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# VANTAGEQUARTERLY

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In This  
Issue:

Huntley  
Meadows  
Project

Annual  
Picnic  
Details

Ideas for  
the Giving  
Season

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## Welcome to Your Vantage Quarterly Newsletter

We hope you find the information throughout useful and informative. If you ever have an idea for an article, or any feedback you'd like to share, please contact the editor at:

[newsletter@vantagehoa.org](mailto:newsletter@vantagehoa.org)

All submissions will be reviewed by the editor and published subject to space available and relevant subject matter.

## Vantage Online

Visit us at [vantagehoa.org](http://vantagehoa.org) to find minutes from Board meetings, view sample disclosure package materials, and learn about what's going on in our community. You can also send questions to the Board.

## Vantage on Facebook

Join us on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/VantageHOA/>

## Newsletter to Community Neighboring the Barnyard Creek @ Huntley Meadows Project

Eric Caldwell

Hello, my name is Eric Caldwell and I am a Project Manager with the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services Stormwater Planning Division (SWPD). Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) owns and manages the large parcel of land known as Huntley Meadows Park that neighbors your Vantage Homes Association community. Walking the tributary of Barnyard Creek here (originating approximately near the southern end of Vantage Drive on FCPA property), it's easy to see stream bank erosion and an incising stream (a stream channel digging itself deeper within its channel). The resulting erosion transports sediment and associated nutrients downstream as contaminants to the Huntley Meadows Central Wetland, and eventually to the Chesapeake Bay. As Barnyard Run loses connection with the floodplain and the water table lowers, the ecosystem begins to degrade. Riparian areas in ecological transition like this one are often open to the introduction of non-native invasive plant species, which accelerates ecological degradation.

A project here may provide downstream protection as well as offer an opportunity to limit degradation within the site.

We work in close consultation with our ecologists and engineers to select only projects that provide contaminant reductions in areas that would only benefit from potential ecological uplift. SWPD and FCPA staff are partnering on the Barnyard Run @ Huntley Meadows Park project to protect the central wetland, a nationally recognized habitat area that was restored in 2014.

FCPA and SWPD staff are in the early stages of project design, considering the extent of benefits and impact that a stream restoration project may bring. The scope of the project currently only includes the FCPA property in Huntley Meadows Park. I was recently approached by community neighbors, asking about the removal of the 'concrete swale' located on property owned by the Vantage Homes Association. I can assure you that no work in this area would take place without close coordination with the landowner. The 'concrete swale' has come up in discussions but only from gathering information to better characterize this site and examine impacting factors within the watershed. It would be premature to consider extending the scope of work at this time to include work outside of FCPA property. However, we are continuing to gather

information to better inform potential future decisions.

The long term success of any public project requires establishing a partnership with the community. We will work to keep you updated and include your community as we work to identify mutually beneficial goals and limit inconveniences.

Editor's Note: Project documents are available to view here:

<https://vantagehoa.org/cloud/s/XoBoCBBT3S8B5sr>

You can contact Mr. Caldwell if you have any questions or comments about the project:

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## Join Us for the Annual Vantage Community Picnic!

**When:** Saturday, September 9, 2023  
11am-2:30pm

**Where:** The Vantage Swirly Slide Park

Join your friends and neighbors for this year's community picnic sponsored by the Vantage Homeowners Association!

There will be bouncy houses, face painting and other fun things for kids at the park. We will also have burgers, hot dogs, drinks and more for all to enjoy. Don't miss it – we have a blast every year!

## Spreading Joy: Ways You Can Help this Upcoming Giving Season

It may still be hot out, but the cooler weather is fast approaching. With the cooler weather comes the giving season. While the giving season usually revolves around gifts and celebrations, it's also a time you can extend a helping hand to others. And while fall has only just started, it's never too early to start thinking about ways you can make a difference during the holidays—and maybe beyond! Here's a few ways you can help:

1. **Donate to a local food bank:** consider taking advantage of the “buy one, get one free” deals at local supermarkets and send a bag to the food bank when you have collected enough. Perhaps you have a surplus of pantry items and can donate a few. Or maybe organize a food drive. Whatever way you choose to donate, your contributions can go a long way helping others.

2. **Volunteer:** volunteering time and skills is just as impactful as donating items to a charity. A simple search can usually yield a list of places that may need help during the holiday season. Whether serving meals, tutoring, or spending time with animals, your time is a valuable gift.
3. **Spread kindness:** Sometimes, small acts of kindness can have a big impact. Pay for a stranger's coffee, visit an elderly neighbor, or leave kind notes for delivery workers. These gestures can mean the world to someone and create a ripple effect of goodwill.
4. **Support local businesses:** Shop for gifts at local boutiques, eat at mom and pop restaurants and coffee shops, and patronize local farmers markets. Your support helps unique, vital community establishments thrive.
5. **Clean out and donate:** Get your Marie Kondo on and declutter your home of anything that doesn't "spark joy." Donate gently used clothing, toys, and household items to local thrift stores or shelters. Your unwanted items can find a new, sustainable life and help spark joy in others.
6. **Donate to the local chapter of the Diaper Bank:** Look for the blue diaper bank drop spot signs in front yards and drop any donations of diapers, wipes, and other baby products. The diaper bank ambassador will make sure they get to the donation warehouse.

Whether you decide to donate, volunteer, or simply spread kindness, every act of generosity counts. Together, we can make a meaningful impact.