

[**E C C H O**]

APRIL 2008

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- CCHCA Board Meeting and General Elections May 15
- CCHCA Membership drive is on NOW
- City Council Elections May 6—Don't Miss Your Chance to Vote!
- Help Clean Up Accotink Creek April 26

**CCHCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2008–2009 ELECTIONS**

The purpose of the Country Club Hills Civic Association is to encourage civic improvement, to promote the general welfare of the community, to represent the community's viewpoints to the City government, to further the appearance and safety of the neighborhood, and to develop community social activities. Members of the Board of Directors are limited to two one-year terms in any given office. Their reward comes from you, the members who support, participate in and enjoy the activities and events that CCHCA sponsors.

Board elections are scheduled to take place at the next general meeting, scheduled for May 15, 2008 in the Daniels Run Elementary School cafeteria. Meetings are held at least quarterly. We're currently searching for a Social Committee Co-Chair. This committee is responsible for planning social events throughout the year: Easter egg hunts, progressive dinner parties, Halloween costume contests, and the other events that help make this a great neighborhood to live in.

If you'd like to run for any office or volunteer for a committee, please attend the May 15 meeting. You may also want to contact the CCHCA president Katie Baxter-Gagen at katiepbg@yahoo.com.

**CCH GREENING UP
ISSUE**

Spring has sprung! The trees have leafed out and the birds are back. The lawnmowers are oiled up and making the first trek across the lawn. Some of us have extremely active woodpeckers hammering our gutters at 6AM.

We've been busy here in Country Club Hills. We've hosted our first Progressive Dinner, the annual Easter Egg Hunt, and look forward to the April 26 Accotink Creek clean up day.

The focus of this issue is keeping things green — in more ways than one. Read on to find out more about recycling here in the City, growing our CCHCA membership, efforts to keep our neighborhood clean, and some great information about the benefits of trees.

STAYING IN THE ZONE

As property values and the cost of living soar, some homeowners may consider segregating single family homes into multiple rental units with independent kitchens.

However, doing so is a violation of the City's zoning code. If a single family structure is segregated to provide separate, independent living areas for different groups or "families," the homeowner is in violation of zoning regulations.

Further, if additional kitchen areas are added to a single family dwelling without a special use permit, the dwelling is in violation of the zoning ordinance.

Construction of an accessory dwelling unit – *a separate additional living unit, including separate kitchen, sleeping, and bathroom facilities, within a single family residence* -- requires special permission by the City Council.

The Zoning Office regularly responds to reports of illegally established accessory dwelling units. If the violation is not corrected, the city can issue fines and initiate legal proceedings to gain compliance.

For more information on how to legally establish an accessory dwelling unit or to report illegal accessory dwelling units, call 703-385-7820.

THANK A NEIGHBOR

Has a CCH neighbor shoveled your driveway or mowed your lawn? Maybe she baked cookies for you or planted a tree that you can enjoy from your

kitchen window. Maybe he offered a helping hand on move-in day or you just want to thank him/her for keeping his yard looking great. Show

your appreciation for someone who has done something kind for you. Send your kindness story to alexisadamson@yahoo.com and we'll print it in

a future newsletter. A small effort can really brighten someone's day.

Let's Have A GREEN Time Together

Please join in Accotink Creek clean-up day

Saturday, April 26

1pm-4pm

Get back outdoors

Re-acquaint with nature and neighbors

Elevate your ecological consciousness

Experience new friendships – we

Need new faces / every ONE makes a big difference

INTERESTED?

MEET AT CCHCA COMMONS AREA

We've planned this activity in conjunction with City of Fairfax Clean-Up Day (April 26th) ... and to help commemorate April as the City of Fairfax Clean-Up Month... BAGEL and DOUGHNUT fortification...While they last

Any Questions:

Contact Steve Caruso, VP Community Safety / Adopt-a-Spot

At smcestop@msn.com or call 703-273-3085

RSVP not necessary but appreciated!

PROGRESSIVE DINNER GREAT FUN

The CCHCA Global Progressive Dinner was a hit!

Ten residents began our first course at the home of Pamela Spraker. She served scrumptious Spanish tapas and festive sangria was provided by Alisa and Patrick Scibilia-Kyle.

Walking to the home of Jill Toth for course number two, we were delighted by a breathtaking sunset. At Jill's, Katie and Chris Baxter-Gagen served a hearty African stew and Kristin and Chris Wilson-Keppler provided fantastic Pasta with vodka marinara

sauce. Patrice Winter joined us for dinner, which was a pleasant addition!

Afterwards, we all headed toward Jay and Lisa Whetzel's home for yummy chocolate fondue, made by Dia and Marty Pullen, and aperitifs. It's not surprising that we had to force ourselves to continue from course to course.

Each home was so comfortable; the food and atmosphere were perfect for lingering all night.

This is an event not to be missed next year!

We will do our best next year to advertise the



MEET THE DELEGATE

David Bulova of the Virginia House of Delegates is confirmed for a discussion with residents of CCH at our general meeting on May 15 at 7PM at the Daniels Run Elementary School Cafeteria.

