

Echoes From the Hills

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Official Newsletter of the Country Club Hills Civic Association — Founded 1954

Volume II

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New CCHCA Secretary

Joann O'Neill has volunteered to be the new CCHCA Secretary and the Executive Board has approved her appointment until the next regular election of Officers of the association. Thank you Joann. We sorely miss Joyce Skoglund, but the By-Laws of CCHCA state that no Officer may serve in the same position for more than two years.

CCHCA Directory

It has been almost three years since we published the complete CCHCA Directory, although we have reprinted the list of members each summer. Next year it will be necessary to reprint the entire Directory because the old one is out of date and we no longer have copies to give to newly arrived residents of CCH. This cost \$1200 three years ago, all costs were derived from advertising revenues. Will you volunteer to be Editor? Or to work on getting Advertising? Please call Barbara Barnes at 273-0529 to volunteer for either of these jobs.

NOTES FROM LARRY

There are always more items to cover in this newsletter than Barbara Barnes, our Editor, has space or time to prepare. One thing is generally missing that we would be happy to remedy --- there are generally no items submitted by you, the residents of Country Club Hills. If you have news of births, illnesses, arrivals, departures, items for sale, or just want to "sound off", please submit items (preferably typed) to Barbara prior to the 20th of each month.

RECENT ELECTION RESULTS: Frank Wolf soundly trounced John Milliken in the 10th District Congressional race on Nov 5th. The margin was much wider than the "experts" predicted (but not wider than your scribe's estimate); he won 60+% of the vote across the entire district which includes Arlington County, Falls Church City, most of 4 Magisterial Districts in Fairfax County (just over 1/2 of Northern portion), Loudoun County, and of course Fairfax City. Fairfax City led all jurisdictions, casting 67.8% for Frank. Precinct 2 in the City, of which CCH is a major part, had in turn the highest percentage for Frank in the City, 71.8%. While the overall voter turnout in the 10th District was only 43%, in Fairfax City overall it was 48% and in Precinct 2 it was again the highest in the City at 54%. CCH and Precinct 2 have recaptured the lead position in voter turnout which they surrendered to Mosby Woods and Precinct 5 in the last local City election. Congratulations to you all for being more civic-minded than others in N. Virginia (and I might add, voting for an excellent and hard-working Congressman).

CCH ELECTIONS: Our civic association has its own elections forthcoming on January 14th at the John C. Wood Civic Center at 7:30 p.m. We need new blood --- If anyone out there wants to run for President, Secretary, Treasurer, or one of the Vice President positions (Civic Affairs, Publications, Membership, Block Captains, or Block Watch), call or drop a note to me or the Chairman of the Nominating Committee (Marilyn Larsen, 273-3797, 3406 Country Hill Drive) by December 15th. For that evening we will have a general membership meeting and election of officers, followed by either a viewing of an historic film of the Fairfax City area taken just past the turn of the century or a town meeting with Frank Wolf. Please put that date on your calendar; turn out to support CCHCA at least that one night a year.

LEAF PICK-UP: Leaf pick-up continues only for a short while --- if you haven't gotten around to raking those nasty fall creatures yet, this weekend is one of the last opportunities to take advantage of one of the best free services offered in N. Virginia. Please don't rake those leaves into giant piles behind your house (if you back up to one of the wooded areas around CCH); according to the City staff, such brush and leaf piles are potential fire and rodent hazards.

PART-TIME JOB: The City Police Department is looking for a few School Crossing Guards. Two hours a day, five days a week, over \$6 an hour. Call 385-7924.

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$: The annual City programming and budgeting cycle is beginning now. If you care what our future City services will be and/or if you are concerned about what your future taxes will be; then get informed, get involved, attend the public hearings, and let the City Planning Commission and City Council hear your views. More information is available in the recent Cityscene and on cable Channel 12. Detailed information will be available in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and later the City Budget which are available by calling 385-7870. The 2nd Planning Commission public hearing on the 5-Year CIP is Dec 15th; City Council public hearings are Jan 12th and 26th; Budget hearings for 1987-88 will follow in Feb/Mar. Dor Stellmach (V.P. for Civic Affairs) and I try to stay on top of these matters, but we can't attend all the meetings --- besides, your views may be different from ours!

