

# BROOKLAND-BUSH HILL NEWS

Mar. 2017

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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### A Hot Winter and Other Disquiets

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

#### November Board Elections and Budget

Please join us at our March 14th meeting of the Brookland-Bush Hill Civic Association, where we will hear from Delegate Mark Sickles following his return from the legislative session in Richmond. Following the national election, it's clear that politics is now being shaken up nation-wide, and at all levels, this year. In Richmond, where the views and interests of the southwestern part of the state often collide with the needs of our region, it's likely that this year's session will be full of surprises that have important consequences for our area. Over 1,900 House bills were introduced this year, including a number of bills dealing with state income taxes, voter registration restrictions, redefining legislator's conflicts of interest, deportation enforcement, and police surveillance videos. Come ask questions on the 14th, and hear about the new laws in place and how they will affect you. As always, it's important that we encourage our representative to keep fighting on our behalf and this is our opportunity to raise issues that are really important to us. So please join us for what is always an interesting talk by, and with, Mark Sickles. Note that we will meet in the *library* of Bush Hill Elementary that night, rather than the cafeteria.

#### March Board Elections and Budget

BBHCA Board elections did not take place at our November meeting of the BBHCA Association because we did not have the necessary number of

household present (as per our bylaws). Therefore we will need to hold our elections at the upcoming March 14th meeting. Please try to attend this meeting so that we can ensure that our election results are official for the year. 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 secretary. We will be taking nominations up to and during the March meeting. If you have questions about any of the positions, please contact Jeannie Henry at [president@bbhca.org](mailto:president@bbhca.org)

The annual budget review was delayed as well and so we will also vote on our proposed 2017 budget at the March meeting. Please be there!

#### Award Presented at November Meeting

I am proud to announce that Sharada Gilkey, who has worked tirelessly for over 20 years on behalf of BBHCA in multiple roles (including President), was presented with an Exceptional Community Service Award at our November BBHCA meeting. She has long been the backbone of our Association and, frankly, we would have failed long ago without Sharada's enormous contributions of time and energy.

While now enjoying a much deserved break, she is still our go-to expert when tricky questions of Association management or history arise. Please join your Brookland-Bush Hill neighbors in thanking and congratulat-

#### COMMUNITY MEETING

**March 14  
(Tuesday)  
7:30 pm**

**Bush Hill  
Elementary School  
(Library)**

#### AGENDA

Board and Committee Reports

#### PRESENTATION

Delegate Mark Sickles

Check Facebook for updates at  
"Brookland Bush Hill Civic  
Association"

ing Sharada when you see her next.

#### Spring Chores for a Bite-Free Summer

Our winter has been exceptionally warm this year, and as I sit here in mid-February (with windows open) it appears that the plants and the birds are already beginning their spring activities. If you are venturing out in the garden now, it is a good time to look for mosquito breeding places and dump out even the smallest amounts

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# Investigating Pet Disappearances: Managing a Stakeout

*Robert Mitchie,*  
BBHCA Constitution and Bylaws Representative

When we acquired our cats, the Rescue Volunteers put a new condition on us: keep the cats indoors. My family cats have always been indoor/outdoor animals, but we were talked into this rather strange behavior. Everyone (including the cats) soon adapted to the change, but eventually one of the cats managed to get outside. The cat named Gracie then began a walkabout in the western edge of Brookland-Bush Hill.

My family was upset at Gracie's disappearance, but I was convinced that the cat would be back at feeding time. After several days, we began searching the neighborhood on foot and on bicycle. A few days later the family wanted to put up signs. I didn't like that idea because other lost doggie and kitty signs in Brookland-Bush hill are hard to see even when you are on foot. I tried a different tactic: we made the letter-sized signs but I carried them around the neighborhood, knocked on doors, and handed them to the neighbors.

This was fun. I got to meet a lot of people and talk about cats. I soon started picking up leads about where our Gracie might be. Several people reported a strange cat hanging around homes with its own cats. That explained how Gracie was getting fed. I visited the homes and gave them my wanted poster. Before long we were getting phone calls and reports of sightings. I went out several times to attempt an apprehension. Those missions apparently impressed Gracie, and she came home on her own about a week later. She had been gone about a month.

