

Rose Hill Rambler

February 2024

A quarterly newsletter for Rose Hill, Sunny Ridge Estates and Guilford Estates neighborhoods from the Rose Hill Civic Association

Plans for Development Are All Around Us

By Carl Sell

Although nothing new has been received from Combined Properties Inc. about Rose Hill Plaza or the General Services Agency's sale of the vacant office building across from Greendale Golf Course, there are some things going on that may affect both projects. As usual, the Rose Hill Civic Association will stay on top of them and report to its members and neighbors.

The first item of interest is the fact that the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved a zoning change that would allow construction of luxury townhomes at the former Top Golf site on South Van Dorn Street in Kingstowne, despite the fact that members of the Franconia District Land Use Committee voted to reject the proposal, citing a concern that it would set a precedent in other cases, including the Rose Hill shopping center.

Some residents and community leaders in Kingstowne supported the rezoning request to help rid the area of what they consider a blight and an annoyance.

Rose Hill Civic Association Meeting

Feb. 27, 7 p.m.

John Marshall Library

The approval of 174 townhouses at a density of 10 units per acre is twice the number recommended by the County's comprehensive plan. Here in Rose Hill, we are depending on the plan to protect us from high density developments such as the one proposed by Combined Properties to replace Rose Hill Plaza with hundreds of apartments and at least one six-story building, parking garage, a standalone grocery store and far less retail and office space than is there now.

There are several other high-density proposals in the process of being considered in Franconia District. One involves the current Franconia Government Center site. Another is a 12-story apartment building on Commerce Street on the Best Buy site across from the Springfield Town Center. Others are located on South Van Dorn Street at the Beltway, a site that has a long history of local residents objecting to increased traffic at an already snarled interchange.

The GSA site presents an interesting challenge since it currently is not planned or zoned because it is government property. However, a private developer will have to seek county approval for any development. RHCA and neighboring communities will be involved through a public hearing process and what we want is a development that will complement, not overwhelm, our community. (Continued on page 2)

Seen on the Street

A photograph from the 1960s that shows Susan Raettig Luttrell, in center with little brother Steve, along with her mom Sue Raettig and sister Ellen, at far left, trudging up Willowood Lane after an exciting sledding run triggered a flurry of memories on Facebook from current and former residents about the best, and most dangerous, places to sled. Climbhill Road is a contender as it provides a steep descent in two directions, one to Telegraph Road and the other to Roundhill. Walt Appel asserts that Craft Road in Sunny Ridge was the "greatest sledding ever," while John Hambleton's favorite spot was Greendale Golf Course. For Chris Oh Harney, the biggest thrill of all was going down Cottonwood Drive, holding on for a 90 degree turn and somehow stopping before "spilling" into Telegraph Road.



The Facebook group called I Grew Up in Franconia, Virginia, posted this photo taken by Alvin Raettig in 1965.

Roadway Improvements Needed First to Accommodate More Housing

(Continued from page 1)

There are those who advocate converting unbuilt and vacant office and commercial properties to residential to solve a perceived housing crisis. That's a slippery slope that will eventually cost the taxpayer because it takes twice as long for the county to recover the cost of providing services to residential than it does commercial and office property.

Having a vibrant office and commercial market is the key to generating balanced tax revenues. We know this because a previous office market downturn in the 1980's led to serious budget cuts and tax increases in Fairfax County.

And despite all the talk about a shortage of housing in Fairfax County, a check of advertisements for apartments in our area indicates there are plenty of vacancies. Our own Rose Hill Apartments, for example, is constantly seeking renters. Why then, do we need to build more apartments?

Traffic improvements are needed to help make for a



smoother ride on South Van Dorn Street, Franconia Road and Telegraph Road. On South Van Dorn, new interchanges are needed at Franconia Road and the Beltway. Franconia Road needs to be widened from Craft Road to Telegraph Road. And Telegraph Road needs to be improved and widened all the way from Jeff Todd Way to Franconia Road.

The section of Telegraph from South Kings Highway to

Franconia Road presents a major issue because so many homes and streets in Rose Hill, Virginia Hills and Wilton Woods directly access the roadway. Adding a few new turn lanes off Telegraph would be a good start for road improvements in the area.

Developers want to build new houses and each one tries to minimize the impact of their project on our already crowded roads. As citizens, we need to make sure any new development does not unnecessarily add to traffic woes. We also need to speak up to our County and State leaders to improve the ability of residents to access jobs, business, and recreation.

To stay up to date on these developments, we advise everyone to make sure they are on our e-mail list and to go to our web site, myrosehill.com, for more thorough explanations of developments. One recent article by Angela Woolsey of FFX.com, for example, talks about the future of single-family zoning in Fairfax County.

Besides keeping you abreast of the latest news, our e-mail messages also include periodic articles about the history of our community. Contact Rambler editor Daniel Bearth at idmbearth@aol.com or RHCA President Carl Sell at sellcarl@aol.com to make sure we have your name and contact information.



