

Rose Hill Rambler

December 2021

Brought to you by the Rose Hill Civic Association

A Day To Remember Veterans



A Never Forget Garden commemorating the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was part of a home renovation project orchestrated by Operation Renewed Home Foundation, a non-profit organization that provides help to veterans experiencing homelessness. See stories on page 2 and 3.

Holiday Greetings

Wreaths add a touch of color and whimsy to homes for the holidays.



If there is something you would like to see in The Rambler, contact me at idmbearth@aol.com or call 703-971-4357. — **Daniel Bearth**

Join, Donate to RHCA Online Again!

Our PayPal account has been re-activated and you can once again join and donate to RHCA online. Just go to myrosehill.com and click on the PayPal button at the bottom of the opening page. Don't forget you can add a donation in addition to the membership to help us fund various community activities mentioned below.

Of course, you can also clip the membership form in this newsletter and send it with your check to RHCA, Box 10891, Alexandria, Va. 22310. Memberships received after Dec. 1 will be credited for 2022. Check the final 2021 membership list in this edition of the Rambler.

Although it remains a fact that the overwhelming majority of homeowners are not members or contributors to RHCA, our short-term fi-

nancial concerns were alleviated by the addition of new members and their donations during the last several months. Ironically, many think they are members, especially when they elicit RHCA's help with a neighborhood issue. The more members we have, the easier it will be to get the County's attention with police, zoning and health issues.

The generosity of members allows RHCA to support local charities such as Koinonia, the Edison All-Night Graduation party and the dinners and breakfasts for police officers who must work on holidays. During the pandemic, we were able to double our contribution to the less fortunate in our area.

(Continued on page 6)

Rose Hill Loses Two 'Originals'

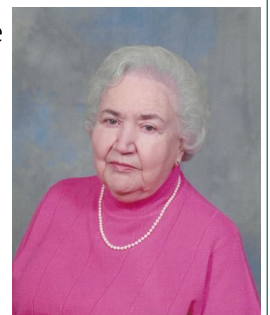
Two of Rose Hill's original residents passed away in October. Their names are included on the marker attached to a sign on Rose Hill Drive in front of

John Marshall Library. Their obituaries are included in this edition of the

Rambler (see p. 4-5). Connie Beatty, who was among the first residents here in 1954, was profiled in the May 2021 Rambler. Millie and her husband, Tony, were longtime community activists in Franconia.



Connie Beatty



Millie Lane

Marine Veteran, Wife and Family Move Into Refurbished Home

With a lone Eagle circling overhead, a large crowd gathered outside a house on Willowood Drive at 11 a.m. on Nov. 11 to welcome a U.S. Marine Corps Veteran, his wife and their two children, to their new home. The ceremony marked the completion of a year-long project by the non-profit Operation Renewed Hope Foundation to provide housing for Veterans experiencing homelessness in the Washington, D.C. area.

More than two dozen volunteers and local business owners contributed time and materials to completely refurbish the house, adding an outdoor patio and shed, a concrete driveway and landscaping that included a pergola and Never Forget Garden created by Suzy and Michael Muligan. Michael is the owner of Big Dog Builders. Social4Good, a group of local women who volunteer to support different projects each month, donated flags and flowers for the planters in the yard along with bedding for the home.

ORHF owns several houses in Rose Hill and has aided approximately 1,100 Veterans since the organization was established in 2011 by Deborah Snyder and her husband Donald, both of whom served as helicopter pilots in the military.



A Marine Veteran and his wife, in center of photo, cut the ribbon at their new home on Willowood Dr. At far left is Ryan Legge of Big Bear.ai and Faith Boettger, founder of Social4Good. (Photo: Daniel Bearth)

A Day To Remember: Rose Hill Honors Veterans With Sign Displays

Each year on Nov. 11 the Rose Hill Civic Association honors Veterans past and present with a panoramic sign display across from Rose Hill Elementary School. RHCA President Carl Sell and neighbors Robbie

Thomson and Janice McHale, at left, set up signs with names of 76 Veterans from all branches of the military. At right, Robin Dodson used a sign board in front of her home on Wayside Place to pay tribute to family and friends who served in the U.S. Armed Forces. (Photos: Daniel Bearth)



Edwin Dasso: Physician, Author and Shed Builder

By Daniel Bearth

Long before Edwin Dasso became an accomplished physician and successful author of medical mystery novels, he learned how to build things.

“My father was a general contractor. I was pounding nails before I could ride a bike,” Dasso says. “It was a trade I put to good use, putting myself through college and med school.”

It also contributed to Ed’s decision to drive from his home in Minnesota to Rose Hill in October to build a shed at a house on Willowood Drive. The house was acquired in 2019 by the non-profit Operation Renewed Hope Foundation and is one of several in the area that provide housing for Veterans experiencing homelessness.

