



Monroe Manorisms

December 2005 ♦ Volume 10, Issue 4

I. A FEW WORDS FROM THE BOARD

by Gordon Jarratt



Happy Holidays to All!

Warm wishes to all Monroe Manor residents and families over the holiday season! Many of you have spent hours decorating your homes for this festive time of year. The neighborhood looks beautiful! Best wishes for a healthy and safe 2006.

Annual Meeting Held

Monroe Manor Homeowner's Association, Inc., held its annual membership meeting on Wednesday, November 16 at Floris Elementary School. Thanks go to **Bonnie Schwarzkopf** and **Carolyn Jarratt** for arranging the Special Kid's night event and showing the movie Madagascar! Some of the meeting highlights and 2005 community achievements include:

- Effective 1/1/06, monthly assessments will increase from \$50.00 to \$53.34 per month. **Quarterly dues payments of \$160.00** are due on January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1.
- A significant increase in the contracted service for solid waste removal and recycling is responsible for most of the assessment change.
- The new Tot Lot equipment looks great and is being enjoyed by many! Note that due to wood rot, the Tot Lot fence will be replaced in 2006.
- An updated Directory was published in 2005 (great job -- thanks **Laurie Gibson**)!
- Residents are reminded to send all additions to the Monroe Manor broadcast e-mail list to Laurie.
- The Tree Replacement Policy was implemented.
- The new basketball rims on the multipurpose court have been holding up well. The court

surface may need repair in 2006.

- The ARC, under the leadership of **Rick Auman** and his team, continues to perform in an outstanding manner!
- Special thanks to **Brian McKenney** for drafting an improved ARC Review Form that was adopted in 2005.
- Four great newsletters in 2005 thanks to **Kathy Lawson** (with regular help from contributing writers **Gordon Jarratt, Rick Auman, and Jennifer Carson**)!
- The "10th anniversary party" last June was one of the most popular events we have had! And Social Committee chair **Jennifer Carson** arranged a great Oktoberfest party (did you hear about all of our talented Karaoke residents?).
- Future Monroe Manor web site (discussed below)
- Future Neighborhood Watch (discussed below)

Copies of the 2006 budget were mailed to all homeowners during the last week in November.

Two Board Members Elected!

Congratulations to **Jerry Chickillo** and **John Bull**, who were elected to the Board of Directors. Jerry was re-elected, and John was elected for the first time (he was previously appointed by the Board to fill the unexpired term of Mary Wolf's position).

The Board of Directors met subsequent to the annual meeting, and the following Officers were elected:

- President: Rich Schwarzkopf
- Vice President: Gordon Jarratt
- Treasurer: Doug Barbee
- Secretary: Jerry Chickillo
- At-large: John Bull

New Community Manager

In October, Mike Conley left Zalco to pursue other

career opportunities. Anita Amini was appointed as the new Community Manager. However in November, she faced an unexpected medical situation which will require her to be away from work for several months. So our new community manager is **Ginger Fitzpatrick**. Her work phone number is 301-495-4153, and her e-mail address is gfitzpatrick@zalco.com. Ginger jumped right in and helped us conduct the annual meeting and get the budget finalized. During the transition period to our new property manager, please be patient and try to provide extra lead time if you have business that Zalco needs to support (such as resale packets, etc.).

All Pet Owners – Please Read

The most frequent community concern heard by the Board is about inconsiderate pet owners. Complaints about pet waste have recently been received from home owners residing along Locksley Court, Fallon Drive, and Fox Woods Drive. Outside dogs and cats must be restrained and are not allowed to roam around the neighborhood. Please be thoughtful to other neighbors – and to the children – and scoop after your pet! This includes all roads, sidewalks, paths, common property, open fields, and forested areas. Thanks!

Help Create a Monroe Manor Web Site

The community would like to establish a web site. **Doug Barbee** has been researching several options and will be reporting back to the Board. Other residents with interest or expertise are asked to contact Doug.

