

THE ECCHO

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

December! A fun and hectic time for so many, but here in CCH I enjoy the quiet beauty of the season as well as the flurry (are we finally going to be able to stow away that mower?!).

This fall the neighborhood had a bunch of new events which I know many of you enjoyed. Building on the informative, and really pretty amazing, introduction to dog obedience by Randy Mouri, many CCH pooches got treated to a pedicure at an unbeatable group rate. Maybe we should look into a manicurist for people too! Anyway, for now we'll stick with dog nail clipping. You can read more about that event and future plans in this newsletter, but especial thanks to Donna Sabo and Leslie Daniels who were the prime movers in making those great canine events happen. Halloween was a blast, with great weather, a Saturday night, and lots of wonderful costumes. Thanks to Nina Prescott and family for putting together a very fun event again this year! Katy Johnson's lovely photos are on the website - her photographic talent (plus great subject matter of course!) really make a perusal worth your time! Pretty cute dog photos by Katy from the dog clipping event are up there too, so if you missed those, be sure and check them out while you are there.

Then in November, we had our first ever CCH Craft Fair. Although the weather didn't fully cooperate, the crafters and shoppers enjoyed a morning of local, neighborly good spirits thanks in large part to Leslie Daniels powerful organizational (and knitting) skills. We're already making plans for next year. So bring on your ideas and enthusiasm and we'll help make your idea happen too!

And yet some of our "funnest" events are right around the corner! The scoop on visits from Santa and our illustrious Holiday Decorations Contest is in this newsletter.

Meanwhile, before things get too hectic, please take a moment to renew your membership for 2016. Our membership drive officially starts on January 1 and we'll be raffling gift cards

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Dog Nail Clipping, Dogwood Trees	6	Mar 3	CCHCA Board of Directors Meeting
CCHCA Online	7	Apr 21	Annual Meeting @ Blenheim
... and much more!			

BLOCK CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Hello to all the residents of CCH. I want to wish you a very happy and healthy Christmas holiday, seems like the year has gone very fast.

And thank you very much to all of our Block Captains for their service this year delivering all the newsletters, our directory, and all the event flyers. Since not all of our neighbors receive our e-mails, you perform an important service by letting them know what is happening in the neighborhood and I'm sure it is much appreciated.

Happy New Year to you all,
Vera Daniels, VP, Block Captains

Board Committees

Comm. Appearance	Jennifer Judelsohn	703-273-0485
Welcoming	David Stearman	703-642-2465
Historian	Bob Pratt	703-352-4891
Website	Ernie Klimonda	703-591-0696
+ co-chair	Stephen Lescure	703-591-2452
Yahoo Group Mod.	Ernie Klimoda	703-591-0696
+ co-chair	Judy Fraser	703-825-7022
Street Signs	Ariel Harwick	
Recycling	Katie Baxter-Gagan	703-385-7737
Neighbor-to-Neighbor	David Stearman	703-642-2465

DO YOU KNOW YOUR BLOCK CAPTAIN?

Toby Sorensen (10137 SLT)

Route 3E (10110, 10112, 10114, 10116, 10118, 10120, 10122 Farmington; 10137, 10139, 10141, 10143 SLT)

Toby and her husband, John Slonina, moved to Country Club Hills from Chicago in 1990 when their children were three, five, and eight so that John could work at the Pentagon.

She became involved in the civic association in the early 1990's, first as a newsletter editor, then as the treasurer. Toby has been a block captain for at least ten years - probably longer, she can't remember exactly!

She has also been a member of the City School Board since 2008. and is the current board chair. The children all graduated from Fairfax High School, went off to college, and returned to live nearby. Their son, Pete, was just married this year.

Toby and John love living in Fairfax City, a neighborly oasis in the middle of a huge county, and especially love this neighborhood. Look for them out walking their wonderful red poodle, Lucy.

A big thank you to Toby for all of her years of service to CCH and Fairfax City.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONT.)

to your favorite local restaurants again this year, so be sure and get your dues in asap! Look for more info inside from our master of membership, vice president Stephanie Justen.

Hope you enjoy this great newsletter that editor-in-chief Amy Levy makes look easy. And hope you also enjoy the wonders of the coming winter and a very happy new year!

Judy Fraser
President, CCHCA

SANTA CLAUS

Santa Claus will be visiting Country Club Hills on **Tuesday, December 15** and **Thursday, December 17, from 6:00-9:00pm each night.**

A cleaned chimney is not required, as he will be knocking on your front door. (Although you might want to take care of that soon; it's getting chilly!)

Registrations are now open for this year's visits. Please fill out the registration form (last page in this newsletter), or available at the website cchca.org, and turn a completed copy in to Leslie Woods by 6pm, December 13th.

