

BROOKLAND-BUSH HILL NEWS

A newsletter for the Residents of Brookland-Bush Hill and Gunnell Estates in Alexandria, VA

www.bbhca.net

Dear Neighbor

This July 2023 issue of the BBHCA newsletter is being published online. As with past newsletters, it also can be viewed, downloaded, or printed from the BBHCA website. In place of the print newsletter, we printed and mailed a BBHCA community survey and membership form.

BBHCA is run by community volunteers (your neighbors) and supported through your dues and donations. We urgently ask that you join or renew your or your family's BBHCA membership along with the survey.

The Brookland-Bush Hill Civic Association (BBHCA) is focused on maintaining your property values and preserving the quality of life in the Brookland, Bush Hill, and Gunnell Estates community. Therefore, **to better understand and serve our community, we asked residents to take a couple of minutes to complete a short survey.**

The purpose of this neighborhood civic association (BBHCA) is to provide a forum and voice for the Community, and to protect and promote the mutual interests and welfare of the Residents of Brookland, Bush Hill, and Gunnell Estates.

We serve 800+ homes and communicate with residents via its website, Facebook, newsletter, email, and community meetings. Members pay annual dues and have a vote in community issues and any actions taken by BBHCA.

BBHCA is your voice with elected and appointed officials and government agencies—state delegates and senators, Franconia District Supervisor, Virginia Department of Transportation, Fairfax County Police, School Board, and more.

We're a community that cares and takes action! But we can't do that without your support and feedback. —Your BBHCA Executive Committee

What's Next for Your Civic Association?

**We tread where others have laid the road.
We honor them as we walk new paths.**

The reality is we know what's immediately in front of us today and we don't know what's ahead. However, like a house, we require a strong foundation. In our neighborhood, there is a range of old to new homes. Likewise, some neighbors have lived here for 50+ years while others recently moved in. When you move into one of our older homes built in the 1950s, you most likely plan to update it to your liking. Or, as you know, some are torn down entirely and rebuilt to modern standards and styles.

We Have a Rich History

What is no longer visible is that the homes built here replaced farmland and a farmhouse. The area was first documented as "Bush Hill" in 1797. Before then, the land was originally "deeded" to Lord Fairfax by the King of England and subsequently "granted" to others, and on and on. Of course, in the process of the original "deeding" the land was taken from Native Americans who had lived here for thousands of years. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Native_American_tribes_in_Virginia)

You might be surprised to know that a little girl who grew up in that farmhouse on Bush Hill was still living here until recently. Some of us had the honor to hear her stories directly at a BBHCA community meeting. I wish we had recorded it! One thing I recall is that she said a winter horse and sleigh ride into DC took over 3 hours, and you had to return the same day. You are probably aghast, but remember the roads were rough paths and our highways were not built for another 60-70 years. In fact, my husband's 101-year-old great aunt recalls that Route 1 was a dirt road when she grew up and very, very dark, and dangerous at night.

The Future is Yours

So, circling back to the present and future, we can say that BBHCA has a strong foundation but the house needs updating. The BBHCA Executive Committee is in the process of updating your civic association. We remain committed to our original purpose "to provide a forum

Continued on page 6

Draft BBHCA Community Meeting Minutes

Jennifer Davis, Secretary

April 18, 2023

Motion to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2023, BBHCA Community Meeting passed.

Membership update

As of 1 January, BBHCA has 32 paid memberships/households (20 renewals and 12 new). \$660 dues and donations collected this year so far. Dues and gifts pay for the newsletter

2022 Financial Audit

An annual fiscal-year audit report is required by the BBHCA Bylaws. The Budget and Finance committee met w/BBHCA Treasurer Katie Mitchell in mid-February and audited 2022 records (bank statements, membership applications, and other financial documents). They reviewed for consistency and accuracy. The committee concluded BBHCA's fiscal health is excellent and no dues increase is needed in 2023. Some of the key financial recommendations are to explore e-banking options, more earning/investment opportunities, and an electronic membership payment method.

Other general, *nonfinancial recommendations* included: announce the dates of the quarterly meetings in advance, ensure the newsletter is delivered two weeks prior to the quarterly meeting, offer an electronic version of the newsletter*, and revise the Bylaws regarding the timing of the budget. (*Note: These are already required and/or being done.)

An attendee asked how many paying members are needed to meet the 2023 budget, Treasurer said 100 more, and noted that in the weeks after a newsletter goes out membership applications usually increase.

A copy of the audit is available online at <https://bbhca.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/2022-BBHCA-Audit-Statement.pdf>.

