

The Virginia Hills Echo



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December 2016

VHCA Officer Elections

Officer elections were held at the September meeting. The following people were unopposed and unanimously elected for the 2017 calendar year:

Warren Snyderhoud, president
Ralph Zecca, vice president
Robin Jones, treasurer
Juliana Sharp, secretary
Akiko Ueda-Zecca, membership director
Leah Buckley, *Echo* editor

Dorset Drive Speed Bump Update

On October 25th, Fairfax County DOT and Joan Clark from Supervisor McKay's office came to discuss with our task force and several residents of Virginia Hills the plan for a speed bump which will be located adjacent to 6514 and 6515 Dorset Dr. The owners of both of these homes had to have signatures of approval on the plan.

There are approximately 95 homes on Dorset Drive and we now have to canvas and send out ballots and letters to at least 90 of the

homes. In order for the proposal to be approved, at least half must be returned by mail to Supervisor McKay's office. Out of those that are returned, about 29 homes (60%) will have to vote yes on the proposal. The goal is to have them post-marked by February 3rd to Supervisor McKay. The task force will send the ballots on or before 1/14/17. Dorset Drive residents, please be on the look out and return your ballots promptly once you receive it!

Fairfax County's New Snow Day Camps

The Fairfax County Park Authority has launched its first Snow Day Camp program to run from November 1 until March 31. There are four locations in the County and one is at the Lee District Rec Center.

The camps will be held when schools are closed two or more days in a row, beginning on the second day of closing. Camp will be from 9 am – 5 pm for children ages 6-10, and limited to 30 children per site. The cost is \$65 per child. Space is limited and on a first come, first served basis. Once the decision is made to open the camp based on school closings, a registration link will be posted online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/snowdaycamp.htm>. Families can also sign up to receive notifications about the camps.

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Virginia Hills Citizens Association Meeting

***Tuesday, December 13th – 7:30 PM
Old Virginia Hills School, Diana Lane***

Final Paper Echo — Editor Needed!

As a reminder, this will be the final paper issue of the *Echo*! If you're not already a VHCA member, we probably don't have your email address, so make sure you get it to our membership director Akiko by emailing membership@virginiahills.org.

We are still in need of a new editor to the *Echo*. If you are interested in this job, please let us know! You will receive all the necessary training, and going digital will mean a far reduced workload from the current job!

In addition to the *Echo*, there are lots of ways to communicate with our neighbors! Many of us are on the NextDoor app. It's a free and private website where you can talk to Virginia Hills residents as well as residents of the surrounding areas. Sign up at www.nextdoor.com.

We also have a Google Group which functions as a listserv. To join, please send an email to christine.gettings@gmail.com, and she will add you to the group.

And finally, there is a Virginia Hills Facebook group. Just search for Virginia Hills Citizen Association and request to join!

Another Successful Movie Night

Thanks to all who joined us at the movie night December 2! It was a great evening of shared food and conversation with our neighbors. Thanks to Akiko for organizing another fun event!

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For yearly discount rate, see www.VirginiaHills.org/Echo.html

Virginia Hills Citizens Association Officers 2014-2016			
President	Warren Suyderhoud	240-381-8610	president@virginiahills.org
Vice President	Ralph Zecca	703-960-1911	vp@virginiahills.org
Treasurer	Robin Jones	703-960-8131	treasurer@virginiahills.org
Secretary	Juliana Sharp	703-718-0802	secretary@virginiahills.org
Membership	Akiko Zecca	703-960-1911	membership@virginiahills.org
Echo Editor	Leah Buckley	214-714-7190	echo@virginiahills.org

**Share Environmental Issues at Upcoming Public Hearing
from Chairman Bulova's office**

The Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC) will hold its annual public hearing on the environment on Wednesday, January 11, 2017 at 7:30 PM in Conference Rooms 9 and 10 of the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway. EQAC is appointed by the Board of Supervisors to advise on environmental matters. You are invited to attend EQAC's public hearing to share views on the state of the environment and to identify environmental issues applicable to Fairfax County.

Environmental issues considered by EQAC include water quality, air quality, noise, hazardous materials, solid waste, stream valley protection, wildlife management, light pollution, visual pollution, energy, climate change response and adaptation, land use, transportation and the use and preservation of ecological resources. If you can't make the meeting in person, EQAC welcomes written or recorded testimony. You can upload video testimony to YouTube, Ustream or Vimeo. Just let EQAC know ahead of time so they can present it at the public hearing.

