

THE POINT

ARLINGTON-EAST FALLS CHURCH CIVIC ASSOCIATION FALL 2012

WWW.AEFCCA.ORG, OR FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

Mark your Calendar!
General Membership Meeting
Thursday, October 4, 2012
Tuckahoe Elementary School,
Multipurpose Room
7:30 pm

If you're not already, now is a great time to get involved with the AEFCCA!

Discussions will include our neighborhood conservation plan process.

Also, Guest Speakers Allan Rowley and Elizabeth Thurber, staff from Arlington County Environmental Service's Stormwater Infrastructure Team

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Please join us for a special civic association meeting on Thursday, October 4, 2012, at 7:30 PM in the Tuckahoe Elementary School Multipurpose Room. At the meeting, we'll present a draft survey that will be used to update our neighborhood conservation plan. This is your opportunity to have a say in the topics covered and the questions asked on the survey. We hope to see you there.

Also, Guest Speakers, Allan Rowley and Elizabeth Thurber, staff from Arlington County Environmental Service's Stormwater Infrastructure Team, will be providing an update and schedule regarding an upcoming storm sewer project located at 24th and Rockingham Street.

Update on Tuckahoe Park Playground Reconstruction

As you may be aware, Arlington County's Department of Parks and Recreation has plans to reconstruct the playground at Tuckahoe Park. While construction documents and all reviews and permits were approved and completed this past spring, the county only received one bid for the reconstruction. That has delayed the reconstruction of the playground, as the project is in the process of being re-posted for bidding. The Department of Parks and Recreation is optimistic that it will be in a position to go before the County Board for approval of an award in November, 2013, with construction hopefully starting in January, 2013. If the Department can maintain that schedule, the playground should be complete by mid-summer 2013.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/ParksRecreation/scripts/planning/ParksRecreationScriptsPlanningInDesign.aspx#tuckahoe>

AEFCCA Executive Board

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FLOWERS COME TO TUCKAHOE PARK

Thanks to Eagle Scout Jacob Heidig, Tuckahoe Park now has beautiful blue, red, and yellow flowers to admire. These plants (listed below) provide the best natural source of food and nectar for beautiful butterflies, goldfinch, and hummingbirds.

In June, guided by a plan he developed, Jacob led a team of high school Boy Scouts, two younger brothers, and the Eagle Scout's dad. After pulling out weeds, they planted the flowers in the "No Mow" zone of Tuckahoe Park. You can recognize the area by the logs surrounding it.

Kevin Stallica, the Parks Manager for Tuckahoe, approved the plan and chose just the right kinds of plants to provide beautification to the park. Arlington Parks donated over 60 plants. Earth Sangha grew these native plants that originated a similar spot in Northern Virginia.

The Master Naturalist volunteer for Tuckahoe, Mary McLean, coordinates community volunteers who want to help these beautiful flowers. Volunteer neighbors worked this September 13 from 9:00-1:00 to remove weeds choking the flowers. Now the flowers are easier to see and enjoy.

These weeds have no natural checks to keep them from taking over the space. Nothing that grew here before these weeds came to Virginia can outcompete them. Local insects and plant diseases do not put a dent in the weeds' take-over of the space. That is why Naturalists at Long Branch and Gulf Branch call these weeds "invasive plants." **Invasive plants take over and can** kill the plants that provide the best food, shelter, and space for the animals of Tuckahoe. Invasive plants can choke and overwhelm a flower or even a full-grown tree by cutting off water, food and sunshine. Plants that evolved together each have their own niche, providing a balanced, healthy variety of plants for a balanced, healthy variety of animals. English Ivy and stilt grass carpet much of our park in a monochrome. There are no signs of anything eating them. A healthy Tuckahoe Park forest contains a variety of large and small trees, shrubs, small plants, vines and flowers. A

healthy Tuckahoe Park meadow contains a variety of grasses, beautiful flowers, butterflies and birds for all to enjoy.

Plant List

Penstemon *penstemon digitalis*
Flat top Aster *Aster Doellingeria umbellata*
Blue wild indigo *Baptisia Australis*
Giant sunflower *Helianthus annuus*
Erect golden rod *Solidago erecta*
Monkey flower *mimulus*
Blue Lobelia *lobelia siphilitica*
Green-headed Coneflower *rudbeckia laciniata*
Joe Pye Weed *eupatorium maculatum*
Iron Weed *vernonia fasciculata*
Verbena *hastata*
Swamp Milkweed *asclepias incarnata*
New England Aster *aster novae angliae*
Rose Mallow *Hibiscus moscheutos*
Cardinal Flower *lobelia Cardinalis*
Bee Balm *monarda didyma*

NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

Candidates Night:

The Arlington-East Falls Church Civic Association, along with the Leeway Overlee Civic Association and other Civic Associations in North Arlington, will be co-sponsoring a Candidates Night in advance of the November elections. The event will give citizens within our part of the County a chance to meet face to face with current local elected officials and those challenging them. The races to be covered will be Virginia's 8th Congressional District, the County Board, and the Arlington School Board.

The event will take place at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 6201 North Washington Boulevard, at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 30.

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NEW VOTER ID REQUIREMENTS

The League of Women Voters of Arlington would like to remind voters that Virginia has new voter identification requirements. In addition, the Virginia State Board of Elections is sending new voter cards to every person registered to vote in Virginia. The card will list the **voter's polling place and will** serve as one of many acceptable forms of identification on election day.

For more information on what forms of identification are acceptable, visit the State Board of Elections website: www.sbe.virginia.gov

You may also visit the League of Women Voters of Arlington website: www.LWV-ArlingtonVa.org

Silence is Golden

Just a friendly reminder: the Arlington Noise Ordinance prohibits lawn mowing, construction, and other noisy activity outdoors before 7 am weekdays and 10 am weekends and holidays.

FREE FUN FAMILY EVENT – SUPERSTAR FAMILY FUN DAY/MASON MILE OCTOBER 13

Superstar Family Fun Day is a day filled with outdoor activities for the whole family including The “Mason Mile”, a one-mile road run/walk on Key Boulevard. The Mason Mile/ Superstar Family Fun Day, sponsored by the Key School PTA Wellness Committee and the Mason Leach Superstar Fund, is held in the memory of Mason Leach, a five-year-old Key School student who passed away from brain cancer in 2007. This event **celebrates Mason's life and encourages the children to** be active both physically and in their community. This event is free with optional donations to benefit the **Mason Leach Superstar Fund at Children's National** Medical Center and Key School.

For additional information please visit:
http://www.masonleachsuperstarfund.com/mason_mile.html