Holmes Run Valley Civic Association
HRVCA
Since 1974

2025 Fall Meeting Results
4 November 2025

The fall meeting convened in the cafeteria of Beech Tree Elementary School on Wednesday, 29 Oct, at 7:00 pm and ended before 8:30. The meeting agenda included:

- Elections of directors
- Treasurer's report
- Safety and security
- Recurring HRVCA activities
- Meet Up & Play Dates
- Participating in our community
- HRVCA website
- 2026 budget and dues
- Community care and communications
- Pending development activities
- A local land use issue

Forty-three members participated in the meeting. The meeting slides are available online.

The meeting took a minute to remember Mike Paup who passed on in August. Mike's valuable service as association president and treasurer reflected his serious commitment to the betterment of our community. In his Board participation, he applied the skills and extensive experience he accrued over long service as a prominent attorney at Department of Justice and IRS. He will be missed.

A principal highlight of the meeting was Josiah Halasz's offer to serve as our Web Master and build a proper website for HRVCA.

Election of Directors

The 9 October notice of the fall meeting announced the pending election of directors and asked members interested in joining the Board, in particular to fill the slot left empty by Mike's passing, to please contact Clyde Miller. In the meeting, the Board recommended the following slate:

President, Clyde Miller
Vice President, Jacke Zeiher
Treasurer, John Edwards
Director, Gillian Weber
Director, Jim Robinson
Director, Debbie Rosse
Director, Josiah Halasz

Members' vote approving the Board's recommendation was unanimous.

Treasurer's Report, Slide 2.

Debbie, as our interim treasurer, reported that the association's unobligated bank balance currently was $689.93 and expenses since our spring meeting had been:

- May Meet Up & Play Date: $74.26
- August National Night Out celebration: $100.00
- Liability insurance for fall meeting: $121.92

Community Safety and Security

Jim reported that crime rate in our community continues to be relatively low and mostly related to property crimes such as stolen packages and pilfered cars. Make sure your cars and your homes are locked, especially at night. Look out for your neighbors if they are travelling. Pick up their newspapers and packages and save them for their return. Make sure your neighbors know when you are travelling. Consider a timer for your lights so the home does not appear empty when you are away. Leave at least one outside light on at night and consider installation of an alarm system to deter crime.

Immediately report any suspicious or concerning activity to the Mason Station of the Fairfax County Police Department. The emergency number of course is 911. The non-emergency number for the Mason Station is 703-691-2131.

The *Annandale Today* blog publishes a weekly newsletter that includes a crime report covering the Bailey's Crossroads, Annandale, and Seven Corners areas. In addition, the newsletter is an excellent source of information re local events and activities; highly recommended. You can sign up for the newsletter email at the blog link above.

A few members of the HRVCA Board routinely attend meetings of the informal FCPD Community Advisory Committee which meets on the first Tuesday of every month, 7 PM, usually at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike. The meetings are an opportunity to monitor security issues in Mason District and to speak with the police officers who keep us safe. All are welcome to participate in the meetings.

Recurring HRVCA Activities, Slides 4 - 13.

Using photographs on slides, Debbie described three recent, recurring activities.

Spring Stream Valley Pick Up: On 26 April, members gathered in the stream valley just south of the intersection of Rose Lane and Slade Run Dr for our annual Saturday, 3-hour, expedition to pick up litter along Holmes Run, our creek. The event was organized in collaboration with Friends of Holmes Run and Fairfax County Park Authority. This year a crew of 15-20 members retrieved trash and debris sufficient to fill three large construction-style trash bags. Our reward was hot dogs, drinks, and snacks set up by Jacke. Woods were wet from rain the night before, but it was fun to be outside in the spring morning air.

National Night Out: Every year for the past 5 or 6 we have supported the ice cream social at Sleepy Hollow United Methodist Church (3435 Sleepy Hollow Rd) that celebrates National Night Out. The

National Night Out tradition was launched in 1984 by a network of law enforcement and neighborhood watch associations on the principle that the best way to build strong communities is to know your neighbors and your local police. Today, NNO is celebrated across the county by millions of Americans in more than 60,000 communities on the first Tuesday in August with everything from simple meet-and-greets on front porches to elaborate festivals. Thanks to the generosity of Sleepy Hollow United Methodist Church, we had the opportunity to observe the day as a community.

