

Bannockburn Citizens Association Newsletter

Vol. 04, No.4

Bethesda, Maryland 2004

December 2004

President's Column

Stuart Brown

This year the leaves in our neighborhood seemed to fall all at once. I remember years when the trees just wouldn't let go, and leaves fell steadily, but in small batches all the way into the New Year. No matter how often we raked or blew or swept, our yards and streets were a mess for most of the winter. But this year was a pleasure. It took just two heavy rains and a few windy days, and almost all the leaves were down by early November. We can appreciate how much light the winter sky can offer. And, best of all, the County leaf collection should actually leave us with clean streets.

Compared to the nation and the world, our neighborhood has seen relatively few major developments in the past few months. The most serious incident was the devastating fire on Broxburn Court that destroyed the home of Joan Kaufman and Louis Hecht. While it is hard to find much good in this traumatic situation, I do think they were heartened by the offers of help that came not only from their immediate neighbors and friends but from so many others who did not know them personally. Special thanks to Dwight and Sue Mason, block captains for Broxburn Court for all the help they provided.

Our September membership meeting featured 4 special guests who talked with us about the continuing series of protests aimed at one of our neighbors. Three of these guests represented various parts of County government, and the fourth was from a group that has extensive experience dealing with this type of demonstration. It was a good opportunity for neighbors to ask questions and gain a better understanding of how government officials are trying to find the right balance between maintaining traffic safety, neighborhood peace, and the First Amendment rights of the protestors. We have not had any indication of specific further action by the County since that meeting.

The 2nd Annual BCA Family Picnic was a great success, with more than 100 neighbors joining the festivities at Concord Local Park on September 26. We had families with children, singles, couples, children alone, seniors, as well as many new (here less than 1 year) and longtime residents (here more than 40 years). Special thanks go to Renee West, Wendy Landres and Karen Lesser who took the lead in organizing the event – for the second year in a row.

The success of our picnic showed me there is a real interest in more neighborhood events – especially for the many families with children who have moved here in the past few years. During the picnic, several parents suggested ideas about other types of activities they would like to see happen. I told each person who made a suggestion that BCA would be happy to help, but that since BCA is a totally volunteer operation, volunteers are what we really need to turn ideas into programs.

I'd like to repeat that message for everyone: BCA stands ready to assist anyone who has an idea for improving the neighborhood. We can provide financial support; we can use our newsletter, our website email communication and our block captain network to publicize events and discuss issues; and we can help in dealings with the County if that is required. You should feel free to call or email me or any of the other BCA officers or directors, or committee chairs (that's why we publish a contact list in each newsletter). But, ultimately, in order to create a successful project (instead of just talking about a good idea), we depend on YOU to volunteer your time and your energy to make it happen. If you will, we can do a lot together.

Stuart Brown, President slb7110@comcast.net



Bannockburn Citizens Association

Winter Meeting

Thursday, December 2nd

Concord School

7:30PM Coffee and Social

8:00 PM Business Meeting

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Fire Damages House on Broxburn Court

The Broxburn Court home of our neighbors Joan Kaufman and Louis Hecht was badly damaged by fire on the night of November 1, 2004. Montgomery County firefighters responded in force but were unable to contain the fire until it had done extensive damage. To make things worse, late in the night after the fire had been extinguished looters entered the house and stole beer, wine and liquor. Fortunately, Joan and Louis were both away from home when the fire broke out and were not injured; sadly, however, the family pets did not survive.

As news of the disaster spread, many neighbors expressed concern and offered shelter, clothing and other emergency help. Dwight and Sue Mason, block captains for Broxburn Court, and Leigh and Paul Tischler, also of Broxburn Court, provided temporary housing. The Masons served as a contact point for other neighbors who wanted to help. Several neighbors have provided information about possible rental properties in the neighborhood, as well as leads to architects and contractors who could work with Joan and Louis in rebuilding. Others provided assistance in securing and recovering what remained of the family's personal effects.

