



## Neighborhood News February 2011

### Special points of interest:

- Long Branch Directories distributed in March.
- Community social/ meeting scheduled for June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6-8 pm

### In This Issue:

Tom Worosz's Travel Log

Neighborhood Watch News

2010 Luminaries

LBCA Membership Drive Update

Long Branch Year in Review

Upcoming Long Branch Events

School News

AAA vs American Trash Services

### President's Pen

Happy Valentine's Day to all our Long Branch Sweethearts and we have a number of them mentioned throughout the newsletter! **Julie & Bruce Roberts** led a team to light up our neighborhood with luminaries, **Martha Bernardi** led a team of Street Representatives through our Membership Drive, **Martha & Glenn Betts** are developing an updated neighborhood directory, and **Kathy Naccarato, Maria Swack & Richard Owens** filled vacant Street Representative positions. **Melinda Malico** compiled a list of contractors & services Long Branch residents wanted to recommend to each other & **Susan Betts** filled the newsletter with valuable information. Another sweet treat you'll find is **Tom Worosz** honored us as our first guest writer to kick off our newsletter's "Share Your Experience" segment as he offers his travel tales. If you have a great experience you are willing to share with the neighborhood, please send to [Susan@TheBettsFamily.com](mailto:Susan@TheBettsFamily.com) by April 15th.

Our Long Branch Civic Association (LBCA) Officers are an engaged team of neighbors who meet several times a year for work sessions & a bit of socializing. We're in the midst of planning for 2011 and would welcome new members to the team to replace one of our longer term officers and/or to fill the vacant Social Chair position. Join our team by reaching out to any one of us listed in this newsletter. Happy Valentine's Day to all and please consider doing something sweet for a neighbor during the month of February.

Karla Gill,  
President  
(703) 764-4919

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### Traveling the World by Tom Worosz

A number of my neighbors have asked about my travels. I have traveled extensively

during the past decade and have created a "Bucket List" of places that I want to visit. Last year while you were being pummeled by major February snow storms, I traveled to SE Asia on a 30-day adventure visiting Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Viet Nam. I created an

on-line blog that allowed me to keep family/friends up-to-date on my travels and let them see through my photo-postings the beautiful sites and people that I came in contact with. My son, PJ, had the blog published in hard cover and it became a permanent diary of this trip. See

[www.greatindochinaloop.blogspot.com](http://www.greatindochinaloop.blogspot.com) .

By the time you read this, I will be on another adventure, traveling to Southern Africa for a 50-day adventure that will encompass two separate safaris. Through late March, I will travel through the southern portion of Africa visiting the countries of Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. I will depart from Dulles airport for a twenty hour flight to Cape Town, South Africa. I will join a group of like-minded travelers, who will travel from Cape Town along the west coast of Africa, visiting the

deserts of Namibia, Botswana's Okavango Delta and ending the first leg of the trip at Zimbabwe's magnificent Victoria Falls. The trip will take 20 days, travel will be by overland vehicle and accommodations will be tent camping. After a two-day rest at Victoria Falls, I will fly to Johannesburg to begin the second portion of my trip. I will join another group who will travel from Johannesburg to Kruger National Park to view the "Big 5" (buffalo, elephant, leopard, lions, and rhino), Swaziland, Lesotho, Durban, South Africa's wine region and finally Cape Town. This 20-day trip will be easier since our accommodations will be chalets, hotels and lodges. Transportation will again be by overland vehicle. Come along and experience what I saw during my seven-week adventure. You can follow my trip by visiting my travel blog,

[www.tomsafricanadventure2011.blogspot.com](http://www.tomsafricanadventure2011.blogspot.com).



## **Watch** Neighborhood Watch News

Happy New Year to all our Long Branch residents! We are beginning a new year and with it a new schedule for the Neighborhood Watch rotation. Thank you to all of the residents who have volunteered to take a week on the Neighborhood Watch schedule. The only way that this program can run is with resident volunteers, and your help is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

This year, I am going to try something a little different with the schedule. There will be a three-month schedule that will be sent out quarterly. For those of you who have volunteered, I will be sending out an E-mail explaining all the details in the coming weeks.

