



MONROE MANORISMS

September 2004 ♦ Volume 9, Issue 3

I. A FEW WORDS FROM THE BOARD

by Gordon Jarratt



Mark Your Calendar for the Annual Meeting with Special Guest Speaker on Wednesday November 17 at 7:30 PM!

The Monroe Manor Homeowner's Association Annual Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, November 17 at Rachel Carson Middle School** (13618 McLearen Road), beginning at 7:30 PM. More information about the Annual Meeting will be sent in a separate mailing to all residents. A Board of Director's meeting will follow the Annual Meeting.

The Board is pleased to announce that our guest speaker will be Supervisor Cathy Hudgins! She will meet with Monroe Manor residents and speak at the beginning of our annual meeting. Since 1999, Supervisor Hudgins (Hunter Mill District) has been our elected representative on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Residents will have the opportunity to hear her informed perspective on a variety of issues affecting our local community.

Two seats on the Monroe Manor Board of Directors are up for election, and other topics may be raised that require a member vote. Please make arrangements to attend and have your household represented. If you are unable to attend in person, please follow instructions in the October mailing to sign your proxy and give it to another resident that is attending. Or give your signed proxy to a member of the Board, or send it to the Monroe Manor HOA Secretary, **Gordon Jarratt**.

What do you want to ask Supervisor Hudgins?

A large turnout is expected to hear comments from Supervisor Hudgins. As a courtesy, we have agreed to forward to her office a list of questions and/or topics that residents would like for her to speak about.

Some of these include:

- Congested roads
- Metrorail to Dulles
- School overcrowding (Westfield and Floris)
- Major League Baseball
- Real Estate taxes

What other issues would you like for Ms. Hudgins to address? Please send an e-mail with your questions to MonroeManorHOA@cox.net, or contact **Gordon Jarratt**.

Nominations Needed for Board Director Positions

There are two seats up for election on the Board of Directors. Have you considered serving as a Board member to help ensure that Monroe Manor remains the type of community that we all enjoy? If you would like to consider a position on the Board (or another HOA committee), please contact any current Board member to learn more about the opportunity and discuss your interests, or e-mail MonroeManorHOA@cox.net

Financial Audit Completed

Ahlberg & Company has completed the annual audit of the Monroe Manor financial statements. This included a review of the balance sheet, and the statements of revenues and expenses, member's equity, and cash flows. Required federal and state tax returns were prepared; however, no taxes were owed.

The auditor's opinion found that the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Monroe Manor Homeowner's Association, Inc., as of December 31, 2003 in conformity with the generally accepted U.S. accounting principles.

Replacement Reserves Study Completed

Miller-Dodson Associates was hired to conduct the Replacement Reserve study. During June 2004, this firm conducted onsite inspections and provided subsequent assessments about the current condition, future life, and replacement costs of HOA assets such as the front entrance monuments, the irrigation system, fences and gates, concrete areas (trickle ditches), asphalt trails and paths, the foot bridge, the tot lot, and the multipurpose (basketball) court, etc. Overall, the study concluded that most assets are in good condition. Some maintenance and repairs will be required for weathering and cracks in portions of the walls and footpaths. Projections for expenses in future years show that the reserve account balances continue to be adequately funded.

New Tot Lot Equipment This Fall

by Mary Wolf

After a lot of hard work and help from many, the tot lot plans are moving along and we should have a brand new facility by November. We are replacing the existing 10 year old equipment which includes wood timbers treated with arsenic.

We will be putting in a new swing set unit, but we were able to still keep 2 bucket swings and 2 belt swings, since this was an area of high priority to the parents/young people who use the tot lot. We will have a brand new playground structure which includes a double slide, a curved slide, a 'bedrock' climber, talk tube, steering wheel panel, map panel, bubble panel, play store, tic-tac-toe panel and a crawl tube.

The structure is made of high quality PVC coated steel and plastics (almost all earth tone colors - green/tan) which have excellent warranties and should look great for the next 10 years (at least). In addition, there will be a new bench, a square table with benches, as well as a new trash can with a lid (to

hopefully address any bee issues). There will be a sign inside stating that the structure is for residents only, no running, no use after dark, etc. The company we selected has great looking equipment, excellent service and warranties and has over 300 playgrounds installed within a 50 mile radius of here. They are both the manufacturer and distributor, which meant cost savings for us. If anyone is interested in an example of their work, check out the new playground at Pinecrest Pool.

Next steps will be to work on revising landscaping around the tot lot. This has been an issue for some time now and the landscaping work is long overdue. We will work to maintain the beauty of the area, partially screen the tot lot equipment from impacted neighbors, and for safety reasons, still maintain the ability to see what is happening in the tot lot area.