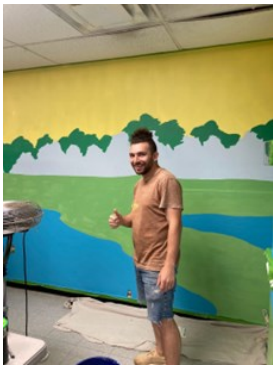
The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted Jan. 23 to solicit proposals for affordable housing at the site of the current Franconia District Police Station. This rendering shows what a five-story, 120-unit building would look like.

Check it Out: Franconia Rec Center Gets a Makeover

By Julie Margolis

Did you know the team at Franconia Rec Center has been hard at work since Fall 2023 giving the property a little glow up? The inside pool was drained and resurfaced, and the deck was cleaned extensively. Not only did the preschool area get a coat of kid pleasing colors of purple and blue, the entire inside of the building received a new paint job. Locker rooms received new sinks, tile, benches and more. In January the upstairs restrooms underwent a remodel and the fitness center saw the arrival of brand-new equipment and sanitizing stations.

On the outdoor trails, a team of volunteers from Dominion Energy spent an entire day reinforcing bridges and building a new set of steps at the trail head entrance adjacent to the outdoor basketball courts.



Muralist Justin Sadegh

Did you know that Franconia Rec Center has rentable outdoor picnic pavilions and the Hill Top Room for inside gatherings? This past Fall, Justin Sadegh (Rose Hill resident and amazing artist, in photo at left) volunteered to paint a mural in the Hill Top room. Justin's talent and vision transformed a tired space into a vibrant party and meeting space.

Did you know that Franconia Rec Center partners with Pulley Career Center to provide career and employment skills instruction to students with disabilities? You might see Pulley students at the front desk or working on our outdoor trails to address erosion.

Did you know Franconia Rec Center offers a monthly Roller Skate Night complete with a local disc jockey, snacks, and lights? Franconia Skate Night is one not to miss. Every month has a theme, like Back to School, Ugly Sweater, and a Retro 80's Night!

The theme this month is Valentine's Disco Skate and Dance! Skate Night Feb. 17 is for everyone so come with your friends, come with your family, or just take your skates out of the attic and skate like it's 1979! Don't have skates? No problem as there is a dance floor just for you located in the middle of the gym skate area.

Julie Margolis is the Franconia Rec Center's volunteer coordinator.

Skate Night DJ and a family on skates.

Photos: Franconia Rec Center



If you own a home and are thinking about selling over the next several years, listen up!

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Writing and Sharing Poetry Is the Goal of Workshop at the Library

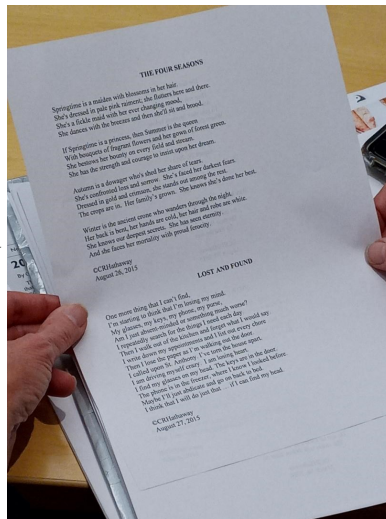
A few months ago, Carolyne Hathaway, a retired attorney and amateur poet, went to the John Marshall Library looking for a way to share some of her poems with a group of other likeminded individuals. After learning there was no such group, library officials suggested that she start one, which she has done with a Poetry Workshop on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

No one showed up for the first workshop, but there were two at the second and three more at the third meeting in December. Among the participants was Roger DiSilvestro, a published author and resident of Burke who sometimes comes to John Marshall Library to write. There also was John

Cashmire, a retiree and amateur songwriter, and Kristy, a language specialist from Arlington who works with elementary school kids.

After skipping January because of inclement weather, Carolyne is looking forward to meeting even more people at the next

workshop on Feb. 20 in the group study room at John Marshall Library. — *Daniel Bearth*



Carolyne Hathaway, in the photo at right, reads some of her poems, which draw from her experiences raising three adopted children. (Photos: Daniel Bearth)

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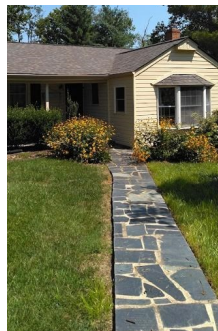
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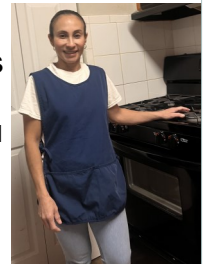
Amanda's Cleaning

I am Amanda Florian and I want to offer my services to the residents of Rose Hill.

It would be a pleasure to help you keep your home clean and disinfected. As a precaution, we continue to use masks and disinfectant products to help avoid the spread of Covid-19.

As always, I don't charge more for pets. We offer recurring cleanings, as well as one-time deep cleaning and cleaning for move-ins and move-outs.

