

The Virginia Hills Echo



Circulation 900

Volume 20, No. 4

September 2010

Harrison Road and South Kings Highway Intersection Essentially Completed

Work on the intersection has essentially been completed with the addition of a southbound turn lane and a northbound turn lane onto Harrison Lane from South Kings Highway. While there remains some painting of the pavement to be done outside of the intersection itself, the dedication for the new work was held during the final week of August.

While the true test of the success of the fixes will come with the increased traffic after Labor Day, so far the problem of backups in both directions on South Kings seems to have been mostly resolved. Thus far, no major backups have been observed.

While the height of the road on the northbound side was raised to provide drivers with better visibility of the traffic coming from the south, the sightlines are still not optimal. Most drivers turning left onto South Kings are pulling about a car length beyond the stop bar into the intersection to get a better view of oncoming traffic.

Another feature of the intersection is much improved signal light timing. The current signal has four different synchronized cycles to fit traffic at different times of the day. Also, right turns are now permitted on a green arrow from Harrison Lane onto South Kings when southbound South Kings traffic has a green arrow to turn left.

Nearby neighbors have suggested additional signage, to include more 35 MPH signs on South Kings, a No U-turn sign north of the signal on South Kings, and signs for Children At Play and School Bus Stop at Glassell Court.

Ralph Zecca Assumes Duties as VHCA President

On August 1st, Ralph Zecca assumed duties as VHCA president following his election at the June meeting. President Zecca is a resident of Prospect Terrace with his wife Akiko and his children, Caitlin, 4 and Colin, 2. The Zeccas moved to Virginia Hills in 2004.

For the past two years, Ralph has served VHCA as its vice president. He is employed by the Department of the Navy in its Criminal Investigative Service.

Other officers elected in June were:

Secretary
Treasurer
Echo Editor

Debbie Bodlander
Donna Boulter
Doug Boulter

Donna Boulter is unable to serve due to a work conflict, and the Executive Committee has nominated Robin Welsh for election to that position at the September meeting.

VHCA still lacks a vice-president and a membership director. If you'd be willing to serve in either capacity, contact President Zecca.

President Zecca will contribute a sometime feature, "The President's Corner," to *The Echo*. It will be found on page two.

***School's back in session!
Please drive carefully!***

Inside This Edition of the *Echo*

President's Corner	2
Kingstowne Art Exhibit and Sale	3
The County's Noise Ordinance	3
Brad Center's School Board Report	6
Rental Scams Posted On Line	6
Message from Supervisor McKay	7

Virginia Hills Citizens Association Meeting

***Tuesday, September 14th – 7:30 PM
Old Virginia Hills School, Diana Lane***

***Speaker: MPO Greg Kotterman,
Crime Prevention Office,
Mount Vernon Police Station***

President's Corner

Comment from VHCA President Ralph Zecca

How many of us know the neighbors to our left, right, across the street, and even behind us by name? How many of us know the people living down the street from us? Now, I am not asking or encouraging people to become the typical nosey neighbor. However, I am asking for everyone's help to making Virginia Hills the best neighborhood not only in Fairfax County, but in all of Northern Virginia. How can we do this, you ask?

As the newly elected president of the Virginia Hills Citizens Association (VHCA), I am asking you all to do one thing during the next year -- participate. I am not just talking about attending the meetings that we hold every other month or volunteering for the different officer positions on our board. I am asking you to take some time out to get to know one another. Our community is rich in diversity, experience, and history -- all of which make Virginia Hills a great and wonderful place to live and raise a family.

During my two year tenure, I am hoping to build on our sense of community in Virginia Hills, one that will transform VHCA meetings from addressing the usual concerns and complaints of neighborly disputes to one that will foster friendship and local pride. With your support and participation, we can create a VHCA that provides venues for social activities -- such as movie nights for families; BBQs for singles; or guest lectures regarding our hobbies and interests. The opportunities are endless as long as we have volunteers who are willing to help, to lead, and to care.

