Save the Date!

“A Taste of the Hollow”

…formerly known as the “Wine & Cheese Social”

Saturday, March 24
7:00 p.m.
St. Alban’s Episcopal Church
Tickets are $15.00

It’s way more than just wine and cheese…. you’ll enjoy all these treats and more.

- Many different hors d’oeuvres, and various tapas-style bites
- Finger sandwiches, olive platters, and fruit assortments
- Several types of exotic dips and spreads
- And a chocolate fondue fountain!

There are lots of great door prizes, and it’s a great way to catch up with long-time neighbors and newer residents of our great community.
President’s Letter

Since our last edition of the Legend, we’ve continued to work on a number of issues affecting the Hollow. For one, Board members Paul Byrtus and Cindi Fox continue to monitor the proposed redevelopment of the Westlawn Shopping Center by Bill Page Plaza, LLC (Page). The folks at Page have worked well with SHCA and other affected neighborhoods throughout the process. A SHCA suggestion to help enhance traffic flow at Annandale and South Street has been submitted by Page to VDOT. We hope to see construction starting this spring and look forward to the renewal.

We’ve also been working with various groups on issues affecting the quality of life and property values in and around the Hollow. Mason District Council representative Grant Mydland and Land Use Chair Paul Byrtus have been working through the Mason District Council, Greater Sleepy Hollow, Parklawn, Ravenwood and Ravenwood Park on infill and other zoning related issues to ensure our communities maintain the residential qualities originally contemplated.

In addition, we’ve joined with many of these same groups to voice our concerns to Mason District leadership regarding the general condition of the district including litter, temporary signage and general lack of ordinance enforcement. We’ve been successful at getting these issues added to future Mason District meeting agendas. As an outgrowth of these efforts, we’ve also discussed how SHCA could enhance folks’ knowledge of the ordinances. As such, our Communications Committee is considering how best to use various tools such as the SHCA Yahoo! Group site and future editions of the Legend to provide brief bits of information.

I’m also very happy to report that we’ve posted to the SHCA Yahoo! Group site, a file containing the names of contractors and other service providers that have been recommended by our neighbors. We all thank Social Committee Chair Sarah Shannon for compiling this data. We hope you’ll find this helpful when looking for service providers, knowing that someone in the neighborhood already had a positive experience. Look for more information in this edition of The Legend on how to access the listing or recommend additions.

We continue to have success with our website and Yahoo! Group communication tool. If you’re reading this electronically, thank you for helping us contain our costs. Our Yahoo! Group site is proving to be a very effective tool for communicating and sharing information within SHCA, and we encourage those who haven’t signed up yet to do so by sending an e-mail to sleepyhollowneighborhood-owner@yahoogroups.com. It’s both fortunate and unfortunate that we’ve had several recent occasions of safety concerns and police activity in the area. However, our Yahoo! Group communication tool has functioned as anticipated allowing folks to quickly share information among our neighbors.

We’re looking forward to our “Taste of the Hollow” event (formerly the “Wine & Cheese”) on March 24. This is truly our signature event at which we kick off the spring season, enjoy a great evening of socializing with neighbors, partake of some exquisite treats prepared by Sarah Shannon and her team. She has done such a great job year after year that we’ve decided the name needs to be enlarged to keep up with her menu! Look for more information in the following pages so mark your calendars and come join us for this wonderful event.

With best regards,

Steve Tillman
SHCA President 2011-2012
**Comings and Goings**

The Association warmly welcomes the following new neighbors to the Hollow:

- **Aaron and Meghan Peters** of South Street
- **Rob and Jennifer Casagrande**, and children **Isabella** and **Anthony**, of Crane Drive
- **Felix Moreno and Linda Venable** of Spring Terrace

With sadness, the Association offers condolences to the families of departed long-time neighbors Roberta Webb, Joe Toma, and Martha Ann Mize.

**Reflections on the Hollow**

I spent a recent afternoon visiting two of my neighbors, Bob Terrill and Janice Gaynor, who reminisced about how our street came to be and who lived here in the 60s. Even though some houses have changed owners, they both feel that Valley Court continues to be a special place to live within Sleepy Hollow. Why? Knowing their neighbors so long and so well, the willingness of everyone to help one another, and the congenial gatherings on the street, from Christmas parties, picnics, sled races, Halloween trick or treating, and backyard tag football and softball games involving both children and parents. When the first houses were built, twenty children -- all close in age -- lived here. I’m sure if I polled people on other streets in the Hollow, they would pay similar compliments to their neighbors. We all are fortunate to live here.

That said, a neighborhood with a reputation for having an active civic association is a real bonus. Having grown up in a small town outside of Boston, I found the county system here remote. However, Sleepy Hollow offered numerous opportunities to meet people and become involved in the workings of the community to help nurture and protect this pocket oasis in Northern Virginia. It was community involvement that kept the City of Falls Church from annexing us in the early 70s. It still is vital to be informed about what’s happening beyond our own fences, from what Bill Page is planning to do with Westlawn to what might be a redevelopment of the Seven Corners area. People in this community offer their expertise in responding to these issues and endeavor to improve the kinds of communication the SHCA can offer its homeowners. Stay informed and involve yourself in SHCA activities whenever you can. The older residents have set a valuable example for us to follow.

