

# BBHCA eNews

OCTOBER 2011

## Renew Your BBHCA Membership Now!



**BBHCA is your voice** with elected and appointed officials and government agencies—state delegates and senators, Lee District Supervisor, Virginia Department of Transportation, Fairfax County Police, School Board, etc. We're a community that cares and takes action!

We need your continued support. Without members, we have no influence.

**Only BBHCA members hold the right to vote on community issues and any actions taken by BBHCA.**

Note: We are not a homeowners association. Therefore, we have no

jurisdiction over (or interest in) what color you paint your house, what kind of fence you put up, whether you put in a hot tub, etc. **We focus on the larger issues that affect our community, including the current proposal by Kettler to build an ice skating rink on Oakwood Road, which is immediately adjacent to our neighborhood.**

**Dues are only \$20.00 for a household membership, or just \$10.00 for an individual membership.**

Your dues will go directly towards:

- printing and mailing the *Brookland-Bush Hill News* (4–5 times a year),
- holding community meetings on topics of interest,
- maintaining the web site ([www.bbhca.org](http://www.bbhca.org)),
- publishing the monthly electronic newsletter (eNews), and
- sending e-mail alerts.

**It's Your Community—Show Your Support and Join Today!**

### **BBHCA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2011–2012\***

\*The current membership year is September 1, 2011 to August 31, 2012.

**NOTE: This is your last issue of the BBHCA eNews and other email notices if you have not renewed/do not renew for the 2011-12 membership year. Please renew today!**

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## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

### Police Caution Car Buyers About Private Sales Ads

Robbery detectives are investigating two cases stemming from fraudulent Craigslist car ads. In three separate incidents, interested car buyers responded to online ads, coordinated a time and place to meet the purported car seller and when they arrived, two males approached and demanded money; at least one suspect displayed a gun.

The first incident took place in the area of Pohick Road and Wadebrook Terrace on Saturday, September 10, just before 10 pm. The two victims, 34- and 39-year-old men, relinquished an undisclosed amount of cash to the suspects.

The second incident occurred on Sunday, September 25, around 5:35 pm in the 13300 block of Ivakota Farm Road. The victim, a 41-year-old man, fled before the suspects could obtain any money.

A third incident was reported on Tuesday, September 27, in the area of Pohick Road and Wadebrook Terrace around 7 pm. Virginia State Police is handling this case.

Police urge anyone who arranges a meeting to purchase an item from someone unknown to them to exercise caution:

- Coordinate to meet in a public place.
- Meet during the daytime.
- If a price sounds “too good to be true,” it usually is.
- Try not to go alone, if possible.

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),
- text “TIP187” plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or
- call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.



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## Stroke

### Know the Signs

Because stroke injures the brain, you may not realize that you are having a stroke. To a bystander, someone having a stroke may just look unaware or confused. Stroke victims have the best chance if someone around them recognizes the symptoms and acts quickly.

### What are the symptoms of a stroke?

The symptoms of stroke are distinct because they happen quickly:

- Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm, or leg (especially on one side of the body)
- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding speech
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination
- Sudden severe headache with no known cause

### What should a bystander do?

If you believe someone is having a stroke—if he or she suddenly loses the ability to speak, or move an arm or leg on one side, or experiences facial paralysis on one side—**call 911 immediately.**



## Act in Time

Stroke is a medical emergency. Every minute counts when someone is having a stroke. The longer blood flow is cut off to the brain, the greater the damage. Immediate treatment can save people's lives and enhance their chances for successful recovery.

## Why is there a need to act fast?

Ischemic strokes, the most common type of strokes, can be treated with a drug called t-PA, that dissolves blood clots obstructing blood flow to the brain. The window of opportunity to start treating stroke patients is three hours, but to be evaluated and receive treatment, patients need to get to the hospital within 60 minutes.

Source: <http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/stroke/knowstroke.htm>

