

THE ECCHO

The Newsletter of the Country Club Hills Civic Association

www.cchca.org

January 2008

From the President

Dear CCH-ers!

Happy Thanksgiving and December Holidays! I hope this finds everyone healthy and warm!

We have had a busy fall. Our general membership meeting was on October 17. Thank you to all the residents who came out for the gathering. Chris Martin and Andrea Lowenwarter from the City of Fairfax Historic Resources Department shared some important land clearing, building and reconstruction at Blenheim issues with us. I have addressed the City Council and met with the Mayor and construction team at Blenheim to ensure they are aware of our concerns. We will continue to communicate with the City about the work being done there and hopefully in the end we will have a historical interpretive center as well as an intact wildlife habitat on the property.

One concern mentioned at the general meeting dealt with the quality of lighting on our neighborhood streets. I am happy to report Dominion Power maintains the fixtures and cleans them on a regularly scheduled basis. The streets should brighten up soon.

Another recent issue of concern is private property maintenance. We luckily live in a neighborhood without cumbersome homeowner association rules and dues. As a result, however, we must maintain our properties to the best of our abilities. We have a caring committee willing to help with temporary yard maintenance. If you need assistance please feel free to call me and I will be happy to connect you to a willing helping hand. In addition, our trash and recycling service men are often willing to help with the cans/bins. Included in this newsletter are some City regulations to help us understand the obligations and expectations we must adhere to as homeowners. Please remember our property

values are influenced by the appearance of homes in the neighborhood.

On a continued helpful note, Steve Lescure has offered to be our contact person for this year's adopted family. It is now a CCHCA tradition to adopt a family in need during the holidays. We provide two \$100 giftcards to Shoppers Food Warehouse: one in time for Thanksgiving and the other for their December holiday meal. In addition, we provide \$150 in a giftcard to Target for the children's gifts in the family. Our adopted family is always a local Fairfax family who would not be able to enjoy their holiday in full without a little extra cash. Please feel free to donate as much as you like toward these giftcards (if we receive more money than necessary, we will put it toward a second family's needs).

Please be sure to note there will be a holiday home decorating contest! We give great prizes here at CCH (giftcards to Home Depot and Borders!) Winners will be announced by the end of December!

Thank you for providing such a friendly and fun neighborhood to represent!

~Katie Baxter-Gagen

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A Safe and Sound Story?

I didn't think for a moment that it could happen to me and my family. I had heard all the news stories about people reporting getting headaches and feeling nauseated and not knowing why. I had seen the television reports about the tragic loss of life by this silent killer. It's a killer that works while innocent families are thought to be securely sleeping safe and sound from fatal threats. The cause of death for these unknowing family members was not from an assailant prying a window or jacking a door lock to enter their residences and steal possessions but, instead the killer works from the inner safety of homes. This stalker is stealth but unintelligent. It comes at you without violence in purpose but can be fatally overlooked. Undetectable by sense of taste or smell this life ender is ultimately silent but deadly! It's created by the same type of equipment in almost all homes that is also used to manufacture the very welcomed atmosphere of warmth and comfort. Killer poison gas known simply as CO2 or Carbon Monoxide is the culprit.

Wow, of course I had heard of it. I had even studied about it during preparation for a Home Inspection quiz. Being convinced my home was a safe and sound place to live as many of us do was an oversight. I thought I had cleaned my furnace burners well enough to keep the gas in a complete burn state. Thinking I could do boiler maintenance on my own was a typical error. Several times I had almost bought a CO2 tester but, while at the store I would ask myself is it really worth the price or is it really necessary or will this thing really work. Still, in the back of my mind a seed of urgency had sprouted and was growing but, when at Home Depot somehow the tester never got purchased. Basically we just didn't understand how commonly and dangerous a CO2 problem could really be. Finally I bit the bullet and purchased the tester. Yeh. We plugged it in and felt safer already. That was simple enough right? Well not exactly; the very first night the tester went off. Tester sounds for fire or CO2 are not exactly pleasant and anything that wakes you up in the middle of sleep is an annoyance. So I justified getting up and moving it to a different location all the time telling myself and my wife that it must be malfunctioning or it was too close to the heater. The tester continued to do its job and I continued to reset and relocate it telling myself nobody had a headache or was feeling sick to their stomach. I had looked up CO2 on the internet and found not only horror stories

but some great info: the Fire Dept. would come test a house for FREE. So day three I called them and set an appointment for them to arrive after working hours to give us a check.