On behalf of the officers of the VHCA, I thank you for this chance to help keep our neighborhood a great place to live. I hope you will join us over the next year to take advantage of the many opportunities that lie ahead of us.

- President Ralph Zecca

**Visit our web site
At www.VirginiaHills.org**

**FREE INSPECTION
& Telephone Estimates**
(703) 494-9007



PERMA TREAT®
Pest and Termite Control
PROTECTORS OF YOUR ENVIRONMENT
Serving the area since 1967
Check Us Out at:
www.PermaTreat.com
for your money saving coupon
Proud Sponsors of
Adopt-a-Pet Programs

TARZAN Tree Service
Trimming • Pruning • Tree Removal
Hazardous Takedowns



RICKY ROJAS
Lifelong Virginia Hills Resident
(571) 318-3396
29 Years Experience
tarzantreeservice@yahoo.com



Rose Hill Barber Shop
Home of the "Franconia Flat Top"
703-971-5860
6134 Rose Hill Drive
Alexandria, VA 22310
At Rose Hill Shopping Center

Hours
Mon - Fri 8:30 - 6:30
Sat 8 - 5 • Sun 10 - 4
Walk Ins Only

The Virginia Hills Echo

Editor
Graphic Assistance
Publisher

Doug Boulter
John Drummond
The Print Shop

Single Issue Advertising Rates

Back page	\$90	Quarter page	\$35
Full page	\$85	Business card	\$13
Half page	\$45		

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

Virginia Hills Citizens Association Officers 2009-2010

President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary
Membership
Echo Editor

Ralph Zecca
Vacant
Vacant
Debbie Bodlander
Vacant
Doug Boulter

President@virginiahills.org
VP@virginiahills.org
Treasurer@virginiahills.org
Secretary@virginiahills.org
Membership@virginiahills.org
Echo@virginiahills.org

New Membership Year for VHCA Begins September 1st

A new membership year has begun for your association. As in previous years, the membership solicitation won't be sent out until after the September meeting in an effort to save on postage. Please help by completing and mailing the form below with your check, or bring the form and the check to the September meeting.

2010-2011 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: _____

SPECIALIZING IN VEAL, SEAFOOD & PASTA DISHES

Mike's Italian Restaurant

8368 RICHMOND HIGHWAY
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22309

CHEF/OWNER
LUIGI TONIZZO

PHONE 703-780-5966
703-780-4547

10% Off Food Only, except Friday & Saturday

Kingstowne Area Artists Host Upcoming Art Exhibit And Sale

The Kingstowne Area Artists Association will exhibit and sell its work on Saturday, October 23rd, from 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM, and Sunday, October 24th, from 12:00 – 5:00 PM at the Snyder Center at 6450 South Van Dorn Street. The event is free and open to the public. Work in a variety of media will be on display, including: acrylics, oils, watercolor, mixed media, pastels, photography, pen and ink, and digital media. Refreshments will be served.

Obeying the County Noise Ordinance

With cooler weather, more residents of Virginia Hills will be keeping their windows open and be more sensitive to noise in the neighborhood. At all times, please be considerate of your neighbors and keep your noise down. At a minimum, you must follow the requirements of the County's noise ordinance or you are likely to receive a visit from the police.

Lawn mowers, leaf blowers, chain saws and other power tools or equipment may not be used between 9:00 PM and 7:00 AM.

Radios, TVs, musical instruments, loudspeakers, or any other sound amplification devices may not be used between 11:00 PM and 7:00 AM if they can be heard across property boundaries.

Construction or demolition equipment may not be used outside between 9:00 PM and 7:00 AM, and they may not be used before 9:00 AM on Sundays and federal holidays.

Animals may not *frequently* howl, bark, meow, squawk or make noises that can be heard across property boundaries.

All barking dog complaints and other noise complaints should be submitted to the police non-emergency number at 703-691-2131.