Snow Removal in Monroe Manor

Big snowfalls are likely soon. Here are some tips and reminders about snow removal and snow plowing:

- When snow is forecast, consider parking your cars in the driveway. Vehicles parked in the streets and cul-de-sacs hamper the progress and effectiveness of snow plows.
- The pipe-stems in Monroe Manor are privately owned driveways, and snow removal is the responsibility of the adjacent property owners.
- Snow removal for all other Monroe Manor streets is the responsibility of the Virginia Department of Transportation. If your street has not been

plowed after a reasonable period of time, you may report it to VDOT at 703-383-2800 or 703-383-8368. Note that snow plowing along residential subdivision streets like ours is a lower priority than the plowing of highways and primary streets. VDOT's Northern Virginia office can be reached via e-mail at: novainfo@virginiadot.org.

- Snow removal along the sidewalks is the collective responsibility of all residents. Please think about the safety of school children and remember to clear all sidewalks along the front of your home. Failure to do this means that children have to walk in the streets to get to the bus stop. In past years, many homeowners have teamed up to also shovel the snow along the sidewalks which are not directly in front of a residential home. Thanks to all who volunteer and look out for the safety of our kids!
- When shoveling your driveway and front sidewalks, consider tossing the snow into the yard and not in the street. Why? Because more snow in the road means more snow pushed back into your driveway when the plow comes along!

After a snowfall, each resident can help with the restoration of services such as mail delivery, newspaper delivery, and solid waste collection and recycling. Please remember to “dig out” the area within 10 feet of your mail box and ensure there are no obstructions (such as snow mounds or vehicles). And provide some space between the location of your mailbox, and the location of the solid waste bins and recycling containers. Your service providers will appreciate it.

AAA Snow Service, and Christmas Tree Pick-up

The holiday season also results in high demand for solid waste collection. When that is combined with snow and ice storms, AAA's ability to provide timely service may be affected. If service is missed, AAA sometimes will collect on the next business day. At other times they will collect on the next scheduled pick-up day. The HOA will send a broadcast e-mail if AAA releases any formal info about inclement weather and service impacts.

The Monday after Christmas and Monday after New Year's Day are scheduled to be regular pick-up days. AAA plans to provide special tree service during our regular pick-up days for the first two weeks in January. Please place your trees curbside, with all ornaments and tinsel removed.

Reminder: Tis the Season...

Do you receive the daily local newspaper? Do you have a regular yard worker, or person to help with house cleaning, or child care provider, or pet sitter? Do you have home delivery of dry cleaning or groceries? Don't forget to remember these dedicated and helpful people that provide you with services throughout the year. If you feel inclined, they would appreciate your gratuities during the holiday season.

Local Crime Watch

Franklin Farms reported two serious crimes in November -- an assault on a woman removing belongings from her outdoors car, and a pizza delivery robbery. The suspect in the first assault was described as white, about 6' 1" tall, 185 pounds, and wearing all black clothing. Anyone with information about these incidents is asked to call Crime Solvers at 1-866-411-TIPS (8477) or the police non-emergency number at 703-691-2131.

Crime prevention specialists in the Police Department remind everyone to always be aware of your surroundings. You should contact the police if you see or hear anything suspicious. Other tips include keeping doors locked, garage doors down, cars locked and empty of valuables including coins, money, identifications, checkbooks, retail items, and electronics, etc.

Closer to home, we have again experienced problems in the wooded parkland area adjacent to the pipeline (bordered by homes in the Fallon Drive cul-de-sac, several homes along Fox Woods Drive, and homes from Sycamore Lakes). Recent issues include illegal fireworks by teens, and drug paraphernalia (a homemade bong for marijuana).

Lights On for Safety!

All residents are reminded to ensure that exterior lights are installed and working properly. Multiple bulbs should be placed in all front yard post lights,

and the lights switch should be left in the on position (the light should come on automatically at dusk each night). Residents that desire to install additional exterior lights along the rear or side yards (such as motion detector lights) are reminded to first fill out and submit an ARC application.

