

The Rambler

Newsletter of the
Rose Hill Civic Association

President's Message

Learn About the Police Helicopter At RHCA's November 27 Meeting

We've all heard the police helicopter overhead and wondered how it works with the police on the ground after a robbery or other activity. Who calls for help in the sky? How does the chopper identify suspicious persons or vehicles? What kind of equipment is on board? Come hear the answers to these questions and others at the Rose Hill Civic Association meeting on Tuesday, November 27, at 7pm in the community room of the John Marshall Library. Master Police Officer Alice Bennett Eggers, who served as a Flight Officer/Paramedic with the Police Helicopter unit for 4½ years, is our guest speaker. MPO Bennett Eggers, a 14-year veteran of the Fairfax County Police Department, currently works in Crime Prevention at the Franconia substation. She previously worked patrol in Reston, McLean, and Franconia as well as serving with the Narcotics Unit. After we learn about the Helicopter Unit, hopefully there will be time to hear about the other facets of MPO Bennett Eggers interesting career.

As those of you who are on our e-mail list already know, I have thanked the police investigators for their

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quick work in arresting a suspect in the sexual assault case on November 9 in the Vantage community off South King's Highway just across from Lee District Park. In that case, a man entered a home through an unlocked door at 11:30pm and raped the resident. She managed to escape and went to a neighbor's house and the police were called. The assailant had done some work in the area several days earlier and returned to commit the rape. He was arrested within 24 hours.

There also was a sexual assault on Industrial Drive in Springfield on November 13. An 18-year-old was walking alone at 5:30am when she was grabbed, dragged to a nearby wooded area, and raped. As of this writing, no arrest had been made. The suspect was described as being between 5'7" and 5'10" and weighing approximately 160 pounds. He was wearing a black ski mask, black nylon waist-length jacket, and jeans. If you have any information, call the police non-emergency number at 703.691.2131.

The police remind everyone to make sure all their doors and windows are locked and do not walk alone. And when you do walk, keep to well lighted areas. There also have been a number of sexual assaults in Alexandria of late. If you see any suspicious persons or activity, call the police. Use 911 for a crime in progress or the non-emergency number of 703.691.2131 to report suspicious activity.

Rose Hill Civic Association Meeting Tuesday, November 27, 7pm John Marshall Library

Guest Speaker: Master Police Officer Alice Eggers on her experiences in the sky with the FCPD helicopter unit

RHCA Officers

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

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Rose Hill Elementary

Rose Hill Elementary celebrated its 50th anniversary in grand style on October 27. The gym was filled for a program that included an excellent slide show featuring scenes from the school's past and comments from current students about why they like their school. Also on the program were songs and instrumentals by Rose Hill students. Everyone in the gym, which was packed to the walls, joined in the singing of the Rose Hill



school song. Connie Beatty and I represented the community and recalled some of the school's early days. Everyone got a kick out of the story about Connie getting a ticket on Rose Hill Drive as she rushed to work after attending the first flag-raising at Rose Hill back in 1957. Connie, good sport that she is, allowed us to tell the story. A policeman who was in attendance jokingly reminded her to 'take it easy' on her way home! One of the highlights of the evening was the display on hundreds of letters from current students about how much they loved their school. You had only to read the comments to be reassured about what a great group of teachers we have in our midst. That goes double for all who got things started years ago.

RHCA is organizing a 'Nostalgia Night' to celebrate Rose Hill Elementary's 50th anniversary. The date is March 5, 2008, and it will be held in the school cafeteria. The school has promised to provide performances by several student music groups. Refreshments will be served. The idea is to have the audience share recollections of their days at Rose Hill, either as a teacher, student, or parent. Over the winter, please help us contact current and former residents of Rose Hill and invite them to share their recollections about Rose Hill Elementary. If you would like to help us plan the evening, please give me a call at 703.971.4716 or e-mail me at sellcarl@aol.com.

Holiday Lights Awards

RHCA once again will honor those residents who go to extra trouble to light up the holiday season. Winners will be announced in the January issue of *The Rambler*. Those receiving special awards will receive colorful certificates. If you would like to help judge our annual contest, please give Linda Nichols or myself a call. RHCA takes great pride in the fact that our community celebrates the holidays with an extensive display of individual lighting arrangements. Take the time to drive around our community and see all the lights! The judges will make their rounds in the week between Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Keep those lights on until at least 9pm as it takes approximately three hours to make the rounds. If you want to make sure the judges don't miss anyone, please feel free to nominate either your house or that of your neighbor. An e-mail to either Linda or I will assure the display will be viewed. Our phone numbers and e-mail addresses are listed on the front page. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from RHCA and *The Rambler*! We don't meet or publish in December so we'll see you again in January 2008.

