

BROOKLAND-BUSH HILL NEWS

Sept. 2019

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Local Candidates, Issues, and Hurricanes

Sandra "Jeannie" (Graham) Henry, President

BBHCA Meeting and Candidate's Night Sept. 17

Please join us at Bush Hill Elementary for the Brookland-Bush Hill Community Association meeting, beginning at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, Sept. 17th. The plan for this meeting was hear from the candidate's running for the Lee District Supervisor position being vacated at the end of the year by Jeff McKay, who has worked closely with our neighborhood for many years. However, we've learned that following the primaries this summer, Rodney Lusk will be running unopposed for the Supervisor position. We are therefore exploring a couple of options. One is to bring in candidates from one of the lower profile races—the Soil And Water Conservation District apparently has 7 candidates competing for Director, and it might be very interesting to hear from them as they are expected to play a big role in land use decisions as the development pressure in our area increases. Another com-

peted office is the county Sheriff, which has two candidates who will presumably have different visions of the future of law and order in Fairfax County. There are also several candidates for the At Large positions on the School Board, and so this would provide a good opportunity to ask about the dangerous congestion around Bush Hill Elementary in the mornings. You can check the website bbhca.net prior to the meeting to see which candidates will attend. In either case, I think we can expect a very interesting evening, and you will have the opportunity to ensure that the candidates for these offices hear about the issues that are important to you.

New Signs

A quick note that we now have new signs (with our current bbhca.net address) to announce our BBHCA meetings so look for those around the neighborhood close to the meeting date, and please help us keep them in good shape. A

COMMUNITY MEETING

September 17
(Tuesday)

7:30 pm

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

AGENDA

Board and Committee
Reports

PRESENTATION

Candidates Night

surprising number get damaged or go missing each year, and we have limited funds for replacement.

Neighborhood Resiliency and Lessons from Virginia History

This month the Virginia De-

Continued on page 6

May Meeting Minutes

President's Report:

Citizen's Advisory Committee meeting, 5/15/2019, 6:30 pm.

BBHCA Community Yard sale, 6/8/2019.

The Neighborhood Watch position is now vacant. Request a volunteer to fill this position.

Pedestrian walkway on Franconia Rd is going forward and will be completed in July 2019.

Secretary's Report:

Motion to waive the reading of the last minutes since they were published in the newsletter. Approved.

Membership Report:

Please remember to pay your dues. There are forms and envelopes in the newsletter you should have received yesterday or today.

Newsletter:

Nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report:

A copy of the Income and Expense spreadsheet was distributed. Income received this fiscal year: Membership dues \$2,130.00, donations \$410.00, and ads \$1080.00 for a total income of \$3,626.32. Expenses include the BBHCA newsletter and Liability Insurance for a total of \$1,588.62 for a profit of \$2,037.70.

Presentation by Fairfax County (FFC) Police:

Six metro stations in Northern Virginia will be closed down during the summer of 2019:

Braddock Road, King Street, Eisenhower Avenue, Huntington, Van Dorn Street and Franconia-Springfield. Scheduled to reopen September 9, 2019.

Crossing guard – short on guards which is why there is not a crossing guard at the elementary school. People are not applying as this is a part-time job with benefits but is not attracting applicants. We do not have the budget to make this a full-time opportunity.

FFC – Ten Police Officers on shift for all of Franconia and two traffic enforcement officers.

FFC will visit your home, upon request, to assess how to make your home more security safe.

Car break ins are partially due to unlocked cars. People feel safe so they aren't locking their cars. Break ins are mostly occurring at night. More noticeable police officers are driving thru the neighborhoods since the break ins.

Bush Hill Elementary – increased traffic, especially due to construction at the school. People parking everywhere and speeding through the neighborhood, blocking roads and creating issues. Advanced academics will increase traffic next year. Recommend contacting VDOT or the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for increased parking on curve of Westchester Street. Call the police non-emergency phone number, 703-691-2131, for all other parking complaints in the neighborhood. Discussion on coordinating a response with the school specifically the principal and then Jeff McCay's office.

A co-located police station and animal shelter are coming to Lorton. The facility will house the new South County Police Station. It is de-

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.

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

www.bbhca.net

Land Use Update

Carol Alim
BBHCA Land Use Representative

Oakwood Senior Housing

Just an update on this application. County Staff presented this application to the Lee District Landuse Committee on July 8, 2019.

As a reminder, this application, PA 2019 IV-RH1v (case number), is to change the comprehensive plan language to be consistent with this use. The plan currently identifies this site as open use, however the land is zoned R8 (residential, 8 dwelling units per acre) and was approved for 150 town house units.