Ed’s father, Leo, was one of eight Dasso siblings from Iowa and Illinois that served in either World War II or Korea, so the issue of homelessness among Veterans was one that Dasso says “bothers me greatly.” As a doctor, Ed specialized in emergency care and post-traumatic stress disorder is a common theme in his books.

Since launching his literary career in 2012, Ed has written 14 e-books and has sold between 120,000 and 140,000 copies online. Moreover, he has committed to donating all of the proceeds from book sales to ORHF and shelters for battered women. He is currently working to develop a TV series, Jack Bass, MD, based on the central character in his stories.



Edwin Dasso takes a break during construction of a shed at a home on Willowood Drive for Veterans experiencing homelessness. Dasso drove from his home in Minnesota and spent four days building a shed with materials donated by local businesses. (Photos: Edwin Dasso and Daniel Bearth)



Building a shed starts with a concrete pad, followed by walls, a roof, siding, windows, door and ramp.

Millie Lane, a Rose Hill Original, Left Her Mark on Rose Hill

Tony Lane was a member of the Army Signal Corps working at the White House in the latter part of 1950. The Korean War broke out in June when the North Koreans attacked South Korea across the 38th Parallel. Shortly thereafter, Tony was on a ship bound for Korea when he was called back and assigned to White House Communications.

So, instead of being in Korea assisting battlefield communications, he was at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue helping make sure President Harry Truman got the latest information on fighting on the other side of the world. There wasn't much time for relaxing, but Tony liked to attend USO dances on Fifteenth Street, just across from the White House.

There he met a young lady, got her phone number, and promised to call.

Mildred McDougal had come to Washington from Tennessee to work as a secretary for the Navy as part of the growing Federal government. She didn't like to dance, so she hadn't met Tony at the USO. However, her roommate had and gave the young serviceman her number.

The roommate was out when Tony called, and Millie answered the phone. He asked Millie for a date, she accepted, and the rest is history, so to speak. They were married less than a year later on June 16, 1951. The young couple lived in apartments in Washington and Arlington for the next few years. Millie continued to work and, after he left the military, Tony entered George Washington University on the GI Bill.



Tony and Millie Lane were active in civic affairs and lived in a house on the site of the original Rose Hill Manor home. (Photos courtesy Lane Family)

Millie passed away at age 89 on October 11, 2021. Tony died on December 18, 1995. He was 65. Millie was buried next to Tony at Mount Comfort Cemetery in Groveton. They are survived by daughter Cathy Lane of North Carolina and were predeceased by a son, Anthony Lane, Jr. Cathy attended Mark Twain and Edison High School. Tony, Jr., attended Edison High School.

The young couple bought their first house on Treetop Lane in Rose Hill in 1957, just a few years after the new community began. They moved around the corner to May Boulevard in 1967 when more, and larger, homes were built. The current Lane home sits on the site of the original Rose Hill manor house that dates back to pre-revolutionary war days.

Its first owner, Daniel French, started the construction of Pohick Church and the Rose Hill house was the site of a famous 1863 Civil War raid in which Confederate John Singleton Mosby captured Daniel Dulany, the aide to the erstwhile governor of Virginia appointed by President Abraham Lincoln.

One of Mosby's men was French Dulany, the son of the owner.

The Lanes became involved in civic affairs through the Rose Hill Civic Association and Fairfax County politics through Joe Alexander, a young member of the County Board of Supervisors in the 1960s. Alexander appointed Tony to the Planning Commission and later the School Board. He served 24 years on the School Board, including a stint as chairman.

Tony worked for the Army after receiving his law degree from George Washington University. Later he worked at the United States Patent Office and in private practice. Millie continued to work for the Navy until Anthony, Jr., was born. She reentered the work force in 1980s. The Lanes also bought a vacation home in Cape Hatteras, N.C., where Millie spent summers until recently.

The Fairfax County School Board named a new elementary school located on Beulah Street after Tony, just before it opened in 1995. In the photo above, he is seen visiting school staff and youngsters in the classroom.



Millie enjoyed a circle of nearby friends, including Tom and Wanda Violette next door and Joe and Davie Alexander, who moved from Rose Hill to nearby Sunny Ridge Estates. Millie continued as a member of a bridge club, which included Davie, until recently. — *Carl Sell*

Connie Beatty Leaves Behind Memories of Love and Laughter

With apologies to the author and singers Jimmie Davis and Gene Autry, and Pastor Charlie Woods, who sang the song at her funeral on October 25, 2021, at Franconia Baptist Church, The Rambler is reminded of “You Are My Sunshine,” when thinking about Ruth (Connie) Beatty.

Our neighbor who had lived in Rose Hill the longest passed away on Oct. 21, just shy of her 97th birthday. She had lived in her “snug little rambler” on Rose Hill Drive since December of 1954. She was the subject of a long story in the May 2021 edition of The Rose Hill Rambler. *It can be accessed at myrosehill.com and clicking on the Rambler archive.*

Mrs. Beatty saw tragedy in her time in Rose Hill, losing her husband and both children. In recent years, one would never have guessed as she shielded herself and those around her from grief with a rosy, positive outlook that was infectious. She was the life of every RHCA meeting and gathering.

