

# The Rambler

Newsletter of the  
Rose Hill Civic Association

## UPDATE ON ROSE HILL HOMICIDE

Master Police Officer James Reid will be at the Tuesday, October 26 meeting of the Rose Hill Civic Association to update the community on the apparent homicide that took the life of a young Rose Hill resident. Wyatt Campbell, 18, succumbed to wounds he received in an October 12 incident at the shopping center. As of this writing, no arrests have been made. Our condolences go out to the Campbell family, which has a long history of active participation in community activities. Any new information will be posted on myrosehill.com as soon as it is received. The RHCA meeting will be held starting at 7 p.m. at the John Marshall Library on Tuesday, October 26.

## President's Message

### Plan to Vote on Tuesday, November 2; Congressional Seat, Bonds on Ballot

Rose Hill residents are reminded that the election for our representative to the United States Congress will take place on Tuesday, November 2. The Rose Hill precinct voting will be held at Rose Hill Elementary School. The polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Voters are reminded that they will need to provide an identification document such as a Voter ID card or driver's license or sign, under oath, an affirmation of identity.

Candidates for the Eighth Congressional District in Virginia are incumbent James P. (Jim) Moran (D), J. Patrick Murray (R) and J. Ron

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Fisher (IG). Additional information about each candidate can be obtained from their web sites, [jimmoran.org](http://jimmoran.org), [murrayforcongress.com](http://murrayforcongress.com) and [ronfisherforcongress.com](http://ronfisherforcongress.com).

Also on the ballot is a \$120 million Fairfax County transportation bond that will be used to pay the County's portion of Metro's capital improvements expenditures over the next few years. The money will go for new rail cars and other Metro improvements. This is not to be confused with the County's annual share of Metro's operating budget. Since Fairfax County enjoys a Triple A bond rating, this is the cheapest way to pay its share of new equipment for Metro. The County has the high bond rating because it does not allow its yearly indebtedness to go over 10 percent of the assessed value of its real estate. Bonds are sold as the money is needed and are paid back over 20-30 years.

In addition to the Congressional election and the bond questions, there are three proposed amendments to the Virginia Constitution and a Fairfax County bond referendum question on the ballot. The Virginia questions have to do with (1) the permitting of localities to establish their own income or property limits for purposes of granting tax relief for homeowners 65 years of age or older or permanently or totally disabled; (2) providing a real property tax exemption for the principle residence of a veteran or his or her

### **RHCA Meeting Tuesday, October 26.**

**John Marshall Library, 7:00 pm**

**MPO James Reid of the Franconia Station will update us on the Oct. 14 suspicious killing.**

#### **RHCA Officers**

- President: Carl Sell, 703.971.4716, [sellcar@aol.com](mailto:sellcar@aol.com)
- Vice President: Linda Nichols, 703.971.0755, [dovefellow@aol.com](mailto:dovefellow@aol.com)
- Secretary: Beth Kohm, 703.338.4876, [beth.kohm@gmail.com](mailto:beth.kohm@gmail.com)
- Treasurer: Carolyn Slenska, 703.922.4135, [carolyn.slenska@lycos.com](mailto:carolyn.slenska@lycos.com)
- Editor, *The Rambler*: Richard Downey, 703.625.7046, [richtdowney@gmail.com](mailto:richtdowney@gmail.com)
- Neighborhood Watch: Woody Betts, 703.971.0520, [rosehillwatch@aol.com](mailto:rosehillwatch@aol.com)
- Webmaster: Jim Sapp, [jimsapp7@msn.com](mailto:jimsapp7@msn.com)

RHCA, P.O. Box 10891, Alexandria, VA 22310  
[www.myRoseHill.com](http://www.myRoseHill.com)

surviving spouse if the veteran has a 100 percent service-connected permanent, and total disability; and (3) shall the Commonwealth's 'rainy day' fund be increased from 10 percent to 15 percent of the average annual tax revenues derived from income and retail taxes for the three fiscal years.

## **Rose Hill Reserve Update**

No doubt there will be additional issues between the publication of *The Rambler* and the next RHCA meeting on October 28 starting at 7 p.m. in the community room of the John Marshall library. We'll bring you up to date as things stood in the middle of October. Plan to attend the October 28 meeting for any additional information. Representatives of Stanley Martin Homes briefed RHCA at its September meeting, noting that all clearing had been completed, work was about to begin on the installation of the concrete piers to stabilize the hillside and at least some of the internal roads would be paved by mid-November. They also said two model homes would be built by next spring near the Wayside Place entrance and would serve as sales offices. Truck traffic has been greatly curtailed on Haystack Road due to the closing of the lower entrance to all except essential traffic. Complaints about dust dissipated as truck traffic and clearing work wound down. Several rainstorms after a prolonged period of drought also helped settle the dust. Noise continued to be bothersome for nearby residents.

