



# GFCA NEWS

GREAT FALLS CITIZENS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Visit our website at [www.gfca.org](http://www.gfca.org)

January 2012

<b>OFFICERS</b>	<h2>Mark Your Calendars</h2> <h3>GFCA will host Two Special meetings in January!</h3> <hr/> <p><b>GFCA GENERAL MEETING FOR HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATIONS, NEIGHBORHOODS &amp; THE PUBLIC</b></p> <p><i>Kicked off with a talk on crime, security and traffic in Great Falls by Crime Prevention Officer Katy Defoe of the Fairfax County Police</i></p> <p><b>Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM</b> <b>Great Falls Library Meeting Room</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>ENVIRONMENTAL SYMPOSIUM ON HUMAN HEALTH RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH ARTIFICIAL TURF USE</b></p> <p><b>Thursday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 PM</b> <b>Great Falls Library Meeting Room</b></p>	
<b>PRESIDENT</b> Jackie Taylor (703) 759-4737		
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b> Eric Knudsen (703) 759-5441		
<b>SECRETARY</b> Pam Grovensor (703) 757-5438		
<b>TREASURER</b> David Kondner (703) 404-1117		
<b>President Pro-Tem</b> Ralph Apton (703) 759-3034		
<b>EXECUTIVE BOARD</b>		
Ed Behrens Wes Callender		
Bill Canis Doug Cobb		
Anne Deatherage Wayne Foley		
William C. Harvey II Shawn Khorshidi	<b>GFCA General Meeting for HOAs, Neighborhoods &amp; Public</b>	<b>Environmental Symposium on Human Health Risks associated with Artificial Turf Use</b>
Stella Koch	<b>By Ed Behrens, Co-chair Outreach &amp; Membership</b>	<b>By Stella Koch, Co-chair Environment</b>
Robin Rentsch	Representatives of Great Falls homeowner's organization and residents representing neighborhoods are cordially invited to participate in an evening of informal interaction specific to GFCA leaders, HOA leaders, representatives of neighborhoods and the community at large.	Meet two experts who have raised concerns about human health risks associated with the components of artificial turf fields. They will be speaking to the community on January 24 at the <b>Great Falls Library at 7:30 PM</b> . Join us to listen to a summary of research to-date and to ask questions.
Amy Stephan	While the primary purpose of the meeting is to provide a forum for identifying or discussing issues of interest across Great Falls, GFCA is also seeking to enhance community rapport, increase understanding and explore areas of potential mutual interest on an ongoing basis.	<b>Key Speakers will be:</b>
Blair Watters	The meeting will begin with an invitation to HOA leaders and representatives from neighborhoods to introduce themselves and to identify any matters of particular interest or concern. (Continued Page 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Kathy Michels, PhD, Neurobiologist, Program Director, National Institute of Health John E. Fogarty International Center for Advanced Study in Health Sciences (Ph.D. – University of North Carolina) and founder of the Safe Fields Coalition.</li> <li>• Peter Stienmetz, <u>consultant, environmental health and testing</u>.</li> </ul>
<b>COMMITTEES</b>		
<b>Land Use &amp; Zoning</b> Bill Harvey, & Dianne Van Volkenburg		
<b>Environment/Parks/Trails</b> Bill Canis & Stella Koch		
<b>Transportation &amp; Roads</b> Eric Knudsen		
<b>Long-Range Planning/ Development</b> Doug Cobb & Glen Sjoblom		
<b>Communications (open)</b>		
<b>Outreach/Membership</b> Ed Behrens - Outreach Pam Grosvenor - Members		While Dr. David R. Brown, Adjunct Professor of Applied Ethics, Director of Toxicology, Board of Directors, Environment and Human Health, Inc., Member, National Academy of Sciences. (Continued Page 2)

**GFCFA General Meeting for HOAs, Neighborhoods & Public (Continued)**

Introductions will be followed by a headline presentation by Ms. Katy Defoe of the Fairfax County Police Department (Reston Office). She will be discussing crime, security and traffic in Great Falls. GFCFA is aware of growing concern about the appearance of increased crime throughout the community and some residents have expressed their interest in establishing or upgrading "Neighborhood Watches." Ms Defoe will address a range of related topics to be followed by an active question and answer session.

