

The Rambler

Newsletter of the
Rose Hill Civic Association

President's Message

New Family Recreation Area Coming to Lee District Park

You may have noticed the construction activity just inside Lee District Park at the Rose Hill Drive/ Telegraph Road entrance (the only way for vehicles to access Lee District Park, I keep reminding the Park Authority). A new Family Recreation Center is being built with major components to be available next Memorial Day.

When completed, the Family Recreation Center will include a Tree House with gently sloping ramps that are wheelchair accessible, a Spray Park, a Playground for all children including those with disabilities, an old-fashioned carousel (long a Lee District attraction) and a picnic area with covered shelters, restrooms and changing rooms.

Construction of the Tree House, parking and restrooms are underway. Those facilities, along with the Spray Park, are schedule to open Memorial Day 2011. Funding for the Spray Park is being provided by the Joey Pizanno Memorial Fund in memory of the six-year-old developmentally delayed child from Vienna in Fairfax County who lost his life in a drowning accident.

Funding for the Family Recreation Center is being provided by the Park Foundation, Inc., a 5013c

RHCA Meeting Tuesday, November 23

John Marshall Library, 7:00 pm

RHCA Officers

President: Carl Sell, 703.971.4716, sellcarl@aol.com

Vice President: Linda Nichols, 703.971.0755, dovefellow@aol.com

Secretary: Beth Kohm, 703.338.4876, beth.kohm@gmail.com

Treasurer: Carolyn Slenska, 703.922.4135, carolyn.slenska@lycos.com

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Neighborhood Watch: Woody Betts, 703.971.0520, rosehillwatch@aol.com

Webmaster: Jim Sapp, jimsapp7@msn.com

RHCA, P.O. Box 10891, Alexandria, VA 22310
www.myrosehill.com

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charitable organization that raises funds for the acquisition and improvements in Fairfax County parks. You can learn more about the Foundation by visiting its web site (search Fairfax County Park Foundation) or calling 703-324-8581. Although built with taxpayer supported bond funds, Lee District Recreation Center is classified as a revenue park, meaning that funds necessary for its operation are provided by user fees. Our neighbor Greendale Golf Course is in the same category. An update on the Family Recreation Center and other activities at Lee District Park will highlight the agenda the Rose Hill Civic Association's meeting next Tuesday, November 23, at 7 p.m. at the John Marshall Library. Refreshments will be served.

2011 Membership Drive

Because we don't have a December Rambler, we announce the annual membership drive in November. We will be hounding you to renew your support for RHCA from now until March. Dues are only \$10 per year, but as you know, that doesn't pay the freight so we ask for donation for specific items. The cost of printing Rambler is our major expense. Other than the printing, everything else associated with the publication of the Rambler is on a volunteer basis. Thanks to our small army of delivery volunteers, every house in Rose Hill gets a Rambler nine times

per year. Our fantastic web site, myrosehill.com, also is a volunteer effort. And our community has a vast network of Neighborhood Watch personnel who are always on the lookout for unusual or suspicious activity. Your dues and contributions support the Rose Hill Beauty program and the treats served at our meetings and the annual Night Out in August to support our police and emergency responders. RHCA makes contributions to several worthy area charities, such as Koinina (which serves the less fortunate in our area), the Edison all-night graduation party and the annual Christmas Eve dinner for our police who have to work that night. We ask for special contributions to support the landscaping we contract to keep our entrance feature at Rose Hill Drive and Franconia Road looking nice. Season flowers are planted four times a year and the bed is mulched. So fill out the membership form on Page 3 and send it along with your dues and contribution to RHCA, Box 10891, Franconia, VA 22310. Plan to attend our meetings and join your neighbors who are involved in our community. We're only as good as you make us!

Budget Update

As things stand now, the County revenue forecast for the fiscal year that begins next July 1 (FY2012), will be slightly improved. Much of that is due to a slight uptick in the value of residential real estate. However, commercial real estate value has declined, so the County will continue to face a deficit. Two years ago, the deficit was \$648 and \$490 million respectively. This year's deficit will be less, but there still will be the need to hold the line on expenditures so the burden of closing the revenue gap does not fall completely on the homeowners. Revenue from residential real estate taxes is the County's main source of income. The first clue as to the County's financial situation will come next spring with the annual assessment of real estate. Expect a slight increase in the value of your home (good news) and an increase in your tax bill (bad news) unless the tax rate reflects a balance with this year. Expect to read about pressure from single-interest groups to reclaim some of the cuts experienced in recent years. For my part as a member of Supervisor McKay's budget advisory group, I will be looking for ways to hold the line on taxes while shifting priorities that will result in more police protection for our community. Public safety is my first priority. Without it, our home values will plummet. We need more officers on patrol. I think we

have cut the County side of the budget responsibly in recent years. The same hasn't been true for schools. I believe there are opportunities for savings in the school budget that can be transferred to pay increases for the classroom teachers and other essential county employees. Your input is important. We have the rare opportunity to participate in the budget process effectively. My goal is to protect the taxpayer while at the same time providing essential services within a reasonable budget. If you have specific questions about the budget, let me know and I will try to get the facts, not just answers.