She is survived by granddaughter Amy Lee Dickerson Barrett and her husband, John, and two great granddaughters, Alexis Caroline Reed and Aubriana Corinne Barrett and her son-in-law Robert William Dickerson. She was preceded in death by her husband, Frank, and their two children, Gary Beatty and Bonnie Beatty Dickerson. Mrs. Beatty also is survived by a host of nieces, nephews and friends.

Bonnie was among the first students at Rose Hill Elementary, having transferred from Clermont because there wasn't a school here when the Beatty's moved to Rose Hill. She and brother Gary attended Rose Hill, Mark Twain Intermediate and Edison High School.

Connie Beatty will be remembered by everyone she met. She made visitors and neighbors feel happy and accepted. She knew the route to everyone's happiness was through their stomach, so she provided delicious brownies at meetings and picnics. The plate of brownies were usually the first to be emptied, even



Connie Beatty talks with RHCA President Carl Sell at her home earlier this year. (Photos: Daniel Bearth)

before the main courses (the president and David Nichols plead guilty for snitching several each).

Connie came here when Rose Hill Drive was a dirt road, and the only phone was in a phone booth on land where the shopping center now stands. Her husband, Frank, would go there to call Connie to see what time she got off work at the Post Office in Alexandria so he could pick her up. Her shift usually ended at midnight, but there

sometimes was overtime.

She was an ardent Redskins' fan (never mind about the name change) and spent most Monday nights with David and Linda Nichols critiquing the performances of her gridiron heroes. Connie and Dave also attended the Washington Nationals' fourth game of the World Series in 2019. Although it was a loss, the Nationals eventually won the Series, with Mrs. Beatty watching and cheering from home.

Another of Connie's claims to fame was her driving skill, especially backing her red Toyota into a one-car garage that once served as a spare bedroom. Homes in Rose Hill were built to accommodate cars of an earlier vintage, so it isn't as easy as one might think. Connie had no trouble, as evidenced by this picture of her getting ready to back into her garage from the May 2021 Rambler profile.



The Beatty's rambler cost \$13,500 in 1954. Connie and Frank agonized about how they were going to pay for it. Today, Rose Hill ramblers are approaching a half-million dollars. However, the increase can't begin to touch the joy the house brought Connie Beatty. And the joy she shared with the community is worth far more. – Carl Sell

New Members, Donations Help Pay for The Rambler and Community Activities

(Continued from page one)

Additionally, RHCA pays for the plantings at the entrance sign three times a year. Our excellent newsletter, the Rambler, goes to everyone in Rose Hill because we believe all need to be informed, not just our members. Increased costs have made the Rambler an expensive endeavor, particularly now that we include Sunny Ridge Estates in our circulation area. Fortunately, some of those residents are now

becoming members and have generously donated to help cover the cost of publishing.

RHCA is a volunteer organization. This Rambler was delivered by a volunteer in your neighborhood. Our only costs are for printing, donations to worthy organizations, payment for the entrance plantings, the cost of snacks at meetings and gatherings and any materials that are needed to conduct business. The operators of our web

site, electronic messages and Facebook pages are volunteers.

We invite you to become involved. We are looking for a secretary and someone to sell advertising for the Rambler. We want to recover some of our printing costs through advertising. Our rates will go up after the first of the year, but it's still a very effective way to reach local residents. – **Carl Sell**

Rambler Advertising Rates To Increase January 1, 2022

Because of added costs, the price of advertising in the Rambler will increase beginning with the first quarter 2022 issue. A full page will cost \$125, a half page \$65, a quarter page \$40 and an eighth page \$20.

The number of pages in the Rambler will be directly related to the cost of printing. At present, the Rambler costs almost \$1,000 for 900 copies, enough to cover Rose Hill and Sunny Ridge Estates. Our goal is to recover half of the cost through advertising.

With that in mind, we are looking for someone who will volunteer to contact area businesses and individuals who would like to advertise in the Rambler. It would involve selling, collecting and billing the product. And since the Rambler is posted on our website, www.myRoseHill.com, potential advertisers will get the benefit of both print and online distribution.



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Join the Volunteers at Lee District RECenter

It's hard to believe that nearly a year ago Lee District RECenter began to welcome back our volunteers after a brief pause due to COVID restrictions.

Summer 2021 offered many outdoor volunteer opportunities, such as helping weed and beautify Our Special Harbor Spray Park, operating the carousel and staffing our outdoor summer concert series.

