

VANTAGE QUARTERLY

Budget Season Begins, County Sets Advertised Tax Rate

The County Executive released his proposed FY17 budget on Feb. 16. On March 1, the Board of Supervisors, in a bipartisan vote after much discussion and debate, agreed to advertise a tax rate of \$1.13, a 4-cent increase from the current rate of \$1.09 per \$100 of assessed value. The Board can now adopt a tax rate that is lower, but not higher, than that 4 cent rate.

An underperforming real estate market, uneven job growth, and high office vacancies meant the County needed to close an \$85 million shortfall this year. Schools also requested a transfer increase of over \$120 million. To do this, there were proposed cuts, reductions, and the possible 4-cent real estate tax increase.

My Board colleagues and I will now be crunching numbers and weighing needs to produce a balanced budget. It's another year of tough decisions – our needs surpass available revenue. State law limits our revenue sources, leaving property taxes as our main resource.

Continued...

Vantage on the Web

Come visit us at www.vantagehoa.org to find minutes from Board meetings and sample disclosure package materials. We also post pictures from community events. Learn about what's going on in our community, find out when the next yard sale will be, or send questions to the Board.

Vantage also has a presence on Facebook! Join your neighbors in liking Vantage at www.facebook.com/vantageresidents. It is intended as another way to share information: post about services sought or offered like babysitting or dog walking; ask how-to questions or respond with recommendations; notify neighbors of good or bad experiences with contractors; or alert neighbors to crime or suspicious activities.

The Rose Hill Players Present *What a Knight!*

Join Rose Hill Elementary School's Rose Hill players for *What a Knight!*, a hilarious musical adventure featuring a castle full of colorful characters, including precocious princesses, a talking dragon, and Merlin and his magic mirror. When young squire Watt Cobblers is expelled from Knight School, he reluctantly becomes Merlin's new apprentice. But trouble is never far away, and soon Camelot Castle collapses into chaos. Merlin has lost Excalibur, King Arthur's daughters have been kidnapped and his brave knights have turned into chickens. Watt and his new found friends Dusty Dragon and wayward Princess

Alice set off on the biggest quest of their lives. Can our unlikely heroes rescue the princesses, save Excalibur and defeat the evil Black Knight?

Please join us for performances at Thomas A. Edison High School (5801 Franconia Rd., Alexandria) on Friday, May 6th at 7pm and Saturday, May 7th at 1pm and 7pm.

Tickets will be available at the door (\$5 for adults, \$3 for children, \$1 for children at matinee). Concessions will be available.

Message from Supervisor McKay

We again are having a dialog with Richmond to increase education funding and to diversify our tax base.

Education is again a top priority. The advertised budget has an increase of over \$54 million already included for schools. We must balance the needs of our strong parks, libraries, public safety, and human services too. These are not stand-alone services and the success of our schools is linked to them.

There was some good news specifically for South County in the County Executive's proposal. Funds for the future use of Old Mount Vernon High School, as well as dollars towards the construction of a new police station in Lorton were included. A new station in South County will reduce response times countywide, especially in Mount Vernon and Lee Districts.

I want to hear about what's important to you. Please contact my office or sign up to speak at our public hearings on April 5, 6, and 7. We'll adopt the budget on April 26.

Vantage Spring Yard Sale!!

Saturday April 23

Rain Date April 24

Write In To The Vantage Quarterly!

Do you want to alert neighbors to an issue or concern that may affect them? Did you see interesting wildlife in the community? Is your child in a school play? Tell the community about it! If you have news you would like to share with the Vantage community, submit an article for a future issue to vantagevillager@yahoo.com. All submissions will be reviewed by the editors and published subject to space available and subject matter.

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Selling Your Home?

If you are planning to sell your home, you need to request a disclosure package from the Association. A written request should be mailed to the address below, including the current owners' names, street address of the property, street address to which the disclosure package should be mailed, and a check for \$50 payable to Vantage Homes Association. Please permit a minimum of two weeks to process your request.

Vantage Homes Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 6503

Alexandria, VA 22306-0503

Vantage Committees and Outreach

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Common Grounds & Environmental

Earl Hughes (earlhughes@verizon.net)

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Hal Allen (hallen4409@aol.com)

Lee District Land Use Advisory

Elizabeth Tsui (202-280-9936)

Vantage Website (www.vantagehoa.org)

Kalvin Miller (webmaster@vantagehoa.org)

Welcoming

Karen Purdham, Chair (703-768-5594)

Playground

Dave Balandrin (dave.balandrin@gmail.com)

Neighborhood Watch

[Vacant]

Yard Sale

[Vacant]

Adopt-A-Highway

Ed Boardman (703-768-1706)

Vantage Needs You!

Are you looking for a way to become more involved with your community? As you can see, Vantage has several vacancies for committees that are important to making our community a vibrant and welcoming place. Let one of the Directors know if you can help out!

The Vantage Quarterly is an independent publication for the enjoyment of current and prospective members of the Vantage Homeowners Association community. The Vantage Quarterly is not affiliated with the Vantage Homeowners Association or its Board, and any views expressed herein are solely those of the author(s).