

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/chairman

chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov

Bulova Byline Chairman's Monthly Report October 2009

- At our first meeting of the month, our Board unanimously adopted a “**Carryover Package**,” as Fairfax County closed the books on the Fiscal Year 2009 budget. Despite major economic challenges and thanks to careful fiscal stewardship, we were able to end this difficult year with a modest positive balance of \$66.1 million out of our \$3.2 billion General Fund budget. After replenishing our Revenue Stabilization Fund, the majority (80%) of this balance was held in reserve as a hedge against Fiscal Year 2011 challenges, which are currently the subject of **Budget Community (and Employee) Dialogues** being held throughout the County.

We are not yet out of the woods. According to the Federal Reserve, the market seems to have bottomed out, but unemployment continues to rise. The value of Fairfax County's residential real estate continues to fall, though not as steeply as a year ago. Commercial real estate, which last year was holding steady, is experiencing a decrease of 18%. I hope you'll consider participating in the Community Engagement process that served us so well as we addressed the current Fiscal Year 2010 Budget. Information about this process can be found at: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/budget>. We will be publishing summaries of comments and suggestions from these sessions. If you cannot attend, you can use this site to comment electronically.

- With little fanfare, the Board of Supervisors agreed in September to **change the day of our meetings from Monday to Tuesday**, beginning with our first Board Meeting of 2010, **January 12th**. This was a topic of discussion at our Board's Retreat in July. By changing to Tuesday, we run into fewer scheduling conflicts that often arise because of federal holidays, and more days are available for both full Board meetings, as well as Board Committee meetings. Information about Board Meeting dates and agendas can be found on the County's website at: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/board>.

- Most people don't realize that **roads** in almost all of Virginia's counties are owned and maintained by the State. Often, blame is placed unfairly with the County for the shoddy three-times-per-year VDOT mowing schedule, unfilled potholes, and the sluggish pace for resurfacing neighborhood streets and sidewalks. We are living under a system based in Virginia's history when, as an agrarian

economy, cities and towns received a larger share of state dollars for their roads. In transportation funding formulas, Fairfax County is still treated like a rural, farming community. This was a subject of discussion at the Board's July Retreat. Since the Retreat, a number of individuals and organizations have indicated to me their willingness to serve on a **Blue Ribbon Commission** to explore and advise the Board on this matter. To move this strategy forward, the Board directed the County Executive to prepare an initial scope, timeline and potential work plan, along with funding implications, for our consideration and discussion at a future Transportation Committee.

- See inside this issue of the Byline for more of the latest on what's happening in Fairfax County during this busy Fall!

Sincerely,



Sharon Bulova
Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Energizing Fairfax County
A Town Meeting on Climate Change and Energy Efficiency

I am planning to host a Town Meeting on November 18 to discuss county and regional efforts to address climate change and improve energy efficiency. I hope to see you there; watch this space for information!

PUBLIC MEETINGS ON COUNTY'S 10-YEAR TRANSIT PLAN

The Fairfax County Department of Transportation is finalizing a 10-year comprehensive Transit Development Plan for the county's bus system. The county needs to hear from YOU in order to optimize routes for convenience and efficiency. The draft plan will be presented at public meetings for comments throughout the county in October and November. For more information about the Transit Development Plan and the schedule for the public meetings, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/tdp.htm or call 703-877-5600.

POLICE ARRESTS FOR MORTGAGE FRAUD

Over the past several years, numerous homes, mostly in the Springfield, Falls Church, Vienna, Annandale and Alexandria areas of the county, have been the subject of various zoning complaints called in by neighbors. Many of these cases involved properties that were torn down and replaced with much larger homes and many of them were found to be in violation of county codes including overcrowding. Sensitive, undercover investigations by the Fairfax County Code Enforcement Strike Team and the Fairfax County Police uncovered evidence resulting in the Major Crimes Division of the Criminal Investigation Bureau contacting the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Task force members working on this case include members from federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, the United States Attorney's Office and the Commonwealth Attorney's Office in Fairfax.