Interested in Creating a Neighborhood Watch?

Another great way to help prevent crime is to develop and participate in a Neighborhood Watch. It's as simple as hopping into your car with a friend and taking a drive around the community. This was discussed at the annual meeting. If residents would like to establish this, we need two people to be the principal organizers, and others to volunteer to be block captains with rotating shifts. With enough interest, participants typically may have to be on the Neighborhood Watch maybe one weekend out of every 2-4 months. Community participants must be arranged and organized before the Neighborhood Watch signs can be posted.

If there is interest, a meeting with a Crime Prevention Officer can be arranged. Contact a Board member if you would like to organize this. More about Neighborhood Watch programs and crime prevention tips can be found at:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/police15c.htm>

Babysitting Certification!

The Herndon Community Center is offering babysitting certification classes to older students aged 11-15. The one day (6 hour) course costs \$48 and is offered on three Saturdays (January 21, or February 4 or 14, 2006). Topics include babysitter's rights and responsibilities, child development, baby care, toys, and games, first aid, how to handle emergencies and CPR. Each participant will receive a babysitting kit including a "KidSit" Manual, CPR book, "KidSit" certification and CPR completion card. For more information look at page 26 of the 2006 Winter Program Brochure link:

<http://www.town.herndon.va.us/parks.html>

Western Tax District to Fund Metrorail to Dulles

Commercial landowners in the Reston-Herndon-Dulles area are considering a plan to help fund Metrorail's future expansion to Dulles Airport. The proposal is for a special real estate tax district to finance Fairfax County's portion of the costs.

"Eastern" commercial property owners in the Tyson's Corner/Vienna area already have agreed to a tax to pay for Phase One of the project (from West Falls Church through Tyson's Corner to Wiehle Avenue). Because of uncertainty, the "western" property owners decided to be excluded from the Phase One tax district.

Last year the western property owners formed WARD (the Western Alliance for Rail to Dulles). For the Phase Two portion, WARD has proposed that commercial property owners pay a tax in three stages and that revenue from the tax be capped at \$214 million. Phase Two would extend rail from Wiehle Avenue through Reston and Herndon to the airport. This would include the construction of a rail station adjacent to the Herndon-Monroe Park & Ride Facility (on Sunrise Valley Drive near Monroe St).

The WARD plan calls for an initial tax rate of five cents for each \$100 of assessed real estate value that would go into effect when Phase One of the project receives final federal funding and regulatory approval. The second of three tax rates would be 22 cents for each \$100 of assessed value after the Federal Transit Administration recommended to Congress funding the Phase Two plan. The third tax rate of up to 29 cents for each \$100 of assessed value would begin when Phase Two receives final federal funding and regulatory approval. There are safeguards for the property owners if Phase Two is never approved or funded.

The costs of Phase One have been estimated up to \$2.4 billion; however, that figure was revised to \$1.8 billion. Commercial property owners in the Phase One tax district have agreed to pay an extra 22 cents for each \$100 of assessed value this year and coming years to finance the county's portion of the bill.

The total rail line extension would be 23 miles. The overall funding formula is:

- 50% from the federal government

- 25% from the state (using tolls from the Dulles Toll Road and other state revenue), and
- 25% from the County (using the commercial tax districts and other local government revenue).

WARD needs 51% of the commercial property owners along the Dulles corridor to sign a petition before the plan can go before the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for consideration. About 40% of the commercial land owners that would be assessed are already participating in the WARD planning or on its board. But there are many challenges and issues. Final approvals for Phase One are still pending. Commercial property ownership in the Dulles corridor frequently changes, and many owners and investors live in other cities or states and may not be sympathetic to the local area's transportation needs. Details about how to handle any future cost increases are not clear. And there are groups that are against rail who support Bus Rapid Transit as a more economical and efficient solution. There will be more chapters to this story (and more years) before Monroe Manor residents see a rail station open nearby.

