

THE BANNOCKBURN BANNER*

*(FORMERLY, "THE BCA NEWSLETTER.")

NOVEMBER 2008



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LETTER FROM THE BCA PRESIDENT



Ted Garrett

As the end of an eventful BCA year approaches, it is a good time to take stock and look ahead. Your BCA Board is continuing to work on neighborhood issues and foster a sense of community. As usual, we welcome your thoughts about issues of concern to the Bannockburn

community.

September Meeting. We held our BCA quarterly General Meeting on September 4 at St. Mark Orthodox Church. Our guest Speaker at the meeting was Roger Berliner, our County Council member, who discussed his proposed infill legislation and other matters before the County. We also discussed various BCA initiatives, as noted below. Thanks to Movita Hercules, Jo Roberts and Jennifer Kawar for their efforts in organizing and providing refreshments for the meeting. And on a personal note, many thanks for the birthday cake accompanied by the "happy birthday" song for yours truly.



Councilman Berliner addressing the September BCA General Meeting

Fall Family Festival. Our fall family festival on October 5 was a rousing success. We had wonderful weather and a great turnout of neighbors young and old. Our fearless "Banner" editor (and Vice-President) Charles Schmitz has included photos that capture some of the highlights. Many thanks to Renee West, Wendy Landres, Stephanie Posner, Shari Fisher, Caitlin West, Kirt West, Rebecca Kahlenberg, and Karen Lessor for organizing this wonderful event. It provides an excellent opportunity for our entire community to meet and chat. Please consider volunteering to help the able team listed above with our 2009 spring and fall festivals by contacting Renee or one of the Board members.

Welcome committee. As discussed in the last newsletter, Kirt West is heading up a committee to welcome neighbors who move into Bannockburn by offering a welcome gift and information to new residents.

Good Neighbors Committee. Edith Miles has taken the helm of our effort toward establishing a Good Neighbors committee, which, as reported by Edith on page 4 is exploring what activities might usefully be undertaken to help aging Bannockburn residents to stay comfortably and safely in their homes. If you have comments or are interested in working on this effort, please contact Edith or one

of the Board members.

Block Captains. The block captains maintain a list of their neighbors to convey important information from the BCA board to promote a safer, more cohesive

community. Please make their job easier by contacting them with your information or if your block is not yet covered, please volunteer to do so by contacting Bonnie Garrett.

BCA website. Please register on the website and provide your e-mail address so that I may contact you concerning emergencies and important BCA news. <http://www.bannockburnweb.com/association/cahome.cfm>
Your e-mail address will not be distributed.

"The Banner". Charles Schmitz continues his struggle with this community newsletter. Please send Charles any suggestions to make it better.

Fox Hill Parking issue. Alan Sterling and Suzanne Duvall have worked on issues relating to

neighbor complaints about parking by employees the Fox Hill general contractor along the River service road and Helmsdale. As a result of their efforts, the contractor installed no parking signs, which seems to have alleviated the problem of worker parking. Alan Sterling prepared a petition to the County to place restricted (2 hour M-F) parking signs in the area, and we are keeping the petitions in reserve for now in case this problem reemerges.

Next Meeting. The next BCA general meeting is scheduled for Thursday December 4, 2008 at 7:30 pm at St. Mark Church. This will be our year-end meeting featuring holiday cheer with eggnog, coffee and cookies. We have asked Doug Bonner to give us an update on infill legislation developments. As always, the meeting will be an opportunity to visit with your neighbors and pass along news and comments. Please try to hold the date.

On behalf of myself and the BCA Board, best wishes for the holidays and the new year.

Ted Garrett



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Bannockburn Citizens Association Dues Payment Coupon

Please complete and send to BCA Treasurer Wendy Landres, 7009 Loch Lomond Dr. Annual dues are \$30 per household and are due 6/30. Voluntary contributions for more than the dues amount are welcome and are used for miscellaneous BCA expenditures, such as refreshments for General Meetings and the Summer Festival.

Name: _____ Address: _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____, which includes \$30 for 2008 BCA Dues and my voluntary contribution of \$ _____.

Many thanks for your support of your community.

 NEIGHBORHOOD CARE NETWORK

Several BCA members have formed a committee (Neighborhood Care Network) to discuss how neighbors can look out for each other. The committee encourages BCA members to get to know their immediate neighbors and to keep an eye on their neighbors' properties when they are at work or away on vacation. Neighbors can also help in emergency situations such as power failures. The committee is also concerned about BCA residents who may be isolated because of age, loss of a spouse, or disability. The committee would like to determine whether there are any isolated BCA residents who might welcome social interaction or volunteer services from BCA neighbors. The committee is compiling a

list of county and non-profit resources and services that could be helpful for residents with special needs. The following article describes efforts of other neighborhood groups to help the elderly to "age-in-place" and some services that are available from government and non-profit agencies.