Subsequently, GFCFA committee representatives will make brief focused presentations concerning the functions of their respective committees and recent or planned new activities. These will be followed by a general discussion coordinated by the Outreach and Membership Committee intended to explore the related interests of the community representatives and the GFCFA.

This may be one of the most important meetings to be convened community wide over the next several months. Please plan to participate in this enjoyable evening mingling with others who share common interests in protecting and expanding upon the attributes of Great Falls that make this community unique.

The public is invited. Refreshments will be served.

**Environment Committee invites all homeowners to be participants in the GREAT FALLS COMMUNITY HABITAT WE WILL HELP YOU!**

GFCFA sponsors and has won awards for its massive National Wildlife Federation Certification project through which about 220 Great Falls homes, schools, and churches have been designated backyard Wildlife Habitat (NWF). Great Falls became the 23rd community in the United States to earn that distinction and also received a commendation from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Fairfax is one of only four counties in the USA to achieve NWF Wildlife Habitat status. The GFCFA Environment Committee is continuing NWF annual maintenance requirements, including adding households, etc.

If you would like some assistance, a NWF Habitat Steward will be happy to visit your property and help identify the sources of "Food, Water, Shelter and Places to Raise Young" that qualify your property for certification. This is educational and fun for families. For more information and to get started, [www.nwf.org/CertifiedWildlifeHabitat](http://www.nwf.org/CertifiedWildlifeHabitat)

**Environmental Symposium on Human Health Risks associated with Artificial Turf Use (Continued)**

(B.S., Cornell University M.S., University of California, Berkeley, Sc.D. Harvard School of Public Health) cannot join us this day he may be sending a short video clip sharing his own findings. Several communities who have wells as a source of their drinking water and are downstream of the proposed new Leo Santaqbella lacrosse field raised concerns about potential environmental risks and ground water contamination associated with artificial turf fields. Members of the GFCFA Environment Committee researching this found that there are also human health issues of concern associated with artificial turf fields. We feel that the community should also be given this information.

**Environment Committee**  
By Bill Canis & Stella Koch, Co-Chairs

In response to the announcement made in November that the Great Falls Lacrosse Association will be installing an artificial turf field made of 350 tons of small particulate plastic and silicon, about 50 families from three neighborhood committees, (Addicott Hills HOA, Marmota Farm HOA, and Innsbruck Avenue Road Committee) in the immediate vicinity of Leo Santaballa, who are in the direct drainage pathway and are concerned about contamination have responded with a request. This group compiled a set of questions and did so with 100% consensus agreement. These questions have been submitted to John Foust, David Bowden, Director of Planning at Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA), and the GFCFA Land Use and Zoning (LUZ) Committee during the due diligence process. The questions address possible impacts to groundwater, surface water (streams, wetlands, and aquatic environment), and ask specifics about the level of toxicity testing that was done on behalf of assuring that the field materials would not cause contamination to private property or public land. Due to continuing concerns about the impacts, the group asks that the field not go forward until assurances are made that it will not cause harm to a community where about 5900 people use private groundwater wells. The group of 50+ families await both acknowledgement and the official answers from the GFLA, FCPA and the GFCFA LUZ committee chairs.

**WHAT'S HAPPENING IN GREAT FALLS**  
**To all Great Falls organizations and HOAs:**  
You are invited to announce your upcoming events in this monthly GFCFA newsletter. Please submit these to Ed Behrens, GFCFA Co-chair focused on Outreach, send e-mail to [behrensel@cox.net](mailto:behrensel@cox.net).

**Long Range Planning Committee Report  
By Doug Cobb & Glen Sjoblom, Co-chairs**

The previous newsletter reported on the general outcome of the Community Forum on November 15, 2011, on "Draft Long Range Planning-Possibilities." The process to develop the concepts further is ongoing, and the next meeting of the Long Range Planning Committee will be held at 7:30 PM on January 3, 2012, at the Grange, during which we will consider:

1. Locations for a Great Falls Community Center/Performing Arts Center,
2. Approaches for initial phases of engineering studies and traffic analysis.

