



2024 Fall Meeting Results

28 Oct 2024

The Fall meeting convened in the cafeteria of Beech Tree Elementary School on Wednesday, 23 Oct, at 7:00 pm. The meeting agenda included:

- Treasurer's and crime reports
- Election of Board of Directors
- Concerns re casino in Fairfax County
- Traffic update
- County plans for leaf collection
- Supporting White Gardens Park
- Results of National Night Out
- Status of Westcott substation upgrade
- County plans for "Zero Waste" Management
- Results of zoning ordinance amendment for data centers

Twenty-three members participated in the meeting. The meeting [slides](#) are available online and provide background information for a number of agenda topics.

Treasurer's Report, Slides 2 & 3

Our current bank balance is \$385.53. Expenses since the Spring meeting have been \$100 for National Night Out at the Sleepy Hollow United Methodist Church and \$119.92 for liability insurance for our Fall meeting. Mike received one dues payment of \$10.

Projected expenses for the 2025 calendar year total \$650.00, which includes \$250 for insurance, \$100 for hot dogs and soft drinks at the Spring stream valley clean up, \$100 for National Night Out, and \$200 for printing and ancillary expenses. Our current balance is inadequate to cover projected expenses. Consequently, the Board proposed a dues collection of \$10 per household for the 2025 calendar year. Members unanimously approved the Board's recommendation.

Please pay your dues at an early convenience.

- If paying online via Venmo or Zelle, please direct your payment to dueshrvca@gmail.com and please be sure to include your residence address and (optionally) your name and email address with your payment for our records.
- If paying by mail, again please be sure to include your residence address and (optionally) your name and email address. Mail your payment to:
Holmes Run Valley Citizens Association
c/o Michael Paup, Treasurer
3350 Rose Lane
Falls Church, VA 22042

Crime Report

Jim reported that weekly crime in Mason District now averages three aggravated assaults, 20 simple assaults, and three stolen cars. While serious crime in the district sadly continues to increase, our neighborhood is blessed with a low incidence of serious crime.

Even so, Jim recommended that residents should be diligent in keeping vehicles and homes locked. He recommended that residents leave at least one outside light on at night and consider installation of an alarm system to deter crime. Immediately report any suspicious or concerning activity to the Mason Station of the Fairfax County Police Department. The emergency number of course is 911. The non-emergency number for the Mason Station is 703-691-2131.

The [Annandale Today blog](#) publishes a weekly newsletter that includes a crime report covering the Bailey's Crossroads, Annandale, and Seven Corners areas. In addition to its crime coverage, the newsletter is an excellent source of information re local events and activities. Highly recommended. You can sign up for the newsletter email at the blog link above.

Election of Board of Directors

Happily, Gillian Weber and John Edwards agreed to join the Board. The Board has been anxious to better assure association activities meet the needs and interests of young families. One means to that end is to add members with young families to the Board who are willing to provide the necessary vision and leadership. Please pass along to John and Gillian your best ideas for young-family activities. (Email addresses below.)

Board members serving prior to the meeting agreed to continue for another year, resulting in a Board of seven members. Prior to the meeting the bylaws provided for only six Board members. The meeting agreed to modify the bylaws to provide for seven:

Clyde Miller, President

Jacke Zeiher Vice President

Mike Paup, Treasurer

Debbie Ross, Director

Gillian Weber, Director

Jim Robinson, Director

John Edwards, Director

Concerns re Casino in Fairfax County, Slides 6-10

In the last session of the General Assembly, Senator Marsden (Burke) introduced legislation (SB 675) to allow a referendum for a casino in Fairfax County where today casinos are not legal. Senator Marsden's justification was the need to increase property tax revenue given the erosion of proceeds from the commercial real estate sector (retail and office). Reston and Tysons have been mentioned as potential sites for the casino. The Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee continued the bill to the 2025 session where Marsden is expected to propose a modified version of his bill.

