

Bulova Byline

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On Tuesday, May 1st, our Board formally adopted the **Fiscal Year 2013 Budget**. Last week you should have received a Special Byline with details of the “mark-up” package. You can see the complete budget package by visiting: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb.

Budget is philosophy. When we adopt our budget, we are making decisions about priorities - what investments we will make in County programs and services. One of our public hearing speakers described the budget as “a moral document.”

It is critical that our residents and corporate neighbors are at the table when funding decisions are made. I would like to thank those of you who came out to testify during our three days of public hearing, and who attended the many community forums and town meeting to participate in the budget process. Changes to the Advertised Budget reflect the healthy community engagement we enjoy in Fairfax County. You made a difference.

Fiscal Year 2013 is quite a contrast from the past four years, as we have struggled through a serious recession. Working in partnership with our residents, corporate neighbors and our workforce, Fairfax County has responded successfully to meet the challenges caused by radically changing economic conditions and plummeting property values.

Today, while not entirely out of the woods, we are beginning to see evidence of recovery, a slow and sluggish recovery, but recovery none-the-less. More land use applications are making their way through our system. Commercial leasing and building activity has strengthened. Projected General Fund revenue growth is an increase of 3.56%, and houses are beginning to sell again. *Hopefully we are beginning to see the dawn of a new day.*

The Fiscal Year 2013 Budget:

- Continues to hold the line on taxes. **By converting one half of the advertised increase in the Stormwater Fee, this budget maintains the same effective tax rate included in the budget proposed by the County Executive in February.** The tax rate of \$1.075, along with a Stormwater fee of 2 cents, results in a modest annual increase in the average tax bill of \$79.
- **The School Transfer is maintained at the advertised 4.5% increase over FY 2012** and represents 52.2% of the County’s total budget.
- **For the first time since 2009 this budget restores compensation adjustments for our employees.**
- Funding is added and/or redeployed to address critical Human Services and Housing priorities.

- To address state and federal reductions, including requirements for the Community Services Board (CSB) **a reserve of \$4.2 million is established** as a safety net for our most critical services and most vulnerable residents.
- In response to requests and comments received during the budget process some additional restorations have been included for **library hours, public safety programs and the arts** in Fairfax County.



Our Board Meeting on April 24th included [a tribute to County Executive Tony Griffin](#). Tony Griffin has served Fairfax County as chief executive officer with a talented and steady hand for the past twelve years. He has built a professional, “can-do” workforce and culture that makes us the envy of the region.

Fortunately, one of Tony’s gifts has been to groom and develop excellent leadership within the county organization. On April 25th Tony and his wife, Lucy left for a long and well-deserved retirement vacation and **Ed Long, former Deputy County Executive and Chief Financial Officer took the helm as our new County Executive**. Ed has wasted no time getting his feet wet - meeting with department and agency heads, reaching out to the workforce and county organizations. You can watch Ed on a [video documenting his first week](#). I have had the pleasure of working closely with Ed during my years in office and I know we will continue to be in excellent hands.

As summer approaches, [Farmers Markets](#) are getting ready to offer fresh local produce. I’m especially excited about a new market being established at the [Lorton Workhouse Arts Center](#). My idea of a great summer outing is to stock up on fresh veggies and baked goods, while checking out the artists’ studios at this fascinating, historic facility. Handmade jewelry, clothing and beautiful original art are available for purchase. You can also find great picnic, boating and hiking areas at nearby Occoquan and Fountainhead regional parks.

See inside this Byline for a heads up regarding my upcoming series, *The Evolution of Fairfax*. I hope you will save the evenings of **June 13, 20 and 27** for a trip into the past and future of our county. The sessions will take place at centrally located George Mason University at the Mason Inn and Conference Center. I am really excited about the series and look forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely,

Sharon Bulova – Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Hypothermia Prevention Program Entering 'Transition Year'

Fairfax County in partnership with the faith-based community has operated a successful Hypothermia Prevention Program for the past seven years.

The Hypothermia Prevention Program is a remarkable partnership between the county, local non-profits, faith communities and dedicated volunteers. It is one of the most successful public-private partnerships in Fairfax County.

Over the years, the program has **grown significantly**. When we started, **17 faith-based sites opened their doors to 406 homeless individuals** during the coldest months of the year, thanks to the hard work of **1,854 volunteers**. Last winter, the program operated at **35 faith-based sites, served 1,026 people** and leveraged the efforts of **over 2,300 volunteers**.

Some changes to this program are being considered right now as a result of safety concerns identified by the Fire Marshal. Under the state building code different building uses require different safety features to protect occupants in the event of a fire. For example, the requirements for an office building and a hotel are different, because people are expected to sleep overnight on a regular basis at the hotel but not in an office.

