

Bannockburn Citizens Association Newsletter

Vol. 1, No.5

Bethesda, Maryland

March 2005

President's Column

Stuart Brown

This column has two parts – one part is easy and the other hard.

The easy part comes first. It has been a fairly mild winter – no major blizzards, ice storms, or widespread power outages – and our neighborhood has enjoyed the relative quiet of the past few months. In this quiet time, there are just a few items worth noting:

First, Montgomery County has fulfilled its commitment to correct the erosion of Broxburn Drive near the Broxburn/Craik Triangle and has also provided a raised asphalt curb for the Triangle. With this heavy work completed, neighbors who are interested in beautifying the Triangle have renewed their discussions about exactly what to do. They would like to start the landscaping this spring, so if you have any suggestions, please let us know in the next few weeks. We would also like to know if you have suggestions for other public areas of the neighborhood that BCA should consider for landscaping improvements.

Second, BCA has submitted a letter to Councilmen Steven Silverman and Howard Denis in connection with their effort to clarify the height limit rules for houses. In general, current zoning rules allow houses to be 35 feet tall in most neighborhoods, but there appear to be a number of definitional questions and loopholes in the details of measurement. Unfortunately, the proposals now being considered would only apply to R-60 and R-90 zoned properties, so the BCA letter urged that whatever new rules are adopted should also be applied to R-200 zoned lots (most of the lots in our neighborhood are zoned R-200). If anyone is interested in pursuing this effort on behalf of BCA, please contact me and I will help you get started. My letter and Councilman Silverman's reply are posted on the BCA website.

Third, everyone should be aware that a new series of demonstrations are being advertised on the "Defend Life" website. Hopefully your Block Captain alerted you that the first of these demonstrations would occur Friday, February 11. I was told the first demonstration attracted about a dozen individuals. The police checked the situation during the evening but determined there was no need to remain on the scene. BCA respects the protestors' rights to express their point of view peacefully within the limits allowed by law. At the same time, we will continue to support every neighbor's right to live here without fear of harassment or intimidation and we will expect the police to make sure the law is obeyed.

Now comes the hard part: This will probably be the last issue of BCA newsletter. Two factors have led us to conclude that we ought to discontinue publication:

-- On the one hand, writing, editing and publishing the newsletter requires substantial time and effort, and almost all the burden falls on a very few people. We sometimes get an article from a neighbor (Mary Jane Pates' recent stories about street names in our neighborhood is a great example), but for the most part, we have not been successful in recruiting a network of volunteers to act as reporters or finding a new editor/publisher to create the newsletter.

-- And, on the other hand, the expanded availability of email, the BCA website, and our Block Captain network, allows us to communicate important news to virtually everyone in the neighborhood. Anything we publish in the newsletter can be emailed to the community, posted on the BCA Website, or communicated by telephone or email through our Block Captain network. And communication through electronic media and by our Block Captains is faster, easier and less costly than the newsletter.

We have been told that many of you enjoy receiving the newsletter, so before making a final decision, we would like to hear your thoughts. We want to consider everyone's views, but if the newsletter is to continue, we simply must find volunteers willing to share in the effort. This will be a topic for discussion at our March 3 General Meeting; you should also feel free to contact me or any of the other BCA officers/directors either by email or telephone before then.

I hope to see many of you on March 3 at Concord School.

Stuart Brown, President slb7110@comcast.net

**BCA
COMMUNITY
MEETING
Thursday
March 3rd
7:30 PM
CONCORD SCHOOL
Get the latest Neighborhood News
Concord Park
New Programs
Block Captains
Learn of Family Events Programmed
Meet the BCA Board of Directors
REFRESHMENTS**

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Local News Falling Tree Damages House

On the night of December 24, 2004, the Trotter family's house (at the corner of Loch Lomond Drive and Barra Place) was severely damaged by a falling tree. Fortunately, the family was away on vacation when the tree fell and no one was injured. Neighbors called the police who responded along with fire and utility crews. They could not remove the tree, but attempted to secure the situation and put yellow warning tape around the house.

The family returned from vacation several days later. Since then, the tree has been removed and some repairs have begun. However, it seems that the house will require 6-12 months of work before it can be lived in again. We extend our best wishes to the Trotter family as they cope with this very difficult situation.

Secretary's update Doug Bonner

- NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFICATION EFFORTS – Following winter storm damage to trees in the right-of-way near the River/Nevis intersection, the BCA has contacted Montgomery County in January. Montgomery County has committed to sending a clean-up crew to clear tree limb debris. Further follow-up visits will be scheduled to clear climbing vines as well.
- LITTER remains a persistent problem in Bannockburn. Whether caused by visitors or residents, litter continues to be a consistent eyesore in our neighborhood, particularly along River Road and undeveloped Helmsdale Road near Booze Creek. But it occurs all over our community. You can help! Please pick up any recyclables you see and drop them in your recycling bin. Keeping our community litter-free increases the enjoyment where we live and enhances property values. Thanks for helping!

