



Gardenline

SUMMER

2018

25TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE



Celebrating 25 Years of FROGS!

IT WAS OCTOBER 1992, and the marvelous place we all know as Green Spring Gardens was just being developed. The Horticulture Center you see today had not yet been built; the Historic House was closed due to poor conditions and lack of staff money.

Green Spring's first manager Don Humphrey was desperately seeking financial support for this new Fairfax County Park. Spearheaded by Dorothy Norpel, a group of loyal volunteers existed as "Friends of Horticulture". They worked together with Don Humphrey, who chose the name FROGS (Friends of Green Spring). In 1993 FROGS became a legally chartered non-profit organization whose purpose was, and still remains, to raise money to support Green Spring Gardens.

Thanks to you, FROGS membership numbers increased from 162 members by the end of 1993 to nearly 1500 today. And thanks to your generosity not only through dues but also our Annual Appeals, over the past 25 years FROGS has

contributed over \$1.9million dollars to support Green Spring Gardens!

Over the past 25 years FROGS has helped fund numerous physical improvements at Green Spring Gardens. Work to repair, restore and renovate the Historic House began in the 1990s and continues to this day. The house is now a great source of pride to all at Green Spring. In 2003 the Historic House was added to the Virginia Register of Historic Homes and is a vital part of Green Spring activity. The house also earned a treasured Highway Marker in 2013.

FROGS efforts also helped establish the library at the Horticulture Center beginning in the 1990s, and its collection of nearly 4000 books includes numerous historic gardening books. The Children's Corner is a particular delight for visitors. (NOTE: articles on the

history of both the Historic House and library are found elsewhere in this publication.)

From its inception, FROGS prioritized education for both adults and children. The current Harry Allen Winter Lecture Series grew out of a revolving fund for lectures and speakers established in 1993. FROGS helped fund the Children's Garden beginning in 1996, and the monies from the 2011 Annual Appeal provided a totally renovated children's classroom. FROGS funds the Frances Tyler Educational Fund, which annually brings hundreds of Fairfax County elementary school children from Title I schools to visit Green Spring and experience the world of gardening in a unique setting.

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Construction of the new Horticulture Center begins 1994.

Photo from Green Spring archives

Manager's Message



Dear FROGS,

This is a very exciting issue to be a part of FROGS' 25th Anniversary Edition! I know staff can hardly believe that FROGS is celebrating 25 glorious years of support and growth at the park. During that time so much has been done. Staff was glad when FROGS' Annual Appeal started to identify a specific project each year. This past year we are delighted to have raised more than \$25,000 for the Tree Care Fund — the most ever!

Here is just a sampling of the many noteworthy accomplishments through FROGS support over the years:

1. Frances Tyler Fund, which subsidizes educational programs for schoolchildren from Title 1 schools. Since 2012, 10,055 kids have received this support in more than 500 educational programs. This represents 30% of the total amount of youth served since 2012;
2. Renovations of the ever popular Glasshouse;
3. Much needed repairs and attention to Historic Green Spring;
4. The Wheels Appeal, which provided new and improved utility maintenance vehicles for staff;
5. Funding improvements to the Ponds, the stone around the island, and the spillway. Plus, FROGS facilitated the buying of many trees and sod for the area;
6. Purchasing equipment for staff, including a backhoe and riding

mower. FROGS also supports staff by funding professional development opportunities;

7. Expanding the Garden Gate Plant Shop and the overall propagation operation;
8. Increasing the irrigation system for added efficiency of plant maintenance;
9. Spreading the love and knowledge of horticulture, education, and stewardship by funding interns at Green Spring Gardens;
10. Greening the park with money for plants and their maintenance in our demonstration gardens.

We are more than excited to celebrate with FROGS at this year's Summer Concert. Please join us for a night of music, fun, and family on Tuesday, June 26.

With summer upon us, please remember to check out the lineup of Summer Camps. Come on a bug adventure with Insect Safari Camp and enjoy Victorian era activities for girls at the Historic House with our Young Ladies' Finishing School. We have wonderful opportunities for your kids and grandkids to experience the very best of Green Spring.

Our front desk is ready to receive your donations for the Silent Auction at Fall Garden Day. We are accepting donations now and can help take things off your hands after your spring cleaning activities. Remember to mark your calendar for Fall Garden Day – Saturday, September 22.