Treasurer's Report

So far in 2023, 3 expenses: \$590 for insurance, \$110 bond for the BBHCA Treasurer and President, and \$1392 to the printer for the April newsletter (835 copies for the bulk postage rate). Deposits totaling \$1090.

2023 Budget

Income: Projecting \$2500 in dues this year based on past years, and \$2000 in newsletter ads

Planned expenditures: \$6720. Includes bank charges, newsletter printing (\$4500 for 3 more issues), \$520 for

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH National Night Out

August 1, 2023

6–8 pm

Bush Hill Elementary School
(Parking lot next to playground)

Free soft-serve ice cream to first 50 residents in BBHCA service area.
First come, first serve.



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH supports crime prevention through neighborhood cohesiveness and collaboration. Learn how you can help keep our neighborhood safe.

► <https://bbhca.net/neighborhood-watch/>

a membership mailer (postcard); \$100 for copies, \$325 for webpage hosting; \$400 for Neighborhood Watch (see National Night Out information below); \$100 misc.

Motion to approve the 2023 budget passed.

A copy of the approved budget is available online at <https://bbhca.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/BBHCA-Adopted-2023-Budget.pdf>.

Neighborhood Watch Report

Seven resident volunteers got Fairfax County PD training earlier this year. NW Chair Carla Murillo-Gonzalez is taking names of additional volunteers and will schedule another round of training this summer or fall. The

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SELL YOUR HOME FOR MORE!



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REAL ESTATE

Draft Minutes, continued from page 2

time commitment is low—training is one hour by Zoom video call, and teaches you what to look for during routine activities. Carla is also re-engaging the community with National Night Out, which is Tues 1 Aug. This is a chance for neighbors to get to know each other and members of the police and fire departments. Franconia Police Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meets at Franconia Govt. Center the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 7 pm, BBHCA has a representative attend, they are open to all. More information about CAC can be accessed online at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/getinvolved/communityadvisorycommittee>.

Land Use

Land Use Chair Carol Alim was not present, but Sharada Gilkey provided a brief update on the Rose Hill Plaza proposal in her capacity as president of the Rose Hill Coalition. On 11 April the Franconia Board of Supervisors accepted Combined Property's (CP) nomination into the work process but in a deferred status. This means CP has to further engage with the community, but "further engage" is not defined. There was a discussion of the County review and approval process. The best way to communicate our views is via Franconia District Supervisor Rodney Lusk.

Guest Speaker Tammy Derenak Kaufax

Kaufax is Franconia's Representative to Fairfax County School Board. She has been on the school board for 12 years and a resident for 26 years. She is currently Vice Chair of the Board and is not running for re-election this year.

She started with some figures about Fairfax County School District: board members represent the county's 9 magisterial districts, +3 at-large members. District has 179K students, 25K employees; it's a very diverse system, students speak over 200 languages and come from 190 countries; 20% speak English as a second language. Budget is \$3.5 billion, 70% taxpayer funded, 20% state funded, 1% from Fed Govt.

Currently in budget season, largest ask is a 3% raise for teachers and a 1% retention bonus. Also asking for more pre-K classrooms (10 added this year). Attendance in pre-K pays off exponentially—students start school with better reading and social skills. Franconia District has 23 schools, 11 have high poverty rates with over 40% of students qualifying for free or reduced meals. She added that the proposed Rose Hill Plaza plan is bad for the high and middle schools, which are already overcrowded.

Key accomplishments during her tenure: later high school start times, full school day on Mondays, "portrait of a graduate"—initiative to design curriculum w/business and college needs in mind; curriculum for learning-disadvantaged students. Low point was politicization of

BBHCA COMMUNITY MEETING

Tuesday, July 11
7:30 pm

>> **TEMPORARY LOCATION** <<
Edison High School Cafeteria

AGENDA

- Approval of Meeting Minutes
- Board and Executive Committee Reports
- Bylaws Review and Proposed Updates
- New Business

GUEST SPEAKER

Franconia District Police Capt John Lieb

Land Use Update

Carol Alim, BBHCA Representative, Franconia District Land Use Committee

The Franconia District Land Use Committee recommended approval of a new self-storage facility in Springfield at Brandon and Commerce.

Braddock District Supervisor established a Lake Accotink Committee to evaluate options for maintaining/preserving the lake. Costs for dredging have become very expensive and County planning staff is recommending the dredging be terminated. Supervisor Walkinshaw requested that a member of the Franconia Land Use Committee also be assigned to the committee; Marta Morrissey was appointed. I will serve on a Franconia Sub-committee.