Current committee members are Dutch Koenig, Abol Pourhamidi, Josephine Roberts, Geert Van Brant, and Edith Miles. If you would like to participate in the committee or volunteer to help other BCA residents, please contact Edith Miles (ewmiles@comcast.net or 301-320-3299) or one of the other members.

Editor's corner

Debut of "The Bannockburn Banner"

Avid readers (aren't you all?) of this periodical will remember the clarion call last summer to name it and to suggest an appropriate motto. For those not remembering, the Clarion Call is reproduced here:



Our ink-stained wretch

"Newsletter" is certainly a boring title for a newsletter. We don't have to put up with that! How about something more evocative, or at least, interesting? "The Bannockburn Banner"? or how about any of these time-tested monikers: Intelligencer Gazette Journal Bugle Trumpet Tribune Post Herald Independent Telegraph Star Sun Towpath Current? Or maybe something Scottish ("The Bagpipe"? or Scotch (Single Malt?) Or since Bannockburn is not only a fine stream ("The Clear Cutter", "Smoke Signal"? but also a battlefield, maybe "The War Cry", "The Shout", or "The Complete Victory" (over the hated English)? And what about a motto for the rag? "All the News that's Fit to Flaunt"? "We flaunt all we've got"? Clearly, your Editor needs help. Please send your suggestions to Editor, at Charlesaschmitz@comcast.net. Entries will be judged by a blue ribbon, all-Bannockburn committee and the winner announced at the next BCA General Meeting on September 4, 2008. A Valuable Prize will be awarded to the lucky and talented winner! Enter now! Achieve everlasting fame!

Well, you rose to the goad: The Editor received three or four suggestions! Included were "Bagpiper", "Sennachaidh" and "War Cry." Being overwhelmed by the responsibility of deciding, The Editor requested the assistance of The BCA Standing Blue Ribbon Committee; i.e., all those participating in the September 4 BCA General Meeting, who voted by open and notorious ballots (unless they folded the ballots and slyly slipped them into the hand of The Editor). The result was astoundingly inconclusive! We had a virtual dead-heat between "Banner" and some version of "Bagpipe(s)(er)"

What to do? Well, one can write on a Banner but not very well on a Bagpipe(s)(er). So, an Executive Committee (whose members' identities are secret for their protection) made an executive decision: "The Banner" it is, and our official mascot is to be -- a Bagpiper! In due course, our Technical Staff may find a way for the Bagpipes to flaunt a Banner, and then, maybe, we can print our MOTTO on the Banner. Now, all we need is a motto. Any suggestions?



AGING IN YOUR OWN HOME -- EDITH MILES (EWMILES@COMCAST.NET)

Do you hope to remain in your own home as you get older and reach retirement age? AARP statistics show that 90% of Americans older than 50 want to stay in their own homes as they age and to avoid assisted living (“Consumer Reports” August 2008). That desire has led a number of communities to form “Aging-in-Place” programs or “Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities” that help the elderly stay in their homes through help from neighborhood volunteers or from paid services.

Three of our neighboring communities (Bannockburn Civic Association, Burning Tree Village, and Carderock Springs) are planning neighborhood assistance programs. Burning Tree Village has started a program to pair elderly residents with volunteers to aid in everyday activities (Bethesda Gazette, July 23, 2008). Carderock Springs is planning a similar “Aging-in-Place Initiative”. A group of Bannockburn volunteers is organizing a broader multi-generational program called “Neighbors-Assisting-Neighbors”. In this program, Seniors might help young families with children and students might help Seniors or others with special needs. The Montgomery County Community Partnership (Bruce Adams) and the Montgomery County Senior Services are encouraging neighborhood groups to

organize as 501(c)3 nonprofits and are providing some assistance.

Services for the elderly are available also from county and non-profit agencies. The Montgomery County Senior Services provides a variety of services including Recreation and Senior Centers. The Senior Center located at the Clara Barton Community Center provides social activities on Wednesday from 10-2 and access to a weight and exercise room. Suburban Hospital provides exercise classes at the Clara Barton Community Center from 11:15 am to 12 noon on Mondays and Wednesdays. The Bethesda YMCA has swimming for seniors who are not members on MWF from 2:30 to 3:30 pm. The YMCA also has a number of classes for the elderly members and community members. MetroAccess is a paratransit service that provides door-to-door transportation service for eligible riders in Montgomery County. The Senior Connection offers volunteer services to Montgomery County residents who are over 62 and need assistance. These services include drivers, bill-paying, grocery shopping, telephone reassurance and support, and a friendly visiting program. The Jewish Council for the Aging and Meals on Wheels also provide assistance.

