

BBHCA eNews

NOVEMBER 2011

COMMUNITY MEETING

Tuesday, November 15, 7:30 pm
Bush Hill Elementary School, Cafeteria

MEETING AGENDA:

- Board and Committee Reports
 - September Meeting Minutes (Vote)
- Old Business
 - Budget (Vote)
- New Business

TOPIC: Protect Yourself From Email, Internet, and Phone Scams

SPEAKER: Robert Michie

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH Fill the Wagon 2011

The Second Annual “Fill the Wagon” food drive at the Franconia Police Station begins Friday, November 4. This year the drive will be conducted through Saturday, November 19.

**ALL DONATIONS GO DIRECTLY TO LOCAL
FOOD BANKS IN LEE DISTRICT**



The “wagon” is a marked police vehicle which you occasionally see patrolling the streets. It is primarily used to transport prisoners to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center. Our goal is to “fill the wagon” full of *non-perishable* food items to be delivered to local food banks.*

The wagon will be in the community at the following dates, times, and locations:

Day/Date	Times	Locations
Fri, Nov 4 and Fri, Nov 18	3–7 pm	GIANT – Kingstowne Shopping Center 5870 Kingstowne Blvd. Kingstowne, Alexandria, VA 22315

Day/Date	Times	Locations
Saturday, Nov 5	2–6 pm	GIANT – Springfield Plaza 6426 Springfield Plaza, Springfield, VA 22150
Tue, Nov 8 and Sat, Nov 19	3–7 pm	SHOPPERS FOOD – Lorton Market Station 9409 Lorton Market St, Lorton, VA 22079
Fri, Nov 11 and Sat, Nov 15	3–7 pm	GIANT – Bradlick Shopping Center 6980 Braddock Road, Annandale, VA 22003
Sat, Nov 12	2–6 pm	SHOPPERS FOOD – Manchester Lakes 7005 Manchester Lakes Blvd, Franconia, VA 22310

Non-Perishable Items

- canned meat and tuna fish
- canned soups
- canned fruit/vegetables
- canned beans
- canned tomato sauce
- dried rice
- dried pasta
- boxed macaroni and cheese
- cereal
- peanut butter
- jelly/jam
- dry milk
- baby food
- juice (in plastic bottles only)
- ramen noodles
- Jello/pudding mix
- pancake syrup
- pancake mix
- sugar
- flour
- cooking oil
- salad dressing
- condiments

Household Supplies

- diapers (sizes 4, 5, and 6)
- deodorant
- shaving cream
- toilet paper
- Kleenex
- laundry detergent
- shampoo
- conditioner
- body soap

There will also be a bin in the lobby at the Franconia police station (**6121 Franconia Road**) where you can drop off *non-perishable items*.

With the help of the community, we had great success last year and hope to do the same this year.

Source: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/stations/franconia/bulletins/20111102fillthewagon.htm>

*All donations will go directly to local food banks in Lee District instead of through the central food bank, because the central food bank charges the local shelters for the food they pick up. (—Ed.)

Police Launch Online Financial Crime Reporting

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/financialcrimes/>

“Phony checks, embezzlement, skimmed credit cards and identity theft are among the fastest growing and most prevalent crimes in Fairfax County. Detectives have investigated over 2,500 cases of i.d. theft alone, since 2009. To help streamline these complex financial investigations, detectives and technical staff worked together to create a new Financial Crime Online Reporting System (FiCOR) for simpler reporting and quicker response rates for victims.

FiCOR went “live” in September and police have received more than 300 reports from residents who’ve been victimized. Lieutenant Bob Blakley, former Financial Crimes Unit supervisor who helped establish the program, isn’t surprised. “This new system increases the efficiency of our financial crime investigations. Victims are already understandably upset and angry when they’ve lost money; they don’t know where to turn; we think this new system will help.” Previously, residents called police and messages were left on a phone line, but due to staffing, holidays and weekends, victims may have perceived delays in response. The new system is much closer to real-time response.



“Our strategic plan calls us to enhance our services and use manpower more effectively and the FICOR system does this,” Blakley adds.

The system is one-of-a-kind. When detectives researched various online reporting systems, they didn’t find what they wanted, so they built it from scratch. Seasoned detectives and officers, who have investigated these sorts of cases for many years, helped build the educational component of the site. Officers found many people aren’t aware of what constitutes a crime, when police should investigate and what constitutes a civil matter rather than a law enforcement issue.

Residents can learn about:

- common fraud scams,
- construction fraud,
- credit card/check theft and fraud, and
- vital prevention steps.

The new web feature clarifies these issues for the public; it’s a one-stop shopping area for vital information concerning all aspects of financial crimes.”

Source: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/news-releases/2011/100511financialcrimes.htm>

Street Light Outage

http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/construction/streetlights/light_out.htm



To report an outage

Street lights in Fairfax County are maintained by either Dominion Virginia Power or Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative (NOVEC). The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) operates the street lights along interstates and at major interchanges.

