



A message from Kathy Smith

This week, the Board of Supervisors has been receiving public comment on the proposed FY 2018 budget. The number one issue in this discussion has been the need to fund our schools and county services that members of our community depend on. As I've said before, because my motion to advertise a higher tax rate failed, there is very little flexibility in the budget this year and the proposal before us includes cuts to popular county services. The school transfer being considered is also about \$50 million less than the schools requested.

If you have thoughts or opinions on the budget, I encourage you to reply to this email to be included in the public record. The next step in the budget process will be our April 21 budget committee meeting, followed by a markup meeting when we will finalize the budget on April 25, and formal approval on May 2. All of these meetings will be shown live on Channel 16 and can be streamed here:

http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cable/channel16/channel_16_live_stream.htm

Sincerely,

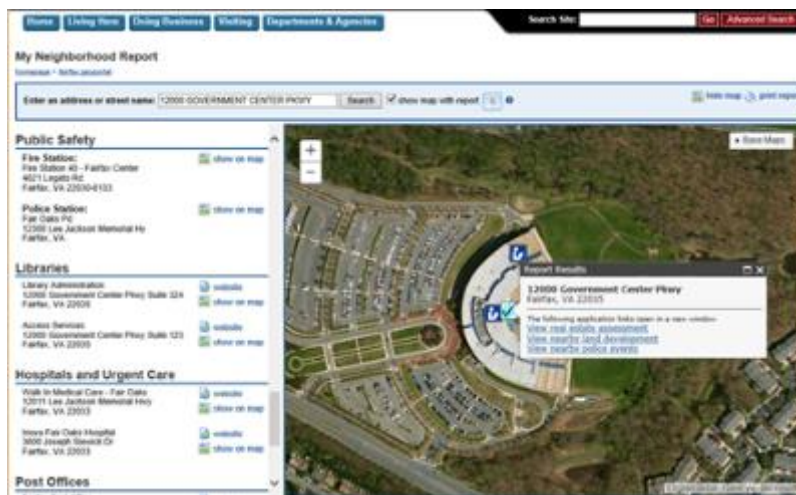
Kathy

www.facebook.com/sullydistrict

| www.twitter.com/sullysupervisor



My Neighborhood Report



The My Neighborhood Report is an application that lets users discover information about Fairfax County addresses and their surrounding neighborhood. The application also provides links to information about real estate assessment, surrounding land development, and nearby police events. An integrated interactive map allows users to see the location of

addresses and nearby public facilities with street, imagery, and topographic base maps.

In the neighborhood report, users will find the following information about an address:

- Political jurisdictions
- Elected officials (local, state, and federal)
- Voting precinct and voting location
- Assigned elementary, middle, and high schools
- Nearest police and fire stations
- The two closest libraries, post offices, hospitals/urgent care, and Fairfax County parks

You can access the My Neighborhood Report at:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/myneighborhood/>

Libraries Transform: Gearing Up for Library Week



National Library Week is April 9-15, and Fairfax County joins other libraries nationwide in celebrating its theme, "Libraries Transform." Listed below are some events that may get you in the spirit of transformation by bolstering your mind with opportunities for fun and learning.

The Magic of Hans Christian Andersen

Date: Monday, April 10, 2017

Start Time: 2:00 PM

Location: Centreville Regional Library; Centreville Meeting Room 1/2

Description: For National Library Week, Applause Unlimited presents "The Ugly Duckling", "Thumbelina" and "The Emperor's New Clothes", using over 20 hand puppets, rod puppets, and marionettes. Adults who attend need to register as well. Age 5 and up.

Meet the Children's Author of Lily & Lucy

Date: Friday, April 14, 2017

Start Time: 10:30 AM

Location: Chantilly Regional Library; Chantilly Meeting Room

Description: Meet Ed Ehlers, author of "Lily & Lucy". His book involves the true story of two abandoned puppies and their exciting rescue. Age 6 and up.

For more details on the above events and to learn about other April calendar opportunities, go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library.

Be Bear Aware
It's the Season for Bear Sightings



Spring is the time when black bears and cubs emerge from their winter dens; typically between mid-March to early May in Virginia. Bears typically avoid humans, but may wander into suburban areas in their search for food. Bears are attracted by bird feeders, garbage, outdoor pet food, compost piles, fruit trees, and berry-producing shrubs. If addressed quickly, situations can be resolved almost immediately by removing the food source. Sometimes, the bear may return searching for food, but after a few failed attempts to find it, will leave the property. Most often, bears will keep moving through an area once they fail in their attempts to find food.

