



Monroe Manorisms

September 2005 ♦ Volume 10, Issue 3

I. A FEW WORDS FROM THE BOARD

by Gordon Jarratt



Support Hurricane Katrina Relief Efforts!

The tragedy of this storm is devastating for hundreds of thousands of people along four Gulf Coast states. The Federal Emergency Management Agency lists almost two dozen charities or volunteer organizations that are accepting donations for relief activities. Three that are accepting cash contributions include:

- **American Red Cross** www.redcross.org
1-800-HELP NOW (800-435-7669)
- **America's Second Harvest**
www.secondharvest.org 1-800-344-8070
- **Operation Blessing** www.ob.org
1-800-436-6348

The full list of all organizations that are accepting donations for Katrina victims is available at:

www.usafreedomcorps.gov/

Annual Membership Meeting for Monroe Manor at 7:00 pm on November 16, 2005!

Monroe Manor will hold its annual Homeowner's Association meeting on Wednesday, November 16 at 7:00 pm. Mark your calendars! The meeting will probably be held at Floris Elementary School. More information will be coming.

Special Kid's Night also on November 16!

Coincident with the annual meeting, the HOA plans to arrange a special kid's event in a nearby room. Several sitters will be provided, and movies, refreshments, and a fun time will be enjoyed by all! Parents and adults – the Social Committee needs your help planning this Kid's Night. Please contact

Jennifer Carson. Mark your calendars for November 16! More information will be coming in a future mailing about the annual meeting.

Nominations for Board Director Positions

Two seats are coming 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 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

New Monroe Manor Directory is Ready!

The September 2005 Monroe Manor Directory has been published and you should have already received your copy in the mail. Thanks to all residents for helping to update the information. A very special thanks goes to **Laurie Gibson** for her leadership, organization, and hard work on this effort. And thanks to **Rich Schwarzkopf** for the map updates. The HOA generally tries to update the directory every two years. Residents are reminded that this directory is for internal community and neighbor-related communication only. The directory information may not be provided to solicitors, or any commercial businesses, or anyone outside of the HOA. Thanks for your cooperation.

Pet Owners Take Note

Outside dogs and cats should be restrained and are not allowed to roam around the neighborhood. Please be courteous to other neighbors -- and to the children – and pick up after your pet! Thanks.

Local Vandalism and Theft

In June, the Fairfax County Police Department released a special alert about a large number of vehicle break-ins, spray painting and vandalism incidents in the Franklin Farm area. Between April 26 and May 14, there were 37 incidents on three different nights. Most of the streets named in the link below are east of the Fairfax County Parkway and Franklin Farm Road intersection (this is east of the Franklin Farm Village Center and about 3.5 miles from Monroe Manor). Anyone with information about these incidents should call a special "Crime Solvers" tip line at 703-691-8888. More details at:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ps/police/reports/Reports2005/060605CSFranklinFarms.doc>

Between Tuesday pm, June 21 and Wednesday am June 22, a Monroe Manor family experienced property theft. The incident happened along the pipe stem area in the 12808 – 12820 block of Monroe Manor Drive. The homeowner had accidentally left the garage door open overnight. Two cell phones and a digital camera were reported stolen from the two vehicles in the garage.

The Fairfax County Police were notified. If you have any information about this incident, please contact the Police at 703-691-2131. Police refer to this as a "crime of opportunity" (in this case a theft might not have occurred if the garage doors were closed). Homeowners are reminded to be vigilant and report any unusual strangers or vehicles that are seen in the neighborhood. Please also report all incidents to the Board at MonroeManorHOA@cox.net.

See Something Unusual – Tell Your Neighbor!

It is midnight one night and as a neighbor drives by your home, they see that you have left one of your garage doors open. What would you want the neighbor to do about it? An informal poll of over a dozen residents has resulted in a unanimous response. "Please call me – no matter how late it is!"

The scenario above has happened several times in our community. In all of the cases known about so far, the neighbor appreciated receiving the call about

an open garage door (even if the call was at 3:00 am!). Hopefully, most of us will be comfortable calling another neighbor in a situation like this. If you notice something suspicious but prefer not to call directly, the other alternative is to call the Police non-emergency number at 703-691-2131 and let them know about the concern. They will take down the information and dispatch an officer to investigate the situation and notify the homeowner.

Tot Lot is for Tots – not Teens!

