



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

July 29, 2020

IR-110

Summer Entertainment Series Returns with Livestream Concerts

Beginning July 30, the Fairfax County Park Authority will livestream 25 free summer concert events featuring a mix of nationally known performers and singer-songwriters. These virtual events provide a new way to enjoy great performances from the safety of your home.

Concerts will be broadcast live via Facebook each Thursday through Sunday evening at 7:30 p.m. Arts in the Parks children's shows will be livestreamed Saturday mornings at 10 a.m.

Viewers can enjoy a range of musical styles from folk, rock, jazz, country, Latin music and more. Performers include Grammy Award winners, Los Texmaniacs, Irish rock band Scythian, folk artist John McCutcheon and D.C. go-go favorite the Junkyard Band. Saturday morning children's shows include acclaimed artists Billy B. and 123 Andrés.

Each year, the Fairfax County Park Authority together with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the Fairfax County Park Foundation offer free concerts, movies and children's performances in Fairfax County parks. The shows are made possible through private donations, which pay performers' fees.

Due to public safety concerns about large public gatherings at this time, the Fairfax County Park Authority's 2020 in-person concerts have been canceled.

You do not need a Facebook account to view the concerts. The complete concert schedule, with links to join the concert live and information about the performers, is available on the Park Authority's Summer Entertainment web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances.

For more information, contact the Park Authority at 703-324-8700, or send an email to parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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To request reasonable ADA accommodations, call 703-324-8727, TTY 711, at least 10 working days in advance of the registration deadline or event.



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IR-111

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Favorite Park Authority Fitness Classes Delivered Virtually

Your favorite Park Authority group fitness classes with your favorite fitness instructors will be holding virtual classes beginning on Aug. 3, 2020. The Fairfax County Park Authority is launching Healthy Strides Community Classes on virtual platforms such as Zoom and Microsoft Teams. These classes are free and open to the public. With 20 virtual classes to choose from, you will be able to find a format to move your way, from Tai Chi to Tabata.

This unique initiative is supported in part by the Move Your WaySM campaign, which aims to help people live healthier lives through increased physical activity. Move Your WaySM is the promotional campaign for the second edition of the *Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans*. For resources and tools, visit www.health.gov/moveyourway.

FPCA Wellness Coordinator Liz Ittner said, “The Healthy Strides Community Classes are our effort to get our community moving again. We’re incredibly happy to be providing a way for participants to be active with us again – to feel the energy of being in a group setting, while staying a 100% safe at home.”

Class offerings, as well as the links to join each class, can be found by visiting the Healthy Strides webpage at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/healthy-strides. Schedules are subject to change and will be updated online as needed.

For more information on the Healthy Strides program, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/healthy-strides. Healthy Strides is supported by several community partners including the Fairfax County Park Foundation, Inova, Cigna, Giant, Virginia Pediatric Group, Wheat’s Landscaping, Valis Family Golf Learning Center and Glory Days Grill.

Move Your Way is a service mark of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Used with permission. Participation by Fairfax County Park Authority does not imply endorsement by HHS/ODPHP.

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IR-112

Rolling Valley West Courts to Close for Renovations

The Fairfax County Park Authority will soon begin work on the Rolling Valley West Court Repair Project at Rolling Valley West Park.

The park's tennis courts and basketball court will be renovated starting on or about July 27, 2020, and work is expected to continue for seven to eight weeks, depending on the weather. The courts will remain closed during the renovations.

This repair project will include milling and paving, new fencing, and new amenities such as net posts and goals.

For more information, please contact Construction Maintenance Project Manager Karen Kressin at 571-789-6697, or e-mail Karen.Kressin@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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IR-113

Meridian Group Honored with Park Collaboration Award

The Fairfax County Park Authority Board will honor the Meridian Group with the Harold L. Strickland Partnership and Collaboration Award for its work on Quantum Field in Tysons.

The real estate equity investment and development company partnered with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) to assure that a recreation area would be a component of The Boro – Meridian’s transit-oriented, live/work/play neighborhood in Tysons. Company representatives worked with county staff on a proffer agreement that turned a former parking area into a multisport athletic field.

The county’s Comprehensive Plan vision for Tysons includes a robust park system to help transform the suburban office park into a vibrant mixed-use urban area. The Plan envisions new sports fields, since Tysons residents and workers are expected to seek an active, urban lifestyle that includes organized sports play.

