

# BELLE HAVEN CITIZEN'S ASSOCIATION

## FALL NEWSLETTER

DEVOTED TO MAKING YOUR COMMUNITY A BETTER PLACE IN WHICH TO LIVE



November 2008

## Halloween Evening Big Success

More than a hundred kids and their parents turned out for the 2008 Halloween Parade, sponsored by the Belle Haven Women's Club (BHWC).

The Fairfax County Firefighters from Penn Daw Station graciously offered their trucks to lead the parade.

Good neighbor Johnny Voorhees continued his fine pumpkin carving tradition by adding an outdoor fireplace to the ambiance greeting our scary trick or treaters, and several folks hosted spooky after-parties that went well into the night. (Happily, there were no major incidents to report that night on the crime front.)

Our thanks to all those volunteers who assisted with setup and cleanup!

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**Sarah Palin makes an appearance...**



**Readying for the tricks and treats!**



**Super women!**

## Lt. Frank Stecco Remembered for his Service to Community

Fairfax County Police Lieutenant Frank Stecco died last month during a training mission. Divers located Lt. Stecco on Saturday, October 25. He was found in Pohick Bay approximately 100 feet from the point at which he was reportedly last seen. Boats, dogs and divers were actively searching when the discovery was made.

The Police Department announced that a memorial fund has been established at the Fairfax County Federal Credit Union in his memory. Anyone wishing to donate may do so at any branch of the Fairfax County Federal Credit Union or send to:

Fairfax County Federal Credit Union  
Frank J. Stecco Memorial Fund  
P.O. Box 1300, Fairfax, VA 22038-1300

Colonel David Rohrer, Chief of the Fairfax County Police Department, confirmed the recovery saying, "My heart goes out to Frank's family; my heart goes out to his police family; and my heart goes out to the community Frank worked in and loved."

Lt. Stecco was a volunteer role player in a police helicopter water rescue exercise at Pohick Bay Regional Park when he disappeared in the bay at 2:47 p.m. on October 21, 2008. Extensive air, ground and water search and rescue efforts began immediately and continued through the recovery today. Federal, state, and regional public safety and military agencies helped sustain the search, contributing sophisticated detection equipment, expertise, boats, helicopters, specially trained dogs and supplies.

Lt. Stecco joined the Fairfax County Police Department in 1989 and served 11 of his 19 years assigned to the Mount Vernon District station. His bold, proactive style of policing earned the respect



*Lt. Stecco's badge number.*

and admiration of his peers and supervisors and helped distinguish him as a courageous and selfless officer. He was awarded a Silver Medal of Valor in 1994, a Bronze Medal of Valor in 1997, and a Certificate of Valor in 2000 by the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce for acts of bravery above and beyond the call of duty.

Fueled by his passion and dedication for serving the children and teenagers of the county, Lt. Stecco opted to leave the Mount Vernon district and join the Department's Youth Services Division just one month prior to his untimely death.

He leaves behind his wife, their three children, and his mother.



*Fairfax County motorcycle police officers in procession.*

## BELLE HAVEN WOMEN'S CLUB HOLIDAY PARTY



December 13, 2008  
6:30 p.m.

At the home of Julie and Ed Dyson  
1908 Belle Haven Road

## President's Letter to the Neighborhood

Dear Belle Haven Friends and Neighbors:

I wanted to thank you for the opportunity to serve as President of the Belle Haven Citizen's Association for this coming year. I am excited over the prospects of working to continue the traditions of our neighborhood and meet the goals and objectives we outlined in the annual dinner held in September.

We have a number of events coming up in the next few weeks including Santa at the Circle and the Belle Haven Women's Club Holiday Party. I hope to see you there. Additionally, for Thanksgiving and Christmas, we will be providing honey baked hams to the great men and women of the Fairfax County Police and Fire, who serve our region so ably.

I would be remiss if I didn't express a few gentle reminders:

- The holiday season is fast approaching, which means more kids will be running the neighborhood with school out. Please drive carefully.
- Busses and county vehicles (like garbage trucks) are having a difficult time navigating some of our streets. For those of you who live on narrow streets, please try to park on only one side making it easier for these vehicles to pass.
- Snow may soon be approaching; remember to call VDOT with any clearing concerns - 703-383-8368.

Best regards for the holiday season,

Larry Stack

## Belle Haven trees and their care – key to our neighborhood

One of the most distinctive features of our neighborhood is the plethora of trees that line our streets and shade our yards. At times, however, these trees can be a mixed blessing; particularly when fierce thunderstorms pound our area, knocking down beloved trees, and sometimes causing major power outages and damage to property.

