



## 2024 Spring Meeting Results

4 May 2024

On May 1, HRVCA members held our spring meeting from 7:00 – 8:30 PM in the cafeteria of Beech Tree Elementary School. Topics discussed included:

- Treasurer's report
- Crime report
- Concerns re casino at Tysons
- Advancing community
- New Holmes Run Valley Facebook group
- Status of Westcott power station upgrade
- April 13 stream valley clean up
- Status of county vacuum leaf collection service
- National Night Out coming on 6 Aug

Twenty members participated in the meeting. The meeting [slides](#) are available online.

**Treasurer's Report:** The year 2023 was the first time in a number of years that the association has asked members to pay dues (\$10 per household). Our bank balance was running low. The dues collection was agreed upon in our 2023 spring meeting. The 6 Dec email sent to our 257-member Google Group affirming the 13 Dec fall meeting date noted that dues would be collected in the meeting and announced that dues could be paid via Venmo and Zelle and well our traditional means, cash and check.

Mike Paup reported that we now have \$595.45 in the bank as of 30 Apr, and \$337.00 has been collected since the fall meeting. The only expense since the fall meeting was \$119.92 paid for liability insurance coverage for the spring meeting.

### Crime Report

Jim Robinson reported that, notwithstanding a recent increase in crime in surrounding areas of Mason District, our neighborhood is blessed with a low incidence of serious crime. Even so, he recommended that residents should be diligent in keeping vehicles and homes locked and should immediately report any suspicious or concerning activity to the Mason Station of the Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD). 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. 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.

## **Concerns re Proposal for Casino at Tysons**

Sally Horn, Chair of the Greater Tysons Citizens Coalition, briefed a senate bill (SB 675) introduced in this year's meeting of the General Assembly by Senator Marsden (Burke). The bill would allow Fairfax County to conduct a referendum permitting a casino development, presumably at Tysons Corner. Marsden justified his proposal noting that property tax revenue from the casino could offset declining tax revenue from other commercial properties, in particular, office buildings. During the General Assembly session, a Senate Finance and Appropriations subcommittee delayed consideration of the bill to next year to allow an in-depth analysis of proposal consequences.

Sally spoke to the several risks a casino would impose on the Tysons residential and business communities and their further development. She urged residents to send emails opposing the casino to their county and state representatives and to join the NoFairfaxCasino Facebook group to track further developments of this issue. See [Slides](#) 2-8.

A [letter](#) opposing the casino proposal prepared by the Board of Mason District Council was circulated to representatives on 30 Jan.

Casinos are an important issue. Please consider adding your voice to the debate. [Slide](#) 8 provides the coordinates of our elected representatives (email addresses and phone numbers).

## **Advancing Community – Our Sense of Belonging**

As prelude to discussion of the new community Facebook page, Jacke Zeiher emphasized the importance of strengthening our sense of community, our sense of belonging here. HRVCA semi-annual face-to-face meetings at Beech Tree School, our annual stream valley clean up, and National Night Out are intended to contribute to that cause. In addition, a number of streets host block parties during the year, and friend groups gather around common interests and holiday events. Not to forget our Little Free Library on Rose Lane at Wheatley Court.

Jacke distributed her new, updated hot sheets listing coordinates of public safety, government, and utility services supporting our community as well as coordinates of neighborhood schools. A copy of the [hot sheet](#) is on our blog.

## **New Holmes Run Valley Facebook Group**

Tina Kamalanathan, Guillian Weber, and Rachel Pasternack have combined forces and their many talents to create a new Facebook group exclusively for residents of our Holmes Run Valley neighborhood. Quoting from their meeting slides, "The mission is to meet neighbors, build community, share information on local events, give help or ask for help and just generally be social." The group is not for neighbor complaints, disparaging remarks, or political or religious dialogue.

In the meeting discussion it became clear that the Facebook group will be powerful for increasing our sense of belonging to a community and for integrating new families. If we can take a few minutes to welcome new neighbors when they move in and point them to our Facebook page, they will have instant access to our entire community. What a gift!! Thank you, Tina, Gillian, and Rachel!!

[Slides](#) 10-15 describe how the group works and how to join up. It's as easy as clicking on the adjacent QR code with the camera on your cell phone. A map of the Holmes Run Valley neighborhood, the realm of the Facebook group, is attached to our [bylaws](#).



We will continue to use the Goggle Group for official association business. So please subscribe to the Google Group for HRVCA business and to the Facebook group for the social side of life in our community. (If not already a member, please subscribe to the Google Group by sending your name, street address, and email address to Clyde Miller at [cmiller3436@gmail.com](mailto:cmiller3436@gmail.com).)

### **Power Station Upgrade**

Dominion Energy briefed our 2023 spring meeting on their plan to upgrade the Westcott power distribution substation in the stream valley nearby the intersection of Rose Lane and Slade Run Drive. Under that plan, the work was to begin in fall 2023 for completion during summer 2025, nearly a two-year project. The 2023 spring meeting [report](#) includes Dominion Energy's slides describing the project.

Tricia Beecher has been tracking the project and reported that the county apparently has not yet approved Dominion's plan; revisions are required. She has submitted a number of comments to Dominion on the original plan based on questions and concerns expressed by residents, HRVCA Board members, and Whitney Redding, Primary Conservator, Friends of Holmes Run.

### **April 13 Stream Valley Clean Up**

Debbie Rosse reported that the haul from the stream valley litter clean up exceeded all expectations, including a large pipe 15 ft long of unknown purpose and an enormous ground mat apparently used to contain flying debris where dynamite is used to blast away rock. Sixteen 30-gallon trash bags were filled with litter, a record. And one tire. No stream valley litter pickup is complete without at least one tire.

A few residents brought their children, and we had one dog - sure signs of community spirit.

Jacke's hot dogs, snacks, and drinks were a hit as always. Several people stopped by for the snacks without lifting a finger to pick up trash, and that was OK. A principal objective of the clean up is to meet our neighbors whether over hot dogs or sharing a trash bag.

See [Slides](#) 16-19 for pictures.

### **Status of County Vacuum Leaf Collection Service**

In July 2023, the county's Department of Public Works and Environmental Services proposed to discontinue leaf collection services at the end of the season. Residents' negative reaction was sufficiently intense to cause DPWES to declare the following Oct that the service would continue thru the 2025-26 season. What happens next on this issue remains to be seen.

## National Night Out: Aug 6 - Save the Date

This annual celebration of community and police-community partnership is planned for Aug 6, the first Tuesday in Aug as usual. The main event, sponsored in part by HRVCA, will be an ice cream social with music at Sleepy Hollow United Methodist Church nearby at 3435 Sleepy Hollow Rd, from 6-8 PM. Police and first responders will be on-site with their fire trucks and patrol cars to meet and greet.

It's a fun event for adults and children, and it doesn't take a lot of time. Please plan to attend and support our police and first responders.

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

Thank you for being an interested member of HRVCA; particular thanks to members who participated in the spring meeting and the stream valley pick up.

Clyde

### HRVCA Board:

Clyde Miller	President	cmiller3436@gmail.com
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](mailto:holmesrunvalleyca@googlegroups.com)

[HRVCA Hot Sheet](#)

- <https://holmesrun.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/2024-2025-hot-sheet.pdf>

[HRVCA blog](#)

- <http://holmesrun.org>.

[Annandale blog for community news](#)

- <https://annandaletoday.com>

[Mason District Supervisor Andres Jemenez](#)

- <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mason>
- [mason@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:mason@fairfaxcounty.gov)

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