



Neighborhood News

June 2012

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President's Pen

Happy Summer 2012, Long Branch Neighbors - Please enjoy this newsletter filled with rich content & great information regarding our community. A huge thanks once again to Susan Betts for developing. We've seen a couple changes in our Long Branch Civic Association (LBCA) Officers. We thank Megan Davenhall for her service as Neighborhood Watch Coordinator & we welcome long term resident Roger Hartman who recently reached out to join us! We have additional LBCA officer positions coming available in 2012. Our President, Vice President, and Treasurer positions are filled with neighbors who have served on the board for a number of years & in multiple roles. It has truly been an honor to serve the neighborhood and work with a diverse team whose common goal is to ensure we continue to have a great neighborhood. We have been able to collaboratively deliver, enjoy getting to know each other, introduce new traditions & keep up long standing traditions . . . and have fun along the way. The time has come for us to pass on these opportunities to others, welcome new skills & fresh ideas, and allow others to team up with fellow neighbors. Read on to find role descriptions & a sample agenda from a recent meeting which we generally hold several times a year. It's important we identify replacement candidates by September 2012 so, we can transition by year end.

We thank neighbors who diligently look out for all of us & report neighborhood watch and/or safety concerns. With the summer months upon us & much activity outdoors, please leverage the following resources:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/newsletter/mtv/august2008.pdf>

- Help reduce criminal activity (reduce thefts, deter burglary, prevent auto theft, etc.)
- Lock vehicles at all times
- Park in lit areas
- Do not leave valuables or key in vehicles

Please Note:
Contact information, including phone numbers, addresses AND emails addresses are for LBCA members' personal use ONLY, and are not to be used for (mass?) marketing purposes.

Looking for some fun this summer...check out Washington Post's Guide to 40 Things to Do
http://www.washingtonpost.com/going-outguide/your-guide-to-the-coolest-washington-summer-ever/2012/05/17/gIQA4AHWWU_gallery.html?wpisrc=nl_goto#photo=1

Want to take advantage of the local offerings of Farmers' Markets? Here's a listing of all the Farmers' Markets in Fairfax County:
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/wp-farm-mkt.htm>

- Lock all doors at home
- Keep garage doors closed
- Participate in Neighborhood Watch
- Report any & all suspicious activity

<http://library.municode.com/index.aspx?clientId=10051>

Playing on streets or highways; roller skates toys or devices on wheels or runners; use of motor powered vehicles on sidewalks and other posted property, persons riding bicycles, etc.

Parking prohibited in specific places, including on sidewalks, within 20 feet of an intersection, or within 15 feet of a fire hydrant

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/2007/141.htm>

For safety tips related to heat, pool, sun safety & children, boats, picnics & food, grilling, child supervision, pets, mosquitoes, rabies and keeping cool.

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock/newsletter/june2010/grass.htm>

"Well kept yards give our neighborhoods a look that says we care about our homes and our neighbors. It keeps down the number of unwanted bugs and critters. It helps us to maintain property values when those values have dropped. And it just looks nice."



Neighborhood Watch News

Thank You Megan Davenhall for Serving as Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

A huge thank-you to **Megan Davenhall** for serving as our Neighborhood Watch Coordinator for the last two years. Megan worked hard to coordinate the Neighborhood Watch schedule, making sure that all time slots were filled. She also diligently checked in with her contact at the West Springfield Police Department in order to keep our Long Branch residents apprised of any areas or concern. We appreciate her hard work during the last two years to keep Long Branch a safe environment in which to live. Thank YOU!

Maintaining the look of your property doesn't just improve the look of your home but also helps maintain the property values of all homes in Long Branch.

If you have a neighbor who is unable to maintain his/her yard work this time of year, please consider lending a hand. It's the neighborly thing to do and will keep Long Branch looking great.

