



August 28, 2009

**FROM THE CITIZENS' PERSPECTIVE . . .
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE HUNTER MILL ROAD CORRIDOR**

HISTORY TOURS

Hunter Mill Road Civil War tours led by Jim Lewis have been a big hit this past year. Reston Community Center and Vienna Parks and Recreation are among the organizations that have sponsored events. The Shepard's Center in Oakton has one scheduled (and fully booked) for October, and RCC has scheduled 4 more for next year. HMDL is considering hosting a tour. The cost would be around \$32 and be done on a 20 - passenger bus. Please e-mail Jim Lewis at antietam1862@verizon.net with a subject line of 'HMDL Bus Tour', if you are interested in participating in such an event. He will contact you if we have enough participants signed up to proceed.

HISTORIC MARKERS

The History committee has been busy for over a year working on the development and approval of Historic markers along the corridor from the State, the County, the Civil War Trails organization and the [Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority](#) that oversees the W&OD trail. The Civil War Trails marker has already been installed at the junction of the W&OD Trail and Hunter Mill Rd and can be seen at the link below.

<http://www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?MarkerID=20263>

Four other markers will be installed in the area in the next two months. When they are all in, HMDL will have a dedication event - so stay tuned.

VIRGINIA REPORT TV SHOW

Two members of our History Committee, Tom Evans and Charlie Balch, were recently guests on Delegate Ken Plum's TV show, 'Virginia Report'. They shared some of the Civil War era history of our area, including some of the Civil War artifacts found here and stories related to them. The show will air on [Sept 1st](#) or [2nd](#) for those who have Reston Cable (RCTV28). HMDL is working on getting a copy of the show to post on our website for others to view.

UPCOMING WETA BROADCAST

WETA Will broadcast "Danger Between the Lines", the story of the Hunter Mill Rd corridor during the Civil War on [Sunday September 6th at 3p.m.](#) Stay tuned for more details in a day or two.

CEMETERY PRESERVATION

Matthew Hull of BSA Troop 877 recently completed his Eagle Scout Project which consisted of cleaning up and restoring two local cemeteries which date to before the Civil War. The volunteers he recruited to help with the project cleaned up the Adams Family Cemetery, located in Cedar Run. They removed undergrowth and lots of fallen limbs. The Jones Cemetery (Wayside) needed not only the undergrowth and vines removed, but also a very large tree that had fallen on the site. In the process of cleaning up, the volunteers found several markers that are not on the Fairfax county inventory. They also added some fencing and a sign to mark the cemetery.



OAKTON SCHOOLHOUSE RELOCATED AND RESTORED

The Oakton Schoolhouse, located in the [Oakton](#) community, is a piece of history which was recently moved a half mile away to make way for a bank at the corner of Route 123 (Chain Bridge Road) and Hunter Mill Road. The building was constructed in 1897 and expanded to an "L" shape building in 1904. It was used as a school until 1912. The original 1897 portion of the school was preserved in the move to the Oakton Community Park.

By 1912, the school's enrollment was at capacity. The property was then sold and converted to residential use. It was later used as a hardware store, and since the mid 60's was part of the Appalachian's Outfitters store, a local landmark for decades.

Through the efforts of HMDL and much community support, the Hunter Mill Road corridor has become eligible for registration in the [National Register of Historic Places](#). The school is one of several historic sites in the corridor.



Its relocation and renovation was in part due to involvement of HMDL representatives. Daniel Spohn led the effort, and HMDL is grateful to him and his team for their efforts in this very time consuming process.

In 1994, Fairfax County and concerned citizens explored options of what to do with the well-worn vacant former Appalachian Outfitters store. HMDL raised awareness of a key Federal law requiring evaluating its historic significance and consideration of preservation options. It is likely the Federal law would have been overlooked, if it were not for HMDL's participation.

Chevy Chase Bank purchased the property, and for the next three years worked through the federally required process. The State determined that not only was the Oakton School House historically significant, but it also contributed to the "Oakton Crossroads Historic District" which included the old Appalachian Outfitters Store (since demolished), and the Methodist Church on Route 123. The Federal review process resulted in a mitigation plan agreed to by Chevy Chase Bank and the County to relocate the historic schoolhouse, restore it and subsidize its maintenance.

Supervisor Linda Smyth had a key role in working with all parties in the relocation and preservation of the schoolhouse. The Friends of Oakton School House, a community-based volunteer support group, will assist the [Fairfax County Park Authority](#) with maintenance and interpretation. There are no plans for public access inside the structure at this time.

BACHMAN FARM SOLD AGAIN.

The 116 acre property on Hunter Mill Road, known by locals as the Bachman Farm, has been the subject of many developers dreams of building high density housing. A few years ago, its most recent owner started building a model home on the property directly south of [Lake Fairfax Park](#), but has since gone bankrupt. The new owners are NVR, Inc., which has covenanted and agreed not to seek any higher density prior to [August 17, 2014](#).

OAKCREST SCHOOL

Oakcrest School, a private girl's school for grades six through twelve, has submitted a Special Exception application to develop a school for 450 students on the eastern half of the golf driving range. This application requires a public hearing and county approval for an exception to current zoning requirements. The applicants propose an entrance to the school on Crowell Road. A notice of the date and location for any meetings or hearings on this matter will be sent to home owner associations for distribution in nearby neighborhoods.

Preserve the Scenic and Historic Character of Your Community!

Share this e-mail with your friends - build the Hunter Mill E-community! HMDL needs a contact for every neighborhood in the corridor.

Sign up – receive e-newsletters and be counted as a supporter of HMDL. Visit www.hmdl.org and click on Membership. See our privacy policy.

Volunteer - Choose the History, Transportation, Land Use, Environment, or Communications Committee. Visit www.hmdl.org and click on Volunteer.

The Hunter Mill Defense League (HMDL) is a community, non-profit organization in Fairfax County, Virginia, dedicated to preserving the scenic and historic character of the Hunter Mill Road Corridor. Contact info@hmdl.org with any questions or comments about this e-newsletter.