



**Virginia  
Recreation  
and Park Society**  
[www.VRPS.com](http://www.VRPS.com)

# Virginia Recreation and Park Society NSA Northern Service Area Winter 2011-2012 Newsletter

Winter 2011-2012

## Notes from the desk of our Chair

**Laura McCarty (Marquardt), CPRP**

Wow – it’s hard to believe I’m writing my last message as the Northern Service Area Chair. It seems like just yesterday, I was writing my first message and getting ready for a fun-filled and productive year. However, as I write this last message and reflect back on the year, I must say that I truly enjoyed the opportunity to serve as your Chair, and more importantly I truly enjoyed the opportunity to work with such an incredible Board and group of Committee members. Without them, the productive and successful year we’ve had would not have been possible. So thank you to the 2011 NSA Board and Committee members for contributing your time and efforts to the Northern Service Area throughout the 2011 year and for making my time as the Chair so enjoyable. What a fantastic year it was and I couldn’t have done it without you!

Though this year has gone by very quickly, it’s not over yet. We still have a few wonderful activities planned for you that we hope you can attend. Coming up next is our Fall Workshop – “Events 101: Is there an App for that?” on November 18 and 19 at

the Sherwood Community Center in Fairfax. Event planners of any type – this workshop is calling your name! Register today at [www.vrps.com](http://www.vrps.com). Our last meeting of the year will be held on November 22 at 10am at the Atrium at Meadowlark Botanical Garden’s in Vienna. We hope you can join us for the meeting and tour of this beautiful park. And finally our Holiday Social will be held on December 6 at Logan’s Roadhouse in Fairfax from 12pm-3pm. A great way to kick off the holiday season, meet the 2012 Board and enjoy a wonderful lunch with fellow professionals.

Finally as this year draws to a close, thank you to everyone for your support and involvement with the VRPS Northern Service Area. As the Chair it has really been a rewarding experience and I look forward to working closely with the 2012 Board as I know they will have another very exciting and successful year!

<b>Northern Service Area 2011 Officers and Subcommittee Members</b>	
Laura McCarty (Marquardt), CPRP	Chair
Blythe Russian	Chair Elect
Cheri Danaher	Past Chair
Karen Lussier	Treasurer
Jenny Paxton	Secretary
Laura Kowlaski	At-Large Member
Brandy Wyatt	Newsletter
Cindy Roeder	
Jenny Paxton	
Blythe Russian	Fall Workshop
Jenny Paxton	
Brandy Wyatt	Holiday Social
Laura Marquardt	
Kim Baldini	Awards & Citations
Laura Kowalski	
Blythe Russian	Membership
<b>2012 NSA Board Members</b>	
Blythe Russian	Chair
Karen Lussier	Chair Elect
Jenny Paxton	Secretary
Kim Baldini	Treasurer
Tawny Hammond	At-Large Member
Laura McCarty (Marquardt)	Past Chair

### NSA 2011 Holiday Social

Believe it or not the holidays are almost here and we have the perfect way to help you kick off your holiday season! Please join us at our annual Holiday Social and take time to reconnect with fellow professionals in the Northern Service Area. The social will include lunch, networking opportunities, giveaways and an introduction of the 2012 NSA Board. The cost is \$15/person and registration is available at [www.vrps.com](http://www.vrps.com). Hope to see you there!

Tuesday, December 6

12pm-3pm

Logan’s Roadhouse

12821 Fairlakes Parkway

Fairfax, VA

Fee: \$15/person

## Congratulations to...

**Melissa Riddy** from the Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities. She was awarded the Outstanding New Professional award at the VRPS State Conference.

**Karen Lussier** who works with the City of Fairfax Parks and Recreation Department. She was selected by NRPA as the 2011 Young Professional Fellowship Recipient. This is a tremendous honor as she was selected from the best in the nation.

**Cindy Messenger** with the Fairfax County Park Authority for being recognized as the Southern Network Distinguished Professional, and the NRPA Congress. This award is given in recognition of outstanding contributions to parks, recreation and environmental conservation.

**The City of Fairfax Parks and Recreation Department** for winning the 2011 National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management at the NRPA’s Annual Congress and Expo in Atlanta. Congrats to Director Mike McCarty and all his dedicated staff!

And...a big congrats to our 2011 NSA Chair, **Laura McCarty (Marquardt) CPRP**, Park Operations Superintendent, NVRPA and **Mike McCarty**, Director of the City of Fairfax Parks and Recreation Department on their marriage! They were married 11/11/11 in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

# Meeting Dates

DATE	LOCATION/EVENT	TIME
NOVEMBER 18 & 19	FALL WORKSHOP STACY C SHERWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER CITY OF FAIRFAX	9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
NOVEMBER 22	NSA MEETING THE ATRIUM AT MEADOWLARK BOTANICAL GARDENS, VIENNA	10:00 A.M.
DECEMBER 6	HOLIDAY SOCIAL LOGAN'S ROADHOUSE, FAIRFAX	12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m.

## 2011 Northern Service Area Highlights

- Held 3 educational workshops on a variety of aspects and trends of parks and recreation which provided attendees with the opportunity to learn, grow and gain new insights and ideas. Workshops also featured national presenters in the field of Parks and Recreation.
- Held 2 socials which provided attendees with opportunity to network, reconnect with fellow professionals and recreate
- Implemented a new meeting structure in which 4 of the meetings were held at off-site locations to give attendees the opportunity to see various parks and facilities within Northern Virginia.
- Participated in the all service area social at the VRPS State Conference.