Through this unique partnership between developers and park planners, Meridian agreed Quantum Field would be operated by the Park Authority and built in accordance with FCPA standards. The agreement stipulated that Meridian would maintain ownership of the property and grant an easement to the FCPA, outlining the terms of maintenance and operation of the field. This partnership allowed Meridian and FCPA to overcome challenges with the site related to utility easements and the field’s location adjacent to the Capital Beltway.

The field, which opened in 2019, is built with synthetic turf and has a playing surface of 180 feet by 360 feet. It offers play for five sports and includes black vinyl perimeter chain-link fencing, concrete walkways, bleacher pads, parking lot lighting, sound-containing walls and landscaping. Because it was built with synthetic turf, Quantum Field allows for year-round use and is not affected by weather to the degree of natural turf fields. Lighting allows for extended use into the evening hours. Concrete walkways make it accessible for all; landscaping enhances its aesthetic appearance; and the sound barriers benefit area residents who are not using the field.

The Fairfax County Park Authority Board established the Harold L. Strickland Partnership and Collaboration Award in June 2015, in honor of the retiring Park Board member’s long service and significant contributions to the Park Authority. In the spirit of Strickland’s accomplishments, this award recognizes the value and importance of the teamwork and cooperation necessary to provide varied constituencies with state-of-the-art facilities in Fairfax County Parks, often at limited, reduced or no capital expense to the taxpayer.

The Meridian Group will be honored at a virtual Park Authority ceremony in November.



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IR-114

Park Authority Earns V3 Certified Employer Status

The Fairfax County Park Authority has become certified as a Virginia Values Veterans (V3) certified employer. This designation serves as a welcome sign for veterans seeking employment with the agency. The V3 Program helps employers develop and implement long-term strategies and nationally recognized best practices in recruiting, hiring and retaining Veterans.

Veterans have many well-recognized and valued traits. They are disciplined team players; enter the workforce with identifiable and transferable skills, proven in real-world situations; are trained and expected to be able to perform under pressure, with deadlines and under trying conditions; they fit in and work well in diverse workplaces; and they are expected to be constantly learning, to take initiative and be accountable for their actions.

Virginia is fortunate to have one of the youngest and the fastest growing Veteran labor force in the United States. Thousands of new Veterans enter Virginia's workforce each year, and that number is projected to rise in the coming years. While many employers are unaware of the value Veterans can bring to their workforce, other employers are actively seeking to hire Veterans as a part of their workforce. The Park Authority will continue to develop relationships with local military facilities to recruit, hire, train and retain Veterans.

The V3 Program is an official Commonwealth of Virginia Program, authorized under the Code of Virginia (§ 2.2-2001.2). For more information contact the Park Authority at Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov. For more information about hiring opportunities at the Park Authority, visit online at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/jobs-internships>.

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IR-115

Huntley Meadows Volunteer Honored for Environmental Work

Cathy Ledec will be honored with the 2020 Sally Ormsby Environmental Stewardship Award for 17 years of volunteer service at Huntley Meadows Park and for the Fairfax County Park Authority.

Ledec's outstanding leadership and volunteerism, including as President of Friends of Huntley Meadows Park (FOHMP), have contributed significantly to the long-term preservation of natural resources at Huntley Meadows and throughout Fairfax County. Her advocacy on behalf of the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) has successfully educated many about the importance of a healthy environment in maintaining Fairfax County's high quality of life for residents, businesses and visitors. Her work is firmly focused on improving the environment and on protecting and restoring irreplaceable natural resources, including native wildlife.

Besides her leadership of FOHMP, Ledec provides frequent public comments and testimony in support of FCPA's annual budget, defends parkland from the impact of development projects, performs "hands-on" ecosystem restoration as a Site Leader for the FCPA's Invasive Management Area Program, actively participates in citizen science activities, and serves on multiple advisory boards that influence parks and natural resources, including the Fairfax County Tree Commission and Supervisor Dan Storck's Environment Advisory Committee. In the award nomination, Ledec was cited for making an "enormous difference" at Huntley Meadows Park, Mt. Eagle Park and other FCPA properties.

The Sally Ormsby Environmental Stewardship Award was established by the Park Authority Board on Nov. 14, 2007, in recognition of Sally B. Ormsby's many years of service as a citizen steward. This award recognizes individuals and organizations whose actions embody the spirit and values of stewardship and result in tangible environmental benefits. The award is open to individuals and groups whose actions embody the spirit of environmental stewardship and provide tangible environmental benefits to Fairfax County parks.

Ledec will be honored at a virtual Park Authority ceremony in November.

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PSA-104

Discover a Vintage Cleaning Product in the Age of COVID-19

While shoppers scrambled to find cleaning products to protect against COVID-19, Fairfax County archaeologists were harboring a gallon bottle of a much sought-after bleach. Only problem, the bottle was 60 years old – and empty!

