

July 2011

Bulova Byline

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Ah, Fairfax County! A place where there is fascinating history along with equally fascinating history-in-the-making.

My favorite hiking/running route takes me through wooded Fairfax County parkland that is full of **heritage resources** – from still-visible evidence of Native American activities, to remnants of the Independent Line of the Civil War era Manassas Gap Railroad. This spur was designed to extend the Manassas Gap Railroad from Gainesville to Alexandria. Due to financial problems, it was never completed.

While no track was ever laid along this rail line it played a significant role in the Civil War serving as little-known transportation routes for both Confederate and Union soldiers. The earthworks served as protection during skirmishes. The area where I run includes large trees that I imagine were already mature 150 years ago. Someone once told me that markings in their bark, now unrecognizable, were initials carved by soldiers. Whether true or not, I can't pass through that area of parkland without imagining Civil War soldiers camped next to the creek where I am running.

If Fairfax County's history wets your curiosity, I hope you will take advantage of displays such as the Visitors' Center at **Riverbend Park** in Great Falls <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend/visitorcenter.htm> to learn how Native Americans lived in the forests and along the banks of streams and rivers in Fairfax County.

Many, probably most, Fairfax County residents don't know that the southwestern tip of Fairfax was, during Colonial times, a thriving port town rivaling Alexandria. The town was called **Colchester**. When the port became silted in, it pretty much disappeared from history. If your thing is archeology, Fairfax County's Cultural Resources Management Protection Section has begun an archaeological study of the town on the Old Colchester Park and Preserve in Lorton. Volunteers to help dig and interpret are welcome. For more information call 703-339-5459.

See inside this Byline for more opportunities to re-live our County's role in **Civil War history** during this sesquicentennial year. Visit Fairfax <http://www.fxva.com/>, Fairfax County's tourism arm (funded by hotel taxes) is coordinating the commemoration of Civil War activities with our neighboring

jurisdictions. Their website includes many other activities to enjoy and sites to visit.

On the history-in-the-making front, major change is happening all around us. I had a bird's eye view of the transformative **Rail to Dulles** project this week. On a tour of the project, my staff and I mounted about a hundred metal stairs to the future rail guideway. We were treated to spectacular views of Tysons, where five new rail stations will soon be coming into shape. The stations will serve as the framework for new transit-oriented mixed use development to evolve over the next fifty years. Go to <http://www.dullesmetro.com/construction/> for some fantastic photos of the Rail to Dulles project. Phase I of Rail to Dulles (Falls Church to Wiehle Avenue in Reston) is about 45% complete.

Negotiations are still underway to bring costs for **Phase II** of the project more in line with the original \$2.5 billion estimate. Fairfax County, along with our funding partners Loudoun County, the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority (MWAA) are engaging in a Value Engineering process to complete the Silver Line to Dulles Airport, while making sure the project remains affordable to taxpayers in Fairfax and Loudoun, and for motorists using the Dulles Toll road.

See inside for information about Fairfax County's new and improved transit services, which will bring some relief to moves associated with BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure) in the Richmond Highway and Alexandria areas. In some cases, moves have already begun to be phased in. September 15th is the deadline for BRAC, although Fairfax County continues to seek more time for state transportation improvements to support the Mark Center location.

Sincerely,



Sharon Bulova – Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Clemyjontri Playground Has a New Website

I've had the pleasure of visiting Clemyjontri Playground several times, most recently to cut the ribbon on Virginia's first Liberty Swing, a wheelchair accessible swing (pictured below). The new website is a great guide to this wonderful playground, and I encourage you to log on to friendsofclemy.com, get directions, and then go play! On the site you can find:

- Park hours & directions
- General information & pictures
- Special event announcements
- Pavilion rental information
- Donation & Volunteer opportunities
- Suggestions



Route 1 Corridor – Fairfax County’s Top Priority for BRAC Transition

With so much attention being paid to the difficult scenario unfolding around the Mark Center in Alexandria, it may be easy for some to overlook the major impact the **Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) moves** are having at Ft. Belvoir.



I want to use some of this month’s newsletter to highlight all that has been done and all that is planned for the Route 1 corridor in response to the BRAC moves, as well as some notable improvements happening outside of the BRAC projects.

Overall, **more than \$350 million is being spent to mitigate the impact of BRAC on Fairfax County.** This funding comes from a wide variety of sources including bonds, grants and County sources such as Fairfax County’s **Commercial and Industrial (C&I) tax**, which is an incremental tax paid by businesses and earmarked for transportation.

