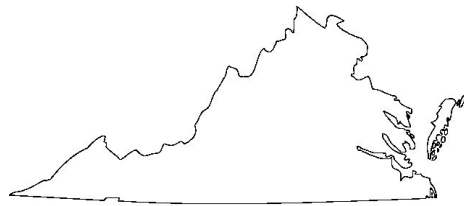


Virginia Hills

New Resident's Guide

**Produced by the Virginia Hills Citizens Association
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Welcome!

This guide was prepared by the Virginia Hills Citizens Association to help our new neighbors in Virginia Hills get to know their community. The Virginia Hills Citizens Association has been the voluntary organization representing the residents of Virginia Hills since 1952. More information on what we do and how to join the Association appears below.

Virginia Hills: Your New Neighborhood

Virginia Hills, a community of about 750 homes, is located in the eastern portion of Fairfax County, Virginia. While the mailing address is Alexandria, Virginia Hills is actually not part of the City of Alexandria. It belongs to Fairfax County's Lee District. It is bounded by the community of Wilton Woods, Telegraph Road, Lee District Park and South Kings Highway. The history of Virginia Hills begins in the 17th Century. More information about this history (and all topics covered in this guide) can be found at the Virginia Hills Citizens Association web site at www.virginiahills.org.

Virginia Hills Citizens Association

The Association is a voluntary organization of Virginia Hills residents that acts on behalf of the community. The Association maintains the lighted sign on Telegraph Road, and was key in renovating the playground at the Old School and landscaping the island at Ronson Drive and Virginia Hills Ave. Officers are elected in even-numbered years to two-year terms.

Association meetings feature guest speakers and transact community business. Before local, state, and national elections, the Association sponsors debates between the various candidates for office. Association members get discounts at participating restaurants and are permitted to vote at Association meetings. Membership is \$7 for a year.

The Association publishes a newsletter, the Echo (articles also available on the Virginia Hills web site), with news about issues that affect the neighborhood and tips on home repair and maintenance. The Echo is free to all residents and appears five times a year, in February, April, June, September, and November. Volunteers deliver the Echo. If you'd like to help, please contact the editor.

Local Government

Fairfax County is governed by an elected board of supervisors consisting of a supervisor from each district and a chairman. Virginia Hills is located in Lee District. The current Lee District Supervisor is Dana Kauffman. His office is located in the Lee District Government Center at 6121 Franconia Road. His web site is www.co.fairfax.va.us/gov/bos/ld/ld.htm. For further information on where to turn with questions or concerns, consult the Fairfax County Handbook at www.co.fairfax.va.us/handbook/main.htm or call the Office of Public Affairs at 703-324-3187 to request a copy.

Non-emergency calls to police and fire should go to

Police	Mount Vernon Station	703-691-2131
Fire	Penn Daw Company	703-765-4404
Animal Control		703-691-2131

State and federal elected officials representing Virginia Hills are listed at www.virginiahills.org/help.html.

Public Schools

Fairfax County schools have the following requirements for enrollment:

- ✓ a certified copy of the child's BIRTH CERTIFICATE
- ✓ Some form of PROOF OF ADDRESS such as a lease or deed.
- ✓ A PHYSICAL EXAMINATION, normally within 12 months of the date that the child enters the school.
- ✓ For new students, PROOF OF IMMUNIZATION against POLIO, DPT and MMR.
- ✓ Evidence of a NEGATIVE TUBERCULOSIS SKIN TEST for all students who have lived in a foreign country for five months or more during the last three years. Aliens who have lived in the U.S. continually for three years or more need only show evidence of a negative test in those last three years. If a skin test is POSITIVE for TB, further steps may be required, such as a chest X-ray.

Most local schools have staff available to answer questions, even during the

summer. Call before coming in to register to make sure you have the right documents. Fairfax County Public Schools has a school boundary locator on their web site at www.fcps.edu/boundary/ or call 703-329-9821 to find exact school enrollment information.

Student Registration, 703-876-5219, provides school enrollment help for students whose home languages are other than English (multilingual specialists are available to help families with limited English proficiency), foreign exchange students and students requiring I-20 student visas, all students whose natural parents or legally adoptive parents do not reside in Fairfax County, tuition-paying students, and students in foster care placed by other Virginia counties or by out-of-state agencies.

