

Mayor, Police Pull In AGM Attendees

The CCHCA membership meeting on May 5 was one of the best attended in recent years — more than 50 people showed up to meet and greet with Mayor Rob Lederer, City Council member Patrice Winter, and Sergeant Carl Pardiny of the Fairfax City Police Department, who is in charge of Area 1, which includes Country Club Hills.

The mayor reported that the city had just passed a \$100 million budget, including \$2.5 million for renovations to Blenheim Estate (purchased by the city in 1999), and renovations to City Hall and the Police Department. He also said that money had been set aside for improvements to CCH's "common area" — at the corner of Andover and Spring Lake Terrace.

Pardiny told CCHers that the city is trying to focus more on community policing — getting officers out of their cars and out meeting members of the community. He said that people with concerns about run-down houses in the neighborhood should call the city's Code Administration Department at 703-385-7830. Pardiny can be reached at 703-691-2711, cpardiny@ci.fairfax.va.us. (See page 4 for more information.)

Hildie Carney, president of Historic Fairfax City, Inc., and Bill Jayne, a member of the Blenheim Renovation Committee, presented the master plan, drafted by John Milner Associates of Charlottesville, for the long-term restoration and development of Blenheim Estate. The plan includes restoration of the house to its 1860s condition, and addition of a Civil War interpretive center and other facilities. CCHers are urged to provide their input now, in the planning stages. Please contact Hildie Carney at 703-591-5305, hilcarn31@aol.com, for a copy of the plan or if you have questions and concerns.

A new board of directors for 2003-2004 was elected. Most positions remain the same; a new treasurer was elected to replace outgoing treasurer David Oliver, who is retiring to the country. We wish David well in his new life! See page 2 for names and contact information for the board.

Membership Drive Begins Soon Goal Is 100% Membership

Sometime in the next few weeks, two of your neighbors will be knocking on your door and asking for money. The new CCH membership year began on May 1 and runs through April 30, 2004. Dues are \$10 per household, which includes a copy of the 2003-2004 directory, a free copy of this fabulous newsletter, a variety of social activities throughout the year — summer picnic, Easter Egg Hunt, Santa visits, Halloween — and the joy of knowing that you are contributing to the community you live in.

You can pay dues at any CCH event or to one of the volunteers who will soon be coming door to door over the summer. You can also deliver your payment to Jill Toth, Membership Committee chair, at 9934 Pinehurst Ave., 703-383-1965.

Membership dues are vitally important in allowing CCH to do things as a community. In addition to the social events, the association also plans to set aside some money — bolstered by grants from the city — to improve the "common area" at the corner of Andover and Spring Lake Terrace. It's hard to get that much bang for ten bucks anywhere else.

Directories will be available by the end of the summer, once new data collected during the membership drive has been added to the database.

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Do you know an elderly or disabled resident who needs help with yardwork and maintenance? A new CCHCA committee will provide volunteer assistance. Volunteers Needed! See back page for details.

2003-2004 Board of Directors

CCHCA members elected a new board of directors at the annual meeting in May. The board meets every two months. The next meeting will be in June. If you have issues you would like the board to discuss, please contact the appropriate person. The board members for 2003-2004 are:

President	Paul Sullivan 3302 Spring Lake Ct. 703-293-9774; p.sullivan29@verizon.net
VP, Civic Affairs	Olivier Long 3423 Brookwood Dr. 703-748-0600; cchca@ezjustice.com
VP, Block Captains	Hildie Carney 3512 Old Post Rd. 703-591-5305; hilcarn31@aol.com
VP, Membership	Jill Toth 9934 Pinehurst Ave. 703-383-1965; jilltoth@yahoo.com
VP, Publications	Steven Lane 10019 Morningside Ct. 703-352-6217; stevel@aapa.org
VP, Social Activities	Debbie Lane 10019 Morningside Ct. 703-352-6217; lane.link@verizon.net Lisa Whetzel 3406 Park Hill Place 703-383-5989; whetzelink@aol.com
VP, Neighborhood Crime Watch	Katie Gagen-Baxter 3508 Pinehurst Ave. 703-385-7737; katiepbg@yahoo.com
Secretary	Nancy Jones 3506 Spring Lake Terrace 703-591-2284; anjonesfx@cox.rr.com
Treasurer	Ryan Abate 10144 Spring Lake Terrace 703-278-0148; rabate@checkagain.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

Electronic Communications

Country Club Hills now has a Web site! — thanks to civic affairs veep Olivier Long, who has volunteered to host the page on his Web site until it can be transferred later to the city server or other space. It's fledgling, but you can check dates of upcoming events and read minutes of recent meetings. Check out www.ezjustice.com/cchca/cch.htm.

