

# Bulova Byline

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**Election 2011** has come and gone. I want to thank you for taking the time this week to exercise your right and privilege to elect those of us who will represent you at the State and Local level during the next years. It was a beautiful day for an election, one of the prettiest I remember, and I enjoyed meeting with many of you at various polling locations.

All incumbents on the Board of Supervisors were re-elected for another four year term. On the School Board, all incumbents on the ballot were returned to office. Because of the number of open seats, six of the twelve School Board members will be newcomers. Early next year I will be holding a **Strategic Planning Retreat** with my colleagues on the Board of Supervisors and plan to devote a day to School-County issues and developing a sound working relationship with our School Board partners. By working together effectively we will best meet the needs of our children, families and corporate neighbors in Fairfax County.

See inside this Byline for information on a number of transportation projects that have recently been completed. During the next months, Transportation Committee Chair Jeff McKay and I will be meeting with our colleagues to draft a new **Four Year Transportation Plan**. I'll be sure to keep you up-to-date on this process via this Byline.

In October our Board participated in a detailed discussion about the status of **redevelopment in Tysons Corner**. You can view the entire report, which includes information about transportation, public facilities, and pending land use applications, by visiting our website.

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/tysons/implementation/download/2011tysonsreporttobos.pdf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/tysons/implementation/download/2011tysonsreporttobos.pdf)

As our County continues to mature, we will continue to identify the most appropriate locations where aging shopping centers and commercial areas can accommodate future growth through revitalization. An interesting site to visit to learn about other **Revitalization and Redevelopment Projects and Studies** can be found at the County's Website by going to Land Use and Development.

And lastly, at our Board Meeting of October 18th, my Private Sector Energy Task Force Chairman Leo Schefer presented my colleagues and I with the Task Force's Interim Report. The report can be viewed by going to [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/chairman/pdf/energy\\_interim\\_report.pdf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/chairman/pdf/energy_interim_report.pdf).

I thank Leo and members of the Task Force for their outstanding efforts to-date in identifying the most effective and efficient energy policies and practices for our Fairfax County community. Work to develop specific recommendations will continue into 2012 and I'll be sure to keep you posted on our progress. Meetings are held in the Government Center Conference Center and open to the public. Observers are always welcome!

Sincerely,



Sharon Bulova – Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

### 2011 Election Day Pictures



## County Executive Griffin Announces April 2012 Retirement

After working for the County since 1989, County Executive Tony Griffin, has announced his plans to retire in April 2012. Tony has been County Executive since 2000, the second-longest tenure since the position was created in 1952.

In a message to all employees on Nov. 10, Griffin wrote:

“I enter the next phase of my life with mixed emotions. I am excited but uncertain about my future, and I will miss continuing in my current capacity. Fairfax County is a great community and a great organization. I have enjoyed the relationships developed over my 23 years with the county, working for the Board of Supervisors and the various boards, commissions and authorities, and most of all, the fine employees that make the county work

and who are a model for other municipal organizations. With the culture of excellence that is the hallmark of the county, the organization and the community will continue to prosper, and as a citizen, I will continue to benefit. Thank you for the support you have given me over the years.”

Tony Griffin has been an exceptional county executive. During his more than 23 years with Fairfax County, Tony has worked effectively with members of the Board of Supervisors and has served as a community and regional leader. Tony Griffin is known and respected for his evenhandedness and integrity and his quiet but effective leadership style. When Tony steps down this spring, we are fortunate to have talented leadership within our workforce to carry on his tradition of responsive and responsible stewardship.

## Nine Transportation Projects Wrap Up In Third Quarter

The Board of Supervisors on Nov. 1 received a quarterly status update on its Four Year Transportation Plan which shows that nine projects concluded between July and September.

Those nine projects completed in the third quarter are the I-95 Fourth-Lane Widening, **Georgetown Pike/Swinks Mill Road** Flashing Beacon, **Backlick Road Walkway** from Wilburdale to Braddock Road **Beulah Road Trail**, Segment D, **Burke Center Parkway Walkway**, **Centreville Road Trail at Dulles Toll Road** Phase II, **Franconia Road at Ridge View Drive & Wilton Road**, **Great Falls/Haycock** Intersection Improvements, **Prosperity Ave/Hilltop Drive** Pedestrian Improvements.

Thirty projects are currently under construction around the County. Those include the Beltway

HOT Lanes, Fairfax County Parkway interchanges with Monument Drive and Fair Lakes Blvd., Dulles Rail Phase 1, and many more.

The Fairfax Connector system continues to make news. After adding 19,000 hours of service to prepare the South County area for the BRAC moves, Fairfax Connector announced that it will this year complete an exciting energy project. The West Ox center's heating system will be retrofitted in 2011 **to utilize methane gas from the I-66 landfill to heat 66 percent of the facility**. This project should reduce heating cost by **38 percent!**

DOT also ordered 37 new buses in FY2012, 25 of which are for planned HOT Lane service and 12 replacements. All the new buses are Mini-Hybrids.

