



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ®  
OF THE FAIRFAX AREA

# BULLETIN

Founded in 1925

Meeting Continuously Since 1948

October 2005

4026 Hummer Road, Suite #214, Annandale, Virginia 22003

Volume 58 Issue 2

## Voters Service

*What's on the Ballot* is inside (pages 7 and 8 unnumbered). The sheet is perforated for easy removal.

Or, you can go to our website and download and print a copy from there.

The *Voters Guide* will be published in *The Connection Newspapers* the week of October 24.

Thank you Carol Hawn for your diligence and hard work.

## The topic for October Unit Meetings is *Gangs and Prevention*

This program was worked on by a group of LWVFA members who came together for just this project.

They have worked very quickly, conducting interviews and checking out the material that is available on this subject to bring this information to you for your education and enlightenment.

## Calendar

### October (Important Dates)

- 01 Briefing/*Fall for Fairfax*
- 04 Nov. Bull. Deadline/Rosh Hashanah/Ramadan Begins**
- 5 - 20 Unit Meetings - **Gangs & Prevention**
- 10 *Columbus Day*
- 11 Voter Registration (Last Day)
- 13 *Yom Kippur*
- 15 RCC Election
- 18 Woodlake Condominium Election
- 19 Board Meeting/Nov. UC Letter Deadline**
- 24 *United Nations Day*
- Wk 24 Voters Guide Published *The Connection Newspapers*
- 31 Voters Service Phones/*Halloween*

### November

- 01-08 Voters Service Phones
- 01 Dec. Bulletin Deadline/Board Agenda Deadline**
- 07-08 School Closed/**08 Election Day**
- 9, 10, 14, 15 Unit Meetings - **CEDAW Discussion**
- 12 **CEDAW Panel Forum**
- 15 Sequoyah Condo Election
- 16 Board Meeting/Dec. UC Letter Deadline**

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## President's Letter

As I am writing this in early September, images of the past week crowd my mind. Horrific images, unimaginable images and very disturbing images of the disaster left behind by Hurricane Katrina. New Orleans is a very special city to me—it was my honeymoon city and a place that my husband and I have visited many times over the past 37 years; Charlie even worked there for a short time. Beyond the deep sense of loss I share with the rest of the nation, I am most disturbed by the lack of an immediate, coordinated and effective response on the part of the local, state and national officials—in other words, our government. I echo what folks much smarter than I have been saying: “If this is how our government responds to cataclysmic disaster, we need to go back to the drawing board (on Homeland Security and emergency preparedness!)” The scenes we all witnessed (helplessly) do not give one a “warm and fuzzy” feeling.

On other fronts, LWVFA has been busy with many outreach activities and preparing for the November 8<sup>th</sup> elections. Please help remind our citizens that the last day to register to vote is **October 11, 2005**; LWVFA has been doing its part by staffing many voter registration booths across the county – I thank Margo Sterling, Gail Richmond and all the members who have been involved.

Furthering the League tradition of political events, on Sept. 20 we co-sponsored the 35<sup>th</sup> & 37<sup>th</sup> House Districts Candidates' Forum with the Providence District Council (Olga Hernandez moderated). Unfortunately, the Federation/LWVFA event scheduled for September 27 did not happen because some of the candidates would not participate.

Also, I was very disappointed that we were “cut out of” co-sponsoring a gubernatorial forum in Richmond in October. Jerry Kilgore refused the League invitation and chose another venue, also to be hosted by Larry Sabato (as was ours), that excluded candidate Potts unless he polled 15% of the voters by the first part of October. We wrote letters to the editor (that were published!) and sent out press releases about this.

There is lots more news. Read the rest of this *Bulletin* to find out what it is!

*Sherry*

## Food for Thought

*The Progressive Farmer* recently named Fauquier County, Virginia, the Best Place to Live in Rural America. Fauquier has the highest abundance of cerulean warblers in the state, according to the Virginia Department of Game and Fisheries. As Fauquier experiences more and more forest clearing, often the result of suburban sprawl, the cerulean warbler and other plant and animal species, dependent on large swatches of unbroken forest may no longer have a presence in Virginia's landscape.

The unfortunate reality, however, is that localities often find the easiest way to bring tax revenue into rural-county coffers is by encouraging industrial growth and large scale housing developments. More often than not, little attention is given to how development of any kind will impact landscape, wildlife, and ultimately humans' quality of life.

Source: Huso, Deborah. *Cooperative Living*, May 2005. p 50

## LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD LEAGUERS!

We have several vacancies on Boards and Commissions in Fairfax County for LWVFA representatives. Please call or email the office if you are interested in taking on any of these tasks:

- FCPS Human Relations Advisory Committee
- Vienna Town Council observer
- Public Relations Director for LWVFA

### LWVFA Bulletin © 2005

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## Board Notes

Mia Merin, Secretary

At the August 17, 2005 board meeting the following appointments were made: **Barbara Nunes** and **Elizabeth “Bep” Glennan** as co-chairs of the Woodlake Condominium Election; **Lavinia Voss** as chair of the RCC Election project and **Anne Kanter** as chair of Fairfax Cable Access Corporation (FCAC) election project.

The board was brought up to date on the scheduling and planning of the political forums and events to be held in September.

**Rona Ackerman** reminded the board about the two grants LWVFA has received and the progress she has made on each of these events (see page R8 for more details).

**Mary Field** discussed the plans for the Unit Officers Workshop and sent around a sign-up sheet for board members to provide refreshments and volunteers for the various tasks needed to make it a successful event.

A financial up-date was sent by Tracy Schwartz saying that Dominion Virginia Power had agreed to raise their donation this year to \$1,000.

The LWVFA Nonpartisan Policy was discussed and several board members questioned the part that says “they may make contributions in small amounts.” They wanted “small amounts” clarified into actual numbers. A committee was formed to contact LWVUS and find out before next year. The policy was adopted as is for this year (see page 5).

Because the BOS had announced a carryover from last year's budget, LWVFA board approved our re-support of funding for a salary supplement for probation officers and staff in Fairfax County. It had been recommended in earlier budget testimony and now their appeared to be a surplus, it seemed like a good time to try again (see page 6).

Seen and Heard Around Fairfax and Beyond-

1. An article on September's Redistricting topic in *The Washington Post Fairfax Extra* “Briefs” July 21, 2005.
2. LWVFA letter to the editor published in *The Washington Post Fairfax Extra* August 4, 2005 regarding the need for accessible gubernatorial candidates debates.

## Unit News

The Unit Officers Workshop was very well attended. Those who came were all instructed in their jobs for next year at the unit level. The briefing for the September meetings followed. All in all it was a very successful and busy day.