If encountered, female bears (called sows) and their cubs should not be approached. When sensing danger, a female bear will typically send her cub(s) up a tree and leave the area. In such cases, the female will almost always return to gather up the cub(s) when no people or pets are around, usually after dark. If a bear huffs or “woofs,” clacks its teeth, growls or slaps the ground, it is warning you that you are too close.

The Fairfax County Wildlife Management Specialist and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries suggest residents take the following precautions to minimize encounters with black bears:

- Keep a respectful distance. In most cases, the bear will move on quickly.
- If a bear is up a tree on or near your property, give it space. Do not approach. Bring your pets inside to provide the bear a clear path to leave your property.
- If you see a very small cub, do not try to remove it from the area or “save it.”
- Secure your garbage in bear-resistant trash cans or store it in a secure building.
- If you have a trash collection service, put your trash out the morning of the pickup, not the night before.
- Do not store household trash, or anything that smells like food, in vehicles, on porches or decks.
- Keep your grill clean.
- Don’t put meat scraps in your compost pile.
- Don’t leave pet food outdoors.
- Remove bird feeders if a bear is in the area.
- Encourage your neighbors to take similar precautions.

Never feed a bear under any circumstances. In Virginia, it is illegal to feed bears on both public and private lands. Feeding bears (whether deliberate or inadvertent) can habituate bears to people and cause serious property damage. These actions are often detrimental to the bear itself as bears that have lost their fear of people often have to be destroyed. Please help us keep our communities safe and our wildlife wild by doing your part to remove attractants on your property.

Bear sightings should be reported to the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries through the Virginia Wildlife Conflict Helpline at (855) 571-9003. Unless the animal is sick or injured, or poses a threat to public safety,

the Fairfax County Animal Protection Police do not take actions to remove bears from a neighborhood. Black bears have a natural fear of humans, and in most cases, would rather flee than encounter people.

To learn more about black bears in Virginia, please visit:

<https://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/bear/>

<https://www.dgif.virginia.gov/bear-aware/>

<https://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/bear/becoming-bear-aware/>

Signature Lecture Series Celebrates Fairfax County's 275 Anniversary



As part of the celebration of its 275th anniversary, Fairfax County is holding a [signature lecture series](#) about our storied history.

The free lectures take place at the [Historic Courthouse](#), 4000 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. They will cover topics from:

- Native American settlements presented by a county archeologist
-

- African American communities in the county
- Colonial history such as George Mason and his home Gunston Hall
- Modern history such as the biography of the Kennedys at their house Hickory Hill in McLean

The series also features a June 15, [special guest lecture by Nicholas Fairfax, 14th Lord Fairfax of Cameron](#). He will discuss his family history, as well as the recent Brexit vote.

Registration is required for these lectures because of the limited seating in the courthouse.

The lectures and many other events are sponsored by the 275th Anniversary Committee which was established by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors this past June. The committee is led by the county's [History Commission](#), and it brings together representatives from organizations including nonprofits, county agencies and Visit Fairfax.

The 275th Anniversary Celebration will examine these stories and more throughout the year as historical groups and sites from across the county come together to collectively express this fascinating history.

Visit the [275th Anniversary website](#) to:

- Learn about more events
 - Find historic sites, including virtual tours
 - Read short essays
 - Watch short videos on historic moments, people and places
 - View historic photos
-

9 Ways to Get Your Garden Thumb Ready for Spring



It appears the battle between spring and winter is over! With temperatures rising and spring bulbs poking through the earth, we offer these tips/services to get your lawn and garden ready for spring.

#1: Look for Damage

The wild ride of temperatures in February and March could play havoc on some plants and shrubs. According to our master gardeners, you should first thoroughly inspect your greenery before your prune. “You are looking particularly for both browned or blackened leaves and buds, and especially for signs of life and growth, even on damaged foliage,” says Adria Bordas, a master gardener. “In my opinion, I think it is too early (in mid March) to determine the full extent of damage and I have been advising people to leave their plants alone for now. If by mid-May you do not see any signs of recovery, then you should remove any dead branches.”

