

# BROYHILL PARK NEWS

**MARCH  
2020**

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
BROYHILL PARK  
CIVIC ASSOCIATION

[WWW.BROYHILLPARK.ORG](http://WWW.BROYHILLPARK.ORG)

## **CIVIC ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING #1**

**Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup> – 7:30PM**

**Leis Center, Room 109, 7423 Camp Alger Avenue**

Our guest speaker will be a representative from the Fairfax County Urban Forestry Department, who will speak on the topic of tree care, tree preservation, and the benefits of planting trees in an urban environment. All Broyhill Park residents welcome!

## **ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 12:00PM**

**St. Patrick's Episcopal Church • 3241 Brush Drive**

Come on time! This event goes fast once it starts. Bring a basket or other container to collect eggs. Open to all Broyhill Park residents.

Rain date will be April 11 in case of inclement weather.



## **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Earth Day Stream Clean-up & Plant Exchange**

**Saturday, April 18, from 10:00am-1:00pm**

- Come and help clean the creek and park area that runs through Broyhill Park.
- Bring some of plants or seeds to exchange for others
- Refreshments will be provided • Scout and youth groups welcome
- Great opportunity for community service • Meet-up location: Camp Alger Avenue between Dye & Nealon Drives

## **Broyhill Park Triangle Clean-Up**

**Saturday, May 2, 2:00-4:00pm**

Volunteers are needed to help clean-up the Broyhill triangle at Graham Road & Strathmore Street and enlarge the butterfly garden. Bring shovels or other garden implements, wear work gloves, and plan to come and help beautify our neighborhood!

## **CIVIC ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING #2**

**Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> – 7:30PM**

**Leis Center, Room 109, 7423 Camp Alger Avenue**

Civic Association regular business meeting, agenda TBA. All Broyhill Park residents welcome!

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** *by Carol Ofiesh*

Shortly before this newsletter went to press, two bills were introduced in the Virginia House of Delegates that would abolish single-family neighborhoods in the entire state of Virginia. House Bill 151 would allow the construction of "accessory dwelling units," which means that a second house could be built in a backyard, or a garage or shed could be converted into living space. House Bill 152 would allow townhouses, duplexes, and cottage-style facilities to be built in single-family neighborhoods. Another bill – HB 1474 – would remove

all regulations on short-term rentals such as AirB&B, so that such houses could be rented all-year round, with no limit on the number of houses any one person or entity could own. By overriding local zoning laws, all three bills would have a disruptive and detrimental effect on single family neighborhoods such as ours by potentially doubling or tripling the number of residents while adding to existing overcrowding, traffic, and parking problems. Our Civic Association and others like it strive to maintain a sense of community where neighbors can get to know one another in a relatively peaceful environment in the midst

of a very busy metropolitan area, and we already serve as mid-range housing with many homes in the rental market. In addition, our wooded yards are valuable not only for our own enjoyment, but as a source of environmental green space and relief from the increased pavement and impermeable ground that would result if HB151 and 152 are passed. On behalf of our Civic Association, I have written to our state representatives urging them not to support these bills, and I encourage any concerned citizens to do so as well. It's easy to find your state congressmen online, but briefly, if you live in Broyhill Park north of Annandale Road, your delegate is Marcus Simon and your senator is Dick Saslaw. If you live in Old Broyhill Park (Hickory Hill Road and other streets south of Annandale Road) your delegate is Kaye Kory and your senator is Dave Marsden. As this newsletter goes to press, there is good news – both HB-151 and 152 have been “tabled,” which means they will not be heard this session and may never be acted upon, and HB-1474 is listed as “failed.”

As you can see from the box on Page 1, we have a full schedule of meetings and activities coming up. I hope to see many of you at these events this spring!

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**BROYHILL PARK NEWS**

The proposed townhouse project at Loehmann’s Plaza continues to move through the rezoning process. On January 16 board members from both the Broyhill Park and Raymondale Civic Associations met with the developers for a preview of what will be presented at a community-wide meeting on February 19. This was the third meeting that board members have had with the developers. Staying in touch with our communities during the design process and giving us opportunities to ask questions and voice our opinions in advance makes it very unlikely that any concerns or objections will be raised during the public hearing phase of the project.

**Parking** - Broyhill Park presently has a school Residential Permit Parking District (“RPPD”) on streets closest to the high school. The school RPPD can be extended as far as 2,000 feet from the high school boundary, and we have decided to proceed with that option. If you live on the sections of Holly Hill Drive, Marc Drive, Carol Lane, Parkwood Terrace, and Kenney Drive that already have RPPD signs along the curb, remember that you must display a permit decal on your back windshield showing that your vehicle is registered to your address. Streets that the RPPD can be extended on are: Marc Drive between Parkwood Terrace and Norfolk Lane; Carol Lane between Parkwood Terrace and Norfolk Lane; and the upper blocks of Parkwood, Kenney, and Norfolk. If you live on any of these sectors, you will be asked to sign a petition and pay a \$10 fee to extend the RPPD on your block. We will need more than 60% overall signatures and more than 50% signatures from each side of each street to qualify for extending the RPPD. A petition will be carried door-to-door by neighborhood

volunteers sometime in the next month or two. If you live on any of the affected streets, please consider volunteering to help with the petition. Contact the Board if you can help. ...See Page 4 for additional Broyhill Park News

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**NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH**

*by Bob Evinger*

Riding around Broyhill Park one sees more and more trash on the curb. Most of this can only be picked up by a call for special pickup. Much of the trash will be taken to the Landfill complex in Lorton or the I-66 Transfer station in Fairfax. Mattresses, ceramic sinks, bathtubs, commodes, water tanks installed by a licensed plumber, etc., can also be taken by the homeowner to these locations. Leaf pickup is over for this year. Remaining leaves must be put in cans or bags, or composted.