No Dumping Sign(s) on River Road and Helmsdale Road? The BCA is considering the possibility of posting such signs, warning of fines for violators, with County approval. Such signs are posted for example on Goldsboro Road near MacArthur Boulevard, and seem to provide some deterrent. Comments or suggestions appreciated.

REMINDER! Do not forget to share any plans for an addition or renovation to your home with the BCA. A request for waiver of front or side setbacks provided under the BCA Restrictive Covenants may be required if your proposed renovation exceeds the setback requirements provided under the BCA Restrictive Covenants.

Doug Bonner, Secretary dbonner3@covad.net

BCA Web-Site
WWW.BANNOCKBURNWEB.COM

REGISTER

**CHECK IT OFTEN
RECEIVE NEIGHBORHOOD
NEWS**

E-MAIL BCA COMMITTEES

E-MAIL YOUR BOARD

CHECK OUR ARCHIVES

Find past Newsletters

**Keep up with the news by our
community E-mail Broadcasts**

**Please update your profile when you change
your Internet Service Provider**

Home Generator Program Josephine Roberts

Home Generator Installation, a Personal Experience

Many of you have probably thought about installing a home generator, especially at times such as Hurricane Isobel. Well it has now been made easy for you to make an educated decision by going to the following web sites provided by the Neighborhood group Buy Newsletter:

<http://bannockburnweb.com/newfiles/generator.cfm> (for detailed information)

<http://bannockburnweb.com/private/surveys/54398910/default.cfm> (to sign up)

Below was our installation experience. From the dates listed, you can see that it extended over a twelve-week period. I am sure you can arrange to have it done in a much shorter time, but it still requires nine steps as follows, plus two additional estimates.

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1. 10/22/04, One hour - HN Electric Co., site visit and estimate for 7 KW generator, \$3,000. This is the smallest and quietest model, but sufficient for our needs.
2. 11/16/04, One hour - John G. Webster Co., site visit and estimate for gas line installation, \$1,195.
3. 12/1/04, Three hours. Williams Meter Co. installed new gas meter with two regulators.
4. 12/3/04, Six hours. HN Electric installed generator and automatic transfer panel.
5. 1/5/05, Six hours. John G. Webster Co. installed gas line between gas meter and generator.
6. 1/6/05, One hour. Work inspected by WSSC inspector in presence of John G. Webster Co.
7. 1/6/05, One hour. Following the inspection, John G. Webster Co. installed the regulator and safety valve at the generator site.
8. 1/12/05, One hour. Final hook-up and testing by HN Electric Co.
9. 1/20/05, Five minutes. I heard a gentle purring sound around noon, when the generator switched on for it's weekly test run. It was music to my ears. We had made it!

The total cost was \$4,535 as follows:

- a. Generator, 7 KW, \$3,000
- b. Gas meter and regulators, \$340
- b. Gas line installation, \$1,195

Block Captain Program	Bonnie Garrett
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Neighborhood Watch Program to Obtain Warning Signs

The Neighborhood Watch Program has achieved its first goal of enlisting more than 50 per cent of the BCA community, thereby enabling it to qualify for official warning signs. The Maryland Police Department will install these signs at every entrance to Bannockburn and at several interior intersections. The signs provide a warning that this neighborhood is working together to prevent crime.

The Neighborhood Watch Program relies on our block captains to convey information between residents and the block captain coordinator, Bonnie Garrett, and the BCA Board. Since last spring, 30 block captains have collected names and contact information for participating households in Bannockburn.

The block captain network was set up a year ago to promote a more cohesive and safer BCA community. Information on security and in emergencies can be conveyed via a telephone tree or email. In any emergency, it would be important to contact all of our residents. BCA would like to reach out to everyone in our neighborhood and encourage all households to participate, irrespective of whether they are BCA members.

Every block in the BCA area is listed below to facilitate participation. If you have not been contacted by your block captain, please use the information below to do so. If your block is not yet represented by a block captain, please consider volunteering by contacting Bonnie Garrett at 301 229-8754.