I have stressed that resolution of these issues must be approached in a collaborative and reasonable way with our faith-based partners. What was originally believed to affect 17 out

of 35 houses of worship is now expected to apply to far fewer. Solutions may be as simple as rearranging the sleeping area for easier egress in case of a fire, or installing a simple smoke alarm and/or carbon monoxide detector near sleeping areas.



Guests being hosted at one of Fairfax County's Hypothermia Centers

The Hypothermia Prevention Program is made possible thanks to the remarkable dedication of the volunteers who open their houses of worship to those who are less fortunate. During the next months, County staff will be meeting one-on-one, on site, with each Hypothermia Prevention Program participant to discuss what, if any, safety accommodations need to be made. I am personally committed to seeing that this transition is implemented as helpfully as possible.

Please feel free to contact my office at 703-324-2321 or chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov for more information about the Hypothermia Prevention Program.

Chairman Sharon Bulova

Evolution of Fairfax

June 13, 20, 27
7:30pm

George Mason University, Mason Inn and Conference Center
4352 Mason Pond Drive Fairfax, VA 22030

Please RSVP at 703-324-2321 or chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov

Have a Crime to Report? There's an App for That!

Fairfax County Crime Solvers has provided an anonymous tip line for the public to report crime since 1979. In 2008 we introduced secure text and email capabilities. We are now proud to promote a new smartphone app to further the public's ability to report crimes anonymously!



The free app, TipSubmit, is the first app of its kind and works on both the [iPhone](#) and [Android](#) phones. It allows the public to anonymously submit tips to police through their local Crime

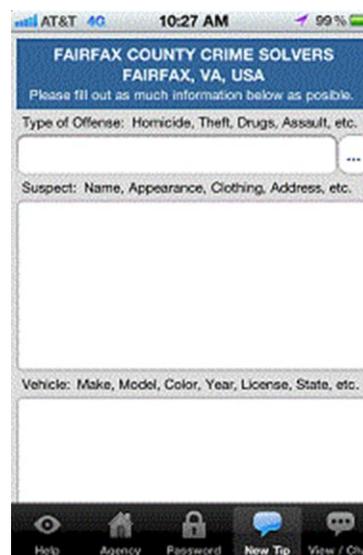
Solvers program. This mobile app works with the existing TipSoft software already utilized by Fairfax County Crime Solvers for their text and email tips.

However, the app offers even more because it has the ability to use GPS to auto-locate the nearest Crime Solvers program or law enforcement agency. Users may also manually select a location for their tip. Tipsters may include photos and videos with their tips.

In Virginia, tipsters and their information are protected under state law when their information is reported to a certified Crime

Solvers program. (15.2-1713.1) For the tipster that fears retaliation, this state law is essential. It allows the tipster to communicate through a Crime Solvers program and still maintain their anonymity. As with the text and email capabilities, this app continues to promote that two-way communication, allowing real-time chat between the tipster and program.

Smart phone users are encouraged to download this free app and use it when you have information on a crime or a wanted person. For additional information on this new app, please visit tipsoft.com/index.asp?P=TipSubmitMobile



EDA Commercial Real Estate Report Shows Signs of Recovery

While we are not yet out of the woods, many signs are showing the slow and steady economic recovery in Fairfax County is continuing. In their annual report, the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority says that **demand for office space countywide gained significantly during the second half of 2011.**

While down from the record 13.6 million square feet in 2010 (which I reported in my **May 2011 Byline**), leasing activity topped 11.7 million square feet, with almost 6 million coming in between July and December. Last year's total exceeds the annual average over the last 5 years by about 900,000 square feet.

New construction also picked up during the second half of last year, according to the EDA report. "Six buildings totaling nearly 928,000 (square feet) broke ground..." and **"Speculative construction made a dramatic return..." in 2011.**

While the report isn't all good news (it projects less speculative development in 2012 than 2011, vacancy rates rose in late 2011 for the first time in 18 months), it does show our market has stabilized and we are seeing real signs of the slow and steady recovery.

To read the report, visit www.fairfaxcountyeda.org/sites/default/files/publications/ye11rer.pdf.

Inova Releases Second Buy Fresh, Buy Local Guide

The second edition of Inova's Buy Fresh Buy Local Guide to Local Foods and Wellness is now available online and at many Fairfax County parks and libraries. The guide includes locations and hours for area farmers markets, information on Inova's health and wellness programs, and a handy calendar that shows what's in

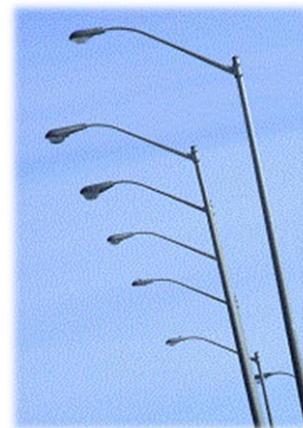


season throughout the year. It also includes information on the new farmers market opening at the [Lorton Workhouse Arts Center](http://www.fairfaxcountyeda.org/sites/default/files/publications/ye11rer.pdf) on May 24. It will run on Thursdays from 3:30 to 7pm, perfect for commuters. You can download the guide by or visiting their Facebook page at : www.facebook.com/BuyFreshBuyLocalNorthernVirginia/.

