

The Virginia Hills Echo



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Redistricting: Virginia Hills is a Split Precinct for State Senate

Under the new House plan, Virginia Hills residents in either the Virginia Hills or Wilton precincts are still in the 43rd House of Delegates District currently represented by Delegate Mark Sickles.

The Senate plan is controversial because of the number of split precincts, that is, precincts in which some of the residents are in one senate district and some in another. The Virginia Hills and Wilton precincts are now split between the 36th Senate District, represented by Sen. Toddy Puller, and the 30th Senate District, now represented by Sen. Patsy Ticer, who is retiring at the end of this term.

If you are in the Virginia Hills Precinct and vote at the Old Virginia Hills School, and you live on Gentele Court on the Memorial Street side of The Parkway, Berkshire Drive, Glassell Court, Benson Drive, Dorset Drive on the east side of The Parkway, Virginia Hills Ave. on the east side of The Parkway, Enfield Drive, South Kings Highway, or on the east side of The Parkway itself, you are still in the 36th Senate District. Everyone on the west side of The Parkway is now in the 30th Senate District.

If you are in the Wilton Precinct and vote at Mount Eagle School, you are now in the 36th Senate District.

In short, everyone east of The Parkway, in Wilton or Virginia Hills precincts, votes for a senator for the 36th. Everyone west of The Parkway votes for a senator for the 30th.

There are now 40 split precincts in Fairfax County whereas there were only 6 before this redistricting. Split precincts are a problem for a number of reasons.

(continued on Page 8)

Primary Elections on August 23rd

This is a year of state and local elections, with Virginia Hills voters called on to select the following officials on November 8th:

State Senator
State Delegate
Chairman, Board of Supervisors
Commonwealth's Attorney
County Sheriff
Lee District Supervisor
Lee District School Board Member
3 School Board Members At-Large
3 Soil and Water Board Members

School Board and Soil and Water offices are non-partisan; the parties may endorse candidates for those offices, but do not select them.

Because of the redistricting, primaries will be late this year, on August 23rd. Parties had until June 3rd to notify the State Board of Elections if they chose to use a primary, after the date the Echo went to press. Consequently, the data here is preliminary.

Candidates in a primary have until June 15th to submit their signed petitions to become eligible to be on the ballot. Where only one candidate files, that candidate will be on the November ballot and will not be on the primary ballot.

The parties have several options for choosing who will represent them in November. Some of these are internal party procedures, but parties may choose county-run primaries for some, none, or all of the races they will contest. Incumbents have the option of choosing the method of selection for their office for their party.

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Virginia Hills Citizens Association Meeting
Tuesday, June 7th – 7:30 PM
Old Virginia Hills School, Diana Lane

Speaker: TBA

The President's Corner

Comment from VHCA President Ralph Zecca

As many of you are aware, the Virginia Hills Citizens Association has been working with Supervisor McKay to address concerns with the No-Thru Truck restriction proposal along South Kings Highway. Supervisor McKay contacted me and said the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Commissioner has put forth the following solution in the hopes of addressing all the concerns we raised.

VDOT has approved the restriction of through trucks on:

Memorial Street between South Kings Highway and Richmond Highway,

Lenclair Street between South Kings Highway and Richmond Highway,

Queens Road between South Kings Highway and Groveton Street.

VDOT denied the requested truck restriction for:

Harrison Lane/Lockheed Boulevard between South Kings Highway and Richmond Highway, and

Southgate Drive between South Kings Highway and Richmond Highway.

VDOT will be installing signage on the approved routes as soon as possible and is aiming for the end of June.

This solution has the advantage of solving the problem of trucks having to go all the way down South Kings to Penn Daw to get onto Richmond Highway. As Virginia Hills residents pointed out, right turns onto Richmond Highway at Penn Daw are problematic at best.

Although a bit early, it appears summer is here! Many of us will be going on summer vacations, trips to the pool, hikes in the parks, etc., so I wish you all a wonderful and safe summer.

- Ralph Zecca

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Half page	\$45		

For yearly discount rate, see www.virginiahills.org/Echo.html

Virginia Hills Citizens Association Officers 2010-2012

President	Ralph Zecca	President@virginiahills.org
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Membership	Warren Suyderhoud	Membership@virginiahills.org
Echo Editor	Doug Boulter	Echo@virginiahills.org

Membership

The new membership year begins on September 1st. Any memberships received after the June VHCA meeting will be applied to next year.