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Mentors Extend Helping Hand to Selected Students at School

By Daniel Bearth

Community members, school teachers and staff are volunteering their time to mentor young people who need a helping hand to keep up with classmates or to ease anxieties some kids have in dealing with group activities and personal relationships.

At Rose Hill Elementary, Virginia State Trooper Darius Henry comes from his home in Woodbridge to spend time with a student he first met two years ago and who now has become a kind of celebrity to all his 6th grade classmates when Trooper Henry shows up in full uniform to have lunch or when he joins in during recess or rides along as a chaperone on a field trip to the Baltimore Aquarium.

Henry, who is 30 years old and has two kids of his own, wants students to see police as real people and not someone to fear. “[Mentoring] has a positive effect on me too,” he says. “When I walk in and the kids go crazy, it helps me out. I see a lot of bad things in my job. It’s nice to have brighter things to think about.”

At Twain Middle School, Samantha Vivian-Beck runs a program called R.i.S.E. (Respect. Inspire. Strive. Educate.) that pairs selected students with teachers and school staff who then engage in planned extracurricular activities, such as a scavenger hunt, escape room, or potluck dinner, at least once a month during the school year.

“In my second year at Twain Middle School, I saw that there were lots of students who struggled behaviorally and socially and that their struggles impacted their ability to participate in after school clubs and events,” Samantha explained. “The RiSE mentoring program gives those students a better sense of community which in turn allows them to build stronger relationships with peers and adults.”

Samantha would like to see the program she started at Twain expanded to other schools. “If Fairfax County Public Schools had the resources to enable me to do RiSE full time for the county, I would jump at the chance as I fully believe in its viability.”

At Edison High School, a new mentoring program that matches students with each other has recently been launched and Tiffany McVicker, a student who was mentored at Twain, says she looks forward to joining the program next year. “RiSE really helped me,” she said.

Martha Macdonald, a mentoring specialist with the Fairfax County Public Schools, says approximately 3,000 community members and school staff are currently involved in mentorships with roughly 4,000 students throughout the county. The number of community mentors fell off sharply during the Covid-19 pandemic, Macdonald notes. “I lost 800+ trained and vetted mentors who never returned after schools reopened,” she said. “Many of them moved geographically or moved onto another worthy cause.”

Anyone interested in becoming a mentor can contact Martha at the Office of Student Safety and Wellness at 571-230-3596.



State Trooper and mentor Darius Henry talks about Veterans Day to students at Rose Hill Elementary School. (Photo: RHES)



A mentoring program started in 2017 helps students in middle school who struggle with social skills. (Photo: Daniel Bearth)

What I Learned About Local Government From Neighborhood College

By Robert J. Riccio

For six consecutive Thursdays, from Oct. 12 to Nov. 16, 2023, the Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services offered its long-standing, free leadership certificate program, to Franconia District residents. I was one of the participants.

The program, known as Neighborhood College, is designed to educate community leaders about how local government works and then how to successfully advocate for a cause, project, or organization.

The presentations included an excellent one from the Health and Human Services Department, that went into substantial detail about their roles, responsibilities, and services. I was surprised to learn that HHS is the umbrella department under which such diverse entities as housing, public libraries, and even our park authority are subsumed.

Another presentation on the county’s strategic plan described equity, inclusivity, community outcomes, and data integration as “key plan drivers.” We learned



that all work must address issues such as safety and security, mobility and transportation, housing and neighborhood livability, and be directly related to what are called indicators of community success. Those indicators include affordable and quality housing, access to amenities that promote healthy

neighborhoods, preventing and ending homelessness, and flexibility and adaptability of land use rules. The presenter also spoke about how the county maps the assets of a community by walking through neighborhoods and conversing with residents.

One deficiency in most presentations was the inability of many speakers to clearly express how the government gathers and shares data it uses.

By the end of the program, though, participants, ranging in age from high schoolers to retirees, were able to demonstrate how they might interact with county government to achieve their goals. In short, the college was a worthwhile activity that I would highly recommend to all.

Robert J. Riccio lives on Picot Drive and is treasurer of the Rose Hill Civic Association.



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Rose Hill Players To Stage New Musical at Edison