Elderly residents may also need paid services in order to stay in their own homes. These services may include home care, home health care, home modification for safety and mobility, physical therapy, and advice from aging-in-place specialists.

BANNOCKBURN'S FRONT GARDENS: NEIGHBORS' GIFTS TO NEIGHBORS



What is it about Bannockburn Front Gardens?

Unlike rear gardens, which clearly are for the enjoyment and appreciation of just the residents of the house, many front gardens can't even be seen from inside the house.



Yes, enhancing "curb appeal" can explain some effort when a house is put on sale; but, for the most part, front gardens in Bannockburn Heights are permanent features.



NEIGHBORS' GIFTS, CONT'D.

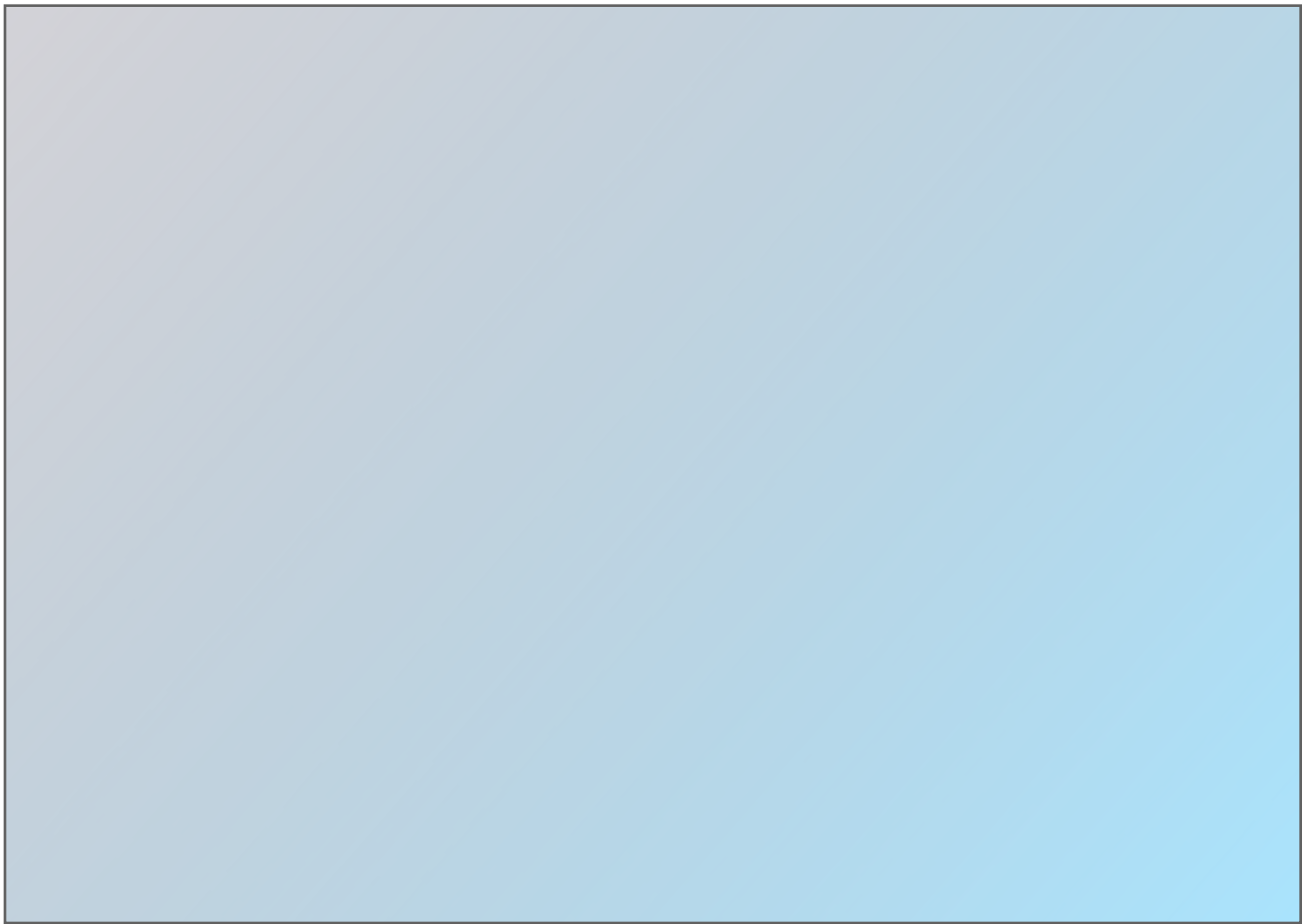


They are gifts to the whole community.



Thank you, neighbors!





The Bannockburn
BANNER



BETHESDA, MARYLAND