

The Virginia Hills Echo



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Feeding Our Hungry: “Stuff the Bus”

Approximately 52,000 of the schoolkids in Fairfax County qualify for free and reduced lunch and don't have reliable access to food at home. Fairfax County is again hosting “Stuff the Bus,” a food pantry program that partners with nonprofits, grocery stores, and other local partners to restock shelves depleted after the holiday food drives have ended.

It's easy to participate. Every Saturday through February 15, a Fairfax County Fastran bus parks at a different grocery store and collects food donations between 9:30 AM and 4:30 PM. Look up the date and location most convenient for you and bring your much-needed donations. Go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/food/stuffthebus> for the locations of the bus.

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). 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!

Virginia Hills Day Reunion: Adult Parade & All Day Party, August 27, 2016

The classes of the 1950's - 1980's would like to express our appreciation to the readership of the *Virginia Hills Echo* for giving the alumni of Virginia Hills Elementary School the opportunity to share our story of growing up in Virginia Hills. Those early days were special to us, many of us believe we couldn't have had a better environment to grow up in. Although we did not have computers, cell phones, or any of the technology that students have today, we did have strong values, ever-present parents and creativity when it came to playtime.

(continued on page 7)

Inside this Edition of the *Echo*

President's Corner	2
Special Thanks	3
Vehicle Emissions Testing	3
Crime Incident Resources	7

Virginia Hills Citizens Association Meeting

Tuesday, February 9th – 7:30 PM
Old Virginia Hills School, Diana Lane

Speaker: TBD

The President's Corner
Comment from VHCA President Suyderhoud

Hello Virginia Hills residents! Winter has officially arrived and our recent storm hit us hard. I can only imagine many of you were quite overwhelmed with the amount of accumulation we had. I know shoveling was difficult this time around, but as strong as I know Virginia Hills is as a community, I would think many of you were not only shoveling yourselves but also assisting your neighbors and friends.

The other thing I want to talk about is the increased traffic along Dorset Drive. Recently, I contacted Supervisor Jeff McKay's office because a few residents on Dorset have expressed concern about their safety along the street. Jeff McKay's office administers a program called "Traffic Calming Measures." In this program, studies are done to determine if a particular street needs curb extensions, speed bumps, or the narrowing of roads. The intention here is to slow down or reduce motor-vehicle traffic as well as to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists. Since I contacted the office, a conceptual plan has been started to measure the amount of traffic on Dorset. One good thing is the office is aware that Dorset is need of more speed bumps especially towards Telegraph Road. There is a task force in place to represent the Virginia Hills community in this effort and I want to thank Sharon Forrest, Aaron Kahn, and John Figueira for volunteering. I will keep everyone informed of the progress of this study and the outcome.

Finally, since we are talking about volunteering and becoming more involved our neighborhood, VHCA always welcomes ideas to set up a community event. If you're interested or have an idea for an event, you can always contact me or any one of the board members listed in the Echo. And don't forget about our next monthly association meeting at the Old Virginia Hills School on Tuesday February 9th, at 7:30 pm. Hope to see you there!

Sincerely,
 Warren



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Half page	\$45		

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

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Special Thanks

The VHCA would like to thank Donald and Chrstine Baer for their generous donation to the Association. Every bit of money we receive will help us make the neighborhood even better!

The VHCA would also like to thank Bobby Lopez for repairing the Virginia Hills sign on Telegraph. It looks great!

Vehicle Emissions Test Just Got Easier

RAPIDPASS is the optional on-road emissions inspection program in Northern Virginia.

RAPIDPASS allows a motorist to simply drive through an on-road **RAPID**Pass system to complete their emissions test. Upon notification of a clean emissions result, motorists can conveniently pay for their emission inspection on-line and proceed with their vehicle registration renewal.

There are many locations, including one just a few minutes from us on the entrance ramp from Telegraph to I-95 S. For additional details, go to <https://rapidpassvirginia.com/VaPublic/Home/HowItWorks>.

