

Under New Management

Through a combination of arm-twisting and sweet-talking I find myself the new editor of the CCH newsletter, heir to the august journalistic tradition of such *Echo* luminaries as Dave Motes and whoever did it before him. Dave will shortly be moving to Minnesota, to join his wife Kim, who has taken a new job raising money to open a new theatre in Minneapolis. I can't promise to continue those enigmatic and wide-ranging essays — driveways, mosquitoes, Farrcroft architecture, Charlotte Bronte contemplating suicide — but I'll do what I can. All the best to the Motes in their new lives.

I have taken the liberty of redesigning and (slightly) renaming this publication, as a way to make it look new and improved without having to think too hard. Note the refreshingly arbitrary change in spelling to incorporate the CCH acronym. I did try to find a real word but decided in the end against *Il Radicchio*.

I'm a two-year resident of CCH, a GMU graduate, and have lived in this fair city for nearly 8 years now. By day I do pretty much what I'm doing now — edit and write for a newsletter. Every two weeks I put out a 16-page, 4-color tabloid newspaper for an association in Alexandria.

I'd like to get this one out 6 times a year. But that depends on how much material there is. That's where you come in. If you have anything you'd like to include, please e-mail it to me, Steven Lane, at sdlane@erols.com, or call 703-352-6217.

Look at the various blurbs in this issue and think about whether you have anything similar you'd like people to know about. This has been a bit of a rush issue actually — the prez called me and said we needed to get it out in a week to let people know about the AGM — but I hope in future issues to have a real estate column, news of goings-on in the city and its government, classifieds, cartoons, more graphics, maybe a gossip column! *All materials subject to editing.*

Through some constitutional sleight-of-hand I am apparently now also on the board of this organization — without even realizing it. See how easy it is? Show up at the meeting on May 21 and we will find a job for you too.

Smarter Growth Lecture

On **May 29, 7:30–8:00 p.m.**, Stewart Schwartz, executive director of the Coalition for Smarter Growth, will be speaking at a meeting of the Old Lee Hills Civic Association at Daniels Run Elementary School. Country Club Hills residents are invited. Please come if you can. There's a lot of dumb growth around these days.

Annual General Meeting

All CCH residents are encouraged to attend the 2002 Country Club Hills Civic Association annual general meeting, on **May 21, 7:30–10:00 p.m.**, in room 6, John C. Wood Municipal Complex (by Van Dyck Park, off Old Lee Highway). Copies of the membership directory will be available, and you will also be able to pay your dues (\$10) for the year. This is your chance to get involved and have your say. Bring your ideas and suggestions for making CCH a better place to live.

The main event is the annual election of officers. To run for office, you must be a paid-up member of the association. The slate of offices is below. Candidates have already declared for some offices, but nominations are accepted from the floor. If you have questions about the different offices or would like to predeclare, please contact Hildie Carney at 703-385-7850. *All positions are open, even those with names next to them.*

Office

President
First VP *Civic*
Secretary
Treasurer
VP, block captains
VP, membership
VP, publications
VP, social activities
VP, neighborhood watch

Predeclared candidates

Patrice Winter *Patrice Winter*
~~open~~ *Patrice Winter*
~~open~~ *Nancy Jones*
David Oliver
~~open~~ *Gill Butterfield*
~~open~~ *Gill Tolt*
Steven Lane
Debbie Lane, Lisa Whetzel
open

COMMUNITY YARD SALE

Circle **June 8** on your calendar. This your chance is to get rid of that garage-full of old junk you've been hoarding and replace it with someone else's new and temporarily more interesting junk. CCH and Old Lee Hills will be holding a massive community yard sale. You can join the community effort set up in the common area on Spring Lake Terrace, or team up with families near you. Or you can just have one in your own yard. Either way, you keep all proceeds of your sales. A flyer containing more information will arrive in your mailbox nearer the time.

Get Out and Vote

City of Fairfax Municipal Elections are on **May 7**. All those people whose names you've seen sprouting up on lawn signs this spring are running, including CCH's own Patrice Winter.

Family Fun Fest

Stroll up to Van Dyck Park, **Saturday May 18, 3:00–10:00 p.m.**, for some good old-fashioned wholesome family fun.

