

Bulova Byline

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On October 26th, the Board of Supervisors and the School Board met jointly to begin discussion about Fiscal Year 2012, which begins July 1st of 2011. Deputy County Executive Ed Long provided a preliminary financial forecast, reading the pulse of our current economy and fiscal situation.

The “reading” was set to the backdrop of the past two years, as Fairfax County has dealt with the effects of **The Great Recession**. With property taxes as our primary source of revenue to provide local services and programs, we have been challenged by plummeting residential and commercial real estate values. This multi-year, cyclical downturn has been due to a continued weakened economic outlook including contracted job growth, tighter lending standards, reduced consumer spending and state and federal budget cuts.

Fairfax County suffered its two greatest budget challenges in FY 2010 and FY 2011 with initial projected shortfalls in our \$3.3 billion budget of \$648 million and \$490 million respectively. In the past two fiscal years, the Board of Supervisors has adopted balanced budgets which **closed the projected shortfalls** by: increasing the real estate tax rate –but only to the degree that the average *tax bill* was held steady from the year before; holding operating expenses below FY 2009 levels – with no increases to the schools transfer, or employee compensation; almost \$200 million in cuts and reorganizational efficiencies; and eliminating 481 net positions.

Where are we now? Although economists tell us that The Great Recession officially ended in June of 2009, we are still affected by poor consumer confidence and only tepid signs of recovery. Fairfax County’s unemployment rate, which had risen as high as 5.5 percent in winter 2010 was down to 4.9 percent in August, with nearly 30,000 county residents still without jobs (in pre-recession years, unemployment in Fairfax County was lower than 3 percent). In September there were 873 foreclosed properties in the County. This is down from a peak of 2,257 foreclosed homes in September 2008.

I like to describe our **revenue situation** as “fibrillating.” Instead of seeing the steep drop in property values that we experienced in 2009, 2010 and 2011, we are projecting a modest increase in residential real estate values of 3.3 percent. Commercial values are projected to decline in 2012 by 2.35 percent - an improvement over the 18 percent drop last year, but still a decrease. Overall growth in all major revenue categories is a modest increase of 2.4 percent. Not a robust rebound, but we are definitely headed in the right direction.

Several factors on the projected **disbursements** side of the budget offset revenue

increases and present the challenge of a projected shortfall for 2012 of approximately \$55 million. These factors include expected increases in: retirement, health insurance, requirements for workers compensation and self-insurance and for debt service.

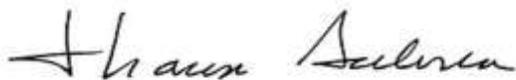
Any increases in compensation would make the shortfall larger. For example, if all county employees resumed compensation increases “as usual” it would cost \$76 million for the Schools and \$32.6 million for general county and public safety employees for a total cost of \$108.6 million.

In Virginia we are required to have a balanced budget and must make adjustments to close the projected shortfall when we adopt the budget this coming April. During the months ahead, our Board and staff will be reviewing county operations and budgets to identify further savings and efficiencies. We are also inviting our citizens and workforce to join us at the table as we consider options for the fiscal year ahead.

During the past two years, Fairfax County has benefitted enormously from the generous amount of community engagement in the Budget Process. This year we have created a new vehicle for discussion and participation. Using a [Do-it-Yourself Budget Toolkit](#) any group of friends or neighbors, club or organization, can learn more about our fiscal challenges and the county budget and comment on priorities and recommended strategies for adopting a balanced budget.

The Toolkit includes a 15-minute educational budget video. More budget information is also available online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget. I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to provide feedback and guidance to our County Executive as he prepares to draft his Advertised Budget, which will be released in late February.

Sincerely,



Sharon Bulova – Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Final E-Waste Recycling Event for 2010 This Month



The final e-waste recycling event for 2010 will be held on Nov. 21: Electric Sunday TV and computer recycling from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the I-66 Transfer Station, 4618 West Ox Road in Fairfax.

This successful program will continue in 2011 with monthly events being held at either the I-66

Transfer Station in Fairfax or the I-95 Landfill Complex in Lorton. Dates for 2011 will be publicized as they are scheduled.

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 thanks to our partnership with Covanta Energy, Inc.

For additional information, please contact us at **703-324-5230**, TTY 711.

Volunteer Roundup

Looking for ways to give back to your community? Fairfax County has plenty of opportunities for you to volunteer. Please contact the departments listed below, or click the links, for opportunities.

Family Services

Last year, our volunteers contributed more than 123,000 hours in programs that reach out to children at risk, teens in foster care, low-income families, adults with disabilities, and older adults.

