



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



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Information Release

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New Historical Marker Recalls “The Pines” in Annandale

A historical marker will be dedicated on Saturday, October 15, 2016, that recalls “The Pines,” and honors the legacy of a close-knit African-American community. The 1960s brought significant social change to Fairfax County, and when their land was purchased through eminent domain to provide property for a school, members of this community were scattered. Today, many from “The Pines” still remain connected to the land. The ceremony will be held at 1 p.m.

The marker stands at the entrance to Pine Ridge Park located at 3401 Woodburn Road in Annandale. This popular Fairfax County Park Authority facility provides gardens and athletic fields for countless residents’ use. The park’s 42 acres provide a recreational oasis of sorts in a busy neighborhood. However, for some African-American families, “The Pines” brings back both warm family memories from their youth and a sense of loss at the dissolution of their community. The Johnson, Robinson, Sprigg and Collins families were the first to purchase lots, and they cleared pine trees to enable truck farming and saw mill operations. Residents created a vibrant community and many worshiped at First Baptist Church of Merrifield, taking part in school functions and social gatherings. Next to the park is the Liberty Lodge Cemetery, where church members are buried.

The new marker chronicles the history of the land noting “In the 1960s, during a period of school desegregation and population growth, the public school system purchased land through eminent domain, which displaced numerous families living in The Pines. A school was never built.”

The unveiling of the marker will bring together community, officials and members of families who once called “The Pines” home. The program features music and remembrance followed by light refreshments.

For more information, visit us online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks or call the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662.

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If accommodations and/or alternative formats are needed, please call (703) 324-8563, at least 10 working days in advance of the registration deadline or event. TTY (703) 803-3354.