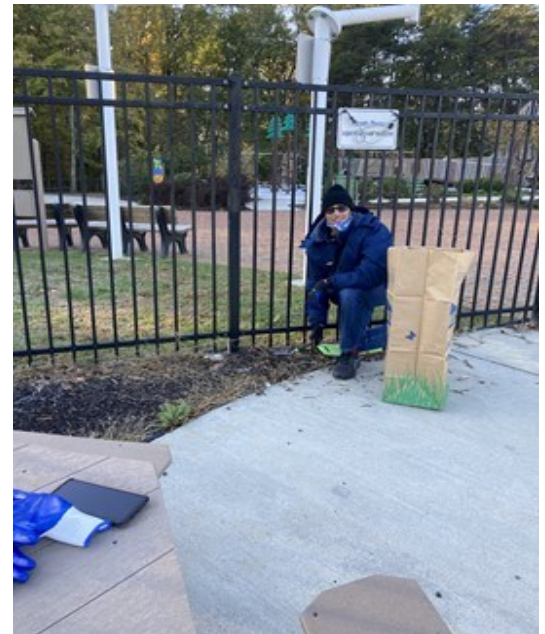


Long-time volunteers Janet and Rodney Smith work to motivate visitors in the fitness center.

"We knew that some volunteers might be hesitant to work indoors, and we wanted to offer plenty of options," says Joe Blackwell, assistant volunteer coordinator for Lee District RECenter.

Fall offered opportunities for teenagers looking to fulfill volunteer requirements for high school by working in a variety of tasks, including customer service, office projects and grounds beautification.

"Our volunteers have a variety of reasons why they choose to spend their time at Lee District and we found flexibility is key," says Julie Margolis, volunteer coordinator for Lee District RECenter.



Mark Wilson, a student at Mt. Vernon H.S., is seen helping to winterize Our Special Harbor Spray Park. (Photos: Julie Margolis)



Civil Air Patrol Challenger 1 Squadron members take command of a property cleanup project.

As we welcome 2022, we are excited to bring on more volunteers and to utilize their special talents. Do you love to write or work in graphic design? The RECenter is always in need of creating new flyers and posters. Do you love to get your hands dirty in the garden? We would love your support maintaining flower beds or helping to prune and beautify running and walking trails on the property. Do you play an instrument? Share your talent and play in the Lee RECenter lobby.

Have an interest or gift we have not mentioned? Let us know and we will help you find an opportunity to volunteer. The possibilities are endless!

We can't wait to see what the New Year brings for our Lee District Volunteers. If you have any questions about the volunteer program at Lee District RECenter, please contact Julie Margolis at Julie.Margolis@fairfaxcounty.gov.



VDOT Agrees To Prohibit Parking By Shopping Center

Truck drivers who park their rigs on Rose Hill Drive next to Rose Hill Plaza create a safety hazard by making it hard to see oncoming traffic. Now, as a result of a request from the Rose Hill Civic Association, the Virginia Department of Transportation has agreed to eliminate parking along the street in front of the shopping center. No Parking signs have been ordered and should be installed in a few weeks, according to RHCA President Carl Sell, who requested the change on behalf of concerned residents. (Photo: Daniel Bearth)



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Little Free Food Pantry Provides A Way to Help Neighbors in Need

Alongside a sidewalk in front of the parking lot at Rose Hill Elementary School is a brightly painted wooden box containing non-perishable food items that anyone can take, while also providing a place for food donations.

The Little Free Food Pantry is the brainchild of Sterling and Amber Marchand of Alexandria, who with their four children started a food drive in June 2020 to help local families affected by pandemic-related lockdowns and job losses. There are now 22 pantries in the region.

Kate Pennington, who works as a family liaison at Rose Hill Elementary and Stratford Landing Elementary in the Fort Hunt area of Fairfax County, heard about the Marchands' Be the Good Project and offered to place a pantry at each of the schools. Kara Anderson, a retired teacher,



and her husband Dave donated \$350 to have the pantry built and installed in Rose Hill. Volunteers monitor and stock the pantry weekly.

Pennington said having 24/7 access to food "respects people's dignity" and can provide a valuable supplement to school lunches for families when school is not in session. "It doesn't solve every problem," she notes, "but it's one more branch in the tree of support."

Since the summer of 2020, Be the Good Project volunteers have donated nearly 60,000 pounds of food, \$24,000 in grocery gift cards and

1,500 hot meals, along with weekly deliveries of sandwiches for the homeless in Washington, D.C. For information on volunteer opportunities and donations, contact www.bethegoodproject.org. — *Daniel Bearth*

Homes For Sale (November 2021)

