



## Neighborhood News December 2009

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### President's Pen

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to our Long Branch neighbors. Special thanks to Julie Roberts for organizing the Luminary and coordinating with our friends in Red Fox for a festive kickoff to the Holiday Season!

We will meet in January at Canterbury Woods Elementary School. We will let you know the date and time.

Mark Wiggins, President  
[teamwiggins@msn.com](mailto:teamwiggins@msn.com)  
(703) 425-1986



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### Holiday Luminary—Thursday, December 24 at 5:00 P.M.

Long Branch's spectacular Holiday Luminary is right around the corner!! The Holiday Luminary is a neighborhood-wide event that unites our community. The luminaries are a display of Long Branch's holiday spirit and wishes of goodwill towards one another. We will be lighting the luminaries on **December 24<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 p.m.**, in conjunction with Red Fox neighborhood.

Come to the **end of Mignonette Court on Saturday, December 19th at 9:00 am**, to help with preparing the luminary bags and delivering them around the neighborhood. This is another wonderful opportunity to get involved with your community.

If you haven't participated in this fun morning, please come join us and find out why everyone has such a good time. It's a great opportunity to do something for the community with your neighbors!! (It's also a wonderful way for our children to earn some community service hours!!) Even if you don't want to help with the bags, come and have some hot chocolate or coffee and yummy treats.

Speaking of treats, our workers get very hungry - so if you'd like to bring some treats (muffins, doughnuts, etc.) for them - that would be great!!!

**Lighting of the luminary will take place on Thursday, December 24th at 5:00 pm.** (Rain date is Friday, December 25th.) If you aren't going to be home to light your candles, put them out on your sidewalk anyway, and a neighbor can light them for you. It really looks pretty when all of the sidewalks are lighted.

If you have any questions, please call Julie Roberts at 703-323-3932.



## **Watch** Neighborhood Watch News

### **Notes from the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator**

A hearty thanks to those families who pitched in (or are about to!) to keep the Watch moving during the Fall and through the end of this year: Effron, Ahern, Devine, Lynskey, Davenhall, Doublas-Lopez, Mavity, Platt, Webb, Alvo, Timko, Roegge, Walter, Hartman, Pumo, McCulloch, Shuman and Bunce. The schedule for 2010 will be out shortly. If you are not on the list and would like to be (even as an Alternate in the case of someone needing to drop out unexpectedly), just email [s.hrynkow@verizon.net](mailto:s.hrynkow@verizon.net).

**Reminder: Keep your garage door closed and lock your car!** Several of our Watch families have called the Coordinator recently to note that garage doors remain open, sometimes late into the evening. Help to protect your property and to deter crime in our community by keeping your garage door closed. By the same token, there have been new police reports about stolen GPS systems and other lost property from unlocked cars. Please remember to lock your car at night!

**CAUTION!** Scammers are now also targeting families interested in test preparation and college searching. Remember; do not give your personal information, including your credit card number, to unsolicited callers. Always check out the company carefully and make a call of your own to the company to verify any phone offer. -- Mrs. Ishii  
Career Center Specialist--W.T. Woodson High School

### **Useful Security Web sites -- Stay Informed:**

Fairfax County maintains a Web site with up-to-date information on H1N1 vaccine availability and other useful data. See <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/flu/>

Fairfax County's Citizen Reporting System (CRS) is designed to make it easier for you to report a crime. Not all crimes may be reported via CRS but the following are examples of those that are: Trespassing, Noise Violations, Destruction of Property. Check out the site at: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/crs/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/crs/)

The Virginia State Police maintain a searchable database for registered sex offenders and crimes against minors. <http://sex-offender.vsp.virginia.gov/sor/> According to the Web site, the Virginia State Police has not considered or assessed the specific risk of re-offense with regard to any individual prior to his or her inclusion within this registry, and has made no determination that any individual included in the registry is currently dangerous. The main purpose of providing data on the internet is to make the information more easily available and accessible, not to warn citizens about any specific individual. Information is current and the site is easy to navigate.

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## New Street Representative— Laurie Siegal

Laurie Siegal has volunteered to be the new street representative for 4921-5008 King Solomon.

Thank you Laurie for taking over this position.



## Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow... But Don't Forget to Keep Your Sidewalks Safe

According to the Farmer's Almanac, the 2009-2010 winter looks like it's going to be a snowy one. We've already had a beautiful first snow this year. Although snow turns the outside into a winter wonderland for kids of all ages it can turn our sidewalks into pure agony. Please remember to clear snow and ice off your sidewalks as soon as possible, especially the walks that also serve as bus stops for our kids. We want our kids to have fun this winter, not hurt themselves while trying to get to school.

Don't forget to check out the impressive list of neighborhood kids who have submitted their names for snow removal services. This list can be found in the back of the Long Branch directory.



## Trash Services Go Green(er)

Recycling is beneficial to our environment, our well-being, and it is necessary for sustaining our planet's resources for generations to come. Our Long Branch community has long been recycling to help our

environment. But, it wasn't always easy—sorting your recyclables into their various containers. Now that process has been replaced with Single Stream Recycling. Both American and AAA disposal services offer Single Stream Recycling.

### **What is Single Stream Recycling?**

Single Stream Recycling is an innovative process that allows the consumer the freedom of putting all of their recyclables into the same container, a process called commingling, without the bothersome tasks of bundling and sorting. At the state-of-the-art single stream recycling facility, the recyclable materials are introduced into the sorting process via a single conveyor belt. The materials are screened and sorted by various electro-mechanical means: magnets for ferrous metals, eddy currents for non-ferrous metals, air jets for plastic containers, heavy duty rotating screens for corrugated cardboard, etc. The resultant separated materials are ready for baling & shipping to factories to be re-manufactured into new & useful products.

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## **Broken Water and Sewer Lines**

It seems there has been an increase in failure and replacement of sewer and water lines to our homes. We would like to take a quick poll of how many homes have had their lines fail and needed replacement. If yours has broken and been replaced, can you please shoot a quick email to [susan@itprojectmanagers.com](mailto:susan@itprojectmanagers.com). Thanks!

Did you know Dominion Power offers both water line replacement and sewer line replacement programs for a relatively small monthly fee? Please see <http://www.dom.com/products/home-repair-programs/index.jsp> for more information.

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## **Fairfax County Public Schools FY 2010 Proposed Budget Cuts**

It seems to be on every school-aged parent's mind—the FY 2010 budget cuts. Fairfax County Public Schools is looking at a \$316 million shortfall for FY2011. Here is a partial list of what is being considered for reduction or elimination next year. For the complete list please visit:

[http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2011/PossibleBudgetCuts2011\\_November5revision.pdf](http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2011/PossibleBudgetCuts2011_November5revision.pdf)

- Athletic Fees would be assessed: \$100 per sport per student
- Two sports (one men's, one women's) would be eliminated
- AP and IB test fees would be assessed
- Class size would increase by 1 student, resulting in teacher layoffs
- Assistant Principals would have a 10% overall reduction
- Elementary Band & Strings program would be eliminated
- Full Day K would be eliminated at all but 34 (Title 1) elementary schools
- Foreign Language Immersion programs would lose funding for staffing
- Foreign Language in the Elementary School (FLES) programs would be eliminated
- Modified Calendar schools would return to standard calendar

- Excel and FOCUS programs would be eliminated
- Summer School would be completely eliminated (except for ESY students)
- There would be fewer custodians
- Guidance Counselors, Psychologists and Social Workers would be reduced and/or have
- heavier caseloads
- School Based Technology Specialists would be reduced by 50%
- One Alternative High School will be closed (Pimmit Hills)

As parents we can get involved with our schools and join the dialogue surrounding this very important issue.

## 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. If you have someone or company you would like to recommend, please email Melinda Malico: Melinda.Malico@ed.gov



## Virginia Ballet Company and School present the "Nutcracker"

Virginia Ballet Company and School present the "Nutcracker" a magical holiday experience and tradition since 1950. Our annual production is the longest running classical ballet production in the Northern Virginia area, featuring over a hundred students in a colorful array of costumes.