- Notable projects within the BRAC portfolio are: the completion of the **Fairfax County Parkway** and the **Defense Access Road Ramps**; the **Mulligan Road project** which will reconnect Route 1 and Telegraph Road; the **design of Route 1 and Rolling Road improvements**; and many more spot improvements.
- Fairfax County has also bought **nine new Connector buses** and will add **19,000 hours of service** to South County routes in response to BRAC.

The largest single project happening in the area is the **widening of Route 1 between Mount Vernon Memorial Highway (Woodlawn) and Telegraph Road.** Once completed, this stretch of Route 1 will be widened to 6 lanes to accommodate the increased traffic occurring because of BRAC.



FCDOT has allocated \$3 million from the C&I fund toward the environmental study and preliminary engineering for the Route 1 widening. Congressman Jim Moran secured a **\$150 million grant for this project** (and the County is currently applying for this grant). Up to **\$4.5 million of the \$150 million will be used to fund a Route 1 Transit Study**, which would be managed by Fairfax County and will focus on Fairfax County transit options on Route 1 and serving Fort Belvoir. This study could be completed **as early as summer of 2013.**

This \$4.5 million transit study is **in addition to the \$1.5 million transit study** being managed by the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, which will explore transit options beyond Fairfax County to Quantico. This study is still in the scoping phase.

\$350 Million Going Toward BRAC Projects in Fairfax County *(continued)*

Fairfax County will also be conducting an **Enhanced Public Transportation Corridor study** which is a countywide transit network study that will look at the EPTCs (Route 1 included) and make recommendations for modified corridors, modes, station locations, etc. This study should begin this fall.

Our transportation staff is working to coordinate the transit studies to ensure that project scopes and goals are clear with minimal duplication of effort.

Our **Connector bus service** is undergoing a significant upgrade in the Ft. Belvoir/South County area in response to BRAC. We allocated **\$4 million from the C&I in FY2011** fund to purchase **nine new buses**, which have been received. In FY2012 (the current fiscal year), we **increased Connector funding by \$1.4 million to change 8 routes and add 4 new routes for BRAC**, adding **19,000 hours of service**, a 6.4% increase.



Connector and other County staff will be working with the Washington Metro Area Transit Authority (WMATA) to develop a plan for **additional bus service to Fort Belvoir** in response to BRAC to consist of a new route between Franconia-Springfield Metrorail station and Fort Belvoir and an **extension of REX service** to support second shift commuters to Fort Belvoir and the Route 1 corridor.

Fairfax County has also made a number of small improvements along Route 1. The **Richmond Highway Public Transportation Initiative** focuses on pedestrian and bus stop improvements and in total will involve an estimated \$36 million in improvements – \$8.6 million of which has been spent so far.



To date, **\$3.4 million of pedestrian and bus stop projects** have been constructed. Another six intersections and 6500 feet of walkways are scheduled for construction in 2011-12. The next phase of projects includes **4 intersections and 10 walkways**, for a total of **\$9.6 million**. Transit services such as low-floor buses and electronic fare payment have been implemented, totaling \$5 million. FCDOT is currently studying a location and preliminary design for a transit center on Route 1 at Fordson Road.

Recent News Stories about BRAC

[Partial Widening Expected by 2016](#) (*Mt. Vernon Gazette, July 7*)

[The BRAC Imposition: An Interview with Sharon Bulova](#) (*Fort Hunt Patch, June 22*)

[School bus riders, emergency responders brace for BRAC delays in Alexandria](#) (*Washington Post, June 23*)

Justice Department Clears Fairfax County Redistricting Plan

The Justice Department last month cleared the redistricting plan for Fairfax County, setting the precinct and district boundaries for the next ten years. **This year's primary and general elections will be held according to the changes made in the redistricting plan.** The plan we adopted in April is the culmination of an inclusive and transparent process and will ensure Fairfax County residents are represented fairly and equally on the Board of Supervisors. The plan also called for minimal changes: only seven precincts have changed countywide. Details below.

Precinct Changes

- **Bristow** moves from Braddock to **Mason District**.
- **Eagle View** and **Monument** move from Springfield to **Braddock District**.
- **Walnut Hill No. 2** moves from Providence to **Mason District**.
- **Hunt** moves from Mount Vernon to **Springfield District**.
- **Coates** moves from Hunter Mill to **Dranesville District**.
- **Colvin** moves from Dranesville to **Hunter Mill District**.



