

# The Village Way

November 2010

Vol. 43 No 2

## President's Message

This has been a busy year for VPIS and the programs we organize or support. Since our last Membership Meeting in May we had another very successful Summer Concert series in Cherry Hill Park. Many thanks to Gordon Theisz and other VPIS volunteers whose hard work makes these community events possible. Thanks also to Mike Slonim and other volunteers for another Independence Day readings program in the City Council Chambers.

When you are in the neighborhood, please stop by Frady Park and see the many changes underway. The VPIS Board approved a donation of \$15,000 towards improvement to the landscape and amenities in this park and Barbara Cram will be using these funds plus other donations to make substantial improvements in this park. Also, while you shop at the award-winning Falls Church Farmers Market, please stop by the VPIS booth to purchase hot coffee or a cold beverage and to talk to the many volunteers who help run that booth from early May until late November. All proceeds are used in the Neighborhood Tree Program.

**Our upcoming Fall Membership Meeting on Sunday, November 14, 3:00-5:00pm, will include a very interesting local history program on the Turning Point in the Women's Suffragist Movement.** This program will follow a short Business Meeting which will include the election of officers for 2011 as well as Board Members for terms of 1, 2, or 3 years.

One of the vacancies to be filled is that of VPIS President Karl Ensign, who resigned in August for personal reasons. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish to thank Karl for his many contributions as a Board Member for the past several years and for his service as President from January through August.

**Save the Date!**  
**Sunday, November 14, 2010**  
**3:00 – 5:00 p.m.**  
**Community Center**

**VPIS FALL**  
**MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

If you are a member of VPIS you should know by now about the wonderful programs we sponsor or support. These activities do not happen by magic but rather through the hard work of many VPIS volunteers. Please consider helping by contacting an officer or Board member or a contact person listed on our website, [www.vpis.org](http://www.vpis.org).

If you are not a VPIS member, please consider joining. Our membership dues are quite modest and our support for the Falls Church community is very large. Thank you for your support!

*Michael Volpe,*  
*Vice President*



The Village Preservation and Improvement Society, 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 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 20040 or email to [villagesociety@yahoo.com](mailto:villagesociety@yahoo.com). For income tax purposes VPIS is an approved 501(c) (3) not-for-profit organization. A financial statement is available upon written request from the Virginia Office of Consumer Affairs.

**Falls Church Village Preservation and  
Improvement Society**  
P. O. Box 6824  
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[www.VPIS.org](http://www.VPIS.org)

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*Peter Markham, a regular VPIS booth volunteer*

If you've ever been to the Farmers Market on a busy Saturday morning, you know that the VPIS booth is in the thick of it – definitely the place to be right here in the city of Falls Church.

Like all VPIS activities, volunteers run the booth. Many thanks to the wonderful members who helped in 2010! We are looking for even more VPIS member involvement – so if you want to maximize your VPIS membership, do good for the environment, and be a part of a social and cultural phenomenon right here in Falls Church, join us at the VPIS “Coffee for Trees” booth.

The booth is open every Saturday from 8:00 to 12 noon, ending for this year on November 20. If you are interested in working an hour or two on one or more Saturdays or if you need more information, please contact Mike Volpe at 703-534-8932 or [volpemike@aol.com](mailto:volpemike@aol.com). Thanks for contributing your time to keeping the VPIS booth up and running!

# Exciting Membership Meeting

Nov 14th 3:00-5:00 Community Center

## Robert E. Beach to reveal plans for Turning Point Plaza

On November 14, 2010 VPIS will host a presentation by noted City of Falls Church Architect, Robert E. Beach revealing his designs and overview of the Turning Point Plaza project.

The Turning Point Suffragist Memorial is dedicated to those who endured harsh imprisonment to secure voting rights for American women. The memorial will honor the women who were imprisoned at the Occoquan Workhouse. In 1917, women suffragists were the first political group to protest in front of the White House. As a result, hundreds of women seeking the right to vote were imprisoned at both the D.C. Jail and the Occoquan Workhouse, part of the Lorton Prison complex. News reports of poor conditions and hunger strikes by the imprisoned suffragists were a turning point in the struggle for women's right to vote. These events led to the 19th Amendment, allowing women the right to vote. Turning Point Plaza at Occoquan Regional Park will feature interpretive displays of these events and their significance.

