

CCHCA Speaks Out at City "Open Mic" Meeting

On October 28, CCHCA representatives attended the first of four City of Fairfax-sponsored "Open Mic" meetings, at which residents could voice their opinions on any city-related issue. CCHCA reps thanked city officials for their ongoing effort to seek input from the people, expressed concerns about safety at Fairfax Circle and along Old Lee Highway from the police station to Artie's Restaurant, and supported the use of the Blenheim Estate for weddings and functions to raise funds for renovations.

On the issue of Old Lee Highway, the near-unanimous consensus at several public meetings input was for one lane in each direction, with some exceptions, and a uniform width to the highway. A final plan has not been voted on by the city.

These three issues remain ongoing subjects of interest at City Hall. If you have any suggestions on how to make use of and improve Blenheim or how to improve the safety of Fairfax Circle or Old Lee Highway, call City Hall at 703-385-7855, or write to 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax, VA 22030.

Board members also brought up our intention to enter into discussions with the city to enhance the common area at the intersection of Brookwood Drive and Spring Lake Terrace, where CCHCA holds community events. City officials were very receptive to CCH input.

The city's "open mic" meetings follow on the "Friends and Neighbors Social" events hosted by the mayor and city council this summer. The city also seeks residents' ideas regarding the city's comprehensive plan for the next five years. For more information on this plan, please call the city at 703-385-7930.

CCHCA strongly urges residents to attend future public meetings and let the city know what you think. If you want to channel your views through the CCHCA board of directors, please call the president or the vice president, civic affairs (contact information is on page 2).

The *Fairfax Times* ran an article ("Offering their two cents," November 14) extensively quoting Paul Sullivan's remarks regarding the safety studies of Lee Highway and Fairfax Circle, and expressing his appreciation for the council's openness in holding the open mic evenings.

October Membership Meeting

CCHCA held its annual fall membership meeting October 16 in the John. C. Wood Center. The membership heard updates from board members and committee chairs, and enjoyed a lively discussion of several continuing projects, most prominently the proposed use of the remaining city grant money to improve the common area on Spring Lake Terrace (see article on page 3 for+ detail). Among actions taken were

- Election of Olivier Long as the new VP, civic affairs, to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Patrice Winter (now a city councilwoman). Olivier is an attorney and currently chairs the City of Fairfax Commission on the Arts.
- Acceptance of a budget report listing the association's bank balance as \$1102.29.
- Approval of amended bylaws. The changes were chiefly to move the date of the first annual meeting from January to April/May and reconcile other dates with that change. The amendments also raised from \$50 to \$300 the amount the treasurer can disburse without the consent of the board, reflecting the effects of inflation since the bylaws were first written. The definition of the unit of membership in CCHCA was also changed slightly, to reflect the changing living arrangements of the times: "Each family occupying a home in the Country Club Hills subdivision shall be eligible . . ." was changed to "the occupants of each home in the Country Club Hills subdivision shall be eligible collectively . . ."

The next meeting will be held in April or May. Please come!



Holiday Happenings



December 7 - City of Fairfax Festival of Lights and Carols

December 12 and 17 - Santa Visits. Sign up by December 6. (See back page for details)

December 20 - Lighting Luminaries begins

Board of Directors

The board meets every two months. The next meeting will be in January. If you have issues you would like the board to discuss, please contact the appropriate board member. The board members for 2002-2003 are:

President	Paul Sullivan 3302 Spring Lake Court 703-293-9774; paulsullivan99@hotmail.com
President	Olivier Long Country Hill Rd. 703-273-8473; cchca@ezjustice.com
VP, Block Captains	Hildie Carney 3512 Old Post Road 703-591-5305; hilcarn31@aol.com
VP, Membership	Jill Toth 9934 Pinehurst Avenue 703-383-1965; jilltoth@yahoo.com
VP, Publications	Steven Lane 10019 Morningside Court 703-352-6217; stevel@aapa.org
VP, Social Activities	Debbie Lane 10019 Morningside Court 703-352-6217; sdlane@erols.com Lisa Whetzel 3406 Park Hill Place 703-383-5989; whetzelink@aol.com
VP, Neighborhood Crime Watch	Katie Gagen-Baxter 3508 Pinehurst Avenue 703-385-7737; katiepbg@yahoo.com
Secretary	Nancy Jones 3506 Spring Lake Terrace 703-591-2284; anjonesfx@cox.rr.com
Treasurer	David Oliver 3400 Country Hill Drive 703-352-3955; davidkoliver31@aol.com

Committee Chairs

Welcoming Cmte.	Sharon Leasure 10012 Morningside Court 703-267-6163; sharonLL1@att.net
Historian	Ingrid Annibale 3424 Andover Drive 703-691-1087; jannibale@cox.net

This is your newsletter! Please contact me if you have any items of interest for the neighborhood or ideas for stories. We accept ads for services or items for sale or donation. Contact Steven Lane, *Eccho* editor, at sdlane@erols.com; 703-352-6217.

