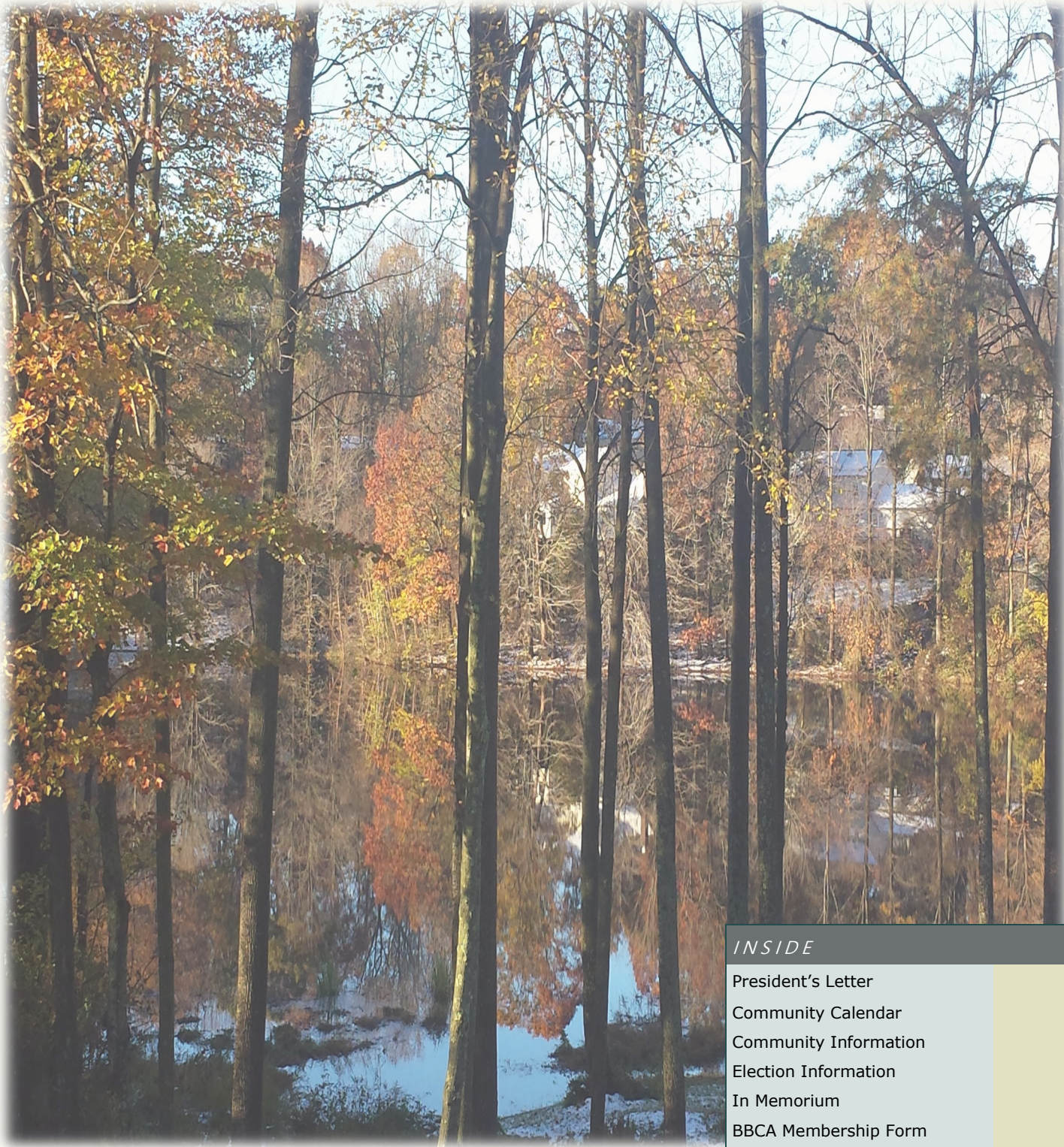


BONNIE BRAE

Neighborhood Newsletter



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President's Letter

What can I say about pandemic 2020-2021? It has been a year like no other. Like the rest of the world, the BBCA was not as active as we have been in the past. We unfortunately were not able to socialize, share potlucks, or greet our new neighbors as we love to do.

However, we are resilient. Neighbors, being who they are, were able to make the best of the situation, and helped each other out as needed while trying to avoid spreading coronavirus. A car parade for graduating seniors was an event filled with loud cheers and jubilation organized by parents and celebrated by the community. Our High School Seniors definitely have had their year to remember – if not necessarily in a good way; they missed out on a lot. But they persevered and made the best of it.

Distant Halloween tables stocked with candy gave some joy (and nourishment) to our trick-or-treaters and we grown-up, home-bound families enjoyed watching our costumed characters parade through the neighborhood as they filled their bags with treats.

Woodglen Lake provided convenient fishing opportunities for anglers not able to travel to their favorite fishing holes, and some people even chose to lay out a blanket and a picnic lunch along the shore of our lake and pretend they were at the beach on a sunny day. Kayaks and canoes came out; paddlers helped clean up the shore and made it a fun outing.

It is nice to see familiar faces as people take their dogs out and exercise around the neighborhood. Bonnie Brae is still a great place to walk your dog, jog, or bike. We look forward to warmer weather and getting back to some sense of normalcy later this year.

On a sadder note, in a sad year, we lost some beloved members of our community, among them, both Jim and Ellen Turbok who died within just months of each other. Jim and Ellen were community volunteers who were responsible for much of the social life of the BBCA. Ellen served as events chairman for the BBCA and was always full of enthusiasm and good ideas for social activities and Jim posted signs for our events and helped set up whatever was needed. Bonnie Brae is now in need of someone to fill their shoes to bring our community together. We need your help.

Speaking of volunteering, as we ease back into party planning and community activities, we have an open position on the BBCA board – 1st Vice President – Thad Nicholson filled his term and stepped down as VP. We thank Thad for his contributions and look forward to new volunteers with fresh ideas for our community. We also need someone for Events/Social Activities Chair. Some other members of the Board would be willing to give up their position for volunteers as well. If you'd like to just sit in on some meetings to see what the job is like, we welcome you, and we always welcome your feedback and any suggestions, especially for activities that involve our younger members. Email a board member or reach out to us on nextdoor.com if you have a request, would like to participate on the board, be on a committee, or organize a community event.

Sincerely,
Peter

2021 Bonnie Brae Civic Association Board of Directors

Peter Kim	President	dpete_47@yahoo.com
Vacant	1st VP	
Charlie Gulac	2nd VP	cgulac88@gmail.com
Lisa Travis	Treasurer	lisatravis33@gmail.com
Elaine Hawley	Secretary	elainejhawley@gmail.com

Community Calendar of Events

please check Bonnie Brae NextDoor for up to date information

2021 BBCA Events

Saturday, September 25th

Newcomer Welcome Party (Location TBD) 5-7:30 p.m. Everyone welcome. Come meet the newest residents of our wonderful neighborhood. Please bring a dish to share.

