

HILLBROOK HILITES

Hillbrook-Tall Oaks Civic Association

September 2026



Water Pipe Replacement Done – Pressure Spikes

The Fairfax County Water Authority (FCWA) completed its pipe replacement work on Cherry Lane, Cindy Lane, Exeter St., Hillbrook Drive, Monterey Drive, Oak Court and Pacific Lane in late August. The project was executed with few issues.

However, **high water pressure**, has been reported by some residents on Cherry Lane. Pressure readings approaching 90 pounds per square inch (PSI) reportedly were measured by water authority technicians. Water pressure in homes should not exceed 80 PSI.

The water authority has made a temporary fix to address the problem on Cherry Lane, but will soon implement a permanent solution. This will involve linking two separate water supply lines that run down Hillbrook Drive. The aim is to moderate pressure on the branch lines feeding Cherry Lane and other affected streets.

One homeowner recently (since water pipe replacement work commenced last spring) observed leaks in washing machine seals. He and another Chery Lane resident found that pressure in their homes exceeded 90 PSI.

If residents see leaks in their interior plumbing piping, valves, or appliances such as washing machines, may want to contact the Fairfax County Water Authority to have their water pressure checked at an outside spigot.

In some instances, it may be necessary for homeowners to **install a pressure reduction valve** in their home to address the problem, according to Amanda Schumacher, who manages water authority construction projects. If you are experiencing a water-related emergency, call **FCWA at 703.698.5613**.

While FCWA has completed virtually all the pipe replacement work in Hillbrook-Tall Oaks, another project at the edge of the neighborhood looms. Sometime in 2027 a section of water pipe running down Hillbrook Drive to Little River Turnpike is slated to be rerouted.

This will occur in conjunction with the installation of sidewalks on the south side of Little River Turnpike running from Hillbrook Drive east to Little River Run. No sidewalks now exist along this section of the roadway.

BLOCK PARTY

Don't Miss This Neighborhood Gathering!

This not-to-be-skipped annual event kicks off on Sunday, **September 20** at 4 pm and runs to 7 pm. Location: 4901 Kingston Drive at the corner of Kingston Drive and Silver Lane

This free neighborhood celebration is *open to all Residents*. This is a great chance to catch up with your neighbors, meet newcomers to the community, and enable your children to make some new friends.

There is going to be a lot going on that you won't want to miss! Live music is being provided by the **PAPER AIRPLANES**. Plus there will be lots of activities: Bean bag/Corn Hole games, Frisbees, Hoola Hoops, Jump Roping, Sidewalk Chalk, and more stuff.

This is a POT-LUCK EVENT that typically has a wide variety of foods for both kids, teenagers, and adults. Each family is asked to bring an entrée, vegetable dish, salad, or dessert that is large enough to serve several people. Casseroles, beans, chicken, hot dogs, lasagna, etc., should be in serving dishes and have serving utensils.

As always, drinks will be provided, including water, soft drinks, beer and wine – at no charge.

Plates and utensils: HTOCA provides plates, plastic ware, napkins and drinking cups.

Serving of food commences at **4:45 PM**.

So, boogie on down to Kingston Drive and Silver Lane. We look forward to seeing you all at the BLOCK PARTY. Be there or be SQUARE!

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Parking: Walk to this event to the extent possible. Do not attempt to park on Silver Lane, which will be blocked off. Watch out for walkers, especially children.

Seating: HTOCA will provide a limited number of chairs for seating. Residents should consider bringing portable chairs and/or blankets to sit on.

Pets: Please **keep your pets at home** for their safety and for the safety of neighbors.

Annandale High Food Pantry: Volunteers Needed

The Annandale High School PTSA Food Pantry is seeking adult community volunteers to help with food pantry distribution.

Community volunteers help organize and distribute food to AHS students and families. You don't need to be a food pantry expert, nor need previous experience. On-the-job training is provided, and a pantry coordinator is always on site to answer questions and help volunteers.

Established in November 2018, the AHS PTSA Pantry was created to help address food insecurity among Annandale High School students and their families. Any current AHS student or AHS family experiencing need is eligible to access the pantry; students are required to provide their AHS student ID number.

More Than Just a Food Pantry

The AHS PTSA Pantry has developed several ways to help meet the changing needs of students and families, including:

- Bi-monthly family food distributions to help families supplement their household food supplies.
- Grab-n-Go student snack stations providing food for students during the school day.
- Emergency food assistance for students and families experiencing an unexpected need.
- Partnerships with organizations such as Food for Others and Food for Neighbors, along with support from local businesses, churches, civic associations, neighborhood groups, scouting organizations, and individual donors.