Since then, two major issues have surfaced. First, the residents of a house on lower Split Rock found muddy rain water cascading off the hillside coming into their yard instead of going into the pond that had been built for that purpose. Since then, the channel has been altered to make sure the water goes into the pond, not the yard. Can't imagine building a pond to contain runoff and then not using it, but that's what happened. Hopefully, the water will now go into the pond then drain slowly into the ponds on the golf course that are used to water the greens. Subsequent rains will test the new arrangement.

Second, a slope failure occurred on the hillside near the intersection of Haystack Road and Split Rock Road. Go to [myrosehill.com](http://myrosehill.com), click on Rose Hill Reserve and observe the picture from space of the entire project. Right below it is one taken at ground level showing the slope failure. This issue is of great concern because

of the unstable soil known as marine clay that covers the area. Basically, groundwater and the presence of springs in the area mixes with the clay and causes it to swell and shift. Without water, the clay shrinks and cracks or holes appear. Although the recent hole can be filled and the hillside replanted or sodded, what happens over the long term is of major importance. As of this writing, the developer, the County and RHCA are awaiting a study by a geotechnical engineer that hopefully will pinpoint the reason for the slide and corrective action. Although not an engineer, it will be tough to convince me that new ideas will work after a long history of witnessing triumphs by Mother Nature.

This issue is important to all homeowners in Rose Hill who live near potential new development. Many of us have learned over the years that marine clay is unrelenting when it decides to move and even the most advanced engineering techniques can be powerless in its path. We must keep this foremost in the minds of those who propose and regulate development.

## **Franconia History Day**

The ninth annual History Day sponsored by the Franconia Museum will take place on Saturday, November 6 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Franconia Volunteer Fire Department. Admission is FREE. Highlighting the program will be the release of Volume VI of the Museum's series of Franconia Remembers books. This one is about Air Force major Joe Davies, an American and hometown hero who was lost on a flight over Viet Nam in 1968 and never recovered. He grew up in Franconia, married his childhood sweetheart here, was a high school and college football star and fathered four sons before going off to war. His widow, the former Shirley Bunch, and at least one of his sons plan to be on hand November 6. Also attending are his sisters Cassie Davies Parker, Pat Davies Cummings and brother Tony Davies. There also will be numerous displays concerning Franconia's history as well as the presentation of the former bell clock at Franconia School for permanent display at the museum. In memory of Major Davies, the program will honor all veterans from Franconia who served in our Armed Forces. If you are a veteran, plan to attend and be recognized by a thankful community. Other books in the Franconia Remembers series, including Vol. V about Joe Alexander and Volume

IV about Rose Hill, also will be on sale. Come and browse through the displays, watch the videos and enjoy a lunch of hamburgers, hot dogs and soft drinks that will be on sale. The burgers are donated by Roy Rogers, the hot dogs by Dove Heating and Air Conditioning and the drinks and other items by various individuals. Therefore all proceeds go to the Franconia Museum.

(then Fairfax Pike) toward the First Battle of Bull Run in the summer of 1861? That Mosby's Rangers raided the original Rose Hill house in 1863 and captured the aide to President Lincoln's appointee as governor of Virginia. And that the aide's son was one of the raiders? If you would like to be a part of this unique program, volunteers are needed to help organize various events

## **Planning the FY 2012 Budget**

- Carl Sell

The County has begun the long process toward the Fiscal Year 2012 budget that takes effect next July 1. Expectations are that we will once again begin with a deficit, a wish list from County agencies and the school system and finally come up with a negotiated settlement. And the reality will be that the value of the real estate tax base probably will continue to decline. I will be involved in the process as part of a task force appointed by Supervisor McKay. Last year, some of our suggestions for budget reductions in light of shrinking revenues actually were adopted. I hope to coax the County and the schools into even more savings this year. Last year, the County budget decreased \$ 60.3 million over the previous year. The schools went down \$16.7 million. The percentage decrease for the County was 4.81 percent and the schools one (1) percent. School expenditures account for 53.5 percent of the total budget. We must find additional savings in the school budget without jeopardizing classroom instruction. Fairfax County depends largely on the residential real estate tax to produce revenue. We need to find other ways to balance the budget without raising taxes in a time of economic decline. Your suggestions are welcome and will be carried forth on behalf of RHCA. We have the unique opportunity to sit at the table as decisions are made.