Sunday, October 31st

Halloween Potluck (@Lepold's 5416 Southport). 5 -6:30 p.m. All ages welcome. Bring the kiddies, dogs, and parents. Costumes welcome. Eats before treats!

Wednesday December 15th

Judging Holiday Lights deadline. Have your lights and decorations out by this date to be considered in the friendly neighborhood competition. Holiday Lights Contest judges will tour the neighborhood and select winners sometime after the 15th.

* Additional activities and events will be announced with flyers or notices online in Bonnie Brae Next Door. Sign up here: <https://nextdoor.com/neighborhood/bonniebraeva--fairfax--va/>

BBCA Shorts

The BBCA Board gives a big shout-out to neighbors, John and Lisa McAlduff, who for several years have produced the layout of our beautiful newsletter. The newsletter is also available in full color electronic form on the BBCA website – www.bonniebrae.net

During covid, the BBCA Board has been meeting online as needed and will resume regular meetings, we hope, in the fall.

Our first projected community event for 2021 will be the Newcomers Party, scheduled for Saturday September 25th. If you moved into Bonnie Brae in 2020 or 2021, please contact Scott Flory scott@theflorys.net and fill out the membership form on p. 14. *No dues this year.*

The BBCA website (www.bonniebrae.net) has archival information about Bonnie Brae, including past newsletters, architectural floor plans, and By-laws of BBCA.

What is the BBCA?

The Bonnie Brae Civic Association is the membership organization of the 305 homeowners or renters who live in the Bonnie Brae subdivision. Activities and governance are organized by an elected Board of Directors and a group of volunteers from the community with the goal of sharing a supportive, self-governing, and voluntary bond of a community by helping to mitigate community issues and organize and plan community events and activities.

The Board meets about eight times year, to discuss community issues, create events and plan activities. We publish a directory of homeowners and manage a website to help keep us connected and publish a newsletter to help keep the community informed. We address issues or problems among neighbors in Bonnie Brae, and help keep the community beautiful and maintained by addressing problems of neglect or safety. We manage the planning and logistics of events and activities such as our annual neighborhood yard sale, Santa visit, and the many neighborhood potlucks so neighbors can get to know each other. We also negotiate community discount rates with American Disposal Services. We maintain the Bonnie Brae entrance signs and support neighborhood watch. For all this, we assess annual dues of \$20 for our community to thrive and support each other.

All Bonnie Brae residents are welcome to participate in board meetings and activities. Interested residents can volunteer to serve on the board as an officer or committee volunteer. Elections are held annually, but volunteers are welcome anytime.

Because most BBCA activities were cancelled during Covid, the Board suspended dues for 2021. New residents should still fill out the membership form on p. 14 for our next directory.

Turning Point Suffragist Memorial

Last year marked the 100th anniversary of the passing of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution giving women the right to vote. To commemorate this momentous event, a new memorial to American suffragists is opening in Lorton, near the Occoquan Workhouse. This memorial, called The Turning Point Suffragist Memorial (TPSM) has been designed by our Bonnie Brae neighbor and architect, Bob Beach, and will “honor these brave women and provide awareness and education about how their courage, methods and commitment led to the passing of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution.”

Because of Covid-19 there have been some construction delays this year, and the Memorial will not be fully completed until late summer. However, it will be formally dedicated at the Occoquan Regional Park in Lorton on May 16th.

TPSM celebrates the women who fought for Women’s Rights from 1848- 1920 with the passage of the 19th Amendment. The entrance into the Memorial is through gates which replicate the White House gates where the suffragists stood as “silent sentinels” picketing for women’s right to vote. There is actual fencing from the 1920 White House installed at the Memorial. The suffragists, who were arrested for blocking traffic, were jailed at either the Lorton Reformatory or the DC Jail. Visitors will view the Suffragist Commemorative Wall, which chronicles each suffragist jailed in this period. The courageous efforts of the suffragists will be expressed along the plaza through 19 informational stations that curate the entire seventy-two-year suffrage movement.

In the center of the plaza are three life-sized statues of suffrage leaders: Alice Paul, co-founder of the National Woman’s Party and author of the Equal Rights Amendment, Mary

Church Terrell, co-founder of the NACCP, and Professor Carrie Chapman Catt, president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association and founder of the League of Women Voters.

Still missing is a six-column rotunda with an entablature ring open to the sky symbolizing the principles and goals of the movement which were Freedom, Activism, Democracy, Justice, Liberty and Equality. There will also be a bridge over a river rock arroyo symbolizing the chasm between women and men concerning voting rights and where the Turning Point Bridge immortalizes the events that became the watershed in the struggle.

You will see the TPSM on your left as you enter the Occoquan Regional Park across from The Packard Center. It is the only National memorial to the Suffragist movement.

Congratulations, Bob, for this successful project! It’s been a long time coming.

Utility Insurance Plans Offer Value and Security

Each year we use the newsletter to remind folks about the aging underground pipes in our neighborhood and to recommend the inexpensive insurances offered through Dominion Energy’s partnership with HomeServe USA. Our community is nearly 50 years old with aging utility pipes underground and many homes have had problems with broken water lines or sewer pipes, which can cost thousands of dollars to repair.

When I had an obvious water line leak in my front yard, I contacted Fairfax County Water Authority, which sent an inspector to confirm the problem. He told me that water and sewer problems are getting quite common especially in older neighborhoods like Bonnie Brae. At least once a year I notice a neighbor’s yard getting dug up with a backhoe and it’s never good news.

Fortunately, I had signed up for waterline insurance and called HomeServe. They responded right away and handled the repair from that point. The insurance company contacted Miss Utility to mark our other utility lines. Once the marks were made, HomeServe sent a contractor with a backhoe who dug out around all those pipes, found the leak, replaced the section, filled the hole and re-seeded the lawn -- all in about 4 hours.

The repair of a leak like this can cost about \$1800. We paid nothing. If the line had to be replaced, the cost would probably

be around \$5,000. For this insurance we pay \$5.99/month added to our Dominion bill. After that experience, I decided to add insurance on our sewer line as well. That repair is even more costly than a water line repair.



It pays to be covered if this happens to you.

Dominion/HomeServe also offers insurance on electrical lines, gas lines, water heaters, furnace, plumbing, etc. If you’re interested, check it out here: <https://www.homeserve.com/sc/coverage>

—Elaine Hawley

Bringing Joy

The year of pandemic has probably inspired many of us to think about getting rid of “stuff” -- decluttering and refreshing our home or workspace. We asked Bonnie Brae neighbor, Paula Lucas, who occasionally works with friends to “find their joy” by doing just that, to offer a few hints about the process. Paula begins by quoting that well known declutter, Stephen King -- “The scariest moments are always at the start.”