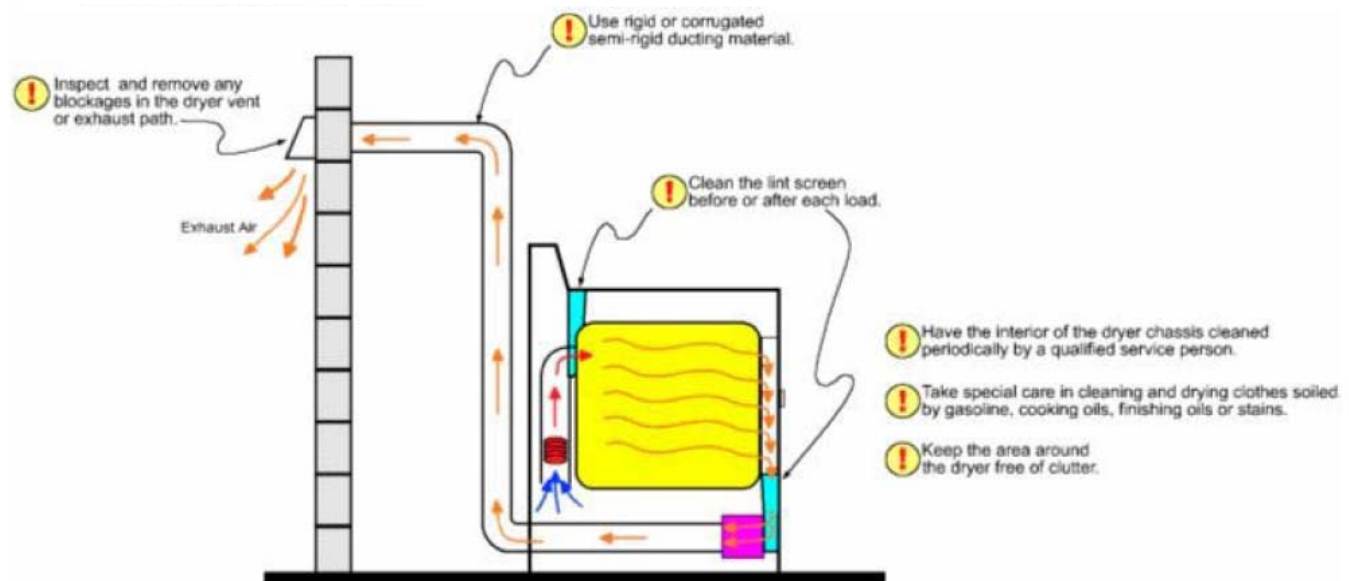
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## U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Overheated Clothes Dryers Can Cause Fires

"The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that in 1998, clothes dryers were associated with 15,600 fires, which resulted in 20 deaths and 370 injuries. Fires can occur when lint builds up in the dryer or in the exhaust duct. Lint can block the flow of air, cause excessive heat build-up, and result in a fire in some dryers.

To help prevent fires:

- **Clean the lint screen/filter before or after drying each load of clothes.** If clothing is still damp at the end of a typical drying cycle or drying requires longer times than normal, this may be a sign that the lint screen or the exhaust duct is blocked.
- **Clean the dryer vent and exhaust duct periodically.** Check the outside dryer vent while the dryer is operating to make sure exhaust air is escaping. If it is not, the vent or the exhaust duct may be blocked. To remove a blockage in the exhaust path, it may be necessary to disconnect the exhaust duct from the dryer. Remember to reconnect the ducting to the dryer and outside vent before using the dryer again.
- **Clean behind the dryer, where lint can build up.** Have a qualified service person clean the interior of the dryer chassis periodically to minimize the amount of lint accumulation. Keep the area around the dryer clean and free of clutter.



- **Replace plastic or foil, accordion-type ducting material** with rigid or corrugated semi-rigid metal duct. Most manufacturers specify the use of a rigid or corrugated semi-rigid metal duct, which provides maximum airflow. The flexible plastic or foil type duct can more easily trap lint and is more susceptible to kinks or crushing, which can greatly reduce the airflow.

- **Take special care when drying clothes that have been soiled with volatile chemicals** such as gasoline, cooking oils, cleaning agents, or finishing oils and stains. If possible, wash the clothing more than once to minimize the amount of volatile chemicals on the clothes and, preferably, hang the clothes to dry. If using a dryer, use the lowest heat setting and a drying cycle that has a cool-down period at the end of the cycle. To prevent clothes from igniting after drying, do not leave the dried clothes in the dryer or piled in a laundry basket.”

Source: CPSC Document # 5022, Updated June 2003

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## Fairfax County Needs Election Officers

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

If you have been looking for an opportunity to serve your country, consider serving as an election officer for a day. For information on qualification, responsibilities, training, and pay, click on the link above.



To apply, **e-mail** your:

- full name
- current address
- daytime telephone number and
- date of birth.

(This information is necessary in order to verify your voter registration.)

Also, indicate whether you prefer to represent either:

- the Democratic party,
- the Republican party, or
- either party as needed

on Election Day, as mandated by the *Code of Virginia, § 24.2-115, Appointment, qualifications, and term of officers of election.*

You may also apply by **calling** 703-324-4735 or by **downloading, completing, and mailing** the [election officer application form](#) (Adobe Acrobat Reader required, download [Adobe Reader](#)).



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## Digital Preparedness in Case of Emergency

No, that doesn't mean putting on your gloves. Today, being prepared for an emergency means using technology, including your Twitter and Facebook accounts. "Digital preparedness is an important way to stay informed and connected before, during and after an emergency."

For example:

"Tell your friends and family **you are OK via text, email, Twitter, Facebook** and other social media. Learn how to send updates via text and internet from your mobile phone to your contacts and social channels in case voice communications are not available. Text

messages and the internet often have the ability to work in the event of a phone service disruption. **Avoid calling by phone.**"

For more great tips, go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/prepare/digital-preparedness.htm>.

