

# The Virginia Hills Echo



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## VHCA Officer Elections for 2012-2014

At the June VHCA meeting, the association will elect officers for the next two years. New officer terms will run from August 1, 2012 through July 31, 2014.

The current executive committee will nominate the following people to serve:

President	Ralph Zecca
Vice President	Warren Suyderhoud
Treasurer	Robin Welsh
Echo Editor	Doug Boulter

The executive committee knows of no one interested in the positions of secretary and membership director and hopes that volunteers will express an interest in doing those two important jobs.

The secretary keeps the minutes of the meeting and creates external correspondence as directed by the president. The secretary must have the ability to use Microsoft Word or compatible word processor. The secretary is a member of the executive committee.

The membership director conducts the annual membership campaign, sends out membership solicitations, receives membership forms and dues, and issues membership cards. The membership director must be able to use Microsoft Excel and Word or a compatible spreadsheet and word processor. The membership director serves on the executive committee.

Nominations for all positions may be made by VHCA members from the floor during the meeting.

If you are interested in serving as an officer of the association, please contact President Ralph Zecca.

## Democratic and Republican Primaries on June 12th

Fairfax County will conduct primary elections for the Republican nominee for U.S. Senate from Virginia and the Democratic nominee for Member of Congress for the 8th District. Voters should go to their normal polling place, which for residents of Virginia Hills is the Old Virginia Hills School. Polls open at 6:00 AM and close at 7:00 PM.

Because there is no registration by political party in Virginia, a voter may vote in either the Republican primary or the Democratic primary, but not in both.

Candidates for the **United States Senate** in the Republican primary in ballot order are:

Jamie L. Radtke  
<http://radtkeforsenate.com/>

George F. Allen  
[www.GeorgeAllen.com](http://www.GeorgeAllen.com)

R. G. "Bob" Marshall  
<http://bobmarshall2012.com/>

E. W. Jackson  
[www.jacksonforvirginia.org](http://www.jacksonforvirginia.org)

Candidates for the **House of Representatives** in the Democratic primary in ballot order are:

James P. "Jim" Moran, Jr.  
<http://www.jimmoran.org/>

Bruce B. Shuttleworth  
<http://shuttleworthforcongress.org/>

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### **Virginia Hills Citizens Association Meeting**

**Tuesday, June 12th – 7:30 PM**  
**Old Virginia Hills School, Diana Lane**

**Election of Officers for 2012-2014**

**The President's Corner**  
**Comment from VHCA President Ralph Zecca**

Like school, the Virginia Hills Citizens Association (VHCA) is starting to wind down for the year and take a summer break. The June meeting will be the last until September.

Because of the primary elections, we may have to move the room in which we're meeting. If we're not in the normal part of the old cafeteria, we may be in the library upstairs.

One of our last acts for this year is to elect the new members of the Executive Board. I have served as your President for the last two years and have been honored that you gave me the privilege of representing you. Now we will begin to build the leadership team for the future! I strongly encourage you all to come to this month's meeting and help decide the who will lead VHCA for the next two years. Who knows, you may be the one who leads this neighborhood to bigger and greater things someday. And please do not worry, just because you show up, I promise we will not pounce on you and force you to volunteer. But as always, we need good people who can get things done.

Seriously though, I do hope you come out and join us for a chance to discuss what we have accomplished as well as what we still have planned for the future. Remember this neighborhood is only as good as we make it!

With sincerest respect,

- Ralph Zecca

**County Health Department Deploying Mosquito Traps**

Starting on May 24, the Fairfax County Health Department began trapping mosquitoes at 68 different sites throughout the County as part of routine surveillance for West Nile virus. Mosquito traps (usually 2 or 3) will be placed at each site. The traps may attract the attention of members of the public.

There are three different types of trap. One hangs from a tree and the other two sit on the ground. You can see photos of the traps and learn more about them at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/westnile/wnvtraps.htm>

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**Virginia Hills Citizens Association Officers 2010-2012**

President	Ralph Zecca	President@virginiahills.org
Vice President	Vacant	VP@virginiahills.org
Treasurer	Robin Welsh	Treasurer@virginiahills.org
Secretary	Vacant	Secretary@virginiahills.org
Membership	Warren Suyderhoud	Membership@virginiahills.org
Echo Editor	Doug Boulter	Echo@virginiahills.org

## New Membership Year Begins in September

After this year's successful drive to rebuild its membership base, VHCA's membership year will end on the last day of August and the new year will begin on September 1st. This coincides with VHCA's fiscal year.

