

BROOKLAND-BUSH HILL NEWS

Nov 2017

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Having a Safe Winter

Sandra "Jeannie" (Graham) Henry, President

Cybersecurity Talk

Please join us at our Nov. 14 meeting of the Brookland Bush Hill Civic Association where we will be hearing a cybersecurity talk by our very own Bob Michie. He works in the realm of cybersecurity assessing the security state of computer systems. Some recent internet attacks we've heard about on the news were successful because individuals did not follow best practices. Buying a new computer from Best Buy will give you a reasonably secure machine but its built-in security won't do you any good if you reveal to a friendly voice on the phone your personal bank account number. Bob will talk about best practices for the home computer user and cell phone addict.

November BBHCA Elections and Budget

Elections will be held for the BBHCA Board at the Association's November 14th meeting. (Note that we will meet in the library of Bush Hill Elementary that night, rather than the cafeteria.) As of this writing, all of the current officers are willing to stand for re-election, however nominations for all positions are open to all current members of BBHCA. These elected positions include the president, vice-president newsletter, vice-president membership, treasurer and secre-

tary. We will be taking nominations up to and during the November meeting. If you have questions about any of the positions, please contact Jeannie Henry at president@bbhca.org. In addition, 20 member households must be present in order to hold an election and last November we came up short, creating a delay of several months. It is very important that we have a good turn-out for this meeting to ensure that our election results are official for the year and that BBHCA can continue to work for you, so please be sure to join us on the 14th.

We will also vote on our proposed 2018 budget at the November meeting.

State Elections Nov. 7

On Tuesday, Nov. 7th, elections will be held for Virginia's next Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, and House of Delegates in the Virginia General Assembly. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Each of these offices will have a considerable impact on Fairfax County and Fairfax County Public Schools, so please make try to make it to the polls.

Winterizing the Home

Winter is coming. Maybe. Well, actually it doesn't seem like we've had a real winter in a while now

COMMUNITY MEETING

**November 14
(Tuesday)**

7:30 pm

**Bush Hill
Elementary School
(Library)**

AGENDA

Board and Committee Reports
BBHCA Board Elections
2018 Budget Vote

PRESENTATION

Bob Michie
"Cybersecurity and You"

but there will be at least some cold days. It is time to stock up on kitty litter for the slick ice days we always get, flashlight batteries for power outages, and snow shovels and a roof rake for the occasional extreme snow event. If you use a fireplace, now is the time to get your chimney inspected (and swept if needed). It is also recommended

Continued on page 4

Land Use Update

Carol Alim,
BBHCA Land Use Representative

Summary of Land Use meetings in September and October...

White Horse Car Wash:

Recommended for approval at October meeting (14-6-0). This business will be built on the Charles Arrington Dr frontage of Festival at Manchester Lakes shopping center. There was some opposition from residents of Manchester Lake while others supported the development. In response to earlier issues, the application modified the architecture to significantly reduce height of a tower. They made changes to sound emissions and redirected the sound to reduce sound to surrounding area; this change meets the decibel level for residential development. Finally, they made improvements to storm water management. This application was also recommended for approval by Staff.

Home Day Care, Wellington Commons:



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Recommended for approval for up to 8 children at October meeting (17-1-2). This is an existing business where the applicant cares for five (5) children in her home. She dedicates 500 square feet in the lower level for her business. She requested a Special Exception to permit 12 children; this would require that she hire help. She has support from many of her neighbors. Many on the committee were concerned that the size of the space was not adequate for 12 children. We agreed with Staff recommendation for no more than 8 children.

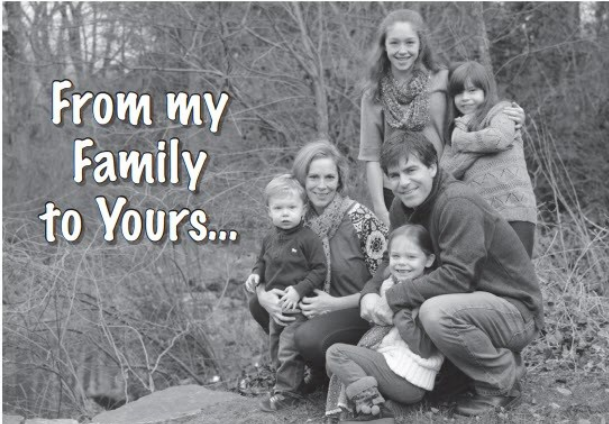
Sheey Dealership, Springfield:

Follow-up presentation at November meeting. Sheey has renovated their show room and wants to do additional improvements, including the addition of an on-site car wash to clean vehicles after they have been serviced; the car wash would not be open to the public. Additionally, the entrance at the intersection of Loisdale and Spring Mall Road would be closed with a single entrance further down Spring Mall. They will increase open space but need a waiver since it will still be under current requirements. There were questions regarding storm water management so they will come back next month to address.

Greenspring Village:

Greenspring is requesting special exception in order to make improvements to their recreation, green space, and eating facilities (more options) as well as add a deck to the parking lot. These improvements are in response to requests by residents. These improvements will not increase the number of residents.

Meeting on TopGolf:



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2017 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
Brookland-Bush Hill Civic Association

Membership Year: January 1, 2017–December 31, 2017

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.org.

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) _____

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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!