Several Groups Bidding for Dulles Toll Road

Five investment groups recently submitted individual proposals to take over operation and maintenance of the Dulles Toll Road. If an offer is accepted, it would be the first such concession agreement on a Virginia state-run highway. Virginia General Assembly legislators expressed interest in this concept after Chicago signed a 99-year \$1.8 billion lease on one of its toll roads.

Private sector partnership opportunities are being explored to help address Virginia's inability to afford long-term transportation improvements. Earlier in 2005, one investment group offered the state \$1 billion for toll road improvements and the state share of building Metro in the corridor, in exchange for a 50-year lease on the toll road. State law required VDOT to solicit competing offers which four more companies did by the October deadline.

VDOT has determined that four of the five offers meet minimum qualifications. Those have been forwarded to a panel of local and regional officials

for review. Subsequently, they will go to the Commonwealth Transportation Board, and finally the state highway commissioner will decide whether to select a proposal – or not. The evaluations could take up to two years. More information about the proposals is contained in this Times Community newspaper link:

http://www.timescommunity.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=15497837&BRD=2553&PAG=461&dept_id=507243&rfti=8 The detailed proposals are on the VDOT web site: <http://www.virginia-dot.org>

Verizon FiOS Cable

Verizon has received approval to offer cable services to Fairfax County homes. Verizon trucks have been in our neighborhood for three weeks and made technical connections at most underground junction boxes. FiOS/Cable TV service (broadband over fiber optic) will be offered to us some time in calendar 2006.

Just like we experienced with the digging and damages from the recent underground fiber optic cable installation, Verizon (and its competitors) do not always do a good job sharing relevant information with customers. Since many residents are associated with the technology field, here is some additional information about FiOS that is believed to be accurate and may be of interest:

- The service requires additional fiber optic cable (thin cable) between the curbside terminal to the home (more digging!)
- The voice portion can use existing copper lines; the Internet portion requires CAT5 or better wiring and an Ethernet wall jack (Verizon will wire a primary computer but otherwise is typically not in the business of "fishing" wires along multiple walls -- they may suggest contracting independently to have your home pre-wired with CAT5 before Verizon visits)
- Speeds can be between 5-30 Mbps (pay more for higher speed)
- Requires a Verizon 4 port wired or wireless router
- Requires an Optical Network Terminal on outside of home (ONT case is 4 times larger than the existing outside phone network interface box)
- ONT will have a battery backup unit installed inside of the home, which requires a nearby electrical plug also inside of the home

- Requires 802.11g adapters (PCMCIA or USB) for optimal performance
- Requires 100-200 MB free disk space
- Requires 100 Base-T NIC (network interface card)
- Requires 128-256 MB RAM memory (higher range recommended)
- Requires 300 GHz to 1.4 MHz recommended CPU speed (higher range needed for top speed)

The above is for Internet plus phone -- additional requirements for cable are not known. The battery backup is required to keep the telephone operational during an electrical outage.

Pricing has not been announced. There will probably be some introductory promotions and discounts for those who subscribe to multiple services (Cable TV, Phone and Internet). Our neighborhood was part of the 15% of the County that Verizon "pre-wired" with fiber optic anticipating the approval just received. If you are a resident that already has FiOS, please write up your experience for the newsletter so it can be shared with the community.

It's Flu Season – How can you prevent it?

In our area, Influenza (flu) season typically runs from October until April. The Fairfax County Health Department has information to help everyone be vigilant about preventing the spread of flu (and many other illnesses). The simplest actions that you can take include:

- Frequent hand washing throughout the day with soap and warm water, and
- Covering your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your upper sleeve (not your hands).