Mary Elizabeth Gordon (VID) cruised the North Atlantic in early August. Bette Hostrup's (HHE) father passed away in mid-August at her home, where she had been caring for him. Happy **100th** Birthday to Katherine Nealon (AB), celebrated in early October.

Oops! An error in the Unit Finance Wrap-Up Report last month. Reston Evening should have been reported as bringing in \$125 instead of \$545, sorry about that! Ed.

## Social Security Turns 70

Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act on August 14, 1935. Here are a few fascinating facts about it:

- A legal secretary was the first person to collect monthly benefits. She paid \$24.75 in taxes to the program (1937-39) before retiring and got back \$22,000, living until 1975.
- The tax rate (including the employer contribution) initially was 2%; it is now 12.4%. In 1937, only the first \$3,000 of income was taxed; today it is \$90,000.
- Last year, 48 million Americans got Social Security. Until 2004 even felons on the run were allowed benefits by law. A 2001 audit showed that 31 million had been paid to the dead, mostly because of poor record-keeping.
- The average monthly retirement benefit is \$955; 40% of Americans over 65 reportedly would be in poverty without it. In general, to qualify, you must spend 10 years in the workforce and earn a minimum each year (now \$3680).

**Source:** Winik, Lyric Wallwork, *The Washington Post*, Parade Magazine, 8/14/05

*No one ever procrastinated their way to the top.*

*Anonymous*

## Community Election Projects

Una White 703-922-8721  
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Our thanks go to all those who gave up their Sunday afternoon in September to work the **Fairfax Cable** project; you all did a great job. If you would like to volunteer for any of the projects for October and were unable to sign-up at a unit meeting, please contact me to see if help is still needed for **RCC** and **Woodlake Towers**. We also need a few volunteers for the **Sequoyah** election in November; call me if you are available.

## Remembrance



It is with great sadness that we mark the sudden passing of **Carol Steere** with pancreatic cancer at Fairfax Hospital on August, 23, 2005. She had been a mem-

ber of LWVFA for 40+ years and served on and off the board in several different capacities. She was a 74 years young member of the Vienna Evening unit. Carol was also active in many other civic groups. She is survived by her five children, their spouses and nine grandchildren. Carol will be missed by all who knew her.



Program planning will be held in December. Please take some time this month to talk up any ideas you may have for possible topics for next year and send them in on this month's program report. We can then share and build support for them with other units. Thank you!

British scientists have tracked the movement of 30 butterflies with tiny transponders attached to their thoraxes. They found that butterflies follow two types of flight paths. Straight and fast for travel; slow and looping for orientation to aid foraging.

Source: National Geographic, August, 2005

## Membership Update

Leslie Vandivere - 703-222-4173  
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There are no new members to welcome this month. I want to remind all **locally recruited** members their dues were to be renewed by July 1, 2005. If you have not sent in your check, please do so as soon as possible. Thanks.

## Lorton-Laurel Hill

When President Theodore Roosevelt called for a new prison for the District of Columbia, he envisioned a place where inmates could be rehabilitated through a hard day's work. So the Federal Government chose Lorton. It was designed more like a campus than a traditional inner-city jail and a model for Progressive-Era correctional facilities.

Now efforts are underway to nominate 552 acres, the former reformatory, penitentiary, now known as "Laurel Hill" to the National Register of Historic Places. This program is administered by the National Park Service. The benefits of having properties listed include qualification for tax credits and eligibility to apply for grants.

A part of the former 3,000 acre site reflects the struggle of the women's suffrage movement. For picketing the White House, many women were held and mistreated at the Women's Workhouse facility. A part of the 552 acres will become the previously-approved "Workhouse Arts Center at Lorton."

Source: Historic Preservation of Former Prison Site email

**Ed. Note:** LWVFA will be holding a Lorton Historical Marker rededication event in Spring 2006 nearby.

## Neutering Goes Non-Surgical

Neutersol is a new tool for controlling the pet overpopulation problem. It is an injectable drug that renders young male dogs infertile. With the use of small needles, the shots are nearly painless. The permanent and irreversible procedure takes only five minutes with two injections. The letter "N" is tattooed in the dog's left ear to indicate he has been fixed. The procedure is less costly than surgery, so animal welfare groups can neuter more dogs with existing funds. Source: Best Friends Magazine May/June 2005

Each year, the LWVFA Board reviews and re-adopts a nonpartisan policy. The following was approved for 2005-2006. (Printed in *Policies and Procedures*.)

### NON-PARTISAN POLICY

The purpose of the League of Women Voters is to promote informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues. The League of Women Voters is nonpartisan in that it does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. However, it does take action on public issues based on positions reached by member agreement.

While the League urges its members to be politically active as individuals, board members' activities must be limited to preserve the League's nonpartisan position. Only to the extent that the public and its elected officials are convinced of the League's genuine nonpartisanship will the League be able to render effective voters service and gain a wide base of support for its positions on government issues.

All members are expected to keep their League activity and their political activity completely separate and distinct. For example, members may not distribute partisan information or petitions or display campaign buttons or insignia for a candidate or a party at League sponsored activities.

The LWVFA shall not elect or appoint to the board any member who has, within the prior six-month period, held or run for an elective political office. Board members shall not run for or hold elective office. If a board member declares for an elective office that member must resign from the board.

Public notices released by the League announcing the resignation of a board member to run for political office should be carefully worded to avoid the appearance of endorsing the resigning board member's candidacy.

The presidents, all vice-presidents, voters service directors, action directors, unit action directors, public relations directors, finance directors, and membership directors shall not participate in any political campaign or political party activity. They may attend informational political meetings of a non-fundraising nature; make financial contributions to candidates of their choice in an unobtrusive way or in small amounts; attend party nominating meetings in the absence of primaries; and serve as election officials. Other board members (elected or appointed officers

and directors) may participate in political activity only if it is done in an inconspicuous, non-public manner which would not cause them to be identified publicly as supporting any candidate for public office or any political party. They shall not hold an official position in any party organization, or in any organization endorsing candidates for public office. They shall not chair or administer fund raising or political campaigns, chair campaign events, or work in a conspicuous way in the campaign of a candidate. In addition to those permitted activities listed above for presidents and others, these board members may participate in such activities as preparing mailings; filing; typing; attending campaign/party events.

Program committee chairs who participate in partisan politics may not testify for the LWVFA. Judgment should be used by such committee chairs in representing the League at other functions.