Status	Address	Bedrooms	Price	Finished Sq. Ft.	Subdivision
ACTIVE	5012 Treetop Lane	3	\$515,000	1,496	Rose Hill Farm
PENDING	6105 Craft Road	3	\$515,000	1,590	Sunny Ridge Estates
PENDING	4800 Flower Lane	3	\$535,000	1,352	Rose Hill Farm
PENDING	4602 Apple Tree Drive	4	\$629,000	1,222	Rose Hill Manor
CLOSED	6433 Carriage Drive	5	\$689,950	3,844	Rose Hill Park
CLOSED	6111 Clovergrass Drive	5	\$520,000	2,132	Rose Hill Farm
CLOSED	6110 Fairfield Place	3	\$500,000	2,184	Rose Hill Farm
CLOSED	6103 Craft Road	4	\$565,000	2,090	Sunny Ridge Estates
CLOSED	6128 Squire Lane	3	\$550,000	1,660	Sunny Ridge Estates
CLOSED	6505 Carriage Drive	4	\$550,000	1,107	Rose Hill Park
CLOSED	4704 Split Rock Road	4	\$530,000	1,813	Rose Hill Park
CLOSED	6513 Carriage Drive	4	\$535,000	1,107	Rose Hill Park
CLOSED	4511 Tipton Lane	3	\$630,000	2,018	Sunny Ridge Estates

Homes For Rent (November 2021)

RENTED	4429 Roundhill Road	4	\$2,850/mo.	1,600	Rose Hill Farm
RENTED	6516 Telegraph Road	4	\$2,800/mo.	2,226	Rose Hill Farm

Source: Tom & Cindy and Associates



Want to advertise in the Rose Hill Rambler?

Listing in the business directory is free to RHCA residents who are members and own their own business, but placing an actual ad is open to all with rates per month as listed.

Business card: 3 ½" x 2", \$20

Quarter page: 3 ½" x 4 ¾", \$40

Half page: 7 ½" x 4 ¾", \$65

Full page: 7 ½" x 9 ¾", \$125

Ads may be bought quarterly or yearly. Our newsletter is published 4 times a year.

Advertising in The Rambler is an excellent way to reach the 900+ homes in our community. In addition, the ads are placed on our website, www.myRoseHill.com, for the world to see.

Anyone interested in placing an ad can send it via email to Daniel Bearth at idmbearth@aol.com in tiff or jpeg format or send a hardcopy to Box 10891, Alexandria, VA 22310. Checks made out to RHCA should be included with advertisement.

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 printing of The Rambler.

Lawn Services

Fortney Lawn & Garden, 703.595.3130, has been delivering unparalleled residential and commercial service throughout Northern Virginia for over 25 years. Our dedicated teams are committed to continually putting that experience to work for you.

Photography

Tisara Photography, 703.625.2331. Specializing in family and business portraits and life events, Tisara Photography in Old Town Alexandria is now run by Nina Tisara's son, Steven Halperson. Nina lives on Hayfield 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 35 years and have lived in Rose Hill for 45 years.

Home-based Business

Stampin' Up! is a company specializing in decorative stamps for greeting cards, craft projects and memory keeping. The products are available for purchase through independent distributors. My name is Tracy and I'm an independent Stampin' Up demonstrator. Contact me at stampin13@yahoo.com.

Health Insurance

Key Health Solutions. Chilang Weiler, 703.922.4124. www.khs1.com. An insurance consultant and broker for 18 years, Chilang helps individuals and families find coverage, including low-cost policies under Obamacare and Medicare for seniors. She can also provide group health plans for businesses, life insurance with living benefits and annuities from a range of leading insurance providers.

Real Estate

Re/Max 100. Steve Dougherty, 703.746.8720. Steve and his family have lived in Rose Hill and been active in civic affairs for 30 years. He has been a Realtor of 20 years and specializes in service to his neighbors in the community. www.stevedougherty.com.

Spring Hill Realty. Vivian Rashidi is a real estate agent and notary public who lives in Rose Hill and can assist you in buying or selling your home. Contact her at 703.585.9187, or via email at VivianRashidiRealtor@gmail.com.

Speech Therapy

Speech Beginnings PLC is a pediatric speech therapy practice serving Alexandria. Our speech pathologists provide evaluations and therapy to children and young adults. We provide services in the client's home and/or private school. Jamey Lord at: 571.481-4344 or www.speechbeginnings.com

Home Improvement/Handyman Services

TaskPro Plus. Steven Routt and Peter Samuelson bring professional-level skills to any kind of home repair or renovation project. Veteran-owned and operated. 703.835.6414. Email: taskproplus@gmail.com

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Please fill out this form and mail, along with your check, to:
RHCA, P.O. BOX 10891, Alexandria, VA 22310

NAME: _____

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EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____

Enclosed is a check for: \$10 Membership

\$___ Donation for upkeep and landscaping of Rose Hill entrance sign

\$___ Donation for RHCA General Fund

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Rose Hill Civic Association (members as of December 1, 2021)

