

Renew your BBHCA 2008-09 Membership today! The BBHCA eNews, along with Special Notices sent by e-mail, will be sent only to 2008-09 members after this October issue. Stay in touch with your community and support your neighborhood civic association. For the current application, go to the BBHCA Web site or click on this link:

http://www.bbhca.org/PDFs/Membership_Application_2008-2009.pdf. Thank you for your support!

October 2008

BBHCA eNews

Fairfax County Launches Absentee Voter Initiative

DEADLINES

Monday, October 6

Final day to *register* to vote. If you are registered at your current address, you do not need to register again. Citizens needing to verify their voter registration status are encouraged to call the General Registrar's office at (703) 222-0776 as early as possible prior to the October 6 voter registration deadline.

Tuesday, October 28

Final day to apply for an *absentee ballot by mail*.

Saturday, November 1

Final day to vote *absentee in person*.

The Fairfax County Office of Elections initiative, "Voters on the Move," will inform registered voters about the options for absentee voting for the Nov. 4 General Election. Fairfax County voters who will be commuting and working for 11 or more hours on Election Day, between 6 am and 7 pm, may qualify to vote by absentee ballot.

Information on who is eligible to vote absentee is available at

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/absentee.htm.



**Franconia
Governmental
Center**, Community
Room B, 6121
Franconia Road,
Alexandria, VA
22310. Dates and
times are as follows:

- Wednesday,
October 15,
2008 through Friday, October 31, 2008, 8:00
a.m. until 8:00 p.m.
- Saturdays, October 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th and
November 1st, 2008, 9:00 a.m. until 5:00
p.m.

To facilitate the absentee voting process, the Office of Elections Web page, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb, has an interactive **online absentee ballot application form**. The link allows eligible voters to complete their application directly online. The form may then be printed, signed and either faxed or mailed to the Office of Elections. The Web page also includes information about absentee voting deadlines, eligibility guidelines and voting absentee in-person.

On the ballot for the Nov. 4 General Election are candidates for U.S. president and vice president, a member of the U.S. Senate from Virginia and members of the U.S. House of Representatives for the 8th, 10th and 11th Congressional Districts. A Fairfax County bond issue also is on the ballot.

For more information, contact the Office of Elections at 703-222-0776, TTY 711, or e-mail voting@fairfaxcounty.gov

>> **Voter Registration deadline October 6.** To remain a qualified registered voter, the law requires you to notify your local voter registration office of any change in your name or address. For information, go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/vregis.htm>.

>> **Virginia Voter Registration Application (PDF)**, http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/sbe_voter_app_DOJ-Printed.pdf

Zoning 101: Zoning/Noise Ordinance Complaint Reporting Form

http://66.179.23.21/DP1/Metroplex/FairfaxCounty/customerservice/wiz_csr.asp

If you have a zoning compliance complaint, you can fill out this confidential form online. The "form is provided to report a possible Zoning or Noise Ordinance violation within the County of Fairfax.... The complaint will be investigated in the order it was received, and you will be contacted by the Zoning Inspector who will investigate your complaint. If you have any questions, please contact the Zoning Enforcement Branch at 703-324-1300."



>> To learn more about zoning in Fairfax County, visit the **Department of Planning and Zoning** online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/>



How Does Your Garden Grow?

"What should you be doing in the garden right now? Learn to organize your gardening chores by season with this handy **Seasonal Planner** brought to you by the US Environmental Protection Agency's GreenScapes Program. To download your own free seasonal gardening calendar go to GreenScapes." (Source: National Wildlife Federation, NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org)

>> GreenScapes Gardening Calendar, <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/partnerships/greenscapes/homeown/calendar.htm>

Neighborhood Watch

Robert D. L'Heureux, Chair, 703-609-2966
neighborhoodwatch@bbhca.org

Shop Safely with these Tips

- Avoid shopping alone. Traveling in groups of two or more significantly reduces your chance of becoming a victim of crime.
- Be especially alert when leaving stores or shopping malls and returning to your vehicle. This is a time when criminals know you are carrying cash, checkbooks, credit cards or other valuables.
- Trust your instincts. If you have an intuitive feeling something is wrong, take action.
- If someone approaches you and you feel uncomfortable, move or ask for assistance.

