

Prosperity Heights Newsletter

Fall 2014 • www.prosperityheights.org

In This Flyer

1. Prosperity Day ROCKtemberfest September 27, 2014
2. 13th Annual Halloween Parade
3. Board of Directors
4. A Successful Ribbon-Cutting for the New Playground
5. Be Included in the 2014 Prosperity Heights Directory
6. Restrictive Covenants to Remember
7. Doggy Duty! Scoop the Poop!
8. Homeowner's Dues
9. Monarch Lane and Van Court Pond
10. Falls Church High School Facts
11. Why Falls Church High Leads in College Prep

Prosperity Day ROCKtemberfest on September 27, 2014!

Please plan to join your neighbors on **Saturday, September 27 from 4:00–7:00 pm on Sevan Court**. It should be loads of fun for everyone with good food, a moonbounce, balloon sculptor, face painting, crafts, and musical entertainment!

For those of you who have never been to Prosperity Day, it is our annual block party for Prosperity Heights residents. It's a great way to get to know your neighbors! This year's festivities will be located on Sevan Court. Your Homeowners Association will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, Boca burgers and all the fixings, as well as soda, juice and water. **The grills will be going from 4:30–6:30 pm**, so be sure to come get some dinner!

IMPORTANT! In addition to the grilled items that will be provided (until about 6:30 pm), we are asking the residents to please contribute food (*see the next column for what to bring*). If time, energy, or talent is lacking in your kitchen, feel free to bring something yummy from a store or restaurant. If you have a particular specialty dish, please feel free to bring it, ethnic dishes are encouraged. Please tape a piece of

paper or an index card to the food you bring telling what it is (including main ingredients), and don't forget serving utensils. In addition, if you'd like your dish back after the party, please use masking tape and a permanent marker to label it with your name and phone number.



PLEASE BRING FOOD TO THE PARTY BY 4:30 pm so everyone can enjoy it.

If your last name begins with:

A–M: please bring a salad or snacks (chips, pretzels, fruit, veggies & dip, etc.)

N–Z: please bring a dessert.

We need everyone to pitch in to make this event a success. Please return the response form and let us know what you will be able to volunteer to help with during the event or what we can borrow. You are also welcome to email us the information. Your help will be greatly appreciated!

Questions? Don't hesitate to contact Alana Cober at 703-671-3214 or Alana_cober@hotmail.com.

Please let us know what item(s) you can assist with (*See the reverse of this page for sign up sheet!*):

Please return the form as soon as possible, BUT NOT LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 20th to Alana Cober at 8462 Sevan Court, or email to Alana_cober@hotmail.com

Prosperity Day ROCKtemberfest Volunteer Form

_____ Set-up (roughly 2:30 pm–4:30 pm)

_____ Clean-up (roughly 7:00 pm–7:30 pm)

_____ Grilling/food preparation

(Adult: times you are available: _____)

_____ Monitoring Moonbounce (20 minute shifts)

(Adult: times you are available: _____)

We also need to borrow certain items from residents. This will help with the success of Prosperity Day and also help keep our rental costs down.

Please let us know if you could loan any of the following items (please write quantity):

_____ Grill

_____ Cooler/Tub

_____ Tent or canopy (open on four sides)

_____ Child-size plastic chairs and/or children's picnic tables

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Please return the form as soon as possible, BUT NOT LATER THAN September 20th, to Alana Cober at 8462 Sevan Court, or email to Alana_cober@hotmail.com

13th Annual Halloween Parade!

Mark your calendars for our thirteenth annual Prosperity Heights Halloween Parade! Before trick-or-treating, bring your ghouls, goblins, superheroes and princesses to show off their costumes and strut their stuff!

The parade is on Halloween night—**Friday, October 31, at 5:30 pm. PLEASE NOTE:** We are reversing the route again this year (as we always do!) We will gather on Van Court to start the parade, and end on Sevan Court. Join us at the Alana Cober's House, 8462 Sevan Court, after the parade for fun and goodies!