## **Civil War Sesquicentennial**

The Franconia Museum and the Park Authority will sponsor a program commemorating Franconia's role in the Civil War as part of the sesquicentennial of the war beginning in 2011. The two-day event will take place in late spring next year at Lee District Park and will include presentations about Civil War Confederate raids in the area (including Rose Hill), Union encampments nearby, Black History, famous houses, farm life, food, music, etc. Did you know that Union Forces marched up Franconia Road

# Rose Hill Community Calendar

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## Around Rose Hill

- ★ **June 22, 6:00pm.** Neighborhood Fish Fry. 6414 and 6416 Rose Hill Drive. Come meet your neighbors!
- ★ **Every Wednesday and Saturday.** BINGO! Franconia Volunteer Fire Dept. Early Bird, 7pm. Regular sessions, 8pm.

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## John Marshall Library

6209 Rose Hill Dr., 703.971.0010. Call ahead to register for events. Hours: M, T, W – 10am-8pm; Th, F – 10am-6pm; Sat – 10am-5pm.

- ★ **Ongoing Event.** Personalized Computer Training. Basics for beginners: Internet and Microsoft Word. Call for appointment. Adults.
- ★ **October 25.** Halloween Lunch Bunch. 12:00 pm. Bring your lunch and join us for Halloween stories. Costumes encouraged. Birth - 5 years with adult. Call to register.
- ★ **November 8.** Book Bunch. 3:30 pm. Join us for a book discussion. Please call for title. Ages 7-8 with adult. Call to register.
- ★ **November 11.** Libraries are CLOSED for the Veterans Day holiday.
- ★ **November 13.** INOVA Healthsource Fight the Flu. 10:30 am. Shots \$30 or Medicare Part B. See [www.inova.org/flu](http://www.inova.org/flu) or call Inova for details 703.750.8818. Adults 18+.
- ★ **November 15.** Lunch Bunch. 12:00 pm. *Bring your lunch and join us for stories. Ages birth - 5 years with adult. Call to register.*
- ★ **November 16.** Native American Storyteller. 6:30 pm. Mama Mary Sunbeam, Native American Cherokee storyteller, will present an interactive program with drums, songs and storytelling. All ages. Call to register.
- ★ **November 17.** Fun for Twos & Threes. 10:30 am. *Stories and activities. Ages 2 - 3 with adult. Call to register.*
- ★ **November 18.** Book Discussion Group. 6:30 pm. *The Eyre Affair* by Jasper Fforde. Adults.

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## Thomas Edison High School

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



- ★ **November 1.** Student HOLIDAY.
- ★ **November 2.** Student HOLIDAY.

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## Mark Twain Middle School

4700 Franconia Rd., Alexandria, 22310; Office – 703.313.3700, Fax – 703.313. 3797



- ★ **October 25.** Hispanic Parent Outreach. 6:00-7:00 pm.
- ★ **October 25.** Fall Picture Retakes.
- ★ **October 28.** Edison Pyramid Choral Concert. 7:00-8:00 pm. Edison High School.
- ★ **November 1.** Student HOLIDAY.
- ★ **November 1.** Drama Booster's Night at Lucky's. 5:30-8:30 pm.
- ★ **November 2.** Student HOLIDAY.
- ★ **November 4.** Twain Night. 6:00-8:00 pm.
- ★ **November 10.** Report cards distributed.
- ★ **November 11.** PTA Meeting. 6:00 pm. MTMS Library.
- ★ **November 17.** Turkey Trot. 2:55-4:45 pm.

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## Rose Hill Elementary School

6301 Rose Hill Dr.,  
Phone: 703.313.4200  
Fax: 703.313.4297



- ★ **October 24-29.** Book Fair
- ★ **November 1.** Student HOLIDAY.
- ★ **November 2.** Student HOLIDAY.



# Rose Hill Business Directory

**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. A membership form for 2010 is included in this issue.**

## GRAPHIC DESIGN

**Fabrications – graphics and designs, LLC.** Websites, invitations, flyers, announcements, menus, business cards, brochures, newsletters, mailers, books, proposals, journals, and all your editing, printing, paper, and digital needs. Marty Williams, Desktop Specialist, has more than 13 years experience and can be reached at 703.910.6316, or [marty@fabrications.us](mailto:marty@fabrications.us). She is the former Editor of *The Rambler*.