The Long Range Planning Committee co-chairs believe it is important that we focus on Community Center siting now, since the site behind the Library is the principal County property, purchased for use as a community center and Library, but is now also being considered for a long term use as a Lacrosse field, with a current proposal for installing artificial turf there. This is the only County site in the midst of the community large enough for a Community Center. The Long Range Planning Committee has been working with the Lacrosse Association to evaluate installing artificial turf on another field at the Great Falls Nike Site near the Forestville Elementary School. More will be reported after a series of meetings on the potential effect of turf constituents on nearby wells, and an upcoming GFCA Board meeting.

**COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS RECEIVED ON DRAFT CONCEPT FOR LONG RANGE PLANNING IN THE CENTER OF GREAT FALLS**

In the meantime, we want to share with all interested, the comments and suggestions received during and since the November 15, 2011 Community Forum. Verbal Comments made during the Forum are listed below as they were made. The Long Range Planning Committee appreciates this very useful feedback and intends to develop a satisfactory resolution of all of them.

1. There is a concern for safety of people going from the concept parking lot to the Grange playground.
2. Parking may be insufficient
3. Handicapped parking shown near the library entrance is desirable
4. People may use back road off Innsbruck to circumvent traffic backup on Georgetown Pike
5. Enormous volume of traffic on Georgetown Pike has not been addressed
6. Did Committee think about keeping commuters from coming through Great Falls?
7. The Walker Road South may have some sharp turns
8. Concern was expressed about increased traffic on Walker Road North  
(Continued in the next Column)

**Long Range Planning Committee Report (Cont)  
By Doug Cobb & Glen Sjoblom, Co-chairs**

9. Screening is needed for Walker Road South around shopping center
10. Not clear the benefit of adding more roads
11. Concern about buildings in Great Falls being taller if a sewer is installed
12. We like that the plan will calm things down in the middle of Great Falls, and give a better sense of Community
13. How do the ideas get implemented through the County Comprehensive Plan
14. Need to think in more detail about soil and water and environmental issues
15. A lot of creative thinking has gone into the Concept
16. Need to think more about the conservation Concept
17. Bringing sewer will lead to development-that is a fact

**Feedback from Comment Sheets**

18. You started a useful discussion
19. The plan does not address the lost cut-through on Georgetown Pike
20. Plan needs to provide safe play areas
21. Less roads more green space
22. Would like to keep things as they are
23. Like the concept of having the village area pedestrian friendly
24. Like the splitter islands and the trees on Georgetown Pike
25. Like having senior housing in Great Falls community
26. Like Plan A
27. Like centralizing Great Falls Village
28. Want a Community Center
29. I like the idea of having a more defined and attractive village center that is pedestrian oriented. Aligning entrances on opposites sides of the road is a good idea to improve safety and possibly allow for grass/tree islands. Underground utilities are highly desirable.
30. I question whether closing Walker Road north, and installing a new Walker Road North from Bucks Lane is the best solution, and suggest it would make more sense that Walker Road North should be on the west side of the fire station, instead
31. Suggest a pedestrian and bike underpass between shopping center and library is desirable
32. Great Presentation
33. We like the relocation of Walker Road and the timing of the two traffic lights
34. We are worried about the sewer line to the village being extended to other areas. We do not trust the County to stay within the initial limited area
35. We really like many of the concepts presented, especially the road relocation plans, since we could move through the shopping areas without being on Georgetown Pike  
(Continued on Page 4)

## Land Use and Zoning (LUZ) Report

By Bill Harvey & Dianne Van Volkenburg, Co-chairs

The GFCA Land Use and Zoning (LUZ) Committee plans to hold a committee hearing in January in regard to new and ongoing matters. LUZ meetings are open to the public.

Great Falls residents wishing to submit written materials and/or to speak on any of these matters should plan to attend the next LUZ meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 18, 2012, at the Great Falls Library (Large Meeting Room).

