

THE ECCHO

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President's Message: "Common Spaces"

I'm going to give you fair warning right up front that this quarter's column will start pretty but end up being about money. I hope you'll keep reading past the pretty part.

As the days of summer shorten to autumn-length, we start moving our lives back indoors after a generally pleasant few months of grilling and gardening. Walking through the neighborhood by the Commons, it's positively idyllic, with the beautifully maintained grounds bordering on the woods. We have deer, foxes, hawks, bats, and too many varieties of birds to count. Considering the strip malls on the other side of those woods, it's nothing short of amazing.

It's easy to take such beauty for granted, but it's the result of hard work. While the city does do basic mowing of the grass, the city doesn't do more than that. And the parks budget has been drastically cut over the last few years.

One member of our community, Nasrin Lescure, has taken the lead in keeping the Commons looking as it does the last few years, and she personally puts in many hours. Nasrin has been recognized by Fairfax city for her work in landscaping around the library, and we're lucky to have her in our neighborhood. But she can't do all the weeding and mulching herself.

The CCHCA used to receive assistance from the city to pay for people to come and weed the Commons twice a year, but those funds dried up. This past spring, the weeding cost \$480, which just about depleted the last of the funds from the city. Although we'll try to find the most cost-effective people, we expect that the fall weeding will be similar.

The CCHCA budget currently breaks even every year. The household dues and revenue from newsletter ads pay for the various events throughout the year, including the Labor Day Picnic that's almost here. But there was never money in the budget to do the weeding. We got spoiled by a small windfall from the city.

The Board spent a lot of time talking about this. Should the CCHCA cover the weeding? If so, how would we pay for it? Dues are pretty low right now, but raising them is a controversial decision. Do we have a fundraiser?

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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As we talked, we realized that we on the Board love the way the Commons looks, but the bottom line is that the neighborhood belongs to all of us. Do we as a community want to spend the money to keep the Commons looking the way it does?

So we decided to do an informal sort of a survey, except you vote with your wallet. At the picnic on Labor Day, and possibly at other upcoming events, you'll see a sign asking for your help keeping the Commons looking beautiful. You'll be able to pitch in whatever amount of money you think is appropriate towards the fall weeding. If you can't make it to the picnic, you can also contact me at mattalevy@gmail.com to find out where to send donations.

Here's how the "survey" part works. The amount we're able to raise will give us some idea of how much the neighborhood values the way the Commons looks now.

If we don't raise much of anything, we'll get the message. If we get a decent amount of support, that will mean that we'll need to have a larger conversation about the best way to fund the semi-annual cleanup longer term.

It's up to you. How much is a beautiful Commons worth?

"A garden requires patient labor and attention. Plants do not grow merely to satisfy ambitions or to fulfill good intentions. They thrive because someone expended effort on them."

- Liberty Hyde Bailey.

For the past several years, three teams have adopted spots at the Commons and have worked diligently to take care of their area.

Our warm thanks to:

Team Lavender, The Country Club Garden Club, Team Red, The Lescure family, and Team Yellow, Teresina Christy.

HELPFUL HINTS AND REMINDERS

The City of Fairfax monthly newsletter CITYSCENE.

Would you like a printed copy mailed to you each month?

Contact: Chris Fow Cohen
Community Relations Office,
City of Fairfax
703-385-7947 (phone)
571-244-0189 (mobile)
chris.cohen@fairfaxva.gov

For Parents with young children

Our CCH website offers most invaluable websites "for parents" with young children, such as:
Child Care – Safety (general) – Safety (online) – Safety Sites for Kids and Teens - Homework Help – Search Engines for Kids.
Visit our website www.cchca.org and click on: "For Parents"
Contact: webmaster@cchca.org

Need to get the word out?

