



Neighborhood News October 2010

President's Pen

Hello Long Branch Neighbors! Once again a special thanks goes to those who proactively volunteered their time and effort to beautify our neighborhood. Sixth graders Kelly Kalb, Kennedy Stoll, and Emily Lynn along with Dad Richard Kalb and Mom Ruthanne Stoll donated their Sunday afternoon to neighborhood cleanup. For future newsletters, please help put the spotlight on neighbors performing random acts of kindness with information emailed to longbranchcommunity@verizon.net. Thanks also goes to our dedicated Long Branch Civic Association Board members who teamed up for curb painting, kicking off our needed membership drive, and gearing up for our updated directories.

For Halloween fun for the whole family, check out the October 30th events at Lake Accotink Park. There's a "spooktacular" evening event for all ages and a "howlin' good" afternoon event for dogs and owners. Learn more about the events and modest fees at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/accotink/events.htm> or 703-569-0285. So sorry to report we fell short of volunteers to host our neighborhood Halloween event.

Fairfax County Wildlife Biologist Vicky Monroe reached out to Long Branch to let us know deer-vehicle collisions are a serious public safety concern as development continues and the population grows in Fairfax County. Over 55% of all deer-vehicle collisions each year are recorded in October, November and December during the rut (deer breeding season). At this time of year especially, police urge motorists to drive cautiously. Driving smart and staying informed will improve your chances of STAYING SAFE! Learn more at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/animals/wildlife/management/deer-vehicle-collisions.htm>.

One of our original Long Branch owners recently reached out to solicit neighborly assistance. He is working through outdoor drainage issues and would like to collaborate with others who may have effectively addressed similar situations. If you are willing to assist with lessons learned, contractor recommendations, or expertise in this area, please email longbranchcommunity@verizon.net so we can help make the connection.

We recently had the luxury of welcoming new neighbors. A few dozen of us gathered to meet and greet a family new to Fairfax County. It was truly heartwarming to hear the genuine discussion among neighbors of all ages describe what a great place Long Branch is. Some shared memories of raising their children in Long Branch and now enjoy visits from their grown children and grandchildren. Others shared the great parks, libraries, and trails we have nearby. Still others shared how well kept the homes are the strength of the school system. Our new neighbors surely felt welcome while the rest of us were reminded of what a great neighborhood we get to enjoy. Thank you for all you do to help make Long Branch a great neighborhood.

Karla Gill, President
(703) 764-4919



Watch Neighborhood Watch News

As most of you are aware, the big news in Fairfax County has been the string of burglaries that have taken place throughout the county. The suspect is accessing homes and vehicles at night, and is targeting money, purses and small items. While there have been no incidents in the West Springfield district, we should continue to remain cautious and take steps to secure our homes and vehicles, especially at night. The suspect is entering cars and homes that are unlocked and therefore locking doors and windows may be the best deterrent. In addition to standard safety precautions, police are suggesting the following:

-Do not leave items of value or garage door openers inside unattended vehicles and ensure your vehicle is locked.

-When returning home, try not to leave purses, cash or keys near an entryway.

-Promote safety by using the exterior lights on your home as well. If you notice suspicious persons or activity, call the non-emergency police number (703-691-2131) and report it.

It is time for the Civic Association Membership Drive. If you are able to volunteer for a week of patrol duty for Neighborhood Watch, please don't forget to indicate that you are willing to help out and be sure to include your best contact information including an email address. I am attempting to update the email contacts for all the volunteers.

A big thank you to all the neighbors who have volunteered for Neighborhood Watch, and to all the residents who continue to keep a watchful eye on our community! You are all instrumental in keeping our neighborhood safe, and your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Have you turned in your Long Branch Civic Association Membership Form?

The Long Branch Civic Association membership drive is in full swing. The membership fee is \$30 for two years. These rates assume **at least 90%** neighborhood participation in our association as our board works to provide needed services and optimize costs.

Attached in the newsletter email is the Long Branch Civic Association's two-year budget. As detailed in the budget, your membership fee covers costs of advertising the annual neighborhood yard sale, curb painting, entryway maintenance, printing (directory, luminary fliers and instructions, newsletter, membership forms), Web site fees, and all social functions.



thank
you

Thank You to Our Street Representatives

Thank you to all our street representatives who hit the streets and delivered the Civic Association membership forms to their neighbors. We hope you had a chance re-connect with your street representative or to meet him or her if you have not already. We appreciate all the time and hard work they are doing to make the membership drive a success.