**PLEASE NOTE: Anyone wishing to attend to speak this meeting should notify the LUZ co-chairs in advance.**

### GFCA-LUZ Co-Chairs:

Bill Harvey (703-759-6644 x108 / wcha@verizon.net)

Dianne Von Volkenburg (703-980-4553 / dianne@bestgreatfallshomes.com)

### NEW MATTER

1. **James P. Jesse, Jr.'s Pending Special Exception Application.** The applicant is seeking pre-application input from the Great Falls community before filing his application to develop an independent living facility. A special exception application requires approval by both the Fairfax County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors; however, no hearings are scheduled as of this writing.

The applicant's property is located at 810 Walker Road and 9902-04 Minburn St., Great Falls, VA 22066 (i.e., Fairfax County Tax Map 0131-01-0099 & 0131-03-B).

Great Falls residents in the vicinity of the Walker Rd., just south of the Village Center, should be particularly interested in this land use matter.

### ONGOING MATTERS

1. **Raymond Ge's Appeal of Zoning Determination of Former Accessory Dwelling Structure.** The appellant is appealing the Zoning Office's determination that the log cabin on his property is not an accessory dwelling structure to the newly constructed principal residence. Fairfax County has ordered that the former accessory dwelling structure be razed. (Continued on Page 3)

The property of the appellant, Raymond Ge, is located at 945 Walker Rd., Great Falls, VA 22066.

Great Falls residents in the vicinity of the 900-block of Walker Rd. and those with an accessory dwelling  
(Continued on Page 5)

## Long Range Planning Committee Report (Cont.)

By Doug Cobb & Glen Sjoblom, Co-chairs

36. I think you guys are doing a fantastic job on the Great Falls Plan
37. We are very much in favor of many of the different elements that are included in the plan, and are offering to help create a display, so the community can be better informed
38. Love out of the Box Thinking
39. Can we consider the village green for a conservation easement?
40. Like the rerouting of Walker Road and the linking of the Constellation Road with the outlet road
41. We like the beautification of Georgetown Pike from the Methodist Church to Innsbruck
42. We like burying the utilities
43. We do not like the dead end of Walker Road south of Georgetown Pike
44. Connect Walker Road to Georgetown Pike at Applewood Lane on next available
45. Like plan #2
46. You have done a great job. Don't get discouraged when people are critical
47. I am appreciative of all the efforts. I like option #1. I am concerned whether the owner of Bucks Lane will comply, however
48. I would like to see walkway overlaid on the plan, as pedestrian safety is critical
49. I think safe access to the park and playground is paramount, and like the proposed parking lot to serve both the library and playground
50. Factor in trees along the roads-let's beautify
51. Offer naming opportunities for things like small roads, figures, trees, benches so residents can have some ownership and offset costs
52. Superb job of explaining your work and maintaining a tactful and calm attitude
53. It would be useful to have poste on a separate board what the purpose that the various parts are addressing, for example the highest priorities from the 2020 Vision Survey, low density, pedestrian priorities, and an increased sense of community
54. It might be useful to provide some graphic examples of how the two light traphic synchrony would work, and perhaps some pictures would be helpful

Again the GFCA Long Range Planning Committee wants to stress again the comments and suggestions identified above are very valuable, and we will be having more Public Sessions to focus on specific aspects of the Draft

**What issues are important to you?**

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**Contact us at:**

**[www.gfca.org](http://www.gfca.org)**

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structure on their property should be particularly interested in this land use matter.

2. **SIVNAM Partnership LLC's Special Exception Application #SE 2010-DR-019.** The applicant is requesting approval of a special exception to convert a former bank branch to a fast food restaurant (Popeye's) with a drive through. A special exception application requires approval by both the Fairfax County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors; however, no hearings are scheduled as of this writing.

The applicant's property is located at 12218 Leesburg Pike, Herndon, VA 20170 (i.e., Fairfax County Tax Map 0061-01-0018), which is just east of the Fairfax-Loudoun boundary. This application has been deferred since April 2010 but is reportedly in the process of being resubmitted.

Great Falls residents in the vicinity of Holly Knolls should be particularly interested in this land use matter.

3. **Great Falls Lacrosse Assoc.'s Pending Minor Site Plan Application.** The applicant is seeking pre-application input from the Great Falls community before filing its application to install a synthetic turf field. A minor site plan application does not require approval by the Fairfax County Planning Commission or Board of Supervisors.