An annual review of administrative chairs should be conducted so that any positions which are sensitive and visible to the public can be identified and made subject to the board's nonpartisan policy.

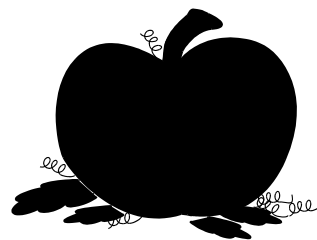
Members may serve on any public board, commission, committee, or coalition; however, that member does not represent the League unless officially designated as the League representative by the board.

A board member may not speak or in any way work against a League position.

The political activities of a spouse or relative of a board member are to be considered as separate and distinct from the activities of the board member.

Board members who have any doubts about the appropriate activities should request a decision from the board at its next meeting.

This policy shall be reviewed annually by the incoming board.



*If no one ever took risks, Michelangelo would have painted the Sistine floor.*

*Neil Simon*

## Action Faction

Jane Hilder

On September 12, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors held a public hearing and then voted on allocation of funds out of the carryover from last year's budget. The LWVFA Board, at the August meeting, voted to take action in support of funding for a salary supplement for probation officers and staff in Fairfax County. This was a recommendation we had made in our earlier budget testimony.

Probation officers in the Circuit Court are state employees, paid by the state, but local salary supplements are allowed. Our surrounding jurisdictions do supplement the salary of their probation staff to try to meet the higher cost of living in Northern Virginia. Juvenile Court probation staff are paid by the county at a higher rate than the salary paid by the state to Circuit Court probation staff. One result of this discrepancy has been that the turnover rate of probation staff has been 20% or higher per year, as they seek employment elsewhere.

The county did supplement probation staff salaries until 1996, when this was a subject of budget cuts. It is estimated that an annual salary supplement for probation staff, to put their compensation rate equal to that of the juvenile court probation staff, would cost no more than \$250,000. Testimony in support of this salary supplement was presented by LWVFA at the budget hearing on Sept. 12. As of press time, we do not know whether we were successful, but stay tuned!



## Ocean Damage

The devastating tsunami that swept across southern Asia in December 2004 left severe destruction and loss of life that we all saw. What was not readily seen is what may have happened underwater, determining the full extent of that damage will likely take years.

Scientists are already speculating that coral reefs have been ripped apart or smothered with mud. Also at risk are fish spawning and nursery grounds. The UN has dedicated funding to deal with the tsunami's environmental impacts. Scientists will be closely studying the ecosystems in the coming months.

Source: Blueplanet, Spring 2005, p.12.

## Voters Service

Carol Hawn

With only a month to go before the election, our fall publications are well on their way to residents. *What's on the Ballot* is published, and over 5,000 were passed out at the Unit Officers Workshop. For copies, contact your VS unit officer. Please help ensure they all get in the hands of voters before the election.

*What's on the Ballot* can also be found in Fairfax County libraries and government centers and will be sent to middle and high school government teachers. If your unit runs out, please contact me at (703) 266-6872 or [cahawn@att.net](mailto:cahawn@att.net). We again thank Sir Speedy Printing for helping with this project.

Final proofreading is underway for the *Voters Guide* to be published in *The Connection Newspapers* the week of October 24, 2005. It will appear in sixteen editions, each one will contain its own *Voters Guide*, based upon distribution locations. Twelve editions cover Fairfax County. We are extremely appreciative of their support in publishing the *Guide* again this year and assisting us in educating voters about the candidates on the ballot.

It's not too late to volunteer to help with editing the upcoming *2006 Facts for Voters*. Please sign up at your unit meeting, or contact me as above. Our signature publication will be available early next year. Remind your family, friends and neighbors of the importance of the election, and urge them to vote.

## Taking Action on Gang Activity and Prevention

Look for volunteer opportunities with before-and-after school programs for youth. Talk to your local school, library, community or faith-based organizations about the programs they are, or could be, offering. Contact your local police precinct for information on neighborhood watch programs, and become involved in monitoring your neighborhood for signs of gang activity. As an individual, contact the Board of Supervisors to express your opinion on anti-gang efforts.



## Gang Activities and Prevention

Committee: Rona Ackerman (Chair), Jerry Boltz, Peg Honour, Sarah Mayhew, Mary Nightlinger, Ruth Pertel, and Emily Smith.

News that youth gangs were flourishing in our community came as a shock to many Fairfax County residents. Though the presence of gangs creates worry and concern, few people know much about them or what can be done to prevent them.

Surprisingly, there is no nationally accepted definition of a gang. The Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD) defines a gang as a group of people who form an allegiance for a common purpose, who engage in criminal activity and conform to one or more of the following traits; share common style of dress; frequently congregate upon, or lay claim to, a geographic location; and associate on a regular and continuous basis. The Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) define a gang as a group of three or more individuals who display antisocial behaviors, including joining together for recurring criminal activity, and who individually or together create a climate of fear and intimidation in the community.

Individual gangs come and go, but authorities estimate that there are more than 80 gangs in Fairfax County with a total of 1,500 to 2,500 gang members. About half of all gang members are currently enrolled in the school system. Bob Bermingham, Fairfax County's Gang Prevention Coordinator, indicates that while the gang problem in Fairfax County needs to be addressed, it is not an epidemic. The county population is 1.3 million, including over 165,000 school-age children (all of whom are categorized as "at-risk" for gang activity).

Several national gangs operate in our area, all originating in California. The largest and most notorious is **MS-13 (Mara Salvatrucha)** which operates in 31 states and Washington, DC. Started in the 1980s by Salvadorans confronted by Mexican gangs in Los Angeles, its members are now of Central American and Mexican descent. MS-13 is loosely structured in cliques of 5-200 members; there are 22 cliques in Northern Virginia. **Crips** originated in the 1960s and its members are mostly African American. Regionally, Crips are active as Rollin' 60s, 217 Crips, 434

Mob, etc. **Bloods** originated in the 1970s as a response to the Crips; its members may be from a variety of ethnicities. **18th Street** has a multi-ethnic membership and a reputation for violence. It is active throughout Northern Virginia with a heavy presence in the Manassas City area. **Tiny Rascal Gangsters (TRG)** is mainly of Asian ethnicity and has a reputation for violence.

**South Side Locos (SSL)** is a growing presence, active in Alexandria, Arlington, Woodbridge, Annandale and West Springfield. It is an offshoot of MS-13 and its members are of various ethnicities, including Hispanic, Asian, African American, and Caucasian. **Asian Criminal Enterprises (ACE)** is primarily interested in drug trafficking, and 6 identified local gangs are affiliated with it. Motorcycle gangs such as the **Hell's Angels** and the **Outlaws** are also present in Northern Virginia.