Rose Hill Reserve Update

As of this writing, the situation concerning the slides on the hillside above the storm water management pond near Split Rock Road and Haystack Road remains unresolved. In fact, it appears there is evidence that a new slide is materializing. The area of the actual slides is on a construction easement on private property. The County is evaluating a proposal from the developer to regrade the area. RHCA is concerned that the situation is more widespread than visibly apparent and has asked the County and the developer to do additional tests to ascertain slope stability. There are more than 250 caissons being put in the ground around the site, except in the area of the slide. Some are as much as 90 feet deep in an effort to make sure the soil is stabilized. Additional test borings are needed to make sure the hillside below May Boulevard is secure. A combination of caissons and retaining walls were deemed necessary around most of the rest of the site. The same appears necessary in the area of the slide.

On another subject, the developer has agreed to the planting of trees in areas of the buffer where vegetation is sparse. The County Arborist has suggested specific types of trees dependent on soil conditions and the eventual growth pattern. Evergreen trees will be at least eight (8) feet tall and deciduous trees will have a caliper of at least two and one-half (2 1/2) inches. The effort is designed to screen our existing homes from the new development. Hopefully, the trees will be planted soon. The new plantings will be the responsibility of the developer and his landscape company, who must replace any trees that die during the warranty period. After the community is built out, responsibility will shift to the new Homeowners Association.

Unlike Rose Hill proper, the new community

will be governed by the HOA. Each property will have equal membership and MUST pay dues for operation of the group and such services as trash removal, landscaping and maintenance of open space, etc. The HOA also no doubt will include architectural rules governing decks and other additions as well as paint colors, etc. Just like Rose Hill, the new owners also will be subject to County laws concerning blight, multiple occupancy, unregistered vehicles and the overall upkeep of property, to name a few. The difference is that the HOA can levy fines in addition those administered by the County.

Update, information

Captain Shawn Bennett and Master Police Officer James Reid of the Franconia Police Station addressed a large crowd at the October RHCA meeting. Captain Bennett announced that there had been an arrest in the murder of 18-year-old Wyatt Campbell on October 14. The murder occurred behind the Rose Hill Shopping Center. A 15-year-old Rose Hill area boy was arrested on October 22, the day of the RHCA meeting. Captain Bennett said the murder was a random act and that Rose Hill remains a safe place to work, play and live. MPO Reid followed up by assuring everyone that the event was not gang related. He answered questions for more than an hour, reassuring everyone there was no reason to be afraid in Rose Hill. He and Captain Bennett both received applause when they finished their remarks. Also present was Shelia Campbell, the mother of the deceased, who thanked the police, neighbors and community for their support, condolences and prayers. Residents were reminded by MPO Reid of the importance of the Neighborhood Watch and offered to make himself available for training if necessary. Woody Betts, chairman of our Neighborhood Watch, and the president indicated their interest in setting up

a session. In Rose Hill, the Neighborhood Watch is an ongoing operation with various residents on the watch 24/7. Anyone can be a Watcher! Contact Woody or Carl to volunteer.

- Carl Sell

Virginia Hills Baptist Church Presents

“FOLLOWING THE STAR” Drive Through Live Nativity December 18 & 19 6:30 - 9:30 pm

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571-265-9573, or email:
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To join or renew your membership in the Rose Hill Civic Association...

Please fill out this form or online at myRoseHill.com and mail, along with your check, to the
RHCA, P.O. Box 10891, Alexandria, VA 22310.

If you have questions, feel free to call any of the officers.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Enclosed is a check for:

\$10 Membership

\$____ Donation for upkeep and landscaping of the Rose Hill entrance sign

\$____ Donation for RHCA General Fund

Rose Hill Community Calendar

Around Rose Hill

- **November 23**, 7:00 pm. RHCA Meeting. John Marshall Library.
- Every Wednesday and Saturday. BINGO! Franconia Volunteer Fire Department. Early Bird, 7:00 pm. Regular sessions, 8:00 pm.

