

# THE MANOR MONITOR

December 2009

A Monthly Publication of The Vint Hill Manor Homeowners Association

www.VintHillManor.org



**BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2010 OUR GENERAL ASSESSMENT DROPS TO \$45 PER MONTH**

## President's Column

### Monthly Assessment

Your Treasurer, Ed Ortiz, along with other members of the Budget work group, has been reviewing our reserve-growth projections for 2009 and 2010 and decided that we have enough money in reserve. At our last Board meeting, Ed made a motion to apply the expected reserve growth in the 2010 Budget to decrease the Vint Hill Manor HOA monthly assessment from \$50 to \$45, effective January 1, 2010.

This motion passed by a 5-0 margin. For those who do on-line banking, please wait until after your December payment is made to make this change. For everyone else, please jot down a reminder to only mail in \$45 starting January 1.

### Outside Lighting

“With the recent prowler scare, this may be a good time to check whether or not your front yard (lamp post) light is working. If it is not, check the wall socket in your garage (the one in the middle of the wall against the house). If the red light is on, the circuit is broken. Press the top reset button of the wall socket to reset. If the red light is not on, the bulb will have to be replaced. Consider a compact fluorescent light bulb so you won't have to change it as often.”

If you have any comments or questions on any of the above, please feel free to contact me at 540-341-1473, or send me an email at – [fafuerst@earthlink.net](mailto:fafuerst@earthlink.net).

Thanks, Frank

## Mary Dixon's Annual Christmas Party

We have been contacted by Mary Dixon who asked if we would extend, via our Newsletter, on her behalf, a community-wide invitation to her Annual Christmas Party, which will be held at her home on December 19, from 12 Noon until 4PM. Food and spirits will be served. Mary's address is 11 Palmer Lane, Castleton, VA 22716

Mary advised that she would love to see her former clients. Please RSVP directly to Mary by the 5th of December so she can plan the food, etc, accordingly. Since she is inviting her current clients, as well, Mary would prefer the RSVP via email at [mdixon@khov.com](mailto:mdixon@khov.com). For those who do not have access to email, Mary can be reached on her cell phone at 703-906-1214.

## Board of Directors' Monthly Meeting

The November meeting of the Board of Directors (BOD) of the Homeowners Association (HOA) was held on Tuesday, November 10, 2009, in the Conference Room at the Vint Hill Conservancy/ EDA offices at 4263 Aiken Drive. The regular, monthly BOD meetings are open and all members are invited to attend.

At the beginning of each monthly meeting, there is an opportunity for members to make comments and/or present questions for the BOD's consideration, as well as advise concerns, or offer ideas. Minutes of the previous meeting, as

well as current financial statements, are made available to all attendees. Significant items addressed at the meeting are covered in this newsletter.

## Architectural Review Committee (ARC) Activity

Steve Chronister, ARC Chair, advised that during their meeting on October 27, 2009, two design requests were reviewed and approved. Steve also reported that the number of outstanding unapproved modifications had been reduced so that there are now only four lots with five unapproved modifications in a non-compliant status. The ARC is making a concerted effort to address this longstanding situation. The November ARC meeting was scheduled for the 24th, at 7:00PM, at the home of Steve Chronister, 6528 Averbach Court. The ARC meetings are always scheduled for the last Tuesday of the month. The ARC is always ready and more than willing to meet with any homeowner to provide guidance and/or assistance with the necessary application(s) which are required for exterior modifications to our properties. In a spirit of cooperation, please help the ARC reach its goal of complete compliance.

**Manor Pride!**

**Planning some changes?**

**Give Steve a call at 428-1828.**

## Common Grounds Initiatives

**Frank Fuerst**, Acting Chair of the Common Grounds Committee (CGC), provided a note of clarification regarding two projects reported as completed at the previous meeting. The two projects were the bare spots between Osborne and Sutherland, and between Osborne and the woods. The contract was for aerating and seeding and did not include watering, as originally recorded.

Regarding watering on two other projects, which was done by the homeowners immediately adjacent to the common ground areas on which the work was done, one bill was presented for a nominal amount of \$13.51, and on the other, the amount was so insignificant, no monetary reimbursement was sought.

Frank indicated the wetlands cleanup project would be pursued next with a goal of completion before the end of the year.

Further action on the development of the Common Grounds Management Guidelines was tabled indefinitely. The intent, however, is to have the Guidelines completed, approved, and in place in time for the Spring season.