Well, I didn't think they would come in the pump truck with lights on and a full crew, but that was the case. As soon as they stepped in the door their meters went ballistic. Testers were screeching in a full blown alarm mode. Meters registered too many units of CO2 per million and the Fire Crew asked repeatedly if any one of us had recently been feeling nauseous or had frequent headaches. We answered no and they were very surprised at that. The firemen checked every room for CO2 levels ending their hunt at the utility room boiler. They shut down the culprit furnace, turned off the gas to the house and opened every window. They left us with no heat and the promise to come back and turn the gas back on after an Experienced Heating Tech. had checked out the boiler system. I found the Fairfax City Fire Crew to be very diligent, concerned, and understanding. What can be learned from this experience?

In the end we all survived. The gas level was not enough to kill, but I was almost done in by the embarrassment of putting myself and family in such dire circumstances. Please heed this warning. Don't second guess yourself. Don't make excuses. Use whatever means necessary to get a CO2 Alarm! I don't know all the stats on deaths caused by CO2, but I do know __ it happens!

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Consultation Session is FREE!

Please call or e-mail for résumé and references!

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STOP Signs

Please obey our STOP Signs! Not coming to a full stop may cost you \$91! I have experienced it!
Ernie Klimonda

Welcome New CCH Residents!

We would like to welcome the following new Country Club Hills Residents:

Christopher Lockard and Michael Lawrence
3414 Andover Drive;
Will So and Dianet Giraldo
10116 Spring Lake Terrace.

Babysitter or Petsitter?

Are you a babysitter or a petsitter and would like to list your services (no charge) on our website www.cchca.org? Call 703-591-0696 or email webmaster-cchca@cox.org.

Calendar

All residents are welcome to attend our next Association meeting on January 15, 2008 at 7:00pm.

Read below for upcoming event in March.

Upcoming March Event

During the doldrums of March, we are planning a Progressive Dinner in Country Club Hills. What is a progressive dinner? Singles/couples sign up to provide one course of the dinner: appetizer, soup/salad, main course, dessert. Everyone meets at the first home and then on to subsequent homes for each course. Depending on response, we may have to have 2-3 groups. Maybe make themed dinners? Look for a flyer/yahogroup notice in early February. Be thinking about it. Lisa Whetzel

Holiday Decoration Contest

For the first time in its 50 year history CCHCA conducted a Holiday Home Decoration Contest. So many homes in CCH are beautifully decorated for the holidays, and it was a difficult task for the panel to choose the five finalists.

The winners are:

Most Beautiful Holiday Home Decoration

First place: Len & Joyce Skoglund
3415 Country Hill Drive

Honorable Mention: Chris Keppler/Kristin Wilson
9924 Pinehurst Avenue

Most Original Holiday Home Decoration

First place: Marta & Joe Vamosi
10015 Morningside Court

Honorable Mention: William & Linda Gibbs
9915 Broadview Drive

Most Traditional Holiday Home Decoration

Charlene Macvicar
10006 Boxford Court

We shall try to increase the number of winners next year by adding "Second Place" to each category. The Association appreciates the embellishment of the neighborhood from so many homeowners.

Labor Day Event

A quick thanks for all the volunteers that helped for another successful Labor Day event. Rob Faber (sound), Amy Wise (ice), Debbie Lane (ice), Lara Hughes (paper products), Pamela and Partner Spraker (BBQ delivery), Lee Faber (face painting 1/2 price), Marty (kid games), snow cone servers and moon bounce supervisors. I couldn't have done it without your help!

Lisa Whetzel



The bike shop that comes

- FREE pick up and drop off.
- Repairs, Custom Commuter Bikes, recycled rides, commuter accessories.
- Make a reservation for our mobile shop to come out to your neighborhood or support your cycling related event.

