

The Virginia Hills Echo



Circulation 875

Volume 23, No. 3

February 2014

VHCA Officer Elections in June

The term of office for the current VHCA officers expires at the end of July 2014. Elections for new officers will be held at the Association's June 10th meeting.

Association members will elect a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, membership director, and *Echo* editor.

At the April meeting, the Association's executive committee will present a slate of officers for those positions and will accept nominations from the floor. Only members in good standing (those who are current on their dues) may nominate or be nominated.

At least one officer will not be serving beyond 2014. *Echo* Editor Doug Boulter, editor since 2006, will be stepping down after the June issue. Additionally the post of membership director is currently vacant.

The *Echo* editor writes most of the content for the paper, lays it out using MS Word, sends it to the printer, and distributes it to the delivery team five times a year (September, December, February, March, and June). The editor also obtains the advertising for the paper.

The membership director maintains the membership data base in an Excel spreadsheet, sends out membership solicitations, receives membership applications, and forwards received dues to the treasurer.

Both the *Echo* editor and membership director are members of the executive committee. VHCA officers serve without pay, but the Association provides directors and officers insurance to indemnify all officers.

If you are interested in serving in any officer position for the 2014-2016 term, please notify any member of the executive committee. The Association needs good officers to serve the Virginia Hills community!

Lee District Transportation Improvements

(From Supervisor McKay's Office)

New state money for transportation improvements from the 2013 state transportation plan will give Lee District substantial funding for our growing transportation needs and aging infrastructure. After months of prioritizing and community outreach, the Fairfax County Board approved a list of previously unfunded projects for the \$1.4 billion allocated to us. For the complete County list, go to fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/cdot/documents/.

The main Lee projects are listed below.

- \$84 M: Extension of Frontier Drive to improve connectivity around the Springfield Town Center, improve access to the Franconia-Springfield Metro Station, and support a bid to relocate FBI headquarters to the area.
- \$90 M: Route 1 widening from Mount Vernon Memorial Highway north to Napper Road. This complements widening projects near Fort Belvoir, widening Route 1 from four to six lanes and including pedestrian and bicycle facilities (Mount Vernon and Lee).
- \$400 K: Browne Academy paved trail to create a sidewalk from Edgehill Court to Dewey Drive and support safer pedestrian access to the Huntington Metro Station.
- \$5 M: Shields Avenue Improvements. Partial funding to improve traffic flow along Shields Avenue at the congested area of North Kings Highway.
- \$130,000: Bicycle parking at Franconia-Springfield Metro with covered bicycle parking for 30 or more bicycles and improved access and lighting. (continued on Page 3)

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Virginia Hills Citizens Association Meeting

Tuesday, February 11th – 7:30 PM
Old Virginia Hills School, Diana Lane

Speaker: Elizabeth Obester
Rose Hill ES Principal

The President's Corner
Comment from VHCA President Ralph Zecca

One of the most important things that makes a neighborhood a community is the participation and interaction of the residents. I think that is something that we have in Virginia Hills. It is something that makes us stand out from other neighborhoods. I still see neighbors helping one another shoveling snow covered sidewalks, helping watch kids at the bus stop, and offering a friendly smile and a wave.

It is with this theme that I want to ask everyone to turn out for our next Virginia Hills Citizens Association (VHCA) meeting on February 11 at 7:30. Our guest speaker is Ms. Elizabeth Obester, Principal of Rose Hill Elementary School. She will be there to discuss her vision for the school and to answer questions that you may have. So please come on out! This is your chance to meet with fellow Virginia Hills residents and spend time with the principal of our school.

As I mentioned above, I have seen neighbors helping one another out as we weather the snow and cold temperatures. But the winter is not over yet. So, I ask everyone to please keep in mind the elderly neighbors of Virginia Hills and be sure to offer a hand.

Finally, I would like to remind people about our Virginia Hills parents' email distro and list serv. If you are interested, please email virginia-hills-parents+subscribe@googlegroups.com.

With sincerest respect,
 - Ralph Zecca

Are We Done with Snow for the Winter?

We can't say. But if it snows again, check the snow plowing status of Virginia Hills and elsewhere in Virginia with the new VDOT snow plowing web site at vdotplows.org. Mobile site available for cell phones.

Visit the Virginia Hills web site
at
www.VirginiaHills.org



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Single Issue Advertising Rates

Back page	\$90	Quarter page	\$35
Full page	\$85	Business card	\$15
Half page	\$45		

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

Virginia Hills Citizens Association Officers 2012-2014		
President	Ralph Zecca	President@virginiahills.org
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Treasurer	Robin Welsh	Treasurer@virginiahills.org
Secretary	Karen Lamb	Secretary@virginiahills.org
Membership	Vacant	Membership@virginiahills.org
Echo Editor	Doug Boulter	Echo@virginiahills.org

Lee District Transportation Improvements

(continued from Page 1)

- \$200,000: Pedestrian improvements on Telegraph Road at Hayfield Secondary School.
- \$800,000: Sidewalk on the east side of Fleet Drive from Yadkin Court to the existing sidewalk south of Franconia Road, increasing pedestrian safety.

