

The Rambler

Newsletter of the
Rose Hill Civic Association

President's Message

RHCA Comes Back From Vacation, Tuesday, Sept 22 RHCA Meeting

The Rose Hill Civic Association will meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, September 22, in the Community Room of the John Marshall Library. The main topic of conversation will be about comparing notes concerning incidents involving robberies and break-ins of both houses and cars over the summer. We hope to compile a list of problems to present to the police in an effort to increase community surveillance. We also need to discuss what we can do as citizens to assist the police in apprehending those who invade our neighborhood. You will read some ideas in a subsequent article. This is a good opportunity to share your concerns and suggest solutions. As usual, refreshments will be served. Next month, we will salute our veterans with a special program by John Cashmire, a Rose Hill resident who is a Vietnam veteran. In November, we will hear from Lee Walters, a new resident who is a veteran Emergency Medical Technician and CPR/First Aid Automatic Electronic Defibrillator instructor. He will focus on how you can increase your chances of a positive outcome when there is a severe loss of blood involved.

RHCA Officers

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

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

Secretary: Open

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

Editor, *The Rambler*: Susan Jones, scheungjones@gmail.com

Neighborhood Watch: Open, rosehillwatch@aol.com

Webmaster: Jim Sapp, jimsapp7@msn.com

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

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Remember, RHCA does not meet during December. Bring us your ideas for programs in 2016.

New Rambler Editor

Susan Jones has agreed to take on the chore of getting the Rambler ready for publication each month. Although she is new to Rose Hill, Susan grew up in Franconia and graduated from Edison High School. She also has an undergraduate degree from the University of Virginia and a graduate degree from George Mason University. She is a civil engineer with the Federal Highway Administration. Susan and her husband, Rick, two children and a family dog moved to Rose Hill in December 2013. Susan will be unable to attend the September meeting, but plans to attend our next meeting on October 27. We are hopeful that we soon will add an Associate Rambler Editor who can share the burden if Susan is not available or just needs a break. We are indebted to the former editor, Richard Downey, who relinquished the role after moving to Loudoun County. Richard grew up in Rose Hill. His brother, Matt, still lives in the family home and is one of our 20-member Rambler delivery team.

Stolen Items

There were a number of items stolen from properties in Rose Hill, including the bicycle belonging to the President's wife, as well as vehicle break ins, over the summer. Most were reported to the police. We may be in the midst of a rash of community incidents, so

added vigilance is recommended. Please lock your car at night. Make sure your outside lights, including those in the yards, are turned on. According to the police, nothing deters a would-be criminal more than a well-lighted property. Also, check the street lights near your home. Call Dominion Virginia Power at 1-866-366-4357. Press one (1) for electrical outage, then two (2) for a street light outage. Make sure you have the address of the house nearest the pole. If you find that something has been stolen or your car has broken into, call the police emergency number at 703-691-2131. If you see a robbery in progress, call 911 immediately. Neighborhood Watch signs are posted at all entrances to Rose Hill. RHCA has a number of people who keep their eye out for illegal activity, but we can't watch everywhere all the time. You can help. Look around for suspicious vehicles or people in your neighborhood. Report anything that concerns you. Rose Hill is a safe community and we intend to keep it that way!

Unfenced Pools

Residents are reminded that swimming pools, even those small ones for tots, can be dangerous. The county requires fencing that will prevent children from wandering onto a property to use a pool. Even those small plastic inflatable pools should be supervised by an adult and drained and stored when not in use. If you see one of those type pools unattended, please remind the property owner that they are dangerous. If you are uncomfortable approaching the property owner, call Fairfax County zoning enforcement at 703-324-1300. Your call may save a child's life.

Landslide Update

Hopefully, but the time you read this, work will be either underway or completed to repair the slide on the hillside behind May Boulevard adjacent to Rose Hill Reserve. The county and the developer blamed the delay on the lack of "controlled" fill to replace the marine clay that slid down the hill. Controlled fill means dirt that does NOT contain marine clay. I have already reminded the County that we tried to tell them that

disturbance of that hillside was a bad idea in the first place. When this job is finished, all of the areas of Rose Hill Reserve that are adjacent to steep slopes will have caissons filled with concrete driven into the ground to protect both the new homes and their neighbors in the established neighborhood. We can only hope that the caissons are deep enough to hold the hillside and this method will be effective for the long haul. I have notified the County that we are dissatisfied with their approval of plans presented by developers that have been proven defective. The slide being repaired now is the second one up the hill from the storm water management facility. Better engineering by both the consultant hired by the previous owner of the property, and closer scrutiny by the County could have prevented the problems. Those of us who live here and have seen previous damage by marine clay were assured that the methods approved would work. Plans on paper that seem mathematically correct are often no match for Mother Nature.