Apple Tree Drive

4500 Nancy Anderson

Blossom Lane

6217 B. Digman

Carriage Drive

6423 Peter Knudtson & Rhiannon Rognstad

6429 Robert & Elizabeth Kohm

6500 Justin & Rebecca Sadegh

6503 Gerry Mason

6504 Shari Schafftlein & David Johnson

6512 Thomas & Crystal Acosta

Climbhill Road

6214 Gary Bravy

6309 Cathy & Hlupeki Phiri

6310 Philip & Carol Bishop

Cottonwood Drive

6302 Robert Thomson

6304 Marlene Hass Smith

6306 William & Jean Stemple

6410 Larry Fulk

6504 Ian & Elsy MacIntire

6601 Carl & Marti Sell

6607 Jody Wallace

6609 Nour Barakat & Walter Zalatoris, Jr.

6611 Diane & Danny Bird

Craft Road

6017 Sachlis Family

Dew Grass Drive

6118 Douglas & Ana Gomez

6120 Don & Nina Weber

6121 Jeffrey F. Williams

Driftwood Drive

6216 Arlene & Nathan Shapiro

6221 David & Rebecca Chiang

6223 Carolyn & Marl Erickson

Eastchester Circle

5001 Margaret & Carl Bon

5003 Jeannette Bottomley

5009 Matthew Dailey & Cynthia Johnson-Dailey

Eaton Place

4606 David Wheeler & Johanna Reyes

4611 Lisa Brown Bushman

4706 Lew Moore

4707 Cindy Schmidtlein & Skip Fisher

Flower Lane

4702 Jen & Sean Caffrey

4809 Carol & James Reese

Greendale Road

6708 Brad Anderson & Jennifer Piechoski

6709 Karen Wheelless

Greenhaven Place

5003 Thomas & Gloria O'Neill

Hayfield Place

6406 Kayle Hinrichs & Nick Sorenson

6408 Nina Tisara

Haystack Road

6419 Martin & Diana Shupack

6424 Mark Broxterman

6503 Charles & Jeska Pfefferlee

6511 Robert Ciccotelli

6515 Chris & Susie Guinto

6520 Jaroslav & Anna Sebeck

Lark Lane

4519 Rick & Patti Ballard

Leewood Drive

6004 Ijaz Warriach

6008 Alan & Sylvia Wilson

6013 Johanna Guccione

6101 Rodney & Kathy Palmer

6103 Robert & Shirley Herr

6113 Yancy & Patricia Hull

6115 Kowalik Family

May Boulevard

6303 C. Freitag

6317 David & Jessie Cowhig

6405 Shirley Bennington

Mayor Place

4612 Mark & Bonnie Takehara

Picot Road

4601 Dave & Sharon Shirley

4608 Bob & Peggy Riccio

Rose Hill Drive

6270 Sandra Benarick

6402 Marvin & Frances Justice

6406 Carol Spurrier

6410 Mary Smith

6411 Thanh & Mai Luu

6416 David & Linda Nichols

6417 Daniel & Ingrid Bearth

6421 Mickey & Mitzi Roseboro

6422 Monica Reed

6428 Ruth Connie Beatty

Rose Hill Farm Road

5032 DiAnne B. Lee

Roundhill Road

4526 Steven Routt

Rye Court

6400 Robert & Sherri King

6402 Lea McCaw & Richard Sandoval

Silo Road

4900 Linda & Morgan Walton

4901 Josh & Danielle Schubring

4907 John & Penny Cashmire

Split Rock Road

4901 Corbins



Talking About Trees With Jim McGlone, ISA Certified Arborist

The Thanksgiving Washington Post Metro Section had a story about the death of a large oak in a backyard. The tree died from Oak Decline Syndrome or, as I call it, Multiple Stress Disorder. Whatever you call it, this is a slow process that usually starts with an environmental stressor, like too much rain, too little rain or very high or low temperatures. Before the tree can recover from the initial stress, it gets hit with another. Sometimes the stressor is manmade, like bad pruning, construction, piling soil on the roots, trunk damage from weed whackers or lawn mowers, over fertilization, liming the lawn and turf grass.

Multiple Stress Disorder occurs most often in oaks, but can affect any species of tree, and is the most common cause of death of mature trees in Rose Hill. Reducing tree stress can save trees. Obviously we can't do anything about the weather. We can take into account the effects of home improvements and landscaping projects on the roots of trees, which extend 1.5 feet per inch trunk diameter at 4.5 feet above ground. But the simplest thing we can do is mulch around the base of the tree.

Mulch serves several biological functions. It helps keep the soil cool and moist. Organic mulch enriches the soil by providing feeding soil microbes. Woody mulch is critical for fungi that gather water and nutrients for the tree. But the wrong mulch or improperly applied mulch can do more harm than good. Think of mulch as imitating the forest floor – large pieces a few inches deep. Grass clippings and finely ground wood mulch can create a barrier to water and oxygen that roots need; and rapidly decompose, which heats the soil and steals nitrogen. Bark is waxy and floats away.

The ideal mulch is wood chips spread about 3 inches deep around the tree, but not touching the tree. There is 5 times more tree root mass under mulch than under turf, so mulch as far as you can stand, but at least several feet. I have mulched my trees to the property line. You can also plant some native ground covers or flowers in the mulch circle around your trees.