The Reserves Study (discussed earlier in this newsletter), was an important step in finalizing plans for the tot lot. The board wanted to select sturdy, long lasting equipment which would provide interesting, safe and fun activities for our tots (targeting ages 1-6). Yet, we had to be sure that we were spending an appropriate amount for the size of our neighborhood, age of the existing equipment and size of the tot lot area. This was all confirmed with the reserve study.

For those of you with young children who will be able to enjoy the new tot lot, be sure to say thanks to the following neighbors on the committee who made this happen: **Susie Belttari, Beth Casey, Dianne Ficarra, Joanne Gryski, Kristen Patel, Laura Plank, Bonnie Schwarzkopf, Tracy Silk and Gloria Spencer**. If anyone has any questions regarding the tot lot feel free to contact **Mary Wolf**.

Future Directory Update — What do you think?

The previous Monroe Manor Directories (published every two years) listed birthdays beside the names of most children. Do you have any feedback about continuing this format or changing it when the directory is updated next year? Should we delete the birthday information? Should we delete just the birth year information? Should we just leave it the way it is?

Some might be concerned about “identity theft” issues (but note that the directory is mailed only to 184 homeowners and is not on the Internet). There is a fairly constant turnover of new families moving in to Monroe Manor, and the directory is one way to help them meet neighbors and see if they have children with similar ages. Others might check out the birth year to assess if someone is the desired age for babysitting or yard jobs. We want to hear your feedback. If you have comments about this issue, please contact either Laurie Gibson or send a message to MonroeManorHOA@cox.net .

No Solid Waste Pick-up November 25

Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, there will be no trash pick-up on Thursday, November 25. AAA collects solid waste and recycling every weekday of the year except when a pick-up day coincides with either the Thanksgiving, Christmas, or New Year’s Day holidays.

Rabid Animals — Protect Your Children and Pets

Three Herndon area children were bitten by an aggressive fox on August 9, 2004. The suspected fox was killed by Animal Control officers on August 10. The fox tested positive for rabies. The three children were treated at Reston Hospital and began a 5-dose series of rabies vaccine treatments.

On August 10, a family living along the cul-de-sac of Fox Woods Drive encountered a very aggressive raccoon that was acting in a strange manner. It is likely that this animal also had rabies.

Rabies is an always-fatal viral disease that affects the nervous system of mammals. The rabies virus generally is transmitted in the saliva of an infected animal, and people and animals are usually exposed to rabies through the bite of a rabid animal. For wildlife in Northern Virginia, the most common rabies-infected animals are raccoons (over 50% of the cases) followed by foxes, skunks, bats, and some unvaccinated domestic cats and dogs. Birds, fish, reptiles, and amphibians do not get rabies, and rabbits, squirrels, rats and mice, and pets like gerbils and hamsters very seldom get it. Pet owners must vaccinate their pets as it is the only protection available for them.

Even though attacks by a rabid animal are alarming, there is no real surge or increase in the cases of rabies. Statewide, it is normal to receive between 450-700 cases of rabid animal reports annually. Fairfax County has between 40-110 cases per year. Here are some contact numbers and information for neighbors who encounter a wild animal that is aggressive or acting very unusual (i.e. does not just run away when it sees a human):

(1) **Animal Control: 703-830-3310** (Animal Control officers can be dispatched 6 am - 10:30 pm weekdays and 8 am - 6 pm on weekends)

(2) **Police non-emergency contact number: 703-691-2131**

(3) Fairfax County Health Department: 703-246-2433 or 703-246-3265

(4) General info about rabid animals in Fairfax County and practical precautions to take:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ps/ac/rabfacts.htm>

(5) Brochure with rabies information: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/service/hd/hdpdf/rabies2.pdf>

Gas Pipeline Inspection in our Neighborhood

by Rich Schwarzkopf

Columbia Gas Transmission will be performing an internal inspection of the natural gas pipeline passing through our community. This is one of two underground pipelines that are adjacent to certain homeowners along Fallon, Monroe Manor, and Fox Woods Drives. This inspection is part of the gas company's five year maintenance program and is expected to occur during September or October.

The inspection will be conducted by running a specialized tool through the inside of the pipeline (called a "smart pig"). The pig travels about 4 mph through about 65 miles of pipeline per run. It is propelled by the gas moving through the pipeline.

Pipeline inspections help Columbia detect potential problems before they become safety concerns, including the physical internal condition of the pipeline as well as an assessment of underground corrosion protection systems. No service disruptions are expected, and the company has no plans to perform any digging. This could change depending upon the inspection results.