Precinct Boundary Changes

Woodlawn Precinct is divided along Frye Road. Frye Road becomes the eastern boundary of the Woodlawn Precinct. The area east of Frye Road becomes a new precinct to be named "Pinewood" and then be included in the Lee District. The Pinewood polling place will be the Mount Vernon Woods Elementary School.

Willow Springs Precinct is divided along Stringfellow Road to the north of Lee Highway. Stringfellow Road becomes the western boundary of the Willow Springs and the eastern boundary of the Powell Precinct. The area to the west of Stringfellow Road is included in the Sully District.

Nottoway Precinct is divided so that the portion of the precinct that lies within the Town of Vienna becomes part of the Vienna No. 6 Precinct. That area is included in the Hunter Mill District.

For a complete list of precincts in each Supervisor district, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/redistricting/redistricting-plan.htm

Fairfax County Names Non-Profit Partner for Affordable Housing Program

Fairfax County has named the **Northern Virginia Family Service Collaborative (NVFS)** as its provider for the county's newest affordable housing program.

Bridging Affordability, a key component of Fairfax County's Housing Blueprint, through its partnership with NVFS will leverage resources generated by the County's housing program to provide long-term rental subsidies to **72 homeless individuals and families and an additional 303 households** on the county's affordable housing waiting lists.

This partnership is a great example of how Fairfax County is able to leverage its resources through partnerships with non-profits. Through a **highly competitive process**, NVFS showed that it stands ready to partner with us to meet the ambitious goal of **preventing and ending homelessness in Fairfax County**.

The Collaborative will provide rental subsidies and other support services to individuals and families in the county. Funding for **Bridging Affordability** comes from rent revenue from the **Wedgewood Apartments**, an affordable rental property purchased by Fairfax County in 2007 and preserved under the county's Affordable Housing Preservation Initiative.

The **NVFS Collaborative includes nine nonprofit organizations**: Northern Virginia Family Service, Alternative House, FACETS, Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services, New Hope Housing, Reston Interfaith, Shelter House, United Community Ministries and Volunteers of America - Chesapeake.

For more information, read [the announcement from the Fairfax County Department of Housing and Community Development](#).

Housing Authority Ranked High Performer by HUD; Perfect Score for Financial Management

The [Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority \(FCRHA\)](#) ranked among the best of the nation's more than 3,000 housing authorities with a PHAS score of 94 out of a possible 100, **including a perfect score for financial management**, according to the recently released U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) [scores](#) for the [Public Housing Assessment System](#) (PHAS) for fiscal year 2010.

HUD also recognized the FCRHA as a high performer in the management of its 1,060 federally funded public housing units.

The assessment looks at the physical conditions of the properties; financial and operational management; and resident satisfaction. Housing owned by the FCRHA is managed and maintained by the Fairfax County Department of Housing and Community Development.

This score shows that Fairfax County operates one of the best local housing departments in the country, and FCHRA should be commended!



ReadyNova.com Helps You Develop an Emergency Plan

ReadyNova.com was designed to assist **residents and businesses** in the Northern Virginia region in developing a **Family Preparedness Planner** or a **Business Preparedness Planner**, both of which follow basic and accepted emergency management practices.

The **Family Preparedness Planner** provides an easy to use tool for families in Fairfax County to develop their emergency plan, a family communications plan, and guidelines for developing their emergency survival kit.

The **Business Preparedness Planner** provides a detailed process for Fairfax County businesses to develop their emergency plan, including continuity of operations, communications plans and to identify the process for return to their facility after a disaster event.

Both the Family Preparedness Planner and the Business Preparedness Planner are user-friendly applications that meet ADA requirements for accessibility.

Additionally, user privacy is guaranteed: no personal or business information is saved by the website or either Planner application.

This website and the preparedness planners were developed with an Urban Area Security Initiative award of the Northern Virginia Emergency Response System with project oversight provided by **Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management** on behalf of Northern Virginia emergency management organizations and partners.



Beat the Heat with the Cooling Assistance and Fan Care Programs

Fairfax County residents who meet eligibility requirements may be able to receive help through the **Cooling Assistance program to gain relief from the summer heat**. This **federally funded program** helps low-income households that have at least one person considered vulnerable to heat: a child under six, a disabled individual, or an adult age 60 or older.

