

# BELLE HAVEN CITIZEN'S ASSOCIATION

## WINTER 2010 NEWSLETTER

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



### Snow Storms Stop Streets

As everyone is well aware, the snow has piled up like the area hasn't seen in years. Our streets will likely remain one-lane for a few weeks given the sheer quantity of the snow. VDOT and Fairfax County will continue to shovel and sand as warranted, but please be patient. There are many neighborhoods much worse off than we are.

Also, please be mindful of parking on one side of the street so BUSES and EMERGENCY VEHICLES can pass.

As you continue to dig out, be considerate of your neighbors in terms of where you throw the snow. Also, as you are dealing with your bushes, shrubs and trees, the following are some helpful hints.

If you can do it safely, remove remaining snow that is weighing down branches. Snow can cause more damage as it melts and gets heavier.

#### FOR NEWER PLANTS

If arborvitaes, skip laurels, or other upright shrubs have peeled apart like bananas, gently bring the stems together near the top and loosely tie them together with ArborTie, Chainlock, or Tie Wrap. The stems should firm up as the plants grow. If stems have not bent too badly, they may perk up on their own as soon as we get a few warm sunny days.

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If round or spreading shrubs have splayed out, they can also be tied together by gently wrapping ArborTie, Chainlock, or Tie Wrap around the outside of the plant then tucking it into the foliage a bit so that it does not show. Again, if stems have not bent too badly, they may perk up on their own as soon as we get a few warm sunny days.

If the plant was planted within the last year or two and has come completely out of the

Please see *Landscape* on page 2



**Winning snow man entry with 29 percent of the vote in our online poll – Congrats to Noora, Sami, and Nasim Al-Saadawi**

## Santa @ The Circle



Even the ladies can sit on Santa's lap!

### *Landscape (cont'd)*

ground, it can probably be replanted. You should do this as soon as possible, taking care not to work the soil too hard while it is wet.

If branches have broken completely, they should be pruned off where they attach to the larger branch. If major branches or trunks have split, it may be possible to bolt them together.

### FOR ESTABLISHED AND MATURE PLANTS

Upright shrubs that have peeled apart may be able to be tied together with ArborTie. You may need to tie them in a couple of places instead of just the top. The ties may need to remain on the plant indefinitely, renewing them every year or two, to hold branches in place.

If an upright tree is bent over but the trunk is not broken, its shape probably can be restored by staking through the next growing season.

If a mature tree – particularly Leyland cypress, pine, or holly – is lying completely on the ground, it is likely that its rootball is damaged or its trunk has snapped. In this case, it cannot be replanted or staked.

Broken branches that are still hanging on large trees and shrubs need to be removed and pruned back to the next largest branch or trunk.

### *Useful Phone Numbers*

Fairfax Police (703) 691-2131

Fairfax Fire & Rescue (703) 246-2126

Dominion Power (888) 667-3000

Cox Cable (703) 8411

Verizon (703) 954-6222

## Puppy Poop Patrol – Yuck!

Following the December snow, we received the following email:

“Took my dog out for a walk this afternoon and couldn't believe all the excrement on our elderly neighbor's curb. There were 23 separate incidences of dog feces on her property between the street and the fenced yard. Yes, I did pick them all up. “

And another email just this week: “A neighbor watched another neighbor out walking her dog; she stopped on the snow-covered curb to let the dog do its business. When the dog owner bent down to address the pile, I thought she was picking up her dog's excreta in a neighborly fashion. Instead, she just grabbed a couple of handfuls of snow to quickly cover the dog's leavings (a gift that will give again after the thaw).



This morning, my kids and I avoided a fresh mess in the middle of the street as we left the house. It had already been smashed and spread by a passing car. Fetid, rude, unsanitary and irresponsible. I know the BHCA has been consistent in its messages over the years on this topic, but folks really need to pick up after their pets. Fecal matter doesn't belong on our yards, and should not be left in our streets or tossed down storm drains.”

C'mon folks! Please be mindful of your dog walking as the snow melts, cause when it does, the poop will still be there. Thanks!

## Mount Vernon @ Home Looking for Help

As you may know, Mount Vernon at Home is a nonprofit membership organization designed to provide residents of the Mount Vernon area with the services and support to remain in their own homes and continue to participate in neighborhood and community life. Many folks in Belle Haven have made financial contributions that enabled the Mt. Vernon village to become a reality. Mt. Vernon at Home has recently acquired office space, an executive director, and a web page ([www.mtvernonathome.org](http://www.mtvernonathome.org)).

A membership drive starts officially in October, but already 30 households, including three from Belle Haven, have become charter members. The organization has a need to recruit volunteers now. Almost any skill or ability you have ranging from driving to filling out insurance forms to light handyman tasks to visiting the homebound or walking the dog will be welcomed.

Please contact Kae Wells at 703-360-6159 or if you or your teen can lend a hand.

### *Upcoming Dates*

#### February 28 – Dues Deadline

Please get your dues in, so we can continue services like security patrols and snow removal. Thanks!

#### March 13 – St. Patrick's Day Parade @ Fort Willard Circle

#### April 4 – Easter Sunday

## First Annual Fort Willard Day Celebration



The BHCA created a new tradition to celebrate the remaking of Fort Willard Circle. We had a specially catered hot dog lunch at the new Ft. Willard brick plaza for camaraderie, lunch and a few laughs. In addition to the tug of war, we had circle races for all ages.

Belle Haven Citizen's Association  
PO Box 7519  
Alexandria, VA 22307

### Board Members

Heather Cox, President  
Chip Ambrose, Vice President  
Mary Elizabeth Duke, Treasurer  
Camp Kaufman, Secretary

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Chris Crane  
Frank Chrzanowski  
Kate Goelz  
Rick Murphy  
Steve Pritsios  
Larry Stack, Past President

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

## Check out Old Town!

Nationally recognized for its early-American architecture, variety of hotels, unique boutiques, award-winning restaurants and inexpensive historic attractions, as well as quick and easy access to the many free Washington D.C. sites, Alexandria is the perfect getaway to shop, dine and celebrate. Get your "Key to the City" pass FREE when you book your getaway online. The booklet includes free admission to nine Alexandria historic sites, and over 60 special offers to attractions, shops and restaurants.

The website(s) to all of the latest and greatest activities in Old Town are below.

Historic Old Town

<http://oha.alexandriava.gov>

Alexandria Convention & Visitor's Association

<http://visitalexandriava.com>