If you'd like to get ahead and renew now for the upcoming year, please fill out the membership form on this page (with the large heading showing 2012-2013). This will ensure that you'll be able to vote on the budget for the upcoming year at the September meeting.

Why be a member of VHCA? Your dues (unchanged since 1991) help to pay for the landscaping of the traffic islands on Telegraph Road and Ronson Drive. Dues support capital projects such as the playground behind the Old School and the replacement of the sign lighting anticipated for the summer or the fall. And your dues help pay for the administration of the association.

More important than these things, however, is the fact that the more members VHCA has, the more our voice counts when our officers represent you before the Board of Supervisors and the General Assembly. VHCA needs your support to continue working for you!

## Free Summer Concerts in Lee District Park

Concerts will take place on the following Wednesday nights in the Park from 7:30 to 8:30. Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket and sit back and enjoy the show. Concerts are canceled if there's a threat of bad weather. Call 703-324-SHOW (7469) after 6:00 PM for cancelation updates. Anyone interested in volunteering to help with the concerts should call the Supervisor's office at 703-971-6262.

### JUNE

- 6 Atzilut (Middle Eastern)
- 13 Kinobe & the African Sensation (Traditional African)
- 20 The Pietasters (Ska)
- 27 Hangover Royale (Swing)

### JULY

- 11 The NOVA Annandale Symphony Orchestra (Pop)
- 18 Ryan Montbleau Band (R&B/Pop)
- 25 The United States Army Band "Downrange" (Rock)

### AUGUST

- 1 Larry Sparks & the Lonesome Ramblers (Bluegrass)
- 8 The Nighthawks (Blues)
- 15 United States Navy Band "Commodores" (Jazz)
- 22 David Gerald Band (Blues/R&B)
- 29 Sock Monkeys (Rock)

## 2012-2013 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) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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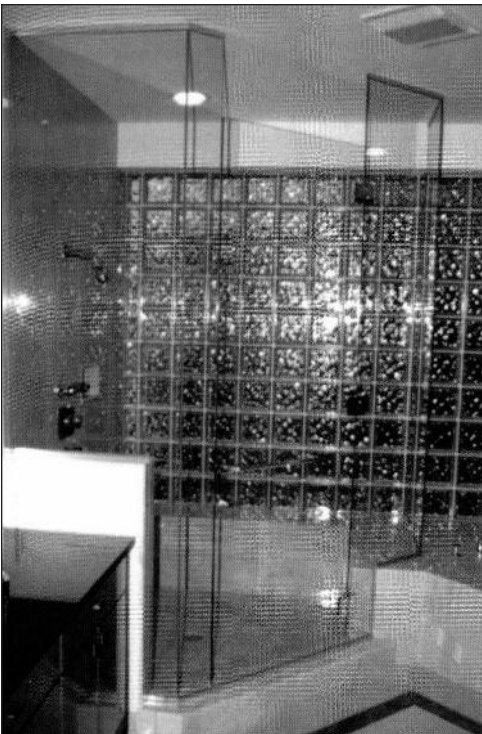
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[www.VirginiaHills.org](http://www.VirginiaHills.org)

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## Malware on the County Web Site?

From the County Department of Information Technology

Beginning on May 24, users attempting to access the Fairfax County web site with certain browsers like Firefox or Chrome were warned that the website had been reported as an attack page. The browsers displayed this warning because they use Google's "Safe Browsing" protocol that Google uses to notify users on the results of its regular web site security scans.

We have determined that the Google scan had actually detected malware on an external web site that was linked on the County web site, and Google's scanner incorrectly identified our site as the source. We have completed a scan with a third party security tool to verify that our web site harbors no malware. We have taken steps to fix redirects to other web sites so inaccurate warnings are not triggered in the future.

We continue to work with Google to remove the misleading attack page warning. In addition, we plan to work both internally and in partnership with Google on a long term technical solution that will prevent the County website from being incorrectly implicated when externally linked sites become infected.

We apologize for any inconvenience or confusion this issue may have caused.

