

# The Virginia Hills Echo



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## **New Land Use Rep Needed**

Our current land use representative will be stepping down in March 2017, and we need someone to replace her!

The Virginia Hills Land Use Representative will be responsible for attending approximately 10 meetings per year and voting in the best interest of Virginia Hills on current Land Use issues such as new developments, cell phone towers, rezoning, etc. The new Land Use representative will have the support of an alternate Land Use Representative if he or she cannot attend a meeting and the current Land Use representative will attend meetings with the new representative through February of 2017 to help aid the future Land Use representative in learning more about the position. The individual would also need to either attend 5 VHCA meetings a year or email a summary of current Land Use events to the VHCA secretary. Land Use meetings are generally held the first Monday of most months from 7 to 9pm.

Please support Virginia Hills by being our voice on the Land Use Advisory Committee! Contact Juliana Sharp at [secretary@virginiahills.org](mailto:secretary@virginiahills.org) if you are interested.

## **Virginia Hills Residents Online**

There are lots of ways to communicate with our neighbors! Many of us are on the NextDoor app. It's a free and private website where you can talk to

Virginia Hills residents as well as residents of the surrounding areas. Sign up at [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com).

We also have a Google Group which functions as a listserv. To join, please send an e-mail to: [virginia-hills-parents+subscribe@googlegroups.com](mailto:virginia-hills-parents+subscribe@googlegroups.com). Or send an email to Christine Gettings at [Christine.Gettings@gmail.com](mailto:Christine.Gettings@gmail.com), and she will add you to the group.

And finally, there is a Virginia Hills Facebook group. Just search for Virginia Hills Citizen Association and request to join!

## **Great Time at Pool Party**

Thanks to all who joined us at the pool party August 27! Everyone enjoyed a fun afternoon of swimming, chatting with neighbors, and sharing a picnic. Special thanks to the Virginia Hills Pool for helping the VHCA host the party!

### **Inside this Edition of the *Echo***

President's Corner	2
Note from the Editor	3
Policy on Recording Police	6
Embark Richmond Highway Initiative	9

### ***Virginia Hills Citizens Association Meeting***

***Tuesday, September 13th – 7:30 PM***  
***Old Virginia Hills School, Diana Lane***

## The President's Corner

### Comment from VHCA President Suyderhoud

Well, here we are at the end of the summer and I hope that everyone had a great one! Here are a couple of things to remember when making your property ready for fall and winter. Conduct a miniature maintenance update by checking the airflow of your vents, fans, dryer vents and HVAC units, making sure no dust has collected. It's not a bad idea to make sure your HVAC system is thoroughly and professionally cleaned. If you have a fireplace flue, make sure it's clean and free of any debris. Cleaning all gutters by removing leaves, twigs and so that it's not clogged is another good measure one can take. And lastly, check the driveway for any cracks to prevent the winter rain from eroding the surface. Fill in those cracks to make it look nice and functional.

I wanted to bring you up to date on the traffic calming measures along Dorset Drive. The team which includes Sharon Forest, John Figueira and Aaron Kahn meet with Joan Clark and a representative from Virginia Department of Transportation on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. The meeting was to discuss the outcome of the study. Although the outcome of the study was not what the team expected, we did get approved for an additional speed bump close to 6514 and 6515 Dorset Drive. The hope was that an additional speed bump could be placed on the downhill portion of Dorset Drive. Residents in the area have seen an increase in accidents and speed along that portion. VDOT reasoning for not placing a speed bump along that section was because it was unsafe. We are working with VDOT to place a pole mounted speed monitor along the downhill portion of Dorset. It will possibly be placed sometime in October. It will take VHCA additional time for the speed bump to be placed. In our next community meeting on the 13th, details of our next steps to take will be discussed.

Hope to see everyone in our September meeting!

Sincerely,  
Warren



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The Print Shop

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For yearly discount rate, see [www.VirginiaHills.org/Echo.html](http://www.VirginiaHills.org/Echo.html)

### Virginia Hills Citizens Association Officers 2014-2016

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## Note from the Editor

The *Echo* will soon be moving into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and going digital! Currently, pdf versions of all issues of the *Echo* since 2009 are available online at [www.virginiahills.org/echo](http://www.virginiahills.org/echo). In the near future (exact date to be announced soon) we will be shifting to a digital-only delivery method. If you have any concerns, questions, or suggestions, please feel free to contact the editor at [echo@virginiahills.org](mailto:echo@virginiahills.org).