IRS Scam Reminder

Be on the lookout for IRS scams, very common at this time of year. Last year, tax scammers used stolen Social Security numbers to file tax returns to get fraudulent refunds. Scammers increase their opportunity to get refunds owed to legitimate consumers by filing their fraudulent claims early. You don't know about the fraud until you receive a letter from the IRS that more than one tax return has been filed using your personal information. If you get a letter from the IRS that you feel might involve fraud, contact the IRS Identity Protection Specialized Unit at 1-800-908-4490. You can learn more about tax identity theft at <http://ftc.gov/taxidtheft> and <http://irs.gov/identitytheft>.

Incidents of tax identity theft, pervasive telephone scams and phishing attacks increase dramatically during this time. **Remember: the IRS does not demand payment with a debit card, does not issue refunds to a credit card, and does not make the first contact with a phone call or email.**

Book Donations

If the new year has you cleaning out closets and dusting off shelves, you might have a big box sitting in your basement of giveaway items. If you have books or recent magazines in good, saleable condition, you can donate them to the John Marshall Library in Rose Hill or the Sherwood Library on Sherwood Hall Lane, near Costco. The Friends of the Library organizations at both locations host an ongoing book sale, proceeds of which benefit the library and its programming.

Who is Responsible for Shoveling Snow?

In Fairfax County, homeowners are responsible for shoveling the sidewalks. Hopefully the worst of the snow is past us, but in case of future accumulation, please remember to keep your sidewalks clear so schoolchildren and other pedestrians can walk safely. In addition to your sidewalk, please shovel sidewalks in front of vacant homes, community paths, fire hydrants, bus stops, and storm drains.

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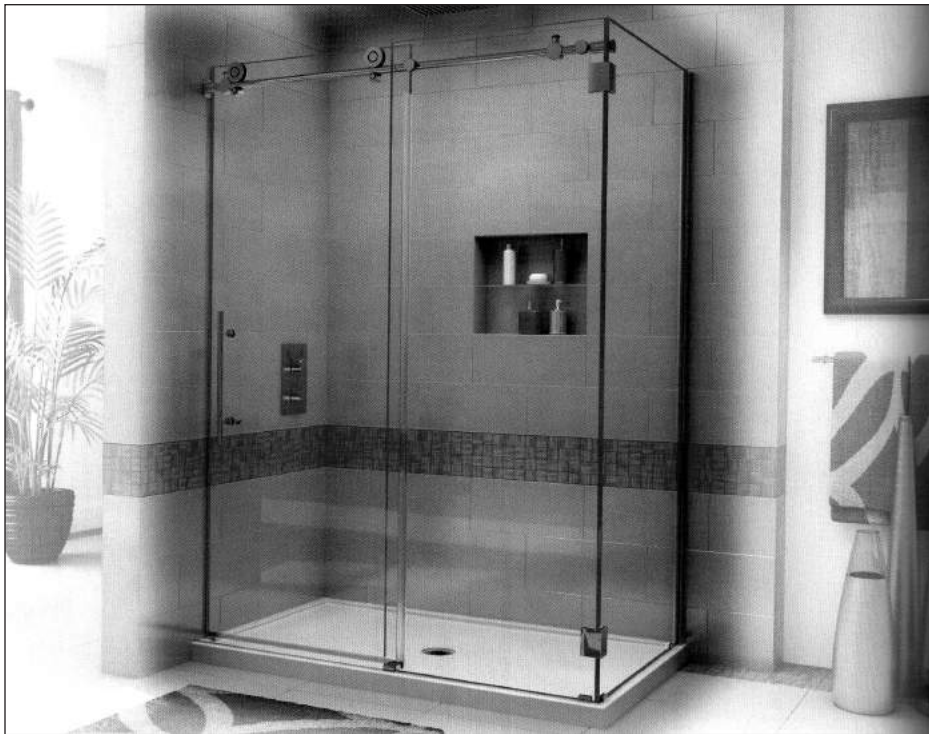
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(continued from page 1)

With our parents help we made our own fun and entertainment, such as when the annual Halloween costume parades would start at Heather Court and march up The Parkway and headed for the big turn on to Dorset Drive, and then on to Virginia Hills Elementary School. Groups of age-separated kids would then circle the flagpole for parent judges to award ribbons (pictures would show up in the *Echo*). After treats and food, we would head to our playground with 3 chain-held swings with a thick wooden board as a seat. One set of steel monkey bars to climb on, plus a heavy board see-saw, and a small merry-go-round (all of which would be too dangerous to be approved today).

