

The Virginia Hills Echo



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Route 1 Widening Project from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

On April 23, 2015, the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTa) voted to provide an additional \$1 million for roadway and transit improvements for Route 1 from Mount Vernon Memorial Highway (Roy Rogers) to Napper Road (Costco) in their FY 2015-16 program. We heard constituents loud and clear at the community meeting on March 31, and have since been hard at work to secure additional NVTa funding for this area. Transit improvements will bring new development, residents and businesses to the area and help transform the Route 1 Corridor into a vibrant destination spot in Fairfax County.

In addition to the newly allocated \$1 million, NVTa had previously dedicated \$9 million in federal funding to this project in January 2015. This means \$10 million total has been dedicated by NVTa for widening a section of Route 1 from Mount Vernon Memorial Highway to Napper Road. The funds will be used for the design, environmental work and possibly some land acquisition associated with the widening and roadway improvement project. The project will include a center median for bus rapid transit, similar to the dedicated travel way included in the project already under construction between Mount Vernon Memorial Highway and Telegraph Road.

Securing this funding now is especially critical to capitalize on the recent Route 1 Multimodal Study, completed by the Department of Rail and Public Transit in late 2014. Roadway improvements are an important step toward realizing short-term plans for bus rapid transit and long-term plans for a Yellow Line Metro extension to Hybla Valley.

In the last 12 years, the County has invested millions of dollars in road improvements, sidewalk additions, transit, and other amenities along Route One. The additional \$1 million on top of NVTa's \$9 million investment is another step in the right direction for improving and transforming the Route 1 Corridor in Fairfax County.

Crime Solvers 5k Run Registration

Registration for this year's annual Crime Solver's 5k Run – A Race Against Crime – is now open. This year's race is on Saturday, August 1, will again feature a fun-run for kids, a visit from McGruff the Crime Dog, lots of public safety vehicles for the kids to explore, and community activities such as child fingerprinting.

Registered runners and bystanders will also watch public safety responders compete against each other in the competitive Public Safety Challenge. This challenge pits Fairfax County's first responders from the police department, the fire department, and the sheriff's office against each other in a race for the coveted Public Safety Challenge trophy.

Registration applications are on the website: www.CrimeSolvers5k.com. If runners sign up early, they pay the early-bird rate of \$25 (\$25 through July 3, 2015, 11:59 PM; \$30.00 July 4, 2015, through close of online registration [July 29, 2015 at 11:59 PM]; and \$35 at the registration table on the day of the race.

Not interested in running, but want to participate? Check the website for information on volunteering!

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Virginia Hills Citizens Association Meeting

***Tuesday, June 16th – 7:30 PM
Old Virginia Hills School, Diana Lane***

Speaker: Fairfax County Police Department

The President's Corner

Comment from VHCA President Warren Suyderhoud

Summer is finally here which means barbeques and picnics with good friends and family. It also means being safe using a grill. Each year an average of 8,800 home fires are caused by grilling and close to half of all injuries involving grills are due to thermal burns. While nearly half of the people who grill do it year-round, July is the peak month for grill fires followed by May, June, and August. When purchasing your grill whether it be gas or propane, place the grill as far away from your home as possible. And lastly, remember to clean your grill often.

We also have a lot of homeowners in the community who are dog owners and there are several things to remember especially now that summer is here. Because dogs love to play in the back yard, remember to repair any holes in the fence to prevent dogs from hurting themselves. Avoid using any fertilizers which can be highly toxic for pets and should be dried 24 hours before the pets are in contact with them.

Lastly, I have been talking a lot about participation and more particularly coming to our meetings. VHCA has a very long history as many of you are aware, but if you have questions, concerns or suggestions about VHCA or just want to socialize with other members, then come to one of our meetings!

