



Neighborhood News March 2010

President's Pen

Hello Long Branch Neighbors! After a very snowy winter, spring has sprung and change is in the air. We begin to see the neighborhood fill with gardeners and walkers. Before we know it, the neighborhood pool will open.

We also have changes in our neighborhood board. I would like to thank **Sharon Hrynkow** for serving as our Neighborhood Watch Coordinator and **Mark Wiggins** for serving as our Long Branch Civic Association President. We appreciate their years of contributions to our neighborhood and their support for our neighbors. To that end, Megan Davenhall and I will assume their respective roles and our contact information can be found at the end of this news letter.

There are opportunities for all who would like to become more involved in our great neighborhood, including becoming a street representative or an officer. Those of us on the board have several meetings throughout the year at one of our homes and schedule neighborhood meetings at our local school. There are also opportunities to assist with neighborhood beautification, coordinating social events, and writing articles of interest for our newsletter.

You will notice we welcome articles from all ages, including our younger neighbors – A big Thank You to 6th Grader Julia Malico! Thank you for all you do to help make Long Branch a great neighborhood.

Karla Gill, President
(703) 764-4919



Holiday Luminary—Many Thanks

Despite our best efforts - Mother Nature won and our holiday luminary was not held this year. Regardless we still need to give a big thanks to **Don Saunders of Saunders Landscaping** who once again picked up and delivered the stones without charging us for his time or gas. We also need to thank **Trader Joe's** for donating the bags to be used. All of the supplies (except the rocks) have been stored and are just waiting for next year!!

We also would like to give a huge thanks to **the Roberts, the Fruchtermans, the Sitrins, Ben Swack, Jacob Nelson, Sarah Brennan and the Santaniellos** (who don't even live in Long Branch) for all the hard work they did before the December snow storm to get the luminaries ready to be distributed.

Thank you all!



Blizzard of 2010...One for the Record Books

Although the snow has finally melted away, the Blizzard of 2010 was another one for the record books. It left our neighborhood with literally tons of snow to shovel and streets to plow. Through the double-whammy blizzards, our neighborhood came together and made it through.

Many thanks to all of our residents who own snow blowers and graciously helped clear the snow from their neighbor's driveways and sidewalks. Your generosity was deeply appreciated by all the community members who benefitted from the snow blowers.

A HUGE thank you to everyone for clearing the sidewalks again and again. Many of us experienced the frustration of the clearing the sidewalks to only get dumped on by the plows and front-end loaders. As frustrating as it was, our Long Branch community realized the importance of clearing the sidewalks to provide a safe route for our children on the way to school and at the bus stops. The sidewalks also provide a safe passageway for our residents to walk and run through our neighborhood.

Thank you also to **John C. Cook**, our Braddock Road Supervisor, for his constant communication with our community and tireless work to get our streets plowed as soon as possible. He personally drove through our neighborhood to assess the need for snow clearing.

In my last email to the community regarding snow clearing, I petitioned for individuals that went above and beyond in their civic responsibility. I apologize for all the many Long Branch residents who were out there roaming the neighborhood streets, shovels

in hand who will remain anonymous. The following individuals and families were signaled out by their neighbors for providing extra help to get our community back in order as well as clearing the bus stops to get school back open in a safe manner.

- Thanks to **Megan and Jon Davenhall** for clearing the Bramble bus stop.
- In the Colt Lane area, particular thanks for shoveling, snow-blowing and even pick-axing through the snow and ice should go to **Todd, Judi, Zach and William Deatherage; Meghan and Drew Bondy; David, Claire and Will Everett; Richard Owens; Bill, Caroline and Will Cosby, and Jackie, Paul, Ryan and Jack Lluy.**
- **Marcy Alvo** and her Windflower neighbors would like to thank **Delegate Watts'** office for responding so quickly and emphatically to their unplowed street. After Marcy called Delegate Watts' office, the next day Windflower was plowed three times.



Volunteers Needed

Do you want to get more involved with your community? We need you! There are multiple positions available for those who want to join the Long Branch Board. Some of the officers have been serving for several years and are ready to turn over the reins. If you don't have a lot of time to invest but are interested in getting involved, there's willingness for sharing a position.



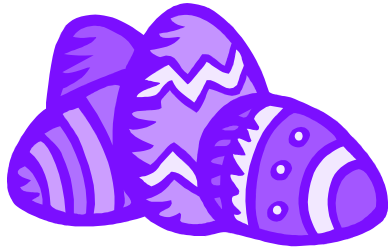
Watch Neighborhood Watch News

We would like to give a HUGE thank-you to **Sharon Hrynkow** for her many years of service to our Long Branch Community as the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator. We all appreciate her hard work to help keep our neighborhood one of the safest neighborhoods in all of Fairfax County. Thank you!