Picnic a Big Success

The annual CCH Block Party in September was a big hit, and I would say that even if my wife were not co-chair of the social committee. Attendance was estimated at about 200 – by the scientific method of looking around and saying “looks like about 200 to me.” About 40 new members were signed up. And kids and grownups of all ages all had a great time doing tug-of-war, climbing on fire engines, eating hot dogs and cotton candy, and engaging in all kinds of wholesome all-American fun. Winners of the best side dish contest were a curried basmati rice salad, made by Robert Keith of Spring Lake Terrace, and a key lime pie, the creator of which slipped away before the *Eccho* reporter, distracted by his other duties as pie taster, could get her name. (Key lime pie maker, please contact *Eccho* HQ at 703-352-6217 to share your secret with the world.) The curried rice recipe is as follows:



Curried Basmati Rice Salad

- Prepare about 3 cups of basmati rice and set aside.
- Lightly toast 1/4 cup pine nuts; plump in hot water and then drain 1/4 cup raisins, setting both aside.
- Heat several tablespoons of olive oil in a skillet over medium heat and cook 3 tbs. curry powder, 1 tbs. cardamom, and 1 tbs. cinnamon (about 1 tablespoon) in the hot oil for 1-2 minutes.
- Add 1/2 cup diced onion and several diced garlic cloves, sautéing until soft.
- Add 1/2 cup each of any diced vegetables you care to add (such as carrots, celery, or peppers), adding a little more olive oil if needed.
- After the vegetables have softened, add the basmati rice, about 1/2 cup of peas (fresh, canned, or frozen), the pine nuts and raisins, and one or two tablespoons of brown sugar. A dash of red pepper flakes may be added, to “kick it up a notch,” as Emeril would say, and to balance the sweetness of the dish. Continue cooking until all ingredients are hot and mixed well.

Election Workers Needed

The Fairfax City General Registrar's office is recruiting individuals interested in helping in elections. The pay is \$120 for the day and anyone can call Larry Lamborn 703-385-7890 with questions.

CCHCA Votes to Explore Common Area Enhancements with City

At the October 16 CCHCA membership meeting, the membership voted unanimously to contact the city and request that \$1,500 in unused grant money be used to enhance the "common area" at the intersection of Brookwood Drive and Spring Lake Terrace, the site of our annual community picnic.

This follows a unanimous vote by the CCHCA board to move forward with plans to enhance the common area for limited community use. Last year, CCHCA was given a grant of \$3,000 to improve our neighborhood. \$1,500 was used to purchase new entry signs for our community, leaving \$1,500, which the CCHCA membership voted to spend on another project, if the city approves this use of the grant funds. A meeting will be scheduled soon between Mayor Lederer and the CCHCA board to discuss possible improvements.

Common area enhancements under consideration apply only to the level portion of the parcel along Spring Lake Terrace. Initial ideas include cleaning debris and small-scale landscaping. In the long term, a sidewalk along Spring Lake Terrace and an open shelter may be considered. The shelter would be an ideal location for tables and food for our community events.

Certain rumors about the common area were dispelled at the October 16 meeting. There won't be a sidewalk to Lee Highway. There won't be a full-scale city park. And only a small section of the land is under review, not the entire parcel.

Anyone with suggestions or concerns about this issue is encouraged to contact CCHCA President Paul Sullivan at paulsullivan99@hotmail.com or 703-293-9774.

Rebel Run Budget Motel Appears Dead

At the May CCHCA meeting, members unanimously voted to express our concerns about a plan to clear-cut nearly four acres and build a four-story budget motel at the intersection of Rebel Run and Lee Highway (next to the Fairfax High School football and baseball fields).

Shortly after CCHCA leaders presented our concerns to the mayor and city council, the city voted to begin the condemnation process. As of press time for the ECCHO, there are no new developments to report. Country Club Hills residents will be kept posted on this and other important developments near our community.

Welcome New Residents!

By Paul Sullivan, President, CCHCA

PRESIDENT'S
CORNER

The Country Club Hills Civic Association welcomes the many new residents who have moved into our neighborhood in the past year. There were a lot of new faces at our picnic in September, and the CCHCA membership committee was pleased to sign up several more members.

But the strength of our community and its civic association also lies in the efforts of some residents who have lived here since the early 1950s; several original owners still live in this community. CCHCA wants to continue this tradition by getting more people involved in our community as we approach County Club Hills' 50th anniversary. If you want to get involved in CCHCA, please contact the relevant board member (see the list on page 2).

We want to let new residents know we have a very citizen-oriented city government. You can pick up the phone and call your call our mayor and city council, and quickly find out about Fairfax City services (or see the CityScene monthly newsletter or the city's excellent Web site, www.ci.fairfax.va.us). One of the most important things you can do as a new resident is register and vote. Fairfax City has a high voter registration rate, with more than 80 percent of the adults aged 18 and older registered, compared to 76 percent statewide. However, only 37 percent of the adults in Fairfax City voted in the recent elections.

