

# The Rambler

Newsletter of the  
Rose Hill Civic Association

## President's Message

### RHCA Meeting Resumes Nov 22

### 2017 Membership Campaign Begins

After a one-month hiatus, the Rose Hill Civic Association will resume meetings on Tuesday, November 22 in the community room of the John Marshall Library. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. After a brief business meeting, we will honor long-time resident Connie Beatty on the occasion of her birthday, even if we are a little late in doing so.

Mrs. Beatty moved to Rose Hill in December of 1954. She was one of the first residents and still enjoys her life in the same Rambler on Rose Hill Drive. Come and ask questions about life in Rose Hill through the years. Mrs. Beatty is a human encyclopedia about Rose Hill. She also bakes excellent brownies! She is our official Rose Hill Beauty!

Remember that RHCA will NOT meet in December, but we will be honoring those who display outstanding outside lights and decorations during the Christmas holiday period. Please nominate by email any homes you think deserve recognition. The winners will be listed in the January 2017 Rambler. During the days just before Christmas, and the week between Christmas and New Year's, please leave your lights on until at least 8 o'clock. Please make sure that your house number is in a prominent place and is well lighted so the judges can easily see it.

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In previous years, we have noticed a number of houses where the numbers are not easily visible from the street during the nighttime. This is extremely important to our First Responders who need to be quickly ascertain the address in an emergency. Please go out front at night and see if you can easily see your house number. You might be surprised!

### Membership

Please fill out the form on page 8 and mail it back to RHCA at Post Office Box 10891, Franconia, VA 22310. We appreciate your membership and we particularly appreciate your donations in excess of the dues. Our dues are set low as per our by-laws and don't produce enough revenue to print the Rambler nine times a year, and support numerous programs.

Rose Hill also underwrites the cost of the Rose Hill Beauty program, the seasonal plantings at our entrance sign, and makes contributions to Kononia in support of the less fortunate in Franconia, the Edison High School all-night graduation party at Lee District Park, and the annual meals for our police officers who have to work Christmas shifts when most restaurants are closed. In addition, the signs honoring Rose Hill residents on Veteran's Day are paid for by RHCA. Although only RHCA members are eligible to receive Rose Hill Beauty signs or yearly updates, all community veterans are recognized at no cost.

Our membership campaign will continue through the first quarter of the year. Please don't let RHCA get lost in the blizzard of requests you receive each year. We truly are a volunteer organization. No one gets paid anything. Even the Rambler is delivered by volunteers. Our only costs are for printing, landscape services and contributions. Join your community group and help ensure that we continue to be an effective voice at the local government level.

### RHCA Officers

**President:** Carl Sell, 703.971.4716, sellcarl@aol.com

**Vice President:** Linda Nichols, 703.971.0755,  
dovefellow@aol.com

**Secretary:** VACANT

**Treasurer:** Carolyn Slenska, 703.922.4135,  
Carolyn.slenska@lycos.com

**Editor, The Rambler:** Susan Jones, scheungjones@gmail.com

**Neighborhood Watch:** VACANT, rosehillwatch@aol.com

**Webmaster:** Jim Sapp, jimsapp7@msn.com

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

## Community Alert!

Recently, RHCA was advised by one of its members about a scam that took place right here in our neighborhood. We pass that on to you verbatim in the hope that you will fully understand the issue and heed the advice at the end!