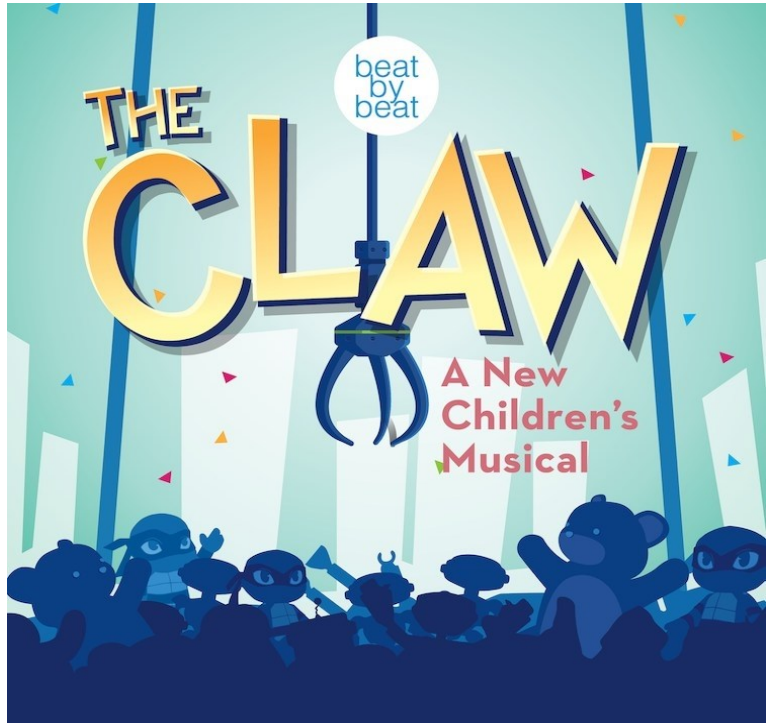
By Brenda Murphy-Higgins

The Rose Hill Players from Rose Hill Elementary School are putting on a spring musical at Edison High School in April and we would love for everyone to come and support us.

There will be two performances of The Claw: A New Children’s Musical, on April 6 at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. Rose Hill resident and long-time 1st grade teacher Danny Adams is directing the show with the participation of at least 36 students enrolled in Grade 2 through Grade 6.

Rose Hill is a school that draws students from every community, not just those inside school boundary lines, due to our immersion program. We pride ourselves in receiving community support.

Brenda Murphy-Higgins is a producer for the Rose Hill Players.



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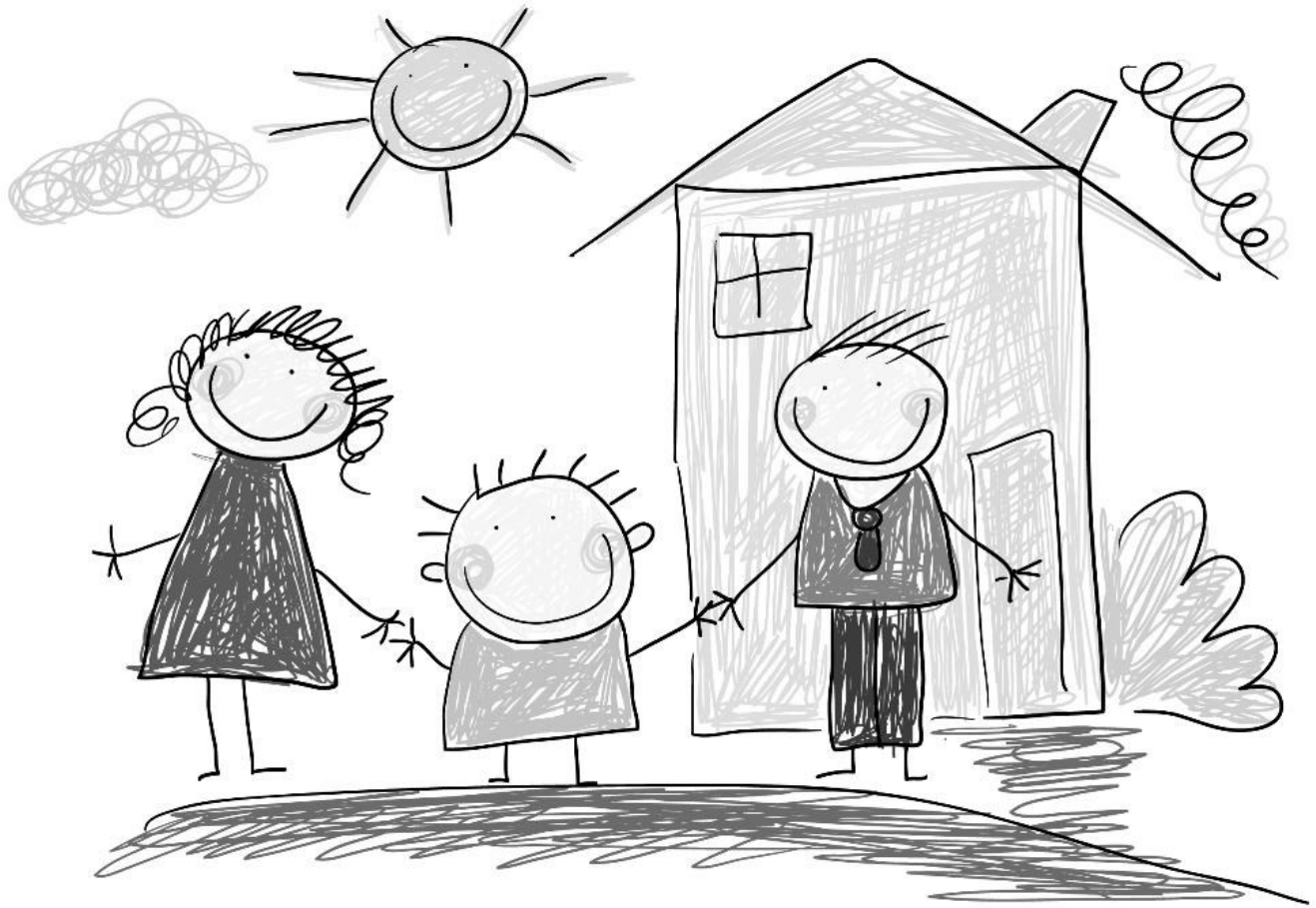