Phone: 703.371.1095

Website: www.oasisbikeworks.com

Email: info@oasisbikeworks.com

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CCHCA - Yahoo-Group

The membership has almost doubled on our Country Club Hills Yahoo-Newsgroup. We have now reached 190 members. If you are not a member yet please become one by visiting our website www.cchca.org and clicking on "Yahoo! Groups - Join Now." As a member you will receive information of interest to CCH residents and may also post similar pertinent messages. Membership is free, of course. For more information please contact: Ernie Klimonda, CCHCA Yahoo-Group moderator 703-591-0696 eklimonda@cox.net.

CCHCA Does Not Endorse

We do not endorse or investigate advertised services or products in this newsletter. We assume no responsibility for ad accuracy or services/products provided.

40 Homes Sold In One Day
The Washington Post and Times Herald (1954-1959); Apr 11, 1954; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The Washington Po
pg. K11

40 Homes Sold In One Day

Stafford Builders last week reported it sold out an entire 40-home subdivision in Country Club Hills, Fairfax County, Va., and took orders for at least 40 more.

The contemporary dwellings were priced at \$17,950 and \$18,950 and were sold to qualified veteran purchasers for a \$950 down payment. Mortgages of 25 to 30 years were available. The firm plans to build some more.

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Tidbits from the Historian

Greetings once again from the CCHCA historian. I'm sure that many readers use the Fairfax County Library website to renew library books or to put books on hold. But did you know about the other services available on the site? Check out the home page - www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library - there's a lot of stuff there, such as the Calendar of Events, the Ask-a-Librarian live chat, suggested reading lists, and much more.

The library also subscribes to many databases that can be accessed from the library website. Your CCHCA historian has been searching the newspapers databases to find interesting articles that pertain to our neighborhood or city. A few articles of interest are now available on our website www.cchca.org (thanks to Ernie Klimonda). Click on the word "History" towards the bottom of the left-hand column.

The historian would love to hear from anybody with any stories, pictures, or anything else related to the history of CCH. Contact Steve Lescuré at 703-591-2452.

A Little Bit of History in Our Hands

Below and on the next page are examples of some of the articles found about Country Club Hills.

Town of Fairfax Permitted To Annex 3 Square Miles

By Muriel Guinn and J.W. Anderson Staff Reporter

The Washington Post and Times Herald (1954-1959); Jun 27, 1958; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The Washington Post (1877 - 1991) pg. B5

Town of Fairfax Permitted To Annex 3 Square Miles

By Muriel Guinn
and J. W. Anderson

Staff Reporter

The town of Fairfax was granted yesterday the right to annex more than three square miles of unincorporated land around its perimeter.

A panel of three judges, appointed by Virginia's Supreme Court, granted the town about 40 per cent of the 5070 acres for which it had petitioned.

The town was given, in general, the areas served by its municipal water and sewer systems. The annexation became effective Jan. 1, 1959.

The annexation was vehemently opposed by Fairfax County, in which the disputed land lies.

Attorneys for the county warned that if Fairfax town were allowed to expand its borders, it would set off a chain reaction of annexation petitions at the county's expense.

The towns, struggle for taxable land would be sharpened, they said.

Frank L. Balls, representing the County, predicted that Falls Church would attempt, before the end of the year, to annex a chunk of Fairfax County.

Fairfax town's area will be more than doubled by the court's grant.

The grant includes the Country Club Hills development, where residents voted 116 to 3 for annexation in a recent poll. But it excludes a large area proposed for industrial development. And it also left out Oakton, which the judges described as a self-contained community.

The judges hearing the dispute were Paul E. Brown, chief judge of the County's Circuit Court, Hamilton Haas of Harrisonburg, and J. J. Temple of Prince Georges County.

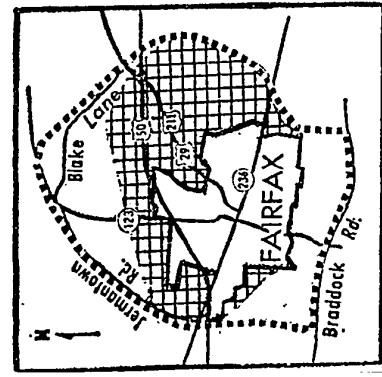
The town argued it should have jurisdiction over the areas to which it extended municipal services, or which it was prepared to serve.

