

Friends of Colvin Run Mill

October-December 2023



NOTICE

OUR ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS IS SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 17, 2023, 10:30 AM IN THE EDUCATION CENTER. ALL MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!!!!

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ON-GOING EVENTS

General Store: Open Friday thru Sunday

Miller’s House Exhibit and Mill Tours: Saturdays and Sundays. .

Grind Days: Milling continues on Sundays (12 to 3 PM) through October

See page 4 for complete list of exciting educational opportunities

Details and information at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/colvin-run-mill



Daffodils this Spring 2023

ADDITIONAL LANDSCAPING ACTIVITIES

With the assistance of OakTree LLC, the landscaping around the Miller’s house is evolving. In collaboration with OakTree, additional watering capabilities are being funded by FoCRM. While OakTree has planted only native species, their competition with larger trees that have appeared over the years makes their establishment problematic. Better watering seems to be one way to give them a fighting chance at long term success. So we’re giving it a try.

We’ve also purchased two benches to make the garden a place for relaxation and meditation. Come enjoy this new addition to the site.



MEET OUR SCHOOL PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Meighan Foster Williams

Meighan is the School Program Coordinator and Director of our summer camps. She has a background in history and is earning a master’s in public history from George Mason. Before coming to



CRM she worked with the National Park Service as a park interpretive guide on sites on the GW Parkway including Arlington House and the Clara Barton National Historic Site. In between she was a stay-at-home mom to her amazing son, Isaac.

MINGLE AT THE MILL— AGAIN

On Saturday evening, September 9, 2023, the Celebrate Great Falls Foundation and the Friends of Colvin Run Mill hosted “Mingle at the Mill” for the second year in a row. While rain necessitated moving the event into the Mill itself, the space comfortably and cheerfully accommodated the 100 or so people who attended (see photo below).

The event has been established to afford Great Falls residents a chance to engage with the Mill and its restored Miller’s House and to benefit the Friends’ efforts to maintain, promote and provide historical context for the site including the re-establishment of its “family garden.”



The event featured catering for food and beverages by Richard Ashton, owner of Meals to Remember. Visit classicwinesgreatfalls.com for more information about this Great Falls enterprise. Live music was provided throughout the event by the band Blue Breeze (see photo below). Visit bluebreezeacoustic.com for more about the band.



Attendees enjoyed the lantern-lit path to the mill and learned of its history. The evening was topped off with a silent auction of gift cards, services and items from Great Falls businesses.

A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

A hint of autumn in the air means apple picking and cider making time. What a joy to see family and friends, young and old, washing, cutting, “scrattering”*, and pressing apples to make their own, unique, tasty cider. More slots are available this year so more folks can join in the fun. Remember to throw in some Granny Smith or McIntosh apples for a little tartness to balance the natural sweetness of others.

Pure magic! Second only to Santa in the Mill! That’s how I describe the atmosphere of Celebrate Great Fall’s Mingle at the Mill event. Forced inside due to the rain, the lights, music, and conversation generated more energy than the water wheel. The event is a reminder that the mill is a part of the community, a place where folks can gather. Even without the music, the grounds are always available and, “bit by bit, row by row” the gardens are growing, as the song goes.

The attractiveness of the park will only increase with a trail on the south side of the newly constructed pedestrian underpass under Route 7. Families will be able to explore the seldom seen other half of the park. Preliminary studies and mapping are underway. A big push is needed to ensure that funds are available to build the trail. Check out the most recent President’s [Grindstone blog](#) for details.

I’m looking forward to the annual meeting of the Friends on October 17th (10:30 AM) when election of the new board will take place. All paid up members are welcomed! It’s never too late to become a Friend!

Jim Wallar

President, Friends of Colvin Run Mill

[To read Jim’s Colvin Run blog, go to our web site at: www.FriendsofColvinRunMill.org (click on “Pres Grindstone”)]

Great articles on water wheels, the grits contest, the Archimedes screw, mill stones, and more]

*The “scratter” is the contraption that minces the apples so more juice comes out when they are pressed. A nasty looking cylinder with teeth”. Coined by Jim Wallar.

Become an Official “Friend of Colvin Run Mill”

Membership dues are as follows: Individual - \$35 a year, Family - \$55, Business - \$100.

