

# Fairfax Memorial Funeral Home

## Newsletter

### ~ Spring 2017 Edition ~

## A Message from the President....

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We feel that service begins when you contact us by telephone, email, website, or front door of the funeral home. Making preneed funeral arrangements for yourself or a family member or at-need funeral arrangements is the core of what we do, but there may be follow-up items that you have that we can assist you with. As a third-generation President of Fairfax Memorial Park and Funeral Home, I remain available to assist you with all sorts of resources.

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The mission of Fairfax Memorial is to meet the needs of our families

- by honoring, celebrating, and remembering a life lived in a dignified and respectful manner;
- by caring for the families who come to us for assistance as if they were our own; and
- by serving them with the highest level of personal attention to detail.



# Free Grief Support Groups

## At Fairfax Memorial Funeral Home

Fairfax Memorial offers free grief support groups for families we have served. The groups are led by Barbara Eckert, a professional counselor who specializes in grief support.

## The Haven of Northern Virginia

Haven is a nonprofit, nonsectarian community organization of trained volunteers that offers emotional support to the bereaved. They offer individual as well as group support.

The Haven of Northern Virginia  
4606 Ravensworth Road  
Annandale, VA 22003  
703-941-7000



## Local Churches      [www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org)

Many local churches offer free grief support groups, particularly churches that have a large number of members. Feel free to contact one to see if they have a group, or the website [www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org) has a searchable database by zip code.

## Online Support      [www.onlinegriefsupport.com](http://www.onlinegriefsupport.com)

Even if you cannot leave home or are too busy to commit to regular meetings, you are still not alone. There are free web based support groups where everyone supports each other and where others will understand what you are going through.

# A Historical Perspective....

## History of the Land at Fairfax Memorial Funeral Home and Fairfax Memorial Park

The land of Fairfax Memorial has been family owned since its original settlement in the 1600s.

Captain John Smith originally explored the land, but the first person to own and settle the

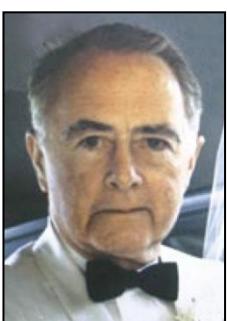


land was an attorney by the name of Col. William Fitzhugh. At 22,000 acres, Col. Fitzhugh owned the largest tract of land in Northern Virginia, which he had converted into a tobacco plantation. Indians still lived on the land, and the current Braddock Road (not to be confused with the historical Braddock's Road) was an old Indian trail. Much of the land was untamed hosting a variety of dangerous animals, such as wild buffalo and wolves. French Huguenots arrived soon after and leased some of the land from the Fitzhugh family, but because it was too dangerous, they did not stay long. Some of the freed slaves of the 1700s formed a settlement along Accotink Creek, just north of Braddock Road.

In the later 1800s, some of the largest battles of the Civil War were going on all around the plantation. But this land was spared. Even as battles raged all around, soldiers from the North as well as the South were both given orders to not fight on this land.



The Fitzhughs divided the land and sold off parcels. The parcel of land which the funeral home and cemetery are located was acquired by Uriah Ferguson from New York. Mr. Ferguson divided the land with one of his sons, and the land continued to be a multi-generationally family-owned farm.



Cornelius Doherty Sr. moved from Connecticut and purchased the land in the mid 1900s. The current president and owner is Mr. Cornelius Doherty Sr.'s grandson, Mike Doherty. The land has had generations of families presiding over the land as well as attorneys. The first settler of the land was an attorney, and the current owner of the land is also an attorney.

# Staff Corner – Growing Tomatoes

Tomato season is fast upon us. Some Fairfax Memorial Staff are dedicated gardeners, and the following are some tips from staff to grow flavorful and healthy tomatoes this year:

1. **Plant tomato seedlings by burying them below first level of leaves.** This will cause another level of roots to grow and thus provide more stability and reduce watering requirements. (Cut these leaves off before burying the plant.)
2. **Egg Shells.** Egg shells contain calcium which keeps tomatoes healthy as well as makes them taste sweeter. Crumble up egg shells and spread around your tomato garden. Also, whenever you boil eggs, save the water and when cooled, water your garden.
3. **Good Water.** Northern Virginia's municipal water supply now has ammonia added for the purpose of maintaining constant levels of chlorine. Our water contains among the highest ammonia levels in the nation. (Ammonia forms a strong bond with chlorine which prevents the chemicals from dissipating, even after leaving it out for a day.) Chlorine kills the beneficial fungi and microorganisms in your soil, to an approximate depth of 6 inches. One solution to this is filling large buckets with water and then adding a tiny amount of powdered vitamin C (not much or the PH will change too much). This will break the bond between chlorine and ammonia, and then leaving the buckets in the sun for a few days will allow the chemicals to successfully dissipate.
4. **Non-Toxic Garden Hose.** Most garden hoses have harmful chemical substances (heavy metals, BPA, phthalates, etc) that get into your garden. Some research will lead you to a hose sans hazardous chemicals.
5. **Clip off the lowest branches** so that no leaves touch the ground or are in proximity to get splash-back from the ground when watering. This will help prevent disease from getting on the plant.