Joan and Louis have read all the emails that were sent to the Masons offering help and they are very grateful to everyone who has offered assistance. They said, "Our neighbors have been remarkable and we are so grateful that we live in this community. Thank you all for stopping by and for your emails and your offers of help and for all of your concern and good wishes." They are moving temporarily to an apartment in downtown Bethesda and can't wait until their home is rebuilt on Broxburn Court. They look forward to having the opportunity to thank everyone in person as soon as they are able to get their lives a bit more organized.

Newsletter Articles Sought

Do you enjoy reading the BCA newsletter? Could it be more interesting, relevant and useful? What would you like to see included?

The past 5 newsletters have been written by just a few individuals and we would very much like some help. There are many topics we don't cover, simply for lack of writers: for example, we could provide summaries of crime reports; real estate transactions; new neighbors arriving and old friends leaving; items related to local schools; etc.

So, if you have any interest in joining the staff of the BCA newsletter – or just feel like contributing a single article – please don't be shy. Talent is definitely not required.

Contact Stuart Brown (slb7110@comcast.net) or David Weiss (dk.weiss@verizon.net), and we'll gladly put you to work.



Concord Park Developments Josephine Roberts

Here is a summary of the current state of affairs in the planned renovation of Concord Local Park. This report is based on a conversation with Mr. Ali Khan, Concord Park Project Manager, MNCPPC.

There has been no change in the budgeting or commitment to go forward with the Concord Park Project. However, the timetable for completion has been set back a few months. The expected completion date is now August, 2005.

This is because it was found necessary to do a topographical survey to reconcile differences between the plans drawn up by the original engineering company and those of MNCPPC.

After bidding on the project and the selection of a contractor is completed, construction will begin in earnest in Spring 2005 (after the ground thaws) with completion expected in August, 2005.

At the urging of the Suburban Nursery School, the contractor will be required to bring heavy equipment into the park on the right-hand side of the building. Bringing it in on the left-hand side, using the existing maintenance entrance, would have created a hazard for the children.

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Two steps forward and one step back, is better than the other way around, so I don't think we need be too alarmed by the latest development in the ongoing saga of improvements to Concord Park. That's it for now folks. Stayed tuned!

Josephine Roberts joroberts@webtv.net

Bannockburn Streets , an Historical look MJ Pates

BARRA

The isle of Barra one of the islands in the Scottish Hebrides and was originally owned by the Roman Catholic Church. It was the family home of the MacNeils. It has been abandoned since 1950 and is noted for the number of cockle shells (remember sweet Molly Malone) found on its beaches. It is only 8 miles north to south and 6 east to west. The definition of Barra is probably a reference to Norse warriors on the isle of Barra standing stones" said to be older than Stone.

ISLE OF ARRAN

What a difference an "R" makes. Obviously the developers of Bannockburn mistook the name Aran for the Scottish name Arran. The Irish isle of Aran as many of us know is noted for its beautiful knitting patterns by that name. The Scottish Arran is frequently described at Scotland in miniature from the mountains to the sea. It is a hikers paradise. The history of the island goes back to the Picts.

CARMICHAEL

The clan of Carmichael was apparently named after a church dedicated to St. Michael, which was built in the shire Lanark near the territory owned by a Scottish clan... The definition of the word is thus Carmichael, guardian or friend of St. Michael from "car" guardian or friend.

BEN AVON

Here we have another Mountain. This is Ben Avon, obviously 'ben' for mountain and 'Avon' after the river, famous for the Bard. This river flows into the Severn River. The mountain is 3842 feet in height and provides scenery as well as challenge for hikers and climbers.