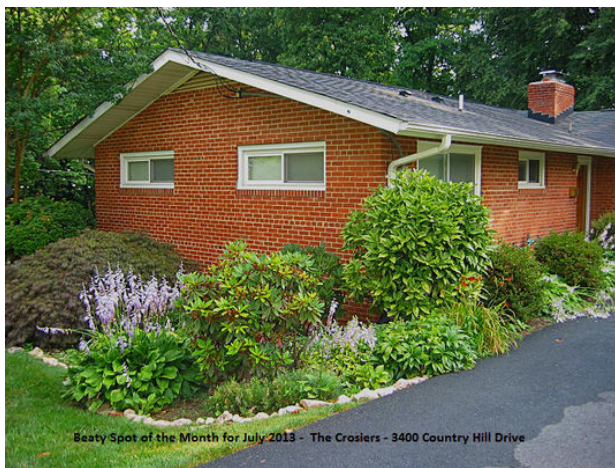
Are you planning a Yard sale or any other event in CCH? You can advertise it for free on our CCH Yahoo and Google Group.
(CCHCA membership required)
Contact:
yahogroupmoderator@cchca.org

Neighbors, if you have any corrections or updates to your listing in the CCHCA Directory, please contact the directory editor, Toby Sorensen, at tobe68@cox.net or 703-591-5899.

BEAUTY SPOTS

The July 2013 Beauty Spot went to **Kristy and Matt Crosier** of **3400 Country Hill Drive, on the corner of Country Hill and Pinehurst**. Living on a corner lot means more yard to landscape, more yard for all to see; the Crosiers have met these challenges beautifully!

Stop by and study their yard—it's a perfect lesson in simple landscaping principles that could help all of us become better home gardeners.



Beauty Spot of the Month for July 2013 - The Crosiers - 3400 Country Hill Drive

Sometimes the Beauty Spot of the Month award goes to a most lavishly landscaped yard—you know, one with lots of fabulous plants, multi-tiered beds, with different sections of the yard set off as garden rooms. This month it's all about simplicity! **Congratulations to the Rhoads family of 10106 Cornwall Road. You are the winners of the August Beauty Spot of the Month!**



Beauty Spot of the month for August 2013
Harry and Joel Rhoads

THE CIVIC ASSOCIATION WELCOMES OUR NEW RESIDENTS

Christopher Stephanie Van Bebbler
3508 Spring Lake Terrace
703.278.0187 - 415.608.2557
svbebbler@yahoo.com -
vanbebblerca@gmail.com

Celeste Wallace
3405 Spring Lake Terrace,
703.489.5425
celestewallace@hotmail.com

Scott and Maura Anderson
3303 Spring Lake Court,
571.732.4773 703.789.3644
fargonedaddy@hotmail.com
maura4anderson@gmail.com

Dustin and Gail Painter
10005 Blackthorn Court,
703.400.7843
dpainter30@gmail.com

Steve and Debbie Lane
10015 Morningside Court,
571.512.8252
lanedebrae@gmail.com
stevenlane101@gmail.com

Randy and Liz Hilliard are back
after a two-year absence, 3424
Brookwood Drive, 571-332-9486
rchilliard@hotmail.com
elizabethhilliard@hotmail.com

Andrew and Julie Neville
3423 Brookwood Drive,
240.476.4722
julie.neville76@gmail.com and
aneville4fca@gmail.com

Daniel and Amy Reber
10007 Spring Lake Terrace,
540.604.4043 540.604.6851
daniel.reber@yahoo.com

Jason and Renae Myers
10143 Spring Lake Terrace
913.433.6667,
jasonandrenae@hotmail.com

Contact: welcoming@cchca.org

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO COUNTRY CLUB HILLS

Wasn't it only yesterday that we were getting out our summer shorts and heading for the beach? This year has simply flown by.

The next quarterly newsletter is slated to go out in December (can you believe it?) so here we are, talking about the winter holidays.

It seems like every year, more and more families would like to have Santa (my personal friend, I might add) come and hang with the kids for a while before the big night. You know how the big guy is, he hates to disappoint any one.

This year he asked me to help out with coordinating his schedule to make absolutely sure that every child who wants to see him gets the chance.

In order to do that, every household will need to complete a sign-up form. The sign-up form will be sent out to the Yahoo Group (be sure to be subscribed) or provided to anyone who requests one. Signups will be from November 15th to November 30th.

Information on the sign-up form will be used solely for coordinating this visit with Santa.

If your family has never had a visit from Santa, you will have priority scheduling. If you have had a visit before, please consider hosting another family so that Santa may see as many Country Club Hills children as he can this year.

Absolutely no visit requests or sign-ups will be accepted over the phone.

For more information, contact amymlevy@gmail.com [SUBJ] Santa Claus.

Announcing Open Enrollment onto our short list for Block Captain Route!

Become a member of this important group of volunteers.

Help make your neighborhood a more connected and affected place to live.

