

May 12, 2022- Historical Information from Marian & Bill Powell, 8813 Stark Rd.

Hi neighbors,

We signed off on the purchase of our current home in Willow Woods in December 1965. We paid \$29,500.00 for it! Bill had transferred to Motorola in Reston earlier in the year and was commuting back to New Jersey on weekends. The kids and I joined him in May of 1966. Everyone was very excited to have a pool within walking distance. Our kids were 5 and 3 years old and we spent lots of time at Ilda where we got to know our neighbors. The kids swam on the team for many years and we were involved in swim team activities as officials. One of the highlights was that Melissa Belotte, an Olympian swimmer competed at our pool with her No. Va. Team before she became famous. Bill served on the Pool Board for a couple of years.

Ilda managed to hire some great coaches over the years. One summer early on the coaching team was over the top in getting the kids fired up. When the early morning pool practices were too chilly they decided to warm up the kids by a run around the neighborhood. So with bull-horns in tow and lots of little kids they took off around the neighborhood running. Kids loved it but neighbors wondered what was going on. Once it was explained I don't think anyone objected.

This same group of coaches and life guards came up with an after-hours game called Yakamuzzi. It took place in the diving well with a team effort of jumping off the high board and catching a ball thrown from the deck. It had some sort of scoring plan. They organized a league which included other guards/coaches from the neighboring pools. Next thing you know the parking lot was full of participants cheering their local team on. Little did the pool board know how large this league became but it all worked out ok in the end.

The pool hosted an adult party each year which was always great fun. For some reason costumes were involved and attached are some pictures of our creations. The people were Carol and Paul Heaton, Kay and Frank Healy who lived on Starr Jordan, Diane Moulis who lived on Guinea Rd., Rita and Larry Tompkins and Bill Gavin who lived on Stark Pl., Gene Gies and us from Stark Rd., and Ellen and Tim Regan who lived on Stark Rd and Moreland during their time in Willow Woods.

The civic association also hosted a Beer and Shrimp Night at the Fairfax City Firehouse, which included music and costumes too. It seemed to be around Halloween each year.

Another event for the community was the Wakefield Players which was made up of teachers and parents from Wakefield Forest acting out a fairy tale on stage at Woodson. The kids loved seeing their teachers on the stage singing and dancing. They especially loved seeing their principal Tommy Lyles in live theatre. This was a fund raising event that helped build Wakefield Forest's gym (and our voting place).

Before Canterbury Woods School built the addition, the civic association sponsored a 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks Display on the grounds of the school. Bill got involved in that along with Bob Philbrook, Jim Pelleteri, Tim Regan and others. The fire Marshall in Fairfax County supervised this undertaking by training them and supervising for the first few years but as time went on they seemed to be on their own. Not sure how many years we did this but perhaps as many as 5 years.

One of the things about Stark Rd in 1966 was that it dead-ended as it crossed over Willow Woods Dr. The kids played kick-ball and were well protected by a large fence bordering the woods that is now is Truro. Only one way out to 236 and that was via Guinea Rd.

We feel very fortunate to have found this neighborhood to raise our children. They went on to Frost and Woodson and also Old Dominion and Radford. Our son and his wife raised their family in Canterbury Woods and Frost and Woodson too and (Mary Washington and Clemson). One of their sons life-guarded at Ilda and dove for the team once or twice.

The Halloween Trail addition on the pool path the last two years was such a good idea thanks to Brian Bishop and his crew. It was fun being the witch and scaring you all.

Our history in Willow Woods has been a long and happy one and we're glad to be here in our old age.



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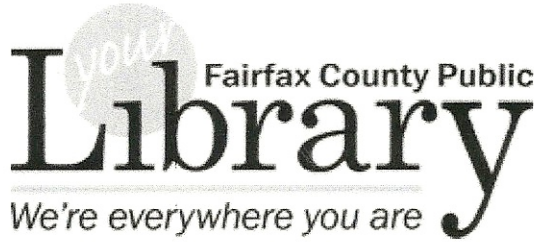
CONTAINER  
LIST

A GUIDE TO THE WILLOW BROOK  
GARDEN CLUB PAPERS, 1986-2003

A COLLECTION IN THE FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

RECORD GROUP NUMBER MSS 05-56

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<b>Repository</b>	Fairfax County Public Library
<b>Record Group Number</b>	MSS 05-56
<b>Title</b>	<u>The Willow Brook Garden Club Papers, 1986-2003</u>
<b>Extent</b>	.25 linear feet
<b>Creator</b>	Willow Brook Garden Club
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	The Willow Brook Garden Club Papers spans the years 1986-2003 and contains newsletters, proposed budgets, and yearbooks which contain membership directories, upcoming schedules, and club projects.

*Donna Mae Case was a charter member, who else*

**ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

**Access Restrictions**

None

**Use Restrictions**

Consult repository for information

### **Preferred Citation**

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Fairfax County Public Library

### **Acquisition Information**

Donated by Virginia G. Walton

### **Processing Information**

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## **HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

On May 11, 1966, the Little Run Civic Association in Annandale, Virginia sponsored a gathering of women interested in forming a garden club. On September 22, 1966, the garden club held its first meeting and members chose the name Willow Brook Garden Club. The objectives of the garden club are "to promote and encourage the beautification of our neighborhoods, to encourage interest and activity in horticulture fields, to promote conservation of the natural resources of the area and to enhance our homes through artistic use of flowers and plants."

The club published a monthly newsletter called "The Willow Brook Gurgle" and an annual yearbook which contained upcoming schedules, club projects and a membership directory. In addition to hosting flower shows, the group maintained a club library for a period of years and hosted a yard sale, mini-shows, holiday parties, tours, workshops, and plant sales. The club has continuously held monthly meetings which include light refreshments and a speaker or demonstration. The club met at the Canturbury Woods Elementary School from its inception to the 2000s. As of 2017, the group continues to meet monthly at Wakefield Forest Elementary School.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

The Willow Brook Garden Club Papers spans the years 1986-2003 and contains newsletters, proposed budgets, and yearbooks which contain membership directories, upcoming schedules, and club projects. Subjects include activities sponsored by the Willow Brook Garden Club of Annandale, Virginia.

## **RELATED MATERIAL**

None

## **SEPARATED MATERIAL**

None

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## INDEX TERMS

Annandale (Va.)  
Gardening - Societies, etc. - Virginia - Fairfax County  
Willow Brook Garden Club (Annandale, Va.)

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## ADJUNCT DESCRIPTIVE DATA

### SIGNIFICANT PLACES ASSOCIATED WITH THE COLLECTION

Annandale (Va.)

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## CONTAINER LIST

Box 1 Folder 1  
Yearbook, Willow Brook Garden Club, 1986-2003

Box 1 Folder 2  
Newsletter, "The Willow Brook Gurgle" , 1989-2003