Embark Richmond Highway Advisory Group

If you are interested in making your voice heard on the ongoing Richmond Highway improvement project, consider getting involved by attending advisory group and community meetings. The current focus of the project is the stretch of Richmond Highway from Huntington to Fort Belvoir, so Virginia Hills will be directly impacted by any decisions.

Monthly Advisory Group meetings are supplemented by community meetings held at various points throughout the process. The purpose of the community meetings is for the general public to receive information about key topics, ask questions, and provide input about the multimodal vision for the Richmond Highway Corridor.

Join the Virginia Hills Citizens Association for 2016-2017 that began on September 1st.

2016-2017 Membership

**Mail to: VHCA, P.O. Box 10837,
Alexandria, VA 22310**

I'd (We'd) like to join / renew my (our) membership in the Virginia Hills Citizens Association. Enclosed are the annual membership dues of \$7.00 per household. I am also including a contribution in the amount of

\$ _____.

Name (s) _____

Address _____

City _____

Zip Code _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Comments: _____

Checks for dues may be made payable to VHCA or the Virginia Hills Citizens Association.

All meetings are open to the general public, and citizen involvement is encouraged. The next meeting is Monday, January 23, 2017, at 7pm, South County Center, Room 221A/B, 8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA 22309 .

The agenda, meeting minutes, and materials from each meeting, as well as information on past and future meetings are available at the project's website, <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/embarkrichmondhwy/meetings.htm>.

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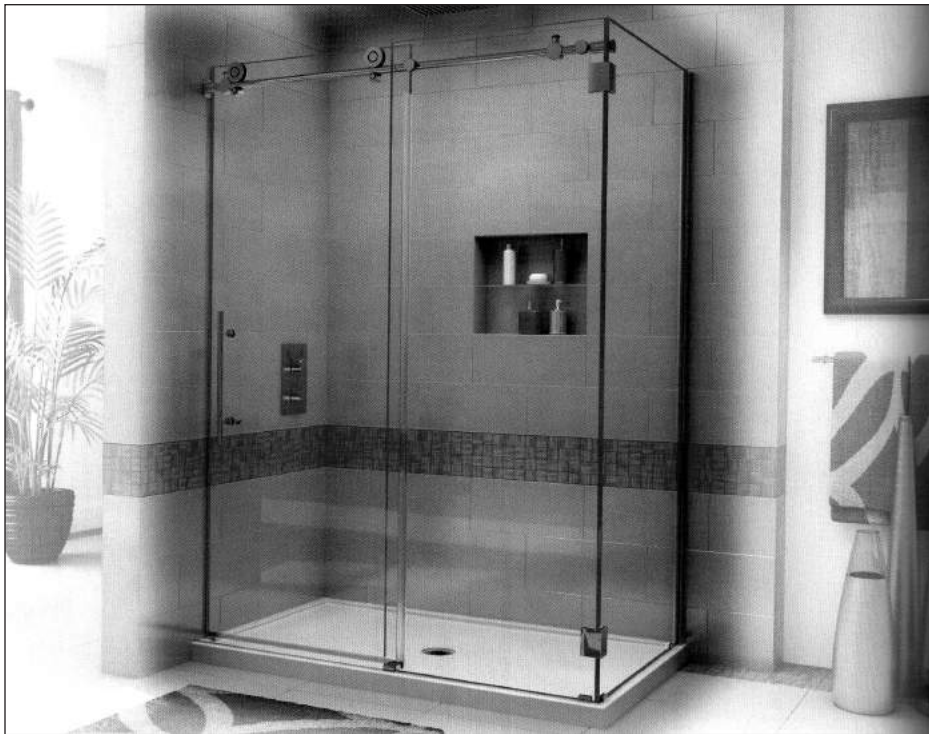
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Helping Others During the Holiday Season

The holiday season, particularly Christmas, can be especially difficult for those who don't have the means to buy gifts for their children. There are many ways to care for our neighbors in need this time of year. A few examples:

- The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department will be participating in their annual TOYS FOR TOTS Campaign. Last year, thanks to the generosity of those who live and work in Fairfax County, the Fire and Rescue Department collected over 13,000 toys. Children who are served by this campaign include toddlers and youths through age 17. Drop new and unwrapped toys off at any Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Station. Toy weapons (i.e., toy guns or knives of any kind) will not be accepted. Checks or money orders for donations must be made payable to TOYS FOR TOTS. Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Stations will accept donations through Friday, December 16, 2016.
- Food security is the #1 issue for 217,000 people who are at risk of hunger in Northern Virginia. For many individuals and families in our local area, enjoying a special holiday meal, when finances are tight, is just not possible! You can help Koinonia help a family in need enjoy their holidays by donating a Holiday Basket on Monday, December 19. Donor baskets can be dropped-off between 6:00am and 8:00am at the Franconia United Methodist Church (stage room), 6037 Franconia Rd, Alexandria, VA 22310. For more information, go to <http://www.koinoniacares.org/upcoming-events.html>