'House of Horror' Update

Zoning enforcement has advised RHCA that a new notice of violation covering all the problems at 4612 Roundhill Road has been sent to the owner's residence in Springfield via the Sheriff's Office. The notice was dated October 31. Upon receipt, the owner has 30 days to respond. As of this writing, zoning enforcement had NOT been notified that the notice had been successfully delivered. If there is no response, zoning enforcement plans to re-inspect the property and then institute legal action against the owner. Blight Abatement is also moving toward legal action that will allow the house to be seized by eminent domain. Recent changes in the law require that an unoccupied and deteriorating building must be brought up to code requirements. It has been 6 years since the neighbors and RHCA first started complaining about this

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It has been 6 years since the neighbors and RHCA first started complaining about this eyesore in our community. Hope springs eternal that we are finally on the road to a resolution. However, as one neighbor said when hearing the news of the latest action, 'I won't hold my breath.'

YOUR ASSOCIATION NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!!

IF YOU CAN SPARE A COUPLE OF HOURS A MONTH, HAVE TRANSPORTATION TO KINGSTOWNE AND AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD, AND CAN COUNT, RHCA COULD USE YOU. THE DISTRIBUTOR POSITION IS VACANT AND NEEDS YOU!

MARTY WILLIAMS IS LOOKING TO STEP DOWN FROM *THE RAMBLER* EDITOR POSITION. IF YOU HAVE EXPERIENCE PROOFREADING, EDITING, AND USING MICROSOFT WORD OR PUBLISHER OR ANOTHER LAYOUT SOFTWARE PROGRAM, PLEASE CONTACT MARTY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AT MARTY@FABRICATIONS.US OR 703.924.7192.

JIM SAPP DOES SUCH A GREAT JOB WITH OUR WEBSITE YOU CAN'T TELL THAT HE SEAMLESSLY MAINTAINS THE SITE REMOTELY FROM COLORADO. IF YOU HAVE EXPERIENCE WITH WEBSITE DESIGN, DEVELOPMENT, AND MAINTENANCE, AND ARE WILLING TO VOLUNTEER, PLEASE CONTACT JIM FOR SPECIFICS AT JIMSAPP7@MSN.COM.

RHCA LOVES ITS VOLUNTEERS ... IT WOULDN'T BE WITHOUT THEM.

GET INVOLVED ... YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU!

President's Message Continued From Page 2

eyesore in our community. Hope springs eternal that we are finally on the road to a resolution. However, as one neighbor said when hearing the news of the latest action, 'I won't hold my breath.' Shortly after publication of our 'House of Horror' flyer on MyRoseHill.com and circulation via our e-mail list, the County showed up to cut the grass! The flyer certainly served its purpose. We'll keep after them until the issue is satisfactorily resolved. The neighbors should not have to put up with this eyesore.

Traffic Survey

Thanks to Linda Nichols, Mo Haupt, Marty Williams, Sam Covington, and Donnie Krause for manning the RHCA table at Rose Hill Elementary on Election Day. We recorded quite a few signatures and received a number of memberships. So far, we have 281 signatures on the petitions prepared by the County. Almost every door on the list has been knocked on. I plan to finish up over the next few weeks so we can say we knocked on EVERY door we were asked to by the County. Obviously, we didn't find everyone at home. The top part of Roundhill Road and its cul de sacs, Redwood Lane, Thornwood Drive, Driftwood Drive, and Telegraph Road were NOT on the petition list. If you would like to sign the petition, please give me a call at 703.971.4716 and I will drop by your house. We want as large a number as possible in order to convince the County we are serious about slowing down traffic in our community. So far, less than a dozen residents have declined to sign the

petition. The petition asks the County to come up with a plan to slow traffic on Rose Hill Drive and Cottonwood Drive west of Rose Hill Drive. We hope the number of signatures from residents on other heavily traveled streets will convince the County to add them to the list. For example, we have a 100 percent approval on Climbhill Road! If the County accepts the petition as proof we want to slow our traffic, they will come back to us with several alternatives. We will be able to recommend a course of action. Nothing will happen without our approval. Just another of the many reasons to be involved with your Civic Association.

Land Use Issues

Last March 11, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors authorized the demolition of a house on Rock-A-By Road that had burned almost two years earlier. The authorization instructed the County to have the work done and charge the land owner. Finally, on the first of November, the house was taken down. The owner went ahead and had the house demolished at her expense as a first step toward a hoped-for redevelopment. The property is just off the cul de sac at the end of Lark Lane. The burned out building, propane tanks, and swimming pool are gone. What happens now is up in the air. RHCA will continue to monitor all of the property on Rock-A-By Road because whatever happens affects residences on

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Lark Lane, Bee Street, Rose Hill Drive, and Willowood Lane. The owner of the two-acre lot on Rock-A-By behind Bee Street has been interested in redevelopment for some time but has been stymied by access problems.