Calvin Van Dyck, counsel for the town, argued that town property is taxable by the county and annexation would bring no disadvantage to the county.

"I think it is very significant," Van Dyck declared, "that not a single person in this area has asked that this annexation be denied."

Ball replied Fairfax County was an integral urban community, and should properly come under a single administrative unit.

The town wanted new land because it was hungry for an increased tax base and borrowing capacity, he said. "The business area of the old town is shot to pieces, it's full of vacancies," he told the judges. Robert C. Fitzgerald, Commonwealth's Attorney for the county, charged that the town's water supply will shortly be inadequate, and eventually the water-sewer system will be integrated into area-wide utilities.



The Washington Post

Shaded area shows land which Circuit Court said yesterday the Town of Fairfax could annex. Town originally had asked permission to annex larger area shown within dotted lines.

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Remembering Blenheim

Greg Cumming, 10001 Blackthorn Court

Interviewed by Veronique Klimonda

My Mom and Dad were living in an apartment in Alexandria but wanted to move to the country and own their own home. They wanted a small community with good schools and other children for my older brother and me to play with. So they started looking and found houses available at a new subdivision in Fairfax County, in the Town of Fairfax, called Country Club Hills. They placed an order for a home at the outrageous price of \$19,500. We continuously visited our house while it was being built and I remember it was very exciting for all of us.

On one of these visits, Dad found an inspector looking around. Because the house was nearly finished, Dad asked him what he thought of the place. The inspector said it was a nice home, but it was too bad that it had to be torn down. After my father collected himself, the inspector told him that Stafford Builders had added an extra house along Pinehurst Avenue and because of that our house was too close to the property line. Dad appealed to the county zoning board and received a variance to allow the house to stand. A nice start in the neighborhood! After we moved in, Mom stood at the window and cried because she thought Dad had moved her to the middle of nowhere. Not all the houses were complete at that point and it was just that quiet.

Country Club Hills was still being developed in 1955. Mr. Stafford kept his construction equipment and trailers on a portion of the Blenheim property, which at the time was owned by the Scotts. They were very nice people and never minded if we played around the house or even in the old barn. The barn had horse stalls and a loft with large doors that opened for loading hay. We used to swing on a rope to get to the ground. One evening, I think in the fall, while our family ate dinner, we noticed a glow in the sky and it turned out to be the Scott barn burning. We could see it clearly because there were no trees between our home and the barn, so we just watched it from the dining room window. It's hard to imagine with all the large trees you see at Blenheim today, but back then there were only apple and pear trees, and very few of those. We never found out what caused the fire, but

my father thought it could have been done for training purposes.

One day, determined to see if the rumors were true about wall graffiti in the attic, I decided to go to the Scott house. Knowing that I wasn't allowed to write on walls made me wonder, I guess. I knocked on the door and Mr. Scott answered. He couldn't have been more kind and he gave me a personal tour of the attic. Once I got upstairs, with Mr. Scott's special attention, he explained that the house had been used by wounded and sick soldiers during the Civil War while they recovered from various battle injuries. It was an amazing sight for a young fellow. To think that grown-ups actually wrote their full names right out on the walls! In some spaces they wrote very large, right across the wall. Many years later, after moving back to Country Club Hills with my own new family, I had another chance to briefly speak with Mr. Scott and he was still the same nice gentleman.

The Scott house remained a favorite place to play for all the neighborhood children. We had a baseball diamond there (Dad cut it out of the high grass with his lawn mower) and my parents made sure I had a baseball glove. Another favorite game was flashlight. Not sure if children still play that game. The object was to shine the flashlight on hidden friends. Kind of like "tag you're it"! We even flew homemade box kites there. One Christmas, Santa Claus brought me a Wham-O boomerang. Boy, I loved that toy and played with it all the time. The Scott property was the perfect place to throw it. Unfortunately, I lost it in the tall grass and finally, after many days, had to give up looking for it. Thirty-five years later, a neighbor found it while cleaning up his backyard and I got it back. I must hold the record for length of time for a boomerang return!

Advertise

Would you like to advertise in the next **ECCHO-Newsletter**? Contact Ana Alonso at a.alonso@cox.net or 703-273-4737.