There have been several complaints about teens climbing on top of the tot lot equipment (such as the tube) and hanging out after dark. Reminder that the tot lot closes at dark each day, and the equipment is designed for small children to enjoy. Thanks!

Financial Audit Completed

Ahlberg & Company, P.C. (McLean, VA) 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. 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, 2004 in conformity with the generally accepted U.S. accounting principles.

Update--Nearby Zoning Changes will Allow More Residential Dwelling Units (and will Affect Future Enrollment Capacity at Local Schools)

FCPS has announced an upcoming high school attendance boundary study. This is partly in response to concerns about the Area Plan Review zoning change and development proposals (Middleton Farm 5DS, and Wall Road/EDS 6DS) that would generate additional K-12 aged children that could further crowd our local schools. More information is in the "Local School News" section of this newsletter.

No Solid Waste Pick-up on November 24

AAA does not collect solid waste and recycling on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's holidays. Based on our Monday/Thursday schedule, this means there will be no pick-up on Thursday, November 24.

2005 Board of Director Meetings

The last 2005 Monroe Manor Board of Director meeting is scheduled for **November 16** (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 time and location. Dates for 2006 meetings will be published in the December 2005 newsletter.

Local Transportation Projects, including Centreville Road Widening

Centreville Road will be widened soon. A two-mile section between Metrotech Drive (Sully Shopping Center) and McLearen Road is funded locally by Fairfax County (\$29 million). When completed in 2007, Centreville Road will be four lanes from Route 50 in Chantilly through West Ox Road in Herndon.

In addition to adding lanes, five traffic signals will be installed and existing signals will be modified. One side of the road will have a sidewalk, and an asphalt trail will line the other side.

To expedite construction, Fairfax County funded the Metrotech to McLearen portion of the widening and included it in the public-private partnership that is building the interchanges along Route 28. Shirley Contracting and Dewberry will perform the construction under a VDOT contract.

A second section of Centreville Road widening between West Ox Road and Frying Pan Road will be funded by VDOT. Bids will be solicited for this section in late 2007. In other local transportation news:

- Stringfellow Road (between Route 50 and Interstate 66) is scheduled for widening to 4 lanes
- \$27.6 million from a 2006 federal transportation bill will be used to widen I-66 westbound inside of the Beltway by one lane.
- The same bill will provide \$33.6 million to complete the widening of I-66 from Route 234 to Route 29, with improvements at the Route 29 interchange (Gainesville).
- \$12.8 million from the same bill will be used to widen I-95 southbound from the Fairfax County Parkway to Route 123 interchanges (roughly

between Newington and Occoquan/Woodbridge)

For the past six years, Virginia has received only 90.5% back from all federal gas taxes generated for road improvements. That means while we suffer some of the nation's worst transportation and traffic problems, we are still subsidizing the road needs of other areas. The recent bill improves that percentage to a 92% return of federal gas taxes through 2009. Some members of the Virginia General Assembly will try to find matching state funds to further expand some of these transportation improvements.

New Virginia Laws Effective July 2005

Virginia now prohibits anyone behind the wheel of a vehicle from watching a video or DVD while driving. It will still be OK for passengers to enjoy the show, as long as it is not explicit or obscene. Nearly 900 new bills passed by the Virginia General Assembly took effect on July 1. Here are a few:

- Food for your BBQ is cheaper because Virginia has lowered its food sales tax by 1.5 cents on the dollar.
- The tax on cigarettes will jump another dime to 30 cents after being raised to 20 cents last year from the previous low of 2.5 cents per pack.
- Fairfax County will be allowed to better regulate the parking of large commercial trucks on local streets.
- Photo red light cameras will be discontinued as the state did not renew the pilot program.
- Voters will no longer be allowed to leave a polling site once they have checked in until after they have cast a ballot.
- Penalties will increase for youths engaging in gang activity on school grounds.
- Penalties for under-age drinking will increase.
- Breastfeeding mothers will now be allowed to request an exemption from jury duty.
- Developer money proffered for a specific project must be used within five years of the transaction or the money will be turned over to the state to be used on any local project.
- The big-eared bat will now be the official bat of Virginia!

Virginians can now obtain free credit reports!