The best thing you can do to prepare for the transition is sign up for a 2016 membership so we have your email address on record! If you would not like to join the association but would still like to receive the *Echo* once we stop delivering paper copies, you can email our membership director Akiko Zecca at [membership@virginiahills.org](mailto:membership@virginiahills.org) and she will make a note of your name and email.

We are also **in need of a new *Echo* editor**. If you are interested in taking over this position and providing a valuable service to our neighborhood, please email [echo@virginiahills.org](mailto:echo@virginiahills.org).

## 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.

## Register to Vote by Oct. 17!

Besides voting for the President in November, we will also be voting for our representative in the House of Representatives, local bond

issues, a county meals tax, and modifications to the Virginia Constitution.

Check your voter registration status to confirm it is up to date with a current address and other pertinent information. The deadline for voter registration and updates is October 17.

Consider absentee voting. There are 19 valid reasons to vote absentee before Election Day, either in person or by mail. Reasons include having a disability or being a caregiver. Absentee voting begins Sept. 23.

Your most important source of voter information is at **[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections)**.

**Join the Virginia Hills Citizens Association for 2016-2017 that began on September 1st.**

## 2016-2017 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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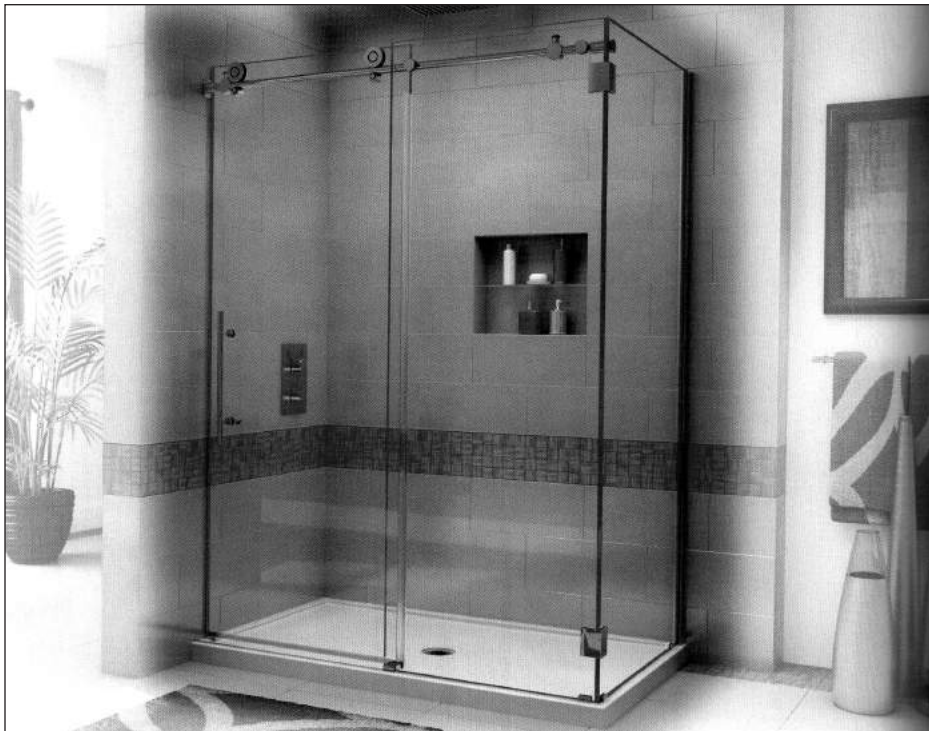
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## **New Policy Outlines Your Rights to Record Police Activity**

Our Police Department recently issued a new policy about anyone who might record police activity, whether it be something they see as a passerby or a direct interaction with an officer.

According to the Police Department, the policy was created and implemented to ensure the protection of everyone's First, Fourth and Fourteenth Amendment rights. The new policy includes guidance to officers who encounter individuals recording them while they are performing their public duty, including:

- Anyone has the right to "observe, photograph, or record police activity in an area accessible to, or within view of the general public."
- Officers shall not inform or instruct anyone that recording police activity, if within their legal right, is prohibited nor shall officers otherwise obstruct the ongoing recording.
- The filming of such activity may not interfere with officers engaged in the public discharge of their duties, jeopardize their or others' safety, violate the law or incite others to violate the law.
- If officers feel the recording is interfering with the performance of their public duties or poses a safety hazard for the person recording or anyone at the scene, an officer may request or redirect that person to a safer location, while still respecting their right to film in the public domain.
- Should a person who is recording be found in violation of a criminal law (e.g., obstructing an investigation, disregarding an established crime scene perimeter), they may be subject to criminal charges.