Arandale -	Walt Sherwin	229-9649
Arran Pl. -	Judy Gross	229-3183
Barra -	Riki/Michael Sheehan	229-7786
Ben Avon -	Jo Roberts	229-4281
Blacklock Rd. -	Sylvia Lowrance	320-9601
Broxburn Dr- 6500	Lise Bernhard	229-0393
6600 to 7200	Sally Koenig	229-4821
Broxburn Ct. -	Sue/Dwight Mason	320-9516
Carmichael -	Anne Hollander	229-7277
Crail -	Diane Brown	229-8308
Glenriddle -	Mary Jane Pates	229-3639
Haddington -	Suzanne Duvall	229-9411
Heatherhill Road -	Sari Hornstein	229-4271
Heatherhill Court -	Ann McMillan	320-4362
Helmsdale - 7413	Susan Trus	
7305 -	Larry Gandal	320-7094
7309	Joann/Jim DiMeglio	263-0266
7124 -	Tim Masters	320-5046
Hidden Creek -	Tom/Lauren Winkler	320-2180
Laverock -	John Zinner	229-3218
Loch Lomond -	Ken Sunshine	320-5577
Nevis - 6900		
7000 to 7200	Edith Miles	320-3299
7300 to 7504	Lisa Sorkin	320-8732
7505 to River Rd	Doug Bonner	229-3296
Orkney Pkwy		
River Road - 7100	Alexandra Safchuk	320-0739
- 7000	Jo Roberts	229-4281
Mary Jane Pates		229-3639
- 6500	Judy Schifter Alter	229-5467
Selkirk - 6900 to 7200	Sharon Weiss	229-4550
- SE of Wilson		
Wilson - 6800	Barbara Dar	229-7344
6900	Pauline/Jack Nadol	229-9856
7000		
7100	Lise Bernhard	229-0393

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Telephone Numbers to report Roadway issues

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

Got a pothole in your street or a damaged curb in need of repair?

Snowplows, sand, and freezing and thawing that go hand in hand with the winter season can take their toll on our neighborhood streets and curbs. Recently, a 6 foot section of curb on Nevis Road in front of a resident's home was heavily damaged by an errant snowplow during our most recent accumulation of snow in late January. The Bannockburn resident whose curb was damaged telephoned the Montgomery County Government Streets Division and the County responded and repaired the curb within one week! While bigger projects may take longer, reporting these conditions can result in prompt repairs by Montgomery County.

Need a pothole or curb repaired? If a County road, [240-777-ROAD](tel:240-777-ROAD)
Broxburn-Crail Triangle Improvement

Street Light Maintenance in Bannockburn

Street Light Out? Report It On-Line!

Did you know that you could use the Internet to report malfunctioning streetlights?

http://www.dpwt.com/tcle/StreetLighting_Maint.html

Once you get to the right web page, there are several ways to report the broken light. The easiest way may be using the "Streetlight Outage Form," but if you are feeling adventurous, you can try using the satellite photos of our neighborhood to locate the light.

BCA Membership Drive in High Gear!!

We continue to solicit Neighbors participation in the business of our community, by joining, attending meetings, starting committees to pursue a specific community goal, providing ideas for improvement and beautification.

Join us at the next meeting, and register your membership.

Almost finished with the COLD!
It will not be long now, and Azaleas, Rhododendrons, Irises, Tulips, Crocus, and all the other bulbs will be providing eye candy for us all.
Get ready!!

Mark Your Calendar
Thursday

March 3rd
Community Meeting
Concord School
7:30 PM Social Time
Refreshments
8:00 General Meeting

Bannockburn Citizens Association Newsletter

Vol. 03, No.5

Bethesda, Maryland

March 2004

Bannockburn Citizens Association Officers, Directors And Committee Chairpersons

President	Stuart Brown	229 8308	slb7110@comcast.net
Vice President	David Weiss	229 4550	dk.weiss@verizon.net
Secretary	Douglas Bonner	229 3296	dbonner@llqm.com
Treasurer	Anne O'Brien Peay	229 0077	anne.obrien@verizon.net
Director	Josephine Roberts	229 4281	JoRoberts@webtv.net
Director and Block Captain Ctte	Bonnie Garrett	229 8754	bonnie.garrett2@verizon.net
Director	Maria Acebal	320 7734	mlacebal@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
New Neighbors Welcoming	Maria Acebal	320 7734	mlacebal@alumni.duke.edu
Community Liaison	Walter Sherwin	229 9649	wjsherwin@erols.com
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	mjpates@erols.com

Membership Renewal – 2005 Yearly Dues

\$ 30.00 per household

Name(s).....

Address:

Tel / Fax:

Email:

Are you willing to be a BCA Volunteer?
.....

Thoughts for the Community:

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Please remit to BCA Treasurer: Anne Peay, BCA Treasurer 7301 Nevis Road Bethesda, MD 20817

Alternatively

Log onto www.bannockburn.web and pay dues on line with your Credit Card