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Please Don't Feed the Deer

Many residents enjoy seeing white-tailed deer up close and may feel they are contributing to the animal's welfare by providing supplemental food. Unfortunately, feeding deer can have unintended negative consequences and often does more harm than good. Feeding deer can lead to nutritional problems, increased habitat damage where high density herds are concentrated, dangerous encounters when animals lose their natural fear of humans and feeding can facilitate the spread of diseases among wildlife that congregate in feeding areas. Not only do wildlife officials recommend against feeding deer, it is against the law to feed deer in Fairfax County for the majority of the year.

Feeding deer for any reason is illegal in the county from September 1 through the last Sunday in April. The feeding ban applies to both public lands and private properties. The feeding ban restricts the placement or distribution of any food, salt, mineral or similar substances for any purpose if the placement of these materials results in the attraction of and/or feeding of deer. This does not restrict bona fide agronomic plantings (including wildlife food plots), bona fide distribution of food to livestock or wildlife management activities conducted or authorized by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF).

If anyone sees or suspects someone of illegally feeding deer during this time period, or observes any wildlife violations, they are asked to report it to DGIF's Wildlife Crime Line at 1-

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Local Holiday Lights

Traveling around the area to see spectacular light displays is such a fun activity for families to do this month! Some great places to check out:

- Festival of Lights in Bull Run, a drive-thru experience
- Meadowlark Winter Walk of Lights in Vienna
- ZooLights at the National Zoo
- And to build your own adventure, check out www.fairfaxchristmaslights.com, which is a fantastic resource of homeowner displays!

Message from Supervisor McKay

Over the past few years there has been a growing problem with vehicles with out-of-state license plates being housed in our neighborhoods. Our County's location is a big draw from people all over the country for both temporary and permanent relocation. With a few exceptions, including active duty military families, everyone living in Fairfax County is required to register their vehicle where it is housed and pay taxes. We found that there were many new and existing residents that were not complying with this law.

In April of last year, I wrote a Board Matter that asked our legislative staff to draft corrective language for a proposed amendment to the state code to ensure that the penalty for not paying property taxes is levied each year for as long as a resident vehicle with out-of-state plates is not in compliance with Virginia registration requirements-as opposed to a one time fine.

The Board of Supervisors alongside the Police Department, Sheriff's Office, and Department of Tax Administration (DTA) is working together to enhance enforcement of these offenders. The County's newly updated and streamlined TARGET program allows residents to report potential offenders online and two-way communication to keep up to date with the status of tips. Parking enforcement officers are also cracking down on out-of-state license plates.

To date, more than 2,000 vehicles have been added to the DTA's tax records and over \$600,000 was due in October. I have confidence these figures will only grow.

Because the state severely limits how we can collect revenues, making sure everyone is operating within the law is vital. Abiding by property tax laws and registration requirements is not only mandated by state law but fair and economical, as well.

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Virginia Hills Real Estate Market

Status	Address	Orig Price	Close Price	DOM	BR	FB	HB	Tax Living Area
Act	6402 The Parkway	\$447,000		167	4	3	0	1,877
Act	6230 Virginia Hills Ave	\$425,900		55	5	2	0	988
Act	3710 Heather Ct	\$398,000		49	3	1	1	1,238
Act	3701 Heather Ct	\$749,000		40	4	4	2	4,413
Act	6327 Dorset Dr	\$429,900		28	3	2	0	988
Cnko	6107 The Parkway	\$350,000		3	2	2	0	962
Sold	6103 Pike Ct	\$315,000	\$320,000	1	3	2	0	1,277
Sold	6411 Virginia Hills Ave	\$425,000	\$420,000	33	3	2	0	1,506
Sold	4008 Ronson Dr	\$448,000	\$438,000	29	3	2	0	1,264
Sold	6402 Wilcox Ct	\$499,000	\$500,000	7	5	3	1	1,558
Sold	6306 Gentele Ct	\$429,900	\$400,000	34	3	2	0	875
Sold	6526 Virginia Hills Ave	\$290,000	\$270,000	0	3	3	0	1,683
Sold	4014 Ronson Dr	\$330,000	\$330,000	15	3	2	0	988
Sold	6502 Berkshire Dr	\$355,000	\$344,000	3	3	2	0	1,040
Sold	6210 Paulonia Rd	\$359,900	\$355,000	5	3	2	0	962



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