

Bulova Byline

The Monthly Newsletter from Chairman Sharon Bulova

April 2014



[Fairfax County Board of Supervisors](#)
[Chairman Sharon Bulova](#)

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Tell me what you think!

Do you have questions, concerns, or ideas for the County? Contact my office now!

703.324.2321 TTY 711

chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov



Greetings,

What a difference a year makes. In March of last year, I reported on Fairfax County's Registry Week, part of the [100,000 Homes campaign](#). Volunteers throughout the County (including myself) trekked through the woods during the wee hours of the morning to make contact with individuals and families living in the woods or in cars, trying to survive without a roof over their heads.



Fairfax County- 100,000 Homes campaign volunteers registering homeless individuals at campsites in the woods.

Fairfax County has adopted the goal of [ending homelessness as we know it by the year 2018](#).

In 2008, at the beginning of the recession when the County had to reduce budgets and programs, our Board of Supervisors created one small office, The Office to Prevent and End Homelessness. This small office leverages County resources through non-profits, faith communities and generous corporate partners to understand the dynamics of homelessness and to provide the housing and supportive services needed to make sure all Fairfax County residents are able to live safely.

One of the individuals I met in the woods last year was "Dave," a

very impressive man. He shared that an answer to addressing homelessness was "jobs." Many homeless individuals are working people who do not earn enough income to rent or buy housing. Most homeless people also have health and medical challenges that contribute to their difficulties.

Last week the media reported on the story of fifty individuals who found housing as a result of the 100,000 Homes campaign. When I opened my weekly Connection Newspaper there was Dave smiling back at me!

"Community Welcomes Homeless Into New Homes

Housing is part of the 100,000 homes campaign."



David Vernon moving into the FACETS housing, which houses chronically homeless individuals. Photo credit: Janelle Germanos, Connection Newspapers.

While we have not yet "arrived," Fairfax County has made definite progress in reducing the homeless population in the County. My thanks to our many community partners who are making this happen! To find out how you can help this most at risk population in Fairfax County, go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/>.

At the last Board of Supervisors meeting on March 25th, the Board received a final report on General Assembly activities. Unfortunately, one issue that was not resolved during the 2014 GA session is the issue of **Medicaid expansion**. That issue is a top priority in the Fairfax County Legislative Program, as our Board recognizes the importance of providing health care coverage to some of the most vulnerable in our population. It is also a priority for the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce and our health care institutions. Our Board voted to reiterate its strong support for expanding Medicaid in Virginia. The details of my opinion on

Medicaid expansion were recently published in a [commentary article in the Connection Newspapers](#).

Following County Executive Ed Long's presentation of the **Advertised Fiscal Year 2015 Budget**, a number of town meetings and community forums have been hosted throughout the County by my colleagues and various County organizations. Lots of folks have taken advantage of these opportunities, have asked good questions and made good suggestions. [In last month's Byline](#), I gave a short briefing on the major features of the budget. I wish there was more positive news to share:

- The County is still struggling to recover from the recession and its aftermath. Recovery is taking longer than expected.
- Most revenues the County receives to provide services are flat or a slight decrease from last year - with the one exception of an uptick in residential real estate values. If the County keeps the tax rate at its current \$1.085, this means an annual increase of approximately \$330 in the average tax bill on your home. My colleagues and I are very mindful of the effect an increase in tax bills could have on our residents, many of whom are experiencing their own struggles as a result of these difficult times.
- Our school system is experiencing growth in student population and mounting demands as a result of costs associated with employee benefits and state and federal mandates that make teaching more complicated and expensive.
- More people have turned to the County in need of human services programs and assistance.
- Compensation for our County and school system workforce has remained pretty much stagnant since the recession began six years ago. Our employees are stressed with their own family finances.

