



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



CUTLINE

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October 19, 2022
CTL-015

Dedicated Pickleball Courts Opened at George Washington Park

It was a great day for local pickleball enthusiasts as new, dedicated pickleball courts were officially opened. Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck and the Fairfax County Park Authority hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony at George Washington Park on Saturday, Oct. 15, 2022.

Enthusiasts from across the community turned out to celebrate the new facilities. The improvement provides six dedicated pickleball courts and two dual-use courts, with both tennis and pickleball lines. All courts received new surfacing, nets and fencing. These court improvements were timely, as the courts at the park required resurfacing and repair. Project costs were \$202,306.60.

These improvements align with recommendations in the recently completed Pickleball Study and are an effort to introduce a greater variety of court sports to accommodate the diverse users across the county. Interest in pickleball locally and countywide is growing quickly, and the introduction of pickleball at these locations will address the need for additional facilities for this emerging sport.

Pictured in the center (from left) are event speakers Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck; Linwood Gorham, Mount Vernon District Representative, Park Authority Board; Milly Stanges, Fairfax County Advocates for Pickleball; Helen White, Fairfax County Advocates for Pickleball; (to the extreme right) Park Authority Deputy Director and COO Sara Baldwin; and Park Authority Landscape Architect Adam Wynn, surrounded by pickleball enthusiasts and players.

Media Note: Download photos at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/cutlines>.

See all photos at the GW Ribbon-Cutting Flickr page at <https://flic.kr/s/aHbqjAbLUJ>.

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CTL-016

Pickleball Courts Opened at Lewinsville Park

It was a great day for local pickleball enthusiasts as new, dedicated pickleball courts were officially opened. The Fairfax County Park Authority hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Lewinsville Park in McLean, Virginia, on Saturday, Oct. 15, 2022.

Enthusiasts from across the community turned out to celebrate the new facilities. The celebration marks completion of new dedicated pickleball courts and improvements to tennis and basketball courts, as well. Court improvements at Lewinsville Park include conversion of one tennis court into four dedicated pickleball courts, creation of one dual-use court with both tennis and pickleball lines, reconstruction of the surfacing, and fencing for the five remaining tennis courts and two basketball courts. Project costs were \$650,000.

Pictured in the center is Jai Cole, Executive Director of the Park Authority. She is joined in the crowd of pickleball players and enthusiasts by other speakers, including Timothy Hackman, Dranesville District Representative, Fairfax County Park Authority Board; Helen White, Fairfax County Advocates for Pickleball; and Eileen Culligan, Pickleball advocate and organizer for the Dranesville District.

These improvements align with recommendations in the recently completed Pickleball Study and are an effort to introduce a greater variety of court sports to accommodate the diverse users across the county. Interest in pickleball locally and countywide is growing quickly, and the introduction of pickleball at these locations will address the need for additional facilities for this emerging sport.

Media Note: Download photos at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/cutlines>.

See all Lewinsville Ribbon Cutting photos at <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjAbKTK>.

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CTL-017

Lorton Community Center, Library and Renovated Lorton Park Opens

Hundreds of enthusiastic residents and visitors turned out Saturday, Oct. 15, 2022, for the opening of the Lorton Community Center, Library and a beautiful renovation to the existing Lorton Park. Park Authority leadership and staff collaborated with the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services and the community from the initial site planning through construction to deliver a refreshed 1.7-acre park, which includes a new playground, fitness area, plaza space with seating, an open field, and a trail loop. The playground is one of the largest in the Mount Vernon Supervisory District.

The Park Authority also contributed significant funding to provide a gymnasium within the Community Center. Park Authority Executive Director Jai Cole was one of numerous speakers to congratulate officials and the project team on completion of this vital new community amenity.

See a video of the event by visiting https://youtu.be/I_SCmg-oCR4.

For photos from the event, visit <https://fairfaxcounty.smugmug.com/2022-Photos-and-Video/>.

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October 19, 2022
IR-140

Speak Up and Help Shape the Park System of the Future

There is still time to have your say and make an impact on the Fairfax County park system of the future! You can still join in the conversation online at two approaching workshops!

The Fairfax County Park Authority is developing a Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Access Strategy (PROSA). Building on the [Great Parks, Great Communities Parks & Recreation System Master Plan](#), [Great Parks, Great Communities Strategic Plan Fiscal Years 2019 – 2023](#), and [One Fairfax](#), the PROSA Strategy will provide a framework for equitable access to the park system. The PROSA Strategy is anticipated to be completed in 2023 and will provide a pathway toward improved park access and a balance of recreational experiences. Additionally, the PROSA Strategy will examine the following issues:

- Identify gaps in a 10-minute walk to access parks
- Evaluate complete park experiences
- Analyze habitat connectivity between environmental corridors
- Analyze and prioritize needs and projects through an equity lens

The Park Authority is seeking your input in this process. The public is invited to participate in upcoming virtual public workshops and help shape the future of our local park system. Join in one of these engaging workshops to learn about the project and to provide your input and ideas. FCPA invites participants to pre-register using the links below. Please note registration is optional and you can visit the project website the day of each workshop to participate. Workshops will take place on:

- **Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022** at 6:30 p.m. Register for the meeting here: [PROSA Community Workshop 1.](#)
- **Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2022** at 6:30 p.m. Register for the meeting here: [PROSA Community Workshop 2.](#)

For more information, please visit the PROSA webpage at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/planning-development/planning/prosa; or contact the Public Information Office at Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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October 19, 2022
IR-137

Park Authority Names New Director of Marketing and Communications

The Fairfax County Park Authority has selected a new communicator to lead agency communications, marketing, community engagement, web and social media presence, media relations, events management, public meetings, and internal communications. Susan Kalish has been named Director of the Office of Marketing and Communications. Kalish, a seasoned communications professional, will replace longtime Public Information Officer Judy Pedersen, who is retiring at the end of the year after more than 20 years of service to the agency. Kalish will assume these duties on Friday, Dec. 16, 2022.

Kalish is currently the director of public relations for the Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation, a post she has held since 2006. She currently manages department-wide marketing, communications, civic engagements and special events; and her responsibilities include branding, analytics, web development, social media, survey work, outreach, media relations, digital and print publications, and events.

Deputy Director Aimee Vosper, who oversees this division, said, "Susan is the right person to carry on the successful communications work of the agency, and to take us to new heights in the future. She has a great foundation to build on, and a dedicated, capable staff she can depend on."

The Office of Marketing and Communications was recently reorganized, taking two legacy groups -- the Public Information Office and the Marketing Group -- and combining their work, as well as adding much-needed staff resources. As a result, the newly formed division includes four focus areas: marketing, public information, creative services and digital technology.

Kalish is a graduate of Indiana University where she earned her bachelor's degree in journalism and political science. Before her work with Arlington County, she served as director of corporate marketing for the International Association of Fire Chiefs. She also served as director of communications for the National Recreation and Park Association, as well as executive director of the American Running Association.

Kalish grew up in Fairfax County, raised her family here, and is a current resident of Falls Church, Virginia.

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October 19, 2022
IR-138

Adapted Aquatics Instructors Receive Inaugural Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Award

With less than one month to go before the virtual Elly Doyle Park Service Awards, the Fairfax County Park Authority staff team is busy finalizing materials for the approaching watch party, ordering awards, reviewing videos, preparing gift baskets for outstanding volunteers and announcing winners in all categories.

This year, the Park Authority Board will present the inaugural Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Award, which was established this past summer. The purpose of the award is to recognize significant and tangible contributions made by individuals, organizations or businesses that enhance diversity systemwide and foster a culture of inclusion in parks.

The first recipients are Pravinchandra and Hansaben Dave, who together have provided tremendous help to the Adapted Aquatics program at South Run Rec Center. Pravinchandra has volunteered with Adapted Aquatics for at least 10 years, and Hansaben joined some seven years ago.

As assistant swim coaches for children with disabilities, they have demonstrated their strong support for all types of people who want to learn to swim. Because of their patience, gentleness and praise, every child who trains with them wants to keep them as their coaches. Children who are nonverbal often point to them when asked who they want to swim with, displaying a strong sense of trust and comfortable partnership.

Both show up each week, year-round to help, and they can be relied upon to take on whatever needs to be done. They have contributed more than 100 hours of volunteer time in the program this year and more than 900 hours throughout their tenure.

Pravinchandra and Hansaben Dave will be honored Friday, Nov. 18, 2022 at 7 p.m. at the virtual Elly Doyle Park Service Awards. To find out how to join this virtual watch party, contact the Park Authority at Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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October 19, 2022
IR-139

Park Authority Honors Former Board Chair Ellamae Doyle

For more than four decades, the Fairfax County Park Authority Board has been presenting awards in her name, honoring those individuals and groups who epitomize the very best of volunteer service to the Fairfax County Park system. Now, Ellamae Doyle, former chairman and member of the Park Board, is the recipient of a Chairman's Choice Award, which recognizes her many years of service to the Park Authority and to residents of Fairfax County.

On Dec. 20, 1988, the Elly Doyle Park Service Award was established in recognition of Ellamae Doyle's years of outstanding service to the park system. This award honors her dedication to continue volunteer service in the community. The annual award publicly honors volunteers or groups for outstanding service to Fairfax County parks.

The decision was unanimous and indicative of the great respect and admiration Park Board members feel for her. Ellamae (Elly) Doyle has been a significant influencer, park advocate and a key figure in creating the Fairfax County park system as we know it today. She believes in the many collective community benefits of parks and the need to protect and preserve open space.

She served on the Park Authority Board from 1958 through 1974 and was elected Board Chair in 1965 and served through 1968. She ushered in a time of significant park system growth, complexity and success. Under her leadership, the Park Board used park bonds to finance park expansion and new facilities, putting to work an effective tool for funding new parks and land acquisition. They are an influential element in establishing a world-class park system recognized nationally with four Gold Medal Awards.