Echo Editor's note:

Major projects that were not funded for Lee District include:

- \$140 M: Grade separated intersection at Van Dorn Street and Franconia Road.
- \$285 M: Two projects, one Lee (\$190M), one Mount Vernon (\$95M), to add on/off ramps connecting the Franconia-Springfield Parkway and Fairfax County Parkway to I-95 near Loisdale Road.
- \$58 M: Grade separated interchange at Neuman Street to replace the light on the Franconia-Springfield Parkway at Bonniemill Lane and Spring Village Drive (near Greenspring).
- \$19M: Widen Telegraph Road from two to four lanes from Leaf Road (just south of Hayfield Secondary School) north to Hayfield Road.

Other Lee District projects not funded include:

- \$2 M: Complete missing sidewalks/paths on Telegraph Road between Huntington Ave. and Rose Hill Drive.
- \$150 K: Signalized crosswalk at Telegraph and Franconia Roads intersection.
- \$150 K: Signalized crosswalks at The Parkway and South Kings Highway.
- \$12 M: Construction of 19 intersection pedestrian improvements and 14 new sidewalks along the Route 1 Corridor between Fort Belvoir and the City of Alexandria (Mount Vernon and Lee).

Snow Tip #2

Want to avoid having the snow plow bury the entrance to the driveway you just shoveled out? Shovel your driveway snow to the RIGHT of the driveway so the plow can't push it back in. If you shovel some of the snow that's in the road to the left of the driveway onto your yard, there will be even less for the plow to push into the driveway.

Join the Virginia Hills Citizens Association for the new membership year that began on September 1st.

2013-2014 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.

The Winter Housing Market

This home pricing data for Fairfax County is provided by Spike and Julie Williams of Williams Realty as of December 28th:

Single Family home under \$1M

Average List Price \$644,933
Median List Price \$620,000
Average Days on Market 88.

Condo/Townhome under \$600K

Average List Price \$317,496
Median List Price \$305,000
Average Days on Market 72.

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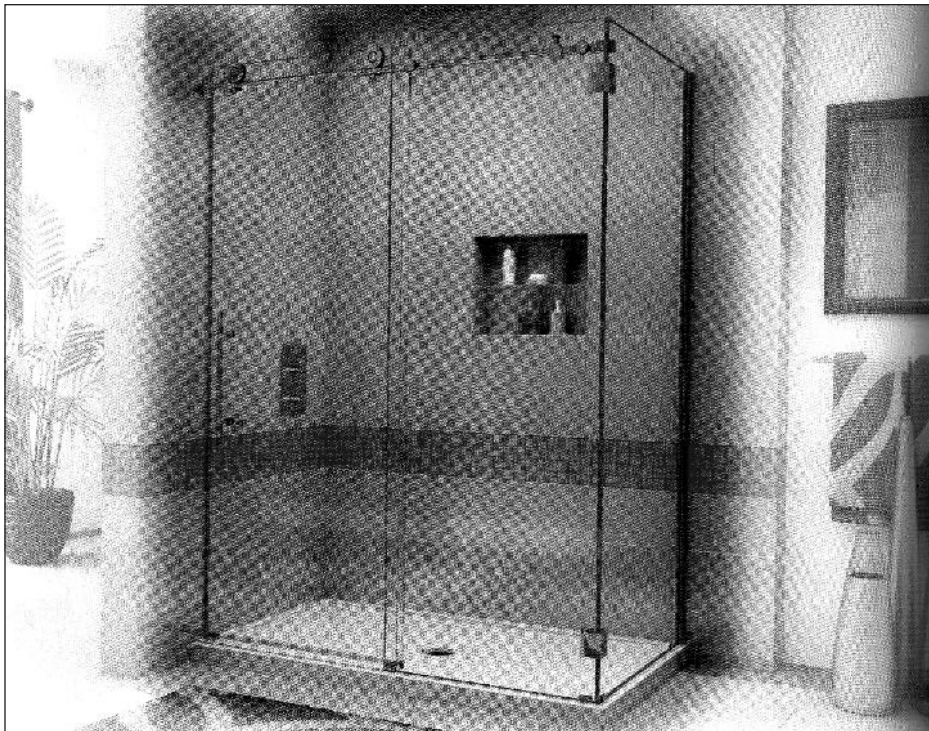
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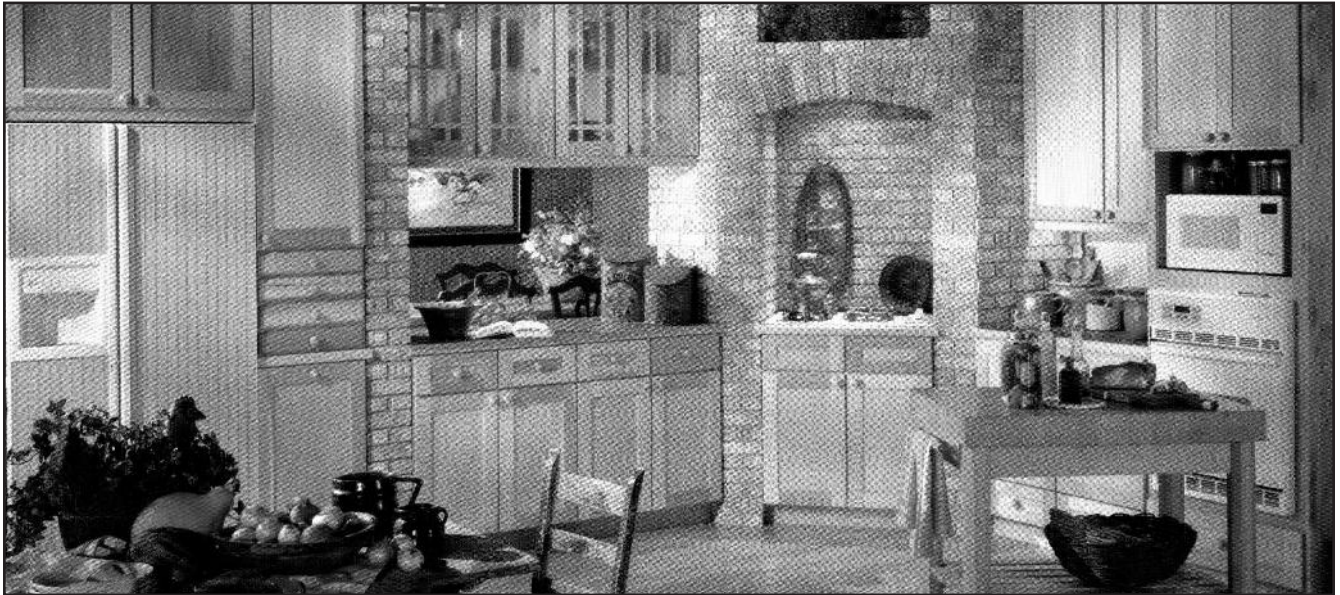
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Message from Supervisor McKay