He is available to speak on a variety of general

issues or address specific concerns we have as a neighborhood (or personally for that matter).

if you would like to ensure Mr. Bulova comes to the meeting with specific information or answers, please email your

questions to Katie Baxter-Gagen at katiepbg@yahoo.com. She will forward the responses. Forget to send the email? Mr. Bulova will, of course, answer questions and concerns generated during the gathering.

Teenagers: Do you baby-sit, pet-sit, cut grass, shovel snow, give music lessons, or do, like, whatever? We'll print your classified ad for FREE and put it on our website www.cchca.org

Make some money and get mom off your case. Contact Ernie Klimonda at eklimonda@gmail.com (703 591-0696.)

Baby-sitters please tell us if you are CPR or Red Cross certified.

Would you like to advertise in the ECCHO? Contact alexisadamson@yahoo.com for more information.

TREE FACTIODS

Energy Efficiency

Tree windbreaks have been found to reduce residential heating costs by 10-15 percent, while shade and evapotranspirational cooling from trees have been found to reduce cooling costs by 20-50 percent

On hot summer days, a tree can act as a natural "evaporative cooler" using up to 100 gallons of water a day and thus lowering the ambient temperature

Computer simulations using standard building and tree configurations for cities across the U.S. indicate that shade from a single well-placed, mature tree (about 25-ft crown diameter) reduces annual air conditioning use 2 to 8 percent and peak cooling demand 2 to 10 percent.

Human Health/Social Benefits

In laboratory research, visual exposure to settings with trees has produced significant recovery from stress within five minutes, as indicated by changes in blood pressure and

muscle tension

Researchers have found that in housing areas with more trees, rates of domestic violence are lower than in otherwise identical housing areas with fewer or no trees. Residents from buildings with trees reported using more constructive, less violent ways of dealing with conflict in their homes.

Symptoms of children with Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) are relieved after contact with nature. The greener the setting, the more the relief. By comparison, activities indoors such as watching TV, or outdoors in paved, non-green areas leave ADD children functioning worse.

Researchers report that girls with greener and more natural views at home had greater self discipline. They were less impulsive and had better concentration. These traits led to better life decisions and better school performance.

A 1998 study found that the more trees and grass in the common spaces of

inner-city neighborhoods, the more those spaces

Pollution Control

Trees, especially those with large leaf-surface areas, absorb and trap airborne dirt and chemical particles, such as nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, and ozone. Trees also help by reducing wind speed so that heavy particles settle out.

Trees and vegetation can form a barrier that partially deadens the sound from traffic, lawn mowers, and loud neighbors. Trees also create "background" noise of rustling leaves and wind through the branches that can help muffle other noises.

Trees can limit soil erosion by helping control storm-water flow. Fibrous root systems hold soil in place so that it is not washed away by rain or flowing water. Erosion can be especially severe at construction sites in urban areas. Research has found that while forested land can lose about 50 tons of soil per

square mile per year, developing areas can lose 25,000 to 50,000 tons.

The canopy of a street tree absorbs rain, reducing the amount of water that will fall on pavement and then must be removed by a storm water drainage system. In one study, an 8-year old Cork Oak intercepted 27 percent of the gross rainfall, while a 9-year old Bradford Pear intercepted 15 percent. Savings are possible since cities can install surface water management systems that handle smaller amounts of runoff.

Property Value

Several studies have shown that the value of homes in neighborhoods with trees are higher than those of comparable neighborhoods without trees. In addition, neighborhood green spaces or greenways typically increase the value of properties located nearby.

Adapted from: <http://www.treelink.org/linx/factoid.php>

THE BLUE BIN COMETH

It may be another bulky thing to haul to the curb, but a little effort on our part has more impact than one might expect. In addition to the warm, fuzzy feeling you get when you think about the 2 liter soda bottle turning into roofing shingles, t-shirts, or perhaps more bottles, did you know that Fairfax City earns revenue from our recycling efforts? A private company purchases the recyclables. Another great reason to recycle everything you can!

You may have noticed that the city now collects the blue bin and paper recycling together in one truck (a city trash truck, not a separately identified recycling truck). This technique is called single streaming and is a more efficient pickup method. The materials are brought to a privately owned recycling facility and sorted mechanically. This means you can put paper in the recycling bin, just be sure it is secured and doesn't end up in your neighbors' yards on those windy mornings. The city will

supply extra bins if you need more. Call 703-385-7995.

Recycling is not only a good idea, these days it is mandatory. According to city staff, most everyone sets out their blue bins. The city relies on good citizenship rather than enforcement to achieve our citywide recycling goals. If you can help a neighbor obtain a bin and start recycling it would be great to get 100% participation in CCH!

What to trash and what to recycle – it's hard to know with some ordinary household goods.

Don't Put this Stuff in Your Blue Bin

- Plastic "clamshell" food containers and plastic packaging.
- Plastic bottles caps - but don't bother peeling off bottle rings or the labels from your bottles.
- Metal Lids, aluminum foil, or scrap metal. Scrap metal should be set aside for separate collection.
- Waxy cardboard (like

milk cartons) aren't yet on the recycling list either – waxes and oils clog up the machines.