"The struggles of people to gain the right to vote and participate in society as equals are stories that need to be told and retold to every generation. The stories of the suffragists, the end of slavery, and civil rights are the events that helped define America as the democracy it is today," stated Paul Gilbert, Northern Virginia Regional Park Executive Director. The memorial will be built at Occoquan Regional Park near the historical Lorton site.

Mr. Beach will present his plans and designs for the memorial with the help of re-enactors at 3pm in the Falls Church Community Center. Mr. Beach is a past chairman and current member of the Fairfax County History Commission, a member of the American Institute of Architects and a LEED accredited architect. For more information on the memorial please visit the League of Women Voters' website, [www.lwv-fairfax.org](http://www.lwv-fairfax.org). For information on the program visit [www.vpis.org](http://www.vpis.org).

*November 2010*



## Enjoy a Home Concert in the City...

We are pleased to announce the return of our much loved home concerts! These intimate concerts feature local musicians, hosted in the home of a FC City resident.

-- Doors open at 7pm; concerts begin at 7:30.  
Concert location will be given to ticket purchasers after receipt of payment.

-- VPIS Members may purchase tickets at \$20 a person per concert by check only. Non-members' ticket price is \$25. Call or e-mail Bruce Turner to confirm availability: 703-608-1948 or [turnerblues@gmail.com](mailto:turnerblues@gmail.com). Checks should be made out to VPIS and sent to Bruce Turner, 1102 Jackson Ct., Falls Church, VA 22046. Include your phone and/or e-mail to receive concert location.

By the nature of the event, seating is very limited. Please respond promptly.

### - Alex Hassan (piano) and Doug Bowles (vocal) Saturday November 13, 2010

<http://www.noveltypiano.com>

Alex Hassan is a performing/recording pianist thoroughly immersed in the popular musical styles and arrangements of the 20s and 30s. Together with Doug Bowles on vocals, the two deliver riveting and authentic performances that straddle the unique classical and jazz idiom and take you back to the Golden Age of Tin Pan Alley. Doug Bowles (vocal) has appeared in countless productions locally, nationally and internationally from concert venues to opera houses and teaches voice at American and Catholic University. Alex counts performances at the Smithsonian, Player's Club (Manhattan--a party for the Gershwin family), Toronto's McMichael art gallery, England's Aldeburgh Festival, Longwood Gardens, Kennedy Center's Terrace Theater and Millennium Stage, Germany's Piano Rarities festival

in Husum, and numerous ragtime festivals/societies around the states and is president of the Northern Virginia Ragtime Society.

**- Trio Dale Saturday January 8, 2011**

Trio Dale (pronounced da' le) consists of Bassist Charlie Himmel and Jazz Guitarists Christian Perez and Kenny Kohlhaas, who team up for a sensational tour of Latin and American jazz standards. These three talented musicians met as George Mason University Jazz majors and continue to push the limits of their rhythmic and improvisational styles. The trio delivers riveting performances of traditional jazz and Latin standards.

**- Andrew Acosta Saturday January 29, 2011**

<http://www.andrewacosta.com/press.html>  
Andrew Acosta is a traditional/roots/originals guitarist and singer from the Washington, D.C. area. He grew up in Falls Church, Virginia, and began playing guitar at age 13. His guitar influences include bluegrass pioneer Benny Cain and Piedmont-style blues guitarist John Jackson. He began performing roots/country music around Washington in the 1970s and today performs both solo, with friends, and as the leader of the New Old-Time String Band (with Roy "Speedy" Tolliver on fiddle).



## ***The Neighborhood Tree Program***

The Neighborhood Tree Program (NTP) works to reduce summer temperatures and storm water runoff, improve air quality, beautify neighborhoods and increase property values by 20 percent in our community. They accomplish all this by the simple act of planting trees!