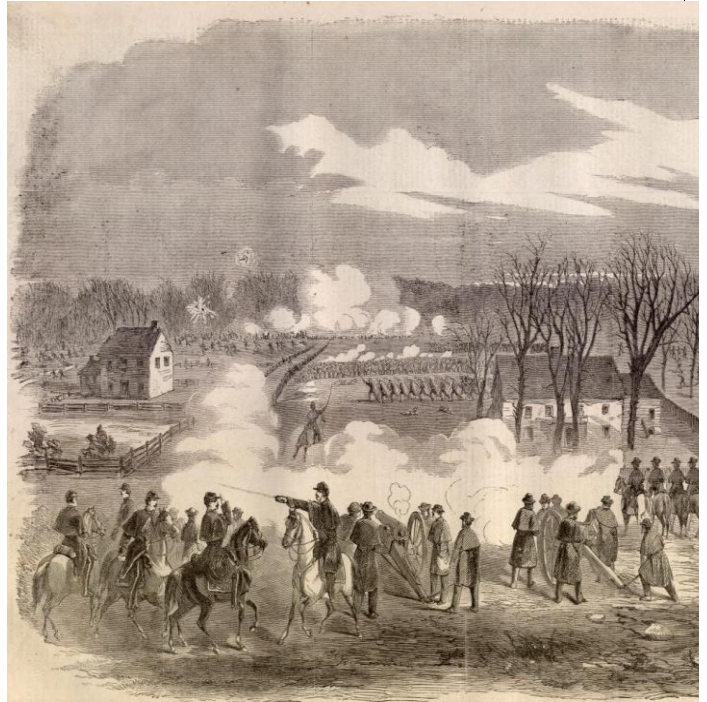
The applicant plans to request approval of a minor site plan that will permit the installation of a synthetic turf field at Leo Santaballa Park. The applicant leases the rectangular field located at 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, VA 22066 (i.e., Fairfax County Tax Map 0131-01-0011), which is part of the Great Falls Library site.

Great Falls residents in the vicinity of the library should be particularly interested in this land use matter.

The Transportation committee January 3rd meeting will focus on the following topics:

- 1) The Walker Road Traffic Calming and Crosswalk Project has found funding and is waiting for final approval from VDOT. We don't have the final plan yet but the design is following previous versions. This plan will reduce the current five lanes down to three and create a more pedestrian friendly road and have a nicer visual appearance.
- 2) We will also be taking a look at the Long Rang Planning Concept plan for Great Falls Center.
- 3) And finally, updates the status on Route 7 projects.

Please bring any Traffic concerns to the committee's meeting on Jan 3.



**The Civil War's only skirmish in the Great Falls area.** The Battle of Dranesville was fought on December 20, 1861 at what is now the intersection of Georgetown Pike and Route 7. This depiction of the battle, the first engagement won by the Union, shows current day Reston Avenue, near where the 7-11 and firestation are located today and is a reminder of the one of the reasons why Georgetown Pike has been named an historic byway. This depiction by a soldier appeared in the January 11, 1862 *Harper's Weekly* magazine.

**NOTE: This is a vivid reminder of why we fight for Georgetown Pike (and that intersection in particular).**

### Join GFCA on Facebook!

We have established a GFCA Facebook page for Great Falls residents to discuss local issues and share their thoughts about our community.



To sign up, go to [www.gfca.org](http://www.gfca.org) and click on the Facebook logo under Headlines in the left column (you may have to log into Facebook).

**Update of the New Fire Station  
By Bill Canis**

The temporary buildings have been removed, revealing for the first time the Walker Road side of the Great Falls firestation (see photo). The Grand Opening of the Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department, at 9916 Georgetown Pike, will be on Saturday, March 10, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. Tours and light refreshments will follow the official ceremony.



The GFVFD 70th anniversary is May 5, 2012. A celebration is being planned to celebrate this anniversary and thank the community for its support.



What a huge improvement for our volunteers  
and our Great Falls community!

