



A message from Kathy Smith

When I attended my first board meeting last January, I put forward a board matter to increase transparency by recording the Board of Supervisors' Committee Meetings. This week, Fairfax County achieved that vision and introduced video of all committee meetings. You can view the videos here: http://video.fairfaxcounty.gov/viewpublisher.php?view_id=6

This week we discussed several budget-related items. On Tuesday, February 28, the board will advertise a maximum tax rate. The tax rate that we advertise will not necessarily be the final tax rate, but the final rate cannot be above whatever rate we advertise on Tuesday.

As I have in past years, I will be hosting a Budget Town Hall on March 8 at 7:00 p.m. at Rocky Run Middle School and hope you will join me. This year, County Executive Ed Long will join us to help answer questions about the budget. Please sign up on Facebook here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/146054989245084/>. The town hall will be co-hosted by the Sully District Council and School Board member Tom Wilson.

Sincerely,

Katty

www.facebook.com/sullydistrict

| www.twitter.com/sullysupervisor



Animal Shelter Corner



Meet Smokey!

Dream Dog ALERT!!! Smokey can turn the charm on like none other. He gives sweet kisses and knows how to make the girls swoon by leaning in and resting his big blockhead on your shoulder. He recently went on an adventure with one of the shelter's volunteers and had a great time exploring Frying Pan Park. He was amazingly well behaved and enjoyed meeting all the farm animals, but was very respectful and didn't bark, not even once. He had great leash manners as he explored the trails and was a perfect gentleman. He came to the shelter after spending some time in a boarding facility. Now he's looking for a home to call his own. Come visit him today, but be warned - you may not be able to resist his charms! To learn more about Smokey email the animal shelter at animalshelter@fairfaxcounty.gov.

New County Website Preview and Survey



A new, modern resident-focused website is critical for Fairfax County Government's digital business and informational future. In order to serve you, our residents, better we need our website to be more up-to-date, user centric with responsive design to view easily on all devices.

I'm pleased to share that a draft new website is now available for your review and feedback. Four pages are available for your feedback through three surveys – a quick first impression survey, an in-depth detailed survey and a site map structure survey.

To view the draft pages and to take one or all of the surveys, please visit:

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/using/newwebsite

The surveys will be open until at least **March 19**. All of your feedback will be considered and factored into the next draft version of the new website. The goal is to launch a complete new website later this year.

Black History Month Programming on Fairfax Public Access Channels



Fairfax County's own nonprofit cable network, Fairfax Public Access (FPA), will air a special series of movies and documentaries throughout February, in recognition of Black History Month. The FPA cable network is carried by Verizon FiOS TV and Cox Communications in Fairfax County, and by Comcast in Reston. The specials will air on

FPA CHANNEL 10 and FPA SPIRITUAL TV 36. The special series includes numerous new programs presented for the first time by Fairfax County's cable network.

African American classic motion pictures presented for the first time include *The Scar of Shame*, produced by the Colored Players Film Corporation, this film is considered by many scholars of black cinema as the greatest silent-era all-black cast motion picture ever produced. Another all-black cast silent movie presented for the first time is *Within Our Gates*, produced and directed by Oscar Micheaux, the most prolific of the early African American filmmakers.

Other films presented for the first time in the series include *Look Out, Sister; Reet, Petite & Gone; and Beware!* -- all starring the great saxophonist Louis Jordan, who was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1987. Throughout the 1940's and early 1950's, Louis Jordan (known as the "King of the Jukebox" at the time) and his Tympany Five band were immensely popular on both the pop and R&B charts. Jordan's great popularity allowed him to make films which not only showcased his musical talent, but also broke away from the negative stereotypes typically presented in films of the era.

Two new PBS-style documentaries are premiering this year over the Fairfax Public Access cable channels. The first, *The Art of Romare Bearden*, is narrated by Morgan Freeman with readings by Danny Glover, and explores the work of this influential African American artist. *Race Movies: the Art of the Black Renaissance*, produced by the Smithsonian, examines the genre of early all-black cast motion pictures, including the two mentioned above, *The Scar of Shame and Within Our Gates*.