In 2003, there were 837 gang-related crimes in Fairfax County, 78 of which occurred in the public schools.<sup>1</sup> The most common felony is malicious wounding, with machetes and knives as the weapons of choice. These assaults are the product of fights between rival gangs and usually do not extend to the general public. While there are some car thefts, "there is little drug dealing and few sustained auto theft or robbery operations,"<sup>2</sup> activities in which gangs are implicated in other parts of the country. There are indications, however, that the West Coast gangs are encouraging their local counterparts to engage in these "economic" crimes. Locally, most gang activity is composed of property crimes, primarily spray painting identification messages (graffiti).

Graffiti is a territorial marker for gang activity. It indicates membership in a gang when drawn in schoolbooks, desks or on personal property. Not all graffiti is gang-related. There are three major types. The first is the artistic variety found on the sides of our nation's highways, buildings, trucks, etc. Subtypes of this elaborate, artistic, and colorful graffiti are known as Tagging, Hip-Hop, Piecing and Bombing. The

second type of graffiti, rarer in the U.S., is political and usually consists of legible writing and occasionally symbols. The third type is gang related.

Gang graffiti is typically crude artistically, usually black and white or gang colors, and legible. The primary purpose is to identify the gang's territory (usually the neighborhood in which members live), or the gang's interest in making a new neighborhood or area its territory, and recruiting new members. Graffiti also serves as a warning or challenge to other gangs not to enter this territory or violence will ensue. When a rival gang crosses out territorial markers, it is taken as an insult leading either to retaliation or the backing down of the gang trying to establish new territory. Gangs also use their graffiti to identify individual gang members on surfaces at outdoor meeting areas (a roll-call); identify small groups or cliques in the larger or parent gang area; to honor dead members; and to chronicle recent histories of gang activity including violent assaults. This last variety is very valuable for police intelligence and investigations.

It is important to recognize graffiti for what it means. FCPD stresses the four **Rs**: **Recognize** it, **Read** it, **Report** it, and **Remove** it immediately. Because information contained in gang graffiti concerns membership, cliques, territories, and gang activities, reporting graffiti prior to its removal can be vital. Research has demonstrated that the rapid removal of graffiti is critical to preventing a gang invasion. The report to authorities leads to an immediate increased police presence in the area and alerts the gang to the presence of a concerned population in the neighborhood.

Tattoos are a form of gang graffiti identifying an individual's association with a gang, his personal philosophy and/or crimes committed on behalf of the gang. They can be located anywhere on the body and most members have more than one. The most common are the "three dots" and Mi Vida Loca (My Crazy Life) which expresses a philosophical attitude of "living only for the day."

Hand signs are also identifiers specific to each gang. The "throwing" of a hand sign distinguishes an individual as a gang member. Hand signs can require very difficult contortions and take much practice. The MS-13 hand sign is the same across the U.S. The use of a

hand sign by a non-member can have serious consequences for the presenter.

While gangs are loosely structured, there are different types of members. The leader is usually older, violent and ruthless. Hardcore members are often in their late teens and early twenties; they are completely immersed in the gang culture, and are willing to live and die by the rules of the gang. Associate, affiliate or fringe members have gone through the initiation process but may maintain relationships with their biological families. Wannabes are often between 11 and 13 years old. They are the recruits. They are not officially gang members, but like to talk and dress as if they were. This group can constitute up to two-thirds of an entire gang. Wannabes are a testing ground where kids will prove themselves to the core gang members.<sup>3</sup> " 'Wannabes are wannabes,' said Prince George's County police Sgt. George Norris. 'A lot of the people that want to be a gang member are more dangerous than the actual gang members.' "<sup>4</sup>

### *Why do kids join gangs?*

The 2002 National Youth Gang Survey estimates that approximately 731,500 gang members and 21,500 gangs were active in the United States in 2002.<sup>5</sup> All large cities, 87% of smaller cities, 38% of suburban counties and 12% of rural counties reported youth gang problems.<sup>6</sup> "It is a myth that those who join gangs are always male and from low-income families in inner cities."<sup>7</sup> "Most gang members are boys, but 10% of all gang members are girls and the number is growing."<sup>8</sup> Many gangs include kids from "good," middle class families. Gang membership is not circumscribed by race or ethnicity; it is largely a reflection of the demographics of the surrounding community.<sup>9</sup> In a national sample of schools, a 2001 survey of gang problems and programs found that 7.1% of males and 3.6% of females belonged to a gang.<sup>10</sup> "In Fairfax, police say gangs have a presence in every high school."<sup>11</sup>

There is no single reason why so many kids join gangs, but their appeal appears to be growing. Gang members generally range in age from 13 to 21 years old but can be as young as 9 years old. "Most studies show that the family is the first line of defense in fighting gang activity. Conversely, these same studies show that the family can be the number one factor that



pushes a child toward a gang.”<sup>12</sup> Reasons for joining a gang include:

**Gangs Provide Identity and a Sense of Belonging:** It is normal for adolescents to gradually separate from their biological families and to form relationships and affiliations at school, work and in social groups. Many parents try to assure that these relationships are healthy, safe and reasonable choices. But when adolescents lack a stable home and positive role models, they tend to look for these qualities outside the home. Gangs promise to give their members respect, companionship, understanding, security and a sense of belonging. They provide role models and fulfill the needs of a loving family.<sup>13</sup> Kids get a sense of identity and recognition from being in a gang. It sets them apart from their classmates and family; they achieve status among their peers.<sup>14</sup>

**Fun and Excitement:** The mass media, through movies, music, and fashion, have glorified violence and the gang lifestyle. Repeated viewing of violent images in the media have desensitized youth to the realities of violent actions and contribute to romanticized perceptions of what gang life will really be like. Also, kids view their parent’s lives as boring and repetitive and believe that joining a gang will inure them from such a lifestyle. Boredom, in school or after school, is another reason for joining.

**Protection:** Protection is often one of the most important reasons to join. Gang membership can be considered a form of survival if one is living in a gang-infested community. “Gang neighborhoods are frequently dangerous places for both gang and non-gang members. Teens who are not gang members are continually harassed and beaten by those who are. Tired of being constantly questioned about their gang loyalties—and taken for a gang member by rival gangs—some adolescents decide they might as well join the gang.”<sup>15</sup>

**Peer Pressure:** Young people may be pressured to join a gang by friends who are already members. Vulnerable kids see both friendship and protection in a gang. Relatives or siblings of gang members may feel significant pressure to become part of the gang family, or to be with that family member and earn his approval.

