



MONROE MANORISMS

June 2004 ♦ Volume 9, Issue 2

I. A WORD OR TWO FROM THE BOARD

by Gordon Jarratt

Good Communication! Stay in touch with the latest in your community by making sure you are on the two e-mail address lists! [All residents -- please read and respond if necessary]



The Monroe Manor Board and other committees have established several communication vehicles to help keep residents apprised about what is going on in their community:

- Zalco (our property management company) mails out the quarterly newsletter, dues statement, and sends announcements of special interest (special meetings, HOA elections, annual budget information, etc.).
- The *Monroe Manorisms* community newsletter is published quarterly.
- “Grease Boards” or “White Boards” at major intersections are used to announce special events such as the Yard Sale.
- The **Monroe Manor Directory** is periodically updated to support neighbor to neighbor communication.
- The **Board of Directors** meets quarterly, and the **ARC** meets monthly. Residents are welcome to attend these meetings.
- The **Annual HOA Membership Meeting** is held each November.

While all of these communication methods are effective in their own ways, they all face one challenge – they are not able to provide timely communication about “last minute” information about activities or community concerns.

To address this concern, the Board has established two e-mail notification lists. The first is a **master notification list** of all resident e-mail addresses. This has been compiled from the e-mail addresses in the Monroe Manor Resident Directory. This list has been used for notifications about solid waste pick-up schedule changes, the Floris School roof collapse, the annual meeting, and other community-wide relevant announcements, etc. This list is maintained by **Laurie Gibson**.

The second address list is the **social event notification list**. It is used primarily by the social committee to provide up to date information about social events such as the Progressive Dinner, Oktoberfest, Friday Night Socials, Children’s events, and the Community Yard Sale, etc. This list is maintained by **Judy May**.

The following are the guidelines about the use of these two e-mail lists.

- E-mail addresses will not be used for commercial purposes.
- Messages will not display individual e-mail addresses to help prevent unauthorized use.
- Messages will only be sent when there is important information to share or a reminder for a special event, etc., which would be of interest to many residents.
- Only limited Board members and committee leaders have the ability to send out a broadcast message.

If you are periodically receiving e-mail from either or both lists and wish to remain on the distribution lists, you don’t need to do anything.

To be added to or removed from the lists, here is the process:

- To receive periodic community messages from the **master notification list**, please send your name, street address, and e-mail address to **Laurie Gibson** [Note: Laurie is also the contact person for all updates to the Monroe Manor Resident Directory.]
- If you would like to be added to the **social event notification list**, please send an e-mail to **Judy May**

Increases in Community Contracts

Zalco management and the Board have been notified about upcoming cost increases for several contracts. For example, due in part to increasing fuel costs, our solid waste & recycling contract will be increased by 4-5% beginning in July 2004 (unanticipated). This contract represents about 30% of the total HOA annual budget. Similar increases may happen in the landscaping and grounds-keeping contracts for the common areas. The Board continues to look for service options that make the most effective use of our dues. However, contract increases may result in a moderate dues increase for next year's budget.

Reserves Study

Every five years, the HOA undertakes a reserve study to help assess remaining asset life, predict upcoming reserve expenditures, and to help determine the adequacy of the reserve account balances. Examples of reserve assets include front monuments, the irrigation system, fences & gates, concrete areas (trickle ditches), asphalt trails and paths, the foot bridge, the tot lot, and the multipurpose (basketball) court, etc. The new reserves study will be performed later this year. The last study was conducted in 1999 which showed reserves were adequate at that time.

Update on Tot Lot Enhancements

by Mary Wolf

The ten member Tot Lot Committee has been formed and has met several times. The core committee members are: Susie Belttari, Beth Casey, Dianne Ficarra, Joanne Gyski, Kristen Patel, Laura Plank, Bonnie Schwarzkopf, Tracy Silk, Gloria Spencer and Mary Wolf.

Several residents have asked "What is involved in enhancing the tot lot?" and "Why are we doing this when Winchester added some equipment several years ago?" The answer is that the majority of the equipment in the playground is old and starting to splinter. In addition, the current wood used in the tot lot contains some arsenic-based preservatives. The community desires to meet current standards for playground safety and replace some of the problem equipment.

We also need to redo some of the landscaping around the perimeter. Some of the bushes that were moved and replanted are not growing properly, and frankly they look bad. We have received numerous requests for 2 benches in the tot lot area (the existing bench is old and needs to be replaced). We also need to put in a new trash receptacle. The committee is working with a number of vendors to request ideas and proposals. Once we have reviewed these, we will select 2-3 vendors for final proposals.

These proposals will also be discussed with several nearby neighbors on Camberwell and Fox Woods as well as the ARC. Final recommendations will be presented to the Board for approval. The goal is to end up with a higher quality tot lot (still targeted at ages 2-6). Since the space is limited, the amount of equipment in the area won't be more, but we hope to have better quality equipment that is more fun for the little ones and pleasant to look at.