2011 Concerts in Lee District Park

Again this year, the County is providing free concerts in the Lee District Park amphitheater on Wednesday nights at 7:30 PM. Concerts will be cancelled if it is raining. If bad weather threatens, please call 703-324-SHOW (7469) after 6:00 PM to hear the go-no go decision.

June

- 8th Alt Washingtonia (Bavarian Folk Dance & Music)
- 15th The Old World Folk Band (Klezmer)
- 22nd Pietasters (Ska)
- 29th Guy Mendilow Band (World Music)

July

- 6th The Grandsons (Rockabilly/Swing/Lounge)
- 13th David Bach Consort (Jazz)
- 20th NOVA Annandale Symphony Orchestra (Pops)
- 27th U.S. Army Band "Blues Jazz Ensemble" (Jazz)

August

- 3rd Michael Cleveland & Flamekeeper (Bluegrass)
- 10th Lyuti Chushki (Bulgarian Folk Music)
- 17th U.S. Navy Band "Country Current" (Country)
- 24th Brothers + 1 (Motown)
- 31st Sock Monkeys (Rock&Roll/Cover Band)

2011-2012 Membership

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 \$ _____.

Name (s) _____

Address _____

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Comments: _____

Checks for dues may be made payable to VHCA or the Virginia Hills Citizens Association.

Note:

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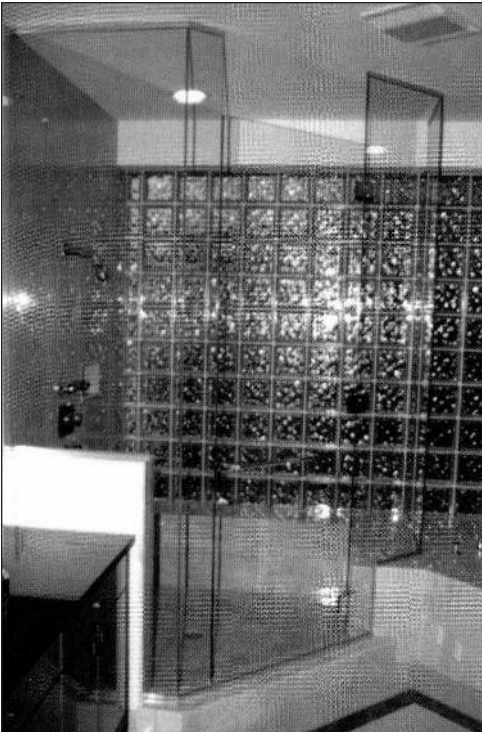
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Primary Elections on August 23rd

(continued from page 1)

Because voters in Virginia do not register by party, a voter may choose to vote in either the Republican primary or the Democratic Primary, but not both. Both parties' primaries are held on the same day at the same location. Virginia Hills voters will vote at either the Virginia Hills School or the Mount Eagle School depending on where they live. Absentee voting in person at the main Government Center or by mail will be available.

Here are the candidates for the primary of whom the Echo is currently aware:

For 30th Senate District (Dem): Adam Ebbin, Libby Garvy, Rob Krupicka

For 36th Senate District (Rep): Jeff Frederick, Tito Munoz

For County Sheriff (Rep): Bill Cooper, Wes Kammerer

To determine if you live in the 30th or 36th Senate districts, see the companion article on Page 1.

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View from the Hills

Doug Boulter's Advice on Home Repair:

Re-Visiting Repairs for Marine Clay Problems



In the fall of 1999, I wrote two columns on marine clay problems. While what I wrote in the first column explaining why marine clay causes problems is as accurate as ever, a new fix for the problem is now available. This is a re-write of Part II of that series explaining the new fix. You can find Part I on my web site at www.dougoulter.com/repair/basement.htm. This is generally not work you can do yourself.

Footing Problems

If marine clay under the footings at a corner of your house has shrunk and caused that part of the footing to drop, you'll see the classic "step crack" in the wall above it. Patching of the step crack will only hold until the next shrink-swell cycle. Real repair is accomplished by digging out the footing, often to a depth where no marine clay is present, and rebuilding the footing with rebar to allow adjacent areas of the footing to support each other. Depending on how badly the wall above the footing has cracked, you may have to have the contractor rebuild that portion of the wall. This often happens on a corner of the house.

If your house is built on a slab, you may be able to defer this repair for a long time if there is no serious drop. If the house has a basement, the resulting cracks may allow water to pour through the walls and may require immediate attention.

