

# BROOKLAND-BUSH HILL NEWS

May 2019

A newsletter for and by the residents of Brookland, Bush Hill, and Gunnell Estates in Alexandria, VA.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# Changes in the Wind

*Sandra "Jeannie" (Graham) Henry, President*

### **Farewell to Jeff McKay at May BBHCA Meeting**

As many of you know, Supervisor Jeff McKay will be transitioning out of his role in Lee District for, as we understand it, a Board leadership role. Jeff McKay has been an outstanding representative for our neighborhood and Lee District, and if you follow the local news you know how hard he's worked on behalf of the District and Fairfax County as a whole, serving on regional and state level commissions in addition to his daily Lee District responsibilities. It's going to be hard to see him go—despite the many demands of his role, Jeff McKay has been keenly and unfailingly responsive to the needs and concerns of BBHCA residents during his time as supervisor, and has worked closely with our neighborhood over the years on at least a dozen projects that directly affected us. He has required every county or private development affecting BBHCA to work directly with us on our concerns, and this has made a critical difference in our ability to prevent or mitigate negative impacts on our residents. Jeff has also been a frequent speaker at our BBHCA meetings and I am aware that many of you are very eager to have a chance to say goodbye and thank you—especially those of you who have followed Jeff's career

since he was a staffer for Dana Kauffman. We've invited Jeff to our May 14th BBHCA meeting to give our members a chance wish him well on his next steps and hear his final thoughts on the future of Lee District. I can't yet guarantee that he won't have a Board meeting conflict that night, but I know he will be there if he possibly can. Please join us (at 7:30 pm at Bush Hill Elementary on Tuesday May 14th to talk with Jeff McKay and bid him farewell.

### **Neighborhood Watch Chair Needed**

We are currently looking for a volunteer for this position. Please see us at the May meeting or contact me at [president@bbhca.net](mailto:president@bbhca.net) with any questions you might have.

### **Fairfax County Community Emergency Response Guide**

Fairfax County has released its Community Emergency Response Guide. This document has been several years in the making and BBHCA has seen presentations from groups involved in its development and some of our members have participated in workshops and training events. There has been a lot of interest from BBHCA members in learning more about both individual and neighborhood resiliency given the increasing scale of natural disasters, and the always present potential in our area for man-made disasters. Across the

## COMMUNITY MEETING

**May 14**  
(Tuesday)

**7:30 pm**

**Bush Hill  
Elementary School**  
(cafeteria,  
right side entrance)

### AGENDA

Board and Committee  
Reports

### PRESENTATION

Supervisor Jeff McKay  
(invited)

country, neighbors have increasingly found themselves in the role of first responders, and neighborhoods have become the long term support system following regional disasters. This Guide contains a template for building a robust neighborhood framework for responding to such events. I've taken a look and this is not a quick and

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## Land Use Update

*Carol Alim*  
*BBHCA Land Use Representative*

### March Meeting Minutes

**President's Report:**

Mark Sickles to present. Trans Urban also presenting. We are looking for a new Neighborhood Watch chair. Upcoming meeting for senior citizen building—1st of 3. Meeting for pedestrian refuge voted in favor of left hand turns out of Westchester. Candidate night anticipated in the fall.

**Minutes:**

The minutes from the November meeting were approved as posted.

**Membership:**

Nothing to report.

**Newsletter:**

Nothing to report.

**Treasurer:**

Membership dues and donations going well for 2018/2019. We have 3 volunteers for the audit committee.

**Neighborhood Watch:**

Need new chair. Mary moving out of the area. This includes handling sheriff reports and attending meetings.

**Land Use:**

Modular classrooms to be added to Bush Hill Elementary. Residents concerned about children's safety during arrival and dismissal with additional traffic.

**Presenters:**

Trans Urban.  
Mark Sickles.

Summary of Land Use Meetings May - July 2018 (no meeting in August).

**Oakwood Affordable Senior Housing**

2019-IV-RH1: Comprehensive Plan Amendment to change plan language for County-owned land to permit development of an affordable residential complex senior citizens. This property is zoned R8, which permits 8 dwelling units per acre and is inconsistent with the plan language. Given consideration for building affordable housing (4x) and 20% for senior housing the developer could build up to 268 units; they plan to build 150 units.

