

Letter from the President

2004 not only marks my family's third year in Country Club Hills, but also my third year being involved with the Country Club Hills Civic Association (CCHCA). I began on our Welcoming Committee, then served as the VP of Membership...and as I write this, I am beginning my term as President.

CCHCA has accomplished quite a bit over the past two years: leading the petition to secure the corner of Lee Highway and Rebel Run as open green space in the city, initiating the improvement of our own 'green space' - "The Commons" (located on Spring Lake Terrace, between Brookwood and Andover), creating and fostering relationships with our City Council and Mayor, maintaining an active calendar of social events (annual potluck BBQ, Easter egg hunt, Halloween parade, ice cream social)...just to name a few.

As a community member, and as a member of the CCHCA Board of Directors, I'd like to personally thank everyone who helped to support these events. Whether your support was demonstrated with membership dues, sweat equity, attendance at our City Council meetings, or some combination thereof, our civic association depends upon your active support to be successful.

The new board of directors (see page 4 of this newsletter) continues to support our goal to be a safe, welcoming and fun neighborhood. And whatever priority you place on these goals, individually or collectively, I hope you understand the value that you bring to this process with your active association membership! On behalf of the board, we would love to hear your ideas about what would make our community a better place. You may reach us directly by phone or email...and you are strongly encouraged to attend our semi-annual general membership meetings (our next is scheduled for Oct 04).

I certainly hope to see you around before then - but if not, just know that I am welcoming the next year serving as your association's president!

As always, kind regards,
Jill Toth

Functions on The Commons

Tuesday, August 3 at 7pm

National Night Out on Crime / IceCream Social ! Bring favorite dessert to share. CCH will provide icecream.

Saturday, Sept 11 from 4-8pm

CCH Block Party! Food, music, games for the kids and adults too. More details to follow. Please email diapullen@hotmail.com or leef@cox.net to volunteer for planning, setup or cleanup! Thanks!

Membership News

107 (out of 350) of our neighbors have joined the Civic Association for this membership year (May 1, 2004 - Apr 30, 2005). If that includes you - **THANK YOU!** If you haven't joined yet, I hope you will soon! Many of our activities are funded through your membership support. And by extension, the more active our association, the better standing we have with the City Council and Mayor when we take our community causes and concerns before them. Membership dues remain **only ten dollars** a year. If you have not done so already, please return your membership application and dues payment (checks should be made out to CCHCA Treasurer) to your block captain or the VP, Membership, Olivier Long at 3423 Brookwood Drive, at your earliest convenience! And to make things easier, a membership application is included in this newsletter.

Remember, *Membership, it's about building our community!*

Welcoming New Neighbors

The Welcoming Committee would like your help in identifying new move-ins into CCH! We'd like to visit and officially welcome them to our wonderful neighborhood and give them a small gift and materials to help them "get to know" Fairfax and CCH. Please call Hildie Carney, Welcoming Chair at 703-591-5305 or email her at hilcarn31@aol.com with the name and/or address of the new moved in neighbor (they can also be renters).

Community Safety

Fire and Rescue Safety Tips for All Ages

At the Annual General Meeting in May, Ed Clark from the Fairfax City Fire Department spoke to attendees about fire safety, including the importance of having working smoke detectors, having a fire exit plan and emergency information on file. Clark said that the city will provide free smoke detectors and 10-year-life lithium batteries on demand. Call 703-273-8019 or email at <http://www.ci.fairfax.va.us/firesafety/FreeSmokeDetectors.asp>. Clark showed a compelling video that made the point that children presented with real fire scenarios don't know what to do. More kids are killed at home than in school but almost nobody does fire drills at home; all do at school. Clark encouraged everybody to do drills at home, at night especially. Please contact him if you would like a copy of the video. He is available to speak at groups within the city.

In order more effectively help anyone with unusual health issues, Clark recommends that each resident has a "File of Life." This form is filled out with the individual's critical health information and placed in a special envelope on their refrigerator. If there is ever an emergency where the individual has to be taken by ambulance, the EMTs will be able to treat the patient appropriately.

You can obtain information about smoke detectors, "File of Life", and the video by contacting the Fairfax Fire and Rescue Department at 703-273-8109.



Be Proactive!

A Note on Traffic From the City Police:

Responding to widespread community concerns about the rise in traffic volume, the number of traffic violations occurring in city neighborhoods and the impact of traffic on our residential communities, the City Council approved funding for a new police officer assigned to focus on traffic enforcement in residential areas beginning July 1, 2004.

