

2021 Fall Meeting Results

On 20 Oct HRVCA members held our fall meeting from 7:30 – 9:15 PM online via Zoom. Items on the agenda were:

- Treasurer's Report
- Election of Board
- Stream Valley Clean-Up Success Story
- Neighborhood Watch
- Crime Report
- The Village Program - Neighbors Helping Neighbors
- Working with Code Compliance
- Justice Park Controversy
- Seven Corners Ring Road
- Sleepy Hollow Road Sidewalks
- Community-Wide Energy and Climate Action Plan

There was no new business from the floor.

Twenty-one members participated in the meeting. A brief summary of the meeting follows. Additional information is in two sets of slides available on our blog at <http://holmesrun.org>:

- [Fall Meeting Slides](#)
- County briefing on [Sleepy Hollow Road Sidewalks](#)

HRVCA Hot Sheet:

Our hot sheet is a list of phone numbers and Internet links to resources essential to a secure and happy life in our community including public services (police, fire, and ambulance), government offices, public utilities, local news outlets, and neighborhood schools. You can find the [hot sheet](#) on our blog under Pages...Citizens Assoc.

Treasurer's Report:

The association has \$1209.66 in its bank account. The only expense since the spring meeting was \$100 donated to the Sleepy Hollow United Methodist Church to support their August open house for the National Night Out event.

Election of Board:

Jacke Zeiher was elected vice president of our association and Jim Robinson was welcomed as a new director. Clyde Miller (president), Mike Paup (treasurer), and Debbie Rosse (director) will continue in their previous roles for another year. Email addresses are at the end of this document.

Stream Valley Clean-Up Success Story:

The spring clean-up of our section of the Holmes Run Valley stream brought out more than 20 residents, including families with their young children. We cleared out a few hundred pounds of trash. Our activity was one component of the clean-up of the entire 10.5-mile-long stream valley organized by [Friends of Holmes Run](#). Altogether, more than 7800 pounds of trash was pick up and hauled away by the county. A couple of photos are in the [meeting slides](#).

Neighborhood Watch Program:

Jacke Zeiher described several aspects of the Neighborhood Watch program, which is an initiative to increase community awareness of safety and security issues as well as suspicious activities that may lead to crime in our neighborhood. The program is sponsored by the Fairfax County Police Department. Debbie spoke of the number of community services available through the program, including home security surveys. A Community Advisory Committee meets periodically with representatives of FCPD to discuss neighborhood issues. The meetings are open to all.

Jacke Zeiher emphasized the importance of establishing communications links among us and asked residents to sign up to both NextDoor and our own email distribution service (googlegroup) dedicated to HRVCA business. For NextDoor, the sign-up is online. If you are not enrolled in the HRVCA googlegroup, please send an email to Clyde with your name plus your street and email addresses. Clyde will add you to the current group of more than 160 residents who subscribe.

We need Block Captains please for Sleepy Hollow Rd, Tansey, Radnor, and portions of Devon and Slade Run. The principal role of Block Captains is to greet new arrivals and introduce them to HRVCA and NextDoor while keeping an eye out for suspicious activity and for neighbors who may need a helping hand from time to time. It's not a lot of work. If you can fill one of our vacancies, please send Jacke or Debbie an email, addresses below.

Crime Report:

Jim Robinson reminded us again to lock our doors, including our car doors. No robbery has been reported in our neighborhood of late, but Ring Doorbell posts in neighborhoods around us have reported vandals attempting to enter cars at night, and a few robberies have been reported in nearby neighborhoods. Don't leave valuables (or guns!) in your cars and look out for your neighbors. If you see something, say something.

The Village Program - Neighbors Helping Neighbors:

The Village Program is a neighborhood-based effort staffed by volunteers dedicated to supporting elderly and infirmed members of a community with basic services such as non-medical household tasks, shopping, and transportation. The objective is to allow these residents to remain in their homes with some confidence that their neighbors will provide a helping hand where it's needed. The program had its start on Beacon Hill in downtown Boston in 1999. Today more than 350 Villages are active worldwide.