The County has advised RHCA that the plan for development of office and commercial space on Highland Lane has NOT been approved by the County. Those who attended last month's RHCA meeting will recall the delivery of what was reported to be an 'approved' soils report. Turns out the County had already turned down the development plan. As of this writing, no new plan has been submitted for review. The property, located between the Cox Communications building and the Highland Park pool property, is contiguous to several houses on Maryview Street. RHCA also is monitoring this development proposal.

Election Information

There are 3,915 registered voters in the Rose Hill precinct. Of those, 1,127 showed up at the polls to vote on Tuesday, November 6. The polls were open 13 hours from 6am to 7pm. That's a turnout of only 28.8 percent. Thanks to those of you who cared enough to get out and vote. Shame on those who were able but couldn't find time to make it to the polls to exercise one of our most cherished rights. In Rose Hill, the School Bond referendum passed 758 to 280. Included was a \$3 million item to provide modular classrooms with restrooms to replace the trailers at Rose Hill Elementary. Brad Center garnered 810 votes as the unopposed non-partisan candidate for Lee District School Board member. In the balloting for the three non-partisan at-large seats on the School Board, Tina Hone with 505 votes, Chris Braunlich with 451, and Iuryong Moon with 424 were the leaders. In the election for representation on the Soil and Water Conservation Board, the three winners were Sally Ormsby with 625 votes, John Gagnon with 603, and John Peterson with 524. Democrats swept all but one of the partisan positions on the ballot. In statewide races, George Barker had 611 to Jay O'Brien's 418 votes for the State Senate race. Mark Sickles, running

Our streets are narrow enough without adding cars and today's large vehicles on each side...If the vehicles impede traffic, they can be ticketed.

unopposed for the House, had 533 votes. In the race for constitutional offices, Republican John Frey had 478 votes to Dale Evans' 452. Raymond Morrogh was the leader in the race for Commonwealth's Attorney with 569 votes to 410 for Patrick McDade. Stan Barry, running unopposed for Sheriff, had 563 votes. In the election of Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Gerry Connolly got 632 votes, Gary Baise 319, and Gail Parker 74. In the race for Lee District Supervisor, Jeff McKay got 629 votes to 395 for Doug Boulter.

Finally...

A few weeks ago a neighbor called with a story that underscores just how unthinking and uncaring some people can be. Her husband was sent home from the hospital by private ambulance on a rainy evening. Unfortunately, the ambulance could not get onto the street where the patient lived because it was blocked by cars and large vehicles parked on both sides of the street. So, the attendants wheeled the patient on a stretcher in the rain to his driveway and finally into his house. That's bad enough, but imagine if there had been a fire or other emergency on the street. Emergency vehicles would have been blocked in a potential life-threatening situation. Our streets are narrow enough without adding cars and today's large vehicles on each side. We complain every time such a situation is reported to us. If the vehicles impede traffic, they can be ticketed. Please think of your neighbor's safety when you park on the street. Try not to park in such a way that two vehicles are directly across from each other. Leave room for emergency vehicles. And remember, if you don't it may cost you. For those of you inclined to join me in reporting such problems, the police non-emergency number is 703.691.2131.

—Carl Sell

**THE LAST MEETING OF THE YEAR IS NOVEMBER 27.
NO MEETING OR RAMBLER IN DECEMBER.
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
WE'LL SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!**

2008 Membership Drive Now Underway

Support your Civic Association by becoming a member for 2008; the form is below. Join your friends and neighbors listed below as members. Your dues and contributions pay the cost of printing *The Rambler*, support the Rose Hill Beauty and Holiday Lighting awards, and contribute to several local charities. Thanks to our dedicated members, *The Rambler* is delivered to your door nine times a year at no cost to the Association. Contributions also pay for the landscaping at our entrance sign on Rose Hill Drive at Franconia Road. Most important, a large and active membership is very helpful as we deal with the County regarding community issues. Please include your e-mail address so we can communicate on community issues. We will NEVER give your e-mail address to a third party!