If you are traveling this summer, make sure to take precautions to prevent your house from looking vacant.
<http://www.homesite.com/insurance-resources/home-insurance-articles/keep-your-home-safe-while-away.htm>

Welcome Roger Hartman—our new Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

We would like to welcome and thank Roger Hartman for stepping into the role of Neighborhood Watch Coordinator. He is a great fit for the position as he has connections to the West Springfield Police station already and we are fortunate to have him serving in this role. He is looking forward to working with the neighborhood watch volunteers to keep Long Branch a safe community for all our residents. If you would like to volunteer to be part of the neighborhood watch team or if you have any questions or concerns, you can contact him at rogerhartman47@gmail.com.



Long Branch Civic Association Open Board Positions

The LBCA is looking for fresh ideas and new members to lead the Civic Association. We are looking to fill the below positions. A brief description of each position is also included to provide a better understanding of the position. **We are currently in the position of having no leadership to move Long Branch forward in the coming years. Without an active LBCA Board, Long Branch cannot provide the services, such as house number painting, neighborhood directory, front entrance maintenance, social activities, communication of important issues and mediation of any problems that arise within our community.**

LBCA President: Engage & lead team of LBCA Officers to serve the neighborhood through: [1] ensuring foundational support is addressed (budget, membership, directories, curb painting, yard sale, neighborhood holiday events, community & officer meetings) [2] planning quarterly officers meetings & 1-2 annual community meetings [3] empowering officer team to maintain neighborhood, introduce new value add ideas, reach out to local



No need to cook on Thursday nights this summer! Every Thursday night at the pool the Long Branch Swim Team opens the grills and sells hamburgers, hot dogs and many more goodies. Come out and enjoy a fun night at the pool with friends and close your kitchen for the night.

politicians & police, and retire legacy efforts as warranted [4] listening to & addressing neighbor ideas/issues/concerns

LBCA Vice President: The Vice President shall act during the President's absence.

LBCA Treasurer: Receive all monies due LBCA and keep proper records of all receipts and disbursements, including payment of dues; prepare and monitor the budget; write approximately 1 check per month; reconcile the bank statement to the checkbook; deposit member dues (every two years); participate in LBCA Board meetings (4 times per year).

LBCA Secretary: Shall furnish notice of every meeting to the membership in any reasonable manner. He/she shall carry on all correspondence of LBCA as directed by the President, or by vote of the LBCA. He/she shall be the custodian of the archives of LBCA and shall preserve them in good and complete order.



Be Smart on Trails & Paths--Spring Safety Tips

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/news-releases/
News Release: 12/0126/109/(LHC)
April 18, 2012

Warm weather is here. People are venturing outdoors for leisurely walks, invigorating exercise and taking advantage of Fairfax County's trails. Police encourage residents to be smart and take precautions when using trails, parks, paths and remote roadways in Fairfax County.

You are encouraged to follow these essential safety tips:

-Try not to go out alone; if you do, make sure someone knows where you will be and when you expect to return.

Want to safe from the sun this summer but not sure which sunscreen is the safest? Check out EWG's 2012 sunscreen report: <http://breakingnews.ewg.org/2012/sunscreen/best-sunscreens/best-beach-sport-sunscreens/>

Need some more sun safety tips, check out this advice from the American Cancer Society: <http://www.cancer.org/Cancer/news/Features/dont-fry-day-is-all-about-healthy-skin?gclid=CPW9jLXzmLACFYFo4Aod6IUw4g>

- If possible, avoid using trails after dark.
- Do not use headphones at a high volume; make sure you can hear what's going on around you.
- Always look ahead and see what or who is around you. (Also if exercising, watch out for potholes, gates and other trail users and obey traffic signals.)
- Call 9-1-1 if you feel you are in imminent danger.
- Carry your cell phone with you at all times and pre-program 9-1-1 into your phone.*
- Call the non-emergency number if you see any suspicious activity.*
- Suspicious activity is any person, noise, car or event that doesn't feel right to you.
- The non-emergency number in Fairfax County is: 703-691-2131. It might be beneficial to pre-program your local police department's non-emergency number into your phone.
- Always lock your car doors and if driving to a trail or park, leave your valuables at home! If you do bring them, lock them in the trunk but beware of someone watching you do this.
- Valuables commonly stolen from parked vehicles include GPS units, laptop computers, blue tooth devices, CDs, purses/wallets.
- Remove any empty bags or briefcases from your vehicle to allay criminals' curiosities.
- Clean the GPS suction cup circle from your windshield.