With the United States involved in several wars overseas, and with the recent sniper and terrorist attacks here in Virginia, it is vital to keep our democracy strong by registering and voting. Your voice and your vote count, in our civic association, our city, and our nation.

This newsletter contains a lot of information on how you can get involved in protecting our city's watershed, improving road safety, or improving our common area. For information on voter registration, call Larry Lamborn, registrar of voters, 703-385-7890; llamborn@ci.fairfax.va.us.

CCHCA has been very active in the past year. Thanks to the work of many long-term residents, we have money in the bank, newly rewritten bylaws, and a full Board of Directors. Our recent community events have been very successful, and we participate in many city events.

Thank you to everyone who helped put all of these fantastic events together. Country Club Hills truly is a wonderful place to live, and we will continue to work to make it better each year. I look forward to hearing from those of you with suggestions and concerns. We will be holding a membership drive in the spring, when I hope all of you will sign up as members. See you at our next membership meeting in May+.

Have a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year!

DECORATE FOR THE HOLIDAYS WITH LUMINARIES

This year, CCH will be participating in a new seasonal event that is rapidly becoming a tradition across the country — luminaries. Starting **Friday, December 20**, CCHCA asks that anyone interested please place luminaries along their portion of the sidewalk. A luminary is a small paper bag partially filled with sand, with a votive or tea-light candle lit inside. Place them every three feet along your sidewalk for a beautiful, festive sight. What if the entire neighborhood did it? How spectacular! This is a fun way to cross cultures and celebrate this holiday season with each other. Talk it up!

To make it easier, CCHCA will provide sand in the common area from Sunday, December 15-20. Come by and take a couple of scoops for your luminaries.

Remember, you are solely responsible for your luminaries. Please rake all debris along sidewalk before you set out your candles. Do not light your luminaries if it's windy. Questions? Please call Lisa Whetzel at 703-383-5989 or Debbie Lane at 703-352-6217.

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN

Tired of the lines at the mall? Want a picture of Santa with your kids in front of your tree? Well, CCHCA has arranged for Santa to come visit your home in Country Club Hills. On December 12 and December 17 Santa will visit with your child(ren) for about 15 minutes in your home. All you have to do is call Lisa Whetzel at 703-383-5989 by **December 6** to arrange a time and date. Santa will even bring a small gift! (You should already have received a flyer about this.)

Join the CCH Yahoo Group

If you would like to receive e-mail updates about happenings in CCH, please consider joining the CCHCA Yahoo Group. To subscribe, send an e-mail (from the e-mail account you wish to subscribe) to CCHCA-subscribe@yahoo.com. In the body of the e-mail, state your name and address (street number and name only).

Once subscribed, you will receive notices regarding CCH events — like the annual picnic, membership meetings, holiday festivities etc. Please be assured that all addresses are protected. Your e-mail address will **not** be sold for SPAM. If you have any questions about the intent or usage of the CCH Yahoo Group, please forward them by e-mail to Jill Toth at jilltoth@yahoo.com.

City Seeks Citizen Input on Creeks

The City of Fairfax recently held an open public meeting to discuss the results of a contractor's study of the condition of its creeks, known as a watershed study.

CCHCA representatives attended the watershed meeting. The contractor appears to lean toward clearing trees and hauling in truckloads of rocks to stabilize creeks. Citizens at the meeting expressed concerns over clear-cutting, as this may damage the fragile ecosystems near the creek beds.

Residents at the meeting who voiced their opinion favored reducing the speed and the quantity of water runoff from streets and parking lots into the creeks, as this contributes to accelerated erosion. The study doesn't represent city policy. Rather, it is the view of one contractor. Therefore, the city needs your input now. Please review the contractor's study and make any recommendations about how to best preserve our open space and watersheds from development directly with Adrian Fremont at City Hall, 703-385-7816, afremont@ci.fairfax.va.us.

At the request of CCHCA, a copy of the contractor's study is available on the city's Web site, at www.ci.fairfax.va.us/Services/PublicWorks/WatershedMgmt.htm.

Help Us Welcome New Neighbors

Please let the welcoming committee know about any new people moving in near you so that they can be officially welcomed to the neighborhood. Contact Sharon Leasure at 703-267-6163; sharonLL1@att.net; or Hildie Carney, 703-591-5305; hilcarn31@aol.com.

Giving and Taking Away

WANTED

One set of bottom sliding living room windows. Contact Hildie Carney at 703-591-5305; hilcarn31@aol.com.

AVAILABLE

Free! Solid oak kitchen nook table and storage seats for right-hand house (house on right side of driveway). Seats hinge up for storage. Call Bob and Irene Denhardt at 703-273-4291.

Tim Carney is offering guitar lessons in his home on Old Post Rd. Tim has a master's in Music and Composition and has been teaching in this area for 2 years, at Georgetown University and at Fox's Music. 1/2 hour lesson for \$30. Call 703 383 4902.