I would like to take this opportunity to explain what Neighborhood Watch entails for anyone who is unfamiliar with this program. The Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD) encourages neighborhoods to establish a Neighborhood Watch group to help patrol the streets on a daily basis and to act as the eyes and ears of the police. You may have noticed that at the entrances to our neighborhood at both ends of King David there are blue Neighborhood Watch signs indicating that we have an established program. Our

job is simply to keep a watchful eye and report any suspicious activity in our neighborhood to the police directly. Any and all serious incidents or crimes should be reported to 911 immediately, and any suspicious, non-emergency activity should be reported to the non-emergency number: 703-691-2131. The police do not want us, as residents and civilians, taking matters into our own hands or ever confronting anyone if we come upon illegal or suspicious activity. We live in a very safe, well-patrolled neighborhood thanks to help of our neighbors who agree to take a week on patrol every year. The patrol week is not very time consuming, and requires that you slowly drive (or walk if you prefer) the neighborhood streets once or twice a day at various times and check in on things around Long Branch. There are magnets for your vehicle indicating that you are on patrol, so that you are not reported as a suspicious vehicle by another neighbor! Anyone who is interested in volunteering for a week can contact me to be placed on the schedule.

Please be sure to visit the FCPD Web site and review the Crime Prevention and Awareness page. It provides great information about how to prevent crime around

your home and property, along with other helpful advice. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/citizen-awareness/>

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Megan Davenhall  
Neighborhood Watch Coordinator  
[megdavenhall@aol.com](mailto:megdavenhall@aol.com)  
703-978-0432

## 2010 Luminaries—A Long Branch Sight to Behold

Mother Nature granted us a break this year and the Luminaries were lit on December 24<sup>th</sup>, as scheduled. I hope you had a chance to walk or drive through the neighborhood to take in the beautiful sight of our community streets lit up with the flickering candlelight. It was a stunning display of community to celebrate the holiday season and goodwill towards our neighbors.

A HUGE thank you to Julie and Bruce Roberts who have served our Long Branch community for several years by sponsoring this event. They worked hard to gather and store the supplies and also organized and hosted the prep party at their house on December 18, 2010.

Thank you also to all the parents and children who prepared the luminary bags and delivered them to every home in Long Branch. Without your help, the luminary could not happen.

**We need  
YOUR help to  
continue this  
Long Branch  
tradition!**

It is overdue for another coordinator to take over. Coordinating the luminaries is a great way to get to know members of the community and get involved.

Unfortunately, if we do not find a coordinator for this long-standing Long Branch tradition, it will not take place this year. Remember, your son or daughter could earn 2-3 community service hours by helping assemble and deliver the luminary packages!

## Long Branch Civic Association Membership Drive/Directory Update

We have recently completed our LBCA membership drive. Thank you to everyone who completed the membership form and returned your dues. A HUGE thank you to Martha Bernardi whose tireless effort has allowed this year's membership drive to be the most successful one yet. THANK YOU!!!

Thank you also to our

Thank You...	
Luce Tejano	Heather Hartung
Julie Wiggins	Beth Elliot
Mary Ellen Slattery	Martha Bernardi
Ruth Meeker	Kathy Moore
Linda Leonard	Carolyn Bruce
Mary Rabadan	Jennifer Burns
Laurie Siegal	Dawn Letelier
Caroline Herrick	Nancy Ellis
Marcy Alvo	Maritza Taylor
Lisa Spero	Marla Peyser

awesome street representatives who personally delivered the membership forms to you and made sure they were returned in a timely fashion.

The updated Long Branch directory is being finalized and should be distributed in March.

If you have not returned your form or dues, please return them to Martha Bernardi as soon as possible. LBCA dues are \$30 for two years. If you need a membership form, please contact Martha.