I was pleased to serve on Governor-Elect McAuliffe's transportation advisory transition team, and on December 12 other members of the team and I reviewed the governor-elect's transportation plan and made recommendations on how to move forward to fix our Virginia transportation infrastructure. Transportation will be key to our future. Our economy relies on a strong transportation network and job retention and economic growth are linked to a strong transportation infrastructure. That infrastructure is not limited to roads; it includes local and regional transit systems, as well as pedestrian connectivity. Planning is not enough and if we're to make a dent in our transportation project backlog, we must get projects out of the ground a lot faster—a point I made at the session.

The bi-partisan transition team included subject matter experts in roads, transit, pedestrian, bicycle, space program, ports, and smart growth and Aubrey Layne, the governor-elect's appointee for State Transportation Secretary, joined us for the discussion. It was interesting and challenging to see how the different pieces of the transportation puzzle fit together. As former chair of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC), I understand our mobility needs and the reality that roads alone can't solve our

transportation problems. (Fortunately, the transportation bill allocates major funds to transit.)

Last year, the first significant bipartisan compromise on transportation in a generation resulted in \$1.4 billion-a-year transportation funding for Virginia. This bill came just in time—our funding crisis could have made Virginia ineligible for federal highway matching funds. Not only were those federal dollars at risk, but the state had drained its maintenance funds, obvious from the condition of our roads. Now that these funds have been secured, it's important that we spend them wisely.

So what does this mean for Northern Virginia and Fairfax County? The most important thing for me is making sure that the funding from the transportation bill gets to our local roads and transit needs as quickly as possible. As chair of Fairfax County Transportation and Legislative Committees, and NVTC Legislative Chair, I'll be doing everything I can to make that happen.

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Current Virginia Hills Real Estate Market

Status	Style	Address	BR	FB	HB	List Price	Close Price	Bsmt	Gar
Active	Rambler	3708 Heather Ct	4	3	1	\$499,900		Yes	0
Sold	Rancher	6508 The Pkwy	4	3	0	\$349,500	\$355,000	No	0
Cnko	Rambler	3602 Oakwood Ln	4	2	0	\$375,000		Yes	0
Sold	Rambler	3715 Logan Ct	3	1	0	\$249,900	\$240,000	No	0
Sold	Rambler	6405 Wilcox Ct	3	1	0	\$345,000	\$320,000	Yes	0
Sold	Rambler	4107 Ronson Dr	3	2	0	\$415,000	\$407,000	Yes	0
Sold	Bilevel	6508 Berkshire Dr	4	2	0	\$419,900	\$416,000	Yes	0
Cnko	Colonial	3716 Logan Ct	3	1	0	\$319,900	\$319,000	No	0
Sold	Bilevel	6119 Hillview Ave	4	2	0	\$420,000	\$420,000	No	0
Active	Rambler	3709 Trigger Ct	3	1	0	\$357,500		No	0

All information deemed reliable. Derived from Metropolitan Regional Information System for the period 12/1/2013 to 1/31/2014.

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