

HILLBROOK HILITES



Hillbrook-Tall Oaks Civic Association

March 2026

George Mason Library Closes this Summer

Hillbrook-Tall Oaks residents will have to use other Fairfax County public libraries for two years beginning as early as this summer while a \$15 million renovation is performed.

First constructed in 1960, the George Mason Regional Library has undergone expansions in 1970 and 1998. The library also has endured two fires over its operating life.

The 28,000 square foot building is to be modernized to address a growing number of users and changing staff requirements. The renovation is expected to create more group study rooms and quiet study areas.

Design work is virtually complete and construction bids are being solicited. The library will be vacated two months prior to the start of construction.

Until the summer of 2028, Hillbrook-Tall Oaks residents will have to use other Fairfax County libraries while construction occurs at George Mason. Alternate locations include Kings Park, Richard Byrd in Springfield, Thomas Jefferson Library in West Fall Church, and Culmore Community Library in Baileys Cross Roads.

Water Pipe Replacement Poised to Begin

The Fairfax County Water Authority (FCWA) is set to start the process of replacing major water lines located underneath Cindy Lane, Hillbrook Drive, Monterey Drive and Oak Court next week.

Actual street sawing and excavation will commence the week of March 30. Some 4,000 feet of critical water main pipe is being replaced. Other related systems are being upgraded as well.

FCWA provided residents living on affected streets with written notice in February. However, there will be a broader impact for all neighborhood residents who traverse the identified target streets.

Drive slowly. Expect traffic flow disruption on one or more of these streets at the same time during working hours for four to six weeks. FCWA estimates the project will take four months to complete. Road construction signage and

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Spring Has Arrived

It is Time to Clean Up the Neighborhood!!

EARTH DAY is coming early to our Hillbrook-Tall Oaks neighborhood. Led by Director Absolon Kent, the event is focused on picking up debris and litter across the neighborhood. Residents are asked to volunteer a few hours on **Saturday morning, April 18.**

High priority cleanup areas are George Mason Regional Library grounds; the service lane and shoulder along Little River Turnpike in front of the library; Hillbrook Drive road shoulders to Cherry Lane; Poe Middle School grounds and playing fields; and areas on Braddock Road near the intersection of Dodson Drive.

How can you participate? Show up at the Poe Middle School parking lot at 9 am on Saturday. Wear closed-toe shoes (no flip-flops). The Hillbrook-Tall Oaks Civic Association (HTOCA) will equip volunteers with bags, gloves, safety vests and other items as needed. Be GREEN...bring a filled reusable water bottle.

Students – Need community service credits? HTOCA will provide you with written documentation of your three hours of community service – **if you participate** in the clean-up. **Be there or be SQUARE!** To help make this event a success, volunteers can register in advance at: htoca.org/earth-day/#volunteer.

Time to Renew Your HTOCA Membership!

The Hillbrook-Tall Oaks Civic Association needs your support to continue the programs and activities we provide each year. These include the upcoming community clean-up, ice cream social, yard sale, annual block party, and Oktober Fest/Children's Parade.

In addition to social events, this volunteer civic association monitors commercial, county government, and school issues affecting the neighborhood.

*Send your dues check of \$35 to: HTOCA, P.O. Box 1112, Annandale VA 22003. Alternatively, pay by *PayPal* or *Zelle*. To send by electronic payment, choose: hillbrooktallooks@gmail.com as the recipient.

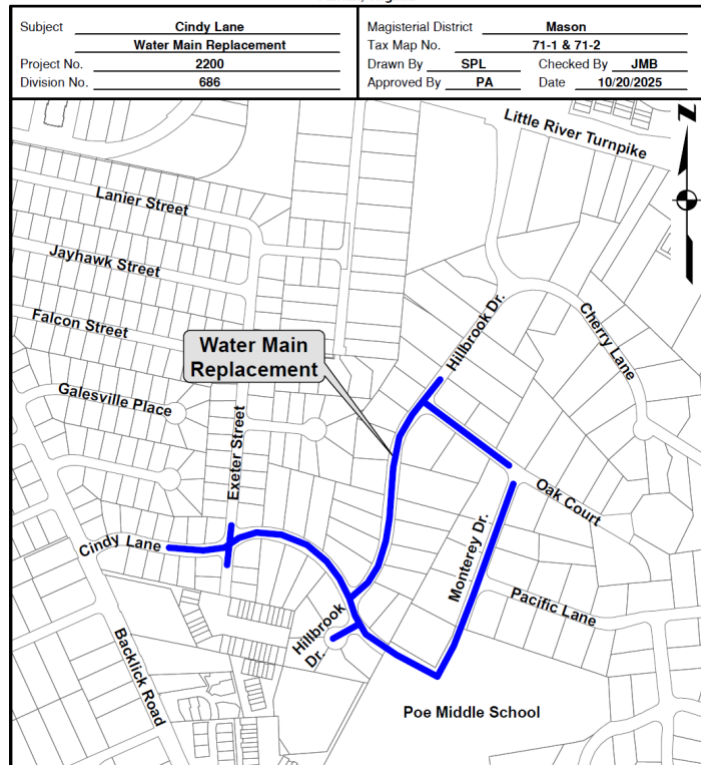
Got A Green Thumb?

