



It's Time to Gather Again!



Birds, buds and hibernating bears aren't the only ones peeking out again in springtime. Spring is prime season for people to emerge from their wintry cocoons and start to gather again, and Fairfax County parks offer indoor and outdoor rental spots and party packages to accommodate every group and occasion.

The Facility Rentals web page at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/facility-rentals is the place to start.

Rickelle Gordon was "searching high and low for a reasonably priced facility to host our bridal shower" when she found her "diamond" in a Club Room at Spring Hill Rec Center. Gordon says General Manager Doreen Henry "was more than an event manager – she was my therapist. It was an amazing experience from start to finish."



Chantilly's Dance 4U Dance Company used the Frying Pan Farm Park Visitor Center for a recent recital and as a rehearsal space. Dance 4U's Dee Newman says it was great working with the "accommodating and caring" staff at Frying Pan and adds, "I would highly recommend it to anyone looking for a rental!"



Looking for a fun way to celebrate your child's next birthday? Park Authority rec centers, golf courses, nature centers, historic sites and amenity-filled parks offer birthday packages for all ages. Kids can swim, ice skate, meet animals, ride a train, ride a wagon, fish, golf, mini-golf, garden, have tea, learn about farm life, go on an insect safari, enjoy a campfire and more.

Michelle Ly, the parent of two adventurous kids says, "Our boys attended summer camps at Hidden Oaks and it is one of their favorite places in the whole world." That's why she decided to host a Nocturnal Animals-themed birthday party at the nature center when Xavier Ly turned six. "It was fantastic. Alex Doumbia was the staffer who led the event. He was so enthusiastic and kind. Can't imagine a better host for our group of children."



Explore your party options at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parties

If you're feeling like Goldilocks and trying to find a spot that's just the right size for an outdoor family reunion, school outing or corporate gathering, go to the picnic rentals web page at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/picnics. The user-friendly online tools let you search by capacity, amenities, location and availability. You can even filter for picnic areas that will allow you to bring in a food truck or blast some tunes.

Planning a wedding? The Laurel Hill Golf Club and Twin Lakes Golf Course offer spacious banquet facilities in beautiful settings. Work with an event coordinator to make your day perfect. Find details at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/parties.

The Park Authority even has a Showmobile (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/showmobile) it rents to groups such as Scouts, Little League and local non-profits, as well as Fairfax County-based businesses. The Showmobile is a 32-foot long portable stage that can be used for entertainment at outdoor events. Time to put the band back together!