

# The Village Way

October 2012

Vol 45 No 2

**Fall Membership Meeting  
Thursday November 8, 2012 7:30 p.m.**



## Fall Membership Meeting

The Fall 2012 Membership Meeting will be held on Thursday evening, November 8, 2012, at 7:30 PM at the Falls Church Episcopal Church, 115 East Fairfax Street. Use the Fairfax Street entrance to the social hall.

All members and their guests are invited to attend. We have two very timely subjects, great speakers and discussions.

***Working Toward A Cleaner and Greener Community: Making the City of Falls Church the Commonwealth's First Green Power Community.*** Tim Stevens of the City of Falls Church Environmental Policy Council will talk about the City's ongoing efforts meet certain energy and environmental standards to become certified as a community that commits to using renewable energy sources.

***From Rails to Trails, and Beyond: Recent Improvements To and Proposals For the W&OD Trail in the City of Falls Church.*** Paul Baldino, Citizens' Advisory Committee on Transportation and former Executive Director of the Fairfax County Park Foundation, will discuss recent proposed improvements on the Washington & Old Dominion (W&OD) Trail, and how it will affect Falls Church.

**There will be a short business meeting recapping the Society accomplishments and activities, the election of officers and board members and an important vote of the resident members on some proposed amendments to VPIS By-Laws.**

A **dessert social mixer** follows the meeting. Come, and enjoy.

**The VPIS By-Laws** are subject to changes based on a recommendations by the Board of Directors. The full text of the By-Laws are available on the web at [www.VPIS.org](http://www.VPIS.org). There is an article summarizing the proposed changes on **page 4**.

### *Upcoming Dates*

#### **Neighborhood Tree Plantings**

*Saturday October 27, 2012  
8:30 a.m.*

*Rendezvous: 501 N. West St.*

*Saturday November 3, 2012  
8:30 a.m.*

*Rendezvous: 1202 Offutt Dr .*

#### **Neighborhood Tree Mulching (no digging required)**

*Saturday November 10, 2012  
8:30 a.m.*

*Rendezvous: Corner of  
Ellison St. and S. West St.  
(Behind Eckert Drug)*

#### **Fall Membership Meeting**

*Thursday November 8, 2012  
7:30 p.m.*

*The Falls Church Episcopal  
Social Hall  
Dessert Reception*

**The Falls Church  
Village Preservation and  
Improvement Society**

**Officers**

**President: Michael Volpe**

534-8932; volpemike@aol.com

**Vice President: Michael Connelly**

237-0604; prareedog@gmail.com

**Treasurer: Melissa Teates**

538-6961; melanite@verizon.net

**Recording Secretary: Nancy Brandon**

536-8230; nanbran4@gmail.com

**Corresponding Sec'tary: Barry Buschow**

533-8610; bbuschow@verizon.net

**Board of Directors**

**Peter & Riva Adriance** 624-4664

the.adriances@gmail.com

**Marybeth Connelly** 237-0604

mbdoncon@gmail.com

**Tom Clinton** 241-2902

tomclinton1@aol.com

**Mark & Ellen Gross** 533-8197

oaks303@aol.com

**Seth Heminway** 536-3049

heminway.seth@gmail.com

**Jon Hundley** 534-5492

**Elizabeth Meade** 536-2333

[harkinsmeade@verizon.net](mailto:harkinsmeade@verizon.net)

**Bonnie Murphy** 532-8065

murphy.bonnie@gmail.com

**Jeff Peterson** 532-7635

pijpijpp@hotmail.com

**Ruth Rodgers** 532-8144

rrodg@aol.com

**Jeremy Schneider** 237-8543

jeremy@jeredith.com

**Carol Sly** 538-6272

carol.sly@verizon.net

**Keith Thurston** 241-1672

[keith.thurston@gmail.com](mailto:keith.thurston@gmail.com)

Feel free to contact us about the Society activities.

All telephone numbers are area code 703.

**Membership Renewals and Levels**

Over the past year the Society Board of Directors has discussed the membership levels and structure which has not changed in about 15 years. After much consideration, the membership categories and dues amounts were approved for the 2013 membership year that starts in January as follows:

\$20 Individual membership

\$35 Family membership

\$50 Village member

\$100 Preservation member

\$200 Heritage member

\$300 Society Benefactor

**Thank You Attic Treasure Volunteers,  
donors and shoppers**

Marybeth and Michael Connelly were Program Chairs for the Attic Treasures Sale this year and organized 50 volunteers for the function and raised approximately \$3500 for VPIS programs that help make this a great community. We appreciate all those that volunteer their time, and those that donate items as well as those that come to buy. Perhaps because of the economy or the impact of eBay, the number of items donated has been lower and the attendance has been dropping over the past several years. We hope to turn this around with your help. The sale is a great way to donate unwanted items as well as a way to support recycling and reuse. The sale is each year the first Saturday of May with the donation collection day is the day before. Please be sure to save some items for the sale.