Royal Restaurant

734 N. St. Asaph St.
Old Town Alexandria
(703)-548-1616

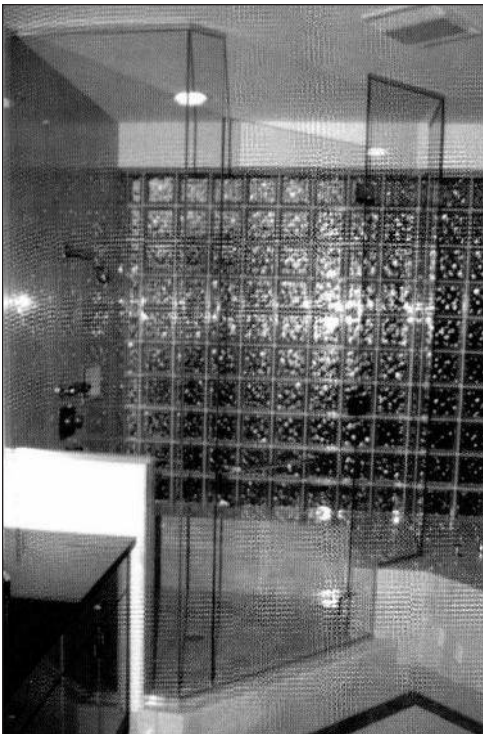
10% Off

COLOR FLOORING

KITCHEN & BATH DESIGN CENTER

We provide complete in-house kitchen & bath remodeling
from framing to the fixtures

UPTOWN SERVICE AT NEIGHBORHOOD PRICES
In your neighborhood for over 20 years



Exotic &
Eco-friendly
Flooring:
Cork
Bamboo
Marmoleum

Ceramic &
Porcelain Tile

BR111 - Exotic
Hardwood Flooring

Granite Counter
Top & Back Splash

Fine Carpeting - Rivington - Ohno - Hibernia - Fiberworks
Vinyl Sheet & Tile
Solid & Engineered Hardwoods



703-960-0220

5739 TELEGRAPH RD. ALEXANDRIA, VA 22303

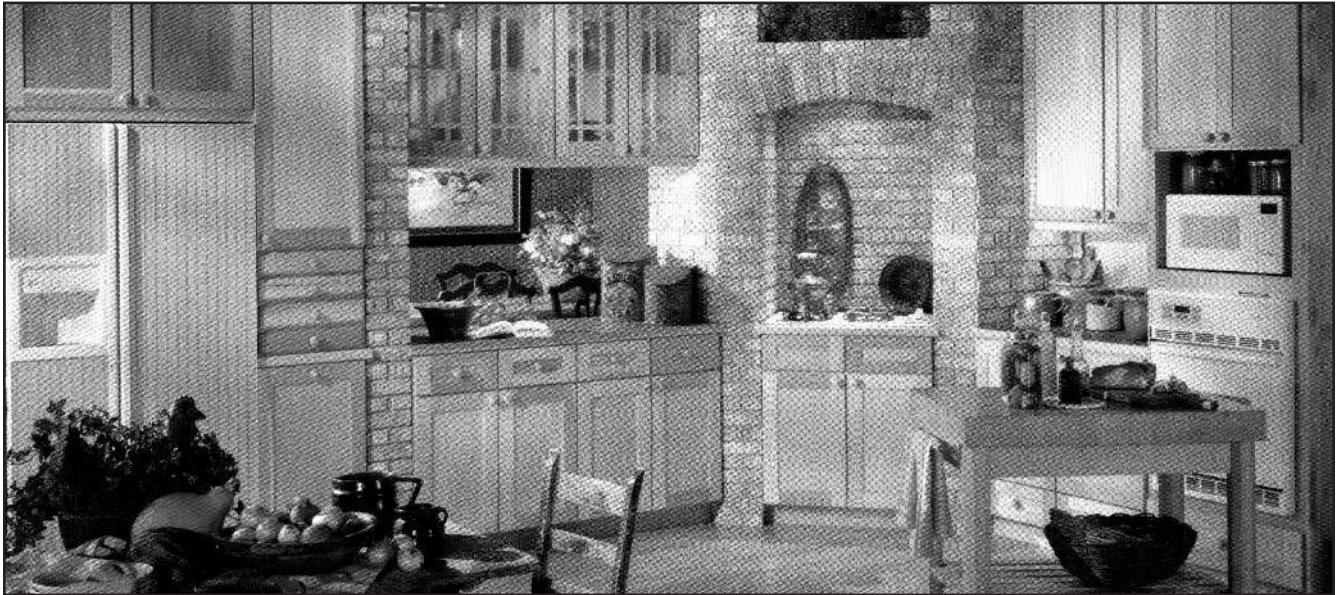
HOURS: Mon - Sat 10am - 6:00pm Sunday - Closed