#2: Spring Cleaning

Do you have insecticides, weed killers, or other household hazardous waste you want to get rid of safely? We'll take those corrosive, ignitable, toxic, and reactive materials items for free at our [I-66 and I-95 recycling locations](#).

[View List of Acceptable Items](#)

#3: Fertilizer Tips

If you think you need to fertilize your lawn, don't—don't fertilize in the spring if you have cool-season grass, like tall fescue, Kentucky bluegrass, and perennial ryegrass. Most grasses in Northern Virginia are cool-season grasses.

Feeding your lawn at the wrong time of year [can actually hurt your grass in the long run](#). Fertilizer runoff harms our creeks, streams and the Chesapeake Bay.

- Talk to a [master gardener at one of the weekly plant clinics](#) if you don't know your grass type.
- **Use [corn gluten meal](#), instead of chemical weed killers.**
- Consider using one of these state-certified, [environmentally friendly landscape companies](#).

#4: Seedling Sale

Get rid of some of your lawn, and replace it with native plants, shrubs and trees. They often need less water, tolerate hot, dry summers, and offer food for wildlife.

How about planting some *Viburnum dentatum* or *Physocarpus opulifolius*? In other words, how about planting some native seedlings that are appropriate for this part of Virginia? The **shrub and small tree package** features 10 seedlings for \$16.95. The **tree package** includes 6 seedlings sold for \$11.95. A full, nonrefundable payment must accompany your order by **Wednesday, April 12**, or until supplies run out.

[Order Seedlings](#)

You can also check out these lists of [recommended native and wildlife friendly plants and bulbs](#) for our area.

#5: Make Your Own Rain Barrel

Rain barrels can be placed under your downspouts to capture runoff from the roof, so come to a class and learn how to make your own rain barrel at classes offered by the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District. **Classes run from March 25 through July 29.**

[Register for Rain Barrel Workshop](#)

Why use a rain barrel?

1. **Provide your plants with natural water they will love!**
2. **Save money and water!**
3. **Protect the Chesapeake Bay!**

#6: Free Mulch

Applying a layer of organic mulch in spring will help maintain soil moisture and control weeds. Mulching also insulates soils keeping them warmer in winter and cooler in summer.

We operate a brush grinding operation, which produces double-shredded wood mulch for residents. **The mulch is free, clean, and of good quality.** Wood mulch is usually available at the I-95 and I-66 locations. Call **703-324-5995, TTY 711** to check on current supply.

A few guidelines for good mulching:

- Everything is better in moderation, even mulch. Apply a 2-4 inch mulch layer.
- If you don't need it, don't do it! Hardwood or bark mulches may not need replacing every year.
- Despite the appeal of those attractive mulch mountains, **don't pile mulch against tree trunks or plant stems**. It can stress plants causing insect and disease problems.

#7: Need Advice? Contact a Master Gardener

For 40 years, the [Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association](#) has served as the **area's experts in [helping local gardeners](#) with a host of horticultural conundrums**—from selecting the right plants and understanding how to care for them, to conducting home soil tests and helping address pest issues.

Do you need advice? Call/email or attend a plant clinic:

- **[Weekly Neighborhood Plant Clinics Begin in May](#)**: Get advice from Master Gardeners at six locations.
- Phone: **703-324-8556**, TTY 711, or email: **mgfairfax@vt.edu**
(April – October): Monday – Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; **(November – March)**: Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

#8: Go to the Library

Yes, go to the library to get the best out of your lawn and garden. There are **more than 1,300 “gardening” titles** available to check out.

[Search for Gardening Books](#)

#9: Mark Your Calendars

With spring here, here are two key dates to put on your calendars:

- [Springfest April 29](#): Enjoy a whole day of family fun and environmental education.
 - [Farmers Markets Open Beginning May 3](#): Buy vegetable plants and flowers from local vendors.
-



Cancerversary Dinner

Bite Me Cancer is a nonprofit foundation in Fairfax County, Virginia, founded in September 2010 by Nikki Ferraro, five months after she was diagnosed with a rare form of Thyroid Cancer at 17 years old. Bite Me Cancer focuses on supporting teenagers in their battles against all cancers and raising research funds and awareness for the fastest growing cancer in the United States in males and females, Thyroid Cancer.

A “cancerversary” is a once-a-year celebration of cancer survivors who have been pushing through cancer’s grasp. Why April for our dinner? The Founder of Bite Me Cancer, Nikki, was diagnosed in April 2010. This will be her 7th cancerversary.