There is also a CCH Yahoo group, managed by Jill Toth. If you'd like to receive periodic e-mails on upcoming meetings and social events, please contact Jill at jilltoth@yahoo.com or 703-383-1965 and have her add you to the list. Your name will not be sold for spam and you will likely receive only one or two messages a month. We'd like to get as many people as possible signed up — this is the best way we have to communicate with everybody quickly.

Help Us Welcome New Neighbors

Welcoming Committee Chair Sharon Leasure wants to remind residents to let her know about any new people moving into the community. Contact Sharon Leasure at 703-267-6163; sharonLL1@att.net. Please let Sharon know if families have children, how old they are etc.



Fairfax High School Renovations

The City of Fairfax School Board has invited CCH residents to a meeting on **Wednesday, May 28, 7:30 p.m.**, to discuss plans to renovate Fairfax High School. Superintendent George Stepp, in a letter to CCHCA, invited us to provide input on a proposed site plan, floor plan, and the "suggested architectural character of the school." The meeting will be held in the Multipurpose Room or the Cafeteria. All are welcome.

CCH CALENDAR

June 20	Ice Cream Social
August 10	CCH Home Tours
September 6	End-of-summer Picnic
October 21	General Membership Meeting
October 25	Halloween Party

Highlights and Goals

By Paul Sullivan, CCHCA President

Thank you, everyone, for a wonderful year as president of the Country Club Hills Civic Association, and for electing me for another one. For all of our residents, our members, and our board of directors, I extend my thanks to you for one of the best years of my life.

Rarely does a person have such a great opportunity to work for and with their neighbors toward common goals. With wars going on all over the world, it was very refreshing to see more than 50 members turn out for our annual membership meeting this month and focus on how we can make our neighborhood a better place to live for ourselves and our children.

Teamwork among our members, our block captains, our area captains, and our board is essential for maintaining the sense of community pride we have in our neighborhood. I believe so many people attended our meeting because our civic association was very active last year. Here are some of last year's highlights:

- CCHCA voted to raise the issue with the city of a four-story hotel being built at Rebel Run and Lee Highway. Within one year, Fairfax City Council bought the land and turned it into four acres of open space.
- We voted to adopt amended bylaws. After lengthy discussion and member input, we now have a clear set of bylaws.
- We voted to use our grant money to enhance the empty lot at Brookwood Drive and Spring Lake Terrace, our "common area." The city approved CCHCA's request to use \$1,500 from our 2002 community grant to improve the area. Last week, the city approved another \$1,000 grant for 2003.
- We asked the city to study the safety of Old Lee Highway. The city council voted to spend \$75,000 to study the roadway from the police station to Artie's restaurant. Once the report is done, there will be further discussion on the details of how to improve the roadway.
- We distributed newsletters and flyers, and established an e-mail list to get information out more quickly.

We also rounded up volunteers to clean yards and shovel snow for those in need.

- CCHCA keeps leading the charge at City Hall to preserve the Blenheim Estate, the crown jewel of CCH, where sick Union soldiers were sent to recover during the Civil War. Many CCH residents volunteer for or attend the "Civil War Days" each year. This year, the city voted to spend more than \$2 million to improve this historical landmark in our backyard.

Average home values have risen from \$200,000 to well over \$300,000 in the past five years. And new families are moving in. CCH is very fortunate to have a wonderful mix of long-time residents and younger residents.