Foundation Walls

The symptom here is a horizontal crack near the middle of a basement wall where the pressure of the swollen clay has bowed the wall in until it cracked. Ultimately, the wall can break in the middle and your house would fall down into the basement. Long before that happens, however, you will experience serious water leaks through the cracks and notice obvious bowing inward.

The first step is to determine how far in the wall has bowed. If the bow is much more than an inch, you will almost certainly have to rebuild that portion of the wall. That will involve digging away the dirt outside the basement and supporting that portion of the house while the wall is rebuilt. This is obviously a VERY expensive solution.

If you can save the wall, there are two solutions, neither of which is inexpensive. Formerly, one solution was to install steel beams vertically to hold the wall in place. A newer solution is to use carbon fiber straps instead of steel beams.

Depending on your situation, the contractor will install a perimeter drain inside the basement and connect it to a sump pump. The contractor then pours a 4" concrete ledge over the drain along the floor of any wall being repaired and attaches the vertical carbon fiber straps every four feet to halt the minor buckling of that wall. Epoxy can be injected into the wall to remedy water problems and the concrete block can be sealed on the inside of the basement with an elastomeric coating.

Since you can frame on top of the ledge, the disadvantage of the loss of basement space to steel beams goes away.

The second alternative involves excavating outside the affected parts of the basement walls, temporarily supporting the house above, and tearing out the concrete block anywhere it is seriously bowed inwards. That portion of the wall gets rebuilt. Outside, perimeter drain is laid around the house at the footing level and gets run "to daylight" or to a sump pump so it will remove water from that wall's vicinity. The rebuilt basement wall is waterproofed on the outside. Finally, the perimeter is filled with a non-clay material, usually sand or gravel, that, when pushed on by the clay soil, will rise to relieve the pressure and then can fall back if the clay shrinks. A clay cap of a few inches is placed over the sand and gravel to keep water from running down into the sand and gravel. Of course, if you'd like a patio on that side of the house, a brick and concrete cap would work also.

Gutters should be kept clean so they don't overflow and downspouts should be directed away from the house.

Hearing the description of these two alternatives, you can imagine that the problem isn't inexpensive to fix. Depending on the amount of damage, such a project can run upwards of \$30,000.

If you have to rebuild a portion of your basement wall, you might consider adding a large window and an escape window well to allow you to construct a legal bedroom in that portion of the basement.

Outside Retaining Walls

A bowed retaining wall probably can't be fixed. It will almost surely have to be rebuilt. Depending on the height, you may need a permit from the County to do so. To prevent the bowing from recurring, you may need to use special backfill behind the wall and install a drainage system as described in the section on foundation walls.

Redistricting: Virginia Hills is a Split Precinct for State Senate

(continued from Page 1)

First, because each voter must be correctly identified by senate district, and there must be different voting machines for each senate district, conducting an election will require more paid election officers and more voting machines. County officials have stated that it will cost more than \$750,000 more to conduct an election in the County because of the splitting, according to the *Washington Post*.

The County Electoral Board, representing both parties, sent a letter to the General Assembly and Governor protesting the increased splitting. You can read the letter at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/fairfaxeb_redistrictingconcerns_04_04_11.pdf.

In addition to the matters highlighted in the letter, a simple mistake by an election officer handing a voter the wrong paper ballot, or giving the voter the wrong colored card for the touch screen machines will cause that voter to vote in the wrong race. Voters will need to know their senate districts and check to make sure they are being sent to the correct machine.

Voters will be voting for senator in the upcoming primary and the general election this year. Please see the companion article.

Bus Garage Approved Over Hyland Objections

Previous Echo issues reported on the WMATA bus garage planned for Cinder bed Road and how the Lee District Land Use Committee insisted on a development condition that prevented buses using Telegraph Road to get to and from their routes in the morning and evening hours. They were to use Richmond Highway instead.

Mount Vernon Supervisor Hyland was not pleased with this condition. At the Planning Commission Meeting, his planning commissioner voted against the plan for that reason, but was the only vote in opposition.

The Board of Supervisors passed the matter with a 6-3-1 vote. The development conditions for the non-use of Telegraph and Loisdale Roads remained in the special exception as passed.

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Message from Supervisor McKay

May 21st was a grand day in Lee District as I joined the large crowd gathered for the official opening of the new family recreation area, spraypark, and fully accessible treehouse at Lee District Park. The opening festivities included music, roving pirates, refreshments—and many, many happy families. The morning was warm and sunny—the only water was in the spraypark, giving us a break from the almost daily May downpours.

