

the eCCHo

Country Club Hills Civic Association Newsletter - Winter 2025

January seemed like a month of Mondays that would never end, and now here we are zooming through February. Below are a few things to be aware of happening around CCH and the City.

If Washington Gas or their subcontractors approach you about moving your mercury gas meter to the outside of your home, please make sure they have pulled the correct permits to perform the work. Permits for this work are required by the City.

Jacob Zielinski is the Virginia Department of Forestry Community Forester. He recently spoke at Country Hill Garden Club Meeting. He is willing to write a Forestry Plan for our Community as well as our individual yards.

Please help keep the Commons clean. There has been a lot of trash at the Commons lately. If we all pitch in, it won't be too much of a burden on any one of us.

Please always pick up after your dog. I have seen a lot of dog waste as I am walking around the neighborhood. Dog waste can spread disease, attract rodents and contaminate our fresh water. If the dog waste trash can is full, please carry your dog waste and dispose of it at your home. Please do not leave it beside the dog waste bin.

It is important to stay up to date on City projects that could have major impacts on CCH. Some projects to keep an eye on are: the Country Club Hills Commons Trail, the Blenheim Blvd Multimodal Improvements, the Willard Sherwood Health Center, the Fairfax Circle Small Area Plan, and Gatewood Plaza.

Watching discussions during Planning Commission and City Council Meetings are the best way to be informed. You can sign up for City Alerts and the Meeting Agendas will be sent to your email. The City Engage Pages are another source of information. These pages usually contain all the project information including the project's history.

We are the experts of our Community. Our voices and concerns matter. Stay connected to neighbors through our Google Group and Facebook Group. Together we make CCH the best neighborhood!!

Many thanks!!!

Katy Johnson-CCHCA President

New to CCH? Claim Your Welcome Gift! Page 12 for Details and Join CCHCA on Page 16

UPCOMING CCHCA EVENTS

Contact Lara to volunteer and get involved
 larahughes@verizon.net

Easter Egg Hunt

CCH has traditionally hosted an Easter Egg Hunt. If you have interest in helping to organize the event, let Lara know!

End of School Ice Cream Even

June seems far away, but the end of the school year will be here before we know it. Want to help spoil the kiddos? Reach out to Lara!

COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COUNTRY HILLS GARDEN CLUB By JOYCE SKOGLUND

The Mighty Sycamore

If you look around our neighborhood, you will see quite a few of the American Sycamore, *Platanus occidentalis*. These trees are a large deciduous lowland tree 70 to 100 feet tall with a mostly straight trunk 3 to 8 feet in diameter. They can get as tall as 175 or so feet with a trunk 14 feet in diameter. I often wonder if the developer planted all the Sycamores in our neighborhood or if they were already here when the development was built. It seems as though every other house or two has one in their yard. A Sycamore can have a lifespan of five to six centuries. They are in every state east of the Great Plains except Minnesota. The sycamore is the fastest growing and largest tree on the eastern side of North America, and in the right conditions it can grow 3 to 6 feet in a year. If you are out walking around our neighborhood or up the streambank at The Commons, look and see how many you can find. They are everywhere and fulfill many important functions in the ecosystem. The Native Americans often called sycamores the "Ghost Tree" for the ghostly appearance of their white limbs in winter.

References: North American Trees, Richard J. Preston, Jr.

Eastern Skunk Cabbage

As the snow starts to melt, it is the perfect time to spot one of the coolest plants you may have never heard of, the Eastern Skunk Cabbage. This plant emerges in late winter from frozen wetlands, swamps, and streambeds, attracting pollinating insects with a unique aroma. Skunk cabbage generates its own heat in a process called thermogenesis, melting through the ice and snow of its swampy chosen habitat. With a steam running through the lower half of our neighborhood, you should be able to find some skunk cabbage along the streambed in the next month or so. If you happen to be wandering in skunk cabbage habitat, keep an eye out for the reddish-purple-brown spathes, popping up through the snow. You may even see the yellow spadix with flowers within. The Eastern Skunk Cabbage is a native plant and is being recognized as being important for restoring ecosystems. Want to train to be a Master Naturalist in Northern Virginia, check out the Arlington Regional Master Naturalists and Fairfax Master Naturalists. Good luck looking for Eastern Skunk Cabbage. For more interesting facts about the Eastern Skunk Cabbage, see VA Master Naturalist Barbara J. Saffir's article Wacky Winter Wildflower.