*Margaret Quadrino, Membership Co-Chair*
It’s Here! The Sleepy Hollow Contractor List

I have posted the Sleepy Hollow Contractors/Services List on the SHCA Yahoo! Group. As the coordinator of the list, I plan to update the list once a month and would appreciate your input. Please feel free to email me, at sarahshannon94@yahoo.com if you would like to recommend someone and/or some place to be added to the list. Reminder…we only post positive comments and you can’t nominate yourself. If you are already a member of the SHCA Yahoo! group, visit http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sleepyhollowneighborhood/files/1SHContractorServiceList.xlsx to view the list. If you haven’t joined yet, see below for how to join.

Sarah Shannon, Social Chair

Get Plugged Into the Latest SHCA Events – Join the Yahoo! Group

To stay informed on the latest events in the Hollow, we encourage all neighbors to join the SHCA Yahoo! message group. Joining just takes a moment, and it’s both easy and free. You will receive timely updates on SHCA news, lost/found pets, contractor/services recommendations, opportunities for “free-cycling”, invitations to the Sleepy Hollow Happy Hour (“SHHH”) on first Fridays of each month, and more! And sending a posting to the entire group is equally easy: it’s just like sending any other e-mail. You’ll even get early notice when The Legend is posted online.

To join, send an e-mail to: sleepyhollowneighborhood-owner@yahoogroups.com and include your full name and address, as membership is limited to residents of the Hollow. Shortly after you send your request, you will receive an invitation and additional step-by-step instructions. Your e-mail address will not be shared outside of the Hollow. Please join!

Jan Keyes, SHCA 1st Vice President and Site Administrator for SHCA Yahoo! Groups

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Contact the Editor at jcmartin95@aol.com -or- Social Chair Sarah Shannon at cuchi423@hotmail.com

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SHCA Executive Committee – Minutes

Sleepy Hollow Citizens Association Executive Committee Meeting
November 14, 2011

Secretary (Howard Brown). Executive Committee minutes of September 13, 2011 sent via email approved unanimously by committee.

Treasurer’s Report (George Quadrino). George reported that expenditures are now slightly ahead of income with that the normal nature of the budget at this time of year. Dues payments to Mason District Council and the Fairfax Federation were to be made. The association remains in very good financial health with $16,603 on hand in various association accounts. The Treasurer’s report was approved unanimously.

First Vice President Report (Jan Keyes). Jan offered congratulations to George Lamb’s successful election to the Board of Directors of the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District in November. Prior to this election George had been appointed to the board to complete the term of a director who died. Jan reported that when contacting the office of Supervisor Penny Gross to request clean-up of an area near the Seven Corner’s underpass she was told it was a Virginia Department of Transportation responsibility and they would need to be contacted.

Second Vice President Report (Jeanine Manley). Jeanine reported the kickoff of this year’s membership drive began with a gathering of block chairs at membership co-chair Margie Quadrino’s home. With nearly all areas represented the event allowed the block chairs to reconnect. They received tips on collecting methods. One group has already successfully completed collection of their dues.

Mason District Council (Grant Mydland). In the wake of a summer earthquake followed by neighborhood flooding from hurricane-driven rains Mason District Council will/host(ed) a community event on Emergency Preparedness November 17 at Peace Lutheran Church in Annandale. The program focused specifically on how Fairfax County works in conjunction with communities to be prepared when emergencies arise.

Fairfax Federation (Daniela Cockayne). No report.

Neighborhood Watch (Curtis Anderson). Curtis reported the Neighborhood watch has 17 vacancies with a few evenings, but most on days and weekends. Days are the more difficult to fill because people work with openings occurring as retirees who had driven shifts removed themselves from the watch duties. Curtis also mentioned of a renewed interest in exploring traffic calming measures on Aspen Lane. Fairfax County had approved Aspen Lane for speed humps several years ago, but they were not installed because not enough residents living on the busy street approved their installation.

Social Chair (Sarah Shannon). After back to back rainy weekends in September caused the fall picnic to be cancelled social chair Sarah Shannon staged an abbreviated picnic at the
Halloween parade – a neighborhood Oktoberfest. It was also an opportunity to have a general association meeting in lieu of the one missed at the cancelled fall picnic. Sarah said she was impressed by the great turnout at the parade this year with the Jeb Stuart High School Band leading the march and the adults and costumed children and dogs having a great time. Eileen Gorman did a fabulous job organizing the event.

**Communications - Legend and Website updates (Chris Martin).** The exact next Legend deadline was unknown at the time of the meeting. After some discussion it was decided to add Executive Committee meetings January 10th and February 13th since in past the winter meetings were needed to discuss and plan upcoming events such as the spring wine and cheese planned for March 24th this year. [Editor's Note: The February Executive Committee meeting was subsequently rescheduled to Feb 28th at 7 p.m.]