Types of assistance include payment of electric bills or security deposits to operate cooling equipment, repair of a central air conditioning system, and purchase of fans or window air conditioner units.

Applications for the Cooling Assistance program are being accepted between now and

August 15th. Call the Fairfax County Department of Family Services at **703-324-7500** to request an application or visit <http://www.dss.virginia.gov/benefit/ea/index.cgi> Residents **over the age of 60 who need a fan** to prevent health problems and also meet income eligibility requirements may also participate in the Fan Care program.

This program, operated by the Virginia Department of Aging and sponsored by Dominion Virginia Power, provides free fans and window air conditioning units to eligible seniors. To request an application, call the Fairfax County's Department of Family Services – **Fairfax Area Agency on Aging at 703-324-7694, TTY 703-449-1186**.

Army Approves Site for National Museum

Secretary of the Army John M. McHugh has approved a site on the **North Post of Fort Belvoir** for construction of the **National Museum of the U.S. Army**, scheduled to open in June 2015. The secretary signed the decision memo the same week in June as the Army's 236th birthday.

McHugh said the "long-overdue facility will offer the American people a unique opportunity to connect with our Soldiers and better understand and appreciate their many and glorious stories."

Initial construction will include a multi-story main museum building with exhibit halls, theater, Veterans' Hall, food service/retail areas, administrative areas, an experiential learning center and a lobby with visitor reception area.



National Army Museum, main entrance. Conceptual rendering courtesy of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, LLP.

Civil War Events, Commemorations Happening in July

We've got another exciting month of Civil War events coming up. Here are a few I want to highlight:

- 97th Regimental String Band Celebrates Music of the Civil War**
 July 17, Frying Pan Farm Park Visitor Center
2709 West Ox Road, Herndon, Virginia
 Times: 7:00pm- 9:00pm
Phone: (703) 437-1794

Sully Historic Site and Frying Pan Farm Park join together to host a concert of period music in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. The 97th Regimental String Band recreates an actual string band of the Civil War Era with a wide variety of traditional American songs in authentic, "living history" style.

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

- Lecture "Battle of 1st Manassas" 150th Anniversary Event**
 July 14, Centreville Regional Library
14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville, VA
 Times: 7:00pm
Phone: (703) 830-2223

Mr. Kim Holien discusses The Battle of 1st Manassas at this special 150th anniversary lecture.

- "First Blood, Battle of Blackburn's Ford"**
 July 16, Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim
3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA
 Times: 2pm
Phone: (703) 591-6728

Talk by historian Mark Trbovich.

Phase 1 of Dulles Rail 45 Percent Complete

This summer Phase 1 of the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project continues from East Falls Church through Tysons Corner to Reston. Here are some areas to watch out for while driving in our area:

On the I-66/Dulles Connector Road, the Dulles extension will tie in with the existing Orange Line. Most of the work is being done close to the existing tracks. However, some lane closings will occur as work on the rail line in the median and the expansion of the West Falls Church Rail Yard continues.

The Beltway near Route 123 will continue to have between one and three overnight lane closures in both directions between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m., with set-ups beginning even earlier. The closures are necessary as crews build bridges for the new rail line across I-495. The exit ramps may also be affected.

Bridge-building for the rail line will cause overnight lane closings and detours on the **Dulles Toll Road between Hunter Mill Road and the Main Toll Plaza**. The exit ramp to Route 7 will remain open.

Drivers on the **Dulles Airport Access Highway** can expect lane closures and detours as construction takes place in the median. The exit ramp to Route 7 from the Access Highway will remain open. The Wiehle Avenue Metrorail station construction continues in the median west of Wiehle Avenue.

On Route 7 from 122 West to the Dulles Toll Road construction is under way for the aerial rail line and two Metrorail stations. Road-widening and undergrounding of utilities that caused much of the traffic has already taken place. **Later in the summer**, motorists can expect **nighttime closings of the intersection of Route 7 and Gosnell/WestPark** for the construction of bridges to the median.

Bridge construction on Route 123 will continue and cause nighttime closures of the roads into and out of the Capital One complex. **Below Route 7 and Route 123**, work continues on the tunnel that will carry the trains below the intersection, connecting the Tysons Central 123 Station and the Tysons Central 7 Station.



On July 6, my staff and I took a tour of the sites and snapped some good pictures. For more, visit my Facebook page.