

E C C H O

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hi CCHers,

Happy autumn. The leaves are falling and we're all out raking!

I just want to highlight some particular upcoming issues and events:

FAIRFAX CITY HISTORY 2 We will once again adopt a local family in need for the holidays. Our Daily Bread, a local organization for the needy, coordinates this program with social service organizations aware of the private needs of specific families. This will be our fourth year providing grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving and a holiday meal in December as well as a gift card for adults to purchase gifts for the children in the home. The more we donate individually, the more our needy family benefits. Please continue to support those in need by dropping off your check or cash to Dia Pullen at 10004 Boxford Ct.

CREEK CLEAN A SUCCESS 5 Holiday yard decorations contest will occur again this year as well. Please know we give a variety of awards, all you need to do is participate to be considered a winner.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 8 We received much positive feedback from our progressive dinner last spring. We are hoping to organize another early next year. Please stay tuned and alert for messages with dates and contacts to be part of the next progressive dinner group.

Our general membership meeting was held on Oct 15. It was sparsely attended, but we did hash through some important issues. The bylaws governing our civic association have been approved! Thank you to those who took the time and effort to reread, review, and revise the bylaws with careful scrutiny and precision.

I hope each of you has the opportunity to visit the newly constructed Interpretive Center at Blenheim. The City has a slew of new restaurants and shops and has been hosting festive Friday Night Lights, 6-8 each Friday night until December 5, 2008. I hope everyone is out enjoying our new spaces. And, I hope that we all appreciate not having to go far for holiday shopping this year since we have such opportunities within walking distance to our neighborhood.

Be safe and stay warm.

~Katie Baxter-Gagen

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

FAIRFAX CITY HISTORY 2

CIVIC AFFAIRS UPDATE 3

CREEK CLEAN A SUCCESS 5

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 8

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

Board of Directors Meeting December 10

Santa Claus Visits 12/16 and 12/17

Holiday Decorations Contest

FAIRFAX CITY HISTORY— MORE THAN YOU THOUGHT?

Interested in learning a little bit about the early history of the city you live in? If so, read on. The following is a super-quick overview of the our city's early history, based primarily on materials available in the Virginia Room of the Fairfax City Library: The History at Caleb Earp's Corner, City of Fairfax by Ed Trexler, Special Report – Number Eleven – June 1979 Buildings and site of the City of Fairfax, A History of the Town of Fairfax by Jeanne Johnson Rust, and The Fare Facs Gazette, the Newsletter of Historic Fairfax City – Winter 2005. In future newsletters I hope to expand on some of the topics mentioned here.

Most histories of our town start with Richard Ratcliffe. Born in Fairfax County in 1751, Ratcliffe purchased an enormous amount of land stretching from Annandale through Loudon County. He owned all of the land that would eventually become the town of Fairfax. Ratcliffe also served at various times as the Fairfax County sheriff, coroner, justice, patroller, overseer of the poor, constable, commissioner of revenue, jail inspector, and superintendent of elections. The house he built in 1812 still stands in the downtown area of the city.

Not surprisingly, in the late 18th century this area consisted primarily of small farms. The center of the town was called Earp's Corner, which was at the intersection of what are now Route 123 and Route 236. Caleb Earp was the owner of a general store located there. Undoubtedly the town would have remained just another farming village if not for the need to move Fairfax County Courthouse and Ratcliffe's business acumen.

According to Jeanne Johnson Rust, the area courthouse was at one time located a couple miles north of Vienna. The gallows, the place prisoners were put to death, was located next to it. The road to the courthouse from Alexandria

was called Courthouse Road. However, getting to and from Vienna in these pre-automobile days was not easy, and it was decided to move it to Alexandria. The gallows remained in Vienna. The name of the road became known as Gallows Road, as it remains today.

At the suggestion of George Washington, Alexandria was designated as the future Federal capital. Although that never happened, plans were made to move the courthouse again. Ratcliffe decided to donate four acres of land close to Earp's Corner for the courthouse, perhaps as a philanthropic gesture but more likely as a business venture. As the primary land holder in the area, he would obviously stand to gain if the courthouse was located adjacent to his property.