Thank you also to Martha Bernardi for organizing the street representative meeting. It was a fun night and a chance for our street representatives to gather and provide feedback. If you have any issues or concerns, please feel free to filter them through your street representative to bring up with the Long Branch Civic Association Board.

Like A Good Neighbor, Long Branch Is There...

We are lucky to live in a community oriented neighborhood where neighborly respect generally rules our interactions with one another. However, the West Springfield Fairfax County Police District has published a Good Neighbor Guide which provides guidelines for things responsible residents should do to maintain friendly relations with neighbors.

The guide can be found at:

http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/stations/westspringfield/pdf/good_neighbor_hints_aug_2010.pdf



Home Is Where Your Heart Is...Why Not Show It Off?

After several years on hiatus, the Long Branch Civic Association would like to bring back a community favorite--the Long Branch Homes Tour. 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.

School News



Now that school is in full swing, schedules are hectic as ever. It's hard to keep up with dates and school news. A great way to keep up with all the school news is by visiting the school's or PTA's website.

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

Come and have a scare at the fair! Canterbury Woods is having their annual Fun Fair on Saturday, October 23rd, from 10:00 am. until 2:00 p.m. Come and check out the haunted hallway, moon bounces, games, international food and concessions for the entire family.

Parent-teacher conferences are one of the most important ways you can learn about your child. In these conferences, you can see how well your child is doing. You can meet the teacher face-to-face to let him or her understand your child better. You can also ask for suggestions that will make it easier for you and the school to work together throughout the year.

But successful conferences don't just happen. Here are five tips that can help you have a more successful parent-teacher conference:

- Plan for it. Before you come to your conference, write out some questions you'd like to ask. Here are some suggestions:
 - How is my child doing in class?
 - Does my child use time well? Does he or she have good work habits?
 - Does my child read at the level you would expect for this grade?
 - Does my child usually turn in homework? Does he or she have missed assignments?
 - Is my child able to do the math that you would expect for a student at this grade? What are my child's strengths and weaknesses? (You'll want to share your ideas about this as well.)
 - Does my child have friends? How well does he or she get along with others?
- Keep an open mind. Your goal is to work for cooperation between you and your child's teacher. Even if the teacher says something you disagree with, try to listen to what he or she has to say. Later, you can add your own thoughts.
- Ask to see your child's work. There's no better way to see how your child is progressing than to look at his or her school work. You can judge for yourself whether your child is making progress.
- Ask for suggestions. If your child is doing well, ask what you can do to keep things on a positive track. If there are problems, ask what you can do to help. If a teacher identifies problems, ask for ways you can work together to solve the problem. If he or she can't give you any ideas immediately, ask for a follow-up conference.
- Clarify and summarize as you go. Teachers sometimes use educational buzz words. If you don't know what an "IEP" is, for example, ask. If you are confused or uncertain, you won't be able to help your child.
- Follow up. Stay in touch with the teacher. If you try some activities at home, let the teacher know. If you think of a question you didn't ask, write a note.

Note: Source: <http://www.fcps.edu/mediapub/publicat/wire.htm#Conference>

Copyright 2010. Reprinted with permission from the Parent Institute. Additional tip sheets and other resources for parents can be found on the Family and School Partnerships web site at <http://www.fcps.edu/cco/fam/ptips.htm>.

Frost Middle School

Sandwich Seminars need volunteers! Frost would like to offer parents a chance to participate with the student body by providing a short presentation during our Sandwich Seminars. Seminars are held in the library during the three lunch periods from 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. If you have an area of expertise that could be shared with 7th and 8th graders, and are willing to visit our school to present, please contact Ms. Aldridge rmaldridge@fcps.edu for more information.

STUDENT SAFETY IS AN URGENT ISSUE!

Parents, all Frost students who live across Rt. 236/Little River Turnpike are provided bus transportation to/from school every day. This transportation includes late bus service as well. Frost students SHOULD NOT CROSS Rt. 236 on foot when going to and from school unless accompanied by a parent or guardian. Numerous students are seen trying to cross this busy thoroughfare every afternoon and there have been near-fatal encounters with people and automobiles as recently as last Spring. Please talk with your student today about the real risks involved.