Street Light Outages Should be Reported to Dominion

This is a reminder that the new telephone number to report street light outages to Virginia Dominion Power is 1-866-DOM-HELP (1-866-366-4357). To report a nonworking street light you must have either the pole number, located on the light, or the nearest street address to the light. For more information on street lights in Fairfax County, please visit the County website at:

http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/construction/streetlights/light_out.htm



Board Backs Children’s Science Center Search for County Home

In 2010 Leadership Fairfax brought an innovative project to my attention: The Children’s Science Center. Currently operating without walls, the center is actively seeking a permanent home in Northern Virginia. Once completed, the museum will be the first of its kind in the region.

In addition to the educational benefits provided to our younger residents, the Children’s Science Center offers value in terms of economic and tourism opportunities. Museum leaders have expressed interest in building their center in Fairfax County. The County is an attractive location due to our commitment to education and business.

The museum promotes “Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) literacy in all children through meaningful creation, exploration, and discovery.” Northern Virginia currently benefits from our educated workforce and the demand for men and women educated in STEM subjects is likely to rise. Museum staff expects that “80 percent of the jobs that will be created in the next decade will require science and math literacy.”

At our meeting on May 1, the Board of Supervisors approved my resolution supporting the work of The Children’s Science Center and welcoming their efforts to locate their permanent site in Fairfax County. I look forward to continuing to work with them and helping them find a permanent home in Fairfax County.



Civil War Events, Commemorations Happening in May

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

Lecture on the Battle of Chantilly (Ox Hill)

May 8, 7pm
 Sully Historic Site
 3650 Historic Sully Way
 Chantilly, VA
 Phone: (703) 437-1794
 Admission: \$5

[Click here for a complete list of events happening in and around Fairfax County](#)

David Welker shares his expertise on the northern view of the Battle of Chantilly (Ox Hill.) The Centreville resident is the author of Tempest at Ox Hill: The Battle of Chantilly and A Keystone Rebel, as well as many Civil War-related newspaper and magazine articles. He works as a military analyst for the U.S. government and lives in Virginia. Light refreshments served.

Movies on the Green – The Great Locomotive Chase

May 19, 7:15pm
 Vienna Town Green
 144 Maple Avenue, E, Vienna, VA
 (703) 255-7842
 Admission: Free

The movie on May 19th will be The Great Locomotive Chase (Movie is not rated). Movie introduction and remarks by local historians: Learn about Vienna's history during the Civil War and enjoy a movie under the stars! Free admission. Free popcorn. Drinks for sale by Historic Vienna, Inc. Bring a blanket or chair. No alcohol permitted. Weather Permitting. Call (703) 255-7842 for weather information. Presented by Historic Vienna, Inc., the Town of Vienna and the Vienna Sesquicentennial Committee.

New Bicycle Lockers at Courthouse, Public Safety Center

As part of Fairfax County’s initiative to improve bicycle parking for county employees, the Department of Transportation recently installed ten bicycle lockers in the employee parking structure located at the Courthouse and Public Safety Complex. The lockers address the **growing need to find a safe and secure way to store the bicycles of employees who are bicycling to work.** The lockers are available for free to employees of the Courthouse and Public Safety Center.

This latest installation is part of a continuing effort to improve bicycle parking at county facilities. A 2009 federal grant provided funding for this program. As a result, the Fairfax County Department of Transportation has installed 150 bike racks and **40 new bike lockers** at park and ride lots, transit centers, Virginia Railway Express (VRE) stations, county government offices, parks, and libraries, including the Towns of Herndon and Vienna.

If you know of locations that need bicycle parking, contact the Fairfax County Department of Transportation’s Bicycle Program at 703-877-5600, TTY 711.



Department of Transportation employees, left to right, Nohemy Miranda and Charlie Strunk with the newly-installed bicycle lockers at the Courthouse complex

May is Lyme Disease Awareness Month

As we all head outdoors to enjoy the wonderful Virginia spring, we need to keep a watchful eye for disease carrying insects. Fairfax County is asking residents to “Fight the Bite” this year. Here are just a few helpful tips, and some Lyme disease symptoms. For more info, [download our free reference guide.](#)

Symptoms of Lyme Disease:

- **A bull’s-eye rash.** (Not every person infected with the Lyme disease bacteria gets this rash.)
- **Fever**
- **Headache**
- **Achy muscles and joints**
- **Fatigue**

- **Avoid direct contact with ticks.**
- **Use a repellent containing DEET.**
- **Wear long, loose-fitting, light-colored clothing.**
- **Use permethrin on clothing.**
- **Check for ticks.**
- **Promptly remove any attached ticks.**
- **Examine gear and pets.**