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**THE GREEN SCENE**

*by Broyhill Park resident Tom Busiahn*

All households in Broyhill Park have something in common: a piece of land that they control. Typically 1/4 to 1/2 acre in size, our lots are greened by lawn, shrubs, flowers and trees, except where covered by hardscape (sidewalks, driveways, and buildings). Our land ties us together and also connects us to the larger Chesapeake Bay ecosystem through runoff that flows down the Holmes Run watershed to the Potomac River. Rambling around the neighborhood, I see that residents use and enjoy their land in many different ways. Maybe you’re just happy for some space between you and the neighbors. Maybe you pay someone to maintain your landscape and just want to relax on your patio after a day at work. Or maybe you’re interested in gardening or attracting wildlife, but don’t know where to begin. Our neighborhood has a lot of untapped potential for beauty, productivity, and ecological health. Start by asking questions about your lawn. Lawns take a lot of time and money to seed, fertilize, water and mow. Could that effort be put toward wildlife habitat or a vegetable garden? On our half-acre, we’ve reduced the lawn by half over the years, replacing it with trees, shrubs, and perennial flowers and emphasizing species that are native to the area. We grow vegetables and herbs in about 200 square feet of raised beds in the front yard where the sun shines. The rear yard is covered in large trees, where we’ve nurtured a beautiful and peaceful woodland garden. All organic material is kept on site to decompose in the compost pile or on the forest floor. Everyone has their own ideas of how to maintain their yard, but if you’re interested in enhancing your landscape, help is available. Visit Green Spring Gardens in Annandale (free) or Meadowlark Gardens in Vienna (has an admission charge) to get inspiration. The Virginia Native Plant Society ([vnps.org](http://vnps.org)) has guidebooks and other resources. Or just visit that neighbor with the green thumb!

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scout out homes anymore. The age of social media has introduced "checking-in" from one's location. While many check-in to show their friends where they are, what they're doing, and who they're with, they may not realize that posting in real time can tipoff criminals that your home is empty. Practice these healthy tips to keep our neighborhood and your home safe:

- *Keep quiet about upcoming trips*
- *Don't share information about your routine*
- *Turn social media location features off*

GPS-enabled smartphones make it easy to get directions to that new restaurant and find an alternate route around a traffic jam. They may also reveal your location when you post to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. Some social media services let you turn off the location function in your account, but your personal information will be much more secure if you set strong passwords and turn off the phone's geotag function.

The Privacy Rights Clearinghouse has more information about smartphone privacy and geotagging: *Depending on the settings, your smartphone may be using its built-in GPS capability to embed your exact location into the file of photos you take using the smartphone's camera. The process of embedding location information into photos is called geotagging. If you share your photos and they end up on the Internet, criminals can use the geotag to track your movements or find out where you live.*

Social media, smartphones, sharing apps, all those are features of modern life that help us stay connected with work and family. Remember that your online profile isn't just limited to people you know and trust. Pay attention to the information you're sharing and how it could be used.

Lastly, forgetting to lock your door is an oversight we've all made at one point in our life, but the majority of neighbors make sure to turn the key when they leave. It's a good thing they do – locked doors and a doorbell camera (and a dog) can deter a burglar looking for an easy-to-access home. ☺

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*No Mess is Too Big to Handle*

Swim Team  
Dive Team  
Tot playground  
Summer fun



Lounge chairs  
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Party pavilion  
Social events

[www.woodleypool.org](http://www.woodleypool.org)

**Join Woodley Pool this summer!** Woodley Pool is a private swim club with fixed-price membership rates for families, couples, singles, and seniors. Woodley has a full-size outdoor swimming pool, diving boards, spacious baby pool, and plenty of room to swim and play at our 4-acre facility. Membership for the summer pool season is now open. Earlybird rate in effect until April 30. Don't miss out – Join Woodley now!

\\ \ Beat the summer heat and stay cool at Woodley Pool !!!

### MORE BROYHILL PARK NEWS

by Jennifer Abdelmalek, Vice President

**Working together to keep our streets safe.** There has been some unwelcome excitement in the neighborhood lately. There was an attempted break-in on Norfolk Lane the week of February 6. As of this writing, they have not caught the person. The family is OK and no one was harmed, but the suspect was clearly seen on their camera trying to enter their home in the middle of the night. This did not seem like the typical teenagers we see on our cameras checking to see if our car doors are open.

Social media is not your friend! Times have changed. Criminals don't need to lurk in bushes or idled cars to

### ✂ BROYHILL PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION DUES

All residents are asked to pay \$10 annual dues, which are used to fund Civic Association activities and events. Mail check or cash to Dues Coordinator, 7317 Camp Alger Avenue, Broyhill Park, or bring dues payment to the next Civic Association meeting. Make checks payable to Broyhill Park Civic Association.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

DUES PAYMENT \$10  Addt'l. Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_