RENTAL ORDINANCE: There is a new City Ordinance, passed at the insistence of many residents and civic associations (including yours truly and CCHCA), that is designed to provide more control over rental housing in the City. It takes full effect in January, 1987. All CCH homeowners, who are renting out all or a portion of their homes are required to have a Rental Housing Occupancy Permit with the City and abide by the new ordinance. There is a \$40 fee, and there are more stringent health, safety, and other requirements that must be followed. Landlords residing in the unit with the tenant do not need a permit. If you are not familiar with the ordinance's provisions and are renting your home, you are urged to call Earl Berner, the Zoning Administrator, 385-7830. If you are renting a home in CCH, please let your landlord know the information in this paragraph. Your civic association recently caused an undesirable tenant to be removed from CCH by the absentee landlord after a great deal of time and effort. A fire in Fairfax Woods recently led to the discovery of 17 unrelated people living in one home in the City. This ordinance was designed to help solve problems such as these faster, and before someone gets injured or property gets damaged.

INOPERABLE VEHICLE ORDINANCE: The City also recently strengthened the Inoperable Vehicle Ordinance, improved identification and enforcement procedures, and increased staffing to get rid of cars, trucks, and trailers which are not in operating condition within the City and are a blight on the neighborhood. This now includes those that are off the streets and are properly licensed, if such vehicles are not repaired within 90 days. This is another action that was insisted upon by many complaining residents and civic associations (including yours truly and CCH). As of Oct 1st, 364 vehicles at 286 locations in the City during 1986 were either removed, repaired, or are now being monitored within the prescribed 90 day grace period. If you have questions on this issue or have vehicles to report as inoperable, call Earl Berner at 385-7830. If the vehicle is on City streets and is inoperable or not licensed, then you should call the Police Department at 385-7924, which

CHRISTMAS SEASON/CITY FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS: Dor Stellmach prepared the detailed description of the City of Fairfax Annual Festival of Lights and Carols which follows. My plea is to all residents of CCH --- Let's try to win the City Council's award for the housing development in the City which best decorates the entire community in the spirit of the Festival of Lights. Every window of every house in CCH which faces any street is requested to place a small white light or electric candle (not one with a flame!!!) in that window so that it will be visible from the street. Unadorned wreaths and other strings of small clear/white lights are also welcomed. It is a lot to ask, but it would be especially nice if those 6 to 10 homeowners who live on the corners of Old Post, Brookwood, and Country Hill Drive where they meet Old Lee Highway or who live along Old Lee Highway would really get behind this decorating contest, both with the white lights and a tastefully decorated Christmas tree in the yard. Next year, if CCHCA has available funds, perhaps a community project should be undertaken to decorate these three entrances to CCH. Judging for this year's contest by the Community Appearance Committee is between 10 and 20 December -- lights should therefore be up by December 10th.

CITY OF FAIRFAX ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS AND CAROLS

-- DECEMBER 18 -- 7:00 to 9:30 P.M. --

The City's Annual Festival of Lights and Carols, sponsored by the Friends of Fairfax City and the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, promises to be enjoyable for children of all ages, so mark your calendars right now and plan to make this a family outing. The Festival's activities include:

- * Caroling at Old Town Hall begins at 7:00 a.m. and will be led by the Jubil-Aires and the City Band Brass Choir
- * Lighting of the Christmas Tree (bring an ornament to decorate the tree)
- * Visit from Santa Claus and a puppet show for the kids in the Providence Building (next door to Old Town Hall)
- * Tour of Earp's Ordinary and lighting of the traditional Yule Log in the garden and more caroling
- * Refreshments in Old Town Hall
- * Sleigh/hay rides in Webb Parking Lot
- * And more

Volunteers are needed to help serve the refreshments in Old Town Hall. If you would care to assist, please call D. Stellmach at 591-8254.

In conjunction with the Festival's "Old-Fashioned" theme, the Community Appearance Committee is sponsoring a decorating competition, and a trophy will be presented to the best decorated community of single or duplex detached homes, townhouses, and apartments. City residents are asked to have decorations in place by December 10 and to decorate with simple unadorned wreaths, clear white electric candles for windows and clear white strings of lights for outdoors.