*"This is to warn folks of a swindle that is going on in the community. In late September I was solicited by two very well-dressed and friendly folks immediately in front of the Rose Hill Safeway, who had a couple of blown-up photos of children playing, who asked if I would donate \$5 to help fund some after-school activities in the community (I don't remember the exact solicitation). I didn't have cash in my wallet, but I was quickly advised that they could swipe my credit card with a little device they had that was connected to an IPAD or similar, and that I would receive a text message receipt. So, I handed over my credit card and let them swipe it. I never received a text message receipt. Last night, while reconciling the credit card monthly listing with my wife, neither of us could recall a purchase in the amount of \$232 made out to a vendor that I looked up on the Internet (Star Products or similar). The internet listed some 75 businesses that this company was affiliated with, none of which we had ever done business, so we contacted the fraud department of the credit card company. The fraud investigator was immediately familiar with this company. He told me that we were NOT going to like the discussion that would follow. Did we voluntarily hand our credit card over to this company? (YES). Since we did, this was not theft or fraud, it was misrepresentation. I would represent that I had agreed to make a \$5.00 donation, they would represent that I agreed to purchase a product for \$232. This would be referred to by binding arbitration to VISA for resolution. I would be asked to prove that I had agreed to a \$5 donation (to produce the receipt), and these professional swindlers would generate receipts "proving" that I had purchased a picnic table (or a gas barbeque, or a lounge chair, or a ...). The process would take months to be investigated. In the majority of the cases, the person swindled would not be able to prove that they were swindled. Even if we do prevail, it will take up to three years to resolve. We cannot take them to court, because by using the VISA card, we agree to NOT use a court procedure. And, it costs \$250 to go through the arbitration process...the loser has to pay the expenses of both parties, and cleverly, the amount purchased is less than the amount we will have to pay to go to arbitration. And, the legal*

*system seems to be powerless to do anything about this. The moral of the story is, if a sidewalk vendor asks you for a cash or credit card donation, and if they DO NOT have a license to do business at that location, they are likely trying to swindle you. In the future, my modus operandi will be to first ask the solicitors to pose for photos which I will take of them with my cell phone, and also of their display literature, the license plate of their automobile, etc. DON'T BE SWINDLED LIKE I WAS!"*

## Election Results in Rose Hill

Hillary Clinton won and the meals tax referendum lost in Rose Hill in 2016. In the presidential race, Clinton tallied 1,727 votes to Donald Trump's 930. The meals tax referendum went down to defeat 1,673-1,170. Don Beyer retained his Eighth Virginia District seat in the United States House of Representatives, attracting 1,580 votes in Rose Hill as compared to contender Charles Hernick's 994. All three Fairfax County bond issues passed in Rose Hill, just as they did in the rest of the County. The transportation bond passed, 1,683-1,103. The park bond prevailed 1,734-1,054 and the Human Services and Community Development bond passed 1,671-1,104. Bonds are like mortgages where the improvements are financed upon sale and then paid off over a long period, plus interest. Since Fairfax County has earned an AAA rating (highest in the industry), interest rates are low. There were two proposed Virginia Constitutional questions on the ballot. The Amendment to include right to work in the Constitution lost and the other that would exempt widows of police, firefighter, search and rescue and emergency medical technician killed while on duty from property taxes passed overwhelming. In Rose Hill the right to work issue was defeated, 1,536-1,234 and the property tax exemption for widows of police, firefighters, etc. killed while on duty passed 2,202-534. Rose Hill mirrored the County and State in the presidential race. However, Donald Trump won the national presidential election and will be inaugurated on January 20, 2107, for four years. The Rose Hill precinct has the largest number (4,385) of voters in Lee District and there was an 82.6 percent turnout of November 8. Overall the turnout in Lee District was 81.1 percent.

## Credit/Debit Card Skimmers

Recently, electronic credit/debit card locations at the pumps of number of gasoline stations in Fairfax County were the target of skimming devices. Including one nearby at the Exxon station at 6949 South King's Highway,

according to news reports. Before you use a card at any station, make sure the insert for the card is undamaged or doesn't appear to be loose. If it is, chances are that a device designed to capture your financial information has been installed. Move to another pump, or better yet, complete the transaction with the clerk inside the building. If you use a debit card, cover the pinhole camera or put a hand in front of the one you are using to key in the PIN number. Be aware of suspicious persons sitting in cars nearby as they may have a camera with a zoom lens to capture your PIN after the skimming device has collected the info from your card. Credit and debit cards have spawned a new breed of criminals who are trying to obtain your personal financial information. Take precautions to protect your information. Again, if you feel unsure at a gas station and don't have cash, go inside and complete the electronic transaction at the counter. Otherwise, use a pump that can be seen by the person inside the building in the hope that a criminal would be seen tampering with the card reader.