This event initially celebrated Nikki’s courageous fight against thyroid cancer, while living the typical active life of a young adult. The evening was so

special, Nikki wanted to extend the celebration to other cancer survivors. The event has grown to include cancer survivors, along with their family and friends, for a special dinner that is fit for foodies with delicious wines.

Tickets and Sponsorships:

Many individuals and businesses in our local community, as well as nationally, have immediately related to the goal of this very special evening – celebrating life. If you have or had cancer or know someone who has overcome or is still fighting cancer, we hope you will join us for this unique Cancerversary Dinner. Ways to join in the celebration fun range from individual tickets to a full table sponsorship. You can also donate seats back to Bite Me Cancer to offer to other cancer survivors.

For more information about this event, please visit:

<http://bitmecancer.org/events/cancerversary-dinner/>.

**Free Seminars for Family Caregivers
of Older Adults**



Find Support and Information

Fairfax County's Spring Caregiver Seminars provide excellent information from professionals in social work, finance, law, and related fields. This spring, seminars will cover advanced directives, dementia care, financing long-term care, emergency preparation, fall prevention, and communication. Those new to caregiving should take special note of *Caregiving 101 - Prepare to Care* where you will learn to form a team, make a plan, find support, and still care for yourself.

Find the information and support you need to care for the people you love! Find registration information at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/OlderAdults or call the county's Caregiver Unit at 703-324-5205.

Care Plan for Life-Advanced Directives

Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2017

Time: 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Location: Sully District Governmental Center - 4900 Stonecroft Boulevard,
Chantilly, VA 20151

You can find the complete list of seminars online at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hrcode/EReg/Registration.aspx?groupID=1>.

Gang Activity On the Rise; 17 Signs to Look for In Kids Who May Join



Gang activity has been rising across the Washington, D.C., region lately. There have been at least five gang-related homicides since last fall, according to our Police Department. These murders are the primary focus for the [Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force](#), as well as our Police Department, which has a gang investigations unit that examines all gang-associated crime.

It is important to note that according to police, **gangs are actively and successfully recruiting new members, especially in middle school.**

Who to Call For Help:

There are a variety of resources available to contact about gang prevention and involvement:

- To report suspected gang activity in Fairfax County call 703-691-2131, TTY 711, or in an emergency call/text 911.
- To report information regarding gang-related crime to the **Northern Virginia Gang Task Force** call 1-866-NO-GANGS (1-866-664-2647).
- If you or someone needs help, call 703-GET-HELP (703-438-4357), the Northern Virginia Gang Task Force resource information line.

Why Do Kids Join Gangs?:

Gang members generally **range in age from 13 to 24, but can be as young as 9.**

Gangs can include all ethnic groups. Many gang members are boys, but 10 percent of all gang members are girls and the number is growing.

Among the leading reasons given by kids involved with gangs, either as members or gang associates, is a desire to be loved, accepted, or to be part of a group. That is what gang members commonly promise when they are recruiting.

Additional reasons that kids join gangs include:

- **Fun and excitement** — Gang members, recruiters and the media glamorize the gang lifestyle.
- **Identity and a sense of belonging** — Gangs may offer a sense of identity to their members and a way to gain attention or status. Kids who do not have strong ties to their families, communities, schools or places of worship may turn to gangs for companionship and as a substitute family.
- **Peer pressure** — If friends or family members are in a gang, kids may be pressured to join.
- **Financial gain** — Being in a gang is often seen as a way to obtain money or possessions.
- **Failure to realize what being in a gang means** — Kids often do not fully understand the danger, risks and legal problems associated with being in a gang.
- **Protection** — In neighborhoods and areas where gangs are present, kids sometimes feel, or are told, that belonging to a gang will provide protection from other gangs.

17 Warning Signs of Possible Gang Involvement:

There are a number of signs that may indicate involvement with a gang or risky or delinquent behavior. The sooner concerns are responded to, the greater the opportunity to prevent a child from joining a gang. Discuss concerns with a trusted friend or a

professional such as a school counselor, police officer, member of the clergy or human services professionals in the community.

Keep in mind, kids who pretend to be gang members or just associate with gang members are at equal or greater risk for being victims of violence as are those who are known gang members.