To learn more about the 2005-06 flu season, including information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention about flu shots, visit the Health Department's web page at:

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/flu

New Park in Reston

A new \$2 million park, called Reston Town Square, has opened in Reston Town Center. The 1.25-acre space was created by world-renowned architect Hideo Sasaki (he is also designing for the 2008 Beijing Olympics). The park is located at the corner

of Market and Explorer streets and is adjacent to the two 21-story luxury residential towers—Midtown East and West, and the Greater Reston Arts Center's new gallery (intersection of Market & St. Francis).

A distinctive feature is a ground-level fountain, created by bursts of water from a grouping of water jets. Surrounding the fountain is an amphitheater for theatrical and musical performances and other special events. The area is designed so the fountain can be turned off and covered by a stage. During formal presentations, chairs will line the amphitheater steps. Reston Town Center has many new developments underway, including garage expansions, and new condos, apartments and loft-style housing.

More Town Centers?

Two decades ago the Reston Town Center design started as an office park. Today it features a vibrant “downtown area” with retail and restaurants and parking and office buildings and townhouses and condos. Thanks to good planning, this attractive and viable combination of amenities has turned Reston Town Center into a national model for creating an attractive suburban place for people to live, work and play. Land use planners are striving to recreate this model across other areas in Northern Virginia. Fairfax Square (on Monument Drive near Fair Oaks Mall) is a medium sized town center. Another town center has been proposed for the vacant property between the ESD building and the McLearn Square shopping center. And a town center is planned at Dulles Station (near Route 28 & the Dulles Toll Rd).

Other proposed town centers include Lorton/Laurel Hill; the area southwest of the Springfield Mixing Bowl; a location near Potomac Mills; Leesburg; Gainesville; Falls Church, and Merrifield. And Prince William County has proposals to build a mixed use waterfront development with a conference center and nearly 4,000 homes.

Town centers represent upscale modern versions of small town main streets. They attract people who enjoy living in the suburbs in a safe environment, while avoiding the feeling someone is living on the edge of nowhere. Every town center needs a focal point such as fountains or a park. The concept is to build a public portion of the area, and then investors

and developers are drawn to build in that vicinity. This type of construction helps grow the tax base (but it also utilizes services). Planning and arranging all of it well and in advance is a critical challenge.

The Northern Virginia region is expected to add 1.6 million new jobs and 2 million more residents by 2030. Multi-use centers are considered a way by many to add density without adding as much to sprawl and traffic. Compared to single use stores and businesses, town center concepts where you can live, work, play, eat and shop can reduce the number and frequency of vehicle trips.

(portions extracted from this 10/19/2005 Richmond Times Dispatch article:
http://www.timesdispatch.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=RTD/MGArticle/RTD_BasicArticle&c=MGArticle&cid=1128767442579)

A Call for Volunteers

The Fairfax Area Agency on Aging's Meals on Wheels program is in immediate need of volunteers to deliver meals to clients across Northern Virginia, including the areas of Centreville/Chantilly and Herndon/Reston. The job involves picking up meals at specified sites between 10:30 a.m. and noon and ensuring the meals are delivered to the clients, usually by 1 p.m. Drivers can deliver meals weekly, bi-weekly, monthly or to substitute as needed.

The Fairfax Area Agency on Aging also needs volunteers in the Reston area to provide a variety of services, including transportation to medical appointments, grocery shopping, yard work, light housekeeping and other tasks that help seniors remain independent. For more information please contact Christie Elliott at 703-324-5406 or Christie.Elliott@fairfaxcounty.gov

Library Has Recorded Books for MP3 Players

The Fairfax County Public Library has a new service that allows you to download recorded books off the Internet and listen to them on PCs, laptops, CD players, car stereos and MP3 players. Library cardholders can listen to bestsellers, how-to guides and business books at home, work or while commuting with a new collection of eAudiobooks from OverDrive.