Like to contribute treats? Just email Alana Cober at Alana_cober@hotmail.com to let her know.

Residents not participating in the parade are encouraged to come out and enjoy the show!



Board of Directors

Please welcome our two new board members, Levenie Hughes and Michaeline Powell. We would like to thank Heath Weems for his service as a Director on the Board for 6 years. He and his family will be moving from Prosperity Heights in mid-August. Michaeline Powell will join the Board to fill out his term.

We also thank Steve Boveri who ended his second period of service as a Board member in April. He has made significant contributions to the our neighborhood for many years and will still serve in other capacities.

Craig Dellorso President, 703-573-0648
president@prosperityheights.org

John Hilboldt Vice President,
john.hilboldt@heritage.org

Gina North Secretary, 703-573-5882
thenorths123@gmail.com

Keith Fulk Treasurer, 703-560-1072
kwfulkcpa@gmail.com

Bill Foster Director, 703-698-5716
tfos@verizon.net

Kristin Rule Director, dontbekruel@gmail.com

Dave Dresser Director, d.dresser@40thieves.info

Levenie Hughes Director, lhughes@mapl.net

Michaeline Powell Director, michaeline21@verizon.net

A Successful Ribbon Cutting for the New Playground

On June 28, 2014, the Prosperity Heights ribbon cutting ceremony officially opened the long-awaited Prosperity Heights playground.

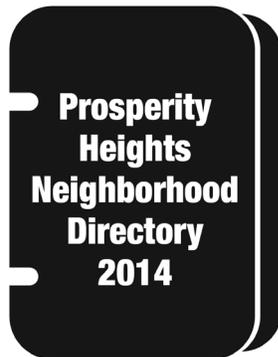
After Board members performed their official duty amid a background of helium balloons, children (and adults) raced to the Simplicity Ice Cream truck to select a treat from an exotic menu. No one took count of the most popular selection—either a biscotti rustica with two scoops of ice cream (Madagascar Vanilla, Salty Carmel, Strawberry Shortcake, Snickerdoodle, Cappuccino Crunch) or the Sandwiches (Cow Pie, Mud Pie, Black and White, Topsy Strawberry).

The tire swing proved to be a big hit, even with the little ones—and energetic youngsters tried racing up (rather than down) the dual slide. As the weather cools, the playground is sure to be a popular stop for the younger crowd.

For all of us, though, the attractive site and setting is befitting our Prosperity Heights neighborhood. Enjoy the new playground!



Be Included in the 2014 Prosperity Heights Directory!



It has been four years since our Prosperity Heights directory has been updated, and we have many new faces in our neighborhood. The directory will include the names or name of adult(s) living in the home, phone number and email address (*if you have one*).

We have sent out emails and letters requesting updated information. Thank you to those who provided us with updated information for the printed director.

If you have not already updated your contact information with Bill Foster at wfoster292@gmail.com, you can do so by emailing him or mailing the information to: Bill Foster at 8465 Nicole Court.

Please include the names of adults living in your residence, your address, phone number(s), and email address(es), and an indication if you wish to be friended on the Prosperity Heights Facebook Group page.

The Prosperity Heights Facebook page is a closed group and is used for friendly neighborhood discussions and also announcements, such as delay of trash collection and schedule for snow removal.

Restrictive Covenants to Remember

1. All play equipment must be in backyard and not visible
2. Overall aesthetic rules prohibit the painting or covering of garage windows
3. We are a CPC (Community Parking District) which prohibits the parking of watercraft, motor homes, campers, trailers, vehicles greater than or equal to 3 axles for more than 48 hours.
4. Trash cans and recycling bins must be stored out of sight.
5. Please be courteous to others by trimming trees and shrubs on sidewalks to allow ease of using the sidewalks.

