

VANTAGE QUARTERLY

Community Meeting on Proposed Lee District Bicycle Improvements Set for Feb. 16

Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) will host a community meeting **Thursday, Feb. 16, 2017, 6:30-8:30 p.m.**, in the cafeteria of Groveton Elementary School, 6900 Harrison Lane, Alexandria. As part of the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) 2017 repaving program, bicycle infrastructure improvements are proposed for the following areas:

Harrison Lane from South Kings Highway to Lockheed Boulevard;

Memorial Street from South Kings Highway to Richmond Highway;

Bedrock Road from Harrison Lane to Green Spring Lane;

Vantage Drive from South Kings Highway to Bedrock Road; and

Rolling Stone Way from Bedrock Road to Vantage Drive.

To view a map of the proposed project areas, visit: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/bike/leedistrictbikelanes2017.htm>.

The proposed improvements are limited to changes that can be made with roadway striping as part of the repaving process. **Community members are invited to give feedback on traffic safety, bicycling and the pedestrian environment in the Lee District.**

For more information on the 2017 VDOT repaving program, go to: http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/northern_virginia/northern_virginia_paving_program.asp

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.

You can also keep up with your neighbors and neighborhood issues on the NextDoor app. If you would like to join the community there, drop the Board a line through the link below and we will send you an invitation!

<http://www.vantagehoa.org/contact>

Message from Supervisor McKay

One of the most important committees of the Board of Supervisors is Legislative Committee, which monitors proposed laws at the state and federal level and strategizes ways to minimize negative impacts and promote opportunity areas for the County.

As the committee's chairman, I've been working hard this year for several key legislative principles: protecting core service funding, preserving local government authority in areas such as taxation and public safety, as well as pushing for inclusion on all state commissions that may affect local revenue authority or governance.

As of this publication, 2,355 bills and resolutions have been introduced in the 2017 General Assembly, making us fortunate to be one of the only jurisdictions to have a Legislative team that reviews all of the bills with potential to affect the County.

One of this session's key focuses will be amending the 2016-2018 budget. We are advocating for a restoration of the original VRS payment and Cost of Competing funding in order to better aid FCPS. This change alone could benefit schools by almost \$20 million.

Additionally, I look forward to helping the passage of bills in the General Assembly, particularly a series of bills addressing the opioid public health crisis and transportation bills that would authorize Virginia to become a signatory to the Washington Metrorail Safety Commission to provide better oversight and accountability over Metro.

I also am working actively to stop a wide variety of newly introduced bills that would hurt Fairfax County and Lee District, particularly a number that are unfunded mandates on localities, would reduce County revenue sources, and restrict the County's land use authority.

At the County level, the Board of Supervisors is currently working on a bill to allow localities in Northern Virginia to require a public hearing before a Planning Commission to determine whether a telecommunications tower or electric cooperative facility conforms to a locality's comprehensive plan. This is an issue local government should decide with public input.

It's certainly been a busy start to 2017.

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.

Vantage HOA Dues Increase For 2017

The Vantage HOA Board of directors voted to increase association dues by \$5 starting in 2017. This means that association dues will now be \$65 per year for each home (\$89 for homeowners on private streets including private street fund contributions at current level).

The Vantage HOA Board has kept dues stable at \$60 annually for over 15 years. Over the years, the cost of maintaining common grounds and structures has increased. Moreover, the Vantage HOA Board anticipates the need for material expenditures on playground maintenance such as repair to the basketball court. In

order to keep up with rising costs and plan for future expenditures on maintaining and improving common areas, the Vantage HOA Board unanimously voted for the small increase to annual dues. Even with the small increase the association dues are some of the lowest in the area.

The Vantage HOA Board looks forward to continuing its efforts to maintain the beauty of our community. If you have any questions please reach out to a board member (contact information appears on the last page of this newsletter),

Vandalism in Vantage

Recently there have been many reports of vandalism and car break-ins on Vantage. No one likes to see this kind of criminal activity in our neighborhood. According to the Mount Vernon District Police, property theft is the most prevalent crime reported in Fairfax County. There are a few simple measures you can take to reduce the risk that your property will be stolen. If we all take these steps, we can reduce criminals' opportunity and desire to operate in our neighborhood.

Opportunity Reduction. Make a habit of locking your doors, both to your car and your home. Take all valuable items with you when you leave your vehicle, or at least store them out of sight in a locked trunk. These simple measures reduce the opportunity and temptation for thieves. Routinely leaving doors unlocked with valuables in plain view entices criminals into our neighborhood. This hurts everyone in the community, so please take the time to lock up.

Keep An Inventory. According to the Mount Vernon District Police, most property that is routinely targeted by thieves comes with a unique serial number to distinguish it from identical items. These include electronic devices, power tools, firearms, cameras, bicycles and musical instruments. Unfortunately, in most cases, theft victims

are unable to provide police with the serial numbers from their stolen property.

Keep an inventory of valuable property in a spreadsheet. For each item, record a description, purchase price and estimated current value, serial number if it has one, and a space for a link to a photograph of the item (extremely important for non-numbered items like jewelry). Make copies of this list and keep them in secure locations, like a fire safe, a safety deposit box or with a family member who lives at a different residence. This inventory allows the police to enter the stolen item into the National Crime Information Center immediately as stolen property. All pawned items must be checked against the NCIC database when someone attempts to sell or pawn an item in a licensed pawn establishment. Inclusion of the item in the NCIC database will alert an official when the item is checked in the database. Also, if stolen property is recovered by police from criminal suspects, the police will check the NCIC database and if a record is located the property may be returned. The Mount Vernon Station Crime Prevention Office has a sample Home Inventory/Property Protection spreadsheet. To access it or ask any questions of the Mount Vernon District Police, contact MPO Greg Kottemann – 703-360-8928 or gkotte@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Vantage Board of Directors

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Amanda Linares, Director

E-mail: alklinares@gmail.com

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E-mail: nstephaniespika@gmail.com

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

Architectural Control

Amanda Linares (alklinares@gmail.com)

Common Grounds & Environmental

Earl Hughes (earlhughes@verizon.net)

Private Streets

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).