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FAIRFAX WATER AND WATER MAIN BREAKS

By Jana Craig

Thank You Fairfax Water! (and alert neighbors!) On Saturday, January 18th, an alert neighbor out walking a dog noticed water pouring from the road on Spring Lake Terrace. The break was reported to Fairfax Water who took quick action and had the break fully resolved and the road repaired 12 hours later. Fairfax Water also handled a second water main break on Spring Lake Terrace (closer to the front of the neighborhood) just a few days later.

We are grateful to the hard-working crew who took the time to explain what was going on, and who, in the case of the first break, worked until 1am to make the repair. That crew was then headed to another local water main break. In fact, according to their website, Fairfax Water has repaired 221 breaks in the last 30 days!

If you spot a potential water main break, you can report it by calling 703-698-5613 or going to the Leaks and Breaks page: fairfaxwater.org/mainbreaks

It is good to be prepared for potential water main breaks. Fairfax Water will need to shut off water service to the homes around the affected area to fix the break. Consider having bottled water in the house for drinking, and baby wipes for cleaning hands. If a break is reported, put some bowls of water on your counter before the water gets shut off.

When water service is restored, you'll want to run your faucets to get any air out of the line and until your water runs clear. Here's hoping spring comes soon!

Pathway Homes Buys Fairfax City Building to Serve as Non-Profit's Multi-Use Headquarters

New Headquarters will Integrate Supportive Housing for Those with Mental Health Issues

www.pathwayhomes.org

Dara Aldridge, a long-time CCH Resident and member of the Board of Directors for Pathways Homes, would like to share the following release about this new headquarters.

FAIRFAX, Va. (January 14, 2025)—Pathway Homes, a regional nonprofit providing mental health services—starting with safe, stable housing—to individuals marginalized by poverty and inequity, has closed on a -19,000 square foot building in Fairfax City. The commercial space will be built out by early 2027 as Pathway’s new mixed-use headquarters that will include at least 10 units of supportive housing to help people with serious mental illnesses and other disabilities who are over 50 to age place.

“Pathway Homes needs a new home, and we plan to make it one that serves our community even better. It will give us the space to run the nonprofit while also providing direct services and housing to clients,” explained Sylisa Lambert-Woodard, CEO, Pathway Homes. “We are excited to transform commercial property into an innovative, multi-use facility that will help us address the affordable housing crunch that hinders our ability to serve more people.”

For more than 45 years, Pathway Homes has enabled tens of thousands of people in the National Capital Region with serious mental illnesses and other co-occurring disabilities to access affordable housing and critical supportive services to help them recover their lives. Following the Housing First model, Pathway Homes is a partner in preventing and ending homelessness, touching nearly 2,000 lives in 2024 and ensuring access to affordable stable homes in permanent supportive housing units.



Country Club Hills Civic Association

Troy Furr

703.541.8332



- Mowing**
- Rake leaves**
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- Mulching**
- Planting trees & bushes**
- Power washing**

**Winter services to include shoveling/
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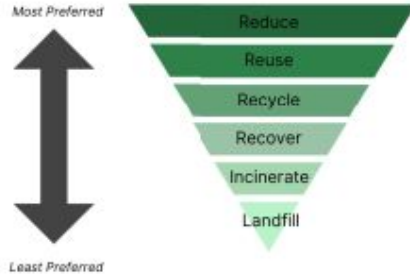


City of Fairfax Solid Waste Services Guide 2023

The City of Fairfax is committed to providing excellent solid waste management services and aims to minimize the amount of waste being sent to the landfill through source reduction, reuse, recycling, and recovery.

WASTE MANAGEMENT HIERARCHY

Source reduction, also known as waste prevention, reduces waste at the source, and is the most environmentally preferred method of waste management. Source reduction can reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save natural resources, conserve energy, reduce pollution, and protect the environment.



How can you make a difference?