This will not be an easy budget to adopt. Public hearings before the Board of Supervisors are scheduled for next week beginning at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 8th, and continuing at 3 p.m. on April 9th and 10th. To sign up you can call 703.324.3151 or [sign up online](#). You can [watch the public hearings](#) and/or the Board's "Budget Mark-up" (Amendments to the Advertised Budget) during our Board Meeting of April 22nd at 10 a.m. The hearing will air live on Cable Channel 16. All public hearings will take place in the Board auditorium at the Fairfax County Government Center (12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035).

I've received lots of letters, phone calls and e-mails regarding your thoughts and concerns during this Budget season and want to

thank you for being engaged in the process.

Sincerely,



Sharon Bulova
Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Evolution Series

Evolution of the WORKPLACE

On June 9th I will be hosting the 3rd installment of my annual *Evolution Series* on June 9, 2014 from 7:00pm-9:00pm in the Government Center Board Auditorium. Past programs include the [Evolution of Fairfax](#) (2012) and the [Evolution of Transportation](#) (2013). This year's program is titled the *Evolution of the Workplace* and is designed to be a fun and interesting look at how work, workers, and the workplace have evolved over time and what the workplace of the future will look like. All are welcome to attend.

SHOW US WHERE YOU'VE WORKED!: Do you have a photo of a favorite Fairfax County workplace, home, or memory? Send us your old photos to be featured in a fun and interesting multimedia slideshow at the Evolution event on June 9. Please include a short description of the photo and the names of those photographed. Please send photos and direct questions to diana.trinh@fairfaxcounty.gov. All submissions welcome!

Additional information on registration and how you can participate in the event will be available soon at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/chairman. If you have any specific questions or concerns please call 703.324.2321.

SPRINGfest Fairfax

www.springfestfairfax.org

Saturday, April 26, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
at the Workhouse Arts Center
9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton, VA 22079
Free Family Fun All Day Long!

Entertainment!

Billy B, Reptiles Alive,
Under The Sea *and more!*

Fun and Games!

Pony Rides, Live Animals, Rock Climbing Wall,
Bounce Houses, Crafts, Games *and more!*

Learning Opportunities!

Food Canning/Preserving Workshop and
Tree and Gardening Workshops

And More!

Food Vendors & Plant Sale
(natives, vegetables, flowers
and tree seedlings)

Make a Difference!

Participate in Lorton Community Action's
Toothbrush/Toothpaste and Food Drive

*Participants will receive a reusable
grocery bag (while supplies last)!*



Presented by:



Celebrate Green Living!

For more information, go to www.springfestfairfax.org or call the Clean Fairfax Council at 703-324-5471, TTY 711.



March 2014

A Fairfax County, Va., publication.

Fairfax County is committed to nondiscrimination on the basis of disability in all county programs, services and activities. Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request.

For information, call 703-324-5880, TTY 711.



Spring Community Clean Ups

The Clean Fairfax Council wants to help you clean up your neighborhood!

In the spring and the fall the Council supports county wide cleanups by individuals, groups, schools, churches, and businesses. Thousands of volunteers participate in these cleanups each year and Clean Fairfax is making it easier than ever to participate.

To plan a cleanup just pick a day, get some volunteers, select a site and let the Council know of your plans. The Council will send you supplies on a first come, first served basis and these supplies include 30 gallon trash bags, clear bags for recyclables, safety vests, safety tips, and any other supplies that we might have to support the cleanup. Clean Fairfax will fill every order to the best of our ability depending on quantities available. ALL ITEMS ARE FREE OF CHARGE! Please allow 10 business days to receive your supplies. For more information visit: <http://www.cleanfairfax.org/programs-events/community-clean-up-program/>.



Fort Belvoir and the Army-Community Partnership Initiative

Fort Belvoir Installation Access

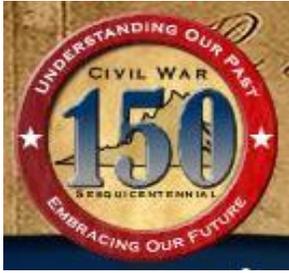
Fort Belvoir is updating its installation access control measures at their gates. Last month, Fort Belvoir installed the Automated Installation Entry system. This system works with a Department of Defense (DoD) identification card reader and an automated barrier arm at the gate. Drivers will be able to swipe their DoD identification card and have their credentials instantaneously validated against DoD records. Non-DoD identification cardholders will be able to register for a pass at the Visitor Processing Operations Center at Tulley Gate.