If a person who is filming police activity also captures evidence of a crime being committed, an officer is likely to request from the person filming that they voluntarily provide them with a copy or allow the officer to temporarily take custody of the phone for evidentiary purposes. It is with rare exception that an officer may seize a recording device without consent from its owner; the policy provides specific instruction to officers.

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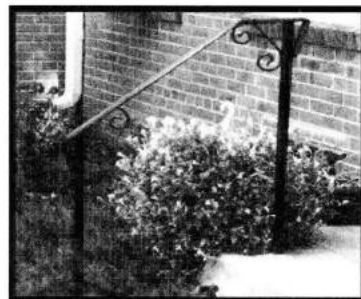
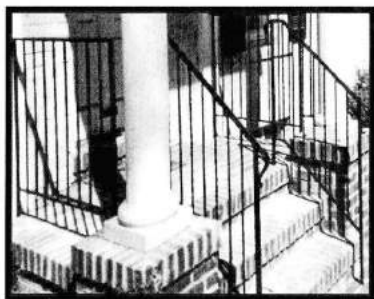
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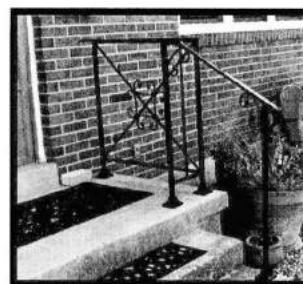
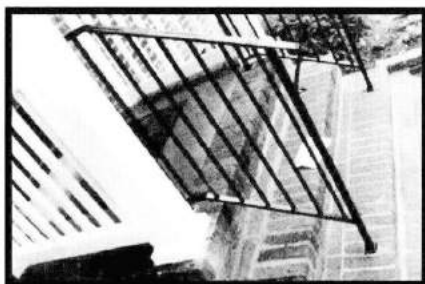
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## The Embark Richmond Highway Initiative

On Thursday, July 28, 2016, there was an online discussion, hosted by various County agencies, concerning the Embark program. This program is a multi-year effort involving land use and transportation planning in the Route 1 corridor in Fairfax County. The effort will include design and construction activities that will result in a bus rapid transit (BRT) system operating primarily on dedicated lanes along Richmond Highway initially from the Huntington Metrorail Station to Fort Belvoir. A future extension of the Metrorail Yellow Line to Hybla Valley is also being considered. A transcript of the online discussion is available on the webpage <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/askfairfax/archive/ArchiveDiscussion.aspx?roomid=124>.

The many changes coming to our area are a very good reason why it's important to have our voice heard through the Land Use Advisory Committee! Please consider volunteering to take on that position. (See page 1 for more details.)

## Proposed FY 2018 Transportation Alternatives Projects

Fairfax County will hold a public meeting on September 15, 2016, to solicit comments on the proposed FY 2018 Transportation Alternative Projects. The meeting starts at 7 PM at the Fairfax County Department of Transportation, 4050 Legato Road, Suite 400, Fairfax, VA 22033. At the meeting, county staff will make a presentation about the program, followed by a question-and-answer session. Alternatives projects include:

- Construction, planning, and design of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized forms of transportation, including sidewalks, bicycle infrastructure, pedestrian and bicycle signals, traffic calming techniques, lighting and other safety-related infrastructure, and transportation projects to achieve compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

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- Environmental mitigation activity, including pollution prevention and pollution abatement activities
- Safe Routes to School

Additional information can be found at [http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/news/2016/16\\_015.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/news/2016/16_015.htm).

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## ***Current Virginia Hills Real Estate Market***

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Active	6402 The Parkway	3	2	0	\$447,000		77	1,877
Active	6306 Gentile Ct	3	2	0	\$429,900		12	875
Active	4014 Ronson Dr	3	2	0	\$330,000		1	988
Cnko	6411 Virginia Hills Ave	3	2	0	\$425,000		33	1,506
Cnko	4008 Ronson Dr	3	2	0	\$448,000		29	1,264
Sold	6202 Paulonia Rd	3	2	0	\$349,790	\$309,470	54	962
Sold	3709 Austin Ave	3	3	0	\$450,000	\$444,000	40	1,237
Sold	6500 Hillview Ave	3	2	0	\$439,900	\$439,900	3	1,554
Sold	6208 Dadson Ct	4	2	0	\$389,950	\$389,950	4	988

All information deemed reliable. Derived from Metropolitan Regional Information System for the period 6/1/16-8/31/16



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