It was a good place to be if you like dancing to an accordion band playing familiar tunes, singing John Denver songs out loud, talking to neighbors and your local police officers, climbing around a visiting fire truck, and ice cream. The event repeats on 4 August 2026.

White Gardens Makeover: White Gardens is a 13.7-acre county park embedded in our community at the bitter end of Princess Anne Lane. Over the 60-year period from 1938 to 1999, John C. and Margaret K. White developed the property into a renown rhododendron and azalea horticultural park. Since ownership was transferred to Fairfax County in 1999, the park has fallen into a state of disrepair. The current plan is to resurrect the property as a woodland meadow surrounded by forest and punctuated by the remaining flowering shrubs of which there are many.





A number of members participate in a monthly work party supported by Park Authority staff from 9:00 am to noon on the third Wednesday of the month, year-around. The principal task is to clear out fallen limbs and dead/invasive plants. Prior to arrival of the contingent from HRVCA a year ago, only three or four residents were showing up to work. Now, 15-20 people typically contribute and the improvement in the condition of the park is unmistakable. Our participation encourages the Park Authority to give priority to the recovery effort, and the work is a rewarding way to be outside and get some exercise. The work is not strenuous. Next work party: Wednesday, 19 Nov, 9:00 am. The official address of the park is 6711 Princess Anne Lane. Join us!! Bring gloves and sturdy shoes.

Meet Up & Play Dates, Slide 14.

John described this new activity that invites everyone, especially families with young children, to get together for a couple of hours on a Saturday morning over donuts and coffee at Rose Lane Park Playground. Generally, the coffee is set up in the pavilion where adults can chat while kids take the playground. The first event last May was well received to the point that a second, planned for Nov 1, was announced via the Google Group on 27 Oct.

Additional dates are in the works and will be shared via Google Group and Holmes Run Valley Neighbors Facebook page once plans are set.

The Rose Lane Park Playground is just across the creek from our neighborhood at 3584 Terrace Dr, Annandale. To get there, walk into the stream valley at the Holmes Run II Park entrance adjacent to the intersection of Rose Ln and Slade Run Dr, bear left and cross the stream on the bridge, and then continue straight a short distance. The park will be on your right.

Participating in Our Community, Slides 15 & 16.

Gillian described the Holmes Run Valley Neighbors Facebook Group as a hyper-local group and invited residents of the Holmes Run Valley neighborhood to join. The objective is to bring neighbors together and build community. The group now has more than 100 members.

Gillian also called attention to the 4 Nov election and asked members to support the Beech Tree Elementary School PTA bake sale that will be set up on a table outside the polling place at the school.

HRVCA Website, Slide 17.

Josiah announced the initiative to develop a new HRVCA website as a central information repository with a simple, clean design that will simplify navigation. The first edition is expected to be online by the end of November or early December.

2026 Budget and Dues, Slides 18 & 19.

In our 2025 fiscal year (1 Oct 2024 - 30 Sep 2025), 70 members paid $10 dues producing revenue totaling $700. Assuming equal revenue in the current fiscal year, the Board recommended an $890 budget and $10 dues for FY 2026. The vote accepting the Board's recommendation was unanimous.

The budget supports liability insurance for two meetings; the website; and 2026 editions of Spring Stream Valley Pick Up, National Night Out, and Meet Up & Play Dates. The funds distribution is on Slide 18.

How to Pay HRVCA Dues ($10)

By Zelle: Please pay hrvca36@gmail.com.

- In the Zelle 'Memo" line, please provide your first and last names.

Please pay by Zelle, if you have it. It's the easiest for the treasurer.

By Venmo: Please pay @HRVCA

- In the Venmo "What's this for" dialog box, please provide your first and last names.

By check: Please make the check payable to HRVCA.

- On the "For" line in the lower left corner of the check, please print your first and last names if they are not printed on the check

By mail: Please mail your check to HRVCA, c/o John Edwards, 3447 Skyview Terrace, Falls Church, 22042

Thank You!!

Community Care and Communications, Slides 20 - 24.

Jacke reassured members that the county will respond to our needs for services but one commonly needs to be persistent. She cited a number of instances in which the county recently came through for concerned residents.

