

# The Virginia Hills Echo



Circulation 875

Volume 25, No. 2

December 2015

## VHCA Winter Movie and Game Night

Winter is rapidly approaching. It is a time when it gets cold and dark; you really do not get the chance to see your neighbors. That said, the Virginia Hills Citizens Association (VHCA) will host a Winter Movie and Game Night on December 11, 2015 at the Virginia Hills School Building on Diana Lane. Join us from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm, as we watch:

- *Home*
- *Shrek the Halls*
- *Mickey's Christmas Carol*
- *Ice Age: A Monmouth Christmas*

While the movies are playing, the VHCA will also host a game night for those interested in meeting new and old neighbors alike, while playing board games. Please bring your favorite one with you, if you like.

There is no cost for attending. The VHCA is always looking for ways to build up our sense of community and friendship. Therefore, the VHCA asks that you bring a food item to share with your neighbors and if possible, please bring a non-perishable food item. The VHCA will bring all of the donated food to the local food bank to help out some of our neighbors that may be in need this winter.

## Community Service Project: Operation Helping Hand

The beauty of living in Virginia Hills is that we are more than a suburban hub for Washington, DC. Our neighborhood is rich with history and a sense of identity that transcends the usual transitory pattern found in other

communities in Northern Virginia. Virginia Hills is a diverse group of residents that range from original owners to new families - and everything in between! That said, another unique characteristic is that we look out for each other and are always willing to lend a helping hand for one another.

The Virginia Hills Citizens Association (VHCA) wants to take this long running practice and bring it into the 21st century. The VHCA is looking for members of our community that are willing to help their fellow neighbors. In many cases, this will be for simple things like shoveling the snow off the sidewalk for an elderly resident within our neighborhood. For those that are interested in this type of community service OR your children are looking for community service hours, please contact the VHCA Membership Director, Ms. Akiko Ueda-Zecca ([membership@virginiahills.org](mailto:membership@virginiahills.org)). Let's show people why Virginia Hills continues to be not just a place where we come home to after work, but a true community!

## Lee District Open House

From Supervisor McKay's office

On Saturday, January 30 from 1-3 pm I hope you'll join my staff and me to welcome the new year, celebrate our accomplishments, and enjoy light refreshments prepared by the students of Edison High School's culinary academy. As always, the Springfield Art Guild will have a display of artwork that is available for sale.

We'll also be honoring Bob McLaren, a Lee District resident long involved in environmental and land use activities. After many years, Bob has stepped down as the Lee District representative to the County's Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC).

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### Virginia Hills Citizens Association Meeting

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

**Speaker: TBD**

## Text 911 in Fairfax County From Fairfax County Police Department

You can now send a text message to 9-1-1 in Fairfax County — and it's critical to understand how the system works. Voice calls are still the best and preferred method for most people to contact 9-1-1. Remember this important phrase: Call if you can. Text if you can't. Text to 9-1-1 is intended for specific emergency scenarios:

- For a person who is deaf, hard-of-hearing or has a speech disability.
- For someone who is in a situation where it is not safe to place a voice call to 9-1-1.
- A medical emergency that renders the person incapable of speech.
- If you are unable to call 9-1-1 due to being in a remote location with limited voice network availability.

### How to Text 9-1-1

1. Enter "911" in the "To" or "Recipient" field of your text message (no dashes in 911).
2. Text in simple words — no photos, videos, abbreviations or slang.
3. The first text should be short to include the location of the emergency and who you need: police, fire or ambulance.
4. Be as specific as possible when providing your location. Provide as much information as possible: exact address, cross streets, business names, landmarks
5. Push the send button.
6. Answer questions and follow instructions from the 9-1-1 call taker.

English is the only language available right now for text to 9-1-1.

As with all technology, there are some other key details you should know:

- As with all text messages, 9-1-1 text messages can take longer to receive, may be delivered out of order, or may not be received at all.
- Text to 9-1-1 is not available if you are in a "roaming" situation.
- Text to 9-1-1 cannot include more than one person. Do not copy your emergency text to anyone other than 9-1-1.
- Prank-texters can be identified and possibly prosecuted according to local laws/regulations.

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



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### Single Issue Advertising Rates

Back page	\$90	Quarter page	\$35
Full page	\$85	Business card	\$15
Half page	\$45		

For yearly discount rate, see [www.VirginiaHills.org/Echo.html](http://www.VirginiaHills.org/Echo.html)

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## New Restrictions on Payday Lenders from Supervisor Jeff McKay

On November 17<sup>th</sup>, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved new zoning regulations to restrict the locations of car title companies and payday lenders.

These businesses offer quick loans at exorbitantly high interest rates--as high as 268 percent. Not only do they target poor and desperate individuals but they also signal decline in a community and deter other stores, restaurants, and small businesses from moving to these neighborhoods. There's been an explosion of them in Northern Virginia and Supervisors Hyland, Gross, and McKay directed County zoning staff to research the County's regulatory and land use options for regulating these enterprises.

In 2011, the Virginia General Assembly passed a bill allowing car title lenders to extend credit to out-of-state drivers despite objections from the Board of Supervisors. The result: Virginia has become a magnet for people who need cash but live in the District, Maryland, or other nearby states where interest rates are capped and such businesses are discouraged or prohibited from opening.

