

THE MANOR MONITOR

A Monthly Publication of The Vint Hill Manor Homeowners Association
November 2007

The Newsletter Returns

It's baaaack!
Publication has resumed on the Vint Hill Manor Homeowners Association newsletter. Resolution of a number of problems, including some health related, and the addition of some Communications Committee staffing have enabled us to get the presses running again. We plan to pick up where we left off and continue our efforts to produce a first-class product that will serve our community with worthwhile news and information. Thank you for your patience during this hiatus



Board of Directors' Monthly Meetings

The October 2007 meeting of the Board of Directors (BOD) of the Homeowners Association (HOA) was held on the 2nd of the month, at 7 PM, in the Conservancy Conference Room at 4263 Aiken Drive.

The November 2007 meeting will be held on the 6th of the month, same time and location. This date happens to be "Election Day"; so

BE SURE TO VOTE EARLY IF YOU INTEND TO MAKE THE MEETING!



Architectural Review Committee (ARC)

The ARC continues its Herculean efforts to quickly dispatch the applications it receives. Meeting the first Tuesday of each month at 7 PM at the home of the Chairman, George Mendez, the 5 member committee has processed around 300 applications since it has been in existence. There have been times when the ARC has processed

See ARC on page 2

Wonderful Website

If you have not yet visited the site, go to www.VintHillManor.org and see for yourself the wealth of information available with just a few mouse clicks. The site is not only interesting and nice to look at, with attractive pictures of our area; it also is designed to be of useful service. And the word of our site has spread. There have been almost 30,000 hits since last January, with some from as far away as Norway, Cuba, and Canada, to name a few. The number of new monthly visitors to the site ranges from 20 to almost 90.

If you are new to the area, you may want to take a look at our Newsletter archive on the site to get a feel for what has been happening over the last several months. If you plan to move, make sure to alert your realtor to the website. It could be a helpful tool to attract someone not familiar with the overall area.

The site was created for YOU! If you have suggestions and input, let us know so that we can make the site an even more valuable source of information. The e-mail address is: webmaster@vinthillmanor.org.

History of Vint Hill Farms Station

This is the fourth in a series of articles about the origins of Vint Hill Farms and its military history as Vint Hill Farms Station. This month's offering is taken from accounts written about 1975. At the time Vint Hill Farms Station was a Class II installation of the U.S. Army Security Agency, and was engaged in communications intelligence activities. As such it was one of the service cryptologic installations and provided intelligence support to the National Security Agency as well as the entire army. Vint Hill Farms Station was the first field station of the Army Security Agency.

THE CHAPEL

The first chaplain to be assigned to this post was Chaplain Robert M. Price, who reported here in February 1943. The first service was conducted on 7 February 1943, in a barracks building located in the Company "C" area, since the building planned

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Name Our Community

The Board is asking for help in selecting a name for our community to put on a sign at the intersection of Cray and Osborne Drives. This will not only tell the world where we are but also will help give directions to friends and family when they come to visit. On the Deed books this subdivision is named Vint Hill Manor. Some think the word Manor connotes "old age" and since we are a very active, involved community it is felt that something descriptive of our community would be more appropriate

Therefore, we are having a contest to select a name. An obvious one, *Four Seasons at Vint Hill*, will automatically appear as will *Vint Hill Manor*. Please submit your entry in writing or by e-mail to Anne Grabowski, grabbo.anno@comcast.net or 3601 Mauchley Court. The winner will be chosen by vote from the list of other posted names at our annual meeting in March 2008. The name receiving the most votes will be the one selected for the sign. A wonderful prize will be given to the winner(s).



Fickle Fall Finally Flourishes

It appears that the weather and temperatures are catching up with the calendar. While on one hand, we bemoan the loss of daylight and sunny, warm weather; on the other hand, we marvel at the beautiful, blazing palette Mother Nature uses to decorate her landscape, and enjoy the brisk, clean air. This is a perfect segue to the opening line of the September 1, 2007, letter that KHovnianian (KHov) sent to us – “As the days get shorter and the nights get cooler, we know it is the time of year to start preparing for the change of season.” It is the time, as the letter points out, to take care of the maintenance items relative to this time of year. Taking proper and timely care of our homes and properties will increase the longevity of the various systems, enhance our personal enjoyment, and protect our investments.

The KHov letter provided guidance on a variety of things to do and contained a “Maintenance Checklist” as an enclosure. Now that it seems that Fall is finally here, we are summarizing some of the highlights, as a helpful reminder, and including a reprint of the Checklist. For a lot of us, getting started is sometimes the most difficult part. Fortunately, most of the things that need to be done are neither time consuming nor difficult.