Some of the local merchants carrying the recommended types of Christmas decorations are Ben Franklin, Fairfax Hardware, Hechinger's, Frank's, and the drug chains. Cost of the plastic electric candle for the window is about 89 cents. The clear bulbs are extra. Pier 1 and Peoples carry a brass-based electric candle (bulb included) for around \$3.99.

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MORE NOTES FROM LARRY

ROADS--TRAFFIC--TRANSPORTATION: Those three unholy words should not follow the above paragraph, but I wanted to save the worst for last. These are, without a doubt, the major problems the City faces presently and for the next 15 years. In the last three years, the City Council and City Staff have spent a tremendous amount of time, money, and energy to come up with short and long term, practical solutions to these three problems. At least three paid consultant studies and three staff/volunteer studies have been conducted. Many ideas were developed, many alternatives were offered, and literally hundreds of recommendations were made. Although the last City Council instituted most of the present recommendations or solutions, half of that Council was thrown out of office earlier this year. They were replaced by individuals whose ideas on these problems are just as diverse as those that were thrown out. Frustration has set in, just as it has in Fairfax County and all of Northern Virginia.

The past and present City Council and staff have implemented many excellent programs to alleviate these problems --- a greatly expanded and convenient CUE Bus system which now carries over 2,000 passengers a day, automated traffic lights that now let cars travel at 30 mph through the City on Main Street without stopping (and soon on Lee Highway), additional turning lanes at numerous intersections, additional traffic lights, a bypass between Main Street and 123 South around the Center City, and many others. The City is now annually spending about \$1,000,000 per year on road and traffic improvements, about \$400,000 on public transportation, and about \$400,000 on street resurfacing and curb/gutter/sidewalk replacement. This is equivalent to the County spending \$65,000,000 a year! Or the State spending \$300,000,000 a year!! Which they are not, although they are now talking about spending close to that amount. The City has been spending at this level for over two years.

Other projects are planned and funded in and around the City which will help, such as the 4-lane Eaton Place road to be built by a developer between Lee Highway (near the Red Lobster) and Chain Bridge Road (near the Holiday Inn) to be completed in 1987, widening of portions of Chain Bridge Road (1987-1989), Pickett Road (essentially completed to Route 50), Blake Lane widening to 4-lane divided highway and extension to Pickett Road to be started in March of 1987, and others.

These completed and planned projects are insufficient because as fast as improvements are made, the traffic swells to fill the roadways again past the increased capacity. The traffic swells because Fairfax County and Fairfax City, no matter what the doomsayers contend, is (and is going to remain) one of the most desirable places in the United States to live and work. The development around the City is not going to stop whether or not the City withdraws into an insulated shell. It may slow down because of proposed future County actions; but adoption of even a total County-wide anti-development policy will not stop the planned growth of the next few years. This growth is not, as some politicians contend, solely related to commercial development. In fact, most of the City's present problems with through traffic are directly attributable to the thousands of homes built to the south and west of the City within the presently zoned criteria, but without adequate cross-county roads to get the people between their homes and work places.

Now is a critical time for the City's road and traffic planning, if for no other reason than the fact that the City, more so the County, and even more so the State all have now earmarked huge future funding levels sufficient to at least double present annual expenditures. If the City does not get its "dibs" in on a fair share of this resource now, the funds may not be available in the future. As a result of this planned increase in future transportation funding levels and a complete analysis of the more than six recent studies conducted in the City, the City Council tasked the City Planning Commission to draft a Transportation Element for the City's Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Commission with the help of City Staff did this and completed their initial report on September 22nd. The Commission held a series of public hearings, all of which were attended by Dor Stellmach

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and/or yours truly. On behalf of CCHCA I presented what I thought would be the view of a majority of CCH residents --- This is worth emphasizing. My own view is not what I presented because I think the majority of CCH residents have a view considerable more conservative on road/transportation improvements than my own. At the October CCHCA General Membership Meeting at John C. Wood, I presented all of the proposed road improvements to interested CCH residents, answered questions, solicited opinions, and put two major projects to a vote of those present. The second Planning Commission public hearing was attended by many City residents, although very few were from CCH. Based on those hearings, the Planning Commission forwarded to the City Council in November a completed Draft Proposed Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan. A copy of that draft and a great deal more information is available by calling Peggy Wagner at City Hall, 385-7930.