Entertainment will be provided by Nicolo Whimsey (for children, 4:00–5:00 p.m.), Image Band (Caribbean music, 5:00–6:00 p.m.), New Censation, (top-40 bubblegum from the 70s, 80s, and 90s, 6:15–8:15 p.m.). There will also be arts and crafts, games, those big inflatables for kids to jump on, and Jim Moyer's Circus Club. You know the kind of thing.

And at dusk — a drive-in showing of *Shrek!* That's right fool! If you have young kids, come and see it for the thousandth time. If you don't and haven't seen it, you really should. It's a great movie. Bring chairs, blankets etc to sit on. Shuttle buses will run every 10 minutes from Fairfax High School (and presumably back again) from 2:45 to 10:30 p.m.

ROLLING THUNDER

On the morning of **May 26**, you may as well go and see a parade of motorcycles because you certainly won't be sleeping in. Beginning at around 7:00 a.m. in the parking lot of Fairfax High School, more than 1,000 bikes are expected to gather before proceeding to the Patriot Harley-Davidson dealership on Lee Highway. Opening ceremonies for the Ride of the Patriots to Rolling Thunder ride, at Patriot H-D around 8:15 a.m., will commemorate the lives given by soldiers to protect our freedoms. The bikes will leave at 9:00 a.m. to head downtown and join the Memorial Day parade.

Babysitters Club

If you're a part-time or full-time stay-at-home parent and need to get something done without your kids in tow, or you just have to get out of the house once in a while, the Sitters Club may your answer. This organization has existed for almost 40 years and includes members from the Old Lee Hills and Country Club Hills neighborhoods.

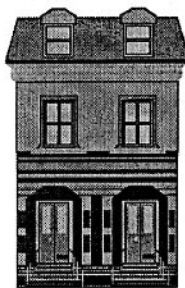
We operate by sitting for one another, using play money (or scrips) instead of real money. You choose who you want to sit for and who will sit for you. The sits are mostly, but not restricted to, weekdays when spouses are at work.

We have one monthly meeting in the evening held at member's home on a rotating basis. We also have various playdates throughout the month to get better acquainted.

Join us! Call Lisa Whetzel at 703-383-5989 for more information.

Historic Homes Tour

On **May 4**, six historic houses in the city will be open to the public as part of the Historic Fairfax City Homes Tour:



- The Olde Post Farm, Old Post Road
- Aspen Grove, Aspen Willow Drive
- The Barbara-Lee, Cedar Avenue
- The Rust House, Rust Hill Place
- The Parsonage, Stratford Avenue
- Wilson Farr House, Main Street

The houses will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tickets are required. Through May 3, these can be purchased for \$15 each at the Fairfax Museum and Visitors Center, 10209 Main Street, or by phone by calling 703-352-ARTS. On May 4, tickets will be \$20 each, and will be sold at Truro Church, 10520 Main Street. Proceeds will benefit the preservation of historic properties. Buses will run from Truro on May 4.

(For an extra \$10 you may tour the Lane residence at 10019 Morningside Ct., one of the cul-de-sac's finest remaining examples of mid-1950s neonihilist suburban architecture. Proceeds will benefit the purchase of beer.)

Civil War Weekend

Head up to the Blenheim estate, 3610 Old Lee Highway, **June 1 and 2**, for the sixth annual Civil War encampment on the Blenheim property. Attractions will include a reenactment of Mosby's Fairfax Raid, children's pony rides and wagon rides, living history demonstrations, a traveling blacksmith, and a tour of the house — all for \$3! (\$1 for kids; tours of the attic to see the Union soldier graffiti are \$5 extra).

Period music will be supplied by Libby Prison Minstrels on Saturday evening, and by Douglas Jimerson and Gilmore's Light Ensemble on Sunday. Food from Red, Hot and Blue and Mountain Top Kettle Korn. Parking and shuttle from Fairfax High School. For more information call 703-385-8414 or check the city's Web site at www.ci.fairfax.va.us/cityhistory/blenheimcivilwar.htm.



Stops and Starts

City of Fairfax Schools Superintendent George Stepp has informed CCH of plans to add two temporary trailer classrooms at Fairfax High School. These will be placed where the basketball court is now.

The city has informed us that a new 3-way stop system is now in operation at University Blvd. and Stratford Ave. You will need to stop when northbound on University, but not southbound. This system will undergo a 90-day assessment period.