# Long Branch Year in Review

## February

Snowmageddon hits our area. Our neighborhood pulled together and helped clear the mounds of snow and ice from our sidewalks so our kids could safely return to school.

## April

Easter Bunny rolls into Long Branch on his motorcycle to kick off the Annual Long Branch Easter Egg Hunt on a gorgeous April afternoon. The kids and parents had a great time.

## May

Long Branch Swim and Racquet Club kicked off another swim season with the annual Polar Bear Swim. Families were able to enjoy a brisk evening “swimming” and enjoying s’ mores and hot chocolate.

On Memorial Day, Long Branch residents were able to take out their tennis racquets from winter hibernation and join their friends at the Annual Memorial Day Tennis Social. This event was fun for all.

## June

Long Branch held its annual Community Yard Sale which allowed neighbors to do some spring cleaning and sell their unwanted household goods. The community yard sale attracted more traffic since it was a community event.

A group of Long Branch volunteers also donated their time and energy to clean-up and beautify our entryways.

At the end of June, our kids were able to celebrate *finally* getting out of school with a Pizza and Pool party up at the pool. This pizza party was followed-up that evening with the kick-off to Thursday Night Raft nights.

## July

LBCA and the Long Branch Swim and Racquet Club joined together to host our Annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration. The day kicked off with our annual 4<sup>th</sup> of

July Parade where our kids decorated their bikes, tricycles, wagons, scooter, etc. and rode through the neighborhood. Prizes were awarded for the best decorated. The parade was followed-up by a picnic at the pool.

## August

The LBCA, with Melinda Malico leading the effort, had all street numbers and names re-painted. The new numbers/names are beautiful and easily read.

## September

As summer came to a close, LBCA and the Long Branch Swim and Racquet Club once again joined together to host our Annual Labor Day pool party. The pool was hopping as pool members and Long Branch neighbors enjoyed one last swim before heading back to school.

The LBCA also kicked off the Civic Association membership drive. This drive, which occurs every two years, provides the necessary funds to host the activities listed above and provide needed maintenance to our neighborhood.

## October

Many of our residents took advantage of a neighborhood driveway re-sealing deal that allowed our members to have their driveways re-sealed at a discount. This deal was coordinated by Luce Tejano.

## December

On December 24<sup>th</sup> Long Branch was glowing with the candlelight of our annual Luminary. Many thanks to Julie Roberts for coordinating this event.

Our Long Branch community is looking for new ways to bring our community together. If there is a new event you feel would be fun for the Long Branch Community and would like to organize, please contact any of the LBCA board members.

**We are currently looking for 3-4 neighbors to form a social chair committee. This fun committee would coordinate the various Long Branch social events.**

# 2010

Long Branch  
Preschool  
Playgroup—If  
you have  
young children at  
home and are  
interested in  
forming a  
Long Branch  
Playgroup,  
please  
E-mail Susan  
Betts at  
susan@thebettsfamily.com.

Due to the  
recent  
snow day, the  
President's Day  
holiday, February  
21st,  
has been  
cancelled and  
school will be in  
Session.  
Elementary  
schools  
will follow a full  
day schedule.

## Upcoming Long Branch Events

**March:** Long Branch  
Directory distributed

**April:** Annual Easter  
Egg Hunt at Long  
Branch Pool

**May:** Long Branch  
Community Yard Sale

**June 3, 6-8 pm:** Long Branch Community Social/Meeting

**Possible:** Homes Tour. If you have recently renovated or newly decorated your home please let us know if you are interested in showing it.

## Save the Date--Long Branch Community Social/Meeting

It's been a long time since our last Long Branch Community meeting. The LBCA Board is planning a community meeting for **June 3rd, 6-8 pm** at the Long Branch pool. We would like to wait for the weather to warm up so we can not only meet to discuss outstanding issues in



our Long Branch community but also get a chance to socialize with our neighbors both new and old. The meeting will be mostly a social event but we also encourage everyone to take this opportunity to discuss any issues within our community. It is an open forum for everyone.