Black History Month programs returning from last year's presentation over the Fairfax Public Access network include *The Mark of the Hawk* (starring Sidney Poitier and Eartha Kitt); *The Emperor Jones* (1933, starring Paul Robeson); *The Jackie Robinson Story* (1950, starring Jackie Robinson as himself and Ruby Dee); the World War II documentary *The Negro Soldier* (1942); and the Academy Award-Winner *Nine from Little Rock* (1964).

A complete listing of air dates and times for all specials is available [here](#).



The Library Can Help Your Child Succeed in School

The 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program is designed to help caregivers prepare children for one of life's big milestones: kindergarten. Studies have shown that families who start reading aloud to their children at birth help strengthen their language skills and build their vocabulary.

How the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Program Works:

1. Any child who hasn't entered kindergarten yet is eligible for the program, including infants.
2. Once your child has heard 25 books, sign him or her up at any [Fairfax County Public Library branch](#) and receive a packet of information with reading logs.
3. Track your reading. At the following milestones, return to any Fairfax County Public Library branch to receive a prize.

The goal is for your child to read or be read 1,000 books before he or she enters kindergarten. Reading unique titles or a child's favorite book multiple times all count

toward the 1,000 goal—we know children like repetition. Hearing books at storytimes also counts to the 1,000 book goal.

The library has [excellent early literacy resources](#) for preschoolers including book suggestions and an early literacy newsletter.

[1,000 Books Before Kindergarten App](#):

The national [1,000 Books program](#) offers a [mobile app](#).

For more information please ask staff at your local library or call 703-324-8319.

[Fairfax Library Foundation](#) provided funding for the program.

Same-Day Walk-In Mental Health Screenings and Assessments Now Available



The [Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board \(CSB\)](#) now offers same day, in-person screening for mental health/and or substance use concerns to both adults and youth. Individuals of any age seeking help for a mental health and/or substance use concern may walk in, without appointment, to the [CSB's Merrifield Center](#) and speak with a staff member face-to-face, rather than initiating contact over the phone.

If the individual appears to qualify for CSB services, they may be able to receive a more in-depth assessment for services that same day. Each CSB assessment clinician is

trained to assess for substance use disorders as well as mental health and co-occurring disorders.

Why Is Same Day Access Important?

Often when people recognize that they need help, there may be a brief window of time when a person is willing to track down and receive assistance. If a person has to wait too long for services, the chance to help may be lost. Same day access is considered a best practice in behavioral health.

Where – And When – Do I Go?

You are welcome to visit CSB's Merrifield Center and speak with a staff member face-to-face about concerns at any time. So far, it seems busiest times are between 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. and 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. If a family and/or individual prefers to schedule an appointment for a screening or assessment, they may still do so by contacting 703-383-8500, TTY 711 (an appointment may eliminate potential wait-time).

What Else Can I Do?

If you are concerned about mental health, take a free online mental health assessment. Mental health is a key part of overall health. Brief screenings are a way to determine if you or someone you care about should seek help.

Take Mental Health Assessment

You can also call CSB at 703-383-8500, TTY 711 (weekdays, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.). In an emergency, call CSB Emergency Services at 703-573-5679, TTY 711 (answered 24/7).

Finally, take CSB's Youth Mental Health First Aid course. The course will help you better understand mental illnesses and learn how to help a young person experiencing a crisis.

Take Mental Health First Aid Course

[New Calculator Shows How Your Real Estate Taxes Are Spent](#)



If you pay real estate taxes in Fairfax County, it may be difficult to **understand how your tax money is being spent** – most of us don't think in terms of billions or millions of dollars. You want to know how much you are paying for our public schools, public safety, and other government services provided by our county.

To **provide taxpayers with more transparency, we have developed the Real Estate Tax Calculator** to help you see where your dollars are going, **based on your own real estate assessment for the current budget year.**

- [2017 Real Estate Assessments Now Available](#)

How It Works:

Using the 2017 **countywide average assessment for all homes**, which is **\$533,168**, here is **how the calculator works:**

[Use The Real Estate Tax Calculator](#)

1. Type in **your address, or your assessment amount** and click on the submit button.
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2. You will see a chart that shows some of the amounts that appear on your real estate tax assessment.
3. Scroll down and you will see **a pie chart that illustrates where your real estate tax dollars go**. Please note this chart is illustrative – amounts are based on the percentage of disbursements from the general fund budget. Some county services are paid for with additional funding sources other than real estate taxes.
4. Underneath the pie chart, there is a listing of where your real estate tax dollars go, including type, percentage and amount. **Each listing also has a hyperlink for additional information.**

Real estate taxes account for almost 65 percent of the county's General Fund budget. That equals \$2.6 billion of the almost \$4.1 billion our current FY 2017 General Fund budget (adopted by the Board of Supervisors last year). The rest of the [General Fund Revenue](#) comes from the Personal Property (car) Tax, business taxes, sales tax, fees, etc.