I would also like to thank everyone who came out and participated with our biggest event of the year, Spring Garden Day. Many thanks to our dedicated volunteers, vendors, and visitors who make this day so special for us. 🌸

Nicole Connors
Park Manager

Gardenline

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Nicole Connors

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Contributions? Comments?
The editorial staff would like to hear from you.

Please contact us through

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TTY: 703-803-3351

Gardenline is a newsletter published jointly by Green Spring Gardens and Friends of Green Spring (FROGS). Green Spring Gardens is administered by the Fairfax County Park Authority's Resource Management Division. For more information, call the park at

703-642-5173

or write:

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If accommodations or alternative formats are needed, please call 703-324-8563 at least 10 working days before the event.



FROGS Talk at 25

Sarah Munroe, FROGS President

Two million thank yous! Your generosity as FROGS members will push our cumulative contributions to Green Spring over the \$2 million mark by year-end 2018. A wonderful milestone to complement the exciting one celebrated in this Gardenline issue--FROGS' quarter century of keeping Green Spring growing!

Through vagaries of seasons economic and natural, you have enabled Green Spring Gardens to deliver consistently on its mission to connect the community to natural and cultural resources through horticulture, education and stewardship. In practical terms, that means you make it possible for Green Spring visitors (including you!) to ogle gorgeous plants, foot-tap to a band playing in our refreshed gazebo garden, soak up fascinating history (perhaps over tea) in our 1784 house, engage in provocative educational programs, or just meander around the ponds and woodlands to reconnect with nature. These are among amenities that you subsidize at Green Spring. Not to mention the thousands of volunteer hours many of you also contribute!

Up from our 162 members by the end of 1993, FROGS is now nearly 1,500 strong. Membership dues, annual appeals, and the FROGS-sponsored plant shop and semi-annual plant sales combine to fund well over 10% of Green Spring's annual budget as well as special projects that have touched nearly every facet of the gardens (see chart). You buy the garden plants and care for

the trees. You help preserve Green Spring's legacies but also lead us into the future by supporting forward-thinking lectures and strong Children's Education programs. Countless children discover nature's wisdom thanks to the staff and Title I field trip fees you support; the garage-to-classroom transformation you funded lets lessons happen year-round. Nicole Conners' Manager's Message lists many more accomplishments that make staff and visitors leap (like FROGS) for joy. Ah, what good is a birthday retrospective without a look forward? Justifiably proud of all we've accomplished together in our first 25 years, we are even more energized by the prospect of the golden future that builds on this sterling start. The 2016 updated Green Spring Master Plan (on friendsofgreenspring.org) envisions a future Green Spring with elevated regional prominence—indeed a golden future! Input from FROGS is reflected in the plan, updated thanks to tremendous

effort put forth by Fairfax County Park Authority staff. FROGS commits not only to continued support like that to date, but also to collaborating with Green Spring staff to advance this exciting vision for the future.

Meanwhile, don't forget all there is to do with FROGS now! Stroll the gardens; enjoy what you've helped grow. Relax in your gazebo. Bring kids to our August 15 morning puppet show. Make a list for treasures to seek at Fall Garden Day on September 22. Check our website for details.

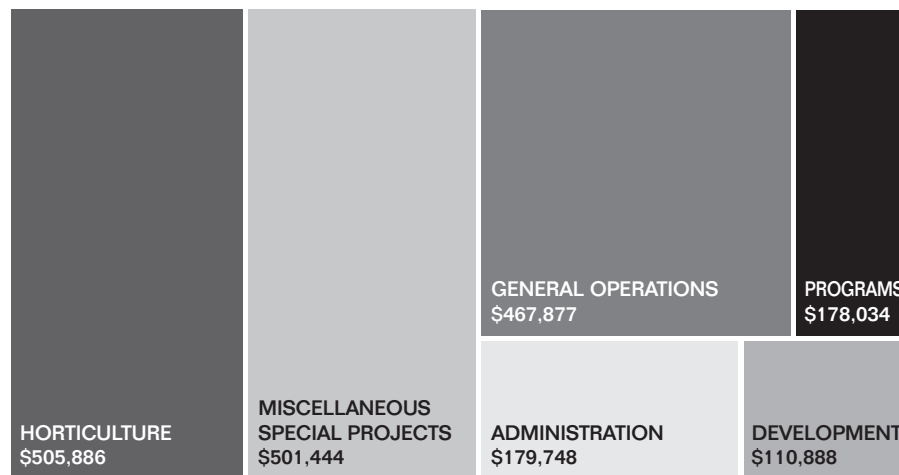
Just around the corner, I look forward to welcoming you on Tuesday evening, June 26, as guests of honor at a great birthday party. We hope you enjoy this special anniversary edition of FROGS' annual summer concert tradition with extra fun planned for young 'tadpoles'!