The committee still has a lot of work to do, but we hope to have the landscaping addressed this Fall and be ready to install the new equipment by the Spring of 2005. If anyone is interested in knowing more about the requirements that the committee has put together for vendors or about any of this process, feel free to contact **Mary Wolf**.

2004 Board of Director Meetings

The remaining 2004 Board meetings are:

- August 18
- **November 17 Annual HOA Meeting**

Meetings are generally held quarterly, at 7:30 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Residents are welcome to attend. Please contact a Board member to confirm the specific date, time, and location.

Washington Post Supplement about Fairfax County

The April 22, 2004 *Washington Post* Fairfax Extra Section featured an informative “Guide to Fairfax County.” See the last page of this newsletter for a reference list of the key links to the information.

Bed & Breakfast Proposed on Fox Mill Road

The owner of the 1.7 acre parcel at 2460 Fox Mill Road has informed his neighbors that he would like to build a 5-bedroom home and operate it as a Bed & Breakfast. The lot is located in the southwest corner of the Fox Mill Road and Fairfax County Parkway intersection. It is adjacent to, but not part of, the Sycamore Lakes Community. A homeowner on Tatnuck Court is also adjacent to the southern property boundary, and several homes along the Fox Woods Drive pipe stem and cul-de-sac are 1-3 lots away from the proposed development.

The land is zoned R-1 (residential, one dwelling unit per acre). There is a provision in the Zoning Ordinance that can allow for a B&B operation; however, the owner is required to go through a formal Special Exception (SE) public hearing process to obtain a B&B permit. This process includes: application; negotiations with adjacent/affected land owners; negotiations with the Hunter Mill Planning Commissioner, negotiations with the Hunter Mill Board Supervisor (Hudgins), public hearings, final approval by the Planning Commission, and ultimate final approval by the Board of Supervisors. Factors that might be discussed include adequate off-street parking; 5 or fewer guest rooms; would there be an onsite resident; would the home become part of the HOA; notification or options if the B&B ceased to operate or if the property was being offered for sale in the future; signs; illumination; noise, etc. This link provides an overview of the land development process: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/zoning/devoverview.htm>

At present, the owner has not filed an SE application; however, one is anticipated in about two months. If you would like to be kept informed about the B&B proposal, please contact either **Gordon Jarratt** or **Janet Baltas** and they can connect you with the Sycamore Lakes e-mail list monitoring the issue.

Stratton Woods Park – Update

Recently there has been significant progress towards the development of Stratton Woods Park. The new park is located just north of Fox Mill Road near the intersection with Mill Heights Drive.

The park should be substantially completed and open in the August/September 2004 timeframe. However, the soccer and baseball fields will not be available until 2005 (the grass and sod need to become established).

The current plan is for the ball fields to remain unlighted. This was agreed to years ago at the request of surrounding neighbors. Representatives of several area youth sports organizations have recently complained that the lack of nighttime illumination means that the fields will remain idle many weekday afternoons and evenings – limiting the time for competitive play. Regardless, it would require a formal change to the Park’s Master Plan along with public hearings and formal approvals for lights to be considered and provided in the future.

Major League Baseball – is it coming to the Herndon/Dulles Area?

There are new reports about Major League Baseball wanting to relocate the Montreal Expos baseball team to Northern Virginia. One of the leading sites for a new ball diamond is near the Route 28 and Route 267 Dulles Toll Road intersection (in the northeast corner).

This complex would be located near the proposed Metrorail stop on property adjacent to the Center for Innovative Technology (the building that looks like a miniature Dulles Airport Terminal on the north side of the Dulles Toll Road). Most of the proposed new ballpark development is within Loudoun County.

The plans describe a “town center” of stores, shops, hotels, restaurants, offices, and condominiums surrounding an old quarry that would be flooded to create a scenic lakeside destination. The development would be built as a year round entity rather than just being used for stadium events. Promoters are pitching a plan that would not require significant taxpayer funding, which makes the development attractive to local elected officials.

However, Major League Baseball is known to prefer 100% public financing and typically approves sites in downtown or inner city locations (not in the suburbs). Lastly, Peter Angelos (the Baltimore Orioles owner) is against any plan to have a competing baseball franchise in the Northern Virginia or D.C area.

At least a half dozen other metropolitan areas are also “in the running” for Major League Baseball (Washington, D.C., Norfolk/Hampton Roads, Las Vegas; Portland, Ore.; San Juan, Puerto Rico; and Monterrey, Mexico). But none of those can match the population base, television market, business wealth, standard of living, and disposable income of the Northern Virginia area.

It is hoped that before a project like this is approved, that all local transportation needs would be fully addressed.

Dulles Airport – Additional Runways Coming – How will they impact us?

In 2003, over 17 million passengers went through the Dulles Airport terminal. And Dulles also supported over 373,000 takeoff, landing and aircraft operations (projected to be over 568,000 operations by 2010). To meet this increasing demand, the Airport Authority has decided to construct additional runways.

