June/July/August 2016





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# President's Message

As I write this, summer has arrived full blast and the pool is about to open just in the nick of time – or did the temperature heat up just in time for the pool opening?! One way or another it seems to have worked out.

CCH definitely shines in the summer, with kids on bikes, wafting smells of barbecues, fireworks at the high school and even an ice cream truck making the rounds (though he zips through pretty quick – you have to be ready!)

The Association's annual meeting took place on April 28 at Blenheim. The City's Director of Planning and Community Development, Brooke Hardin, presented a brief and informative overview of the development projects across the city. Up the street from us, the Fairfax Circle shopping center is going to be transformed into a mixed use development called "Scout on the Circle" with shopping on the ground level and apartments above. No official word yet on what grocery store will be in the project.

As most of you know, about a month ago

several neighbors had their cars rifled through and one car was stolen (and later recovered thankfully). The police reminded us to lock our cars and remove valuables to prevent damage and loss of valuables, and so that anyone inclined to this type of crime learns they will not be successful here in CCH.

Sunday Strolls are on a roll this year, and they've been augmented with Yoga at the Commons (4:30 on Sundays weather permitting). If you would like to host an event in conjunction with Sunday Strolls (or other times as well!) please contact Jason Gray, our VP of Social Activities. All ideas are welcome and the Civic Association wants to help you make it happen. Which reminds me, when you host an event at home be sure and be considerate of neighbors – a heads up a few days ahead of any event that will bring in extra cars, or extra noise if it is an outdoor party, goes a long way to keeping everyone happy!

I'm looking forward to fireflies and many pleasant summer evenings around CCH and hope you are as well.

Best to you all,

Judy Fraser

# Upcoming Events—Mark Your Calendars!

Event	Location	Date/Time
Ice Cream Social	The Common Area	Thursday, June 23rd, 4pm-6pm
Sunday Strolls	The Common Area	Every Sunday, 5pm-7pm

 $\mathcal{A}$  community is like a ship, everyone ought to be prepared to take the helm. ~Henrik Ibsen



# Membership Message

# A Huge Thank You!

We want to thank the following local businesses for donating gift cards to raffle off at our Annual Meeting held on 21 April at Blenheim. There were 4 very happy winners.

# Michael Pearce, The Wine House (2 gift cards)

## **Brian Williams, Greene Turtle**

# Dimitri Paraskevopoulos, P.J. Skidoos

If you haven't yet paid your 2016 dues, or are not sure whether you are paid up, please check the membership list on our web site: <a href="www.cchca.org">www.cchca.org</a>, or contact Stephanie Justen, CCHCA membership vice president at: <a href="membership@cchca.org">membership@cchca.org</a> or at 703-273 -5249.

# Do You Know Your Block Captain?



From front to back: Dylan, Kayleigh, Katie, Charley and Chris in Granada, Spain.

# Katie Baxter-Gagen of 3508 Pinehurst Avenue

Route 3B - 3419, 3421, 3423 Andover Dr; 10009, 10011, 10013 Cornwall Rd; 10000, 10001, 10002, 10003, 10004, 10005, 10006 Blackthorn Ct.

Katie and her husband Chris moved to Country Club Hills with their 6 year old son, Charlie, in 1999. They were living in a rental in Vienna and Charlie attended St. Leo's which was one of the only schools with all day kindergarten at the time. They bought their home just as prices started soaring with bidding wars and were lucky enough to get it at asking price. Soon after they moved here, their daughter Kayleigh arrived, then Dylan.

Charlie graduated from FHS, then JMU, and now lives in Madrid. Kayleigh is a sophomore at FHS and Dylan is in 7th grade at Lanier. They also have 3 cats, the older one was born under a barn and the other 2 came from the Fairfax Animal Shelter.

They love living in CCH and have fond memories of getting together with neighbors during times of power outages, derechos, and snow emergencies to support each other. It is that sense of community where people know and help their neighbors which Katie feels makes CCH such a wonderful place to live. Thank you to Katie for helping out CCH as a Block Captain!

#### **Block Captain's Corner**

Hello, I'm Leslie Daniels and I've become the Vice President for Block Captains again. Thank you to my daughter, Vera, for doing it for the past year.

Two of our long time Block Captains have retired from their duties: Polly Feuer (route 1G) and Marilyn Larsen (route 1A). You'll still be able to see Polly around but Marilyn is moving from CCH. I just wanted to say a heartfelt Thank You to both of them for their years of service to CCH.