Performance Dates & Times:

December 27, 2009 – 2:00pm & 7:00pm

December 28, 2009 – 2:00pm & 7:00pm

December 29, 2009 – 2:00pm & 7:00pm

The Ernst Community Cultural Center

Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale Campus

Tickets \$20.00 - \$30.00 · All Seats Reserved

For Wheelchair Accessibility & Group

Discount Rates Please Call 703-249-8227

Tickets: <http://www.virginiaballet.org/>

## Long Branch By-Laws and Covenants

Ever wonder what regulations are established for the Long Branch Community? Long Branch Civic Association long ago established By-Laws and Covenants to govern our

community. A summary of these By-Laws and Covenants have been included in the email distribution of this newsletter.

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## Useful Numbers

If you notice burned out street lights, please call Virginia Power at 703 359 3300.

To report downed or damaged street signs, call Fairfax County office at 703-934-2840.

Any inquiries related to the VDOT, including maintenance issues, snow removal and signal problems, can be called in 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at (703) 383-VDOT (8368) or e-mail concerns to NOVAinfo@VDOT.Virginia.gov. This system allows VDOT to track issues more effectively and to maintain a more complete database of issues for funding purposes.

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## Long Branch Officers

<b>President</b>	Mark Wiggins (703) 425-1986
<b>Vice President/Social</b>	Karla Gill (703) 764-4919
<b>Secretary/Treasurer</b>	Michele Johnson maejohnson@deloitte.com
<b>Membership and Welcoming</b>	vacant
<b>Newsletter</b>	Susan Betts susan@itprojectmanagers.com
<b>Web site</b>	Melinda Malico m.malico@verizon.net and Steve Alvo
<b>Neighborhood Watch</b>	Sharon Hrynkow s.hrynkow@verizon.net
<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.

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## Street Representatives

Alyssum .....	9218 Joe Fidd .....	703-323-7841
Bradfield & Burnetta .....	9201 Katzer .....	703-978-2352
Bramble .....	9106 Heather Hartung	703-978-1524
Cascus .....	9113 Emily Wiggins	703-978-1355
Claytonia .....	9206 Elliott .....	703-978-2654
Colt .....	9117 Jodi Kalantgis..	703-764-9669
Gloxinia .....	4910 MaryEllen Slattery	703-425-0671
<b>King David (4900-5002) .....</b>	<b>vacant</b>	
King David (5003-5015) .....	4923. Laurie Siegal....	703-503-0057.
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 Bruce .....703-323-9211  
 King Solomon (4817-4838)...4821 Rabadan .....703-425-8927  
 King Solomon (4900-4920)...4918 Burns .....703-503-5756  
 King Solomon (4921-5008)...4923 Siegal.....  
 Loosestrife .....4910 Letellier .....703-425-0664  
 Meadow Rue.....9111 Herrick .....703-978-4004  
 Mignonette .....5002 Banks .....703-764-0548  
 Sabra/ Windflower (9100-9123).....703-978-1182  
 Windflower (9000-9026).....9009 Alvo.....703-323-5336  
 Steeplebush.....9112 Maritza Taylor .703-503-0438  
 Tabard (4800-4817) .....4803 Lisa Spero.....703-426-5590  
 Tabard (4819-4838) ..... Vacant .....

We have two vacant Street Representatives positions. If you are interested in becoming a street representative, please email me at [susan@itprojectmanagers.com](mailto:susan@itprojectmanagers.com).

## 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 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!

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## Classified Ads



# Pinecrest School

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### Tiny Steps Day Care

Mother of three in Long Branch has opened her home to care for children ages 6 weeks to 5 years old on a full-time or part-time basis. The Fairfax County licensed family home day care offers a happy, caring, and fun environment that fosters individual growth and learning through hands-on activities, developmentally appropriate toys, arts and crafts projects, music and movement, and storytime. Visit <http://www.tinystepsdaycare.zoomshare.com> to learn more or call Nicole at (703) 425-1288. Convenient location on same street as Long Branch pool.

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### 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 mouldings & power washing, Mr. Velasquez and his crews do it all. Please call for a free estimate: Mr. Velasquez at 571-245-9026.



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### Tutor Available

Former Canterbury Woods teacher, currently at home with children, available to tutor in your home or mine. Certified Pre-K – 6, all subjects and K-12, Reading. Reasonable rates and local references available. Call Jackie Cordiner at 703-978-1928 or e-mail at [jcordin@verizon.net](mailto:jcordin@verizon.net).







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## 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
February 2010	January 15	January 15