

# The Village Way

Vol. 33, No. 2 May/June 2000

## Attic Treasures Sale... A Tradition!

Sat., June 3 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Thomas Jefferson School, 601 S. Oak Street

With thanks to Elizabeth Graham for her thoughts, comments, and inspiration in this "little history" of a wonderful Village event, written for the May 4, 1985 Attic Treasures Sale:

"There have been so many Attic Treasures Sales over the years that the event has become a tradition in Falls Church...

"Some marvelous tales are to be told connected with the donating and selling of treasures for the sale. Local contributors really do rummage in attics and basements and drawers for articles no longer needed, but that someone else will snatch up as a real find. There is a story—shssh—dare it be told, of the fortunate buyer who came upon an insignificant little piece of silver only to discover later that its true worth was \$300!

"Because Falls Church residents are a cosmopolitan crowd, having travelled or resided all over the world, many foreign treasures appear at the sales, having acquired increased value in the process. There is also the stall with international delicacies, some created from family recipes closely held for generations. At another spot are old-fashioned kitchen 'collectibles' no longer seen in specialty shops, such as *coulibat* mold, now unavailable even in France where it was made. It all goes to show, you never know!

"There's also always a bit of 'Old Home Week' flavor at Attic Treasures Sales for those who would never think of missing the event. And why not? Its purpose is to help in keeping alive the strong village spirit that persists in little Falls Church, a community of only 9,000 inhabitants, in the shadow of the National Capital.

"How did it all start? It's a Christmas story, concerning Louise Shepard, one of the founders of the Falls Church Village Preservation and Improvement Society. On the day after she looked sadly at the pile of 'things' under the Christmas tree; those many many items that didn't fit, were duplicates, or just someone else's taste, and she thought of all those other households in a similar plight. She said:

*We can start an annual money-making sale to benefit  
the treasury of the Village Society.*

"Thus was born the Attic Treasures Sales, one that is still flourishing year after year—now a tradition and now better than ever."

See you there... June 3, 2000.



Falls Church Village Preservation  
and Improvement Society

P. O. Box 6824

Falls Church, VA 22040

e-mail: [vpis2000@aol.com](mailto:vpis2000@aol.com)

[www.vpis.org](http://www.vpis.org)

## Invitation to Membership

If you are not a member, won't you join the Falls Church Village Preservation and Improvement Society and assist us in our efforts to see the city develop in a manner which will sustain the "village" atmosphere that probably attracted you to Falls Church in the first place? Call any officer or board member for information. Their telephone numbers are on page 2.



More details on flyer inside—  
help us get the word out and  
post flyer in a public area if you can!

## President's Message

Just a short message to let you know that we are all working hard to finalize plans for the Attic Treasures Sale in its new time slot. Please help us in our efforts by taking the enclosed flyer and posting it at your church, school or place of business. We will have a report on what we hope are the successful results of all this publicity in the next *Village Way*. We also need volunteers to work at the sale. Please call Frank Ross or me if you are interested in joining in the fun.

Hope to see you all at the VPIS booth on Memorial Day and at Attic Treasures on June 3rd.

*Ruth*



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## Recent Actions of the VPIS Board

**March 9, 2000:** Approved Minutes of the December and February board meetings; approved Treasurer's Report; approved the Rules and Procedures for the 2000 VPIS Board Meetings; approved the 2000 Operating Budget; approved the 1999 Annual Report compiled by Past President John Maier. Received report on additional plantings to be put in the Elizabeth Graham Garden to complete the project. Received report on the Arbor Day Memorial/Master Plan for Frady Park proposal. Discussed having a VPIS representative present the VPIS proposal to the City Council at April 10 meeting. Approved the motion: VPIS will go before the City Council at the meeting preceding Arbor Day to state VPIS' intent [proposal] and to request [Council's] approval to work with [City] staff to develop a master plan for Frady Park which includes a commemorative area. Discussed a new proposal for a Neighborhood Tree Project that VPIS was being asked to sponsor in 2000. Approved the motion: to proceed with the Neighborhood Tree Project, to ask the Tree Commission to co-sponsor the project and further approve first reading to spend up to \$1,500. Discussed the Attic Treasures Sale and possible alternate site to the Community Center, which will be closed for construction. Frank Ross volunteered to chair the Attic Treasures Sale this year.