Please don't forget this important Fairfax County rule about parking of commercial vehicles in Prosperity Heights:

Per Section 82-5-7 of the Fairfax County Code: "Commercial vehicles may not park on residential streets and are subject to a \$100 fine for each violation and may be towed at the owner's expense."

Please visit

**www.prosperityheights.org
for more information!**

Homeowner's Dues

The Prosperity Heights annual dues of \$475 are due by September 15, 2014. Late payments will be assessed at a 10% late fee. All homeowners should have received a bill in the mail. Payments can be mailed by check and made payable to:

**Prosperity Heights Homeowner's Association
3340 Monarch Lane
Annandale, VA 22003**

Your payments are essential to keeping our trash collection contract, a clean neighborhood and well-maintained common areas.

To see the HOA budget, please visit
www.prosperityheights.org

Doggy Duty! Scoop the Poop

It is every dog owner's responsibility to remove their dog's waste from other home-owner's yards, parks and common areas. It is a Fairfax County law. **Pet owners who violate the County's pooper scooper law may incur a fine up to \$250.**



Pet waste left on the grass or in the woods makes its way to storm drains every time it rains. Storm drains lead to lakes or streams that ultimately lead to the Occoquan Reservoir and the Potomac Rivers, our drinking water supply. Pet waste may carry disease-causing organisms, which make water unsafe for swimming and more costly to treat for drinking.

Dog waste on the ground is ugly and messy. It pollutes our environment even if it is hidden in the bushes, under leaves or in the woods. Please pick up after your pets. Our health may depend on it.

Monarch Ln. & Van Ct. Pond

The pond at the bottom of Van Ct. is a stormwater management pond. These ponds are important to controlling flooding and protecting streams. They also attract wildlife and native plants and are an asset to the community.

Every year we have mallard duck families nest at the pond and hatch ducklings. This year, there were 11 ducklings and 9 survived.

If you have questions about the pond, please contact:

Fairfax County Maintenance and Stormwater Management Division at 703-877-2800



Falls Church High School Facts



FCHS Current Stats and Fun Facts

April 2014

AVID Success:

So far this year, **28 of the 34** AVID students have already been accepted to a total of **71 schools** with **scholarships** and grants **totaling \$654,249!**

We expect all three of these numbers to grow by a very large amount in the coming weeks and months.

Course Offerings News:

Next year, **FCHS will offer 27 of the 33 AP courses available** within FCPS and **2 of 3 dual enrollment (DE) courses**. These include three new offerings: Art History, Computer Science, and Comparative Government. This is the **2nd largest number of AP/DE offerings in the county** (second only to Westfield that offers 30).

College News for the Class of 2014:

Offers have been received from:

Arkansas State University
Boston College
Christopher Newport University
College of William & Mary
Colorado State
Dennison University
DePaul University Honors College
Fordham University
George Mason University
Georgetown University
Georgia Tech
Indiana University
James Madison University
Johns Hopkins University
Longwood University
Loyola University