Dulles currently has three operating runways:

- 1L/19R (11,500 feet north/south)
- 1R/19L (11,500 feet north/south)
- 12/30 (10,500 feet east/west)

The proposed expansion would create two new runways bringing the operational total to five. One new north/south runway would be located 4,300 feet west of and parallel to the current westernmost runway. And the second runway (east/west) would be located 4,300 south of and parallel to the current southernmost runway. To view a picture of the proposed new runway, visit

<http://www.metwashairports.com/Dulles/EnvironmentalStudies/newrunwaysEIS/images/Dullesmaptype.jpg>

To learn more about the overall Dulles airport expansion: <http://www.metwashairports.com/dulles/EnvironmentalStudies/newrunwaysEIS/index.htm>

Regarding the impact on our neighborhood, the

locations for adding the new runways are likely to be beneficial for Monroe Manor. Both of the proposed new runways are almost a mile further away from our community than the existing runways. The net result should be that airplane operations are moved further away from us.

Development of Woodland Park East

Woodland Park East is located on the northwest corner of the Sunrise Valley Drive and Monroe Street intersection. It is a 47 acre site that is undergoing proposed rezoning from Industrial-4 to Planned Development Commercial. The development is proposed to change to a mix of residential, commercial and retail uses. There are existing site plan approvals for 3 buildings on the site (construction is in process).

The developer is requesting land use changes to allow more flexibility in building commercial, retail, and dwelling units (380 new apartments and condos are proposed). One parcel will be developed with both retail and residential uses. The residential development will be 211,000 sq. ft. (about 210 units -- probably apartment rentals). Another parcel will be used for a 4-story building around an interior garage. It will contain 229,000 sq. ft., for both commercial use and about 170 dwelling units (probably condos).

A 50,000 sq. ft. grocery store is part of the proposed development. There will be several two-story retail stores mixed with other commercial use. Residential units in some cases will be located above the retail space. The 380 total new dwelling units means 600+ additional vehicles on the roads, and additional pressure on already overcrowded local schools. A public hearing on the proposed changes is scheduled with the Planning Commission on July 28, 2004. If changes are approved, the plans are to finish construction by the end of 2006.

[RZ 2003-HM-046, TST Woodland LLC]

Overview of the County’s Comprehensive Plan

Did you review the County’s **Comprehensive Plan** before purchasing your home? Many of us didn’t. But it is the primary document that can provide answers to questions such as what is going to be, or could be, developed on all of the land around us.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, the

Planning Commission, and the Department of Planning and Zoning are revising and updating the Comprehensive Plan. It provides a myriad of planning assumptions, conditions, and limitations that will be imposed on all land development (including zoning, land use, housing density, land for parks & recreation & trails, transportation & land for road expansion, watershed protection, heritage/historical resources, etc.).

Public input for the “**Area Plan Review**” in the North County area (including our Hunter Mill District) was completed in May 2004. Full information about the APR process can be found at: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/gov/ocp/apr/citizensguide.pdf>

Many planning and land development controls and guidelines already exist for our area. You can review the existing Comprehensive Plan (drafted in 1997 with amendments through 2003) relevant to us at: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/gov/ocp/comprehensiveplan/area3/upperpotomac.pdf>

Monroe Manor is located in the **Area 3 Upper Potomac Planning District**, and in the **West Ox Community Planning Sector**. Here are the most relevant sections to us:

- Pages 1-19 – applies to the entire Planning District
- Pages 20-36 – applies to the Herndon/Monroe Transportation Center
- Pages 141-153 – applies to the West Ox Community Planning Sector (**UP7**)

Physically closest to us, the largest activity might be on proposed land use within the vicinity of the Herndon/Monroe Transportation Center on Sunrise Valley. This is referred to as **Land Unit C** (C-1, C-2, C-3, and C-4) representing land development around the south side of the current Herndon/Monroe parking & bus lot (and likely future Metrorail station), and **Land Unit B** (B-1, B-2, B-3) representing the entire Woodland Park development (and the old Greg-Roy homes that were demolished). Much of the area now is already built out and probably zoned appropriately.

At the time this is being written, there are no known proposed changes to the Comprehensive Plan that would have any significant impact on the immediate

community.

Many Transportation Projects Around Us -- Will they help relieve road congestion?

One component of the County’s Comprehensive Plan is the master transportation plan. This plan shows that in the future, both Monroe Street and West Ox Road are ultimately proposed to be 4 lane streets. And Centreville Road is proposed to become 6 lanes some day. In addition, “Lawyer’s Boulevard” (McLearen Road) is proposed to be constructed between the Reston Avenue/Lawyer’s Road intersection, and the West Ox/McLearen intersection. This would come through the wooded area that currently exists at the intersection of McLearen and West Ox. But don’t hold your breath for all of the improvements mentioned above. While they exist on paper, actual funding will be many years away.