The next Franconia Land Use Committee meeting will be held virtually on July 10, 2023. Meetings are open to the public.

▶ <https://bbhca.net/land-use/>

Follow BBHCA on Facebook for regular updates on issues, notices, and events relevant to our neighborhood.

www.facebook.com/bbhca.net

Nothing compares to what's next.

Let's find what's in store for you.



Raquel
Gutierrez

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@Raquelrealtour

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What's Next for Your Civic Association,

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and voice for the community, and to protect and promote the mutual interests and welfare of the residents of Brookland-Bush Hill and environs.”

Among the “items on the table”, the executive committee has recently discussed include how to best serve our community, how to increase involvement by our residents, how to manage the business of BBHCA, how to provide more benefits to members, how to distribute the newsletter, and how to maintain our influence with our government representatives. It’s a tall order and we need your involvement. The future is yours!

History of Bush Hill

If you do wish to peek back into the history of “Bush Hill”, I’ve posted on our website an article that was written in 1994-95 by one of our residents, Aaron Weber, which chronicles the transfer and development of the land from 1706. It’s an interesting read for sure, though a bit long. He put a lot of work into researching it! We also have a resident civil war author, Bill Connery. Likewise, the Franconia Museum published a series of books called, *Franconia Remembers*. Additional historical documents also are posted on our website.

▶ <https://bbhca.net/about-us/local-history-resources/>

Franconia Museum

We are fortunate to have a museum dedicated to the history of Franconia. The museum is located in the Franconia Government Center. Hundreds of historical items have been donated and collected over the years since the museum was founded by local residents and historians in 2001. For a quick preview of the museum, current programs, newsletter, and bios on key members of the community, visit the website. Of course, you will get the best view in person. Even better, it’s free!

▶ <https://myrosehill.snappages.site/>

Tribute to Carl Sell

The BBHCA has been fortunate to have a neighbor named Carl Sell. He has been the president of the Rose Hill Civic Assn for many years, a resident historian and current president of the Franconia Museum, former planning commissioner, and long-time advisor to BBHCA. We congratulate him on his recent award as Fairfax Community Champion. He has been that and more. We extend our genuine thanks to Carl for his many years of dedication to the Franconia community. An article from the Rose Hill Rambler is reprinted here as recognition of his contributions.

Carl Sell Honored as Fairfax County Community Champion

By Daniel Bearth

Carl Sell, president of the Rose Hill Civic Association and a long-time advocate for youth sports, parks and recreation and historic preservation in Fairfax County, was recognized as a 2023 Community Champion in a ceremony May 10 at the Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center in Fairfax, VA.

Franconia District Supervisor Rodney Lusk nominated Carl for the Volunteer Service Award and praised his work over six decades as a youth baseball coach, community organizer and representative of Lee District (now Franconia) for the Fairfax County Park Authority and Fairfax County Planning Commission.

“He has made many outstanding contributions resulting in the preservation of our district’s history, expansion of our parks and development of our neighborhoods,” Lusk said. “Because of Carl’s servant leadership, his work will continue to positively impact our residents for decades to come.”

Carl was a sportswriter and editor at the Evening Star newspaper in Washington, D.C. when he began coaching baseball in the early 1960s. He helped to expand the Pioneer Baseball League, coached the first female to play organized youth baseball in Fairfax County and extended opportunities for black youths to play.

While serving at the Park Authority, Sell oversaw the acquisition of an abandoned gravel pit that would become the site of Franconia Park and Rec Center. And in 1975, working with Supervisor Joe Alexander and Sen. Harry F. Byrd of Virginia, he helped negotiate a transfer of federally owned land to create Huntley Meadows Park and a nationally recognized wetland.

As a member of the Planning Commission, one of the major accomplishments was the planning and rezoning of another former gravel pit for what is now the large and thriving community of Kingstowne.

Reprinted with permission from the [Rose Hill Civic Association](#) (The Rambler, 2023, Q2, page 5)

Got A Problem?

Our website features a page with links to various resources and agencies specific to common issues. BBHCA does not enforce laws and County regulations, nor are we a mediator.

▶ <https://bbhca.net/got-a-problem/>

Animal Allies Seeking Volunteers

Lillie Suthard

Hello, I'm your neighbor Lillie and I volunteer with the Alexandria Chapter of Animal Allies as their fundraiser and adoption coordinator. Some of you may have called us for help or adopted from us! We have been rescuing, rehabilitating, and re-homing companion animals in Alexandria, Woodbridge, and the surrounding area since 1984. Last year we were able to get 123 cats and kittens adopted, and we hope to continue growing our services and supporting our community with your help!