Like the realtor who says it’s “Location, Location, Location,” Paula’s mantra is “Motivation, Motivation, Motivation.” And if we’re not motivated after spending a year staring at all our stuff and moving it from one pile to another, we’re probably hopeless in this endeavor.

First, where DO we start? And what’s to gain by decluttering and reorganizing this home that is driving us crazy after a year of confinement?

Paula says, once we have the motivation and are really ready, we need to be “utterly ruthless”. Most home organizers recommend creating three piles for our stuff, one room at a time: 1. Keepers, 2. Donations, 3. Trash. Japanese organizing guru Marie Kondo would agree and then offers a priority list for the attack:

- ◆ Clothes
- ◆ Books
- ◆ Papers
- ◆ Miscellaneous items
- ◆ Sentimental items

The Kon-Mari method encourages us to “keep only those things that speak to the heart, and discard items that no longer spark joy.” It may give joy by being beautiful or by being useful or both, according to Paula. “The reward of this process, when it’s done, comes in the form of increased energy, sharpened focus on things that really matter, more time to enjoy the things we really want to do,

enhanced creativity, and an underlying calm that comes from have the job done and the clutter out of our life.

Paula gives an example from her own experience.

“I was visiting a friend in California. While we were in the kitchen preparing lunch, I kept noticing the pile of clutter on her cocktail table in the living room. I asked her permission to rearrange the items, then removed everything and put back only 2 or 3 interesting and attractive pieces. Now we could focus on the beauty of those objects.”

My friend loved it! Seeing an opportunity here, she suggested I do the same process in the rest of the room and adjacent dining area. After this, she wanted to continue in this manner throughout her home. We switched up pictures and rearranged furniture for a fresh look. The garage was then organized and decluttered as well. We went out to dinner to celebrate her new surroundings!”

On another occasion a friend complained that she could barely walk into her walk-in closet. After removing clothing and accessories she no longer wore, she laughed and said now she could even dance in the closet!”

Those friends of Paula’s remind me a little bit of Tom Sawyer giving his friends an “opportunity” to whitewash his fence, but clearly Paula enjoyed the challenge, and her advice is solid, even though the pace of the effort – the rooms AND the garage - sounded like “Warp Speed,” for the challenges most of us face. Wish us luck, Paula.

Paula says she is happy to answer any questions about decluttering and organizing to further your exciting, life changing, experience.

Email: paula.lucas@prodigy.net

To Recycle or Not to Recycle, That Is the Question.

Most of us aspire to be good recyclers, but sometimes we’re confused, and if we don’t know the rules, we can do more harm than good. According to Waste Management, one out of every four items that ends up in the blue bin doesn’t belong there. Placing the wrong item in recycling can contaminate the entire load or jam up sorting equipment and be very costly and wasteful.

And, while glass is a good material to recycle, it breaks and contaminates other collections, so now in Fairfax, glass must be dropped off only at a special glass collection site. Do not put glass into your recycle bin. You may collect it separately and drop it off at the collection site in the parking lot of the Government Center or one of several other sites around the county. Alternatively, you may also

just put it with your trash, but please, resist the urge to dump it in your recycle bin.

The website of your trash hauler offers good guidance for acceptable recyclables. Here are some of the common offenders to watch for:

- ✦ Plastic Bags Return to grocery store bin.
- ✦ Batteries Return to home improvement store.
- ✦ Textiles Donate to secondhand store.
- ✦ Glass Return to County glass collection bins.

When in doubt, it might be better to throw it out.

Trash Service Information

American Disposal offers our BBCA members a community discount for trash pick-up in 2021. Current Customers will have an increase of \$3.50 per month. To get this pricing, each customer must request the BBCA rate. Either email Lisa Stuart at lstuart@adsimail.com or call the office (703-368-0500) and state you are with the Bonnie Brae Civic Association and would like the Community rate. For existing customers, rates will go into effect on their NEXT billing cycle.



New Customers will pay \$37.00 per month. (\$111/quarter) New residents should call the American office Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm at 703-368-0500 to set up service and request the rate.

Our other vendor, Republic usually offers a three-year discount for new customers only.

Plastic Bags no Longer Accepted for Yard Waste

New policy by the Fairfax Waste Transfer Station requires yard debris to be put out in compostable paper bags or in a bin marked "yard debris". Plastic bags are no longer accepted. When plastic bags are shredded during the composting process, pieces of the bags often end up mixed in with the compost, which is then applied to gardens, yards and other projects creating plastic pollution. The compostable paper bags can be purchased online or found at the grocery store or Home Depot, Lowes, Costco, or any garden centers. Costco recently had a great sale of 30 bags for \$12.99.



Reusable containers may be also used; however, they need to be marked "yard debris". Tree limbs and brush must be no longer than 4 feet in length and 3 inches thick in diameter. These items must be tied with rope or twine in bundles." The maximum pick-up is 10 bags of grass clippings and/or leaves, and 10 bundles of brush per week. There will be an extra charge for more. Please call in advance for pricing and to schedule. Items that are bagged and bundled are not to exceed 50 lbs. Concrete, rocks, mulch, sod, and dirt are not accepted.

Will YOU get the tornado warning if you're watching Netflix?

Receiving warnings for dangerous weather events can save your life. And, it helps to have various ways to receive alerts to danger. Network TV and radio are no longer the reliable media they used to be for such messaging.

Fairfax County residents have two systems in place for getting emergency alerts. One – Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) was developed after 911. It puts out a short message to cell phones in a defined area during a critical situation – a tornado warning, a shooter on campus, flash flood, a chlorine spill from a train wreck. You don't have to sign up for WEA or have an app, but you do have to have a cell phone that receives the automatic message if you are in the affected area. At worst, it could be a Presidential Alert during a national emergency – think nuclear attack, asteroid collision, the imagination runs wild.

The other system is Fairfax Alerts. For this *you do have to sign up*. The messages could be sent to many different devices or addresses, including email or landline phones. Fairfax Alerts cover weather emergencies, traffic, road closures, government closure, etc. You must register to get this service and may customize it for the type of messages you want to receive – weather, traffic, public safety, tax deadline reminders, election news, etc. You can even create a "do not disturb" timeframe. These messages can come via cell phone, landline, email, text, etc. – you choose. I've used it for years and it's extremely helpful, especially for weather alerts.

Get more information and sign up for Fairfax Alerts here: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts>

Speaking of trash...