If you have questions about trees, contact me at jim.mcglone@dof.virginia.gov and I may use them in future articles, but will also answer directly.



Pictured here is an example of a well-mulched tree.

Squire Lane

6101 Arline Moore

6115 Robert Foor

Sturbridge Place

4515 Linda & Tim Hestvik

4516 Janelle & John Welch

4517 Janet Kazimir

Telegraph Road

6518 Mimi Minarik

Thornwood Drive

6208 Alice Haupt

6210 Dennis Dzierwaski

6217 Elizabeth Biddle & Michael Pumphrey

6220 Marge & Frank McConnell

Treetop Lane

4914 Ann Schappi

5002 Lynn & Don Hoffman

5006 Daniel Gearing

5010 Lori Scheibe

Wayside Place

6400 Robin & David Dodson

Willowood Lane

6200 Ron Machmer

6330 Mike & Bonnie Greek

6413 Raul & Kelly Castillo

6416 Frank & Patricia Jencks

6417 William & Janelle Parker 4618 Donna Dillon

6418 Richard & Rosa Krewson 4619 Brenda Edleson

Winston Place

4615 Carolyn Szamborski

No address

Chilang & Paul Weiler

Welcome New Residents

Rhiannon Rognstad and Peter Knudtson moved to Rose Hill in Spring 2020, relocating from California in 2018 for work. The two Midwesterners met on a hike in California where Rhi was working as a marine ecologist post-doc and Peter an aerospace engineer.

The two enjoy hiking local parks, gardening in their backyard, and cooking together. Rhi is a certified Virginia Master Naturalist and Peter is an amateur photographer. Rhi and Peter look forward to becoming active participants in the Rose Hill community.

Rhiannon and Peter live at 6423 Carriage Drive.

Gardening in Rose Hill With Peggy Riccio, Virginia Horticulturist

If you are new to the area and interested in gardening, you are in luck. Virginia offers a long season to grow a variety of plants, including vegetables. Our average last frost is Mother's Day, and first frost is Halloween. We have relatively mild winters. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, our hardiness zone is 7b, but because I think it is getting warmer, my front garden could be considered zone 8.

True, our soil is mostly clay, but if you save your fall leaves and start up a compost pile, you will be able to amend your soil with organic matter. We are fortunate that Virginia Tech, Virginia's land grant university in Blacksburg, will do soil testing for free. Just pick up a soil testing kit from your extension agent or local library.

We have two Master Gardener certification programs in Fairfax County — one at Green Spring Gardens in Annandale and one at Merrifield Garden Center at Fair Oaks — and a plethora of local garden clubs. To find a local garden club, visit the websites of the National Capital Area Garden Clubs and the Garden Club of Virginia. If you are interested in a particular plant, there are local plant societies focused on gesneriads (African violets and similar tropical house plants), dahlias, mums, and roses.

There are many gardening activities, workshops, lectures, and plant sales throughout the year. Depending on the season, we average 50 to 100 events per month in the DC metro area. Many are free and now many are also virtual.

Our nearest garden centers are: Nalls Produce on Beulah St.; Meadows Farms Nursery on Backlick Rd.; Holly, Woods and Vines on Route 1; and Greenstreet Gardens in Alexandria.

If you want to learn which plants perform well here, visit any of eight demonstration gardens in Northern Virginia. They include an organic vegetable garden at Potomac Overlook Regional Park on Marcy Road and Rock Quarry Shade Garden at Bon Air Park, both in Arlington. All of the gardens are open to the public year-round and during the growing season, volunteers offer free workshops and talks about gardening.

We have several public and historic gardens in the area, including River Farm, home to the American Horticultural Society; Green Spring Gardens; Meadowlark Botanical Gardens; and Mount Vernon (George Washington's estate).

Detailed information on everything mentioned in this article is on my website: pegplant.com. Inspired by Welcome Wagon, the website is designed to provide local resources and information to people who are new to the area or new to gardening.

Peggy Riccio is a horticulturist, writer and chair of the Potomac Unit of the Herb Society of America. She lives with her husband Robert on Picot Road. Contact her at pegplant@yahoo.com.



Peggy Riccio's home on Picot Road features a patch of wildflowers alongside the driveway. She also grows a variety of herbs and vegetables. (Photo: Peggy Riccio)

RHCA Honors Memory of Rose Hill 'Originals'

The Rose Hill Civic Association honored the memory of two of the community's original residents at its Nov. 30 meeting at the John Marshall Library. Connie Beatty passed away just short of her 97th birthday in October.