The key was personal contact: directly asking the neighbors for help. My advice is rather than hanging wanted posters on light poles question the residents on the streets around your house and then follow up the leads. Be like the cops in "Law and Order:" do classic police work and apprehend your fugitive.



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## Neighborhood Watch Report

*Mary Breedan,*  
BBHCA Neighborhood Watch Representative

Once again, I am happy to report that I have not heard of any criminal activity in the Brookland- Bush Hill immediate area. If I have missed anything, please reach out to me and inform me of such at neighborhoodwatch@bbhca.org. Also, if you see anything suspicious or know of activity that should be brought to the attention of the Fairfax County Police Department, please send me a note and advise me of the matter. With that said, there have been several disturbing events in the general Springfield/Franconia area of which you should be aware because they are nearby or are places we frequent.

Below are some of the occurrences that warrant some attention:

- Home Invasion: Reported January 30th, three teens knocked on the door of a home on the 6500 block of Lee Valley Drive at about 2:30 in the afternoon on Friday, January 27th, knocked down a 68 year-old woman, and ransacked her home, taking an Xbox.
- 7-Eleven robbery: Two men masked men brandishing a firearm stole cash and cigarettes from the John Carlyle Street location. The men fit the description of suspects from several other similar PG County robberies.
- Packages Stolen from Doorsteps: This occurred around the holiday season across Fairfax County. Though we are passed the busy delivery season, police suggest keeping an eye on your neighbors' homes and, if you are well enough acquainted, hold their packages and notify them that you are

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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](http://www.bbhca.org).

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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.org](mailto:membership@bbhca.org)

**[www.bbhca.org](http://www.bbhca.org)**

# Land Use Update

*Carol Alim,*  
BBHCA Land Use Representative

Our last land use meeting was in November 2016. Below is an update on the three applications from that meeting.

Service Station, Backlick Rd: The concerns from earlier meeting related to the use of acorn lamps and the filtration system were resolved to the committee's satisfaction. Applicant agreed to install pervious pavers if the soil allows this type of paving. Applicant received approval from the Springvale community and from staff.

Greenspring Village Cell Tower: This application, by Verizon, is in response to requests from Greenspring residents for improved service. This property is zoned R3 and is covered by provision 2232 which permits cell towers on this zoning class. The proposed tower will be 150 feet high (165' permitted) on a 12'x20' pad with an 8' board fence surrounding

the pad. The tower will have two antennas on top with the option to add four more. The tower will be owned by Verizon sitting on land leased from Greenspring. The Greenspring proffers will have to be amended to reflect the addition of the pole.

At the time of the meeting, one balloon test had been performed; the tower was visible from two of ten communities. Since the leaves were still on the trees at the time of the test, another test will be conducted. This case will come before the committee at a later date.

Residential at Route 1 and Dart Dr: This property is located in the Mount Vernon District and was presented to Lee District as a courtesy. The property is owned by the Fairfax Housing and Development Authority, a state agency that is not part of Fairfax County government. It is located across Route 1 from Lockheed Boulevard. The trailer park portion of the property will be rezoned to R3 and the commercial portion will be rezoned to PDH (mixed use). The plan calls for...

- Along Route 1, five multi-family buildings with 279 units. These will be affordable housing, age restricted units—probably age 62.
- Along Dart there will be single family townhouses to be sold at market value.
- 10 acres of parkland will be passive recreational.
- Under discussion whether to connect Dart Road to Arlington Drive via punch through or have Dart end in cul-de-sac.

## Neighborhood Watch Report, continued from page 2

holding their packages (assuming you have phone or email to reach them).

- Burglary/Grand Larceny: There were a series of residential break-ins in the Hayfield View and Glenwood Mews communities between January 10th and 15th. They did arrest the suspect.

The above are just a few examples of the types of crimes occurring in the area and are very close to home, so be observant and diligent in protecting yourselves and neighbors. Always report any suspicious activity, even minor things. The police would rather be over-cautious than to wait for someone to be the victim of a crime.