You may be wondering how we funded this unique park given the past several years of economic austerity. No County general fund dollars were used; the fully accessible play area was built through a public-private partnership spearheaded by Paola and Bob Pizzano in memory of their young son Joey who died in a drowning accident. The \$2,175,000 million first phase of the project was funded through a \$1.2 million contribution from the Joey Pizzano Foundation, the 2008 Fairfax County Park bond, and private donations.

What's a "spraypark"? The 7,000 square foot, zero-water-depth spraypark is, in the words of the Pizzanos, "a place where disabilities melt away and families can have fun outings for every member of the family." This Chesapeake Bay-themed facility includes a water maze, lighthouse, and skipjack with tumbling buckets and water cannons. The 25,000 gallons of re-circulated,

chlorinated water never get more than an inch deep. Additionally, three water-accessible wheelchairs are available.

This is a wonderful example of what the public and private sectors can accomplish when they work together. This family recreation center is free to the public and will help to erase the barriers between children with disabilities and those without, and I am very proud to have it in Lee District.

There's more to come, and future phases of this project will include a playground called Chessie's Big Backyard and a fully-accessible carousel.

The family recreation area will be open on Saturdays and Sundays until Fairfax County public schools close for the summer, then daily from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM except on Wednesdays when the spraypark will be open from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM. More information is available at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rec/leerec.htm. If you'd like to know more about the Joey Pizzano Memorial Fund, visit www.jpmpf.org.

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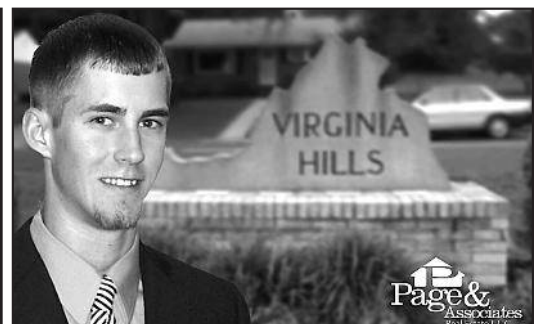
Status	Style	Address	BR	FB	HB	List Price	Close Price	Bsmt	Gar
ACTIVE	Rambler	6618 DORSET DR	3	2	0	\$389,000		Yes	
ACTIVE	Rambler	6402 VIRGINIA HILLS AVE	3	2	0	\$359,000		Yes	
ACTIVE	Rambler	6108 PIKE CT	4	2	0	\$345,000		Yes	
ACTIVE	Rambler	6407 GENTELE CT	3	2	0	\$399,900		Yes	
ACTIVE	Rambler	3709 AUSTIN AVE	3	2	0	\$349,000		Yes	
ACTIVE	Rambler	6403 WILCOX CT	3	1	1	\$359,500		Yes	
ACTIVE	Rambler	6309 THE PKWY	3	1	0	\$359,000		No	
CNTG/NO KO	Rambler	6600 DORSET DR	3	2	0	\$389,000		No	
CNTG/NO KO	Rambler	6216 SANDLIN CT	4	2	0	\$409,900		Yes	
CNTG/NO KO	Rambler	3919 SPECT CT	4	2	0	\$389,000		Yes	
CNTG/NO KO	Rambler	6324 DORSET DR	4	2	0	\$379,888		Yes	1
CNTG/KO	Rambler	6514 ENFIELD DR	3	1	0	\$300,000		No	1
SOLD	Rambler	6619 DORSET DR	3	1	0	\$295,000	\$285,000	No	
SOLD	Rambler	6516 BERKSHIRE DR	3	2	0	\$220,900	\$218,500	Yes	
SOLD	Rambler	3520 AUSTIN AVE	4	2	0	\$389,900	\$389,900	Yes	
SOLD	Colonial	6507 DORSET DR	3	2	0	\$399,900	\$390,000	Yes	
SOLD	Rambler	3718 LOGAN CT	3	2	0	\$379,900	\$370,000	No	2
SOLD	Rambler	6108 THE PKWY	3	2	0	\$239,900	\$251,000	Yes	
WITHDRN	Rambler	3712 LOGAN CT	4	2	0	\$339,000		Yes	
WITHDRN	Rambler	6618 DORSET DR	3	2	0	\$345,000		Yes	
WITHDRN	Rambler	3712 LOGAN CT	4	2	0	\$219,900		Yes	
WITHDRN	Rambler	6417 PROSPECT TER	3	2	0	\$355,000		Yes	1

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