**Financial Gain:** Being in a gang is often seen as a way to obtain money or possessions.

**A Failure to Understand What Being in A Gang Means:** Youth often do not fully understand the danger, risks, and legal problems associated with being in a gang. Older gang members often use younger members to carry out criminal activities. Joining a gang requires being jumped in—beaten to prove that you are strong enough for the gang. Most gang violence targets rival gangs, so by joining a gang, a youth becomes a target himself.

### *Who is at risk for joining a gang?*

**Unsupervised youth:** Before school and after school, in wealthy and poor communities, kids are being left on their own. Nationally, “the number of women with children ages 6 to 17 working outside the home... is nearly 80%. Not only are more parents working, but their workdays and commutes are often longer... There are an estimated 4 million 6- to 12-year olds who are regularly without adult supervision before and after school... 15% are alone more than 10 hours a week. The numbers rise to 35% for 10- to 12-year olds and 44% for 12-year olds.”<sup>16</sup> Whether there is a single working parent, a dual income family, or adults absent from the home outside school hours for other reasons, youth who spend too much time unsupervised are at risk. Consistent adult contact with parents, role models or mentors is vital to preventing gang membership. A feeling of isolation makes a child vulnerable. The lack of adequate community youth support systems, such as after school programs, recreational activities, non-competitive sports, and Boys and Girls Clubs, contributes to growing gang recruitment efforts.

**Youth living in an area with a high level of gang activity:** The presence of gang activity encourages youth to join for reasons including peer pressure, protection, intimidation and threats against themselves, and potential violence against uninvolved family members.

**Youth lacking a positive support system:** When teens have low self-esteem and/or a sense of hopelessness about the future, gangs look like a way to be successful, especially if they are unable to succeed in more traditional ways such as school, sports or employment. Kids get a sense of power being in a gang. Alone, they are insecure and inadequate—belonging to a gang provides direction.

**Youth who have poor decision making and communication skills:** “Many teens believe that when a conflict or disagreement arises, they have no choice but to fight. Some see fighting as the only acceptable way to resolve disagreements... Others do not know how to control themselves in the face of a perceived insult. In one survey of junior and senior high school students: 33 percent said that when they were really angry there was no way they could control themselves; 41 percent said that if they were challenged, they would fight; 21 percent said that avoiding fights was a sign of weakness.”<sup>17</sup> Where there are poor conflict resolution skills, the ethos of the gang lifestyle offers great appeal.

**Youth living in poverty:** Youth living in poverty see barriers to educational opportunities and meaningful work. They may lack basic life skills and be poorly prepared to enter the work force. Their limited economic and employment prospects make them view gangs as a way of getting money and goods that they could not otherwise afford.

**Youth with problems at home:** Youth who have an unhappy home life or feel unloved; grow up with domestic violence and/or abuse; have substance abuse problems or suffer from those who do; or come from homes without strong role models, turn to gangs as a replacement for their family. Youth are also at risk in homes where there is parental denial of a gang problem; where siblings or other relatives are members of gangs; and where children are reunited with parents after long absences.

### ***What can be done about gangs?***

On July 12, 2004, the Board of Supervisors established the Fairfax County Coordinating Council on Gang Prevention and funded a Gang Prevention Coordinator position. On February 25, 2005, the Gang Prevention Summit brought over 300 people with responsibility for addressing the problem—representatives of County agencies, police, schools, community and faith based organizations, together to generate ideas to combat gang violence. A commitment was made to implement the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention’s Comprehensive Gang Model. The Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force has funded an assessment of regional gang activity and the Model will be targeted and implemented based upon this assessment.

The Model’s five strategies are: **Community Mobilization:** Involve residents, youth, community and agencies; **Social Intervention:** Provide social services to gang youths and their families through agencies, schools, and other organizations; **Opportunities Provision:** Develop educational, training and employment programs targeted to gang and other at-risk youths; **Suppression:** Supervise and monitor gang youth by criminal justice system agencies; **Organizational Change and Development:** Use resources more effectively, for example, include youth in the development of gang prevention programming and bring services directly to the communities. The Model will take time to plan and implement. It will incorporate many of the strategies now in use for preventing gang activity.

Currently, Fairfax County uses a three-pronged approach to countering gangs: suppression, prevention, and intervention. Suppression is the law enforcement dominated approach, which includes intelligence gathering, surveillance, and arrest. Prevention is aimed at keeping kids from becoming involved with gangs. Intervention actions are those that are aimed at children on the verge of joining gangs or those who want to get out of gangs. All three are simultaneously required to combat the gang problem.

### **Suppression**

Suppression of criminal gang activity is the function of the police departments. In 1997, Fairfax County PD was the first in the metro area to set up a unit to deal with gang activities. Of the County’s 1,332 officers, there are currently 2 supervisors and 10 investigators employed in the Gang Unit, plus one or two gang coordinators at each precinct. The City of Fairfax PD has 64 officers including one detective who is assigned full-time to anti-gang activities. Established in 2003, the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force pools the efforts of FCPD’s Gang Unit with those of the FBI, ATF, ICE, DEA and other regional law enforcement agencies (City of Fairfax PD, Herndon PD, Manassas PD, Manassas Park PD, Prince William County PD, Virginia State Police, Leesburg PD, Loudoun County PD), resulting in a more coordinated law enforcement and public information effort. The FCPD has further enhanced analysis of gang activity by creating a county-wide database that utilizes

information from gang coordinators in each precinct, School Resource Officers (SROs- police officers assigned to schools), interviews and other sources. Captain Deborah Burnett, Commander of Youth Services for the FCPD, has high praise for the effectiveness of the database in discerning patterns of gang activity.

New anti-gang laws are aimed at (i) broadening the definition of a criminal street gang and increasing the penalties on gang criminal activities and (ii) giving police and other law enforcement authorities more resources to fight gang crime. The 2004 laws addressed specific problems encountered in handling gang activities. They extend the provisions against recruiting juveniles into a gang to include recruiters under 18 years of age; make it a felony to use or threaten force against an individual, or a member of his/her household, to encourage gang membership; and outlaw the hazing of recruits. The 2004 statutes also provided for forfeiture of gang assets, addressed the problem of intimidation of witnesses, and enabled multi-jurisdictional grand juries to pursue widespread gang activity. Additional provisions made it illegal to carry a concealed machete; provide the Attorney General with authority to seek a wiretap order; allow the state Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization (RICO) Act to be applied to gang activity; and require police to notify the school superintendent when a juvenile is arrested for gang-related crimes. Major 2005 amendments created gang-free school zones; added more criminal acts to the definition of a gang; further protected witnesses by allowing them to keep their home and work address and telephone number secret; and provided a minimum fine of \$500 for gang graffiti.<sup>18</sup>

### **Prevention**

Prevention is aimed at keeping kids from becoming involved with gangs. It includes educating children and their families about the dangers of gangs, and providing safe havens for children outside school hours. Gang prevention presentations are most often focused at 7th and 8th graders and their parents since it is at that age that many youth join gangs. But authorities believe that the K-6 population is at risk as well and presentations should start at elementary school levels, giving the message that there are good,

fun alternatives to joining a gang.