Normally, we can minimize falling tree damage by proactively having trees checked, and by cutting down trees that are dead or diseased. However, Horticulturist Jeff Minnich (<http://www.minnichgardendesign.com/>) tells us that during periods of excessive rain, the roots of large oak tree loosen, move to the surface, and begin to lose their foundational stability, causing top-heavy oaks to tumble.

*“The condition of your trees can have a significant affect on the value and safety of your property.”*

In order to prevent our beautiful trees from suffering an early demise we have listed below a list of things you can do to keep the trees healthy and prolong the life of these dear friends:

- Cut off all dead branches and limbs, otherwise disease can spread and cause the rest of the tree to become diseased and die. If a tree is dead or leaning precariously,

consult an arborist right away to have it removed.

- Don't overwater. Oak trees need only an inch of water per week and we should not over water the tree areas. If you have a sprinkler system, do not soak the tree with water each day. The most effective way to measure water is with a rain gauge and as stated earlier, the Oak trees should receive no more than 1 inch of water per week.

- Check and prune trees on a regular basis to ensure that the canopy of the tree is cleared of dead wood and that air can flow through the tree to minimize it from becoming top heavy and toppling over.

- Consult with an arborist every two years. The condition of your trees can have a significant affect on the value and safety of your property, and cause injury or property damage to you and your neighbors. For more information about tree care and how to find a certified arborist, visit the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture (MAC-ISA) at [www.goodtreecare.com](http://www.goodtreecare.com).

As for property damage caused by falling trees, we urge you to know your rights and understand the provisions of your homeowner's insurance policy for reporting damage and repairing your property. All insurance companies have different approaches and deductibles, so you may want to contact your insurance company to ensure you have the coverage that is right for you. Helpful website links from Fairfax County follow.

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/environmental/trees.htm>

This is a snapshot taken from the website last month. Please feel free to visit it for the latest information at [www.bellehaven.org](http://www.bellehaven.org). Thanks!



## Belle Haven Citizens Association

Latest news *(updated Nov 4)*

- Home
- Board members
- Useful Phone Numbers
- Security
- Transportation
- Consumer affairs
- Fairfax newsfeeds

### Donations in Memory of Second Lieutenant Frank Stecco

The Fairfax County Police Department announces that a memorial fund has been established at the Fairfax County Federal Credit Union in memory of 2Lt. Frank Stecco, who passed away during a training exercise at Pohick Bay Regional Park. Anyone wishing to donate may do so at any branch of the Fairfax County Federal Credit Union or send to:

Fairfax County Federal Credit Union  
 Frank J. Stecco Memorial Fund  
 P.O. Box 1300  
 Fairfax, VA 22038-1300

Messages of condolence may be sent to [FCPD-2252@FairfaxCounty.gov](mailto:FCPD-2252@FairfaxCounty.gov) or mailed to: Mount Vernon District Police Station, 2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306

### Nightly Closures Extended to November 11

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the nightly closures of Eisenhower Connector and Cleremont Drive to all motor vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. are being extended to Nov. 11.

### Dates to Remember

**BHCA Board Meeting**  
 November 13 @ 8:00 p.m.

**Thanksgiving**  
 November 27

**Belle Haven Holiday Party**  
 December 13  
 6:30 p.m.

**Board Members**

Larry Stack, President  
Chip Ambrose , Vice President  
Camp Kaufman, Secretary/Treasurer

Bobby Avary  
Frank Chrzanowski  
Heather Cox  
Caulley Deringer, Past President  
Mary Elizabeth Duke  
Marybeth Dyson  
Kate Goelz  
Rick Murphy  
Ellen Walter

[bellehaven@bellhaven.org](mailto:bellehaven@bellhaven.org)

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*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

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

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**Belle Haven Women's Club to Rewrite Cookbook**

Planning is under way for the second edition of the much sought after BHWC Cookbook. Publication is targeted for mid to late 2009. Everyone should start thinking about what recipes they may want to offer. You will be able to submit recipes online soon, and forms will also be mailed out. Questions? Contact cookbook chair Betsy Micklem or any of the subcommittee chairs below.

- Appetizers: Bethann Horey
- Salads: Kate Goelz
- Meat and Poultry: Kim Gallagher
- Seafood: Emily Goetzman
- Pasta: Vicki Coward
- Vegetables: Bettye Goode
- Deserts: Carol Ambrose
- Soups: Lucy Lamb
- Brunch: Susan Neithamer
- Photography: Susan Neithamer, Kara Crosby
- Editing, Proofing: Barbara Quarmby
- Collection Form: Vicki Coward, Emily Jones

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