CAULKING MAINTENANCE – Building materials are subject to varying degrees of shrinkage and settlement as well as normal expansion and contraction caused by changes in climate and humidity. The caulking can dry and shrink, thus no longer providing a good seal. Both interior and exterior places where caulking is used need to be checked periodically. Obvious areas inside include, but are not limited to, the bathroom and kitchen. Outside, windows, doors, siding, and vents are among the more obvious areas to check.

HEATING SYSTEM – Check the system early and have any necessary service performed. Clean or replace filters. Prepare and turn on humidifiers.

FROZEN PIPE PREVENTION – Close all interior shutoff valves, and open all exterior hose bibs before the onset of frigid temperatures. For homes with irrigation systems, it is important to ‘winterize’ them, as well. If necessary, arrange for a professional to properly maintain the irrigation system.

FIRE SAFETY – It is suggested that all smoke and carbon monoxide detector batteries be replaced ANNUALLY! Test these devices regularly by pushing the test button. If the alarm does not sound, call for service immediately.

FIRE PLAN REVIEW – Review how to get out of your home safely in the event of a fire and establish where to meet outside the home.

AREAWAY DRAINS – Regularly check areaway drains to ensure they are free of debris.

Use the handy, detailed Maintenance Checklist as you prepare your home for the Fall and Winter seasons. If contemplating using professional services for any work around your home, check with neighbors for referrals, or check out the listing on the “Recommended Service Providers List”. On the Vint Hill Manor website – www.vinthillmanor.org; go down to the heading “Maintenance”, and when the options under this heading open up, click on “Contractors”. A copy of the “List” can be obtained by contacting Jenny or Stan Snellings, 347-9703. It can be e-mailed to you or you can stop by and pick up a hard copy.

If you find yourself in a “do-it-yourself” mode, for either maintenance work or other projects but you lack the proper tools, if you are a September Club member, check out the September Club Tool Share Program. A complete inventory was provided in the August September Club newsletter. The main contacts are George Mendez, 341-8386 / John DePerro, 341-8383 and Richard Taylor, 341-2133. ✂

ARC (from page 1)

as many as 30 requests at a single meeting. We, the residents, have benefited from the ARC's efforts in the approval rate of the change requests they receive. It's now in the 98% range.

By now, we should all be aware that any modification to the exterior of our homes requires an application to be submitted for approval. A survey of the community has shown that there are still about 60 changes that do not have corresponding approval in the database. The ARC will be happy to meet with any homeowner and provide guidance and assistance

Remember -

WHEN IN DOUBT, CHECK IT OUT & GIVE GEORGE A SHOUT (341-8386).

ARMI ✂

Just a reminder that as part of its service under contract to the Association, the Austin Realty Management and Investment Company (ARMI) is positioned to serve as a liaison between the community and the BOD and/or the ARC members. Fred Austin, owner of ARMI advises that direct contact with his company results in all BOD and ARC members, as the case may dictate, being advised. When you call ARMI, identify yourself as a resident of Vint Hill Manor, and the staff there will provide a friendly ear. ARMI's address, which is where we send our monthly HOA assessment, is: PO Box 3413, Warrenton, VA 20188. Phone: 540-347-1901/Fax: 540-347-1900/Website: www.ARMIVA.com

We are still getting calls from homeowners concerning their assessment payment (dues) status. Your coupon book is your best accounting tool. The quarterly statements received from ARMI are not invoices, they are just a summary of your payment status as of the first day of the month. If you have made your payment since the first of the month it will not show up on the statement you receive several days later. ✂

How About Those Political Signs?

We've had a couple of questions concerning the legality of the political signs in our yards and the timing of their display. Some have asked what the Board's position is on this issue with the thought that they should be more closely regulated.

Since this is the column we use as a community listening post, it's appropriate that we include the question. The Board has the matter under consideration. In the meantime it must be noted that the Code of Virginia 15.2-109 entitled Regulations on political campaign signs states: "No locality shall have the authority to prohibit the display of political campaign signs on private property if the signs are in compliance with zoning and right of way restrictions applicable to temporary nonpolitical signs, if the signs have been posted with the permission of the owner. The provisions of this section shall supersede the provisions of any local

THE LISTENING POST



ordinance or regulation in conflict with this section. This section shall have no effect upon the regulations of the Virginia Department of Transportation." The County of Fauquier treats the subject of timing and size in an existing ordinance: Article 8 - Signs, in Part 11 - Temporary Signs, Paragraph 1101-4 and 5, state:

"4. Temporary political signs shall in no case be erected more than ninety (90) days prior to an election

or referendum and shall not remain erected for more than fifteen (15) days after the election. Persons responsible jointly or severally for the maintenance and removal of political signs are the candidates, spokesmen or campaign committees, the owner of the premises on which the signs are located, the person erecting the sign, and the person causing erection of the sign.

