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THE ECHO

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Membership Update

As of the last meeting of the association, over 100 families had joined and paid dues.

All CCH residents are eligible for membership in the association. To join the association or inquire about contributing time, energy, or ideas call Hildie Carney at 591-5305.

Sign Project Goes Forward

New signs are in the works for the entrances to CCH. Stafford Markham will have two designs at the Labor Day Picnic for CCH members to consider and vote on.

6/25 CCHCA Meeting Minutes

The CCHCA held its second meeting June 25th at Patrice Winter's house. Matters discussed included the Labor Day Picnic, membership issues, and Fairfax City Government programs. For a complete text of the minutes of the meeting e-mail Dave Motes at dmkfs@erols.com or call Joyce Skoglund at 703-591-4017.

Directory Deadline Nears

Membership and advertising deadlines are approaching for the CCH directory. Total membership will determine whether advertising is free for CCH residents.

Any information that might be pertinent for a community directory is wanted. A great deal of information already exists from the former editions. If you would like to make a suggestion, contact Tom Sparks at 703-691-1972.

Listings and advertising will have to be submitted by October 15 to make the 2002 edition of the directory.

Labor Day Picnic

Join your fellow neighbors for a potluck lunch and end-of-summer mingle at the Country Club Hills Labor Day Party Sunday, September 2 from 1-5 PM. Rain date will be the next day, Monday, September 3.

The picnic will be held in the grassy area on Spring Lake Terrace between Andover and Brookline Streets, and will be free to all who have paid association dues. Families who would like to pay their dues can do so at the picnic. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent.

The association will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, and soft drinks. Families are asked to provide a dish according to this last name schedule:

A-I	Salad
J-Q	Side Dish
R-Z	Dessert

Each family should also bring its own lawn chairs, blankets, games, musical instruments, or other conveniences.

If you'd like to help out behind the scenes, call Kim Motes at 571-432-5881. We will need a set-up and a clean-up crew, a lawn mowing detail (twice, once this weekend and once Saturday morning), gas grill movers and shakers, and chefs talented enough to scorch the hot dogs and hamburgers and get them in the right buns.

We are also looking for suggestions for activities and games and people to person the CCHCA table.

Come join in the fun, bring the family, and meet the neighbors.

Original Residents

Our subdivision is a beautiful, venerable fixture in Fairfax City. One remarkable aspect of this place is the number of original residents.

The CCHCA is interested in collecting a bit of interesting demographic information: original owners and long term residents. For example, we hear of original owners--and one of the earliest residents--Rita and Art Lamb. Rita still lives on Brookwood and her next door neighbor is unusually close to her; it's her son and his family.

We'd like to hear of any more interesting stories that cast light on our unique community, and we're especially interested in photographs of the area for a photocollage and history of Country Club Hills.

Blenheim Grounds Update

The Blenheim grounds are looking better and better. Thanks to the Fairfax Ferns Garden Club, the Country Club Hills Garden Club, and other interested citizens, work is in progress to make it a showcase.

The Clubs have been working every Friday and Saturday for the past month weeding, mulching, and planting. Anyone interested in helping should call Hildie Carney at 703 591 5305.

The foundation for Grandma's Cottage is under construction now. Once it is finished, the house will be renovated to its original state.

The Blenheim Task Force is always looking for help with ideas for raising funds; if you have input please call Hildie.

Noted: The Editor

Chaos Theory

Let's face it: our houses are all the same. I argued that it was coincidence, but even I had to admit that there's a certain similarity of floorplan at work here. Over fifty years there's been a bit of divergence, like the guy on Park Hill with the silo for his goats, and the family near us who have a three-level underground

parking garage full of jet-skis and partially restored Nash Ramblers. I've also noticed some variation in basement design. This has allowed us all to go off in our own evolutionary directions like Galapagos finches. Since the basements are not visible to the naked streetbound eye, we also have the freedom to go to extremes. My basement has become one large closet, and I need mothballs the size of radial tires. I imagine a few of us have tried the Walt Whitman technique: allowed our basements to return to the grass we love. Look for me under your bootsoles.

Later I realized that this was the perfect social experiment, the ideal suburban Petri dish. Build a square mile of homes exactly alike, wait 50 years, assess. It's chaos theory, which I have studied carefully (that is, I listened to that math guy talk about it in "Jurassic Park").

Consider our driveways. The planners of this subdivision obviously sledged a lot as children--every driveway is an uphill starting ramp. They're as visible as the basements are hidden. It is in the driveways that character is truly revealed. There's one near me that shames me so that I've begun using a new route out of the neighborhood to avoid it. Brick, concrete, curves, space, light; it's beautiful. If I had a driveway like that I'd park in the yard.

My driveway is a disgrace. It looks like a slow-motion landslide, or maybe a bad lawn. One downside to a steeply sloping driveway (besides runaway vehicles, trash cans, lawnmowers, and strollers) is that gravity always wins. The original blacktop of my driveway is settling into a folded pile at the street no matter how many tent pegs I drive into it. From each fissure in the surface a line of mutant grass plants grows, genetically engineered to shoulder stones aside and stand tall, thirsty for more Round-Up.

Every winter my cars sidle down the driveway on their own. I know it's only a matter of time before my five-year-old drives the truck into my neighbor's kitchen while playing vroom-vroom. Last winter I walked out to spread ice melter on it and it laughed at me then dumped me on my buttocks and slid me out into the street.

I hear that the Civic Association is going to arrange for driveway contractors and City raw materials in the spring. It won't help me. I guess I'll just start parking in the basement.

Capital Improvement Plan

The Fairfax City Department of Public Works is soliciting community input for its five year Capital Improvement Plan. Input should be community-endorsed suggestions for projects to be undertaken by the city to improve the quality of life for residents. This is an opportunity to influence the process of improvement and maintenance of the infrastructure we use and see on a daily basis.

Suggestions should be submitted to the CCHCA for consideration by 9/15 so that they can be forwarded to the DPW by 10/1.

St. Leo's Construction

St. Leo's Catholic Church will begin construction projects in the next few months. Most work will be done on the church itself to improve safety and accessibility. Though the projects are all minor in scope they may create some construction congestion on Old Lee Highway.

Acting for Children

Mary Lechter, professional actor and teacher, offers acting classes for children and adults sponsored by the Fairfax City Commission on the Arts. These sessions are highly recommended by CCH parents.

Classes are broken down by age groups, starting with creative play classes for children as young as 5. Intermediate and advanced classes for the 8 to 15 range, and classes for parents and children together.

Next session is in October. Classes meet at Fairfax High or the Wood Center. Call Mary at 703-250-6323 or see www.actingforyoungpeople.com.

2001 Officers Country Club Hills Civic Association

President	Patrice Winter	703-385-9817
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