Visit our web site at www.colorflooring.com
or e-mail us at colorflooring@hotmail.com



COLOR FLOORING

KITCHEN & BATH DESIGN CENTER



Additional Services by Color Flooring

Basement Finishing
Framing
Drywall or Paneling
Painting

We do countertops:

Corian, ceramic, quartz, marble,
granite, and laminate.



703-960-0220

5739 TELEGRAPH RD. ALEXANDRIA, VA 22303

HOURS: Mon - Sat 10am - 6:00pm Sunday - Closed

Visit our web site at www.colorflooring.com
or e-mail us at colorflooring@hotmail.com



Brad Center's School Board Report

I always close my newsletters with a request: "As always, please contact me with your questions, concerns, or comments; I do my job best when I hear from you!" I hope that you know that these are not simply idle words. They are a fundamental part of what I see as my job as your School Board representative and a sincere invitation to contact me. While many of you have called, written, or invited me to speak, some of you have not. I want to make sure I am providing you all of the information you desire and the opportunity to reach me should you wish to discuss an issue or bring something to my attention. I hope you'll let me know if I can improve on our dialogue.

This year, School Board members made a commitment to increase our communication outreach, to highlight opportunities for citizen involvement, and to provide even more transparency in our deliberation process. Last year, we focused on community interaction by participating in more than 200 meetings on various topics, holding invitation-only dialogues for key organizations involved with our schools as well as community dialogues for minority students and parents. The Board convened a Southwestern Community Engagement Committee, comprised of parents and volunteers, to study current and future student capacity issues in the southwest county area. While these efforts were a good start, there is still more to do.

The Board wants to take advantage of our parent resources as we address long term plans for our facilities, boundaries, and students -- issues that can be

personal and emotional. As the first step, the Board approved the formation of a Facilities Planning Advisory Council (FPAC) as a new standing committee to advise and inform the staff and School Board in the development of comprehensive, long term plans for facilities needs in the most effective and efficient way. This is only one of many opportunities to work with us to benefit FCPS.

Contact me, let's talk, so I can show you where you can make a difference to our schools. And . . . as always, please contact me with your questions, concerns, or comments; I do my job best when I hear from you -- really! Brad.Center@fcps.edu or (571-423-1064).

Rental Scams Posted On Line

Police have encountered multiple occurrences of scams involving properties advertised for rent on Craig's List. Typically, homes that are in the process of foreclosure are advertised as new rental property by scammers. The home is listed at an attractively low rent with no credit check required. When a victim agrees to rent the home, they are asked for a cash deposit. The suspect takes the cash and is never seen again.

Police remind citizens that cash arrangements are inherently risky and that a legitimate rental opportunity should involve a signed lease. Neighbors of foreclosed properties should notify police if they observe suspicious activity.

FORTNEY LAWN & GARDEN

COMPLETE LAWN MAINTENANCE

***AERATE & OVERSEEDING
WEEKLY MOWING
LAWN CLEAN-UP
FERTILIZING***

***MULCHING
TRIMMING
LANDSCAPING***

LAWN SERVICE TO FIT EVERY BUDGET

***LICENSED
&
INSURED***

(703)-960-8869

Message from Supervisor McKay: County Code Complaints System Streamlined

Preserving our neighborhoods' quality of life has always been a priority, and since taking office I've focused on making improvements to how the County handles these issues. While there's been real progress over the past few years, we still had a ways to go. For example, if there's a code violation that needs to be resolved, it shouldn't be hard for residents to make a complaint and it shouldn't be hard for County staff to handle that complaint.