There have been some complaints about trash cans left out long after trash pick-up or aren't stored properly. We should be considerate neighbors and pull in our trash cans as soon as possible on the day of trash pick-up. It's a Fairfax County ordinance that stored trash/recycle bins should be hidden from street view. Here's a summary of the regulation and information on how to report violations:

Fairfax County regulates the storage of trash containers, as written in Article 10-104 (11) of the Zoning Ordinance:

Any container located in a front yard shall be located no closer than fifteen (15) feet to a front lot line and shall be screened from view from the abutting street by either plantings or solid fencing.

No containers shall be located in any required parking space, driveway, parking aisle, open space or landscaped area.

To report a possible violation OR for more information contact:

Fairfax County Department of Code Compliance 12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035

Phone: 703-324-1300, TTY 711

Web: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/code

The Transforming Power of Trees

When I moved into the neighborhood 20 years ago, the magic appeal of Bonnie Brae was most definitely the abundance of trees. It had the feel of an elegant, well-loved, neighborhood. There were many varieties of trees both in front and back yards, and they provided privacy, color, shade, a sound barrier, and beauty. As if those aren't enough reasons to value our trees, we shouldn't forget the environmental impact: trees provide improve air quality, mitigate flooding, conserve water, prevent erosion, and build soil. Healthy trees absorb carbon dioxide and produce the oxygen we breathe. Fairfax has been known as a "tree city" since first designated in 1987, a point of pride and a focus of municipal government.



There is so much charm to be gained by a home and a neighborhood that values and maintains its trees, yet Bonnie Brae has lost many beautiful, old trees in recent years without replacing them. The hum of chainsaws in our neighborhood is unfortunately a common sound. And while there are legitimate fears from some very tall or old, unhealthy trees that could endanger our houses, there are many good reasons to replant new healthy trees that we and future generations can enjoy for years. There are a variety of native trees that can be planted to avoid the fear factor of trees or limbs falling on a house. A professional arborist can offer good suggestions, help save a tree that is ailing, or advise you about pruning a tree so that it thrives and doesn't present danger to your home.

Please think about planting a tree on your property. Help keep our neighborhood beautiful and improve your own home's value at the same time. You might use this opportunity to commemorate an occasion - an anniversary or birthday - or remember a loved one.

Consider the neighborhood photos below and notice the attractive curb appeal and value of beautiful trees. Take a walk through our neighborhood, especially during the Spring when our landscapes are at their prime, and enjoy the beauty of Bonnie Brae.

While we have many local garden centers that can help with proper tree selection, it turns out that Fairfax county has a wealth of information on its website. Check out the below links and happy planting!

—Lisa Travis

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/trees/selection>

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/soil-water-conservation/native-seedling-sale>

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/tree-commission>

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/tree-commission/fairfax-county-tree-basics>



2021 Election and Voting Information

As most of you know, Virginia has State and local elections in the odd years so we will have some state elections this November. (The State Senate, Fairfax Board of Supervisors, and Fairfax County School Board were all elected to 4-year terms in 2019, so they will not be up for election this year)

Primary:	June 8, 2021
General Election:	November 2, 2021
Polling Station:	Bonnie Brae Elementary School

Virginia's General Assembly is comprised of the 100-member House of Delegates and the 40-member Senate. The Governor is limited to one four-year term. The following offices will be contested this year:

Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, House of Delegates

A primary will be held on *June 8, 2021*, and the general election on *November 2, 2021*. Party committees may hold a convention instead of a primary. In recent years, Democrats have held a primary and Republicans have held a convention to select their candidates for these offices.

Current office holders in our jurisdiction are:

Federal (No election of these federal offices in 2021)

U.S. Senate	Tim Kaine – elected in 2018.
U.S. Senate	Mark Warner – elected in 2020.
U.S. Congress 11 th District –	Gerry Connolly

State: (State elections will be held for these offices in 2021, except for State Senate)

Governor	Ralph S. Northam
Lt. Governor	Justin Fairfax
Attorney General	Mark Herring
State Senator, Senate District 34	J. Chapman Petersen
State Delegate, Delegate District 41	Eileen Filler-Corn

Local: We are in the Braddock District of Fairfax County, Virginia (no local elections this year)

Chairman Fairfax County Board of Supervisors	Jeffrey McKay
Braddock District Supervisor	James Walkinshaw
Braddock District Rep. on the School Board	Megan McLaughlin

Voter ID requirements:

Virginia **requires voters to present non-photo identification** (ID) when voting. Accepted forms of ID include Virginia driver's licenses, U.S. passports, student IDs, Employer-issued photo ID card or any current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document with your name and address. Voters who do not have the required ID may cast provisional ballots.

How do I register to vote?

To vote in Virginia, one must be a United States citizen, a resident of Virginia, and at least 18 years of age. Registration can be completed online, in person at a local voter registration office, or by mail. You may get voter registration and/or application for absentee ballot here: <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/registration/voter-forms/index.html> .

The registration deadline is 22 days before any primary or general election.

In Memoriam: Jim and Ellen Turbok, Len Hawley

We lost Jim Turbok last fall after a long fight with leukemia from exposure to agent orange during the Vietnam War. He was a longtime fixture in the neighborhood, an avid conservationist, and a volunteer at the Smithsonian's Butterfly Pavilion. A few years ago, his interests led him to travel down the Amazon River with his son, Chris. Jim was known by friends for his dry wit and humor as well as for his delicious bourbon slushes. (See below for a memorial recipe). Kids and neighbors grew up waving to Jim and his little dog on his daily walks, and we all miss him.

Then, this spring, we unexpectedly lost Ellen Turbok – too much loss for one family, both her own family of 5 children and many grandchildren, and our Bonnie Brae family. Ellen was one of the most beloved residents in Bonnie Brae. A retired math teacher, she joined the Bonnie Brae board as Events Chair and she and Jim hosted dozens of events at their home on Black Oak. Ellen helped plan the majority of community events over the past many years including the Newcomers Party, Christmas Party, Valentine's Day Party, Yard Sale, Bridge Club, and Progressive Dinner. Ellen never tired in her determination to plan parties, entertain, and cook for friends and neighbors, and she did it all from a wheelchair! Ellen was unfailingly joyful, generous, and supportive of anyone in need. We mourn her loss for our community.

Len Hawley can be remembered for his fun and easy laughter and conversations at our neighborhood parties. Len welcomed new neighbors and always had a smile as he shared fun stories about his grandchildren. He is survived by Elaine, a longtime community volunteer and current BBBCA Secretary. She keeps the BBBCA board on track and is one of the reasons why our neighborhood is as nice as it is.

We will miss them.

In memory of Jim and Ellen Turbok, we reprint these favorite recipes. Remember Jim and Ellen when you make these.