FROGS is proud to present this 25th anniversary issue of Gardenline lovingly prepared by so many FROGS and staff. It celebrates all that you have done to keep Green Spring growing!

Gratefully,

PS—We admit we love birthday presents...help us build for the next 25 years by donating to FROGS online or at the Horticulture Center!

FROGS CONTRIBUTIONS 1993–2017: >1.9 MILLION



Celebrating 25 Years

Continued from page 1

FROGS continues its indispensable support of the horticulture program at Green Spring as well. FROGS funds ALL of the plant materials used in the gardens throughout Green Spring. In addition, FROGS subsidizes the interns who assist the staff horticulturists. These interns are not only useful to Green Spring while they're here; they also learn our sound ecological and horticultural practices to use in future endeavors.

FROGS monies have also provided crucial physical improvement to the horticultural efforts. Green Spring now has an additional propagation polyhouse and two additional work vehicles. Thanks to your generous response to our Annual Appeals, Green Spring now has a wonderfully renovated gazebo and beautifully renovated glasshouse.



Green Spring staff and FROGS clown helping at an early Fall Garden Day (year unknown). Photo from Green Spring archives

Our outstanding Garden Gate Plant Shop (10% discount to FROGS members) is also receiving important physical improvements.

Lest you think it's all work and no play, FROGS provides the Summer Concert in June and the Gar-

deners Holiday in December for the public's enjoyment. In addition, FROGS sponsors Spring Garden Day and Fall Garden Day, both of which give the public access to an enormous variety of outstanding

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Photo from Green Spring archives

Early days bake sale in the gazebo . FROGS volunteers include Lois Humphrey, wife of Green Spring manager Don Humphrey (year unknown).

25 Years of Historic House History

THE MANOR HOUSE, as it was known in 1993, began as a volunteer endeavor led by FROGS board member emeritus Dorothy Norpel. She began the 'Arts in the Garden' program with hopes of seeing it become a teahouse.

Unfortunately, in this first year disaster struck: the house was found to be structurally unsound and was closed. Worst of all, there was no money in the Park Authority's approved budget to renovate the house. Dorothy went to her friend Tom Davis, the Fairfax County chairman of the Board of Supervisors; he pledged his aid for the request of restoration funds. Soon Green Spring Gardens had the funds necessary to renovate the building while keeping its historical integrity.

Once the house was renovated, discussions began with the County on future use of this building. It took several visits to teahouses to convince the decision makers, and in September of 1995 the tea program became a reality. Dorothy learned the process of running successful tea rooms from the helpful staff at the National Cathedral.

In 1994, the History Division of the Park Authority took over running the house. In 1996, the first full-time Manor House Coordinator was hired. Dorothy Norpel went on to devote her time to the Arts Program for the Friends of Green Spring.

It had always been a question as to who had built the house and when. Finally in 2008, a successful dendrochronological report was completed showing that the house was built between 1784 and 1786 by

Celebrating 25 Years

Continued from page 4

plant vendors and more. Look for Howard the Frog's appearance during our 25th celebration.

None the above would have been possible without your continued support. So as FROGS celebrates our 25th year, please accept our grateful thanks for making sure we "keep Green Spring growing". ❀

*Sunny Greene
Gardenline coeditor*



Dorothy Norpel at Historic Green Spring

Photo by Kathy Trichel, all rights reserved

then property owner John Moss.

Extensive research was done for the application submitted to the Virginia Register of Historic Places, and it was accepted in 2003. Since nearly one-third of the Green Spring property was designated as "historic" on the Register, and because it had never, in its historic period, been called the Manor House, future reference to the area would be "Historic Green Spring" or the "Historic House." The highway marker, installed in June of 2013, recognizes the collaboration of two of America's top twentieth century architects, Walter Macomber and Beatrix Farrand.