The city police would like to seek our assistance in their efforts to improve the frequency and consistency of enforcement of residential traffic problems. The police department has already identified approximately 100 locations for specific neighborhood enforcement, however, they still encourage residents to call and report problems and problem locations where enforcement is needed. We as residents know our neighborhood better than the police, and they are asking for our assistance to make these new efforts successful. Please continue to call the City of Fairfax Police with any information you may have identifying traffic problems in our neighborhood.

CCH Concerns and Issues

The restricted parking signs have been installed on Brookwood Ave. If you live on Brookwood Ave. you should have received a letter from the City with instructions as to how to get a permit for your car(s). Please make sure you are prepared before the school year begins! Need info? Call 703-385-7900.

We have had an incident of a stolen car in our neighborhood. The car was locked and parked in the resident's driveway on Country Hill Drive. There may not have been a way to prevent the theft, but make sure you don't leave valuables in your car!

If you have any issues or concerns regarding the safety of CCH that you would like to see the Civic Association help mediate, please feel to contact Katie Baxter-Gagen at 703-385-7737 or katiepbg@yahoo.com.

Blenhiem News

Work on the restoration of the Blenheim Mansion is proceeding well. The investigation of the cemetery has been completed and results will be forwarded to you in the next newsletter.

However, the recent decision by City Council to stop the construction of the interpretative center on the property is a set-back. We need citizen's support to reverse this decision! The Blenheim committee's justification paper is available to all by calling our Civic Affairs VP, Paul Sullivan at 703-293-9774. Come out on July 18th to the Friends and Neighbors Socials (FANS) at the CCH pool to support this effort.

Please note: These are the views of some individuals within Fairfax City, it is not an endorsement by the CCHCA. Please attend the FAN Meeting to voice your views.

HFCI Homes Tour – April 30, 2005

The Historic Fairfax City Homes Tour Committee is looking for a 1950-60 era home for its tour next year. County Club Hills is the ideal home! Would you like to show your home off to City residents, or do you know of someone in our neighborhood that would be interested? Please call Hildie Carney at 703-591- 5305.



The Commons

Come take a look at 'The Commons' area and see what a community of hard working people can do! At the Planting Party on June 19th, 17 people came and beautified the area by weeding, planting and spreading mulch. Thanks to all the hard workers: **Steve, Dylan and Tyler Lescure, Paul and Danielle Sullivan, Jay Whetzel, Hildie Carney, Lee and Rob Faber, Livingston Johnson, Patrice Winter, Mary Ellen and Jonathon Early, Martin Pullen, Amy Wise, and Armistice Turtora.** Also, thanks to those of you who donated plants and money to buy more.

Thanks to the members of the Country Hills Garden Club and the Fairfax Ferns Garden Club, for planning the garden areas. The theme of purple and yellow flowers will enhance our view.

CCHCA is in need of a chair for the Common Area Enhancement Area Committee (CEAC). Please call CCH President, Jill Toth if you would like to chair this Committee so that our work can be continued.

There is more mulch to be spread and the weeds keep growing so anytime you have some free time – please help. Plans are underway for another Planting Party in the Fall.

Your Fairfax City Council has been tremendously supportive of our efforts. They have supplied man power in the past and continue to maintain the area well. Please drop them a line of thanks for their continued support by emailing them or when you seen them on the street. Email them at rlederer@fairfaxva.gov or call at 703-385-7850.

Community Generosity

For those of you who were at the planting party, you know of the generosity of some of our local merchants who provided us with sustenance during the morning and afternoon. For those of you who didn't make it out Saturday morning, the following merchants **donated** the following items to help make the outing a success:

Dunkin Donuts (at the circle) for the donuts and coffee

Einstein Bros. Bagels (at Pickett St.) for the *many, many* delicious bagels

Harris Teeter for the Coke and Sprite

Papa John's Pizza for the pizzas for lunch

The kindness these establishments showed CCHCA was so very appreciated by all who volunteered. So, next time you are in the market for any of these products, give a thought to them and maybe stop and shop.

THANKS!

Bang!

It seemed simple enough...the assignment was to casually meet with one of Country Club Hill's long time residents and briefly interview him or her for our community newsletter. No matter that I am not a journalist by trade.

So, I set off to spend an hour with Armistice Turtora, CCH resident for the last 47 years. She lives with her husband, John, at the head of Capeway Court in the large house that looks like two of our cookie cutter houses stuck together. Armistice warmly greets me wearing a casual shirt that says "Lacemaker" across the front, and says, "Yes, I remember you now."

We go way back...about 12 years back. We met 12 years ago while I was a District Manager for a retail chain called Westminster Lace. We hired her as a lacemaker to sit in our display window and give demonstrations to lure customers into our stores. Armistice sat for hours, patiently demonstrating her skills and teaching her art craft. My memory is that she commanded attention, and respect. Customers young and old adored her.

