



2026 Spring Meeting Results

22 April 2026

The spring meeting convened in the cafeteria of Beech Tree Elementary School on Wednesday, 22 April, at 7:00 pm and ended just before 8:30. The meeting agenda included:

1. Treasurer’s report
2. Community safety and security
3. Results of the previous Saturday’s stream valley pick-up
4. Status of White Gardens renovation
5. County-wide initiative to remove invasive plants
6. Renewal of our Neighborhood Watch signs
7. Register your doorbell camera with FCPD
8. The new HRVCA Web site
9. Join Facebook!!
10. Spring Meet-Up and PlayDate scheduled for Saturday, May 16
11. Neighborhood picnic committee
12. Status of Westcott Substation expansion
13. Post mortem of 2026 casino legislation

Twenty-five members participated in the meeting. The meeting [slides](#) are available online.

1. Treasurer’s Report

Our current bank balance is \$890.47. In our 2025 fall meeting, members agreed to an \$890 budget for our 2026 fiscal year (1 Oct 2025 thru Sep 2026).

Liability insurance for meetings (2 @ \$125)	\$250
Meet Ups and PlayDates (2 @ \$80)	\$160
Stream valley pick-up snacks and drinks	\$120
Nat’l Night Out at Sleepy Hollow UMC	\$120
Web site hosting	\$140
Printing and miscellaneous	<u>\$100</u>
Total	\$890

To support the budget, members agreed to FY 2026 dues of \$10 per household payable by 1 May. If you haven’t paid your dues, please do so at an early convenience. Thank you!!

How to Pay HRVCA Dues (\$10)

By Zelle: Please pay hrvca36@gmail.com.

- In the Zelle ‘Memo’ line, please provide your first and last names.

Please pay by Zelle, if you have it.
It’s the easiest for the treasurer.

By Venmo: Please pay [@HRVCA](#)

- In the Venmo ‘What’s this for’ dialog box, please provide your first and last names.

By check: Please make the check payable to [HRVCA](#).

- On the ‘For’ line in the lower left corner of the check, please print your first and last names if they are not printed on the check. Please mail your check to HRVCA, c/o John Edwards, 3447 Skyview Terrace, Falls Church, 22042

2. Community Safety and Security

Jim emphasized the importance of knowing your neighbors and collaborating with them to improve security. Keep one another up to date on plans for traveling away from home. Pick up any newspapers and packages that accumulate while they are away and save them for their return. 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, 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.

A few members of the HRVCA Board routinely attend meetings of the FCPD [Community Advisory Committee](#) which meets on the first Tuesday of every month, 7 PM, usually at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike. The meetings are an opportunity to monitor security issues in Mason District and to speak with the police officers who serve to keep us safe. All are welcome to participate in the meetings.

3. Spring Stream Valley Pick Up - Slide 4

On 18 April, members gathered in the stream valley just south of the intersection of Rose Lane and Slade Run Dr for our annual Saturday, 2-hour expedition to pick up litter along Holmes Run, our creek. The event was organized in collaboration with [Friends of Holmes Run](#) and [Fairfax County Park Authority](#). This year, a crew of 15-20 residents retrieved trash and debris sufficient to fill several large construction-style trash bags. Our reward was snacks and drinks set up by Debbie, the event organizer. The youngest participant was perhaps 4 years old working alongside her grandmother. The prize winner was a resident from the Sleepy Hollow neighborhood who proudly retrieved 70 pieces of litter. Photos are in the slides.

4. Status of White Gardens Renovation - Slides 5 & 6

White Gardens is a 13.7-acre county park embedded in our community at the bitter end of Princess Anne Lane. Over the 60-year period from 1938 to 1999, John C. and Margaret K. White developed the property into a renown rhododendron and azalea horticultural park. Since ownership was transferred to Fairfax County in 1999, the park has fallen into disrepair. The current FCPA plan is to resurrect the property as a woodland meadow surrounded by forest and punctuated by the remaining flowering shrubs of which there are many.

A number of members participate in a monthly work party supported by Park Authority staff from 9:00 am to noon on the third Wednesday of the month, year-around. The principal task is to clear out fallen limbs and dead/invasive plants. Prior to arrival of the contingent from HRVCA in Nov 2024, only three or four residents were showing up to work. Now, 15-20 people typically contribute and the improvement in the condition of the park is unmistakable. Our participation encourages the Park Authority to give priority to the recovery effort, and the work is a rewarding way to be outside.

Our task on Wednesday, April 15, was to remove garlic mustard, a highly invasive woodland weed that forms dense mats that out-compete native wildflowers and tree seedlings thereby threatening local biodiversity and forest regeneration. It releases chemicals into the soil that inhibit the growth of native plants and beneficial fungi. A single plant can produce thousands of seeds, which remain viable in the soil for over five years. The best time to remove the weed is early spring, before it goes to seed.

Next work party: Wednesday, 20 May, 9:00 am. The official address is 6711 Princess Anne Lane. Join us!! Bring gloves and sturdy shoes.

Parenthetically, it is heartening to notice that our community borders four delightful parks all within easy walking distance: White Gardens, Holmes Run stream valley, Round Tree Park in our community at the west end of the stream valley, and Rose Lane Park just across the bridge over Holmes Run at the south end of Rose Lane.