At this point in the meeting, Frank had **Ed Ortiz** report on the status of the signage at the community entrance at Rogues Road and Cray Drive. The Vint Hill Conservancy has decided to take the lead in the development of "Sense of Place" signage at all entrances to the overall Vint Hill complex. As a result, the two community HOA's will not pursue any further preliminary design decisions at this time. Once the Conservancy has developed some proposed designs, however, the two HOA's will be invited to review and critique them before any construction is begun. Frank recommended Ed offer a suggestion to the Conservancy to consider that any new signage be, perhaps, something on the order of a scaled-down version of that

which is at the entrance off Vint Hill Road.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the CGC Chair position is encouraged to give Frank a call at 341-1473.



## ARMI

The Austin Realty Management and Investment Company (ARMI), as part of its service under contract to the Vint Hill Manor HOA, 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.

ARMI's address, where our monthly HOA assessments are sent, is: PO Box 3413, Warrenton, VA 20188. Phone: 540-347-1901, Fax: 540-347-1900

Website: [www.ARMIVA.com](http://www.ARMIVA.com).

## 2010 US Census - What to Expect/What to Look Out For

For years, the Better Business Bureau (BBB) has educated consumers about not giving out personal information over the telephone or to anyone who shows up at their front door. With the U.S. Census process beginning, BBB advises

people to be cooperative, but cautious, so as not to become a victim of fraud or identity theft.

The first phase of the 2010 U.S. Census is under way as workers have begun verifying the addresses of households across the country. Eventually, more than 140,000 U.S. Census workers will count every person in the United States and will gather information about every person living at each address including name, age, gender, race and other relevant data.

"Most people are rightfully cautious and won't give out personal information to unsolicited phone callers or visitors, however the Census is an exception to the rule," said Steve Cox, BBB spokesperson. "Unfortunately, scammers know that the public is more willing to share personal data when taking part in the Census and they have an opportunity to ply their trade by posing as a government employee and soliciting sensitive financial information."

The Census data will be used to allocate more than \$300 billion in federal funds every year, as well as determine a State's number of Congressional representatives. Households are actually required by law to respond to the Census Bureau's request for information.

During the U.S. Census, households will be contacted by mail, telephone or visited by a U.S. Census worker who will inquire about the number of people living in the house. Unfortunately, people may also be contacted by scammers who are impersonating Census workers in order to gain access to sensitive financial information such as Social Security, bank account or credit card numbers. Law enforcement in several states have issued warnings that scammers are already posing as Census Bureau employees and knocking on doors asking for donations and Social Security numbers.

The big question is - how do you tell the difference between a U.S. Census worker and a con artist?

BBB offers the following advice:

- If a U.S. Census worker knocks on your door, they will have a badge, a handheld device, a Census Bureau canvas bag and a confidentiality notice. Ask to see their identification and their badge before answering their questions. However, you should never invite anyone you don't know into your home.
- Census workers are currently only knocking on doors to verify address information. Do not give your Social Security number, credit card or banking information to anyone, even if they claim they need it for the U.S. Census. While the Census Bureau might ask for basic financial information, such as a salary range, it will not ask for Social Security, bank account or credit card numbers nor will employees solicit donations.

- Eventually, Census workers may contact you by telephone, mail or in person at home. However, **they will not contact you by e-mail, so be on the look out for e-mail scams impersonating the Census. Never click on a link or open any attachments in an e-mail that are supposedly from the U.S. Census Bureau.**

For more advice on avoiding identity theft and fraud, visit – [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org).

## Proposed Programs

**Mark Melancon**, Chair of the Programs Committee, provided update information on a couple of proposed programs, and, subsequent to the BOD meeting, provided some detailed information for the newsletter.

**Power Washing** - Jim McMeans (Hydro Teck Inc) began power

## Vint Hill Manor Homeowners' Association Board of Directors Meeting Agenda December 1, 2009

1. Call to Order
2. Membership Comment Period
3. Minutes of Previous BOD Meeting
4. Financial/Treasurer's Report
5. Committee Reports
  - a. Architectural Review
  - b. Common Grounds
  - c. Communications
  - d. Documents Review
  - e. Programs
6. Unfinished Business
  - a. 2010 Budget
7. New Business
  - a. Winter Fertilization Motion
  - b. Wetlands Cleanup Motion
8. Adjournment

washing the homes, of those who signed up for that service, last week and will continue until they are all done or the weather gets too cold. He phones each homeowner to do the scheduling. For any homes that don't get done this fall, they will be done for the same price in the spring.