Thanks to Elena Carroll and several residents of Piedmont, Jeff McKay established a task force of residents, county staff and the developer to discuss development of this property. The meetings provided residents the opportunity to discuss their concerns with this development on their properties and life style and for the developer to present their development objectives. These meeting resulted in the developer looking at some changes to the project.

A site walk also took place, again with a group of residents, county staff and the developer. This provided opportunity for the developer to see the topology of the residential properties that adjoin the development site. We looked at the residences from the development site and vice versa. As a result the developer indicated that they need to redesign the "legs" of the structure because they are closer to the current homes.

Prior to the site walk the developer presented this project to the Landuse Committee. The committee members had questions, but there was no serious opposition to this development at this time.

**Brookview Development**

Don't have update at this time.

**2019 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**  
**Brookland-Bush Hill Civic Association**

Membership Year: January 1, 2019–December 31, 2019

**Join us—for the good of *your* community.**

BBHCA provides many opportunities for you to take an active role in decisions that affect your quality of life and property values as well as make a difference in your community. BBHCA prints a newsletter, maintains a Web site, and e-mails community updates and alert notices. Only members have a vote at BBHCA meetings on decisions that affect the community and the governance of BBHCA. Join today and support your civic association's efforts to keep our neighborhood a great place to call home. For current information on BBHCA activities, please visit Facebook or go to [www.bbhca.net](http://www.bbhca.net).

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**Enclosed are my member dues:**  \$20.00 (household)  \$10.00 (individual)

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY** The information provided here will be considered confidential and used only for BBHCA communications and membership verification.

NAME: (LAST) \_\_\_\_\_ (FIRST) \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: (LAST) \_\_\_\_\_ (FIRST) \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: (703) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL(S): \_\_\_\_\_  
(required for e-mail communications and community alerts; see below)

**E-mail Communications**

**Please notify me *by e-mail*** of community concerns deemed important by BBHCA. I may request that e-mail communications be discontinued at any time. Your e-mail will be used only by BBHCA.

**Request for Donation**

Your donation will be used to help offset the cost of printing and mailing the BBHCA print newsletter, the website, and other member-approved services. Thank you!

I would like to make a donation to BBHCA for  \$10  \$20  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail this completed form with your check (payable to "BBHCA") to:**

BBHCA Membership  
5779 Westchester Street  
Alexandria, VA 22310

**Questions?**

E-mail: [membership@bbhca.net](mailto:membership@bbhca.net)

[www.bbhca.net](http://www.bbhca.net)

**Now is the time to renew your Brookland-Bush Hill Civic Association Membership!**

Page 3 of this newsletter is the 2019 BBHCA Membership Form. For only \$10.00 for individuals and \$20.00 for households you can help keep our neighborhoods a great place to live. We are always accepting new members and welcome donations which go directly toward helping BBHCA remain an effective voice for the community. For the most current information on BBHCA activities, please visit [www.bbhca.net](http://www.bbhca.net) or the "Brookland-Bush Hill Civic Association" Facebook page.

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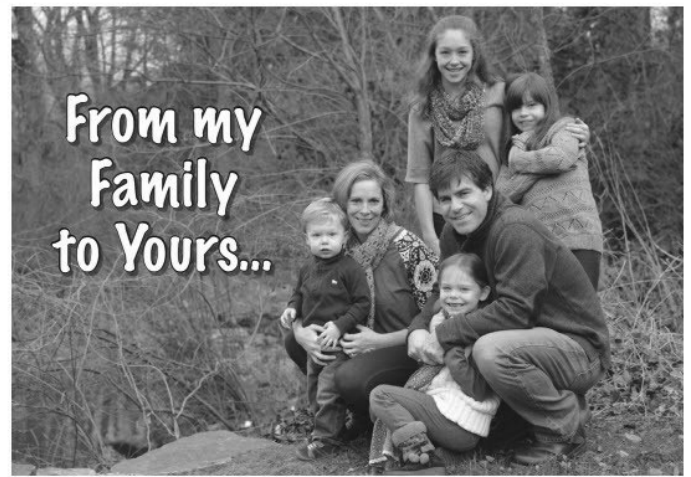


