

The Rambler

Newsletter of the
Rose Hill Civic Association

President's Message

Time Is Running Out On Rose Hill Reserve

The Special Exception approval for the development of Rose Hill Reserve, the 22-acre undeveloped parcel west of Rose Hill Drive and Cottonwood Drive and north of Carriage Drive, expires on December 21, 2006. If it is not extended by the Board of Supervisors, the zoning will revert to the 59-lot plan approved back in the mid-1960s.

Supervisor Kauffman has asked the Rose Hill Civic Association for its input should a request for an extension be received from the owner of the property. As a result, RHCA will discuss the issue in-depth at its meeting at 7pm on Tuesday, November 28, at the John Marshall Library. A vote will be taken and it will be transmitted to the Supervisor's office. Persons who own property bordering Rose Hill Reserve or who are interested in the development and its impact on our community should attend this important meeting.

Rose Hill Reserve is a 45-lot subdivision with buffers between it and the contiguous properties as part of numerous conditions negotiated by RHCA on behalf of concerns that came out of more than two years of discussion of the application. Those conditions are available on our website, myRoseHill.com. Click on Rose Hill Reserve on the website's main page and read the conditions as approved by the Board of Supervisors. Copies also will be available at the November 28 meeting.

Unlike a rezoning, a Special Exception does NOT change the zoning category. Rose Hill Reserve remains zoned R-3, but is subject to a development plan that is 14 houses less than what was originally approved.

In This Issue

President's Message	1
Membership Form	3
FCPS Student Microsoft Products Discounts ...	4
Rose Hill Community Calendar	5
Business Directory	8

2007 Membership Drive Kicks Off This Month

Since we don't publish in December, the membership drive for 2007 begins with this issue of *The Rambler*. You'll find a membership form on Page 3. Please fill it out, include your check, and either bring it to the November meeting, or mail it to RHCA at Box 10891, Alexandria, VA 22310. Membership is voluntary and no one will knock on your door asking you to join. Your only notice will be through *The Rambler* or via email. In addition to the membership dues of \$10, we ask for contributions to continue the seasonal plantings at our entrance sign at Rose Hill Drive and Franconia Road. We also ask for contributions to help fund our support of area organizations such as Koinonia, the Edison All-Night graduation party, and the annual Christmas Eve dinner for the police and firefighters on duty in our area. Contributions are extremely important to our continued success. For example, last year's bill to print *The Rambler* was more than the amount we received from membership alone! Our biggest plus when dealing with the County is numbers, so add your voice to the chorus!

Should the Special Exception not be extended and the property reverts to its original 59-lot layout, there will be NO public hearings. The County staff will make the determination as to the viability of any plan put forth by the owner. The 59-lot plan does not include any buffers and has entrances off Wayside Place, Split Rock Road, and Haystack Road. The 45-lot layout has access at Wayside Place and Rose Hill Drive only.

It should be noted that the County has already approved a soils report submitted as part of the site plan for Rose Hill Reserve. However, a site plan has not been approved as of this writing. The soils report outlines how development will take place on marine clay, which underlies the site. The site plan details what mitigating features will be incorporated so that houses may be built in the area.

Please plan to attend this important meeting on the future of the large undeveloped parcel in our midst. The property is already zoned, so the question is HOW, not IF, any development will take place. The biggest problem for the owner and developer is to convince the

County that it can safely build on the site. RHCA's goal is to ensure that whatever happens, adjacent property owners are protected.

Calling Out The Crooks

Once again, a telephone tip has led to the police cracking a case in the Rose Hill area. A few months ago, a telephone tip led to the arrest of a Lorton man who had exposed himself to two young girls on Rose Hill Drive. Just a few weeks ago, a call to Crime Solvers resulted in the arrest of a Woodbridge man for the robbery of the Rose Hill BB&T bank at 5203 Franconia Road. He also was charged with robberies at the Wachovia Bank at 6300 Richmond Highway on October 25 and 31.

Since 2005, the Crime Solvers tip line has received information that resulted in arrests for 16 bank robberies, 10 of which were in Fairfax County. Fairfax County Crime Solvers program is operated by a board of business leaders who work to assist the police in the fight against crime. The tip line provides an anonymous way for citizens to report criminal information. Callers are paid \$100 to \$1,000 if it leads to an arrest and indictment. Call Crime Solvers at 1.866.411.TIPS (8477). Callers never have to give their name or appear in court.

RHCA cooperates with the police by broadcasting information via the Internet to residents of the community who have provided their email address. We collect email addresses during membership drives and promise never to transfer the address to a third party and use it only for announcements and information that are of community interest.

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Please provide, reconfirm, or change your email address during our current membership drive.