## Long Branch Swim and Racquet Club Membership

Don't Miss Out!

Long Branch Swim and Racquet Club memberships applications will be send out soon! Get your early-bird discount by registering by March 31st. Please email lbsrmembership@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Interested in being a lifeguard?

Contact Susan Hacker at Irickhacker2@aol.com

Social Chair Needed!

Like to plan fun parties? We need your help! From after school pizza parties to evening adult parties! Help make the Summer a success by volunteering your time! Email lbsrmembership@gmail.com for more information.

## School News



### Canterbury Woods:

<http://www.fcps.edu/CanterburyWoodsES/>

<http://www.cwespta.org>

### Frost Middle School:

<http://www.fcps.edu/FrostMS/>

<http://www.frostmspta.org/site/>

### Woodson High School

<http://www.fcps.edu/woodsonhs/>

<http://www.woodsonptso.org/>

### Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology

<http://www.tjhsst.edu/>

<http://www.tjhsst.edu/supportingtj/ptsa/index.htm>



## Canterbury Woods Elementary School

- February 15** CWES Parent Coffee: On-line Standards of Learning Testing in Grades 3-6, 2:30, CWES Cafeteria
- February 17** Great Expectations Positive Parenting Strategies, 7:00 pm at Hayfield Elementary School
- February 18** Western Day
- February 18** Box Tops deadline. This will be the PTA's last chance to receive a check until next school year.
- February 24** CETA Winter Showcase
- February 25** "Get To Know Your PTA" Coffee Hour, 9:15 a.m., Amy Palmer's House, 9111 Windflower Lane. This is a social coffee to meet fellow parents and learn about fun ways to get involved with CWES.
- March 11** PTA Bingo Night
- March 31** Spring Pictures

The PTA is currently looking for two volunteers for the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee searches for candidates within the school community for the 2011-2012 PTA Board. Please contact Angela Kokkinis at [angelakokkinis@yahoo.com](mailto:angelakokkinis@yahoo.com), Susan Betts at [susan@thebettsfamily.com](mailto:susan@thebettsfamily.com), or Amy Palmer at [amybpalmer@msn.com](mailto:amybpalmer@msn.com) if

you are interested in helping with this committee. The volunteer time required is minimal and your help is greatly appreciated!



### **Frost Middle School**

- March 1** 8th annual Saturday Night in the Suburbs
- March 3** Rising 7th grade Parent Orientation Special Programs @ 5:15 P.M. Main Program @ 6:15 P.M.
- March 31** Frost Family Festival (details TBA)



### **Woodson High School**

On January 14, 2011, FCPS authorized their consultant to withdraw Application 2232-B10-16, FCPS Woodson Bus Facility.

#### **CAV CRUISE NEWS**

REGISTER Your SENIOR NOW! Check out who has signed up: <http://cavcruise.woodsonptso.org> and make sure your senior is added to the list. Purchase Tickets online for \$70.

#### **WOODSON WRITING CENTER**

Can't make it to the Writing Center after school? No worries! Check out our Web site: [www.woodsonwritingcenter.org](http://www.woodsonwritingcenter.org) which offers plenty of helpful and fun links to Web site all about writing and grammar. There's also a link to our blog for all of our everyday musings. Don't forget that the Writing Center is still open during every sixth period lunch and after school every Wednesday until 4.



### **Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology**

- February 17** Curriculum Night for Parents, 7:30, Auditorium/Gym 2
- February 18** International Night, 7pm, Auditorium
- February 26** Citrus Fruits Sales & Distribution, 10am-1pm, Band Room

#### **SENIOR DVD**

A Senior DVD is in the making. The DVD will be shown at Baccalaureate and given to each student at Cav Cruise. Please submit a few favorite pictures of your senior for consideration before April 15, 2011 in jpeg format to [pame13@aol.com](mailto:pame13@aol.com) Thank you so much. Questions? Call Pam Lorenz 703-220-0490

#### **Advance Placement Registration**

Advanced Placement (AP) Exams will take place May 2-13, 2011. Students who are NOT already enrolled in an AP class but would like to take an AP test should contact Mrs. Nielsen 703-503-4623 for registration information. You may also stop by her desk in Room E103. Registration for this group will be held February 14-25. The fee is \$87 per test. A \$100 fee per test will apply to all non-FCPS students. Checks should be made payable to W. T. Woodson HS. Please note, if you are currently taking an AP class you are automatically registered. You should have received an invoice for payment in December.