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Homes For Sale (February 2024)

| Status | Address | Bedrooms | Price | Finished Sq. Ft. | Subdivision |
|---------|----------------------------|----------|-------------|------------------|---------------------|
| ACTIVE | 5412 Franconia Road (1) | 2 | \$1,300,000 | 1,119 | Guilford |
| ACTIVE | 4500 Franconia Road (2) | 3 | \$1,100,000 | 1,271 | Rolling Road |
| ACTIVE | 6508 Cottonwood Drive | 3 | \$649,900 | 1,092 | Rose Hill Park |
| PENDING | 6109 Leewood Drive | 3 | \$619,000 | 1,197 | Rose Hill Farms |
| PENDING | 6290-B Rose Hill Court #62 | 2 | \$267,500 | 879 | Heritage Knoll |
| PENDING | 6000 Leewood Drive (3) | 4 | \$750,000 | 2,184 | Rose Hill Farms |
| CLOSED | 6201 Bernard Ave. | 6 | \$1,265,000 | 6,901 | Guilford |
| CLOSED | 6220 Guilford Drive | 4 | \$815,000 | 2,364 | Guilford |
| CLOSED | 4511 Tipton Lane | 3 | \$705,000 | 2,018 | Sunny Ridge Estates |
| CLOSED | 6000 Leewood Drive (3) | 4 | \$520,000 | 1,092 | Rose Hill Farms |
| CLOSED | 6116 Blue Grass Drive | 4 | \$649,000 | 1,222 | Rose Hill Farms |
| CLOSED | 4704 Eaton Place | 4 | \$670,000 | 2,300 | Sunny Ridge Estates |

1 This property consists of two houses on three lots covering 1.43 acres.

2 The home at 4500 Franconia Road includes a 1.12 acre lot that can be subdivided and developed.

3 The home at 6000 Leewood Drive is listed twice (once as closed and once as pending) because it sold in October 2023 and then the new owners put it back on the market after renovating it.

Homes For Rent (February 2024)

| | | | | | |
|--------|-----------------------|---|-------------|-------|----------------|
| ACTIVE | 4807 Flower Lane | 3 | \$2,600/mo. | 800 | Rose Hill |
| CLOSED | 6616 Cottonwood Drive | 4 | \$2,750/mo. | 1,170 | Rose Hill Park |

Source: Tom & Cindy and Associates



Get Your Foot in the Door: Advertise in the Rose Hill Rambler

Advertising in The Rambler is an excellent way to reach 1,000+ homes in our community. In addition, the ads are posted on our website, www.myRoseHill.com, for the world to see.

Listing in the business directory is free to members of the Rose Hill Civic Association and residents who own their own business.

The Rose Hill Rambler is published 4 times a year in February, May, August and November

Business card: 3 ½" x 2", \$20

Quarter page: 3 ½" x 4 ¾", \$40

Half page: 7 ½" x 4 ¾", \$65

Full page: 7 ½" x 9 ¾", \$125

Rates are per issue with payment due prior to publication.

Anyone interested in placing an ad can send it via email to Daniel Bearth at idmbearth@aol.com in tiff or jpeg format or send a hardcopy to Box 10891, Alexandria, VA 22310.

Members of the Rose Hill Civic Association or residents who provide services in kind qualify for a FREE listing in the business directory.

Photography

Tisara Photography. 703.625.2331. Specializing in family and business portraits and life events, Tisara Photography in Old Town Alexandria is now run by Nina Tisara’s son, Steven Halperson. Nina lives on Hayfield Place.

Heating and Air Conditioning

Dove Heating and Air Conditioning. We service and install heat pumps, air conditioners, furnaces, hot water heaters, and humidifiers. David and Linda Nichols, 703.971.8897. The Nichols have been in business for 38 years and have lived in Rose Hill for 49 years.

Home-based Business

Stampin’ Up! is a company specializing in decorative stamps for greeting cards, craft projects and memory keeping. The products are available for purchase through independent distributors. My name is Tracy and I’m a Stampin’ Up demonstrator. Contact me at stampin13@yahoo.com.