Children and Families

Adults Age 60 and Older and Adults with Disabilities Age 18 and Older

703-324-5406

Office for Women & Domestic and Sexual Violence Services

703-324-5630

Programs Serving All Age Groups

Our [main volunteer website](#) has links to all the departments and agencies with volunteer opportunities.

Library

Volunteers are needed to help the library's Early Literacy Outreach specialist with the Ready to Read Program by reading books aloud at preschools and childcare centers. Prior experience teaching or leading children's programs is required. There are also openings in regional libraries.

Volunteers can work in an area of the county that is most convenient for them. Contact **Renee Edwards at 703-324-8413**.

Community Services Board

Various positions are available throughout Fairfax County and the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church.

Flexible times and days are available.

Alcohol and Drug Services

Kay Rankin

703-934-8752

TTY: 703-538-5292

Mental Health Services

Sue Boucher

703-968-4040

TTY: 703-968-4050

Intellectual Disability Services

703-324-4400

TTY: 703-324-4495

Helping Older Adults and Adults with Disabilities

Register online as a volunteer with Volunteer Solutions

Kristin Schoembs

703-324-7577 TTY 711

Opportunities: grocery shopping, household services, Meals on Wheels, nutritional supplement delivery, social visits, staff Vietnamese bilingual information line, and transportation.

Additional opportunities in volunteer management and administration, and nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

Fire and Rescue

Whether you want to be on the front lines delivering emergency medical care and fire protection or providing the administrative support required to operate a volunteer department there is a position waiting for you!

Contact:

Volunteer Liaison

703-246-2295

Watershed

Find opportunities to participate in watershed planning and stewardship.

703-324-5500 TTY 711

Parks

Volunteer opportunities at major parks

Park Operations

703-324-8594

Volunteer opportunities at RECenters, golf courses and lake front parks

Park Services Division 703-324-8680

Volunteer opportunities at Nature Centers, historic sites

Resource Management Division 703-324-8750

Other Opportunities on [Page 8](#)

New Lane Opens on I-95 South between Fairfax County Parkway, Rte. 1



A fourth lane on I-95 South from the Fairfax County Parkway to Route 1 opened for the afternoon rush on Friday, Oct. 29, the Virginia Department of Transportation announced.

The new lane adds much-needed capacity to the five-mile stretch of highway and is expected to save commuters 10 minutes or more during the evening rush hour on the southbound trip from the Springfield Interchange to the Occoquan River.

VDOT is adding a fourth lane to I-95 in each direction from the Fairfax County Parkway to Route 123. The entire project will be completed in late 2011. Last December VDOT opened the northbound lane. The final piece of the I-95 widening project, adding a fourth lane to the Occoquan River bridge, will be completed by late summer 2011.

Motorists can check updated nightly lane closures posted every afternoon on the [Virginia Megaprojects web site](#).

Community Health Survey Continues Through Nov. 15

Our community has embarked on a mission to improve the health of everyone who lives, works or plays in Fairfax County, and we need your help.

Partnership for a Healthier Fairfax is a coalition of community members and organizations working together to improve community health in the Fairfax community, which includes Fairfax County, the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church and the towns of Clifton, Herndon and Vienna.

A critical component of the Partnership's work is a Community Health Survey. This is a chance for you to get involved and make a difference as we work together to improve community health.

The brief anonymous survey will be available (in five languages) online through November 15 at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/mapp>.

The results of the survey will be evaluated along with information gathered through several other assessments in the community. In the coming months the Partnership will identify strategic issues, formulate goals, and develop broad strategies for making the coalition's vision a reality:

To learn more about the Partnership for a Healthier Fairfax or to get involved visit [our website](#), e-mail us at hdmapp@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-246-8856.

Be part of the solution
 Make a difference
 Get involved
CONTACT US
 • E-mail
 • 703-246-8856
 TTY 703-591-6435

Getting Things Done in a Down Economy

It's not news that the country has gone through a very difficult time economically. We are still weathering the most serious downturn – **The Great Recession** – in most of our lifetimes. States and cities are also feeling the pinch. **Fairfax County is no different.**

And yet, all around us work goes on - to improve transportation, cut the ribbons on newly renovated schools, libraries and parks, and to replace aging infrastructure.

Fairfax County has been a leader in taking advantage of favorable timing for major projects by identifying partners and creative ways to leverage our resources.

Our most important partnership is with the residents of Fairfax County, who trust us to spend their tax dollars wisely, and in areas that matter most. Recent Fairfax County bond referenda have paid for school renovations, acquisition of parkland and improvements to existing parks, the renovations of four libraries, and transportation improvements throughout the county.