**About VPIS**

The Village Preservation and Improvement Society, originally founded in 1885, is an active non-profit citizen volunteer organization in the City of Falls Church, Virginia. The Society works to preserve our natural and built environment, historic structures and landmarks, and it promotes cultural activities. The members are primarily residents and former residents or neighbors of the City of Falls Church and are of all political persuasions. They are bonded by their interest in and commitment to preserving and improving the City. Send donations, comments, questions or letters to the editor to: Village Preservation and Improvement Society, P.O. Box 6824, Falls Church, VA 22040 or email to [VillageSociety@VPIS.org](mailto:VillageSociety@VPIS.org). VPIS is an IRS approved 501(c) (3) not-for-profit organization. A financial statement is available upon written request.

## *President's Message – October 2012*



Since this will be my last message for VPIS as President, I wanted to take a few lines to reflect on the past two-plus years. As most of you know, I became Acting President in the Fall of 2010 and I was elected to one-year terms as President in 2011 and 2012. I intend to continue to serve in the years to come next year as Past President and hopefully as a Board member.

I have been very impressed with the skills and energy of the Board members and the many VPIS members who volunteer their time and efforts to help in our activities. When I have appeared before the City Council on several occasions in the past two years on important issues of the day, I have always been warmly greeted and thanked for the many contributions VPIS makes to our community. This is a positive reflection upon the organization, you the membership, and you should feel proud about the role VPIS plays in the community.

Now I would like to turn my attention to several “myths” about VPIS. The first is the perception that VPIS is “anti-development” and opposed to changes or progress in our community. I have served on the board for a number of years, and I can tell you this is simply not true. What VPIS does argue for, as reflected in our statements before the Council and City boards and commissions, is that the City follow an open process for discussion and that it adhere to important documents such as the Comprehensive Plan before approving major development projects.

The second “myth” is that VPIS is all about trees. Yes, the Neighborhood Tree Program has resulted in the planting of more than 600 trees in the City over the past 12 years, and the City and VPIS were recognized by the Virginia Municipal League with an award for this highly successful and very visible program. But VPIS is involved with many other initiatives in the City, some as small as a few hundred dollars for an Eagle Scout project, and others as large as the Summer Concerts program, which celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this summer. We have partnered with other groups such as the League of Women Voters to sponsor Candidate Forums before each City Council election. The list of VPIS-sponsored activities also includes the Arbor Day program, the Fourth of July Readings, and Watch Night on New Year’s Eve. For a complete list, check our website at [www.vpis.org](http://www.vpis.org).

The last “myth” I wish to dispel is that VPIS, and its Board of Directors, is made up of the “Old Guard” in Falls Church, and new residents need not apply to join our ranks or to assume leadership positions in our organization. Again, that is simply not true as we have been blessed by many new residents joining our organization and volunteering in our activities. Our Board of Directors has a good mix of ages and interests, and we are closely linked to other boards and commissions and community interests through that diverse group of people. Moreover, we are always looking for a few good men and women to join the Board.

In closing, I wish to say it has been an honor and a privilege to serve as the VPIS President. I am very confident that VPIS is a strong organization that plays an important role in this community, and I look forward to volunteering my time and efforts in the years to come.

*Michael Volpe*  
*President*

## **By-Law Changes to be Voted by Membership At Fall Membership Meeting ~ November 8, 2012**

The VPIS Board of Directors approved amendments to the VPIS By-Laws at the October 11, 2012, Board of Directors Meeting to be advanced to the membership for consideration. The amendments will be presented to the Membership at the next Membership Meeting on Thursday, November 8, 2012. For adoption, By-Law amendments require approval by a vote of two-thirds of the resident members present at the meeting.

Most of the amendments are editorial in nature, deleting language referring to the change in the VPIS fiscal year in 1995, to the transition period for Board members in 1973, and similar changes throughout the document. In addition, the Board also concurred to changes to the "Purposes" section at the beginning of the By-Laws.

The full By-Laws are too long for publication in the Village Way and are available at the VPIS.org website with changes shown. If you do not have web access and want a copy for review prior to the Membership Meeting, please call Keith Thurston at 241-1672. We welcome your comments and suggestions regarding these amendments to our By-Laws. There will be ample time at the November meeting to discuss these proposed changes.

*Michael Volpe, President*

## **VPIS Election of Officers and Board of Directors at Upcoming Fall Meeting**

At the VPIS General Membership Meeting on November 8, 2012 the Nominating Committee will present the nominees for 2013 Society Officers and Board of Directors. The slate of officers and directors nominated by the committee will include nomination for President of Michael Connelly (current Vice President). The full slate of nominees can be seen on the website VPIS.org. The membership will consider and vote on the leadership at the Fall Meeting on November 8.