I am invited into the courtyard, and then given a tour. Her bedroom now occupies the space where most of our living rooms are situated. I am so envious of her main floor laundry facility and 26 bathrooms...well, ok, 5 (YES, FIVE BATHROOMS!), that I could cry. But it's the living room in the newer part of the house that makes me smile. One step inside, and you instantly "get" her. There is a lot to look at...pottery, paintings, sculptures, candles, books, mobiles and literally hundreds of miniature donkey's (um,...not actual livestock, just Democratic pride). Armistice collects and Armistice creates.

Like every good reporter, I diligently take 5 pages of what amounts to indecipherable scribbles. But, instead of impressing you with a finely detailed timeline of her life, I think it is more worthwhile to share with you some of what I felt after spending one short hour with Armistice.

This woman is a force! She is funny and interesting and nurturing ("honey, trust me, start taking Fossamax NOW!"). Her sense of self, strong work ethic and



her strong beliefs (don't even get her started about speed bumps!) and her strong voice have earned her respect in our community and beyond. She has a couple of college degrees and has been on many associations and boards. Her accomplishments put any "modern" woman to shame. She strikes me as a woman of her word...loyal and trustworthy. Even more, I admire how she balanced her time...most of which was spent devoted to her husband John and 3 children, and yet still carved out time for herself, her varied interests and passions through the years. When she speaks of those hard working years, she somehow makes them seem easy although I'm sure they were not. Her sense of humor is sharp, and she smiles when sharing stories from long ago, and her eyes shine. It is easy being with her, and my hour flies by.

Before we part, I use one last Barbara Walters-esque trick of the trade to see if I can end with a "bang". I ask Armistice, of all she has accomplished so far in her life, of what is she most proud? She thinks for a moment, smiles and finally says, "My marriage to John." They were married on the fourth of July, 52 years ago. This year, the fireworks will remind me of them. "BANG!"

Written by Michelle Rummel, special feature writer for ECCHO. If you know of someone of interest within Country Club Hills, new or long time resident, please contact Michelle at michelle@poetreestudio.com.

2003-2004 Board of Directors

President	Jill Toth 9934 Pinehurst Avenue 703-383-1965; jilltoth@yahoo.com
VP, Civic Affairs	Paul Sullivan 3302 Spring Lake Court 703-293-9774; p.sullivan29@verizon.net
VP, Block Captains	Courtney Ashmore 3420 Counrty Hill Drive 703-277-2831; Courtney_Ashmore@hotmail.com
VP, Membership	Olivier Long 3423 Brookwood Drive 703-748-0600; cchca@ezjustice.com
VP, Publications	Lisa Whetzel 3406 Park Hill Place 703-383-5989; whetzelink@aol.com
VP, Social Activities	Lee Faber 10017 Spring Lake Terrace 703-273-0829; leef@cox.net Dia Pullen 10004 Boxford Court 703-352-8670; diapullen@hotmail.com
VP, Neighborhood Crime Watch	Katie Gagen-Baxter 3508 Pinehurst Avenue 703-385-7737; katiepbg@yahoo.com
Secretary	Steven Lane 10019 Morningside Court 703-352-6217; lane.link@verizon.net
Treasurer	Ryan Abate 10144 Spring Lake Terrace 703-278-0148; rabate@checkagain.com
Committee Chairs Welcoming Cmte.	Hildie Carney 3512 Old Post Road 703-591-5305; hilcarn31@aol.com

Block Captains Now Wearing Nametags

We know that everyone is cautious about opening his/her door to people they don't recognize. Therefore, all of the Country Club Hills Block Captains will now wear bright yellow name tags when delivering communications. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to call Courtney Ashmore, VP Block Captains, at 703-277-2831.

Social Function Ideas Wanted

For 2004-2005, Lee Faber and Dia Pullen are co-chairs of the Social Committee. They would like input from CCH residents on community activities to add to the calendar. In the past, CCH has traditionally organized the CCH Block Party, Halloween party, Santa visits, and Easter Egg Hunt. What other activities would you suggest?? Please e-mail any ideas to diapullen@hotmail.com or leef@cox.net. Thanks!



CCH CALENDAR

Aug 3	National Night Out/ CCH Ice Cream Social
Sept 7	Fairfax Co.School Begins
Sept 11	Family Fun Fest (Van Dyke Park)
Sept 18	CCHCA Block Party
Late-Sept	CCH Pool Closes
Mid-Oct	Semi-Annual Meeting

For more information on any city-sponsored event, or on any of the city's programs and services, visit the City of Fairfax Web site at www.ci.fairfax.va.us.