Housing Enforcement Change

Starting January 1, the Zoning Office will take over code enforcement of building maintenance and overcrowding from the Health Department. Hopefully, this change will help us clean up the mess at 4612 Roundhill Road. That property has been an embarrassment to both the County and our community for more than five years. Although the Health Department has condemned the property and forced the owner to make some cosmetic repairs to the roof, the building basically is falling down. It still sticks out like a sore thumb. If you aren't familiar with the property, ride by and take a look. Imagine if you had to live next to or near such a property. We already have asked the Code Enforcement Officer to make this property public enemy No. 1 in Rose Hill. We'll keep you advised as to the progress. Hopefully, zoning will be able to provide a permanent solution to this program where the Health Department and Blight Abatement haven't. Code Enforcement will also look into overcrowding complaints, and there are a few in Rose Hill. The County recognizes that overcrowding and boarding housing have mushroomed in recent years and it is trying to get a handle on it. An additional Code Enforcement officer has been added to the team responsible for the Lee, Mount Vernon, and Springfield Districts, making a grand total of eight. Boy, are they going to be busy! In addition, the County is planning to make sellers disclose zoning violations and will begin to police real estate advertisements that encourage overcrowding. RHCA suggests that all properties in Rose Hill that may be in violation of zoning requirements, maintenance problems, or overcrowding take note of this new campaign. Your Association supports this effort. In fact, we are, no doubt, one of the many reasons for the changes, and we will report violators!

Rose Hill Civic Association Meeting Tuesday, Nov. 28, 7pm, John Marshall Library

Topic: Rose Hill Reserve Update and Vote

RHCA Officers

President: Carl Sell, 703.971.4716, sellcarl@aol.com
Vice President: Terrie Dacales, 703.317.5912, terriedac@juno.com
Secretary: Beth Kohm, 703.338.4876, beth.kohm@gmail.com
Treasurer: Carolyn Slenska, 703.922.4135, carolyn.slenska@lycos.com

Editor, *The Rambler*: Marty Williams, 703.924.7192, marty@fabrications.us
Neighborhood Watch: Woody Betts, 703.971.0520, rosehillwatch@aol.com
Webmaster: Jim Sapp, jimsapp7@msn.com

RHCA, P.O. Box 10891, Alexandria, VA 22310
www.myRoseHill.com

Continued on Page 3

To join or renew your membership in the Rose Hill Civic Association...

Please fill out this form or online at myRoseHill.com and mail, along with your check, to the
RHCA, P.O. Box 10891, Alexandria, VA 22310.

If you have questions, feel free to call any of the officers.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

- Enclosed is a check for:
- \$10 for membership
 - \$_____ Donation for upkeep and landscaping of the Rose Hill entrance sign
 - \$_____ Donation for RHCA General Fund

Thank you!

President's Message Continued From Page 2

Let There Be Light!

The County has forwarded a request to Dominion Virginia Power to install one new light and upgrade four others at the intersection of Split Rock Road and Telegraph Road. The new light will be installed on Split Rock near Telegraph Road. The light at Split Rock and Greendale Road will be upgraded, as will three lights on Telegraph near the intersection with Split Rock. This intersection is one of the darkest in the community, making it an attractive stopping point for those engaging in criminal activity. The new lights will also make it easier for motorist to see the intersection as they approach on Telegraph Road. We have asked the County to take a look at another potential area for lighting upgrades. If you have any other candidates, please give me a call, and we will pass them on to the County. We don't promise 100 percent success, but at least we'll get them evaluated and in line for future upgrades.

Christmas Holiday Lights

Once again, RHCA will be recognizing those homes in the community that are decorated and lighted for the Christmas holiday season. A panel of judges will be looking at all the streets in Rose Hill during the holiday week. Please leave your lights on until at least 9pm so you aren't missed as the judges make their rounds. In order to make sure no one is missed, please nominate any house on your street that you think deserves recognition. Email or call any of the officers with your nominations. All of the winners will be listed in the January *Rambler* with the most outstanding receiving certificates. Rose Hill celebrates the holidays with a large number of outstanding displays. In fact, many people come to our community at Christmastime just to enjoy the lights. Let's not let them down!

Election Results

Although everyone knows the overall results, it's up to *The Rambler* to provide you with the Rose Hill precinct tally. First, 2,091 of the 4,051 registered voters in Rose Hill precinct took part in the election. That's a little more than a 50 percent turnout. Rose Hill is the second largest precinct in Lee District. Pioneer precinct, located in Springfield on the east side of Interstate 95, is the largest in number but didn't have quite as good a turnout percentage as Rose Hill. In the race for the United States Senate, Jim Webb attracted 1,125 votes in Rose Hill as compared with 763 for George Allen and 27 for Glenda Gail Parker. In the race for the Virginia 8th District seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, incumbent Jim Moran had 1,104, challengers Tom O'Donoghue 770, and Jim Hurysz 33.