The 2004 General Assembly finally passed a \$60 billion state budget in May, which is effective beginning in July 2004. The budget includes a \$1.5 billion tax increase (effective over a two year period) which will help fund a number of local needs, including funding for the School system. However, the budget provides no money for new transportation initiatives.

As this is being written, Governor Warner is proposing to add \$69 million in new funding for transportation projects. The General Assembly will meet on June 16 to either accept or reject this proposal.

Even so, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has been working with local and regional officials to try and address some high priority street network needs with the limited available funding. Here are six that have been recently discussed and could be funded in the next couple of years:

(1) Centreville Road Widening at Floris: VDOT is pursuing plans to widen the current 2 lane portion of Centreville Road to 6 lanes. This is the narrow curvy section of Route 657 that exists between West Ox Road and Frying Pan Road. The widening was supposed to be performed by a real estate developer in 1992, but the company went bankrupt. The project is funded. Construction is expected to be completed in

2007. Contact VDOT for more information [703-383-2431; Project ID 0657-029-357, C501].

(2) Fairfax County Parkway Widening: A previous newsletter discussed plans to widen Fairfax County Parkway from four lanes to six along the stretch from Rugby Road (Fair Oaks Hospital) to the south several miles across Fair Lakes Parkway and south past the I 66 interchange.

There is now further discussion about widening the Fairfax County Parkway to six lanes along the five-mile stretch from Rugby Road (Fair Oaks Hospital) north to Sunrise Valley Drive (at the Dulles Toll Road). This includes the roadway behind and/or adjacent to homes on Tallyrand Court and Tatnuck Court. The current plan would be for the new lanes to be restricted to cars with more than one occupant during rush hour (HOV 2). In May 2004, the Board of Supervisors agreed with VDOT to spend \$3.3 million to design the widening project.

The five-mile segment between Rugby and Sunrise Valley is often backed up during rush hour and has limited bus service. County transportation officials hope that lanes restricted to vehicles with at least two people would encourage carpooling.

The planning and design phases are underway. However, funding for the actual construction of the widening has not yet been determined and a completion date has not been set. Ultimately, Fairfax County Parkway is planned to become a six lane road from Reston (Baron Cameron intersection) to Burke (Route 123 intersection).

Residents – do you feel that additional lanes along Fairfax County Parkway could adversely affect your homes? If so, the community may be interested in supporting a request for sound barrier walls to significantly reduce the traffic noise. If you are interested in organizing and participating in a committee for this purpose, please contact a Board member.

(3) West Ox Road Widening: Construction is underway to expand West Ox Road from 2 lane to 4 lane divided along the two mile stretch between the Lawyer's Road intersection (to the north), and the Ox Trail Road intersection (to the South, near Fair Oaks Hospital). Funding is in place.

The "southern section" of West Ox Road (from Fair Oaks Hospital to the Route 50 interchange) is scheduled to be widened in 2006.

[Project Number 0608-029-221-301, C503]

(4) Virginia Beltway Widening (I 495): In May 2004, Virginia transportation officials recommended entering into negotiations with a private company to build toll lanes on a 13-mile stretch of the Capital Beltway I 495. The proposal would add two lanes on each side of the Beltway (separated from other traffic) between the Springfield/I 95 interchange and Georgetown Pike (just south of the American Legion Memorial Bridge).

The plan could bring the first use of high-occupancy toll lanes (HOT lanes) to the D.C. Metro area. This concept involves two components:

- The HOT lanes would be free for carpools of three or more people
- Other vehicles would pay for the privilege of riding in HOT lanes

In theory, tolls would increase with the amount of traffic to keep the lanes from clogging. The project would be built and mostly paid for by Fluor Daniel, a private firm that submitted the unsolicited proposal to Virginia officials. The proposal now goes to Virginia Transportation Commissioner Philip A. Shucet, who will decide whether or not to build the lanes. Both Shucet and Gov. Mark R. Warner have spoken in favor of HOT lanes.

(5) Interstate 66 Widening: In May 2004, regional transportation planners approved a study of the effects of widening the westbound lanes of Interstate 66 in Arlington County. In addition to weighing the need for a wider road, the study would consider a "no build" option, mass transit alternatives, high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes, and/or high-occupancy toll (HOT) lanes. Tom Farley, Northern Virginia administrator for VDOT, has stated that there is no preconceived notion about what the outcome might be. Widening I-66 inside the Beltway has been debated since the road opened in 1982.

(6) Route 123 Widening: Many of us want to avoid the Beltway and Springfield Interchange bottlenecks when we need to travel to Occoquan, Potomac Mills,

Fredericksburg and other points along I 95 south. One way to do this is to take the Fairfax County Parkway south to Route 123 south to reach Interstate 95 south. Last year, many miles of Route 123 were widened from 2 lane to 4 lane divided, greatly relieving congestion in the area. Currently, VDOT is widening the 2 lane stretch of Route 123 that goes through the Lorton area (now referred to as Laurel Hill). After that stretch is widened, Route 123 will be expanded to 4 lanes all the way to Occoquan, including widening of the bridge over the Occoquan River (scheduled to be completed in 2006).