REDUCE

- Use reusable bags when shopping
- Purchase items in bulk or in large containers instead of single serving packages
- Bring reusable cups, bottles, and mugs for take-out beverages, or beverages on the go
- Switch to paperless options for billings, receipts, and more
- Subscribe to online newspapers
- Remove yourself from mailing lists to avoid excess junk mail

REUSE, REPAIR & REPURPOSE

- Buy items from thrift stores, flea markets, or online reuse sites
- Donate unwanted clothes, books, furniture, and household items to local charities
- Reuse materials for crafts, school projects, or other purposes
- Repair or repurpose broken items to avoid creating more waste
- Compost food scraps and organic materials in your backyard or at the city's composting center (see page 6)

Who's on Trash Duty!?

This is just a reminder, if the dog waste receptacle at the Commons is full, please carry the baggy to your home to dispose of it. Dog waste can attract rats and other animals. Our Garden Club works hard to keep the Commons looking great, let's all do our part!!



Want to Start Something New?

CCHCA is always looking for new and engaging activities within our neighbor and our community as a whole. If you have an idea, want to try a new hobby, or maybe want to discuss a book or movie, reach out to your neighbors! You never know who is waiting in the shadows with the same interest. If you need help getting started, reach out to Katy or one of the Board or Committee members listed on Page 12!

WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE

Our Facebook page and website are alive and well. Check them out for community discussions, babysitter recommendations, pet walkers, teachers, etc. Visit www.cchca.org.

JOIN US! Want to volunteer your time to a wonderful cause that benefits you, your family and your neighbors directly? **Consider joining the CCHCA Board!** Attend the upcoming Annual Meeting in May, or reach out to Katy, president@cchca.org, for more information.

IN THE HILLS: *Other CCHCA Updates*

Stay Connected:

Website

Have you checked out the CCHCA website? The address is www.cchca.org. The site contains a lot of useful information. You can view posts on upcoming and recent events, find the name and email address of each CCHCA Board and Committee member, view the current CCHCA Directory, read the Beauty Spot write-ups, and much more.

Check out this selection of pictures from the photo collection --> <http://www.cchca.org/history-3/historical-al-archive/historical-archive-gallery/>

Steve Lescure - Webmaster

Facebook Group

Join the neighborhood Facebook group - *Country Club Hills - Fairfax City, Virginia* - to keep up with what's happening in the neighborhood and City. The private group currently has about 500 members. You **MUST** answer the Membership Questions to be approved (to help reduce spam). Remember: no advertising, national politics, religion, etc. All posts should have to do with the neighborhood or City.

Google Group

Have you joined our Google Group? It's good way to keep up with what's happening in the City and in the neighborhood.

Follow this link for instructions on how to join --> <http://www.cchca.org/yahoo-group-guidelines>.

Email me if you have problems --> ggmoderator@cchca.org

Remember to follow the rules --> <http://www.cchca.org/odd-ends/Google%20Group%20guidelines.pdf>

All posts must be approved before they are distributed to the group. Remember to post well in advance if your post is time sensitive. The Group is not monitored for new posts 24x7. If your post is not distributed, it's most likely because one of the rules above was not adhered to. It's also possible, although much less likely, that it was just missed. To check what happened, email me at ggmoderator@cchca.org.

Steve Lescure - Group Moderator

Neighborhood Moms Group

Years ago, CCH and OLH joined forces to create a network of moms. The group currently is a social one, with monthly dinner events, a book club and a Google Group for sharing news, supporting new moms, asking questions and organizing events. For more information or if you're interested in joining, email jessicalynnebaker@gmail.com.



Second Chance Store

The Humane Society of Fairfax County’s (HSFC’s) Second Chance Thrift Store opened its doors again in September of 2021. This volunteer-run store benefits our rescued dogs, puppies, cats, kittens, horses, small mammals, and birds. All proceeds from the sale of items at the store are used to care for the animals until they are placed in forever homes.

Second Chance is located at 4055 Chain Bridge Road in Fairfax City. The store hours are Monday - Friday from 10:00 am until 4 pm, and Saturday from 10:00 am through 3:00 pm. Our phone number is 703-385-3064. Donations are accepted during these hours. Clothing for men, women, and children along with household items, books, collectibles, pet supplies, and jewelry are sold at unbeatable prices. Our large inventory changes weekly so please visit us often for a fun and rewarding shopping experience.