FCPD and FCPS have presented over 1000 talks in our community and our schools in the past year. Unfortunately, many parents work two jobs to support their families and have no free time to attend the meetings. Another difficulty is lack of trust—immigrants have become scared of the government and shy away from approaching officials. It can also be very difficult to reach parents who do not speak English. Officials know they must improve their ability to get to those hard-to-reach communities and are working on strategies to do so.

Prevention and intervention include providing a variety of safe, adult-supervised after-school and summer programs. These programs can be run by FCPS (sports, drama, music, art), the Office of Children (SACC), the Parks and Recreation Department (RecPac), or community or faith-based organizations. There is also a great need for less formal intramural sports programs and clubs.

Schools would seem to be a good place for after school/evening activities, but do not have the support staff, volunteers or resources. In 2004-2005, the School Aged Child Care program (SACC), which provides before and after school care in the elementary schools, served 13,000 kids—8,000 during the school year and 5,000 in the summer. About 3,000 more were on waiting lists. The RecPac Program, which is also based in elementary schools and serves grades K - 6, operates only from July 5 - Aug 11. RecPac served all 8,000 children who applied for it this summer. Most middle schools have after school programs three days per weeks. According to Bob Bermingham, Board of Supervisors Chairman Connolly is committed to making schools more available to the community after school hours. In cooperation with the Parks and Recreation Department, the goal is to make every school a community accessible building, without burdening school administrators, who have different duties.

Ironically, those youngsters most at risk may not be able to take advantage of the after school care programs that are available since there are a limited number of slots available. There is little transportation available—the schools do not have enough buses and

cannot help. Faith-based and community organizations are willing to help but are concerned with liability, inability to recruit volunteers to supervise children, clean up after them, and provide needed supplies and equipment. And for these organizations, the issue is once again transportation—how to get the kids to the programs and then home, often at 8:00 p.m.

### **Intervention**

Many intervention efforts dovetail with prevention efforts, especially those that provide adult-supervised, safe havens outside school. Intervention efforts are those that are aimed at children who want to get out of gangs or are on the verge of joining gangs. Intervention will have the greatest likelihood of success with the wanna-bes. Associates may be approachable, but it is unlikely that intervention will have any effect on core members.

It is a common belief that once in a gang you can never get out alive. Although it is not risk free, members do quit gangs. Intervention programs try to turn members to jobs and other interests and then help them to quietly “fade away” from gang activities. Fading away is the most common current method for individuals desiring to leave a gang. They stop going to meetings, wear non-gang apparel, and become “busy” with family and school activities. Fairfax County is currently putting together a team of human service professionals to help individual members get out. The County has also initiated a tattoo removal program using volunteer doctors for gang members desiring to leave gangs. If fading away is not possible, a family may have to relocate to escape a gang.

Clothing, jewelry, and manner of grooming are used by gang members to identify each other, challenge rival members, look “cool” and solicit new members. Gang members, using these identifiers, “front” for the gang by demonstrating a visible and appealing gang presence. A few FCPS middle schools, supported by their PTAs, have gone to strict dress codes in the hope that it would be more difficult for gangs to recruit and easier for students to “fade away” from gang membership. Strict dress codes are being considered in other Fairfax County Public Schools.

Gang recruiting is becoming more aggressive, especially at the middle school level. FCPS has planned

evening meetings at all middle schools this fall to reach parents since these children are most at risk.

The Healthy Choices anti-gang program will be instituted in all middle schools this fall. This month-long program will be taught in health and physical education programs by an officer and a teacher.

Each high school and middle school is assigned a School Resource Officer (SRO) who is usually present all day. The SRO is involved in numerous activities to prevent youth gang involvement. SROs are “experienced law-enforcement officers with proven ability to work effectively with adolescents and young adults, and who are capable of performing multiple law-enforcement, instructional and mentoring roles in the school environment.”<sup>19</sup>

Job placements offer a positive identity to a youth, keep him busy, and provide a good “excuse” for not joining a gang, besides providing needed spending money.

The City of Fairfax PD presents anti-gang programs in the schools and the community. Officers teach both the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) and Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) programs in the schools.

The FCPD’s Gang Unit is concentrating heavily on public education and awareness programs with neighborhood meetings and distribution of information, in English and Spanish, on what to do and where to call if your child is in a gang or at risk. Each precinct has an officer who specializes in gang issues and can be called if needed. The Northern Virginia Regional Task Force has tip line at 1-800-NO-GANGS.

### ***Recognizing and Preventing Gang Involvement***

Parents should look for multiple signs to indicate possible gang involvement because some of these indicators alone, such as clothes or musical preferences, are also common among youth not involved in gangs.

#### **Warning Signs That Your Child May Be Involved with a Gang**

- Admits to “hanging out” with kids in gangs or changes friends suddenly
- Shows an unusual interest in one or two particular colors of clothing or a particular logo; wears altered headwear, gets special haircuts,

eyebrow markings, or tattoos; wears belt buckles, hats, and other clothing items to either the right or left side

- Has an unusual interest in gangster-influenced music, videos, movies, or websites
- Uses unusual hand signals to communicate with friends
- Has specific drawings or gang symbols on school books, clothes, walls, or tattoos
- Comes home with unexplained physical injuries, cash, or goods
- Carries a weapon
- Exhibits negative changes in behavior such as withdrawing from family; declining school attendance; staying out late without reason; displaying an unusual desire for secrecy; exhibiting signs of drug use; breaking rules consistently; speaking in gang-style slang.

