

# The Virginia Hills Echo



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## Lee Community Parking District Approved

On October 19th, the Board of Supervisors approved the proposed community parking district (CPD) for all of the Lee Magisterial District. The CPD prohibits parking watercraft, motor homes, campers, trailers, vehicles with three or more axles, vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR, the load a vehicle is rated to carry) of six tons or more, and vehicles capable of transporting more than 15 passengers (except school buses) on public streets in residentially zoned areas. Parking of these vehicles is still permitted on streets on which the property is zoned commercial or industrial.

This CPD became effective on November 18th. For 30 days thereafter, the police are issuing warnings and placing flyers on vehicles illegally parked under the restrictions of the CPD. After December 17th, the police will issue warnings giving 48 hours to move the offending vehicle. After 48 hours have passed, the police will issue a parking ticket. After another 48 hours have passed, the police will tow the vehicle.

The vehicles in question may still be parked on hard surfaced areas on the owner's property. To report a violation, Lee District residents should call the police non-emergency number, 703-691-2131. Police advise that, because of the large number of complaints expected in the first weeks after the CPD becomes effective, enforcement may not be possible within 48 hours for all violations.

Additionally, the Board of Supervisors will hold a hearing on December 7th to consider additional limits on commercial vehicles. Most of these duplicate the CPD regulations, but will apply county-wide. *The Echo* will report on any significant additional restrictions in the next issue.

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## How Virginia Hills Voted on November 3rd

Virginia Hills residents vote in either the Virginia Hills Precinct or the Wilton Precinct.

### Virginia Hills Precinct (turnout 40.9%)

#### Governor

McDonnell	230
Deeds	238

#### Lieutenant Governor

Bolling	224
Wagner	240

#### Attorney General

Cuccinelli	222
Shannon	241

#### Member, House of Delegates

Nank	211
Sickles	255

### Wilton Precinct (turnout 43.0%)

#### Governor

McDonnell	304
Deeds	399

#### Lieutenant Governor

Bolling	285
Wagner	413

#### Attorney General

Cuccinelli	278
Shannon	413

#### Member, House of Delegates

Nank	267
Sickles	432

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

***Tuesday, December 8th – 7:30 PM  
Old Virginia Hills School, Diana Lane***

***Speaker: Fairfax County Strike Team***

## FiOS Comes to Virginia Hills

Several months ago, most Virginia Hills residents received letters notifying them that FiOS, Verizon's fiber optic network for phone, internet access, and television was finally coming to the neighborhood. Rollout of the system has been ongoing for a number of years, and much of Fairfax County was provided with FiOS access years ago; Virginia Hills is among the last to receive it. You may have recently seen Verizon trucks doing work on Telegraph Road and within the neighborhood. This was part of the FiOS installation. Based on its research, *The Echo* believes that almost every home in the neighborhood can now subscribe to the service.

FiOS, while sounding like "fiber optic" is not an acronym, but a trademark of Verizon. Verizon literature says that *fios* is a Gaelic word meaning "knowledge." The system runs fiber optic cable directly to users' homes. The cable carries signals in the form of light, allowing much higher speed and quality than copper telephone wire.

FiOS is an optional service. If you're happy with your existing phone, internet, or cable or dish television services, you need do nothing and you won't get FiOS. In fact, if your provider for any of those services is not Verizon, the provider may offer you better or cheaper service to keep you with it. If, on the other hand, you want upgraded service, FiOS is about 10 times as fast as DSL internet service available in Virginia Hills and may even be noticeably faster than your current cable.

You can learn more about FiOS capabilities and pricing at [www.verizon.com](http://www.verizon.com) or by calling Verizon. Getting FiOS means getting the phone capability. In addition to phone (which really offers no significant advantage over existing copper wire phone), you can get internet, television, or both as part of a "bundle."

It remains to be seen if this long-awaited service will deliver the quality, speed, and reliability it promises. As more residents report their experience with FiOS, *The Echo* will continue to report on how well it's working.