To learn more about the Humane Society of Fairfax County please visit our website at www.hsfc.org



CIVIC AFFAIRS by VP Hildie Carney

Visitors in town? Consider taking a tour at our Historic Sites. **Ratcliff Allison House** on Main St. and Kitty Pozer Garden Tours: Sat. 12-3. **Historic Blenheim** on Blenheim Blvd: Tuesday thru Sat. 1PM

Attention Seniors: Need some help? Sign up to “Fairfax Village. You can sign up for services from our volunteer network Or you can become a volunteer.

Stay Connected

If you haven’t already signed up to receive all the current news from the City, sign up at cityoffairfaxva@publicgovdelivery.com. All your questions are answered! Want to keep up on crime in the City? Information provided on through this email. All the City Council meetings dates are listed as well as the outcome of the meetings. Let’s support our Mayor and Council by engaging. All crimes are listed.

Upcoming City of Fairfax Events

Thursday, April 17
8pm
Historic Blenheim
3610 Blenheim Blvd.
Ages 10-14



April 26
10AM - 4PM
Historic Blenheim



Visit the City’s Special Events Page for additional information and more events:
<https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/special-events>



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💕 Small mixed aged group setting

👩 Experienced Teacher, Degree BS in Special Education

👶 20 years of Early Childhood Educational Training

👤 Excellent References

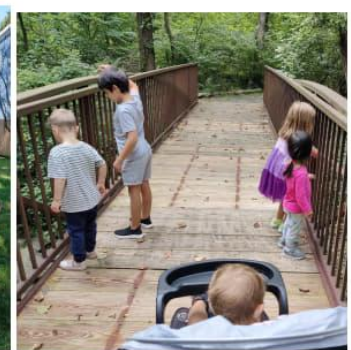
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Contact Daphne Bowers Moore

703-273-5815 or m.daphne7@gmail.com



CCHCA Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

OFFICERS

President

Katy Johnson
703-283-6272
president@cchca.org

VP - Civic Affairs

Hildie Carney
703-927-7061
civicaffairs@cchca.org

Secretary

Elva Card
571-332-7694
secretary@cchca.org

Treasurer

Toby Sorensen
703-591-5899
treasurer@cchca.org

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Block Captains

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Social Media

Toria Russell
socialmedia@cchca.org

Social Activities

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STANDING COMMITTEES

Advertising

Valentina Garcia
703-304-2494
advertising@cchca.org

Community Appearance

Joyce Skoglund
703-371-5343
appearance@cchca.org

Directory

Donna Sabo
703-424-3982
directory@cchca.org

Neighbor to Neighbor

Jana Craig
732-547-5789
neighbor@cchca.org

Historian

Stephanie Schneider
202-812-1521
historian@cchca.org

Signage

Bill Johnson
703-283-6272
signage@cchca.org

Welcoming

Jane Kadish
917-804-8375
welcoming@cchca.org

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Membership and Welcoming

Committee Updates

RENEW OR JOIN TODAY!

For only \$20/year, you can join the CCHCA and be a bigger part of our wonderful neighborhood community. These funds are used to make your neighborhood a fun and better place to live! A few notes...

- Membership period is Jan 1 to December 31
- Join or renew online: www.cchca.org
- Paper form is attached to this newsletter

Not sure if you're **ON THE LIST**? Contact membership@cchca.org to see if you're up to date on your dues and membership for 2025.

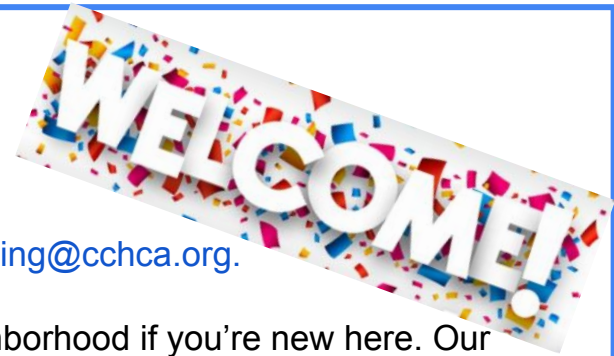
The **CCH Directory** is available on the CCHCA website. For any questions or updates, contact directory@cchca.org.