- We'd like to increase our activities and our membership in 2003. We expect to quicken the pace with these activities and goals:
 - A summer picnic after Labor Day in September (details will be in the next newsletter).
 - A Halloween Parade in October
 - Inviting Santa Claus again to visit the children in our neighborhood
 - Initial planning for enhancing our "common area." This may include a volunteer day to clean up the area and plant some small trees and shrubs.
 - Attending city council, planning commission, and school board meetings that may have an impact on our neighborhood. We will continue to monitor future renovation plans for Fairfax High and keep residents informed.

CCHCA also wants your ideas for more community activities. If you have ideas or concerns about our neighborhood or our city, please e-mail me at p.sullivan29@verizon.net.

If you like all of these activities and civic involvement, please join the Country Club Hills Civic Association. In the next few weeks, when temperatures warm up (after four months of snow and rain), CCHCA board members and volunteers will be going door-to-door to solicit your membership. Please join.

For \$10, you get lots of community activities plus tremendous representation at City Hall.

Once again, I thank everyone who worked so hard to make our plans a success.

Neighborhood Watch

While our community is still one of the safest and quietest around, there are occasional problems here as elsewhere. Please call Katie Baxter-Gagen, VP, neighborhood crime watch, at 703-385-7737 if you have any concerns about safety in the neighborhood. *Actual crimes and emergencies should of course be reported to the police and other authorities,* but Katie acts as a liaison between CCH and the police department, and the more she knows about what's going on in the 'hood, the better.

Some residents have asked what to do about run-down houses. There are two approaches here: call the city to enforce the law, and try to help. Depending on your relationship with the offender and the history and nature of the problem, either or both may be appropriate.

As a first step, we'd encourage you to talk to the neighbor and ask if he or she needs help. Some elderly or disabled residents find it difficult to keep up with the maintenance of their houses. Refer them to CCH's newly formed Neighborhood Assistance Committee, chaired by Dimitri Klimenko. Call 703-267-6601 or e-mail dklimenko@aol.com.

Volunteers are needed to help mow lawns and other yardwork. Call Dimitri if you can spare some time.

To report unsightly or dangerous conditions, the city office to call is the Code Administration Office, a division of the Fire Department, at 703-385-7830. The office deals with issues like blighted properties, construction without permits, construction noise, illegal dumping, improper drainage, overcrowding, tenant complaints, unsafe conditions, blocked exits, and exterior maintenance (paint, shutters, roof, gutters etc.) For high grass and weeds, or improper storage of trash, call the Public Works Department at 703-385-7810.



Committees Need Help

Several committees are looking for energetic volunteers. This is a great way to get involved with CCHCA. Three committees in particular are looking for help:

Social — help plan events, organize kids' games, shop for supplies. Contact Lisa Whetzel at whetzelink@aol.com, 703-383-5989; or Debbie Lane at lane.link@verizon.net or 703-352-6217.

Membership — help staff the welcome table at social events, or coordinate distribution of directories. We'll also need volunteers to go door to door during the membership drive. Contact Jill Toth at jilltoth@yahoo.com; 703-383-1965.

Historian — Ingrid Annibale is also looking for some help in putting together scrapbooks and, as always, for contributions of historical documents or other items. Ingrid wants to thank Armistice Tuturo and the CCH Garden Club and the Fairfax City Museum for their contributions to the scrapbook thus far. Contact Ingrid Annibale at jannibale@cox.net, or by phone at 703/691-1087.

RIDE OF THE PATRIOTS

That rumbling you'll hear on Sunday morning, May 25, will be large number of motorcycles gathering at the Harley dealership on Lee Highway in Fairfax for the annual Ride of the Patriots. The Fairfax chapter of the Harley Owners Group has invited all CCH residents to participate in the ride. If you're intersted in riding, or just watching, show up at 7:30 at the Harley dealership on Rt. 29. There will be a parade and ceremony before the bikers leave at 9:00 to ride to the Pentagon to take part in the Rolling Thunder rally. The ride is to pay tribute to the "service and sacrifice of our veterans who have given their lives to preserve and foster our liberty and way of life."

ECCHO

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 lane.link@verizon.net; 703-352-6217. Eccho is published four times a year, except sometimes when the editor doesn't get around to it and does a flyer instead.