Woodson High School

The Woodson PTSO has drafted and approved a resolution regarding FCPS plans for a new bus lot very near Woodson High School. The resolution was presented to the PTSO membership on September 14 for discussion and a vote.

Please read below about this new bus lot and its potential impact on the community, and please read and understand the PTSO's resolution.

Property on the southwest corner of Little River Turnpike and Pickett Road (near Woodson and Frost) is under consideration to be a new bus lot, with 51 school buses plus 37 private vehicles of the drivers. There are many issues for each member of the immediate and the extended communities should consider. Congestion, security matters, added noise, and environmental concerns top the list, but there are many other items. Please read the background and information we have prepared.

After you have had a chance to read and consider this information, you are welcome to peruse our campus-comparison. We have constructed it in order to help demonstrate that the Woodson campus already has more than its share of FCPS-support facilities. Please click here.

You are also welcome to review some Documents of Interest relating to the substitution of "the Existing Eleven Oaks Property Bus Parking Lot with a Proposed Bus Parking Lot at Woodson High School (Corner of Pickett and Main Street)." Please peruse them, too, if you get a chance. <http://www.woodsonptso.org/busLot/documents.html>

TJHSST

Due to budget cuts, TJHSST has been unable to purchase specialized resources needed to support our curricular and other programs and to update and fill gaps in our library collection. The PTSA has established a TJHSST Library Wish List on Amazon.com. If you purchase an item from the Wish List, please email the Head Librarian, Becca Ferrick, to let the Library staff know to expect a shipment. Your email also will allow us to thank you properly and to delete the item you donated from the wish list, to avoid duplicative donations.



To All Our Trick-or-Treaters—Have A SAFE HALLOWEEN

- S** Swords, knives, and costume accessories should be short and flexible.
- A** Avoid trick-or-treating alone. Walk in groups with a trusted adult.
- F** Fasten reflective tape to costumes and bags to help drivers see you.
- E** Examine all treats for choking hazards and tampering before eating them. Limit the amount of treats you eat.

- H** Hold a flashlight while trick-or-treating to help you see and others see you.
- A** Always test make-up in a small area first. Remove it before bedtime to prevent skin and eye irritation.
- L** Look both ways before crossing the street. Use established crosswalks wherever possible.
- L** Lower your risk for serious eye injury by not wearing decorative contact lenses.
- O** Only walk on sidewalks or on the far edge of the road facing traffic to stay safe.
- W** Wear well-fitting masks, costumes, and shoes to avoid blocked vision, trips, and falls.
- E** Eat only factory-wrapped treats. Avoid eating homemade treats unless you know the cook well.
- E** Enter homes only if you're with a trusted adult. Otherwise, stay outside.
- N** Never walk near lit candles or luminaries. Be sure to wear flame-resistant costumes.



Also, to all our parents and teens, please drive extra slowly through our streets—our little goblins are out there and not always easy to see. Make this a safe and fun Halloween for everyone.

Also—don't forget—FCPS has teacher workdays scheduled for the Monday and Tuesday after Halloween—so no worries about a late night—no school the next day!

Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/family/halloween/>



Congratulations to Our Very Own Long Branch Author—Jody Ogea

Congratulations to Jody Ogea for recently publishing his first book, *The Unlikely Leader*. For more information on his book, please visit www.theunlikelyleader.info.



Save the Date—Holiday Luminaries Prep Party Saturday, December 18th, Luminary Lighting December 24th

Don't Miss

Believe it or not, the Holiday season will soon be upon us. If the weather cooperates, on **December 24th** we will have our annual Luminaries lighting our streets to celebrate the season.

A huge thanks to Julie Roberts for coordinating this event again this year. Julie has graciously coordinated the annual Luminaries for the past several years. The Luminary bags require a lot of work to put together. However, many hands make light work as well as a good time. So, be sure and save the date, **Saturday, December 18th**, for a fun filled Saturday morning. More details will come soon.

Long Branch Driveway Re-sealing Deal

Back in 2002 one of our neighbors organized a group rate for resealing and repaving our driveways and thanks to Luce Tejano, Long Branch residents can again take advantage of a group rate. If a driveway is 2 cars wide by 2 cars long the price will be in the **\$40 range**. If it is 2 cars wide by 3 cars long it will be in the **\$55 range**. If anyone would like a quote for paving, the company can do that separately.