Effective September 1, 2005, Virginia residents may receive free credit reports. You may either link to www.annualcreditreport.com or call the central phone number (877-322-8228). This central service allows you to request a free credit file disclosure once every 12 months from each of the nationwide consumer credit reporting companies (Equifax, Experian and TransUnion). To do this you will need to provide personal information, including your Social Security number and date of birth, which the companies need to identify you. Specific account numbers and address information are also required. They offer assurances that their systems are secure, and the service has been in operation for many months for U.S. citizens residing in the western and central states. If you prefer to not provide the information over the phone or online, you can mail your request. Here are the three addresses:

- Equifax Information Services, Disclosure Department, P.O. Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374
- Experian, P.O. Box 2002, Allen, TX 75013
- TransUnion, Consumer Disclosure Center, P.O. Box 1000, Chester, PA 19022

The credit file disclosure is free, but the bureaus may assess a charge if you want your actual credit score.

Vote in the November 8th General Election

On November 8, 2005, Virginia voters will elect a Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, and members of the Virginia House of Delegates. The polls will be open from 6:00 am – 7:00 pm. New residents must register by October 11 to vote in this election. Key candidates and races include:

Governor	
Jerry W. Kilgore (R)	5724 Shady Grove Road Glen Allen, VA 23059 www.jerrykilgore.com
Timothy M. Kaine (D)	1515 Confederate Avenue Richmond, VA 23227 tim@kaine2005.org www.kaine2005.org

H. Russ Potts, Jr. (I)	210 Handley Boulevard Winchester, VA 22601 russ@russpotts.com www.russpotts.com
Lieutenant Governor	
William T. "Bill" Bolling (R)	PO Box 3037 Mechanicsville, VA 23116 bbolling@mindspring.com www.billbolling.com
Leslie L. Byrne (D)	6442 Queen Anne Terrace Falls Church, VA 22044 leslie@lesliebyrne.org www.lesliebyrne.org
Attorney General	
Robert F. "Bob" McDonnell (R)	PO Box 62386 Virginia Beach, VA 23466 campaign@bobmcdonnell.com www.bobmcdonnell.com
R. Creigh Deeds (D)	Drawer D Hot Springs, VA 24445 rcdeeds@tds.net www.creighdeeds.com

In our District 86 of the House of Delegates, Tom Davis Rust (R) is running unopposed.

Also on the ballot, FCPS will be asking for voter approval of a \$246 million school bond referendum. Included is a \$19 million request for the new construction of Coppermine Elementary School, which will help alleviate elementary school overcrowding in nearby schools. More information is available at <http://www.fcps.edu/news/bond05.htm>

Tyson's Corner Expansion

In late September, Tyson's Corner Mall plans to open a new wing with 38 new shops, 5 restaurants, and a new 16 screen movie theater with stadium seating. That represents a 20% increase in size.

Animal Adoption

There are many pets waiting for adoption at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. The selection typically includes cats, rabbits and guinea pigs as well as some wonderful purebred and mixed breed dogs. Stop by at 4500 West Ox Road and enhance your family with a great pet that needs a good home. Adoption times are Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m.

to 5 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. More information is available at:

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

Websites with Info for Kids and Teens

This website is loaded with information that is especially useful to kids, teens and parents. Link to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/kids/>.

The Library provides more links for kids. Check out this link for pre-school and elementary children:

http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/index_ae.htm#c (scroll down to 'children'). And check out this link for cool teen information: http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/index_pt.htm#t

Go to your local Library – either in Person, or via the Internet!

Have you visited one of your local libraries recently? In addition to books and reference material, they provide free Internet access and free browsing of extensive databases. The three closest branches are:

Herndon Fortnightly

728 Center Street; 703-437-8855
Open: M-Th 10-9; F 10-6; Sa 10-5

Reston Regional

11925 Bowman Towne Drive; 703-689-2700
Open: M-Th 10-9; F 10-6; Sa 10-5; Su 12-6

Chantilly Regional

4000 Stringfellow Rd., 703-502-3883
Open: M-Th 10-9; F 10-6; Sa 10-5; Su 12-6

With an Internet connection you can access many library resources 24 hours per day by linking to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library. Here you can apply for a library card online, search the catalog, place a "hold" on a library book, "ask-a-librarian" a question, receive live homework help (for students), and search historical local newspapers. You can also access more than 40 information databases which include magazines, newspapers, e-books, encyclopedias, company profiles, investment reports

and other resources. These databases give Library card-holders free access to articles from business, science and health publications that are generally not available for free on the Internet. Here is the link to the database search capability:

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/dbsRemote/resource/default.htm

Ask-a-Librarian Live!