Building and maintaining roads in Fairfax County are state responsibilities, but Fairfax County is a significant funding partner for all major transportation projects within our borders.

- Through the establishment of special tax districts, the use of developer proffers, and the shepherding of federal and state funds Fairfax County serves as an example of how local governments can use a wide variety of resources to improve the quality of life for its residents.

Revenue from **special tax districts** is currently being used to pay for parts of two major projects: the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project and the widening and improvement of interchanges along Route 28.

- A major source of funding for transportation projects is the collection of the **Commercial and Industrial tax**. The C&I tax is an additional countywide tax above the normal property tax rate on commercial and industrial properties. This funding has provided between \$38 million to \$52 million per year for transportation projects, including increased transit and pedestrian improvements.
- Another way Fairfax County residents, and people commuting through our area, are contributing to infrastructure projects is through the **collection of tolls**. Tolls collected on the Dulles Toll Road will generate around \$3 billion and pay for more than half the cost of the Rail to Dulles project.
- A major infrastructure investment is in the area of **stormwater**. Much of Fairfax County developed rapidly from the 1950s through the 1970s, prior to requirements for stormwater controls. Regulations have evolved during the past twenty or so years that address the quality and quantity of stormwater from development.
- In 2009 our Board created the **Stormwater Service District** to create a dedicated stream of revenue (one penny on the tax rate) to fund stormwater management projects and to maintain the more than 1,500 miles of aging county-owned stormwater pipe. Last year the Board increased this fee to 1.5 cents (which provides about \$27 million annually) to address the backlog of stormwater projects.

Even during these difficult times, Fairfax County continues to move forward with taking care of business. We do so in partnership with our residents and corporate neighbors who understand the value of protecting our assets and taking advantage of favorable prices on construction projects – a silver lining of the Great Recession.

Planned Residences at Government Center Receives Joint Recognition

The Residences at the Government Center, a soon to be developed unique public/private venture between Fairfax County and the Jefferson Apartment Group, received joint recognition by the Washington Smart Growth Alliance and the ULI Terwilliger Center for Workforce Housing for its innovative approach to providing workforce housing.

This recognition should come as no surprise, as Fairfax County is a leader in finding creative ways to leverage its resources. Providing affordable housing for county employees through our partnership with Jefferson Apartment Group is an extension of what we've been able to do for residents in the areas of accessible housing, conservation, and infrastructure.

We will continue to explore partnerships in the community to provide essential services to our employees as well as our residents.

Situated on 8.9 wooded acres on the Fairfax County Government Center campus, the LEED-certified 270-unit apartment complex will consist entirely of workforce housing affordable to households earning 50 to 100 percent of the Area Median Income.

The complex will incorporate green building, universal and sustainable design features and will be constructed and operated by Jefferson Apartment Group, headquartered in McLean, under a long term ground lease with Fairfax County.

The Washington Smart Growth Alliance is a partnership among seven diverse regional organizations including the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the Coalition for Smarter Growth, Enterprise Community Partners, the Greater Washington Board of Trade, the Metropolitan Washington Builders' Council, ULI Washington and the ULI Terwilliger Center for Workforce Housing

For additional information, contact Malcolm Van de Riet, Vice President of Jefferson Apartment Group at 703-563-5200 or by e-mail at mvanderiet@jagllc.com.

To view a rendering of the planned Residences at the Government Center, please click [here](#).

Tree Commission Launches Celebrated Trees Program

Do you enjoy time under the shade of a favorite tree? Ever planted one in honor of someone? Or maybe there's a giant tree in a nearby park you think deserves some special recognition?

The Fairfax County Tree Commission recently launched the Celebrated Trees of Fairfax County program, designed to give you a chance to recognize special trees around the County.

You can nominate trees that mean the most to you in one or more of these categories:

Big Tree — Tree that's one of the largest of its species.

Historic Tree — Tree associated with a significant event, person, landmark or institution.

Commemorative Tree — Tree or group of trees planted as a memorial of an event or person.

Favorite Tree — Any favorite tree.

Eligible trees will receive an honorary designation as a Celebrated Tree of Fairfax County, and will be included in a database

on the county's website.

Historic, commemorative and favorite trees will be included in a database of the county's most special trees. Big trees will go into the county's Big Tree Database, as well as be submitted for consideration in the Virginia Big Tree Program.

Nomination forms can be filled out and submitted electronically to treemail@fairfaxcounty.gov.



Family, History Integral Parts of Korean-American Community

[In remarks](#) at a fundraiser on Oct. 17 for the Korean Community Service Center, I commended our Korean-American community for their great tradition of family and talked about the history and growth of the Korean community in Fairfax County.