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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.org

www.bbhca.org

September Meeting Minutes

President's Report:

Welcome to new members in attendance. The newsletter has been delayed, but check out our Facebook page for updates. Questions have arisen about who is responsible for keeping storm drains clear—it is the responsibility of the nearest homeowner/resident. Keep an eye out for water intrusion in basements, that might be due to an uncleared drain. We are looking for a new Webmaster. The current webpage is limping along in an outdated, unsupported language and needs a complete overhaul to a new site. The current hosting location is going to drop us soon if we don't make the switch to a supported format.

Secretary's Report:

No newsletter received. Postpone approval of minutes until November meeting.

Membership Report:

Membership mailing occurred to boost membership, it seems to have worked: 187 household memberships this year compared to 136 in 2016. Looking at potentially sending applications in the newsletter only to non-members, but this may present problems with addressing.

Treasurer's Report:

Audit was completed on July 8, 2017 for the 2016 fiscal year. Compared the accounting spreadsheet with the statements. Expenses exceeded income for the year. Satisfied with accounting of expenses according to the records. Recommendation that an address directory for the neighborhood be printed.

2017 Expense/Income Spreadsheet presented. \$5,176 income, \$2,108 expenses so far but still need to pay for 2 newsletters and the web hosting expenses. The May newsletter was less expensive due to not mailing it, but attempting hand delivery.

Neighborhood Watch:

A shooting in Rose Hill is under investigation. Teenagers may be hanging out in Bush Hill Park, keep an eye out. The jury duty phone scam seems to be back again. If you get a call about it, don't provide them information. Fairfax County will not call you for jury duty.

Land Use Committee:

A car wash has been proposed at Manchester Lakes, will present in October. There is a proposal to transfer some parcels from the Beulah Planning District to the Springfield Planning district, in hopes of making the area more attractive to the TSA for its new headquarters. A zoning process change has been proposed, which would take vetting applications for special exceptions away from the land use committee.

Other business:

Elections are being held at the November meeting, we will need a quorum for them to be official.

Program:

A representative from AARP gave a presentation on Brain Health.

President's Message,

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that you have your furnace serviced to make sure it is running safely and efficiently; this will save you both money and aggravation. Use the shut-off valves for each outdoor faucet and then open the faucet to drain them. For extra freeze protection, you can get insulated faucet covers at the hardware store. Finally, we've seen some incredibly damaging extreme weather around the country this year. As a result of these kinds of disasters, more and more people are buying generators in case they have to deal with lengthy power outages. There is a lot to know about using a generator safely, however, and you should read your manual closely in order to avoid fire, electrocution, or carbon monoxide poisoning.

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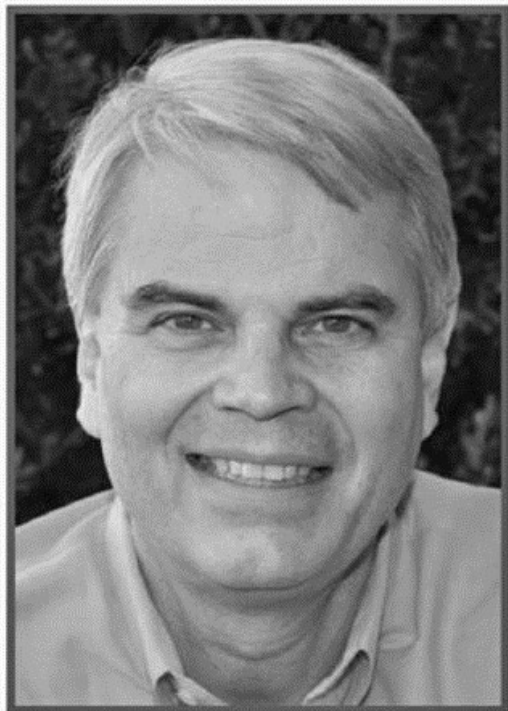
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Second Vice President (Membership): Elise Swinehart, membership@bbhca.org
Treasurer: Joan Akins, treasurer@bbhca.org
Secretary: Danny Hawkins, secretary@bbhca.org
Constitution and Bylaws: Bob Michie, bylaws_constitution@bbhca.org
Land Use & Transportation (Lee District): Carol Alim, landuse@bbhca.org
Neighborhood Watch: Mary Breedan, neighborhoodwatch@bbhca.org

Land Use Update,

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In September, I met with one of the partners who currently own the land where TopGolf is located and their attorney. They are planning to redevelop this property to include both commercial and residential uses. TopGolf would like to expand their facility, which is not possible at this location. They have a lease that runs another 12 years, but the current land owners are willing to negotiate an early exit plan. There has been some press mentioning a partnership between TopGolf and Peterson to build a new site near National Harbor.

The partnership met with Kingstowne before they started to plan the development. They are now meeting with surrounding communities and with Jeff McKay's office before they begin the planning process. They will be seeking a comprehensive plan amendment and a zoning change. When I met with them, they were not sure which mixed use des-

ignation they will need; the site is currently zoned R1 residential, one dwelling per acre) and PDH4 (planned development housing, 400 square feet of commercial/dwelling unit).

The concept they presented would have commercial development facing Van Dorn with the residential in the back. The commercial would be a u-shaped development with open space in the middle (similar to Common Market Clarendon without the internal road). There will be restaurants (no chains, per request of Kingstowne), possibly 2-stories for part of the facility; space for community use. They are considering whether they could provide some recreational activity (min-golf?) on the roof of one of the buildings. Residential will be townhouses, but their plans for this portion were not as far along.

The Ruby Tuesday restaurant is not owned by the partnership, it is separately owned. However, the partnership does own the parking around the restaurant.