There are currently almost 500 audio books that you can check out by downloading them onto a device that plays Windows Media Audio files version 9.0 or higher. You also can burn OverDrive eAudiobooks onto CDs to listen to in your car, or download them to MP3 players. The service is free, but requires a library card to access. OverDrive eAudiobooks can be checked out for three weeks and renewed once, and you can have up to 10 checked out at a time. More about the collection can be found at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library

New Golf Course Opens

The new Laurel Hill Golf Course opened in October. It is located on 260 acres of the original 3,000 acres that were the grounds of the former D.C. Department of Corrections facility at Lorton. The course provides 18 holes of championship golf each ranging in length from 168 yards to 612 yards. There are five sets of tees for a range of 5,000 – 7,000 total yards. Professionals from several golfing magazines have commented that for a municipal course, this is one of the best in the mid-Atlantic region. Greens fees with cart and practice balls range from \$49 (twilight) to \$79 (weekends and holidays). A 9,400 sq. ft. clubhouse will open later in 2006. The location is 8700 Laurel Crest Drive, Lorton, VA, 22079 (703-493-8849). For more information about the course, including making advanced tee times, link to:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/laurelhill/index.htm>

2006 Board of Director Meetings

The scheduled 2006 Monroe Manor Board of Director meetings are:

- February 15
- May 17
- August 16
- November 17

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.

II. ARC NEWS

by Rick Auman

Holiday greetings from the ARC!

Although this time of year is generally pretty slow for outdoor projects, there are two considerations that we would ask all homeowners to keep in mind through the winter months:

1. All exterior modifications to your house/lot need to be submitted in to the ARC in advance. This includes changing paint shades, replacing garage doors and/or siding, removal/replacement of trees/shrubs, etc. Please note that outdoor maintenance does not have to be approved, only modifications to your house/lot. If in doubt, give one of the ARC members a call/email.

2. Please remember also that the association's by-laws require homeowners to keep up with the maintenance of planting beds, removal of weeds, trimming shrubs, thinning of plants, etc. Guidance from the ARC is that our homes/lots should be maintained in good order and repair, consistent with the current level of our neighborhood. Again, if in doubt, take a look around the neighborhood, call one of the ARC members, and if things are looking a little on the shabby side, take some time to spruce up before the "real" cold and snow arrives!

Thanks for all your support in maintaining our neighborhood and following the association's covenants and guidelines!

III. COMMUNITY/SOCIAL EVENTS

by Jennifer Carson

- The Annual Ladies' Holiday Gift Exchange had a record turnout on Friday, December 9th. A special thank you to **Janice Micka** for hosting this festive event.
- Spring events are in the process of being planned and will be published in the March newsletter. If you have ideas or would like to help, please contact **Jennifer Carson**.

Special Events, Local Festivities, and Holidays!

by Gordon Jarratt

December:

21 – Winter begins; and Winter Solstice
21 – Hayrides with Santa (Frying Pan)
24 – Water Skiing Santa & his Kick Boarding Reindeer (1 pm, Columbia Island Marina/Lady Bird Johnson Park, Potomac River)
25 – Christmas Day
25 – Chanukah begins (thru Jan.1)
26 – Kwanzaa begins (thru Jan. 1)
30 – **Virginia** (6-5) vs. Minnesota (7-4) (Music City Bowl, Nashville, noon, ESPN)
31 – First Night Leesburg (nice family event)

January:

1 – Happy New Year!
2 – New Year's Day Holiday
2 – **Virginia Tech** (10-2) vs. Louisville (9-2) (Gator Bowl, Jacksonville, 12:30 pm, NBC)
7 – Craig Babcock (Mime, Herndon Comm. Ctr.)
8 – Charlotte's Web (Ellmore Center at Frying Pan)
10 – Gingerbread House Decorating (Lansdowne)
13 – Lee-Jackson Day
13-15 – RV/Camping Expo (Dulles Expo)
13 – 15 – International Motorcycle Show (D.C. Convention Center)
16 – Martin Luther King Birthday
16 – Kevin Brown (Vaudeville; Phoenix Worldgate Theatre)
20-22 – Washington Golf Show (Dulles Expo)
21 – Hunter Horse Show (Frying Pan)
24-29 – Washington Auto Show (D.C. Conv. Ctr.)
27 – 29 – Sugarloaf Crafts Festival (Dulles Expo)
27 (thru Feb. 18) – Invention of Love (Elden Street Players)
28 – Wallace & Gromit ("Dive-In" Movie, Herndon Community Center)
29 – Jumper Horse Show (Frying Pan)
29 – Washington Bridal Showcase (Patriot Center)