You may see vehicles marked with "Columbia Gas" logos driving down the pipeline. They will be tracking the pig as it travels through the pipeline. All Columbia Gas workers have picture IDs which should always be visibly worn for identification (you may always ask to see a worker's ID). Columbia Gas can be reached at 800-835-7191 (24 hours per day). More information about pipeline safety and inspections is available at http://www.columbiagastrans.com/Pipeline_Safety/index.htm.

Neighbors Concerned about Fox Mill Road and Monroe Street Intersection

At a June 17 town hall meeting with Hunter Mill District Supervisor Catherine Hudgins, state Sen. Janet Howell (32nd) and state Del. Ken Plum (36th), the Polo Fields Citizen's Association raised several concerns about nearby road and transportation-related problems. Polo Fields is situated north of Fox Mill Road, east of Monroe Street, west of the Fairfax County Parkway, and south of Sunrise Valley Drive.

Residents complained about the dangerous intersection at the corner of Fox Mill Road and Monroe Street. One family stated that a Fairfax County police officer in pursuit of a car ended up on their backyard deck, instead of making the turn at the intersection (and this was not the only time a car has ended up in their yard)!

Residents noted safety issues at the intersection because some of the road lanes do not line up and there is a grade/elevation change. The Virginia Department of Transportation will assess the situation and determine what engineering work is required to address the problems. Residents also said they wanted sound barriers put up near their community and the Fairfax County Parkway to reduce the noise.

Metrorail is coming to Reston!

In July 2004, the Federal Transit Administration provided \$58.9 million to pay for preliminary engineering on Phase I of the Dulles corridor rail extension. This will be an 11 mile route from West Falls Church through Tyson's Corner to Wiehle Avenue in Reston.

The Reston East Park and Ride commuter lot, and the Kiss and Ride bus station (located north of the Wiehle Avenue and Dulles Toll Road interchange), are the “last stop” for Phase I. A new parking garage and bus station will be constructed at this location. The actual Metro stop will be between the lanes of the Dulles Toll Road with north and south pedestrian bridges.

Preliminary engineering begins in October 2004 and is expected to take 15 months. Construction is scheduled to begin in October 2006 and completion is expected in 2009. Total costs for Phase I are estimated at \$1.8 billion. Funding proportions are 50% federal, 25% state, and 25% local. Owners of commercial and business parcels surrounding the extension have created a special tax district to help fund the local portion.

To build this rail line, Virginia’s Department of Rail and Public Transportation has signed a “Public Private Transportation Act” comprehensive agreement with Dulles Transit Partners, LLC. DTP is a private firm composed of two engineering giants (Bechtel Corp. and Washington International Group). This is the first time that a Metro extension will be built by a private company (instead of the transit agency). Other project partners include the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, Fairfax County, the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, the Town of Herndon, Loudoun County, and the Federal Transit Administration.

In the future, Phase II is proposed to be a final 12 mile extension with six additional stations (Reston Parkway, **Herndon-Monroe**, Route 28, Dulles Airport, Route 606 and Route 772). Efforts are underway to form a second special tax district to help fund this portion. Estimated costs for Phase II are \$2.1 billion and completion is projected for 2015.

Among the rail projects currently ongoing in the U.S., this extension ranks the 3rd largest with total estimated costs of \$4 billion. More information about the Dulles Rail project is available at:

<http://www.dullestransit.com> or
<http://www.drpt.virginia.gov>

I-66 to be Widened (near Manassas)

Ever been stuck in westbound I-66 traffic (west of Route 28 to Gainesville/Haymarket)? Well, some relief is on the way!

The Commonwealth Transportation Board has allocated \$37.1 million to widen a four mile stretch of I-66 from four lanes to eight lanes. Two lanes in each direction will be added between Exit 47 (Route 234 business), and Exit 44 (Route 234 Prince William Parkway). Construction begins in September 2004, and completion is projected for October 2006.

VDOT is taking steps to minimize the disruption to motorists. For example, lane closures will not be permitted during Nissan Pavilion events or during rush hours and holidays. VDOT maintains a list of all Northern Virginia transportation projects at: <http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/district-projects.asp?ID=9>

How should we pay for road transportation needs?

It looks like future road transportation issues are going to get worse. Virginia’s roads are more congested every year. Rush hour and weekend travel on Interstates has become an interminable line of slow, stop, and slow traffic. And VDOT’s six year transportation plan has just been funded with \$22 million, but VDOT has identified over \$600 million in new construction needs over this period!

How can we pay for this? Fuel taxes are one idea. Federal gasoline taxes are 18.4 cents/gal. Across the nation, additional state gasoline taxes vary between 7.5 cents to 33.5 cents per gallon. Since 1987, Virginia’s state gasoline tax has been 17.5 cents per gallon. 42 states have higher tax rates than our state.