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**703-971-2444**

Tom and Cindy are the best realtors in Northern Virginia. When we began to look at down-sizing we didn't know where to begin. Tom and Cindy came over and spent a good deal of time and gave us very valuable suggestions. Ours was a very special house and it needed to be marketed to a very specific clientele. Tom created marketing materials that showed our transformed home to best advantage. Cindy brought us the best stager, photographer and videographer. Cindy brought us three contracts and we sold our home with no regrets. She babysat us through home inspections and closing. We were very well cared for. Her associates were respectful, friendly and encouraging. Everyone helped. It felt wonderful being on one team together. Everyone was focused, professional and got the job done. Kudos to all!

Just one more thing - Cindy's relentlessly positive attitude really helps the process. She is just so confident and upbeat.

Susan Teaford

Even after 3000 home sales, we still get excited by happy clients. Whether you're selling, buying or both, give us a call. We'd love to help you.

"Top 250 agents in the nation."  
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.



**TOM  
& CINDY**  
AND ASSOCIATES

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## **BBHCA Board and Committees**

President: Sandra Graham (aka Jeannie Henry), [president@bbhca.net](mailto:president@bbhca.net)

First Vice President (Newsletter): Jackie Hawkins, [newsletter@bbhca.net](mailto:newsletter@bbhca.net)

Second Vice President (Membership): Elise Swinehart, [membership@bbhca.net](mailto:membership@bbhca.net)

Treasurer: Joan Akins, [treasurer@bbhca.net](mailto:treasurer@bbhca.net)

Secretary: Danny Hawkins, [secretary@bbhca.net](mailto:secretary@bbhca.net)

Constitution and Bylaws: Bob Michie, [bylaws\\_constitution@bbhca.net](mailto:bylaws_constitution@bbhca.net)

Land Use & Transportation (Lee District): Carol Alim, [landuse@bbhca.net](mailto:landuse@bbhca.net)

Neighborhood Watch: Mary Breedan, [neighborhoodwatch@bbhca.net](mailto:neighborhoodwatch@bbhca.net)

## **President's Message**

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easy task, but it would have lot of benefits for us. In order to do something like this for BBHCA, we would need a dedicated working group to pull it together. The Board is not able to lead such an effort, but we can help structure it if there are enough interested residents. We will discuss whether people feel this would be worthwhile at the May 14th meeting and in the meantime you can see the document at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergencymanagement/cerg>.

## **Spring Plant Sale**

After a summer and winter of record-breaking rain, we are finally seeing blue skies again just in time for the arrival of spring flowers. Despite the abundant green growth, it's likely that not every plant in your garden survived the standing water and swampy soils of 2018. Fortunately, the annual Garden Green Spring Gardens Day is just around the corner and Master Gardeners will be there to help with plant selections and gardening advice. This year the sale will take place on Saturday, May 18th. More than 40 vendors of rare and unusual plants from across the state will have booths set up for the popular event, which occurs during peak bloom for thousands of the park's

trees, shrubs and perennials. The Virginia Native Plant Society will be selling a wide selection of native plants, which will greatly benefit your garden and provide food and shelter for Virginia wildlife, including songbirds and bees. For more information or directions see <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gsgp/> or call 703-642-5173.

## **Annual Neighborhood Yard Sale June 8th**

It's time for spring cleaning, down-sizing those overflowing closets, and sorting through the clutter you've been stashing in the spare bedroom. The annual BBHCA yard sale is the perfect opportunity to find new homes for those excess treasures, and make a little cash too. Participation in the yard sale is free, but in order to ensure that our ads draw a good crowd of customers to the neighborhood, we need to have an idea of how many households will participate and the kinds of goods that will be available. If you are interested in having your items listed for publication, please send an email to [dswdanes@gmail.com](mailto:dswdanes@gmail.com) by May 30th. Two large directional signs will be placed on Franconia Road but please feel free to put up your own directional signs and balloons within the neighborhood. Recommended times for a successful yard sale are 7:30am - noon.