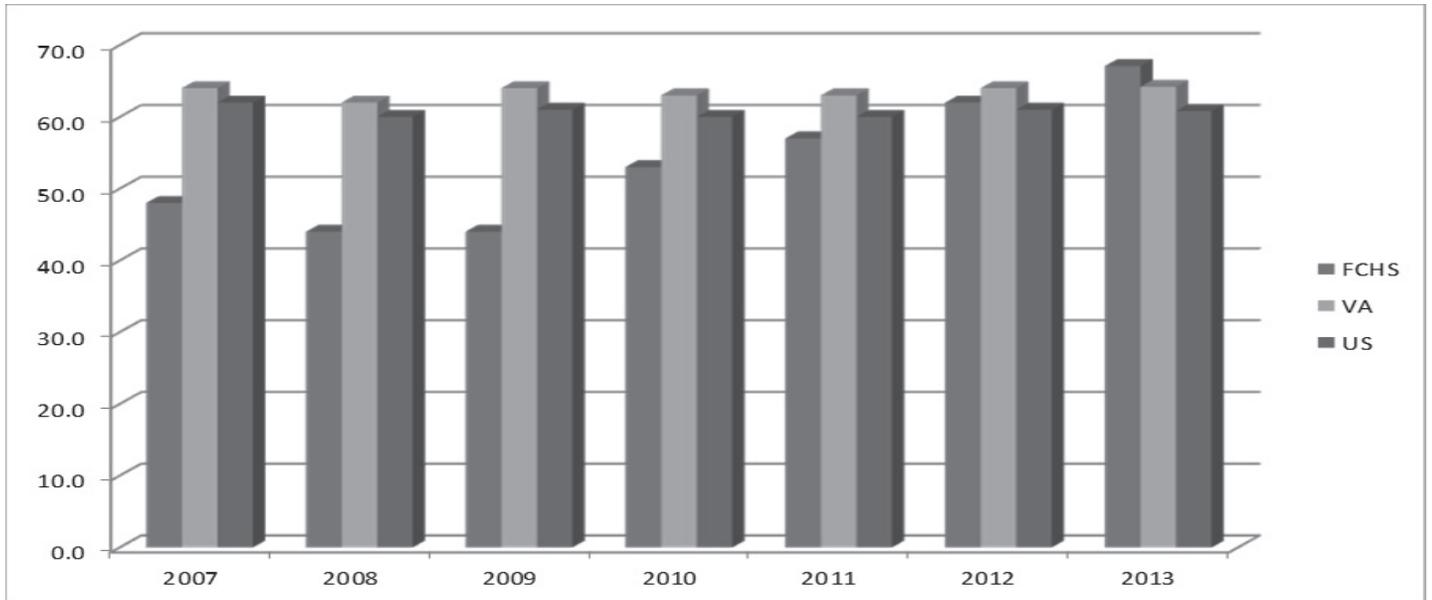
Lynchburg University
Mary Washington Honors College
Marymount University
Midwestern State University
Michigan State University
Midwestern State University (Texas)
Ohio State University
Old Dominion University
Penn State
Purdue
Radford University
Rennselear Polytechnic Institute
Rider University
St. John's University-Staten Island Campus
St. John's University- Queens Campus
Southern New Hampshire University
University of Central Florida

University of Kentucky
University of Massachusetts - Amherst
University of Michigan
University of New Hampshire
University of Rhode Island
University of Richmond
University of Tennessee
University of Virginia (Echols Scholar - UVA's highest merit scholarship!)
University of West Virginia
University of Wisconsin School of Music
Utah State University (signed for soccer)
Virginia Commonwealth University
Virginia Tech
West Virginia State University (signed for football)

Computer Science Students Win at their First Pilot DC (24 Hour Hack-a-Thon)

- Best Mobile App category - earned an All Access Pass to MoDev worth \$1200 each
- Honorable Mention Social Impact Award - received stereo headphones
- NCWIT Aspirations In Computing runner-up
- CS Teacher Mr. Tra: 2014 NCWIT Educator Essay Contest
- CS Teacher Mr. Tra: 2014 NCWIT Aspirations in Computing: Educator Award

AP Testing News



% of Total FCHS AP Students with a Score of 3 or Better - as compared to the state and nation

25% of all 2013 FCHS graduating seniors received Advanced Diplomas

Advanced Diplomas are based on AP performance. For the Class of 2013 (Class size of ~350):

- **45 AP Scholars** (13% of graduating class scored 3 or higher on three or more AP exams)
- **16 Scholars with Honors** (5% of class averaged at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken and scored 3 or higher on four or more AP exams)
- **23 Scholars with Distinction** (7% of class averaged at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken and scored 3 or higher on five or more AP exams)
- **2 National Scholars** (average score of at least a 4 or more on all AP exams and a score of a 4 or higher on eight or more of those exams). **Seven students of the Class of 2014 are expected to achieve AP National Scholars!**

Of particular note, is the AP Calculus AB exam

- The whole group pass rate was **94%** (***second highest*** rate in FCPS - TJ was first)

Orchestra Achievements

FCHS placed 18 orchestra students on the District X Junior and Senior Orchestras. This is the highest percentage of any school auditioning for these select spots.