**April 13, 2000:** approved the minutes of the March board meeting. Approved changing the date of the Spring meeting to June 8 at 7:30 p.m. from the first Sunday in June. Consensus was that the day after the new date for the Attic Treasures Sale would not be convenient for most volunteers at the sale. Decided to limit discussion on agenda items before the Board to 10 minutes for each item at all board meetings for the remainder of this year. Discussed finding storage space for storage of VPIS files and equipment. Ruth Rodgers will investigate the possibility of using space available at a suggested office in the City. Received a report on the VPIS presentation to the City Council of the Frady Park/Arbor Day Memorial proposal. Council has scheduled a work session on this proposal for May 15 with Council and Recreation and Parks. Discussed Arbor Day activities and the planting of a scarlet oak at Frady Park in memory of VPIS member Ed Garvey and at George Mason High School in memory of Beth Sprague. Another VPIS-sponsored

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project, the eighth grade garden at George Mason, is scheduled to be planted April 26 under Cay Wiant's supervision. Approved motions funding a tree replacement in the Presidents' Garden and the videotaping of the VPIS Arbor Day ceremony in Frady Park. Approved the second reading on funding for: Attic Treasures Sale expenses; products committee merchandise purchases; and the Neighborhood Tree Project. Discussed how to proceed with the Sue Olom Garden project, its funding requirements and location. Agreed that more discussion is needed with Lou Olom to finalize project plans. Agreed to help publicize the tricentennial book, *Falls Church: A Virginia Village Revisited*, by including a review in *The Village Way* and on the VPIS Web site. Agreed to have a VPIS booth at the Memorial Day festivities but did not find a volunteer to chair the VPIS entry in the parade. Because of the new 10-minute time limitation for discussion for each agenda item, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.!

# Extraordinary New Book on Falls Church Includes Previously Unpublished Photos and Letters

VPIIS members Bradley Gernand and Nan Netherton are co-authors of an eagerly anticipated new book on Falls Church. Bradley, a member of the VPIIS Board of Directors, has served as an archivist in the National Archives and is now senior archivist in the Library of Congress. Nan, a long-time VPIIS member, has written or been co-author or senior editor of more than 35 published monographs and books on Northern Virginia.

Commissioned in 1997 to commemorate the Tricentennial, the book is entitled **Falls Church: A Virginia Village Revisited**. The book presents, in words and pictures, the history of our closely-knit Virginia community.

Here is a sneak preview of from the book's jacket cover:

"Buffalo trails and Indian paths had been established and land grants and patents taken up by English colonists years before the Truro Parish vestry directed that an Anglican church be built at the crossroads near Michael Reagan's in 1733. This was the important center for the hamlet which became the postal village of Falls Church in 1849, a chartered town of the same name in 1875 and a city of the second class in 1948.

"The wooden structure of the first church 'near the falls' was completed in 1734 and was replaced by a sturdy brick building in 1769, both named 'The Falls Church' after an important geographical feature nearby, the Little Falls of the Potomac River.

Church vestrymen of different times include prominent names like

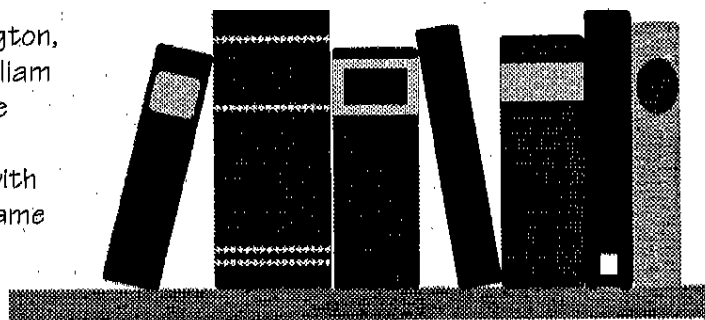
Augustine Washington, George Mason, William Fairfax and George Washington.

