

The Virginia Hills Echo

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Establishment of Virginia Hills Citizens Association Neighborhood Watch

The VHCA is happy to announce the re-establishment of the Virginia Hills Neighborhood Watch. However, this is not your father's neighborhood watch. In the past, a neighborhood watch was set up to conduct nightly patrols around the neighborhood. As we have seen in the news the last few years, this is not only impractical, but it is also dangerous. Let's leave the enforcement of the laws to the professionals, the Fairfax County Police (FPD).

Our neighborhood watch is more passive; it only requires you to keep your eyes open and to report things that seem out of place. FPD is looking to us to provide something that they do not have - our intimate knowledge and understanding of our neighborhood! For instance, the neighbor who walks their dog at night sees our neighborhood a certain way. This neighbor would likely know if something seems different, like a moving truck being loaded up late at night. Or a neighbor that stays at home during the day. He or she may see something that is out of place, such as a person moving around a neighbor's property when they are supposed to be on vacation.

So, if you observe something that is not right, but it does not reach the level of being criminal, email virginiahillsnw@gmail.com. Your emails will be reviewed by our Neighborhood Watch to look for patterns and trends as well as share any and all information with FPD. If you have any more questions regarding the neighborhood watch, please feel free to contact VHCA Vice President, Ralph Zecca at vp@virginiahills.org.

Neighborhood Pool Party



On August 29, the VHCA and the Virginia Hills Pool held an end of summer pool party. Over 22 families shared food in a potluck by the poolside while having fun in the sun. It was a wonderful time where new residents and original owners sat side by side and talked about the changes our beautiful neighborhood has undergone over the years, while talking about ways we can be more neighborly and ensure that our Virginia Hills community remains a place for families to establish roots and memories. Thanks to all who came to join us!

Sign up for Fairfax Alerts

At our last VHCA meeting, our community police liaison officer Robert Urps spoke to us about local safety concerns and crime prevention tips. He also talked about Fairfax Alerts, an emergency alert system that you can sign up for with your email, home phone, or cell phone.

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Virginia Hills Citizens Association Meeting

Tuesday, September 15th – 7:30 PM
Old Virginia Hills School, Diana Lane

Speaker: VHCA Vice President Ralph Zecca about the new neighborhood watch program

**Road Diets in Fairfax County
From Supervisor McKay's Office**

Road and lane diets are news lately, especially in Lee District where VDOT is implementing them on several roads as part of its repaving and striping work. In their simplest form, road and lane diets reduce the width of existing travel lanes. They aren't for every road but where they are appropriate, they have significant travel flow and safety benefits for drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists.

In Fairfax County, we've been using them for the past five or six years, primarily in the Reston and Mount Vernon areas. I'm pleased that we're expanding their use and that we'll be able to benefit from them in Lee District where two road diets have already been approved for installation along with this season's paving work. They are on Amherst Avenue from Highland Street to Cumberland Avenue paired with Backlick Road from Highland Street to Cumberland Avenue, and Kingstowne Village Parkway from Beulah Street to Hayfield Road. VDOT has also proposed a lane diet for Franconia Road from South Van Dorn Street to Craft Road.

What's the difference between a road and a lane diet? Road diets reduce the number of lanes while lane diets reduce the width of existing lanes. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) supports such lane reconfigurations and last September launched a road safety campaign that includes road and lane diets.

Road and lane diets can seem counterintuitive as for years we believed that wider roads meant better traffic flow, especially during peak travel periods. However studies show that wider roads attract more traffic and cause significant delays, increased speed, and higher crash and injury rates. FHWA statistics indicate that road and lane diets can reduce traffic crashes from 19 to 29 percent.

Pedestrians and bicyclists also benefit from these lane reductions. Reduced vehicle speed and dedicated bicycle lanes buffer them from moving traffic. Road and lane diets are cost effective. When road maintenance dollars are scarce, they can be implemented during regular maintenance like repaving and striping at very little cost.

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Upcoming Community Events

As we move into the fall season, it means the changing of the leaves and a march toward the holiday season. So the VHCA and the Virginia Hills Pool are joining together to hold an autumn community-wide yard sale. It's an excellent event to get some interesting and unique gifts for the holiday season or an opportunity to make some money to buy gifts for the holiday season. It will be held on Saturday, September 26 from 9:00 to 1:00 at the parking lot of the Virginia Hills Pool. Any VHCA member is welcome to bring a portable table or mat in order to sell their lightly used goods or items - free of charge. Non-members will need to pay \$10 to secure a spot, however will be able to join the association at the sale if you're not already a member. To reserve a spot please contact Membership Director Akiko Ueda-Zecca at membership@virginiahills.org.