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### Virginia Hills Citizens Association Officers 2009-2010

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## Obituary

*The Echo* has learned of the passing in October of Walter Katacinski formerly of Hillview Court at the age of 90. He was buried in Mount Comfort Cemetary.

## Christmas Tree Disposal

During the first two weeks of January, live Christmas trees less than eight feet in length will be picked up for recycling. Residents with county collection service should place their trees at the curb by 6:00 AM on the regular collection day. Please make sure that trees are free of lights, stands, ornaments, tinsel and plastic bags. Place your natural tree *next to but separate from* regular trash. Artificial trees should not be included for recycling.

***Happy Holidays!***

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**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  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_.

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## **Message from Supervisor McKay: The New Normal**

That's a term I've been hearing a lot lately about the economy. What is the new normal and what does it mean for Fairfax County services? That's the question both the Board of Supervisors and the School Board are asking as we head into budgeting for FY2011 beginning next July. We are looking not only at the next year, but also at sustainability for the next several years.

At this time last year, we anticipated a \$650 million shortfall just to maintain the FY2009 level of services. We closed that shortfall by freezing County employee salaries, cutting 306 positions, and holding budgets for most County agencies at or below the FY2009 level. We cut half the Penny for Affordable Housing, reduced overtime funding, and cut funds budgeted for fuel and take home cars. We raised fees in such areas as commercial parking violations and construction permits.

This year, the Board met in September for a fiscal outlook presentation. There was good and bad news. On the positive side, the county's housing market seems to be closer to stabilizing—key because about 64% of our General Fund revenue comes from real estate property taxes. While prices are still declining, they moderated considerably during the summer months.

Still worrisome is the concern about another possible wave of residential foreclosures and continuing weakness in the commercial market. At this point, our economic experts think that it will be at least 2013 before the housing market achieves equilibrium.

Also positive, Fairfax County's local economy is holding up well, largely due to growth of Federal procurement spending, Federal stimulus dollars, and the sales tax revenue from programs such as Cash for Clunkers.

How does this affect our ability to provide services to our citizens? At this point, we anticipate a \$490 million shortfall for FY2011 that we will have to close—on top of the cuts that we made in the current County budget. I believe there are some government responsibilities that are not negotiable. Proposed cuts to critical police and fire services, including regional shopping center officers, middle school police resource officers, and the sexual predator enforcement and detection team were restored. Unacceptable response times for medical emergencies were avoided with the restoration of EMS services, and many vital human services that are especially necessary during tough economic times were spared. As much as possible, we protected the school system and maintained the progress we're making keeping our neighborhoods healthy by restoring proposed cuts to zoning enforcement, property maintenance, and the strike team.

My budget advisory group is also reconvening and will work with me and senior County staff to find areas for cost containment and consolidation.

This year *will* be harder. Our citizens have high expectations for the services local government provides and the quality of those services. How we agree on the shared sacrifices and adjustments to be made will resonate long after this deep recession ends.

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## Brad Center's School Board Report

These are truly difficult times for us. As you know, FCPS receives a majority of its funding from the Board of Supervisors through the real estate tax. Real estate revenues are down due to the housing market. As I am sure you are also aware, the School Board does not have the authority to raise revenues and is legally bound to submit a balanced budget with no deficit funding. We rely solely on funding allocations from the County and State. For the past two years, those funds have not increased and are not likely to do so this year. When you couple this with the fact that our student enrollment has gone up and continues to climb, we are in a very bad place. The net effect is a huge gap between the funds needed to run FCPS and the funds available.

Last year's budget cuts were painful as we reduced funding to just about every department by 10-15%, froze employees' salaries, eliminated cost of living increases, and **reluctantly** increased class size. Without the infusion of federal funding for designated programs, the cuts would have been deeper.

Unfortunately, this year is worse because we have already cut to where it hurts. Now, I want to be very clear with what I am about to say. Any additional cuts will impact student achievement – possibly in a very profound way. Once cuts like these are made and the

impact felt, it can take years for the system to recover, but it is impossible to recover a year lost to a single child. At this point, any decision the Board makes will change FCPS as we know it, which means the same school system that has always been one of the strongest factors in spurring our county's economic growth could be in jeopardy. Across the nation, businesses and families know FCPS' stellar reputation, and they want to move here for the economic and educational advantages. This is what we could lose.