The pantry is sustained entirely through monetary and in-kind food donations, making community support essential to keeping its shelves stocked and its programs operating.

Ready to Help?

Sign up for an upcoming distribution day through: *SignUpGenius*.

AHS PTSA Pantry Volunteer Sign-Up

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0E49AAA628A5F94-65013912-ahsptsas#/>

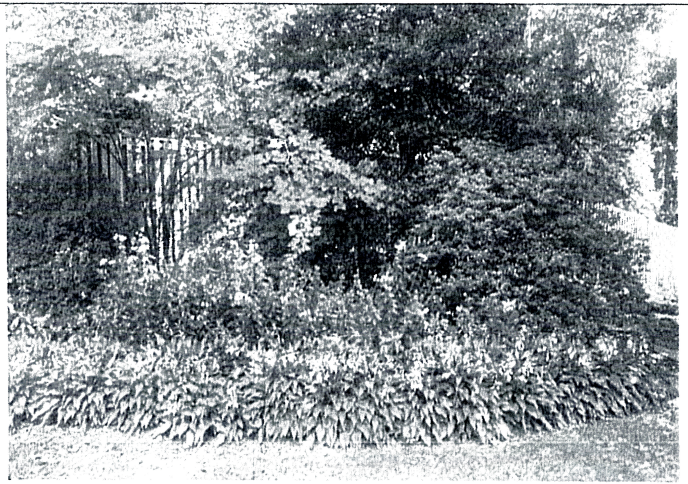
Learn more about the pantry, its programs, donation opportunities, and other ways you can help.

AHS PTSA Pantry

<https://www.annandalehsptsas.org/ahs-pantry>

A few hours of your time can make a lasting difference in the life of an Annandale High School student and their family. We need you—please consider volunteering today!

-- Absolon Kent



In The Garden

Whew! Growing Season Is (almost) Over!

Late summer/early fall is such a great time in the garden—you can actually put your tools down for a minute and just sit and enjoy the view of all your spring and summer labors. But when you're done with that, be sure to do a few end-of-season chores:

- Gather seeds for next year from this year's dried flower heads (zinnia, dahlia, black-eyed Susan, hollyhock).
- Split and replant tired perennials (peony, lily, geranium, hosta, liriopse).
- Leave coneflower heads for the goldfinches to enjoy.
- Leave dried stems either where they are or collect them and put them on a woodpile or compost pile (there's next year's bees and beetles in them)!
- Leave the leaves that fall in your garden beds. Mulch over them.
- And here's a tip from me who's learned this one the hard way—mark your plants! This will save you digging them up by accident when you plant more bulbs later or yanking them out like weeds when they pop up next spring!

Oh! I tend to forget things that aren't flowers, like lawns and trees. Fall is the best time to add grass seed to bare spots. It's also a good time to prune up shrubs and trees to remove dead branches and debris (less mass for snow and ice to catch on).

I'm hosting a follow-up to the **Plant Swap** at my house on **Saturday the 19th at 10 am** (6822 Silver Lane). Please join, whether you were at the plant swap or not. We can share successes and failures in the garden, things you would do differently and/or plans for next year, and how to over-winter some of our more fragile friends. See you outside!

-- Betsy Martin

Two Former HTOCA Officers Pass Away



Raymond Martin Nowakowski, a leader in the Hillbrook-Tall Oaks community, died on July 20, 2026 at the age of 89. He served as president of the Hillbrook-Tall Oaks Civic Association in the early 1990s and held other board positions. Nowakowski sought to protect the residential character of the neighborhood and to limit commercial intrusions.

Born in 1937 in Philadelphia, he started his career in the U.S. Navy as a SeeBee engaged in construction. He earned a Bronze Star while stationed in Vietnam. After 24 years in the Navy, he joined the U.S. Department of State providing administrative support to diplomatic missions. He is survived by his sons Richard, Roman and Roger; and eight grandchildren. A **celebration of his life** will be held **September 19, 2026**, from 1-5 pm at the Murphy Funeral Home, at 4510 Wilson Blvd., Arlington VA.

Mason District Council, Fairfax Federation Urges Rejection of Edsall Road Data Center Substation

Dominion Energy proposes to build a 230 kV power substation on Edsall Road between the planned Plaza 500 data center and the Bren Marr residential neighborhood. The Mason District Council and Fairfax Federation of Citizens Association oppose the plan.

The power facility would be located as close as 65 feet from residential properties. Beyond objections to the data center project and its noise and air pollution, residents express concern about the environmental and health impacts of locating high power transmission so close to homes, noting alternatives are available.