While I understand some people will want to just pick up the phone, please do not call to request a reservation unless you have missed the December 13th deadline and want to see if there are any slots still available, as Santa uses the information on the form during his visit.

Forms may be submitted in person or via email — see form for details.

Your contact information is very important, with an email address being preferred. This is how you will be notified of when you can expect a knock on the door from Old Saint Nicholas.

You must be a current member of the CCHCA to be eligible for a visit. If you are not currently a member, becoming a new member for 2016 (see Membership Drive information below) will satisfy that requirement.

Please remember to leave any gifts from Santa for your children on the front steps.

A huge thank you to those of you who have volunteered to be assistant elves and drivers!

Any questions or comments may be directed to Amy Levy (amymlevy@gmail.com) or Leslie Woods (woods.leslie@gmail.com).

FAIRFAX NEIGHBORHOOD CRAFT FAIR

Hi CCH Neighbors,

On Saturday, 14 November, we held a neighborhood holiday craft fair at The Commons from 9:30 – 12. It was supposed to be on the 7th but we were rained out.

Six vendors showed up from CCH and Old Lee Hills showing jewelry, clocks, personalized soap dispensers, and knitted scarves.

Unfortunately, while it was a beautiful day,

the wind was gusting at 20-30 miles per hour so we had a hard time holding on to our tables, chairs, and beautiful items for sale.

Thank you to those of you who braved the wind to come down to view and buy our wares, hope they are enjoyed by you or the person you bought them for.

We plan to hold it again next year, so get crafting.

Leslie Daniels

CCHCA ONLINE

For more information about our electronic media, including our website and newsgroups, please contact: Ernie Klimonda webmaster@cchca.org, gqmoderator@cchca.org or 703-591-0696

2016 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The annual CCHCA membership drive will take place from now until the end of January. If you haven't already, please consider paying your annual CCH membership dues by January 31, 2016. Dues are only \$15 per year and help pay for events such as our Labor Day picnic, Halloween Party, End-of-School Ice Cream Social as well as our quarterly newsletters, yearly updated CCH Directory, the care and upkeep of the Common Area, Santa Claus's visits, Holiday Decoration Contest, Easter Egg Hunt and more! If you cannot remember whether or not you have paid for 2016, please contact Stephanie Justen, membership vice president (kjusten2@gmail.com) and she will look up your membership status.

If you join or renew your membership in CCHCA before January 31, 2016 your name will automatically be entered into a drawing for one of four gift certificates to restaurants and businesses within Fairfax City! We will have one drawing each week during the month of January, so the sooner you pay your dues, the more chances you have to win. Drawings will take place at noon on January 8, 15, 22 and 29. Board of Directors officers are not eligible to win

To renew or join CCHCA, simply go to the website: www.cchca.org and go to the Membership Application tab, You will be instructed on how to renew your membership for one or two years using the PayPal payment option. If you would rather pay by check, please take a moment to fill out the membership form included with this newsletter and return it with payment to Keith and Stephanie Justen, 3420 Andover Drive.

2015 WINTER DECORATION CONTEST

It's time once again for our CCHCA Neighborhood Winter Decorations Contest!

Help bring the Light of the Season to life by decorating your yard for the holidays! Wow us with your imagination and ingenuity!

Judging will take place on **Monday, December 21, 2015**, after sundown.

Turn your lights on as soon as it's dark! All entries must be well-lit for night judging.

The Country Hills Garden Club judges will cruise through the neighborhood looking at displays on the evening of Monday, December 21, after sundown. Homes will be judged based on curbside appeal only. Judges will not enter the property.

Recognition will be given for the best in each category.

We look forward to your participation! This year's categories are:

TRADITIONAL: Think Currier and Ives, Victorian, sleigh bells and holly, old-fashioned Santa Claus and reindeer, Christmas trees, poinsettias, wreaths, lighting, ornaments.

BEST LIGHTING: All things illuminated! Lights on the house, roof, in trees, shrubs, wreaths, and garlands, illuminated characters such as Santas, toy soldiers, snowmen, etc. Whatever you do, shine a light on it!

OVERALL EXCELLENCE: For those who put it all together (lights, greenery, door and window decorations, yard, etc.) Simple or extravagant, the overall effect is what counts.

LOCAL MOMS GROUP

Are you a Mom in Country Club Hills or Old Lee Hills? Expecting a baby or looking forward to welcoming a child? In need of some friends and a good support network?

Please join the Neighborhood Moms' Group!