Need a list of small businesses located in northern Virginia, or an online genealogy resource, or instructions about ordering books from other library systems? The Fairfax County Public Library offers Ask-a-Librarian Live, an educational chat service that can help county residents find online statistics, reports, articles and other data. While online, librarians can also show residents how to search the library catalog, reserve books or explain other services and procedures. Staffed by Fairfax County librarians, the service is available seven days a week whenever library branches are open.

Ask-a-Librarian Live is one of three ways residents can obtain research assistance from home, work or school. You can also e-mail questions and get responses within 24 hours, or call a local branch directly to speak with a reference librarian. Look for Ask-a-Librarian Live at

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/asklibchoices.htm>

II. ARC NEWS

by Rick Auman

Note that we have recently updated the ARC application form to add greater clarification for all. A copy is attached to this newsletter. All new ARC submissions should use the new form (dated effective August 2005). If you would like an electronic copy, please let me or any ARC member know and we'll be happy to send you one!

Thanks as always for everyone's cooperation by following the Association's covenants and guidelines!

III. COMMUNITY/SOCIAL EVENTS

by Jennifer Carson

10th Anniversary Party—Big Success!

Approximately 150 residents came to our Monroe Manor 10th Anniversary party on June 24th! Many residents have commented how much they enjoyed the event. School was out, BBQ and beverages were provided, and kids loved the moon bounce and the pony rides.

We need to thank several volunteers for doing the heavy lifting to help pull off this fun event.

- A special thanks to **Judy May** for her overall coordination and organization of the event.
- Thanks to **Dennis Drinkard** and **Bonnie Schwarzkopf** for supply and activity coordination.
- Thanks to **the May and Barbee families** for providing electrical power and facilities in addition to putting up with all the commotion in their back yards.
- Thanks to many individuals and families that provided trash and recycling bins, along with food, beverages, setup and cleanup services.

This was certainly one of our best attended and most enjoyed community events we've had!

September 5 - Labor Day Ice Cream Social

The annual Ice Cream Social was held on September 5. Delicious ice cream treats with fixins' were enjoyed by all! Thanks to **Judy May** for organizing this event. And thanks to several adults who provided the scoops and the "scooper arm power."

November 16 – Special Kid's Event (during the Annual Meeting)

A special Kid's Event is being planned beginning at 6:45 pm on November 16. While the "grown-ups" will be holding the annual HOA meeting, the Kids will be in a nearby room enjoying DVDs/movies, special treats and fun games (probably at Floris Elementary). So mark your calendar, get the homework done early, and gather up the blankets and sleeping bags! We will need 1-2 adults to also watch the kids, and plan to have several "sitters" to also help out. Contact Jennifer Carson to let her know you can help out. More information will be

coming in the annual meeting announcement.

Other End of the Year Excitement:

As summer winds down and we move towards fall and the pending holiday season, we have many fun events to consider based on community interest:

Oktoberfest: This has historically been one of the most fun and well attended events of the year in Monroe Manor and we hope to continue the tradition in 2005. **Brafferton Court** has offered to host this year's festivities and we welcome suggestions from everyone as to how and what we want this event to be this year! The "adult only" evening is typically full of traditional German food as well as tasty beverages of choice. Based on the amount of fun we've already had this year, we are considering a request for contributions for this event and **LOTS OF FEEDBACK and IDEAS**. We've gotten lots of good ideas already to "kick this up a notch" ...keep them coming. Please contact Jennifer Carson with your thoughts. **We are also trying to land on a date in late October that works for everyone...this will be communicated via a community email shortly.**

- **Ladies Holiday Tea and Gift Exchange:** A day for the ladies of Monroe Manor to kick back and enjoy the festiveness of the holiday season. We are looking for a gracious hostess for this event. Additional details will follow as the holiday season approaches. Contact Jennifer with questions and/or ideas.
- **Men's Holiday Outing:** A day for the gents of Monroe Manor to kick back and enjoy the festiveness (FOOTBALL and FOOD) of the holiday season. We are looking for either a gracious host or a good idea for a venue for this event. Additional details will follow as the holiday season approaches. Contact Jennifer with questions and/or ideas.

Finally, as we gather together throughout the rest of the year to relax and catch up, let's talk about what sounds fun for 2006...it's just around the corner. We warmly welcome any fun new suggestions or ideas for events that the community would like to have next year. Happy Fall!

