

HILLBROOK HILITES



Hillbrook-Tall Oaks Civic Association

June 2026

Hillbrook-Oaks Community Comes Together for a Successful Earth Day Cleanup

The Hillbrook-Tall Oaks Civic Association (HTOCA) extends its sincere thanks to everyone who participated in the neighborhood clean-up on Saturday, April 18.

Thanks to the incredible support of volunteers, community partners, and local organizations, **Earth Day Cleanup 2026** was a tremendous success -- demonstrating the power of neighbors working together for the good of our community.

Hillbrook-Tall Oaks residents of all ages came together throughout the morning of April 18 to clean and refresh important neighborhood spaces, including areas surrounding Poe Middle School playground and recreation areas, sidewalks, and other shared public spaces.

Volunteers collected litter, cleared debris, and helped restore these important gathering spaces for students, families, and residents to enjoy. Their dedication reflects the strong community spirit that continues to define Hillbrook-Tall Oaks



Dozens of bags of trash and junk were collected from public grounds and neighborhood streets. The material was hauled away by Fairfax County on the day of the clean-up.

The event brought together an outstanding cross-section of our civic association members and community, including families, students, and local partners who generously contributed their time and resources. *Continues on Pg. 2*

I scream, you scream

Ice Cream Social on June 13

Come one, come all for **free ice cream !!**. This tasty event, sponsored by the Hillbrook-Tall Oaks Civic Association, is open to all residents of the neighborhood. So, challenge your taste buds. Be there!



Kids - make sure your parents don't miss this event. This is a opportunity to catch up with neighbors, meet new residents, and make new friends... *How Sweet It Is!*

Types of Ice Cream served: dairy & non-dairy
Beverages: Bottled water provided by HTOCA
Location: 4901 Kingston Dr. - at Silver Lane
Time: 3 pm to 5 pm

Rubble from Destroyed HILLBROOK Monument Cleared by Task Force

In January of 2024, the 64-year of HILLBOOK brick monument that identified our neighborhood was smashed in the middle of the night by a truck that slid out-of-control on snow-covered Little River Turnpike.

After more than a year of discussion with the Virginia Department of Transportation, which has right-o-way control of the property, it became clear that rebuilding the monument would not be done quickly. This is because of scheduled sidewalk and water pipe construction that will continue into 2027.

Meanwhile the remains of the monument were unsightly to some Hillbrook-Tall Oaks residents. The Hillbrook-Tall Oaks Civic Assn., which does not own the monument, took on the task of cleaning up the site.

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Clean-up from Pg. 1

HTOCA extends special appreciation to *Clean Fairfax* for providing cleanup supplies and support, as well as to the



Volunteers in HTOCA's **Earth Day Cleanup 2026** included (from left to right) Jefferson [canine], Graham Harris, Joanna Edie, Sarah Eqab (Poe Middle School principal), Thurraya Kent, Absolon Kent, Al Sample

community members that contributed through donations, outreach assistance, and volunteer participation.

In addition to the cleanup effort, the community also donated nonperishable food items for the *Poe Middle School PTSA Food Pantry*, which helps support local students and families in need. This added effort highlighted the broader spirit of service that made the day especially meaningful.

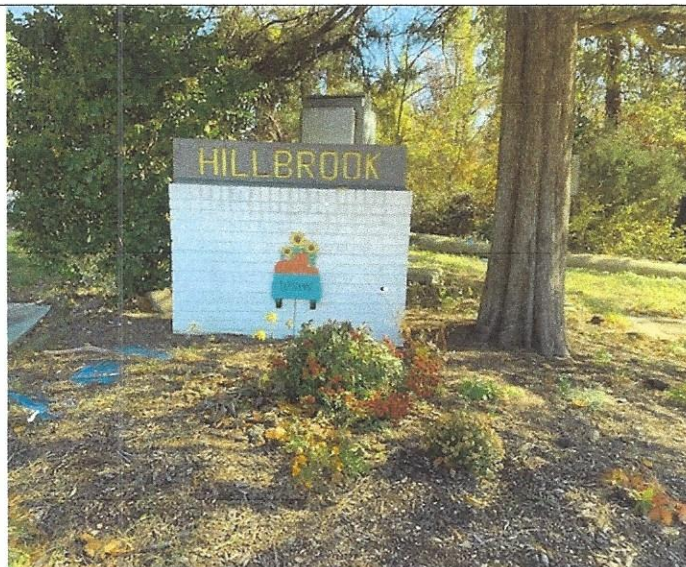
Thank you again to everyone who participated, donated, and helped organize this event. Your efforts made a real difference.