The investigation uncovered complex criminal activity in which buyers allegedly signed fraudulent documents. They were acting as "straw buyers," purchasing homes for which they were not qualified and reselling the properties to a group of "straw buyers" at increasing prices. The investigation resulted in the arrest of 20 suspects, including buyers and other individuals acting in the capacity of real estate agents, mortgage brokers and subcontractors. The first phase of this investigation has resulted in arrests relating to 35 houses valued at \$20 million. The crimes for which arrests were made last week include conspiracy to commit wire and mail fraud and using false statements to obtain property or credit.

This is the largest mortgage fraud investigation ever undertaken in Fairfax County. The investigation is ongoing and may involve as many 200 homes with an estimated real estate value of more than \$100 million. In a news conference, our Fairfax County Chief of Police thanked area residents for their patience with the investigation, which took place over almost two years, and expressed appreciation for all the information area residents provided leading up to these arrests. In addition, he thanked the many detectives and agents that worked diligently to complete the first phase of this investigation.

ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT COMBATS "TOO TALL HOUSES"

At its September 14th meeting, the Board of Supervisors adopted an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance revising the current definition of "grade." The revision stipulates that building height measurements for single-family, detached dwellings be made from the *lower* average ground level of either pre-existing or finished grade. If a builder brings fill to a site and then builds a home on top of the fill, the height of the building will be measured from the site's grade before that fill was brought in.

This amendment was initiated by the Board's 2007 request that staff examine possible ways to address massing and looming impacts of new construction and "too tall houses" in established residential neighborhoods of smaller homes.

This revision prevents a fairly common practice of artificially elevating a lot with fill resulting in the construction of taller houses. These houses technically comply with the maximum 35-foot height limit, since building height was previously measured from finished grade (after the fill was brought in.) However, in such circumstances the true height of the dwelling includes the combined height of the structure plus the height of the fill material.



SONGPA-GU – FAIRFAX COUNTY’S SISTER

In July, our Board hosted a delegation from Songpa-gu, a district of Seoul, Korea, led by Mayor Kim Young-Soon. The visit culminated with the Signing Ceremony for a new Sister Jurisdiction Partnership here in our Board auditorium July 13th.

During the week of September 21st, Songpa-gu received a small delegation from Fairfax County in order to show us their beautiful District and to host a Signing Ceremony there. This trip was paid for by Songpa-gu and did not involve any Fairfax County taxpayers’ funds.

Songpa-gu sought us to be its partner after conducting research on U.S. jurisdictions. They felt Fairfax County shared similarities with Songpa-gu. They, like Fairfax County, have experienced most of their growth within a relatively short period of time. Their residents are among the highest paid in Korea and their schools are excellent.

Our new sister jurisdiction has grown up around the area of Seoul that was the site of the 1988 Olympics. They, like Fairfax County, have made protecting and preserving the environment a major priority – to the degree that the Han River is now used for drinking water and the river bank in many places has been restored for pristine park and recreational uses. Like Fairfax County, they are struggling with how to address traffic congestion and Seoul’s “Climate Change Action Plan” includes references to BRT and to subway and bicycle infrastructure expansions that sound very familiar. Songpa-gu, with a population of about 700,000, is concentrated on a relatively small (13 sq. mi.) footprint. The district has a spacious airy feeling, however, because it is laced with parks, green spaces, public art and recreational spaces.

Some “take-aways” from this trip include opportunities for student and teacher exchanges, as well as collaborations among professional staffs – particularly in the areas of technology, land use planning, transportation and economic

development. This continues to be on the condition that taxpayer dollars not be used for the purpose of this partnership.

Songpa-gu has already listed Fairfax County in their official documents as their Sister Jurisdiction and has included photos of our July 13th ceremony in the lobby of their government center. Soon you will be able to view information about our new Sister Jurisdiction as well as their official gifts to Fairfax County in a display at the Government Center.