Some of this history, along with personal stories and old photographs can be found in the Asian American History Project Web Site and Book which debuted at our Board of Supervisors meeting on May 11th.

The book (A Contemporary History Honoring 143 Years of Asian Residents in Fairfax County -1867-2010) was written by Project Chair Filipino-American Cora Foley, and can be found in libraries throughout the County.

It can also be purchased at my office. Proceeds from the sale are used for Asian American History activities.

Several years ago, when I worked with another Task Force that researched the central part of Fairfax County as part of the ‘A Look Back at Braddock’ history project, we told the story of how just 50 years ago we were a community of little farms and villages. Fairfax County’s population (which is now almost 1.2 million) was only 98,557. But according to the 1950 Census, about 31 Korean-American immigrants were already calling Fairfax County home.

Last spring I attended a Signing Ceremony with Fairfax County’s

new Sister jurisdiction, the Songpa-gu district of Seoul, South Korea. Since entering into this partnership, we have established a teacher exchange between the County and Songpa-gu. More information on the partnership can be found on [my website](#).

The Korean-American community is very excited about the new Korean Bell Garden being constructed in Meadowlark Gardens in Vienna. It is one more symbol of the strong relationship between our two countries.



A Quick Update on Bike Improvements Around the County

The Board on October 19 received an update from the County’s Department of Transportation on the implementation of the four-year (2008-2011) improvement plan. In that review are updates on numerous bike and bus improvements around the County.

On-Road Bike Lane Initiative: Wakefield Chapel Road is now complete, while work continues on Westmoreland St. Phase II, Hunter Village Dr., and Gallows Rd. Phase II. New Segments will include Sleepy Hollow, Fort Hunt, and Huntington Ave.

Increase and Enhance Bicycle Parking: Installation of 150 bike racks around the County and in Herndon and Vienna began on June 23.

Vienna Metro-City of Fairfax-GMU Connector: Work has begun on a bike route connecting these three locations. This is a cooperative project with the City of Fairfax, GMU, and the NVRPA.

Bike the Sites Map: FCDOT received a grant to complete a bicycle map that highlights a route

along historic Civil War sites in the County, as well as signage and markers. Staff is waiting for State approval, expected in 2010.

Bus Stop Improvement Program: The Board has identified \$2.5 million from the general fund and \$7.75 million in the 2007 Transportation Bond for improvements to the priority stops identified in a countywide study. 79 sites have been completed so far, and 130 are in design, 21 in land acquisition, and 25 are under construction.

Volunteers Needed at Safe Haven Homeless Shelter

Rob Paxton of Safe Haven forwarded along these stories of their volunteers, so I thought I'd pass it along to you. If you want to become a volunteer, please contact Rob at 703-532-8220 or [email him](#).

The quality of services and the ability to offer new ones would not be there if not for the generous support of our volunteers.

Volunteers come from all ages and walks of life. Our oldest volunteer is 91. Besides helping to prepare and serve meals, she also provides the much needed service of giving great hugs to staff and clients. Our youngest volunteer came to us after being ordered by a local judge to do community service.

Even after doing his "time", he continues to volunteer because he

knows he is making a difference in the lives of other young men like himself.

We are a better and more productive place because of volunteers like them.

As we grow, we need more volunteers like them. Everyone has a gift, please consider sharing yours with Safe Haven.

Even if you are not able to donate your time, there are other things you can do. Donations of warm clothing (especially men's jeans,

sweatshirts, sweaters, coats, rain gear, boots and shoes) are always needed. Foods that can be repackaged (individually sealed granola bars, easy to open cans, bottles of water, etc.), as well as kitchen supplies (sponges, rubber gloves, paper towels, etc.) are all desperately needed.

In addition, reading and educational materials (in English and Spanish) are also needed.

Safe Haven operates at First Christian Church of Falls Church.

Fairfax County Looking For Adoptive Families

Did you know that we have about 370 children in foster care in Fairfax County?

Most of these children have experienced abuse or neglect and need a safe haven during a difficult time. The County's Department of Family Services is looking for families and individuals who can provide stable, loving homes for children in need.

Foster and adoptive parents are ordinary people who care about children and want to make a difference in their lives and futures.

The Department of Family Services provides training and supportive services for foster and adoptive parents, including financial assistance, counseling and child care.

DFS offers monthly orientation meetings, every second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the county's Pennino Building at 12011 Government Center Parkway. Parking is free. Meetings are held in the second floor training room. Upcoming meetings are November 8 and December 13.

Whether you have made the decision to open your home to a

child, or you simply want to learn more, take the first step: come to an orientation meeting. Questions? Call 703-324-7639. Or visit [the website](#).