Please keep your eyes open for more information about the VHCA annual holiday movie night at the Virginia Hills School building this December. We will have hot chocolate and a holiday movie playing for the younger kids, while the older kids can play board games, and parents can meet some of their neighbors! More information will be posted in the December issue of the Echo.

If you have questions about these events, ideas for other events, or want to help out, please contact Akiko Ueda-Zecca at membership@virginiahills.org.

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.

Local and State Elections

Elections are just over 2 months away. View the webpage www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm to learn about general and special elections information. This webpage contains information about absentee voting, where to vote, and sample ballots. Read this information before the election and be an informed voter.

Join the Virginia Hills Citizens Association for 2015-2016 that began 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.

Food and Fun Fest for Koinonia: Support Your Local Food Bank on October 3rd!

Enjoy family fun at an event sponsored by the local inter-church community—a day of games for all ages, bounce houses, food, and live music by local performers. Admission is \$5/person or \$20/family, which includes all events & activities except extra food and the bake sale. Food donations are gratefully accepted. All proceeds will go to Koinonia, a faith-based, non-profit organization that serves the Kingstowne-Franconia area by providing food, clothing and other short-term support to families and individuals in need. The event will be Saturday, October 3rd, from 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM at Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria. For more details, check out Koinonia's website at koinoniacares.org.

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E-Z Pass Scam Alert

Scammers are going after E-ZPass holders in Virginia and the D.C. metro area, and those who aren't careful may fall into the trap, AAA Mid-Atlantic warns.

Many E-ZPass holders in the area have received what AAA describes as "bogus" emails stating the driver is "indebted for driving on toll roads." However, in most cases those emails have no credibility, and are instead phishing for money and financial information from E-ZPass members throughout the region. AAA said unless you receive an email about a toll debt from the Virginia Department of Transportation, the email is indeed a scam.

Those who follow the link in the scam email are taken to a page where they are asked to input personal and financial information to pay off these "debts," and clicking the link could invite a virus into your computer. "Everyone must be on guard for these fraudsters attempting to con you out of your hard-earned

funds and account information, compromise your security, and wreak havoc on your computer system," John B. Townsend II, AAA Mid-Atlantic's Manager of Public and Government Affairs, said in a news release. "Be wary. Be wise. Don't fall prey to any attempt to steal your personal information. Be skeptical of all e-mail that directs the user to a website in which credit card or personal information is entered."

Scam emails can be identified by toll road number "000923942," and often contain poor grammar and misspelled words. For additional information, go to <http://patch.com/virginia/greateralexandria/s/f71sd/scam-alert-emails-target-e-zpass-users-in-hunt-for-money-bank-info>

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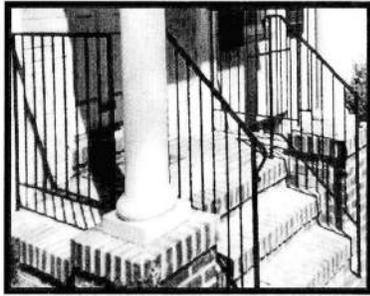
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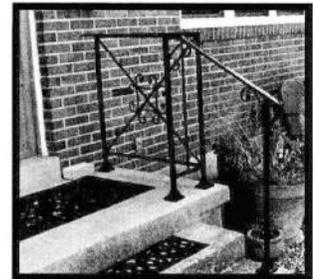
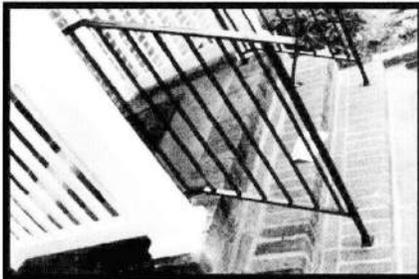
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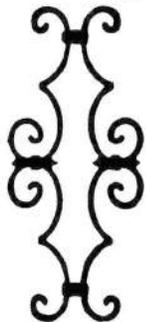
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The Fairfax County Solicitor's License is a laminated card that displays the solicitor's photograph, name, and personal information on the front side. The back side of the license displays the solicitor's business information and thumbprints. It is valid for one year from date of issue. Licensed solicitors may only solicit between the hours of 9:00 AM and 8:00 PM.

You should never allow a solicitor to push his or her way inside your house, and you should never tolerate abusive or deceptive sales tactics. Solicitors telling you that there is something seriously wrong with your house that needs immediate fixing are rarely being truthful and will often overcharge for any work done.