Barry Biggar (Visit Fairfax), Dan Storck (FCPS School Board), Chairman Bulova, Christina Fullmer (Aide to Chairman), Dave Molchany (Deputy County Executive)



Members of the delegation visit Jamil Elementary School with Principal (far right)

SHOP FAIRFAX



Local governments all over the country are facing massive budget challenges, but in these troubling economic times we cannot forget that our large and small businesses are also facing daunting economic challenges. Although there is certainly no magic bullet to fix this problem, Fairfax's elected leaders must not only deal with the problems we face with the County's budget, but also make sure we are doing everything we can to assist the businesses that help to fund our services and employ so many of our citizens.

One of the strategic advantages we have in Fairfax County is our robust and diverse retail community. No matter what kind of shopping experience you are looking for – a mom and pop shop, a town center or a regional mall – Fairfax County has it all.

Retail sales are an important part of Fairfax County's budget because 1% of the sales tax from each purchase stays in Fairfax. Last budget cycle, Fairfax County received \$152.25 million in sales tax revenue. This important revenue stream has helped us provide the high quality schools and services our residents expect and deserve. Another important benefit provided by our retail establishments are the thousands of jobs they create for our citizens.

The tax revenue and jobs created by local retail establishments might not always be on the minds of our citizens as they go out and shop for that new car, television or clothing item. According

to the 3/50 Project, a nationwide initiative aimed at encouraging the patronage of local, independently owned businesses, for every \$100 spent in a local store, \$68 returns to the community through taxes, payroll and expenditures. If the money is spent online, none of it stays in the community.

At its September 14th meeting, our Board agreed to an initiative called "Shop Fairfax," which is a campaign to remind the citizens of Fairfax County that when they shop in Fairfax County part of their money stays here to fund things they value like policemen, firemen and teachers. Another purpose of the initiative is to remind our residents that when they spend here they are also helping to save jobs. The Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, several of our local Chambers of Commerce, Visit Fairfax and the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority have enthusiastically supported the idea.

FREE CHILD IDENTIFICATION AND FINGERPRINTING

Fairfax County Sheriff's Deputies will be at the following two locations Saturday, October 10th to do kid-friendly fingerprinting. You can get a FREE photo of your child and a set of his or her fingerprints using quick, clean, inkless technology. Photo identification with fingerprints gives authorities vital information to help them locate a missing child.

Saturday, October 10

9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Open House – Fair Oaks Fire Station
12300 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway
Fairfax, Virginia

Saturday, October 10

1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Open House – Burke Volunteer Fire Station
9501 Old Burke Lake Road
Burke, Virginia

INAUGURAL AMTRAK TRAIN TO CHARLOTTESVILLE AND LYNCHBURG



On September 30, I had the opportunity to be part of the whistle stop tour that marked the first Amtrak train service between Union Station and Lynchburg, Virginia. This new route will stop in Lynchburg, Charlottesville, Culpeper, Manassas, Burke Centre and Alexandria, and elected representatives from each jurisdiction, along with Virginia Secretary of Transportation Pierce Homer and the presidents of Amtrak and Norfolk Southern, all participated in the whistle stop tour. This connection will allow people to travel from Lynchburg all the way to Boston by rail, with stops available at Philadelphia and New York.

This new service is exciting for several reasons. First, because it will stop at Burke Centre, the new route gives county residents a new, comfortable transportation option. Secondly, adding this rail line decreases the number of commuters traveling to and through the county in cars, reducing automobile traffic. Third, this new route is the product of an impressive partnership and multi-year effort. Putting the Lynchburg line into service required coordination between Amtrak, Norfolk Southern and Virginia Railway Express (VRE), which all share the same railway tracks, along with state and local governments. The success of this partnership illustrates what we are capable of achieving when we work together. Finally, the new Lynchburg route is part of a pilot program to expand rail service in Virginia, and this route

will serve as a model of what enhanced rail service can provide.