This month, the Fairfax County Park Authority's [artiFACTS](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resource-management/artifacts.htm) website features a vintage bottle of Clorox. Discover how bottles such as this can help archaeologists date historic sites. Become a bottle detective and learn how to read the clues on old bottles to reveal their history.

If you can't get to a real museum these days, enjoy the Park Authority's virtual museum by spending a little time on the artiFACTS website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resource-management/artifacts.htm.

The Park Authority's collections include more than 5,000 historic objects, such as quilts, chairs, baskets, machines and clothing; thousands of archival items, such as photographs, letters, maps and other documents; and upwards of 3 million artifacts that include archaeological finds, such as spear points and pottery. All come with their own stories to tell. artiFACTS allows us to showcase a small sampling of these treasures to educate, enlighten and entertain.

For more information about the Park Authority's Museum Collections, contact Heritage Resource Specialist Megan Leining at 703-631-1429 or at megan.leining@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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PSA-105

Take a Private Wagon Ride with your Family at Frying Pan Park

Round up the kids and head to Frying Pan Farm Park for a safe and private single-family wagon ride tour of the park.

Hop on board for a ride through the farm, into the woods and past the crop fields for up to nine family members. Enjoy the scenery as you learn fun and interesting facts about farm life from one of the staff at Frying Pan. These 30-minute private tours are available Monday through Friday mornings throughout the month of August. The cost is \$40 per family. Advance reservations are required.

To reserve your spot, go to the [Popular Activities](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/popular-activities) website at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/popular-activities> and click on Wagon Rides. Embark from the park's Country Store at your reserved time.

Frying Pan Farm Park is located at 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon, Virginia. For more information, call 703-437-9101, or visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park>.

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PSA-106

Celebrate National Golf Month with Golf Fairfax

August is National Golf Month and a great chance to celebrate with Golf Fairfax. The Fairfax County Park Authority offers seven courses conveniently located throughout the county, five driving ranges and free short game putting and chipping greens at all courses. From par-three to championship length, there are courses for social, newbies and seasoned players alike.

To ensure the safety of our staff and customers, courses have implemented measures aligning with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) social distancing and sanitation guidelines and the National Golf Course Owner's Association Park and Play program.

Golf is a lifetime sport that encourages good manners, builds friendships, embraces nature and outdoors, and is a fantastic way for all ages to have a good time, socialize and get healthy!

Bring the family out for a round at Burke Lake, Jefferson, Oak Marr or Pinecrest Golf in August for Family Golf Month. Parents pay for their round and accompanying kids and teens (ages 5-17) receive their round at no charge! This offer is valid Monday through Friday all day and weekends after 1 p.m. Limited to one child per paying adult.

No matter what stage of the game you are in, we have PGA, LGPA and USGTF professionals to take your game to the next level! Registration for small group classes at Burke Lake and Pinecrest begins Aug. 18. Choose from Get Golf Ready options for Juniors, Women and Parent/Child. Private lessons available at Pinecrest, Burke Lake, Oak Marr, Twin Lakes, and Laurel Hill.

There are so many options to choose from:

- Stay cool this summer! Play a virtual round at [Pinecrest's indoor studio](#) using the TrackMan Golf Simulator. Thirty analytics are provided on your swing. Indoor practice bays are also available.
- Learn about your swing with the Eisman Golf Academy at Laurel Hill Golf Club. The new indoor/outdoor, 850-square-foot, teaching facility, allows for year-round instruction and features state-of-the-art Swing Catalyst and Trackan technology.
- Soccer + Golf = FUN. Come kick it with us with [FootGolf at Pinecrest](#) on Saturday and Sunday after 3 p.m. If you can kick a ball, you can play FootGolf! It's a great family activity.

For more information visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/national-golf-month>.

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- Soccer + Golf = FUN. Come kick it with us with [FootGolf at Pinecrest](#) on Saturday and Sunday after 3 p.m. If you can kick a ball, you can play FootGolf! It's a great family activity.

For more information visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/national-golf-month>.

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PSA-107

Celebrate National Farmers Market Week with Farm-Fresh Produce

Celebrate National Farmers Market Week the first week in August with a visit to one of the county's producer-only farmers markets. Nothing beats farm-fresh produce in the summertime and bakery products made from scratch. It's time to give your taste buds a treat and support the local farm community.