Teenagers may come to your door to solicit for their school, their class, or a school activity. This is a gray area in many ways. News media have reported several scams involving non-existent schools or teenagers who did not attend local schools. The best way to approach such solicitations is to only give to teens from your neighborhood whom you know personally.

Police Warn of Scams and Unlicensed Solicitors

Late summer and early fall seems to turn out solicitors in Virginia Hills, particularly contractors who just happen to be "already working in the neighborhood" and want to give you a great deal on work on your house, lawn, or driveway. Some of these offers turn out to be scams, and scammers may even do a good job on one property in the neighborhood to use as a reference before either taking your money or doing poor work at a high price. Some will be so bold as to tell you that they aren't selling anything as they try to persuade you to hire them, sometimes using high pressure or scare tactics.

To avoid such solicitations, you may post a "No Soliciting" sign at the front of your property or at your front door. Posting this sign makes it a violation of law for them to enter your property or knock on your door for the purpose of solicitation. If a solicitor ignores such a sign, you should refuse to open your door and should call the police non-emergency number at 703-691-2131 to report them.

If you do open your door to a solicitor, you should immediately ask to see the solicitor's Fairfax County solicitor's license (photos of a sample license are at the end of this article). If they don't have one or they offer a business license or some other license, you should ask them to leave immediately and call the police non-emergency number. Having a business license or a business ID badge does not permit solicitation. Having a Fairfax County solicitor's license does not mean their

	NAME Tina Norris			
	ADDRESS 9673 Sunny Boulevard, Fairfax, VA 22030			
	HEIGHT 5'5"	WEIGHT 110	EYES Blue	HAIR Blonde
	DOB 12/10/1982		DRIVER LICENSE # T65-11-1111	
	ISSUED (DATE) 4/12/2009		EXPIRES (DATE) 4/12/2010	
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(continued from page 1)

Fairfax Alerts are geo-targeted and can be customized with up to five addresses. They are highly customizable, with a do-not-disturb setting and up to 10 delivery methods.

There are many types of alerts available. The Office of Emergency Management Emergency preparedness newsletters and exercises from the Office of Emergency Management, weather advisories (based on locations you provide), traffic alerts (learn about the downed tree blocking all lanes BEFORE you start your commute!), public safety notices from the Fairfax Police, and other news and non-emergency information. You will only receive the types of alerts that you wish to sign up for.

Signing up keeps you informed—make sure your family members, employees and coworkers, and friends are signed up.

To receive alerts, go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts to register. You can manager your profile online or download the Fairfax County app for iPhone and Android phones.

Watch out for School Buses

As the new school year starts up again, please remember to keep an eye out for school buses picking up and dropping children.

Virginia law states that a driver who fails to stop for a school bus which is loading or unloading students is guilty of reckless driving, which can result in a fine, license suspension, or even jail time. A driver does not need to stop when the bus is on the other side of a roadway divided by a median or barrier.

Also be aware of School Zones, marked by flashing signs. The speed limit in a school zone is 25 mph, and speeding or improper driving may be considered reckless driving.