Elementary school students in Virginia Hills attend ROSE HILL ELEMENTARY at 6301 Rose Hill Drive next to the JOHN MARSHALL LIBRARY. Rose Hill offers a Spanish immersion program. You can contact the school directly at 703-313-4200.

A child may enter kindergarten if he/she has reached age 5 on or before September 30 of the year he or she enters.

Virginia law, Sections 22.1-254, requires that children who will reach their fifth birthday on or before September 30, 2003, must be enrolled in kindergarten for the 2003-2004 school year unless the parent or guardian notifies the school in writing that they do not wish the child to attend school until the following year.

Middle school (grades 7-8) students attend MARK TWAIN MIDDLE SCHOOL at 4700 Franconia Road. Call 703-313-3700 for enrollment information.

High school students attend EDISON HIGH which is located at 5801 Franconia Road. Call 703-924-8000 for information.

Useful links to Rose Hill Elementary, Twain Middle, and Edison High can be found at www.virginiahills.org/about.html

Application can be made to Fairfax County Public Schools for enrollment in schools outside the normal boundary or catchment area of the school. Sometimes this is done by parents entering a "lottery" and being selected from a pool of applicants. More information about Fairfax County Public Schools can be found at their web site at www.fcps.k12.va.us.

Private Schools

St. Louis Catholic School is located outside Virginia Hills at 2901 Popkins Lane, Alexandria, across Route 1. You can call 703-768-7732 or go to www.stlouisschool.org for more information.

The Montessori School of Alexandria offers preschool through middle school at two campuses located close to Virginia Hills. The main campus (or “primary campus”) is located at 6300 Florence Lane just off Telegraph Road. The elementary levels meet at the Hope United Church of Christ on Old Telegraph. Call 703-960-3498 or go to www.silinc.com/msa/main.htm for more information.

The Browne Academy is located at 5917 Telegraph Road. It offers preschool through 8th grade. Call 703-960-3000 or go to www.browneacademy.org for more information.

Pre-School and Day Care

There is a pre-school program offered at LEE DISTRICT PARK (main entrance on Telegraph Road at the intersection of Rose Hill Drive). Contact the park office at 703-922-9840 and ask for Kathy Zatt. The pre-school operates one program Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and another program on Tuesday and Thursday. Both programs are half day.

Numerous family day care providers operate in Virginia Hills. You can call Fairfax County at 703-324-8100 for a list of registered providers by zip code, or go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov and look in “Family Services” for all types of information regarding day care licensing and local providers. Local churches, among them the Virginia Hills Baptist Church, operate pre-schools and day care sites. Another source for day care referrals is the Child Care Network of Kingstowne/Franconia. Call Becky Hernandez at 703-329-1132 or go to www.geocities.com/ccnkf for more details.

Libraries

The closest library to Virginia Hills is the John Marshall Library on Rose Hill Drive next to the Rose Hill Elementary School. The largest local library is the Sherwood Regional Library at 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane (turn left onto Sherwood Hall Lane from Route 1 below the Hybla Valley Shopping Center). Library cards are free to all Fairfax County residents. Many library services can be obtained on the web, and the library catalog is also on the web. Go to

Transportation

The nearest Metro station to Virginia Hills is Huntington on the yellow line. Fairfax Connector bus routes 109 (on Telegraph Road) and 108 (on The Parkway) take commuters to the Huntington Metro Station. Running the other way, the 109 bus goes to Springfield Mall via Rose Hill Drive (Elementary School and John Marshall Library) and Franconia Road (Lee Government Center and DMV Service Center). Fairfax Connector schedules and other information can be obtained by calling 703-339-7200 or on the web at www.fairfaxconnector.com.

Recreation

The Virginia Hills playground is located on the grounds of the Old School on Diana Lane. It was rebuilt thanks to the efforts of Virginia Hills Citizens' Association and offers swings, slides, and climbing equipment. Two tennis courts are located adjacent to the playground.