The NTP was initiated by the Village Preservation and Improvement Society in 2000 and continues to be run by citizen volunteers working in partnership with the City's Urban Forestry Division. Over 550 trees have been planted on City streets since 2000 with the help of hundreds of volunteers and the City staff. These trees will help clean our air and water, and provide shade to our streets, thereby reducing the "heat island effect." When each tree matures, it

will produce enough oxygen to support three people a year to breathe.

If you would like information about the program or would like to see if your right-of-way qualifies for a free street tree, please contact the City Arborist at 703-248-5183 (TTY 711). Thank you to our volunteers for your dedication, enthusiasm and for making our community a healthier and more beautiful place to live!



## **VPIS Works with George Mason High School Environmental Club**



VPIS continues to be very involved in the Falls Church schools. These photos show VPIS member Barbara Cram working with the George Mason High School Environmental Club to plant the new garden at Moore Cadillac Field. VPIS provided the funds for this garden and other landscape work on the Mason and Henderson campuses.



# ARBOR DAY COMMONS

– Barb Cram

October was THE month for VPIS funded garden work in the City. The GHMS gardens at the athletic fields were completed, and there were finishing touches added to the Cay Wiant Butterfly Garden. The biggest project though has been the work on the Arbor Day Commons at Frady Park.

Phase II of the Arbor Day Commons began the week of October 4. The first week included prepping the areas with soil berming including the use of our City's leaf compost in layers. We needed extensive work with the berms because the area has "juglone effect" from the Black Walnut trees' roots, falling nuts, leaves. Each part of the tress contributes to the chemical in the soil which prevents the growth of most other vegetation. To aid in the establishment of the new plantings we will elevate the soil level with berms around the gazebo and the water fountain, and remove the existing bicycle rack. The Victorian Society has purchased a new style of rack and it will be placed in another location TBD.

The soil berms will be foundation of the success of our installation of Arbor Day Commons planting plan. As in the first phase done earlier this year, it takes a lot of time to wheelbarrow the materials (soil, sand, leaf compost) to the area, spread the layer, mix the materials. It appears to be adequate at first glance with 6 layers, however, it does settle and often requires a second go round.

During the last week of October and the first week of November, the final layers of much and peat were put in place, and over 3,000 bulbs were planted. The results come spring should be spectacular.

So far we have only spent money on signage, and because of our volunteer helpers and donations, we are keeping more funds for the construction projects –such as stage, seating, stone benches, and Arbor Day Commons narrative signage. We hope to do this project for half the budget originally estimated at \$70,000.

If you would like more information about the Arbor Day Commons work at Frady Park, we encourage you to e-mail Barb Cram ([greenscap@aol.com](mailto:greenscap@aol.com)). There will be many opportunities to help in the spring as numerous perennials are added to the landscape. Thank you for all your support. The community spirit and support we have received thus far has been heartwarming indeed!



## ***VPIS Sponsors 18th Summer Concerts in Cherry Hill Series***

– Gordon Theisz

VPIS sponsored the 18th consecutive year of concerts in Cherry Hill Park this summer, expanding the number of concert dates to eight this year. We featured two new bands (Doris Justis' folk music and Billy Coulter's rock), brought back Mike Thornton's jazz and featured long-time favorites Tom Principato (400+ attended), Andrew Acosta, Randy Barrett, Judo Chop, and the Falls Church Concert Band.

The concert series continues to be one of the more popular summertime activities in Falls Church, finishing second to the Farmers Market in a spring online poll on the City website. Special thanks to the VPIS volunteers who helped make the concerts happen by staffing the drink sales: Mike and Margaret Volpe, Ginger Pinholster, Carol Sly, and Asher Morse, and by attending to the bands: Jon Hundley and Dave Divecha. See you next summer!

## 2010-2011 Dates to Remember

- Nov 13: Alex Hassan and Doug Bowles Home Concert (see [www.VPIS.org](http://www.VPIS.org))
- Nov 14: Fall Members' Meeting 3:00 – 5:00 Community Center
- Nov 20: VPIS Farmers Market booth closes for season
- Dec 31: Watch Night at FCPC
- Jan 8: Trio Dale Home Concert (see [www.VPIS.org](http://www.VPIS.org))
- Jan 29: Andrew Acosta Home Concert (see [www.VPIS.org](http://www.VPIS.org))



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