Jim Turbok's Bonnie Brae Bourbon Slush

- 4 tea bags
- 2 cups boiling water
- 12 ounces frozen lemonade
- 12 ounces frozen orange juice concentrate
- 1 cup bourbon or more
- 7 cups water
- 2 cups sugar
- ginger ale or (lemon-lime soda - sprite, fresca)

Put tea bags into 2 cups boiling water. Steep for 5 minutes. Mix together remaining ingredients and add tea, removing bags. I find it easier to add sugar to the tea so sugar dissolves. Pour into several containers and freeze for 24 hours. Using an ice cream dipper, put 1 or more scoops of frozen mixture in a highball glass. Pour ginger ale, diet ginger-ale, or lemon- lime drink over top. Stir and serve.

Ellen Turbok's Salted Pecans

Downright addictive, these salty pecans are a snack time favorite, but they are equally great as a salad garnish too. It also makes a good "hostess gift."

- 4 ounces (1/4 cup) salted butter
- 6 cups (approx.) pecan halves
- 2 teaspoons table salt

Preheat the oven to 250 degrees. Place the butter in a rimmed baking sheet, and place in the preheated oven until the butter melts, about 3 minutes. Add the pecans to the pan and toss with the melted butter. Sprinkle with 1 teaspoon of the salt; toss to coat. Sprinkle with the remaining 1 teaspoon salt; toss to coat. Bake in the preheated oven until deeply toasted, about 1 hour, stirring every 20 minutes. Transfer to a baking sheet lined with paper towels, and cool completely, about 30 minutes. Store in an airtight container for up to three weeks.

Peddlers and Solicitors

This information is from the Fairfax County website on Peddlers and Solicitors

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cableconsumer/csd/door-to-door-solicitors>

This website also offers advice about what you could do if you signed that contract for a new roof or siding or whatever, and then change your mind. "Virginia law gives consumers the right to cancel a home solicitation contract for \$25 or more at any time prior to midnight of the third business day after the date of the transaction." Check out the above website to learn more about your rights.

Fairfax County requires peddlers and solicitors be licensed before they solicit door to door. They may solicit only between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m., and may not solicit at a residence which posts a "No Peddlers or Solicitors" sign. A peddler or solicitor must show the license upon request and must leave the premises immediately if asked to leave. Sometimes solicitors will show customers an ID badge or some other document, claiming that they are licensed by Fairfax County when they are not. No matter what good or service they are offering, the solicitor is required to have a license.

When a solicitor knocks on your door:

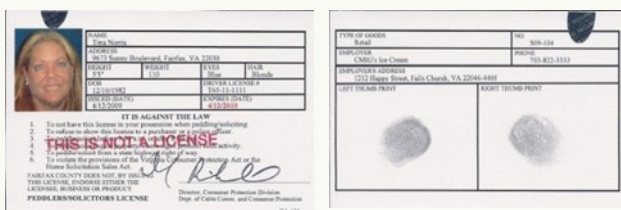
Ask for his or her license.

If they do not have a valid license, ask them to leave.

Close and lock your door.

You may call Fairfax County Police (non-emergency) at 703-691-2131 to report the violation.

The Fairfax County Solicitor's License is a laminated card that displays the solicitor's photograph, name, and personal information on the front side. The back side of the license displays the solicitor's business information and thumbprints. It is valid for one year from date of issue. Here's an example



Book Club News

The Bonnie Brae Book Club meets six times a year on alternate months --February, April, June, August, October, and December. Pre-covid we met at a member's home, but for many months, we've been using Zoom meetings and it seems to work fine, although we'll all be happy to see each other in person one of these days. The host for the meeting usually picks the title or choice of titles from any genre they choose. Usually when we can meet in person, we all bring snacks to the host's house and have fun eating and greeting and then enjoying a lively discussion about the book. Each December, we have a book exchange with those who want to participate. Last year we discussed among others: *Astronaut Wives Club*, *The City of Girls*, *Educated*, and *Junkyard Planet*. So far in 2021 we have discussed *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel J. Brown and on April 30th we will discuss *This Tender Land* by William K. Krueger. Our meetings for the time being are still on Zoom, and we communicate with members via email to announce the upcoming schedule and book. This is a nice group of Bonnie Brae neighbors and one of the most thriving activities in Bonnie Brae. If you would like to join in, please contact Marty Beach, martybeach@verizon.net.



Document Shredding

Fairfax County sponsors annual secure document shredding events for residents' personal papers in each of the nine districts. (4 Boxes maximum per car; documents from businesses are not accepted.)



These are well run, very popular Saturday morning events, (7a.m.-11:00 a.m. or until all trucks reach capacity) from March to August 2021. Cars must be in line by 11 a.m. Wear a mask this year - Drive through; remain in your car, pop open your trunk and helpers will unload your papers into secure shredding bins and will return your boxes to the trunk. No plastics, credit cards, metal, books, binders, wet material, etc. See the website for details.

Our Braddock District event this year will be on August 7, 2021 at Lake Braddock High School, but county residents are welcome to drop off documents at any other district on their designated day. Visit the website <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/document-shredding> for dates in other districts, or Google Fairfax County Shredding for more information.

Burke Centre Library News

Public libraries in Fairfax County are open again to the public with **Interior Express Services**. Customers may visit FCPL branches for up to 30 minutes, Monday and Tuesday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Wednesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Capacity limits are in place: up to 30 members of the public at a time may be in community branches such as Burke Centre and Kings Park, and up to 60 may be in regional branches such as Fairfax City. For more information, visit [Express Services](#).

Curbside Pickup at all branches, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., will continue Monday through Saturday. You may visit the [library catalog](#) or call a local branch to put one or more books or media items on hold: Burke Centre 703-249-1520, Kings Park: 703-978-5600. In addition to picking up holds, you may request a particular book or a staff-selected **grab bag** of books based on reading level and preferences by calling the branch.

If you don't want to go inside to pick up your holds, just park in the designated area of the library's lot and call the branch phone number posted on the sign. Provide your library card number to staff on the phone and remain in your car until your holds have been deposited on the pickup table outside the library.

Return your library items to the book drop of any FCPL branch. The quarantine period for returned items will soon decrease from 7 to one day before being checked-in and removed from your library account.

Virtual library programs are still offered for children, teens, and adults. Check out the Fairfax County Public Library website for upcoming events <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events>

Your library card provides access to 92 databases, from **Ancestry.com** [library edition] to **Consumer Reports**. You can even read full text articles from current issues of **The NY Times** and find legal forms in **Gale Legal Forms**. Children can access fun and informative videos from **Just for Kids** and read graphic novels or picture books from **TumbleBook Library**. **Scholastic Go!** has informative articles, maps and videos for children and teens of all ages. From the FCPL homepage, go to the Research Center, then click on Research Databases. When prompted, just type in your library card number and this information treasury opens at your fingertips on your computer.