The Virginia Hills Swim Club (not affiliated with the Citizens Association) has been member-owned and operated since 1955. Located on Robinson Drive, the Club offers swimming lessons, a youth swim team - the Virginia Hills Tidal Wave - a snack bar, and social events. It is also available for private events. For membership information, call Meghan Dobson at 703-317-5967 or e-mail VHPool@aol.com.

The Lee District Park Recreation Center is located just south of Virginia Hills. The main entrance is located on Telegraph Road at Rose Hill Drive, and there is pedestrian access to the park from the Virginia Hills playground and from Robinson Drive. The Center offers a wide variety of classes in all kinds of sports for children and adults. There is a weight room with treadmills, indoor and outdoor basketball courts, a 50m pool and numerous playing fields. Picnic areas and an amphitheater are available for use by groups and individuals.

The Mount Vernon Recreation Center is located at the intersection of Fort Hunt Road and Belle View Blvd., which is down the hill from Beacon Mall Shopping Center. This recreation center has a 25m pool and an ice skating rink, and is located next to a public library.

Huntley Meadows Park is a large wetlands area with hiking trails and a nature center. The Park offers wonderful opportunities for wildlife observation.

There are two entrances, one at the intersection of Harrison Lane and Lockheed Blvd., and the other at the intersection of South Kings Highway and Telegraph Road.

For information on recreation programs, facilities, and hours, you can call 703-449-8639 or 703-222-4664. You can register for classes offered through the county's Parktakes quarterly magazine either online or in person or through the mail. In addition, numerous private sports leagues and associations use nearby school and county fields. Ask at local schools and recreation centers to find out more.

For information on the Pioneer Baseball/Softball League, go to www.eteamz.com/pbsl/ or call 703-960-2244.

Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)

To obtain a Virginia driver's license or identification card and to register a motor vehicle, you can go to a DMV service center. There are two centers about equally distant from Virginia Hills. The Franconia Service Center is at 6306 Grovedale Drive just off Franconia Road near the Lee District Government Center. The Alexandria Service Center is just on the other side of the Beltway at 2681 Mill Road just off Eisenhower Ave. Saturdays, Mondays, and Thursdays are DMV's busiest days.

County Decal

All cars kept in Fairfax County must display a County decal and owners must pay an annual property tax known as the car tax. You can register your car on the web at <https://www.co.fairfax.va.us/dta/sct/>, by phone at 703-222-8234, by mail, or in person at the County Government Center.

Registering to Vote

U.S. citizens who reside in Fairfax County and will be 18 years of age or older by the next general election may register to vote no later than 28 days before a primary or general election. You may register at the County General Registrar's office at the County Government Center or at DMV service centers (see above). You may also register by mail. Registration forms are available at the County web site, libraries, and at DMV.

Registered voters in Virginia Hills vote at either the Old Virginia Hills School

or the Mount Eagle School, depending on where in Virginia Hills they live. You can determine this at the State Board of Elections web site at <http://www.sbe.state.va.us>. Voting hours for general elections are 6:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

Pets

Fairfax County requires that dogs be licensed. Dogs may not run free outside, but must be kept on a leash. Owners must clean up after their dogs. Cats are not required to be licensed and may run free. However, cat owners should be warned that wild animals such as foxes and coyotes (yes, really, coyotes) in the County feed on cats, and it is dangerous for the cat to be left outside, especially at night. Both cats and dogs older than four months must receive rabies shots.

It is against the law to keep wild or exotic animals as pets.

In general, homeowners whose property is not specifically listed as a farm may not raise livestock (cattle, sheep, hogs, goats, horses) or poultry.

Animals must not frequently and habitually make loud and objectionable noises. Neighbors may report continually barking dogs to the police or animal control.

Trash and Recycling

Trash pickup is provided by Fairfax County on Tuesday mornings. All trash and items for recycling should be out on the curb before 6:00 AM, but not before 4:00 PM the day before pickup. New residents are provided with a wheeled trash container and recycling boxes (if they don't already have them) at no cost from the County. Call 703-802-3322 (Spanish operator available) to ask for your container and/or boxes. You can call the same number to replace lost or broken boxes.

All trash should be in bags. Some items are not collected, such as animal waste, construction debris, and hazardous materials. These items can be taken to the County's Citizens' Disposal Facility in Lorton (call 703-690-1703 for more information). Broken glass should be packaged separately and labeled to protect the pickup workers. Detailed answers to all questions regarding trash pickup can be found in the County's Guide to Trash and Recycling (call 703-803-3322 for a copy or go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes).