A ground swell of residents oppose any casinos in Fairfax County based on three principal concerns:

- A number of studies demonstrate that casinos are not a reliable means for fostering community economic growth.
- Casinos reliably are able to degrade the character of communities by increasing the crime rate, prostitution, drug use, compulsive gambling behavior, and other societal afflictions.
- Any casino in Fairfax County would face intense competition from the casino at National Harbor as well as casinos in Baltimore , West Virginia, Delaware, and the Tidewater area.

County residents have organized the [No Casino Coalition](#) to collect statements of opposition from citizen associations. In our Fall meeting, members agreed that HRVCA should join the coalition and unanimously supported the following motion.

Motion: (1) HRVCA should join the No Casino Coalition to demonstrate our opposition to a casino in Fairfax County. (2) At the appropriate time, the HRVCA Board should communicate with our county and state representatives to clearly state our opposition, which is based on the uncertain economic benefits and the anticipated societal costs of a casino.

Traffic Update, Slide 11

Our traffic safety project completed last year recommended deployment of \$200 fine signs and Watch for Children signs. The signs have been installed. (See the [report](#) of our Fall 2023 meeting for a concise summary of the project.)

In addition, Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD), principally in the person of Officer Pshko Siteki, occasionally monitors our traffic for speeders and drivers running stop signs. Jacke reported that only a few violators have been detected, and, among the violators, most have been residents of our neighborhood. A few members of the Board will ask for a meeting with the new Mason Station Commander, Major Erin Weeks, to ask for continuing traffic monitoring as well as periodic installation of FCPD speed display signs for eastbound traffic on Valley Brook Drive.

Virginia recently approved speed limits lower than 25 mph in certain circumstances. Fairfax County supervisors [must enact](#) a complying ordinance before speed limits in the county can be reduced. Some residents on Tansey Drive have expressed an interest in reducing their speed limit to 15 mph.

County Plans for Leaf Collection, Slide 12

In July 2023, the county proposed to discontinue our leaf collection service after the 2022-2023 season. Subsequently they decided to continue the service through the 2025-2026 season. Beyond that, the status of the service is uncertain. Our district supervisor, Andres Jimenez, has spoken out in favor of continuing the service.

Supporting White Gardens Park, Slide 13

White Gardens is a 13.5-acre horticultural masterpiece resident in our community at 6711 Princess Anne Lane. It needs our support. The White family left the gardens to Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) with the intention that it would be maintained as a public park. The park authority has

undertaken a number of ineffective initiatives over the past 10—15 years to provide proper maintenance, including a controversial Resident Curator Program that they later abandoned. In the process, the park's condition has suffered. Currently FCPA intends to maintain the park internally with the hope that residents nearby who profit from its proximity will pitch in.

Certainly a flourishing White Gardens Park would serve the best interests of HRVCA residents, whether we expect to visit and enjoy the park or we simply wish to enhance the value of our homes. We should encourage the park authority to repair the damage accrued through years of neglect, and an effective means for applying that pressure is a cadre of volunteers on site providing meaningful hands-on support. Happily, in the meeting and since a number of members have expressed an interest in helping out. Possibly, a “Friends of White Gardens Park” activity within HRVCA could develop into a common cause that brings us together and enhances our sense of community.

Our point of contact within FCPA is Pamela Smith,, pamela.smith2@fairfaxcounty.gov. She leads work parties at the gardens on the third Wednesday of the month from 9:00 AM till noon. Tasks focus on removing invasive species and planting native plants, light pruning of azaleas and rhododendrons, keeping trails in shape, and cutting back encroaching plants. Of course, there is no obligation to work a full three hours or to participate every month. If a certain number of us do what we reasonably can do, we will make a difference.

The next work session convenes at 9:00 AM, Wednesday, Nov 20. If you are able to participate, I hope to see you there.

Results of National Night Out, Slide 14-15

The National Night Out tradition was launched in 1984 by a network of law enforcement and neighborhood watch associations on the principle that the best way to build safe and secure communities is for neighbors to know one another and know their police. Today, NNO is celebrated across the county by millions of Americans in more than 60,000 communities on the first Tuesday in August with everything from simple meet-and-greets on the front porch to elaborate festivals. Thanks to the generosity of Sleepy Hollow United Methodist Church we have the opportunity to observe the day as a community.