### **Seasonal Plantings**

You may have noticed that each season of the year is announced with bright new flowers that accent out entrance sign at the corner of Rose Hill Drive and Franconia Road. The Rose Hill Civic Association contracts with a local company to automatically update the flower bed as the seasons change. Fortney Landscaping has been doing the job since before I was first elected president. They are a local firm that takes great pride in maintaining the flower bed in front of our sign. The Rose Hill Apartments chips in by cutting the grass in the entire Rose Hill Drive median from Franconia Road to the library. The funds necessary to continue the seasonal plantings come from those members who make a donation above and beyond the annual dues. Without that support, we couldn't afford the project. Thanks to all of you who care enough about the community to support the seasonal plantings at the entrance sign. Your help allows us to put our best foot forward at the main entrance to the community.

### **Veteran's Day Signs**

The signs saluting past and present veterans from Rose Hill are an annual project sponsored by the Rose Hill Civic Association. If you live in Rose Hill, or have a relative who lived in Rose Hill, please let us know and we will add a sign to the display in 2017. The only criterion for

inclusion is that the person is associated with our community. The cost is paid by the Rose Hill Civic Association. They are installed by volunteers. You can support our program to honor veterans by joining RHCA. Although the dues are only \$10 per year, members are asked to make a donation to help defray the cost of the veterans program as well as others. The dues currently collected from members do not cover the cost of printing the Rambler nine times per year. The Rambler is delivered by volunteers.

### **RHCA on Facebook**

Keep up with your community by joining the Rose Hill Farm Facebook page. We try to keep members advised about community events, issues, crimes and vandalism. If your property is violated, let the rest of us know about it so we can be on the lookout. Be sure to report any criminal activity to the proper authorities. If you have been a victim, call the police non-emergency number at 703-691-2131. If you see a crime in progress or have an emergency, call 911. Let the rest of us know through Facebook. Check the Rose Hill Farms page daily. Be vigilant as you come and go. Keep an eye on your neighbor's property and make sure our senior citizens know they have your support in a crisis.

-Carl Sell

### **Around Rose Hill**

#### **John Marshall Library**

6209 Rose Hill Dr, 703.971.0010. Call ahead to register for events.

Hours: M, T – 10am – 9pm; W, F – 10am – 6pm; Th. – 1pm – 9pm; Sat 10am – 5pm

- \* **Ongoing Event.** English Conversation. Each Thursday at 2:00pm. Conversation group for people learning English. Adults.
- \* **Ongoing Event.** Friday Morning Movie Time. 1030am. Age 2-5.
- \* **Ongoing Event.** e-Book Workshop. Saturdays at 1pm.
- \* **Ongoing Events.** Fun for 2s and 3s; Tots and Tales; A to Zoo Storytime. Mon and Wed at 1030am.
- \* **Ongoing Events.** Preschool Movie Morning. Fri at 1030am.

**Thomas Edison High School**

5801 Franconia Rd. Alexandria, VA 22310  
Office – 703.924.8000; Fax – 703.924.8097

\*Holiday. Nov 24-25

**Mark Twain Middle School**

4700 Franconia Rd. Alexandria, VA 22310  
Office – 703.313.3700; Fax – 703.313.3797

\*Holiday. Nov 24-25

**Rose Hill Elementary School**

6301 Rose Hill Dr. Alexandria, VA 22310  
Office – 703.313.4200; Fax – 703.313.4297

\*Holiday. Nov 24-25

**Advertising in *The Rambler***

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

- \* Business card: 3 ½" x 2", \$10
- \* Quarter page: 3 ½" x 4 ¾", \$25
- \* Half page: 7 ½" x 4 ¾", \$50
- \* Full page: 7 ½" x 9 ¾", \$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](http://www.myRoseHill.com), for the world to see.

Anyone interested in placing an ad may call me at 703.625.7046. Artwork can be sent to [scheungjones@gmail.com](mailto:scheungjones@gmail.com) 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 advertisement and sent to the P.O. Box.

**Only those residents who are members of the Rose Hill Civic Association or provide services in kind will qualify for a FREE listing in the business directory. Membership dues are the source of funds for the printing 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 30 years and have lived in Rose Hill for 41 years.

**Real Estate**

**Re/Max 100.** Steve Dougherty, 703.746.8720. [www.stevedougherty.com](http://www.stevedougherty.com). Steve and his family have lived in Rose Hill and been active in civic affairs for 30 years. He has been a Realtor of 20 years and specializes in service to his neighbors in the community.