During the spring and summer there was Boys Highlander and Girls Gremlin soccer teams that some of us joined and played our games in the open field in front of the school, or we tried out for the Lil and Big McDonalds or Tigers T-shirt baseball teams (the very first T-shirt league was created right here). For those who did not enjoy those foot-on-ground options they could spend their time at the Virginia Hills Pool to suntan, splash around, or join the always competitive swim team. On pool days we would listen to WPGC or WEAM radio for all the Top 40 hits and chill at the snack bar. On selected Saturday pool evenings. there was the coolest music playing by a neighborhood DJ or one of our teen bands with barefoot dancing on the cement deck.

Summer also brought the "Fun-Pack" program at the school during the weekdays from 8 am – 3 pm in the school cafeteria and blacktop behind the cafeteria: board hockey, ping pong, checkers, chess, and foursquare were just some of the activities we played, thanks to the Fairfax County Parks and Rec.

As summer came to a close and school started

back up after Labor Day, we found ourselves walking to school. If you lived past Berkshire Dr, Ronson Dr, and Virginia Hills Ave, you rode a school bus. Our favorite bus drivers were either Mrs. Brumback, Mrs. Wilke, or Mrs. Loving. All I can say is "Angels behind the Wheel." Friday nights brought us back to the school cafeteria for teen dance nights, movie nights and the annual fundraiser spaghetti dinners.

On August 27, 2016, we would like to invite all of our friends, old and new, and current residents of "Our Great Neighborhood" to join us for a parade and reunion party at the old school. Please join us for a day of celebrating, remembering, and honoring our childhood while echoing the way we were, and the way it can be again in Virginia Hills.

A special message of thanks and love to our Virginia Hills Parents, the Greatest Generation, from the Coolest Generation. Stay tuned for details.

Crime Incident Resources

There are a few resources available to Fairfax County residents who would like to look at recent crime in the area. The Fairfax County Police Department's blog functions as daily police blotter, with additional updates and relevant information. It can be viewed at <https://fcpdnews.wordpress.com>. Additionally, a map of all police events in the county is at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policeevents/>. It is searchable by address.

Always remember to practice basic safety and vigilance, like always locking your cars and not leaving valuables visible. Keep an eye out for your neighbors' safety as well, and if you see something odd, remember to report it to our neighborhood watch at virginiahillsnw@gmail.com.

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Active	4008 Ronson Dr	4	3	1	\$699,000		Yes	1
Active	6317 Gentele Ct	3	1	0	\$339,000		No	
Active	6202 Paulonia Rd	3	2	0	\$349,790		Yes	
Active	3607 Austin Ave	3	2	0	\$385,000		Yes	
Active	6607 Berkshire Dr	3	2	0	\$375,000		Yes	
Cnko	6201 The Pkwy	3	1	0	\$379,000		No	
Cnko	6600 The Pkwy	4	2	0	\$432,500		No	1
Sold	6413 Prospect Ter	3	1	1	\$389,900	\$377,000	Yes	
Sold	6558 Virginia Hills Ave	3	2	0	\$399,000	\$399,000	No	
Sold	6125 Algona Ct	4	2	0	\$439,000	\$418,000	Yes	
Sold	3525 Austin Ave	3	1	0	\$349,500	\$354,500	No	

All informaton deemed reliable. Derived from Metropolitan Regional Information System for the period 12/1/15-1/31/16.

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