Debbie reported that 40 or so residents attended the celebration this year, including a number of families with young children. Mason District Supervisor Andres Jimenez and his Chief of Staff Amir Abu El-Hawa mingled with the crowd. FCPD Mason Station Commander Major Weeks handed out badges to children, and live music was provided by the Washington Metropolitan Accordion Society. Other festivities included ice cream sundaes, root beer floats, cookies, crayons and coloring sheets, police cruisers and motorcycles, and fire trucks. It was just the sort of celebration that serves to build community. Slide 15 provides a few photos.

Status of Westcott Substation Upgrade, Slide 17

The objective of the substation upgrade is to improve the reliability of our electrical power supply and improve Dominion's ability to monitor the facility. It will add an area measuring 57 ft by 70 ft inside the fence and replace outmoded equipment. The original (Spring 2023) schedule called for

construction from the Fall 2023 through Summer 2025. As of August 1st, the plan is to start construction in early 2025 and complete it in Spring of 2026. The delay is occasioned by time required for county approval of the site plan.

Jenna Brown, jenna.e.brown@dominionenergy.com, is our new point of contact for project information at Dominion Energy. Max Payeur, our previous POC, has moved on.

County Plan for “Zero Waste” Management, Slide 18

Today the 430,000 households and 30,000 businesses in Fairfax County generate 1.2 million tons of solid waste every year, a mass equivalent to the weight of 200,000 male African elephants. Forty-four percent of the waste is recycled or composted and fifty-seven percent is incinerated or buried in landfills.

The “Zero Waste Management” Program has adopted an ambitious goal to reduce by 2030 solid waste generated to a level 25% below the 2018 level while increasing the waste reused from today's 44% to 90%. Achieving the goal would make an enormous contribution to the sustainability of county operations. A [program plan](#) is available on line.

Zoning Ordinance Amendment for Data Centers, Slides 19-21

Like casinos, data centers offer supervisors a tempting source of property tax revenue at the expense of quality of life in our neighborhoods. Casinos risk societal damage and degradation of the character of our residential and commercial districts. Data centers with their 24x7 noise, enormous buildings blocking sunlight and air circulation, and extraordinary consumption of energy and water resources risk our environment. No residential community would welcome a large data center moving in next door.

The Board of Supervisors recently approved an amendment to the zoning ordinance that was expected to tighten regulations for data centers, in particular, to require public hearings in the county process whereby data center construction is allowed. While the county was in the process of approving the zoning ordinance amendment, other county offices were in the process of approving, without public hearings, construction of a huge data center adjacent to Bren Pointe, an HOA in the Bren Mar community on Edsall Road, Alexandria. The Board of Bren Pointe argued strenuously that all data centers, including the one moving in next door, should require public hearings. The supervisors disregarded Bren Pointe’s urgent request. The data center adjacent to Bren Pointe will go ahead without explicit consideration of residents’ rights and interests in a public hearing. Does prospective property tax revenue trump the rights of residents to protect their homes and communities in public hearings?

Next Meeting: The next meeting of HRVCA is planned for April.

Thank you for being an interested member of HRVCA; particular thanks to members who participated in the Fall meeting.

Clyde

HRVCA Board:

Clyde Miller	President	cmiller3436@gmail.com
Jacke Zeiher	Vice President	jzeiher11@gmail.com
Mike Paup	Treasurer	mlpaup@gmail.com
Debbie Rosse	Director	debbiehr15@gmail.com
Gillian Weber	Director	gmginter@gmail.com
Jim Robinson	Director	jrcares@yahoo.com
John Edwards	Director	john@buyinthedmv.com

Resources:

[HRVCA group email for association business](#)

- holmesrunvalleyca@googlegroups.com

[HRVCA Hot Sheet](#)

- <https://holmesrun.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/2024-2025-hot-sheet.pdf>

[HRVCA blog](#)

- <http://holmesrun.org>.

[Annandale blog for community news](#)

- <https://annandaletoday.com>

[Mason District Supervisor Andres Jimenez](#)

- <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mason>
- mason@fairfaxcounty.gov

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