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# November Meeting Minutes

## President's Report

Not enough household present so board positions elections to be postponed until March meeting, along with approval of the projected 2017 budget.

## Secretary's Report

The September meeting minutes were approved as published by unanimous consent.

## Newsletter Update

The November newsletter was published and mailed a few days behind schedule. There was one new advertiser in the November newsletter.

## Treasurer's Report

Both the YTD 2016 budget and projected 2017 budget were distributed. Balance for January-November stands at \$538 but there are still charges expected to come out in December..

## Land Use Report

There was a planning commission meeting on September 21st for the proposed expansion of the Shell station at Old Rolling and Franconia, and addition of new Mini Mart. Playland still has concerns about the use of the shared roadway. The project has been delayed and changes will be made to the design. Otherwise, everyone agrees that the project is a good idea, overall.

6200 Backlick Rd. Shell station has an application in for redesign. All service bays would be moved inside and the front of the building would be refinished for a more consistent look. Landscaping is also proposed. This has been approved by the committee with two conditions—that impervious pavers are used instead of concrete and that they acorn lamps are fully shielded.

Greenspring Village residents have complained to Verizon about coverage so Verizon is looking to install a cell tower. Balloon tests are to be conducted at 150' and 165' to determine visibility based on a new federal law allowing cell tower owners a 1 time height increase of 15%.

Residential development is planned for the corner of Route 1 and Dart Dr. The property is owned by Fairfax county. They intend to have a developer build low income house for the county to lease out with costs based on income. Some housing to be set aside for senior citizens.

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

Have you already renewed your BBHCA membership for 2017? Have you just moved into the neighborhood and not yet joined? Not a problem! This newsletter contains both the 2017 BBHCA Membership Form (page 3) and a self-addressed return envelop for submitting your completed forms and dues. 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 help the Civic Association remain an effective voice for the community. For the most current information on BBHCA activities, please visit the "Brookland Bush Hill Civic Association" Facebook page or go to [www.bbhca.org](http://www.bbhca.org).

## Fairfax Water Presentation

Susie Miller with Fairfax Water came out and gave a presentation on the history of Fairfax Water, an overview of their current operations, and their goals for the future. Their ultimate mission is to safeguard public health and they are consistently surpassing water quality standards. The water in our neighborhood comes from the Occoquan reservoir, through the Griffith Water Treatment Plant, and the Potomac River, through the Corbalis Water Treatment Plant. Fairfax water also maintains all 29,000 hydrants in Fairfax county and all 4,000 miles of water mains. They have a plan in place to replace their aging infrastructure in stages over the next 30+ years and intend to add the convert the Vulcan Quarry as and additional reservoir in 2 phases through 2085—this will add 15 billion gallons of water for Fairfax county. Finally, Fairfax Water's online portal is now up for payments at [fairfaxwater.org](http://fairfaxwater.org).

# BROOKLAND-BUSH HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION

5800 Bush Hill Drive  
Alexandria, VA 22310

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## BBHCA Board and Committees

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Web Site: Jackie Hawkins (interim),  
[newsletter@bbhca.org](mailto:newsletter@bbhca.org)

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## President's Message, *continued from page 1*

of standing water. Like the mosquitos, it's likely that the ticks will emerge earlier than usual this year, so don't forget to begin checking yourself for stowaways after a day of digging and weeding. Government sources ([idph.state.il.us](http://idph.state.il.us)) indicate that spraying for our Asian Tiger mosquitos is not an effective way of controlling them, as they return as soon as the spray dissipates. Nor are typical insecticides safe for bees or the predatory insects that prey on mosquitos, so they may make your problem worse in the long run. Some studies indicate that planting a diverse variety of native flowers, shrubs and trees--and creating plenty of habitat for birds, amphibians and predatory insects---may greatly reduce your problems with pest insects of all kinds. Anyone with experience in this regard may want to share that at one our meetings--we could all use some success stories about avoiding mosquitos!

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reminders!**

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