Note: Some of the projects mentioned above are not fully funded, and therefore it will be years before some of them are completed. You can contact VDOT about the planning for local transportation improvement initiatives at 703-383-2000 or 703-383-2433. The VDOT website is www.virginiadot.org and there is a project section that focuses on Northern Virginia roads.

Water Authority Contingency Planning

As a response to the problems that occurred after Hurricane Isabel, the Fairfax County Water Authority has been making contingency plans regarding increased water storage capacity and future backup power generation. Current proposals include building additional tanks (such as on the West Ox/Vale Road property). Closest to Monroe Manor, no additional tanks are proposed at the Monroe Manor/New Parkland intersection. However, there is a proposal to build additional power generation capability at this site to run water pumps in an emergency, etc. Currently, this is a proposal and formal decisions and site plans have not been developed. Contact Ms. Jeanie Bailey, public affairs spokesperson, for more information at 703-289-6291.

II. ARC NEWS

by Doug Barbee

Neighbor Signatures Required on ARC Forms

All ARC submissions must be signed by all neighbors that are impacted by and closest to your proposed change or external modification. In all cases, an ARC form must be signed by a minimum of two “next door” or “across the street” or “back yard” neighbors.

However, depending upon the type and location of the change request, it may be necessary to obtain 3 or even up to 6 signatures.

For example, if a neighbor is performing extensive landscaping in the front, side and rear yards, signatures would be required from each of the following:

- The 1 or 2 closest side yard neighbors
- The 1 or 2 closest back yard neighbors, and
- The 1 or 2 closest front yard neighbors.

The ARC may not approve any submission that does not include the signatures of all close by and impacted neighbors. It is the responsibility of the homeowner submitting the ARC application to obtain all necessary neighbor signatures. If you have difficulty obtaining a signature of a nearby neighbor, please include a note explaining the specifics with your ARC submission. If you have questions, please contact an ARC member.

Please Provide Complete Exterior Modification Plans to the ARC

Please ensure that you provide complete plans about all proposed exterior modifications and landscaping changes to your home. For example, while architectural drawings are required for major home additions or expansions, simple hand drawings may be adequate for landscaping and plant requests.

Please ensure that adequate detail about your plans is submitted. Lists of materials, colors, sizes, locations, heights, distances from property lines, tree and plant varieties, etc., are critical. All submissions must include a copy of your house plat with clearly marked areas showing where the changes will be located. All of these plan details should be shared with your neighbors when obtaining their signatures on the ARC form, and then forwarded to Zalco before the deadline at the end of each month.

Providing enough detail up front will allow the ARC to perform its function more efficiently, and allow you to obtain quicker decisions about your projects.

III. COMMUNITY EVENTS

by Judy May

Progressive Dinner

Thank you everyone who participated in our annual Progressive Dinner. It was a great success a whole lot of fun. Thank you to the Micka family who graciously hosted the dessert house and to the Carson Family who have agreed to host dessert for next year.

Summer Social Hours - 6:00 pm

We will be starting the monthly happy hours again this summer – it will be on the third Friday of each month starting at 6:00 pm. The schedule is as follows:

June 18th – The first monthly social hour in honor of the last day of school will be in the Public Area behind Fallon Drive along the pipeline off Monroe Manor Drive. We will have beer, wine, juice box and pizza and those who attend should bring side dishes and snacks.

July 16th - Brafferton Court (off of Fallon Drive).

August 20th - We would like to have it in either the Fox Hound Court or Monroe Manor Cul de Sac. This is being confirmed and the exact location will be sent via email.

September 6th – In celebration of Labor Day, we will hold our annual Ice Cream Social at the Sport Court (by the water tower) at **6:30pm**. Please contact me if you can help out with this.

Yard Sale Success!

By all accounts the May 15 Yard Sale was a big success. There were many participants and customers.

Social Event Volunteers

We are in need of more volunteers to help with all social events, please contact me if you are interested in helping with any specific events: Halloween Party, Octoberfest Party (adults only), Ladies' Holiday Tea and Gift Exchange, Mens' Holiday Event, Progressive

Dinner, Ice Cream Social and the Summer Happy Hours. Or perhaps you have an idea of your own – we are in need of some fresh new ideas!

Do I have your E-mail Address?

Reminders for all social events are sent via e-mail through the **social event notification list**. Are you signed up? If you think that I am missing you e-mail address or have an incorrect one, please send your information to me. This is the primary vehicle to receive timely information about the Progressive Dinner, Summer Social Hours and other community social events. See the article at the beginning of the newsletter for more information.

Special Events, Local Festivities, and Holidays!

by Gordon Jarratt

June:

11-13 – Celebrate Fairfax (Fairfax Fair; see Pat McGee and the Charlie Daniels Band!)

