

**From the Office of Sharon Bulova**  
**Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors**

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## Bulova Byline

The Monthly Newsletter from Chairman Bulova

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August 2012

Greetings,

One of my earliest experiences with transportation planning involved the creation of the **Virginia Railway Express (VRE)** Commuter Rail system. It seemed like such a simple idea at the time.

In 1988 I was a freshman Supervisor representing the Annandale (later renamed Braddock) District. I was appointed as one of the Fairfax County representatives to serve on the **Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC)**, a body of elected officials tasked with planning and developing transit in the region. While the majority of my colleagues on NVTC were focused on efforts to extend the relatively new Metrorail system to Springfield/Franconia, I was more interested in getting the freight railroads that run through Northern Virginia to allow us to run commuter trains on their tracks.

A study completed in 1984 had indicated that such service could be viable. The railroads, much to everyone's surprise, had agreed to share their tracks - so long as they were fairly compensated and protected from the liability our passenger trains might present. What looked so simple then, eventually took close to ten difficult years, requiring several pieces of State legislation and an act of Congress. Today the VRE is a major success story, and one of the fastest growing and most popular commuter rail systems in the nation. A lesson I learned from that VRE experience is that *transportation planning often moves at a glacial pace*. Success requires tenacity.

In July several major transportation projects took significant steps

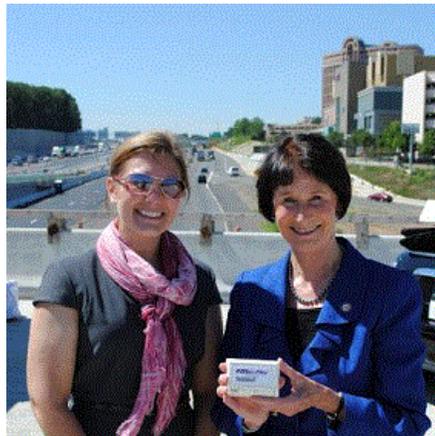
forward in their deliberate paths toward realization.

\* Following Loudoun County's vote to opt in on Phase 2 of the Metrorail Silver Line, the Metropolitan Washington Airport



Authority (MWAA) Board has issued a Request for Qualifications Information (RFQI) to solicit qualification statements from potential bidders on the 11.5 mile Phase 2 extension which will build rail to the Dulles Airport and into eastern Loudoun County. **This is the first step in the process** to select a design-build contractor for Phase 2 of the project. The RFQI can be viewed on the MWAA website at <http://www.mwaa.com/5015.htm>.

Throughout July work has progressed on Phase One of the project, with both above and below ground rail infrastructure almost completed and stations starting to come into shape. Revenue service on the Silver Line serving Tysons Corner is slated to begin in late 2013/early 2014. Phase 2, now that the bidding process has begun, should be completed in approximately five years.



\* On July 25th I participated in a ceremony to kick off promotion of the **E-ZPass Flex** which will allow motorists on the new **495 Express Lanes** (formerly HOT) to use those lanes for free if three people or more are in the car. The lanes will also be used for new Fairfax County express buses which will debut early next year. The E-ZPass Flex when adjusted to "non-carpool" mode

can be used on all toll facilities. More information about purchasing the E-ZPass Flex can be found by going to <http://www.495expresslanes.com/using-ezpass>.

The 495 Express Lanes project is a State public-private partnership with Fluor Transurban. The lanes will be completed late this fall, just in time for its companion project on I-95 to break ground. Once completed the I-95 HOT Lanes Project will provide 29 miles

of HOT and HOV lanes, along with the opportunity for seamless express bus service from Dumfries to Edsall Road and the Beltway.

At our July 31st meeting, our Board approved a streetcar line as the locally preferred option for transit along the Columbia Pike corridor. The Columbia Pike Streetcar Project is a joint initiative with Arlington County that would build a streetcar line 4.9 miles from Pentagon City to Skyline in Fairfax County. Fairfax's three stations will be located in the Baileys area: Goodwin House, Jefferson Street and Skyline.

This transit project is a key component to revitalizing the Baileys business district. At 16,000 bus riders per day, this corridor already has the highest bus ridership in Northern Virginia and demand is expected to nearly double by 2030. The street car will accommodate more riders without adding extra buses to the road.



I believe the streetcar will relieve congestion, present economic development opportunities for the Skyline and Baileys area and serve a population with the demonstrated support for transit. Light rail has the potential to become an important part of our Region's transportation network. The estimated cost to build the streetcar line is \$246 million. Both Fairfax and Arlington will be seeking funding from federal (New Starts) and state sources and will continue to work together on design, governance and operational issues.

While most of the new streetcar line is located in Arlington, the area that will serve Fairfax County is in the Mason District. I thank my colleague Supervisor Penny Gross for her strong leadership role in this project. Detailed information on the Columbia Pike Streetcar can be found at

[http://www.piketranisit.org/downloads/may2012/LPA\\_Report\\_7-16-12.pdf](http://www.piketranisit.org/downloads/may2012/LPA_Report_7-16-12.pdf).

I hope you enjoy the rest of your summer! Included in this Byline is information about ways you can find summer fun here in beautiful Fairfax. There is something for everyone!

Sincerely,



Sharon Bulova - Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

## Checkout What Fairfax has to Offer this Summer

With so much happening during these summer months, we sometimes overlook the many wonderful opportunities right before our eyes.

From eleven different Farmers Markets to lengthy Bike Trails to summer reading recommendations at your local library, Fairfax County has it all.

With 11 Farmers Markets around the County, you have lots of options for farm fresh fruits and vegetables.

Plan your route on Fairfax County bike trails and enjoy the warm days.

Or check out an outdoor concert or drive-in movie. Listen to some country music at Grist Mill Park on August 17.

Click on this link to explore all of the fantastic opportunities Fairfax has to offer:

<http://www.fxva.com/seedoplan/fairfax-virginia-tourist-attractions/>.



## Vital Services Maintained in CSB Budget

The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Service Board (CSB), which provides services for people here in Fairfax County and the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church who have mental illness, substance use disorders, and/or intellectual or developmental disabilities, currently faces a projected budget shortfall of \$9.5 million by the end of the current fiscal year (Fiscal Year 2013). The CSB faced a similar shortfall in FY2012 which was resolved through interim measures and one-time adjustments.

Several factors contributed to the CSB's recent fiscal challenges. Significant increases in the number of people in need of services from the CSB, as well as decreasing federal support and reimbursements from the state have all contributed to the CSB's budget challenges.

Fairfax County is committed to helping residents get the services they need. In most parts of the Commonwealth, the CSB is funded primarily by the state; however, here in Fairfax County, we provide over 70 percent of the CSB's budget to provide a higher level of service in order to meet the needs of local residents.

The Board has already taken a number of steps to address the fiscal health of the CSB. When we adopted the FY2013 Budget in May, the Board of Supervisors established a reserve of over \$4.2 million to offset critical state and federal reductions to the CSB and other Human Services programs. This reserve and funding included in the FY2012 Carryover Review will be used to address the CSB shortfall by:

- \* Fully funding existing contracted employment and day services for adults with intellectual disabilities as well as funding for new ID graduates in 2012
- \* Establishing a reserve of \$1.0 million to support the Infant-Toddler Connection pending our advocacy in Richmond to persuade the state to meet its obligations for this program. The reserve can be accessed if full state funding is not available and will prevent the reinstatement of a waiting list for these services.
- \* Funding for a full year contract rate increase for CSB vendors with a more rigorous negotiation process to be held in FY 2014.

The Board also directed CSB staff to identify possible efficiencies and reductions to close the projected deficit. When we received these recommendations, the Board then asked one of our citizen advisory groups, the Human Services Council (HSC), to host a public engagement process to evaluate the proposals. Based on the comments and suggestions they received, the HSC recently made recommendations to the Board on proposed changes. In the meantime, CSB staff has already implemented some program changes and efficiencies that have generated \$0.6 million in savings.

Providing services to our most vulnerable citizens continues to be a priority for the Board of Supervisors. I understand how important these services are to the people they serve as well as their families and friends.

## Join Me for National Night Out 2012

I hope you will join me in participating in the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual **National Night Out** program on Tuesday, August 7<sup>th</sup>. I will be visiting sites throughout Fairfax County with Police Chief David Rohr and I hope to see you out with your neighbors raising awareness of crime prevention, and letting criminals know that we will fight back! National Night Out has proven to be an effective, inexpensive and enjoyable program to promote neighborhood spirit and law enforcement-community partnerships in our fight for a safer nation.

For more information or to register your National Night Out event, please contact your local district police station's crime prevention:

Sully District Station: Brett Katinski, 703-814-7018

Mount Vernon District Station: Greg Kottemann, 703-360-8400

McLean District Station: Patrick Lucas, 703-556-7750

Mason District Station: Brendan Murphy, 703-256-8035

Reston District Station: Katy DeFoe, 703-478-0799

Franconia District Station: Jim Reid, 703-922-0889

West Springfield District Station: J.T. Frey, 703-644-7377

Fair Oaks District Station: Richard Twombly, 703-352-2163

## 4-H Fair and Frying Pan Park Farm Show Offer Lots to See & Do



I have the honor of delivering opening remarks at this year's **Fairfax County 4-H Fair at Frying Pan Park Farm** in Herndon. The fair and the Frying Pan Park Farm Show are being held this weekend on Saturday, August 4 and Sunday, August 5, and have been a Fairfax County tradition going on sixty-four years!



If you are looking for a great weekend full of fun family activities, including rides, games, exhibit booths, goat milking, and real farm chores, then you will not be disappointed at the 4-H Fair this weekend. The fair runs from **9am to 9pm on Saturday and from 9am to 5pm on Sunday**.

Hope to see you there! For more information please visit:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/press/html/pr063-12.htm>.

## Sojourn House Fills Important Community Need

In July I had the opportunity to visit and meet the staff members and residents of the **Sojourn House**. Sojourn House is a community-based residential facility located here in Fairfax County. It is a program of the **Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board** that serves teenage girls between the ages of 12-17 who are experiencing trauma and/or mental health difficulties.



The program serves 15-20 girls each year and it is the only one of its kind here in Fairfax County. Sojourn House has a school on site that is operated by Fairfax County Public Schools and promotes an emphasis on successfully transitioning each of its graduates into the community.



I was very impressed with this facility. It is a warm and supportive place where young women can find stability, encouragement and interaction with caring adults who make a real difference in their lives.

## Inova Seeking Input for Community Health Needs Assessment

Please participate in **Inova's 2012 Community Health Needs Assessment**. The results of the survey will be used to help each of the five hospitals in the Inova system plan for community services and education. The five-minute survey addresses access to health care, age-appropriate health screenings and immunizations, and healthy lifestyles. It also provides an opportunity to identify the most important health issues for you and your family. The survey is offered in Arabic, English, Farsi, Korean, Spanish, Vietnamese and Urdu.

Survey participants are identified by zip code, so your responses will be combined to provide information to the hospitals serving your local area.

Go to [www.inova.org/community](http://www.inova.org/community), and click TAKE HEALTH SURVEY to let Inova know today's most important health issues for you and your family. The survey will close on August 10th, 2012.

## Neighbors Come Together after Derecho Storm

On the night of Friday, June 29, Elissa and Bill Myers were asleep in their Springfield home when, during **the Derecho storm**, a massive, 50-year-old oak tree lowered itself onto their deck and demolished the side of their house.

The giant, uprooted tree broke multiple bearing along the whole house, destroyed the roof, knocked the chimney down, and separated an entire side wall from the rest of the house. At the same time, rain poured down in buckets, filled the roofless rooms.

Elissa and Bill never imagined that they would be innocent victims of a natural disaster. A catastrophic situation, however, turned into an opportunity for family, friends, neighbors, and first responders to help Elissa and Bill in a time of great need - and that is exactly what happened.

First on the scene were neighbors Bruce and Debbie Mahen armed with flashlights, umbrellas and comfort. Within moments a third neighbor Kelly, arrived with more flashlights and genuine concern.



When the firemen arrived at the house, all Elissa could think about was the very large oil painting that had been hanging over the mantle depicting the city of Steyr, Austria. In 1950, the mayor of Steyr presented the painting to her father as a token of thanks for his work in directing US normalization in Austria. The painting was several hundred years old and Elissa's wish was to pass it down as a family heirloom, but she knew that due to the damage of her house it had to be ruined.

Elissa wrote on her blog: "I will never know how the firemen saved my painting - they must have taken extraordinary heroic measures to do so - and it is a kindness I will never forget."

The firemen also rescued two framed letters - one written by Elissa's grandmother to her mother the first time her mother left home and another written by Elissa's mother to Elissa, the first time Elissa left home.

On Saturday morning, eight-year-old Johnny Karlinchak and his mom came over as two more concerned neighbors wanting to help. After Johnny got a good look at the damage, he left and returned again with a gift for Elissa - 6 quarters emptied from his piggy bank.

In her blog Elissa said, "Nothing about the house made me cry. Every time I found another broken treasure buried in the debris I could hear my mother's voice saying "it's just a thing ... " But Johnny and his quarters made me cry. What a perfectly lovely gesture from such a sweet little guy."

"I'm not finished," Johnny said. "I've got an idea." Again he left. This time, Johnny set up a lemonade stand with a sign that said "for Mrs. Myer's Rebuilding Fund." Johnny raised \$21 for Elissa and Bill Myers by selling lemonade. "That \$22.50 that Johnny gave me," Elissa said, "is the best present I ever got."

To the firemen and Johnny Karlinchak, thank you for going the extra mile to help members of your community when they needed your help the most.

## Join me for the Annual Springfield Community Bridge Walk

Join me and my colleague Jeff McKay, Lee District Supervisor and the sponsor of the Bridge Walk, on August 28, 2012 for the Springfield Community Bridge Walk. Local families and businesses from across the Springfield community will be participating in this exciting annual walk across Veterans Bridge.

If you are interested in attending, please see the following instructions and information:

Participants will gather in the parking lot adjacent to Kinko's, 6998 Bland Street on the north side of the bridge, starting at 7:00 p.m. At 7:30 p.m., participants will march across the bridge, led by a color guard from the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars. (The bridge will be closed to traffic during this time.) The walk will end in the parking lot of the American Legion where participants will enjoy music by the Kings Park Concert Band. Light refreshments and prizes from local businesses will be included in the festivities.

Veterans Bridge, also known as the Amherst Avenue Bridge, crosses Old Keene Mill Road and links both sides of Springfield's commercial revitalization area. It was redesigned as part of the Springfield Mixing Bowl reconstruction and made more pedestrian friendly with wide sidewalks and attractive acorn lighting. For more information, call Linda Waller at 703-971-6262, TTY 711.