Signs to be aware of include:

1. Withdrawing from family activities.
2. Suddenly changing friends and spending time with undesirable people.
3. Social media posts with signs of teens falling prey to gang recruitment.
4. Developing a bad attitude toward family, school, and authorities.
5. Sudden drop in school grades.
6. Staying out later than usual.
7. Wanting excessive privacy.
8. Using a new nickname.
9. Using hand signs.
10. Using unfamiliar slang words.
11. Purchasing or wanting to buy or wear clothing of all one color or style.
12. Modifying clothing to indicate membership in a special group.
13. Changing appearance with special haircuts, eyebrow markings, or tattoos.
14. Suddenly having more money or possessions.
15. Using gang graffiti on folders, desks, walls and buildings.
16. Drug or alcohol use evidence.
17. Carrying objects that can be used as weapons.

Our police school resource officers watch for signs of gang activity and gang recruitment in our schools, and we need everyone's support to keep this dangerous problem at bay: parents/guardians, police, schools, health and human services providers, the court system and others.

Animal Shelter Corner



Meet China!

Age: 4 years 2 months

Gender: Female

Color: Black / White

Spayed/Neutered: Yes

Cutie pie China is an absolute doll who loves spending time playing with her people, doing zoomies around the yard, and then climbing into your lap for a little cuddle time! She takes a little time to warm up to new situations, but if you let her go at her own pace, you will see her friendly, adorable personality shine through. And also, she makes the

cutest little grunty snort sounds. You've got to hear them for yourself! So come visit her today! To learn more about China email the animal shelter at animalshelter@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Healthy People-Healthy Planet

SPRINGfest Fairfax

An Earth Day and Arbor Day Celebration

Saturday, April 29, 2017

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Free Admission!

New location for 2017

Sully Historic Site

3650 Historic Sully Way
Chantilly, VA 20151

A Fairfax County
275th Birthday
Event



Featuring

Environmental games Touch-a-Truck
Hands-on activities Farm animals
Food Trucks Bounce house Billy B
Tour Historic Sully (tour fee)

Plus... The Healthy Strides Expo

Kids' Fun Run • Challenge Course • Fitness Demos



springfestfairfax.org



For Inclusion and ADA Support, call
703-324-8563 TTY 703-803-3354

Walney Through the Years



**Saturday, April 15
1 - 4 p.m.
Free!**

Celebrate the 275th anniversary of Walney's beginnings by learning about its past and exploring its future.

- Wagon Rides*
- Colonial Crafts
- Historic Games
- Live animals
- Reenactors

*Wagon Ride Tickets, \$2/per person, purchased in the Visitor Center.

For more information, call
703-631-0013

or visit

fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence

Ellanor C. Lawrence Park and Walney Visitor Center
5040 Walney Rd • Chantilly, VA 20151



A Fairfax County,
VA publication



For accommodations contact
Inclusion and ADA Support,
703-324-8563. TTY: Va Relay 711



Volunteer Opportunity in Sully



2017 Springfest Earth Day Festival

Description: Springfest is Fairfax County's premier Earth Day festival held on April 29th at Sully Historic property in Chantilly, VA. The theme of this year's event is "Healthy People-Healthy Planet", the event will offer workshops, vendors, and activities to help us improve our health and environment. The day-long event attracts nearly 5000 from across Fairfax County. Volunteers are needed to assist throughout the day in a variety of capacities.

Duties: Some types of volunteer opportunities include; helping with set-up, parking, activities tent, information desk, floater, and clean-up.

Volunteer Benefits: A great volunteer opportunity for community service hours and helping the Park Authority achieve their mission.

Qualifications: Willingness to help your community and commitment to report on time.

Additional Info: All volunteers should check-in at the "Clean Fairfax" tent and receive their station assignments.

Location:

Sully Historic Site
1350 Historic Sully Way
Chantilly, VA 20151

Contact:

Deborah Lodato
703-324-8569

deborah.lodato@fairfaxcounty.gov

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/volunteer

For more information about the available positions please visit:

[https://volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov/recruiter/index.php?recruiterID=1380&class=Op
pDetails&oppGuid={60B8F6C2-B877-48DE-B2C9-6AAAE3BB227}](https://volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov/recruiter/index.php?recruiterID=1380&class=Op
pDetails&oppGuid={60B8F6C2-B877-48DE-B2C9-6AAAE3BB227}).