Sincerely,
Warren Suyderhoud

Correction from April Issue

In the April 2015 issue of the *Echo*, there was an article about spraying for the Fall Cankerworm stating that Virginia Hills was included in this year's eradication campaign. This was incorrect; there will be no cankerworm spraying in Virginia Hills this year.



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The Virginia Hills Echo

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Publisher	The Print Shop

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Full page	\$85	Business card	\$15
Half page	\$45		

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

Virginia Hills Citizens Association Officers 2014-2016

President	Warren Suyderhoud	240-381-8610	president@virginiahills.org
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Membership	Akiko Zecca	703-960-1911	membership@virginiahills.org
Echo Editor	Leah Buckley	214-714-7190	echo@virginiahills.org

Lee Districts Concerts in the Park 2015

June

- 17 Veronneau (World Jazz)
24 Solas (Irish)

July

- 1 The Beltway Balalaika (Russian)
8 Rocknoceros (Children Songs)
15 Lox & Vodka (Jewish/American)
22 The Taters (Roots/Pop)
29 Bruce Ewan (Blues)

August

- 5 The Nighthawks (Blues)
12 Monroe Crossing (Bluegrass)
19 Project Natale (Jazz)
26 The United States Army Blues (Jazz)

Concerts take place in the Lee District Park amphitheater at 7:30 PM. Admission is free. If there is a threat of bad weather, call 703-324-7469 after 6:00 PM for cancellation updates.

Free Tree Seedlings

Would you like to plant a tree but don't know where to get one? Your neighbor has a bunch of small seedlings (most under 2' tall) that would probably thrive if transplanted this fall (trees do best when transplanted during their dormant season or after they have lost most of their leaves). Species include sweetgum, dogwood, willow oak, redbud, swamp chestnut oak, red maple, and pin oak. If interested, contact sharpjuliana@gmail.com or call 703-718-0802. Don't forget to call Miss Utility (811) before you dig and think carefully about placement.

Community Yard Sale

Come one, come all! Start going through your basements and attics! The Virginia Hills Citizens Association (VHCA) is planning a Fall Community Yard Sale. The Yard Sale will be held on a Saturday this September after the September meeting. More details will follow in the September issue of the *Echo*. The cost to participate and take advantage of VHCA advertising is \$5.00 per participating family. Please contact Membership Director, Ms. Akiko Ueda-Zecca at membership@virginiahills.org the VHCA website for more information.

**Visit the Virginia Hills web site at
www.VirginiaHills.org**

**Get a jump on the new membership year!
Join the Virginia Hills Citizens Association
for 2015-2016 that begins on September 1st.**

2015-2016 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 _____

City _____

Zip Code _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Comments: _____

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

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New Huntington Farmers Market

The Jefferson Manor Citizens Association have been working for over a year to arrange a farmers market near the post office on North Kings Highway, across from the upper entrance to Huntington Metro Station. This market will run every Thursday from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. through late fall. Vendors include Barnola (hand-crafted, all-natural granola), Chester Hess' Farm & Orchard (fruits & vegetables), Crazy Farm (produce, flowers, & herbs), Orchard Breeze Farm (pasture raised meats), and Semper Fi Fungi (mushrooms). Details are provided at <http://smartmarkets.org/markets/huntington/>.

Virginia Hills Family Listserv

Calling Virginia Hills Parents and Families: Are you interested in meeting other parents in our neighborhood and staying up to date with information on local events and family friendly activities? Perhaps you're looking for a fantastic sitter or preschool and need a few leads?

Interested in organizing a playgroup meet-up at a local park or have a gently-used baby items to sell? This is the group for you! To join, please send an e-mail to: virginia-hills-parents+subscribe@googlegroups.com. Or send an email to Christine Gettings at Christine.Gettings@gmail.com, and she will add you to the group.

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Message from Supervisor McKay

I chose public service as a career because I wanted to solve problems and help make my community a good place to live and work. That's why the economic storms of the recent years have been so frustrating. As our community needs have grown, our financial resources have shrunk and federal and state governments, shaken by the same economic forces, have shifted more of the burdens to local governments.