2008 Members as of November 15, 2007

P.G. Bauserman, 4531 Roundhill Road
 Margie Beach, 4429 Roundhill Road
 Ruth Connie Beatty, 6428 Rose Hill Drive
 Bob Brown, 4526 Apple Tree Drive
 Raul & Kelly Castillo, 6413 Willowood Lane
 Helen Cofer, 6218 Saddle Tree Drive
 Sam Covington, 6302 Saddle Tree Drive
 E&K Davidson, 4608 Roundhill Road
 Myrna Downey, 6516 Telegraph Road
 Betty Elliot, 6411 Maryview Street
 Susan Feagley, 4705 Split Rock Road
 Kae Furneisen, 4912 Treetop Lane
 Elias & Karen Gates, 6508 Carriage Drive
 Kathy Gregson, 6411 Rose Hill Drive
 Elmer & Alice Haupt, 6208 Thornwood Drive
 F.E. Jencks, 6416 Willowood Lane
 Marvin & Frances Justice, 6402 Rose Hill Drive
 D. Kraus, 6300 Rose Hill Drive
 Robert & Elizabeth Kohm, 6429 Carriage Drive
 J.K. Letsche, 6502 Cottonwood Drive
 Jacqueline Lewis, 6206 Thornwood Drive

James R. Lockwood, 6114 Clovergrass Drive
 George & Susan McKittrick, 6113 Clovergrass Drive
 Marlene Minarik, 6518 Telegraph Road
 Hal & LaVera Murray, 5003 Treetop Lane
 David & Linda Nichols, 6416 Rose Hill Drive
 Teal Norris & Fred Obermeyer, 6012 Leewood Drive
 Jo Ann Ponce, 6203 Willowood Lane
 Monica Reed, 6422 Rose Hill Drive
 David & Nancy Ridgway, 4609 Cottonwood Place
 Marlene Hass Smith, 6304 Cottonwood Drive
 Donald & Juanita Stallings, 6407 Willowood Lane
 M. C. Stinnette, 4520 Apple Tree Drive
 Ray Stone, 4528 Roundhill Road
 Tinker & Don Szamborski, 4615 Winston Place
 Rex & Linda Taylor, 6505 Haystack Road
 Grace Jean H. Thomson, 6302 Cottonwood Drive
 Connie Vincenzes, 6610 Cottonwood Drive
 Macy Watts, 6008 Leewood Drive
 Don & Nina Weber, 6120 Dew Grass Drive
 Karen Wheelless, 6709 Greendale Road
 Jeffrey Williams, 6121 Dew Grass Drive

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 Membership
 - \$25 Sponsorship of the 'Rose Hill Raid' painting and have your name on display with the painting
 - \$___ Donation for upkeep and landscaping of the Rose Hill entrance sign
 - \$___ Donation for RHCA General Fund



FYI

Holiday Ornaments: Make Your Own, beginning November 12, every day except Tuesdays at Riverbend Park Visitor Center. Teasels, pine cones and walnuts all add up to cool holiday ornaments. Follow our examples or create your own ornaments at Riverbend Park Visitor Center. The Center is open 9am to 4pm, Mondays and Wednesdays through Fridays; noon to 4pm on weekends and holidays; closed Thanksgiving Day. Reservations are recommended for groups. The cost is \$5 for two ornaments. Call 703.759.9018.



Future Quest: A college and career forum for students with disabilities, parents and professionals will be held on December 1 at George Mason University, Johnson Center, 8:30am to 2:40pm. This free conference provides special education students and parents with an opportunity to learn about post-school college and career options. Future Quest 2007 workshops include information on options after high school, career planning, career/technical schools, employment strategies, the college application process, supports and resources in college for students with disabilities, and self-advocacy. The keynote speaker is Jonathan Mooney, author of "Learning Outside the Lines," and "The Short Bus." The conference is sponsored by the Northern Virginia Transition Coalition, a collaborative

coalition made up of staff and parents from the Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, Falls Church, Loudoun, and Prince William County school systems, Northern Virginia Community College, PEATC, Region 4 T/TAC, and the Virginia Departments of Education and Rehabilitative Services. For more information and to register online, visit www.VaCollegeQuest.org.



Youth Driver Improvement Classes are held throughout the year on Saturdays from 8am - 4:30pm at the Sully District Police Station. The fee is \$75. To register, or for more information, call Barbara Prescop at 703.968.6850 or e-mail barbara.prescop@fcps.edu.



FCPS, Department of Special Services, Office of Special Education: First Fridays at the Parent Resource Center. December 7, 10am to 12noon, FCPS Parent Resource Center, Dunn Loring Center, 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring. This is a monthly series of free, informal events for parents. December's topic: "1-2-3 Magic." Seating is limited. Refreshments are served. Please call 703-204-3941 or email prc@fcps.edu to register.



FCPS Adult and Community Education Winter-Spring Class Registration Now Open

Registration is now under way for the January-April 2008 classes offered by Fairfax County Public Schools Adult and Community Education (ACE). The course catalog, ACE Classes, is in the mail to Fairfax County residents and can be viewed online at <http://www.fcps.edu/aceclasses>. The catalog is also available at ACE registration centers and at Fairfax County public libraries.

ACE programs provide career education, life enrichment, adult high school completion, and English for non-native speakers as well as enrichment programs for youth that help individuals meet educational, career, and personal goals. Through the

convenience of online registration, online class offerings, and numerous class locations, ACE brings a world of learning to Fairfax residents.

ACE is one of the largest and most programatically diverse adult and community education programs administered by a public school system in the nation. Most classes are supported by grants and student fees and are not funded from the school system's operational budget. ACE employs more than 1,000 instructors and has more than 900 volunteers who provide over 20,000 hours to support its programs.

—FCPS



**How the Grinch Stole Christmas
Float-In Movie
At Lee District RECenter**

Date: December 15, 2007
 Time: 6:30pm – 9:30pm
 Admission Fees: **(Register by December 14 and save!)**
 \$8 adult
 \$6 child
 \$21 family (1 to 2 adults and up to 3 kids totaling 4)

Register on
 December 15: **\$9 adult, \$7 child, \$24 family**

- ★ Arrive early for games and activities.
- ★ Don't forget to bring your float (some will be provided – supplies are limited)
- ★ Movie begins at 7:00pm. Dinner and dessert will be available for purchase at this time.

Rose Hill Raid Contributors

The following residents have contributed \$25 or more to help defray the cost of the 'Rose Hill Raid' painting that will be framed and permanently displayed at the John Marshall Library. The painting by famed Civil War artist John Paul Swain depicts the raid at Rose Hill on September 28, 1863. Names of the contributors will be included as part of the display at the library. If you would like to have your name(s) associated with this piece of the history of our community, include your gift with the 2008 membership renewal or mail a check to RHCA, Box 10891, Alexandria, VA 22310.

- Ruth Connie Beatty
- Robert D. Brown
- Raul & Kelly Castillo
- Sam Covington
- Myrna Downey
- Kae Furneisen
- Marvin & Frances Justice
- Wellington & Anna Machmer
- David & Linda Nichols
- Carl & Marti Sell
- Jeffrey F. Williams
- Marty Williams



Rose Hill Raid by John Paul Swain

**PRESENT THIS COUPON TO THE CUSTOMER DESK WHEN REGISTERING FOR OUR "GRINCH"
 FLOAT-IN MOVIE TO SAVE \$1.**

(COUPON VALID FOR FLOAT-IN MOVIE ONLY; ONE COUPON PER PERSON)

Rose Hill Community Calendar

Around Rose Hill

- ★ **Tuesday, November 27, 7pm.** Rose Hill Civic Association Meeting. John Marshall Library. Guest Speaker: Master Police Officer Alice Eggers on her experiences in the sky with the FCPD helicopter unit.
 - ★ **Every Wednesday and Saturday.** BINGO! Franconia Volunteer Fire Dept. Early Bird, 7pm. Regular sessions, 8pm.
 - ★ **November 24, 11am to 4pm.** Scottish Preview. The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Come celebrate Alexandria's Scottish heritage with day of activities, performances and demonstrations. Free! www.alexandriahistory.org, 703.838.4994
 - ★ **November 26 - December 31.** Art for the Holidays. Scope Gallery Studio 19. Torpedo Factory Art Center. Free! www.torpedofactory.org, 703.548.6288
 - ★ **November 29, 6-9pm.** Torpedo Factory Art Center Holiday Open House, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Enjoy this annual holiday extravaganza featuring live music, drinks, and hors d'oeuvres. Artists will be working in their studios and showing special holiday wares. Free! www.torpedofactory.org, 703.838.4565
- For other events and activities at the Torpedo Factory, visit www.torpedofactory.org.
- ★ **November 29 - December 1.** 37th Annual Campagna Center's Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend. The Campagna Center honors Alexandria's Scottish heritage with a weekend of events. Campagna Center & throughout Old Town, 418 S. Washington St. www.scottishchristmaswalk.com, 703.549.0111
Scottish Walk parade, 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. \$25 in advance, \$30 that day.
Campagna Center's Scottish Christmas Walk Marketplace. George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, www.scottishchristmaswalk.com, 703.549.0111. New location this year! A unique shopping experience with large selection of perfect presents and holiday items, featuring café, boutiques and sale of heather & greens. Noon-5pm Thursday, 10am-5pm Friday and Saturday at the center.
 - ★ **November 30.** The Santa Train. Whistle Stop Hobbies, 130 S. Royal St. 703.549.4912. Santa's Holiday Express departs from Alexandria's historic Union Station on King Street at 1:20pm and travels to Manassas, returning at 3:30pm with Santa and his elves on board! Souvenirs, activities during brief stopover in Manassas. Tickets \$15 and available November 1 at Whistle Stop Hobbies. \$ Entrance Fee, Reservations Required
 - ★ **November 30 - December 1.** 7:30pm Fri., 2:30 and 6pm Sat., Alexandria Harmonizers "A Very Merry Musical." First Baptist Church of Alexandria, 2932 King St., www.harmonizers.org, 240.206.9626. Enjoy a "pasta plus" family meal with Santa, accompanied by the a cappella antics of "Singing Elves" with favorites of the holiday season, as the Alexandria Harmonizers Chorus present their annual dinner theater event. \$ Entrance Fee, Reservations Required
 - ★ **November 30 - December 9.** "The Christmas Carol." The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St., www.thelittletheatre.com, 703.419.3118. The Little Theatre of Alexandria again rings in the holiday season with Charles Dickens' classic tale of how Ebenezer Scrooge is guided through the past, present, and future to find the true meaning of the holidays. Complete with ghosts, special effects, Victorian carols, and Tiny Tim. Performances Wed.-Sun. The Christmas Carol is a must for the entire family. An LTA tradition! \$ Entrance Fee, Reservations Required
 - ★ **December 1.** Holiday on the Avenue. Del Ray's Mount Vernon Avenue, www.pwba.org, 703.683.2570. Alexandria's neighborhood with a small-town feel welcomes the holiday season with a display of luminaria at 5:30pm along Mount Vernon Avenue, followed by a tree lighting at 6pm near the Mount Vernon Rec. Center, Commonwealth at Mount Vernon Avenues. Free!
8th Annual Holiday Lights Boat Parade. Alexandria Marina at the foot of Cameron Street, behind the Torpedo Factory Art Center. 703.838.5005. 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. Festivities begin at 3 with the Alexandria Holiday Review, refreshments, and Santa arriving by boat at 3:30. Boat parade is 5:30-6:30pm. Attn Boaters: if you would like to participate, call 703.838.4200, ext. 209. Free!
 - ★ **December 1-23.** Gather the Family Holiday Tours. Historic Woodlawn, 9000 Richmond Hwy., 703.780.4000. Experience an 1820s holiday gathering with full table and many friends, at the home of the Lewis family, then America's First Family. Tours on the half hour with a taste of ginger cookies and cider following the tour. 5:30 to 8:30, weekends only. \$15, \$5 for children K-12. Reservations Required
 - ★ **December 3, 8:30 to 11am.** In-Depth Tour of Pope-Leighey House. Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Hwy., www.popeleighey1940.org, 703.780.4000. Coffee and pastries are served. Program is AIA accredited. Reservations required. \$30
 - ★ **December 3-21.** Holiday Trees Display. River Farm, 7931 East Boulevard Dr., www.ahs.org, 703.768.5700. The main house at the American Horticultural Society's River Farm headquarters is decked out in holiday spirit with themed trees, a dazzling variety of poinsettias, and other decorations. Open 9am-5pm Mon.-Fri. Free!

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Rose Hill Community Calendar, continued

- ★ **December 8.** Annual Historic Alexandria Candlelight Tours. Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St., www.historicalexandria.org, 703.838.4242. Take a break from the fast pace of the season and experience the unique charm and history at one of Old Town's most popular holiday events. Tour Carlyle House, Gadsby's Tavern Museum, and the Lee-Fendall House by candlelight and enjoy seasonal decorations, entertainment and light refreshments. Tour from 5-9pm \$20, \$15 for seniors (65 years and older), \$5 for ages 6-17. Pre-sale discounts are available for tickets purchased before Dec. 1. Reservations recommended.
- ★ **December 9.** Historic Holiday Tea. Historic Woodlawn, 9000 Richmond Hwy., 703.780.4000. Join us for some festive holiday fun with a period Holiday Tea at Historic Woodlawn. Experience the tastes and sounds of the season 200 years ago, including harp music and Martha Washington's cake. Seatings at noon and 2pm Cost is \$30, including tour of Woodlawn (\$35 includes tours of Woodlawn and Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House) Reservations Required
- ★ **December 14.** The Santa Train. Whistle Stop Hobbies, 130 S. Royal St., 703.549.4912. Santa's Holiday Express departs from Alexandria's historic Union Station on King Street at 1:20pm and travels to Manassas, returning at 3:30pm with Santa and his elves on board! Souvenirs, activities during brief stopover in Manassas. Tickets \$15 and available November 1 at Whistle Stop Hobbies. Reservations Required
- ★ **December 16, 3pm.** Colonial Handbell Ringers. The Lyceum - Alexandria's History Museum, 201 S. Washington St. www.alexandriahistory.org, 703.838.4994. Join the Colonial Handbell Ringers as they play more than 60 bronze bells. Sing along with your favorite Christmas carols. Free!
- ★ **December 16.** The Alexandria Choral Society Presents: 'Tis the Season. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron Mills Road, www.alexchorsociety.org, 703.548.4734. The Society's annual family holiday concert features the combined voices of the adult and children's choruses, together with organ and brass. The concert includes the winner of the 2007 Winter Carol Competition and plenty of carols for audience participation. \$ Entrance Fee
- ★ **December 31.** First Night Alexandria. www.firstnight-alexandria.org, 703.838.5005, 421 King St., Suite 300. First Night Alexandria is a family-friendly, affordable, accessible celebration of the New Year through the performing arts in approximately 30 indoor venues in the Old Town and Del Ray neighborhoods of Alexandria. \$ Entrance Fee

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. In December, the Visitor Center is open 9am-5pm Monday, Wednesday-Friday; noon to 5pm Saturday and Sunday; closed Tuesday. In January and February the center is open 11am-4pm, every day except closed Tuesday.

- ★ **November 24 and 25, 1-2pm.** Video – Cardinals Up Close. Meet the northern cardinal, Virginia's state bird and a familiar backyard visitor, during this 50-minute video. FREE
- ★ **December 1 and 8, 4:30-6:30pm.** Owl Outing. Adults. 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
- ★ **December 9, 2-4pm.** Photography Contest Opening. Enjoy this year's winning entries from the Friends of Huntley Meadows' annual photography contest. FREE
- ★ **December 10, 3:15-4:30pm.** Young Explorers - Holiday Crafts. 6-8 yrs. Join the fun of making holiday gifts, ornaments and cards with a nature theme. Reservations required. \$5
- ★ **December 12 and 13, 10-10:45am.** Nature Detectives - Holiday Crafts. 3-5 yrs. Listen to a winter tale, and then make a holiday ornament. Reservations required. \$5
- ★ **January 5, 8-10:30am.** Birding for Beginners. Adults. 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

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.

- ★ **Thursday, November 29, 4pm.** Science & Stories. Stories, activities and an-age appropriate science experiment. Age 4-6 with adult.
- ★ **Thursdays, 7pm.** Practice Your English. Conversation group for people learning English. Adults. No registration is required.
- ★ **Fridays, 12pm.** Lunch Bunch. Bring your lunch and join us for stories. Birth-5 with adult.
- ★ **Wednesday, December 5, 10:30am.** Small Wonders. Stories, fingerplays and activities. Age 13-23 months with adult.

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Rose Hill Community Calendar, continued

- ★ **Saturday, December 8, 10:30am.** Snakes, Turtles, Frogs, Oh My! Reptile and Amphibian program presented by Hidden Pond Nature Center. Cosponsored by the Friends of the John Marshall Library. All ages.
- ★ **Monday, December 10, 3pm.** Winter Crafts. After-school activities and crafts. Age 6-12.
- ★ **Tuesday, December 11, 10:30am.** Cookie Time. Stories, activities and a craft. Age 2-3 with adult.
- ★ **Tuesday, December 18, 7pm.** Mother-Daughter Book Group. Enjoy a lively book discussion. Please call for title. Age 9-11 with adult.
- ★ **Wednesday, December 19, 7:15pm.** Book Discussion Group. Ask for title. Adults. No registration is required.
- ★ **Thursday, December 20, 4pm.** Stories & Science. Stories, activities and an age-appropriate science experiment. Age 4-6 with adult.

Thomas A. Edison High School

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

- ★ **December 3, 7 to 9pm.** Edison Lecture Hall, Partners for Safe Teen Driving is conducting a presentation on a variety of issues for safer teen driving. Contact maryellenligna@fcps.edu for more information.
- ★ **December 8.** Los Padres Latinos de la Escuela Secundaria Edison se reunirán el sábado, 8 de diciembre, de 9:30am a 12pm. Se invita a todos. Para más información, por favor llame a Luisa Espinoza, "Parent Liaison," 703.924.8200. (December 8. The Latino parents of Edison High School will meet Saturday, December 8, from 9:30am to 12pm. All are invited. For more information, please contact Luisa Espinoza, Parent Liaison, 703.924.8200.)
- ★ **December 12, 7pm.** The Edison Choirs and Orchestras will be performing their winter concert in the auditorium. The performance also features the choirs of Mark Twain Middle School. Come hear music spanning centuries and styles, and take in music of the winter season.
- ★ **December 13.** Deadline for seniors in the Auto Technology and Auto Collision and Repair programs to apply for internships with Fairfax County's Department of Vehicle Services. Interviews will be conducted January 7 – 11 at Edison Academy.
- ★ The Edison Academy Animal Science class provides pet grooming for pets in the community. Services include bathing, ear cleaning, nail trims and haircuts. The cost ranges from \$10-20. All pets must be current on vaccinations and proof of vaccines must be brought in for our records. Please call 703.924.8110 or email karen.nestlerode@fcps.edu for pricing information for your pet and to make an appointment.

