



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



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For Immediate Release

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Park Authority to Celebrate John Byers Park

For more than two decades, John Byers served as the Mount Vernon District Representative to the Planning Commission. Over more than 40 years of public service he served in a host of capacities, giving freely of his time and talents in Fairfax County. During his tenure on the Planning Commission, he was instrumental in shaping land use policies. His ideas about preservation of environmentally sensitive land, the need to dedicate and construct community and regional parks, and the value of historic preservation and interpretation became codified in the Comprehensive Plan.

With these good works in mind, the Fairfax County Park Authority Board renamed Williamsburg Manor Park to John Byers Park on November 13, 2013. The official dedication of new signage will take place on Saturday, April 25, 2015 at 9 a.m. The park is located at 2213 Collingwood Road in Alexandria, VA. The public is invited.

Mr. Byers was instrumental in the transfer of the Laurel Hill property from the Federal government to Fairfax County. He ensured that these lands became a recreational resource for the community. Similarly, he was instrumental in the acquisition of the Lamond Property and ensured the dedication and construction of park properties over thousands of zoning cases. He was a friend to the park system, even ensuring that Williamsburg Manor Park near his home was preserved, dedicated and funding in place to build a basketball court and playground in the park.

Mount Vernon District Supervisor Gerry Hyland noted in a letter to the Park Authority Board, “If anyone has done more for the Mount Vernon District, I would like to meet and congratulate them.” He added, “While I agree that we should do more to honor the legacy of my friend John Byers the renaming of Williamsburg Manor Park after John Byers is an entirely appropriate and proper decision given John’s service to the United States of America, Fairfax County and the Mount Vernon District.”

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

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