In 1804 Ratcliffe worked with a friend of the legislature to make the area surrounding the courthouse an official town. The town of Providence was established in 1804. Ratcliffe was instrumental in the original design. The name of the town was changed to Fairfax in 1864. It became an independent city in 1961.

The next primary driver of development of the area was the construction of the Little River Turnpike, a toll road that led from Alexandria to the new courthouse. According to Wikipedia, the term turnpike originated from pikes, which were long sticks that blocked passage until the fare was paid, and the fact that the toll booths were generally located at turns in the road. The Little River toll road was built by the Little River Turnpike Toll Road Company in 1802 and completed in 1816. The road made it much easier and faster to reach the town and resulted in significant economic development.

The town of Fairfax figured prominently in the Civil War. Probably the most well-known event

(Continued on page 6)

SANTA VISITING CCH A BIT EARLY THIS YEAR

Deck the halls and get your jingle bells ready! Country Club Hills has made Santa's nice list again, and he will be coming door to door. On the evenings of Tuesday, December 16th and Wednesday, December 17th, Santa will be available between 6:30 and 8:30 for visits with all the good little boys and girls at their homes. This is your opportunity to get a picture of the kids with Santa in front of your own Christmas tree.

If you would like Santa to come to your home, call Jill Toth at 703.383.1965 during the first week of December (1st-6th) to arrange a time. Even Santa has to cut back this year, so we are asking parents to leave a small gift outside the front door just before your scheduled visit. Santa will slip it into his bag on the way in. Do you have a little spare time to help spread holiday cheer? We are in need of a driver to escort Santa around the neighborhood for one night. (Thanks to Steve Caruso for volunteering to drive the other night.) Happy holidays, everyone!

BEAUTY SPOT OF THE MONTH

The Country Club Hills Garden Club is delighted to give the September Beauty Spot award to Bonnie Roberts and Stafford Markham of 3421 Park Hill Place..... The house sits high on its site and a meandering drive enhances the interest. The yard is always neat with lovely flowers bordering the house - and we admire the two weeping cherry trees at the driveway entrance, which Bonnie and Stafford are working hard to keep alive and well. We'll be rooting for you (a good pun eh?). Congratulations Stafford and Bonnie!

Kathy Keitt

Polly Haecker

CCH Garden Club

FROM OUR VP, CIVIC AFFAIRS, HILDIE CARNEY

If you were not able to come to the opening of Blenheim, the site is open Tuesday through Saturday from 12 to 4PM with a tour at 1PM. Come and check it out. Thanks to all of you who came to the volunteer training. More people are needed to help on a daily basis. Call the site Manager Andrea L. at the Museum for more information if you can be a Blenheim volunteer.

The Community Center Plan has been presented to the Council and there will be public hearings in the next several months for citizen input. The location of the building will not impact on the park in any way as it will be to the right of the Police Department in front of the Willard Center.

The City is struggling with limited funds; however there may be a scaled down First Night this year. Watch the Cityscene for more news about that. Shop in Fairfax to help out the businesses and as a result helping our City's revenue. Special Friday night events are held each week in the new "Old Town". Go on downtown and check out all the new businesses. Things are beginning to boom.

There was a meeting of the "Association of Civic Associations" on November 13 at City Hall. This group was formed so that all citizens of the City will be informed of the issues all over town. Call me for more information. CITIZEN INPUT IS IMPORTANT. EMAIL YOUR COUNCIL!

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FALL CLEAN A SUCCESS

Once again during our bi-annual getting green creek clean everyone contributed to an outstanding job. Many bags of trash, which included a diverse collection of debris were collected during an almost 3 hour trek covering most of the Accotink Creek shoreline that runs behind Country Club Hills. Our official Adopt-a-Spot is considered just behind the CCHCA Commons, but our cleaning crews have never been satisfied with such a short span to sanitize.

Taking our cue from Ed Preston, a long time resident who often solo cleans, we trudged around and through a chilly creek full of good sized minnows (one sign of a healthy creek) plucking all form of trash. Equipped with a long handled claw there isn't a plastic bag or bottle that could escape Ed's cleaning vision, or steady work ethic. Chad Hurley, also a participant in all the cleaning sessions, gave his usual yeoman effort and commented that our cleanings are having an impact. Each session seems to yield a smaller volume of garbage.