The ongoing book sale is resuming in the hallway inside Burke Centre Library, same location as ever. Payment for books must be made at the library kiosk by credit/debit card only (no cash).

Unfortunately, no large scale used book sales are planned for the near future. Book donations still cannot be accepted at this time at any branches. Many of us have more time these days to look through our shelves and find books we're ready to part with. Please set them aside until the time book donations can be received and book sales resume.

Do check out the newly planted pollinator garden out front of Burke Centre Library, and look for the butterflies, bees, and other insects among the flowers!

—Nancy Davis

Federal Pacific Stab-Lok Breaker Panels Can Be Dangerous

A few years ago, the Washington Post published an article on electrical panels made by Federal Pacific Electric (Stab-Lok breaker panels) with breakers that were a fire hazard, with a high failure rate to trip when an electrical surge occurred.



According to home inspector, Hubert Miles, the Federal Pacific Stab-Lok circuit breaker panel, also known as the FPE Stab-Lok breaker panel, was installed in millions of homes between 1950 to 1980. After reading that article, I checked my home in Bonnie Brae I found I had that exact breaker panel, so I suspect most of the homes in Bonnie Brae, constructed in the early 1970s initially had this panel installed by the builder. I replaced mine some years later when I had the kitchen remodeled. Ten years ago, the cost was around \$1400.

Eventually there was a class action lawsuit, an inconclusive investigation by Consumer Product Safety Commission, and the company, Federal Pacific, went out of business. There was no mandate to replace the panels. However, according to Mr. Miles, "Based on the information collected from fire reports, it's estimated Federal Pacific Stab-Lok panel failures cause 2,800 fires, 13 deaths, and \$40 million in property damage annually." You may link to the full article from Home Inspection Insider.com below, and please check your electrical panel. If you still have the Stab-Lok after 50 years, it's probably worth replacing.

<https://homeinspectioninsider.com/federal-pacific-breaker-panels-safe-dangers-cost-replace/>

—Elaine Hawley

Woodglen Lake

Woodglen Lake is a wonderful amenity for those of us living in Bonnie Brae. It is easy to access, within walking distance of any house in Bonnie Brae and the path across the dam is lovely. It provides a refreshing beautiful lakeside view in an urban area. As you stand on the walkway atop the control dam, you can see the sunset reflect its colors across the surface of the water.

The lake offers fishing from shore or canoe and has a makeshift gravel boat ramp for kayakers. Geese, mallards, hawks, and herons, thrive here year-round, and various migrating birds stop by during migration- coots, hooded mergansers, cormorants. Occasional eagles or osprey dip down for a tasty meal. When it snows, the hill is one of the busiest (unofficial) sledding destinations in the area and in March the dam offers a windy hill from which to fly your kite.

Last year the lake usage increased dramatically. As a result, incidents of people cutting through private lawns and littering along the shore increased as well. Probably only a few people are responsible for most of the littering, but it hurts our community and our environment. Consider walking or kayaking with a bag to help clean up litter. Fish line and hooks are especially dangerous for birds and animals. Every Spring and Fall neighborhood volunteers do lake clean-up and it's discouraging how many bags of trash are hauled out. We encourage people who love the lake and love the beauty of nature to leave Woodglen Lake a little cleaner than they found it.

—Peter Kim

Who ya gonna call?

We all know the emergency phone number 9-1-1 to call when there is a life-threatening emergency like fire, injury, or crime. But the Fairfax County Police Department operates a different line for NON-emergencies.

It's **703-691-2131**. Put that in your contact list because it's a bit hard to remember.

The non-emergency number can be used for any general calls related to the police or fire departments that don't pertain to a life-threatening emergency. Examples of non-emergency calls include:

- Non-violent disputes between neighbors
- Property damage vehicle accidents not causing a hazard to the flow of traffic
- Noise complaints
- Leash law violations
- Sick or injured wildlife
- Suspicious person / vehicle
- Dumping of trash or materials onto public property

(NOTE: If you witness the dumping of any possibly hazardous substance or materials into a stream, into a manhole, into a storm drain or onto the ground, Call 911 immediately! When calling 911, be prepared to provide specific information regarding the location and nature of the incident.

Bonnie Brae Real Estate News

As most of you know, real estate is a hot sellers' market right now with a record low interest rates and a general lack of inventory. Prices in Bonnie Brae seem to be the highest ever, and nice homes should not linger long on the market this Spring. Our Bonnie Brae neighbor and realtor, Penny Pate, often helps us understand how things work in real estate. As always, she says, first impressions are extremely important – fresh paint, mowed lawn, obvious repairs and cleaning up debris and cobwebs. The trees, shrubs, and bushes of Bonnie Brae homes, now pushing 50 years old, often get overgrown, in need pruning, replanting, or even a complete makeover to look fresh.

Did you know that when you sell your house the real estate commission you pay is split four ways? Most people think the entire amount goes to their realtor when, in reality, half goes to each company the buying and selling realtors work for. The agent then gets a percentage of that half from their respective companies, and if the deal doesn't make it to the closing table, your realtor usually won't get paid at all!

Penny Pate
pennypate@cox.net
Weichert, Realtors

No Texting While Driving in Virginia

Effective January 1, 2021 Virginia law prohibits drivers from holding cell phones while driving except in a driver emergency or the vehicle is lawfully parked or stopped.

Texting while driving continues to be one of the leading causes of accidents and is one of the most visible unsafe driving behaviors. Texting while driving is now illegal and a primary offense in Virginia. A conviction carries a \$125 fine for the first offense and a \$250 fine for second or subsequent offenses.

Your pets probably know Victoria Carroll— do you?

She doesn't wear a Fitbit, but our neighbor, Victoria Carroll, probably logs more steps each day than any five other folks in Bonnie Brae. She's been our resident dog walker and pet caregiver for about 14 years and is no doubt acquainted with more pets AND people in our community than the rest of us. Born in the Portland area, Victoria moved to Virginia as a child and graduated from TC Williams in Alexandria. In 2003, she, her husband, Anthony, and young daughter moved to their home on Black Oak, awaiting the birth of their son who is now about to graduate from Robinson. Their daughter has already graduated from the University of Mississippi where she competed on the rifle team.

Victoria says that Bonnie Brae is a pet lovers' neighborhood, and pet care services are in high demand. While focusing on care for dogs and cats she has occasionally taken care of lizards, turtles, fish, hamsters, guinea pigs, cockatoos, bearded dragons, and even sugar babies, tiny marsupials native to Australia. She loves to work outdoors and her work in Bonnie Brae gives her that opportunity and the chance to get to know her neighbors. Of course, dog walkers try to keep clients close to home to avoid spending much time on the road, but Victoria's range includes nearby subdivisions where she has some longtime customers. Victoria says her job fits well with her interests and schedule, and it certainly gives her a lot of good exercise. She also maintains some clients as an employee for a larger company that employs about 40 people offering pet services between southern 495 and Lorton. While she has a natural, intuitive relationship with her "pet clients",



Victoria seems quite knowledgeable about diet, health, and even pet psychology, especially of dogs. She says that when two strange dogs meet on her walks, she closely watches body language –tail wagging friendly or tails up alarm – to decide what to do. She cares for some pets daily, feeding, letting out, walking, giving medicine and occasionally even overnighting pets in her own home. Some people hire pet care only when they go on vacation or have other short-term needs. She speculated that the pandemic had benefitted pets because owners were able to give them more love and attention than usual.

I asked Victoria what her biggest problem was when walking a dog, and she replied that loose dogs are always concerning because you're never sure what they are going to do. Fairfax County has a leash law, so dogs aren't supposed to run loose, but when it happens, dog owners can be liable for injury, fined, or their dog might be picked up by animal control.

In terms of dog owner etiquette, beyond the usual requirement to pick up after your dog and deposit the trash in one's own trashcan, Victoria mentioned that it bothers her when owners allow their dogs to pee on new plants, trash cans, or yard bags, showing lack of respect

for the human workers who must touch those things. In general, Bonnie Brae seems to be a pet courteous neighborhood with only occasional complaints. If folks keep their dogs on a leash, scoop the poop, and mind where the dogs urinate, Bonnie Brae will continue a "beautiful place". Thanks, Victoria, for your friendly service to our community.

If you are in need of pet walking, pet sitting and related services, please feel free to call Victoria at 703-300-5241.

Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County Announce Robinson Secondary Recipient

This year's Student Peace Award for Robinson Secondary School has been given to Diego Dominguez Liberato, a Robinson junior. Concerned about the tragedies in black communities, Diego planned a peaceful protest to involve the local community, working out logistics, soliciting volunteers, and coordinating with the Fairfax County Police, West Springfield District Station, who offered to block the roads. Although 300 participants were expected, more than 1,000 people appeared and safely marched down Burke Center Parkway.

Diego joins 2021 Peace Award recipients from 23 other Fairfax County public schools and

one private academy, see - [Student Profiles - Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County](#). The Student Peace Award recipients' activities have ranged from creating assistive technology and working via Zoom with severely disabled elementary students, to organizing a rally against gun violence, creating a board game illustrating challenges facing immigrants, and supporting conflict resolution and restorative justice programs within their schools.

Every year, high schools in Fairfax County are asked to select one junior or senior, or a group of students, whose work has promoted peace. Robinson Secondary has participated

in this program since its beginning in 2006. The program is organized by volunteers and funded by donations from 18 secular and religious sponsoring organizations including George Mason's Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution.

For more information, visit <http://fairfax.studentpeaceawards.org/> If you know of a local nonprofit organization that would be interested in getting involved as a sponsor or if you would like more information, please contact Bonnie Brae resident, Nancy Davis.



BBCA Membership Information

Membership Dues suspended for 2021

Because Covid-19 suspended most of our usual activities in 2020, the Board voted to cancel the dues for 2021. Block captains will not collect BBCA dues this year. If you have already paid dues for 2021, you will be given credit for 2022.

Bonnie Brae is a community of 305 homes on the east and west side of Sideburn Road. The Bonnie Brae Civic Association (BBCA) was started in 1973 when the homes were first built, and the activities are supported by nominal annual dues.

(suspended for 2021) A handbook of by-laws is posted on our website: <http://www.bonniebrae.net/pages/529218878>

Your Civic Association provides all the services and activities that help bond this community and make it a friendly and beautiful place to live. The Bonnie Brae Board and volunteers try to support activities that appeal to the neighborhood and strengthen its community ties. We always seek and welcome new ideas and volunteers.

Among the activities that the BBCA supports:

Publication of the annual newsletter (also available online at www.bonniebrae.net)

Publication of a Community Directory every two years, available members of the BBCA.

Rent and maintenance of our Bonnie Brae Website: www.bonniebrae.net

Maintenance of Bonnie Brae subdivision entrance signs.
Signs and fliers to announce community events.
Neighborhood Watch run by our volunteers on weekends.
Post-covid activities such as:

Neighborhood yard sale (April)

Progressive dinner (May)

Bonnie Brae Car Show or Home Tour(June)

National Night Out Potluck – potluck with neighbors to promote crime prevention (August)

New Neighbor Welcome Party (September)

Halloween Potluck (October)

Quarterly Book Club (Quarterly)

Promotion of NextDoor social media website

If you are new to Bonnie Brae in the last two years or if you wish to be a member, please fill out the application below and mail it to: Bonnie Brae Civic Association, P.O. Box 336, Fairfax Station, VA 22039-0336. We still need information for our membership and directory.

Bonnie Brae Civic Association (BBCA) Membership Application 2021 Annual Dues Suspended

Check box if you are new to Bonnie Brae 2020-2021

Names of residents _____

Names of residents _____

Names of residents _____

Names of residents _____

Past Members/ Contact Information Unchanged

Update new information if needed:

Street Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Give form and payment to your block captain or Mail them to:

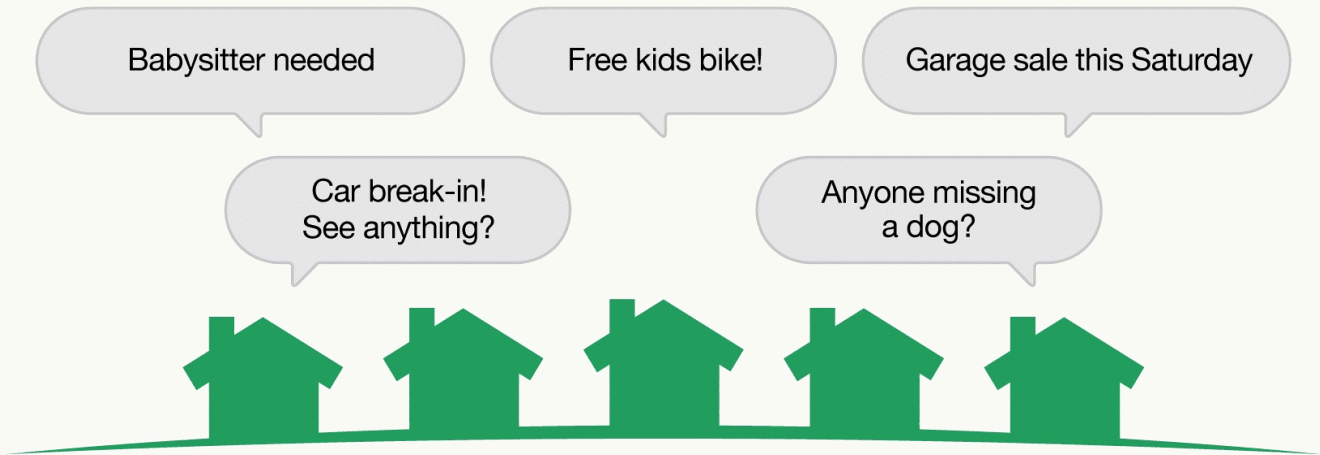
**Bonnie Brae Civic Association
P.O Box 336
Fairfax Station, VA 22039-0336**

BBCA FINANCIAL REPORT as of December 31, 2020	
<i>BANK BALANCE as of 1/1/2020</i>	\$9,137.09
INCOME	
Membership Dues	2,775.00
Community Parking District Donations	
Newsletter & Directory Ad Sales	
Miscellaneous Income	
TOTAL INCOME	2,775.00
EXPENSES	
<u>Administration</u>	
Bank Account Check Order	
Bank Fee	
Bank Deposit Correction Fee	
PO Box Rental	150.00
SUBTOTAL	150.00
<u>Communications</u>	
Phone Directories	434.28
Name Tags	10.00
Flyer/Newsletter Printing	288.80
Sign Purchase	
Website	258.96
SUBTOTAL	992.04
<u>Community Safety & Maintenance</u>	
Community Parking District	
Neighborhood Watch	
Sign Maintenance	
Yard Clean Up Dumpsters	
Yard Sale	
SUBTOTAL	0.00
<u>Annual Social Activities</u>	
Valentine Party	
Home Tour	
Progressive Dinner	
Lake Day Party	
Car Show	
National Night Out Party	
Welcome Party	
Halloween Party	46.16
Holiday Party	244.49
Santa Ride	
Christmas Light Contest	
SUBTOTAL	290.65
Other (Turbok Family Sympathy Gift)	89.20
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,521.89
<i>BANK BALANCE as of 12/31/20</i>	\$10,390.20

B.B.C.A. SECTION LEADERS AND BLOCK CAPTAINS

SECTION I	SECTION II	SECTION III	SECTION IV
LEADER:	LEADER:	LEADER:	LEADER:
ANN MULLER (82) 5355 Black Oak Dr. 703-239-0506 agm@oecengineering.com	PAT D'ALESSANDRO (76) 10518 Acacia Lane 703-250-9760 loupat5@verizon.net	NEERA BADHWAR (86) 10409 Pearl St 703-250-7959 nbad@ou.edu	SCOTT FLORY (61) 5347 Aylor Rd. 703-323-6683 annriega@cox.net
BLOCK CAPTAINS:	BLOCK CAPTAINS:	BLOCK CAPTAINS:	BLOCK CAPTAINS:
BLACK OAK (14) EVEN 5320-48 + Private Dr	ACACIA LANE (16)	AYLOR RD - SOUTH (17)	AYLOR RD - NORTH (13)
Randy & Vikki Krocka 5332 Black Oak Dr. 202-617-0893 cur2slo@hotmail.com ryansdragonfly@hotmail.com	Pat D'Alessandro 10518 Acacia Lane 703-250-9760 loupat5@verizon.net	Barry Azimi 10419 Nellie White Ln. 703-675-6752 barry.azimi@gmail.com	Scott Flory 5347 Aylor Rd. 703-323-6683 scott@theflorys.net
BLACK OAK (13) SOUTH 5349	ARROWOOD ST (15)	FYFE COURT (13)	CRISTFIELD CT (13)
Ann Muller 5355 Black Oak Dr. 703-239-0506 agm@oecengineering.com	Penny Pate Henry 10523 Arrowood St. 703-978-0175 pennypate@cox.net	Vacant	Cathy Gulac 5347 Cristfield Ct. 703-323-6694 catherine_gulac@ios.doi.gov cgulac88@gmail.com
INDIGO & ALLERTON (18)	FIESTA & SOUTHPORT (NORTH) (15)	JENNIFER (EVEN) & SIDEBURN (ODD) (14)	HOLLYOAK & JENNIFER (ODD) (16)
Connie Dinapoli 10513 Indigo Ln. 703-272-8680 connie_dinapoli@yahoo.com	Sharon Schwartz 10612 Fiesta Road 703-250-5165 sharons@thedesignminds.com	Harry Wong 5408 Jennifer Dr. 703-249-8373 hkwong2@gmail.com	James Chu 5347 Jennifer Dr. 571-278-6909 mjwed@yahoo.com
ZION & SIDEBURN (23) EVEN	SOUTHPORT (SOUTH) & FIRE-SIDE (16)	ALL NELLIE WHITE (15)	JENNIFER (EVEN) & SIDEBURN (ODD) (19)
Rachel Hinnant 5330 Sideburn Rd. rhinnant@flinthill.org	Danielle Furlich 5410 Southport Lane 703-250-5757 dfurlich@gmail.com	Michael Nickens 10403 Nellie White Lane 703-989-4919 mnickens@gmail.com	Traci Barela 5350 Jennifer Dr. 703-829-3385 barelapost@gmail.com
BLACK OAK (14) ODD 5321 & Private Dr	SOUTHPORT (CENTER) (14)	PEARL ST (17)	
Krista Glass 5341 Black Oak Dr. 610-704-2866 kristamglass@gmail.com	Margaret Pontzer 5406 Southport Lane 703-250-0273 pontzer@cox.net	Jill Turosz 10403 Pearl St. 240-447-2323 jturosz@gmail.com	
		MASSER LANE (10)	
		Neera Badhwar 10409 Pearl St 703-250-7959 nbad@ou.edu	

Please join us on *NextDoor* Bonnie Brae



Get Connected for Community Announcements

Bonnie Brae is connected to a private social network hosted by *NextDoor* —a free and private online community just for Bonnie Brae neighbors. You may opt to connect to Bonnie Brae alone or to several surrounding neighborhoods to share information about crime and safety, local events, vendor recommendations, items for sale/free, Bonnie Brae news, ideas about how to make our neighborhood better, and more. The BBCA uses this network to communicate to our community. Nearly 80% of Bonnie Brae households now belong. If you are not on *NextDoor*, you are probably “out of the loop.” It’s all aggregated in one place with a single message per day.

NextDoor is also a great place to find local recommendations for services from doctors and dentists to contractors for roofing, electrical, plumbing, heating, cooling, auto mechanics, tree services, hair salons, restaurants, etc. Just sign up and then pick “Recommendations” from the menu on the left.

Let’s get 100% of Bonnie Brae connected — sign up today!

www.nextdoor.com/join

Code: ZNWLOZ