## **Tree Planting Volunteers Needed**

The Neighborhood Tree Program is organizing 3 great opportunities to help cool and beautify our streets and sidewalks while getting exercise and meeting new people. Join us as we help the City replace trees lost to age, disease and infill development. We'll meet up for a quick planting demonstration and then form teams before spreading out to work across the City. Wear boots or heavy shoes, gloves and clothes that can get dirty. We will have light refreshments and extra tools. We typically finish before noon. Bring your friends and neighbors. Children are welcomed if accompanied by adults. We provide certification for those youth that need volunteer credits.

- 1. Tree Planting - Saturday October 27 at 8:30 AM meet at 501 N. West St.**
- 2. Tree Planting - Saturday November 3 at 8:30 AM meet at 1202 Offutt Dr.** (parallels Broad St. behind Staples & CVS)
- 3. Tree Mulching and Maintenance - Saturday November 10 at 8:30 AM meet at corner of Ellison and S. West St.**

We'll reschedule only if a steady heavy rain is predicted. More information: [www.vpis.org/tree](http://www.vpis.org/tree)  
Contact: *heminway.seth@gmail.com*.

*"The best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago. The next best time is now." - Chinese Proverb*

## 20 Great Years of the Summer Concert Series

This year the Village Society celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of providing the community summer concerts in Cherry Hill Park. Our thanks go to Dr. Gordon Theisz for his stalwart leadership and management of the series. To mark the occasion, we had our very first “call in” live interview with concert series founder Dave Eckert, now living in Oregon. He spoke about the first concerts in 1993 and greeted to the crowd in attendance. It provided a fun highlight for those attending and remembering Dave’s contribution.

The music this year was impressive and included the Falls Church Concert Band, Andrew Acosta, Randy Barrett and Dede Wyland, Tom Principato, Billy Coulter, Tony Martucci, and Apple Core. As has been the case for several years, Mr. Principato created a concert audience record of over 625 people in attendance. Coming in a close second was Apple Core, an all-Beatles review band with an audience of 600. A total attendance of 2000 was estimated for the seven concerts.

There were challenges, first with the derecho storm of 2012 which hit much of Cherry Hill Park with downed trees but thanks to our diligent City of Falls Church arborist and crews with a “show must go on” attitude – the Park was cleared and ready for music. But then followed a string of four Thursdays with 100+ degree high temperatures. The still ample shade and breezes kept the venue temperatures below 90 degrees at concert time despite the searing daily highs. Thanks to Tom Clinton, City Commissioner of Revenue and VPIS Board Member for the Neighborhood Tree Program fans, we were able to enjoy the music comfortably.

Special thanks to the VPIS volunteers who work make the concerts possible by attending to the bands: Jon Hundley, Dave Divecia, Tom Bowman and staffing the drink sales: Bonnie Murphy, Brian and Michael Murphy, Mike and Margaret Volpe, and Melissa Teates, and concert fan Henry. See you next summer!

*Summer Concert Coordinator: Gordon Theisz ( [gtheisz@verizon.net](mailto:gtheisz@verizon.net) )*

## Readings of Democracy Continue

For a few days this past summer, it appeared a venerated 29-year tradition in Falls Church of the VPIS annual Independence Day Reading was in real jeopardy. On the evening of June 30, a massive, once-in-a-lifetime derecho storm had passed through our City leaving a path of destruction. Many were without electrical power, including the City Hall, venue of the readings. Add then the record-breaking heat wave the region suffered the first week in July, and there was good reason for concern. But, thanks to the City staff and Police Department, while handling so much extra work storm recovery efforts, nevertheless graciously made City Chambers ready WITH air-conditioning! Thank you all!

The tradition continued of remembering those foundational documents of our democracy and the Virginia patriots who primarily penned them. Read were the 1774 Fairfax Resolves by George Mason and Washington, the Virginia Bill of Rights of June 1776, by Mason, the U.S. Bill of Rights of 1787 by James Madison and the Declaration of Independence of July 1776 by Thomas Jefferson influenced by Mason. The voices reading this year ranged from age 9 to 95 - each spoke clearly and with conviction. It was a moving and very inspirational program thanks to VPIS members and friends who come out and participate. We’ll look forward to seeing you and others again who want to enjoy this great event next year.



**Falls Church Village Preservation  
and Improvement Society**

P.O. Box 6824  
Falls Church, VA 22040  
Email: [VillageSociety@VPIS.org](mailto:VillageSociety@VPIS.org)  
[www.vpis.org](http://www.vpis.org)

NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
MERRIFIELD, VA  
PERMIT NO. 7066

**Fall Membership Meeting  
Thursday - November 8, 2012  
7:30 p.m.  
Falls Church Episcopal Social Hall**

**Address Service Requested**

***Events and Activities***

**VPIS Fall Membership Meeting and Social**

Thursday November 8, 2012 ~7:30 p.m.  
The Falls Church Episcopal ~ Social Hall~ All Invited

**Tree Planting Opportunities**

Saturdays October 27, November 3 ~ 8:30 a.m. – noon

**Farmers Market – Coffee and Drinks**

Every Saturday April through November 20<sup>th</sup> ~ 8 am to Noon  
VPIS Booth at the Farmers Market -- Stop by and say hi!