Animal Allies is run completely by volunteers, including members of our local community who foster the cats we rescue in their homes until they are adopted into their forever families. We work with our local veterinarians to ensure the well-being of the animals we take in, and promote spaying and neutering as an important part of responsible population control and pet ownership.

We also work in our neighborhood and local area to humanely trap, neuter, and return cats that are not able to be socialized, while taking in as many cats and kittens that can be re-homed as we have volunteer fosters to support.

At Animal Allies we regularly respond to calls and emails from our concerned community members about homeless cats and kittens, like a mother cat and three babies who appeared on Brookland Road last year. We managed to trap the entire family and get them fixed, vaccinated, and adopted out to loving homes. Recently, we received a call about a feral cat in Groveton whose paw was caught in a leg-hold trap. One of our volunteers rescued him and immediately took him to the emergency vet to have the trap removed. Unfortunately, his paw was so badly crushed that it had to be amputated. It has been a long recovery, but he is doing well, and we are thankful to the community members who alerted us and our volunteers and local services who helped save his life.

Animal Allies does not have a physical shelter, so we hold meet and greets in the comfort of our foster homes.

General Election Fall 2023

Candidates for Franconia Supervisor

Paul F. Beran (Republican)

▶ <https://www.berangoodnews.com/>

Rodney Lusk (Democrat)

▶ <https://www.luskforsupervisor.com/>

Mark T. Welch (Independent)

▶ <https://www.markforsupervisor.org/>

For more information, see the following:

Fairfax County Office of Elections

703-222-0776

▶ <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/>

Virginia Department of Elections

(804) 864-8901

▶ <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/>

The Virginia Public Access Project

▶ https://www.vpap.org/offices/fairfax-county-supervisor-franconia-elections/?year_and_type=2023regular

Voter Registration

703-222-0776

▶ <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/voter-registration>

Working at the Polls

▶ <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/officers/new-officers>

Martha, the owner of Sonny's Place, has generously lent us the use of her cat room for meet and greets, adoptions, and temporary boarding. We still need foster homes in order to get more kitties off the streets and into loving families.

To learn more about us, please visit us online. To volunteer, scroll down to the volunteer link and fill out our foster form). We provide supplies and all veterinary care—you just give them a temporary home and lots of love!

▶ www.animalalliesva.org

BBHCA Website

New

Official Documents

<https://bbhca.net/home/official-documents/>

Local History Resources

<https://bbhca.net/about-us/local-history-resources/>

Volunteer

<https://bbhca.net/volunteer/>

Updated

Home page

<https://bbhca.net/>

Membership

<https://bbhca.net/membership/>

Neighborhood Watch

<https://bbhca.net/neighborhood-watch/>

Community Resources

<https://bbhca.net/community-resources/>

Resources

Fairfax County Police (Contact Info and Updates)

https://bbhca.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/How-to-Contact-the-Fairfax-Cty-Police-Dept_2022.pdf

BBHCA Links

Website

<https://bbhca.net/>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/bbhca.net>

Note: You can read anything on a Facebook page without a Facebook account, as all Facebook pages are public. You just won't be able to leave comments or interact with it in any other way.

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/bbhca2023/>

Email

bbhca2022@gmail.com

Membership Application ([PDF](#))

2023 Community Survey ([PDF](#) | [online form](#))

2023 Advertising Contract ([PDF](#))

2023 Approved Budget ([PDF](#))

2022 Financial Audit Report ([PDF](#))

Invasive Vines KILL TREES

Non-native vines smother and strangle trees—weighing them down so they lose branches or fall over. Snipping these vines buy trees time until more permanent measures are taken.

Porcelain Berry

- Hojas grandes
- Bayas multicolores en otoño



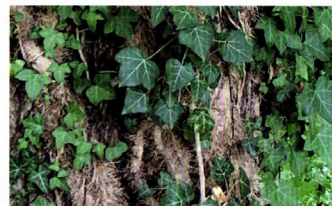
Oriental Bittersweet

- Bayas rojas y amarillas en otoño



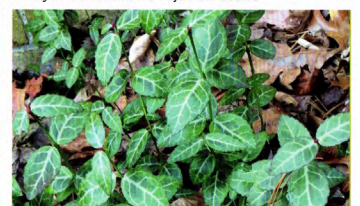
English Ivy

- Enredadera siempreverde
- Tallo simple o peludo



Wintercreeper

- Enredadera siempreverde
- Bayas de rosadas a rojas en otoño



Asian Wisteria

- Enredadera leñosa
- Fragantes flores moradas en primavera



Japanese Honeysuckle

- Flores fragantes en verano
- Bayas negras en otoño



**PlantNovaTrees.org/
Rescuing-Trees**

2023 Community Survey



COMPLETE
ONLINE

BBHCA is focused on maintaining your property values and preserving the quality of life in the Brookland, Bush Hill, and Gunnell Estates community. To better understand and serve you/your family, we ask you to take a quick couple of minutes to complete this survey.

