

HISTORY OF WOODS OF ILDA, WILLOW WOODS and
SPRINGBROOK FOREST
DONNA MCCABE

At the library there's a history of the Willowbrook garden club which she was one of the charter members of in 1966

Fairfax County library has the history of Willow Brook Garden club and year books, news letter, etc. on our cul de sac at the time, myself, Ginny, and Adrienne Heishman were charter members. We had a limit of 50 members back then and met at Canterbury Elementary School. It was formed in 1966. We were all stay at home moms back then.

Shirley Moore served as President a number of times over the years and lives now in Clifton. She is a master gardener and master judge. Would be a good person to talk to. She lived in Spring Brook Forest back then. Our members came from Willow Woods, Woods of Ilda, and Spring Brook Forest.

We did Flower Shows, Christmas Programs and sales, decorated the Manor House at Green Spring Farm Park at Christmas for years, and made an herb garden on the property. Tim can tell you about working in the garden.

There were a lot of FBI agents living in the area back then. Guinea road did not extend to Braddock when we first came out here to a party and it seemed like the back of beyond to us on a snowy night in December. At the time we were living in an apartment on South Courthouse Road in Arlington.

Shirley and I were in Campfire Girls as children and participated in the local chapter that met at the school as well. I only remember our overnight camping trip and a daughter father square dance. The girls made dirndel skirts for the dance.

When we moved onto the cul de Sac the road was dirt, very dusty. We moved in a few days before Christmas. We had a new baby, Kathy, and our only furniture was Charlie's hand me down batchlore apartment things and mine as well. We had our friends over and Charlie was accused of finding a branch for our Christmas tree. He waited till Christmas Eve to shop for the tree and gifts from the drugstore, the only thing opened, LOL.

January 1, we were sitting in the dining room and watched the night watchman trying to navigate a board set up into the house that was being built right behind us. He was obviously three or four sheets to the wind and having a terrible time getting on and up the board into the house. I can't remember how many times he fell or if he was ever successful but we were in stitches and I do remember that.

Our first church was st. Woodson before Holy Spirit was built and the school. Our first principal at H.S. Was Betty Murphy who lived at the top of our street across from Liz and Wade Neely who are the third owners of their house. The original owners were the Crows. She was a collector of Hummel figurines and had a sale before they moved. A lot of the old timers own some of those. The next people were the Fricanos and it was the era of gold chains and Nehru jackets, long hair for men, and do your own thing! Bell bottom trousers and synthetic fabrics. Ugh. Remember leisure suits for men?

Park baptist, next door to H.S., came along a few years later. St. Matthews and st. Ambrose, I can't remember when they were built but I believe st. Matthews is the older and st. Ambrose some years after H.S.

Pickett Shopping Center could be explored with the shops there.