This educational tool helps illustrate where tax dollars go to meet the [priorities set by the Board of Supervisors](#) and the community for county programs and services. Certain fees, including those for community centers, solid waste fees and service district fees, are not included in this simulation tool since they do not impact all taxpayers.

[Learn More About Your County Budget](#)



**4th Annual Maker Faire NoVa Set for
March 19, 2017**

Tech enthusiasts, inventors, entrepreneurs, educators, and curious minds will gather on **Sunday, March 19** as the 4th annual Maker Faire NoVa comes to South Lakes High School and Langston Hughes Middle School located at **11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston, VA** open from **11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Maker Faire is a gathering of fascinating, curious people who enjoy learning and who love sharing what they can do. From engineers to artists to scientists to crafters, the Maker Faire provides an opportunity for “makers” to show hobbies, experiments, and projects. Tagged “The Greatest Show (& Tell) on Earth,” this glimpse of the future and inspiration is a family-friendly showcase of invention, creativity, and resourcefulness.

At Maker Faire NoVa more than 100 makers will share their knowledge through hands-on projects, demonstrations, workshops and a speaker series in areas of art, engineering, robotics, drones, 3D printers and more. Students and schools will also share how making and innovation occurs in education. New makers include: “[The Wave Extinguisher](#)” by George Mason University engineers Seth Robertson and Viet Tran; “[The Green Club](#)”, home-made juggling clubs from Erin Riley; and “[Drone Zone](#)” from DC Area Drone User Group. The list of makers can be found on the [Maker Faire NoVa website](#).

New this year is the NoVa Maker Educator Meetup, which provides an opportunity for Maker Educators to network and learn from their peers in the region. A group of experienced Maker Educators will share brief presentations describing their maker programs. Then participants can explore the Faire to see making in action. Participants can network with other maker educators with the goal of creating an ongoing NoVa Maker Educator Meetup series. [Advance registration](#) is required.

Event Details:

4th Annual Maker Faire NoVa

Sunday, March 19, 2017, 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Two buildings: South Lakes High School, 11400 South Lakes Dr., Reston, Virginia and

Langston Hughes Middle School, 11401 Ridge Heights Rd, Reston, Virginia

Tickets:

Advance – 2/18/17 to 3/18/17 - Adults \$13; Children \$2, Senior \$7, Family (5) \$29

At the door, 3/19/17 - Adults \$15; Children \$5, Senior \$12, Family (5) \$40

Purchase at <http://nova.makefaire.com/tickets/>

NoVa Maker Educator Meetup

Sunday, March 19, 2017

Program – 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Faire – 12:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Langston Hughes Middle School, 11401 Ridge Heights Rd, Reston, Virginia

Must register and purchase Faire ticket

Register at <https://goo.gl/forms/BntakH8oMyMcWgQS2>

Transportation: Free shuttle bus service will be provided from the Wiehle-Reston East Metro parking garage to South Lakes High School and Langston Hughes Middle School. Only handicapped and event personnel parking is available at the schools.

Find all details at <http://nova.makefaire.com/> T: 703-437-5780, Nova Labs

Maker Faire NoVa is independently organized by Nova Labs and is operated under license from Maker Media, Inc.

Volunteer Opportunity in Sully



Sully Senior Center Tai Chi or Qi Gong Instructor

The Sully Senior Center is looking for a volunteer Tai Chi or Qi Gong Instructor to teach a weekly class to older adult participants.

Location: 5690 Sully Road, Centreville, VA 20120

Contact:

Process Manager

703-324-5406

VolunteerSolutions@Fairfaxcounty.gov

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/volunteer-solutions.htm>