We look forward to building on this success and continuing to work together to keep Hillbrook–Tall Oaks clean, welcoming, and connected. – **Absolon Kent**

Water Pipe Project Halfway Complete

The Fairfax County Water Authority informed Hillbrook-Tall Oaks this week that water pipe replacement work will likely continue through August. Although installation of large lengths is nearly done on Cindy Lane, Monterey Drive, Pacific Lane, work remains on Oak Court and Hillbrook Drive.

Still to be done is pressure testing, leak detection, and connecting homes to the new water lines. The change should not result in an increase in water pressure. FCWA says Water pressure should not exceed 80 pounds. Residents worried about excess pressure causing leaks can install a control valve on the main water line where it enters the house.



Task Force From Pg 1

HTOCA board members, Mohamed Belkhatay, Richard Gill, and Mark Crawford – and Mohamed's son, Zak Belkhatay, provided the free labor. Costs were kept low because Mohamed supplied his Chevy 1500 truck to haul material to the Fairfax County transfer station on Ox Road in Fairfax.

The job required two separate trips to haul nearly 3,000 pounds of brick, cinderblock, and mortar scrap to the dump. Costs to HTOCA totaled \$170.00.

WATCH OUT FOR Pedestrians and Electric Wheel Chair Drivers

Dogs Dig It Too!

Seedy Green Thumb Characters Descend on Silver Lane for Mega Plant Swap

Twenty-five plant lovers and two dogs from around the neighborhood came together on a chilly Saturday morning in May to share their interest in all things gardening. Some may have come just for a slice or two of Gregg's pies, and who can blame them!

People brought garden plants, house plants, herbs and mushrooms, trees, seeds, tools, pots, books—all to share and discuss. Everyone took home something new, and, better yet, met someone new! It was so great to see old and new neighbors alike introducing themselves to each other and sharing some bit of local gardening wisdom.

And we all met our newest neighbors, Elizabeth, Tim, 12-day old Gavin, and sweet golden retriever Goose. They strolled down from their new home on Dodson Drive to check out the goings-on. They were happily pleased by the collection of cool items and odd neighbors having such a good time hanging out together.



While the plant swap was a joy, the real pleasure came from people grabbing a piece of pie, a cup of coffee, and a chair to sit around the fire pit or gather around the plant table to visit and find out what's going on in each other's yards—what's working, what's not, what to try and what not to, and just generally share the joy of growing things.

We probably could have gone all day, but we wrapped up at noon so folks could get their new treasures home and properly tended to.



We'll be **following up** with each other on **Saturday, August 1st, 10 am-noon**, to visit and share how all the plants are doing in their new homes. There's lots of planning and plotting to do for the Fall to ensure our yards, trees, and gardens stay healthy and are ready for the winter months.

What do you call a bunch of people who like playing in the dirt—pulling things out, putting things in—and are always curious about what is growing in other places?

A "growth" of gardeners. So, come grow with us!

-- **Betsy Martin**

Gas Line Construction Nears Completion

The Hillbrook-Tall Oaks Civic Assn. received notice on June 1, 2026, from the Skoda Contracting Co. of Beltsville MD, that it is almost finished replacing gas lines. This work primarily has been focused on Dodson Drive, Kingston Drive, and Silver Lane. Re-paving will follow. Skoda is performing the work for Washington Gas Light.

Hillbrook-Tall Oak Civic Association Board

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