Park Authority Board Chairman Bill Bouie said, "Among her greatest achievements is the preservation of open space in Fairfax County via park bonds. She served as a vocal advocate for the agency's numerous bond referenda over the years. She also recognized the importance of volunteer service and encouraged residents in Fairfax County to truly make the growing park system an integral part of their lives via participation, service and advocacy." Bouie added, "It is important that we take the time to say thank you now and recognize her contributions to our success."

The Park Board established the Chairman's Choice Award in April 2019 to recognize outstanding long-term support, service to and advocacy on behalf of the Park Authority. This award honors those whose efforts have provided a critical contribution to the agency and helped sustain and expand its nationally accredited facilities and programs. The contributions of the recipient of this award must support the One Fairfax policy.

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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

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October 19, 2022
PSA-169

Join the Monster Mash at South Run Rec Center Oct. 30

Join all the other monsters and run for the fun of it at the South Run Rec Center on Sunday, Oct. 30, 2022. This is spooktacular fun for the whole family! Sport your best Halloween outfit in this spooky, informal, family-friendly event in our beautiful, trailed parkland. This is a chance for a healthful activity and great memories. Take the little ones to the Spooktacular Tiny Tot Obstacle Course for 2- to 4-year-olds or participate in the Halloween 1-Mile Fun Run for those ages 5 and above. Those looking for more of a challenge can join the Monster Mash 5K Dash for those ages 8 and above. This is all about exercise and having a very good time.

- The 1-Mile Fun Run starts at 7:30 a.m. (Registration Code TFO.J3HO)
- The Monster Mash also begins at 7:30 a.m. (Registration Code LRD.JTN3)
- The Tin Tot Obstacle Course opens at 8:15 a.m. (Registration Code WWF.RTAQ)

Medals will be presented to all participants, as well as prizes to the top three finishers in the 1-Mile and Monster Dash. Register soon, as Halloween fun spots are limited. Registration through Parktakes at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes. For more information and registration details, visit the event webpage at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/reccenter/south-run/monster-mash-dash/103022.

For more information, call Laurie Strickland at 703-324-9243 or contact her by email at laurie.strickland@fairfaxcounty.gov.

South Run Rec Center is located at 7550 Reservation Drive in Springfield. South Run Rec Center is located at 7550 Reservation Drive in Springfield. For more information, visit www.fairfax-county.gov/parks/reccenter/south-run or call 703-866-0566.

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October 19, 2022
PSA-170

Paint a Pumpkin or Make a Floral Arrangement on Oct. 29

On Saturday, Oct. 29, 2022 come to Green Spring Gardens with your family and enjoy a Pumpkin Painting program, or come on your own or with a friend to create a beautiful fall floral arrangement in the Floral Design Workshop.

From 10 to 11 a.m., families can learn all about pumpkins, their unique life cycle, and how they contribute to their ecosystem. Then, they will paint one to take home! Bring your own pumpkin or use one of our freshly harvested ones grown on site. All attendees, including parents, must be registered for the program. The Family Fun - Pumpkin Painting program (code UCJ.R60X) is appropriate for those age 5 and older, and the cost is \$10 per person.

From 2 to 3:30 p.m., join the Floral Design Workshop: Fall Floral, which was just added to the schedule due to high demand. Enjoy autumn's rich colors and textures by bringing them into your home. Learn step-by-step how to create a unique, take-home floral design that celebrates the season with the help of certified floral designer Betty Ann Galway. Learn tips and tricks of the trade to practice on your own designs at home. This program is appropriate for those age 16 and older, and the cost is \$42 per person (register for the program and \$35 supply fee). Use code BA9.IH1V.

Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

Green Spring is located at 4603 Green Spring Road, in Alexandria, Virginia. For more information, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring or call 703-642-5173.

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October 19, 2022
PSA-171

High School Swim and Dive Returns to Rec Centers in November

Fairfax County Park Authority Rec Centers will welcome back FCPS High School swim and dive teams starting Nov. 7, 2022. This partnership between the Park Authority and area high schools dates back to the opening of Audrey Moore Rec Center at Wakefield Park in 1977.

Each year, between November and February, rec centers host high school swim and dive teams. This year, there are 23 teams ready for training and competition. Physical activity and teamwork have long been recognized as vital parts of the high school experience, and swimming can involve more students with less risk of serious injury than any other sport. The Park Authority is proud to serve Fairfax County's high school teams. This collaboration ensures these life-enhancing pool and aquatic programs are widely available throughout the year.

This year, all nine FCPA Rec Center pools will close from 3:30 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. Monday through Thursday, with Oak Marr Rec Center pool closed on Fridays from 3:30 to 5:45 p.m., as well. Starting Dec. 2, 2022, rec center pools will also be closed on Friday evenings at 4:30 p.m. to allow for high school swim and dive meets to take place.

Be sure to check the pool calendar of your favorite rec center by visiting the Rec Center Schedules webpage at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/reccenter/schedules for the most up-to-date pool availability.

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