Tickets for the new line are available through Amtrak (1-800-USA-RAIL). VRE riders will need to purchase a "step-up" ticket to board at the Burke Centre VRE station; please visit VRE's website at:

<http://www.vre.org/service/crosshonor.html> or call 703-684-1001 for details about their arrangement with Amtrak.

SHOPPING AROUND FOR REAL-TIME TRAFFIC INFO

Five plasma displays at Tysons will provide transportation news and information: This fall, shoppers at Tysons Corner Center will be able to check real-time traffic conditions, incident and road construction updates, transit schedules, vanpool/rideshare options and more on five 50-inch LCD screens strategically placed throughout the mall. These "traveler information displays" are a joint effort of VDOT, DRPT, WMATA, Dulles Transit Partners and Fairfax County to help shoppers make informed decisions about their trips to the area. "We thought this was a good way to get real-time, multi-modal travel information out to people," said J.D. Schneeberger, VDOT operations planner. There are four screens on the first floor and one on the third level, near the theaters. For shoppers needing more pocket-friendly information to take with them, a pamphlet with the Web sites and public transportation schedules is also available at the concierge desk outside Macy's.

Megaprojects	 Incident International Drive at Gosnell Road. The NB right shoulder is closed, expect delays.	
Traffic	 Incident I-495 NB at Chain Bridge Road. The left lane is closed, expect delays.	
Transit	 Construction There will be line painting crews on Route 7 SB in the Tysons Corner Area between 5PM and 10PM today.	
Travel Options		
Tysons Corner Center		
60°/40°  September 30 5:45 PM	News & Events High Voter Turnout in Brooklyn, New York – Voters say economy and wa	

DRAFTING A PLAN FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF TYSONS



County staff recently issued a second “Straw Man” draft of new Comprehensive Plan language for Tysons Corner. This Plan is guided by the Tysons Land Use Task Force’s recommendations, comments from the Planning Commission’s Tysons Committee, the Task Force’s Draft Review Committee, and members of the community at large. The Planning Commission’s Tysons Committee will continue to work with staff to revise the draft Plan text and prepare a draft Plan amendment. This amendment will be discussed at a Planning Commission public hearing in early 2010. The draft amendment will then be submitted to the Board of Supervisors for review, and the Board will hold a public hearing in late Winter or early Spring of 2011.

Tysons will be transformed from a textbook case of suburban sprawl into a true 21st century urban center that addresses the challenges of sustainable growth, energy conservation, environmental protection, affordable housing, and safe communities. The draft plan divides Tysons into eight districts oriented to four Metro stations. It follows the vision set forth by the Tysons Land Use Task Force and calls for:

- High-Density, Mixed-Use Development in Walking Distance to Metro

- Pedestrian and Bicycle Friendly Streets
- A Substantial Reduction in Vehicle Trips
- Multiple Public Transit Options
- Incentives to Achieve 20% Affordable and Workforce Housing near Metro Stations
- Green Buildings
- A Network of Urban Parks and Open Space
- Building Infrastructure in Tandem with Development
- New Public Facilities and Infrastructure

To view this latest draft of Comprehensive Plan text for Tysons, visit:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/tysonscorner/>.
Comments on the draft Plan can be submitted at:
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/tysonscorner/contactus.htm>.

INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE FOR CAREGIVERS

There are 44.4 million Americans (21% of the adult population) who provide unpaid care to an adult age 18 or older. Taking care of a loved one can be stressful and, for the many county residents who are caregivers, there are support programs in place to give training, support and some well earned respite.

The Fairfax Family Caregiver Support Program helps families and friends who care for older adults by providing respite care, support groups and training. Call the free Aging, Disability and Caregiver Resource Line at 703-324-7948 (TTY 703-449-1186) to speak with a social worker who can help you find the resources you are looking for. In addition to sharing the burden of caregiving, these support programs offer a chance to learn how to handle the daily challenges of caring for an older adult, as well as an opportunity to speak with fellow caregivers. More information is also available online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/aaa>.

YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Host Homeless Youths: Fairfax County has a new program to help homeless young people. The Host Homes Program provides support to youth who are unaccompanied, which means they are not living with a parent or guardian.

Who is an unaccompanied youth? A school-aged person who is not in the physical custody of a parent or legal guardian and who lives in inadequate or temporary settings such as:

- Doubled up with relatives who are not their legal guardian;
- Living in motels, hotels, parks or campgrounds or sleeping in cars, public places, bus or train stations, or abandoned buildings.
- Staying with a friend or a friend's family; or
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters.

Students are homeless for a variety of reasons.

We are looking for persons or families who would like to help by providing a place to stay so that a homeless high school student can continue attending school. The goal of the program is to provide safe, stable, supervised homes for homeless high school students ages 16 to 21. This new program will enable these students to continue attending high school through graduation

For more information please contact Patty Holley at patriciakholley@gmail.com or call 703-403-8565

FAIRFAX COUNTY'S POSITION ON THE I-95/395 HOT LANES PROJECT

State leaders announced in August that plans to build high-occupancy toll (HOT) lanes on I-95 and I-395 have been delayed in part because of the current turmoil in the financial sector that leaves obtaining funding from the bond market uncertain. Arlington and the City of Alexandria have also expressed design concerns about the portions of the project within their jurisdictions.

I have sent a letter to Governor Kaine on behalf of the Board of Supervisors to make him aware of the Board's strong concerns regarding the delay in the implementation of project. The Board fully understands the realities of the current economic situation, the continuing turmoil in the financial markets, and the resulting difficulties in obtaining project financing and was not surprised that in the current climate there might be some delay in the project associated with obtaining financing. However, development of the project both outside and inside the Beltway should continue. Fairfax County recognizes that a number of important issues must still be resolved, however, it is the position of the Board that the transit and highway infrastructure associated with the project is too important to the region's transportation network to be put on hold indefinitely.

Fully implemented, the I-95/395 HOT Lanes will allow for seamless bus and carpool lanes all the way from Spotsylvania County to Washington D.C., and connecting to the Beltway HOT Lanes now under construction Fairfax County. Further, given the current level of funding available through traditional revenue sources, the Board views a tolling option as the only viable opportunity to secure critical infrastructure needed in the corridor for the foreseeable future.

Our Board has serious concerns about the proposed plan to terminate the HOT Lanes project at the Beltway because of the expected negative impacts resulting from the traffic diversion within Fairfax County and the loss of significant infrastructure improvements north of the Beltway. Stopping the project at the Beltway greatly lessens the value of the project for Fairfax County motorists and public transit users heading to jobs in Arlington, Alexandria, and DC. It unfairly burdens other transportation infrastructure in Fairfax County with traffic heading to these inside-the-beltway destinations and does not solve the many existing access problems inside the Beltway. I am meeting soon with officials from Arlington in an attempt to resolve design issues that are of concern to them.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2009
8:30AM—4:00PM

Fairfax: This is *YOUR* County!

Admission: \$20 per person
(Advance registration required)

James Lee Community Center

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Sharon Bulova, Chairman

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Morning Sessions

Panel Presentation

Honoring Those Who Have Protected &

Preserved our American Freedoms

In Special Recognition of Veterans Day!

Marion Dobbins

James Lee's Journey of Freedom

History of the James Lee School &

Surrounding Area African American Community

Lunch Session

James Lee On-site Archaeology

Professionals Tell their Story

Archaeology Lab with

CK Galley, Mike Johnson, Elizabeth Crowell

Afternoon Sessions

Patrick O'Neill

The Battle of the White House: The War
of 1812 in Fairfax County

Don Hakenson

Fairfax County &

the War Between the States

Jack L. Hiller

The Origins of Springfield, Virginia

Available All Day

Fairfax County Park Authority

Cultural Resource Management

and Protection Section

Discuss ongoing projects and offer lab tours.