12 – Dairy Day (Frying Pan Park; reservations required for special 6/11 Ice Cream Social night)

14 - Flag Day

17-19 – Great American Scrapbook Convention (Dulles Expo)

18 – Monroe Manor Social Hour (pipeline at Monroe Manor Drive)

18 – Last day of School

18-20 – Alexandria Waterfront Festival (Oronoco)

19 - Reston Taste of the Town

20 – Father's Day

20 – Antique Car Show (Sully Historic Site)

21 – Summer begins

23-27 – Smithsonian Folklife Festival (Mall)

25-27 – Old Dominion Brewery Beer Festival

26-27 – National Capital BBQ Battle (Penn. Ave.)

July:

4 – Independence Day Holiday (fireworks at Herndon's Bready Park; also at Lake Fairfax or Vienna or Lansdowne)

10-11 – Reston Festival

10-11 – Civil War encampment (Sully)

16 – Monroe Manor Social Hour (at Brafferton Ct.)

17-18 – 18th Century Market Fair (Claude Moore Colonial Farm)

17-18 – Lansdowne Resort Visiting Chef weekend

22-25 – Virginia Scottish Games & Festival (EHS, Alexandria)
24 – 7th Annual Herndon Bluesfest (Frying Pan)
24 – Daylily Sale (Meadowlark Gardens)
28 – Wild Pony Roundup (Chincoteague)

August:

7-8 – Greenberg Train Show (Dulles Expo)
13 – Middle and High Schoolers are jammin’ at the Reston Teen Center! (9pm – midnight)
20 – Monroe Manor Social Hour (TBD on the west side)
13-21 – Prince William County Fair

September:

5-6 – Model Train Display (Fairfax Station RR Museum)
6 – Monroe Manor Ice Cream Social (6:30 pm at multipurpose/basketball court)
6 – Labor Day Holiday
6 – Herndon Jazz Festival & Wine Tasting
11 – Centreville Day Parade and Festival
11-12 – National Capital Cat Show (Dulles Expo)
11-12 – Great Grape Wine Festival (Tarara)
12 – Classic Car Show (downtown Herndon)
16 (thru October 10) – Cirque du Soleil’s “Varekai” (RFK Stadium grounds)
17-19 – Oktoberfest, Clyde’s German Biergarten (Reston Town Center)
18 – Reston Multicultural Festival (Lake Anne Village Center)
18 – Herndon Pet Parade
18-19 – Bluemont Fair
18-19 – International Children’s Festival (Wolf Trap)
18-19 – Hunt County Fall Antiques Fair (Morven Park, Leesburg)
22 – Autumn begins
23-26 – Orvis Catalog Sale (Dulles Expo)
24-26 – Fall Capital Home Show (Dulles Expo)
25 – American Horticultural Society River Farm Gala (Potomac Riverfront, 7931 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria)
25-26 – Occoquan Arts & Crafts Show

October:

2 – Fall for Fairfax (Children’s festival)
2 – Herndon Homecoming Parade
3 – Herndon Folk Music Festival
9 – National Jousting Championship (Franklin Park, Purcellville)
9 – Fairfax City Fall Festival

11 – Columbus Day Holiday
16 – National Boss Day
31 – Happy Halloween!
31 – Daylight Savings Time Ends

November:

17 – Monroe Manor Annual HOA Meeting

IV. LOCAL SCHOOL NEWS

by Gordon Jarratt

New Superintendent of Schools

The Fairfax County School Board has selected Mr. Jack D. Dale to be the new Superintendent of the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). For the past eight years, Dale has been the superintendent of the Frederick County, Maryland schools. Dale was named Maryland superintendent of the year in 2000 by state peers.

Under Dale’s leadership, Frederick County student participation in college-level courses has increased. The number of Advanced Placement tests has also increased 141 percent since 1997. Dale oversaw the creation of the first charter school in the Washington suburbs and Maryland (the Monocacy Valley Montessori School). He is known for bringing Frederick County schools into the computer age, helping the district attain one of the best computer-to-pupil ratios in Maryland. He also spearheaded a restructuring of a growing school system. Frederick Board members and parents said he has been a good advocate for education and worked hard to lobby state and local officials for funding.

The Frederick County School system has 4,500 employees, 58 schools and a 2004 operating budget of \$332 million. FCPS has about 21,000 employees, 241 schools and a \$1.6 billion budget. Fairfax County has 166,601 students; Frederick County has 41,000. Based upon total enrollment, FCPS is the nation’s 12th largest public schools system.

Frederick County has a student makeup that is 83 percent white, 10 percent black and 4 percent Hispanic. Fairfax County's makeup is 53 percent white, 17 percent Asian American, 15 percent Hispanic and 11 percent black.