Long Branch neighbors wishing to take advantage of this group rate may contact Luce directly at luce.tejano@cox.net. Please contact her by **October 29th**, in order to take advantage of this rate. Due to the cold weather and falling leaves, the paving/resealing season is almost over.



Volunteers Needed

We currently have three street representative positions open on Colt Lane, Mignonette Lane, and Burnetta/Bradfield.

Do you want to get more involved with your community? We need you! There are multiple positions available for those who want to join the Long Branch Board or serve as a street representative. Some of the officers and volunteers have been serving for several years and are ready to turn over the reins. If you don't have a lot of time to invest but are interested in getting involved, there's willingness for sharing a position.

If you are interested in getting involved, please email longbranchcommunity@verizon.net.

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.

Long Branch Officers

President	Karla Gill (703) 764-4919
Vice President	Melinda Malico m.malico@verizon.net
Secretary/Treasurer	Michele Johnson maejohnson@deloitte.com
Membership and Welcoming	Martha Bernardi bmarthab@verizon.net
Social	VACANT
Newsletter	Susan Betts susan@thebettsfamily.com
Web site	Melinda Malico m.malico@verizon.net and Steve Alvo salvo@verizon.net
Neighborhood Watch	Megan Davenhall megdavenhall@aol.com
Database and Directory	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	VACANT	
Bramble	9106 Heather Hartung	703-978-1524
Cascus.....	9113 Julie Wiggins	703-978-1355
Claytonia.....	9206 Beth Elliott	703-978-2654
Colt	VACANT	
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	VACANT	
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 for updates and all our community information! And don't forget to give us information for the Web site!

Long Branch Community



Welcome to Long Branch Community

[1 Long Branch Home For Sale](#)

[Long Branch Swim & Racquet Club](#)

[Neighborhood Newsletter](#)

[Long Branch Swim and Racquet Website](#)

[Neighborhood Watch](#)

[Swim Team](#)

[Pets](#)

[Annual Events](#)

[Photo Page](#)

Please add 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

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.



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



20th Anniversary Pottery Studio Show Celebration!!!*

Come & Enter a Raffle to win one of the serving trays show above. 3 Winners!
Hand carved servers using our very own Long Branch Stream Park Bamboo, natural reeds-hand
rinse

December 4 & 5 ~ 10 am ~ 6 pm Saturday & Sunday

LONG BRANCH RESIDENTS ALWAYS SAVE 10%

Pottery Wheel throwing demos both days at 11 am, 2 pm & 4 pm

Refreshments ~ Shipping available ~ Great gift ideas ~

Come & Bring a Friend!

Year round pottery classes for kids ages 9-90, special groups, private lessons, Girl Scout Adventures in Clay program, Free classes for Cancer survivors (registration through Lifewithcancer.org)

Susan Fox Hirschmann ~ Art Pottery ~ email: artpottery@earthlink.net

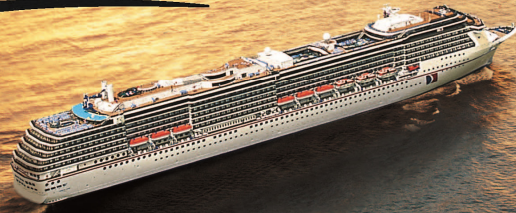
4810 Tabard Place, Annandale, VA 22003 new website: www.potteryart.biz

Or call for convenient appointments whenever.

December show will have registration for Winter 2011 Private and group pottery classes to begin in January.

Come and Visit Susan's awesome back yard pottery studio!!! Learn to create your own gifts.
Art pottery on Tabard Place is where the magic begins!

CRUISE & PLANNERS™



- Worldwide Cruises •Exotic Destinations
- Great Values on All Cruise Lines
- Individual & Group Cruise Rates

For the Best Values Afloat Call:
Yvette Berry - Cruise Specialist
“Dream your cruise, then cruise your dream”

703.425.3798

www.BerryCruisePlanners.com

FST# ST36334/ CST# 2034468-40

Deadlines for Submissions

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

Publication Date	Article Submission Deadline	Classified Submission Deadline
December 2010	November 15	November 30