*Do not hesitate to call the police. If you see something suspicious or are the victim of a crime (even if you are not hurt), the sooner you call the police, the more likely police can locate a suspect, individual or vehicle.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

Looking for a fun birthday party for your little ones? Call our local Long Branch resident Barbara Effron of Storytime Express. Special birthday discounts for Long Branch residents. 703-323-1783

As we hit the trails on our bikes, be sure to follow bike safety tips: <http://www.greenebaypressgazette.com/article/20120517/GPG1001/205170311/National-Bike-Month-calls-mind-safety-tips>

Don't forget to keep your pets safe this summer. Here are some tips to keep your pets safe this summer: <http://www.galesburg.com/lifestyles/x1986335740/6-simple-summer-pet-safety-tips>



Long Branch Swim and Racquet Club

Membership

Don't miss out on a summer of fun at the Long Branch Swim and Racquet Club. Membership applications are still being accepted. Please email lbsrmembership@gmail.com if you have any questions or please visit www.longbranchpool.com for more information.

Damage to Long Branch Entryway Sign—Information Needed

As many of you may have noticed, the brick Long Branch entryway sign at the intersection of Guinea Road and King Solomon Drive has been destroyed. Unfortunately, there is not a police report on file of this incident. If you have seen or heard what or who caused the damage to the Long Branch Entryway sign, please contact Officer Clute (703 644-7377) of the Fairfax Police Department. Any information would be greatly helpful in determining how this damage was done. Without a police report, we can seek damages and therefore Long Branch will incur the cost of repairing/re-building the sign.



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Thank you to Megan Davenhall for organizing the annual Long Branch Easter Egg hunt. It was a beautiful day and the kids had a great time searching for eggs in the grassy area by the Long Branch pool.



Easter Bunny kicked off the fun, making his grand entrance on his motorcycle! The kids were excited to hunt



down the eggs and fill their baskets. Thank you to all the families that brought goodies to share with the adults. A special thanks to Jim Hawkins for providing us with a very memorable Easter Bunny!

Want to put less waste into the landfill? Consider composting. It's great for the environment and the cheapest, organic lawn fertilizer available. Here are some tips to get you started: <http://vegweb.com/composting/>

Hitting the road this summer? Check out the Summer Getaway Guide for Drivers from the Washington Post: http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/trafficandcommuting/summer-getaway-guide-for-dc-area-drivers/2012/05/18/gIQArlWYUs_tory.html

Guinea Road Bridge Repair—ALMOST DONE!

If you are getting frustrated with the Guinea Road bridge repair—don't despair—the project should wrap up by the end of the summer.

This project is replacing the deteriorated culvert at Guinea Road over Long Branch. In the past, flooding has overflowed the pipes and overtopped the roadway, causing extensive damage to the pipes, outlet headwalls, roadway pavement, pipe settlement, and erosion at the downstream end of the structure. The culvert deteriorated to the extent where temporary jacking was installed to support the pipes.

The entire project is estimated to cost \$2.3 million. The new bridge will be close to three feet higher and widened by 15 feet. The final configuration will include two twelve foot travel lanes, an eight foot shoulder and a 5 foot sidewalk in each direction. It will have a span of 54 feet across Long Branch and will be completely built within the existing right of way. The new span is expected to prevent flooding during at least the 10 year storm, and would only overtop the road in a 25 year storm.

The contractor, Flippo Construction, has now completed two phases of this contract. The second phase involved the placement of a precast Conspan bridge section on the north side of the project. They have now entered Phase III which includes excavation, drilling and placement of the pilings and abutments that will support the precast Conspan bridge on the south side of the stream. That phase was expected to last approximately 6 weeks.

