

THE SWINGS ARE IN!

After a vigorous fundraising campaign and 24 years of hard work by Villamay volunteers, McCutcheon Park now has a swing set! Mt. Vernon Supervisor Dan Stork and other elected officials were on hand on Aug. 2 for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the accomplishment. In his remarks, Steve Markle, Chair of the VCA Community Park committee, noted the importance of collaboration. “This 26-year partnership with the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) should serve as a model. When we work together . . . if we need something beyond our capability, they help us get it.”



Markle went on to highlight the dedication of VCA volunteers to the park. “Over the last 24 years, we have put in 9,700 volunteer hours in the park, and we’ve pulled over 7,000 invasive plants since the pandemic.”

A Long Road to Today. On February 4, 2000, the FCPA purchased the property that is now Gil McCutcheon Park from the Lamond Family, but there was no money left after the sale for park improvements. So, the VCA and its residents got to work, raising \$23,000, which was matched by grants from the FCPA. This campaign funded the original playground, but was not quite enough to cover the cost of the planned playground, which had a price tag of \$62,000. The swings would have to wait.

In October 2022, the VCA and its volunteers, with the energy of many new, young families and dedication of just as many long-time residents, went back to work. This time, the community, with the support of 62 families, four businesses, and the FCPA, raised over \$26,000 to bring swings to the park. Well done, Villamay!

Our grateful thanks to Steve Markle and Lydia Lutt for spearheading the campaign and project, and to the following families and businesses gave generously to the effort:



ADMIRAL: Campbell, Heinzman, Mica, Piper, Northern Virginia Orthodontics, Wiley Rein, LLP, FCPA Mastenbrook Program

CAPTAIN: Fulghum, Griffin, the Jason Martin Group, McEvoy-Lis, Reynolds, Schaffner, Schantz

COMMANDER: Davis, Greene, Krafft, Lawson, Magill, Markle, Tickner, Weiss, Yurchak, the Villamay Community Association

LIEUTENANT: Burger, Carter, Casey, Cesario, Connelly, Dehn, Driscoll, Dyckman, Ellis, Forsgren, Handy, Hopewell, Lerner, Lutt, Maertens, McKinnon, Michel, Murray, Nance, Newman, O’Kane, Partners in Real Estate, Paul, Payne, Ramos, Rutler, Sandler, Shulman-Marcus, Taylor, Winbourne, Young

ENSIGN: Eliassi & Landry, Jenkins & Chewning, Oakeley, Stephens & Yazman, Wedell



A STAR-SPANGLED CELEBRATION TO REMEMBER

Villamay came alive with a Fourth of July celebration to remember this year! The morning was filled with cold treats, patriotic songs, a bike parade, and a water balloon battle for the record books, as neighbors of all ages gathered to enjoy the festivities.



After enjoying snow cones courtesy of the Signorino-Emerick family and cold brew coffee thanks to the Ramos-Moraes family, Christian Adams led us in a spirited recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Marjorie Spires and her piano got everyone singing along to God Bless America, the Star-Spangled Banner, and more.



Our younger residents proudly showed off their patriotic decorations adorning bikes, scooters, wagons, strollers and more for the annual parade down flag-lined Admiral Drive.

In an explosive finish to the festivities, the front yard of “The British House” was transformed into a watery battlefield as the water blaster guns of the British defenders turned out to provide little cover against the legions of mighty warriors launching round after round of bursting balloons.



We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Charlesworth family for hosting this annual friendly-fire competition.

For a listing of upcoming events as well as more photos from this and other neighborhood gatherings, visit www.villamay.org, then click on Events.

And be sure to follow the Villamay Instagram account @villamayneighbors.

Community Calendar

Friday, Aug. 23: Happy Hour on Burtonwood Ct, 6 PM.

Monday, Sept. 1: Labor Day Party, McCutcheon Park, 4 PM

Stay in Touch!



Follow us on Instagram
@villamayneighbors.

Visit us online at villamay.org.

Email the President, Chris Goode:
chrisgoode.onelifeliveit@gmail.com



Join The Association

Scan the code, left, or visit villamay.org Or make a check out to:

Villamay Community Association and deliver to 7205 Park Terrace Drive

Dues are \$55 per household

LOOKIN’ GOOD, VILLAMAY

Capitol Iron Works was in the neighborhood this spring replacing and repairing our unique **only-in-Villamay street signs**. To protect this investment, please don't let your pup pee on the posts and avoid weed whacking the polls as much as possible. Thank you!



The VCA Board of Directors is asking all residents to re-familiarize themselves with the **Restrictive Covenants**, which were made part of the initial dedication of land by Villamay’s developer and legally binding in all conveyances of title.

Residents undertaking structural changes on their property, such as a portico, fence or addition, should consult the Restrictive Covenants, which are accessible at villamay.org.