The [Washington Area Villages Exchange](#) (WAVE) is a source of information re establishing and operating Villages in our region. They publish a [how-to guide](#) for setting up a Village in a community. Locally, the [Lake Barcroft Village](#) has been in operation since 2013, and Villages are established in Herndon and McLean. The county is prepared to [help](#) communities set up Villages.

Several members expressed an interest in considering whether HRVCA should endeavor to establish a Village in our community and, if so, what the scope of services and activities might be. Jacke pointed out that one feature of the Nextdoor Web site is a [help map](#) whereby residents can offer a helping hand to neighbors. A number of neighborhood residents currently are offering services on the map.

Working with Code Compliance

The Department of Code Compliance receives a lot of complaints (5500 last year), has limited staff, sometimes is unable to verify conditions complained about, and makes every effort to allow offending property owners adequate time to comply with zoning regulations. Consequently, resolution of complaints can take months. The following recommendations for working with DCC are based on the virtues of patience and perseverance:

- Call in your complaint (703-324-1300) and get the name and email address of the staff person you talk to. Follow up with an email.
- Call back in a week or so to find out who has been assigned the case. Call or email that person to learn the status and ask what you should expect re next steps and when.
- Continue to call back or send emails periodically to track progress. Pace your enquiries in accordance with what you have been told re the timing of next steps.

DCC has published a helpful [guide](#) for improving code compliance in neighborhoods.

County Activities:

Justice Park Controversary: Justice Park is just across Peace Valley Lane from Justice High School, and the high school is slated for expansion. Fairfax County Public Schools and Fairfax County Park Authority had agreed to add parking capacity by converting an area of the park into a new parking lot. When local residents learned of the plan, they launched an aggressive and persistent campaign opposing the loss of parkland. And they won. FCPS and FCPA have agreed to provide additional parking elsewhere. The experience is a good example of the power residents have when they engage in plans that affect their homes and neighborhoods.

Severn Corners Ring Road: Planning is underway for a ring road joining East Broad St and Wilson Blvd encircling the crossing of Arlington Blvd under Leesburg Pk at Seven Corners. The road is one element of the county's someday plan to replace Seven Corners Shopping Center and the Wilston Shopping Center on Arlington Blvd opposite Seven Corners with 5,050 apartments. Construction of the ring road may be a decade in the offing.

Sleepy Hollow Road Sidewalks: In Sep, the Board of Supervisors agreed to use their power of eminent domain to gain land rights at 13 properties along Sleepy Hollow Rd for the purpose of constructing 4800 ft of new sidewalks six-foot wide. The new sidewalks will be constructed by converting existing 10-ft wide shoulder lanes into sidewalks, curbs, and such. The effects on vehicle and bicycle use of the road will be evident when the sidewalks are completed, perhaps by the end of next year. More in the [meeting slides](#) and the county [briefing](#) to the Mason District Council on 21 Oct.

Community-Wide Energy and Climate Action Plan: In Sep, the Board of Supervisors accepted a [plan](#) for the county to become carbon neutral by 2050.

Next Meeting: The next scheduled meeting of HRVCA is in March.

Thank you for being an interested member of HRVCA; particular thanks to members who participated in the fall Zoom meeting.

Clyde Miller

HRVCA Board:

Clyde Miller	President	cmiller1017@verizon.net
Jacke Zeiher	Vice President	jzeiher11@gmail.com
Mike Paup	Treasurer	mlpaup@gmail.com
Debbie Rosse	Director	debbiehr15@gmail.com
Jim Robinson	Director	jrcares@yahoo.com

Resources:

[HRVCA group email for association business](#)

- holmesrunvalleyca@googlegroups.com

[HRVCA Hot Sheet](#)

- https://holmesrun.files.wordpress.com/2021/09/hot_sheet_20210831.pdf

[HRVCA blog](#)

- <http://holmesrun.org>.

[Annandale blog for community news](#)

- <http://annandaleva.blogspot.com>

[Neighborhood message network](#)

- <http://nextdoor.com>

[Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross](#)

- <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mason>
- mason@fairfaxcounty.gov