The marriage amendment to the Virginia Constitution was the closest race. The yes voted edged the no votes by 984 to 885. Both other constitutional questions passed handily. The one involving the incorporating of churches got 1,264 yes votes as opposed to 546 no votes. The tax exception for economic development passed 1,214 to 601. The County park bond passed 1,339 to 496, and the bond for upgrading police and court facilities was approved 1,398 to 429. The Rose Hill precinct includes the community of Sunnyridge to our north and east, the North Village of Kingstown, east of Van Dorn Street behind Edison High School and everything between the Shopping Center and Edison. Next year's ballot will include local elections for District Supervisor, School Board, House of Delegates, State Senate, Sheriff, and Clerk of the Court. No doubt there will be sizable bond referendums for schools and transportation, or both.

Continued on Page 4

Odd-Sized Lots

The County is moving forward with an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance that would restrict odd-sized lots that are designed to conform to the frontage needed on a public street. In some cases, lots are stacked one behind the other with the rear lot having street frontage in front of the house on the street. That house then would have frontage in front of the house next door, and so on. Back on August 25, 2003, RHCA complained to the County about such lots being approved in Highland Estates. We viewed the practice as a way to get around the street frontage requirement and maximize density. Go to myRoseHill.com, click on correspondence, and then open the letter dated August 25, 2003, for clarification. Included with the letter is a diagram that shows exactly how one homeowner can look out the front window toward the street and think all of the lawn is his or her front yard. However, by quirk of the interpretation of the zoning ordinance, looks can be deceiving. If RHCA's position had been upheld then, there would be two fewer houses in Highland Estates and less land would have been disturbed. Oh well, we're at least glad that the practice will be limited in the future.

Franconia-Van Dorn Interchange

The County and VDOT are working on plans for an interchange at Franconia Road and South Van Dorn

Street. The project proposes a grade-separated interchange by depressing Van Dorn Street under Franconia Road. The project is funded only for design, environmental investigation, and partial right-of-way acquisition. There currently are NO funds available for construction. VDOT and the Federal Government are paying for the current work. Fairfax County is managing the project. Preliminary plans call for an additional lane southbound on Van Dorn from Franconia to Lake Village Drive and an additional lane northbound on Van Dorn from Franconia to the 95 North exit. There will be a raised median from Lake Village to Crown Royal Drive. The latter will change some traffic patterns for Van Dorn Village and Wellington Commons. The Edison High and Brookland Road access points to Franconia Road will be consolidated into one signalized intersection. There are no floodplain or wetlands issues, however, noise attenuation will have to be studied. Over the last 20 years or more, right of way has been set aside for a potential interchange as each new community was rezoned. As a result, only one house (on South Van Dorn across from Edison) will have to be demolished. Preliminary traffic flow estimates appear to be greatly improved by the construction of this interchange. Now, if we only could get something going at Van Dorn and 95! Without some improvements there and widening of South Van Dorn in Alexandria, we only move the bottleneck farther along the roadway.

—Carl Sell

Please Help!

RHCA could use your help in a variety of capacities: Neighborhood Watch, The Rambler distribution, and advertising sales. Please contact Marty Williams at 703.924.7192 or Carl Sell at 703.971.4716 if you care to volunteer for one of these roles. RHCA would really appreciate it!

FCPS Students Eligible for Discounts on Select Microsoft Products

Through a special agreement with Microsoft, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) students and staff members can now purchase select Microsoft products for home and personal use at great discounts. In addition, FCPS adult education students are also eligible to purchase through this program.

Student Select is part of FCPS Technology@Home program. This program seeks to help students, faculty, and staff members with their home technology needs by enabling them to purchase directly from vendors at educational discount rates. With the latest technology, students, faculty, and staff members can make the best use of instructional and administrative resources from home. For more information on available products, pricing, and how to order, go to <http://www.fcps.edu/DIT/techathome/studentselect.html>.

