



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 927 • Fairfax, VA 22035-5500
703-324-8700 • Fax: 703-324-3974 • www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks

Information Release

Judy Pedersen, PIO

E-mail: parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov

Inquiries: 703-324-8662

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2015 Eakin Philanthropy Awards Announced

The Fairfax County Park Foundation, a charitable organization which supports the Fairfax County Park Authority, is honoring three individuals with 2015 Eakin Philanthropy Awards for their efforts in support of county parks.

Tom D. Fleury, Vice President and founding member of Cityline Partners, was cited for his career-long dedication to environmental preservation and his commitment to include ample green space in the development of Tysons. In May 2015, through Fleury's influence, the Cityline Partners dedicated an eight-acre parcel of the Arbor Row development to Fairfax County for use as parkland and a future school site; Arbor Row Stream Valley Park, a restored natural stream valley park; and Jones Branch Fields, lighted, turfed, fenced and equipped playing fields, at a total estimated value of \$5 million. These proffer dedications are an example of how business and government can work hand-in-hand for the betterment of our community and in this case, in providing much-needed recreational amenities and green space in a rapidly urbanizing area.

Ann Smith worked with the Fairfax County Park Authority and Mt. Vernon District Supervisor Gerry Hyland's office to identify a soccer field improvement to be made in memory of her husband. Lt. Col. Gary F. Smith, a civilian employee of the Army, who was killed when American Airlines Flight 77 struck the Pentagon on 9/11. The Park Authority Board named field #5 at Grist Mill Park the Lt. Col. Gary F. Smith Memorial Field in 2012. Ms. Smith and her family and friends donated \$208,993 to help fund the state-of-the-art synthetic turf field for Smith Field, and committed to solicit additional funding through 2015. A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the field is scheduled for this November.

Suzan Syron-Singh, Children's Physical Therapy Center (CPTC) owner/therapist, committed to support of Chessie's BIG Backyard playground at Lee District Park in memory of her daughter, Kelley Syron, who worked at the CPTC. Ms. Syron-Singh organized a visit by clients and families for a promotional videotaping, contributed \$50,000 from family, friends and via the Children's Therapy Centers for Chessie's BIG Backyard. She also hosted a lemonade stand at Lee District Park on multiple dates in 2014 accepting donations for this popular, fully accessible playground.

The Eakin Philanthropy Award, established in 2009, is named in honor of the Eakin family, donors of the first parcels of parkland to the Park Authority over 50 years ago. The award recognizes significant financial or in-kind contributions, projects with broad, long-term benefit to the community and visionary contributions which create new programs or facilities and provide a new approach to addressing community needs. The award recipients were selected by unanimous vote of the Fairfax County Park Foundation Board of Directors.

For more information, contact the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662.



If accommodations and/or alternative formats are needed, please call (703) 324-8563, at least 10 working days in advance of the registration deadline or event. TTY (703) 803-3354.