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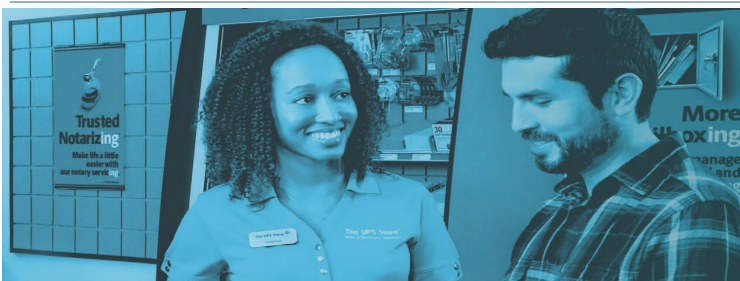
Spring Hill Realty. Vivian Rashidi is a licensed real estate agent and notary public who lives in Rose Hill and can assist in buying, selling or renting your home. 703.585.9187. Email: VivianRashidi-Realtor@gmail.com

Ministry to Coaches and Athletes

Steven Able represents the Fellowship of Christian Athletes in the Greater Fairfax South area, working with coaches and athletes at 13 public high schools, including Edison. Email: sable@fca.org

Education/Child Care

Freedom Learning Center provides educational support to families. We offer a preschool program, full-day to homeschoolers, homeschool enrichment classes and tutoring. In addition, we provide after school care to students in the Bush Hill community. Contact Heather Able at freedomlearningcenter7@gmail.com or go online to find more information at freedomlearningcenter.org.



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Community Announcements

Long-time Rose Hill resident **Mary Smith** is recovering at Inova Mt. Vernon Hospital after undergoing surgery at Inova Alexandria Hospital for a brain tumor. Smith's mother taught at Franconia Elementary School and her father was Franconia's first paid fireman. Visitors are welcome.

Edna Mitchell, an Army veteran and secretary for the Army's Records Management director, died on Nov. 1 at age 93. Mitchell lived on May Boulevard and was active in civic affairs and a frequent participant in the Franconia Museum's Both Sides Civil War Tours.

Rose Hill Civic Association President **Carl Sell** is recuperating from vascular surgery. In the photo at right, Carl walks with his wife Marti outside their home on Cottonwood Drive.



2024 Membership Drive Is Just Getting Started. Please Help.

The Rose Hill Civic Association started 2024 with approximately \$10,000 on hand, enough to publish the Rambler and meet our other obligations for the year. That doesn't include unforeseen costs associated with the continuing shopping center issue and the looming development of the vacant government building across from Greendale Golf Course.

Thanks to all of you who became members in 2023, especially those who contributed more than the \$10 annual membership.

To meet unforeseen costs and ensure the future of RHCA, we must increase revenues in 2024. Our biggest cost is The Rambler. Approximately \$6,000 per year is needed to print enough copies to deliver to all the homes in Rose Hill, Sunny Ridge and Guilford. We are fortunate to have a small army of volunteers who deliver the Rambler to approximately 1,000 homes.

The Rambler is printed four times a year and in between we keep in touch through e-mail. It is imperative that we have your e-mail address so we can keep you advised of community issues. In a perfect world,

we could deliver The Rambler electronically, but we are a long way from having a system that reaches all our neighbors.

Please help by providing your e-mail address. We promise it will be used only to advise you of RHCA activities and volunteer organizations such as the Franconia Museum. You can opt out of receiving any non-RHCA information at your convenience.

Other expenses include the cost of our post office box, maintenance of the entrance sign and contributions to The Koinonia Foundation and the annual Christmas Eve dinner and Christmas Day breakfast for our police officers who are on duty at those times. Koinonia serves the less fortunate in our area.

We also have a Rose Hill Farm Facebook page and we are seeking an individual who will work with the Rambler editor and president to help keep it current. We do not accept ads on our Facebook page. We also are seeking someone who will help solicit ads for The Rambler, which also is posted on our web site *myrosehill.com* concurrent with publication.
— *Carl Sell*

Rose Hill Civic Association (members as of February 2024)

Carriage Drive

Shari Schaftlein & David Johnson

Cottonwood Drive

Marlene H. Smith, Danny Lenore, Danny Adams, Carl & Marti Sell

Craft Road

Sachlis Family

Driftwood Drive

Arlene Shapiro, Rebecca Bagdasarian

Eastchester Circle

Jeannette Bottomley, James Troy

Eaton Place

Lew Moore, Emma & Jesus Rodriguez

Hayfield Place

Nina Tisara, Kayla Hinrichs

Haystack Road

Martin Shupack

Lark Lane

Richard & Patricia Ballard

Leewood Drive

Alan & Sylvia Wilson

Maryview Street

Beth Boyle, Brian Donohue

Picot Road

Robert & Peggy Riccio, Olivia Tuggle

Rose Hill Drive

Sandra Lee Benarick, Monica Reed,

Dave & Linda Nichols, B.T. Nguyen, Daniel & Ingrid Bearth, Thanh & Mai Thi Truong, Ken Marr

Saddle Tree Drive

Helen Cofer

Silo Road

Linda Walton

Squire Lane

Arline Moore

Sturbridge Place

Janelle Welch

Telegraph Road

Mimi Minarik

Wayside Place

Angela Hester

Willowood Lane

Kelly & Raul Castillo, Michael & Bonnie Greek, Frank & Patricia Jencks, William & Janelle Parker

(Continued on next page)



Talking About Trees with Jim McGlone, ISA Certified Arborist



It is the dead of winter and most of our trees and shrubs are without leaves in a period we tree people call dormancy. This suggests that the trees are asleep and not doing anything. But that is not true. As long as the ground is not frozen, trees will continue to grow roots. This is why planting in the fall is good for trees; they can get a head start on establishing themselves during the winter. Also, since December 23, as the days get longer the above ground portion starts waking up. Buds begin to swell with new cells that will soon burst into new growth of flowers or leaves. In just a few short weeks the red maples will be in bloom and a few weeks after that, many other trees and shrubs will be blooming.