State Senate and State House of Delegate members in the Virginia General Assembly must address the transportation funding problem. Some elected officials think that an increase in the state’s gas tax is the answer. Others are opposed to any tax increases.

Building Code Changes & Finished Basement Plans

Beginning October 1, 2004, Virginia homeowners (and their contractors) can no longer obtain a building permit to finish a basement unless there is an opening

large enough for a person to easily escape directly to the outside. Just having a single set of internal steps to a basement will not suffice. This used to be an issue only if you wanted to legally add a bedroom in the basement – now it affects all unfinished residential basements without direct outside exits. The state law was revised, is final, and went into effect on October 1, 2003 (we are currently in a one year grace period). Homeowners who obtain a building permit before 10/1/04 and show periodic progress towards construction and finishing may be grandfathered under the previous version of the building code that did not require an outside opening for a finished basement.

After October 2004, a homeowner wanting to finish a closed basement must agree to one of the following in order to receive a permit for construction:

- (1) Install a whole-house sprinkler system (waives the requirement for an external door or window)
- (2) Construct an outside basement exit door with steps to the ground
- (3) Construct a large window close enough to the basement floor and large enough for a person to escape through
- (4) Depending upon a basement's configuration, there may be other solutions (would two inside stair cases waive the requirement for an outside exit?).

More information about the State Building Code can be obtained at 804-371-7160, or you can link to the "2000 Edition" of the current law: http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/Forms/DBFR/1USB_C.pdf . Local Construction Permit information can be obtained at 703-222-0801 or link to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/construction/default.htm> .

Update on Cub Run Recreation Center and West County Field House

The Cub Run Recreation Center and the West County Field House have been planned for construction next to Westfield High School in Chantilly. There is good news for one facility, and sad news for the other.

The new Cub Run Rec Center will be completed in early 2005, and some of its features include:

- a 25 yard x 25 meter competitive pool
- a 4,860 square foot leisure entertainment pool

- swimmer safety features (such as a state of the art drowning detection system)
- two pool slides (one exits and then re-enters the building!)
- an interactive water play structure
- a current channel
- a hot water spa
- a 9,600 square foot fitness center
- two large multipurpose/party rooms
- 4 family changing rooms (plus regular locker facilities)
- a wide variety of fitness and cardiovascular equipment and free weights
- special balance and flexibility training areas
- a wireless entertainment system.

A glass wall separates the competitive and leisure pools so simultaneous activities (like swim meets and recreational swimming) can occur without interruption. This link has more information: (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rec/wcrec.htm>).

Things are not so good for the West County Field House. A public/private partnership agreement had been signed to construct a Field House adjacent to the new Rec. Center. However, those plans are now on hold (the agreement has been dissolved because it was not possible to arrange appropriate financing).

New Police Chief for Fairfax County

Lt. Col. David M. Rohrer, 47, was promoted in July as Fairfax County's new police chief. He is a 23 year veteran who previously headed the Police Department's investigations and operations support branch. Rohrer said some of his priorities will be:

- Preventing gang violence
- Improving preparedness for a terrorist attack
- Hiring more minorities to reflect the County's changing demographics.

Rohrer, who worked his way up from patrol officer, spent a long part of his career as a tactical officer and then as commander of the special operations division. He also handled assignments such as hostage situations and search warrants. Later he headed the Fair Oaks District police station and was a commander in the patrol bureau before becoming a deputy chief. As head of investigations and

operations support, he oversaw Fairfax's role in the 2002 sniper investigation.

Rohrer will oversee 1,300 uniformed police officers and 500 civilians. Even though Fairfax County's ratio of police officers to population is below the national average, among large jurisdictions the County has very low rates of major crime.

Vote in the Tuesday November 2 General Election!

It is time to elect the President and Vice President of the United States, and vote on other important contests and issues. The polls will be open on November 2 from 6 am – 7 pm.

The last day for voter registration is Monday, October 4, 2004. The registration form and other information can be obtained at:

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/gov/eb/vregis.htm

October 28 is the last day to request an absentee ballot. Contests and issues on our local November 2 ballot include (subject to change):

(1) Electors for President and Vice President of the United States:

John Kerry/John Edwards (D)

George W. Bush/Dick Cheney (R), (incumbents)

(other candidates may also qualify)

(2) U.S. House of Representatives (10th District)

James R. Socas (D)
Socas for Congress
P.O. Box 728
Leesburg, VA 20178
(703) 848-1654

<http://www.socasforcongress.com>

Frank R. Wolf (R) (incumbent)
Wolf for Congress
P.O. Box 710235
Oak Hill, VA 20171-0235
(703) 915-2522

<http://www.wolfforcongress.com>

(3) Two proposed State Constitutional Amendments (Yes/No voting, paraphrased):

QUESTION 1: Should members of the United States House of Representatives, Virginia Senate, and Virginia House of Delegates who are serving in the year following

a new United States Census (when redistricting based on population changes is required):

- (a) Complete their terms of office and continue to represent the district from which they were elected for that term of office, and
- (b) That any vacancy during the term shall be filled from the same district that elected the member whose term is being filled?