Silos to be Razred

It is only a matter of time before the silos that were incorporated into former Rose Hill Recreation Center will be torn down as part of a development of thirteen new homes on May Boulevard. A development plan either has, or soon will be approved by the County, to build the new homes under the existing R-3 zoning, the same as the rest of Rose Hill. Our plea to save the silos as part of any new development fell on the deaf ears of our neighbor, Claude Wheeler, who owns the property. The silos date back to the 1940s and are the remaining symbol of our agricultural past. Rose Hill Farm dates back to pre-Revolutionary Days. As soon as his plans to introduce a large church and school on the property were defeated, Wheeler moved ahead with plans to develop the houses. We understand his right to develop the property, but do not appreciate the lack of planning that could have saved the silos. The existing facility currently is leased to Rose Hill Academy, which has been a good neighbor. Too bad things could not have continued as they are, but apparently the lure of

added profit carried the day. Ironically, the same issues concerning poor soils on slopes that will be created for a storm water management pond that have caused problems in Rose Hill Reserve, raised their head in this plan, threatening the adjacent homes on Treetop Lane. The County staff approved the development plan without adequately answering the question raised by the engineer and RHCA. Those of use on May Boulevard and the block of Apple Tree Drive between May Boulevard and Rose Hill Drive, can brace yourselves for disruption by construction traffic, noise, overflow parking by workers, etc. that comes along with placing new homes in the middle of an established neighborhood. So much for being a good neighbor!

Rose Hill Beauties

The one hundred and one (101) RHCA members whose homes were selected as 2015 Rose Hill Beauties now have either new signs or stickers updating those older ones still in good shape. Only RHCA members get either signs or updates. There were many other properties selected, but they didn't receive signs or stickers because the owners aren't members. The signs are costly, so it is unfair to use membership funds to purchase signs for those who chose not or forgot to join. Special thanks to those previous winners who continued to display outdated signs that are still in good shape so we could affix stickers. As a result, we were able to order half as many new signs as in previous years. The signs have a life of about three years if they are protected from the weather. We do replace those that have deteriorated. If you receive a sign, please don't throw it away so we can recycle as necessary. Thanks to all of you who keep up your properties and help Rose Hill remain a pleasant community in which to live. And, if you see a property that has gone downhill, please let us know. It takes a while, but we usually are able to clean up the messes with the help of County officials and authorities. Failure to comply with upkeep or

overcrowding laws can result in court action and fines.

Remembering Our Veterans

We already have four new names to add to the list of Rose Hill residents who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States. We honor all by the placement of signs with the names in the yard of the Krause family across from Rose Hill Elementary on the Veteran's Day holiday period. Each veteran receives a sign. If you are a veteran, or have one in your household, and are not sure if we have the name, please e-mail me at sellcarl@aol.com. Honoring our veterans is one of the most important things RHCA does each year and we don't want to leave anyone out. Veteran's Day (November 11) falls on a Wednesday this year. We will present a special Veteran's Day program at our OCTOBER 27 meeting featuring Vietnam veteran and RHCA member John J. Cashmire performing some of the songs he has recorded. Details will appear in the October Rambler.

This Life Mattered

There were not any major newspaper stories or newscasts about the death of young Ryan Lindenbaum, but there should have been. He grew up in our area, was an honors graduate of Edison High School and already had earned recognition as an outstanding member of the Fairfax County Police Department. He had just turned 30 when he passed away as the result of brain tumor on August 27, 2015. He served our community as a patrol officer at the Franconia District Station. He recently had been promoted to Patrol Sergeant at the Centreville District Station. He was named the Fairfax County Police Association Police Officer of the Year in 2010 while serving at Franconia. At Edison, he was a starting offensive lineman for the football team and threw the shot put and discus for the track team. After graduation in 2002, Ryan attended Virginia Commonwealth University and Wesley College in

Dover, Delaware, before earning an Associate's Degree from Northern Virginia Community College where he was a member of the Dean's List. At the time of his death, he was pursuing a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Global Affairs with a minor in Arabic at George Mason University. His grade-point average was 3.92 on a scale of 4.0. He had participated in an Arabic Study Abroad Program in Amman, Jordan this past June. The Rambler tells you all this because the major media missed an important story and we wanted you to know about a young policeman, a member of our Franconia community who deserved recognition for his good deeds. We are not The Washington Post or New York Times, or Fox News or CNN, but our heart is in the right place. Fortunately, the local Connection Newspaper agreed with us and ran a full-page on the funeral service.