A public hearing on the substation project was scheduled before the Fairfax County Planning Commission for September 24, but has been postponed to December 2, 2026. Warning of setting a bad precedent, opponents of the substation are holding a virtual forum on September 16 at noon, via Zoom. For details, see:

<https://sites.google.com/view/savebrenmar/home>



Long-time Hillbrook-Tall Oaks resident **Clausen Joseph Krzywicki**, passed away on December 12, 2025. He served as treasurer and secretary of the Hillbrook-Tall Oaks Civic Association. (HTOCA). In addition, he held director positions multiple times.

A graduate of George Mason University's School of Law, he served as a federal administrative appeals judge for the Department of Health and Human Services. HTOCA also benefitted from general legal guidance he provided on local matters.

The Krzywicki family first resided on Dodson Drive and later moved to a newly built residence on Winter Lane. He is survived by his sons Michael Krzywicki and Bryan Krzywicki; and by three grandsons.

Fairfax Federation Calls on General Assembly to Revoke Virginia Data Center Tax Credit

The Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations passed a resolution on August 27, 2026 urging the Virginia General Assembly to cancel a tax break that exempted data center operators from state sales taxes through 2035.

Removal of the tax break would raise an estimated \$1.5 billion in funds that are needed to balance the State of Virginia's budget. The tax credit for data center operators would cease effective January 2028, if the General Assembly takes action.

Join the Hillbrook-Tall Oaks Civic Association!

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: hillbrooktalloaks@gmail.com

First HTOCA Bingo Night Draws Crowd

It's the game of chance that tempted residents to find their way to 4912 Dodson Drive on May 29th. There Jennie and Steve McKeveatt hosted the first BINGO night sponsored by the Hillbrook-Tall Oaks Civic Association (HTOCA).

Organized by Alisha Martinez, Jennie McKeveatt, and Ashley Grubor, the event attracted about 50 adults and children. What was expected to be a two-hour night went longer. Participants were addicted.

Will HTOCA do this again? Judging from the positive responses and high level of resident participation it's likely that HTOCA will do this next year.



Fairfax County & State Regulations

In Our Hood - Parking Violations To Avoid

Driving can become dangerous in Hillbrook-Tall Oaks when cars are parked improperly. Poor parking practices can complicate vehicle traffic movement and endanger the many walkers using our neighborhood streets.

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

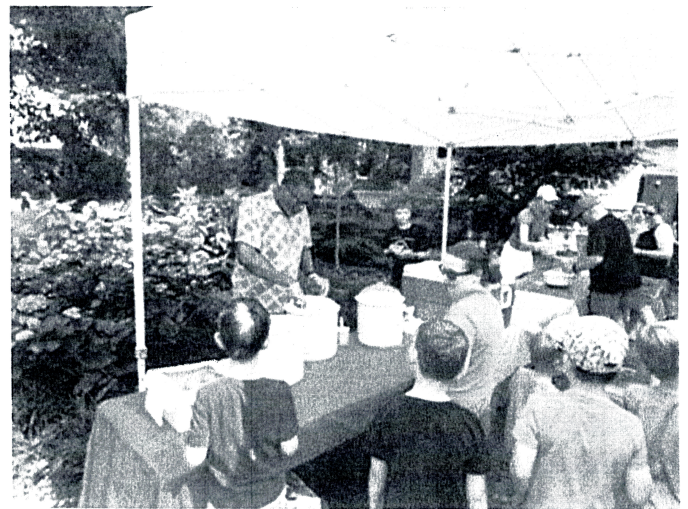
Fairfax County code stipulates that residents should NOT park vehicles in ways that create a safety hazard for pedestrians, bicyclists, or motorists entering or exiting the street from driveways. See: *Fairfax County Code 82-5-1; and Virginia Code Section 46.2-1236*

Ice Cream Social: How Sweet it Was

There was no holding them back. Hillbrook-Tall Oaks residents showed up in mass for their sweet treat. Chocolate, vanilla, and cookies-and-cream, and non-dairy ice cream were served either on a cone or in a dish.

An estimated 100 or so people attended HTOCA's annual ice cream social on June 13. The delicious ice cream was procured from Jake's Ice Cream on Columbia Pike in the Lake Barcroft shopping center.

The event was made possible by Dann Winter, who authorized the use of his property; and HTOCA volunteers including: Joanna Edie, Absolon and Thurraya Kent, and Ferrell Cook.



Absolon Kent and Joanna Edie scooping out ice cream

Hillbrook-Tall Oaks Civic Association

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