## ***Events 101: Is there an App for that?***

**There is still time to register for this incredible educational opportunity!**

**When:** November 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>

**Where:** Sherwood Community Center in the City of Fairfax

**Time:** 9am-4pm both days (includes lunch)

If you are involved with any type of event planning at your agency, you don't want to miss this top notch educational training opportunity for event planners of all types, featuring a wide variety of presenters from around the region with extensive backgrounds in event production and management, marketing and sponsorship development.

The workshop is geared for those who plan public events, festivals and other programs. All workshops will be led by highly experienced event producers and industry experts. Session topics will also include marketing, sponsorship, social media, fundraising and operational planning. CEU's will be available for all of the Friday sessions, which is a total of 0.4. You can register for one or both days.

For more details, fees and registration please visit [www.vrps.com](http://www.vrps.com).

# News From Our Local Agencies

## ***Fairfax County Awarded Grant to Help Create Healthier Communities***

Fairfax County was recently awarded a grant of \$499,559 per year for at least the **next three years to build capacity to implement policy, system, programmatic and infrastructure changes to promote health and prevent chronic disease.**

This grant is a part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Community Transformation Grants to support public health efforts to reduce chronic diseases, promote healthier lifestyles, reduce health disparities and control health care spending.

**“This grant provides the Fairfax community a unique opportunity to effectively improve community health,”** said Fairfax County Health Director Gloria Addo-Ayensu, MD, MPH. “By engaging and leveraging local public health system partner expertise and assets, we can create the kind of improvement plans necessary to make healthy choices practical and available to all members of our community.”

Specifically, the work that Fairfax County will be doing includes building upon the success of the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnership (MAPP) strategic planning process that has been supported by the Fairfax County Health Department and led by the Partnership for a Healthier Fairfax, a coalition of community members and organizations that are working together to strengthen the public health system and improve community health.

“In the United States, chronic diseases such as heart disease, cancer, and diabetes are the leading causes of death, disability, and health care costs, accounting for 70 percent of all deaths each year and 75 percent of all medical costs,” said Fairfax County Deputy County Executive Patricia Harrison. “Although chronic diseases are among the most common and costly health problems in the country, they are also among the most preventable. **The Community Transformation Grant will allow us to focus our resources and enhance our efforts to ensure our system is set up to encourage and support health promotion and chronic disease prevention.**”

Overall, HHS awarded approximately \$103 million in prevention grants to 61 states and communities, reaching more than 120 million Americans.

To learn more about the Partnership for a Healthier Fairfax and the MAPP process, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/mapp](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/mapp). For more information about this grant award, contact Jesse Ellis, Neighborhood and Community Services, at 703-324-5626 or [jesse.ellis@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:jesse.ellis@fairfaxcounty.gov).

## ***Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority hosted the Special Park District Conference***

NVRPA hosted the Special Park Districts Conference at our Regional Parks September 25-28, 2011. They hosted about 100 participants from throughout the US and Canada for this annual conference that focuses on Special Park Districts such as the Regional Park Authority.

Participants visited over 10 of our Parks where they attended tours, educational sessions, delicious meals by Great Blue Heron Catering, field trips to local attractions, and lots of networking opportunities. The Conference was a big success thanks to the hard work and dedication of the Park staff that hosted the events.



## ***NVRPA Presents the Bull Run Festival of Lights***

November 23-January 8, 2012

5:30-9:30pm Mon-Thursday

5:30-10pm Fri, Sat, Sun and Holidays

Be sure to visit our website [www.nvrpa.org](http://www.nvrpa.org) for more information.

# Save The Date



## VRPS Leadership Training Institute

"Engage, Explore, Elevate"

April 22-24, 2012

Wintergreen Resort

Registration is now available at

[www.vrps.com](http://www.vrps.com)

## Aquatics Resource Group ARG

The Aquatics Resource group (ARG) is now accepting nominations to fill five positions on the board. Three elected officers each serve a two year term, beginning January 1, 2012 - December 31, 2014. Two elected officers will serve a one year term.

If you are interested in applying to serve on the ARG Board, please submit your name and a short biography (200 words or less) by November 15, 2011. Candidates will be elected by popular vote and their names will be included on a ballot sent to all members of the Aquatic Resource Group.

Nominees please send your bio via email, email, or fax to: Ralph Baird, Recreation Manager - Aquatics, City of Alexandria, 3210 King Street, Alexandria VA 22302.

Fax: 703-746-5462      ralph.baird@alexandriava.gov

## Attend Mini U

### *Mini University for Professional Development*

The successful Mini University, presented by the Prince William County Park Authority is now available for VRPS. A partnership has been arranged so VRPS members can take advantage of this quality training and development.

Interested in one or more courses? Download the Mini University Calendar, with individual day classes beginning November 1, 2011 and continuing through March 28, 2012.

Topics include:  
Developing Yourself and Your Staff  
Team Building  
Communication Skills  
Conflict Resolution  
And More

To learn more, please check out the Mini University Webpage on [www.vrps.com](http://www.vrps.com) under *education and events*.



**Certified  
Playground  
Safety Inspector**

## Registration open online for National Playground Safety Institute

Mark your calendar for the next NPSI course and exam, February 29, March 1 and 2 in Newport News VA. Details and registration information can be found at [www.vrps.com](http://www.vrps.com) under education and events.