**Great Falls Fire Station Septic System Status  
By Glen Sjoblum**

The Septic System being installed for the new Great Falls Fire Station is nearing completion. The system is not operational at this time, so pump and haul is being continued for a short period. The System installed consists of the "ADVANTEX" Pretreatment System, the state of the art advanced pretreatment technology, which was described in the GFCA Community forum last December.

The system consists of two concrete receiving and pretreatment tanks, and a pump tank, and a force main up to the distributions field. At this time the tanks are installed, as is the distribution header, with 7 distribution lines, for one half of the distribution field. The project manager for Harvey-Cleary, the fire station general construction contract, explained that the ground has also been cleared for the backup half of the distribution field, but would not be installed unless an unlikely problem developed in the installed half. The operational distribution field is approximately 90 feet by 90 feet, or about 1/5<sup>th</sup> acre, and with the advanced pretreatment system, is all that is needed to handle the wastewater from the living units in the fire station. (End)

**A Little Great Falls Fire Station History:**



Forestville/Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department The Forestville Volunteer Fire Department was just across the road from Buck's Store. Anticipating the establishment of a new post office and that it would again be called Great Falls, they changed their name to the Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department in 1955..

On August 1, 1942, land for the first fire house on the site of the current Great Falls Tavern was donated to the GFVFD. The first fire house was a two-bay, Cape Cod type, with brick front and cinder block walls.

The present site, at 9916 Georgetown Pike, was purchased in May 1959. The recently removed fire house is erected and occupied in January, 1961. (This outdated structure is now gone.)



**WHAT'S HAPPENING IN GREAT FALLS:  
January 2012**

**Tuesday, January 3 - 7:30 PM - GFC A Long Range Planning Committee Meeting with GFC A Transportation Committee.** (See page 3)

**Location: Great Falls Library.**

**OPEN TO ALL GREAT FALLS COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

**Tuesday, January 10 - 7:00 PM GFC A/HOA Town Hall Meeting** (See page 1) GFC A will hold a semi-annual meeting with representatives from over 40 Homeowner Associations (HOAs) located in Great Falls. The Agenda will include topics common to all HOAs such as land use and zoning, transportation, home energy savings, wildlife, and local sport fields. HOAs are encouraged to suggest items for the Agenda and each will be given an opportunity to make a presentation. Ed Behrens, Co-Chair of the GFC A Outreach & Membership Committee, is organizing the event.

[behrensel@cox.net](mailto:behrensel@cox.net)

**Location: Great Falls Library.**

**ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY ARE INVITED TO ATTEND**

**Wednesday, January 11 at 7 p.m. - Great Falls Historical Society** presents " Seneca Road and the Potomac River" - Speakers: Julia Runnels and Kenneth Garrett

Moderator: Glen Sjoblom

\* Julie Runnels resides in historic Woolington House. Built in 1750 on the original 1709 land grant to Colonel Daniel McCarty from Lord Fairfax, Woolington is believed to be the oldest house in the area.

\* Photographer Kenneth Garrett will discuss his research on the Seneca Canal, Bypassing the 7' Seneca Falls, it is the upper part of the canal constructed by George Washington's Potowmack Canal Company at Great Falls.

**Location: GF Library** <http://gfhs.org/>

**Thursday, January 12 – 7:00 p.m. Lions Club Meeting** The Club invites you to attend a meeting to find out more about the Lions and our Club! The Club meets every second Thursday of the month at the Great Falls United Methodist Church at 7:00 p.m., right next to the Firehouse.

The Great Falls Lions Club has been chartered since 1958. Throughout the years the Club has provided many services to the Great Fall community. A free dinner is offered at every monthly meeting of the Lion's Club to anyone interested in finding out about the Lion's Club.

The Club makes donations each year to local charities such as the Lift Me Up Program and also scholarships to local students. In addition they make many donations to Lions funded program for the sight and hearing impaired.

**Location: Great Falls Methodist Church (next to the Firehouse)**

**WHAT'S HAPPENING IN GREAT FALLS:  
January 2012**

**During January-March, Keller Williams Realty of Great Falls is hosting an exhibit of photographs by Ed Behrens, a member of the Great Falls Studios (GFS).** Keller Williams is located at 746 Walker Rd. #14, Great Falls, VA 22066 (703) 636-7300.