John Marshall Library

6209 Rose Hill Dr., 703.971.0010. Call ahead to register for events. Hours: M, T, W - 10am-8pm; Th, F - 10am-6pm; Sat - 10am-5pm.

- Ongoing Event. Personalized computer training. Basics for beginners: Internet and Microsoft Word. Call for appointment. Adults
- **November 22**. Toddler Time. 10:30am. Come to an early literacy storytime. Ages 13-23 months.
- **November 25 and 26**. Libraries Closed.
- **December 6**. Lunch Bunch. 12:00 pm. Bring your lunch and join us for stories. Ages birth - 5 years with adult.
- **December 11**. Blue Sky Puppets. 10:30am. Bring the family for the holiday puppet show “Santa’s Workshop.” All ages.
- **December 13**. 3:30pm. Book Bunch. Join us for a book discussion and book-related activities. Please call for title. Ages 7-8 with adult.
- **December 15**. 10:30am. Fun for Twos and Threes. Join us for stories and activities. Ages 2-3 with adult.
- **December 16**. 7:00pm. Book Discussion Group. The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein. Adults.
- **December 20**. 10:30am. Toddler Time. Come to an early literacy storytime. No siblings, please. Ages 13-23 months with adult.

Thomas Edison High School

5801 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA 22310; Office - 703.924.8000; Fax - 703.924.8097

- **November 25 and 26**. Thanksgiving Holidays. Schools Closed.

Mark Twain Middle School

4700 Franconia Road., Alexandria, VA 22310; Office - 703.313.3700, Fax - 703.313.3797

- **November 25 and 26**. Thanksgiving Holidays. Schools Closed.
- **December 2**. 6:00pm. Orchestra Concert.
- **December 8**. 6:00pm. Band Concert.
- **December 9**. 6:00pm. PTA Meeting.

Rose Hill Elementary School

6301 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria, VA 22310; Office - 703.313.4200, Fax - 703.313.4297

- **November 25 and 26**. Thanksgiving Holidays. Schools Closed.

Rose Hill Business Directory

Free Floor Tiles

Need to replace broken or damaged floor tiles in your house in Rose Hill? I have a good number of 12" square tiles in excellent condition taken from a house being remodeled on Cottonwood Drive available for the asking. DAN BEARTH, 703-971-4357.

Fire Wood

Freedom Life Services now offers firewood! Please call for pricing. Matt Downey. 571.218.2881.

Rose Hill Business Directory

Only those residents who are members of the Rose Hill Civic Association or provide services in kind will qualify for a free listing in the business directory. Membership dues are the source of funds for the printing of The Rambler. A membership form for 2010 is included in this issue.

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Fabrications – graphics and designs, LLC. Websites, invitations, flyers, announcements, menus, business cards, brochures, newsletters, mailers, books, proposals, journals, and all your editing, printing, paper, and digital needs. Marty Williams, Desktop Specialist, has more than 13 years experience and can be reached at 703.910.6316, or marty@fabrications.us. She is the former Editor of *The Rambler*.

Digital Design. Ron Dillon, 703.971.2125; www.dgdesigns.com. Webpages, registration, scanning services, hosting and custom graphic art work. Ron and Donna Dillon live on Winston Place.

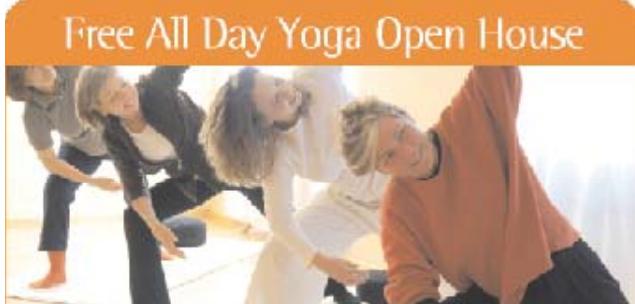
HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING

Dove Heating and Air Conditioning. We service and install heat pumps, air conditioners, furnaces, hot water heaters, and humidifiers. David and Linda Nichols, 703.971.8897. The Nichols have been in business for 24 years and have lived in Rose Hill for 34 years.

REAL ESTATE

Exit Metro Realty. Angie Vereen, 571-233-6395, angie@exitmetroliving.com. Our extensive experience and expertise in the Alexandria, Lorton, and Vienna real estate market will benefit you whether you are looking to buy or sell a home in the area. Licensed in Virginia and Maryland.