Contact: Leslie Daniels lesdan001@verizon.net

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

A total of 188 households have joined or renewed their membership in the CCH Civic Association for 2013. That works out to 59% of CCH households.

What a wonderful reflection on this neighborhood.

In addition to helping fund great activities and improvements in the neighborhood, your membership represents support for making our community the kind of place you want to live.

With that in mind, please consider volunteering a few hours here or there to help with the common area, the creek clean up, or event planning.

Every extra pair of hands is greatly appreciated!

Since it is easy to forget from year to year if you've renewed, Ernie has made it easy to check your current membership status on our website at

<http://cchca.org/membership/Membership2013.pdf>

or give me a call and I will double check for you.

If you are still in the other 41% please join or renew by filling out the membership form at the back of this newsletter (there is also a link on the home page of our website www.cchca.org) and send or drop off with your dues to me at 3514 Spring Lake Terrace. Thanks.

Judy Fraser
VP Membership

EDITOR'S NOTE

I look forward to hearing what you like... and what you don't like... about this issue. Send your comments to editor@cchca.org. And thanks.

Country Club Hills Civic Association

Founded 1954

WWW.CCHCA.ORG

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Your membership strengthens our community!

Membership year: January 1 - December 31, 2013 Dues: \$15/year/household

Members are allowed to post messages on our CCH-Yahoo-Group and have access to the online CCH Directory

Name of Resident(s)		
Street Address		Home Phone Number(s)
Email 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Add to Yahoo Group <input type="checkbox"/> Add to Online Directory	Cell Phone Number(s)
Email 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Add to Yahoo Group <input type="checkbox"/> Add to Online Directory	<input type="checkbox"/> New Member OR <input type="checkbox"/> Renewing Member
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 year (\$15) OR <input type="checkbox"/> 2 years (\$30)		<input type="checkbox"/> Check OR <input type="checkbox"/> Cash

Would you or any member of your household like to offer any of the following in the next CCH Directory:

☐ Babysitting/pet-sitting/yard work services (specify type of work; if under 18 please include parent signature as permission and give year of birth):

☐ Other services you or your business offer (please provide name and type of service):

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

Please let us know if you are interested in any of the following:

- ☐ Volunteering your services for the CCH Civic Association Board and / or committees
- ☐ Joining or forming a special club or group
- ☐ Advertising in the CCH Directory or newsletters
- ☐ Joining the CCHCA Yahoo Newsgroup. (Indicate which emails you would like added to the Yahoo Group above)
- ☐ NEW! Sign up for the online CCH Residents Directory by emailing eklimonda@gmail.com to request access.

Make checks payable to: Treasurer CCHCA Please return form and payment to:

VP Membership Judy Fraser, 3514 Spring Lake Terrace, Fairfax, VA 22030

For assistance contact jrobbfraser@gmail.com (703-825-7022)

For more information visit our website: www.cchca.org

FOR CCHCA USE:

<input type="checkbox"/> PAID-- CHECK #	<input type="checkbox"/> RECEIVED ON	<input type="checkbox"/> DIRECTORY UPDATED
<input type="checkbox"/> PAID-- CASH	<input type="checkbox"/> PAYMENT SENT TO TREASURER	<input type="checkbox"/> MEMBERSHIP RECORDS UPDATED

Troy Furr

703.541.8332



Summer Work:
Mow Lawns
Rake Leaves
Trim Hedges
Assorted Yard Work

Winter Work:
Snow Removal
Firewood for Sale

References in CCH:

Leslie Daniels 703-383-1272
 Drew Toth 703-383-1965
 Jason Gray 703-691-4163

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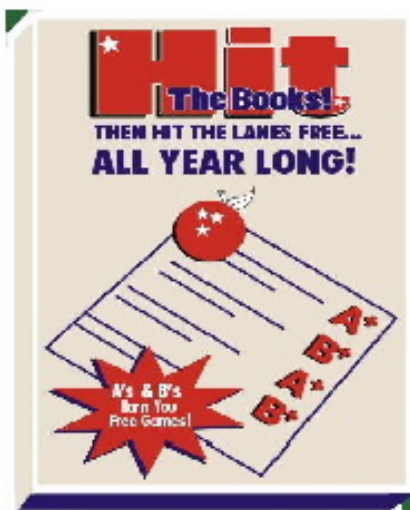
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