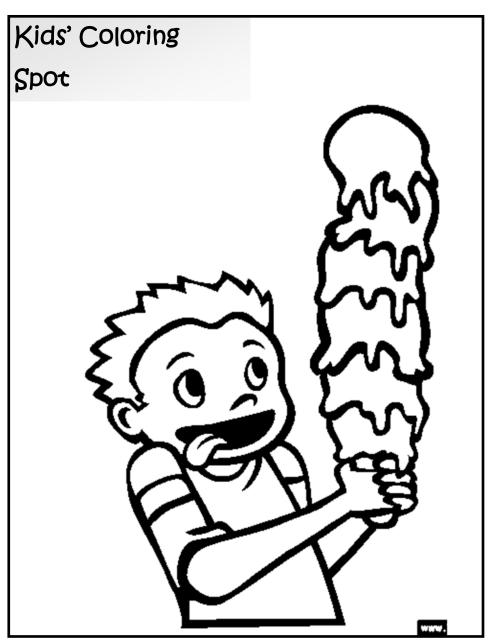
And we are welcoming two new Block Captains. Spencer Toth is going to take over Polly's route. And Cillian Gray (our youngest Block Captain yet) will be taking over from Marilyn Larsen. In case we have any other openings come up, please let me know if you would like to be put on the list to volunteer for a Block Captain spot or as a substitute. And if you know you are going to be out of town for a while, please send me an e-mail or call me so I can arrange for a substitute.

You can reach me at 703-383-1272 or lesdan001@verizon.net.

Leslie Daniels

Did You Know?

Food historians tell us the history of ice cream begins with ancient flavored ices. The Chinese are generally credited for creating the first ice creams, possibly as early as 3000 BC. Marco Polo is popularly cited for introducing these tasty concoctions to Italy.



# **Community Safety**

#### Country Club Hills Police Liaison

Lieutenant Rory Castillo of the City of Fairfax Police Department is the Community Policing Area Supervisor assigned to the Country Club Hills neighborhood. He can be reached atrory.castillo@fairfaxva.gov or 703.385.7848

#### Follow-Up to April 29 Car Burglaries

Lt. Rory Castillo shared that each of the car burglaries that was reported to the police was an unlocked vehicle. He is encouraging everyone to keep their vehicles locked.

Additionally, the stolen vehicle was found by police in Silver Spring, MD and returned to the owners.

## Matt Eddy

VP Community Safety

#### CCH Directory 2016

Need an extra copy? Contact: directory@cchca.org Included are updated lists of the Board of Directors and Committees.

#### Planning a Yard Sale?

Post it on our CCH- Google group for greater exposure. Send your message to: cchca@googlegroups.com The only requirement is membership in the CCH Civic Association. Any questions? groupmoderators@cchca.org



#### **Keep Fluorescent Bulbs Out** of the Trash!

Please remember to dispose of fluorescent and compact fluorescent bulbs properly like the hazardous waste they are. Those bulbs contain mercury, which is hazardous even in small doses. Please dispose of them at:

Twins Ace Hardware, 10310-B Main Street

Home Depot, 3201 Old Lee Highway

# CCH-Yahoo-Group Good Bye!

In May 2014 Yahoo withdrew the option to add new members to their Yahoo-Group site. We had therefore no other option but to create a CCHCA-Google-Group in order to accommodate new members and new email addresses to this group. The CCHCA-Yahoo-group was established in 2002 by Iill Toth and served us extremely well for some twelve years. A great many thanks, Jill! All Yahoo-Group emails have been transferred to CCH-Google-Group. To post send your message to: cchca@googlegroups.com

All posted messages are being monitored for obvious reasons. It may take up to twelve hours (usually much less) for a post to appear. Posts for same day events may not appear in time as the monitors could be away from their computers for several hours. For same-day events call one of the monitors ahead of time (703.591.0696 or 703.825.7022. Don't forget to read our guide-<u>lines</u> before posting your message. Any questions? Contact: groupmoderators@cchca.org

Ernie

# June's Beauty Spot

Congratulations to Karen and Kyle Royer of 3505 Spring Lake Terrace—you are the June 2016 Beauty Spot of the Month winners! Driving by this yard, we were both struck be the pots of red geraniums. The burst of bright red color draws you in, beckoning you to behold the view.