5. Invasive Plant Removal - Slide 7

Apropos invasive plants, Debbie introduced the [Fairfax Invasive Removal Alliance](#) (FIRA), an organization of civic associations and homeowners that advocates removing invasive plants and planting natives. Invasive plants crowd out natives thereby depriving us of the opportunity to enjoy our native plants and depriving our birds, bees, and small animals of the food and habitat upon which they depend for survival.

FIRA is focused on securing grants whereby the county and communities can treat their open spaces, passage of needed legislation at the state level, encouraging nurseries to promote native plants, public education, and similar initiatives. Their goal is a day in the future when removing invasive plants will be as routine as taking the trash out to the curb for the weekly collection.

FIRA has invited civic associations to lend their names to the alliance as a means for increasing their ability to influence government policies and public opinion. The Board, noting that other civic associations in our area have signed up, recently agreed to join.

6. Neighborhood Watch Sign Renewal - Slide 8

The objective of the Neighborhood Watch program is to organize residents to be alert to potential crime in the neighborhood and keep a watchful eye on their neighbors' homes. The purpose of the roadside Neighborhood Watch signs at principal neighborhood entry points is to notify potential criminals that the community is vigilant. Given the age of our signs, it is not surprising that they are faded and insufficiently conspicuous.

Jacke described the effort she has led, in collaboration with FCPD and VDOT, to replace the existing signs. The new signs will be brighter, larger, better located and therefore more conspicuous. In addition, mounted on the eight-ft stakes supporting the new NW signs passersby will see our HRVCA sign with a QR code linked to our new Web site (see below). Potential criminals will be better deterred and all will have an easy means for contacting our civic association.

7. Register Your Doorbell Camera with FCPD - Slide 9

Jacke also described FCPD's [Connect Fairfax County](#) program whereby residents can register their doorbell cameras. Registering your cameras does not allow FCPD access to your live video stream. It only enables investigators to know a camera is present at your location and to easily request video evidence should an incident occur.

Camera registration greatly enhances emergency preparedness by enabling police, fire, and public safety professionals to better assess and rapidly respond to criminal activity and emergency situations. Registration takes less than one minute via FCPD's secure online portal.

8. Our New Website. - Slide 10

Josiah announced that the new HRVCA website that he authored is now operational at HRVCA.org. The initial pages are dedicated to a Calendar of Events, an online Contact Form for reaching the Board, and Links to Community Resources (schools, parks, public safety, utilities, etc.).

The new website is a big step forward in our ability to effectively communicate with current and potential new members.

9. Join Facebook!! - Slide 11

Our community's hyper-local Facebook group, confined to residents of Holmes Run Valley, has grown to more than 100 members. The group is a best way to build community and generally be social. If you live here, you are invited to join.

10. Meet Up & PlayDate on 16 May - Slide 12

John announced the third in our series of Meet Up and PlayDates planned for 16 May, 3:30-5:00 pm, at the Rose Lane Park playground. These activities invite everyone, especially families with young children, to get together for a couple of hours over donuts and coffee set up in the pavilion. The kids take the playground. The two events last year, in May and Nov, were very well received. Please take time out to join us on 16 May.

The Rose Lane Park playground is just across the creek from our neighborhood at 3584 Terrace Dr, Annandale. To get there, walk into the stream valley at the Holmes Run II Park entrance adjacent to the intersection of Rose Ln and Slade Run Dr, bear left and cross the stream on the bridge, and then continue straight a short distance. The park will be on your right.

11. Neighborhood Picnic Committee - Slide 13

Since there's been some buzz about a neighborhood gathering, Gillian is looking for a few friendly faces to help organize a picnic.

We're keeping things low-stress—we just need a little help picking a spot, managing the potluck sign-up, and planning some simple fun for the kids. If you have a few hours to spare and want to help get the neighborhood together, we'd love to have your help!

Please send Gillian an email at gmginter@gmail.com if you're interested. Let's bring this thing to life and possibly start a new neighborhood tradition!

12. Westcott Power Substation Expansion - Slide 14

The expansion project, which commenced in Oct 2025, now is scheduled for completion in the first quarter of 2028. Dominion Energy does not expect any appreciable increase in construction activity at the site, nor do they expect to interfere with access to the stream valley at the Rose Lane entrance. You may direct any question to natalia.giraud@dominionenergy.com.

13. Casino Legislation Vetoed!! - Slide 15

On Sep 9, Governor Spanberger vetoed SB 756, which would have allowed the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to call a referendum allowing development of a casino in Tysons. In the five Virginia jurisdictions where casinos are allowed today, the local governments asked the General Assembly to authorize referendums. In the case of SB 756, the GA authorized the referendum while the Board of Supervisors actively opposed a casino. Gov. Spanberger's veto was based on her opinion that the bill violated the county's right to be the source of a referendum request.

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

Thank you for being an interested member of HRVCA. Particular thanks to members who participated in the spring meeting.

Clyde.

HRVCA Board:

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Debbie Rosse	Director	debbiehr15@gmail.com
Gillian Weber	Director	gmginter@gmail.com
Jim Robinson	Director	jrcares@yahoo.com
Josiah Halasz	Director	josiah.halasz@gmail.com

Resources:

HRVCA group email for association business

- holmesrunvalleyca@googlegroups.com

HRVCA Web site

- HRVCA.org

HRVCA blog (pending further development of Web site))

- <http://holmesrun.org>.

Annandale blog for community news

- <https://annandaletoday.com>

Mason District Supervisor Andres Jimenez

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