

**Brookland Bush Hill Civic Association (BBHCA)
January 13, 2004 Meeting Minutes**

Revision: 0

Last reviewed: February 12 2004

Call to Order

President Larry Carter called the meeting to order at 7:11 PM. BBHCA Officers attending in addition, were Marti Morris (Vice President-Membership) Judy Connelly (Vice President-Newsletter), Robert Michie (Lee District Representative to Fairfax County Trails Committee & Zoning and Land Use Committee) and Helen Gettys Michie, (Secretary).

Old Business

BBHCA still needs a Neighborhood Watch Chair immediately. Contact Larry Carter, President if you are a BBHCA member interested in volunteering. For the 2004-2005 Membership Year, we are looking for a new President of BBHCA. John Neeves has agreed to serve as Chair of the nominating Committee. The next meeting of the BBHCA will be March 9 at 7:00 PM at the BHES.

Charles and Anna Keller's petition to expand the leaf collection boundaries from just a small portion of Bush Hill Woods to a section of Brookland Estates has successfully received more than the required number of signatures. The petition will be turned over to Bruce Wilkinson Fairfax County Government staff for action on January 14th. If other residents outside of these two areas would like this leaf collection service and are willing to volunteer to get the necessary signatures on a similar petition contact the Kellers for more information about what this entails.

New Business

Membership Directory. Sharada Gilkey is interested in working on a BBHCA membership directory with a committee of volunteers for the 2004-2005 membership year. The Association last published one in May 1999. A discussion from the floor followed. In the last directory we allowed members upon request to opt-out of the directory entirely or not to give out unpublished phone numbers. The 1999 directory helped us recruit new advertisers for the directory who can also be asked to support the publication of the newsletter. Fairfax County Government can give us a list of names and addresses of all homeowners in the Civic Association Service area without phone numbers. BBHCA President Larry Carter made a motion in favor of assembling a membership only directory in the 2004-2005 membership year. The motion was moved and seconded and passed unanimously. Interested volunteers should call Sharada Gilkey.

: We currently have 26% or 209 of the households in our service as paid members of BBHCA. Our goal is to get 30% or more of the households as members.

Minutes. The Secretary of the BBHCA read the minutes of the November 2003 meeting, prepared by acting secretary Robert Michie. They were approved unanimously.

Presentation by Fairfax County Police Officers

Officer Philip Edwards, and Master Patrol Officer Matt Keesley, Fairfax County Police, Franconia Substation made a presentation about crime in Brookland Bush Hill and the Franconia area. The Franconia area's number is 621.

Not many calls for service in Brookland Bush Hill compared to other sections of Fairfax County. Two significant events did happen recently, an auto theft and larceny and a traffic accident causing the death of a woman on Franconia Road. The perpetrators of the auto theft and larceny from the home in Brookland Estates have been apprehended in New Jersey. Many charges are being placed against them in New Jersey as well as Virginia. The two men walked to the home thru the woods from Oakwood drive. The police believe that this was a random act, and that other houses nearby were not canvassed. It was a daytime crime and the residents were not at home. The men forced the garage door. A pane of glass was broken allowing the men to gain entry,

Woman killed on Franconia Road. A truck driver was not paying attention to the vehicle in front of him which stopped and tried to take evasive action to avoid an accident by driving over the sidewalk, hitting a woman who was walking there. Vehicle speed was less than 20 miles per hour. The cause of the action was driver inattention and the bad decision the driver made in going up on the sidewalk. The victim, Jennifer Woods, died shortly afterwards. The Brookland Bush Hill Civic Association extends our condolences to the friends and family of the victim.

Prevention of Daytime Crime

Criminals who are planning to commit similar crimes against property often canvass sections of neighborhoods to see who is home during the day. You should be suspicious if someone knocks on your door, and asks for someone you do not know, especially if you see the person go to other houses on your street. If you are suspicious of someone, call the Fairfax County Police, and watch the people leaving the house to see what they might be bringing out with them. Try to get a good description of the persons and the make and model of their car. But be safe-do not confront the perpetrators directly, let the police do that. The Fairfax County Police welcome tips from alert neighbors. It makes it much easier for law enforcement officers to catch the criminals.

Things you should know about the Fairfax County Police Department. If you call Fairfax County Police to report minor crimes or violations like vandalism, a report will be taken over the phone and the incident will be logged in the County's crime statistics. No police officers will come out to the house. However, if you want the Fairfax County Police's personal attention, all a resident has to say is "I'd like to have an officer come to the house". Police officers will be out to house promptly depending on current situations that day. But unless the reported incident is investigated, without a police officer coming

to your house, you will be given a number by phone and the incident you report will just become a crime statistic.

Franconia is approximately 40 square miles in size. 12 officers minimum are on the streets of Franconia at all times. During some portions of shifts when the crime rate goes up, there may be up to 24 police officers at the substation. In the last year, violent crimes decreased. There were no murders in 2003, but larceny of automobiles is up, and property crimes are up

Gerry Connelly our newly elected Fairfax County Board of Supervisors chair has brought up the gang issue. Does our local area have a serious gang problem? The police don't think that the gang problem will affect most residents but there is the possibility of violence against families who have gang members in them. If you think your son or daughter might be getting involved in gang activity, contact the police officer assigned at the local junior high or high school your child attends.

Other Problems and Issues. Lack of courtesy on the roads. Drive defensively. The McDonald's located across the street at Edison High School has a history of fights mostly involving fists and knives, not guns. The Fairfax County Police tries to be pro-active to prevent violence. The 2003 Police Activity Summary was passed around to members attending the meeting. A large number of incidents of crime happened at Springfield Mall.

What you should know about security alarms. Fairfax County Police now charges homeowners fines when a security alarm goes off an excessive number of times. The fines start at \$50 per occurrence during the first month, \$100 per occurrence the second month, \$200 the third month etc. THE ALARM COMPANY WILL NOT PAY YOUR FINES, YOU WILL. Fairfax County will bill you monthly.

To prevent costly fines, proper installation of the alarms is very important. Make sure your alarm company takes service very seriously or the alarm fines could become very costly. Check out the alarm company carefully before signing up with one. Promptness in responding and fixing problems are now more important than ever. Don't agree to take a free security alarm. Most of these are of poor quality and may be badly installed, causing you to incur fines because your security alarm goes off too frequently.

Neighborhood Watch and the Fairfax County Police

The Fairfax County Police holds monthly meetings for neighborhood watch coordinators. They have an e-mail list which provides citizens with information about local crimes. A Neighborhood Watch Coordinator is important in keeping members of BBHCA informed of breaking news about crime and communication with the police.