Our budget discussions this year will not be about one program's value versus another. We have clear evidence that all of our programs make a positive difference in our students' education. What we must deliberate is how and where we can make cuts that are fair and that do the least harm. There are no easy decisions.

Thus we must work together to do the best we can in these difficult times. The School Board wants to hear your thoughts and recommendations before we make any decisions impacting your children and our schools. I encourage you to stay informed and to keep me informed! These are your tax dollars – if you want more of them to go to education funding, tell the Board of Supervisors and your state legislators. And, let me know your recommendations for the education funding we receive. I do my job best, when I work *with* you!



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### Recent Virginia Hills Real Estate Market Activity

Status	Style	Address	BR	FB	HB	List \$	Close \$	Subsidy	Bsmt	Gar
ACTIVE	Rambler	3601 OAKWOOD LN	3	1	0	\$245,900			Yes	
ACTIVE	Rambler	6424 THE PARKWAY	3	2	0	\$260,000			No	
ACTIVE	Colonial	6500 BERKSHIRE DR	4	3	1	\$499,000			Yes	1
ACTIVE	Rambler	6513 ENFIELD DR	3	2	0	\$270,000			No	
ACTIVE	Rambler	3703 HEATHER CT	3	2	0	\$419,900			Yes	
CNTG/NO KO	Rambler	4002 RONSON DR	4	2	0	\$244,900			Yes	
CNTG/NO KO	Rambler	3715 AUSTIN AVE	3	1	0	\$325,523			Yes	
CNTG/NO KO	Rambler	6606 BERKSHIRE DR	3	2	0	\$349,900			Yes	
CNTG/NO KO	Bilevel	6330 GENTELE CT	3	2	0	\$243,900			No	
CNTG/NO KO	Rambler	6308 TRACEY CT	3	3	0	\$419,000			Yes	
CNTG/NO KO	Rambler	6400 VIRGINIA HILLS AVE	3	2	0	\$284,000			Yes	
CNTG/NO KO	Raised Rambler	6214 HOUSTON CT	4	2	0	\$270,000			Yes	
CNTG/NO KO	Raised Rambler	6611 THE PKWY	4	2	0	\$249,900			Yes	
CNTG/NO KO	Rambler	6406 PROSPECT TER	4	2	0	\$256,000			Yes	
CNTG/KO	Raised Rambler	6418 PROSPECT TER	4	2	0	\$340,000			Yes	
CONTRACT	Rambler	3607 AUSTIN AVE	6	2	0	\$210,900			Yes	
CONTRACT	Rambler	6308 PROSPECT TER	3	2	0	\$249,000			Yes	
CONTRACT	Rambler	6626 DORSET DR	3	2	0	\$239,000			No	
CONTRACT	Rambler	6633 DORSET DR	3	1	0	\$340,000			Yes	1
CONTRACT	Rambler	6317 DORSET DR	3	2	0	\$349,950			Yes	
CONTRACT	Other	6615 BERKSHIRE DR	3	2	0	\$219,900			Yes	1
CONTRACT	Rambler	3704 AUSTIN AVE	5	2	0	\$260,000			Yes	2
SOLD	Rambler	3603 OAKWOOD LN	3	1	0	\$267,900	\$269,000		Yes	
SOLD	Rambler	6541 VIRGINIA HILLS AVE	3	2	0	\$255,000	\$265,000		No	
SOLD	Rambler	6049 TELEGRAPH RD	3	2	0	\$219,000	\$210,000		Yes	1
SOLD	Rambler	6612 DORSET DR	3	1	0	\$334,433	\$320,000		Yes	
SOLD	Rambler	6414 PROSPECT TER	3	2	0	\$227,000	\$260,000	\$7,800	Yes	
SOLD	Rambler	6318 VIRGINIA HILLS AVE	5	2	0	\$250,000	\$250,000		Yes	
WITHDRN	Rambler	6108 PIKE CT	4	2	0	\$325,000			Yes	

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