FCHS placed a student in 2nd place at the All Virginia Orchestra auditions.

Sports Achievements

The 2013 FCHS Cheerleaders won the Capitol Conference Championship!

The 2013 FCHS football team won its first home playoff game in over 30 years; FCHS' quarterback received the 2014 Northern VA Football Hall of Fame Scholar Athlete Award.

Two FCHS cross country runners advanced to state finals.

Why Falls Church High Leads in College Prep

By Jay Mathews, Columnist

The Washington Post, April 23, 2014

Jay Mathews is an education columnist and blogger for the Washington Post, his employer for 40 years. Falls Church High School in Fairfax County is most celebrated by AVID and is the only high school in this region with that designation from what is the nation's largest college prep program.

Despite its growing national importance in preparing students for college, the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program is not well-known here. Yet its local growth is unusually rapid.

Only about 2 percent of the more than 4,800 U.S. schools in the program are designated by AVID as Demonstration Schools, a label of excellence that means they are models for other AVID schools in helping students learn to think, manage their time and apply to college.

The school's AVID coordinator, Kelly Ginley, is a fervent advocate of helping average students from non-college families learn how to handle both higher education and complicated lives. "We have had tremendous success in identifying traditionally underserved students from the academic middle with potential and determination," he said, "and then preparing them to be college-ready, with a more than 90 percent acceptance rate to four-year colleges over the past decade, and 98 percent college-going rate, including both two- and four-year colleges."

I have written a book about AVID to be published later this year. It describes how AVID works in 45 states, where it now has 250,000 students. It is being used in 93 middle and high schools here, with more on the way. Falls Church's success is a good indicator of what AVID can do, and of the differences that arise between educators trying to get the formula just right.

AVID students attend daily elective classes where they are trained in the Cornell method of note-taking. Their required binders are checked regularly to make sure their learning materials are in order. AVID teachers monitor students' progress in the honors and college-level courses they are required to take. Forty percent of AVID class time is spent with tutors who don't give students the answers to questions, but help them think through the lesson to get the answers themselves.

The Falls Church High team and AVID Center officials keep the conversation going. There is no point making demands when the school is so eager to improve its fidelity to AVID principles. "We noticed a major blind spot in our program in the past year," Ginley said. "We had 24 out of 26 seniors in the class of 2013 get into four-year colleges, but only 14 are attending four-year colleges." The team realized that parents were making bad decisions based on misplaced fears of four-year college costs, so the teachers have been more careful to show them how the financing can work for their kids.

The many AVID teachers I have interviewed say they most love the way the program encourages them to be creative. I would like to hear from more local AVID educators on how that, and any other phases of the program, are working in their schools. Just email me.

The Falls Church program has won high marks from AVID inspectors for its embrace of several AVID essentials, such as having a strong writing and reading curriculum and promoting collaboration among students. But it has clashed with the AVID rule that tutors should be students from colleges and universities.

AVID founder Mary Catherine Swanson found college students to be invaluable as tutors when she began the program in San Diego in 1980. They not only understood students' academic difficulties, having recently been in high school themselves, but could give them a good sense of what college was like.

Ginley and his team have a somewhat different view. "While AVID wants the tutors to be college-aged so they can act as close to peer-level role models," he said in an e-mail, "we have a core of experienced, overqualified adult tutors (two have PhDs, and two have master's degrees). Our adults are not only wonderful tutors and role-models, but much more reliable than college-aged kids." That is no problem for AVID, officials said, since Ginley meets the requirement of at least one college tutor per class.

The Washington Post, April 23, 2014. For more information, or to email Jay Mathews, please visit the article online at www.washingtonpost.com.