



# 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](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks)

## Information Release

Judy Pedersen, PIO  
E-mail: [parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov)  
Inquiries: 703-324-8662

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## Pirates Past and Present Converge at Lake Fairfax Pirate Fest

It may be more than coincidence that Pirate Fest activities seem so at home at Lake Fairfax Park. The land *may* once have been owned by a real-life treasure buccaneer who served as the model for one of the world's most famous fictional pirates.

Visit with author Robert Prather at Pirate Fest on Saturday, April 16, 2016, when he discusses his book *The Strange Case of Jonathan Swift and the Real Long John Silver*. Prather says recent discoveries indicate that *Treasure Island's* notorious Long John Silver may have been based on the real-world exploits of legendary pirate and silver miner Jonathan Swift, who once lived in Alexandria, VA and who may have owned the land that Lake Fairfax Park now occupies. Hear tales about Swift's missing treasure near a water park that features an abandoned gold mine and a tour guide named Prospector Pete.

Prather will be on hand at Pirate Fest to answer questions about this slice of pirate treasure history and autograph copies of his award-winning book. All seafaring folks, as well as landlubbers, are invited to attend.

Lake Fairfax Park hosts Pirate Fest from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., rain or shine. The park is located at 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston, VA. For more information, call 703-471-5414 or visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lakefairfax/pirate-fest.htm>.

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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.