ARAN AND ARANDALE

This is strange and complex name. The definition of dale is a valley near a wooded area. The name Aran is defined as wild goat. However the name Aran goes a little deeper

than that Apparently ARAN was the name of a descendant of Seir the Horite of Biblical times See Genesis 36.28 The Horites were cavemen (or at least the Bible describes them as hairy), or early men, There was a long line of offspring, possibly carrying similar names Genesis and there was a long line of offspring, possibly many carrying similar names.

LAVEROCK

A Laverock is a meadowlark, or a sand piper, at least bird of the lark genus. The castle Caerlaverock is a fantastic and unusual structure built in 1299 to defend the southwest access to Scotland across the Salway Firth. It appears to be unassailable because of its triangular shape. On two sides it faces open woods and marshes, on the sea it is difficult to approach. This shape is unique in Scotland, and the double moat inside the wall further makes its defense stronger. It withstood the siege of Edward I against the Scottish king Balliol A tower on each corner offers protection on two sides by water, and the third by acres of land difficult to access because of marshes and ditches hollowed out by the sea it is a virtually unassailable fortress.

HIDDEN CREEK

This name I am afraid is obvious...certainly not Scottish...I wonder where this creek is and what its name might be? Does Booze Creek run under on the way to the river, or is their still another we have yet to discover?

GLENRIDDLE.

The Ryedell, Riddell, Riddel family came originally from Normandy There are many variation of the spelling, with possibly some reference to the Norse. The right to name the lands held by the family was given by the King of Scotland David I. Between 1124 and 1153 The Glen, of course, is a narrow valley in these lands. Quite apart from Scotland a descendant of the Riddell family, Samuel Riddell of Worcester County, Md. in 1917 purchased a colt named Man O' War who was trained at Glenn Riddle Farm and later achieved lasting fame in racing and equine history.

AYR

A resort and seaport on the Firth of Clyde. The name is related to the Eyres as Jane Eyre. It is defined in Norse as a strip of shingle beach. An Ayr is also the yearly inquiry into the affairs of the borough by the chamberlain, the chief financial officer of the crown...Sound familiar?

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ORKNEY

Lastly we come to the Orkney Isles, a group of approximately 70 islands in the northern part of Scotland. They lie between the North Sea on the east and the Atlantic Ocean on the west. Ocean currents keep the climate mild and they are a productive farming area where beef cattle are raised. As in the rest of Scotland, Norse invasion colonized the area until the Scots took over in 1472 when they were part of concession to Scotland as part of a wedding dowry. Prehistoric relics are plentiful and a Stone Age village of Skara Brae is evident, as well as standing stone rings

Mary Jane Pates mjpates@erols.com

Bannockburn Web-Site News!!

We have integrated some new features at our Bannockburn web site. www.bannockburnweb.com

We encourage you to log on to the site and update your profile.

When you logon, select the option to "update your profile". This will take you to a screen, which provides you the opportunity to select some new features, and communications, which have not previously been available.

You may recall the generator group program we offered earlier this year, and there are other such group purchase from which our community benefits. These 'offerings' are communicated to you as you select. These selections are turned on or off at your option, and at your timing, so trying these options does not burden you to reading endless e-mails or notices. The effectiveness of these notices is your option to select or deselect.

A new feature will provide an emergency paging, calling feature, which will put our block captains only a phone call away in the event of a community situation or if emergency arises which affects you or your home.

Additionally, for those wishing to participate in a community directory, the option will be available. No data will be distributed to anyone or anywhere. You have our full assurance of your privacy guarded closely.

Another option recently added is the ability to pay your annual dues easily using a credit card of your choice.

Just below the Directory selections is an opportunity to use a credit card to bring your community dues current. Our community operates on a Calendar year basis, so membership is annually due in January for the coming year. As you know, we rely upon your dues to maintain our web site, print and distribute the newsletters, communicate our activities, conduct our regular meetings, and otherwise maintain our neighborhood associations' business.

We will begin to confirm community members after the first of the year, to maintain the neighborhood communications integrity. Non-neighbors, will be excluded from our e-mail communications broadcasts, unless specifically approved by our Board of Directors for receipt of this data. This is another method of assuring our Bannockburn neighbors that our communications are limited to those for whom they are intended.

