

THE VILLAGER

Message from Supervisor McKay:

It was a Good Year for Lee District!

Lee District is where it's happening! From the Springfield Town Center to Wegmans, turf fields, parks, and major transportation projects, we made a lot of progress in 2014.

Springfield Town Center

Last year was the year of the town center—Springfield Town Center! The former Springfield Mall opened its doors on October 17 and shoppers and diners have been flocking there ever since. We've had many new openings at the town center in recent weeks and that trend that will continue into this year. Nordstrom Rack, Wood Ranch BBQ and Grill, and Dave & Busters are just a few of the restaurants and stores expected to open in 2015.

Jeff Todd Way

Last summer, we opened Jeff Todd Way, connecting Telegraph Road near Hayfield Secondary School to Route One near Fort Belvoir. Besides serving as an east/west link, the project included widening and improvements for parts of Route One and Telegraph Road, as well as bike and pedestrian amenities.

February 2015

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To see the color version of the Villager, please visit www.vantagehoa.org.



Intersection of Van Dorn Street, Telegraph Road, South Kings Highway

Work on one of our worst transportation bottlenecks—the Van Dorn Street/Telegraph Road/South Kings Highway intersection is almost complete. Two travel lanes in each direction recently opened and the newly widened intersection will help drivers using Telegraph Road reach I-495 via South Van Dorn Street and alleviate the bottleneck east of the intersection before it splits to Telegraph Road and South Kings Highway. I pushed for the County to fund this project because there was no state road money available and we could not wait any longer, and I am very pleased to see the considerable improvements already taking place in that area.

The Future of Route One

Enhanced transit on Route One is progressing with the state's Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) transit alternatives study. The study recommends bus rapid transit (BRT) lanes to Prince William County in the short term and long term, a possible extension of Metro's Yellow Line to Hybla Valley.

Transportation Bond

The \$100 million transportation bond referendum that voters approved on Election Day will help get more turn lanes, traffic signals,

directional signage, and most importantly, missing sidewalks, bike lanes, and trails. These improve neighborhood safety, access to community facilities like schools and transit, and link neighborhoods. And, they relieve traffic congestion.

Huntley Meadows Park

The recent restoration of Huntley Meadows Park has been named the best new restoration of a Virginia park by the Virginia Recreation and Park Society. The project was much needed, as Huntley Meadows Park's wetlands had been slowly filling in with silt and debris, reducing water depth and wildlife habitat. The restoration included an earthen berm to hold back water, expansion of the wetlands into the adjacent forest, five deeper habitat pools, and the addition of numerous brush shelters and logs to serve as wildlife habitats. The wetlands have now been restored to their 1980s condition and are healthier than they've been in two decades.

Turf Fields

Other highlights of 2014 include turf fields for Edison High School (funded by proffer money that I procured) as well as new turf fields at Mount Vernon and West Potomac High Schools.

Thanks to a Jennings Toyota proffer, we also now have a public use turf field at Loisdale Park in Springfield.

Park Planning and Restorations

The stream restoration project at the Banks family house was completed in the fall. As part of the project, hundreds of native trees and shrubs are being planted. The Park Authority began work on a much needed-rehabilitation of Brookfield Park in Springfield.

There's no doubt it's been a good Lee District year, and we already have our eyes on a few big projects that will help shape our 2015 as well:

FBI Relocation

The General Services Administration warehouse in Springfield was named as one of only three finalists to house the future FBI headquarters. The GSA is continuing to conduct its transportation and environmental analyses on each site and we hope to have a decision late this year.

Wegmans

Another important retail addition, Wegmans, is on track to open this spring. The store, located at the corner of Beulah Street and Telegraph Road, will be surrounded by dozens of other restaurants and businesses that will open around the same time.



Write for The Villager!!

Have you gone on an interesting trip lately? Do you want to alert neighbors to an issue or concern that may affect them? 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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Find Vantage on the Web!

Did you know that the Vantage community has a website? Come visit us at www.vantagehoa.org. In addition to providing minutes from Board meetings and sample disclosure package materials, the website sports a discussion forum and a calendar of upcoming events in the community. 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 post questions or comments for neighbors to answer and discuss. You can also download the latest issue of *The Villager* in full color!

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.

Community Calendar

- February 14 – Valentine’s Day
- February 16 – Presidents’ Day
- February 17 – Mardi Gras
- February 19 – Chinese New Year
- March 8 – Day Light Savings Time (clocks forward 1 hour)
- March 17 – St. Patrick’s Day
- April 5 – Easter Sunday
- April 15 – Tax Day
- April 22 – Earth Day

THE LAUGH BOX

- Q. Why can't you iron a four-leaf clover?
A. Because you shouldn't press your luck!
- Q. Why did the monkey like the banana?
A. Because it had appeal.
- Q. Why did the clown wear loud socks?
A. So his feet wouldn't fall asleep.

www.greatcleanjokes.com

Poetry Corner

For Black Women Who Are Afraid

By Toi Derricotte

A black woman comes up to me at break in the writing workshop and reads me her poem, but she says she can't read it out loud because there's a woman in a car on her way to work and her hair is blowing in the breeze and, since her hair is blowing, the woman must be white, and she shouldn't write about a white woman whose hair is blowing, because maybe the black poets will think she wants to be that woman and be mad at her and say she hates herself, and maybe they won't let her explain that she grew up in a white neighborhood and it's not her fault, it's just what she sees. But she has to be so careful. I tell her to write the poem about being afraid to write, and we stand for a long time like that, respecting each other's silence.

Community Contact Information

Board of Directors

Hal Allen, President

E-mail: hallen4409@aol.com

Earl Hughes, Vice President

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Jane Rueger, Secretary

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Tony O'Connor, Director

E-mail: tonyoconnor1234@aol.com

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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

Committees and Outreach

Architectural Control

Earl Hughes (earlhughes@verizon.net)

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 Board of Directors know if you can help out!