QUESTION 2: Shall the Constitution of Virginia be amended to provide for additional possible successors to fill the office of Governor in the event of an emergency or enemy attack and until the House of Delegates is able to meet to elect a Governor?

More information about the state constitutional amendments is available at: **http://www.sbe.state.va.us/Election/Ballot_Issues/Proposed_Amendmts-2004.htm**

Four County Bond Issues also on Ballot

Fairfax County voters will also be asked to approve or disapprove \$325 million in bond sales. Construction of parks, libraries and roads as well as schools boomed in the 1960s and 1970s. In recent years, most of the county's bond money has been utilized for school construction and renovation. Now other areas are requesting attention to address the diverse variety of services county residents require.

Fairfax County limits its bond sales to \$200 million per year to maintain its top AAA bond rating. Even with voter approval, the bonds would not all be sold at once. They would be spaced out as projects are designed. Funding from approved bonds must be used within 10 years. The four current bond issues are:

- \$32.5 million for human service facilities such as mental health, mental retardation, substance abuse rehab, and juvenile court buildings
- \$52.5 million for construction of two new libraries and renovation of 4 branches and equipment
- \$75 million for county and regional parks to acquire land, develop new facilities, renovate some facilities, and purchase open space easements, and
- \$165 million for transportation needs such as funding the county's share of WMATA's capital program and projects in the county's

transportation plan (including pedestrian, highway, and transit improvements).

More information about these bonds is available at: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/bond/>

Election Officers

Would you like to provide a patriotic duty and be paid for it? Election officers are paid between \$100-\$150.

Call 703-324-4735, or for more information www.fairfaxcounty.gov/gov/eb/working.htm

Where do you vote?

Because the boundaries of two election precincts run throughout our neighborhood, registered voters in our subdivision vote at two different polling places:

- The **Frying Pan Precinct** (#0235) votes at McNair Elementary School, 2499 Thomas Jefferson Drive, and
- The **Floris Precinct** (#0203) votes at Floris Elementary School, 2708 Centreville Road.

Here are descriptions of the various sections and voting locations for Monroe Manor residents:

- Voters living on the **west** side of Monroe Street (including 13 homes on Fox Hound Ct., 2 homes on Curved Iron Rd., and 25 homes on the west portion of Monroe Manor Dr.) vote at the **McNair Elementary in the Frying Pan Precinct**
- Voters living on the **east** side of Monroe Street (including 27 homes on Fallon Dr., 8 homes on Brafferton Ct., 11 homes on Locksley Ct. and the 3 Monroe Manor Dr. homes on the pipe-stem near the front entrance sign) also vote at the **McNair Elementary in the Frying Pan Precinct**
- All others (including 20 homes on Camberwell Ct., 33 homes on Fox Woods Drive, 6 homes on New Parkland Dr., 8 homes on Talleyrand Ct., 4 homes on Tatnuck Ct., and the remaining 24 homes on the east side of Monroe Manor Drive) vote at **Floris Elementary in the Floris Precinct**

There are three ways to verify your polling place:

- Check your most recent voter registration card
- Call the local Registrar at 703-222-0776, or
- Type in your home address into this Virginia State Board of Elections website:

http://www.sbe.state.va.us/VotReg/Polling_Place/Polling_Place_Lookup_request.htm

Both the Frying Pan and the Floris Precincts share the same elected representatives (County Supervisor Hunter Mill District, Virginia House of Delegates 86th District, Virginia State Senator 33rd District, and U.S. House of Representatives “Congressional” 10th District). Therefore, we will almost always be voting on identical ballots (for the same elections and races and other questions).

Cold Stone Creamery is Coming!

Cold Stone Creamery, which has some of the best ice cream around, is coming to Herndon! They plan to open a store in the Worldgate Center. In addition to using high quality ingredients in their ice cream, yogurt and Italian sorbet, they offer their customers the option of blending in a wide variety of “mix-ins” such as brand name candy, brownies and other chocolates, and high quality nuts and fruits.

After selecting the base ice cream, one or more “mix-ins” can be added. The ice cream is mixed on top of a frozen granite stone. The first mix-in is included in the base price. They also offer freshly made waffle cones. So are there any downsides? Well, good things sometimes cost a little more. And some of the locations are so popular that there is usually a line (good things also take some time)! Someone else can research the saturated fat and cholesterol...