## Trash Service—Who to Use?

In Long Branch we have two residential trash and recycling companies from which to choose—AAA and American. But, who is better? Who is cheaper? Both companies provide much of the same level of service. AAA does however participate in RecycleBank, an awards program for recycling. AAA can be more expensive if you do not request to have your monthly fee matched to American's fees. Both services also use

single stream recycling, which allows more items than ever before to be recycled and they all go in the same bin.

Here's how they stack up. If you want to find out more information about either of these companies, their Web sites are listed below.

	AAA	American
Weekly Trash Pick-up	Two times per week	Once or Twice a week (option)
Weekly Recycling Pick-up	Once a week	Once a week
Weekly Lawn debris pick-up	Once a week	Once a week
Single Stream Recycling	Yes	Yes
Participate in Recycle Bank	Yes	No
Cost per month	\$139/quarter*	\$96/quarter-once a week, \$102/quarter-twice a week*
<p><b>**Please note—these rates were obtained over the phone. Many of our neighbors are paying reduced rates based upon promotional plans and/or requesting competitive pricing.</b></p> <p>AAA Trash Services      <a href="http://www.aaatrash.com">http://www.aaatrash.com</a></p> <p>American Disposal Services      <a href="http://americandisposal.com">http://americandisposal.com</a></p>		

## Do You Want to Show Off Your Home?

Do you have a recent home remodeling project you would like to show off? Have you made an addition to your home you would like to highlight? If so, the Homes Tour is a perfect venue for showcasing your beautiful work.



In order to bring this favorite event back, we will need a team of **2-4 volunteers** to coordinate the

Homes Tour. This would involve 2-3 meetings at approximately 1-2 hours each. If you would like to help out the community with this one-time volunteer opportunity, please contact Karla Gill or Melinda Malico for more details.

We also need to have 5-6 neighbors who would like to showcase recent work that has been completed to their home.

## Have A Good Contractor...Please Recommend

Do you have a fabulous contractor that has done work on your house? Have you recently had work completed on your house or property that was impeccable? We are working on compiling a list of recommended contractors and professional services for our Web site. Send your recommendations to Melinda Malico at [m.malico@verizon.net](mailto:m.malico@verizon.net).



## Long Branch Officers

<b>President</b>	Karla Gill (703) 764-4919
<b>Vice President</b>	Melinda Malico (703) 425-6446 or m.malico@verizon.net
<b>Secretary/Treasurer</b>	Michele Johnson maejohnson@deloitte.com
<b>Membership and Welcoming</b>	Martha Bernardi bmarthab@verizon.net
<b>Social</b>	<b>VACANT</b>
<b>Newsletter</b>	Susan Betts susan@thebettsfamily.com
<b>Web site</b>	Melinda Malico m.malico@verizon.net and Steve Alvo salvo@verizon.net
<b>Neighborhood Watch</b>	Megan Davenhall megdavenhall@aol.com
<b>Database and Directory</b>	Glenn Betts glenn@itprojectmanagers.com

There are multiple positions available for those who want to join the board. Some of the officers have been serving for a number of years. If there's interest, there's willingness for multiple positions to swap/step down, etc.