**Land Use (Paul Byrtus).** Paul reported a new medical office building is being constructed at Seven Corners near where Sleepy Hollow Road intersects Leesburg Pike in the vicinity of other such offices. He also reported that the first stages of construction at Bill Page Honda may begin in spring and that the Westlawn Shopping Center Post Office, opened in 1967, will be closing permanently after the holidays with mail distribution operations moved to the Merrifield Post Office.

**New Business:**
Neighborhood cleanups were scheduled December 10th and March 10th. A suggestion was made to include “good neighbor” reminders in the Legend so neighbors would be mindful of how some activities affected others.

**Old Business:**
Wine & Cheese: After some discussion it was decided the Spring Wine and Cheese event would be renamed the “Taste of the Hollow” to provide a title more fitting for an event where selections go far beyond wine and cheese. The event will be advertised earlier in the Legend and on the Yahoo site so more long-range plans can be made to attend.

Service Providers List: Discussion took place of the on-going effort to create a usable list of neighborhood service providers recommended by residents. The discussion centered on how the list would be managed.

Gifts for local Fire and Police Stations: Grant Mydland agreed to purchase and deliver $50 gift cards to the local fire and police stations.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

*Howard Brown, Secretary*
**VDOT Offers NEW Resources for Residents During Snow Events**

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), the state agency that controls and maintains the roads in Fairfax County, has a new Web tool for residents to use to review the status of plowing roads in Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William Counties.

The Web site [http://novasnowplowing.virginia.gov](http://novasnowplowing.virginia.gov) will be active when two or more inches of snow have accumulated, providing access to VDOT’s "snow maps" to find out whether crews are plowing, have completed plowing, or have not started plowing roads on a particular snow map. **Street-by-street progress is not shown.**

Residents can view a video about how to use the new site at [www.YouTube.com/VDOT](http://www.YouTube.com/VDOT) and winter preparedness tips at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=H1CKXqSQRHg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H1CKXqSQRHg).

For information about road conditions call 511; log-on to [www.511virginia.org](http://www.511virginia.org); follow @511northernva on Twitter; or log-on to [www.VirginiaDOT.org](http://www.VirginiaDOT.org). To report unplowed roads, send an e-mail to novainfo@vdot.virginia.gov, or call 1-800-FOR ROAD (367-7623); TTY users can call 711.

**New Name for the “Wine and Cheese” - “A Taste of the Hollow!”**

How things have changed. I believe that it was 12 or 13 years ago when I got involved with the Sleepy Hollow Citizen’s Association and thought it would be fun to help out with some of the neighborhood’s wonderful events. I fondly remember my first “Wine and Cheese” which was held at the Falls Church City Women’s Club. We offered cheese, some pates, and only served wine to the guests.

Over the years, I introduced beer and other nibbles and slowly the “Wine and Cheese” evolved into an international flair of appetizers that easily can become a full blown meal. All year long I look for new ideas and recipes, trying to make the event different from the previous year.

This year, we brainstormed and came up with the “A Taste of the Hollow”. The event is still the same, but hopefully the new name will neighbors to realize this is way more than a plate of cheese. It’s an opportunity to savor some tempting bites, sip some wonderful wines, beers and other non-alcoholic drinks, all the while socializing with our neighbors. During the evening, we also elect the Sleepy Hollow Citizen’s Association board members and award wonderful door prizes generously donated by area merchants (Please remember to visit them when you’re out shopping!)

As always, if you would like to get involved and help out this year, please contact me and let me know. We will be trying new things like, Tortilla Espanola, Philly Steaks topped with Caramelized Mayan Onions, Bleu Cheese Guacamole just to tempt you a bit.

*Sarah Shannon, Social Chair*
SHCA Community Clean-up – Saturday, March 10

We will hold our next community clean-up on Saturday, March 10th, 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. (rain or shine). Participants should meet at the corner of South Street and Sylvan Drive. Please bring gloves and wear sturdy shoes; safety vests and trash bags will be provided. Invest an hour of your time to help keep Sleepy Hollow beautiful!

Thanks to all who have participated in past clean-ups, and to those whose vigilance on an ongoing basis helps litter to a minimum. We appreciate your efforts!

Between cleanups, please do your part to maintain the Hollow’s community appearance and “curb appeal” to potential new residents. Here are some tips:

- Call 703-802-3322 to schedule Special Pickups of bulk or brush items. Our tax dollars pay for this service, up to four per home per year at no charge. Let’s use it!
- Pick up litter and brush along your property’s street front. Team up with your neighbors to consolidate items requiring Special Pickup. Rotate addresses for Special Pickup if any one address has exceeded its allotted four Special Pickups.
- Remove trash and recycling containers from your neighbors’ views between regularly scheduled Thursday pickups. If your travel schedule or health condition interferes, ask a neighbor for help. This is good practice for home security, too.
- Pick up litter in the community regularly as you walk, especially along our boundary streets. And please, pick up unread newspapers from your property.

Your neighbors thank you for helping to maintain the Hollow’s “curb appeal”!

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