2004 Board of Director Meetings

The last 2004 Board meeting is on Wednesday, November 17 (after the 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. Dates for 2005 meetings will be published in the December 2004 newsletter.

II. ARC NEWS

by Doug Barbee

ARC Forms Due the Last Day of Each Month!

All changes to the outside of each home (including the house and the yard) need to be reviewed and

approved by the Architectural Review Committee. ARC forms must be approved before you or your contractor may begin the work.

It is extremely important to have all changes reviewed and approved in advance. ARC meetings are typically held during the 2nd week of each month. Each resident is responsible for turning in ARC forms with adjacent neighbor signatures and supporting drawings to Zalco no later than the last business day of the month. Several days of lead time are required to copy and distribute the documentation package to all members of the ARC. Blank forms are available from Zalco or any ARC member. The ARC is not able to consider requests sent directly to an ARC member -- all forms must be mailed or faxed to Zalco directly for recording.

What if you are in a situation where a change has been made but advance ARC approval was not obtained? Well, it is still critical to submit the proper forms with signatures and documentation and receive ARC review and approval. Several home sales have been held up due to unapproved items, costing the homeowners money and time and jeopardizing the sale of their homes.

Don't experience a delay in your project. Submit all ARC forms by the last business day of the month to Zalco at the address listed on the form.

III. COMMUNITY EVENTS

by Judy May

Summer was lot of fun for all! The Summer Happy Hours were part of that fun for many families. We are all happy to be back into a routine and have the kids back in school. Now, it's time to think about what events you want this year in Monroe Manor!

Here is what is planned thus far. As you can see, we need some more volunteers for events. Please sign up to help with one of these events or call me to suggest a new one!

September 25th – Oktoberfest – Joanne Gryski & Laurie Britton are the coordinators for this annual adults only party.

Oct. ?? – Halloween Event – OPEN. This event will only happen if someone offers to plan it. So please consider volunteering for this event.

December 5th – Annual Men's Holiday Football Gathering. **David May** will coordinate this now annual men's night out at a local eatery.

December 17th – Annual Ladies' Holiday "Tea" & Gift Exchange. **Janice Micka** has once again graciously offered to host for this fun-filled evening of holiday cheer.

Looking ahead to 2005:

May – Annual Progressive Dinner will be coordinated by **Judy May**.

Spring Outdoor Family Event – Need an idea and a coordinator.

Summer Happy Hours – Need a new coordinator for the 2005 summer season.

Remember the best way to keep in touch is through email. If you are not getting social updates, or want to stop getting social updates, please send an email to **Judy May**.

Special Events, Local Festivities, and Holidays!

by Gordon Jarratt

September:

9-12 – Orvis Catalog Sale (Dulles Expo)

11 – Centreville Day Parade and Festival

11-12 – National Capital Cat Show (Dulles Expo)

11-12 – Great Grape Wine Festival (Tarara)

11 – Major Scrapbook show (Dulles Expo)

12 – Classic Car & Motorcycle Show (Herndon)

12 – 31st annual Sully Quilt Show (Sully Historic Site)

16 (thru October 10) – Cirque du Soleil's "Varekai" (RFK Stadium grounds – outstanding!)

17-19 – Oktoberfest, Clyde's German Biergarten (Reston Town Center)

18 – 12th annual Dulles Day Family Festival & Plane Pull & Car Show! (Dulles Airport)

18 – 25th annual Mid-Atlantic Police Motorcycle Competition (8 am, Target Store, Chantilly/Route 50)

18 – Reston Multicultural Festival, Lake Anne Village
 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)
 18-19 – 18th Century Fair at Mount Vernon
 19 – Herndon’s NatureFest (Runnymede Park)
 22 – Autumn begins
 23 (thru Oct 3) – Virginia State Fair
 23 (thru Oct 11) – Big Apple Circus at Dulles Town Center (under the big top)
 24-26 – Fall Capital Home Show (Dulles Expo)
25 – Monroe Manor Oktoberfest
 25 – American Horticultural Society River Farm Gala (Potomac Riverfront, Alexandria)
 25-26 – Occoquan Arts & Crafts Show
 30 (thru Oct 2) – Sewing & Quilt Show (Dulles Expo)

October:

1-3 – 61st Annual Waterford Homes Tour and Crafts
 2 – Fall for Fairfax (Children’s festival)
 2 – Herndon Homecoming Parade
 2-3 – Scarecrow making at Colvin Run
 2-3 – 50th Running of the Virginia Fall Races (Glenwood Park, Middleburg)
 3 – Herndon Folk Music Festival
 8-11 – U.S. Sailboat Show (Annapolis)
 9 – National Jousting Championship (Purcellville)
 9 – Fairfax City Fall Festival
 9 – Harvest Moon Music Celebration (Sully Hist. Site)
 9 – Sterlingfest
 11 – Columbus Day
 15-17 – Craftsmen’s Classic Arts & Crafts Festival (Dulles Expo)
 15-17 – U.S. Powerboat Show (Annapolis)
 16 – National Boss Day
 16 – Harvest Festival in Aldie
 16-17 – Loudon County Fall Farm Tour
 22-24 – Collector’s Showcase of America (autographs with celebrity Hall of Fame athletes – Dulles Expo)
 27 – Vienna Halloween Parade (7 pm - great!)
 30-31 – Travel & Leisure Show (Dulles Expo)
 31 – Happy Halloween!
 31 – Daylight Savings Time Ends

November:

1 – Reston Town Center Skate Pavilion opens
 2 – Election Day
 5-7 – 35th Purcellville Heritage Antiques Show
 12-14 – National Ski/Snowboard Show (Dulles Expo)
 11 – Veterans’ Day (with Herndon ceremony)
17 – Monroe Manor Annual HOA Meeting
 19 (thru Jan 8) -- Miracle of Lights at Bull Run
 20 – Herndon Lights Up the Holidays (5:30 pm Worldgate)
 20-21 – Model Train/Toy/Hobby Show (Dulles Expo)
 20-21 – Interior Design Show (Dulles Expo)
 25 – Thanksgiving Day
 26 – Reston Holiday Parade, Tree Lighting, Sing Along, Carriage Rides, and Santa Claus Arrival

December:

4 – Gingerbread House Decorating (Lansdowne)
 4 – 19th annual Herndon Homes Tour
 4 – Herndon Tree Lighting and Sing Along
5 – Monroe Manor Men’s Holiday Outing
 5 – Herndon Arts & Crafts show
 8 – Hanukkah
 11 (and Dec 18) – Reston Carriage Rides
17 – Monroe Manor Ladies’ Holiday Tea
 21 – Winter begins
 25 – Christmas Day
 26 (thru Jan 1) Washington Auto Show (D.C. Conv.)
 29-30 – Holiday Concerts at Sully Historic site

January:

1 – New Year’s Day

IV. LOCAL SCHOOL NEWS

by Gordon Jarratt

2004-2005 Standard School Year Calendar

Here is the published FCPS school calendar. Your school should notify you about any changes.

September 7	School begins *
October 11	Columbus Day holiday
October 29	First grading period ends *+
November 1-2	Student holidays
November 24	Students released two hours early
November 25-26	Thanksgiving holidays
December 23-31	Winter vacation #
January 17	Martin Luther King birthday holiday
January 20	Inauguration Day #
January 28	Second grading period ends *+

January 31-Feb. 1	Student holidays #
February 21	Washington birthday holiday #
March 21-25	Spring vacation
April 14	Third grading period ends *+
April 15	Student holiday #
May 30	Memorial Day holiday
June 3	Student holiday #
June 6	Student holiday #
June 21	Graduations on or after this date *
June 24	Last day of school *+

* Schools are open.

+ Report cards are provided to parents at the end of each grading period and at the end of the school year.

Date subject to change if more than three school days are lost because of inclement weather.

Up to three inclement weather days are built into the schedule. If more days are needed, some of the January-June holiday or “vacation” days will be used as regular school days.

How Does the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Law Affect FCPS and its Students?

The following information about the No Child Left Behind legislation and the recent testing scores was extracted from several FCPS announcements and press releases.

- In the Fall of 2003, 91 percent of FCPS schools received state accreditation, average student SAT scores were the highest in history, and progress continued to be made in closing the gap between minority student scores and the scores of the general student body.
- Beginning in the 2003-04 school year, the school division, and each individual school, was required to meet another set of accountability standards -- those set out under the federal NCLB legislation. The law was passed to help ensure all children receive a good education.
- In the spring of 2004, FCPS students took another round of SOL (Standards of Learning) tests. These are the tests on which Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) is based. Under NCLB,

if an FCPS elementary school that receives federal aid under Title I misses AYP for two consecutive years, the school must offer parents the opportunity to transfer their child to a different school.