- * A great way to meet friends and build up your "village," whether you're from around here or not.
- * Monthly "kid-- free" evening meetings for friendship, support, and refreshments.
- * Meals for families welcoming new children.
- * Google Group for sharing information and crowdsourcing ideas and questions
- * Weekend free-- play standing appointment at My Gym Burke for our small kiddos (great for getting out the weekend/winter wiggles)
- * December Holiday Cookie Exchange and End-- of-- Year June/July Picnic
- * Shared support of a family in need through Our Daily Bread's Holiday Program

To join or for more information, please contact:

Lindsay Barry, President, Old Lee Hills resident, at lindsay.c.barry@gmail.com or

Leslie Woods, Treasurer, Country Club Hills resident, at woods.leslie@gmail.com

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CCH DOG NAIL CLIPPING DAY

Hi Neighbors,

On Sunday, 18 October, CCH held our first dog nail clipping day at The Commons from 11-2. There was a Sign-up Genius for all those who wanted a set appointment; we also had 10 walk-in slots. Our groomer, Janice, set up in our shelter and, luckily, we had cool but sunny weather for all the owners with their dogs to just walk down there instead of needing a car trip to the vet or pet store.

The cost was only \$5 a dog, a tip was optional. By 2pm, Janice had clipped the nails of 27 dogs. And we had many favorable comments about Janice and the event.

We will arrange another one in April once the cold weather is past. If you do not receive CCH e-mails, you will be able to contact Leslie Daniels at 703-383-1272 so she can put you on the schedule. Watch for news in the Spring newsletter.

A QUESTION ABOUT DOGWOOD TREES

I was speaking to a Fairfax City arborist at the Fairfax Fair in October about the dogwood trees that are planted all over CCH in the verge area between the sidewalks and street.

They were planted years ago by the city to beautify the neighborhood. However, it hasn't worked out well for some of the trees since there isn't much room for their roots to grow.

I wanted to know who was responsible for taking care of them since my one tree has some branches that are broken and hanging down.

I know from my walks around CCH of many others that are broken or dying.

The arborist said if you have some of these dogwoods and need to have them trimmed or assessed for health, you should call the Office of Public Works, 703-385-7810. If the city feels they are not healthy, they will let you know and you can decide if you want the city to remove them. You should know, though, that the city does not have funds available for planting trees.

Leslie Daniels



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Thank you to all our advertisers, whose support helps fund our many activities throughout the year.

We hope you take advantage of your neighbors' services.

Hildie Carney, Advertising Chair: 703-591-5305

CCH HISTORY

Have you been to the Fairfax Museum on Main Street? It was the first elementary school in Fairfax, and was built in 1873. The museum produces exhibits on city-related history.

If you're a quilter or a quilt aficionado then you should head over there and learn about a WPA project that employed quilters at the old Fairfax Courthouse from 1936 thru 1941. The exhibit ends on March 28th. Upstairs at the museum is a permanent exhibit dedicated to the town/city of Fairfax. The exhibit traces the history of the area from when it was inhabited by Indians, through colonial times, the civil war, its time as a farming village, and the more recent suburbanization period.

There's an amusing quote on display from George Washington in regard to his experience with the roads in this area in 1774. He calls them "the worst roads that ever was trod by Man or Beast". I guess some things never change.

The exhibit at the Museum led me to wonder about the nature of our neighborhood before it became Country Club Hills. What was here before all the houses? Who owned it and what did they do with it the land? The library has numerous resources available to research City history. The Hopkin's Map published in 1878 shows the local roads and landowners. A landowner had to pay \$5 to have his name on the map, \$10 for the name to appear in large type.

Judging from this map, it's clear that the Willcoxon family owned the land that would eventually become CCH.

In 1810 Rezin Willcoxon owned one thousand acres in the area, and in 1854 his son Albert bought 367 acres from this father. His land included, what is now the police station, CCH, Old Lee Hills and Daniels Run Elementary. He operated a farm, growing mostly wheat and oats and ran it with slaves. The land remained in the hands of the Willcoxon's for four generations. The family lived in the Blenheim house through the Civil War when the area was occupied by northern troops (which must have been uncomfortable for Albert, since he voted for secession). After the war the Willcoxon's turned to dairy farming, like many farmers in Fairfax County.

The county was the largest dairy producer in Virginia for a long period and was very successful. Albert died in 1885, and his wife Mary in 1903. Albert's son Harry inherited the house and land on the CCH side off Old Lee Highway and his sister, Bessie inherited what is now Old Lee Hills. The green house with the high wall on the corner of Old Post Road, was her home. In 1948 the 4th generation Barbara Scott and her Mother 3rd generation Margarite Duras sold all except 12 acres, the surrounding land which become CCH.