FCPS spends \$9,801 per student and achieves an average SAT score of 1110. Frederick spends an average of \$7,370 and achieves a 1056 SAT. Ninety percent (90%) of FCPS graduates enter college (75% for Frederick). FCPS has a drop out rate of 1.9% (1.3% for Frederick).

FCPS' previous Superintendent for five years was Daniel Domenech. He announced in December 2003 that he would retire in March 2004 to take a job with a textbook publisher in New York (and cited a need to be close to his aging and ailing parents). Unlike the very public search when Domenech was hired, the search for his successor was confidential and secretive.

New Westfield High School Principal

On July 1, Michael Campbell becomes the new Westfield High School principal. Current principal Dale Rumberger will be leaving to become principal at the new FCPS high school being built in South County.

Campbell has been the current lead assistant principal at Westfield and has been an administrator at the school since it opened in 2000. He has been an FCPS employee since 1983 and has held a variety of assistant principal and department director positions. He has a bachelor's degree from UVA in physical education with an emphasis in sports medicine and a master's degree from UVA in educational leadership and policy studies.

Register for Kindergarten!

Will your child reach his or her 5th birthday on or before September 30, 2004? Virginia law requires that this child must be enrolled in Kindergarten for the 2004-2005 school year (unless the parents elect to wait another year). Link to <http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/OECFS/kinder.htm#Requirements> for more information.

V. COMMUNITY SERVICES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Italian Restaurant Review

(this is copy of a May 16 Washington Post review by Mr. Walter Nicholls)

A Relative Success

With San Vito, Gian Piero Mazzi has created a restaurant of, by and for the family

San Vito Ristorante Italiano
13340 Franklin Farm Rd. (in Franklin Farm Village Center, at Fairfax County Parkway), Herndon. 703-707-6400.

www.sanvitorrestaurant.com

Open: for lunch Monday through Friday 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; for dinner Monday through Thursday 3:30 to 10 p.m., Friday 3:30 to 11 p.m., Saturday 2:30 to 11 p.m., Sunday 2:30 to 10 p.m.; for breakfast Saturday and Sunday 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. AE, D, MC, V. Reservations accepted for parties of six or more. Smoking at outdoor tables only. Parking lot. Prices: lunch appetizers \$3.95 to \$7.95, entrees \$6.25 to \$11.95; dinner appetizers \$3.95 to \$9.75, entrees \$7.75 to \$17.95. Full dinner with beer, tax and tip \$30 to \$40 per person.

At 7 o'clock on a Friday night, there is stroller gridlock just inside the entrance of San Vito Ristorante Italiano. The place is jumping -- that is, if you are, let's say, beyond the age of 3. The little ones in strollers are snoozing. One dad dressed in sweat clothes has a passed-out toddler thrown over his shoulder like a sack of potatoes. Equally laid-back and dressed-down moms have sleepy-eyed kids prone next to them in a number of the upholstered booths.

Since I don't have a reservation, I find a space to cool my heels for what turns out to be a 45-minute wait, back by the wood-burning pizza oven. There, at a small, copper-accented bar, I order and receive, promptly, a cold Moretti draft beer. When I ask a guy lingering nearby, "Is it always like this?" he replies, "Well, out here it's hard to find a place to take the family that isn't some chain."

That in itself explains a good part of San Vito's charm. Since it opened a year ago in a Herndon strip mall, this casual trattoria has become a family dining destination. And at San Vito, there is no reason adults have to put up with boring food just to keep the children happy.

Appropriately enough, the restaurant's staff is a family affair. Owner and chef Gian Piero Mazzi, formerly executive chef at Elysium, the high-end restaurant in

the Morrison House hotel in Alexandria, now works alongside his brother, a cousin and his father-in-law. After three years at Elysium, Mazzi says, he was ready to go out on his own, serving the simple, rustic food he likes best. His menu is large and, for the most part, fairly standard -- pasta and pizza -- with the exception of the daily specials, which show the kitchen's attention to detail, at significantly higher prices.

Over the course of three evenings, I learned to expect the unexpected, sometimes in a good way and sometimes more regrettably. For one thing, you must know that there *are* specials. Some menus list them on a separate page. Others don't list them at all. The waiters I encountered, for the most part friendly fellows, didn't bother to mention them. But if you can find the specials, they're well worth it.

Take the sea bream special I tried one night. Rarely have I come across a more succulent and flaky little pan-fried fish, dotted with capers and black olive bits, lightly seasoned to show off its oily and fishy-in-a-good-way flavor. A mound of outstanding, plump steamed mussels shared the plate -- really a platter -- and created a very appetizing presentation. The veal chop special combined two large, perfectly cooked pieces of tender meat, bathed in a honey-colored rosemary sauce, with a double carb-load of addictive potato gratin and linguine topped with fresh-tasting marinara sauce. Just as appealing was the osso buco, a tremendous portion of moist shank in a rich mushroom sauce: Italian comfort food, perfectly seasoned. The appetizer specials have also been worthwhile. One night's salad balanced peppery arugula, roasted red bell peppers and a generous shaving of Romano cheese.