The City Council will hold public hearings on the Draft Proposal at the Fairfax High School Auditorium at 8 p.m., Tuesday, Dec 9th. I propose the following:

--- CCH residents should read the attached description of the major specific road improvements recommended in the Draft.

--- CCH residents, if interested, obtain the complete Planning Commission report and additional information by calling City Hall (385-7930) and then attend and give their views at the City Council Hearing on Dec 9th.

--- CCH residents complete the attached questionnaire and return it to me by the night of 8 December, or as soon as possible. (I apologize for getting this newsletter out so late.) I'm sure an additional night of public hearing will be required on this subject, so please return it to me even if after 9 Dec. Deliver to my house at 3406 Country Hill Drive.

--- I will present on 9 Dec to the City Council the consensus view of CCH based on the responses to the attached questionnaire I have received.

--- CCH residents attend the public hearing on 9 Dec to give me moral support. (Please behave in a civilized manner; a few residents of other parts of the City did not at the last hearing on this subject.)

Three matters on the attached questionnaire should receive your special attention: (1) One of the proposals directly affects CCH residents --- Old Lee Highway is proposed to be a two-lane divided road with a landscaped raised median and left-hand turning lanes into OLHCA and CCHCA, even though every speaker (who lived in this area) at the Planning Commission hearings (including yours truly) spoke against the proposal; (2) It is time to make a decision on widening Route 123/Chain Bridge Road to four lanes through the entire City (or making it a one-way pair with University Drive through the Center City); and (3) I have added one item to the questionnaire that has nothing to do with Draft Proposal --- a majority of the CCH residents at the October CCHCA meeting wanted a traffic light installed on Old Lee Highway because it is impossible at rush hours or when school is getting out to make left-hand turns out of or into CCH due to the increased volume of traffic on Old Lee Highway since the Vienna Metro Station opened --- I need your views on this matter, if I am to recommend it to our sister civic association and the City Council.

Please return the attached questionnaire to Larry Larsen, 3406 Country Hill Drive.

RECOMMENDED MAJOR ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

The following are the major road construction projects within the City of Fairfax which are recommended for inclusion in the Draft Proposed Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan:

- o Old Lee Highway - should become a two-lane divided road with a raised, landscaped median with limited (number unspecified) left hand turning lanes to provide access to OLHCA and CCHCA areas. Excess roadway pavement should be converted to open space. Cost: \$1,000,000.
- o Chain Bridge Road - should be expanded to a four-lane divided road from the southern City limit to Judicial Drive. From Kenmore Drive to Lee Highway, it should be improved to a two-lane divided road with landscaped median and left hand turning lanes. This is a much toned down proposal from that discussed a few months ago, wherein the section from Kenmore to Lee Highway way to also be four-lane divided. Cost: \$5,700,000 - \$7,600,000.
- o Center City One-Way Pair - should have a study done to verify the feasibility of converting Chain Bridge Road and University Drive to a one-way pair within the Center City (from Judicial to Kenmore) and to recommend feasible connecting roads between the two. This is also greatly toned down from the proposal a few months ago: (1) actually to do, rather than study it, (2) realign Kenmore Drive between University and Chain Bridge, and (3) extend Judicial east across Chain Bridge through an existing house and parking lots and connecting with University. This and the preceding one are the most controversial proposals; the ones that generate all the interest; the ones that will cause Old Lee Highway and the proposals below to be overlooked and approved unless you all turn out to speak your mind. Cost (of doing, not studying): \$5,100,000.
- o Farr Tract Road - when developed, should include a road connecting Main Street and Old Lee Highway at points west of Roberts Road and south of Layton Hall Drive, respectively. This is the "cow pasture", for which no plans exist right now. This proposal has been overlooked by almost everyone so far. Every previous proposal has had a road through this area connect Roberts Road at Main Street with Layton Hall Drive. Whatever they do here will cause increased traffic on Old Lee Highway when this last remaining undeveloped tract in the City is eventually developed. Cost (probably will be borne primarily by developers): \$2,200,000.
- o Jermantown Road - should be improved to four lanes with a landscaped median. A traffic light or pedestrian overpass should be added near Lanier and Jermantown Schools. This proposal will be matched by the County/State with widening the bridge over I-66 and Jermantown Road from the north City limit to Blake Lane/Chain Bridge Road. It has a major safety drawback for school children, but will get through traffic and Metro traffic around the City. Cost: \$1,000,000.
- o Lee Highway - should have a systematic program to convert existing concrete medians and dual left-hand turn lanes into landscaped medians and in addition, wherever possible and funded by developers, a service road should be designed parallel to the roadway to limit access. No controversy. Cost \$430,000.
- o Roberts Road - should be widened to a uniform minimum 26-foot width with sidewalks on at least one side. Little controversy. Cost: \$840,000.
- o Southeast Loop - should be built (probably assisted by developer money) to connect University Drive south of firehouse with Main Street by Old Fairfax Elementary School. Little controversy, except need not apparent. Cost \$1,400,000.

