

## **History of Country Hills Garden Club by Polly Feuer**

**Country Hills Garden Club held its first meeting in January 1957. The 15 charter members lived in the 300 new homes in Country Club Hills, recently built on farmland pastures. They landscaped and gardened their own properties and worked with the Country Club Hills Civic Association to plant trees in the subdivision and to obtain signs for its three entrances.**

**Club members also quickly applied their talents to the larger Fairfax community. By mid-1957 they were helping plant trees and boxwood on the grounds of Layton Hall (now Daniels Run) Elementary School. In September 1958, the school was the scene of the first of many flower and garden shows the club produced. The shows recognized the creative efforts of individuals in the community and displayed educational exhibits on a variety of garden club-related subjects and projects.**

**Some of the other projects the club engaged in over the years included dogwood and tulip plantings at John C. Wood Elementary School (now the John C. Wood Municipal Complex), perennial flower beds at the Northern Virginia Mental Health Institute, trees and shrubs at Fairfax High School, and daylilies along the Layton Hall bicycle path, at the Country Club Hills swimming pool and recreation center, and at the Fairfax Cemetery.**

**As a special Bicentennial project, the group renovated the grounds of the Truro Episcopal Church rectory. Also in 1976, club past-presidents Lois Marbert and Arlene Desmarais served on the Fairfax City Appearance Committee. They sponsored contests, implemented an environmental improvement program, ran a booth promoting recycling during the city's annual Fall Festival, and decorated the entrance signs to the city, which received the thanks of Mayor Frederick Silverthorne for "a wonderful gift for all to enjoy!"**

**The club helped establish a walk-through garden at Commonwealth Doctors' Hospital (now INOVA Commonwealth Care Center), contributed benches and landscaping plants to Fair Oaks Hospital, and helped with the installation of a butterfly garden at Fairfax Nursing Home.**

**In 1997, to celebrate the club's 40th anniversary, members made a presentation to the Fairfax Museum of eight albums of historic photos and articles of the club's activities. It was the hope of the club members to provide insight into the contributions that service-oriented groups have made to the City of Fairfax and to share the memories of the many women who have been part of the Country Hills Garden Club projects.**

**As Country Hills Garden Club approaches its 50th anniversary, members remain committed to its motto of "meet and reap." Meetings combine educational and social events. Experts are invited to talk on a variety of topics, and the group makes interesting field trips every year. The club continues to promote beautiful lawns and gardening efforts through the award of its Beauty Spot of the Month within the Country Club Hills community.**