Army-Community Partnership Initiative - "Shared Problems. Shared Solutions."

New legislation put forth by Congress last year in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) 2013 has brought together the Army Partnerships Initiative, Military and Federal Facility Alliance and the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, including representatives from Fairfax County, to identify and conduct pilot projects for public-public partnership opportunities. Workshops focused on exploring opportunities for shared services between military installations and Northern Virginia communities have been hosted at Fort Belvoir. During these workshops, Fairfax County staff worked with our regional partners and the military to compile a list of potential shared services. From transportation to schools to park and recreation and so much more, this initiative will develop mutually beneficial solutions to enhance the quality of life for Fairfax County residents and the Fort Belvoir community.

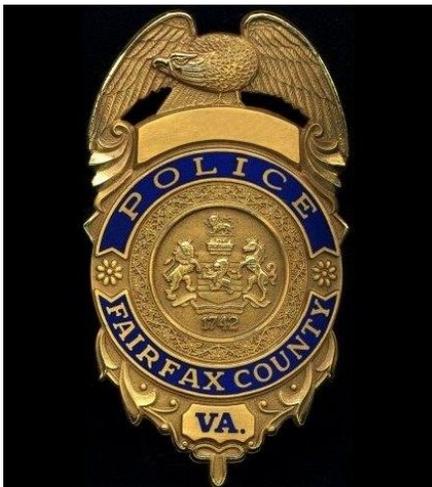
Civil War Conference



It has been 150 years since the Civil War. As part of the 150th anniversary, the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission is hosting a conference at the Center for the Arts on the Fairfax campus of George Mason University. Historians of international acclaim will discuss some of the impacts of the Civil War as well as some of the interesting and unexpected connections between the American crisis and the wider world.

The conference will be held on Saturday, May 31, 2014 and advanced registration is open until May 1 or when capacity is reached. The registration fee is \$15 (conference only) or \$25 (conference and lunch). If you would like addition and online registration, visit www.VirginiaCivilWar.org or call 804.786.3591.

FCDP New Communication Tools



The Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD) has introduced two new communication tools for the public to use to easily access updated information about what is happening within their communities: the FCPD News blog and the Police Event Viewer Application.

[The FCPD News blog](#) will be replacing the Listserv subscription service by providing news releases to the public in a more effective and timely manner. FCPD has also created a Twitter account at <https://twitter.com/fairfaxpolice> where any FCPD News from the blog will be simultaneously tweeted.

FCPD is also providing the [Police Event Viewer Application](#) that will replace the My Neighborhood system. This is a new mapping system that allows members of the community to easily see what is going on in their neighborhood and in other areas of the County. Users can customize searches by choosing an area of interest within the county, date range, and/or incident categories, and the calls received by the Department of Public Safety Communications will be provided on the map.

Summer Concerts and Farmers Market



Wine tastings during Concerts

I am pleased to announce that my office, in partnership with the Park Authority, will again be hosting the *Evenings on the Ellipse* summer concert series in the "backyard" of the Government Center.

During the Summer season, County employees and music-loving neighbors have the opportunity to end each Thursday with the an *Evenings on the Ellipse Concert* from 5:30pm to 7:00pm on the beautiful back lawn of the Government Center. This series was hugely successful last year. Our County's two wineries, Bull Run Winery and Paradise

Springs, will be back again this summer for **weekly wine tastings during the concerts.**

In addition to great music, added highlights to the Government Center's Thursday calendar include the opening and operation of the **Government Center Farmer's Market** in the front parking lot, beginning in May and lasting through October.

For more information please call 703.324.2321 or email Christina Esmeralda Fullmer:

Christina.fullmer@fairfaxcounty.gov.



Evenings on the Ellipse Concert 2013