

BROYHILL PARK NEWS

**FEBRUARY
2017**

NEWSLETTER OF THE
BROYHILL PARK
CIVIC ASSOCIATION

WWW.BROYHILLPARK.ORG

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, March 2, 2017 – 7:30 PM

Alan Leis Center – Multipurpose Room

7423 Camp Alger Avenue

- A representative from Federal Realty, the owner of Graham Park Plaza, will give a presentation on the proposed redevelopment of the western half of the Plaza. Come and learn what's being planned and get your questions answered.
- Pay your Civic Association dues at this meeting
- Volunteer for a position on the Board or become a Committee Chair

Announcing Broyhill Park's

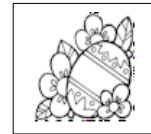
ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 10:30am

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church • 3241 Brush Drive

Please be on time - this event goes fast once it starts! Bring a basket or other container to collect your eggs.

Open to all Broyhill Park residents. Rain date will be April 15 in case of inclement weather.



New Event: **Earth Day Stream Clean-up & Plant Exchange**

Saturday, April 22, from 10:00am-1:00pm

- Come and help clean the creek and park area that runs through Broyhill Park.
- Bring some of your garden plants or seeds to swap out- with others
- Refreshments will be provided • Scout and youth groups welcome
- More information on page 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

After a one-year hiatus, we are once again publishing a Broyhill Park newsletter. A printed newsletter is the only way we can reach every home in Broyhill Park. I'd like to thank our previous co-presidents, Ann Marie Rosas and Theresa Tovar for serving in this capacity, and to invite all neighbors to get involved in our community by joining the Broyhill Park Civic Association. Dues are only \$10 a year per household and are used to pay for Civic Association events such as the spring Easter Egg Hunt, National Night Out in August, the Halloween Parade, and the December holiday party. These activities help to build a sense of community and are a great way to get to know your neighbors. In addition to social events, having an active Civic Association gives us a collective voice in local affairs. This fact was brought home this past fall when we unexpectedly found out about a proposal to amend the Comprehensive Plan for Graham Park Plaza (formerly

Loehmann's Plaza) from commercial use only to commercial and residential use. Unfortunately, our neighborhood was not invited to the preliminary community meeting that took place at Westlawn School in early 2016, so we were not aware of the plan amendment until it was almost too late to get involved. In September members of the Broyhill Park Civic Association quickly met for a reorganizational and planning meeting to come up with a strategy to approach the issue. A group of Board members and other Broyhill Park residents attended and testified at the Planning Commission hearing in October as well as the Board of Supervisors' hearing in December. We told them of our concerns about the proposed change to residential use, especially in regard to traffic. The main concerns are increased traffic at the intersection of Graham Road and Route 50, the hazardous exit getting out of the shopping center by Giant, long back-ups on Graham Road and on Jaguar Trail, and cut-

through traffic in our neighborhood. However, the amendment was approved unanimously by both the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors. Ironically, they based their decision partially on a traffic study that shows that there will be a decrease in traffic, in spite of the fact that the plan includes a 500-car parking garage. This decision now opens the door to the construction of high-rise apartment buildings at Graham Park Plaza (with retail stores at ground level). Whether we like it or not, this type of development is taking place all over our region, and you can see the results of it in Falls Church City, Merrifield, and elsewhere. But, nothing will happen at Graham Park Plaza just yet – the developers still have to go through the rezoning process, which means another year of meetings, hearings, and community input.

A Broyhill Park resident has sent in the following information regarding Graham Park Plaza:

Fairfax County is presently considering rezoning Graham Park Plaza following the Board of Supervisors' approval of a mixed use development and a 43% increase in the permitted floor area ratio limit. The Planning Commission's recommendation and the Board's subsequent approval relied on a traffic analysis which showed a reduction in the expected flow of traffic. If you would like a copy of the Planning Commission's traffic analysis and its underlying assumptions and computations obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request, please contact John Curle at curlejw@hotmail.com with "**Graham Park FOIA**" in the subject line. A nominal fee will be requested to help defray the processing costs of the FOIA request.