Welcome Megan Davenhall, our new Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

We are pleased to announce that **Megan Davenhall** will take on the role as Neighborhood Watch Coordinator. She has great ideas on how the Watch can be improved, and will be a welcomed addition to the Long Branch community service team! She and Sharon Hrynkow, our outgoing Coordinator, will transition over the

coming couple of weeks. Megan can be reached at megdavenhall@aol.com. Welcome, Megan!!



Join us for the Annual Long Branch Easter Egg Hunt!

When: Sunday, April 4th at 3:00 p.m.

Where: Long Branch Pool (grassy area by the tennis courts)

What to bring: A Basket and a Treat to Share! (Cookies, Fruit, Chips, Drinks, etc...)

Volunteers needed to help fill Easter Eggs! Please come to 9123 Bramble Place Saturday April 3rd at 3:00 p.m.

Older kids (and grown-ups too!) are needed to help hide the eggs in the grass/woods by the pool at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 4.

Questions? Call Megan Davenhall: 978-0432
Raindate: Saturday April 10th, 3:00 p.m.



Long Branch Swim and Racquet Club

If you are new to the neighborhood and would like to join the Long Branch Swim and Racquet Club please visit our website at www.longbranchpool.com for a membership application or contact us at LBSRmembership@gmail.com

LOOKING FOR LIFEGUARDS: If you're interested in being a lifeguard for the 2010 season, please leave a message on the pool telephone at: **703-764-2744**.

Swim Team Registration

We will have registration on **May 1st** and **May 8th** from 12-2 at **9113 Cascus Drive**. Mid-April there will be an e-mail sent with the application attached as well as swim suit information. Stay tuned. If you have any questions, please email: dolphinteamrep@verizon.net



Beanies for Baghdad by Julia Malico, 6th Grader at Canterbury Woods Elementary School

Do your kids have unwanted stuffed animals in their rooms? Are they untouched, just lying in a drawer, perched on a shelf or stuffed in the back of a closet?

Well, I found out about this special program where you can donate “beanie babies” and other stuffed animals that are in good condition for a worthy cause called “Beanies for Baghdad.” U.S. soldiers distribute the donations to young children, most of whom live in extreme poverty, have suffered during the wars, and have little happiness in their lives. According to the organization’s Web site, “Beanies for Baghdad is a bridge between our soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, the children of Iraq, Kosovo and Afghanistan, and very generous and kind-hearted people back home who want to do a small part to make the world a better place.”

What do you have to do to participate? All you have to do is gather up all the stuffed animals, box them up, ship them, and you’ve brightened the heart of a young one overseas.

If you would like to help, please send an e-mail to Donna Ward, the coordinator of Beanies for Baghdad, at: info@beaniesforbaghdad.com . Just let her know how many stuffed animals you have to send. She will determine where the toys are most needed and will send you the address of a serviceperson overseas. The addresses are APOs and postage is reasonable. Make sure to request a receipt as your contribution is tax deductible.

Please take part in this great activity.

Remember, to participate, contact Beanies for Baghdad at info@beaniesforbaghdad.com. If you would like to read more about the program, go to this link: <http://www.beaniesforbaghdad.com/>

Julia Malico

6th-grader, Canterbury Woods Elementary School

Read what Major Allen Thiessen said about Beanies for Baghdad:

I am the Team Chief for a Military Transition Team currently in Iraq and we have been honored to have received Donna's assistance through the "Beanies for Baghdad" organization. The smiles that radiate from these children as they receive the toys, candy, and school supplies through this program are something that I will never forget. It reminds me and my men why we are here.

It also provides these children, who have lived with nothing but war throughout their young lives, something to remind them that regardless of the chaos around them, there are people thousands of miles away who care about them. ...

Respectfully,
Allen



Fire Safety in Your Home by Julia Malico, 6th Grader at Canterbury Woods Elementary School

Do you know how to stay safe in a fire? Do you know how to escape from a fire? Do you have a meeting place in case of a fire? If you answered **no** to any of these, your family is in danger.



If you have a smoke alarm, you've taken a very important step to stay safe if a fire occurs. It is very important that you test the batteries every month and change them every year. You should have a smoke alarm in your kitchen, each level of your home, and near sleeping areas, and if you sleep with the door closed, make sure you have one in that room. Having a smoke alarm saves lives, and reduces the risk of dying by nearly fifty percent.

Do you have an escape plan? If you do, you have taken another important step to stay safer if a fire were to occur in your home. If you don't, in case of a fire, you will not efficiently know where to go, what to do, and how to survive.



Maybe you have a big rock in your yard. Maybe across the street there's a basketball hoop. These are perfect examples of family meeting places. By having a meeting place, you will know where your family is. Therefore firefighters know immediately who is missing. If someone is missing, **NEVER** go back inside to look for them. Let a firefighter know, they have the equipment, training, and experience to do this dangerous job.