Thanks are in order for two families of workers. Steve, Nasrin, and Tyler Lescure took time out from their busy lives to lend a valuable hand. Steve and Tyler had the labor intense job of dragging a metal shopping cart out of the creek - across the creek bed - up a forty yard steep backyard - and down a city block to the common area. Wheeew! When I saw them start up the hill I just wiped my brow relieved that at least

they were up to the task. By the way: Nasrin had been weeding the Commons Gardens before we all showed up for the creek clean at which time she just switched gears and got busy. Thanks Nasrin for all your hard work. When we reached the usual exit point Ed Preston (God Bless him) continued up the Accotink still several houses away from his own home collecting one piece at a time.

When we arrived back at the Commons we found another work crew. Marty Pullen and his two boys had arrived a little after our first group had departed and just dug in of their own accord filling several bags of man made bi-products not meant for our adopt-a spot. I was thrilled know the youngsters had pitched in. Ya know its fantastic that our neighborhood contains such thoughtful, and conservation minded children. I must note that the Pullen boys were very understanding when told that pizza had been postponed until the spring clean. They simply drank their Gatorades and politely requested cheese pizza with maybe a little pepperoni next time. One likes Sicilian style, and the other thin and crispy after my own heart. Thanks for understanding guys.

LOOK OUT FOR THE SPRING CLEAN ANNOUNCEMENT IN OUR NEWSLETTER AND ON CCHCA.ORG

Would love to have to buy pizza for a larger group --- Sicilian or Thin n Crispy?

(Continued from page 2)

was the capture of Union General Stoughton by Mosby's Raiders, a confederate unit led by John Mosby. Antonia Ford, the daughter of John Ford, owner of the Ford House which still stands in Fairfax City, was jailed, perhaps unjustly, as a spy. Allegedly, she gave Mosby information used to capture the general. She was eventually released and married a Union officer. In 1900 her son Joseph gave the city Old Town Hall to be used as a community center.

Railroads were the primary driver of economic development during the 19th century, but unfortunately for the town of Fairfax, the railroad never made it here. Manassas Gap Railroad Company started a route through the town in the 1850's, but it was never completed because of the Civil War. The grading was started

and is still visible in some areas of the city.

Finally in 1904, the Washington and Falls Church Electric Railway built a trolley line that went from DC to the courthouse. However, it never became popular primarily because of the mass-production of automobiles. The automobile of course, led to the development of suburbia, which eventually led to the "suburbanization" of Fairfax City.

Well, that's probably more than enough city history for one newsletter. Stay tuned to this channel for more information on the history of our neighborhood and surrounding community.

-Steve Lescure, CCHCA Historian

Stay Connected

City of Fairfax Democratic Committee

Be Informed!

www.FairfaxCityDemocrats.org

703.385.8500

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<u>COMMUNITY APPEARANCE</u>	o p e n	

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 10, 7 PM

BOD Meeting

Katy Sidwell

3412 Andover Drive

703.293.9033

Katy_Sidwell@hotmail.com

December 16 and 17, 6-8 PM

SANTA CLAUS visits CCH

For details please contact:

Jill Toth, 703.383.1965

jilltoth@yahoo.com between

December 1-6.

December 20

HOLIDAY DECORATION CONTEST

Awards will be given to the six most beautifully decorated homes in our neighborhood. For more information please contact:

Ernie Klimonda, 703.591.0696

eklimonda@gmail.com

Katie Baxter-Gagen, 703.385.7737

katiepbg@yahoo.com

Dia Pullen, 703.352.8670

diapullen@hotmail.com

WELCOME TO OUR NEW NEIGHBORS

Steven and Patricia Rodgers,

3304 Spring Lake Court

Laura Downey & Georgia Laxton,

3500 Spring Lake Terrace

Michael and Michelle Tocci,

10117 Spring Lake Terrace

John and Kelly Polinsky,

10104 Capeway Court

Andrew (Andy) Pachuta and Jacqueline Santana

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