- Stand tall and display confidence. Walk with purpose, scan the area around you and make casual eye contact with others.
- Carry a cellular phone.
- Avoid wearing excessive jewelry. In particular, keep necklaces and bracelets inside your clothing
- Shop before dark and always park in well-lighted areas.
- Make sure all doors and windows are locked in your vehicle.
- Keep packages out of sight in your vehicle.
- Don't carry large sums of cash. If you do carry cash, do not display it in public or count cash in open areas.
- Have keys in hand before returning to the vehicle.
- As you approach the car, check underneath and inside before entering. If you are concerned for any reason, simply walk past your car and call for help
- Lock your door immediately upon entering the vehicle, even if you are only going for a short ride.
- Check your surroundings before getting out of your car. If something or someone strikes you as out of place or threatening, drive away. If it's dark, go to a well lighted, heavily traveled area.

Report any suspicious activity or person immediately to the Fairfax County Police Department by dialing 911, or by calling the non-emergency number (703) 691-2131.

>> Franconia Crime Prevention Officers Alice Bennett and Jim Nida, (703) 922-8263

Accessible Public Transportation Options Expo for People with Disabilities and Senior Citizens

Tuesday, October 28, 2008

10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Metro Headquarters, 600 5th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (Metro) invites you to an Accessible Public Transportation Options Expo for People with Disabilities and Senior Citizens. The purpose of the event is to provide information about the wide array of accessible bus and rail public transportation options available throughout the Washington metropolitan region. The Expo will include on-site demonstrations of bus accessibility features. Rail accessibility and safety features tours of the Judiciary Square and Gallery Place-Chinatown Metro stations will also be conducted.

The following are participating transit agencies that join Metro in presenting this Expo: Alexandria DASH, Arlington Transit, City of Fairfax CUE, D.C. Circulator, Fairfax Connector, Loudoun County Transit, MARC, Maryland Transit Administration, Montgomery County Ride On, Omni Ride, Prince George's County TheBus, and Virginia Railway Express.

If you are a service provider who works with people with disabilities or senior citizens, a special education teacher or transition services coordinator, this is a wonderful field trip opportunity. Please consider bringing a group of consumers to the Expo for an opportunity to learn about the many accessible public transit resources in the region.

- Displays will be staffed by Metro offices and the region's transit agencies to provide valuable information and resources that can assist people with disabilities and senior citizens with their transportation needs
- The Metro ID Card Office will be present to issue Metro Disability ID Cards to eligible people with disabilities that have *completed* the Reduced Fare Program for People with Disabilities application forms (http://www.wmata.com/accessibility/Reduced_Fare_Application.pdf)
- Current Metro Disability ID Cardholders can also visit the Metro Headquarters Sales Office to purchase reduced fare SmarTrip® cards and reduced fare cards
- Senior citizens, who are 65 and older, with proper photo identification, can purchase and register Metro Senior SmarTrip® cards
- Find out about career opportunities with Metro and hear remarks by the Metro General Manager and Board of Directors

To reach Metro headquarters, take the Red, Green or Yellow lines to the Gallery Pl-Chinatown station. Use the Arena exit. Walk two blocks east on F Street to 5th Street. Or ride Metrobus routes D1, D3, D6, P6, 70, 71, 80 or X2. Use the Metro Trip Planner at www.MetroOpensDoors.com for door-to-door itineraries.

To RSVP or get more information, call 202-962-1100, TTY 202-962-2033 or e-mail adap@wmata.com

Organics: Pay More for Less

Due to market forces, organic products are still more expensive than non-organics. That goes for produce from your local farmers market to cosmetics. Ironically, you have to pay more to make sure there are no (or fewer) toxic ingredients, such as pesticides, in your products. And, due to other market forces, the government doesn't make it any easier. Organic labeling can be deceptive.

"In August 2005 the USDA broadened the scope of their organic food regulations.... Products with 100 percent organic ingredients, excluding water and salt, can be labeled '100% Organic.' [However, those] ... made with 95 percent or more organic ingredients can be labeled 'Organic.' Products with 70 percent or more may be labeled 'Made With Organic Ingredients.'"

http://www.thegreenguide.com/products/Cosmetics/Eye_Makeup?source=email_gg_20080910&email=gg



The solution? Keep buying organic, but make sure you check the product labels and ask when there is no label. Eventually, market forces will turn the tide in the favor of more and more consumers who demand organic.

Links to Keep

Family Caregiver Seminars

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/aaa

Sixth Annual Family Caregiver Luncheon and Resource Fair

(November 7)

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/aaa

BBHCA 2007–2008 Board

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