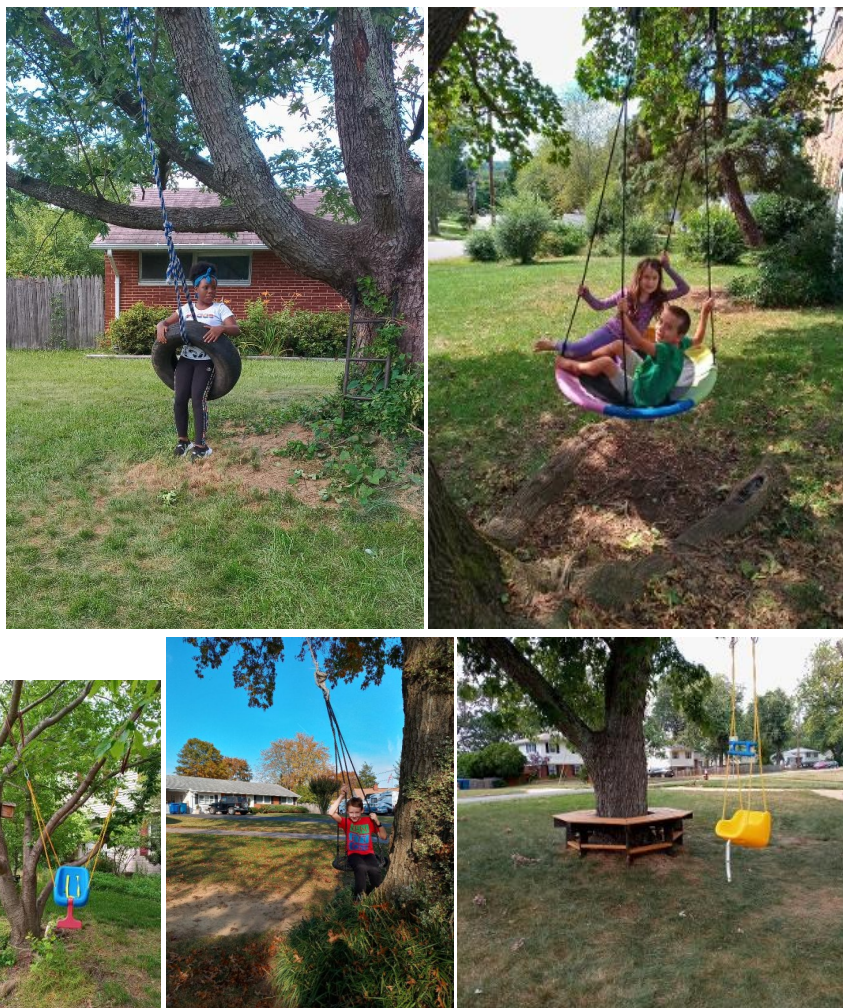
The highlight of the evening was a performance by RHCA member John Cashmire, who played and sang Connie's favorite song, God's Coloring Book by Dolly Parton, and Millie's favorite, The Tennessee Waltz by Patti Page.

From left to right: Connie Beatty's granddaughter Amy Barrett, Amy's daughter Alexis Reed and Mille Lane's daughter Cathy Lane. (Photos: Daniel Bearth)



Seen On The Street

Who needs a swing set when you have trees? Clockwise from right, a girl sits in a tire swing on Apple Tree Drive, two siblings go for a spin in the shade on Split Rock Road, a swing hangs next to a wrap-around bench on Craft Road, youngster Ben swings free on Wayside Place, an empty seat waits on Maryview St. and finally one tree supports two swingers in a side yard on Rose Hill Drive. (Photos: Daniel Bearth)



Ask a Vet By Casandra Fowler, DVM

Will pets need a COVID vaccine?

As of now, the answer is no. While there have been confirmed COVID-19 infections in domestic cats and dogs worldwide, they typically have few to no symptoms. Most seem to have been exposed to the virus by close contact with an infected owner, and there is no evidence that pets can spread it back to people.

That doesn't mean that vaccines haven't been developed for pets, however. Early in the pandemic, Zoetis, a veterinary pharmaceutical company, began working on just that. While their vaccines showed promise, ultimately the USDA did not deem them necessary for pets. Many zoo animals such as lions, tigers, and gorillas have been vaccinated with these same vaccines instead, as these species appear to be more susceptible to the virus and some are highly endangered. Mink farms also may benefit, using the experimental vaccines to try to curb outbreaks seen in that species.

For now, the best way to protect pets from COVID-19 is to protect ourselves, and to keep pets isolated from infected people when possible.

On the other hand, a virus that pets definitely need protection from is rabies. So far this year 19 animals in Fairfax County have been diagnosed with rabies, including a cat in Rose Hill just last month. As the end of the year approaches and Fairfax County dog registrations are coming due for renewal, this is a great time to double-check that all your pets' recommended vaccines are current. Keep in mind that rabies vaccination is a legal requirement for all dogs and domestic cats 16 weeks or older in Virginia. And rest assured, if a COVID vaccine for pets does become warranted in the future, your veterinarian will be your best source of information.



Cassandra Fowler is the owner of Harmony Animal Hospital located at The Shops at Telegraph Village.

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