Local Historians

Interested in space for a
History Exhibit?

First 15 respondents will be accepted.

Exhibitor Name, Organization & Title

One 6' x 3' table will be provided.

Fee: \$10 per exhibit; submit fee with registration.

Are you an author of a

history publication interested in

book signing and/or sales?

First 15 authors will be accepted.

Name & Title of Book(s):

One (1) 6' x 3' table will be provided.

Fee: \$10 per author; submit fee with registration.

Questions? Please contact:

Lynne Garvey-Hodge

Conference Chairperson

703-322-1811 or

lghassoc@erols.com

Pre-registration required for exhibitors and
authors (see form on back.)
No on-site, same day registration.



Keynote Speaker

Conference Includes: Exhibits, Book Signings, Lifetime Achievement Awards, Continental Breakfast, Lunch, Free Parking

REGISTRATION FORM

Admission- \$20 per person
(No registration at the door)
Limited to the first 200 registrants
Submit form and payment to:
Michelle Alexander
Resource Management Division
12055 Government Center Pkwy, Suite 936
Fairfax, VA 22035-1118

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip code _____

Phone # _____

Email Address _____

Organization Name _____

Position Title _____

Payment Method (Check one)

Credit Card (circle one)

VISA Mastercard

Card # _____

Expiration date _____

Signature _____
I agree to pay above total amount according to card issuer agreement.

Check amount \$ _____ # _____

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:
"FCPA, History Conference"

Please submit a separate form for EACH PERSON attending.

Submit form and payment to:

Michelle Alexander
Resource Management Division
12055 Government Center Pkwy, Suite 936
Fairfax, VA 22035-1118
(Form may be copied)

Teacher Recertification Credits Available!

- Continue to network and learn more about historic places in Fairfax County!
- Address preservation issues with a collective voice!
- Learn Fairfax County Historic Trivia!
- Book signings by local historians!
- Hear history groups' plans for 2009-2010!
- Honor our Veterans who have protected our freedom!
- Enjoy History displays from local History groups!

Sponsored by the Fairfax County History Commission & Architectural Review Board, Fairfax County Park Authority and the Fairfax Museum & Visitor Center

A Fairfax County, VA publication
September 2009
www.fairfaxcounty.gov



Fairfax County History Conference
Fairfax County Park Authority
12055 Government Center Pkwy, Suite 936
Fairfax, VA 22035-1118



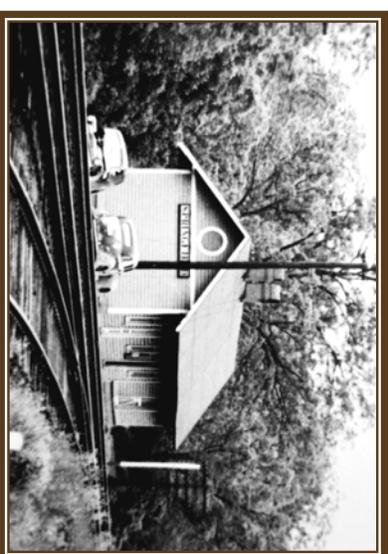
Equal Access/Special Accommodations

The Fairfax County Park Authority is committed to equal access in all programs and services. Special accommodations will be provided upon request. Please call the ADA/Access coordinator at 703-324-8563, at least 10 working days in advance of the date services are needed. TTY 703-803-3354

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ada.htm

Fifth Annual
Fairfax County History Conference

Fairfax:
This is YOUR County!



Springfield Station, Virginia, circa 1935-1940. Source Unknown

Saturday, November 7, 2009
8:30 AM — 4:00 PM

James Lee Community Center

2855 Annandale Road
Falls Church, VA 22042

Breakfast, lunch, & parking included!
\$20.00 per person
Registration Limited to first 200
Register by October 20, 2008