## November is Adoption Awareness Month in Fairfax County

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has proclaimed November as **Adoption Awareness Month in Fairfax County**, a month set aside each year to raise awareness about the adoption of children and youth from foster care. Through adoption, children and families gain lifelong support, love and a brighter future.

### Fairfax County Facts

- Last year, **35 children were adopted through the Fairfax County Department of Family Services**
- More than 70 percent of adoptive families began as foster parents, then committed to adopting the children in their care
- There are currently **15 children, ranging in age from 3 to 17, in need of adoptive homes** in Fairfax County



### Five Myths About Adoption

- Only married couples can adopt
  - Adoptive parents may be **married or single, childless or already parenting other children**
- Only homeowners can adopt
  - You are **not required** to own your own home or to have a high income in order to give children what they need--permanence, stability, a lifetime commitment, and a chance to be part of a family
- Only stay-at-home parents can adopt
  - Adoptive parents **may work outside the home**
- It takes years to become approved to adopt
  - Adoptive parents must complete a **27-hour training program and a home study**. The process typically takes **about four months**
- Most children in need of homes are infants or toddlers
  - The majority of children in need of homes in Fairfax County **are older youth**

### Adoption Events

On **Friday, Nov. 18, from 6 – 8:30 p.m.**, the Fairfax County Department of Family Services, Foster Care and Adoption Program will host a **“Fall for Families Event”** in honor of adoptive families as part of National Adoption Awareness Month at the Fairfax County Government Center (12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035). Join Fairfax County adoptive families for entertainment, refreshments, and family photos. For more information and to RSVP contact Sharon Beazer at **703-324-7783**; TTY 703-222-9452. **Please RSVP by November 11, 2011.**

The Department of Family Services offers free informational meetings on the second Monday of each month, from 7 - 8:30 p.m. in the Pennino Building at 12011 Government Center Parkway in Fairfax. No registration required, but please call ahead to confirm the meeting schedule or to receive additional information: 703-324-7639, TTY 703-222-9452. Fairfax County is committed to helping children in the foster care system find permanent homes. For more information on adoption, please call 703-324-7639, TTY 703-222-9452, or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/childrenyouth/adoption.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/childrenyouth/adoption.htm).

## Community Spotlight: *Pets Bring Joy's* “Fuzzies for Seniors” Program

*This article was written by Jacquie Barker, founder of Pets Bring Joy and creator of the “Fuzzies for Seniors” program. If you would like your organization highlighted in a Community Spotlight, email Clayton Medford at [clayton.medford@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:clayton.medford@fairfaxcounty.gov)*

If I said I had a miracle remedy to offer seniors that would **reduce** their risk of a heart attack or stroke; **improve** the function of their immune system; **lower** their blood pressure and cholesterol; **reduce** anxiety and stress; **help** to combat depression; and **help** them to live a longer, happier life overall, **would you perhaps know of a senior citizen or two who might benefit?**

Well, I do have such a remedy to recommend: it's called loving and caring for a pet cat! Numerous studies by well-recognized medical and geriatric support organizations have proven that caring for and loving a feline companion significantly improves the health and well-being of the caretaker (not to mention the kitty involved).

The biggest obstacle to adopting a cat in most seniors' minds is their concern that they will not be able to care for a kitty companion should the senior become incapacitated. That's precisely where the Pets Bring Joy “Fuzzies for Seniors” program comes in! We look to match up seniors with rescue organizations who feel that they have a “purrfect” match in terms of a kitty companion, and then enlist the aid of volunteers to answer questions regarding kitty health and behavior and to assist the senior with special projects such as driving them to a veterinary appointment or helping with pet grooming. We also ensure that we have a game plan for the kitty in terms of finding him/her another home – temporary or permanent – should the need ever arise.

Fuzzies for Seniors is a big win for the kitties, too! It's a sad fact that age discrimination is rampant in pet adoption: almost everyone looking to adopt a cat wants either a baby kitten or a very young adult cat. Thus, many lovely, healthy middle-aged cats are often passed over, despite the fact that they are calmer than kittens and incredibly wonderful potential companions. By placing older kitties with seniors, it's a win-win for both! For more information about Pets Bring Joy and our Fuzzies for Seniors program, please visit our website, [petsbringjoy.org](http://petsbringjoy.org), or contact Jacquie via email at [jacquie@petsbringjoy.org](mailto:jacquie@petsbringjoy.org). We welcome inquiries by or on behalf of seniors, rescue organizations, and folks interested in volunteering.

## Annual ‘Operation Empty Cage’ Animal Adoption Event Begins

Operation Empty Cage has begun! On Tuesday, Nov. 8, the Fairfax County Animal Shelter began its special two-month long Home 4 the Holidays adoption program. One of the campaign's goals is to empty the shelter's cages by finding a home for each animal available for adoption throughout the holiday season.