- To report a street light outage to Dominion Virginia Power, call **1-888-667-3000**, TTY 711. Select option 1.
- To report a street light outage to NOVEC, report the outage online or call **1-888-335-0500**, TTY 711.
- To report a street light outage at major interchanges or a traffic light problem, call VDOT at 1-800-FOR-ROAD (**1-800-367-7623**), TTY 711.

When reporting an outage, you will need to have the location of the pole and the pole number. To assist you in locating the number, a map of streetlights is available through My Neighborhood. (See below for step-by-step directions.)

If you need additional information or assistance, please contact the Capital Facilities Planning and Design Division, 703-324-5800, TTY 711.

To view the streetlights map

Go to [My Neighborhood](#) (this will open a new window).

- Under the “Available Map Types” using the drop down menu select “Streetlights.”
- Then, type in the address in the search boxes. Be sure to type the **street number** in the first box, **street name** in the second box, and the **type** (drive, circle, avenue, etc) in the third box using the drop down menu.
- Then click “Search.”
- Use the “Zoom” tool to view the **pole number** of a specific streetlight.

If the street light in front of your house is out, please take responsibility for it! Call it in today.

Huntley Meadows Park to Reopen Boardwalk

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley/>

“A newly refurbished wetland boardwalk opened at Huntley Meadows Park in Alexandria on October 22. Members of the public joined in the celebration hosted by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, the Fairfax County Park Authority Board, and the Friends of Huntley Meadows Park. The ceremony was kicked off in the Visitor Center with a slide show of wildlife images from the old boardwalk’s illustrious 32-year history followed by a ribbon-cutting ceremony, and nature walk.



Originally laid in 1993, the pressure-treated lumber that made up the raised boardwalk had reached the end of its lifespan. This summer, the boardwalk’s surface boards and both observation platforms were replaced. The boardwalk’s support structure remains in place and is expected to last another 12 to 15 years.

The new boards are made from 100% high density polyethylene, 90% of which comes from recycled milk jugs. This is the most environmentally friendly, non-toxic plastic “lumber” product available and is now used nationwide by parks and wildlife refuges.



This was a large project, requiring more than one million screws and 1,000 truck trips from the parking lot to the boardwalk. Project costs were approximately \$600,000, which was provided through the 2008 Park Bond.

Each year, more than 200,000 visitors come to the 1,500-acre park to enjoy the rich, natural island of open space that features forested areas, meadows filled with wildflowers, vast wetlands bursting with wildlife and some of the best birding in the region, with more than 200 species identified in the park. It is an oasis of natural resources in an urban sea. Park visitors enjoy the half-mile wetland boardwalk trail and observation tower to access the best views.

“We are very pleased with the results,” explained Park Manager Kevin Munroe. “The trail is more enjoyable than ever, and the fact that we could use a green product as well, just confirms that this project was well planned and executed. Those who love strolling on the boardwalk will be very happy.”

Huntley Meadows Park is located at 3701 Lockheed Blvd. in Alexandria. For more information about the park call 703-768-2525 or visit them online.”

Edison High School Lags in County Graduation Rate



“Graduation rates released by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) show that **91.4 percent** of Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) students from the class of 2011 graduated on time. This figure exceeds the *state average of 86.6 percent* by 4.8 percentage points and is up slightly from 91.2 percent for the class of 2010.

School	# Students in Graduating Class	% Graduated on Time (No.)	% GED (No.)	% Still Enrolled (No.)	% Dropouts (No.)
Edison High School	433	90.1% (390)	1.6% (7)	1.9% (8)	6.5% (28)

Source: <http://www.fcps.edu/cco/pr/graderate2011table2.pdf>

Virginia’s on-time graduation rate is based on four years of student-level data that take into account student mobility, changes in student enrollment, and the needs of special education and limited English proficient students. An on-time graduate for 2011 is a student who entered ninth grade for the first time during the 2007-08 school year and, in four years or less, earned one of the diplomas recognized by the Virginia Board of Education: standard diploma, advanced studies diploma, International Baccalaureate diploma, general achievement diploma, modified standard diploma, or special diploma.

Twenty-four (24) of the county’s 25 high schools and secondary schools posted on-time graduation rates above the *state average*, and 16 of those schools improved their graduation rate from the previous year.”

>> FCPS graduation summary data by subgroup can be found in Table 1, and individual school cohort reports are detailed in Table 2.

>> Detailed graduation, completion, and dropout data for Fairfax County Public Schools can be found on the VDOE website at http://www.doe.virginia.gov/statistics_reports/graduation_completion/cohort_reports/index.shtml.

Source: <http://commweb.fcps.edu/newsreleases/newsrelease.cfm?newsid=1825>

REI Partners with Fairfax County Parks to Take Back the Forest

“On October 5, 2011 the Fairfax County Park Authority’s (FCPA) Invasive Management Area (IMA) held a kickoff event for “Take Back the Forest” at Nottoway Park in Vienna. “Take Back the Forest” is a partnership between FCPA and REI to combat invasive species on parkland over the next several months. Providence District Supervisor Linda Smyth and Park Authority Board Member Ken Quincy joined six IMA site leaders and 10 volunteers from REI’s Fairfax store to remove invasive species such as periwinkle vine and bush honeysuckle. The group also planted 28 native plants provided by Earth Sangha, a local nonprofit organization dedicated to ecological restoration.