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## Fairfax Master Gardeners at Your Service

<http://fairfaxmastergardeners.org/>

You may have seen them at the local farmers markets or libraries, but did you know that you can still get free advice on caring for your ornamental plants, vegetables, and lawn year round? The Plant Clinics may be over (May–September), but you can still call the help desk at 703-324-8556 or send your questions by e-mail [mgfairfax@vt.edu](mailto:mgfairfax@vt.edu).



### Home Turf Program

They will measure your lawn area, complete a soil test, and send you a turf nutrient management plan for \$25. Simply send an email request to [HomeTurf@fairfaxmastergardeners.org](mailto:HomeTurf@fairfaxmastergardeners.org).

*Fairfax County Master Gardeners are sponsored by Virginia Tech, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia State University, Merrifield Garden Center, and the Fairfax County Park Authority.*

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## EVENTS

### ◆ Operation Medicine Cabinet Cleanout

**October 10–14 (Monday-Friday)**

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/prevention/oct-medicine-cabinet-cleanout.htm>

Properly dispose of your unused or expired medications. Doing this prevents accidental poisoning or abuse by others and protects the environment. Bring unused or expired medications (just pills or liquids—*no pressurized canisters or needles*) to your local Fairfax County district police station. Disposal is free, convenient, confidential, and safe.

#### Franconia District Station

6121 Franconia Road  
Alexandria, VA 22310

Visit the Health Department's "Don't Flush" page for more information about proper disposal of medications year-round at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/dontflush>.

*Sponsored by the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board in partnership with many Fairfax County government departments and coalitions, private treatment providers, and local businesses.*

### ◆ Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) Meeting

**Wednesday, October 19**

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>

“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.”

### ◆ Both Sides Tour VII—

**Civil War Sesquicentennial Event**

**Saturday, November 5**



Learn about the importance of the Shenandoah Valley. Visit the house in Winchester that served as Stonewall Jackson's headquarters beginning 150 years ago almost to the day. You'll see Jackson's dinner table, desk and saber, and other artifacts. Hear about Mary Tyler Moore's contribution to the house. Visit the Rose Hill farm where the first battle of Kernstown occurred and Jackson suffered his only defeat. Visitors will be invited on a short walk to the stone wall where the Confederates tried to fend off advancing Yankees. Sponsored by the Franconia Museum.

Cost: \$100 each, includes bus ride, buffet lunch (including gratuities), and a snack card to spend on the way home, as well as all entrance fees. Contact Don Hakenson at 703-971-4984 or [dhakenson@cox.net](mailto:dhakenson@cox.net).

### ◆ **BBHCA Community Meeting**

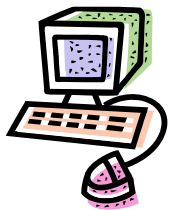
**Tuesday, November 15**

Bush Hill Elementary School, Cafeteria

[www.bbca.org](http://www.bbca.org)

Topic: TBA

Speaker: TBA



## **LINKS TO KEEP**

### **Halloween Safety Guide**

<http://www.halloween-safety.com/>

"Everyone wants to have a safe and happy Halloween for themselves, their guests, and their children. Using safety tips and some common sense can help you make the most of your Halloween season, keeping it as enjoyable for your kids as it is for you! There are lots of simple ways to keep your child safe at Halloween, when accidents and injuries are more likely to occur."

### **How To...**

<http://www.ehow.com/>

"No matter what's on your to do list, eHow can help. With more than 30 categories that cover just about everything, eHow is your one-stop online resource for life's challenges. Professionals in every field come together to offer expert advice, backed by the additional support of a can-do eHow community."

### **Protect Your Identity**

<http://www.protectyouridnow.org/index.cfm>

Sponsored by the National Foundation for Credit Counseling, this site provides first steps for victims, a quiz, consumer tips, and more.



### **Franconia District Police Station**

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

Check in to see "What's New" or review the "Crime Prevention Corner" for the next CAC meeting. You can also submit your traffic concerns or sign up for alerts. That and more as the site is continuously updated to keep citizens informed of what's happening in our community.

### **Lane Closures**

<http://www.vamegaprojects.com/lane-closures/closure-maps/10012011/>

Check out this handy interactive map that depicts all lane closures, day by day, around the west side of the beltway having to do with the construction of the Hot Lanes and Metro.



### **Pet Care Tips from the ASPCA**

<http://www.aspca.org/Pet-care/pet-care-tips.aspx>

Pet health, behavior, training, poison control, nutrition, and more!

### **Past Issues of eNews**

[http://www.bbhca.org/e\\_news.htm](http://www.bbhca.org/e_news.htm)

No need to print out and save old issues of eNews. We save them for you online. How eco-friendly is that?! But if you haven't renewed your 2011-12 BBHCA membership, this will be your last copy of eNews and any other special email notices. So don't disappoint yourself, renew now!

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### **BBHCA 2011–2012 Board**

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

VP Newsletter: Rebecca Johnson [newsletter@bbhca.org](mailto:newsletter@bbhca.org)

VP Membership: Rebeccah Wolfkiel [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 [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)

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