The appearance of our community is important to all of us, and one area sometimes overlooked is the drainage ditches that border our roads. Jacke urged members to please keep litter cleaned out and grass mowed. The same applies, and more so, to shoveling our sidewalks and keeping them clear of ice. Ice and snow left on sidewalks are a significant safety issue for school children walking to school and residents with limited mobility. Jacke's slides include a number of constructive suggestions for neighbors to please collaborate in clearing sidewalks over this winter, including making arrangements for snow removal if you plan to be away, helping neighbors who need help, and encouraging teenage family members to pitch in - shoveling snow pays well!

Finally, Jacke suggested that we might consider adding HRVCA signs to the Neighborhood Watch signs at the entrances to our community as a means for increasing the visibility of our association. The signs could include QR codes providing access to our new website. Her Slide 24 shows such a sign at the entrance to the Broyhill Crest neighborhood.

Pending Development Activities, Slides 25 - 31.

Westcott Power Substation Upgrade: The project finally is underway and is expected to proceed in stages over the next two and one-half years. The Dominion Energy contact for comments and questions is Natalia Giraud, mailto:natalia.giraud@dominionenergy.com.

Dominion Energy Strategic Underground Program: Dominion is in the process of identifying outage-prone power lines and placing them underground. In our area, the program is limited to the small area surrounding Valley Brook Dr shown on Slide 27. Dominion is in the process of collecting the necessary easements from homeowners. Construction is expected in 2026 or early 2027. Homeowners will receive notice via postcards three months prior to construction start. The point of contact at Dominion is Mikela Spriggs-Massenburg, M.Spriggs-Massenburg@dominionenergy.com.

Fairfax Casino Referendum: A bill to allow a Fairfax County referendum permitting a casino in the Tysons area is expected to be introduced in the 2026 General Assembly. Similar bills died in the 2024 and 2025 sessions. The stated purpose of the casino is to promote economic development. Opponents counter that degradation of our social fabric is a more likely outcome.

Opposition to the referendum is widespread in the county, including at least three members of the Board of Supervisors. Our supervisor, Andres Jimemez, reportedly is not opposed.

In our 2024 fall meeting, members voted unanimously to oppose the referendum. In our 2025 fall meeting (this meeting), there was no disagreement with the proposal that the Board should oppose a bill proposing a referendum should such a bill be introduced in the 2026 session. Principal Board opposition would be in the form of letters written to county supervisors and our representatives in Richmond.

Background material and links to pertinent websites are in the meeting slides.

Local Land Use Issue:

Residents on Kennedy Lane spoke in the meeting to express their concerns regarding a sober living facility in their neighborhood. They stated that the facility, Manna House TSL, houses eight adult males, ages 18-30, recovering from drug/alcohol use. The Kennedy Lane residents are working to assure that the operation is safe, has proper oversight, and adheres to applicable county and state regulations.

A second such facility to house up to 13 individuals apparently is planned in a home recently sold on Nicholson Rd.

Supporting the Elderly and Less Able

An off-agenda discussion focused on the needs of elderly residents, especially those living alone and not online. One suggestion was a periodic association newsletter to keep them connected to the community. Another considered the possibility of a rudimentary Village Program.

A 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 a helping hand can be nearby when needed. The program had its start on Beacon Hill in downtown Boston in 1999. Today, more than 260 Villages are active nationwide.

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.

When we discussed the Village Program in our Fall 2021 meeting, Jacke noted that the Nextdoor site had a Help Map whereby residents could offer a helping hand to neighbors. At that time, a number of members were offering services on the map. If the Help Map is still out there, it is not easy to find.

If you are interested in organizing an activity to support the elderly, please send an email to Clyde Miller.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of HRVCA is planned for April.

Email addresses of Board members are on the following page.

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

Clyde.

HRVCA Board:

Clyde Miller	President	cmiller3436@gmail.com
Jacke Zeiher	Vice President	jzeiher11@gmail.com
John Edwards	Treasurer	john@buyinthedmv.com
Debbie Rosse	Director	debbiehr15@gmail.com
Gillian Weber	Director	gmginter@gmail.com
Jim Robinson	Director	jrcares@yahoo.com
Josiah Halasz	Director	josiah.halasz@gmail.com

Resources:

HRVCA group email for association business

- holmesrunvalleyca@googlegroups.com

HRVCA Community Resources

- https://holmesrun.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/hrvca-resource-sheet-2025-4-9-2025.pdf

HRVCA blog

- http://holmesrun.org.

Annandale blog for community news

- https://annandaletoday.com

Mason District Supervisor Andres Jimenez

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

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