Household Hazardous Waste Disposal
Saturday, May 21 – Document Shredding
Sunday, May 22 - Electric Sunday

Complete details for these events can be found on the Fairfax County Solid Waste Management Program's web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/recycling, or by calling the Recycling InfoLine at 703-324-5052, TTY 711.

Lee District Nights Concert Series

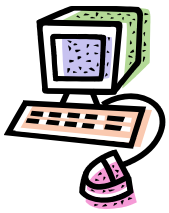
Wednesdays, June thru August, 7:30 pm
Lee District Park Amphitheater, 6601 Telegraph Road, Franconia, VA

Free entertainment! We invite you to enjoy these concerts with your family and friends! Free cookies, plus dog biscuits and water for canines. Concerts cancelled if raining. If bad weather threatens, please call 703-324-SHOW (7469) after 6 pm. Click on the links below for more information on each artist.

JUNE
1 The Nighthawks (American Roots Music)
8 Alt Washingtonia (Bavarian Folk Dance & Music)
15 The Old World Folk Band (Klezmer)
22 Pietasters (Ska)
29 Guy Mendilow Band (World Music)

JULY
6 The Grandsons (Rockabilly/Swing/Lounge)
13 David Bach Consort (Jazz)
20 The NOVA Annandale Symphony Orchestra (Summer Pops)
27 The United States Army Band "Blues Jazz Ensemble" (Jazz)

AUGUST
3 Michael Cleveland and Flamekeeper (Bluegrass)
10 Lyuti Chushki (Bulgarian Folk Music)
17 The United States Navy Band "Country Current" (Country)
24 Brothers + 1 (Motown)
31 The Sock Monkeys (Rock&Roll/Cover Band)



LINKS TO KEEP

Web Apps

http://www.1webapps.com/

You thought apps (short computer programs) were relegated to cells phones. Well now you can access them via the Internet. I was looking for a square footage calculator online (http://www.1webapps.com/apps/calculators/square-footage-calculator/) when I found this site. You'll find games, utilities, calculators, educational, and other apps to occupy your time, ah, assist you.

Department of Code Compliance

http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/code/

The newly formed Department of Code Compliance investigates most neighborhood quality of life complaints in the County, including parking in the grass, junk in the yard, too many people living in a home, uncut grass, building without permits, and hoarding. It enforces zoning, property maintenance, building, blight, grass, fire and health codes all within in a single department.

Services for Older Adults

http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/DFS/OlderAdultServices/

A confusing site because of all the variety of services available. If you are not sure what you need, call the Aging, Disability, and Caregiver Resources Line 703-324-7948 (TTY 703-449-1186), Monday-Friday 8 am to 4:30 pm.

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

*e*News

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 *e*News 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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