As part of the special Home 4 the Holidays adoption event, the shelter will offer free spay/neuter for the first 100 dogs and cats adopted from the shelter until Dec. 31, 2011.

Home 4 the Holidays is being hosted two weeks earlier than in years past as a launch to National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week Nov. 6 - 12, 2011. A Fairfax County Board of Supervisors' proclamation recognizes the initiative and the shelter which has provided programs and services for citizens that have positively impacted the lives of more than 20,400 animals in five years.



*Chairman Bulova and her rescue cat Mr. Frodo.*

## Bridging Affordability Assists First Clients

The Bridging Affordability Program earlier this month found a home for a formerly homeless Fairfax County man, Rashon Allen. Rashon was homeless and moving from shelter to shelter or sleeping on the street just months ago. Volunteers of America Chesapeake began working with Rashon, and helped him find safety at the Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter. VOAC is a member of the Northern Virginia Family Service Collaborative, which administers the Bridging Affordability Program on behalf of Fairfax County.

Rashon was determined to change his life and become more self-sufficient. With the help of Barbara Tate, Assistant Program Director at the shelter, and Teresa Turner, his case manager, Rashon prepared for and secured full-time employment. After Rashon was employed, VOAC sought housing assistance for him through the Bridging Affordability program. The Bridging Affordability program helped Rashon find his first home, and pays a portion of his rent. In addition, ACCA, a local nonprofit, provided furniture for his home. Rashon went from homeless to home in 75 days.

Bridging Affordability, a key component of the 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 partnerships with non-profits and use revenue generated by our housing program to provide critical services to our neediest residents. 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 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.

## Civil War Events, Commemorations Happening in November

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

### Lecture "Battle of Belmont, Mo." 150th

Anniversary Event

Nov. 10, Centreville Regional Library

Times: 7:00pm

Phone: (703) 830-2223

Admission: FREE

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

*Speaker Mr. Craig Swain presents a lecture on the Civil War Western Theater Battle -- "Battle of Belmont, Mo" at this special 150th anniversary event. Sponsored by the Bull Run Civil War Round Table.*

### "Spirit of the Civil War" Musical Concert

Nov 11, Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center at Northern Virginia Community College

Times: 7:30 p.m.

Phone: (703) 820-1904

Admission: Suggested donation of \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and senior citizens.

*The Alexandria Campus of Northern Virginia Community College will present "Spirit of the Civil War" on Friday, Nov. 11 at 7:30 p.m. in the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center. The multi-media concert is a collaboration of NOVA's music, communication design and photography programs designed to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War.*

## Volunteers Needed to Help Low Income Families File Taxes

Looking for a unique way to volunteer your time? Why not help someone to do their taxes? The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program has begun recruiting for the 2012 tax season, creating a great opportunity for you to make a real difference in the lives of Northern Virginia families.

For only 3 to 6 hours of your time each week during tax season (January to April), you will help prepare tax returns for residents, or you can be a greeter, offer IT support, be a language interpreter, or help coordinate the on-site activities.



The program offers flexible hours at convenient locations around the area, and we offer free training for the Tax Wise and Tax Law software.

Last year, volunteers donated approximately 16,580 hours of their time and helped low-income families in Northern Virginia receive over \$8 million in federal tax refunds. Over \$1.7 million was awarded back to those families who qualified for the Child Tax Credit. In total, volunteers helped more than 4,300 families prepare their taxes last year.

Get more information on volunteering and the VITA program by [www.nvacash.org](http://www.nvacash.org) or contact James Do at 571-749-7838; TTY 711 or Thea Frisby 703-533-5702; TTY 711.

## Final E-Waste Recycling Event for 2011 This Month

The final e-waste recycling event for 2011 will be held on Nov. 20 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the I-66 Transfer Station, 4618 West Ox Road in Fairfax.

Fairfax County residents may use each Electric Sunday recycling event to recycle televisions, computers, monitors and peripheral electronic devices such as printers, scanners, speakers, keyboards, mice and external drives. Residents may also recycle their unbroken fluorescent tubes and light bulbs at these events as well.



This is a free service for Fairfax County residents. For additional information, please contact us at **703-324-5230**, TTY 711.

## Via VDOT: Hunter Mill Road Detour for Nov. 12-21

The Hunter Mill Road bridge over Difficult Run in Fairfax County will be closed to traffic from 7 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 12 until Monday, Nov. 21, the Virginia Department of Transportation said today. The closure is necessary while crews replace the corroded bridge with a temporary panel truss bridge.

The bridge is located between Hunter Station Road and Lawyers Road. A 3.2-mile detour route will be in effect.

Motorists heading north on Hunter Mill Road will take Lawyers Road to Twin Branches Road to Sunrise Valley Drive to Hunter Mill Road. Motorists heading south on Hunter Mill Road will use Sunrise Valley Drive to Twin Branches Road to Lawyers Road to Hunter Mill Road.

Plans for a permanent bridge are underway although the project is not funded for construction at this time.