"When the war with Great Britain became inevitable in 1776, recruiting was done at The Falls Church for men to fight in the American Revolution for independence from the mother country.

"Old tobacco roads became useful for transporting corn, wheat and other crops for export from the international port of Alexandria. Turnpikes, canals, the Alexandria, Loudoun & Hampshire Railroad, and later electric trolleys, were built to provide better means of transportation. Telegraph and telephone lines were strung to improve communications.

"The War of 1812, the Civil War, the Spanish American War and World Wars I and II each had specific impacts on the small community which are herein described. Some of the personal letters quoted have not been previously published.

"Everyday life and the resourceful ways in which civic-minded and well-motivated residents coped with ever-present problems make for informative and sometimes



amusing reading.

Through text, captions and over 275 pictures, some in color and many never before published, a large portrait of people, places, events and things is painted. The book's narrative reveals the community's long-standing major concern about providing good schools for the children of the village. Political and racial issues are presented as well as subjects such as businesses, community activities, religion, recreation, parks and historic preservation.

**Falls Church: A Virginia Village Revisited**, is expected to be released in late summer. It is sure to be a sell-out. Reserve your First Edition copy by contacting the Tricentennial Committee, Attn: Diane Morse, City of Falls Church, 300 Park Ave., Falls Church, VA 22046. Cost is \$29.95 plus \$2 shipping and handling (\$31.95).

# George Mason Monument Honoring Volunteers Unveiled April 16

The Tricentennial Organizations Committee of the City of Falls Church dedicated the month of March, 1999 to volunteer organizations—service groups not associated with church, school, or government. This opportunity to honor the City of Falls Church, to thank the City's many volunteer organizations and to further expand volunteerism was the beginning of a cooperative effort to erect a monument in front of City Hall as a lasting memory of the Tricentennial. The unveiling of the completed monument occurred April 16, 2000 as part of the recognition event hosted by the City for the annual National Volunteer's Week to recognize and show appreciation to volunteers and service organizations operating in the City. VPIS was an early supporter of the project.

Just as other communities have celebrated their centennials with lasting significant markers, the Tricentennial Organizations Committee endeavored to celebrate and commemorate 300 years with a lasting tribute. The gift of the monument not only marks the Tricentennial, but also clearly establishes—visually—our sense of history and our values as a community. Without those tangible reminders prominently placed for all to see, it is all too easy for those who follow to forget the important values and importance of our local history and that of the nation's.

Two of Falls Church's founding fathers were vestry men of The Falls Church. A special affinity to George Mason and his works that became the Bill of Rights inspired the monument. The monument focuses our attention on George Mason and the spirit of volunteerism that provides the strong sense of community that we enjoy today as well as our hopes for tomorrow.

The George Mason monument was built entirely with the funding and labor of the volunteer organizations themselves, who raised \$7,850 for the gift. The Organizations Committee was co-chaired by VPIS member Barry Buschow and Eagle Scout candidate Andrew Starr. Organizations participating in the effort were the Lions Club, Woman's Club, League of Women Voters, Business & Professional Women's Club, Jaycees, Kemper Lodge No. 64, Rotary Club, Quilters Unlimited, VFW Post 9274, D.A.R. Falls Church Chapter, Kiwanis Club, Garden Club, Victorian Society, Historic Falls Church, Inc. and VPIS.

## Annual Third Grade Falls Church Historic and Tree Tours

Each spring, VPIS sponsors two tours of Falls Church for third-graders at Thomas Jefferson Elementary School: the Tree City, U.S.A. Tour and the Falls Church Adventure (History) Tour. Long-time VPIS members Lou Olom, the late Edmund Becker and the late Hal Silverstein originated and conducted the first tours. For the past decade, Chuck Hobbie has led the tree tour and Dave Eckert, the history tour. Tours are by bus, with designated stops throughout the City. When tours began, only one bus on one day was needed. This year, each tour guide led tours on three separate days to provide for expanding student interest. The tour routes are on the society's Web site at [www.vpis.org](http://www.vpis.org).