Yes, we all know that the weather is cold, and nobody likes shivering. If you have portable heaters, it is very important that you unplug them when they are not being used. But when they are being used, make sure that things that are flammable stay three feet away from them.

Do your children know what to do during a fire? Practice fire escape plans several times a year and at different times of the day, because you never know when a fire is coming. Also, practice 'Stop, Drop, and Roll' in case you catch on fire, and, make sure you know how to crawl low under smoke.

Fires kill more Americans each year than all natural disasters combined. The American Red Cross responds to more than 70,000 disasters across the U.S. every year and at least 90 percent of these are fire related. Seventy-four percent of home fire deaths occurred in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. Only 26 percent of families have an escape plan. Children under five and adults over 65 are more than twice as likely to die in a home fire than the rest of the U.S. population. Cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries. Two out of three cooking fires start with the range or stove. Smoking is the leading cause of home fire deaths. Each year more than 200 people die from carbon monoxide produced by fuel-burning appliances in the home including furnaces, ranges, water heaters and room heaters.

So remember to keep these things in mind to keep your family safe.

Julia Malico

6th-grader, Canterbury Woods



Dog Walking Etiquette

There have been several complaints recently by Long Branch residents who are frustrated with cleaning up after neighborhood dogs who have done their business on their lawns. Some residents are upset at dogs coming far into their property to do their business. Many of these homeowners do not even own dogs themselves. Also, our children at the bus stops have to dodge these little packages while they wait and play at the bus stops.

When walking your pet in our neighborhood, it is not courteous to allow your dog to walk on people's front lawns, or urinate on their mail boxes or landscaping. Instead, a more appropriate way to handle your pet is to walk him in the street or on the sidewalk and keep him/her to the strip of grass that's between the sidewalk and street and steer clear of people's plantings and posts.

Legally, a homeowner has the right to insist that you, and your dog, stay off the property. In the spirit of good neighbor relations, respect those wishes. Even though most homeowners are tolerable of the occasional stop-by, good dog walking manners still need to be practiced. Do not let your dog reach beyond a two feet perimeter from the road or sidewalk. (Source:

http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/2421352/5_tips_to_better_dog_walking_etiquette_pg2.html?cat=53)

Please keep in mind that cleaning up after your dog is not only good manners, it is the eco-friendly thing to do. Pet waste left on the grass or in the woods makes its way to storm drains every time it rains. Storm drains lead to lakes or streams that ultimately lead to the Occoquan Reservoir and the Potomac Rivers, our drinking water supply. Pet waste may carry disease-causing organisms, which make water unsafe for swimming and more costly to treat for drinking.

It is also the law. Pet owners who violate the County's pooper scooper law may incur a fine up to \$250.



Walking/Running Safety At Night

One of our community members has noticed the many people out for an evening walk or run. It's great to get out there and get your exercise but please consider your safety when walking or running after dark. Although our neighborhood has street lights, when you are in dark clothing, you are virtually invisible to vehicle traffic. Our community member has suggested the use of reflective vests or other reflective clothing. Also, carrying a flash light will help alert traffic to your presence. Luckily, daylight savings time is around the corner so we'll all be enjoying extra daylight in the evening. But, if you are out after dark, please take precautions to ensure your personal safety.



Batteries...To Recycle Or Not?

All those electronics and battery operated toys both young and old received for Christmas are probably starting to wear through their first (or second round) of batteries. But, what should you do with those batteries after they are worn out? Should they be recycled or just simply thrown in the trash?

Alkaline batteries may be disposed of safely in your household trash. This is because today's alkaline batteries have been re-engineered and reformulated to a very low toxicity. Please **DO NOT** bring alkaline batteries to the Fairfax County Household Hazardous Waste Facilities

Rechargeable batteries should be recycled. If you can recharge it - you can recycle it!

Rechargeable batteries are commonly found in cordless power tools, cellular and cordless phones, laptop computers, digital cameras, two-way radios, camcorders, and remote control toys. Labeled "rechargeable," the size can be AA, AAA, 9v, D, C or be specially designed for a particular device. The chemistry of the battery, which is usually listed on the cover, may be Nickel Cadmium (Ni-Cd), Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni-MH), Lithium Ion (Li-ion), Nickel Zinc (Ni-Zn), or Lead (Pb).

The following retailers generally have a rechargeable and cell phone battery recycling program but you should call before to verify.

- Best Buy
- K-Mart
- Home Depot
- Verizon Wireless
- Radio Shack
- Target
- Wal-Mart
- Apple Retail Store

You can also recycle your rechargeable batteries at the Solid Waste Management Program, Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 458.

Button batteries are the small, round "button-cell" type batteries are found in items such as watches, hearing aids and some cameras.