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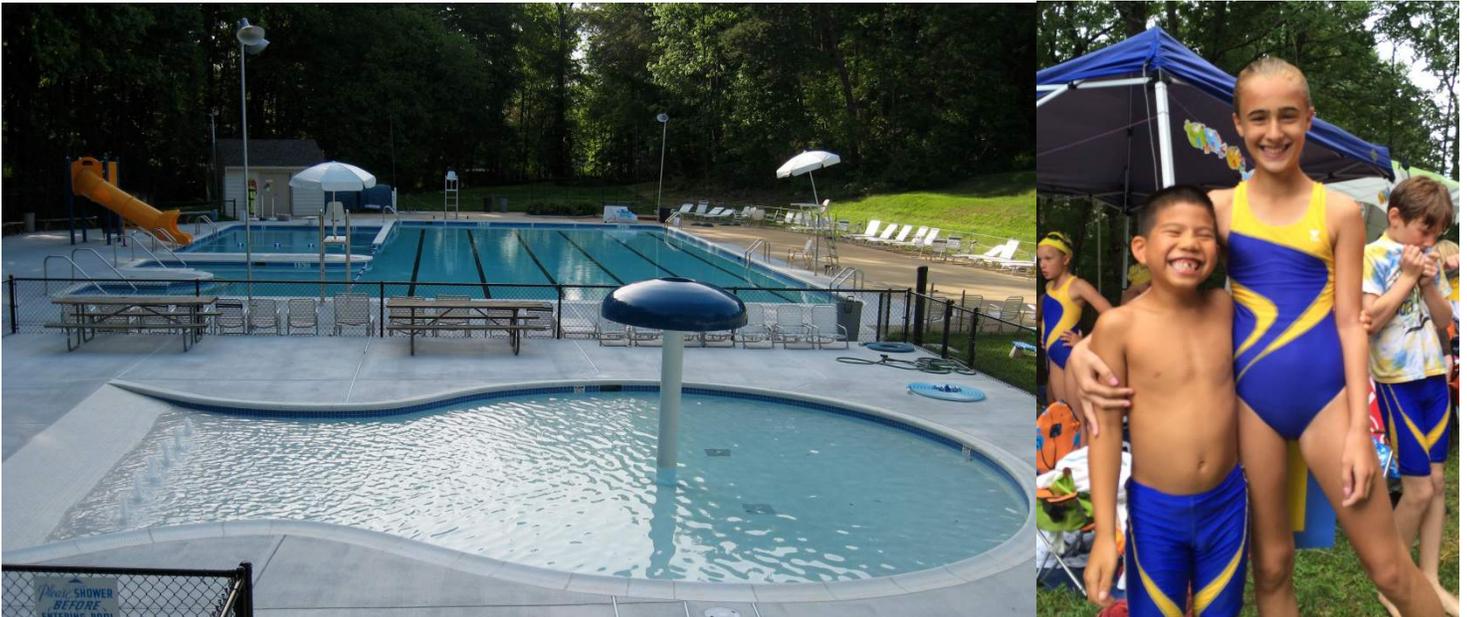


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Message from Supervisor McKay

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) has one of the largest school populations in the nation and a good portion of that population either drives or is driven to school. I'm pleased to report a new partnership between the Fairfax County Connector bus system and FCPS that is starting with this school year. The Fairfax County Department of Transportation in coordination with Fairfax County Public Schools has launched a free middle and high school student Connector bus pass program. Students can travel at no charge from home to school and back home on County Connector buses.

There are many benefits to this program. It offers flexible transportation options and expands the use of public transit, maximizes the use of our transportation infrastructure, and gets more cars off the road. It will also improve safety—kids can surf the net and text all they want. And there's a definite up side to showing our future workforce the benefits of public transit.

There are significant environmental benefits also. The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) estimates that if an individual driver switches a 20-mile round trip commute to public transportation, he or she

decreases annual CO2 emissions by 4,800 pounds a year. That's equal to a 10 percent reduction in a two-car household's carbon footprint.

Early reports point to enthusiastic acceptance on the part of our County high school students as we are seeing significant numbers of students sign up for the program.

The program is simple to use. The free student bus pass permits students to ride a Fairfax Connector bus for free from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday to Friday. Students sign up through their school and parental or guardian consent is required. The program only works on Fairfax County Connector buses. If a student switches to Metro or another bus system, he or she will need to use cash or a SmarTrip card.

You can read more about our Connector bus system at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/connector/> and you can see how a Fairfax County student uses the new bus pass at <http://youtu.be/zaFYZsCDgmA>

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Act	6607 Berkshire Dr	\$397,500		3	2	0	2	Y		
Cnko	6503 Berkshire Dr	\$380,000		4	2	0	2	N		
Cnko	6310 Tracey Ct	\$439,950		3	2	0	2	Y		
Cnko	6407 Gentele Ct	\$415,000		3	2	0	2	Y		
Cont	6406 Prospect Ter	\$435,000		4	2	0	2	Y		
Sold	6510 Enfield Dr	\$424,900	\$508,000	3	2	0	1	N		
Sold	3527 Austin Ave	\$380,000	\$375,000	3	2	0	1	N		1
Sold	6603 Berkshire Dr	\$364,900	\$353,000	3	2	0	2	Y		
Sold	6414 Wilcox Ct	\$429,900	\$420,000	3	2	0	2	Y		
Sold	6413 Wilcox Ct	\$379,500	\$382,500	3	1	1	2	N		
Sold	6512 Enfield Dr	\$369,900	\$357,300	3	1	0	1	N		
Sold	3903 Ronson Dr	\$449,950	\$432,000	4	2	0	2	Y		
Sold	3705 Trigger Ct	\$255,000	\$260,200	3	1	0	2	Y		
Sold	6123 Algona Ct	\$250,000	\$230,000	3	1	0	2	Y		
Sold	6311 Telegraph Rd	\$325,000	\$293,000	4	2	0	2	N		1

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