One blue recycling box should be used for steel and aluminum cans, glass bottles and jars, and plastic #1 or #2 bottles or jugs. The other box should be used for newspaper and mixed paper - cardboard, magazines, office paper, catalogs, telephone books, envelopes, "junk mail." Cardboard should be flattened and cut to 2ft x 3ft or smaller.

Fairfax County picks up grass clippings, leaves, and most other organic yard waste that can be put in bags or in a container or bundled. Don't use your gray trash container for yard debris. Put grass and leaves in clear plastic bags next to the gray trash container, or use an open plastic container for grass and leaves. Brown paper yard debris bags (sold in most stores) may also be used. Small amounts of branches (cut to 3 feet or less length) can be bundled and tied with string or twine and set out next to trash. For larger amounts of brush, see below.

Christmas trees are collected the first two weeks of January. You do not need to schedule their pickup.

Special Pickups

Fairfax County will also pick up large quantities of tree limbs, branches, and other brush and large household items such as furniture, appliances and certain other bulk items. You must call in advance to schedule a pickup by dialing 703-802-3322. Listen carefully to the instructions (which are now also given in Spanish) and select the type of pickup you want, brush or bulk. Enter your street and address information by using the keypad on your phone, and the system will automatically schedule the date of your pickup. Listen closely at the end of the automatic message to hear the details. You may also ask to speak to an operator by dialing the same number. If your pickup was not made for any reason, just call 703-802-3322 and speak to an operator or use the keypad to enter the information.

Hazardous Waste

Paint, motor oil, car batteries and all types of chemicals may not be put out with regular trash. They must be taken to one of two facilities in the county. The closest to Virginia Hills is the I-95 CITIZEN'S DISPOSAL FACILITY at 9850 Furnace Road in Lorton. Call 703-690-1703 or 703-324-5068 or log onto www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/trash/disposal_hhw.htm for details.

Being a Good Neighbor

Residents of Virginia Hills come from all across the United States and from around the world. Some are long time residents who are living in the homes where they were born and raised. Others are newcomers to the U.S. who may feel uncomfortable talking to neighbors and not know what to expect. Virginia Hills has no special rules or “covenants” but is regulated by the Fairfax County Code and zoning regulations. These provisions try to strike a balance between allowing homeowners the privacy to do what they want with their property and protecting the community as a whole and its property values. Having a neighborhood with homes that are well-maintained with yards that are cared for and free of trash helps all of us preserve our home’s value.

Virginia Hills is a residential neighborhood, and it is illegal to conduct business from the home without a license. Generally, only businesses that can be operated within the home and do not provide services or goods to members of the general public are allowed. The exceptions include day care centers and academic or music lessons. Common illegal businesses involve repair or sales of automobiles. In general, large commercial vehicles may not be parked on a residential street or on the homeowner’s property.

When working on your personal vehicle, make sure to collect your oil and antifreeze and take it to a collection site (such as a gas station or county disposal site). Letting auto fluids run into the street or gutters is a danger to the environment and a violation of the law.

All vehicles parked on the street or in plain view on your property must be operable and have valid plates and inspection stickers.

Cars and trucks should not be parked on the grass unless it can be proven that the vehicle was normally parked on the grass prior to June 2002. Paved driveways may not cover more than 25% of the front yard of a home. You can report violations or ask questions about these and other concerns at the Zoning Office, 703-324-1300.

Make sure to obtain necessary permits for home renovations and additions. A little paperwork up front can prevent costly delays and fines or, at worst, having to tear out the work. Call the County at 703-324-1937 for information.

Show courtesy and respect to your neighbors by keeping the volume of radios and other sound equipment at an acceptable level. If a neighbor inside his or her house can hear your radio or stereo with their windows closed, it’s too loud, and they may lodge a complaint with the police. Habitually barking dogs

may also be reported (see the section on Pets).

The speed limit on all streets in Virginia Hills is 25 mph. Please obey the limit and protect our children. From time to time, the police conduct speed traps in Virginia Hills.