

The Rambler

Newsletter of the
Rose Hill Civic Association

President's Message

RHCA To Honor Manager Leon Plenty on His Retirement From Lee District Park

It won't be the same next month at the Lee District Park and the Robert E. Lee Recreation Center when Leon Plenty, who has been there off and on since 1977, including the last 17 years as Manager, retires. Leon has become part of the fabric of the park and the surrounding communities, making sure he keeps his ears to the ground and his eyes on a successful park operation. Most people aren't aware of it, but the Recreation Center has to earn its own way without support from the taxpayer. Its operational budget is supported entirely by user fees. No doubt the park will continue to prosper thanks to the programs and revenue sources Leon has had a large part in developing.

The Rose Hill Civic Association will honor Leon for his service at its November 25 meeting at 7 p.m. in the community room of the John Marshall Library. Citizens are invited to attend and show their gratitude for Leon's long and successful partnership with the large community at its front doorstep. Many old-time residents have seen Lee District Park develop from a gravel pit to a vibrant recreational facility. Leon will be the first to tell you that the groundwork for success was laid by Bob

RHCA Officers

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www.myrosehill.com

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Foor, the first manager at Lee District Park. Bob, who still lives nearby, will be on hand at the November 25 RHCA meeting. Joining Bob will be Cindy Messinger, who also is retiring from the Park Authority. Cindy's husband, Rusty, grew up in Rose Hill. She also started her career at Lee District Park and worked her way up to Deputy Director. All three have helped Lee District Park become an outstanding example of how a major public park facility with high visitation can co-exist with quiet neighboring low density residential communities such as Rose Hill.

Leon is from Washington, D.C. and graduated from Delaware State University. He was a Natural Resource major there and recalls with a laugh that a professor once asked him how a young man from a city without much grass became interested in such a major. He said that same professor gave him a hug at graduation. Leon started at Lee District, Fairfax County's second recreation center complex (Wakefield at Braddock Road and the Beltway was the first). He served tours at other recreation centers and managed Lake Accotink during his career. The majority of his time was spent at Lee District where he had a loyal staff and many friends in the nearby communities.

Leon has three grown daughters. His first wife died within a year of the birth of his second daughter and Leon raised the two girls until he met his present wife, Jackie, at church. They had a daughter of their own. Leon is active in his church and plays in the band. He plans to continue with jazz groups and hopes to be able to play some golf at Greendale Golf Crouse. No doubt he will be stopping by Lee District Park just to see if things are running smoothly.

Among his first duties at Lee District Park

was to deliver some documents to Burke Lake Park. He recalls being given the package and a map. It took a while, but the city slicker found his way successfully across the County and completed the mission. Leon also recalls a conversation one day early in his career where the name of the current Rose Hill president came up and the other party in the conversation mentioned he would ask that person for some help. Leon was perplexed at first, asking "you mean that guy whose name is on the sign?" Told that it was, Leon admitted he was unaware that person was still alive! It wasn't long before Carl Sell, former Lee District member and Chairman of the Park Authority and Leon Plenty met and forged a positive partnership to support Lee District Park and the community that survives to this day.

Join us at the Tuesday, November 25th RHCA meeting and say thanks to Leon, Bob and Cindy for their outstanding contributions to Lee District Park. The meeting starts at 7 p.m. in the community room of the John Marshall Library. As always, refreshments will be served.

We Need Your Help in 2015

We start our annual membership campaign this month and boy do we need your help! Expenses for the new 60-year-signs, expanded delivery of The Rambler and a drop in memberships depleted our treasury in 2014. We need to get back on an even keel in 2015! Renewals alone are not enough to cover all our expenses, so we need your contributions if we are to continue special projects such as the plantings at the entrance sign at Rose Hill Drive and Franconia Road. Last year, membership fees alone were not enough to cover the cost of printing The Rambler. Fortunately, income from advertisements and your added contributions pulled us though. In addition to printing The Rambler, dues and contributions also support our Rose Hill Beauty and Veteran's Day program. Also, we contribute to local causes such as the Edison All-Night Graduation Party, Kononia and the annual Christmas Eve dinner for the police who have to work the holiday. Snacks and food at our meetings come from a combination of RHCA funds and contributions. Please fill out