How to manage: Residents may take their button batteries to the Household Hazardous Waste Facilities at the I-66 Transfer Station Complex or the I-95 Landfill Complex during household hazardous waste program hours.

Lead Acid (Automotive) batteries are used to power cars, light trucks, all-terrain vehicles and motorcycles.

How to manage: Lead acid batteries are not household hazardous waste; however, federal and state laws require that they be properly recycled. When transporting them, please beware of leaks and keep upright. Many service stations or retailers will take back your used lead acid battery when purchasing a new one. You may also bring used lead acid batteries to the Recycling and Disposal Facility at the I-66 Transfer Station Complex or the I-95 Landfill Complex during normal operating hours.

Broken Water and Sewer Lines Poll

In the last newsletter we asked to see how many people have recently experienced a water or sewer line break. We did not receive a great number of responses but several community members emailed and said their lines have broken over the last few years. As our subdivision ages, these breakages are to be expected so be prepared. The community members who did respond had an average cost of **\$2,500** to repair the line.

Have A Good Contractor...Please Recommend

Do you have a fabulous contractor that has done work on your house? Have you recently had work completed on your house or property that was impeccable? We are working on compiling a list of recommended contractors and professional services for our Web site.

Useful Numbers

If you notice burned out street lights, please call Virginia Power at 703 359 3300.

To report downed or damaged street signs, call Fairfax County office at 703-934-2840.

Any inquiries related to the VDOT, including maintenance issues, snow removal and signal problems, can be called in 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at (703) 383-VDOT (8368) or e-mail concerns to NOVAinfo@VDOT.Virginia.gov. This system allows VDOT to track issues more effectively and to maintain a more complete database of issues for funding purposes.

Long Branch Officers

President	Karla Gill (703) 764-4919
Vice President/Social	vacant
Secretary/Treasurer	Michele Johnson maejohnson@deloitte.com
Membership and Welcoming	vacant
Newsletter	Susan Betts susan@itprojectmanagers.com
Web site	Melinda Malico m.malico@verizon.net and Steve Alvo
Neighborhood Watch	Megan Davenhall megdavenhall@aol.com
Database and Directory	Glenn Betts glenn@itprojectmanagers.com

There are multiple positions available for those who want to join the board. Some of the officers have been serving for a number of years. If there's interest, there's willingness for multiple positions to swap/step down, etc.

Street Representatives

Alyssum9218 Joe Fidd703-323-7841
Bradfield & Burnetta9201 Katzer703-978-2352

Bramble9106 Heather Hartung703-978-1524
 Cascus.....9113 Emily Wiggins .703-978-1355
 Claytonia9206 Elliott.....703-978-2654
 Colt9117 Jodi Kalantgis..703-764-9669
 Gloxinia.....4910 MaryEllen Slattery703-425-0671
King David (4900–5002)vacant
 King David (5003–5015)4923. Laurie Siegal....703-503-0057.
 King David (5017–5031)5024 Kathy Moore ..703-764-9485
 King David (5032–5126)5124 Linda Leonard.703-503-8441
 King Solomon (4800–4816)...4815 Bruce703-323-9211
 King Solomon (4817–4838)...4821 Rabadan703-425-8927
 King Solomon (4900–4920)...4918 Burns703-503-5756
 King Solomon (4921–5008)...4923 Siegal.....
 Loosestrife4910 Letellier703-425-0664
 Meadow Rue.....9111 Herrick703-978-4004
 Mignonette5002 Banks703-764-0548
 Sabra/ Windflower (9100–9123).....703-978-1182
 Windflower (9000–9026).....9009 Alvo.....703-323-5336
 Steeplebush.....9112 Maritza Taylor .703-503-0438
 Tabard (4800–4817)4803 Lisa Spero.....703-426-5590
Tabard (4819–4838) Vacant

We have two vacant Street Representatives positions. If you are interested in becoming a street representative, please email me at susan@itprojectmanagers.com.

Stay Informed!

Don't forget to check the Long Branch Web site at www.longbranchcommunity.net for updates and all our community information! And don't forget to give us information for the Web site!



Long Branch Community

Welcome to Long Branch Community

[1 Long Branch Home For Sale](#)

[Long Branch Swim & Racquet Club](#) [Neighborhood Newsletter](#)

[Long Branch Swim and Racquet Website](#) [Neighborhood Watch](#)

[Swim Team](#) [Pets](#)

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khi dao (4th degree), Aki Jujitsu
(3rd degree), Former Muay Thai
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Deadlines for Submissions

Please send any newsletter submissions to susan@itprojectmanagers.com in Word or PowerPoint (not PDF files) by the deadline below.

Publication Date	Article Submission Deadline	Classified Submission Deadline
May 2010	April 30	April 30