## Street Representatives

Alyssum .....	9213 Luce Tejano	703-425-1021
Bradfield & Burnetta.....	9207 Burnetta Dr.	Kathy Naccarato 703-323-7496
Bramble.....	9106 Heather Hartung ..	703-978-1524
Cascus.....	9113 Julie Wiggins	703-978-1355
Claytonia .....	9206 Beth Elliott	703-978-2654
Colt.....	9109 Richard Owens	703-323-5508
Gloxinia .....	4910 MaryEllen Slattery	703-425-0671
King David (4900–5000).....	4908 Martha Bernardi	703-425-5505
King David (5001-5015).....	5004 Ruth Meeker	703-323-0850
King David (5017–5031).....	5024 Kathy Moore	703-764-9485
King David (5032–5126).....	5124 Linda Leonard	703-503-8441
King Solomon (4800–4816).....	4815 Carolyn Bruce	703-323-9211
King Solomon (4817–4838).....	4821 Mary Rabadan	703-425-8927
King Solomon (4900–4920).....	4918 Jennifer Burns	703-503-5756
King Solomon (4921–5008).....	4923 Laurie Siegal	703-503-0057
Loosestrife.....	4910 Dawn Letellier	703-425-0664
Meadow Rue.....	9111 Caroline Herrick	703-978-4004
Mignonette .....	5017 Maria Swack	703-503-5277
Sabra/ Windflower (9100–9123)	4949 Nancy Ellis	703-978-1182
Windflower (9000–9026).....	9009 Marcy Alvo	703-323-5336
Steeplebush.....	9112 Maritza Taylor	703-503-0438
Tabard (4800–4817).....	4803 Lisa Spero	703-426-5590
Tabard (4819–4838).....	4826 Marla Peyser	703-426-2643

## Stay Informed!

Don't forget to check the Long Branch Web site at [www.longbranchcommunity.net](http://www.longbranchcommunity.net) for updates and all our community information! And don't forget to give us information and pictures for the Web site!



Please add [longbranchcommunity@verizon.net](mailto:longbranchcommunity@verizon.net) to the "safe list" in your address book. Also, send any change of address to the same address. The newsletter editor will be unable to deliver the newsletter if the e-mail does not go through. Thank you!

## Classified Ads

**PLEASE NOTE: Due to file size considerations, all classified ads should be sized no larger than ¼ page.**

## Jaensch Plumbing

**\*\*Special Pricing For Long Branch\*\***

Each 1/4 hour \$30

Call Rick Jaensch: 703-764-0185

Or E-mail: [jaensch@spamarrest.com](mailto:jaensch@spamarrest.com)

- Serving Long Branch residents since 1995
- 30 years experience
- Can repair many small problems in less than 15 minutes
- Master Plumber & Gasfitter since 1987
- No Travel Charges – Reduced Minimum



**Don't wait for those plumbing issues to stack up before you call!**

### Megan Hoskins - Tutor –

9010 Windflower Lane, 703-323-0567  
Certified teacher in all subjects through 8th grade, and Math, English, and Computer Science grades 4 - 12.  
B.S. in Applied Mathematics from Yale, Masters in Teaching from Seattle University  
Classroom experience in grades 2 - 9, and at college-level  
Specialties: math and writing



### Velasquez Painters

If you need a painter, hire a reputable one who has worked for many Long Branch families. Mr. Velasquez specializes in interior and exterior painting. From drywall, wallpaper removal, expert surface preparation, to door replacement, new moldings & power washing, Mr. Velasquez and his crews do it all. Please call for a free estimate: Mr. Velasquez at 571-245-9026.

Your Long Branch Potter

**Susan Fox Hirschmann**

**\*Great Gifts\*Pottery Classes\***

Hours by appointment

**Long Branch Discount 10%~  
Studio Show April 30 & May 1**

**703-978-1480**

[artpottery@earthlink.net](mailto:artpottery@earthlink.net)

[www.potteryart.biz](http://www.potteryart.biz)



## Deadlines for Submissions

Please send any newsletter submissions to [susan@itprojectmanagers.com](mailto:susan@itprojectmanagers.com) in Word or PowerPoint (not PDF files) by the deadline below.

Publication Date	Article Submission Deadline	Classified Submission Deadline
May 2011	April 15	April 15