the membership form on page 5 and return it along with your \$10 dues and contribution to RHCA, Box 10891, Franconia, VA 22310. All of the money collected goes toward the operation of RHCA. Every penny! Please help us maintain Rose Hill as a great place to live by supporting YOUR Civic Association. Try to visit us as often as you can during the year. We meet the fourth Tuesday of each month except July, August and December with information about activities in The Rambler and on our web site, myrosehill.com. Give us your e-mail address and we promise not to share it with anyone. Member's names will be noted in subsequent issues of The Rambler.

Loss of A Community Treasure

Wellington Richard Machmer, who moved with his wife Ann to Rose Hill as one of our Original residents in January, 1955, passed away on October 18, 2014. He would have been 99 years old on January 30, 2015. Like most of our early residents, Well was very active in helping mold Rose Hill into the vibrant, attractive community it remains today. The garden in the backyard of their home in the cul de sac of Willowood Drive was the envy of the neighborhood and their front yard earned a Rose Hill Beauty sign year after year. A native of a Wernerville, Pennsylvania, Well attended elementary school in a one-room building, graduated from high school as the class valedictorian and worked for the Berkshire Knitting Mills in Reading, Pennsylvania, for \$13 per week during the Depression. He attended business school at night and met his wife, Anna, at "The Berky" (as the mill was known). He was drafted in 1942 and they were married the following year. Well served as a military policeman and was a guard at a prisoner of war camp in France in 1945. His knowledge of Pennsylvania Dutch enabled him to communicate with Germans who had surrendered or been captured. After World War II ended, the Machmers lived at Fort Belvoir, where Well would rise to the position of Postmaster. Their two sons, Richard Wellington (1947) and Ronald William (1952) were born there. They bought their first house in Rose Hill for \$14,000 and immediately became involved in helping build a new community. The Machmers

also were among the founders of St. John's Lutheran Church, which began meeting in Franconia Elementary School. After he retired in 1976, Well logged 1,500 hours as a volunteer in the Talking Books Section of the Fairfax County Library. He and Ann also traveled overseas several times. The Machmers are remembered as "Rose Hill Originals" on the sign under the Rose Hill Historic Marker on Rose Hill Drive at the Library. Well was an active member of the Rose Hill Civic Association, attending meetings up until last year. The Machmers were among the special guests as Rose Hill honored those who served at a Veteran's Day program in 2012. We all owe a debt of gratitude to early residents like Wellington Richard Machmer who helped preserve the community for us to enjoy. Read the tribute to Well and others who have passed away in the "In Memoriam" section on our website, myrosehill.com.

Former resident Dies

Jim Sapp, webmaster for myrosehill.com, reports that Ervin S. Becker, his former neighbor on Haystack Road, passed away in Wisconsin on October 16, 2014. He was 85. Erv and his wife Ruth moved to Rose Hill in the 1960s and lived here for many years before moving to Wisconsin to be closer to their children. An Army veteran, Erv was born in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, graduated from the University of Wisconsin and lived in Wisconsin Rapids when he died. Ruth, sons David and James, and daughter Ann Becker Lepak survive. Jim and Erv worked at the same company in Alexandria in the early 1960s. When Jim and Patsy were married in 1967, the Beckers were among the guests. Later, the Sapps were surprised to learn the Beckers were next-door neighbors when they bought their house on Haystack. Jim and Patsy now live on the east slope of the Rockies in Colorado where Jim updates myrosehill.com long distance.

Welcome Home!

Nina Tisara, who lives on Hayfield Place, relates a story that will make you smile. While

attending an Art League class recently, she got to talking to another person there. One thing led to another and the lady asked Nina where she lived. "Rose Hill," Nina answered. "Where in Rose Hill," the lady asked, adding that her aunt once lived there. "Hayfield Place," Nina answered. "My aunt lived on Hayfield Place," the lady, whose name turned out to be Lisa Church, said. They discovered that they were talking about the same house. Sometime later, Tricia Brogan Francis, who grew up in Rose Hill and graduated from Edison, brought her mother, Shirley Brogan, to see the house. They were visiting from St. Louis. During the conversation, Shirley, now 90 years old, told Nina that she and her husband Ned (now deceased) were original owners and used to track the children's heights with marks on the wall in the utility room closet as they grew older. With that, Nina opened the closet door and showed them that the marks were still there. Neither Nina nor Mike and Christine Massimi, the second owners, had erased them. Go to myrosehill.com for a picture and more information on this amazing story.