1. How many years have you lived in our community? 5 or less 6-10 11-15 16-20 20+

2. Are you a current member of BBHCA Yes No Not sure Joining today!

If **NO**, why? (Check all that apply)

- Never heard of BBHCA
- Not sure what BBHCA does
- BBHCA activities don't interest or affect me
- Didn't know dues were required to be a member
- Don't support the civic association's purpose or activities
- Too expensive
- Don't know how to join
- Don't know what dues are used for
- Prefer electronic payment option
- Too busy to care
- _____
- _____

3. Do you attend Brookland-Bush Hill Civic Association (BBHCA) meetings?

If **YES**, how often? Always 1-2 times a year 3-4 times a year

If **NO**, why? (Check all that apply)

- Dates/Times inconvenient
- Too busy with other obligations
- Aware but not interested
- Don't know when/where
- _____
- _____

4. Do you read the BBHCA newsletter? Yes No

5. What topics are you interested in? (Check all that apply)

- Board and Committee Reports
- Community Crime Updates
- BBHCA Community Meeting Minutes
- Fairfax County Community/Government Services
- Fairfax County Family Events
- Fairfax County Resources
- Franconia History
- Gardening
- Land Use and Zoning (i.e., Rose Hill Plaza)
- Local Traffic and Metro News
- Neighbor interviews/profiles
- Social Services (i.e., elder care, public health)
- _____
- _____

6. Do you follow BBHCA's Facebook page? Yes No

7. What activities would you like to see offered by the BBHCA? (Check all that apply)

- Community Yard Sale
- Community Day
- Food Trucks
- Neighborhood/Park Clean-up Day
- Additional lectures on special topics
- Business-sponsored events (i.e., document shredding)
- _____
- _____
- _____

8. BBHCA needs volunteers! Please check how you would like to help your neighborhood:

- Board member
- Committee Chair
- Committee Member
- A couple hours:
 - 4x a year
 - 2x a year
 - Once a year

9. What suggestions or questions do you have for BBHCA?

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
Brookland-Bush Hill Civic Association

Membership Year: January 1–December 31

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 website, 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. Dues are applied to the year received.

NAME: (LAST) _____ (FIRST) _____

NAME: (LAST) _____ (FIRST) _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

(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
6020 Mayfair Lane
Alexandria, VA 22310

Questions?

E-mail: membership@bbhca.net



You also can join online at www.bbhca.net > membership

Visit BBHCA Virtually

www.bbhca.net

- Hot Topics
- About Us
- Community Meetings and Events
- BBHCA News
- Membership
- Volunteer
- Land Use
- Constitution and Bylaws
- Community Resources
- Neighborhood Watch
- Got A Problem?
- Contact Us

www.facebook.com/bbhca.net

BBHCA Board and Committees

President

Sharada Gilkey (interim)

First Vice-President, Communications

Sharada Gilkey

Second Vice-President, Membership

Raquel Gutierrez

Treasurer

Katie Mitchell

Secretary

Jennifer Davis

Constitution and Bylaws Committee

Vacant

Land Use Committee

Carol Alim

Neighborhood Watch Committee

Carla Murillo-Gonzalez

Yard Sale Committee

Vacant

bbhca2022@gmail.com

www.bbhca.net

www.facebook.com/bbhca.net

We Need You!

Share your talents!

Get experience!

Add to your resume!

Make a difference in your
community!

Meet your neighbors!

The Brookland-Bush Hill Civic Association is run by a community of volunteers—your neighbors! Join us for a common cause. What do we need? A little bit of everything!

- President
- First Vice President, Communications
- Second Vice President, Membership
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Membership Committee
- Neighborhood Watch
- Land Use
- Bylaws and Constitution
- Yard Sale
- Special Events
- Financial Audit
- Newsletter
- Nominations
- Website
- Facebook Page

Sign Me Up!

<https://bbhcavolunteer.gvtls.com/>

Question?

Send us an email at

bbhca2022@gmail.com