Today, the home of Albert and the 12 acres is a City Park and houses a Civil War Museum and is open for all residents to enjoy. So there you have it. What was in our neighborhood before we all showed up? Cows. Thanks to Karen Moore of the Fairfax City Library and Andrea Lowenwarter, Historic Resources Specialist of Historic Blenheim for their help with this article.
—Steve Lescure, CCH Historian 2011-2012

EDITOR'S NOTE

I look forward to hearing what you like... and what you don't like... about this issue. Send your comments to editor@cchca.org. And thanks.

Country Club Hills Civic Association

Founded 1954

60 YEARS SERVING OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

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MEMBERSHIP FORM

Your membership strengthens our community!

Membership year: January 1 - December 31, 2016 Dues: \$15/year/household

Members are allowed to post messages on our CCH-Yahoo-Group and have access to the online CCH Directory

Name of Resident(s)		
Street Address		Home Phone
Email 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Add to Yahoo Group <input type="checkbox"/> Add to Online Directory	Cell Phone(s)
Email 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Add to Yahoo Group <input type="checkbox"/> Add to Online Directory	<input type="checkbox"/> New Member OR <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 year (\$15) OR <input type="checkbox"/> 2 years (\$30)		<input type="checkbox"/> Check OR <input type="checkbox"/> Cash
<input type="checkbox"/> I can help more! Additional funds for Common Area maintenance enclosed \$ _____ Additional funds for Social Activities enclosed \$ _____		

Would you or any member of your household like to offer any of the following in the next CCH Directory:

☐ Babysitting/pet-sitting/yard work services (specify type of work; if under 18 please include parent signature as permission and give year of birth):

☐ Other services you or your business offer (please provide name and type of service):

☐ Lessons you provide: i. e. music/instrument/language/other:

Please let us know if you are interested in any of the following:

☐ Volunteering your services for the CCH Civic Association Board and / or committees

☐ Garden Club ☐ forming or joining other groups or clubs _____

☐ Advertising in the CCH Directory or newsletters

☐ Joining the CCHCA Yahoo Newsgroup. (Indicate which emails you would like added to the Yahoo Group above)

☐ NEW! Sign up for the online CCH Residents Directory by emailing eklimonda@gmail.com to request access.

Make checks payable to: Treasurer CCHCA Please return form and payment to:

VP Membership Stephanie Justen, 3420 Andover Drive, Fairfax VA 22030

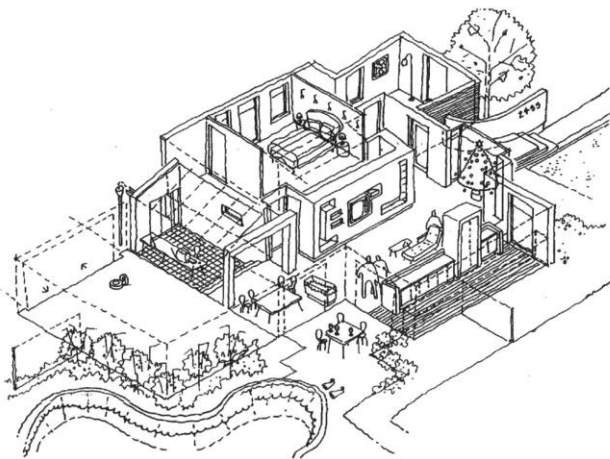
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Country Club Hills Civic Association A Visit From Santa — Registration Form

**Santa Claus will visit CCH on Tue. Dec 15 and Thur. Dec 17, 2015 from 6-9pm.
Registration and CCHCA membership is required.**

Complete all fields in this section (please print).

Resident Name(s)	Street Address
Are you currently a CCHCA member?	Contact <input type="checkbox"/> Home phone <input type="checkbox"/> Cellphone <input type="checkbox"/> Email
Has Santa visited before? If so, how many times?	

The children Santa will meet are:

Name / Relationship (son, daughter, etc)	Age	Any hobbies, sports, favorite activities?

Scheduling: Please indicate all available times below using 1-6 in order of preference, leave blank if not available.

Tuesday, Dec 15 @ ___ 6-7pm ___ 7-8pm ___ 8-9pm

Thursday, Dec 17 @ ___ 6-7pm ___ 7-8pm ___ 8-9pm

I ___am ___am not willing to host another family and share Santa's visit.

Completed forms will be accepted until 6:00pm, Sunday, December 13th.

Forms may be submitted to Leslie Woods:

- by dropping it off at 3403 Park Hill Place
- by email (PDF or JPG) to woods.leslie@gmail.com

!

If you are not **currently** a CCHCA member, please be sure to also complete a membership

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