5. No temporary sign shall exceed fifty (50) square feet in area nor ten (10) feet in height."

If we were to change our covenants to be more restrictive, we could be subject to the charge of limiting free political speech but the Board is reviewing the matter with proper counsel. If we choose not to be more restrictive, our covenants do not need to repeat state law or what is already codified by the County.

Real estate signs are treated separately.

As always, your thoughts are welcome in this column.



History *(from Page 1)*

for use as a chapel was still under construction. About the middle of February 1943 arrangements were made with Reverend John C. Ryan, a Catholic Priest in Warrenton, to conduct a mass each Sunday for Catholic personnel.

In March 1943, Building T-270 was completed on the site of the present Recreation Center, and the chapel and chaplain office was organized. Only one Sunday service was conducted before a fire occurred in the west wing and caused considerable damage. Until repairs could be effected, the services were again held in the prior location in a barracks. About this time, services started for the Jewish personnel on the post by Chaplain Argeh Lev. Arrangements were made for the chaplain to conduct services each Wednesday night. The chapel was eventually located in Building T-314, where it is today. The photo to the right is circa 1970.

(Series to be continued)



How Do You Observe Thanksgiving?

Someone sent us this suggestion:

Count your blessings instead of your crosses; Count your gains instead of your losses.
Count your joys instead of your woes; Count your friends instead of your foes.
Count your smiles instead of your tears; Count your courage instead of your fears.
Count your full years instead of your lean; Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.
Count your health instead of your wealth; Count on God instead of yourself.

Some Stay-Safe Tips

DON'T TRUST CALLER ID TO IDENTIFY SCAM PHONE CALLS.

Con artists can manipulate the information produced by a caller-ID screen to make a call appear to be from a legitimate business or government agency—even the police—when it is not. *Best response:* hang up and call what you know to be a real phone number for the purported caller, such as the number listed in the phone book.

(Kiplinger's Retirement Report, 1729 H. St. N.W., Washington, DC 20006. Monthly \$59.95)

DISASTER PLANNING

The pamphlet "Preparing Makes Sense for Older Americans. Get Ready Now" details steps seniors should take to be prepared for any kind of disaster or emergency. *Included:* Information on preparing medicines, legal documents, emergency supply kits, forming personal support networks and caring for pets. From the US Department of Homeland Security
Call 800-237-3239 or visit www.ready.gov.

F.Y.I. Friday

F.Y.I. Friday is a luncheon speakers series sponsored by the Vint Hill Manor. The events will typically occur monthly at lunchtime at the Vint Hill Inn. The speakers are free but the luncheon will usually cost a flat fee of \$10 dollars.

The current schedule is:

October 9, 2007: Helen Ellis "Attracting Song Birds to your Yard"

November 9, 2007, Karen Frazier, Northern Piedmont Credit union, "Using Christmas presents to teach grandkids financial management skills"

December 7, 2007: Frank Fuerst, author of "Alzheimer's Care with Dignity" and a neighbor.

January: A tour of the FAA Center air traffic control on Vint Hill

February: County Health Department "Preparing for Avian Flu"

March: Ron Ellis "Landscaping for birds"

Newsletter Editor: Bob McConahy

Contributing Editor: Tom Daily

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P.O. BOX 3413
Warrenton, VA 20188-3413

VINT HILL MANOR
HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 3413 WARRENTON, VA 20188

CONTACT LIST

Don Brettle	Chair BOD, President HOA	540-428-2782
John DePerro	Director, Vice-President HOA.....	540-341-8383
Bob McConahy	Director, Treasurer HOA.....	540-347-1464
Anava Grabowski	Director	540-341-8203
Lynne Pincosy	Director	540-341-4955
Kathryn Brettle	Secretary HOA	540-428-2782

COMMITTEES

George Mendez	Architecture Review.....	540-341-8386
John DePerro	Programs	540-341-8383
Bob McConahy	Communications.....	540-347-1464

ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT

Austin Realty & Management Inc.		
Fred Austin	540-347-1901
Judy Pecora	540-347-1901

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