REI awarded the IMA program a \$10,000 grant to support the removal of invasive plant species on parkland earlier this year. Surrounded by IMA volunteers and REI staff, Natural Resource Specialist Kristen Sinclair presented REI Outreach Coordinator Rhonda Krafchin (center) a certificate of appreciation on behalf of the Fairfax County Park Authority’s Resource Management Division. Providence District Supervisor Linda Smyth is pictured at left. IMA Coordinator Erin Stocksclader (front row) and Natural Resource Management and Protection Manager Heather Schinkel are pictured at right. Nottoway Park IMA Site Coordinator Vivian Morgan-Mendez is pictured in the first row, second from the right.

For more information contact the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662.”

Source: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/press/photos/>

Easy Landscaping Ideas for Water Conservation



“According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 30 percent of water used by households goes toward outdoor applications.”

Learn basic landscaping design, irrigation, turf, and plant selection tips that you can use to reduce the amount of water you use--and waste--every day.

For example:

- Consider planting a rain garden in low-lying areas or where storm water drains from your roof or driveway.
 - To reduce water loss to evaporation, water your garden in the early morning or at night.
 - Consider turf that is more resilient to periods of drought.
- Group plants based on their water requirements.
 - Install shade trees to cool gardens and reduce irrigation requirements.

For the full article and additional tips, go to, <http://greenliving.nationalgeographic.com/yard-landscaping-ideas-water-conservation-2951.html>



EVENTS

◆ Fill the Wagon 2011

November 4–19

Franconia Police Station, 6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA. 24/7. Tel 703-922-0899.

Click on the link for wagon schedule and list of non-perishable items accepted.

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/stations/franconia/bulletins/20111102fillthewagon.htm>

The Second Annual “Fill the Wagon” food drive sponsored by the Franconia Police Station. All donations go directly to local food banks in Lee District.

◆ General Election

Tuesday, November 8

6:00 am – 7:00 pm

Bush Hill Elementary School

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/upcoming.htm>

To elect members to the Virginia Senate, the House of Delegates, Soil and Water commissioners, the Commonwealth's Attorney, the Sheriff, and members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, and the Fairfax County School Board. Click on the link above for information on the current elections.



For information on absentee voting, returns, political signs, and more, go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/citizen/>.

◆ **BBHCA Community Meeting**

Tuesday, November 15

Bush Hill Elementary School, Cafeteria

www.bbhca.org

Topic: Protect Yourself From Email, Internet, and Phone Scams

Speaker: Bob Michie

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

Wednesday, November 16

6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Franconia Governmental Center, Helen Wilson Community Room, 6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria

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

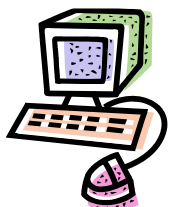
Topic: Crash Reconstruction Unit

“In 1979, the Fairfax County Police Department established a program to enhance its ability to communicate with and better serve the community. This program took the form of advisory groups, known as Citizen Advisory Committees (CACs), comprised of citizens representing a cross-section of the various neighborhoods of Fairfax County.”

Past Presentations

>> **What Home Owners Should Know When Hiring a Contractor**

http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/stations/franconia/img/protect_against_contractors.pdf



LINKS TO KEEP

Code Compliance (Fairfax County)

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

From pets to decks to signs and lighting, you'll find all the rules and regulations (codes) right here. Or if that's too confusing, just call **703-324-1300**.

Crime Summaries 2011 (PDFs)

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

Click on links to weekly summaries of crimes in the area from the Franconia Police Station. Brookland-Bush Hill is in Area 630.

Emergency Alerts

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cean/>

Fairfax County's Community Emergency Alert Network (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:

- email account
- cell phone
- text pager
- satellite phone
- wireless device

Environment & Energy

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/environment/>

This County website runs the gamut from Land Use to Litter, Soil to Trees, and Recycling to Walkways. If you're looking for green, this is it.

Fairfax County Public Schools—Redesigned Website

<http://www.fcps.edu/index.shtml>

FCPS has completely redesigned its website to make it more user-friendly. Check it out...you might learn something new!

Huntley Meadows Park

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley/>

"Nestled in Fairfax County's Hybla Valley, Huntley Meadows Park is a rich, natural island in the suburban sea of Northern Virginia. Its 1,425 acres harbor majestic forests, wildflower-speckled meadows, and vast wetlands bursting with life. From the half-mile wetland boardwalk trail and observation tower, people have excellent views of beavers, frogs, dragonflies and herons. Huntley Meadows is well known as a prime birding spot, with over 200 species identified in the park."



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BBHCA 2011–2012 Board

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eNews

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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 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

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