Join now by completing the membership form on the Friends of Colvin Run Mill site (focrm.org/be-a-friend).

SUMMER CAMPS A BIG SUCCESS

There were three camps (Living Doll, Cooking and Crafts; and Camp Colvin) attended by 113 campers ages 5 to 12. There were eight weeks of camps during which the campers made some tasty biscuits, ice cream, applesauce, and pickles (among other things). They had some woodcarving lessons from Joyce Spieler of the Northern Virginia Carvers; presentations by county archeologists; and from Rich Doyle, the site's volunteer blacksmith.



Campers preparing apples for applesauce

NEW PROGRAM FOR PRE-SCHOOL YOUNGSTERS

The site is restarting a dormant (due to Covid-19) offering for “tots” (caregivers and children ages 2-5 years). This program will be offered every other Monday (10:00 AM) from October through the end of November. Themes include: Discover Waterwheels, the Little Red Hen, Making and Drinking Apple Cider, Fun with Corn, and Making Butter. Registration is required through ParkTakes.



EDUCATION CENTER PLAQUE

The Friends have designed and had created a plaque which has been installed in the Marjorie and Robert Lundegard Education Center explaining the genesis of its designation in their honor.

FRIENDS FINANCIAL STATUS

The Fairfax County Park Foundation has approved our application for a “Mastenbrook Grant” intended to help pay for the restoration of the Family Garden. This grant of \$7500 will pay about half of the total cost of the project.

The initiative for the restoration and maintenance of the Family Garden has attracted other resources (including the donation made by the Celebrate Great Falls Foundation). This will cover nearly 3/4 of the cost and permit the Friends to better respond to other priority projects during the year.

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

ENGINEERING DAY 2023



With Mike Henry (right) and Bob Coblenz (seated left) re-enacting version of Oliver Evans and Terry Tomasulo (left center) and Ann Korzeniewski (right center) joining in the fun.

In case you hadn't noticed, the pathway and gardens of the “back” side of the Miller's House (picture left) (facing the road to the mill) have been upgraded and a medicinal and herb garden installed. This all part of a plan to enhance the plantings around the house to make it more inviting.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

October thru December 2023

SEE PARKTAKES FOR SPECIFIC TIMES AND REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

October 2023	November 2023	December 2023
<p>Sunday, Oct 1: Grind Day Monday, Oct 2: Mini Millers: Waterwheels Saturday, Oct 7: Cider Making Sunday, Oct 8: Cider Making Saturday, Oct 14: Cider Making Sunday, Oct 15: Grind Day, Cider Making, and NOVA Woodcarvers class begins Monday, Oct 16: Mini Millers: Little Red Hen Saturday, Oct 21: Cider Making and Fall Family Tea Party Sunday, Oct 22: Cider Making Saturday, Oct 28: Cider Making Sunday, Oct 29: Cider Making Monday, Oct 30: Mini Millers: Apple Cider</p>	<p>Saturday, Nov 4: Taste of Mexico: Making Tamales Sunday, Nov 5: Grind Day; War of 1812 Reenactors, and NOVA Woodcarvers Demo Monday, Nov 6: Fighting Climate Change at Home (co-presented with Great Falls Citizens Assn) Tuesday, Nov 7: BSA Citizenship in the Community merit badge class; GSA Cadette Woodworker badge class Monday, Nov 13: Mini Millers: Corn Sunday, Nov 19: NOVA Woodcarvers Demo Monday, Nov 27: Mini Millers: Butter</p>	<p>Friday, Dec 1: Holiday Lantern Tour Saturday, Dec 2: Children's Holiday Shopping and Holiday Lantern Tour Sunday, Dec 3: Children's Holiday Shopping Monday, Dec 4: Local Artisan Chocolate, Sustainably Sourced (co-presented with Great Falls Citizens Assn) Saturday, Dec 9: Sensory-Friendly Santa at the Mill Saturday, Dec 9: Santa at the Mill Sunday, Dec 10: Sensory-Friendly Santa at the Mill Sunday, Dec 10: Santa at the Mill</p>



Maple Syrup Boil Down 2022



Santa at the Mill 2022