Special Events, Local Festivities, and Holidays!

by Gordon Jarratt

September:

9 (thru Oct. 30) – “Corn Maize” (Temple Hall Farm Regional Park, Leesburg)
16-24 – Great Frederick Fair (Md)
22 – Autumn begins
22 thru Oct. 2 – Virginia State Fair (Richmond Raceway)
22 thru Oct. 11 – Big Apple Circus (Dulles Town Center)
23-24 – Capital Home/Remodeling Show (Dulles Expo)
24 – Oktoberfest (Lovettsville)
24-25 – Occoquan Arts & Crafts Show
24-25 – Great Grape Wine Festival (Tarara/Lucketts)
25 – Hot Air Balloon Rally (Flying Circus, Bealeton)
29 thru Oct 1 – Sewing and Quilt Expo (Dulles Expo)
30 -- Folk Club presents Anne Hills (Tortilla Factory)
30 (thru Oct. 2) – Old Dominion Kennel Club Dog Show (Morven Park, Leesburg)

October:

Monroe Manor's Oktoberfest this month???

1 – Fall for Fairfax (Government Center)
1 – Plane Pull, Car Show & Family Festival (Dulles Airport)
1-2 – Virginia Fall Steeplechase (Glenwood Park, Middleburg)
6-9 – Orvis Catalog Sale (Dulles Expo)
6-10 – U.S. Sailboat Show (Annapolis)
7-9 – U.S. National Dance Championships (Swing, Waltz, Tango, Foxtrot, Salsa, 2 Step, Hustle, Shag, Cha Cha, Lindy, Hand Dance; Westfields Marriott)
7-9 – Annual Waterford Homes Tour and Crafts
8– Speed & Thro (magic/comedy, Industrial Strength Theatre)
8 – Steeplechase (Morven Park, Leesburg)
8 – Fairfax City Fall Festival
8 – National Jousting Championship (Purcellville)
8 – Sterlingfest (Community Center)
9 – Scarecrow making (Frying Pan)
9 – Clifton Day
10 – Lyla the Witch (puppet show, Worldgate Theatre, 10:30 am)
10 – Columbus Day
13-16 – U.S. Powerboat Show (Annapolis)
15 – Farm Harvest Day (Frying Pan)
15 – International Gold Cup (Great Meadow)
15 – Autumn Adventure Family Event (Reston Center)
15 – Reston House Tour
15 – Aldie Harvest Festival
15-16 – 18th Century Market Fair (Claude Moore)
15-16 – Hunt County Antiques Fair (Morven Park)
15-16 – Loudoun County Farm Tour
15-16 – Oatlands Antiques Show
16 – National Boss Day
21 – Spooktacular (Herndon Community Center)
22 – Herndon Homecoming Parade
22 (& 11/12 & 12/10) – Schooling Htr. Horse Show (Fry. Pan)
21-23 – Craftsman's Classic Arts and Crafts (Dulles Expo)
21-23 – Collector's Showcase of America (autographs with

celebrity Hall of Fame athletes – Dulles Expo)
26 – Vienna Halloween Parade (7 pm - great!)
29 – Fall Garden Tour (Meadowlark Gardens)
30 – Daylight Savings Time Ends
30 – Halloween Event (Dulles Town Center)
31 – Happy Halloween!
31 – Mall-o-ween (Fair Oaks)

November:

1 – Reston Town Center Skate Pavilion opens
4-6 – World of Possibilities Disabilities Show (Expo)
4-6 – 36th Purcellville Heritage Antiques Show
5-20 – The Emperor's New Clothes (Industrial Strength)
6 (and Dec 4 & 18) – Jumper Horse Show (Frying Pan)
7 – The Dino Show (puppets, Worldgate, 10:30 am)
8 – Election Day – Vote!
8 – 4-H Demonstrations (Frying Pan)
11 – Veterans' Day (with Herndon ceremony)
11-13 – National Ski/Snowboard Show (Dulles Expo)
11-13 – Christmas Craft Market (Dulles Expo)
16 – Monroe Manor Annual HOA Meeting, with Kid's Night Special Event!
18-20 – Quarter Horse Show (Frying Pan)
19 – ACC Football: Virginia Tech at Virginia
19 (thru Jan 8) -- Miracle of Lights (Bull Run)
19 – Turkey Trot 5K Race (Herndon Community Center)
19 – Herndon Lights Up the Holidays (5 pm Worldgate)
24 – Thanksgiving Day

December:

Monroe Manor's Ladies Holiday Tea and Gift Exchange, and Men's Holiday Outing, this month???