The budget for FY16 that my colleagues and I adopted on April 28 reflects the past eight years of belt tightening and shifting of resources. While it may not be a budget we can love, I believe it's one we can live with and it's the product of long months of work and feedback from public hearings, town hall meetings, letters, emails, and phone calls.

In keeping with education as our priority—52.7 percent of our General Fund budget—we came very close to fully funding the School Board's request with an increase of over \$66 million over last year. This is the closest we've come in many years to being able to fund the School Board's request. In FY16, the Schools will receive almost 2/3 of the entire increase in General Fund Revenue.

The FY16 budget also adds several key economic growth positions. We restored the cuts to critical human services programs that appeared in the County Executive's proposed budget. These include Healthy Families, as well as mental health services in the jail, and detoxification diversion positions. We also restored enforcement of the grass ordinance, an important tool for keeping our neighborhoods healthy.

We were able to hold the line on our current tax rate of \$1.09, especially important as the economic recovery has had the largest impact on neighborhoods that were hard hit during the recession. Mindful of the need to retain our triple A bond rating, we bolstered our reserves and avoided using one-time funding for recurring needs. Our triple A bond rating is very important—because of our status with the three major rating agencies, we've saved an estimated \$684.03 million from our bond and refunding sales.

I would like to thank everyone who contacted me and let me know what was important to them. Please know that your opinion counts.



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ACTIVE	6558 VIRGINIA HILLS AVE	BR	2	0	1	1	\$ 350,000		No	0
ACTIVE	3607 AUSTIN AVE	BR	2	0	2	0	\$ 419,900		Yes	0
ACTIVE	6402 THE PKWY	BR	3	0	1	0	\$ 362,995		No	0
ACTIVE	6201 THE PKWY	BR	1	0	1	0	\$ 369,950		No	0
ACTIVE	3527 AUSTIN AVE	BR	2	0	1	1	\$ 380,000		No	0
ACTIVE	6603 BERKSHIRE DR	BR	2	0	2	0	\$ 364,900		Yes	0
ACTIVE	6608 BERKSHIRE DR	BR	2	1	2	1	\$ 399,999		Yes	0
ACTIVE	3717 AUSTIN AVE	BR	2	0	2	0	\$ 405,000		Yes	0
CNTG/NO KO	6307 HILLVIEW AVE	BR	2	0	2	0	\$ 334,950		Yes	0
CNTG/NO KO	4005 RONSON DR	BR	2	0	2	1	\$ 384,000		Yes	0
CNTG/NO KO	6510 ENFIELD DR	BR	2	0	1	0	\$ 424,900		No	0
CNTG/NO KO	6414 WILCOX CT	BR	2	0	2	0	\$ 429,900		Yes	0
CNTG/NO KO	6413 WILCOX CT	BR	1	1	2	0	\$ 379,500		No	0
CNTG/NO KO	6503 BERKSHIRE DR	BR	2	0	2	0	\$ 380,000		No	0
CNTG/NO KO	6512 ENFIELD DR	BR	1	0	1	0	\$ 369,900		No	0
CONTRACT	6309 GENTELE CT	BR	1	2	2	0	\$ 345,000		Yes	0
SOLD	4010 RONSON DR	BR	2	0	2	1	\$ 425,000	\$ 430,500	Yes	0
SOLD	6141 TELEGRAPH RD	BR	2	0	2	0	\$ 389,000	\$ 390,000	Yes	0
SOLD	6411 WILCOX CT	BR	2	0	2	0	\$ 410,000	\$ 415,000	Yes	0
SOLD	6213 SANDLIN CT	BR	2	0	2	1	\$ 439,900	\$ 445,000	No	0

All information deemed reliable. Not guaranteed. Derived from Metropolitan Regional Information System for the period 4/1/15-5/31/15.

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