**Neighborhood Watch** - Some interest has been expressed in having a neighborhood watch in our community. The Neighborhood Watch program seeks to reduce burglary, etc., in a neighborhood mainly by increased security on the residences, and by observation and reporting of suspicious activity. It involves interaction with the local sheriff's office. An overall coordinator and block captains are needed, and they normally receive appropriate training. You can learn more about this by reading "Neighborhood Watch, A Manual for Citizens and for Law Enforcement" on the internet at [www.usaonwatch.org](http://www.usaonwatch.org) (resource center>publication library>neighborhood watch manual); the citizen's part includes

about twenty small pages.

**In order to determine whether there is enough interest in our community to proceed, interested homeowners should notify Mark Melancon at 540-347-4177 or via e-mail at [melanconmjff@comcast.net](mailto:melanconmjff@comcast.net)**. In particular, include whether you would be interested in serving as the coordinator or a block captain.

## Cold War Museum Update

As reported in the November issue of the *Manor Monitor*, there are plans underway

to establish a Cold War Museum. The latest development is that the site location has changed from Lorton to right here at Vint Hill. There was a detailed article about the Museum in the Times-Democrat on Wednesday, November 11, 2009. The plans call for situating the Museum in the 4,000 square feet of space in what is known as the barn complex. The concentration will be on worldwide events that took place from the end of WWII in 1945 to 1991. The Museum will start off rather modestly; but there are already plans for growth. In addition to the displays and artifacts on the first floor, there will be a reference/research library on the second floor that will have more than 3,000 books on the Cold War and other Cold War related documents and papers. The Museum also will have a small gift shop, where books and novelty items, including pieces of the Berlin Wall, will be available.

Rich Reiss, the Vint Hill Economic Development Director, was instrumental in the decision being made to locate the Museum at Vint

Hill. When the deal in Fairfax fell through, Rich and his staff got involved with presenting Vint Hill as a home and headquarters for the Museum. Reiss advised that they are looking for people who worked at Vint Hill. They are trying to collect information about the history of Vint Hill from people who were here at the time.

The Museum's founder and driving force is Gary Powers, Jr, who is the son of the CIA pilot who was at the center of one of the Cold War's most memorable incidents when the elder Power's U-2 spy plane was shot down over Soviet airspace on May 1, 1960. He has been working on developing the Museum concept for about 12 years. Powers said that although he has never lived here, he does have Fauquier County roots in that his mother and grandfather were born in Warrenton.

Powers can be reached at 703-273-2381 or at gwpowersjr@coldwar.org . The Web address for the Museum is www.coldwar.org .

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**Articles of Interest**

In the November 2009 issue of *The Warrenton Lifestyle Magazine*, there are a couple of items of particular interest. The magazine is published monthly and distributed to all its advertisers and over 10,000 selected addresses by Piedmont Press & Graphics. Thanks to Fred Austin for providing a copy and bringing attention to the articles.

A phone call to the magazine determined that where we live is

outside the area in which they offer free delivery. A subscription would run \$9.00/year. However, the magazine also is available on-line. The Web site is – [www.warrentonlifestyle.com](http://www.warrentonlifestyle.com). Click on the picture of the cover and then scroll down through the pages.

The two main articles that would seem to be of most interest are:

- \* **Buckland: Small Town, Big History – Preserving Fauquier's Historical Borders**
- \* **Unveiling Buckland's Treasures – David Blake is on a Mission to Shape His Farm's Rich History**

There are a number of other interesting articles and features, as well. One other article that would seem to be of interest to computer owners is:

- \* **The Doktor Is In The House – Scareware Scams Overwhelm Virus Scanners**

Finally, there is an article about Warrenton's Annual Christmas Parade, which is scheduled to take place on Saturday, December 5, 2009, starting at 10 AM, along Main Street.



**BEST WISHES  
 FOR A MERRY  
 CHRISTMAS, A  
 HAPPY NEW YEAR,  
 AND AN OVERALL  
 SAFE AND JOYOUS  
 HOLIDAY SEASON.**

**VINT HILL MANOR  
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 Assistant **JUDY PECORA** ..... 540-347-1901

**Positions Are Available  
 for You to Help Us  
 Manage the Affairs of  
 Our Association**

- \* **Chair, Common Grounds Committee**

POC, Frank Fuerst, 341-1473, or send him an e-mail at – [fafuerst@earthlink.net](mailto:fafuerst@earthlink.net) . See the Common Grounds Initiatives article.

- \* **Recording Secretary Position**

The only requirement is a commitment to attend the monthly BOD and Annual Membership Meetings, record what takes place, and provide a draft copy to Stan Manvell, the HOA Secretary. Stan will be responsible for developing and providing the official minutes. Anyone willing to help out in this capacity, please contact Stan at 341-2886, or send him an e-mail at – [stanvell@comcast.net](mailto:stanvell@comcast.net)