The Garden Club of Virginia responded positively to an earlier request by the Park Authority to consider undertaking the restoration of the Beatrix Farrand landscape. In the spring of 2015 the Garden Club of Virginia dedicated the completed project. The Garden Club restored the stone retaining wall, which is the backbone of the Beatrix Farrand design. In front of the original semi-circle of boxwoods they planted a border of perennial plants in combinations based upon color harmony, bloom sequence and texture as shown in many of Beatrix Farrand's landscapes.

In 2016, Historic Green Spring was selected as the recipient of the Friends of Green Spring's Annual Appeal. The house woodwork and floors have been cleaned and repaired in a historic preservation effort, some kitchen appliances were replaced, and there are several projects still being completed.

Stop by the Historic House to learn more or about the additional history attributed to the site. The Historic House is open Wednesday through Sunday from 12:00 noon to 4:30 p.m. ❀

*Dotty Stahl
Chair, Historic Green Spring*

Remembering the Development of the Horticulture Library

THE HORTICULTURE LIBRARY collection had its official start between 1984 and 1985, when staff member Rita Pelczar wrote a grant for the purchase of new garden books to add to those donated to the park. She remembers that the grant was about \$2,000 and came from the Virginia Arts Council, then headed by Lynda Johnson Robb. When longtime Green Spring horticulturist Brenda Skarphol first arrived at Green Spring Gardens in 1987, she shared an office with the Gardens' manager and the horticulture library. At that time, the collection numbered about 500 volumes, including purchases from the grant and donations.

After the Friends of Green Spring Gardens (FROGS) was established in 1993, the library began to receive more attention. In 1994 FROGS launched a fundraiser for the library that brought in nearly \$3,000. The May/June 1995 issue of *Gardenline*, describes the dedication of the new Horticulture Center, including the new library. The article explains, "Groups and individuals have been very generous in donating books and money. We are amassing a great collection of reference, how-to and design books. So now, not only is the library a beautiful and peaceful place to visit (have you seen the spectacular view?), you can research those gardening questions you have been saving..."

FROGS support of the library continued. In 1996, FROGS established a library committee. The committee soon set a goal of computerizing the library books, sub-

scriptions and catalogues. Library book sales at Spring and Fall Garden Days helped fund continued library purchases.

In 1998 FROGS funded \$4,500 for a new computer and a one day a week seasonal staff position. Becky Super was the first to fill this position. She remembers finding stacks of books, each with little subject slips provided by a library volunteer, Kathy Earnest. Becky, who returned to Green Spring in 2015 as a member of the FROGS Board, notes that one of her first jobs was to enter this cataloging information into a computer program. "It took weeks and weeks," she explained.

By 2004, the library collection had grown to 2,224 books, and Kathy Earnest, a professional librarian at the Pentagon, moved from Green Spring volunteer to staff member. She further modernized the library catalog and organization of books. A collection of historic gardening books from the Historic House was cataloged and added to the library collection. A memorial donation in honor of Harry Van Cleve provided locked cabinets for this collection as well as other materials and equipment.

When Anita Johnson took on the library position in 2008, the library collection had grown to about 3,000 books. With the help of a professional library volunteer, Susan Freiband, the basic library policies and information brochures were updated and the collection inventoried. An Amazon wish list for library donations was established in 2009, and the library tables were refinished. In 2013, the library began sponsoring

a puppet show to celebrate summer reading programs for children.

Since 2014, Polly Perry has managed the horticulture library. The collection has continued to grow and now numbers 3,836, filling many of the shelves to capacity. The FROGS used book sale, which had grown to an ongoing sale on carts near the library entrance, continues to provide funds for books, subscriptions, supplies and the annual summer puppet show.

Need some inspiration for your yard or guidance on a particular garden problem? Do you want to share your love of plants, bugs and other wonders with a child? Stop in the library on your next trip to Green Spring Gardens! If you would like to support the library, FROGS welcomes your donations of gently used books and magazines, or your purchase of a book for the library from Green Spring Gardens' Amazon wish list. 🌸

*Liz Promen
Library Committee Chair*



Down Memory Lane
Newly renovated gazebo
25 years after being built.
2013
Photographer unknown

Children's Education at 25

CHILDREN'S EDUCATION at Green Spring Gardens has a long, fruitful history of community engagement. Our mission has remained the same, but our programs are always evolving. Some of the core programs like school field trips are consistently full, with students attending from public and private elementary schools and local pre-schools.