Business Card	\$ 25.00 (four issues)
Quarter Page	\$50.00 (four issues)
Half Page	\$75.00 (four issues)
Full Page	\$100.00 (four issues)

Beach House Rentals - 2008 Two Houses on the Outer Banks, NC

House in Kill Devil Hills, on the Beach Road:

4 bedroom; 2 bath; washer and dryer; central air, cable TV (6); beautiful views; walk to the beach; sleeps nine. Price includes all taxes and fees (except optional cleaning). Take a virtual tour of the "**Beach Crab**" @ www.crabsouterbanksvacations.com

House in Kill Devil Hills, on the Sound:

4 bedroom; 2 1/2 bath; washer and dryer; central air, cable TV (5); beautiful sunsets; on the water; sleeps eight. Price includes all taxes and fees (except optional cleaning). Take a virtual tour of the "**Sound Crab**" @ www.crabsouterbanksvacations.com

Rental fees for each house:

- January 1 - May 25 (\$840 per week)
- May 25 - June 8 (\$1,020 per week)
- June 8 - September 7 (\$1,495 per week)
- September 7 - September 28 (\$1,020 per week)
- September 28 - December 31 (\$840 per week)

Contact: Dave Scango, 10106 Springlake Terrace, 703-385-9519

Membership News

Thank you to the residents who have already joined or renewed their 2007-2008 CCHCA membership. As of October 30, 2007, forty percent (40%) of the neighborhood residents are current members. Our membership rate is down as much as 15% from previous years. Please remember that your dues fund very important programs and activities and we are counting on your membership. It's not too late to join or renew. Please complete the membership application at the end of the newsletter and return it with your \$10 dues payment to Katy Sidwell, 3412 Andover Drive. Questions, corrections or changes may be sent to Katy_Sidwell@hotmail.com.

Congratulations!

Our congratulations go to William Hayden and Gay Boyle-Hayden of Boxford Court on winning the Labor Day membership drawing for a \$25 Home Depot Gift Certificate.

Fairfax City Code Reminder

CCHCA Board of Directors have fielded several complaints recently about the appearance of properties in the neighborhood. Some concerns have been raised about motor vehicles and boat trailers parked in yards as well as trash cans put out or left on the curb too many days.

As a reminder, we have pulled information that deals with these issues from the City of Fairfax Code and we have included it in the next three pages of this newsletter.

We are not a regulatory governing body and therefore we can only forward concerns to the City officials. CCH residents can also directly contact the **City Neighborhood Hotline at (703) 385-7800** to make an anonymous complaint. For more information, see the City of Fairfax website at www.fairfaxva.gov/code/CommonViolations.asp

If there is a message you would like posted in our newsletter, please feel free to submit your notice but be sure to include your name for publishing purposes.

Country Club Hills Civic Association Membership Application for 2007 – 2008

Membership is about building our community!

Membership year: May 1, 2007 to April 30, 2008

Name of Primary Resident(s):	
Names and Years of Birth of Children to age 18:	
Address	Home Phone Number:
CCH Resident Since (Year):	
Email 1	Email 2

Please indicate if you or any member of your household wish to be listed in a future CCH Directory for personal or business services for free.

Babysitting/pet-sitting/yard work by teen-agers 14 and over.
(Please give year of birth)

Services you/or your business offer:
Name and type of service:

Lessons you provide: i. e. music/instrument/language/other:

Please let us know if you are interested in one or more of the following:

- Volunteering your services for the CCH Civic Association Board or committees Newsletter Social Events (Holiday Party, Halloween, Spring Egg Hunt, Ice Cream Social, etc) The Commons Park Enhancement Committee All-purpose Volunteer; and/or,
- Joining or forming a special club or group;
- Would you like to advertise a business or service in our CCH Directory for a fee? If so, please attach your business card.
- Would you like to join the CCHCA Yahoo Newsgroup? - If so, please provide your email address- if different than above.

For more information check out our Website: www.cchca.org

Dues: \$10.00 per family for 2007/2008. **Make checks payable to:** Treasurer, CCHCA.
Please return form and payment to: VP, Membership, Katy Sidwell, 3412 Andover Drive

FOR CCH USE:		
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