A unique feature of this yard is the hard-scaped brick terrace and raised beds. The terrace is a delightful area complete with a couple different seating vignettes, and assorted pots with the aforementioned blooming red geraniums, grasses, sage, mint, and dusty miller. Beds bordering the terrace are planted with assorted small trees, nandina, white-blooming knockout roses, liriope, hostas, and astilbie that's just about to bloom.

There's a trellis covered with clematis and window boxes planted with million bells is a deep burgundy red, alvssum. dusty miller, vinca and spikes. The composition is lush, with varied heights, textures and colors— a great example of how to plant a container garden!

The bed along the front of the house has several laurel bushes, rhododendron, crepe myrtle, knockout roses, hydrangea, dogwood, cotton aster, and liriope. The left-side yard has a lovely trio of dogwood trees blooming white. Stop by and see this beautiful yard!

Respectfully submitted,

Tennifer Tudelsohn Joyce Skoglund Country Hills Garden Club







703.541.8332 Mowing

Rake leaves **Trim hedges** Mulching Planting trees & bushes Power washing

> References - please call Leslie Daniels - 703.383.1272 Jason Gray - 703.691.4163

Drew Toth - 703.383.1965

# **Housekeeping Services**

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**Nancy Aleman** 703-389-2614

⋆ CCH References Available

# Mom's Group

Are you expecting a baby or looking forward to welcoming a child? In need of some friends and a good support network?

# Please join the Neighborhood Moms' Group!

#### http://www.cchca.org/ moms-group/

A great way to meet friends and build up your "village," whether you're from around here or not. We offer:

- •Monthly "kid-free" evening meetings for friendship, support, and refreshments.
- •Meals for families wel-

coming new children.

- •Google Group for sharing information and crowdsourcing ideas and questions.
- •Weekend freeplay standing appointment at My Gym Burke for our small kiddos (great for getting out the weekend/winter wiggles).
- •December Holiday Cookie Exchange and End-- of-- Year June/ July Picnic.
- •Shared support of a family in need through Our Daily Bread's Holiday Program.

To join or for more information, please contact:

Lindsay Barry

President

Old Lee Hills resident

lindsay.c.barry@gmail.com

Leslie Woods

Treasurer

Country Club Hills resident

woods.leslie@gmail.com













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# Letter to the Editor

#### Dear Editor,

Having lived in many different and beautiful places (Colorado Springs, Seattle, Portland (OR), Southern California, rural France), we have found ourselves in the very fortunate position of calling Country Club Hills our home. We love living here and all the opportunities the community provides.

Our family is often quite taken aback by people we meet or know who complain about Fairfax City, our neighborhood, and our schools. Mostly, we wonder if it is just a case of not knowing just how lovely CCH is and here follows, therefore, an attempt to give some context, focused mainly on our education system.

My job takes me all over the metro area - in and out of DC, Montgomery County, MD, and most of NoVA. I see all sorts of neighborhoods and living situations and hear about other people's situations. The prevalence of people who are unsatisfied with their school systems is disturbingly high. Most of the time I have to shake my head; the fact of the matter is that we live in paradise and most of us have no idea.

I read a study recently by the OECD, comparing the SAT (or the equivalent) scores for every member country. As I anticipated, the United States was firmly in the middle - except for one place: Fairfax County, VA. The average SAT scores were higher here than every other member country in the OECD. When we were looking at colleges for my girls, the admissions staff at the colleges we were visiting asked us where we were from. When we replied, "Northern Virginia," the people with whom we spoke would often say, "Fairfax County?" They know about us from Vermont to Ohio and we are legend.

People move here from other countries to give their children the opportunity to go to our schools. We moved here from California in search of a better school district. The school system that we left was in such a dire condition that it needed to cut school buses, limit foreign language and music programs, and drop upper level math. Fairfax County schools are simply in another league.

We have a bonus in that Fairfax High is owned and operated by the City of Fairfax, making it much more responsive to the needs of its citizens. More than a few times, I have seen both the city council and the principal of FHS take action to protect and provide for the children that go to school here. One of the things that I find particularly excellent is that the principal and the city council are committed to making sure that ALL FHS students have equal access to facilities and programs. The flap over the sound levels of the newly installed girls' softball sound system - something which the boys' teams have enjoyed for years - seems silly, given that marching band practice and football games are much louder (I can hear them at my house on Broadview Dr., next to Brookwood), have a longer "season", and have been going on for many more years - and we never hear any complaints about those activities.