**Digital Design.** Ron Dillon, 703.971.2125; [www.dgdesigns.com](http://www.dgdesigns.com). Webpages, registration, scanning services, hosting and custom graphic art work. Ron and Donna Dillon live on Winston Place.

## HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING

**Dove Heating and Air Conditioning.** We service and install heat pumps, air conditioners, furnaces, hot water heaters, and humidifiers. David and Linda Nichols, 703.971.8897. The Nichols have been in business for 24 years and have lived in Rose Hill for 34 years.

## REAL ESTATE

**Exit Metro Realty.** Angie Vereen, 571-233-6395, [angie@exitmetroliving.com](mailto:angie@exitmetroliving.com). Our extensive experience and expertise in the Alexandria, Lorton, and Vienna real estate market will benefit you whether you are looking to buy or sell a home in the area. Licensed in Virginia and Maryland.

## 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.

**Dans Lawn & Leaf.** Daniel and David Bishop, 703.719.7806. Fast, friendly, affordable service. Serving the Rose Hill community for 7 years.

**Freedom Lawn & Landscape.** Matt Downey, 571.218.2881, [freedomproviders@gmail.com](mailto:freedomproviders@gmail.com). Proud to provide our customers with high quality services at affordable prices. Family has lived in Rose Hill for nearly 50 years. Discount for RHCA members! Free estimates for all. You Deserve Freedom!

## HOUSE CLEANING

**Ingrid Hayslip.** 703.362.5672. A 14 year resident of the Rose Hill area, I clean houses including move-in and move-outs.

## 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 live on Hayfield Place.

**Free All Day Yoga Open House**



*Walk-ins Welcome*

**Saturday, March 13th**

- 9:00-9:15am\* - Beginner Yoga
- 10:15-11:00am\* - Yoga Flow
- 11:30am-12:15pm\* - Fiery Sun Stretch
- 1:00-1:45pm\* - Restorative Fitness Yoga (Gentle)
- 2:00-3:00pm - Yoga Reception

\* Please arrive 15 minutes before each class.



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Alexandria, VA 22315-5711



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# Rose Hill Business Directory

(continued)



**Steve Dougherty**  
Your Rose Hill Realtor  
703-746-8720

RE/MAX 100



[www.stevedougherty.com](http://www.stevedougherty.com)

## PET SITTING

Welcome Waggin' Professional Pet Sitting. Jonathan and Janelle Welch. 703.819.0809, [jlw@welcomewaggin.com](mailto:jlw@welcomewaggin.com). Serving the Alexandria area since 2000.

## DECK AND FENCE

B&B Deck and Fence. Cliff James, Owner. 6412 May Boulevard. Quality work, 25 years experience. Telephone: 703.719.7015/703.627.9935, Fax: 703.922.3779.

## QUILTS

Hand made quilts. Sally Dankers and her mother, Marjorie Parkyn, make quilts for sale. They are one of a kind and very beautiful. Call 703.971.8064 or e-mail [oraclemarjorie@aol.com](mailto:oraclemarjorie@aol.com).

## SPEECH-LANGUAGE THERAPY SERVICES

Speech Beginnings, PLC, a speech therapy private practice in Rose Hill, provides quality speech-language therapy services (evaluations/therapy/screenings) to children of all ages Preschool through 5th grades. Owned and operated by a licensed and certified speech-language pathologist with more than 19 years experience. Please visit our website at: [www.speechbeginnings.com](http://www.speechbeginnings.com). You can also contact us at 571.481.4344.

## WELLNESS

We're changing the shape of America one pound at a time. Weight management, targeted nutrition, energy & fitness, personal care, business opportunity. Contact Joanne Thompson, Independent Herbalife Distributor. [www.shape-up-usa.com](http://www.shape-up-usa.com), [www.wellness-usa-mall.com](http://www.wellness-usa-mall.com), [www.fortune-key.com](http://www.fortune-key.com).

## FIREWOOD

Cool weather has arrived! Time for a warm fire in your fireplace. Firewood available in 3x3x1.5 ft bundles, 2x4x8 ft half chords, and 2x8x8 ft. chords. Will deliver in the 22310 zip code or you can pick up locally. Please request prices for delivery outside the 22310 area. Pricing is as follows: (pickup / delivered and dumped) bundle \$60/75, half chord \$125/140, full chord \$200/230. Please call 703.509.8286 for more information.

## 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 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](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 [richtdowney@gmail.com](mailto:richtdowney@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 ads and sent to the P.O. Box.

—Richard Downey