Virginia is a Dillon Rule State where Counties cannot pass legislation without state enabling legislation authorizing them to do so. While Fairfax County cannot legally ban these businesses, we can restrict where they locate. At the September 22 Board of Supervisors meeting, we took the first step in this process by authorizing public hearings on proposed new zoning regulations.

Until our November 17 Board vote, payday and car title lenders could operate by-right in the same locations as commercial banks and in most commercial and industrial districts. Under the new regulations, they are banned from the County's revitalization districts. They must be located within shopping centers rather than stand-alone locations. The new regulations also specify:

- Only one such lender per shopping center.
- Lenders cannot locate in any shopping centers next to or across from any public use, house of worship, child care center, private school, or quasi-public athletic field and related facility.
- Hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Cars may not be stored on the property.

At that same meeting we also unanimously approved new regulations for donation drop boxes. These are the boxes you often see in shopping centers and frequently they turn into dumping grounds for old furniture, mattresses, and other junk. Sometimes they block required parking spaces or block sidewalks. The new rules include size regulations and require regular and prompt collection. The new rules were developed with input from PlanetAid, a nonprofit that uses donation boxes to collect used clothes. More information on the

new regulations can be found on the Fairfax County website.

## Be Alert; Prevent Holiday Package Theft

It could happen anywhere, and with the holiday season approaching, more people are ordering online. Some tips to prevent theft off your doorstep:

- Communicate with neighbors and ask them to take in your packages in case you're not home to do so or make sure packages are registered "signature required."
- Check to see if your delivery company offers email alerts when your delivery is made.
- Have your packages delivered to where you work instead of your house.
- Lastly, watch around the neighborhood. If a car drives by repeatedly, contact the Fairfax County Police Department with any information at (703) 691-2131.

**Visit the Virginia Hills web site at  
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## Tom Winegar Passes Away

With his loving family by his side, Thomas "Tom" Keith Winegar, went home to be with the Lord on September 15, 2015 after a courageous battle with cancer. He is survived by his beloved wife Dianne L. Winegar of 44 years; loving father of Tammy L. Hagen (Paul); adored "Papa" and best friend to his 3 grandsons Justin (age 10), Ryan (age 8) and Darin (age 6). Also, survived by his twin sister Dianne Tomlinson; and numerous extended family and friends.

Tom was born in Kingsport, Tennessee on July 9, 1949 and at the age of 16 moved with his family to the area, where he remained a long time resident of Alexandria, Virginia. He graduated from Suitland High School in 1969 then went on to attend a local community college. His career profession was in the printing field where he worked at The Washington Post, The Star and then finally retiring from Dow Jones – The Wall Street Journal. He was a hardworking man with a great love for his family and a lending hand to the community in which he lived in. Often you would see Tom walking the neighborhood with a smile bringing newspapers to his neighbor's doorstep. He had a great love for people, always a kind word, a joke to share, or helpful advice. Tom was a well-respected and selfless man that would put others needs before his own. Because of his love and enthusiasm for life he never met a stranger and made many friends along life's path.

Tom lived in Virginia Hills for 38 years. He raised his family here, and his daughter Tammy now lives here with her husband and children. She says, "The neighborhood is very special to my family in many ways."

## Volunteer to Prepare Tax Returns

**AARP Tax-Aide** is a free, national tax counseling and preparation service run by volunteers for low to moderate-income taxpayers and older adults. The

program is in need of volunteers to electronically complete and file federal and state income tax forms for the 2016 tax season. Also needed are volunteers with leadership skills to ensure things run smoothly at local sites. Volunteers of all ages and backgrounds are welcome. In the past tax season, more than 230 IRS-certified tax counselors in Northern Virginia District 5 completed over 8,600 tax returns. A free 5-day training using IRS computers and software is provided. Volunteers become IRS-certified tax counselors after completing the training and passing the IRS examination. Free tax preparation services will be offered throughout Fairfax County in 2016. The schedule will be published in a future Golden Gazette. If you are interested in volunteering to become a tax-aide counselor, call 1-888-687-2277 or go to [www.aarp.org/taxaide](http://www.aarp.org/taxaide).

Last tax season, low-income families in this area saved over \$1.5 million in tax preparation fees by having their tax returns prepared for free by volunteers in the **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA)**. These families received over \$9.5 million in refunds and credits. The VITA program serves individuals or families with 2015 incomes of \$53,000 or less. Clients bring their social security cards, W-2s, and other documents to one of 20 locations in the area and are generally served on a first-come, first-served basis. They are greeted by volunteers who help organize documents and then meet with a trained and tested volunteer who prepares their returns using professional software provided by the IRS. Translators and IT support volunteers also assist. Classroom and/or online training for volunteers runs from December 2015-January 2016. If you are interested in volunteering, or if you know someone who is eligible for the program, go to [www.nvacash.org](http://www.nvacash.org), call James Do at 703-533- 5471, or email [james.do@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:james.do@fairfaxcounty.gov).

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The wife of a retired Marine officer, she has resided in the DC metro area for over 27 years. She is expanding her services to further "spoil" her clients with concierge services beyond the transaction; delivered with integrity, competence and care. Her goal is transforming lives and creating raving fans and clients for life!

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