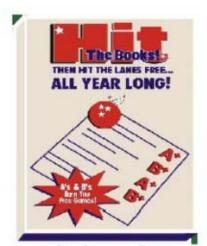
In fact, being as we are in suburbia, there are quite a few things to get uptight about noise-wise. The big thing that I have had to get over myself about living here is the noise of lawnmowers and leaf blowers. They start early in the morning - even on weekends - and are heard until just before dusk. What helped me get past this was realizing that these were my neighbors taking care of and showing pride in their houses - what an excellent thing!

In marked contrast, when we lived in France, *la chasse* (the hunt) would start - on the weekend - at 8am, with the sound of high-powered rifle fire in the fields not more than 1/4 mile away. THAT will get your attention. Fortunately, the walls of my house were stone and three feet thick.

The point I'm trying to make is that our school system makes our neighborhood what it is (thriving, young, beautiful); keeps our property values high (or at least has them rebound quickly), and we all have to live here and make it work for everyone. When there is something that irks me, I find that being appreciative of the positive aspects of what our schools and neighbors bring to our community is important.

Sincerely,

Chris Hendricks



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## Are you a member of CCHCA?

To check your membership status visit our web site: www.cchca.org and go to the Membership Lists tab. If you find you have not yet paid your neighborhood dues you may do so online by going to the Membership Application tab and paying through the PayPal option.

CCHCA membership dues are just \$15 and help pay for events such as our Labor Day picnic, Halloween Party and End-of-School Ice Cream Social as well as our quarterly newsletters, yearly updated CCH Directory, the care and upkeep of the Common Area, Santa Claus's visits, Holiday Decoration Contest, Easter Egg-Roll and more!

If you have any questions about your membership status, or if you would rather pay your dues by check instead of online, please contact Stephanie Justen, 3420 Andover Drive (kjusten2@gmail.com).



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# School is Out! Come Celebrate Summer! Join the CCHCA Ice Cream Social!

What: We will be serving up bowls of ice cream with your choice of toppings.

When: Thursday, June 23rd from 4 to 6 pm

Where: The Common Area Pavilion

Who: Everyone is welcome! Please contact Jason Gray for more information, 703-927-1430 or vtjjgray@gmail.com.



Visit us online! www.cchca.org

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References: Heather and Jason Gray, 9919 Farr, 703-691-4163

Sue and Colin McKenzie, 3408 Brookwood, 703-399-0300



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#### Country Club Hills Civic Association

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VP Civic Affairs, Mark Ramsey, 571-241-4183

Treasurer, Donna Sabo, 703-246-0066

Secretary, Sue Mochinski, 703-255-2793

VP Block Captains, Leslie Daniels, 703-383-

1272

VP Publications & Editor, Heather Gray, 703-728-0068

+ Directory, Ernie Klimonda, 703-591-0696

+ Marketing, Hildie Carney, 703-591-5305

VP Membership, Stephanie Justen, 703-273-5249

VP Social Activities, Jason Gray, 703-927-1430

VP Online Media, Ernie Klimonda, 703-591-

+ co-chair, Stephen Lescure, 703-591-2452

VP Community Safety, Matthew Eddy, 703-609-0474

+ (CERT), Matthew West, 703-359-4652

#### **CCHCA Board Committees**

Community Appearance, Vacant

Welcoming, David Stearman, 703-642-2465

Historian, Vacant

Website & Yahoo Group Moderator, Ernie Klimonda, 703-591-0696

+ Second Moderator, Judy Fraser, 703-825-7022

Street Signs, Ariel Harwick

Recycling, Katie Baxter-Gagan, 703-385-7737

Neighbor-to-Neighbor, David Stearman, 703-642-2465

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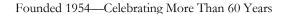
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# Country Club Hills Civic Association

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## MEMBERSHIP FORM

Your membership strengthens our community!

Membership year: January 1 - December 31, 2016 Dues: \$15/year/household

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

stempers are anowed to post messages on our CCri-ranoo-Group and have access to the online CCri Directory				
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Street Address		Home Phone		
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Email 2	Add to Yahoo Group Add to Online Directory	☐ New Member OR ☐ Renewal		
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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  Garden Club forming or joining other groups or clubs  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:				
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