Our preschool programs and summer camps are perennial favorites. "Arts al Fresco" is an incredibly popular camp program where campers learn to integrate natural

elements into their art projects or take inspiration from nature. Family Fun and Scouting programs are usually well-attended, along with a diverse and robust roster of Girl Scout programs.

FROGS has been and continues to be a major supporter of Children's Education at Green Spring Gardens – providing funds for the classroom renovation from the 2009 Annual Appeal, subsidizing field trips for students from Title I schools since 2007, and regularly subsidizing staff salaries. Thanks for your continued investment in the future of Fairfax County! 🌸

Heidi Young

Children's Education Coordinator

Bloomin' Bucks with Brent and Becky's Bulbs



BRENT AND BECKY'S BULBS in Gloucester, Virginia, is continuing the FROGS fundraising program. Order bulbs, or anything else from Brent and Becky's Bulbs, and they will donate 25% of the payment to FROGS.

Simply log on to bloominbucks.com, click on the drop-down box, scroll down to select Friends of Green Spring Gardens and then enter the online catalog. You'll get a superb selection of garden items and help support Green Spring Gardens at the same time.



Down Memory Lane
Above. Fall Garden Festival, 2011
Photo by Thornton Burnet

Right. Fall Garden Festival, 2009
Photo by Candy Butler



This spring we are offering a very nice selection of *Camellia*, some late fall/winter bloomers and some late winter/spring bloomers. Blossoms vary from the white rose form of 'Winter's Snowman' to the single red form of 'Korean Fire'. We also have some with pink blossoms, including 'Ashton's Pink' (blossoms vary from all pink to pink with dark pink variegations) and 'Spring Circus' (double blossoms of pink shot with dark pink splashes). Once again we will also have for sale a selection of select *Hammamelis*, including 'Glowing Embers' and 'Aphrodite,' sent to us from our favorite hammamelis grower, Brotzman's Nursery. We recommend planting camellias and hammamelis this spring to get them established in your garden well before cold weather sets back in this fall.

Later this spring we will also have for sale a large collection of 'quick turn' shrubs (smaller size ready to grow on). For those with smaller spaces to fill with bright colors, we will be offering several varieties of *Physocarpus* including 'Ginger Wine,' 'Tiny Wine,' and 'Coppertina,' all of which have brilliantly colored foliage. We will also have a great selection of *Hydrangea*, including the popular *H. quercifolia* 'Little Honey,' *H. quercifolia* 'Ruby Slippers,' *H. paniculata* 'Fire Light,' and *H. arborescens* 'Incrediball'.

For those with spaces to fill in the shade, we will have a colorful selec-

tion of *Astilbe*, including the white 'Milk and Honey,' the cherry pink 'Vision in Red,' the pink 'Rise and Shine,' and 'Red Sentinel.'

We also have a colorful array of *Heuchera*, some of which will also do well in sunnier conditions, such as *H.* 'Black Pearl' and *H.* 'Electric Plum'.

For those sunny areas of the perennial garden, we will have several *Phlox*. New this year will be *Phlox* 'Fashionably Early Princess,' an early blooming hybrid with a stoloniferous habit. We are also bringing back the beautiful *Phlox paniculata* 'Glamour Girl,' and 'Nicky.' And for those who love blue, we will once again be offering *Gentian* 'True Blue.'

We are also excited to offer a bush-type clematis, *C. integrifolia* 'Blue Ribbons' that will feature indigo blue bell shaped flowers. We also have a limited amount of

Clematis 'Niobe,' a beautiful red vining clematis, and *C.* 'Rooguchi', a shorter rambling clematis with purple/blue bell-shaped flowers that can grow on a trellis or ramble over shrubs; and we have a limited amount of our native *Wisteria frutescens*, 'Amethyst Falls.' Later this spring we will also have smaller starter -size pots of our native honeysuckle, *Lonicera sempervirens*, 'Major Wheeler,' a sure hummingbird favorite.