► For our first Civic Association meeting of the year, we've invited a representative from Federal Realty Investment Trust, the owner of Graham Park Plaza, to come and give us a presentation on their plan for redevelopment of the western half of the shopping center. I hope everyone will make an effort to attend this important meeting to learn more about the development and to get your questions and concerns addressed. Mark your calendars for Thursday, March 2nd. The meeting will begin at 7:30pm at the Leis Center.

► I hope to see many of you at the Annual **Easter Egg Hunt** at St. Patrick's Church. This is a fun event for the children. We'll divide the hunt into three age groups: ages 3 & under, ages 4 – 6, and 7 – 9 year olds. There will be plenty of eggs to hunt and a special prize in each age group, so bring your baskets and join us on the hunt for Easter eggs! Thank you to St. Patrick's for allowing us to use their field once again for this event.

► I'm excited about a new event that one of our residents has volunteered to lead. This will be a **Stream Cleanup and Plant Exchange** to take place on Earth Day, which falls on a Saturday this year. This very worthwhile effort could become an annual event, so I hope many neighbors

will come and lend their support. See the full article under "Broyhill Park News" on the next page.

► **Citizens Advisory Council (CAC)** meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at the Mason District government center. CAC meetings are open to the public and are a good way to learn what's going on in your community and to support the police department. Mary Rodgers and I attended the January CAC meeting where a member of the police motor carrier division spoke about truck safety inspections. Although there are only 4 motor carrier officers for the entire county, they are constantly catching truck violations. These violations include serious safety issues such as no licensed driver, improper load carrying or securing of loads, bad tires, faulty brakes and other malfunctioning equipment, and driving over the weight limit on certain designated roads. Citizens who spot a safety issue with a truck may call the police non-emergency number (703-691-2131) and report it. We also attended the January meeting for civic association leaders where we heard crime reports from all three police districts that patrol Mason District (Mason Station, Franconia Station, and West Springfield station). We learned that the most common crime in Fairfax County is the theft of cash, keys, purses, and other valuables from vehicles. They told us that people will walk through neighborhoods at night, pulling on car doors to find cars that are left unlocked. The second most common crime in Fairfax County is burglary. Both of these crimes happen most often when cars or homes are left unlocked. The police advise everyone to lock their cars even if they're parked in your driveway, keep your house and garage doors locked, and be particularly careful with sliding glass doors, which are a prime target for burglars looking to enter your home.

► **Recent Broyhill Events** - We had a very successful Halloween Parade this past October. The weather was perfect, many families participated, and kids and adults alike had a great time marching in the parade and making Halloween crafts afterwards. If anyone took pictures of the parade showing the bagpiper in the lead, please send them to me by email. Mr. Rice-Johnston, the bagpipe player, has asked for some pictures for his archives, and we would also like to post them on the Broyhill website. In December we had our annual Christmas & Holiday party. Everyone who came enjoyed the food, fellowship, and live holiday music, but attendance was down from previous years. If you have any thoughts of how we can get a better turnout for this event, please send in your ideas. See pictures from the holiday party on the Broyhill Park website.

--Carol Ofiesh, Acting President

**— Support our Civic Association —
Pay Your Annual Dues**

Dues are only \$10 a year per household. Only about 200 out of over 750 homes in Broyhill Park pay their dues. Let's try to get all homes to join this year! See dues form on Page 4.



BROYHILL PARK NEWS

Stream Clean-Up and Plant Exchange – Did you know that the greenway that runs between Dye & Nealon Drives is one of Fairfax County’s smallest parks? It actually has a name, “Broyhill Park,” the same as our neighborhood. This little park is a natural haven and provides a safe pathway for wildlife, as well as being a pleasant walk-through for residents. However, trash and debris often wash down through the park’s stream from Arlington Boulevard and Graham Park Plaza. Dumping and encroachment onto park lands are not permitted. This stream is part of the Potomac River watershed, and aquatic life must routinely cope with impaired water quality and debris. Broyhill Park neighbors will be celebrating Earth Day by doing a bit of spring cleaning to the Broyhill Park stream and greenway. We will also have a plant exchange where we’ll swap garden plants and seeds. Because we have so many excellent gardeners in our neighborhood, we thought we should come together on Earth Day to exchange gardening ideas as well as seeds or plants. Come with your favorite seeds and seedlings to exchange with others! It will be a one-to-one exchange, so if you bring one plant or pack of seeds, you would select one plant or pack of seeds from the exchange. Bring two items and select two, and so on. Local neighborhood beekeepers will also be in attendance to learn about what’s feeding their bees. Please come join us this coming **Earth Day, Saturday April 22**, from 10am to 1pm for the seed/plant exchange and stream clean-up. Volunteer to keep clean what is quite possibly Fairfax County’s smallest park! We’ll meet promptly at 10:00 on Camp Alger Avenue between Nealon Drive and Dye Drive. Garbage bags will be provided, but please come prepared by wearing heavy boots, long pants, long-sleeved shirts, and work gloves. Call or email John Curle at 202-327-0292, curlejew@hotmail.com, for additional information or to confirm your participation.

Looking for more volunteers! The Broyhill Park Civic Association is in need of Board members and Committee Chairs. Please consider taking a seat on the Board or on a Committee. We would love to see some new faces at our meetings! See Page 4 for vacancies. All residents are welcome to give this a try and get involved in your community. In addition, with spring just around the corner, it’s a great time to start planning a special community event. This could be a community yard sale, a neighborhood clean-up, invasive plant removal, a block party, working on the butterfly garden at the triangle, or any other activity that would bring improvement to our neighborhood. A good example is the Stream Clean-up/Plant Exchange detailed above. The Civic Association will support any of these efforts or other appropriate events. If you’re interested in leading a special event, please contact the Board.



THE GREEN SCENE

A Broyhill Park neighbor has sent some cautionary information on tree care, which she would like to pass along to the neighborhood. Here is a summary of her letter: “Homeowners need to understand what being a good neighbor means when it comes to the care of the trees in their yard. As homeowners, it’s our responsibility to pay attention to the health and care of our tall trees. A recent case in point occurred when a neighbor of mine whose backyard backs up to another yard wasn’t taking care of their trees. The delinquent owner’s trees crashed into the trees in the backyard of my elderly next door neighbor’s trees, which in turn knocked two of their trees down, which then fell on their home, a one-year old beautiful shed and fences, and finally landed in my yard. It’s the law in Virginia that whatever part of a tree falls on your property is your responsibility. What I want to share is that if you have a neighbor whose trees are leaning or have a lot of dead wood, *you need to take action*. Start by taking pictures at different angles. Then write a letter to your neighbor requesting that they have the trees trimmed or removed, including copies of the pictures. Then send a copy of the letter plus pictures to your insurance company. This way your insurance company will have been advised of the problem and your request that the trees be trimmed or removed. So if the trees ever fall and damage your property, your insurance company can go after the neighbor’s insurance company for the total cost of repair and clean-up of any trees that fall on your property.”
--*Thank you to Michele Whetzel for sending in this information.*

THE GREEN SCENE CONTINUED

Pollinator gardening has become all the rage recently and for good reason, as it provides natural habitat to support butterflies, bees, moths, hummingbirds, and other pollinators. If every home in Broyhill Park set aside a corner of their yard, or even a few planter pots, for a small pollinator garden, it would have a cumulative effect of providing much needed habitat as well as a touch of color and natural beauty. We also need to consider carefully the consequences of a new trend, which is the wholesale spraying of mosquito pesticides over the entire yard. These chemicals are not mosquito-specific and kill all insects indiscriminately. This is bad news for the same butterflies, honeybees, and native bees we’re trying to protect with our pollinator gardens! The County website advises that if you must spray, to spray only the perimeter of your yard and to “avoid spraying flowers, herbs, vegetables or butterfly gardens.” But the simplest way to prevent mosquitos from breeding in your yard is to eliminate standing water. Tip over any buckets, flowerpots, or other containers that collect rain water, or put them away until they’re needed.