### **What Parents Can Do to Prevent Gang Involvement**

- Praise your child/children for doing well and encourage them to do their very best
- Set limits for your children and enforce them
- Get involved in your children's education and encourage them to have good study habits and stay in school
- Be a positive role model
- Teach them to set positive goals, to hold high standards and to prepare for a positive future
- Know your child's friends and their families
- Teach your child how to cope with peer pressure and develop good conflict/resolution skills
- Encourage your child to participate in positive after-school activities with adult supervision
- Know where your children are at all times and schedule activities to occupy their free times
- Explain to your child that he or she should NOT: associate with gang members; attend parties or social events sponsored by gangs; use gang hand signs, symbols, or language; wear gang-style clothing or gang colors; write graffiti on any surface, including their bodies
- Talk with your child about the dangers and consequences of gang involvement
- Explain to your children that only a very small percentage of youth join gangs
- Tell them that you: disapprove of gangs; don't want to see them hurt or arrested; see them as special and worth protecting; want to help them with problems;
- Teach them that family members don't keep secrets from each other
- Tell them that you and other parents are working together against gangs.

### **Conclusion**

The number of young people being served by gang prevention and intervention programs cannot be

quantified by county officials. Neither can the number of underserved youth. County officials stress that although gang membership is relatively low, if not addressed proactively, gang issues will grow and cause more of an emotional and financial burden. Gangs and their activities challenge the County's fundamental mission to keep every neighborhood and community safe.

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Rona Ackerman

I would like to thank the committee that prepared this months' program material. They wrote it over the summer, in between vacations, with only seven weeks in which to get it done. Please thank them in person if you have a chance, for their tremendous effort. My apologies to our two new Prince William units—we were not able to adequately address Prince Williams' gang-related issues in this short time frame.

In October and November we will be conducting two programs on dates other than your unit's regularly scheduled meeting. We hope that you will put them on your calendar and join us. The first is on Sunday, Oct 30 at 2:00 pm, at the Pohick Regional Library. LWVFA and the Fairfax County Public Library will present **"Building a Safer World: Can America and the UN Work Together on World Water Resources?"** Dr. Gerald Galloway will discuss water resources, terrorism, conservation and other water supply topics. Currently at the University of Maryland, Dr. Galloway is a Visiting Scholar at the US Army Corps of Engineers Institute for Water Resources and has served as a water resources consultant to a variety of national and international government organizations. This program is funded by a grant from The People Speak and the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVUS). The Pohick Regional Library is located at 6450 Sydenstricker Road in Burke. Please call 703-644-7333 to reserve your seat for this free program.

The **CEDAW Forum** will be on Saturday, November 12, at 1:30 pm at the Ernst Cultural Center, Northern Virginia Community College in Annandale. LWVFA has received a \$1,000 grant to conduct a program on the United Nations **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women** (CEDAW), known informally as the "international bill of women's rights." It was signed by President Carter, but never ratified by the Senate. It has been ratified by 180 countries, including all other western nations. CEDAW is considered by some to be a powerful instrument for promoting gender equality. Information on CEDAW will be published in the November Bulletin to help members prepare for the Forum. This is part of a series of forums on "Women Engaging Globally," a program of the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVUS), the Center for Women Policy Studies, and the Women's Environment and Development Organization, made possible through a generous grant from the Open Society Institute-DC Office.

## **Program Announcements**



## LWVUS News

LWVUS recently sent out two new League publications: *Helping America Vote: Statewide Voter Registration Databases* and *Next Steps on Election Reform*, both dealing with reforming our election system and implementing Help America Vote Act (HAVA). The first publication is on implementing statewide computerized voter registration by January 2006 (What is happening in Virginia can be found in a report in March 2005 *Bulletin*). *Next Steps* is a report of discussions at a forum of the same name held in March 2005. If you are interested in either or both of these items, call 703-658-9150 or go to: <http://www.lwv.org/elibrary/pub/issue5.html>

LWVUS has initiated a newly designed website ([www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)) that uses a member's email address to allow access to the "members only" section. If there is no email address, then the member's ID number is used (this number can be found on *The National Voter* in the addressee's box). Instructions for first-time registration are on the website.

On September 7, LWVUS President Kay Maxwell moderated a panel discussion on the findings, recommendations and implications of the LWV public dialogue on civil liberties and homeland security, called, "Local Voices: Citizen Conversations on Civil Liberties and Secure Communities." Local League Presidents from around the D.C. area were in the audience.

Also, LWVUS has produced a DVD of the highly acclaimed panel discussion at Council 2005: *Civil Liberties: Balancing Liberty and Security*. We have purchased two copies of the 1½ hour video – they are available for units and/or members' use. Call or email the LWVFA office to borrow a copy.

## LWVVA News

The LWVVA board has been somewhat re-aligned after the August 12 resignation of Katie Hobbs. Lulu Meese has become President in her place and Olga Hernandez has moved into the 1st VP position. Anne Sterling (Richmond) has been appointed Legislative Coordinator (Lobbyist) to replace Phyllis Bailey and Julia Flowers-Taylor (Richmond) as Voter Service Director. Bonnie Franklin (of Arlington) has been appointed Liaison to LWVFA and Olga Hernandez

Liaison to LWFVNC.

Several LWVFA members of the Redistricting Committee presented a workshop on the study and 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Leslie Vandivere also attended the Fall Workshops in Charlottesville in September.

*The Virginia Voter*: The September 2005 edition containing the *Voters Guide* on statewide candidates, was mailed out in late August. It is also available at [www.virginia.va.lwvnet.org](http://www.virginia.va.lwvnet.org).



The Annual Convention of the 13 member Leagues of the LWV of the National Capital Area (LWFVNC) was held on May 14, 2005. Kurt Rausch, Environmental Consultant and volunteer with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, was the guest speaker. The recommended program item, an update on airports (BWI, Dulles, and Reagan National) was adopted. A not-recommended item, regional air pollution, was also approved. Three local Leagues were honored with Naumann Awards: LWVFA was one of them, for a series of forums that were cosponsored by the Fairfax County Public Library. "Media and Politics" covered such topics as international press coverage of US foreign policy; elections of 2004; America's culture wars; and the prospects for peace in the Middle East. At the regular board meeting on August 5, 2005, the treasurer's end of year report showed NCA is in pretty good shape. The two studies adopted at the convention are looking for chairs and committees; anyone interested in leading or joining in should contact NCA.

The board is also looking at some ideas for a fall community workshop to be held in late November or early December. Plus a regional meeting on Balancing Civil Liberties and Homeland Security some time in March. The presidents' brunch will be held on October 7 in the LWVUS Board Room on the 10<sup>th</sup> floor of their office building.



## VIRGINIA HAPPENINGS

Jamestown Myth

Bernice Colvard, League Historian

One of the myths in the standard portrayal of America's past is the common belief that **the first democratic representative legislature in British North America met in Jamestown in 1619. This is not accurate** and was not the colonists' intent. They were Englishmen, and there was nothing democratic about their system of government at the time. What the colonists wanted were the rights of free Englishmen under British common law. Progress was very uneven, but 22 elected leading planters from 11 boroughs, or plantations, met with the Governor and Council (appointed) in the Memorial Church at Jamestown in 1619. Thus, the House of Burgesses was born.