Election Officers Needed

The Fairfax County Office of Elections needs help for the upcoming election and you can earn \$175 for a full day while helping out from 5 a.m. to after the polls close at 7 p.m. Call 703-324-4735 or e-mail the Fairfax County Office of Elections website for more information. In order to be an election officer, you must be fluent in English, be registered to vote in the Commonwealth of Virginia, be able to fulfill the Federal I-9 eligibility requirements, attend a three-hour training class, work long hours and have basic computer skills. More important, you will have the satisfaction of helping to make our democracy work!

- Carl Sell

Trash Pick-Up

Republic Services (AAA), 703.818.8222,
Trash Tue/Fri, Recycling Wed
American Disposal, 703.368.0500,
Trash Tue/Fri, Recycling Tue

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.
- * **Sep 28, Oct 5 and 19.** A to Zoo Storytime. 10:30am. Ages 3-5.
- * **Sep 30.** Fun for 2s and 3s. 10:30 am. Come for stories and activities. Ages 2-3 w/adult.
- * **Oct 7.** Baby Artsplay. 10:30 am.
- * **Oct 17.** Pumpkin Pumpkin Who's Got the Pumpkin? Storytime. 10:30 am.

Thomas Edison High School

5801 Franconia Rd. Alexandria, VA 22310
Office – 703.924.8000; Fax – 703.924.8097

- * **Oct 9.** Student Holiday.
- * **Oct 12.** Columbus Day.
- * **Oct 23.** Football Homecoming.
- * **Oct 30.** End of 1st Quarter (2 hr early).

Mark Twain Middle School

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

- * **Oct 15.** Music Dept. Fall Concert
- * **Oct 20.** PTA Meeting

Rose Hill Elementary School

6301 Rose Hill Dr. Alexandria, VA 22310
Office – 703.313.4200; Fax – 703.313.4297

- * **Sep 25.** PTA Fall Fiesta.

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

Re/Max Executives. Angie Vereen, 571.233.6395, angievereen@gmail.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. Spring is here and Summer barbeques are around the corner! Our services this time of year include mowing, mulching, plantings, gutter cleaning and enhancements. Give us a call today to schedule your free consultation. Thank you to our current Rose Hill clients for their continued business!

Winsor Tree Service. Dave Winsor. All Phases of Expert Tree Work. Including Pruning, Trimming, Thinning, Dead-wooding, and Complete Removals. Also do Stump Grinding & Storm Damage Work, Bush & Shrubbery Work / Yard Spruce-Ups. 20+ Years Expert Professional Experience. FREE ESTIMATES & REASONABLE RATES. Call 703.346.7034 or email treetech351@yahoo.com

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.

Everclean Maid Service. 703.971.7160. Owned and operated by Nour Barakat and Mike Zalatoris. Our residential cleaning business is celebrating 25 years of service in Alexandria and for the last 22 years from our home in Rose Hill. We offer reliable and affordable home and office cleaning for all local residents, and we are happy to offer a 25% discount to our neighbors to celebrate our anniversary. Call for a free estimate and to schedule your cleaning. Thank you Rose Hill for being our happy home! (See our ad in this newsletter.)

Guitar Setup

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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- neck relief (truss rod) adjustment
- fret leveling and more
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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 lives on Hayfield Place.

Speech-Language Therapy Services

Speech Beginnings, PLC is a speech therapy private practice owned and operated by a Rose Hill resident with more than 22 years experience in the field. Our therapists come to you! We do in-home therapy and evaluations for children of all ages. We also provide on-site preschool screenings and consultations. For more information, please visit our website at www.speechbeginnings.com or call us at 571-481.4344.

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Need Help?

Pet services (dog walking, vet appointments); errands (pharmacy, dry cleaning, drop off/pick-up product repair); personal shopping (grocery, post office, exchange and item returns); vehicle services (vehicle license and emission renewal, vehicle service repair, vehicle inspection); home services (house sitting, light yard work, wait at home for service personnel); travel and transportation (to and from); medical concierge services (doctor appointments, pre-/post-operation assistance). Contact David Sell at 703.971.4716, or email dksell@hotmail.com.

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— Chris and Martha Maddocks

Candy is a current resident of Rose Hill Farm and grew up in Fairfax County. She has both her real estate license and certified residential appraiser's license. With over 12 years of experience in both real estate sales and appraisals in the Northern VA area, she brings a keen understanding of a home's true value. Her unique background helps her sellers receive maximum profit from their home sale.

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SIX Common Misconceptions about Roofing and the Roofing Industry:

Misconception #1. You should wait as long as possible to re-roof your home.

No! Your roof takes a beating every day from sun, wind and rain. Your shingles become brittle and crack with age and have a tendency to blow off and fail at an alarming rate with age. This exposes the roof decking (the sub-structure that literally, "keeps you out of the rain") to moisture which slowly deteriorates and rots the wood beneath, leading to leaks and more extensive damage.

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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