February:

2 – Groundhog Day
4 – Herndon/Dulles Chamber Awards Gala (Westfields)
4-5 – Chocolate Lovers Festival (Fairfax City)
4-5 – Custom Motorcycle Show (Dulles Expo)
4-20 – Rapunzel (Elden Street Players)

5 – NFL Super Bowl XL (40th, Detroit, CBS)
7-8 – Barney Live Tour (Patriot Center)
11-12 -- Model Railroading Show (Dulles Expo)
12 – Lincoln's Birthday
12 – Snow White & 7 Dwarfs (Ellmore Center at Frying Pan)
12 – Appalachian Spring and Harps, Valentine's Carriage Rides (Reston Town Center)
14 – Valentine's Day
17 – 19 – Gem & Jewelry Show (Dulles Expo)
18 – Hunter Horse Show (Frying Pan)
19 – Jumper Horse Show (Frying Pan)
20 – President's Day Holiday
22 – George Washington's Birthday
23-26 – Home & Garden Show (Dulles Expo)

March:

1 – Ash Wednesday
9-12 – Boat Show (Dulles Expo)
12 – Shirley Temple (Ellmore Center at Frying Pan)
17 – St. Patrick's Day
17-19 – Equine Event Horse Show (Dulles Expo)
18 – Harlem Globetrotters (Patriot Center)
24-26 – Arts, Crafts and Woodworking Show (Dulles Expo)
25 – Hunter Horse Show (Frying Pan)
?? – Gunston Hall Kite Festival

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:

Dec. 23 – Jan. 2, 2006	Winter Vacation
Jan. 16	King's Birthday Holiday
Jan. 27 & 30	Student Holidays
Feb. 20	Washington's Birthday
April 7	Student Holiday
April 10 - 14	Spring Vacation
May 29	Memorial Day Holiday
June 20	Last Day of School

The calendar can absorb three inclement weather days before other holidays would have to be cancelled. Any revisions to the calendar will be at: <http://www.fcps.edu/about/05-06cal.htm>.

Awards for Westfield High School Principal

Congratulations to Westfield High School principal Mike Campbell on receiving two awards:

- The Nancy F. Sprague First Year Administrator award, and
- The 2006 Outstanding first year principal from FCPS

While honored to receive the recognition, Mike shared them with the whole school as a reflection of their collective successes.

New Nearby Elementary School

On November 8, voters approved the new School Bonds. This means the proposed Coppermine Elementary School will be constructed and could open in September 2009. So it is likely that local Elementary School attendance boundaries will be studied in the fall of 2008 (this study has not been formally announced by FCPS).

High School Attendance Boundary Study in 2007

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 in 2008. There will be a series of “town hall” style 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).

Those interested in more information can review sample documents from other boundary studies and town hall meetings at:

<http://www.fcps.edu/news/boundary.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 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 **Gayle Berkley**. She would be happy to discuss the process and/or the contractors that she used.

Monroe Manor Contractor List

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

Children's Holiday Show – Dec. 22nd

The Westfield High School Theatre Department presents: A CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY SHOW on **Thursday, December 22nd**. Shows are at **10:00 AM and at 12:00 noon**. This show is appropriate for preschoolers and older, and will include such favorites as "Grinch", "Charlie Brown Christmas", "Christmas Carol", and "Meet the Maccabees". Tickets are \$3.00 at the door, or by presale at \$10.00 for a family or group of up to five people. Contact Jonathan or Shari Goldsmith for questions or presale tickets.