

April 8, 2015

TO: Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Eric Knudsen, President, Great Falls Citizens Association (GFCA)

RE: **Fairfax County FY 2016-2017 Budget Public Hearing, April 7-9, 2015**

Following was approved by GFCA for your consideration:

1. The County currently supports over 10 community centers, each with significant funding per annum; others receive occasional financing. During FY 2014, the **local Grange Community Center** received \$550,000 for required ADA improvements including a lift to facilitate second floor meeting room usage by the handicapped, a lower floor entrance, restroom renovations, exterior parking upgrades and related walkways and trails, etc., all of which is used to support continued non-profit community activities as well as *substantial weekend/summer Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) profit-producing activities for corporate meetings, weddings, etc.*

An estimated \$200,000 per annum is required, during the 3-year FY 2017-2019 period, for Grange/Old Forestville School complex work including:

exterior work – (i) additional parking improvements near the Old Forestville School; (ii) completion of a safe Grange-Library trail; (iii) landscaping; (iv) a small structure very close to rear of the Grange for temporary storage and costume changes during Grange musical and revived theater performances; plus, interior work - (v) stage improvements, (vi) lighting, electrical and audio-visual upgrades, (vi) major painting and sanding of all walls, window frames, doors, and floors, (vii) meeting Fire Marshall standards to permit re-using the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor upper balcony for overflow seating, and (viii) outfitting a small storage section of the Old Forestville School for use by GFCA, GFHS, and BPA.

2. Approximately \$50,000 per annum budget is needed for part-time employees to monitor Grange lower floor use for some specific **Youth & Senior Community Programs**, as is currently supported in most localities throughout the County.

3. The *elimination of fees* at the **Old Forestville School** for non-profit organization use after 6 pm, Monday thru Thursday evenings, from mid-September to mid-June. On those evenings, trained local pre-approved persons could unlock, lock, & inspect the premises to *eliminate any FCPA staffing expense*.

4. Assurance that **Riverbend Park** funding will remain reasonable without the drastic maintenance cuts occasionally proposed during the past two decades. In FY 2017 and thereafter, some restoration of FCPA operational and maintenance funding is suggested. Renovation of existing FCPA Recreation Centers, which produce revenues, is recommended prior to most additional land purchases that require new future budget funds for development, operations, and maintenance.

5. County staff and supervisors should ensure that funding identified under the Tysons Transportation Funding Plan, approved in 2013, be directed toward the **Route 7 Widening Project** between Reston Avenue and Jarrett Valley Drive/Tysons. This project would finish Route 7 improvements from Tysons to Winchester begun in the 1980s, help to alleviate significant rush hour traffic jams, and support the current commercial and residential development in the Tysons area. County financing will be required during FY 2016-2021, together with additional support from Northern Virginia and the Commonwealth.

**Local Great Falls Road and Bridge Improvements** should be maintained at financial levels consistent with, and not less than, other County areas.

6. In Great Falls, the **Library**, in addition to normal services, also provides two meeting rooms that are actively utilized by the community. Continuing budget cuts will erode the County's library collections and computers. Staff reductions will mean a lower level of service for residents, especially school children. It is recommended that the County maintain the FY 2015 budget levels.

7. **Trail Enrichment**, including financing, is a County-wide commitment. Locally, Great Falls requires an estimated \$35,000 per annum for new trail priorities such as safe walking/biking to schools, along Georgetown Pike, in central Great Falls, etc. Great Falls Trail Blazers will continue to contribute toward maintenance of existing trails.

8. **Resident Curatorship** staff financing by the County will commence shortly and must continue to be funded. Eventually, this should result in County budgetary reductions if implemented in a positive business-like manner without excessive bureaucratic regulatory delays. Our community wants to actively assist/support the County on potential priority resident curator properties such as the Turner Farm House and Dranesville Tavern.