Mark Twain Middle School

4700 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA 22310,
703.313.3765.

- ★ **November 29, 2:40pm - 4pm.** Touching Bases: 3-minute mini parent-teacher conferences. PTA Fund Raiser "Domino's Dough Raising Event."
- ★ **Gift Cards.** Do you buy gift cards as gifts? Do you shop at Giant or Safeway? Consider purchasing Gift Cards through this unique fundraiser and the participating merchants will donate a portion of the sale to Mark Twain. There are many merchants to choose from including retail, restaurants, grocery stores, hotels and online stores and this year our Gift Card ordering is going paperless!!! Order requests can be made on line at <http://mysite.verizon.net/vze6y42b/therileyfamily/index.html>. After you place your order, you will still need to send a check in to the coordinator or the school, but your gift cards will be mailed directly to your house. Orders are placed every month on the second Friday of the month and orders will be mailed to you by the third Friday. There are also paper forms at the school that can be brought back to the front office.
- ★ **E-Script (Safeway) and Giant Bonus Bucks.** All it takes is a few minutes of registering your card and the participating stores donate a portion of your sales to the school. Your everyday purchases translate to money for Mark Twain!
- ★ **December 3.** Mark Twain's Birthday Celebration: Cupcakes for Students
- ★ **December 5 and 6, 7pm.** Winter Orchestra Concert in Twain Cafeteria.
- ★ **December 11.** PTA meeting in Library – 7pm Executive Board Mtg.; 7:30 General Mtg.
- ★ **December 12.** Winter Chorus Concert (Edison HS Auditorium).
- ★ **December 13.** PTA Fund Raiser "Domino's Dough Raising Event."
- ★ **December 24 to January 1, 2008.** Winter Break.

Rose Hill Elementary School

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

- ★ **November 27, 5-8pm.** PTA Roy Rogers Night.
- ★ **Rose Hill Community Outreach Programs.** This fall and winter, Rose Hill Elementary School will provide support to families in need of food or gifts for the Holidays. If your family or a family you know can benefit from this assistance, please call Mr. Austin at 703.313.4206, Mrs. Bonilla at 703.313.4237, or Mrs. Cunning at 703.313.6456. Your referral will be kept in confidence.

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. Ronald G. Dillon, 1.877.233.2224, 703.971.2125 or www.dgdesigns.com. Ron, Donna, and their daughters live on Winston Place.

ELECTRICIAN

Electrical Solutions. 703.922.2040. Electrical service upgrades, whole house surge protection, troubleshooting, repairs, additions, & remodeling. Audio/video sales and professional installation (high definition TV calibration), and much, much more! Same day service, FREE phone estimates, Class "A" contractor, licensed (VA, MD, DC), bonded, insured. 24 hour emergency service. Your friendly neighborhood electrician for your home or office.

GRAPHIC DESIGN

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

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.

HOUSE CLEANING

Ingrid Heislup. She's lived in the Rose Hill area for 12 years. She cleans houses in the general area and also does move-outs and office buildings. For more information, please call 703.362.5672.

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.

Independence Landscape and Lawn Care. For all your landscape and lawn care needs please call Curt Greene at 703.967.7639. Our services range from mowing, lawn care, leaf removal, and snow removal to patios, landscape design, and construction. Using the latest most efficient methods and equipment gives us the advantage to effectively service our customers at a competitive price. Discounts offered to all Rose Hill residents. Check us out on the web at www.independencelandscape.com. Curt lives on Thornwood Drive.

PAINTING

Sherry and Cindy's Painting. Sherry Matey, 703.921.9422. Exterior/interior, drywall repair, deck staining, pressure washing. Sherry has lived in Rose Hill for more than 20 years and has received well-deserved referrals from many residents [including your editor].

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 Pl.

Continued on Page 12

Business Directory, Continued

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.

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 703.971.8064 or email oraclemarjorie@aol.com.

REAL ESTATE

Exit All Star Realty. Angelique Vereen can be reached at 703.317.0030 (business) or 571.233.6395 (direct). She and her family have lived on Thornwood Drive for many years. The Vereen house always sparkles with holiday lights!

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.

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

ANGELIQUE VEREEN
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