[Pipe Replacement – from P. 1]

traffic control personnel will be used to guide vehicles.

Short interruptions in water service to homes will occur. Residents living on affected streets will be given two days advance notice of these service events. After pipes are installed, affected roads will be repaved.

Construction is being performed by Sagres Construction Corp. For more information, or to file complaints, contact Amanda Schumacher, FCWA acting construction manager, at 703-289-6361.



In Our Hood - Parking Violations To Avoid

Driving can become dangerous in Hillbrook-Tall Oaks when cars are parked improperly. With the start of water pipe replacement on Cindy Lane, Hillbrook Drive, Monterey Drive and Oak Court poor parking practices can complicate traffic movement. Also, fines and towing can follow.

Cars and trucks may not be parked within:

- 30 ft. of a STOP sign;
- 20 ft. of an intersection;
- 10 ft. of either side of a driveway;
- 15 ft. of a fire hydrant;
- within 20 ft. of a crosswalk

Fairfax County code stipulates that residents shall NOT park vehicles in ways that create a safety hazard for pedestrians, bicyclists, or motorists entering or exiting the street from driveways. See: *Fairfax County Code 82-5-1; and Virginia Code Section 46.2-1236*

Free & Cheap Trees Available

Want to spruce up your yard, create a little shade, provide habitat for birds and other critters, or simply replace lost trees? Depending on their goals. Hillbrook-Tall Oaks residents can plant new trees at little expense...even for free.

Consider giving Give young plants a fighting chance against deer and the elements with protective gear from companies such as Conservation Services, Inc. (See: *conservationservicesinc.com*).

Beyond your local vendors with a limited selection of trees, many with tall price tags, there are other suppliers of trees, including:

Vendor	Types of Trees	Number or Trees	Cost
Arbor Day Foundation	Many – See: https://shop.arborday.org/nursery	Many	\$, \$\$, \$\$\$
Fairfax County Dept. of Public Works	Many – See: https://shop.arborday.org/nursery	Limited Avail-ability**	Free
The Market at Watkins	Many – See https://www.themarketatwatkins.com :	Select Varieties	\$\$ - \$\$\$
Virginia Dept. of Forestry	Many – see: buyvatrees.com	Many	\$3-\$10
Mark Crawford 703-945-9979	6 ft. Willow Oak	1	Free -must dig it up

* get.arborday.org
Free through community organizations. Sourced through Arbor Day Foundation.
**get.arborday.org/fairfaxcountydirectship

There's no one happier than a gardener in the Spring!
Advice for Preparing Your Plant Beds

All those new green shoots to examine! All that beautiful new soil to play in! I know I'm ready to get out there and dig around. But alas, we must wait. Early spring taunts us so. If we do too much too early, however, we can damage the very environment we're trying to encourage.

Many of our most needed insects and pollinators are still hibernating in our messy flower beds and our grass until temperatures are consistently above 50 degrees. If we just can't wait that long to do some cleaning up, tread lightly. Leave leaves and small debris in the garden unless there are

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(Gardening - continued from p. 2)

Welcome to Our Neighborhood!

It's an honor to serve as your new Hillbrook-Tall Oaks Civic Association (HTOCA) President, and I'm excited to work together to keep our community a place we're all proud to



call home. We're fortunate to have an active, dedicated board of 10 members who work year-round to keep residents informed and to organize events that bring us together.