Between 1624, when the London Company was forced to sever its colonial connections and Virginia became a crown colony, and 1638, the Burgesses had no legal status. Repeated appeals to the king finally resulted in establishing the colony's right to an elected assembly that met regularly, marking a victory for limited self-government (at least for the wealthy planters and merchants). This was quite clear in the passage of a poll tax requiring everyone—from the smallest landholder to the largest—to pay five pounds of tobacco. After vociferous complaints, the levy was changed to reflect the size of holdings and number of servants. But this was short-lived, and the tax reverted to benefitting the wealthy. The Assembly was referred to as the "planter's parliament."

From 1677 to 1698 royal control expanded. A succession of firm-handed governors arrived who challenged the powers of the General Assembly. Indeed, Royal Governors could and did disband the Burgesses whenever in disagreement with their actions.

The desire for self-determination continued to grow.

**Source:** Smith, Jane Ockenshausen. *One-Day Trips Through History*. EPM Publications, Inc., McLean, VA, 1982, pp 126-7.



*The giant oak is just an acorn  
that held its ground.*

*Anonymous*

## Yes, Excellence Is Still the Goal

Jane Hilder

Our May *Bulletin* reprinted a March 2005 article from *The Washington Examiner*, claiming that the academic rigor of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology was being replaced by social engineering. The distortions and errors in the ill-informed piece compelled me to rebut it. A more complete discussion of the new admissions policy can be found in *The Washington Post Magazine*, August 7, 2005.

TJ was designed as a specialized high school for No. Va. that emphasized innovative math, science and technology education. Admission has become more and more selective over the 20 years since the school's founding. Currently about one applicant in six is admitted. Historically, the admissions test counted four times as much as grade point average.

The Superintendent and the School Board have been concerned with several issues relating to TJ admissions: 1) The majority of admitted students came from the same middle schools each year, while many middle schools were under represented. 2) TJ did not begin to represent the ethnic diversity of Fairfax County and was not always perceived as a good choice by minority students who were accepted. 3) Some questioned whether the current test reliably selected the most able and interested science students from the admissions pool.

A blue ribbon panel, appointed by the school board, recommended expanded outreach to the lower grade students. This year 1601 applications were considered. Teacher recommendation and student activity forms were revised to better reflect a student's performance in the requisite areas.

There is no reason to think that accepting more students with high GPA's would result in declining academic rigor. As for diversity, next fall's incoming class has a few more Hispanic and black students, making up just over 6%. Asian-American students will comprise 32% of the class. The size has also been increased from 450 to 500.

To say, as *The Washington Examiner* did, that results of the Intel competition in 2005 reflected changes to admissions procedures for the class of 2009 is absurd. As Christel Payne, TJ Admissions Director, said "We are not lowering our standards; if anything,

we are raising the bar in a different way."

## Unit Meeting Locations - Topic: Gangs & Prevention

Members and visitors may attend any meeting convenient for them. At print time the locations were correct, *please use phone numbers to verify sites and advise of your intent to attend.* Some meetings at restaurants need reservations.

Tuesday, October 11

Wednesday, October 12

Thursday, October 13

### 9:45 am Annandale/Barcroft (AB)

Mason District Govt. Center  
6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale  
Call Emily 703-346-6984 for info.

### 12:30 pm McLean (McL)

McLean Comm. Center Conf. Rm 3  
1234 Ingelside Ave, McLean  
Call Anne 703-448-6626 for info.

### 7:45 pm Vienna Evening (VE)

9511 Rockport Road, Vienna  
Call Anne 703-938-7304 for info.

### Monday, October 10

### 1:30 pm Greenspring Vill. (GSV)

Hunters Crossing Craft Room  
Spring Village Drive, Springfield  
Call Jean 703-569-6659 for info.

### Eagles on the Chesapeake

When Europeans first arrived on the Chesapeake Bay, there were an estimated 3,000 pairs of bald eagles. Over time, increasing settlements reduced the eagles habitat. During the 1940s and the 1950s, the massive use of the pesticide DDT began to enter their food chain and devastated the population. In 1967, DDT was banned. In 1978, the bald eagle was added to the endangered species list. Only 70 pairs of eagles remained on the bay. By 1998, the Bay area was home to approximately 500 pairs of eagles.

Source: Bay Journal, May 2005

### 9:30 am Fairfax Station (FXS)

7902 Bracksford Court  
Fairfax Station  
Call Lois 703-690-0908 for info.

### 9:30 am Hollin Hills Day (HHD)

Mount Vernon District Gov. Center  
2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria  
Call Joan 703-765-0799 for info.

### 9:30 am Vienna Day (VID)

3302 Parkside Terrace, Fairfax  
Call Ginger 703-280-2328

### 1:00 pm Pr. William Area (PWA)

Chinn Regional Library  
13065 Chinn Park Dr. Woodbridge  
Call Sheila 703-492-4574 for info.

### 6:15 pm Dinner Unit (DU)

Yen Cheng Rest. Main Street Center  
9992 Main Street, Fairfax  
Call Pier 703-256-1019 for info.

### 7:30 pm Pr. William Area (PWA)

Great American Steakhouse,  
8365 Sudley Road. Manassas  
Come earlier for dinner.  
Call Sheila 703-492-4574 for info.

### 9:15 am Fairfax City Day (FXD)

10606 Norman Ave., Fairfax  
Call Ruth 703-591-4761 for info.

### 9:30 am Springfield (SPF)

Packard Center (Lg. Conf. Rm.)  
4026 Hummer Rd, Annandale  
Call Nancy 703-256-6570 or  
Peg 703-256-9420 for info.

### 1:00 pm Chantilly/Herndon (CH)

Sully District Governmental Center  
4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Centerville  
Call Leslie 703-222-4173 for info.

### Thursday, October 6

### 9:00 am Reston Day (RD)

1700 Shagbark Circle, Reston  
Call Joyce 703-437-8288 for info.

### Thursday, October 20

### 7:45 pm Hollin Hills Eve. (HHE)

835 Orange Court, Alexandria  
Call Alice 703-360-7426 for info.

### Wednesday, October 5

### 7:30 pm Reston Evening (RE)

Reston Museum, 3901 Washington  
Plaza, Lake Arlington Center  
Call Baba 703-492-4574 for info.



**November Program**

**CEDAW**



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