Free All Day Yoga Open House



Walk-ins Welcome

Saturday, March 13th

9:00-9:15am* - Beginner Yoga
10:15-11:00am* - Yoga Flow
11:30am-12:15pm* - Fiery Sun Stretch
1:00-1:45pm* - Restorative Fitness Yoga (Gentle)
2:00-3:00pm - Yoga Reception

* Please arrive 15 minutes before each class.

Free Giveaways!

Hollin Hall Senior Center
1500 Shenandoah Road, RM 218
Alexandria, VA 22308

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LAWN SERVICES

Fortney Lawn & Garden. David and Jimmy Fortney, 703.960.8869. Although they live in Virginia Hills, the Fortneys work closely with RHCA to maintain the median landscaping on Rose Hill Drive.

Dans Lawn & Leaf. Daniel and David Bishop, 703.719.7806. Fast, friendly, affordable service. Serving the Rose Hill community for 7 years.

Freedom Lawn & Landscape. Matt Downey, 571.218.2881, freedomproviders@gmail.com. Proud to provide our customers with high quality services at affordable prices. Family has lived in Rose Hill for nearly 50 years. Discount for RHCA members! Free estimates for all. You Deserve Freedom!

HOUSE CLEANING

Ingrid Hayslip. 703.362.5672. A 14 year resident of the Rose Hill area, I clean houses including move-in and move-outs.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Tisara Photography. Nina Tisara, 703.838.8098. Tisara Photography is a family business with a studio in Old Town Alexandria since 1990. They specialize in portraits and special events. Nina live on Hayfield Place.

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The UPS Store

Rose Hill Business Directory

(continued)



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PET SITTING

Welcome Waggin' Professional Pet Sitting. Jonathan and Janelle Welch. 703.819.0809, jlw@welcomewaggin.com. Serving the Alexandria area since 2000.

DECK AND FENCE

B&B Deck and Fence. Cliff James, Owner. 6412 May Boulevard. Quality work, 25 years experience. Telephone: 703.719.7015/703.627.9935, Fax: 703.922.3779.

QUILTS

Hand made quilts. Sally Dankers and her mother, Marjorie Parkyn, make quilts for sale. They are one of a kind and very beautiful. Call 703.971.8064 or e-mail oraclemarjorie@aol.com.

SPEECH-LANGUAGE THERAPY SERVICES

Speech Beginnings, PLC, a speech therapy private practice in Rose Hill, provides quality speech-language therapy services (evaluations/therapy/screenings) to children of all ages Preschool through 5th grades. Owned and operated by a licensed and certified speech-language pathologist with more than 19 years experience. Please visit our website at: www.speechbeginnings.com. You can also contact us at 571.481.4344.

WELLNESS

We're changing the shape of America one pound at a time. Weight management targeted nutrition, energy & fitness, personal care, business opportunity. Contact Joanne Thompson, Independent Herbalife Distributor. www.shape-up-usa.com, www.wellness-usa-mall.com, www.fortune-key.com.

FIREWOOD

Cool weather has arrived! Time for a warm fire in your fireplace. Firewood available in 3x3x1.5 ft bundles, 2x4x8 ft half chords, and 2x8x8 ft. chords. Will deliver in the 22310 zip code or you can pick up locally. Please request prices for delivery outside the 22310 area. Pricing is as follows: (pickup / delivered and dumped) bundle \$60/75, half chord \$125/140, full chord \$200/230. Please call 703.509.8286 for more information.

Advertising in *The Rambler*

Listing in the Business Directory is free to Rose Hill residents who are members and own their business, but placing an actual advertisement is open to all with rates per month as follows:

- * Business card: 3 1/2" x 2", \$10
- * Quarter page: 3 1/2" x 4 3/4", \$25
- * Half page: 7 1/2" x 4 3/4", \$50
- * Full page: 7 1/2" x 9 3/4", \$100

Ads may be bought for either one month only, month-to-month, or as many months in advance as desired. Our newsletter is published 9 times a year, excluding July, August, and December.

Advertising in *The Rambler* is an excellent way to reach the 700+ homes in our community. In addition, the ads are placed on our website, www.myRoseHill.com, for the world to see.

Anyone interested in placing an ad may call me at 703.625.7046. Artwork can be sent to richtdowney@gmail.com in tiff or jpeg format or hardcopy mailed to P.O. Box 10891, Alexandria, VA 22310. Checks made out to RHCA should be included with ads and sent to the P.O. Box.

—Richard Downey