**Saturday, January 18 - 7:30 PM GFC A Land Use & Zoning Committee** (See page 5) Current topics planned:

1. **NEW: James P. Jesse, Jr.'s Pending Special Exception Application.** The applicant is seeking pre-application input from the Great Falls community before filing his application to develop an independent living facility.

2. **Raymond Ge's Appeal of Zoning Determination of Former Accessory Dwelling Structure.**

The appellant's property is located at 945 Walker Rd., Great Falls, VA 22066.

3. SIVNAM Partnership LLC's Special Exception Application #SE 2010-DR-019. **The applicant is requesting approval of a special exception to covert a former bank branch to a fast food restaurant (Popeye's) with a drive through**

4. **Great Falls Lacrosse Assoc.'s Pending Minor Site Plan**

**Application.** The applicant is seeking pre-application input from the Great Falls community before filing its application to install a synthetic turf field

**Location: Great Falls Library.**

**Saturday, January 21; 2:00pm-2:45pm Winter Concert - Rhythms Around the World**

Take a magical musical journey around the globe with the Virginia Virtuosi string trio. Bring the kids, and the whole family, for this interactive performance with music from such countries as Kenya, Japan, Spain and Argentina. Learn about the rhythmic elements that make each nation's music special and unique. Pre-paid reservations required! \$2 per person.

Register online at: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/crm/events](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/crm/events)

**Location: Colvin Run Mill**

**Tuesday, January 24 - 7:30 PM GFC A Environmental Symposium on Human Health Risks associated with Artificial Turf Use** (See article starting on page 1)

This should be particularly valuable information for all people who participate in organized sports.

**Location: Great Falls Library.**

**EVERY FRIDAY!**

**Look at the Stars! Observatory Open.**

Telescopes are shared by nice people.

It's Awesome.

7:00 PM - 9:30 PM

Come to the observatory park for Friday Night viewings!

Located at Turner Farm Park

(Closed if temperature below 20 degrees or snow is on the ground)

## GFCFA NEWS

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Association (GFCFA)  
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**GFCFA WISHES YOU A REWARDING,  
HEALTHY, PROSPEROUS YEAR IN 2012!**

### **Upcoming GFCFA MEETINGS: All are Welcome!**

#### **Wednesday, Jan. 4**

- **GFCFA Town Meeting with Barbara Favola**  
7:30 p.m., at the Grange Upstairs

#### **Tuesday, Jan. 3**

- **Long Range Planning Committee and  
Transportation Committee**  
7:30 p.m., at the Grange – Upstairs

#### **Wednesday, Jan. 4**

- **Outreach & Membership Committee**  
7:30 p.m., at the Grange - Upstairs

#### **Monday, Jan. 9:**

- **The Environment Committee**  
7:30 p.m., at the Library

#### **Tuesday, Jan. 10**

- **GFCFA/HOA Representatives Meeting**  
7:30 p.m., at the GF Library

#### **Wednesday, Jan. 18**

- **Land Use & Zoning Committee**  
7:30 p.m., at the Great Falls Library

#### **Tuesday, Jan. 24**

- **GFCFA Environmental Symposium on Human  
Health Risks associated with Artificial Turf Use**  
7:00 p.m., at GF Library

### **You are invited to participate.**

**Consider making a New Year's resolution to be more  
involved in this wonderful community.**

The GFCFA was founded on these premises: "To serve as a non-partisan community political advocate to promote all aspects of community interest accruing to a common good and to preserve the historic, low density, semi-rural character of Great Falls and its natural resources."

**Come to our meetings. GFCFA needs you ideas and  
opinions. You will meet other local residents and new  
friends while you make a difference to the community.**

**Take your turn by devoting a little time and attention  
in 2012 and becoming active in one initiative to:**

- Preserve the very nature of this special place we love,
- Influence the direction of our community, and maybe
- Advocate for new measures that will improve it.

**Become a committee member or leader. (Note - We  
especially need people for our Communications Committee)**

Please call or email me to discuss your interests: Jackie  
Taylor, President; 703-759-4737 or [jtaylor703@aol.com](mailto:jtaylor703@aol.com)