2-4 – Towne Square Singers Holiday Concert (Industrial Strength Theatre)
3 – 20th annual Herndon Homes Tour
3 – Herndon Tree Lighting & Sing Along (Town Square)
3 and 5 – Children's Holiday Shopping (Frying Pan)
3 and 10 – Gingerbread House Decorating (Lansdowne)
3 and 17 – Holiday Jazz and Wine at Tarara
4 – Herndon Arts & Crafts show (Community Center)
7 – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
10 – Celtic Yuletide (Industrial Strength Theatre)
10-11 – Candlelight Tours (Sully Historic Site)
16-18 – International Gem & Jewelry Show (Dulles Expo)
21 – Winter begins
25 – Christmas Day
25 – Chanukah begins
26 – Kwanzaa begins
31 – First Night Leesburg

Ongoing Fall Events:

Frying Pan Park hosts Farmer's Markets from 7:30 am – 12:30 pm every Wednesday thru October.

IV. LOCAL SCHOOL NEWS

by Gordon Jarratt

FCPS School Calendar

Public schools opened on September 6 with 165,000 students. Here is the 2005-2006 public school calendar:

October 10	Columbus Day Holiday
November 7 - 8	Student Holidays
November 23	Students Released Two Hours Early
November 24 - 25	Thanksgiving Holidays
December 23 - January 2, 2006	Winter Vacation
January 16, 2006	King's Birthday Holiday
January 27, January 30	Student Holidays
February 20	Washington's Birthday Holiday
April 7	Student Holiday
April 10 - 14	Spring Vacation
May 29	Memorial Day Holiday
June 20	Last Day of School

The school calendar can absorb three inclement weather days before other holidays would have to be cancelled. This link will have any revisions to the school calendar:

<http://www.fcps.edu/about/05-06cal.htm>

FCPS to Study School Attendance Boundaries

The Fairfax County School Board has requested a study of the High School attendance areas in our western portion of the county. The analysis is scheduled for the fall of 2007, and coincides with the completion of renovations at South Lakes High School. There will be a series of meetings for citizen/parent input. Any adopted boundary changes would be effective for the 2008-09 school year.

The study will focus on “using available classroom capacity in the Herndon-Reston area to relieve overcrowding at Westfield, Chantilly, Centreville, and Oakton High Schools.” The study will also review attendance projections to determine the needs, benefits, and costs of a potential new western FCPS high school (an expensive proposition).

If voters approve additional school bond funding on November 8, the new Coppermine Elementary School could open in September 2009. Therefore, local Elementary School attendance boundaries may be studied in the fall of 2008 (this has not been formally announced by FCPS).

Westfield News

Westfield High School opened two weeks ago with a total enrollment of 3,225. This required 8 additional trailers (for a total of 37 trailers). The capacity of the original school facility was 2,500.

Westfield previously announced construction of a two story 24 “brick & mortar” classroom addition. Because of overcrowding, FCPS has now decided to fund a three story 30 classroom addition. It is currently under construction and expected to take 17 months to build.

No Child Left Behind Results

Overall, FCPS has successfully met the required benchmarks under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law and has made adequate yearly progress (AYP) for the 2004-05 school year. 84% of all FCPS school sites, including the school division as a whole, succeeded in making AYP (up from 77% last year). State-wide, 80% of all Virginia public schools made AYP (up from 74% last year). Locally, Floris, Rachel Carson, and Westfield all achieved AYP.

In addition, the percentage of FCPS teachers meeting the federal definition of “highly qualified” under NCLB has risen from 96.3% in 2003-04 to 97% in 2004-05. NCLB requires that 100 percent of teachers be “highly qualified” by the end of the 2005-06 school year.

To achieve AYP, each school must meet or exceed achievement benchmarks in English (65 percent) and mathematics (63 percent) by factors such as school-wide, ethnic subgroup, participation rate, other

academic indicator benchmarks, attendance, and graduation rate. Alternatively, schools may achieve AYP by decreasing the failure rate in a category by at least 10% over the previous year. Schools are required to meet benchmarks in 29 categories; missing a single benchmark will result in a school not making AYP.