This presentation was to address the plan amendment, not to review the site plan, which is still in development. That said, staff did present a preliminary site diagram that took into consideration the modifications to the building after the property walk through.

Current plan for the plan amendment:

- 21 August: staff report is published
- 09 September: presentation to landuse
- 11 September: Planning Commission, Public Hearing
- 24 September: Board of Supervisors

The committee focus was storm water management, transportation and parking. These items will be addressed in more detail when the site plan is brought before landuse.

You can access the staff report after 21 August on the county website by using the case number.

May Meeting Minutes

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signed to serve the residents and businesses of southern Fairfax County and should improve response times for Lorton residents who currently live on the outer fringes of the Franconia and West Springfield District Stations' coverage areas. The new station will be located on Lorton Road between Workhouse and Hooes Road. Ground breaking is scheduled for 2022.

A discussion ensued on FFC preparedness. A recommendation was to have a Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness Plan. It would include information such as, who in the neighborhood that would be available to help out, who has special skill sets, and what resources would be available during an emergency or a disaster. Looking for volunteers to develop a plan.

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President's Message

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partment of Emergency Management (VDEM) is marking the 50 year anniversary of Hurricane Camille's catastrophic arrival in Virginia. This storm was the deadliest natural disaster in Virginia history, causing massive inland flooding and mudslides that left more than 150 people dead and permanently altering the landscape in many areas. A staggering 27 inches of rain fell overnight, washing away or damaging over 100 bridges, railways and roads, and damaging or destroying more than 900 buildings. VDEM is encouraging Virginians to remember that major natural disasters can, and do, happen in Virginia, and that preparation is both necessary and effective at saving lives.

At the state level, Virginia works year round

to be ready for the annual June 1 to Nov. 30 Atlantic hurricane season, but individuals, households, businesses and organizations must take continual steps to prepare as well. Some key resources are on-line at DCR.virginia.gov/vfris, where you can learn the flood risk for your home. Also, see VAemergency.gov/hurricanes to find a list of advance steps that will help you prepare, both physical and financially, your home and family for an event. (One insurance hint: document your property with a camera before a storm hits).

Of course, hurricanes are not the only disaster of concern in our area, as the recent gas explosion in Maryland has demonstrated. VDEM, like Fairfax County, is encouraging organizations like ours to take concrete steps to build a more resilient community, and at our meeting in May we took the first steps in discussing the neighborhood framework recommended in the Fairfax County Community Emergency Response Guide plan. We received strong interest from members with key skills, but more players are needed to fill out the team that is required for this effort. We will continue to discuss and recruit around this issue--- please come to a meeting to learn more.

Neighborhood Watch Chair Needed

We are still seeking a volunteer for this position. Please see us at the September meeting or contact me at president@bbhca.net with any questions you might have. Welcoming New Families to BBHCA

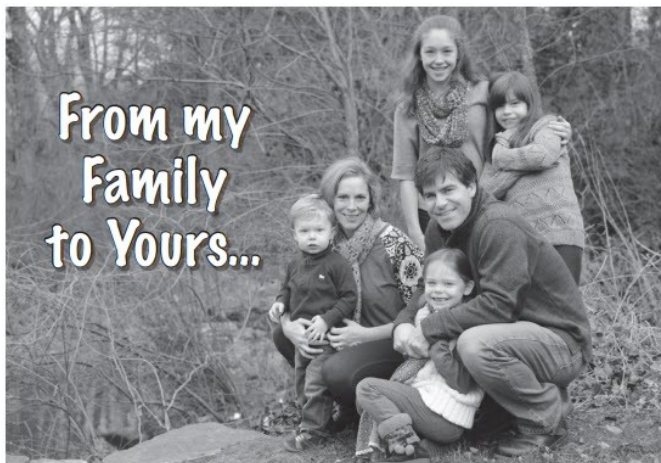
If you are reading this newsletter for the first time, we welcome you to the neighborhood and encourage you to join us at our evening meeting on Sept. 17th. You can meet a few neighbors, learn more about what makes your new neighborhood tick, and hear about local issues, concerns, and opportunities.

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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 or the "Brookland-Bush Hill Civic Association" Facebook page.

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BBHCA Board and Committees

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

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

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

Treasurer: Joan Akins,
treasurer@bbhca.net

Secretary: Danny Hawkins,
secretary@bbhca.net

Constitution and Bylaws: Bob Michie,
bylaws_constitution@bbhca.net

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

Neighborhood Watch: Mary Breedan,
neighborhoodwatch@bbhca.net

CURRENT RESIDENT
Brookland-Bush Hill
Alexandria, VA 22310

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