- Metal and construction debris are not allowed in the county landfill. The city needs to be able to pick those up separately to take to a private site. Of course, please sort out any recyclable items.
- **Near but not in the Bin:** Sometimes it's OK to fold under pressure! Corrugated cardboard, flattened and folded to a size less than 3 feet by 3 feet. Material should be set out loose or tied into bundles, no thicker than 6 inches.

Although brush and yard debris are recyclable, please ensure that your house and yard contractors remove the debris they create – they must haul it away and dispose of it properly. They're not allowed to leave it at your curbside.

More info at:

fairfaxva.gov/RefuseRecycling/

From Hildie Carney, VP, Civic Affairs:

"Thanks to all who came out and worked on the clearing at Blenheim House. Special thanks to **Tom Peterson** and **Steve Caruso** who have been so active in planning the Phase I of the planting to assure for wildlife habitat.

In the next few weeks, there will be trimming of the dead trees and bushes but **MORE** volunteers are needed to finish the clean-up."

To volunteer, contact Steve Caruso @ smcestop@msn.com or call

703-273-3085

2008-2009 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

It's that time of year again -- the annual Country Club Hills Civic Association (CCHCA) membership drive. Annual dues remain \$10. The membership year runs from May 1, 2008 - April 30, 2009. Thank you to the 136 households who were association members this past year.

Show your CCH spirit by joining and supporting the activities and events that make Country Club Hills the wonderful

neighborhood we call home; such as: the Annual Labor Day Picnic, Ice Cream Social, Halloween Costume Party, sponsoring a Family for the Holidays, Santa Claus visits, Easter Egg Hunt, contribution to the Fairfax High School All Night Graduation Party, sponsor of the Fairfax City 4th of July Festivities, and upkeep and improvements to the CCHCA Commons Area. Your \$10 goes a

long way...

Each household will be receiving an invoice with your personal household information that will be published in the County Club Hills Directory. The directory contains information for **ALL** CCH households regardless of membership in the civic association. Please review the information and make sure your information is correct and complete. Corrections, changes and/or requests to opt out of the directory

should be submitted to Katy Sidwell. The next directory will be published in September.

All new and renewing members who submit their dues on or before May 31 will be automatically entered into a drawing for a \$25 gift certificate. So don't delay, get your dues payment in today! You can download the application from the cchca.org website under the "Join CCHCA" link.

2008 Beach House Rentals

Two Houses on the Outer Banks, NC

"Beach Crab" in Kill Devil Hills, on the Beach Road

4 Bedrooms; 2 Baths; washer and dryer; central air; cable TV (6); beautiful views; walk to the beach; sleeps 9. Take a virtual tour @ <http://www.vrbo.com/142260>

"Sound Crab" in Kill Devil Hills, on the Sound

4 Bedrooms; 2 1/2 Baths; washer and dryer; central air; cable TV(5); beautiful sunsets; on the water; sleeps eight. Take a virtual tour @ <http://www.vrbo.com/143495>

Rental Fees (Includes all taxes and fees except optional cleaning)

January 1 to May 25 = \$840 / week

May 25 to June 8 = \$1,020 / week

June 8 to September 7 = \$1,495 / week

CCHCA YAHOO! NEWSGROUP - YOUR RESOURCE

In addition to a great community website at CCHCA.org, Country Club Hills also sponsors at Yahoo! Newsgroup. If you want an easy, free, and paperless way to contact hundreds of your neighbors, please consider joining up!

MEMBERSHIP -

Members are being kept informed about events and happenings in Country Club Hills, your community. Over 200 households in CCH have opted for this FREE service.

SECURITY - Your email address is NOT available to other members unless you post a message. You may ask another member to post a message for you if you prefer to keep your email address secret.

RECEIVING - On an average, once a week you might receive a message of interest to CCH residents. The sender does NOT have your email address.

POSTING MESSAGES -

You may post messages of interest to CCH residents, such as sales (garage sales), giveaways, lost and found and similar, occurring in CCH only and events in CCH or in the City of Fairfax. When in doubt, please contact the Yahoo-Group moderator.

REPLYING - When your reply to a message that concerns the sender only, please ascertain that your reply is addressed to the sender only and not to the entire group at large.

SUBSCRIBING -

Nothing is easier than that. Visit our website www.cchca.org and "click to join CCHCA-Yahoo-Newsgroup" located in the bottom left-hand corner. Don't remain in the dark and signup today. You may unsubscribe at any time, of course.

CHANGING EMAIL ADDRESS?

Please notify the Yahoo-Group moderator whenever you have switched to a new email address, in order for you to remain

CCHCA Does Not Endorse

We do not endorse or investigate advertised services or products in this newsletter. We assume no responsibility for ad accuracy or services/products provided.



CCHCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2007-2008

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Nasrin Lescure, 703-591-2452

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OPEN

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