The regular menu holds some winners, too. To begin, there are terrific, tender whole grilled squid that rest atop a bed of crunchy lettuce and chopped tomato, drizzled with aromatic basil pesto. A squeeze of lemon plays perfectly off the smoky, garlicky flavor. I'm also fond of the fried calamari, which are soft and lightly battered, although the accompanying tomato-based dipping sauce needs a little zip. The grilled portobello mushrooms are the best part of the otherwise ho-hum antipasto platter. Why not skip the platter, with its rubbery mozzarella cheese strips, and just order the portobellos à la carte? You can't go

wrong with the Caesar salad, made of romaine chunks tossed with a pleasing anchovy-laced dressing.

Among entrees, the excellent shrimp scampi is light and inviting, infused with garlic in a delicate lemon-butter sauce. The fine sautéed flounder is served over al dente linguine, alongside more of those super mussels, but is weighed down by too much of a too-strong rosemary-infused oil. And the veal marsala, when I tried it, was overcooked and drowning in a very boozy wine sauce.

San Vito's wine list is a weak point. With only half a dozen ordinary Italian non-vintage choices, by the glass or carafe, there is no decent wine to speak of. There is some fine regional Italian cooking here that deserves a better accompaniment. Bread, too, is iffy. More than once, we were given a bread basket that had clearly been picked over by some other table before us. Ick. But one evening, a very authentic loaf of warm, northern Italian-style peasant bread, tough as terrazzo on the outside and enjoyably doughy within, brought back memories of Milan to my dining pals.

Kids will love the predictable pasta dishes, such as spaghetti and meatball, vegetarian lasagna and fettuccine alfredo, all classic renditions of old favorites with absolutely no surprises. The pretty, bubble-edged pizzas have tasty and creative toppings. I'm particularly fond of the Palermitana, with yummy grilled artichokes, black olives and salami. But twice I've wondered why these good pizzas are soggy in the center. The answer: There is too much cheese.

The desserts can be deceiving. At the appropriate time, a waiter brings a tray to the table laden with maybe eight little plates of eye-catching pastry -- cream puffs, fruit tarts and, of course, tiramisu. Choose one, and back it comes a few minutes later, but with far more than you'd bargained for. That tiramisu, which would have been lovely on its own, is awash in Bosco-style chocolate syrup and about an alp's worth of out-of-the-can whipped cream. It's such a shame. And the Nutella-stuffed calzone is the size of a catcher's mitt. If there are simple berries, have them instead.

San Vito's decor has personality to spare. Romanesque brick arches give the spacious room a vaulted effect that appears to go on and on. Within each arch is a postcard-style painting of an Italian

landmark: the Tower of Pisa, the Amalfi coast and, of course, the Colosseum. A series of tall white columns wrapped in silk grapevines nicely sections off the space. It's an oh-so-Italian place to be.

Herndon is fortunate to have a family-owned restaurant for families who need an Italian night out. Definitely consider the grilled squid, Caesar salad and sea bream, if it's available. You won't be disappointed. And wake up the kids. They'll love the lasagna.

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VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations Graduates!

Congratulations to all of our high school and college graduates and their families! We wish you all success with your future plans.

For Sale - Piano

Weber Spinet piano. Modern design with beautiful walnut case. \$500. Contact Joan Morrow for more information.

On April 22, 2004 the *Washington Post's* Fairfax Extra Section featured a special Guide to Fairfax County. Here is a summary of the key links for your reference:

Feature article on Fairfax County, its large size and unique identity:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A30480-2004Apr21.html>

List of the Board of Supervisors:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A31126-2004Apr21.html>

List of county emergency numbers:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A31130-2004Apr21.html>

List of major county buildings:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A31129-2004Apr21.html>

List of county courts:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A31139-2004Apr21.html>

List of county fire stations:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A31141-2004Apr21.html>

The Fairfax County School Board:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A31144-2004Apr21.html>

How the county votes:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A31180-2004Apr21.html>

List of Community and Recreation Centers:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A31181-2004Apr21.html>

Office for Children (& Childcare):

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A31184-2004Apr21.html>

Chambers of Commerce and related associations:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A31187-2004Apr21.html>

Community and Recreation Services:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A31191-2004Apr21.html>

Animal shelter and dog licenses:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A31192-2004Apr21.html>

List of county libraries:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A31194-2004Apr21.html>

Arts and the theatre:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A31204-2004Apr21.html>

Good Restaurants in Fairfax:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A31206-2004Apr21.html>

Higher education options in Fairfax:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A31143-2004Apr21.html>

Shopping centers in Fairfax:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A31188-2004Apr21.html>

List of farmer's markets:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A31196-2004Apr21.html>

Listing of the 19 Northern Virginia regional parks:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A29292-2004Apr20.html>

Cool ideas to keep kids entertained right here in Fairfax County:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A30463-2004Apr21.html>