Rose Hill Community Calendar

Around Rose Hill

- ★ **Tuesday, November 28, 7pm.** Rose Hill Civic Association Meeting. John Marshall Library. Subject: Rose Hill Reserve Update and Vote.
- ★ **Every Wednesday and Saturday.** BINGO! Franconia Volunteer Fire Dept. Early Bird, 7pm. Regular sessions, 8pm.
- ★ **November 24-26, December 1-3, 9-10.** Mount Vernon By Candlelight. Learn about the Washington's Christmas traditions, meet historic characters and tour the home by candlelight, including the rarely seen third floor. George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens. 5-8pm. \$, www.mountvernon.org, 703.780.2000.
- ★ **Weekends late November and December.** Pictures With Santa Claus. Santa appears for pictures at the House in the Country shop, 107 N. Fairfax St. This is the Santa who appeared in Animal Planet's "The Littlest Reindeer." 10:30am-2pm. Free! 703.548.4267
- ★ **November 25.** Scottish Heritage Preview. Bagpipes, dancing, history presentations, shopping and Westies celebrate the city's Scottish heritage 11am-3pm at The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum, 201 S. Washington St. Free! www.alexandriahistory.org or 703.838.4994.
- ★ **November 30.** Torpedo Factory Art Center Holiday Open House. Galleries are open for holiday shopping! Music, refreshments, drawings for prizes at this annual party at the art center, 105 N. Union St. 6-9pm. Free! www.torpedofactory.org or 703.838.4565.
- ★ **November 30-December 2.** 36th Annual Campagna Center's Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend. The Campagna Center, 418 S. Washington St., honors Alexandria's Scottish heritage with a weekend of events. www.scottishchristmaswalk.com or 703.549.0111.
Christmas Marketplace, with café, boutiques and sale of heather & greens. Noon-5pm Thursday, 10am-5pm Friday and Saturday at the center.
Scottish Walk parade at 10:30am Saturday throughout Old Town, with more than 100 Scottish clans dressed in tartans and playing bagpipes, living history units, dog clubs and antique cars. Free!
Holiday Designer Tour of Homes features six charming, architecturally interesting homes decorated for the holidays throughout Old Town. Open 11am-4pm Saturday. \$20 in advance, \$25 that day.
- ★ **December 1-January 6.** Holidays at Mount Vernon. The Washingtons' seasonal entertaining is authentically interpreted daily, including Christmas Day and New Year's Day with the rarely seen third floor open. George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens. 9am-4pm. \$, www.mountvernon.org, 703.780.2000.
- ★ **December 1-31.** Gather the Family at Woodlawn. Experience an 1820s Christmas with America's first family. Tours available 10am-4:30pm. Tickets \$7.50, \$3 for grades K-12. www.woodlawn1805.org, 703.780.4000.
- ★ **December 2.** 7th Annual Holiday Boat Parade—"100 King Parade of Lights." Alexandria's harbor lights up when more than 50 brightly lit sailing and powered leisure boats cruise along the Potomac River at the City's historic waterfront. 5:30-6:30pm, Alexandria Marina at the foot of Cameron St., behind the Torpedo Factory. Free! 703.838.5005.
- ★ **December 3 & 10.** Home For The Holidays Tea at Woodlawn. Enjoy a special blend of tea and period confections while learning about tea customs of the early 19th century. Afterward take an in-depth tour of this beautiful historic house. Noon and 2pm \$25, \$30 including tour of Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House. Reservations required. Private teas available for groups. www.woodlawn1805.org, 703.780.4000, x27.
- ★ **December 8-9.** Plantation Christmas & Family Holiday Buffet. Tour the candle-lit house with cider by the glowing fire, open-hearth cooking demonstrations, and carriage rides. Buffet of Yuletide fare available. Gunston Hall Plantation, 10709 Gunston Rd, Lorton. Program 6:30-9:30pm; buffet seatings at 6 & 8pm. Tickets \$36.95 for program and buffet; \$14 for program only, with discounts for children. Reservations required. www.gunstonhall.org, 703.550.9220.
- ★ **December 9.** Historic Alexandria Candlelight Tours. Enjoy the warmth and beauty of the holiday season at four festively decorated historic sites in Old Town. Light refreshments served. 5-9pm. Tickets \$20, \$15 for seniors, \$5 for ages 6-17, and available at www.historicalexandria.org or after November 1 at 703.838.4994.
- ★ **December 9.** Holiday on The Avenue. The Del Ray neighborhood kicks off the holiday season with its annual holiday-tree lighting at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center at 6pm. Festivities include entertainment and luminaria display stretching from Monroe to Commonwealth along Mount Vernon Avenue. Free! www.visitdelray.com, 703.838.4825.
- ★ **December 10.** 'Tis The Season: Annual Family Holiday Concert. The Alexandria Choral Society and its Children's Chorus perform at 4pm at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Dr. Admission \$8-\$20. www.alexchoralsociety.org, 703.548.4734.
- ★ **December 14.** Second Thursday Art Night. The Torpedo Factory Art Center stays open late. 6-9pm, with activities and light refreshments. 105 N. Union St. Free! www.torpedofactory.org, 703.838.4565.
- ★ **December 31.** First Night Alexandria. Non-alcoholic, family-oriented New Year's Eve celebration with music, performing arts, and fireworks at midnight. Throughout Old Town and Del Ray. 7pm- midnight. \$, www.firstnightAlexandria.org or 703.838.5005.

Continued on Page 6

Rose Hill Community Calendar, continued

- ★ **December 6 - January 14.** Mixed Messages. Juried mixed media show in the Torpedo Factory Art Center's Target Gallery, 105 N. Union St. Open 12pm-5pm, Wed - Sun. Opening Reception Dec 7, 6-9pm. Free! www.torpedofactory.org, 703.838.4565 x4.

Huntley Meadows Park and Visitor Center

3701 Lockheed Blvd. Alexandria, VA 22306, 703.768.2525, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley/

Fairfax County Park Authority's largest park (1,428 acres) includes wetlands, forests, meadows, streams, and ponds. It has resident deer, beaver, heron, and other animals. Facilities include a visitor center, auditorium, exhibits, and an interpretive trail with boardwalk and observation platforms. Programs for groups by reservation. The Visitor Center is open 9am-5pm, Monday, Wednesday-Sunday; closed Tuesday. Holidays, noon to 5pm. Grounds open dawn to dusk.

- ★ **Saturday, November 25 and Sunday, November 26.** Video—Cardinals Up Close. 1-2pm. Meet the northern cardinal, Virginia's state bird and a familiar backyard visitor, during this 50-minute video. FREE
- ★ **Saturday, December 2 and Saturday, December 9.** Owl Outing. Adults, 4:30-6:30pm. Learn about the secret lives of the park's resident owls. Following the slide presentation, take an off-trail walk in search of these nocturnal birds of prey. Reservations required. Canceled if rain. \$5
- ★ **Sunday, December 10.** Photography Contest Opening. 2-4pm. Enjoy this year's winning entries from the Friends of Huntley Meadows' annual photography contest. FREE
- ★ **Wednesday, December 13 or Thursday, December 14.** Nature Detectives—Holiday Crafts. 3-5 yrs. 10-10:45am. Listen to a winter tale, and then make a holiday ornament. Reservations required. \$5
- ★ **Saturday, January 6.** Birding for Beginners. Adults, 8-10:30am. Winter is a great time to begin birding. Program starts with a discussion about field guides and optics then we'll walk to look for resident birds. Reservations required. \$2
- ★ **Monday, December 11.** Young Explorers—Holiday Crafts. 6-8 yrs., 3:15-4:30pm. Join the fun of making holiday gifts, ornaments and cards with a nature theme. Reservations required. \$5

John Marshall Library

6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria, VA 22310-6299, 703.971.0010. Open Monday to Thursday, 10am to 9pm; Friday, 10am to 6pm; Saturday, 10am to 5pm.

- ★ **Thursdays, 7pm.** Practice Your English. Conversation group for people learning English. Adults. No registration is required.
- ★ **Thursday, November 30, 4pm.** Curiosity Club. Stories and scientific experiments that are age appropriate. Age 4-6 with adult.
- ★ **Friday, December 1, 12pm.** Lunch Bunch. Bring your lunch and join us for stories. Birth-5 with adult.
- ★ **Wednesday, December 6, 10:30am.** Winter's Coming! Stories and activities about animals that hibernate. Age 2-3 with adult.
- ★ **Friday, December 8, 12pm.** Lunch Bunch. Bring your lunch and join us for stories. Birth-5 with adult.
- ★ **Saturday, December 9, 10:30am.** Miss Belle's Sing-Along. Enjoy old favorites and original songs. All ages.
- ★ **Wednesday, December 13, 10:30am.** Small Wonders. Stories, fingerplays and activities. Age 13-23 months with adult.
- ★ **Friday, December 15, 12pm.** Lunch Bunch. Bring your lunch and join us for stories. Birth-5 with adult.
- ★ **Monday, December 18, 1:45pm.** School's Out Fun. Afterschool activities and crafts. Age 6-10.
- ★ **Wednesday, December 20, 10:30am.** It's a Gift. Stories and activities about giving. Age 2-3 with adult.
- ★ **Wednesday, December 20, 7:15pm.** Book Discussion Group. *Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson. Adults. No registration is required.

Thomas A. Edison High School

5801 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA 22310, 703.924.8000, 703.924.8097 fax.

- ★ **Congratulations** to Edison Lady Eagles Basketball Team. *USA Today* ranked them 6th in the nation!
- ★ **Monday, December 4.** Are You Ready to Drive? This is an informative PowerPoint presentation on various driving issues to benefit both parents and teens. Master Officer Tim Thomas, Fairfax County Police Dept., and John Lam, a retired FCPS teacher and driving instructor for 30 years, will present the program in the Edison HS Lecture Hall, 7-9pm. For more info, e-mail: MaryEllen.Ligna@fcps.edu.

Mark Twain Middle School

4700 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA 22310, 703.313.3765.

- ★ **Job Opportunity for Teens After School Program; Helpers Needed!** Mark Twain MS is in need of several volunteers to help with after-school programs in a variety of

Continued on Page 7

Rose Hill Community Calendar, continued

areas: tutoring, sports, cooking, dance, drama, creative writing, computers, and life skills building. Duties include supervising youth and helping the Facilitator with coordinating activities.

There is potential to make \$6-9/hr. depending on experience and education level. This volunteer opportunity is great for teens needing extra \$\$ or community service hours. Teen helpers must be 15-18 years old. All candidates must have experience in working with children, be willing to serve as positive role model, have good communication skills, have own transportation, be available 1 to 5 days a week, and work 1 to 3 hours a day between 2:30 and 6pm. Please call After School Specialist, Earl Edwards, at Mark Twain MS for more information at 703.313.3705.

★ **Job/Volunteer Opportunity After School Program; Facilitators Needed!** Mark Twain MS is in need of many volunteers to help with after-school programs in a variety of areas: tutoring, sports, cooking, dance, drama, creative writing, computers, and life skills building. Duties include coordinating and facilitating activities and supervising youth. There is potential to make \$15-22/hr. depending on experience and education level. Must be age 18 and over, have experience in working with children, be willing to serve as positive role model, have good communication skills, and able to establish good rapport with students and communicate with school staff, teachers, administrators, and parents. Must be available 1 to 5 days a week and work 1 to 3 hours a day between 2:30 and 6pm. Please call After School Specialist, Earl Edwards, at Mark Twain MS for more information at 703.313.3705. Email your resume to earl.edwards@fcps.edu or fax to 703.313.3797.

★ **Mark Twain Tiger Watches** are on sale now for \$15. If you would like to purchase a watch please contact the main office (703.313.3700). Cash or checks will be accepted. If you are paying by check please make the check payable to Mark Twain Middle School.

★ **Interim/Report Card Timeline**

Quarter	Interims Distributed	Report Cards Distributed
1	10/5/06	11/15/06
2	12/20/06	2/2/07
3	3/2/07	4/16/07
4	5/10/07	6/28/07 (mailed home)

★ **Yearbook Information.** Attention Twain Parents: Be on the lookout for your child's Yearbook order form! The only way to guarantee that you will get a yearbook is to order one through our publishing company, Herff Jones. Soon, you will receive a mailing at home advertising the sale of the yearbook. Order before December 1 to guarantee that you receive a yearbook! When you receive the mailing, order your child's book by package. Choose either The Tiger Package (includes a yearbook with your child's name stamped on it) for \$31.75, or

The Basic Package (the yearbook with no name stamp) for \$28.75. To pay by check or money order, wait until you receive the mailing from Herff Jones. Then, return your check or money order as instructed with the order form. To pay by credit card, call toll free 1.866.287.3096, or go to www.herffjones.com/theordercenter. The Twain order number is 8606. All books sold after December 1, will be sold on a first come, first serve basis. Order early to be sure you will have a yearbook! Elizabeth Rome, Yearbook Sales Representative, Herff Jones Yearbooks, P.O. Box 230006 Centreville, VA 20120 703.447.4432, erome@herffjones.com.

★ There are several databases available to students for use not only at school, but also from their home computers. For access to these databases, students will need to log onto their Blackboard Account and open up their "Twain Middle School Media Center" course to obtain the "userid" and "password" for each database. This information is also available in a handout from the library.

★ **November 28.** First Quarter Honor Roll Assemblies. Twain Cafeteria. 7th Grade: 8:15am; 8th Grade: 9:30am.

★ **November 30 2:40pm-4pm.** For Parents Only. 3-minute mini conferences to touch base with teachers. Students will dismiss promptly at 2:30pm to board buses. No after-school activities. Late buses cancelled. 7th grade, gymnasium; 8th grade teachers, cafeteria. Please do not park in the bus loop.

★ **December 4.** Cupcakes for Mark Twain's Birthday

★ **December 5.** Winter Band Concert, 7:00pm, Twain Cafeteria

★ **December 6.** Winter Orchestra Concert, 7:30pm, Edison HS

★ **December 12.** PTA Meeting, 7pm, Twain Cafeteria

★ **December 13.** Winter Choral Concert, 7pm, Edison HS

Rose Hill Elementary School

6301 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria, VA 22310, 703.313.4200, Fax: 703.313.4297.

★ **Lost and Found.** There are many items in the lost and found box in the cafeteria. If your son or daughter has lost clothing or materials, please stop by before or after school to check the box. Unclaimed items will be donated to charity.

★ **SOL Review Web Site!** Rose Hill has a year-long subscription to a wonderful Web site, www.solpass.org, containing fun games children can play to review key SOL concepts. Your child can access this Web site from home or at school. The games are fun and educational and your children are sure to love it. The Web site address is <http://www.solpass.org>; to log-in, use the password: rosehill.

MYROSEHILL.COM — BETTER THAN EVER!

Rose Hill Business Directory

Residents who own or operate a company are eligible to have their business listed monthly in *The Rambler* free of charge. Businesses are encouraged to provide Rose Hill residents with quality service and products at a fair price. *The Rambler* reserves the right to print recommendations from consumers, both pro and con. To have your business listed or to provide updates, call Marty Williams at 703.924.7192.

CHILD CARE

Mama High's Pre-School and Day Care. Mrs. Carola High has 16 years of experience in training and caring for children ages 3 weeks through 5 years old. Excellent preparation for those starting kindergarten. We talk with babies and toddlers in simple language. State Licensed, Former Teacher. Full- or part-time. 4613 Cottonwood Place, 703.971.0741.

Llewellyn Family Daycare. 14 years experience providing care for children of all ages. State Licensed, CPR- and First Aid-Certified. Accepting applications for full-time and part-time care. Before and after school care. Transportation provided for Rose Hill Elementary School. Hours of operation are Monday - Friday 6:30 am-6:30 pm. Weekend and evening care available upon request. Year-round preschool curriculum. Fun-filled days of learning and exploring. Every month a different theme. Daily activities include reading, arts and crafts, circle time, letters, numbers, colors, shapes, and outdoor play. Plenty of space for activities! Excellent references. Fairfax County Child Care Assistance Program accepted. To schedule an appointment, call Jessica at 703.765.1661.

DECK AND FENCE

B&B Deck & Fence, Inc. Cliff James, Owner, 6412 May Boulevard, T-703.719.7015, F-703.922.3779.

DIGITAL DESIGN

DG Designs. Web pages, registration, scanning services, hosting, and custom graphic art work. (Great service, too [Ed.]) Ronald G. Dillon, 1.877.233.2224, 703.971.2125 or www.dgdesigns.com. Ron, Donna, and their daughters live on Winston Place.

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Fabrications. Invitations, flyers, announcements, menus, business cards, brochures, newsletters, mailers, books, proposals, journals, and all your light editing, printing, and paper needs. Marty Williams, Desktop Specialist, 703.924.7192, or marty@fabrications.us. She is the Editor of *The Rambler* and lives on Cottonwood Drive.

HAULING

I am a teen with a truck. Need a trip to the dump? Need help hauling from the hardware store? I have an 8 foot bed truck and willing to help. Call Brian Whitney at 703.971.3273.

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 19 years and have lived in Rose Hill for 31 years.

HOME REPAIRS

Hugh Watts. From a new roof to the smallest of problems, contact Hugh Watts at 703.593.5908 or pearlwatts@aol.com. Pearl, as he is known, grew up on Haystack Road and his mom still lives there. A number of Rose Hill residents provide glowing references concerning work Pearl has performed for them at a fair price.

INVITATIONS/PERSONALIZED STATIONERY

Sicks-Pack Productions. Sara Sicks, 703.922.6299. Sara offers personalized stationery and invitations for every occasion—from weddings to birth announcements to parties—all at 10 to 20% less than what you would pay if you bought the same item at a stationery store. Come by to browse the selection with no obligation. Sara lives on Cottonwood Drive.

KITCHEN REMODELING

Southern Kitchens. Bill York, 703.548.4459. Complete kitchen remodeling. Our showroom is in Alexandria on Mt. Vernon Avenue. Please call for an appointment. Bill lives on Clovergrass Drive.

LAWN SERVICES

Fortney Lawn & Garden. David and Jimmy Fortney, 703.960.8869. Although they live in Virginia Hills, the Fortneys work closely with RHCA to maintain the median landscaping on Rose Hill Drive.

Dan's Lawn & Leaf Service. Daniel P. Bishop, 703.719.7806. We guarantee fast, friendly, and affordable service. Located in the Rose Hill subdivision and serving its residents for 4 years.

NOTARY PUBLIC

Ronda Edwards. 5004 Eastchester Circle, Through August. \$3 service charge per signature (mandatory by the state of VA), paid in cash only.

PAINTING

Painting by Sherry. Cheryl Matey, 703.921.9422. Exterior/Interior. Cheryl has lived in Rose Hill 20 years.

PET SITTING

Welcome Waggin' Professional Pet Sitting. www.welcomewaggin.com, 703.819.0809. Welcome Waggin' is a small company offering extremely personalized service. We do mid-day dog walking as well as pet sitting visits to the home for people who are away on business or vacation. Bonded, insured, and references available. Proud members of the National Association of Professional Pet Sitters and The Northern Virginia Professional Pet Sitters Network. Janelle Welch lives on Sturbridge Place.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Tisara Photography. Nina Tisara, 703.838.8098. Tisara Photography is a family business with a full-service studio in Old Town, Alexandria, since 1990. They specialize in portraits and special events. Nina lives on Hayfield Place.