Just as trees don't really rest in the winter, tree care shouldn't either. Winter is the perfect time to evaluate your trees and yard. With the leaves off it is easier to see how and where the branches are growing. Take time to evaluate the crown of your tree to see if there is anything that needs to be fixed. Look for tight branch crotches. There should be a ridge of bark between the branches where they join. If there isn't, this is where the branch might fail in a storm, possibly destroying property or the tree. Many of the post-storm tree failure stories I see on TV are caused by these bad branch unions. Also look for branches growing back into the canopy, or that have unusual kinks or cracks. These can be problems too. If you see any of these problems, contact a certified arborist to evaluate and possibly prune your trees (www.goodtreecare.com).

Winter is also a good time to evaluate your yard and think about reducing the amount of time you spend mowing grass by planting trees and shrubs. A nice shade tree on the south or west side of your house (in front of you or to your left as you face the setting sun) can reduce your energy bills. Realtors will also tell you that planting a tree is a great way to increase the value of your house.

Given the type of soil we have in Rose Hill, any of the "colorful" oaks – black, white, scarlet, northern red or southern red – will do well. Native azaleas, mountain laurel, blueberries, and arrowwood, maple-leaf, or blackhaw viburnums also thrive in the acidic soil here.

Jim McGlone welcomes your questions and comments about trees and plants. He can be reached at dofmeglone@gmail.com



Mountain Laurel is a beautiful native shrub that grows well in acidic soil. (Photo: Jim McGlone)

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This lighted sign can be seen at the Dodson's home on Wayside Place. (Photo: Daniel Bearth)

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Gardening in Rose Hill With Peggy Riccio, Virginia Horticulturist

March is the time to start potatoes, which are easy to grow in fabric bags. Purchase “seed potatoes,” which are not true seeds but “starter” tubers. It is best to start with seed potatoes that are certified as disease-free, instead of planting grocery store potatoes. The shoots arise from the “eyes” and additional tubers appear along these shoots as they grow. Seed potatoes should be the size of an egg with at least two eyes. If the seed potato is this size already then plant the whole thing, eyes up. If the tuber is large, cut it into sections, each with at least two eyes.

Although you can plant in the ground or a raised bed, I find it easier to plant in large fabric pots that are at least 20-gallon with at least a 15-inch height. Estimate 4 plants in this size and more in larger sizes.

Use bagged potting soil with a slow-release fertilizer. Supplement with a liquid fertilizer later in the season. Pour about 3-4 inches of soil in each container, water, and place the potatoes on top, eyes up. Add 3 more inches of soil, and water again. It is best to roll down the sides, so they do not turn inward and prevent rain from reaching the plants. Grow in full sun and make sure the container is watered during the summer by putting the hose nozzle into the bag, not spraying the foliage.

The new tubers grow up from the seed potato. As the shoots grow (now stems), and more tubers appear, these new tubers must be covered with soil. Tubers exposed to light become green and bitter. When the stems have grown 8 inches, add 4 inches of soil and repeat the process again, unfolding the sides as adding more soil.

In early summer, when the plant flowers, you can harvest immature tubers which is what we buy as “new potatoes” in the grocery store. In mid-summer, the potatoes will have matured. When the plant’s leaves turn yellow and die, stop watering, wait two weeks, and then dump the container to harvest the potatoes. These can be eaten right away and should last longer in the fridge.

Fresh potatoes taste so much better than store-bought. Growing potatoes can be done anywhere you can place a container plus this is a great children’s activity to learn about gardening.

Peggy Riccio is a local horticulturist and garden communicator. Subscribe to her free monthly gardening newsletter, [Pegplant’s Post Gardening Newsletter](#), by entering your email on her website, [pegplant.com](#), an online resource for gardening the DC metro area.



ROSE HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please fill out this form and mail, along with your check, to:
RHCA, Box 10891, Alexandria, VA 22310

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

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Enclosed is a check for: \$10 Annual Membership

\$____ Donation for upkeep and landscaping of Rose Hill entrance sign. \$____ Donation for RHCA General Fund.

Ask a Veterinarian By Casandra Fowler DVM

Q. Are you seeing another spike in cases of canine respiratory disease?

Last winter the number of cases of kennel cough-like illnesses and pneumonia did spike alarmingly. At Harmony, we saw more cases of pneumonia than I had seen in all my years in veterinary medicine. Emergency rooms here and around the country were often at capacity, their oxygen cages full.

This winter so far, however, we luckily have not seen the same surge in cases in Northern Virginia notwithstanding the "outbreak" of attention garnered on the news and social media.