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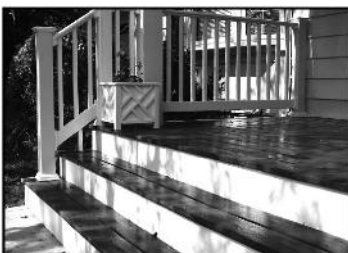
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# View from the Hills

## Doug Boulter's Advice on Home Repair:

### Ceiling Fans

Should you install ceiling fans in your home? The benefit of any fan is that you feel cooler when it blows air on your skin because it speeds up evaporation of perspiration, your body's natural cooling mechanism. When you sit in the air flow of a fan, you can feel comfortable in a higher temperature, and you can set your air conditioner to run less, saving you money.

Let's say you use a fan at night instead of running the central air conditioning. The air conditioner would use, roughly, several thousand watts per hour or more. A new, energy efficient ceiling fan running on high might use 100 watts per hour. That's a significant savings.

Here's the problem though. The fan only cools you when you are in the air flow. If you leave the fan on in the living room when you're asleep in the bedroom, the fan is wasting energy because it's not cooling anything. A ceiling fan is only useful when it's cooling you, so bedrooms, living rooms, tv rooms, and other places you spend time are good places for ceiling fans.

For a fan that does cool the house – by drawing in cooler air from outside at night and forcing out the warmer inside air – you'd want a whole house fan, something entirely different.

Despite looking much the same as they ever have, ceiling fans can be much more efficient than they once were. The problem is, however, that many homeowners buy inexpensive fans and install them wrong. As a result, they're stuck with a fan that doesn't work well, isn't quiet, and has a relatively short life span. This article will help you choose the right fan for the room.

First, homeowners tend to purchase fans that are too small. Fans are measured by the diameter of the circle made by the outer edges of the blades, also called the blade span. The larger the room, the larger the fan should be. Unfortunately, there are as many guidelines as there are fan vendors, so here are some guidelines that work for me:

Room size	Fan size
Under 110 sq ft.	36-42"
110-150 sq ft.	44-50"
150-300 sq ft.	52-60"
300-450 sq ft.	62-72"

The second issue is the height at which you hang the fan. Obviously, a fan hung too low would be a danger to people walking around in the room. At a minimum, the

fan blades must be no lower than 7' from the floor. With 8' ceilings, that means you'll need a low profile fan often called a hugger because the motor and blades hug the ceiling. If the fan is hung too high, however, it won't move the air as well. Here's a table giving you the length of the downrod you'll need if your ceiling is higher than 8'.

Ceiling height	Downrod length
9 feet	3-6 inches
10 feet	12 inches
11 feet	18 inches
12 feet	24 inches
13 feet	36 inches
14 feet	48 inches
15 feet	60 inches

Here's an important point. Fans may not be hung from standard electrical boxes in the ceiling. You will need a special fan box that installs tightly so it can't break free from the vibration of the fan. Such boxes can be purchased in home centers and hardware stores, but they can be tricky to install if your ceiling is already finished and you can't get into the attic above to install them. You can hire a good electrician to install this special box and your fan.

Which direction should the fan turn? Most fans are reversible, meaning you can set them to turn either clockwise or counter-clockwise. The rule is for your fan to turn clockwise in the summer and counterclockwise in the winter. Yes, ceiling fans can be helpful in the winter because they can force the warm air that has risen to the ceiling back down to the floor. But it's hard to remember this direction rule, so set the direction this way. Stand under the fan and turn it on. If the air is blowing down on you, that's the direction for the summer. Walk over to a wall in the room. If you feel the air moving down at the wall, that's the direction for winter.

Still, if the fan is in the center of the room's ceiling and you'll be sitting along the wall, you might want to try the winter setting and see if it's more comfortable for you where you sit. If so, use that direction for summer too.

Good fans will provide you two important pieces of information on the box. First, look for the CFM (cubic feet per minute) rating for each speed. The more air the fan moves, the better. Then look for the watts consumed at each speed. The fewer watts used, the better. Then, if there isn't a clear winner, divide the CFM by the number of watts to get the amount of air moved per watt. Higher numbers are better.

**Penn Daw Update**

As expected, Insight Properties submitted a re-zoning amendment shortly after the Board of Supervisors approved the comprehensive plan amendment for Penn Daw that was discussed in the last two issues of the *Echo*.

Insight controls the portion of Penn Daw that includes all of the property between School and Poag Streets except for the Lee shopping plaza to the north. Insight and Lee have made an agreement to upgrade that plaza to make it compatible with the new development that will be built around it.

Insight's plan is for 245 apartments on the property with an internal parking garage not visible from any of the streets. The building will be four stories high, transitioning down to three stories adjacent to existing

neighborhood homes.