Although not every school met every benchmark, the school division did make AYP because the division's score is calculated via aggregated numbers from each school. Division-wide, 86% of FCPS students made AYP in English proficiency, and 88% of FCPS students made AYP in math proficiency.

Any Title I school that does not make AYP for two consecutive years in the same subject area is identified for improvement and required to offer parents a student transfer option to another school. Again both Dogwood Elementary and McNair Elementary Schools will be required to offer a transfer option to their students. Note that Dogwood Elementary improved and did make AYP in 2004-05, but it must do so for two consecutive years (meaning one more year) before the transfer option is discontinued. McNair Elementary missed making AYP in only one of 29 categories. 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. McNair and Dogwood (as well as Fox Mill Elementary) have new principals for this school year.

NCLB requires that 100 percent of public school students in the U.S. meet the NCLB standards by the year 2014. Interim standards are set individually by each state. Current results are preliminary and subject to change.

Passing statistics for our local schools (all students aggregated) include:

	<u>Floris</u>	<u>Rach.Carson</u>	<u>Westfield</u>
English:	91	96	91
Math:	95	97	91
Science:	96	96	87
Attendance:	97	97	96

More information is available at:

<http://www.fcps.edu/news/nclb.htm> and

<http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/nclb/>

FCPS SAT Scores Rise!

(1) Report by College Board: SAT scores for FCPS seniors from the class of 2005 showed a strong increase, and they continue to test well ahead of their peers in other Virginia and national schools. Scores for individual high schools of interest (College Board reported):

	Verbal		Math	
	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
Westfield	528	534	541	554
Centreville	518	529	547	553
Chantilly	532	544	550	568
Herndon	538	534	545	550
Oakton	569	579	576	588
South Lakes	539	527	537	528
Thom Jeff	734	731	748	749
<u>FCPS</u>	<u>547</u>	<u>549</u>	<u>558</u>	<u>565</u>
Virginia	515	516	509	514
Nation	508	508	518	520

(2) Report by FCPS: FCPS adjusts College Board scores to take in account factors such as students taking the SAT in Fairfax County but enrolled in another jurisdiction; home-schooled children; seniors that moved away part year; seniors that did not graduate with their class; and seniors taking the test multiple times. Based upon these adjustments, FCPS-reported scores are:

	Verbal		Math	
	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
Westfield	537	547	554	566
Centreville	531	541	563	563
Chantilly	543	558	560	580
Herndon	547	547	555	560
Oakton	578	588	591	597
South Lakes	553	547	549	545
Thom Jeff	739	738	756	757
<u>FCPS</u>	<u>557</u>	<u>560</u>	<u>570</u>	<u>575</u>

The SAT measures the basic verbal and mathematical abilities that a student has acquired over many years, both in and out of school. It tests ability to reason rather than to remember facts (and it

does not require special preparation). FCPS cautions to not rely too heavily upon test scores as measures of instructional quality and not to use test scores exclusively to compare schools or school systems.

This is the last year for SAT scores on a combined 1600 maximum scale. Next year the College Board will report results on a 2400 scale, which includes a written essay portion of the test.

FCPS school performance scores are available at: <http://www.fcps.edu/testing.htm> . Other measures of student and school performance scores for all Virginia schools can be obtained at: <http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/src/index.shtml> .

Vote on School Bond Issue November 8

FCPS is requesting a \$246 million school bond referendum that includes \$19 million for the new construction of Coppermine Elementary School, which will help alleviate overcrowding in our nearby schools. Vote on November 8! More information is available at: <http://www.fcps.edu/news/bond05.htm>

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Toddler Play Group!

Are you at home on weekdays with a toddler (or two)? Need some adult time while the kids play? Come and join a new Toddler Play Group. Please contact **Carolyn Jarratt**.

Swim Club Membership Wanted

Our family would like to purchase a swim club membership for Pinecrest Pool. If you know of one that is available, please contact **Carolyn Jarratt** .

Replacing Brick Walkway & Steps

If any neighbor would like information about redoing their brick walkway or front steps, please contact neighbors **Gayle Berkley** or **Linda Pesce**. They would be more than happy to discuss the process and/or the contractors that they used.

Free Mirror!

If could use a 42"x72" mirror, please contact **Linda Pesce**

Monroe Manor Contractor List

Please send any updates to the Monroe Manor Contractor List to Kathy Lawson. Thanks!