The Hillbrook-Tall Oaks community in Annandale is truly a special place, and one of our greatest strengths is the sense of connection among neighbors. As we look ahead, I encourage everyone to get involved, meet new neighbors, and take part in the activities that help keep our community welcoming and vibrant.

There are many opportunities to engage in the coming months, including our neighborhood cleanup on April 18 and our ongoing neighborhood watch program. We'll also continue our favorite traditions throughout the year, such as the annual block party-potluck, ice cream social, and Octoberfest—events that make it easy to connect and have fun together.

To stay up to date, please follow our Facebook page and visit our website (www.htoca.org) for the latest news and information. I look forward to meeting many of you and working together to make this a wonderful year for our neighborhood!

■ Linda Friar

Departed from Hillbrook-Tall Oaks

A resident of Kingston Drive since 1975, Donald Hester passed away on August 31, 2025. He was a man of many talents, serving as a career U.S. foreign service officer, adjunct professor at The American University, and euphonium player in the City of Fairfax band. He is survived by his wife Ingrid Hester and daughters Karen Abrams and Nicole Hester.



Hillbrook-Tall Oaks Civic Association

clear signs of fungus or other disease. Leave last year's stems in place. If you want to move leaves or stems, pile them up in a compost area or scrubby area of your yard--don't bag them and send them away! When you're ready to mulch, put the mulch right over a thin layer of leaves. This helps add nutrients to the soil.

Rather than mow the grass at the first sign of growth, wait until the clover and dandelions have bloomed. This allows ground-dwelling bees to have time to emerge and gives them something to eat while they wait for the later-blooming flowers. Also, set your mower to the highest setting, just to be extra careful.

So, rest a little longer--pour over seed catalogs and visit nurseries to make plans for the new year.

Celebrate May Day by participating in the **neighborhood plant swap on Saturday, May 2nd, at 10 am.** I'll have a table set up at the end of my driveway (6822 Silver Lane) full of plants and seeds to share. Bring something from your own garden if you have it, or just come for coffee and conversation, and take home something new to try.

■ Betsy Martin (571-242-5873)

Disposing of Yard Waste and Junk

Yard waste is collected and processed for recycling only during the period **March 1 –December 24.** Pack yard waste in compostable paper bags or rigid containers [No plastic bags] and place it at the curb on trash collection days. See: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/county-collection-customers

Small quantities of brush such as shrub prunings should be tied in bundles weighing no more than 50 pounds [pieces should be no longer than 4 feet in length and 6 inches in diameter]. More than four bundles of tied brush should be scheduled for a [Special Pickup](#).

For larger items, such as tree limbs or household junk, request a special pick-up, which requires you to declare the type of material to be collected. Select trucks collect different types of materials. Piles should be separated by type (example: just brush or metal, not mixed).

When you schedule your **Special Pickup** you will get a confirmation with the scheduled pickup date. Set out items by 6 a.m. on the collection day. To schedule by phone, call the customer Service Center at **703-802-3322.** Residents can get two "free" special pick-ups yearly

Note: Hillbrook-Tall Oaks is in a special sanitation district operated by Fairfax County, which charges for garbage, yard waste, and special pick-up collection through a special tax included in your property tax bill.

Missing Winter?

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Phone Number</i>
Linda Friar	President	954-298-7608
Ferrell Cook	Vice President	703-380-1239
Joanna Edie	Secretary	240-620-4025
Richard Gill	Treasurer	703-256-7608
Mohammed Belkhatat	Director	202-294-6196
Mark Crawford	Director	703-941-2822
Absolon Kent	Director	703-354-4974
Christina Kindlon	Director	925-518-1302
Jacque Mosely	Director	703-989-4099
Marly Parra	Director	571-230-3212
Al Sample	Director	703-256-1190

Address: P.O. Box 1112, Annandale VA 22003

Website: htoca.org

Email: hillbrooktalloaks@gmail.com

Will SNOWCRETE Monster Come Next Year?



“SNOWCRETE” is the creation of Michael Kelly and many children on Kingston Drive who joined to help him. Drawing on snow-man building skills mastered in Antarctica 20 years ago, he decided to fashion 3-inch thick slabs of frozen sleet into an Inukshuk- style snowman and an igloo. Observant kids, who were sledding nearby, joined the fun – helping Kelly cut and stack snow blocks. SNOWCRETE occupied the igloo for a short time before rising temperatures forced it to flee to colder climates. Will SNOWCRETE return next year to provide kids with more snow days off from school?