- In August of 2004, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) was notified that overall it had successfully met the benchmarks under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law and overall has made AYP for the 2003-04 school year. According to current state numbers, of the 190 FCPS sites—including 189 schools and the school division as a whole—147 or 77% succeeded in making AYP, up from 45 % last year. Of the 190, 189 met the benchmark for English proficiency and 188 met the benchmark for math proficiency. [Note: a small number of FCPS schools have been designated by the state as TBD—to be determined—and FCPS is working with the state to decide the status of these schools. It is anticipated that those schools will ultimately be found to have met AYP standards].
- For a school to make AYP, it must meet or exceed achievement benchmarks in 29 different standards including English and mathematics by school and by subgroup; test participation benchmarks by school and by subgroup; and other academic indicator benchmarks in attendance or graduation rate (missing a single benchmark can result in not making AYP).
- Although not every school met every benchmark, the school division overall did achieve AYP because the division’s score is calculated from each of the school’s aggregated numbers. School-wide, 85% of FCPS students made AYP in English proficiency, and 87% of FCPS students made AYP in math proficiency. But statewide, the Virginia Department of Education did not make AYP.
- Locally, both **Floris Elementary** and **Rachel Carson Middle Schools** achieved AYP and are fully accredited with no sanctions. **Westfield High School** did not make AYP for this year and must develop a plan to improve the test

scores of its handicapped students. It also remains fully accredited.

- This year, two Title I elementary schools missed AYP for two consecutive years in the same subject area. Both **Dogwood Elementary School and McNair Elementary School** have been targeted for improvement and are required to offer students a transfer option to another school. Note that these schools achieved AYP in all categories except one (the subgroup ‘economically disadvantaged children’ did not perform well enough on a standardized English test). Both schools remain provisionally accredited, and FCPS is focusing extra attention and providing additional resources for these two schools.
- For Dogwood Elementary School, students (parents) will have the option of attending either Crossfield Elementary or Sunrise Valley Elementary schools. For McNair Elementary School, students will have the option of attending either Fox Mill Elementary or Oak Hill Elementary schools. As of September 9, 95 students have transferred out of McNair, and 24 students have transferred out of Dogwood. More information is available at: <http://www.fcps.k12.va.us/McNairES/nclb.html>
- Non-Title I schools that do not make AYP are not required to offer a transfer option, but must develop and implement a school improvement plan. As the statistics currently exist, 30 FCPS non-Title I schools did not meet the AYP standards. FCPS chief academic officer Brad Draeger believes there are still some discrepancies and errors in the coding and calculation that have resulted in a few of the schools being inaccurately classified.
- The percentage of FCPS teachers meeting the federal definition of “highly qualified” under NCLB has risen from 86.1% in 2002-03 to 96.3% in 2003-04 (100 percent of teachers be “highly qualified” by the 2005-06 school year).

Parents with specific questions should contact your respective Principal’s office. For more information

about NCLB, link to www.fcps.edu/news/nclb.htm and <http://www.fcps.edu/mediapub/pressrel/081904a.htm#attach2>.

Link to www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/nclb for more information about the Virginia report. Check out <http://www.nclb.gov/> for more information about the federal NCLB law. To view all statistical reports and student achievement scores for a particular school in Fairfax County, link to <http://141.104.22.210/VDOE/src/vasrc-reportcard-intropage.shtml>

Local School Capacities and Enrollments

Here is the projected enrollment as of April 2004 for our local public schools:

	<u>Floris</u>	<u>Carson</u>	<u>Westfield</u>
Capacity:	742	1250	2500
2004-05 enrollment:	818	1094	3106
Difference:	-76	156	-606
Est. 2007-08 enrollment:	889	1171	3100
# of trailers:	7	0	14

There are significant overcrowding concerns at Westfield High School; however, FCPS has no plans to adjust this school’s attendance boundaries (rumors otherwise don’t appear to be true). Under consideration is construction of an addition that would increase Westfield’s capacity from 2500 to 3000 students. Some bond funding exists for this, but no formal decision has been made. [Boundary meetings are being held regarding the new south county high school (under construction in the Lorton/Laurel Hill area); however, that school will not impact Westfield’s attendance boundaries.]

Floris Elementary’s enrollment currently exceeds its capacity by 76 students. Note that within 4 years, the overcrowding situation is expected to almost double (to 147 students).

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

American Girl/Doll Furniture For Sale

Beds (including bedding), wicker couch with 2 side chairs and table set, school desk. If interested, please contact **Marie Smith**.

Bible Study

Interested in joining a weekly Bible study group? Contact **Terry** for questions or further information. All backgrounds welcome!

Attention all Ladies!

Are you interested in a free pampering session and Fall color makeover for you and your friends? Contact **Carolyn Jarratt**.

Monroe Manor Contractor List

Hey neighbors, the “contractor list” needs your input!

A large number of contractor categories are still blank. Have you hired contractors for:

- Basement finishing
- Brickwork/stonework
- Carpentry
- Countertops/Granite
- Draperies/window treatments
- Dry wall/plastering
- Heating/AC
- Patios
- Plumbing
- Sunroom/patio enclosures
- Tile
- Window cleaning
- Window installation/repair?

If so, please send a note to **Mary Wolf** so she can update the information. Thanks!