The proposal was discussed and approved at the Lee District Land Use Committee meeting on June 4th. Discussion focused primarily on transportation issues. While the developer had proffered traffic counts of vehicles leaving the site to determine whether it was meeting its traffic demand management objectives, the Committee wanted traffic studies of the key intersections after the new development was fully occupied to ensure that key intersections in the vicinity were not degraded in terms of level of service and to establish a baseline for possible future development. A key provision in the comprehensive plan amendment was that this development and neighboring developments should not degrade the performance of these intersections.

Further discussion focused on pollution from dry cleaning chemicals on the Lee portion of the site. While there was disagreement on the extent of the pollution, Land Use members and the developer agreed that the main point was to ensure that the pollution was not ongoing and to prevent it from recurring.

Other points raised related to stormwater, the affordable/work force housing proffers for the site, and contributions to the school system.

County staff had previously recommended approval of the re-zoning with minor proposals for change.

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## Message from Supervisor McKay

We've struggled through four years of least-bad-case budgets so the one that the Fairfax County Board just approved for the new fiscal year is a relief.

While it underlines that even Fairfax County has changed since the Great Recession, it hews to the core services of government, avoids damaging our most vulnerable residents, and recognizes that we cannot fund everything on the backs of our homeowners. If I had to pick one word to describe this budget, it would be 'fair' with the residential property tax rate remaining at \$1.07 and an additional half cent stormwater fee to meet federal and state Chesapeake Bay and clean water requirements.

I am proud that this budget restores a good part of the human services safety net shredded by the state budget and that it addresses the needs of our County employees whose salaries have been frozen for the past three years. It's those employees who consistently did more with less as we cut positions and agency dollars—yet they kept our County services functioning at the high level that residents expect and deserve.

Libraries were particularly hard hit during the past four years. I heard a lot from the community about the

importance of library services so I'm pleased that we're restoring some hours—nine hours each week at the county's regional libraries, and three hours each week at the county's community libraries.

At 52 percent, the school transfer is again the lion's share of our budget so we owe it to our children and to our taxpayers to get it right. I'm encouraged by our new elected school board and strongly support its efforts to hire an auditor and increase school budget transparency.

Again this year my Lee District citizen budget advisory group did an excellent job of budget analysis and recommendations and I encourage you to read their report on my website at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/lee/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/lee/).

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Status	Style	Address	BR	FB	HB	List Price	Close Price	Bsmt	Gar
ACTIVE	Raised Rambler	6126 HILLVIEW AVE	4	2	0	\$379,900		Yes	1
ACTIVE	Colonial	6503 BERKSHIRE DR	4	2	0	\$385,000		No	
ACTIVE	Contemporary	6320 GENTELE CT	5	3	1	\$505,000		Yes	
ACTIVE	Other	6211 SANDLIN CT	3	4	0	\$375,000		Yes	
ACTIVE	Rancher	6610 THE PKWY	5	2	0	\$399,000		Yes	
CNTG/NO KO	Rambler	3613 HEATHER CT	3	1	0	\$349,000		No	
CNTG/NO KO	Rambler	6213 HILLVIEW AVE	4	3	0	\$429,000		Yes	1
CNTG/NO KO	Raised Rambler	6317 TELEGRAPH RD	3	2	0	\$354,900		Yes	
CNTG/NO KO	Bilevel	6211 TELEGRAPH RD	3	2	0	\$395,000		Yes	
CNTG/NO KO	Rambler	3515 PIKE RD	4	2	0	\$270,000		Yes	
CNTG/NO KO	Rambler	6608 BERKSHIRE DR	2	1	0	\$317,000		Yes	
CNTG/KO	Colonial	6309 GENTELE CT	3	1	1	\$220,000		Yes	
CONTRACT	Rambler	6500 HILLVIEW AVE	3	2	0	\$399,000		No	
SOLD	Rambler	6518 DORSET DR	3	1	0	\$244,900	\$250,000	No	2
SOLD	Rambler	6414 WILCOX CT	3	2	0	\$279,999	\$301,000	Yes	
SOLD	Rambler	6222 VIRGINIA HILLS AVE	3	2	0	\$416,000	\$417,000	Yes	1
SOLD	Rambler	6607 DORSET DR	3	2	0	\$304,900	\$290,000	No	1
SOLD	Colonial	6417 PROSPECT TER	4	2	0	\$399,900	\$396,000	Yes	1

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