Traffic Safety At River & Nevis

The intersection at River Road and Nevis Road is one of the busiest and most difficult bottlenecks in our neighborhood. It is especially hard to navigate during morning rush hour when many of our neighbors are leaving for work, school traffic is arriving, and the light is timed to optimize commuter traffic on River Road. Drivers who approach the intersection along Nevis Road know that the light will be very short and are tempted to speed up as they approach the intersection and often block cars approaching the intersection from the River Road service road. We have asked Montgomery County about improving the situation, but there do not seem to be any prospects for change in the near future.

In the meantime, some neighbors have asked if drivers traveling up Nevis Road could consider allowing cars from the service road to merge into the flow of traffic. While this courtesy is not required by law (the cars on the service road are controlled by "STOP" signs), it would be appreciated. Remember, however, that any cars allowed to merge would have to be careful of traffic coming across River Road from Burning Tree Road – those drivers might be surprised by cars from the service road turning across their path.

Is improving the traffic situation at this intersection important to you? What do you think of the

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request discussed above? Do you have any different ideas? Would you be willing to work on a committee to try to make improvements? We would like to hear from anyone interested in this issue. Feel free to call or send an email to any of your officers or directors; if there is enough interest in the topic, we will discuss it at our December 2 meeting.

MNCPPC Requests Public Comment on Park Use Policy

As we look forward to the renovation of Concord Local Park next summer, our neighborhood should pay attention to a request from M-NCPPC for public comments on some new ideas to regulate the use of parks. The issue arises because of a rapid increase in the use of parks by adults for soccer games. According to the MNCPPC, these adult pick-up soccer games often attract significant numbers of players and spectators, and have sometimes resulted in conflicts between the players and neighborhood residents.

The current policy generally allows – but does not require – permits to use a park field. If no one has a permit, then the rule is “first-come, first-served.” Some neighborhoods have asked that MNCPPC institute a policy of requiring a permit for all organized games played on local park fields in the evenings and on weekends.

MNCPPC is soliciting public comment on how to deal with this issue. There are public hearings scheduled for the evenings of November 22, November 29 and December 6. For more information about these hearings, call the MNCPPC Community Relations Office at 301-495-2503. Written comments can also be sent to the Derick Berlage, Chairman, Montgomery County Planning Board, 8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20901. If you would like to work on this issue on behalf of BCA, please contact Stuart Brown (slb7110@comcast.net).

Neighborhood Playgroup Forming

Do you have a 1, 2, or 3 year-old? Would you like to get to know other parents in the neighborhood with similar age kids? I have a 2 year-old and am forming an informal playgroup that will meet on Friday mornings for about an hour either at the Concord School playground or at mine or other

homes. If you'd like to join, please contact me at 301-320-8836 or Rkahlen2@aol.com.

-Rebecca Kahlenberg

Neighbor needs Help

Can you spare your nanny or housekeeper for a few hours a day while your kids are in school? Or do you know someone else looking for work? We are looking for someone loving and energetic to watch our granddaughter for 3-4 hours/day, 4 days/week. Mornings are best but the timing can be flexible. For more information please call

Bernard Kanstoroom at 301-229-4822.

PEPCO Announces No Dry Ice Policy

In a recent letter sent to BCA and other community associations, PEPCO announced that effective December 1, 2004, it “will no longer distribute dry ice following a severe storm or other emergency.” The letter says this decision was based on the “many difficulties” PEPCO experienced in distributing dry ice following Hurricane Isabel. PEPCO says that instead of providing dry ice, it “will assign all of our resources to the business of power restoration, which is our primary goal.”