The Fairfax County Park Authority hosts 10 markets throughout the growing season Wednesdays through Sundays with staggered hours to fit everyone's schedule. Fresh and local are what these markets are all about. In fact, the farmers and producers you will meet may sell only what they raise on their farms or make from scratch. Vendors are encouraged to use local ingredients in their creations, and all the farmers and producers come from within a 125-mile radius of Fairfax County.

National Farmers Market Week is an annual celebration of farmers markets coordinated by the Farmers Market Coalition. This year, the campaign is centered around the essential role that farmers markets play in the food system, as demonstrated by the coronavirus pandemic. When conventional food supply chains failed at the start of the pandemic, farmers markets and local food systems clearly displayed the resiliency of short supply chains and interest in local foods spiked nationwide.

Get details on Fairfax County's [Farmers Markets](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/) at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/. Here you can find information about the market locations and hours, as well as lists of vendors and the products they are featuring each week. Order in advance to make your visit even easier and be sure to note the new safety guidelines this year due to COVID-19.

For more information, contact the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662, or write to parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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PSA-108

Dip a Net into Burke Lake and See What's Swimming By

There's a lot going on under the surface at Burke Lake. Come to the park for "Life in the Lake" and see some of the small critters that make the lake their home.

Walk the shores of Burke Lake to catch a glimpse of the wildlife, and then grab a dip net and see what's wiggling. Tadpoles, minnows and dragonfly nymphs all live here, so see what you can catch. Be sure to dress for the weather, and wear shoes that can get wet.

The program at Burke Lake Park is designed for family members age 5 to adult. It runs from 10 to 11 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 3, 2020, and the cost is \$10 per person.

Burke Lake Park is located at 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station, Virginia. For more information, call 703-323-6600 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burke-lake.

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PSA-109

Rock On with a Virtual Geology Camp this Summer

Discover natural wonders in a virtual summer geology camp led by staff at Riverbend Park.

During the weeklong “Geology Rocks Virtual Camp,” you will learn what makes the Potomac River Gorge unique, make your very own fossils, and meet other young geologists while you play your way through activities. This program will be held virtually via Zoom and includes two hours of content time with participant breaks during the daily sessions. A materials list and PDF packet will be sent out after registration.

This program is designed for budding scientists age 7 to 10 years old. It runs Monday through Friday the week of Aug. 3-7, 2020, and meets from 9 a.m. to noon. The cost is \$115 per child.

For more information, call Riverbend Park at 703-759-9018.

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PSA-110

Face your Fears on a Creepy Crawly Hike at Hidden Pond

Head into the woods on a twilight adventure at Hidden Pond Nature Center that will let you see spiders that are active by day, as well as those coming out for the evening.

On the “Insects and Spiders” hike, a naturalist will take you through forest and field to search for some of the park’s creepy crawly residents. Get a closer look using containers, insect nets and ID guides. The program is designed for participants age 7 to adult and runs from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 10, 2020. The cost is \$9 per person.

Individual supplies (cleaned for personal use) will be returned for cleaning at the end of the program. Six-foot distancing and face masks will be required for safety. Sorry, but the bathrooms will not be open. This program will be canceled in the event of heavy rain or thunderstorms.

Hidden Pond Nature Center is located at 8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield, Virginia. For more information, call 703-451-9588 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/hidden-pond.

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PSA-111

Mason District Park Basketball Court Repairs to Begin

The Fairfax County Park Authority will soon begin the Mason District Park Basketball Court Repair project. Work will start next month and continue for approximately four weeks.

Project contractors, American Tennis, will be mobilizing on site, and work is anticipated to start around Aug. 10, 2020. The courts will be closed during construction. The renovation work will include capping the center drain, milling the asphalt surface, the addition of a stone base followed by a new asphalt layer to bring the courts level with the surrounding surfaces, new Bison goals, resurfacing, color coating, and lining.

We anticipate project completion by Sept. 14, weather permitting. American Tennis will utilize the grassy area behind the shop building for staging. It is not uncommon to see the closed courts sitting dormant at times. This could be due to wet court conditions or to allow for curing time for applied resurfacing and color coating.

For more information contact Karen Kressin at 571-789-6697 or via email at Karen.kressin@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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Due to public safety concerns about large public gatherings at this time, the Fairfax County Park Authority's 2020 in-person concerts have been canceled.

You do not need a Facebook account to view the concerts. The complete concert schedule, with links to join the concert live and information about the performers, is available on the Park Authority's Summer Entertainment web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances.

For more information, contact the Park Authority at 703-324-8700, or send an email to parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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To request reasonable ADA accommodations, call 703-324-8727, TTY 711, at least 10 working days in advance of the registration deadline or event.