**SPECIAL PICKUP OF HOUSEHOLD TRASH,
TREE TRIMMINGS & YARD WASTE**

If you have trash that doesn't fit in your garbage can, you MUST call for a Special Pickup. Call 703-802-3322 or schedule a pickup online at this link: <https://specialpickup.fairfaxcounty.gov/>. It's quick, easy, and it's free for up to 5 special pickups per fiscal year (July 1 - June 30).

Special Pickup Tips:

- Don't mix yard waste and household trash in the same pile
- Keep pile away from telephone poles and trees
- Do not include items such as oil-based paints and solvents – take these to the hazardous waste drop at the I-66 transfer station.

SPECIAL PICKUP CALL 703-802-3322

Join Woodley Pool This Summer!

WOODLEY RECREATION ASSOCIATION

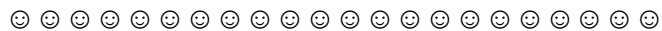
7421 CAMP ALGER AVENUE

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|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| • Swimming Pool | • Diving Boards | • Social Events |
| • Baby Pool | • Tot Playground | • NVSL Swim Team |
| • Swim Lessons | • Covered Pavilion | • NVSL Dive Team |
| • Basketball Court | • Volleyball Net | • Lap Lanes |
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| • Large Parking Lot | • Reasonable fees | • Guest passes |

Become a Woodley member and enjoy all the features above plus much more. More information at www.woodleypool.org.



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www.AngelusAcademy.org. Call 703-924-3996 for tours and shadow days. *We prepare our students for high school and heaven.* Prayer • Patriotism • Leadership • Service

Tidbits

- As this newsletter goes to press we are in desperate need of a chairperson for the Easter Egg Hunt. Please contact the Board if you would like to chair this fun & easy event.
- The Civic Association is looking for someone to take over the meeting signs. They only need to be put out 3 or 4 times a year when a meeting is scheduled.
- Be sure to signup online at Nextdoor.com to get in on all the latest neighborhood "buzz."
- Brush and sticks less than 4-feet in length, and weighing less than 40-lbs can be tied in bundles and set out with your regular trash.
- Regular plastic bags are not recycled by the County and will clog up the sorting machines, so don't put plastic bags or sheets of plastic in your recycling bin. They can be recycled in the drop bins at Giant or Safeway.
- Stay informed and include your email address on the dues form below. The list is used only to send notices of upcoming Civic Association social events, activities, meetings, or important neighborhood news.

Broyhill Park Civic Association 2017 DUES

All residents are asked to pay \$10 annual dues, which are used to fund neighborhood activities, pay our non-profit state corporation fee, and publish the newsletter. Mail check or cash to Dues Coordinator, 3227 Alice Court, Falls Church 22042 or bring payment to the March 2nd General Membership meeting. **Make checks payable to Broyhill Park Civic Association.**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE#: _____ DUES PAID \$10 _____ Additional Donation \$ _____

Email Address: _____

Email addresses are kept strictly confidential and are used only to send notices of Civic Association events.

BROYHILL PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

<i>Acting President – Carol Ofiesh, centaur@erols.com</i>	<i>Newsletter Bagging – Pat Hough, pathough@hotmail.com</i>
<i>Vice President – vacant</i>	<i>Meeting Signs – vacant</i>
<i>Secretary – vacant</i>	<i>Neighborhood Watch – Bob Evinger, bobevinger@cox.net</i>
<i>Treasurer – Mary vanWijnngaarden, wijnbarry@gmail.com</i>	<i>Neighborhood Watch – Mary Rodgers, rodders7123@yahoo.com</i>
<i>Dues Drive – Amy Pototsky, pototsky@netzero.com</i>	<i>Webmaster – Pim vanWijnngaarden, webmaster@broyhillpark.org</i>
<i>Newsletter Editor – Carol Ofiesh, centaur@erols.com</i>	<i>Community Yard Sale – vacant</i>
<i>Newsletter Delivery – Amy Pototsky, pototsky@netzero.com</i>	<i>Mason District Representative – vacant</i>