Auto Break In Activity

Several residents have reported autos being broken into in their driveway in recent weeks. Please be sure your car is locked and your outside lights are on during the long winter nights. Make sure you look out your window before you go to bed. If you get up during the night, look around outside. If you see any suspicious activity in either your or a neighbors' driveway or on the street, call 911. If the next morning you find your car has been broken into, please call the non-emergency number at 703-691-2131 and make a report. Remind your neighbors to keep an eye on both their and your driveway. Under no circumstances should you confront a burglar. Call the police. Get a description of the person and the vehicle they may be using if you can from a safe distance. If we aren't vigilant, the situation will get worse. Burglars seek opportunities in communities where they feel safe from being noticed. If you see a suspicious person or vehicle, call the police. Even if it is a

false alarm, police activity will be noticed by those who seek opportunities to rob, or worse, steal your vehicle. Look around your neighborhood as you come and go. Notice what kind of car(s) your neighbor drives and get the license plate number of any that appear suspicious or out of place. We need to put a stop to these break-ins before they become an epidemic.

Community Reminders

In response to numerous requests, here are some reminders for all residents. First, Fairfax County has a leash law and animal owners are required to pick up after their pets. Dogs allowed to run loose are a threat to others and failure to clean up any mess shows a disregard for other property owners and the community in general. Please make sure your pet is a good neighbor. Second, large piles of trash at the curbside are NOT automatically picked up. You must arrange for a special pickup. Trash, including furniture, is not to be left at the curb. It is against the law and you may be subject to a fine. Third, Rose Hill is part of a community parking zone, meaning large trucks, boats, trailers, etc., are not allowed to be parked on our streets. Only one small commercial vehicle is allowed per address. Inoperable vehicles, including those without proper tags, are not allowed on either the street or on private property when in view of a neighboring property. Fairfax County has stringent laws pertaining to zoning, upkeep of your property, subdivision of living spaces, over occupancy, etc. and your neighbors have a record of reporting violations. In the case of rental properties, the owner is responsible. Please keep up the property you own or rent so that you do not affect the value of either your property or that of your neighbors. Be assured that one or more of them will complain to the authorities.

Veteran's Day and Originals

Our annual display of signs honoring Rose Hill residents who are veterans or are currently serving in the military has grown to more than 60 names. We almost outgrew the Krause's yard at

6300 Rose Hill Drive and no doubt will have to make two rows (the front one a little lower so those in the back can be seen) in 2015. Already we have three more names to add. The response of visitors and veteran's families was impressive. Thanks to Scott and Ethan Decker and Robbie Thomson, Jr., for their help in putting up the signs. For Robbie, it was especially meaningful as his and his late father's names joined the display this year. Our program honoring our Originals and hearing their stories of the early days of Rose Hill drew a large crowd at our October meeting. Connie Beatty, who has lived in Rose Hill for almost 60 years, admitted that she would be celebrating her 39th birthday the next day. Several others, including Jane Letsch, admitted they had a few years on Connie. We were able to coax several good stories out of Bill Stemple and learned that his wife, Jean, had worked in the Alma Shop for ladies when it operated in Rose Hill a few years back. Fortunately, Ray Stone and Juanita Holloman didn't let the fact that they hadn't been mentioned in the announcement of the meeting slow them down. Both ladies showed up and added to the history lessons along with Jean Thomson. The crowd shared an anniversary cake and went home happy with the memories.

New rules on I-95 Express Lanes

The long-awaited improvements to the I-95 Express Lanes are expected to be finished and the roadway opened in early December. This will mean some major changes as you no longer can travel the Express Lanes without an Easy Pass, even if you have three or more occupants. All drivers will need an Easy Pass to use the Express Lanes. Carpoolers will need what is called an EasyPass Flex set in the HOV mode to travel toll free. Others will pay a toll charged to their EasyPass account. Trucks with two or more axels or vehicles pulling trailers are prohibited from using the lanes. Motorcycles do not need an EasyPass. Rules will be in effect 24 hours a day. The lanes run 29 miles between Route 610 in Stafford County and Edsall Road in Fairfax County. Drivers can get an EasyPass at Wegmans, selected Giant Food Stores, the Virginia

Department of Motor Vehicles, or by calling Virginia E-Z Pass at 877-762-7824 or visit easypassva.com.

Reminder: The Rambler is on vacation over the Holidays. See You in January.

- Carl Sell

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Source: Rankings based on 2014 Real Trends The Thousand - Data. If your home is currently listed, do not consider this a solicitation. We are always happy to cooperate.



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

Around Rose Hill

John Marshall Library

6209 Rose Hill Dr., 703.971.0010. Call ahead to register for events. Hours: M, T - 10am - 9pm; W, F - 10am - 6pm; Th. - 1pm - 9pm; Sat 10am - 5pm

- * **Ongoing Event.** English Conversation. Each Thursday at 2:00pm. Conversation group for people learning English. Adults.
- * **November 27 & 28.** Fairfax County Public Libraries closed for the Thanksgiving holiday.
- * **December 1.** Fun for Twos and Threes. 10:30 am. Come for stories and activities. Ages 2-3 w/ adult.
- * **December 3.** Toddler Time. 10:30 am. Come for an early literacy story time. Ages birth - 23 months w/ adult.
- * **December 10.** A to Zoo - Halloween Parade. 10:30 am. Stories and activities. Ages 3-5 w/ adult.
- * **December 13.** Holidays Around the World. 10:30 am. Sing along with Cody and BJ as they sing holiday songs from around the world. All ages.
- * **December 15.** A to Zoo. 10:30 am. Stories and activities. Ages 3-5 w/ adult.
- * **December 17.** Fun for Twos and Threes. 10:30 am. Come for stories and activities. Ages 2-3 w/ adult.



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www.TandCHomeManagement.com

Thomas Edison High School

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Office - 703.924.8000; Fax - 703.924.8097

- * **November 27 & 28.** Fairfax County Public Schools closed for Thanksgiving holiday.

Mark Twain Middle School

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

- * **November 27 & 28.** Fairfax County Public Schools closed for Thanksgiving holiday.

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National Association of Residential Property Managers



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.

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 30 years and have lived in Rose Hill for 40 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.

Home Improvement

ABM Engineering. 703.499.3380. Local, sustainable, family-run business specializing in unique home renovations. Call us for a free estimate on your kitchen or bath remodel, stone wall, patio, shed, tiling, and concrete work.

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.

Freedom Lawn & Landscape. Matt Downey, 571.218.2881, freedomproviders@gmail.com. Fall is here! Our services this time of year include leaf removal, fall cleanups, gutter cleaning and winter prepping. Give us a call today to schedule your free consultation. Thank you to our current Rose Hill clients for their continued business!

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

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Mike, 703.971.2671. Few guitars are setup properly when purchased new. I can make a guitar play as easily as it can. That means beginners won't be discouraged and will be more apt to practice and enjoy their instrument.

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FOR SALE!!

Weight bench with weights. Light use! \$100. Call David Sell at 703.971.4716.

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.



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Further, the metal flashings around chimney areas and at adjoining exterior walls (or rooflines), the penetration collars (around plumbing and heat stacks) and all other vents become worn and prone to water infiltration.

Next time you're outside, take a close look at your roof (most people don't pay attention to it until there's a problem). How does it look? Is it rough and weathered? Are the shingles "curling" or cracking? Is one section very distinguishable from all other areas? Finally, are you proud of the way your roof helps "show" your home, or are you embarrassed by its appearance?

Remember: By the time you have waited "as long as possible," you have probably waited too long and will end up spending your hard earned money on interior and sub-structure repairs, as well as a much needed roof replacement.

To see all six misconceptions, visit
www.bguide.net/timothysroofing.



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