Until July 1, that was not always the case. The County had a stovepipe system that worked well years ago, but was no longer flexible or robust enough to handle the complaints typical of our growing County. Different types of violations were handled by different agencies so someone living next to a house with multiple violations had to contact several different departments, reporting the appropriate violation to each one. Two years ago when the recession hit and we looked at County agencies for budget savings, I insisted that our code enforcement programs be preserved and made more efficient and responsive to neighborhood needs.

The result is the Consolidated County Services program under the Department of Code Compliance that became

operational on July 1. This new department investigates most neighborhood quality of life complaints including boarding houses (overcrowding), parking on the grass, junk in the yard, uncut grass, graffiti, building without permits, and hoarding. Other violations handled by this department include blight, property maintenance, noise, residential fire code, and other zoning violations. The new arrangement streamlines code enforcement under one umbrella, including the former Strike Teams. It has only one purpose and one priority—to investigate and resolve code violations that diminish our collective quality of life.

How is this different from what we had before? For the County, it streamlines the system and allows complaints that fall under different sections of the County's code to be worked simultaneously. Residents no longer have to figure out which agency handles which violation before they can report it. Now, you can go to the County's website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/code/ to file a report online or call 703-324-1300.

Please support our advertisers!



A & A Rental Station

We have rental equipment for:

Landscaping	Parties & Catering	Audio/Visual
Plumbing	Tents	Costumes
Home Improvements	Baby & Guest	Recreation
Construction	Floor Care	Moving

6416 Richmond Highway • Alexandria, VA 22306

(703) 660-6000

SERVING THE AREA'S RENTAL NEEDS SINCE 1977

member

american rental
association




Delivery Service Available

Thinking of Buying or Selling?

CHECK WITH THE JIM(s) TUCKER FIRST

Welcome to my newest
team member, JIM
TUCKER.

I am honored that
my son has chosen to
follow in my footsteps.

ADVANTAGE YOU!

**GET THE HIGH
ENERGY OF YOUTH
ALONG WITH OVER 20
YEARS EXPERIENCE,
ALL WITH ONE CALL!**

Visit me on the web at:
<http://www.jimtucker.com>
Email to jim@jimtucker.com

Page & Associates
4015 Chain Bridge Road
Suite C
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Recent Virginia Hills Real Estate Market Activity

Status	Style	Address	BR	FB	HB	List \$	Close \$	Bsmt	Gar
ACTIVE	Rambler	6417 PROSPECT TER	3	2	0	\$420,000		Yes	1
ACTIVE	Colonial	6320 GENTELE CT	5	3	1	\$284,900		No	
ACTIVE	Colonial	6114 ALGONA CT	4	2	0	\$250,000		Yes	
CNTG/NO KO	Colonial	6507 ENFIELD DR	5	3	0	\$299,900		No	
CNTG/NO KO	Colonial	3600 OAKWOOD LN	7	3	0	\$424,000		Yes	1
CNTG/NO KO	Rambler	4010 RONSON DR	3	2	0	\$379,000		Yes	
CNTG/NO KO	Rambler	6507 DORSET DR	3	2	0	\$219,900		Yes	
CNTG/KO	Rambler	6308 PROSPECT TER	5	2	0	\$409,000		Yes	
CNTG/KO	Rambler	3712 LOGAN CT	4	2	0	\$250,000		Yes	

All information deemed reliable, not guaranteed and comes compliments of Metropolitan Regional Information System® back 90 days from 9/1/2010

Need a Realtor?

Want one who is: an energized, responsive, passionate, thorough, disciplined, focused, dynamic, listing and selling machine who has a great track record throughout Northern Virginia?

Call: Jim Tucker
(703) 960-5469



THE #1 SELLING REALTOR IN VIRGINIA HILLS FOR YEARS