PIANO/KEYBOARD

Chris McCay. Chris McCay teaches piano/keyboard in your home. Special discount for Rose Hill residents is \$25 for a half hour lesson. Chris lives with his family on Willowood Lane, two doors down from where his wife, formerly Melissa Anderson, grew up. 571.237.5559.

Continued on Page 9

Business Directory, Continued

QUILTS

Hand-Made Quilts. Sally Dankers and her mother, Marjorie Parkyn, make quilts for sale. They are one of a kind and very beautiful. If interested, please call 703.924.3704 or email oraclamarjorie@aol.com.

REAL ESTATE

Re/Max Allegiance. Karen Davidson, 703.927.4448. www.homesdatabase.com/karendavidson, www.karen-davidson.com, email: kedavidson@aol.com. Karen lives on Roundhill Road.

Re/Max Metro 100. Steve Dougherty, 703.971.3886 (home) or 642.3380 (office). Steve, his wife Holly, and their 6 children live on Roundhill Road.

ROOFING

Timothy's Roofing Company, Inc. Timothy Jenkins, 703.820.6065. Timothy has installed several roofs in Rose Hill since moving to our neighborhood (Appletree Drive) in 2002. He has a Class A Contractors License and has been in business for 24 years. Free estimates.

TREE SERVICE

Arbor Experts. Brad Campbell, 703.339.6451. Removal, trimming, pruning, etc. Brad lives on Roundhill Road and wants to serve his home neighborhood in Rose Hill. Local references available.

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Advertising in *The Rambler*

Listing in the Business Directory is free to Rose Hill residents who own their business, but placing an actual advertisement is open to all with rates per month as follows:

- ★ Business card: 3 1/2" x 2", \$10
- ★ Quarter page: 3 1/2" x 4 3/4", \$25
- ★ Half page: 7 1/2" x 4 3/4", \$50
- ★ Full page: 7 1/2" x 9 3/4", \$100

Ads may be bought for either one month only, month-to-month, or as many months in advance as desired. Our newsletter is published 9 times a year, excluding July, August, and December.

Advertising in *The Rambler* is an excellent way to reach the 700+ homes in our community. In addition, the ads are placed on our website, www.myRoseHill.com for the world to see.

Anyone interested in placing an ad may call me at 703.924.7192. Artwork can be sent to marty@fabrications.us in tiff or jpeg format or hardcopy mailed to P.O. Box 10891, Alexandria, VA 22310. Checks made out to RHCA should be included with ads and sent to the P.O. Box.

—Marty Williams



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Wishing Our Friends, A Very Happy Thanksgiving!

So we have all heard Real Estate Agents saying that you have to get a contract on your property before Thanksgiving. Well this is somewhat true, but don't be misled into believing that if you don't then your home won't sell until the spring.

Maybe you are thinking that you should wait until the spring to list your property? While I would love to tell you I have a crystal ball and know what will happen in the spring, but I think it is safe to say that the market will continue its downward trend. Prices may level out a little bit, but I am confident that you will not see them going up. So please don't wait for your home to drop more in value, list it now. Remember, people do still buy and sell homes

during the holiday seasons and someone is going to get a contract (let it be you).

It could be said that our homes show better during these times. After all, we decorate for the holidays; take a little more time with the cleaning (especially if the in-laws are coming) and generally make our homes more inviting.

Are you thinking, I don't want to move during the holiday season, so I'll wait to list until after that. Well not all buyers need to move immediately and would be happy to settle after the holidays, but at least you would have a jump on the market.

Don't Delay in Listing, Call Me Today!!!!



“AS GOOD AS SOLD”

Christmas Card Competition

Yes, we're having a competition! You could win a **\$50 Toys R Us gift Card**.

Five \$10 Toys R Us Gift Certificates for Runners up in each age group

\$50 Toys R Us Gift Certificate for top prizes winners in each age group

Get your children, Grandchildren, Nieces, Nephews in the Christmas spirit. Have them submit their best Christmas/Holiday card design to us by December 15th. We will judge the winners on December 19th and notify the winners by 20th.

Mail/drop off your cards to **6404 Telegraph Rd, Alexandria, VA 22310 by 12/15/06**.

Offer mailed only to Rose Hill Residents, but open to your family & friends.

Don't forget to include your name and address and phone number with the card, plus the name and age of your child. Good Luck!!!!!!

Happy Holidays



Five \$10 Prizes in Each Age Group.

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8 - 11 years
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