Because VDOT recognized that using a large drill rig that employed pile driving would be intrusive to the residential community, even during the daytime hours, the contractor has been using another kind of drill to set these pilings. Unfortunately, this drill has experienced severe mechanical problems. This has again set back the project. After the new bridge section is put in place, the contractor must compact and repave the surface of the raised roadbed..

The schedule originally called for the contract to be completed on or before June 22. VDOT has advised that the contractor would not meet this deadline due to weather delays (the Conspan Bridge cannot be set in any rain) and equipment failure.

The contract does NOT allow the contractor to begin alternating traffic before 9:00 am. Supervisor Cook's office has had several complaints recently about the bridge being alternated by a flagman as early as 8:30 am. They would like to hear about that if it occurs.

Don't want to deal with the crowd at the National Mall to view the fireworks? Check out alternate fireworks displays in Virginia:

<http://dc.about.com/od/specialevents/a/4thofJuly3.htm>

Local Potter Susan Fox Hirschmann Receives Special International Recognition



Artist Susan Fox Hirschmann of Annandale, Virginia has received two Special Recognition Awards for artwork in the "14th Annual Faces Juried Online International Art Exhibition" hosted by Upstream People Gallery.

This international exhibition received approximately 350 entries from around the world and 68 artists were selected by the juror Laurence Bradshaw, Professor of Art at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, U. S. A.

Professor Bradshaw states this about this specially recognized work:

"SUSAN FOX HIRSCHMANN of Annandale, Virginia is able to incorporate facial imagery as embellishments on her clay and fiber works. Circle of Friends is quite nice especially with the addition of the fiber pieces. Circle of Family works well in terms of the contrast of the hard vessel together with the more delicate fiber."

The exhibition will be featured online during March, 2012 at www.upstreampeoplegallery.com and continue indefinitely in the archives s



Further information about the artist's work:

"Annandale, Virginia ceramic artist, Susan Fox Hirschmann, carves images of family and friends in this award winning art work....a tribute to their love and kindness. This work is a celebration of the people that touch each of our lives and leave us changed forever.

Susan makes groups of pots. Like groups of friends, each member is unique, yet has a commonality and a bond that ties one to another. Each time spent with a pot, more is revealed, subtleties are uncovered, and a relationship develops. Then the circle is complete, from maker to user, as clay brings new relationships to life." [action of the website.](#)

Congratulations to the Class of 2012

We are so proud of our graduates. We know you'll go on to great things.

Congratulations!
Today is your day.
You're off to Great Places!
You're off and away!

You have brains in your head.
You have feet in your shoes.
You can steer yourself
any direction you choose.

-Dr. Seuss

You're on your own. And you know what you know.
And YOU are the guy who'll decide where to go.

Woodson Turns 50

W. T. Woodson High School
Celebrating 50 Years of Excellence
October 5 and 6, 2012

Reconnect with your friends and classmates
at this once in a lifetime event!

Friday, October 5

Golf tournament at Westfield's Country Club
Homecoming Parade
Pep Rally and Bonfire

Tours of recently renovated high school

Saturday, October 6

Taste of Woodson and Fun Fair
Tours of recently renovated high school
Homecoming Game

50th Anniversary Gala at the Fairview Park Marriott
Including Athletic Hall of Fame introductions

Help us get the word out to former Woodson alumni
We will posting additional information on our websites.
<http://www.fcps.edu/woodsonhs/> or <http://wtwoodsonsports.org/>

Sponsored by the
W. T. Woodson Athletic Boosters

How to Work With Your Contractor

Are you planning to remodel your home? If the answer is yes, here are some tips on how to establish and maintain a good working relationship with your remodeling contractor.

Of course you believe you're a reasonable, understanding person with whom anyone would be happy to work. However, if you've never been involved with remodeling your home, you'd be surprised at what might happen!

Realistic Expectations

Everyone who begins the remodeling process has visions of the "dream" home they'll have when it's completed. Few, however, give much thought to the dust and dirt, noise, inconveniences, scheduling delays, and slight problems that must be dealt with along the way. These elements are part and parcel of any remodeling job, and every client must be realistic and accept the fact that there will be some inconveniences.

How inconvenient and unpleasant the process is depends a lot on the working relationship that is created right from the beginning. A good client-contractor relationship depends on several things:

1. Be honest with your contractor from the beginning about your expectations. Clear communication is the foundation of a successful project.
2. Be realistic about what you are looking for in the remodel and what you are willing to budget for the project. Many homeowners enter a remodeling project with grandiose plans that need to be scaled down to meet their budget. Your remodeler should work with you to provide you with the best your money can afford. But remember, this is their livelihood. As with any profession, some profit margin must be factored in to the price.
3. Let's discuss the remodeling work schedule. If the schedule falls behind, feel free to ask why.
4. Realize that certain stages of remodeling may seem to go more quickly than others. For example, during stages that involve more tangible work (for example, when walls are being torn down or replaced, framing constructed, or appliances installed), you'll have a true sense of rapid progress. During other stages, however, that involve work of a more "hidden" nature like the installation of electrical lines or plumbing, it may seem that the work is going nowhere. Don't worry. Just because you can't see it easily doesn't mean that nothing's happening. Trust is a key factor.
5. Recognize your role in the remodeling process and allow your remodeler to perform their work. Your input regarding design, expected craftsmanship, etc. will be incorporated into the job scope before the contract is signed. Once work is underway, give the remodeler the freedom to execute the job effectively. This is not to say that if you see

something going wrong you shouldn't speak up. However don't try to take on the role of the remodeler as you have paid for a process.

6. If possible, avoid making changes to the job scope. They tend to upset the schedule, which ultimately upsets you. If you do decide some changes are necessary settle the cost difference up front so there is no misunderstanding.

Finally, remember that maintaining a good contractor-client relationship is a two-way street. Just as you would want others to respect your professional expertise, respect ours. At the same time, you can be sure that a professional remodeler is committed to providing you with as painless a remodel as possible, with the final results you expect!

Trish Schroeder
Schroeder Design/Build, Inc.
www.SchroederDesignBuild.com

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 m.malico@verizon.net	Melinda Malico (703) 425-6446 or
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	Roger Hartman rogerhartman47@gmail.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

Alyssum9213 Luce Tejano 703-425-1021
 Bradfield & Burnetta9207 Burnetta Dr. Kathy Naccarato703-323-7496
 Bramble.....9106 Heather Hartung .. 703-978-1524
 Cascus.....9113 Julie Wiggins 703-978-1355
 Claytonia9206 Beth Elliott 703-978-2654
 Colt9109 Richard Owens 703-323-5508
 Gloxinia4910 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 Rue9111 Caroline Herrick 703-978-4004
 Mignonette5017 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 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 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 1/4 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

- Serving Long Branch residents since 1995
- 30 years experience
- Can repair many small problems in less than 15 minutes
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From the Washington Post: "Schneider held court the way a cooking-show host does; he cooked with prepared ingredients and threw in a little humor to lighten up the room... The chef slowed down during the preparation of a recipe to illustrate the finer points of technique. He also suggested ways to simplify his recipes..." April 9, 2010

* Great for families too busy to cook – Wide ranging menu options include family dinner classics and regional favorites like Asian, Italian, Mexican, Cajun, and French. Always prepared using the freshest seasonal ingredients. Vegetarian and low-carb options available!

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* In-home instructional cooking classes.

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presents



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www.voicesintheglen.org/storyellers/barbara-efron

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Have fun with your friends while discussing literature or solving math problems

*Discounted rates for 2 or more students of the same age in a group setting

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hair bows
chalk placemats
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Nancy Marshall
703-503-3175
fancybynancy@hotmail.com
www.fancybynancy.etsy.com

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Cell : 703.346.6956

SERVING NORTHERN VIRGINIA

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
September 2012	August 15	August 31