Termed atypical Canine Infectious Respiratory Disease Complex, aCIRDC, it remains to be seen whether the cause is a known or novel virus or bacteria, or some combination. Thousands of samples have been sent to labs across the country with mixed results. It is also possible that 2-3 years of relative isolation led to a decrease in immunity to many of the typical pathogens in dogs, just like we saw in humans.

So how do we keep our fur babies safe? The best advice right now is to keep your pups up to date on their vaccines, including Bordetella and Influenza, and don't let them socialize with other dogs that might be sick. Call your vet sooner rather than later if your dog develops a cough, nasal discharge, labored breathing, or unexplained lethargy.

Feeding a quality diet, maintaining a healthy weight, ensuring good dental hygiene, and otherwise keeping your dog healthy overall will also help boost their immune system. While news reports about aCIRDC have stirred apprehension, it is crucial to maintain open lines of communication with your veterinarian, who will use their expertise and the most accurate, up-to-date information to offer personalized guidance tailored to the specific needs of your pets.

Casandra Fowler is the owner of Harmony Animal Hospital at The Shops at Telegraph Village.



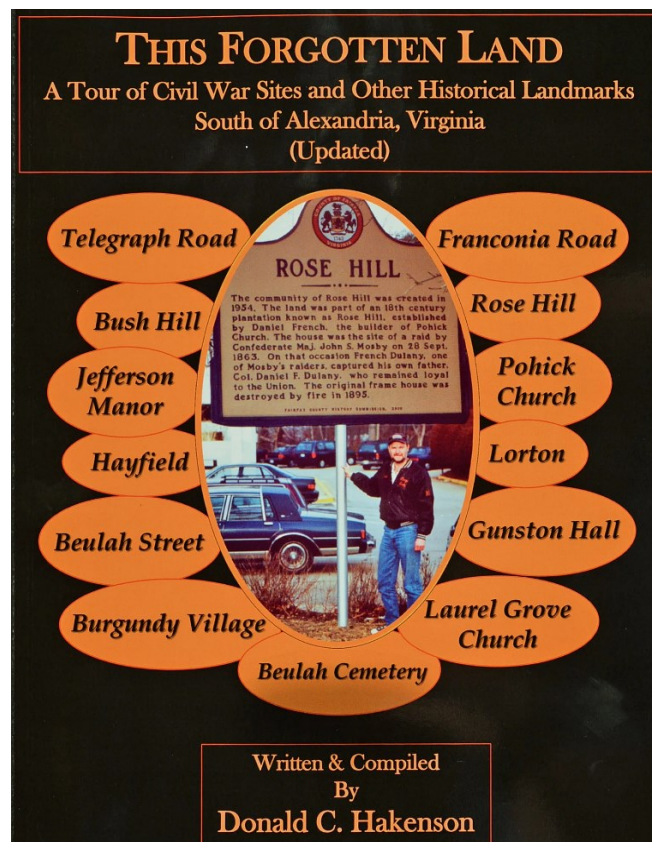
Donald C. Hakenson Presents

"This Forgotten Land, A Tour of Civil War Sites and Other Historical Landmarks South of Alexandria, Virginia" (updated and with new maps)

This book covers the areas of Franconia Road, Rose Hill, Pohick Church, Lorton, Gunston Hall, Laurel Grove Church, Beulah Cemetery, Burgundy Village, Beulah Street, Hayfield, Jefferson Manor and Telegraph Road.

To purchase the book, contact Don Hakenson at 703-971-4984 or email: dhakenson@verizon.net. The book is \$30 plus \$5 shipping. It can also be purchased at the Franconia Museum, located at 6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22310.

More books by Donald C. Hakenson and Charles V. Mauro can be viewed at this exclusive website: Mosbyvirginiahistory.square.site. They include: "A Tour Guide and History of Col. John S. Mosby's Combat Operations" and "We Once Met by Chance: Four Life Stories During the American Civil War."



Is It Time To Replace Your Aging Roof?

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SIX Common Misconceptions about Roofing and the Roofing Industry:

Misconception #1. You should wait as long as possible to re-roof your home.

No! Your roof takes a beating everyday from sun, wind and rain. Your shingles become brittle and crack with age. This exposes the sub-structure (or roof decking) to moisture which slowly, but surely, deteriorate and rots the wood beneath which literally, "keeps you out of the rain."

Further, the metal flashings around chimney areas and at adjoining exterior walls (or rooflines), the penetration Collars (around plumbing and heat stacks) and all other vents become worn and prone to water infiltration.

Next time you're outside take a close look at your roof (most people don't pay attention to it until there's a problem). How does it look? Is it rough and weathered? Are the shingles "curling or cracking? Is one section very distinguishable from all other areas? Finally, are you proud of the way your roof helps "show" your home, or are you embarrassed by its appearance?

Remember: By the Time you have waited "as long as 'possible,'" you have probably waited too long and will end up spending your hard earned money on interior and sub-structure repairs as well as much needed roof replacement.

Call or visit our web site to learn about the other 5 misconceptions and other important information you need to know before hiring a contractor.



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