We want to welcome all of you who have moved in over the last few months! We have visited many homes to welcome new neighbors. However, if we haven't gotten to you yet, we will soon.

If you know of a new neighbor moving in, please email welcoming@cchca.org.

We hope you enjoy the old trees, hills, location and good neighborhood if you're new here. Our google group is a great way to give and receive useful information about living here.

Sincerely, Jane (Welcoming Committee)



Back in November, the **Northern Virginia Mineral Club** joined Fairfax Master Naturalists and CCH community members down at the Commons to learn about the **Geology of the Accotink**. The morning was lead by professional geologists, Roger Haskins and Sue Markus, and Naturalist Hutch Brown. Our leaders did an amazing job highlighting the Accotink Creek and teaching us about our local Geology.

We learned that the phyllite schist that makes up much of the Accotink's bedrock was laid down during the earliest phase of the Appalachian Orogeny (a mountain forming event) 470 million years ago. Next time you visit the creek, take notice of the rocks you are walking on, they include rocks and minerals such as, quartz, quartzite, magnetite, and garnets.



Dive into fun this summer!

Join Country Club Hills Pool



- Competitive youth swim team (NVSL)
- Tennis program
- Poolside movie nights

- School's out party
- Adult night
- Ice cream socials & more!



Country Club Hills Recreation Corporation is a community organization focused on providing a fun and relaxing environment for our members and their guests. For over 50 years, CCH Pool has been providing our local community a friendly place for fun and fitness.



For more information on membership or to join, go to www.cchpool.com.



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We have received notice of the death of long time CCH resident **Jean Lach**. Jean and her husband, Stan, were original owners in 1955. Stan passed in 1997 and Jean continued to live in the 3500 block of Spring Lake Terrace until 2022. She was also a member of St. Leo's Catholic Church. At the age of 100, she moved to be near her daughter, Joyce, in Massachusetts and she died at age 103. Condolences can be sent to Joyce Schauer at 30 Mill Pond Circle, Milford, MA 01757.



Country Club Hills Civic Association

70 YEARS SERVING OUR NEIGHBORHOOD - Founded 1954

www.cchca.org

MEMBERSHIP FORM 2025 Your membership strengthens our community!

Membership year: January 1 - December 31, 2025 Dues: \$20/year/household

Members only have access to the online CCH Directory

Name of Resident(s)		
Street Address		Home Phone
Email 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Add to Online Directory	Cell Phone(s)
Email 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Add to Online Directory	<input type="checkbox"/> New Member OR <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 year (\$20) OR <input type="checkbox"/> 2 years (\$40)		<input type="checkbox"/> Check OR <input type="checkbox"/> Cash
<input type="checkbox"/> I can help more! Additional funds for CCHCA <u>activities</u> \$ _____		

Would you or any member of your household like to offer any of the following in the next CCH Directory:

- Babysitting/pet-sitting/yard work services (specify type of work, if under 18 please include parent signature as permission and give year of birth): _____
- Other services you or your business offer (please provide name and type of service): Lessons you provide: i. e. _____
- music/instrument/language/other: _____

Please let us know if you are interested in any of the following:

- Volunteering your services for the CCH Civic Association Board and / or committees
- Garden Club forming or joining other groups or clubs _____
- Advertising in the CCH Directory or newsletters
- Joining the CCHCA Google Newsgroup. (Indicate which emails you would like added to the GoogleGroup)
- Sign up for the online CCH Residents Directory by emailing webmaster@cchca.org to request access.

PREFERRED PAYMENT METHOD: PAYPAL

Go to www.cchca.org / Click on Membership Application / Purchase one or two-year membership.

Or make checks payable to: Treasurer CCHCA Please return form and payment to:

VP Membership, Sue Mochinski, 10139 Spring Lake Terrace, Fairfax VA 22030

Questions or info email membership@cchca.org or call 703-255-2793

CCHCA USE BELOW

Date received:	Amount (check#):	Membership year(s):
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