**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.

**House Cleaning**

**Everclean Maid Service.** 703.971.7160. Owned and operated by Nour Barakat and Mike Zalatoris. Our residential cleaning business is celebrating 30 years of service in Alexandria and for the last 26 years from our home in Rose Hill. We offer reliable and affordable home and office cleaning for all local residents, and we are happy to offer a 25% discount to our neighbors to celebrate our anniversary. Call for a free estimate and to schedule your cleaning. Thank you Rose Hill for being our happy home! (See our ad in this newsletter.)

**Photography**

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

### Need Help?

Pet services (dog walking, vet appointments); errands (pharmacy, dry cleaning, drop off/pick-up product repair); personal shopping (grocery, post office, exchange and item returns); vehicle services (vehicle license and emission renewal, vehicle service repair, vehicle inspection); home services (house sitting, light yard work, wait at home for service personnel); travel and transportation (to and from); medical concierge services (doctor appointments, pre/post-operation assistance). Contact David Sell at 703.971.4716, or email [dksell@hotmail.com](mailto:dksell@hotmail.com).

### Handyman

Your honey-do list getting out of hand? Call my honey! Offering free quotes and estimates. Please call Rick at 703.943.7102.

### Cemetery Lots for Sale

National Memorial Park in Falls Church, Virginia. Burial plots for sale. Four double lots. Can be sold separately or as a complete set. Call 703.971.8331.

Donald Camden

5810 Kingstowne Center Dr. #120  
Alexandria, VA 22315-5711

M - F 8:30 am - 8 pm  
Sat. 9 am - 5 pm  
Sun. 12 pm - 4 pm

P. 703.924.4201  
F. 703.924.4203

[store3532@theupsstore.com](mailto:store3532@theupsstore.com)

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Meet Eric Stewart in person and learn  
how to sell your home for top dollar!

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Hilton Hotel  
North Bethesda, MD  
10am, 2pm or 7pm

Tuesday, October 25, 2016  
Marriott Courtyard  
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2pm or 7pm

Space is limited! Register now at  
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or call 1-800-900-5377

## How to Sell your Home for Top Dollar!

In this information-packed session, you will learn how to sell your home **fast** and for **maximum profit** from one of the area's most successful and veteran REALTORS®.

Eric will share his insights from over 28 years in real estate, including:

- ✓ The outlook on the local area real estate market
- ✓ When is the best time to sell your home
- ✓ Tips on sorting through your belongings
- ✓ What home improvements provide the best rate of return
- ✓ Strategies on pricing your home
- ✓ How to attract the most buyers...and much more!

Attendees will receive Eric's highly popular  
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For more information, contact your Rose Hill neighbor and Eric Stewart Group member Candy Watts at 703.850.1805.

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**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
  - \$\_\_ Donation for upkeep and landscaping of the Rose Hill entrance sign
  - \$\_\_ Donation for RHCA General Fund

### Thanksgiving Quiz

1. Thanksgiving occurs on the:
  - A. 4<sup>th</sup> thursdays in november
  - B. 3<sup>rd</sup> thursdays in november
  - C. November 26 each year
2. The first thanksgiving lasted:
  - A. 1 day
  - B. 2 days
  - C. 3 days
3. Which of the following was NOT served at the Pilgrims Thanksgiving meal?
  - A. Cranberries, corn, and mashed potatoes
  - B. Rabbit, chicken, wild turkey, and dried fruit
  - C. Venison, fish, goose
4. Which Indian tribe taught the Pilgrims how to cultivate the land and were invited to the Thanksgiving meal?
  - A. Apache
  - B. Wampanoag
  - C. Cherokee
5. Approximately how many turkeys are eaten each year on Thanksgiving in the U.S.?
  - A. 100 million
  - B. 280 million
  - C. 500 million
6. Which southern state was the first to adopt a Thanksgiving Day in 1855?
  - A. South Carolina
  - B. Virginia
  - C. Georgia
7. Which president is believed to be the first to pardon a turkey and state this annual tradition?
  - A. President Lincoln in 1863.
  - B. President Roosevelt in 1939
  - C. President Truman in 1947

Answers: 1,3,1,2,2,2,3