Here are some comments from the students after this year's tours:

**Joey Marongelli:** *I think my dad will like how they tore off the windows in The Falls church for horses, and about sledding over the stream from Rogers' Hill.*

**Chantal Cough-Schulze:** *I wish that I could go in a time machine to the places talked about and see them when they were just built. I loved seeing Tripps Run because a branch of it starts in my backyard.*

**Simon Farrow:** *My favorite part was when we went to the Big Chimneys. I know the houses weren't that big then, but it is still small! P.S. Where did the bison go... I bet they got hunted too much.*

**Virginia Fresne:** *I liked learning that a Civil War camp was on our schoolgrounds. I never knew Falls Church had so much history.*

## Arbor Day Tree Planted for Ed Garvey

A scarlet oak was planted in Frady Park on Arbor Day, April 15 to honor a former VPIS member, the late Ed Garvey, for his dedication to Falls Church. A 50-year resident of the City, Ed built one of the City's unique homes, protected trees, supported the building of trails and picked up countless tons of litter on his daily walks along the W.&O.D. Bike Trail. Well-known throughout the world for his efforts to develop and popularize the Appalachian Trail (which he hiked in its entirety twice,) Ed wrote three very popular books about the trail. Why not take some time to relax in Frady Park and see the young scarlet oak that honors the life and work of Ed Garvey.



## Neighborhood Trees Project Moves Ahead

In response to a report that the City has twice the number of vacant street tree spaces now as it had twelve years ago, the VPIS Board of Directors has voted to co-sponsor the Neighborhood Trees Project, a private-public effort to plant street trees throughout the City. Headed by Annette Mills, the project committee has had one planning meeting and provided a report to City Council. The goals of the project are:

(1) To assist the City in completing a new survey to identify and map the street tree sites to be listed by neighborhood.

(2) To build community awareness of tree-planting opportunities and to educate citizens on the value and care of trees.

(3) To assist the City in the process of tree purchase, planting, and maintenance.

Anyone interested in assisting in any of the goals of the project is encouraged to contact Annette Mills at (703) 532-0884.

# Briefs

• Don't forget that VPIS is providing a beverage booth called the "Village Center" at

the Falls Church Farmers Market, Saturday mornings from 8 to 12, May through November. All proceeds from beverage sales will be used to purchase trees for Arbor Day and the Neighborhood Tree Project. For the seventh straight year, Starbucks in West Falls Church is generously donating its coffee for the Society to sell. Any member who wishes to help staff the booth, please call Dave Eckert at (703) 532-0884. You will enjoy seeing all your friends and neighbors at the Village Center.

• The paperback editions of Steadman's *Falls Church—By Fence and Fireside* and Henry Douglas's *Falls Church News and Notes*, two classic Falls Church books, are treasured by all who own them. At printing time of this newsletter, **only seven of each of these two classic books remain available for sale.** These valuable copies can be purchased only at the Farmers Market or by calling (703) 532-0884.

• We are pleased to announce that several **new VPIS members** have joined since our April *Village Way* was published. Please welcome:

**Linda Eads**                      **Elizabeth Fenton**  
**Connie Kulik**                    **Hillel Weinberg**  
**Bill and Susan Buckingham**

• Congratulations to VPIS members **Ron Parson**, who was recently elected to the Falls Church City Council, and **Bob Storck**, a newly-elected member of the Falls Church City School Board. Ron has informed us that he will be resigning from the VPIS Board of Directors so he will have more time available for his City Council duties. Good luck to both of you with your new responsibilities!

• **Memorial Day** Festivities would not be complete without the VPIS booth in the exhibition area. Stop by to catch up on news of "The Village" and pick up one of the several **new VPIS products** that will be available for the first time at the booth. See you there!