All Costs are gross estimates by City Engineer in Sep 86.

COUNTRY CLUB HILLS OPINION SURVEY

PLEASE, RETURN THIS PAGE TO LARRY LARSEN

3404 Country Hill Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030

- o Old Lee Highway (circle one)
 - a. Should be left without any improvements other than a turning land at corner of Layton Hall Drive.
 - b. Agree with recommended improvements to a divided two-lane road with landscaped median.
- o Chain Bridge Road (circle one)
 - a. Should be left alone without any improvements.
 - b. Agree with recommended improvements (4-lane divided between south City limit and Judicial, 2-lane divided between Kenmore and Lee Highway).
 - c. Should be 4-lane divided in both sections.
- o Center City One-Way Pair (circle one)
 - a. Should not have a study; should not consider one-way pair.
 - b. Agree with recommendation to study one-way pair.
 - c. Don't need study; should have a one-way pair (north on University, south on Chain Bridge through Center City, connecting vicinity Kenmore and Judicial).
 - d. Should not have one-way pair; should be 4-lanes through Center City, retain scenic Rust Curve as practicable.
- o Farr Tract Road (circle one)
 - a. Should not have any road connecting Main Street and Old Lee Highway, access in future should be primarily from Main St.
 - b. Should not have any road connecting Main Street and Old Lee Highway, access in future should be primarily from O.L.H.
 - c. Agree with recommendation, connecting road should be west of Roberts Rd on Main St and south of Layton Hall on O.L.H.
 - d. Connecting road should tie in with Roberts Road and Layton Hall Drive to get traffic around Center City.
- o Jermantown Road (circle one)
 - a. Should have no improvements other than scenic and safety.
 - b. Agree with recommendation (4-lane divided road with median).
- o Lee Highway (circle one)
 - a. Should have no improvements other than scenic and safety.
 - b. Agree with recommendation to convert existing concrete medians and dual left-hand turn lanes into landscaped medians, with service road where funded by developers.
- o Roberts Road (circle one)
 - a. Should have no improvements other than repaving.
 - b. Agree with recommendation to widen to uniform minimum 26-foot width with sidewalks on at least one side.
- o Southeast Loop (circle one)
 - a. Should not be built or included in this Comprehensive Plan.
 - b. Should be built only if paid for 75% by developer.
 - c. Agree with recommendation.
 - d. Should be expanded to connect with Judicial Drive as part of Center City One-Way Pair connector and Roberts Road improvements using expanded Sager Avenue, closing off Locust Street between Main Street and Sager should be considered.
- o Traffic Lights on Old Lee Highway (circle one) - This is not part of Comprehensive Plan Proposal, it was surfaced by CCH residents in last general membership meeting.
 - a. There should be no additional traffic lights on Old Lee Hwy.
 - b. There should be a traffic light added only at the intersection of Brookwood Drive and Old Lee Highway.
 - c. There should be a traffic light added only at the intersection of Old Post Road and Old Lee Highway.
 - d. There should be two traffic lights added at the intersections of Old Lee Highway and both Old Post Road and Brookwood Drive.

Please return this to me, 3406 Country Hill Drive, as soon as possible.

Thanks,

Larry Larsen, Pres, CCHCA, 273-3797

By Man Nite
8 Dec 13