CIVIC AFFAIRS

The Villamay website now has a section for Civic Affairs Updates. Jeff Winbourne, Chair of the VCA Civic Affairs Committee attends the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations meetings and monitors local happenings to help us all keep up on important area developments. Recent posts have covered:

- Air traffic noise abatement efforts
- Updates regarding the Fort Hunt Rd./Rollins Rd. Intersection improvement project
- Mount Vernon Rec Center renovation
- The Summer Entertainment Series at Grist Mill Park.

Join our Blog Email List (different from the Villamay Email List) to receive these updates via email, or visit villamay.org for the latest posts.

BOARD MEETINGS OPEN TO ALL VCA MEMBERS

The Villamay Board of Directors monthly meetings are open to all VCA Members. For meeting dates, please contact Margot Dehn at margot.dehn@gmail.com

BLOCK CAPTAINS NEEDED

One of the easiest ways to get involved and contribute to the neighborhood is to serve as a Block Captain. Block Captains are currently needed for the following streets: Fort Hunt Road, Huntly Place, Park Terrace Drive (7206-7311), Regent Drive, Tatum Drive, and Villamay Blvd. If you’d like to learn or volunteer, please contact Margot Dehn, (202) 368-7805, margot_dehn@yahoo.com.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Each year, a new slate of Board members is elected at the Villamay Annual Meeting and Dinner, with Directors serving two-year terms. How well do you know your VCA Board? Read on to learn more about your neighborhood’s volunteer leadership.



Chris Goode, President: 11 years at 1103 Villamay Blvd.
My Why: I stepped into Board roles because my family and I love the neighborhood and want to see it thrive.
Fun fact: I am from the Midwest and have a family farm.

(Pictured left: Chris Goode serving up some dogs at Villamay’s last Labor Day party.)

Kelli Emerick, Vice President & Social Chair: 4 years at 7302 Admiral Drive with my husband, Marc Anthony, daughter Lexie, and dog Merlin.
My Why: When we moved to Villamay I was so impressed by the community outreach, get-togethers, and events. The July 4th parade is such an amazing way to celebrate with friends and neighbors. I wanted to make sure the community outreach and engagement not only continued but expanded to include something for everyone.
Fun Fact: From 1989-1991 I lived in the Embassy Hotel in downtown L.A. The building housed the famous Trinity Auditorium, which was said to be where Jim Jones started his cult, the People’s Temple, in the early 70’s. Above the theater was a secret apartment, where he allegedly lived. A group of us tried to have a séance there once – fortunately to no avail. I’m also married to the former mascot from Boston University. (see below)

Margot Dehn, Secretary: 8 years at 7411 Admiral Drive
My Why: I joined to contribute to our beautiful neighborhood.
Fun fact: I was an exchange student in Turkey—learned Turkish at age 17 and went on to major in Near Eastern and North African studies at the University of Michigan. Now I’m an HR professional.

Matthew Weber, Treasurer: 7 years at 7205 Park Terrace Drive
My Why: I thought it was time to take a more active role in the community and to meet more people in our neighborhood.
Fun fact: I grew up playing games in the arcades of Cape May and Wildwood, NJ, so now I have a game room with six pinball machines and an arcade-quality air hockey table.

Jen Nance, Director: 2.5 years at 1319 Gatewood Drive
My Why: I am a lifelong avid volunteer.
Fun fact: My husband jokingly calls me an international pickleball addict because I stalk other guests on my vacations and keep the hotel safes free for the most important item, my paddle! I’m also a connect four savant and have won many bets over the years. If you want to play either, come be my guest at Hollin Hills.

Mary Ellen Rotondo, Director & Membership Chair:
My Why: I joined the board to get to know newer neighbors and expand my neighborhood community. Now that my children are grown, I can be more selective about my time and the neighborhood is a great place to invest my energy.
Fun Fact and How Long Combo Answer: I grew up in Villamay (age 4-22) and then came back at the age of 30 to raise my family. I currently live at 1321 Gatewood Drive

Joan Shannon, Board Member: 29 years at 1206 Gatewood Drive
My Why: I served on the board in the early 2000's and felt it was time to offer my support to our very active community once again, believing in the old adage, "many hands make light work."
Fun fact: I am a highly sought after chili judge and have helped select many award-winning "Bowls of Red" at sanctioned chili cook-offs all over the country, including the world championships in California and Terlingua, Texas.

Marc-Anthony Signorino, Board Member: 4 years at 7302 Admiral Drive
My Why: To get the inside scoop on where the Happy Hours are going to be.
Fun fact: I pitched at Fenway Park, shot a free throw at Boston Garden, and ran a touchdown at Schaffer Stadium - all in a giant dog suit. Being the Boston University mascot, Rhett the B.U. Terrier, was the biggest thrill a guy could have in Fun Fur.
(Pictured right: Marc-Anthony in his post-mascot, snow-cone-slinging phase.)