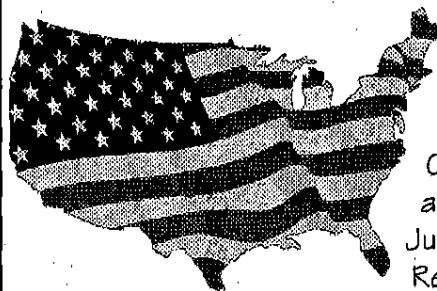
## Village Society Expands Virtual Presence:

That's "virtual" as in the virtual reality of cyberspace—where the Society's Internet Web site [www.vpis.org](http://www.vpis.org) has recently been expanded and upgraded. The idea is to post as much information as possible on "the Web" to enable members and others to access informa-

tion about the Society's programs from anywhere. Expanded information includes details about the history and mission of the Society, an updated calendar of events, additional links to like-minded organizations as well as photos and information about the scarlet oak—the official tree of Arbor day 2000! In

addition, the welcome page has been modified to provide easy access to the wealth of information. Society members are encouraged to help by sending announcements, information, photos, etc. (in electronic form) to [fcvpis@yahoo.com](mailto:fcvpis@yahoo.com). *Don't forget to check back often for frequent updates!*

## Independence Day Readings Tradition Continues



More than 80 citizens participated in the first Independence Day Readings held by the Falls Church Village Preservation and Improvement Society on July 4, 1984. The first Readings, initiated and moderated by Louis T. Olom, were

from the four freedom documents: The Fairfax Resolves, The Virginia Declaration of Rights, The Declaration of Independence and The Bill of Rights. Lou Olom presided for the first twelve years of readings. Ross Netherton succeeded him in 1996, and has presided since then.

This year, the Readings will be held on:

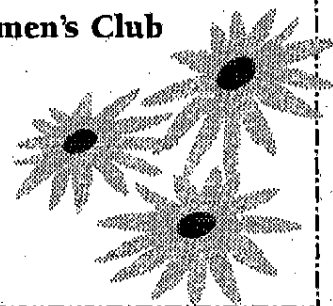
**Tuesday, July 4**  
**Falls Church City Council Chamber**  
**commencing at High Noon**

Plan to take part in this meaningful event that recognizes the national holiday celebrating our country's origins and the democratic principles upon which our nation was founded.

Mark your calendars:

**The Village Society's**  
**Annual Spring Meeting is**  
**Thursday, June 8th — 7:30 p.m.**  
**at the Falls Church Women's Club**

It is our chance to catch up with friends and hear about the exciting things that the Society and its members have been up to and have planned for the future. As usual, we plan to have a thought-provoking speaker. So come, have some cheer and help us welcome summer!



# Summer Concerts in the Park

VPIS will sponsor its 8th Annual Summer Concerts in the Park series this year at the barn in Cherry Hill Park. Concerts are free and open to the public on Thursday nights at 7:00 p.m. Please bring blankets or lawn chairs for seating and a picnic supper if you wish. VPIS will sell beverages and the Friends of Cherry Hill will sell ice cream sundaes.



Dates and performers for this year's series:

Friday, June 29, 7:00 p.m.

*Mike Maher Quartet*

Jazz from the '50s and '60s

Friday, July 6, 7:00 p.m.

*Andrew Acosta and Friends*

Traditional Country and Bluegrass

Friday, July 13, 7:00 p.m.

*Dave Elliott Band*

Rock 'n Roll

Friday, July 20, 7:00 p.m.

*Falls Church Swing Ensemble*

Friday, July 27, 7:00 p.m.

*US Navy Commodores*

*Jazz Band*

Friday, Aug. 3

7:00 p.m.

*Falls Church*

*Concert Band*



The City of Falls Church Recreation and Parks Department is a cosponsor of the series. In the event of rain, the concert will be held in the City Council Chambers or another site noted in advance.

## Board Meetings

### Dates and Locations

2nd Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.

May 11 Close residence,

152 Reese Place, 237-7236

\*June 8 General

Membership Meeting,

7:30 p.m.

Falls Church Women's Club

June—August

No Board Meetings

September 14 Ross

residence, 318 West

Rosemary Lane, 533-9418

October 12 Stewart

residence, 301 Shadow Walk,

241-2339

\*November 9 General

Membership Meeting

December 14 Wang residence,

203 South Oak St.,

534-8394



Falls Church Village  
Preservation and  
Improvement Society

P. O. Box 6824

Falls Church, VA 22040

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