Finally, for those lily lovers we will be offering the new dwarf container -sized Asiatic lilies, 'Tiny Ranger' (yellow) and 'Tiny Double-You' (orange), as well as the container sized Oriental lily 'After Eight' (looks like a dwarf Starlight lily). 🌸

Alda Krinsman,
Plant Shop Coordinator

Down Memory Lane
Holiday Train Exhibit
2013

Photo by Kathy Trichel



Down Memory Lane
Tea Ceremony
with Akiko Takagi
2012
Photo by Eileen Rollyson



CALL FOR FALL GARDEN DAY SILENT AUCTION ITEMS

FROGS SILENT AUCTION has become a notable crowd draw at our annual Fall Garden Day fundraiser! Please help us by donating goods and services for this event. (Minimum value of \$20 please) Our most popular auction items:

Gardening Advice and Labor: *Think HELP!*

- 🌸 Landscape design or pruning consultation
- 🌸 A day's worth of planting, weeding, or trimming
- 🌸 Gently used gardening items

Getaways and Outings: *Think ESCAPE!*

- 🌸 A weekend at your vacation home or favorite resort
- 🌸 Sailing excursions or tours

Wines and Gourmet Items: *Think DELICIOUS!*

- 🌸 Catered dinners or prepared meals-to-go
- 🌸 Wine tastings or vineyard tours
- 🌸 Gourmet foods or drinks baskets
- 🌸 Restaurant gift certificates

Sports and Entertainment: *Think FUN!*

- 🌸 Tickets to theaters, concerts, or exhibits
- 🌸 Memberships to gyms, spas, or recreation centers
- 🌸 Sports tickets or memorabilia (photos, balls, shirts, etc.)

Underused Treasures: *Think REGIFTING!*

- 🌸 Decorative housewares (china, crystal, pottery, or silver)
- 🌸 Fine art (paintings, photographs, or sculptures)
- 🌸 Antiques (toys, tools, or textiles)

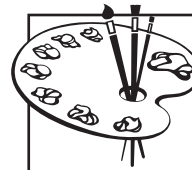
Contact **Susan Voss** at **703-819-1590** or susanlvoss@gmail.com for any questions or to arrange for pick-up of your contributions. Or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173 to make drop-off arrangements at the Horticulture Center. Please label your items "Silent Auction." We will accept donations until mid-August.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

A financial statement is available upon written request from the Virginia Office of Charitable and Regulatory Programs.



Down Memory Lane
Historic Green Spring
House when purchased
by Minnie Whitesell,
c. 1931
File photo:
Historic Green Spring



DON'T MISS OUR GREAT ART SHOWS

Through June 24:

Throughout the Horticulture Center and Historic House
Potomac Valley Watercolorists

June 26- August 26:

At the Horticulture Center:
Penny McGrath
"Art in the Gardens" –oils

At the Historic House:
Dreamer's Art in Central Senior Center "Walking Through Nature" – paintings and drawings

Receptions for the artists:
Saturday, July 7

August 28–October 28:

At the Horticulture Center
(various locations):
Melanie Bikowski
"Art and Soul" –paintings

Suzie Scollon
"Birds in Branches" –ceramic tiles

Chris Fedderson
"The Color of Water" – photographs

At the Historic House:
Helena O'Neill
"Nature in Paint & Paper" – collages

Receptions for the artists:
Sunday, September 9, 1pm to 3pm
In both Horticulture Center and
Historic House



AS ALWAYS, THIS WONDERFUL
ART IS FOR SALE TO YOU!



Gardenline

Green Spring Gardens • 4603 Green Spring Road • Alexandria, VA 22312

gardening bug bit you? share it!



WWW.FRIENDSOFGREENSPRING.ORG



FROGS 25th Anniversary Family-Friendly Concert Tuesday, June 26 5-8 PM



Performance by Fender Benders

Classic Rock-n-Roll starting at 6!

Picnic on the lawn (bring your own)

Good Grubbin' food truck available

Complimentary 25th anniversary cake

& lemonade

Activities for Children

Frog prizes for every child!

Color a frog

Frog tattoos

Meet some tadpoles

Leapfrog races

Green Spring Gardens ~ 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria, VA 22312

For more information, call us: 703-642-5173. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring