

Bulova Byline

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January 2012 begins the last year of the Mayan "Long" calendar. Some believe the hallmark signifies a major change. Even without the Mayan calendar, **change is on our plate this year in Fairfax County.**

- After serving as County Executive for 12 years, Anthony Griffin is stepping down. Tony has done **an outstanding job** for us during difficult and complicated times and we have been very fortunate to have had him at the helm.

The search for Tony's successor has already begun. A search team is already working with our Board to identify candidates – both inside and outside Fairfax County government. They have been tasked with including **community engagement and outreach** in the process so that the public has an opportunity to weigh in on qualities and issues that are important to consider in bringing a new County Executive on board.

In addition to a number of stakeholder focus group sessions, **a survey has been developed to capture your thoughts.** I hope you will participate in the survey by visiting <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cex/search/>, or by filling out a paper version of the form **attached to this Byline** and mailing it to 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 270, Fairfax, VA, 22035. Ultimately, the decision rests with the Board of Supervisors, but we will use feedback from this process in preparing briefings for candidates and/or formulating interview questions.

- In early February our Board will be participating in a **two day Strategic Planning Retreat** which will include discussions of goals and priorities both within the Supervisor districts as well as countywide. The Retreat will take place at the Lorton Workhouse Arts Center, an active site for revitalization and re-use of an older historic facility. Future growth and development in Fairfax County lies in revitalization and redevelopment of our older commercial and industrial areas and I'm excited about this location (suggested by Supervisor Hyland) for our meeting.

On February 25th our Board will engage in a **first-time Board-to-Board Retreat with members of the School Board.** I'm looking forward to this opportunity to discuss how best we can **work together** to serve our children,

our families and our broader Fairfax Community. We will be meeting at Finance Park on the Frost middle school campus, an example of an impressive public-private partnership which teaches financial literacy to all FCPS eighth graders.

- 2012 will mark the **completion of the I-495 HOT Lanes project**, and the beginning of a new project to extend HOT Lanes onto I-95 from Stafford County to the Beltway. Transurban-Fluor will begin providing outreach about how to use the HOT Lanes this summer. More information about both projects can be found by going to virginiahotlanes.com.
- With more than **60 percent of the project completed**, anyone driving in or near the Dulles corridor will see major elements of **Phase I of the Rail to Dulles project** (Falls Church to Reston) coming into shape. Construction is planned for completion by the end of 2013. Some fantastic photos of the project can be enjoyed by downloading [this PDF](#) (10mb file).
- During 2012 our Board will have on our agenda the final approval of a **funding plan for Phase II**, which will extend the Rail to Dulles project all the way from Wiehle Avenue in Reston to Dulles Airport and into Loudoun County. Much progress was made during the past year to bring the cost of the project more in line with the original projection of \$2.5 billion and work will continue to identify ways to contain costs. **Design-bid solicitation is planned for this summer.**
- **Lastly, redevelopment of Tysons Corner** is continuing. Last year the Board approved the first rezoning under the new comprehensive plan, Spring Hill Station. Currently there are 14 redevelopments making their way through the process, many of which could come before the Board before 2012 comes to a close. To follow the progress on the redevelopment of Tysons, visit the County website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/tysons/.

I will be holding an online chat on **Jan. 13 at 12 noon** on the upcoming budget, the search for a new County Executive, and my priorities for 2012. Questions and comments can be submitted now at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/askfairfax/ActiveDiscussion.aspx?roomid=27>.

Please keep an eye on the Byline and my website (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/chairman) to find out what's happening in 2012. Happy New Year!

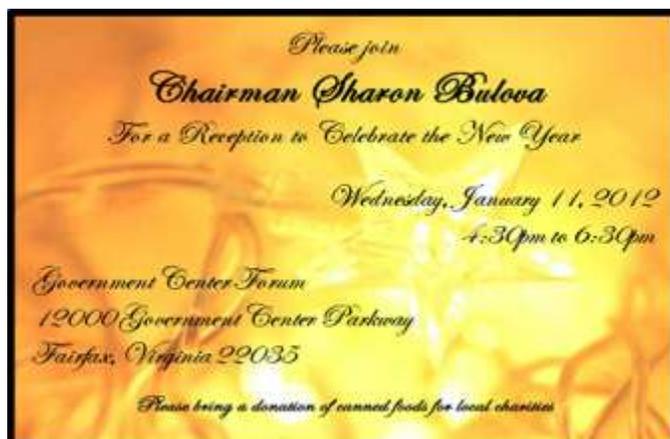
Sincerely,



Sharon Bulova – Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Chairman to Host New Year Reception Jan. 11

I hope you can join me at my annual New Year Reception in the **Government Center Forum on January 11, 2012**. This event is an opportunity for me to say thank you to the many people who make Fairfax County such a wonderful place to live, work and play. Once again our event will be catered by Chef Christine Gloninger and her talented Annandale High School Culinary Arts students. We will also be treated to music by harpist Christine Van Dyke from Neighborhood and Community Services. Please come and enjoy light refreshments from **4:30 to 6:30** and help ring in 2012!



Environmental Council to Hold Annual Public Hearing

The Fairfax County **Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC)** will hold its annual public hearing on the environment on **Tuesday, January 17, 2012 at 7:30 PM**. The hearing will be held in the Board Auditorium at the Fairfax County Government Center, with a remote testimony opportunity at the South County Center.

EQAC is appointed by the Board of Supervisors to give advice on environmental matters. The annual public hearing is your opportunity to **share your views on the state of the environment** and to identify environmental issues you see in your community. Environmental issues considered by EQAC include water quality, air quality, noise, hazardous materials, solid waste, stream valley protection, wildlife management, light pollution, visual pollution, climate change response and adaptation, land use,

transportation and the use and preservation of ecological resources. **EQAC welcomes written and/or verbal testimony.**

To be placed on the speakers list or for additional information, call the Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning at **703-324-1380** (TTY 711) or send an e-mail message (and/or submit written testimony) to EQAC@fairfaxcounty.gov.

EQAC presented its annual report to the Board at our Dec. 6 meeting. The report provides an overview of environmental conditions and programs in the county and offers recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. The report covers 2010, but also includes significant actions from 2011. To view the report, visit their website at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/eqac/report2011.htm>

Community Spotlight: Humane Society's Ani-Meal Program

This article was written by Gina Lynch – Head of Development for the Fairfax County Humane Society. If you would like your organization highlighted in a Community Spotlight, email Clayton Medford at clayton.medford@fairfaxcounty.gov

The **Humane Society of Fairfax County** (www.hsfc.org) has served our community for almost 50 years by helping rescue, care for, and adopt sick, abandoned and neglected animals. We adopt cats, dogs, horses, and small mammals into forever homes. Our foster care initiative ensures that all our animals are lovingly cared for until that special family adopts them.

One of our initiatives which we are most proud of is the Ani-Meals Program. The program provides temporary assistance of cat and dog food to families who are undergoing an emergency financial situation. Donations to our animal food bank have been generously obtained from the local community and dropped off at our office; the donations are then distributed to families that require this critical assistance.

The recent dire economic situation has forced many families (especially low income and elderly families) to **seek assistance in keeping their family companions in their homes**. We decided to reach out to the local community and provide the most critical need for the animal companions of these families - food. As families struggle to balance the financial burdens with limited and many times dwindling funds, we want to provide a means to easily help them until they are able to get on their feet. As donations increase, we can provide even more help.

Families needing assistance can contact us to request an application (on visit our website at www.hsfc.org to download the form); the allocation across our community allows us to spread the assistance to as many families as possible. Please call 703-385-7387 or email pets@hsfc.org if you have any questions.

Sheriffs Announce 'Safety Seat Saturday' Dates for 2012

Upcoming: January 28

9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Fairfax County Public Safety Center

Public Parking Garage

10550 Page Avenue, Fairfax, VA

Specially trained and certified sheriff's deputies will help parents and caregivers ensure that a child fits securely in the safety seat and that the safety seat fits securely in the vehicle seat.



Bring your vehicle and safety seat(s). Bring your child, too ... if he or she is available!

Questions? Please email the [Sheriff's Office](#).

2012 Dates: February 25, March 31, April 28, May 26, June 30, July 28, August 25, September 29, October 27, November 17 (3rd Saturday), December 29

In case of inclement weather...

As many county residents will recall, we received a record amount of snow in early 2010, and we rang in 2011 with a commute-crippling Thundersnow. I wanted to take this opportunity to remind you about the services available to you in case we experience another harsh winter.

Most of the roads in Fairfax County are state roads and are plowed by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). After the storms last year, your elected representatives at the state and local levels met with the local VDOT administrators and a more robust snow response plan is in place this year.

If you have concerns about plowing in your neighborhood, the Northern Virginia District Office of VDOT can be contacted at 800-FOR-ROAD (800-367-7623) or by email at novainfo@vdot.virginia.gov. Additionally, the Board of Supervisors works closely with VDOT to insure that our constituents are well served, so please feel free to contact my office or the offices of my colleagues and we will follow up with VDOT on your concerns.

Make sure you know how to contact your **utility providers** in the event of a service disruption. **Dominion Virginia Power (1-866-366-4357 for outages) and NOVEC (703-335-0500 or 1-888-335-0500 for outages) are the power providers in the county.** A complete list of utility providers and their contact information is available through the county's website: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/utilities/utilitycompanies.htm>.

One of the best ways to be prepared for winter weather is to **subscribe to the county's Community Emergency Alert Network**, which delivers messages about crises, emergencies, traffic delays and weather events. Subscribers can receive CEAN messages via email, phone, pager, or other wireless device. Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cean/> to register for this service. You can also subscribe to updates from our new Emergency Information blog at <http://fairfaxcountyemergency.wordpress.com/>.

We recognize that heavy snowfall can make it challenging for residents to access medical services. **Residents with high-risk health conditions are strongly encouraged to sign up with the County's Special Needs Registry** (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/specialneeds/> or (703) 324-9000). The information in the registry will be used by county agencies to improve their ability to serve participants in the event of an emergency. In the event of an emergency all residents, whether or not they are on the Special Needs Registry, should call 9-1-1.

Residents are also encouraged to prepare for winter weather by **winterizing their homes, preparing an emergency supply kit, avoiding unnecessary travel and allowing extra time for travel during inclement weather.** For tips on these topics and others related to winter weather preparedness, please visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/prepare/winter/>.

Civil War Events, Commemorations Happening in January, February

We've only got a couple Civil War events happening during these cold months:

Herndon Historical Society - A Few Mosby Men: Broken Hearts, Severed Limbs, and 3 Millionaires

Jan 25, 7:30pm
Herndon Depot
717 Lynn Street, Herndon
Admission: FREE

The speaker, Eric Buckland, is the author of three books about the men who rode with the 43rd Battalion Virginia Cavalry, better known as Mosby's Rangers. Mosby's Keydet Rangers is a collection of newspaper articles, passages from books, magazine articles, personal letters

Click here for a complete list of events happening in and around Fairfax County

and accounts, memorials, obituaries, and information from descendants- much of it never before published-about the lives of the 58 VMI matriculants who rode with Mosby.

Gunston Hall's 5th Annual Seeds of Independence Program

Feb. 12, 2pm
Gunston Hall
10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck
Phone: (703) 550-9220
Admission: \$5-\$9

Gunston Hall's 5th Annual Seeds of Independence program explores a small antebellum settlement of free blacks clustered along the "Neck Road," now known as Harley Road, on Mason's Neck and situated within properties owned by whites, some of them the owners of a few slaves. Event includes two films and an illustrated talk.

Free Prescription Drug Discount Cards Available to All Residents

Over the last year our staff has been working to initiate a no cost prescription drug discount card program for all Fairfax County residents. We are able to offer this card **at no cost to taxpayers or card users**, because the discounts are provided through a partnership with ProAct, Inc. a pharmacy benefits management company and participating pharmacies across the county.



The card can **reduce the cost of a prescription by up to 45 percent**, depending on the drug and amount bought. It is intended to help the more than 144,000 county residents-or 13.5 percent of the county's population-who don't have health

insurance. It can also help insured residents anytime they must pay full price for a prescription if their plan doesn't cover a specific drug. Discounts are available for some pet medicines too.

The card can be used **at most of the 148 pharmacies in the county**. To use the card, just present it at the pharmacy. No enrollment or registration is needed, and one card can be used for the entire family.

Cards will be mailed to households in areas that have the highest concentration of residents without health insurance, a limited supply of cards will be stationed at pharmacies across the county and all residents can download the cards at www.FairfaxRxDiscountCard.com or by calling 1-877-776-2285.

Internship Opportunities in Chairman Bulova's Office

The Chairman's Office is currently accepting applications for unpaid **spring and summer internships**.

We are looking for college students interested in politics or government who would like the opportunity to get first-hand experience with the business of local government in the largest county in Virginia. Intern duties will include constituent service work such as drafting letters and answering phone calls, issue research, and other tasks as needs arise.

Applicants should be interested in the work of local government, and should be enthusiastic, hard-working and reliable. We have full or part-time internships and we are willing to support students seeking course credit for their time. Interested candidates should send resumes and cover letters to mark.thomas@fairfaxcounty.gov or **fax to 703-324-3955**. For all faxes and emails related to this internship opportunity, please use the subject line "Internship Application."

FY2013 Budget Process Underway

Adoption of the budget is the top priority of our Board. When we adopt a budget, we are investing in the priorities of our community. It is always critical that our residents are at the table with us as spending (and saving) decisions are made.

County staff and the county executive are currently working on developing a balanced budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2013 which begins on July 1, 2012. The [county executive](#) and [school superintendent](#) provided preliminary

forecasts for the FY 2013 budget to the County Board of Supervisors and School Board on Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2011.

You can offer your views on what you see as the biggest issues facing Fairfax County in 2012 by going to the website at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/> and submitting your feedback. You can also join me on Jan. 13 for an online chat. Questions and comments can be submitted now at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/askfairfax/ActiveDiscussion.aspx?roomid=27>.

4-H Educational and Conference Center Great Place for Retreat

Looking for a place to hold your annual meeting or retreat? If you are looking for a getaway for your church group, scout troop, or some other kind of club or organization you may want to consider The Northern Virginia 4-H Educational and Conference Center in Front Royal, Virginia for a beautiful and affordable location.

Virginia Cooperative Extension, which runs 4-H, is a joint program of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of

Agriculture, and state and local governments. Fairfax County, along with other jurisdictions in Virginia has a long-standing partnership with 4-H. The Conference Center is equipped with comfortable lodging, dining and meeting space and is just an hour away and nestled amidst the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains. For more information on this opportunity you can contact the Center at nbcomer@vt.edu or go to www.NOVA4H.com.





Fairfax County County Executive

Citizen's Focus Group Survey

The Board of Supervisors is beginning a national recruitment process for the new County Executive as Anthony Griffin is retiring in April, 2012. Ralph Andersen & Associates is assisting with the search. Your input will assist with the search process.

Online Survey Instructions (Preferred): Click on the following link:
www.ralphandersen.com/FairfaxCoSurvey.html

Please respond by: **Monday, January 16, 2012.**

Do you live in Fairfax County?

- Yes
- No

Are you a business owner in Fairfax County?

- Yes
- No

Are you a Fairfax County Government employee?

- Yes
- No

Please rate the importance of each of the following attributes as they relate to the **County Executive**.

Fiscal/Financial Expertise

- Very Important
- Important
- Not Important

Experience with Economic Development (growth in the County's economic base and/or increase in the number of businesses located within the County)

- Very Important
- Important
- Not Important

Experience Working with School Officials

- Very Important
- Important
- Not Important

Experience with Diverse Transportation Networks

- Very Important
- Important
- Not Important

Approachability/Availability to the Public/Employees

- Very Important
- Important
- Not Important

Political Awareness/Sensitivity

- Very Important
- Important
- Not Important

Experience Leading a Diverse Workforce

- Very Important
- Important
- Not Important

Experience Promoting Employee Engagement and Morale

- Very Important
- Important
- Not Important

Experience with Mixed Use and Affordable Housing

- Very Important
- Important
- Not Important

Experience with Emergency Management Efforts

- Very Important
- Important
- Not Important

Experience with Technology Principles and Practices

- Very Important
- Important
- Not Important

Local Government Experience

- Very Important
- Important
- Not Important

While recognizing current fiscal restraints, the Board of Supervisors should offer a competitive salary and benefit package to support the selection of a highly qualified and experienced individual.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Please add other qualities or attributes not on the list that you feel are important in a County Executive.

What are the top two challenges facing the County of Fairfax that you believe will be the most important for the new County Executive to address?

Please contribute any other thoughts or opinions you have about the search for a new County Executive.

Thank you for your input.