PEPCO refers customers to three new brochures it has published with advice about how to prepare for and deal with storms that cause power outages: *Weathering the Storm*; *Trees and Reliable Electric Service*; and *Special Needs: Emergency Medical Equipment Notification Program*. These brochures are available on PEPCO's internet site “www.pepco.com” or by calling 202-833-7500.

Anyone interested in more information about the new dry ice policy or other improvements to PEPCO's storm management plan, should contact Kim Watson, Regional VP for Montgomery County Affairs, by email to kmwatson@pepco.com or by telephone 202-872-2524.



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Telephone Numbers to report Roadway issues *Again*

Issue

	State Roads	County Roads
Burned-out street lights	800-323-MSHA	240-777-2190
Potholes	800-323-MSHA	240-777-ROAD
Abandoned cars	301-424-2101	301-840-2454
Missing street signs	800-323-MSHA	240-777-2190
Badly timed signals	800-323-MSHA	240-777-2190

Mark Your Calendar! BCA General Meeting

CONCORD SCHOOL
Thursday, December 2nd

7:30 PM - Refreshments
8:00 PM - Business

Adding Street Lights in Bannockburn *Again*

Our neighborhood began a program to revisit street lighting in Bannockburn. During the past years, since the lighting was originally placed, the trees and shrubs have grown, diminishing the intensity in our little streets. Sue Mason has done yeoman service,

weaving through the bureaucratic Montgomery County Government, and has provided a basic outline of the procedures for adding streetlights, for which we are all appreciative. Here's the way to make your request for more street lighting.

The neighbors have to decide where they want the lights; i.e. on which utility poles if poles are present. There has to be a 2/3 majority consent from those neighbors directly adjacent and across the street from the light (if 4 residents are affected, 3 must sign the petition). A request must be mailed to: Mr. Pat Bradley, 101 Orchard Ridge Drive, 2nd floor, Gaithersburg MD 20878 Just for the record, his telephone is: 240-777-2160.

Please contact Sue and Dwight Mason, who have agreed to head up our street lighting effort. To get the format for the data, including a locator diagram please contact dnmason@juno.com, We have this data, with instructions, on our website, for downloading. www.bannockburnweb.com Ed

Bannockburn Citizens Association Web Site

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Director	Maria Acebal	320 7734	mfacebal@alumni.duke.edu
Street Lighting Committee	Sue & Dwight Mason		dnmason@juno.com
Noise Abatement Committee	Ken Rubin	229 7613	kennetharubin@aol.com
Concord Park Committee	Josephine Roberts	229 4281	JoRoberts@webtv.net
Social Activities Committee	Renee West	229 5691	Renee_west@knoll.com
St. Bart's Addition Committee	Hal Epstein	263 0533	Hal.Epstein@verizon.net
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Traffic Committee	Gary Himelfarb	588 9641	garyh@rasrecords.com
Web-Site and Newsletter	David Weiss	229-4550	dk.weiss@verizon.net
Meetings Coordination	Movita Hercules	229 2594	mherc@aol.com
Bannockburn Lore	Mary Jane Pates	229 3639	mjppates@erols.com

Bannockburn Citizen's Association

Calendar year 2005 Membership Renewal \$ 30.00

Log On to www.bannockburnweb.com Complete/update your profile, and use our New Credit Card Option
or

Please mail a check to Anne Peay BCA Treasurer 7301 Nevis Road Bethesda, MD 20817

Please indicate any data you wish withheld from a Private Community Directory,

Name.....Occupation or Work Description.....

Name.....Occupation or Work Description.....

Address.....Volunteer Interests.....

Telephone/Fax.....Pager or Cell Number (Emergency Use).....

E-mail.....

Additional Family or Household Occupants

Name.....Occupation or Work Description.....

Name.....Occupation or Work Description.....

Volunteer Interests: Circle one or more

Block Captain Assistant Block Captain BCA Committee Work BCA Directory Traffic Security

Landscape Gardening Community Representative County Government State Government Web Site

Newsletter Column Editor

Suggestions or Community Comments.....